

Shannon Technology and Energy Park (STEP) Power Plant

Appendix A12.4: Catalogue of Cultural Heritage Sites Identified During Field Inspection

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APPENDIX 14A

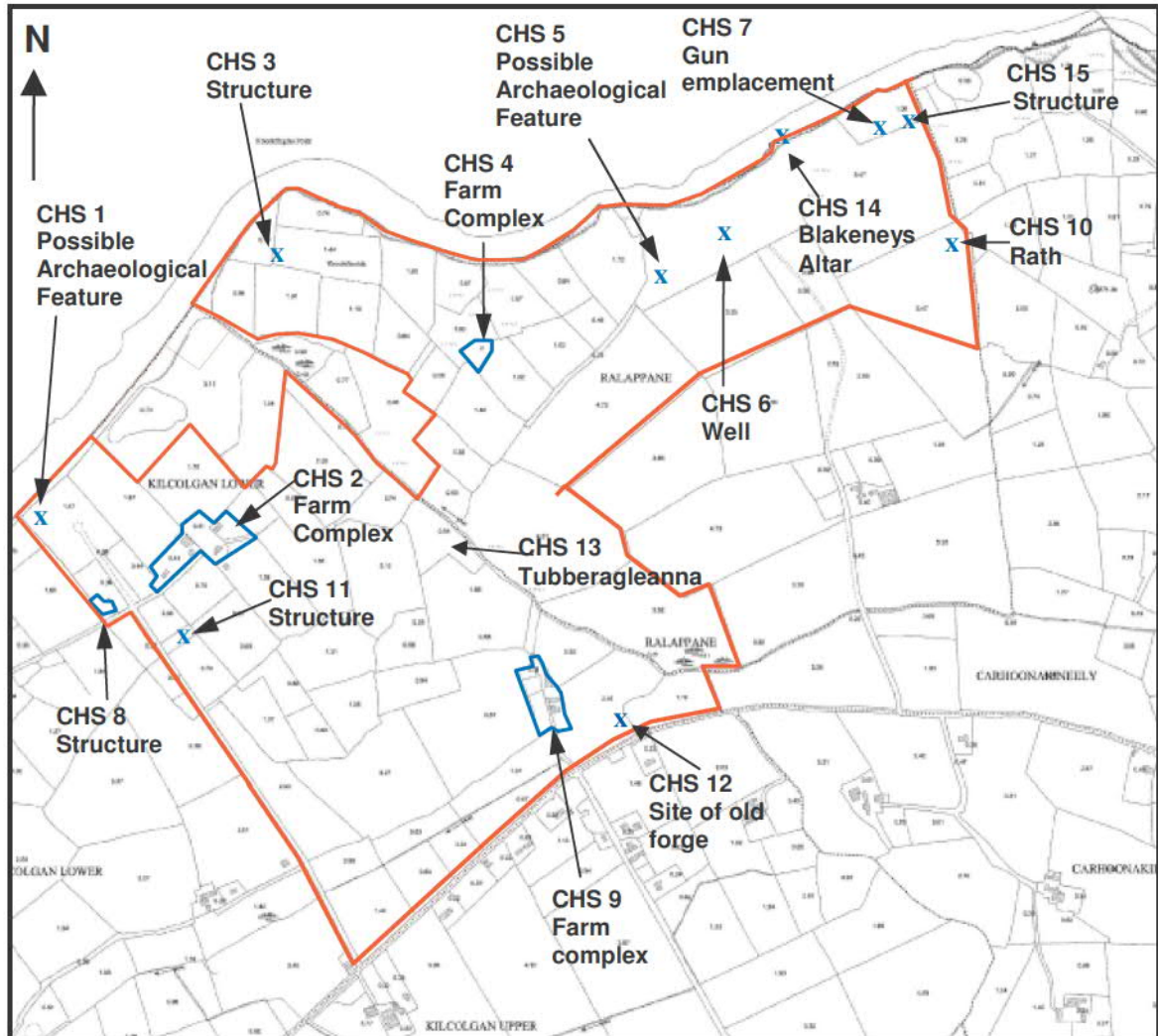
CATALOGUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IDENTIFIED DURING FIELD
INSPECTION

Fig. 14A.1: Proposed development site depicted on the Urban/Rural Place Map showing cultural heritage features (1-15)

CHS 1: Possible Archaeological Feature

Semi-circular shaped mound (c. 1.5m high) with a central depression (c. 6m E-W) in a field of medium pasture that slopes down to the north towards the estuary. It was impossible to determine from the field inspection if the site was of any archaeological significance without further archaeological investigation.



Plate 1: CHS 1; Possible archaeological site looking SE



Plate 2: CHS 1; Possible archaeological site looking NW

CHS 2: Farm Complex

Complex of ten buildings some of which are set around a farmyard at the east of the complex (Fig. 7). Building 1 is depicted on all three OS map editions. The OS map of 1841/2 (Fig. 7a) shows an L-shaped building in the vicinity of Buildings 3 and 4, however, these do not appear to be the same buildings. Buildings 2, 3 and 4 are depicted on the 1896 (Fig. 7b) and 1914 (Figure 14.5 of EIS) editions. Building 5 is modern, however, a structure is shown in this location on all editions of the OS maps. The remaining buildings are modern. Two wells are depicted within the complex on the map of 1896 (Fig. 7b), one to the southeast of Building 5 and one to the south of Building 4.

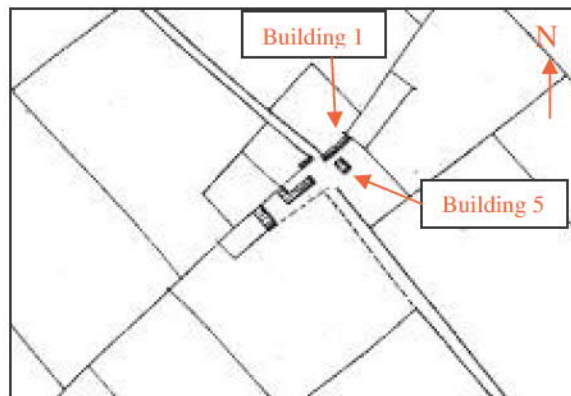


Fig. 7a: OS 6-inch map of 1841/2, enlarged, showing farm complex; CHS 2

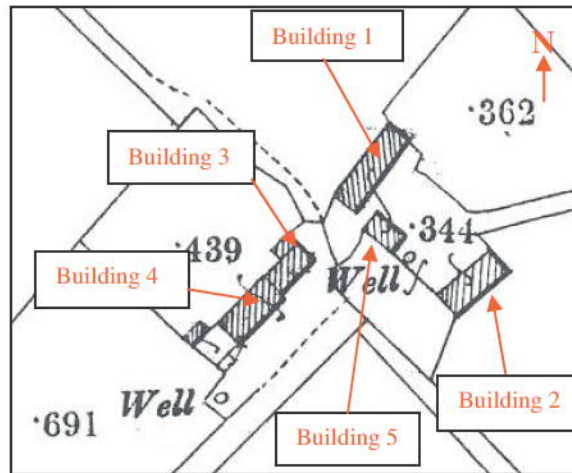


Fig. 7b: OS 25-inch map of 1896 showing farm complex; CHS 2

Building 1 is a 7-bay, single storey, gable-ended structure with a corrugated iron roof. It is in use for storage, however, it may have originally been a dwelling house (Plate 3). It is oriented northeast-southwest and is of random rubble construction, except for the northwest wall which is of concrete. A small random rubble outhouse with lean-to roof adjoins the southwest gable.

Building 2 is a dwelling house to the southeast of Buildings 1 and 5 (Plate 4). It is a single storey gable-ended building with a slate roof and is oriented northeast-southwest. The front (northwest) elevation has a window ope at the north and south and the centre of the elevation is obscured by a 3-bay, flat-roofed addition. The rear (southeast) elevation is obscured by dense overgrowth. A roofless lean-to addition adjoins the northeast gable. The interior was not accessed at the time of inspection.

Building 3 stands to the southwest of Building 1. It is a single storey with loft, gable-ended building with a modern corrugated roof and is in a ruinous condition (Plate 5). The roof may have originally been thatched. The walls are of random rubble construction with a white lime wash. The front (southeast) elevation is 4-bay comprising a door ope and three window opes. The rear (northwest) elevation is 2-bay comprising a window and a door ope at the east end. A roofless addition adjoins the centre of this elevation. The interior comprises three rooms at ground floor level. The main, central, room has a large fireplace in the west wall, although the chimney is not now visible on the outside (Plate 6). The ceiling is a tray ceiling and is timber panelled. This building is similar in style to Building 4 (CHS 9)

Building 4 stands to the immediate west of Building 3 (Plate 7). It is a single storey with loft, gable-ended building with a corrugated iron roof. The front (southeast) elevation is 3-bay comprising an enlarged entrance ope with a window ope on either side. The northeast gable is 1-bay comprising a door ope at ground floor level and a window ope above. A modern gable-ended building with corrugated iron roof adjoins the southwest gable.

Building 5 is of concrete block. A building is shown in this location on all editions of the OS maps.



Plate 3: CHS 2; Building 1, southeast elevation looking north



Plate 4: CHS 2; Building 2, northwest elevation, looking south



Plate 5: CHS 2; Building 3, SE elevation and NE gable, looking W



Plate 6: CHS 2; Building 3, fireplace and ceiling



Plate 7: CHS 2; Building 4, southeast elevation, looking northwest



Plate 8: CHS 2; Building 5, north elevation, looking northeast

CHS 3: Structure

A structure is depicted in this location only on the OS 25-inch map of 1896 to the immediate west of a Trigonometrical Station. It is situated on high ground with extensive views to the west and north over the Shannon estuary. The structure is of concrete and is in a ruinous condition, the south gable and most of the west wall having collapsed (Plate 8). There is a door ope in the north gable and the remains of a

window ope in the west wall. According to local information, this structure was used to store nets and fishing gear and would also provide shelter to the fishermen who would have fished the weir on the estuary. This structure was known locally as ‘the concrete’ (*pers.comm.* Donal O’Connor).



Plate 8: CHS 3; Structure from the west

CHS 4: Farm Complex

Depicted on all three OS map editions (Figs. 8a and 8b). It comprises two buildings in a ruinous condition and two modern buildings (Fig. 8b).



Fig. 8a: OS 6-inch map of 1841/2, enlarged, showing CHS 4 complex

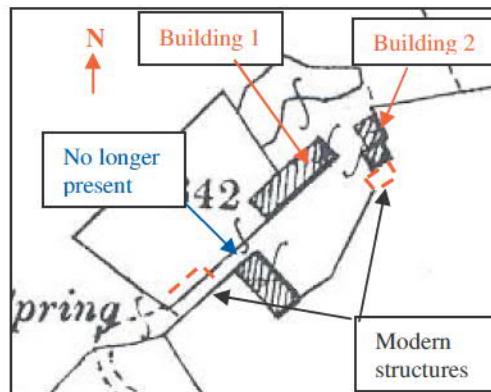


Fig. 8b: OS 25-inch map of 1896 showing CHS 4 complex

Building 1 is a dwelling house oriented northeast-southwest (Plate 9). It is a 2-bay, single storey gable-ended building with a slate roof and a chimney at the northeast gable. The entrance door is in the northeast gable. There are two window ope in the southeast elevation and one in the northwest. The walls are rendered. A structure is shown in this location on the OS maps of 1841/2 (Fig. 8a) and 1986 (Fig. 8b) but the present building appears to be smaller and of a later date.

Building 2 is a small single storey gable-ended outhouse with a corrugated iron roof (Plate 10). It is oriented roughly north-south and is of random rubble construction. There is a door ope in the west wall. The remains of a gable-ended structure adjoin the south gable of this outhouse and a modern northeast-southwest outhouse adjoins the south gable of this.

A modern outhouse stands to the southwest of Building 1.



Plate 9: CHS 4; Building 1, southeast elevation **Plate 10:** CHS 4; Building 2, west elevation

CHS 5: Possible Archaeological Feature

Raised rock outcrop on a height up against the western boundary of a large undulating field under pasture. The potential site, roughly covering an area 38m N-S and 15m E-W, occupies a commanding position with good views over the estuary to the north.



Plate 11: CHS 5; Possible archaeological feature looking NW

CHS 6: Well

This well is depicted on the OS 25-inch map of 1896 and labelled '*Pump*' and is depicted but not named OS 6-inch map of 1914. It is of random rubble construction, roughly circular in shape, with an internal diameter of c.1.7m.



Plate 12: CHS 6; Well, looking south

CHS 7: Gun emplacement

There is a gun emplacement (Plate 13) in the boundary between Fields 45 and 46 (Refer to Figure 14B.1 of Appendix 14B) on high ground with extensive views to the north and west over the Shannon estuary. The structure is not depicted on any OS map editions. It is irregular in plan, of concrete construction with a flat concrete roof. There are two viewing apes measuring 0.66m wide and 0.28m high in the north elevation. A similar ope in the south elevation is obscured with overgrowth. The door ope (measuring 1.24m high and 0.7m wide) is located at the south end of the east wall. The interior of the bunker is c. 1.8m high. Beneath each viewing ope there is a concrete pillar with metal socket on top, which would have held a gun (Plate 14). This structure appears to be an outlying part of Fort Shannon, situated in the adjacent townland, Carhoonakineely, just bordering the proposed development site to the east. Fort Shannon was constructed by the 9th Company, Irish Army Engineers in 1941/42 during Ireland's 'state of emergency'. Remnants of Fort Shannon include this gun emplacement within the proposed development site and further gun emplacements, machine gun posts, an ordnance store, a well for fresh water and one building in the adjacent townland a short distance to the east (Holly, 1981, 76).



Plate 13: CHS 7; Bunker from the north**Plate 14:** CHS 7; Interior of bunker, looking north

CHS 8: Structure

There is a structure depicted in this location on all editions of the OS maps, however, the outline of the building changes on each edition and it is not certain if the present building is part of these earlier structures. This building is of mass concrete construction and is in ruins (Plate 15). The northeast gable stands and the southwest gable has collapsed and is obscured with dense overgrowth.

**Plate 15:** CHS 8 from the south, looking north

CHS 9: Farm Complex

This complex comprises a number of buildings grouped around two farmyards. The northern one is the only one depicted on the OS map edition 1841/42 (Fig. 9a). On this map Building 1 is roughly oriented north-south and the building to its southwest is oriented northwest-southeast. On the maps of 1896 (Fig. 9b) and 1914 this building appears to have a different orientation and may be a different structure to that on the earlier map. At the time of inspection a small outhouse, orientated east-west (Building 3), stood roughly in this location. The OS maps of 1896 (Fig. 9b) and 1914 depict Building 2, to the northwest of Building 1. The southern farmyard with Building 4 at its north side and Building 5 at the south is depicted on the later maps (Fig. 9b). The farm complex was, according to local information, split into two separate farms in the 1860's/70's. Mr. Tim O'Mahony's family bought one of the farms in c. 1936 from Maurice O'Connor, known locally as 'Maurice the Peeler' indicating that he was, or had, some association with the police, known in some areas as 'peelers'. The main residence, Building 1, was occupied until 1981 (*pers. comm.* Tim O' Mahony).

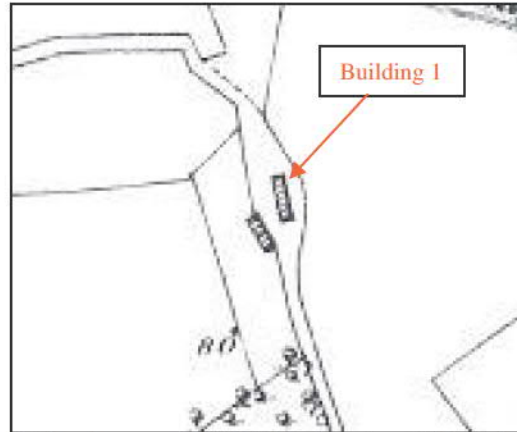


Fig. 9a: OS 6-inch map of 1841/42 showing CHS 9 farm complex

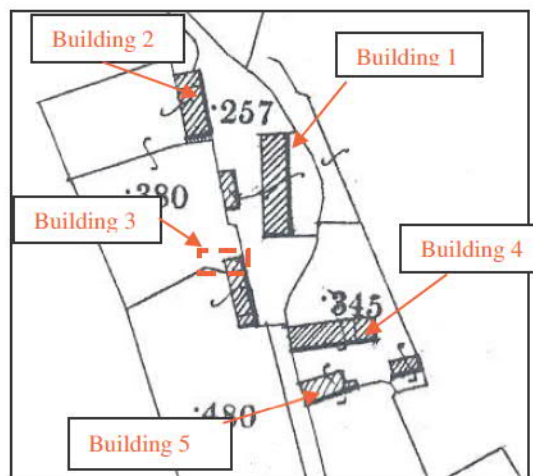


Fig. 9b: OS 25-inch map of 1896 showing CHS 9 farm complex

Building 1 is a 5-bay, single storey with attic, gable-ended dwelling house with a corrugated iron roof (Plate 16). The house was originally thatched. There is a chimney to the north of centre and one at each gable. The walls are rendered with rough pebbledash. A small red brick porch with a flat roof has been added to the door ope. A gable-ended outhouse with a corrugated iron roof adjoins the north gable and a further outhouse, with a lean-to roof, adjoins the north gable of this outhouse. A modern, flat-roofed extension adjoins the south end of the east elevation. Mr. Tim O'Mahony's family bought one of the farms about 1936 and this building, the main residence, was lived in until the 1980's (*pers. comm.* Tim O' Mahony).

Building 2 is to the northwest of Building 1 (Plate 17). It is a 3-bay, one-storey with attic, gable-ended building with a slate roof. A random rubble outhouse with lean-to corrugated iron roof adjoins the north gable and a modern shed with a lean-to roof adjoins the east wall of this outhouse (Plate 18).

Building 3 stands to the southwest of Building 1. It is oriented east-west and is a small outhouse of random rubble construction with a lean-to roof (Plate 19). The overgrown ruins of another building lie to the south of this and may be the remains of the north-south building depicted on the OS maps.

Building 4 is a dwelling house at the north side of a farmyard on the east side of a laneway leading to Buildings 1-3. It is single-storey with a slate roof and red brick chimneys and is 4-bay with a 2-bay extension at the east gable (Plate 20). A gable-ended addition with corrugated iron roof adjoins the east gable of the extension. A modern flat-roofed extension adjoins the west end of the north elevation. The main

room was inspected and has a large fireplace in the east wall. The ceiling is a tray ceiling and is timber panelled (Plate 21).

Building 5 is an outhouse on the south side of the later farmyard. It is a single storey, gable-ended structure with a corrugated iron roof (Plate 22). The walls are of random rubble construction with a rough concrete render in places. It comprises two areas each accessed by means of a door ope in the north elevation. A small shed with a corrugated iron roof adjoins its east gable and a large modern barn adjoins its south side.



Plate 16 CHS 9; Building 1, front elevation



Plate 17: CHS 9; Building 2, east elevation



Plate 18: CHS 9; Building 2, north gable



Plate 19: CHS 9; Building 3, east elevation



Plate 20: CHS 9; Building 4, south elevation



Plate 21: CHS 9, ceiling of Building 4



Plate 22: CHS 9; Building 5, from northwest

CHS 10: Rath

There is no above ground evidence for this recorded site rath/ringfort (KE003-004). It is depicted as a circular area enclosed by a bank on the OS map of 1841/2. On later maps (1986 and 1914), only the western half of the bank is depicted, the eastern half is no longer represented. The site was surveyed by Toal in 1989. At that time, the remains of the site consisted of a semi-circular earthen bank, c. 22m in length that was cut by the townland boundary between Ralappane and Carhoonakineely. According to Toal, the bank had an external height of 0.4m, an internal height of 0.4m and the width of the bank at the base measured c 5m (Appendix 14C; Section B). Although there is no above ground evidence for the site at present, it is highly likely that remains exist intact below the ground surface.



Plate 23: CHS 10; Site of recorded rath, no above ground evidence looking NE

CHS 11: Structure

A structure is depicted towards the centre of a small, square field on the OS map of 1841/2 (Fig. 10a). On later maps (1896 (Fig. 10b) and 1914) the field layout has been changed and there are two small structures depicted in the vicinity of this earlier building. However, as both of these buildings adjoin the eastern field boundaries in is likely that these are different structures to the one shown on the 1841/2 map (Fig. 10a). The present structure is gable-ended and of rough concrete construction. It is in a

ruinous condition and is mostly obscured with dense overgrowth. A small shed with a lean-to, corrugated iron roof, adjoins the east gable.

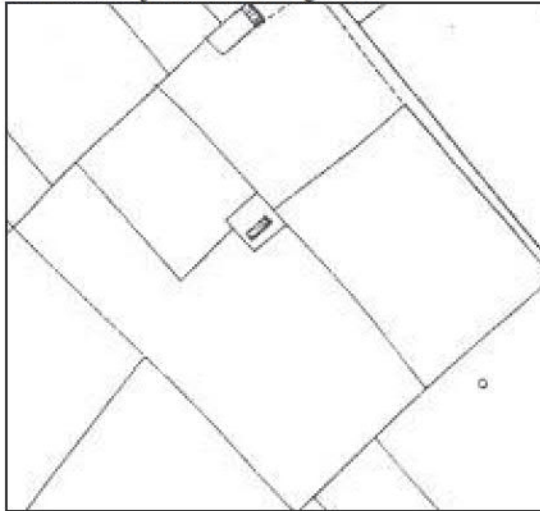


Fig. 10a: OS 6-inch map of 1841/2 showing CHS 11

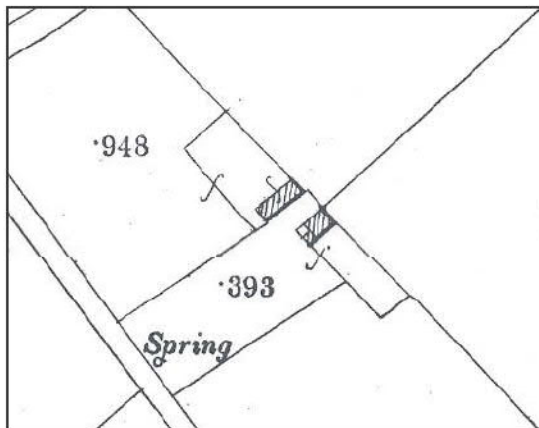


Fig. 10b: OS 25-inch map of 1896 showing CHS 11



Plate 24: CHS 11; structure from E structure



Plate 25: CHS 11; concrete walls of looking W

CHS 12: Site of forge

There appears to be no above ground evidence for the forge in Field 29, though the area is completely overgrown with vegetation that may obscure some low structural

remains (Refer to Figure 14B.1 of Appendix 14B). According to local information (*pers. comm.* Michael Finnucane and Tim O' Mahony), this building was in use up until the late 1920's. The forge was a very important place within the rural community where the tools of farming were made and repaired. It would also have been the hub of the community functioning as a social outlet and meeting place for people of the locality. The forge is evident on the all three editions of the OS map and so dates to at least 1841. It is identified on the 1900 map edition as '*smithy*'. The building fell into disrepair when it ceased to function as a forge in the 1920's.



Plate 26: Overgrown site of forge

CHS 13: Tubberagleanna – Well of the Glen

In Field 33, in an area known locally as the Glen, there is a well (CHS 13) called *Tubberagleanna* - well of the Glen. The site of the well is an open spring that is now engulfed with vegetation. A story attached to the well goes as follows; This well was originally situated on the opposite side of the stream in the field known as O'Connell's Hill. Seven girls went to the well to wash some clothes in it. The next morning the well dried up and appeared on the opposite side of the stream in its present location in the Glen (*pers. comm.* Michael Finnucane and Tim O'Mahony).



Plate 27: Overgrown site of Tubberagleanna

CHS 14: Blakeney's Altar

According to local information, in the intertidal area there are two rocks topped with a slab known locally as Blakeney's Altar. It is believed that mass was said at this site in the Penal times (*pers. comm.* Michael Finnucane and Tim O'Mahony). Mass rocks became a feature of the Irish countryside as a consequence of the religious strife of the 17th century and the passing of the Penal Laws in 1695, when the celebration of Catholic Mass became difficult. Isolated sites were selected for worship and many natural rocks and boulders became 'Mass Rocks'.

CHS 15: Structure

The possible remains of a structure are located in Field 46, at the east end of the southern boundary (Plate 28) (Refer to Figure 14B.1 of Appendix 14B). An east-west rectangular building is depicted in roughly this location on the OS 25-inch map of 1896 (Fig. 10). Two small, square structures are shown to the south of this, one at the southeast and one at the southwest. The OS 6-inch map of 1914 (Figure 14.5 of EIS) shows the rectangular structure but the two small structures are no longer present. The remains comprise a random rubble wall (c. 13m long x c. 1m high) with blocked openings visible in places. There is a buttress on the north side of the wall (Plate 28). The south side is obscured by dense overgrowth.

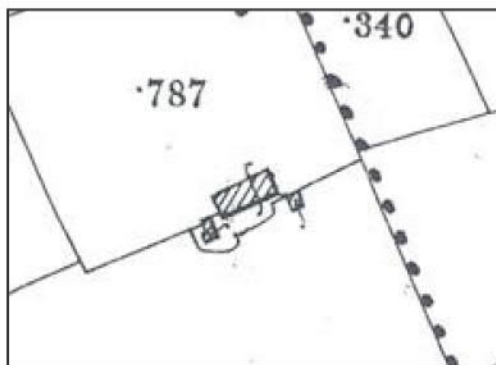


Figure 10: OS 25-inch map of 1896 showing CHS 15



Plate 28: Possible remains of structure in southern boundary, looking south

AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Certain fields or areas, for a variety of reasons, are listed as areas in which potential archaeological sites or features may be found.

Watercourses

Watercourses have always been a vital resource, utilised by humans from prehistoric times to the present. The Shannon estuary has yielded a wealth of archaeological evidence from the Neolithic to modern times. Approximately 8km to the west of the proposed development site, around Bunaclugga Bay, remnants of a submerged forest, dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age and stone alignments which indicate the presence of ancient field systems or drainage ditches were identified. Also in the same area, a post medieval fish trap was identified on the upper foreshore. On the opposite side of the estuary, numerous intertidal archaeological sites have been identified again dating from the Neolithic to the Post Medieval period. The proximity of the proposed development site to the estuary, which borders the site to the north, would have encouraged human use and settlement in the area from the Mesolithic period onwards. The main watercourse within the proposed development site runs from southeast to northwest roughly dividing the site in half and also acting as the townland boundary between Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane. This is a shallow stream and the area around it is referred to locally as the Glen. There is always the potential for archaeological finds and features associated with rivers and streams, either on their banks or in the riverbeds.

Fulacht fiadh type terrain

A number of fields within the proposed development site contain a typical environment in which fulachta fiadh may be found; generally low-lying, wet in places, often with a hummocky terrain. Fulachta Fiadh are the most common prehistoric site type in the country. They have been interpreted as Bronze Age cooking places, often recognisable as horseshoe-shaped mounds of heat-shattered stones, often located near a stream or in waterlogged areas. Water in a stone or wood-lined trough was brought to the boil by immersing hot stones in it. The stones were heated in a nearby fire and shattered on impact with the cold water in the trough. After each cooking session the stones were removed from the trough and thrown to the side, finally forming the characteristic mound of stones. Regular ploughing of the mound reduces it to a spread of heat-shattered stones in the field. It has been suggested that the hot water in the trough was used to cook an animal or may have also been used to provide steam for a sweathouse. Fulachta fiadh generally enjoy a good survival rate owing to their siting in these poorly drained environments where tillage is not practiced. Fields which contain an environment in which Fulachta Fiadh may be found are; Fields 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 33, 34, 51, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59 and 60.

Wetland and Marsh environments

Some pockets of wetland are located in Fields 3, 37, 69, 70 and 71. Marshy wet environments can be archaeologically important. Marshes tend to flood periodically in accordance with climatic conditions. Subsequently, these conditions may permit the protection and partial preservation of archaeological remains. Up until the late 1960's the sedge in these marsh areas would have been cut in September/October, piled into shaves and drawn from the area to be used in roof thatching (*pers.com*. Tim O'Mahony). All of the above fields, with the exception of Field 37, have been designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) or as a proposed

Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). Fields 3, 69, 70 and 71 are not within the site boundary and will be excluded from the development.