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# Appendix 17-6 – Report on the Archaeological Testing at Green Field Locations along the Proposed Development

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October 2026

# BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE

# FINAL REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF GREENFIELD AREAS IN THE TOWNLANDS OF BALLINTEEAN, BEHY MORE AND CORIMLA SOUTH, COUNTY MAYO.

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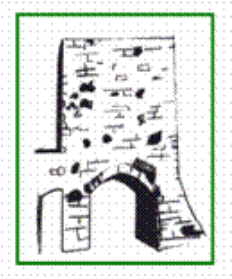
***Through Time Ltd.***

***Professional Archaeological Services***

# FINAL REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF GREENFIELD AREAS IN THE TOWNLANDS OF BALLINTEEAN, BEHY MORE AND CORIMLA SOUTH, COUNTY MAYO.

**Martin Fitzpatrick, M.A.**

**June 2026**



***Through Time Ltd.***

***Professional Archaeological Services***

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## II ABBREVIATIONS

**MA** - This number is the number of the site on the SMR/RMP map. It begins with the county code, here MA for Mayo the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site.

**m** Meters, all dimensions are given in meters or part of a meter.

**NIAH** National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

**NMI** National Museum of Ireland

**NMS** National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**OS** Ordnance Survey

**OSI** Ordnance Survey of Ireland RMP

**RMP** Record of Monuments and Places. A record on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. This resource is based on all publicly available material and cartographic sources and is read in conjunction with constraint maps. The RMP records known recorded monuments and the sites of such monuments (if the monument no longer survives).

**RPS** Record of Protected Structures

**SMR** Sites and Monuments Record

***PLEASE NOTE…***

***Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.***

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeologist Martin Fitzpatrick was engaged to undertake archaeological testing in the townlands of Ballinteean, Garrankeel, Behy More and Corimla South in County Mayo. The archaeological testing was undertaken in greenfield areas that will be impacted by a proposed pipeline development between Lisglennon, County Mayo and Lough Talt, Co. Sligo.

Following consultation with Tamlin McHugh, archaeologist with National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage it was agreed that archaeological testing at greenfield locations impacted by the proposed development should, where possible, be undertaken.

Archaeological testing was proposed at three separate greenfield locations with a total of 19 linear trenches ranges from 35m-80m in length excavated. Due to adverse weather conditions and/or access difficulties, testing at 14 of the 19 sites was completed between the 16th of March and the 15th of May 2026. A low mound identified to the south of Trench 5 was additionally tested with a single 5m trench (Trench 4) manually excavated. This feature was found not to be of archaeological significance. A number of 19th/20th century agricultural and/or drainage features were encountered in some of the trenches and a possible ditch feature uncovered in Trench 7. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered from any of the trenches excavated.

## 2. SITE LOCATION

The archaeological testing was undertaken at two separate greenfield locations to the north-west and South-east of Ballina town in County Mayo.

**Location 1:** Ballinteean townland — ITM Centre point 521126 826678

**Location 2:** Behy More & Corimla South townlands. — ITM Centre point 528704 818653

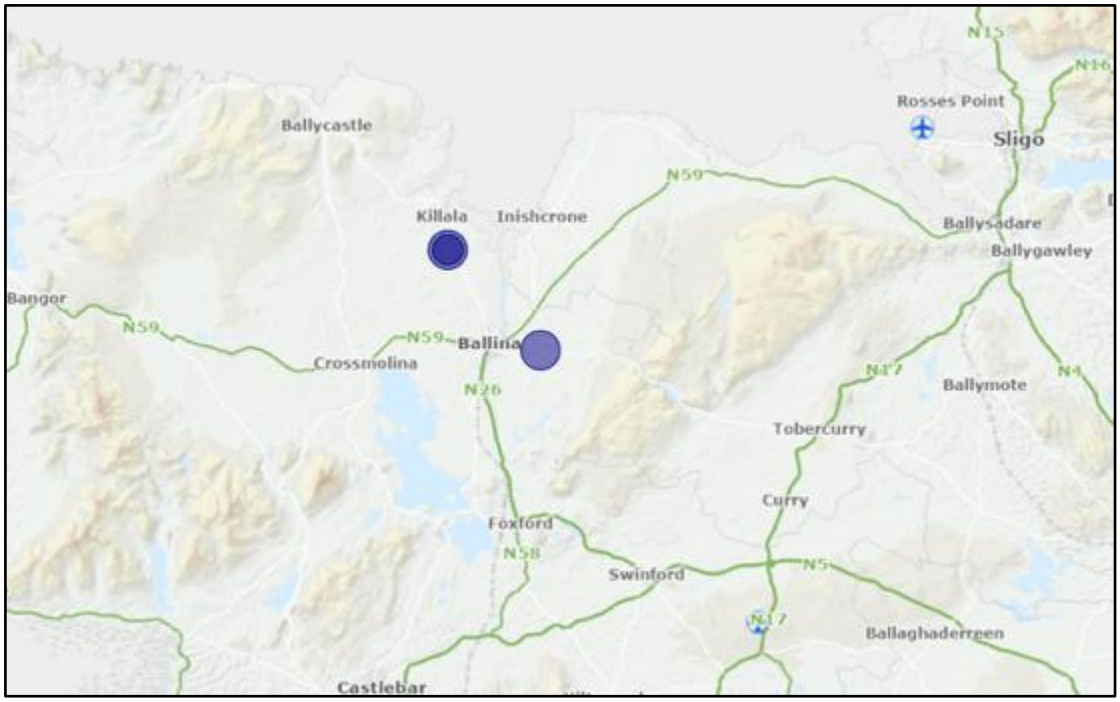



**Fig. 1:** General site location map indicating the areas of testing.

**Location 1.**

Nine trenches, ranging from 5m-80m in length and 1.8m in width were excavated in Ballinteean townland. Eight trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator utilising a toothless bucket. A low mound identified to the south of Trench 5 was additionally tested with a single manual trench (Trench 4). This feature was found not to be of archaeological significance.

**Table 1: Details of Trenches at Location 1**

| Number | ITM | Dimensions |
|---|---|---|
| Tr. 1 | ITM 0520470 0826794<br>0520519 0826780 | 40m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 2 | ITM 0520663 0826775<br>0520618 0826768 | 60m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 3 | ITM 0520714 0826748<br>0520787 0826735 | 75m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 4 | ITM 0521252 0826649<br>0521258 0826648 | 5m x 1m |
| Tr. 5 | ITM 0521212 0826662<br>0521260 0826658 | 50m x 1.8m |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tr. 6 | ITM 0521464 0826672<br>0521516 0826675 | 80m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 7 | ITM 0521464 0826672<br>0521517 0826673 | 50m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 8 | ITM 0521698 0826667<br>0521619 0826666 | 80m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 9 | ITM 0521848 0826667<br>0520571 0826756 | 60m x 1.8m |




**Plate 1:** Aerial view of trench locations 1-9.

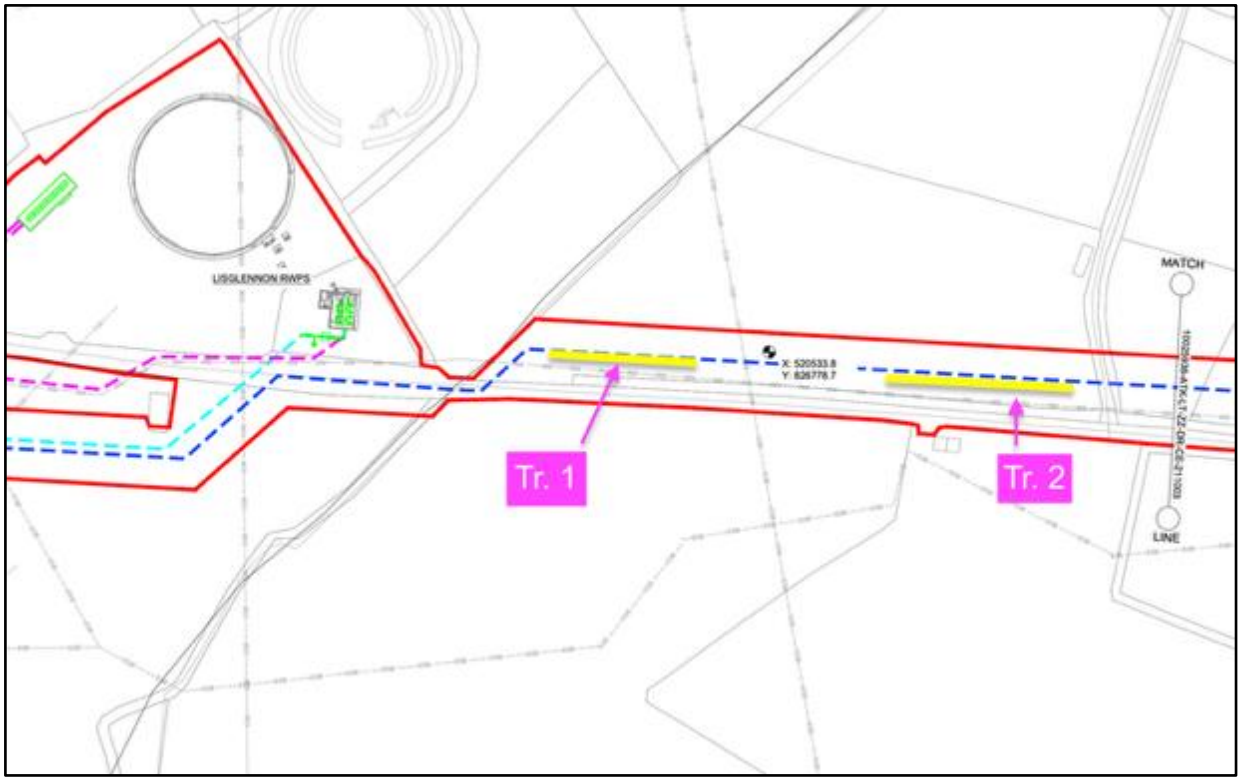



**Fig. 2:** Location of Tr. 1 & 2.




**Fig. 3:** Location of Tr. 3-5.




**Fig. 4:** Location of Tr. 6-9.




**Plate 2:** Aerial view indicating the location of Trenches10-15.

## Location 2

Eight trenches ranging from 35m-50m in length and 1.8m were originally proposed to be excavated along the line of the proposed development in Behy More and Corimla South townlands. Access to two of the trenches was not possible. The remaining six

trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator utilising a toothless bucket. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in any of the trenches.

**Table 2: Details of Trenches at Location 2**

| Number | ITM | Dimensions |
|---|---|---|
| Tr. 10 | ITM 0528334 0818716<br>0528372 0818709 | 35m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 11 | ITM 0528418 0818700<br>0528466 0818686 | 50m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 12 | ITM 0528642 0818667<br>0528578 0818658 | 75m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 13 | ITM 0528744 0818643<br>0528791 0818627 | 50m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 14 | ITM 0528854 0818617<br>0528896 0818609 | 40m x 1.8m |
| Tr. 15 | ITM 0529085 0818433<br>0529070 0818465 | 35m x 1.8m |




**Fig. 5:** Location of Tr. 10 -12.

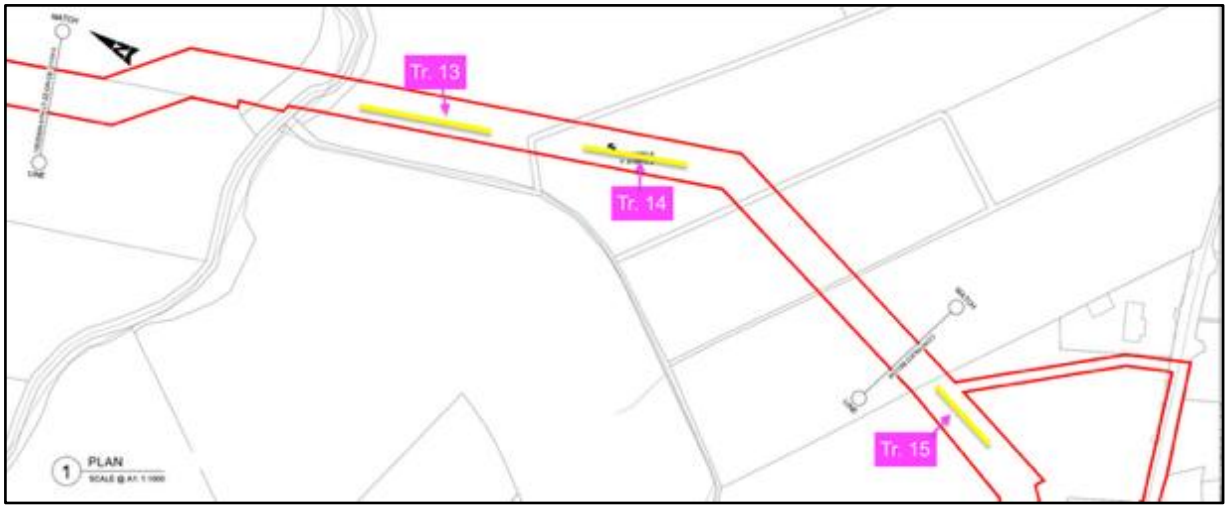



**Fig. 6:** Location of Tr. 13-15.

## 3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Archaeological monuments are protected through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is facilitated in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), which was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

The *Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023* ("the Act") was enacted on 13th October 2023 and partially entered into force on the 31st of May 2024. Pending the commencement of the provisions of the Act which will repeal *the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* and related legislation, those Acts and related legislation remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October 2023.

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as:

"*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto*" (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places and the placing of Preservation

Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

The minister may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or the Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments may also appoint the Minister or the local Authority of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the Register are afforded statuary protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the Register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a Registered Monument. The Register also includes sites under preservation orders and temporary preservation orders with the written consent, and at the discretion of the Minister.

Section 12 (1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Record of Monuments and Places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The Record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statuary protection under the National Monuments Act 1994.

Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Act provides that:

*"Where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposed to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice to the Minister to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the works until two months after the giving of notice".*

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act of 2000 are the main built heritage legislation. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) records all built heritage structures within specific counties in Ireland.

The document is used to advise local Authorities on the register of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Act of 2000 requires Local Authorities to establish a Record of Protected Structures to be included in the County Development Plan (CDP). Buildings recorded in the RPS can include Recorded Monuments, structures listed in the NIAH or buildings deemed to of architectural, archaeological or artistic importance by the Minister. Once listed in the RPS the sites/areas receive statuary protection from injury or demolition under the 2000 Act. Damage to or demolition of a site registered in the RPS is an offence. The detail of the list varies from County to County. If the Local Authority considers a building to be in need of a repair it can order conservation and/or restoration works. The owner or developer must make a written application/request to the local authority to carry out any works on a protected structure and its environs.

Where a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey has been carried out, those structures which have been attributed a rating value of international, national or regional importance in the inventory are recommended by the Minister of the EHLG to the relevant planning authority for inclusion on the RPS. In accordance with Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, if a planning authority, after considering a recommendation made to it under this section, decides not to comply with the recommendation, it shall inform the Minister in writing of the reason for its decision.

## 4. RECORDED MONUMENTS

The archaeological testing did not impact on any recorded archaeological monuments or protected structures. The closest recorded monument to the testing in Location 1 is a ringfort MA022-063 located c. 100m south of Trench 9. A ringfort MA031-050 in Behy More townland was the closest recorded monument to the testing conducted at location 2. The ringfort is located 275m north of Trenches 10-12.

## 5. TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

This is an archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. The archive primarily relates to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important contributors to the knowledge of the archaeological landscape. Locational information to finds is an important indicator or human activity.

The topographical records include no references to the townlands where testing was undertaken.

## 6. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

No previous licensed archaeological work is recorded from the areas tested.

## 7. CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The first edition ordnance survey 6-inch map of 1828/39 records location 1 as enclosed farmland with trenches 1-3 located to the north of a local road and trenches 4-9 located in large fields. A ringfort MA. Is recorded to the south of Trench 9. The 25-inch map of 1896 records extensive land division of this area. No features of archaeological significance are recorded in the area of the trenches.

Trenches 10-12 were excavated in Behy More townland while trenches 13-15 were located in Corimla South townland. The Brsuna River forms the boundary between the townlands of Behy more and Corimla South. The historic ordnance survey maps record a similar landscape at location 2 as was depicted in Location 1 with the open countryside recorded on the first edition ordnance survey map of 1838 is replaced by a more defined enclosed landscape on the 1896 map. No features of archaeological significance are recorded in proximity to the trenches on these maps.

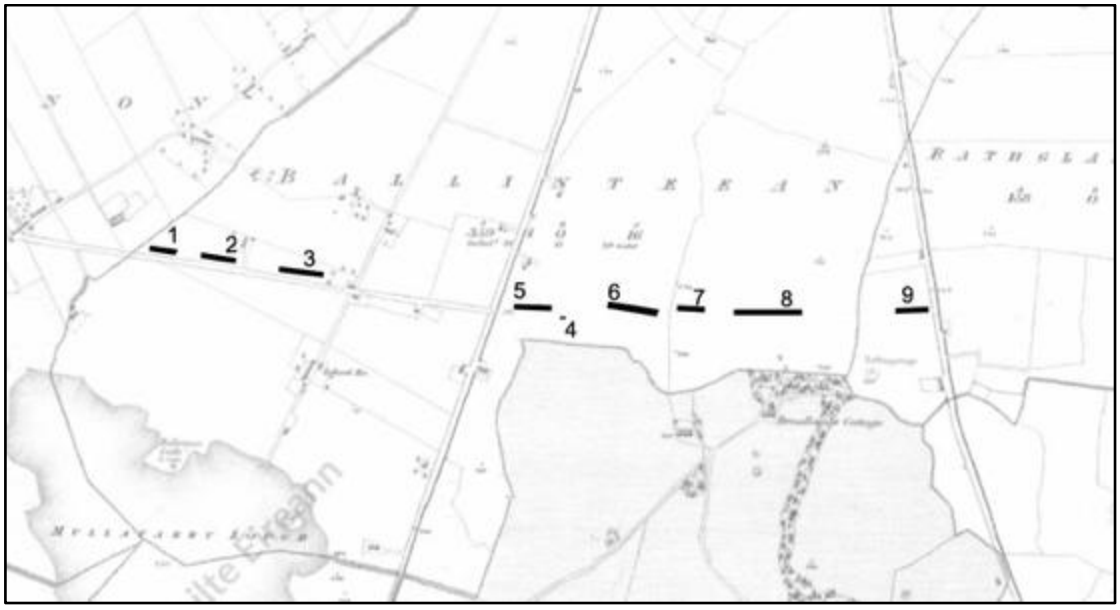



**Fig. 7:** Extract from 1st ed. OS map 1838/39.

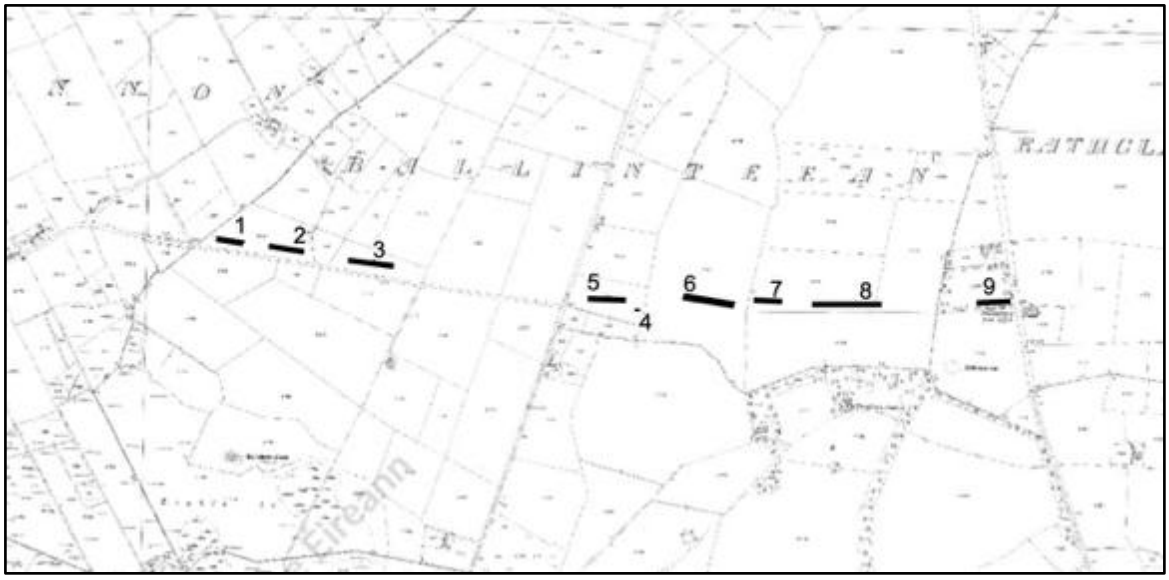



**Fig. 8:** Extract from 25-inch map 1896.

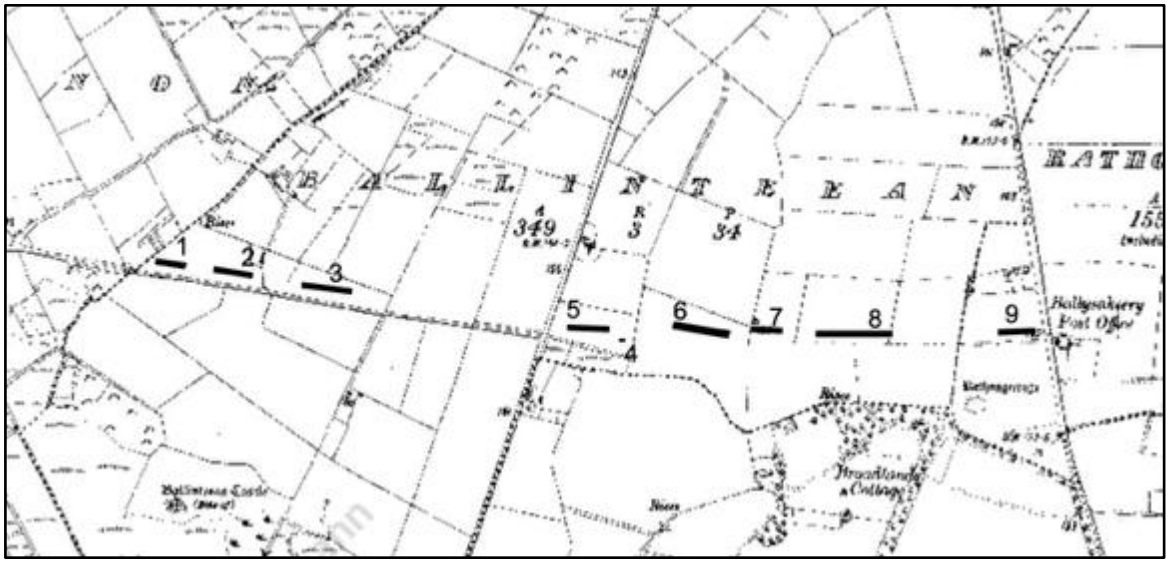



**Fig. 9:** Extract from Cassini ed. of OS 6-inch map.

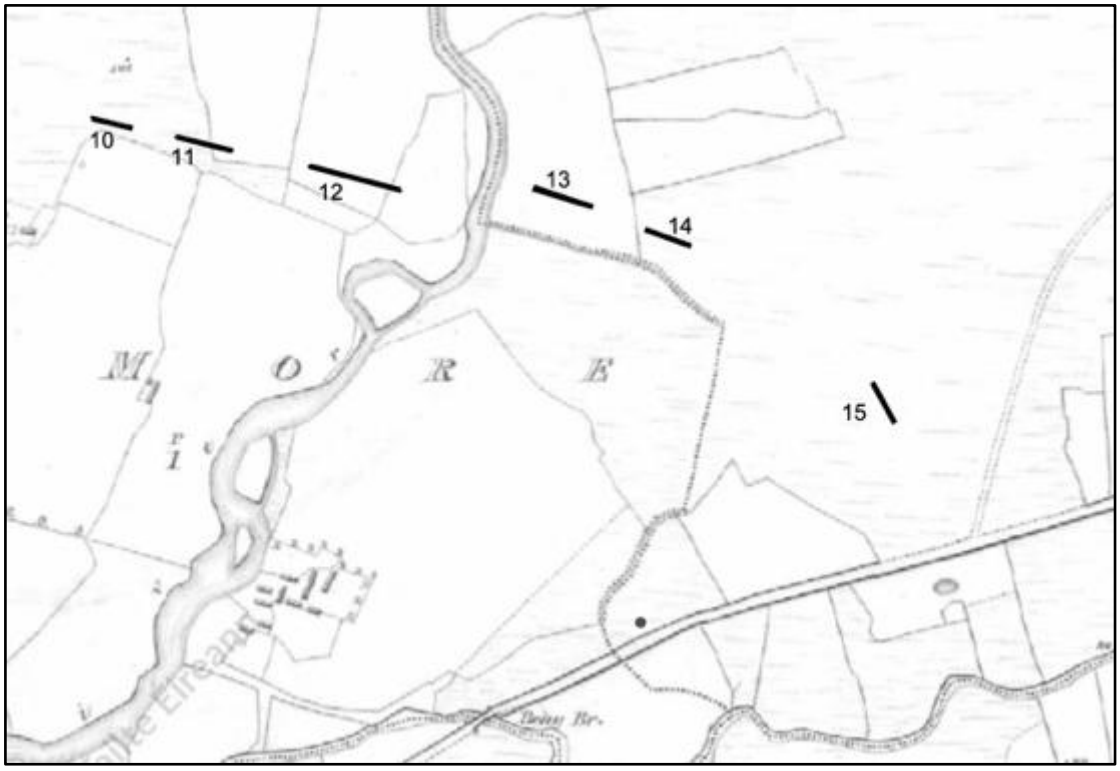



**Fig. 10:** Extract from 1st ed. OS map 1838/39.

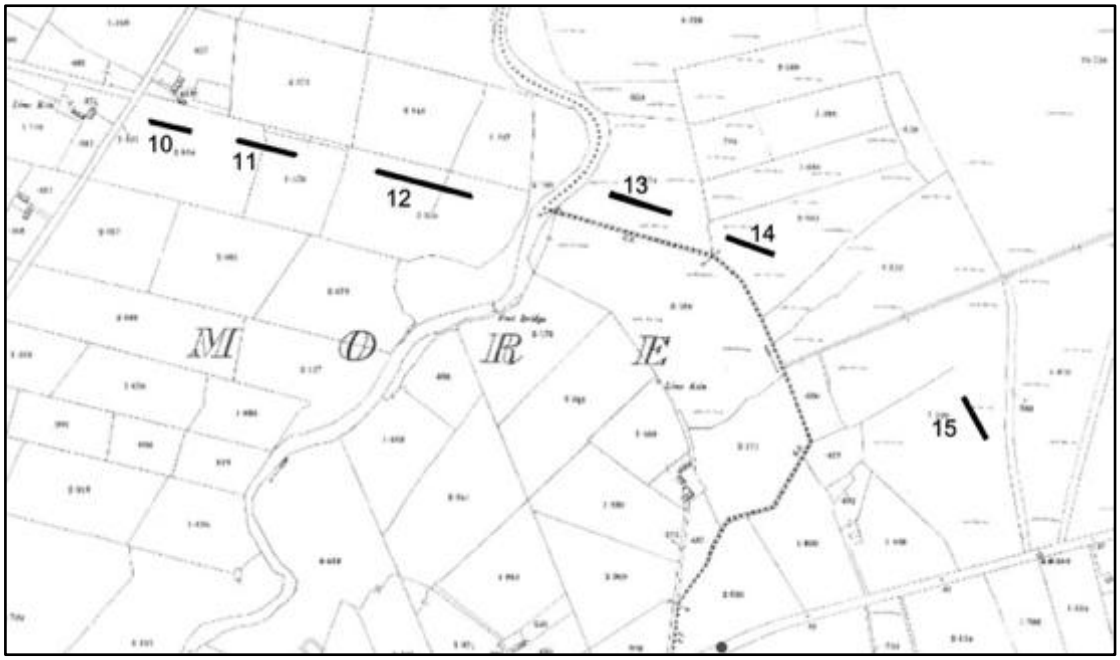



**Fig. 11:** Extract from 25-inch map 1896.

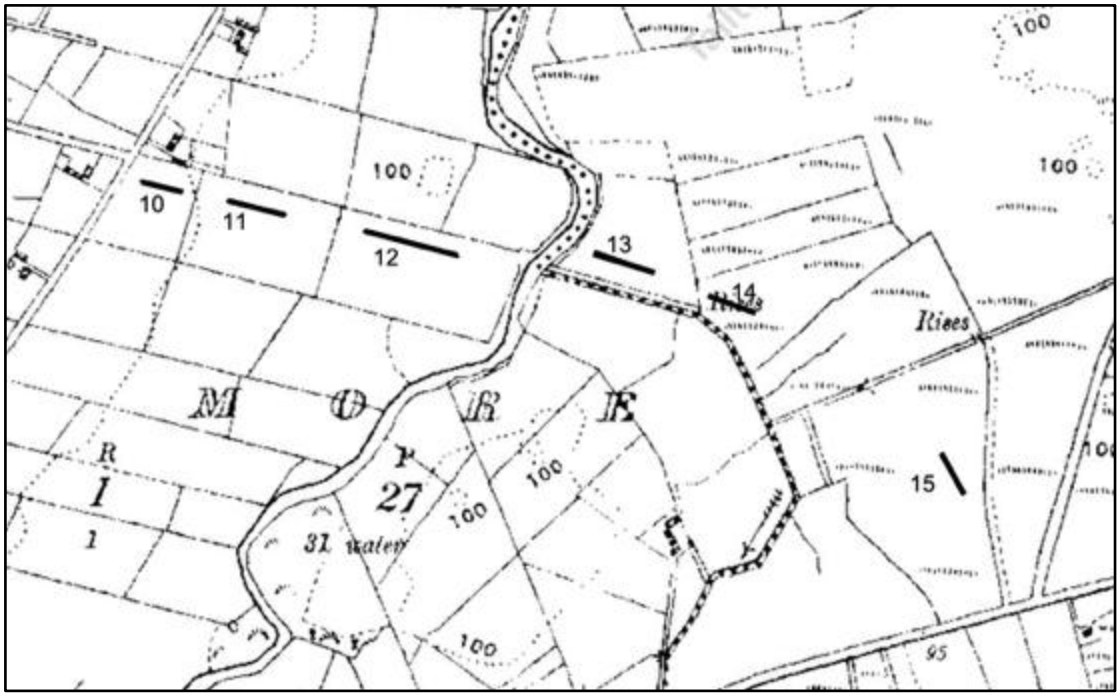



**Fig. 12:** Extract from Cassini ed. of OS 6-inch map.

## 8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

A total of 15 trenches were excavated in the course of testing. Nine trenches were excavated in Balllinteean townland between the existing reservoir site and the R314. Three trenches were excavated to the west of the Brusna River in Behy More townland while a further two trenches were excavated on the east side of the river. The final trench was located in a field of pasture to the immediate north of the R294 roadway. All of the trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator utilising a 1.8m wide flat (ditching) bucket.

**Table 3: Details of Archaeological Testing**

| Trench No. | Trench Length | Orientation | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 40m | E-W | In the west end of a field of wet sloping pasture. The trench was moved 10m east to avoid the waterlogged ground. The stratigraphy was similar throughout and consisted of sod and topsoil over a grey silt. The depth of topsoil was 0.2m at west end and 0.25m at the east end of trench. Two furrow features (F1 and F2) were encountered below topsoil and cut into the grey |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | silt. Both F1 and F2 were filled with topsoil. Feature 1 was a linear cut located at the E end of the trench It measured 1.8m x 0.35m and was 8cm deep. Feature 2 was a linear cut located 12m from the E end of the trench. It measured 1.8m x 0.35m and was 0.15m deep. |
| 2 | 60m | E-W | Excavated to the east of Trench 1 on sloping pasture. The general stratigraphy consisted of sod and peaty topsoil 0.3m in depth over a grey/black silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. At the west end of the trench sod and topsoil over an orange, grey silt. Occasional modern glass fragments recovered at depth of 0.4m probably represent previous disturbance. At the east end of the trench sod and topsoil over a white/grey silt. |
| 3 | 75m | E-W | In field of pasture that rises in the center. General stratigraphy of sod and peaty topsoil 0.2m over a yellow/grey silt. In eastern half of trench sod and topsoil to 0.4m over a grey silt. |
| 4 | 5m | E-W | Located to the south of Trench 5 in Ballinteean townland. It consisted of an area of raised ground (0.2-0.3m high) measuring 9m x 4.5m. A single trench-oriented E-W and measuring 5m x 1m was manually excavated to establish its archaeological potential. A mixed topsoil and stone layer 0.25-0.3m deep overlay peat. String used in bales for cattle feed were found below the mixed topsoil and stone layer. Nothing of archaeological significance encountered. |
| 5 | 50m | E-W | On low lying wet pasture. Stratigraphy of sod and topsoil 0.2-0.3m over a grey silt. |
| 6 | 70m | E-W | On a sloping field of pasture that rises to the east. At east end of trench the stratigraphy consisted of sod and topsoil 0.3m deep over and orange/grey silty clay. At 19m from the east end |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | the stratigraphy was sod and topsoil 0.3m over an orange/brown silty clay. At 48m from east end sod and topsoil 0.2m overlay a grey/black silty clay. At west end of trench sod and topsoil 0.3-0.35m overlay a peaty silty clay over crushed rock. This end of the trench may have been disturbed by previous pipe installation works. |
| 7 | 50m | E-W | On a hilltop in a field of pasture. The stratigraphy at west end of trench consisted of sod and topsoil 0.15m over a grey/orange silty clay with decayed rock inclusions. Feature 3 was located 30m from west end of the trench. Cut into the natural subsoil the cut was 3.1m wide at the top, 1.4m at the bottom with tapered sides and a rounded base. The cut extended across the width of the trench and was filled with silty topsoil 0.6-0.65m over a grey silty clay with moderate stone inclusions to 1.2m in maximum depth. No finds were recorded from the fill. |
| 8 | 80m | E-W | Located in a large field of pasture with the land sloping gently from east to west. Excavation commenced at the west end where sod and topsoil 0.3m overlay a grey/brown silty clay 0.1m over rock. At west end of trench a linear cut (Feature 4) 0.2m wide ran diagonally across the trench for a length of 10m. A section 0.5m in length was excavated through the feature. The cut had straight sides and a flat base. The fill was a grey silty clay (0.1m deep) over rock. Feature 5 was located from 14.1m to 15.1m from the west end of the trench. It was similar to Feature 4 and consisted of a cut 0.2m wide filled with grey silty clay. |
| 9 | 60m | E-W | The stratigraphy consisted of sod and topsoil 0.2-0.25m over lose rock that extended for the length of the trench. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 35m | E-W | In a field of rough pasture with existing watermain to north. Excavation commenced in the east end of the trench where stratigraphy consisted of sod and topsoil 0.23-0.3m over a yellow/orange silty clay. At 11.6m from east end a linear cut (Feature 6) 0.7m wide ran across the trench. The cut had straight sides and base and the fill was a grey silty clay 0.25m over angular stones. Feature 7 was located 29m from east end of the trench. It was a linear cut 0.7m wide that ran N-S across the trench. It had straight sides and was filled with a grey sand. Fragments of tar were recovered from the upper fill. A section 0.5m long was excavated through the feature to a depth of 1m but the bottom was not reached. From 29.7m -35m from the east end sod 0.15m overlay a mixed stone fill to 0.3m over grey silt. |
| 11 | 50m | E-W | In field of rough pasture with rushes. Excavation commenced at east end with sod and topsoil 0.35m over an orange/brown gravel. Three drainage channels (Features 8-10) were recorded running diagonally through the trench. Sections excavated through these features found them to extend to a depth of 0.15m and ware filled with a sandy clay. The west end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.5m and consisted of sod and topsoil 0.3m over an orange/brown sandy clay with stone inclusions. |
| 12 | 35m | E-W | In field of rough pasture to east of Trench 11. Excavation commenced at east end where the stratigraphy consisted of sod and topsoil 0.28-0.3m deep over an orange/brown sandy gravel. Feature 11 was a drainage channel (0.3m wide, 0.15m deep) that ran diagonally across trench from the east end to end to 10.2m. The fill was |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | a brown sandy clay that overlay the gravel layer. Feature 12 was located at 11m from the east end. It was a cut (0.25m wide and 0.1m deep) that ran diagonally across the trench. The cut had sloped sides and a pointed base. At the west end of the trench sod and topsoil overlay a mixed grey silty gravel and an orange/brown sandy clay. |
| 13 | 50m | E-W | In a field of pasture to east of Brusna River. Excavation commenced at the west end where sod and topsoil 0.2m overlay a grey sandy gravel and an orange/brown sandy gravel. Feature 13 was a linear cut 9.5m long that ran diagonally from the west end of the trench. Features 14 and 15 were similar cuts that ran diagonally across trench from 3m to 15m and from 23.5m to 32m. sections excavated through these features found them to be 0.2m wide and 0.15m in max depth with sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fills were similar and consisted of a loose clayey topsoil. At 36.2m from the west end Feature 16 was a linear cut 0.2m wide and 0.25m deep filled with peaty soil that overlay a clay drainage pipe. |
| 14 | 40m | E-W | In a field of rough pasture. Excavation commenced in the east end where sod 0.1m overlay a gravel layer 0.15m over peat 0.15m-0.2m over gravel. Occasional roots and tree fragments were recovered from the peat layer. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.45-0.5m in the east and 0.55-0.6m in the west. |
| 15 | 35m | NE-=SW | Excavated in NE end of large field of pasture. Excavation commenced at SE where sod and peaty topsoil 0.2m deep overlay and orange/brown sandy gravel. From 20m-35m |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | pockets of peat mixed with natural sandy gravelly clay. |

**Details of Features encountered**

| Trench No. | Feature No. | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Linear cut located at the E end of the trench 1. 1.8m x 0.35m and 8cm deep. Filled with topsoil. Furrow feature. |
| 1 | 2 | Linear cut located 12m from the E end of trench 1. 1.8m x 0.35m and 0.15m deep. Filled with topsoil. Furrow feature. |
| 7 | 3 | Located 30m from west end of trench 7. Cut into the natural subsoil the cut was 3.1m wide at the top, 1.4m at the bottom with tapered sides and a rounded base. The cut extended across the width of the trench and was filled with silty topsoil up to 0.65m in maximum depth over a mixed grey silt. No finds were recorded from the fill. |
| 8 | 4 | At west end of trench 8. Linear cut 0.2m wide ran diagonally across the trench for a length of 10m. The cut had straight sides and a flat base. The fill was a grey silty clay (0.1m deep) over rock. Agricultural/drainage feature. |
| 8 | 5 | Located from 14.1m to 15.1m from the west end of trench 8. It was similar to Feature 4 and consisted of a cut 0.2m wide with straight sides and a flat base, filled with grey silty clay. Agricultural/drainage feature. |
| 10 | 6 | At 11.6m from east end of Trench 10. A linear cut 0.7m wide ran across the trench. The cut had straight sides and base and the fill was a grey silty clay 0.25m over angular stones and represents a field drain. |
| 10 | 7 | Feature 7 was located 29m from east end of trench 10. It was a linear cut 0.7m wide that ran N-S across the |

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| | | trench. It had straight sides and was filled with a loose grey sand. Fragments of tar were recovered from the upper fill. A section 0.5m long was excavated through the feature to a depth of 1m but the bottom was not reached. Local information indicated that a compound was located at this location during pipelaying associated with the existing watermain |
| 11 | 8-10 | Three drainage channels were recorded running diagonally through the trench. Sections excavated through these features found them to extend to a depth of 0.15m and ware filled with a sandy clay. The features probably relate to land improvement works and/or associated with the construction of the existing watermain. |
| 12 | 11 | A drainage channel (0.3m wide, 0.15m deep) that ran diagonally across trench from the east end to 10.2m. The fill was a brown sandy clay that overlay the gravel layer. |
| 12 | 12 | Located at 11m from the east end of Trench 12. The cut (0.25m wide and 0.1m deep) ran diagonally across the trench. It had sloped sides and a pointed base. Possible drainage cut. |
| 13 | 13 | Linear cut 9.5m long ran diagonally from the west end of the trench. 0.2m wide and 0.15m in max depth with sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill was a loose clayey topsoil. At 36.2m from the west end |
| 13 | 14 | Feature 14 ran diagonally across trench from 3m to 15m. Cut was 0.2m wide and 0.15m in max depth with sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill was a loose clayey topsoil. |
| 13 | 15 | Feature 15 ran diagonally across trench from 23.5m to 32m. Cut was 0.2m wide and 0.15m in max depth with sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill was a loose clayey topsoil. |
| 13 | 16 | A linear cut 0.2m wide and 0.25m deep filled with peaty soil that overlay a clay drainage pipe. |



**Plate 3:** Trench 1 from the E.




**Plate 4:** Trench 1 from the E with linear cut F1 in foreground.



**Plate 5:** Trench 2 from the W.



**Plate 6:** Trench 2 from the E.



**Plate 7:** Trench 3 from the W.



**Plate 8:** Raised area where Trench 4 excavated.



**Plate 9:** Trench 4 after removal of sod. Taken from the W.



**Plate 10:** Twine recorded below topsoil in Trench 4.



**Plate 11:** Slot Trench in Trench 4. Taken from the E.



**Plate 12:** Trench 5 from the W.



**Plate 13:** Trench 5 from the E.



**Plate 14:** Location of Trench 6 from W.



**Plate 15:** Trench 6 from E.



**Plate 16:** Location of trench 7 from W.



**Plate 17:** View of Tr. 7 from W.




**Plate 18:** Location of ditch feature (F3) in Tr. 7.




**Plate 19:** N facing section of ditch feature. (Feature 3).



**Plate 20:** Trench 7 from E.



**Plate 21:** Location of Trench 8 from W.




**Plate 22:** Trench 8 from W.



**Plate 23:** Location of Trench 9 from E.



**Plate 24:** Trench 9 from W.



**Plate 25:** Location of Trench 10 from NW.



**Plate 26:** Trench 10 from SE.




**Plate 27:** Drain feature 6 in Trench 10.



**Plate 28:** Location of Trench 11 from NW.



**Plate 29:** Trench 11 from NW.




**Plate 30:** Trench 11 from SE.



**Plate 31:** Location of Trench 12 from NW.



**Plate 32:** Trench 12 from NW.



**Plate 33:** Location of Trench 13 from NW.



**Plate 34:** Trench 13 from SE.




**Plate 35:** Clay drainage pipe in Trench 13.



**Plate 36:** Location of Trench 14. Taken from NW.



**Plate 37:** Trench 14 from the NW.



**Plate 38:** Location of Trench 15. Taken from the W.



**Plate 38:** Location of Trench 15. Taken from the W.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeological testing at two separate greenfield locations in the townlands of Ballinteean, Behy More and Corimla South in County Mayo was undertaken between the 16th of March and the 15th of May 2026. A total of 14 linear trenches ranges from 5m-80m in length were excavated by a mechanical excavator while one trench (Trench 4) was manually excavated. Trenches 1-5 were located in low-lying pasture, trenches 7-9 were on higher ground while trenches 6 and 7 were on the slopes and top of a hill. Trenches 10-15 were located on low-lying pasture either side of the Brusna River. An existing watermain runs parallel to the areas tested and evidence for previous disturbance associated with the construction of this watermain was identified in Trenches 9 and 10. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered from any of the trenches excavated.

Trench 4 was excavated to investigate a low rise (9m x 4.5m) that was identified to the south of Trench 5 and was thought may represent a burnt mound/fulacht fia. A single trench 5m x 1m was manually excavated through the mound and found that the feature consisted of an area of loose stone and earth that had been raised above ground to

provide a dry location for feeding animals and was not of archaeological significance. Agricultural and/or drainage features related to 19th and 20th century land improvements were identified in trenches 1, 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13.

A cut features (Feature 3) was identified in Trench 7. Located 30m from the west end of the trench, it measured 3.1m in width with sloping sides and a rounded base. Cut into the natural subsoil it was filled with a silty topsoil and a grey silt with stone inclusions. Trench 7 was located on a hilltop and the location and form of the feature suggests it may be of archaeological significance. It is recommended that prior to development and following consultation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that the area of the proposed development at this location is stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and the full extent of the feature revealed and recorded.

**PLEASE NOTE**…

**Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government &, Heritage.**

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An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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**Site Owner:** Irish water
**Address:** Coolville House, Talbot Street, Dublin

**Planning Authority:**
**Planning Reg. No.:**

**Excavation Type:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Contractor/Developer:** Irish Drilling Ltd.
**Address:** Loughrea,
County Galway

Archaeologist Martin Fitzpatrick was engaged to undertake archaeological testing in the townlands of Ballinteean, Behy More and Corimla South in County Mayo. The archaeological testing was undertaken in greenfield areas that will be impacted by a proposed pipeline development between Lisglennon, County Mayo and Lough Talt, Co. Sligo. The archaeological testing was undertaken as part of an overall EIAR being prepared for the development.

## Background

The Lough Talt Regional Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) serves a large rural supply area in south Co. Sligo with a population of approximately 13,663 people. The water supply for this region is currently provided from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The proposed project will see this supply being replaced with a new transfer of potable water from the Ballina RWSS, which will be upgraded and extended.

The proposed project will comprise a number of individual work sites along the linear project:

- Expansion of water treatment capacity will be required at the Lisglennon WTP site.
- An upgraded treated water trunk main network (c. 30 km length) will be required between the Lisglennon WTP and Lough Talt WTP sites, via Ballina town.
- A new booster pumping station will be required near Bunnyconnellan, from where water will then be pumped to a new storage reservoir near the existing Lough Talt WTP site.
- Decommissioning works will be carried out at the existing Lough Talt WTP site, which upon delivery of the proposed project, will cease abstraction and treatment of water from Lough Talt.
- Renewable energy generation equipment (solar panels and energy recovery turbines) is proposed to be installed as part of the works at all new and upgraded sites.

The Proposed Development is a water supply upgrade comprising existing assets, essential upgrades, and new infrastructure. Water abstracted from Lough Conn will be pumped north via the existing trunk main for approximately 11 km to the existing Balancing and Storage Tanks at Lisglennon Raw Water Pumping Station. From there, raw water will be pumped through approximately 1 km of upgraded main to Lisglennon WTP for treatment. A new trunk main network approx. 30 km in length will deliver treated water from Lisglennon to Lough Talt. This pipeline will primarily follow existing roadways and will include a crossing of the River Moy through Ballina town. The proposed development will run parallel to an existing watermain in greenfield locations in the townlands of Ballinteen, Behy More and Corimla South.

Archaeological testing in the townlands of Ballinteean, Behy More and Corimla South in County Mayo was undertaken between the 16th of March and the 15th of May 2026. A total of 14 linear trenches ranges from 5m-80m in length were excavated by a mechanical excavator while one trench (Trench 4) was manually excavated.

Trench 4 was excavated to investigate a low rise (9m x 4.5m) that was identified to the south of Trench 5 and was thought may represent a burnt mound/fulacht fia. A single trench 5m x 1m was manually excavated through the mound and found that the feature consisted of an area of loose stone and earth that had been raised above ground to provide a dry location for feeding animals and was not of archaeological significance. Agricultural and/or drainage features were identified in trenches 1, 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13 and are related to 19th and 20th century land improvements.

A cut features was identified in Trench 7. Located 30m from the west end of the trench, it measured 3.1m in width and had sloping sides and a rounded base. Cut into the natural subsoil it was filled with a silty topsoil. Trench 7 was located on hilltop and the location and form of the feature suggests it may be of archaeological significance. It is recommended that prior to development and following consultation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that the area of the proposed development at this location is stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and the full extent of the feature revealed and recorded.

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** | **Martin Fitzpatrick** | **Date:** | **05/06/2026** |