

Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience

Part X Planning Application Architectural Design Statement & Conservation Report

**McCullough Mulvin
Architects**

**06.12.24
Planning**

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01 INTRODUCTION

McCullough Mulvin Architects, along with an Integrated Design Team were appointed by Clare County Council to undertake the design of the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience tourist attraction to which this Part X application relates.

BACKGROUND & CLIENT OBJECTIVES

Inis Cealtra is a 20-hectare island located near Mountshannon in Scarriff Bay, in the south-west part of Lough Derg between County Clare and County Galway. The Inis Cealtra Visitor Management & Sustainable Tourism Development Plan was published in July 2017 and sets the context for this project.

The proposed development is to take place on Inis Cealtra Island (Holy Island) (National Monument in State Care, RMP No. CL029-009, Nat_Mon No.5) in Lough Derg and within two principal locations in Mountshannon Village; the Old Rectory Site (a Protected Structure RPS No.464) and to the north of the village main street.

Client Long Term Objective

The long-term objective of the project is:

- a) To conserve Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) as a significant historical, ecclesiastical, archaeological and cultural site and
- b) to expand its attractiveness as a sustainable tourism destination, and in so doing, address population decline and rural deprivation by providing social and economic benefits derived from tourism for East Clare and the wider Mid-West Region.

There is a need for a high-quality visitor attraction in Mountshannon that will raise the profile of the tourism offering in County Clare and complement existing tourism brands both in Clare and neighbouring counties including Galway and Tipperary. The Lough Derg Blueway is a significant brand that has been developed by Waterways Ireland and three neighbouring counties (Clare, Tipperary and Galway) through the Lough Derg Marketing Group. In addition, this project will provide a significant contribution to Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand as well as benefiting from this branding.

The Vision

Inis Cealtra will be protected for future generations through exemplary conservation management and interventions and through a balanced and sustainable management approach to providing access for visitors and the local community using sustainable architectural and engineering design. The visitor experience, enjoyment and respect for the island's living and built cultural heritage and that of the greater area will be expanded, and the long-term, socio-economic benefits to both the local community and the wider region will be developed.

Clare County Council, along with its partners, seeks to deliver a high-quality, motivating and immersive visitor experience that is fit-for-purpose, including but not exclusive to a Visitor Centre and support services in Mountshannon with appropriate infrastructure; facilities on Inis Cealtra; safeguard monuments on Inis Cealtra island and provide improved accessibility taking the sensitivities of the island into account, and provide an economic boost to the local community and its environs.

These principle objectives were formulated through the development of the Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan (VMSTDP) in 2017, commissioned by Clare County Council and prepared by a team of specialists from various fields. This plan was prepared in line with the requirements of the Burra Charter process to Understand Significance and to Develop Policy relating to sites of Cultural Significance, with the overarching imperative that places of cultural significance should be conserved.

In addition to the requirements for conservation of places of cultural significance, the natural environment of Inis Cealtra, Lough Derg and its environs is also significant being a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Inis Cealtra aerial view

RELATIVE STANDARDS & LEGISLATION

The proposed development pays regard to the relevant standards and legislation which apply to the sites and monuments affected, as a means of ensuring their protection. The below is a non-exhaustive list of the relevant standards and legislation

International Conventions & Charters (ICOMOS Charters)

- *The Athens Charter* 1933
- *The Venice Charter* 1964
- *The Granada Convention* 1985
- *The Burra Charter* 1988
- *The Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage* 1990
- *The Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value*).

Archaeology & Built Heritage

- The National Monuments Act 1930-2004
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended
- Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
- Clare County Heritage Plan 2024-2030
- Mid-West Area Strategic Plan 2012-2030
- Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities

Natural Heritage

The natural heritage of Lough Derg is protected under a number of national and European designations. These include sites proposed to be designated, or designated as;

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora),
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds),
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Flora or Fauna under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000,
- Bern Convention 1982,
- Bonn Convention 1979, enacted 1983,
- European Landscape Convention 2000,
- European Communities Natural Habitats Directive 1992 (amended 1997).

NOTE ON THE REPORT

This Architectural Design Statement and Conservation Report has been prepared as part of a wide suite of reports, drawings, surveys and other documents that form this Part X planning application. Its aim is to give the broad context for the project, including key considerations such as architectural heritage, archaeology, ecology and the environment, and to describe how the design approach of McCullough Mulvin Architects, in conjunction with the full design team, responded to these parameters and to meet the client brief. It should be read in conjunction with all of the other supporting documentation which will give more detailed information on those key considerations which may only be touched on in this report

An historical background (Section 02) and assessment of significance (Section 03) is provided for Inis Cealtra and the Old Rectory in Mountshannon given their designation as a National Monument and Protected Structure respectively. This is given as context to the design approach which is described in Section 04, as the architectural heritage of both sites and conservation of same was a key consideration in all interventions. This should be read in conjunction with all other supporting documentation, but particularly *Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage - Built Heritage* and *Chapter 14 - Cultural Heritage - Archaeology* in the EIAR, prepared by Claire Walsh of Archaeological Projects.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience is to be developed on Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) and the mainland, in two principal locations within Mountshannon Village. The project is comprised of different elements as set out below.

Inis Cealtra Island

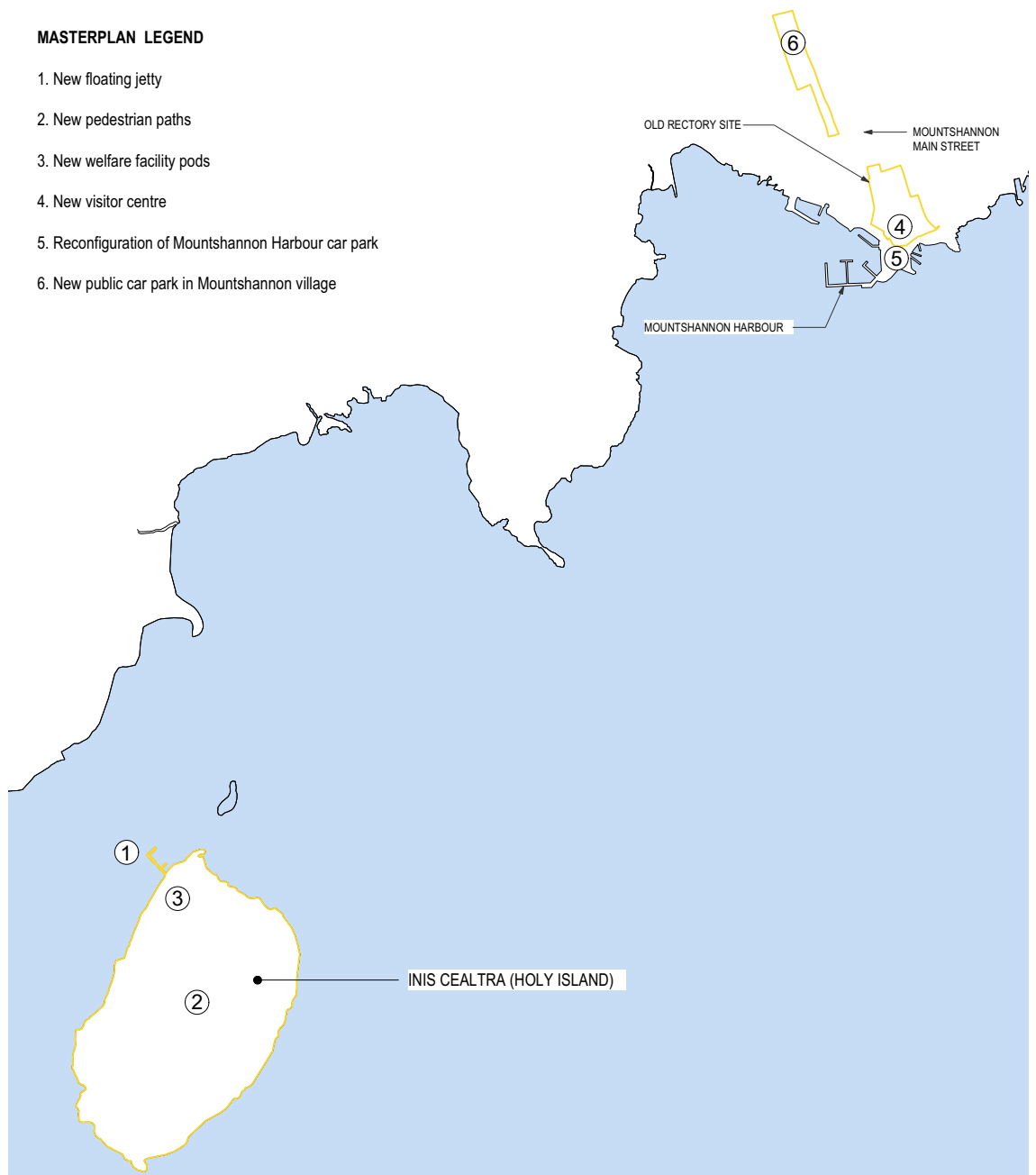
- New floating access jetty and walkway located at northwest of the island;
- New pedestrian paths on the island;
- 3no. New staff and public welfare facility 'pods' on the island; and

Mainland – Mountshannon

- New visitor centre to the southern part of the Old Rectory site;
- Reconfiguration of the existing Mountshannon Harbour car park;
- Construction of a new public car park in Mountshannon Village.

MASTERPLAN LEGEND

1. New floating jetty
2. New pedestrian paths
3. New welfare facility pods
4. New visitor centre
5. Reconfiguration of Mountshannon Harbour car park
6. New public car park in Mountshannon village



INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE

McCullough Mulvin Architects is a Dublin-based practice. We combine contemporary insight with highly developed conservation skills to create sustainable projects that fully integrate old buildings with new architecture. Our approach is thoughtful, our way of building applicable in any culture and society, with award-winning buildings both in Ireland and internationally.

Valerie Mulvin and Niall McCullough founded McCullough Mulvin Architects in 1986, joined by fellow directors Ruth O’Herlihy in 2006, and Corán O’Connor in 2017. Tragically, Niall McCullough died in August 2021 after a short illness. We are now working to honour all of the core principles founded early in the practice, continuing the established ethos in work across many sectors, with a particular focus on place-making, context and innovative conservation.

Together with other long-term collaborators, we work at a range of scales, including cultural buildings, housing projects, hotels, office buildings, libraries, healthcare, schools and university buildings. We extend our practice through research, writing, films, and exhibitions, exploring the themes that inform our work.

The practice has been acclaimed internationally with awards including RIBA International Award for Excellence 2024, Overall Winner of The Plan Awards Italy 2021, DETAIL Readers’ Prize 2020 and Architecture MasterPrize for Educational Buildings 2020 (Thapar University Learning Laboratory), nomination for Mies van der Rohe EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture 2024, RIAI Learning Environment Award 2023 and World Architecture Festival Finalist 2023 (Printing House Square), Nomination for Mies van der Rohe EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture 2021 and Architecture MasterPrize Restoration & Renovation Winner 2021 (Butler Gallery), Mies van der Rohe EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture Shortlist 2019 (Medieval Mile Museum), and World Architecture Festival Finalist 2018 (Thapar University Student Residence One).



Printing House Square, Trinity College Dublin



Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin



St. Mary's Medieval Mile Museum, Kilkenny



Butler Gallery, Kilkenny

02 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development is to take place in three distinct locations, Inis Cealtra Island, in the curtilage of the Old Rectory in Mountshannon and the public realm in front of this, and to the north of Mountshannon main street. Given that Inis Cealtra Island is a National Monument in state care (RMP No. CL029-009, Nat_Mon No.5) and the Old Rectory at Mountshannon on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS No.464), the historical background to both is provided along with an assessment of significance (Section 03), but please refer to *Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage - Built Heritage* and *Chapter 14 - Cultural Heritage - Archaeology* in the EIAR, prepared by Claire Walsh of Archaeological Projects for details of impact assessment. Though these two locations are geographically separate, they are intrinsically linked through their social, religious, cultural and economic connections.

INIS CEALTRA (HOLY ISLAND)

Brief archaeological and historical account of Iniscealtra, Co. Clare (prepared by Claire Walsh of Archaeological Projects, Project Archaeologist)

The island of Iniscealtra, or Holy Island, lies close to the shore at Knockaphort on the west side of Lough Derg. The island has an important group of ecclesiastic monuments located on the eastern shore. This comprises the following churches: St Caimin's, St Michael's (known also as the Baptism Church, and called St Brigid's by Macalister), St Mary's, and substantial remains of a round tower, a shrine, and a holy well. There are numerous bullaun stones, mounds of stones and earth associated with pilgrim patterns, earthworks and a children's burial ground or 'cillin'. There are almost 200 individual sites or stone features identified on the island and entered on the Record of Monuments and Places under the prefix CL029-009001----. The churches, round tower, shrine and other principle monuments are National Monuments in the care of the state, on sections of land on the island owned by the state. The remainder of the island was acquired by Clare County Council in recent years.

Iniscealtra is recorded in hagiographical myth and legend from the 6th century. The foundation of the holy place is associated with various mythological figures and hermits, including Colum, who died ca549AD. A separate foundation on Iniscealtra is attributed towards the mid 7th century to St Caimin, whose death is recorded in 654AD. Caimin too wished to withdraw from the world, but numerous followers and admirers came to join him on Iniscealtra. According to de Paor the traditions and conflicting dates are perhaps mythological, but the origins of the island monasticism are rooted in the legends of these holy men.

According to Liam de Paor, who undertook extensive archaeological investigations in the 1970s, Iniscealtra effectively lay between Munster and Connacht, a strategic location which may have influenced the later patronage of the Ui Briain clan. It is possibly as the result of a territorial dispute that the monastery was refounded in the 7th century.

Little is known of the monastery for some centuries. There is a potential link with the cult of St Cronan's church of Tomgraney (St Coonlan of Iniscealtra d. ca750AD). The obituaries of two abbots of Iniscealtra are recorded, Diarmait in 762, and Muchtighern in 785, suggesting that the island had an independent or autonomous monastic existence in the 8th century.

Following AD837, Viking ships and fleets were active on the Shannon, and Iniscealtra was plundered and its community dispersed, under Turgeis's depredations. The death of Coscrach (the miserable) an anchorite of the island, is recorded in 898AD. In 922, Tomrar 'Jarl of the Foreigners' sailed upriver from Limerick and plundered Iniscealtra and threw its books and reliquaries into the water.

The rise of Mathgamain and Brian Boruma to the kingship of Munster, and their firm control of Thomond brought patronage to Iniscealtra. Further obituaries of abbots of Iniscealtra are recorded for 951 and 967 AD. It is recorded that Brian Boruma built the churches of Killaloe and Iniscealtra. Brian's brother Marcan, coarb of Iniscealtra, died in 1010AD.

In 1033AD, Conn Ua Sinnaig, anchorite of Ireland, died on Iniscealtra. Gormlaith, wife of Toirdelbach Ua Briain, died at Killaloe and was buried on Iniscealtra in 1076AD.

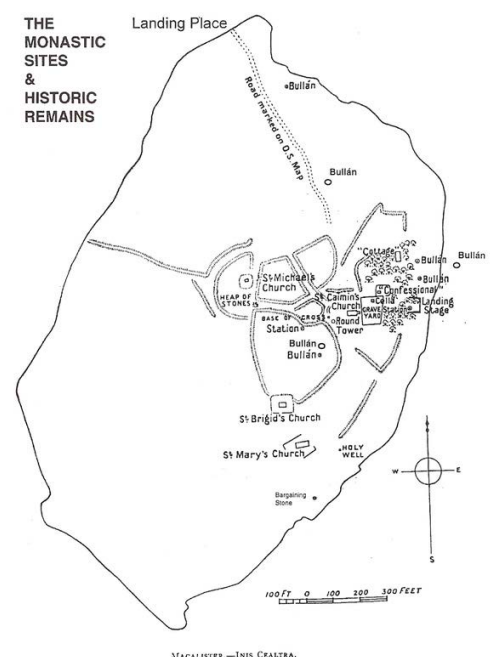
An 11th-12th century psalter fragment is attributed to St Caimin (replacing Colum in the local tradition of these later times). In 1111AD Cathasach 'head of the piety of Ireland', died on the island. His cross is now fixed to the inner face of the north wall of St Caimin's Church. This is the earliest inscription bearing cross of the Romanesque period. Cathasach was an ecclesiastic from Armagh so he was probably at Iniscealtra 'in his pilgrimage' (that is away from his original monastery which seems to have been the rule in Ireland for elderly monks who had been invested with important charges).

The monastic history of the island suggests that it continued to be regarded in particular as a place of retreat, penance and burial, becoming known in later centuries as *Insula Sanctorum*, 'Holy Island'.

Structural changes to the church in the 12th century meant that the old monasteries, absorbed by territorial dioceses, became diocesan parishes. This appears to have happened to Iniscealtra at the beginning of the 13th century, having retained its monastic elements through the 12th century. This is evidenced in the scatter of Romanesque churches and the inscribed slabs in the Saint's Graveyard. St Caimin's church, almost certainly built under the patronage of Brian Boruma, was enlarged around 1150 AD, and the small church of St Brigid, dates from the second half of the 12th century.

In the 13th century, the church at Holy Island became a parish church. The coarbs were drawn from the local family of Daly. The church appears to have survived the Reformation, and possibly even as long as the 16th century. Then however it appears that the church roofs were stripped along with other destruction. Bishop Rider in his visitation of 1615 says of Iniscealtra 'Cure not served, being an island and but one house'. The local families of Daly and O'Grady were gradually displaced in the locality and the parish lands came into the possession of Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork.

By this time the island had become the scene of a great annual pilgrimage or pattern which continued until the 19th century when it was suppressed by the Roman Catholic clergy. Assemblies of 15,000 people are reported in the 17th century. In 1837 Lewis reported that the island is still a favorite burial place and is much visited by pilgrims. Even after the suppression of the pattern, two of the island's graveyards continued to be used for burial as they still are to this day.



While the island is now primarily associated with St Caimin, the chancel of St Caimin's church was known locally as St Colum's Chapel. There are however few other traces of the other saints of Holy Island.

The account of the 'patron' is given in the Ordnance Survey letter dated Mountrath, November 19, 1838 by T. O' Conor (in the Galway volume) with annotations by John O' Donovan (in the Clare volume). O' Conor gives the following account:

A patron used to be held here annually four days, Friday and Saturday before Whit Sunday, on which day and the following Monday it was continued. No assemblage of persons was allowed here those years past on this occasion in consequence of the outrageous conduct of some ill-behaved young rascals who were wont to seize the opportunity of providing for themselves fresh consorts for the ensuing year by carrying off by open force from the island young girls, in spite of all their friends and relations. Three brothers of a family of the O'Brien's who resided in the county of Clare within view of the island used to frequent the patron at which they conducted themselves, it is said, in a most disgraceful manner. On one occasion one of them carried off a young girl by force from it, whom he afterwards detained till he had three children by her. The neighbours state that no law corrected such detestable behaviour at the time. The station was commenced at Lady Well and the performers went round the extremity of the island, one mile in the circuit, seven times, equal 7 miles. The short rounds were commenced at a station monument (a little mound of earth and stones) lying 35 yards to the west of the round tower. They went round this monument seven times and proceeded through the door on the west gable of St Caimin's Church and as far as the altar in St Colum's chapel. They went this length seven times from the monument just mentioned, and at the commencement of every seven times of these they went round the monument itself seven times. They went round St Caimin's church 14 times, the tower and all the churches around it being included on the rounds. They went round a station monument at the end of St Caimin's church, either the one (a little mound of earth) immediately at the southwest corner or the one (also a little mound of earth) within a few yards of the northwest corner of it. They also went seven times round St Michael's garden and seven times round the bank of earth about St Michael's church and seven times around the church itself and seven times round a large flagstone lying at it, on which stone they finally (i.e after having gone round it seven times) impressed kisses. They went seven times round St Mary's church and seven times round the Baptism church. They finished at the well and drank of its water.

This is the most accurate description I could get of the mode in which the station on the island was performed. I could not get a minute description which would detail the number of prayers repeated during the process of the rounds. Nor am I certain that the description I have given here affords a correct view of the order of the process. I introduced it here merely to show what station monuments were made use of.

The old walks which were formerly gravelled over on this island are now covered with grass and still traceable. Henry Boucher the grandfather of Henry Allen, both of whom are mentioned above saw rows of trees planted along the sides of them. The principal road is still observable leading from the lake to the churches in a southern direction. It is said that there is a road (or causeway) extending opposite or near the western extremity of this road a distance of from perches from the island into the lake. A person could safely walk on it in summer time when the weather is dry. it is supposed that this road formerly connected the island with the main road. '

In 1863 a group of British tourists visit Iniscealtra and they were shocked at the state of the island. In one of the churches there were a pig- sty while cattle roamed over the unprotected burial ground. Subsequently the parish priest of Scariff obtained the cooperation of the landlord Philip

Reade to have something done about this. The remains and monuments came into the care of the state as a result of the Church Disestablishment act of 1869 and in August 1878 Sir Thomas Deane, Superintendent of Irish National Monuments, came to the area. The pig-sty seems had gone by then but the graveyards were still unfenced. Two years later it was reported that the Board of Works had repaired the cemetery attached to St Caimin's Church while the Scariff Board of Guardians was bound to do the same for the cemetery attached to St Mary's church. Much more work was also done at this time.

Archaeological excavation 1970-1980

Archaeological excavation was undertaken through the offices of Failte Ireland/ Office of Public Works and UCD from 1970 to 1980, excluding 1978, under the direction of Dr Liam de Paor of University College Dublin. The excavations were envisaged as a long-term programme of research and conservation. Five main areas were excavated, uncovering a range of archaeological features associated with an ecclesiastic site. These include habitation features, mainly a substantial round house, burials, ditches and gullies, pits and other. Samples of suitable material has been dated by radiocarbon, giving a span of 551AD into the early 13th century for differing samples (information from M. Seaver, NMI).

Most of the finds from the excavations date from the 9th century to the later 12th century, with specialist catalogues still in preparation. While struck flints and other miscellaneous finds of probable prehistoric date have been uncovered in the excavations, no specific features of prehistoric date were identified.

The church architecture and cross-slabs on the island have been studied by several individuals.

Other surveys

Clare County Council commissioned the following surveys which have contributed considerably to the archaeological background to the island. This includes dive surveys, which identified several log boats, specifically off the north-east corner of the island, where the divers identified a probable landing stage of the monastic period. Following a large scale underwater geophysics survey, a larger scale dive survey off the west shore of the island has not identified much material of archaeological significance.

A LIDAR survey of the island identified large plough furrows over much of the northern part, probably associated with the habitation described by de Paor as 'the cottage', a two roomed dwelling of post-medieval date on the northeast side of the monastery. Some potential post-medieval small enclosures towards the south-eastern shore, south of the monastic complex, may be remains of habitation.

A geophysics survey of the island revealed the most significant information. A double-ditched D-shaped enclosure, probably the earliest manifestation of the monastic 'vallum' was identified at the eastern part of the island. This encloses St Caimin's church and the shrine, and appears to extend to the lake shore. The northern section of the enclosure is covered by scrub, meaning that no survey could be undertaken in that area.

Two further circular enclosures, with no surface expression, were identified on the western side of the island. The date of these enclosures is unknown.

Archaeological test excavations were also undertaken in 3no. locations at the northwest of the island (close to the new jetty and welfare pods) in 2024, which turned up no items of archaeological significance.

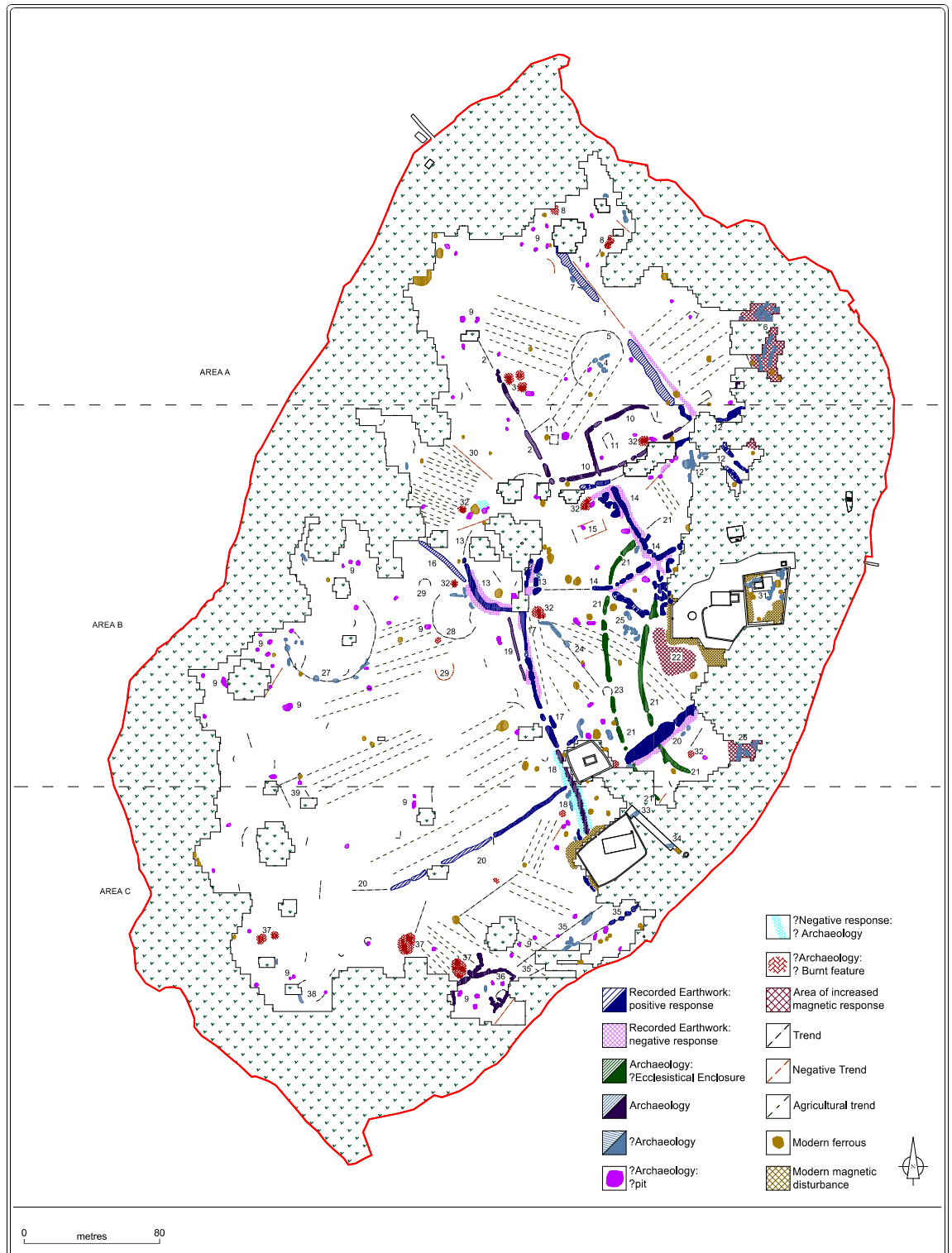


Figure from geophysical land survey undertaken by J.M. Leigh Surveys Ltd.

OLD RECTORY MOUNTSHANNON & SITE

Historical Background & Description of the Rectory & Site

The Rectory consists of a one- and two- storey brick house standing in its own grounds to the south of Mountshannon Village, overlooking Mountshannon Bay and Lough Derg (RPS No.464, NIAH Reg No. 20300502). The open, sloping site is bounded to the southwest by hedging and mature trees, to the southeast by a boundary wall and gate, and on the other two sides by the boundary garden walls of housing and adjacent sites. The original house is finished in brickwork; it is L-shaped on plan. There is a step in the front façade with one gabled section standing forward; this projecting element extends to form a brick surround to the doorcase. There is a single-storey bow window to the side elevation; there is a lower one- and two- storey rear section with a lean-to slate roof. Window opens are single and combined double lights of varied sizes. The roof of the house is a high hipped slate gable with gabled chimneys.



Photos of existing Rectory and Site (prior to current development works)

The building was constructed at some point in the first decade of the twentieth century and is a significant and visible building in Mountshannon, being part of the ensemble of the village when viewed from the lake. The Rectory is established in a landscape setting which adds significantly to the quality of the relationship between the village and the lake. The brick finish on the building is unusual in the East Clare context and adds to the density of the material assets of the village. The history of the Rectory is closely tied to the church, and, through it, to the foundation of the town as a weaving enterprise in the 18th century.

Please refer to the Appendix 1 *Architectural History of Mountshannon Rectory, Inish Cealtra, Co. Clare* by Professor Lynda Mulvin for further details.



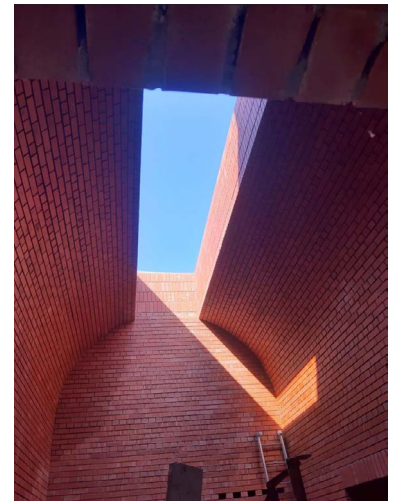
Existing site layout plan (prior to current development works)

Current Development Works

Development works are currently being undertaken on the Rectory Building and site, on behalf of Clare County Council, in line with the approved Part VIII Planning Permission (Reg. Ref. 238001). The works are being undertaken to provide a new, small- scale visitor and interpretation centre, café and associated ancillary spaces, along with site landscaping, drainage, and external works. The Design Team responsible for delivering these works is the same as that for the preparation of this Part X application.

Previous Rectory Building & Site Condition

Prior to the works being undertaken, the Rectory had been the subject of a number of recent unfortunate alterations which had diminished both its context and integrity. These included the construction of outbuildings to the rear which were out of scale and architecturally unsympathetic, very little of the original garden setting remained, pvc windows had been added and the vast majority of original architectural fabric had been removed internally.



Photos of existing Rectory building (during current development works)

Scope and Purpose of Current Development Works

The proposed development seeks to ameliorate many of these issues by undertaking conservation works to the building, such as cleaning and repair of brickwork pointing, application of lime plaster internally, re- roofing with natural slate and provision of new, historically sensitive timber windows, along with landscaping works to provide a suitable garden context for the Protected Structure. These external and landscaping works include the removal of the inappropriate outbuilding, provision of new formal and informal gardens, new pedestrian paths and new pedestrian access points onto the site to improve access and permeability. In addition, a small extension is being built to the rear of the house, contemporary in its articulation but historically sensitive to the rectory building, to provide additional exhibition space, a new lift and stairs to improve accessibility, and to house new services to bring the building up to modern levels of comfort and environmental performance.

Completion Date for Current Development Works

The works are currently underway with a projected completion date in Q2 2025



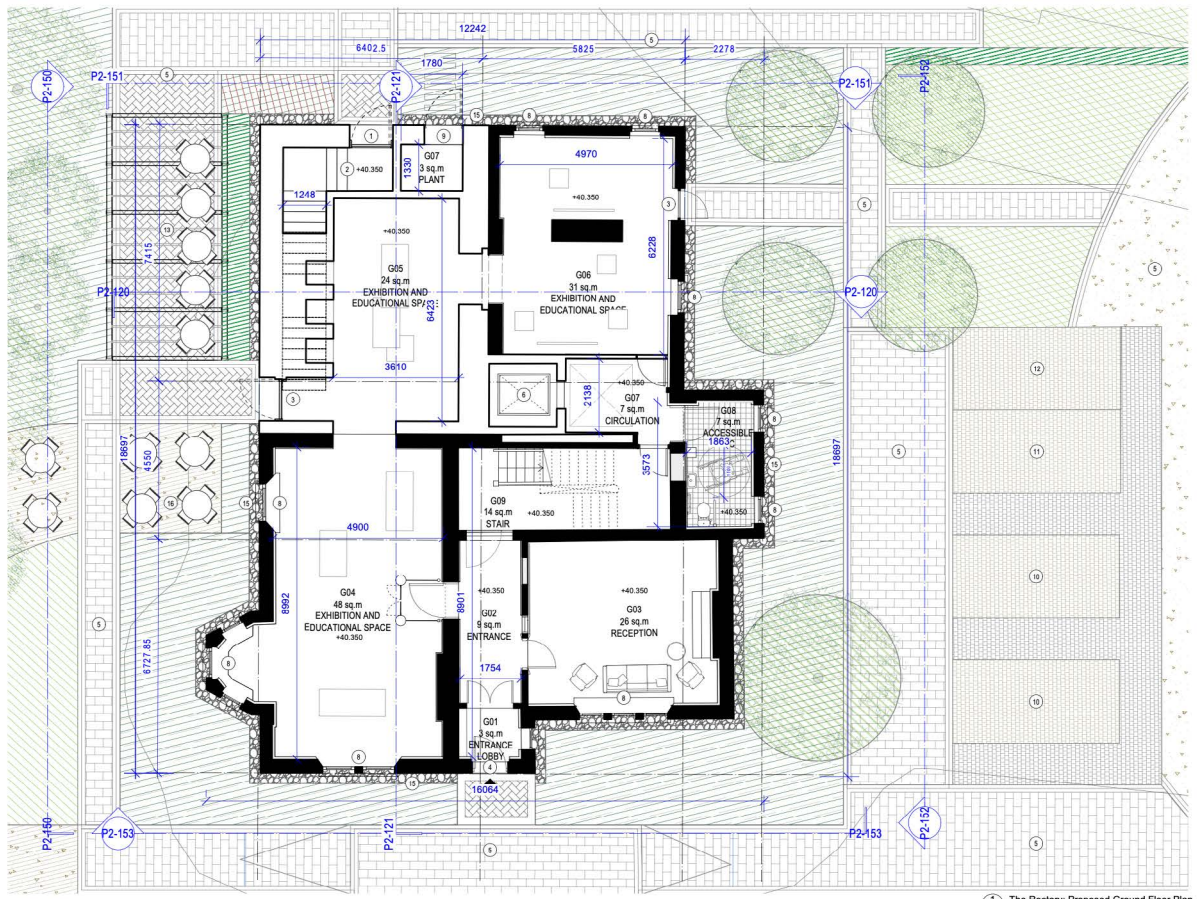
Proposed site plan of current development works



2 The Rectory: Key Plan
100' not to scale

KEY
1 REAR ENTRANCE
2 ACCESS VIA STAIRS TO CAFE AT FIRST FLOOR
3 FIRE EXIT FROM EDUCATION/ENTERPRISE
4 MAIN ENTRANCE
5 SELECTED PAVING/LANDSCAPING - REFER TO LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS DRAWINGS AND REPORT FOR DETAILS
6 LIFT
7 ROOF LIGHT
8 DOUBLE GLAZED REPLICA SOLID TIMBER WINDOWS TO REPLACE EXISTING PVC WINDOWS
9 ENTRANCE TO PLANT ROOM
10 ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES
11 SET DOWN AREA
12 PARKING SPACE
13 COVERED EXTERNAL SEATING AREA
14 EXHIBITION FIT OUT
15 FRENCH DRAIN TO PERIMETER OF BUILDING
16 EXTERNAL SEATING AREA
17 EXISTING ROOF RE-CLAD IN TIMBER LEAD ROLL
18 PITCHED ROOF WITH NATURAL SLATE COVERING
19 LIFT OVERRUN
20 FLAT ROOF OVER ENTRANCE
21 CHIMNEY

EXISTING
PROPOSED



1 The Rectory: Proposed Ground Floor Plan
100' 1:100 @ A3

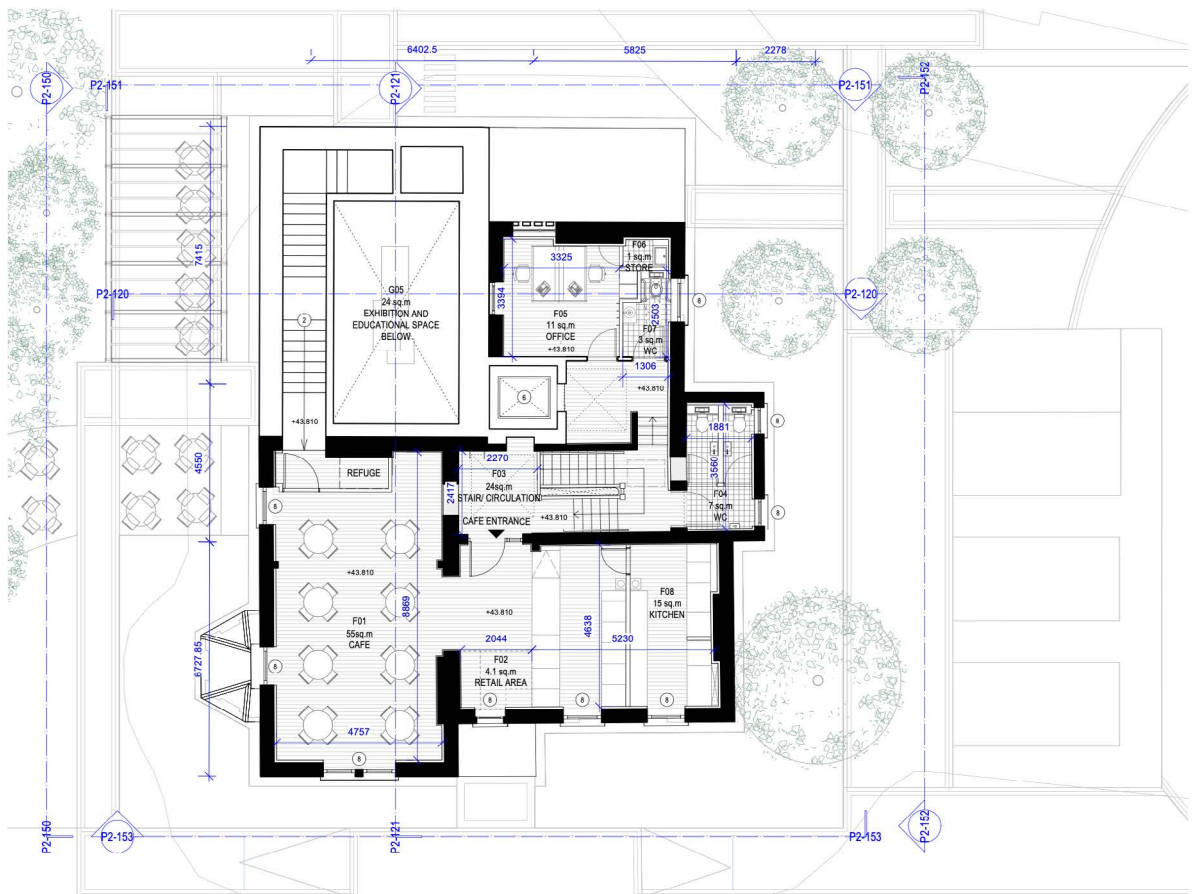
Proposed ground floor plan of current development works



2 The Rectory: Key Plan
101' not to scale

KEY
1 REAR ENTRANCE
2 ACCESS VIA STAIRS TO CAFE AT FIRST FLOOR
3 FIRE EXIT FROM EDUCATION/ENTERPRISE
4 MAIN ENTRANCE
5 SELECTED PAVING/LANDSCAPING - REFER TO LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS DRAWINGS AND REPORT FOR DETAILS
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20 FLAT ROOF OVER ENTRANCE
21 CHIMNEY

EXISTING
PROPOSED



1 The Rectory: Proposed First Floor Plan
101' 1:100 @ A3

Proposed first floor plan of current development works

03 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

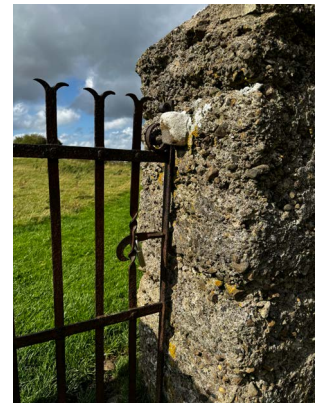
As outlined in Section 02 above, both the Inis Cealtra and the Rectory site are significant in the current and historic lives of their immediate region around Lough Derg and Mountshannon, and in the case of Inis Cealtra, further afield at a national and international level. This importance is born out of the various special interests associated with them.

INIS CEALTRA (HOLY ISLAND)

Inis Cealtra Island, as noted previously, has a long and storied history born out of it being a medieval monastery, the site of Viking attacks and its use as a pilgrimage site, among other religious and cultural associations. This history confers upon it special interest under a number of headings.

Historical Special Interest

The known history of inhabitation on the island dates back to the sixth century with the island's association with St. Colum and later by the founding of a monastery there by St. Caimin in the seventh century. Although it was attacked by the Vikings in the ninth and tenth centuries, it remained in active occupation until the thirteenth century and there is evidence that it was farmed. The site remained an important pilgrimage site until the 19th century and remains an active burial site, though the number of new burials is limited. Given these associations with notable historic and religious figures and an insight into a previous way of life, the island carries a significant historical special interest (refer to *Historical Background* above and *EIAR Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage - Built Heritage* and *Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage - Archaeological Heritage* by Claire Walsh of Archaeological Projects for details).



Photos of Inis Cealtra

Archaeological Special Interest

Much of the special interest relating to the island is associated with its pre- 1700 history. The presence of above- ground medieval archaeological remains such as the churches, graveyards and round tower make this importance explicit. There is however also the less- legible reading of the island which comes from its buried archaeological remains, that tell the story of its occupation, through its monastic enclosures, field boundaries and earthworks (refer to *Historical Background* above and *EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage: Archaeological Heritage* by Claire Walsh of Archaeological Projects for details).

Cultural Special Interest

The cultural special interest of the island is attributed through its association with religious writings that are attributed to inhabitants of the island. St. Caimin is said to have written a commentary on the Psalms, which he collated from the Hebrew text, St Coelan wrote a life of St. Brigid in Latin Verse while Corcran, one of the most celebrated ecclesiasts of the eleventh century, was Abbot there.

Social Special Interest

The social special interest of Inis Cealtra arises from its significance as a centre of religious life both of the people who lived close to the island, and to those from much further afield who travelled there on pilgrimage.

OLD RECTORY MOUNTSHANNON & SITE

Architectural Special Interest

The rectory building in Mountshannon is unusual in Clare being an example of a fine brick building in a region where most administrative and ecclesiastical buildings would have been of rubble stone. It's stripped back decoration such as its decorative timber bargeboards, clay ridge crestings and clay finials demonstrate the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement on the design of the building and its connection to the broader architectural culture coming from Britain, rendering it suitable for use on a Church of Ireland Rectory. This significance extends to the grounds of the rectory which provide a bucolic landscape setting for the building, with its stone boundary wall, sweeping driveway, evidence of possible a tennis lawn or bowls lawn on a level platform to the front of the house and its visual connection to Lough Derg from its elevated position .

Social Special Interest

The social special interest of the rectory comes from its historic position as a centre of the religious and social life of the village. The overt association here is that of it being the home of the rector or vicar and thus the meeting point of the local congregation with their spiritual local spiritual leader. More subtly, but just as significant, is the situation of the rectory grounds some distance away from the existing church and glebe ground as it is a demonstration of the intention that the rectory be at the heart of the community, and thus at the core of the spiritual and cultural life of the community.

Please refer to the Appendix 1 *Architectural History of Mountshannon Rectory, Inish Cealtra, Co. Clare* by Professor Lynda Mulvin for further details.

04 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

The following section describes the design approach which was adopted by McCullough Mulvin Architects and the wider design team in relation to each of the elements which comprise the development proposal. This description will provide the critical context of the project in relation to parameters such as built heritage, archaeology, ecology, environment and the visual landscape and then how the proposals responded to these and to the requirements of the client's brief.

As noted in Section 01, the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience is to be developed on Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) and the mainland, in two principal locations within Mountshannon Village. The project is comprised of different elements as set out below.

Inis Cealtra Island

- New floating access jetty and walkway located at northwest of the island;
- New pedestrian paths on the island;
- 3no. New staff and public welfare facility 'pods' on the island; and

Mainland – Mountshannon

- New visitor centre to the southern part of the Old Rectory site;
- Reconfiguration of the existing Mountshannon Harbour car park, and;
- Construction of a new public car park in Mountshannon Village.

INIS CEALTRA ISLAND

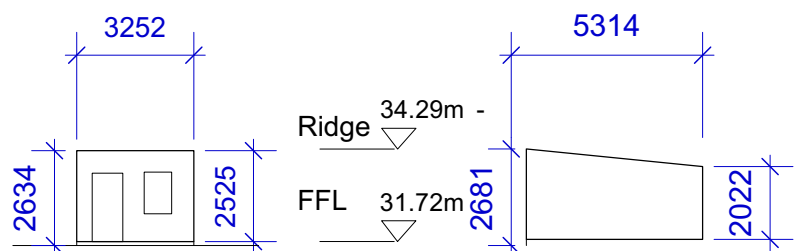
Demolition Works

To facilitate the development, it is proposed to demolish the existing concrete shelter adjacent to the existing pier at the north-west of the island.

The structure is simple in its construction, being of mass concrete walls and floor with a flat roof and a single window and door, with a gross floor area (GFA) of 16m². This building was likely used as a shelter by visitors and/or the former livestock farmer on the island. It will be carefully removed to facilitate two new purpose-built 'pods', comprising a new shelter for visitors and restroom facilities for staff (Refer to CEMP by Malachy Walsh & Partners for further details).



Photo of existing shelter



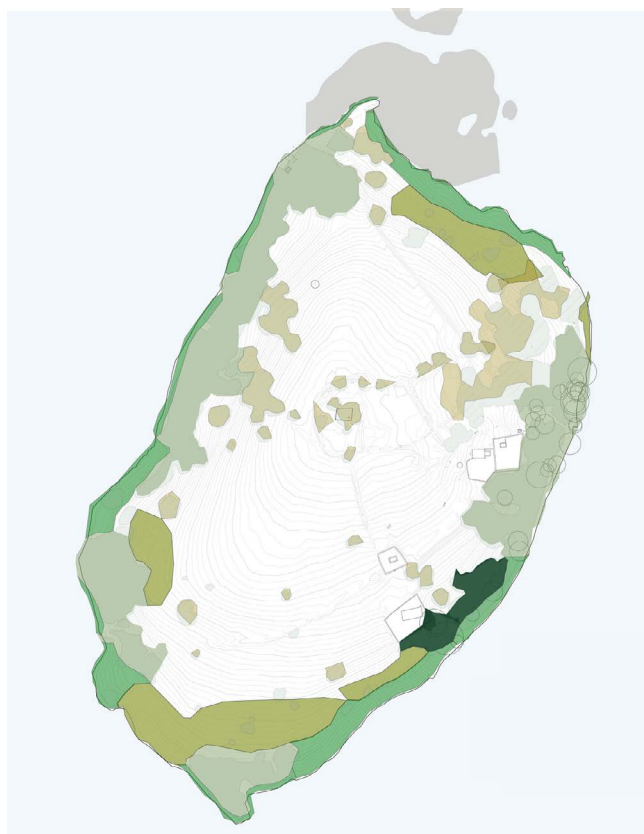
Elevations of existing shelter

New Floating Access Jetty

It is proposed that a new floating access jetty be constructed at the location of the existing concrete landing point to the northwest of the island. The existing concrete jetty is in poor condition and extends only a short distance into the lake, meaning the depth of water around it is relatively shallow, limiting the size of boat which can land there to very small vessels. The provision of a new floating jetty, which extends into deeper water will allow safer and more convenient passage between the mainland and the island, and this will become the principal point of arrival for visitors to the island.

The location of the jetty has been carefully considered in relation to critical parameters such as archaeology, ecology and navigation requirements. The northern part of the island (specifically the northeast) was advised by Waterways Ireland as the preferred location from a navigation point of view as this is the most sheltered location with respect to the prevailing northerly winds. An underwater geophysical survey and dive survey confirmed that there were archaeological remains (principally log boats) grouped around the northeastern fringe of the island, indicating that this would historically have been the location for mooring boats. Given consideration of these findings, the re- use of the existing jetty location at the the northwest of the island was considered to be the most suitable location with the least impact. The geophysical and dive surveys uncovered no evidence of archaeological remains in the proposed area, the location avoids the protected Annex 1 habitat and the jetty has been designed as a breakwater jetty to help mitigate against wave action caused by prevailing winds from the south. The integration of the existing jetty into the structure of the new causeway structure on the shoreline means that the amount of existing ground that has to be disturbed is significantly reduced compared to a location where there was no existing structure.

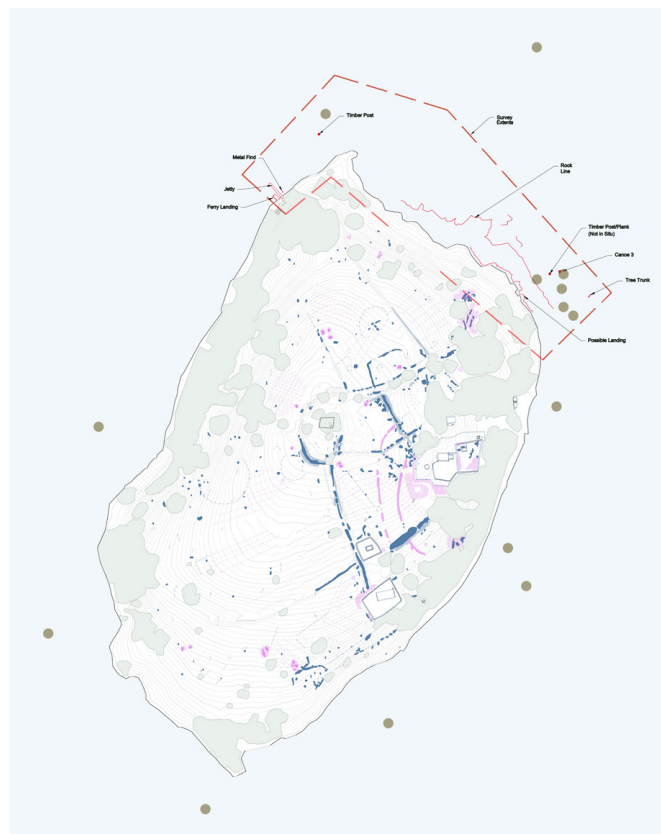
HABITATS



- Reed Bed Area
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels 6430 (Annex 1 Protected Habitat)
- Scrub
- Oak/ Ash/ Hazel woodland
- Wet Grassland
- Oak/ Ash/ Hazel woodland scrub

Note: Map information based on Habitat Survey by MWP

ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY



ed) archaeological remains
sical Survey by JJ Leigh

rchaeology
sical Survey by JJ Leigh

Under Water Survey Extent

ds
' Archaeology



Photos of higher- value habitats to the northeast of Inis Cealtra

The structure is made up of four principal parts; a floating breakwater jetty, a stone and concrete causeway, a steel access ramp connecting the two, and a smaller canoe launch jetty with access ramp.

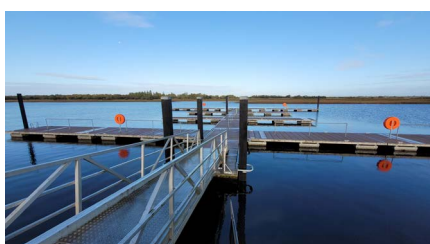
The new floating jetty is L- shaped in plan and extends out into the lake approximately 53m. This distance means that the jetty can be constructed without the need for dredging of the lakebed, which would have been required were it to have been constructed in shallower waters, mitigating its risk to potential archaeology. It is designed as a breakwater jetty that breaks most of a wave's crest and provides a safer mooring to the inner jetty area. The floating jetty is 4m wide and is held in position using 4no. (max) 800mm diameter steel piles. It's construction as a floating jetty means that it only requires the 4no. piles described, further mitigating any potential risk archaeology which may have been present were it to be constructed as a fixed pier.

The causeway, which is constructed over the existing concrete jetty (which will remain in place) on the shore of the island, comprises a concrete anchor platform, held in place by 4no. 203mm H- piles, around which stone gabions are placed, built up to provide a level surface, 3m wide, which will be paved with stone.

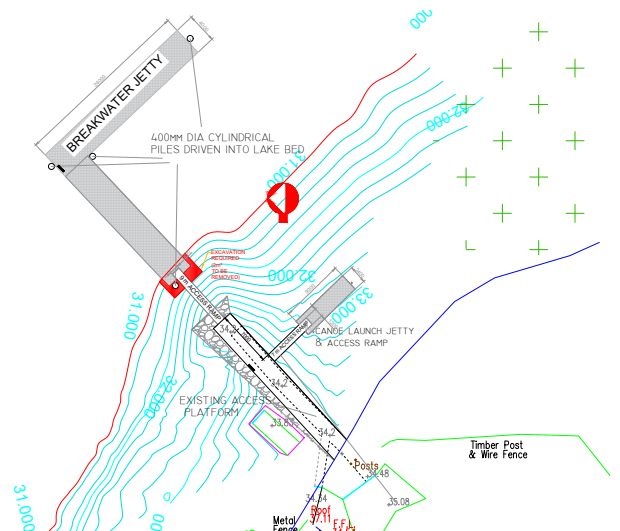
A 1.5m wide steel access ramp will be fitted between the two, being fixed to the causeway at one end and resting on the jetty at the other, allowing it move up and down with the rise and fall of the lake level.

A new, smaller access jetty for canoe launches will be constructed to the east of the fixed causeway. This jetty will be floating and held in place using 4no. H-Piles vibrated into the lake bed, and will also be connected back to the causeway by a floating access ramp.

Please refer to drawings and documents prepared by Waterways Ireland (WWI) for further details.



Reference - Photos of floating jetty at Clonmacnoise



Proposed new floating access jetty - Plan

New Pedestrian Paths

A series of 2m wide mown grass pathways is proposed to allow visitors to explore the island, its archaeological features and natural beauty. The design of the paths is in line with the principles of minimal intervention to archaeological and natural heritage, and seeks to find a balance between accessibility, wayfinding, readability of the landscape and protection of archaeology and nature. The path of least intervention has been chosen for the proposal - the paths are all proposed as mown paths to existing ground levels for minimum visual impact and to avoid impact on the archaeology underground.

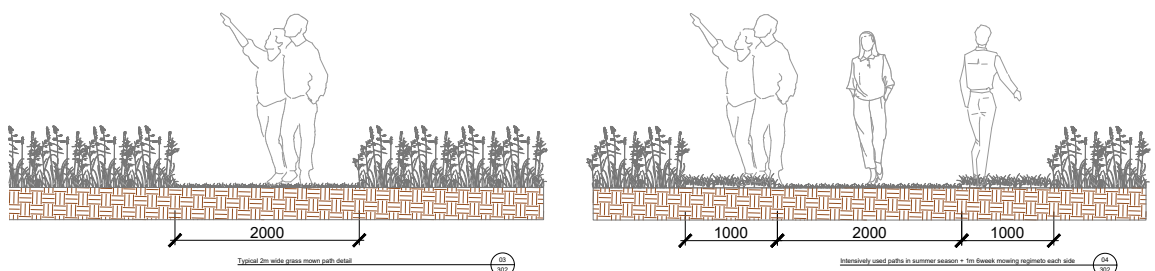


Photos of existing mown grass paths on Inis Cealtra

In terms of the routes, pre-existing pedestrian pathways were reused where possible, which was generally the case where these routes did not disturb known archaeology (discerned from historic archaeological digs and the geophysical and lidar surveys undertaken as part of this project). This meant that new ground did not need to be disturbed where it was not needed. In terms of new routes, these were selected to avoid known archaeological artefacts, and in many cases will divert people from using existing routes, which currently follow raised (but below ground) archaeological remains, such as the monastic enclosures or boundary walls. The extents of the network is kept to the minimum to facilitate visitors accessing the principal archaeological sites on the island. This network will also be introduced on a phased basis so monitoring of the condition of the paths and the archaeology on the island can be undertaken and routes altered or added as required (please refer to Mitchells & Associates drawings and documentation for details).

With regards to the type of surface to be used for the paths, issues of accessibility were assessed against potential archaeological and visual impacts of the proposed materials (please refer to *Accessibility Audit* by Evolve Technologies for full details of access considerations). After assessing various options for the provision of the paths (gravel/ timber walkways), it was decided that mown grass paths would be the most suitable proposal given that they would have the least detrimental effect on archaeology, ecology and the special character of Inis Cealtra.

Please refer to the drawings and documentation provided by Mitchells & Associates for full details of the paths and their management.

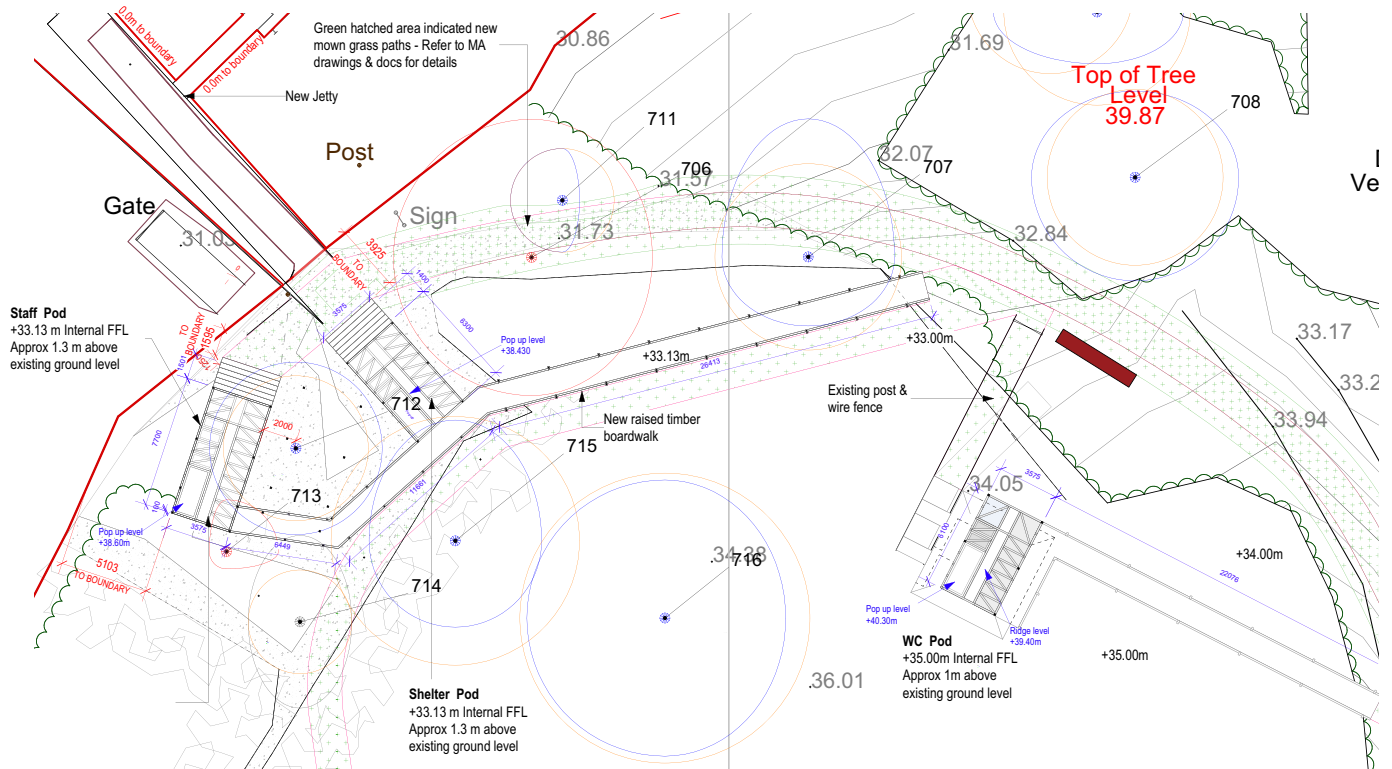


Mown grass paths - Section Details (Mitchells & Associates)

In tandem with the provision of the new jetty and paths on the island, three new staff and public welfare facility “pods” will be provided to meet the minimum needs of staff and visitors to the island by providing a weather shelter, WCs and a rest room for island staff.

Regarding potential impacts on the archaeological special interest of the site, reference was made to archaeological explorations and surveys that were available historically and those which were carried out as part of this project. These included previous digs by Liam De Paor and a geophysical and lidar survey of the island, a geophysical and dive survey of the lake around the island, and archaeological test trenches undertaken as part of this project (please refer to archaeological report/ *EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage: Archaeological Heritage* prepared by Archaeological Projects for further details).

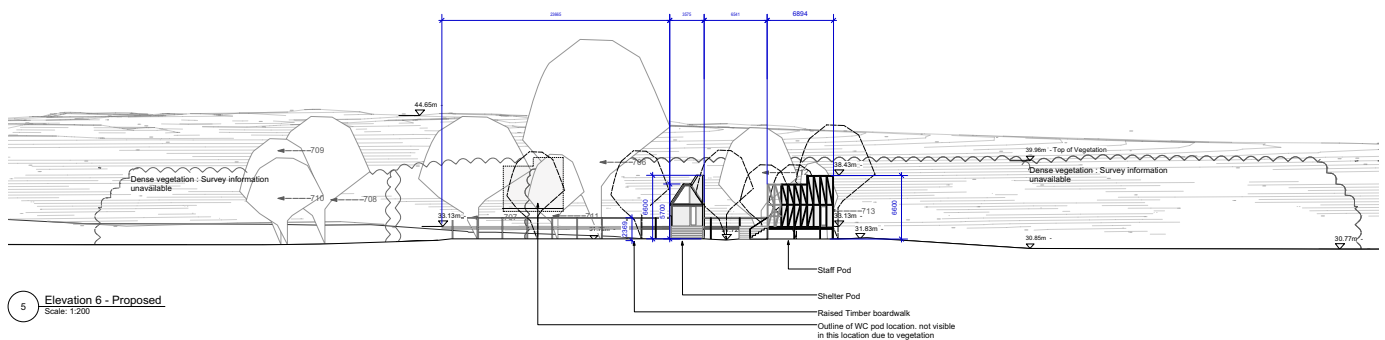
The archaeological explorations that have been undertaken all indicate that known and potential archaeological artefacts are concentrated towards the middle of the island, around the principal monastic sites and historic remains such as St. Caimin's church, the round tower, St. Michael's Church & Graveyard, St. Brigid's Church and St. Mary's Church. This fact led us to consider that placing the new pods within the main body of the island was not the best approach to take when considering their potential impact on archaeology.



Proposed Pods - Partial Site Layout Plan

This led us to consider the placement of the welfare facilities away from the concentrated and open area to the middle of the island and to look at somewhere closer to the shoreline. Given that the new landing point was to be located at the location of the existing jetty, the possibility of placing the pods in this area was investigated. This position worked from an operational point of view as the facilities for staff and visitors could be located adjacent to where they would embark and disembark from when visiting the island. This was especially important when considering the requirements for people of all ages, those with mobility issues or persons with additional needs accessing the island.

With regards to the potential for archaeology, given the area had already been disturbed for the construction of the existing shelter on the island and the holding area for animals, it was thought that this may present a lower risk of affecting artefacts. The lidar and geophysical surveys of the area had not raised any potential for archaeology, however, 3no. test trenches were dug in the vicinity to further mitigate against the risk, none of which unearthed archaeological matter.

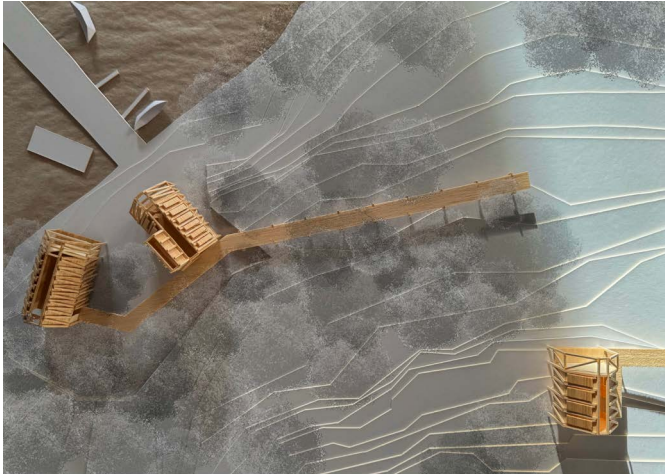


Proposed Pods - North Elevation

This location alongside the existing (and new) jetty has a number of existing trees, an existing shelter, an enclosed clearing and dense scrub around this. This area is categorised as Oak-Ash-Hazel woodland according to surveys undertaken by Malachy Walsh & Partners (Refer to ecological drawings & documents prepared by Malachy Walsh & Partners (incl. AA Screening Report) for details). The presence of the shelter and clearing is beneficial as it means that little vegetation needs to be cleared for the construction of the new staff and shelter pods, with the consequent loss of habitat that this would entail. The pods have been positioned, and their foundations designed, so that no trees need to be removed for their construction, also preserving important habitat. This is also advantageous as the trees and vegetation provide natural visual screening of the structures from all sides. The WC pod, which is located further east, up the existing sloping path will require limited clearance of scrub to be undertaken during its construction, and for this to be maintained, however this will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season to mitigate the risk to nesting birds there. Like the staff and shelter pods however, this cover of scrub will help to screen the pods upon approach.

When developing the design of the pods, these considerations of archaeology, ecology and careful integration into the landscape continued. While each pod serves a distinct function, they share a similar architecture and method of construction. The pods are lightweight, freestanding, timber pavilions, raised on timber legs so that their contact with the ground will be minimal, reducing the risk of disturbing sensitive archaeology. The pods will have new timber walkways to provide level

access into them and these too will be of timber construction resting on micropile foundations. This raised form of construction also serves to lift the pods and walkways above the 1:100 year flood level, helping to mitigate against the risk to persons and property in a flooding event and to reduce water displacement caused by their construction to negligible levels.



Proposed Pods - Study model photos

In terms of materiality, given the heritage and archaeological significance of the context, the use of traditional materials was considered paramount so that their presence would not be incongruous with their surroundings. The principal materials used in the construction of buildings on the island are stone and timber, which would have been standard practice for the time and location but also have the added benefit of sitting comfortably in the landscape given they are of it. A similar approach was considered the best course of action when thinking about the materiality of the pods. Given the constraints relating to archaeology and flooding which necessitated the raised structure of the pods and walkways, the construction typology needed to be framed and lightweight, meaning that stone was not the natural choice. Given this, the use of timber presented itself as an ideal material for the structure and cladding of the pods as it meets the structural requirements, is of the place and sits well within the immediate context of trees and vegetation. A number of timber species were considered but oak was settled on as the most appropriate choice given it is indigenous to the area, is structurally strong and inherently durable.

Reference Images



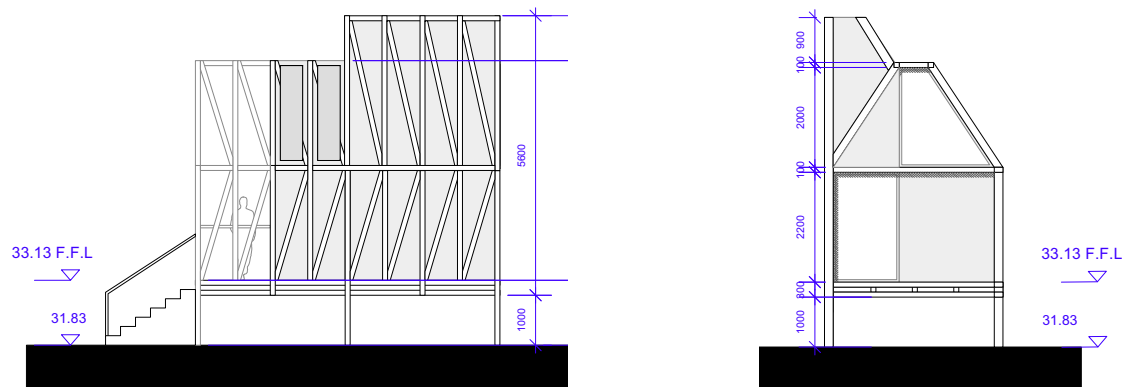
House in Laterns, Austria -
Bernardo Bader Architekten



Chapel, Germany - Frank Latke Architekten

The form of the structures was also carefully considered with regards to sitting comfortably within the physical, historical and cultural context of Inis Cealtra. To this end, the form of the pods is kept simple and familiar, with each having four walls, a pitched roof and a vertical 'chimney' structure which serves a different purpose depending on the pod (rooflight/ ventilation). While the forms appear traditional, they are articulated in a contemporary way with an exposed, cross-braced oak structure, sharp oak cladding and a limited number of carefully placed window and door openings.

All pod and walkway components will be assembled on the island to minimise the impact of their construction and are designed to be dismantled and removed if required, with little trace left on the landscape. Photovoltaic (PV) panels will be installed on all roofs to power essential equipment, including lighting and a small pump in the WCs



Proposed shelter pod elevations

The proposed pods are as follows:

- The weather shelter (20 m² Built/ 14 m² GIFA) will be located close to the new jetty in an area previously occupied by a small built refuge. The location is optimal from the point of view that it is close to the new jetty, so it will provide shelter for people while waiting for the boat, and from an archaeological perspective because it is in an area that has turned up no archaeological material when test digs were undertaken in this area. The pod height will range from 5.7m to 6.6m and will contain space for visitors to shelter during adverse weather conditions. A new timber walkway (approx. 42m in length), which connects the shelter and staff pods, will be provided to give level access into them. The walkway will at the finished floor level of the pods and will run level to the east, connecting back in with the existing higher ground level at its starting point.
- The WC pod (22 m² Built/ 16 m² GIFA) will contain 2no. dry WCs that require no water supply or drainage. Like the weather shelter, the location of this pod is in an location that has turned up no archaeological material when test digs were undertaken in the area. Its position within an area of heavy scrub also means that its visual impact on the island is minimised. Waste from the WCs will be removed off the island on a regular basis and disposed of with Uisce Éireann, in line with a tankard agreement (Please refer to MWP documentation for details). Sanitation gels will be used for hand hygiene. Given the relative complexity of removing the waste off the island, visitors will be discouraged from using the WCs, and this will be communicated as part of their briefing on the mainland. The WCs will be for "emergency" use only and they recognise the fact that there will be a need for them from time to time, and it is better that this need is dealt with in a managed way. Like the shelter and staff pod, the WC pod will have a new timber walkway (approx. 27m in length) to give level access into it. The walkway will at the finished floor level of the pod and will run level to the southeast, connecting back in with the existing higher ground level at its starting point.
- The staff pod (25 m² Built/ 19 m² GIFA) will provide a shelter and rest area for the island guides and ushers who will be on Inis Cealtra daily. The accommodation comprises a single space containing a tea station, break area with seating, lockers and a provision of first aid equipment. Like the shelter and WC pod, the location of this pod is optimal from an archaeological point of view, both as it is in an area that has turned up no archaeological remains and because it is on ground that has previously been disturbed in the construction of the existing shelter.

MAINLAND - MOUNTSHANNON

New Visitor Centre

Demolition Works

Sections of the existing stone wall at the south and south-west boundary (approx. length 45m in total) along the site's frontage shall be removed to facilitate access from the ground level of the building to the harbour as well as to provide a strong visual connection between the new Visitor Centre and Lough Derg. All stone will be carefully removed by hand from the wall and retained on site for reuse in areas where repairs to the wall or consolidation are required, in line with conservation best practice.

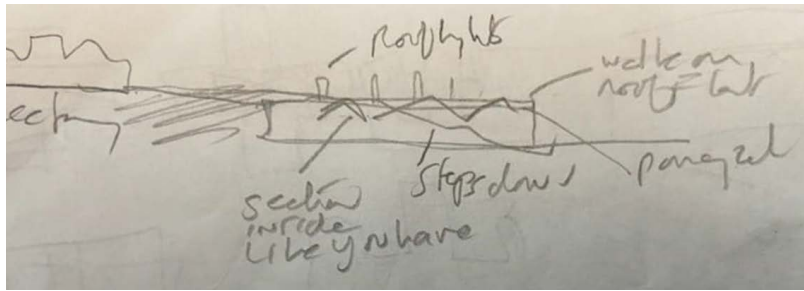
Building Siting, Levels & Access

It is proposed that a part-one-storey, part-two-storey visitor centre (GIFA 1594 m²) be constructed to the south of the rectory site, near the lake edge, facing the harbour and establishing a strong visual link with Lough Derg and Inis Cealtra Island.

The ground floor level of the visitor centre is at +32.83m OD, which is above the 1:100 year flood level and which will tie in with the existing harbour and harbour car park level (approx. +32.00m OD). This will allow an easy connection for visitors between the visitor centre, the new public realm space to the front of it and the harbour.



New visitor centre - Partial Site Plan



New visitor centre - Concept sketch section



New visitor centre - Concept section

The existing Rectory site slopes up relatively steeply from south to north, rising from approximately +32.00m OD at its southern boundary to +40.00m OD at the rectory building itself. This level change has been exploited by setting the ground floor of the visitor centre, which houses the majority of its accommodation (1426 m²) back into the site so that the external ground level rises around the building as it moves from south to north. This means that the external ground level is level with the internal ground floor of the visitor centre along its front elevation to the south, while the external ground level is level with the roof terrace level along its northern boundary. This allows the building to read as a single storey building with 'pop- us' at first floor from the harbour side, while from the elevated level of the rectory, only the first floor pop- ups will be visible. This strategy helps to reduce the massing of the building when seen from the elevated position of the rectory helping to retain the strong visual connection between the rectory and the lake below.



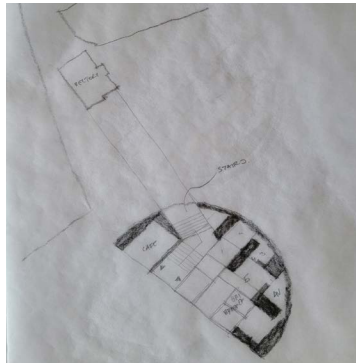
New visitor centre - Verified view from Rectory south towards roof terrace of the visitor centre and Lough Derg beyond

This siting strategy also means that a direct pedestrian connection can be made from the northern side of the rectory site, from where the majority of visitors will approach the building via a route through Aistear Park from the new car park to the north of Mountshannon main street. This connection is made via a new path which leads from the entrance point to the rectory site from Aistear Park at the northern boundary, down to the roof terrace level of the building, over this terrace and down to the lower harbour level via the new grand external staircase, a new externally- accessible lift inside the building or a new gently sloped route in the landscape. In this way, the building acts as a gateway for visitors between their main point of arrival in the car park in Mountshannon and Lough Derg & Inis Cealtra.

Building as Gateway



Reference Image - Saynatsalo Town Hall, Alvar Aalto, 1949



New Visitor Centre - Concept sketch plan



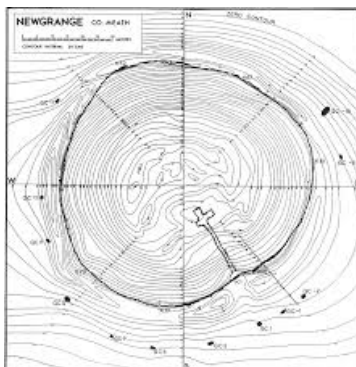
New Visitor Centre - Study model photo

Building Form & Planning

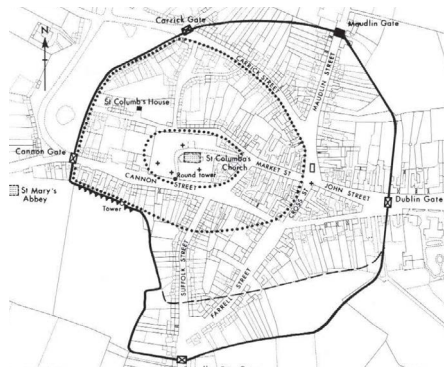
The circular form of the plan of the building draws inspiration from pre- Christian passage tombs such as Newgrange, Knowth & Dowth and early Christian monastic settlements such as Kells and the monastic enclosure and Cillin by St. Michael's Church on Inis Cealtra itself. A retaining wall surrounds the building for the entirety of its curved, north-eastern edge, holding back the ground as it rises behind. The building occupies the north-eastern semi-circle, while the south-western semicircle is an open public realm space that links to the harbour from where visitors can go to the island. This traditional form of building in the landscape is overlaid with a rectilinear geometry which is representative of a modern approach to an ancient form. This setting of one geometry against the other generates a tension and allows the formation of a series of interstitial spaces between the two.

The plan of the building is largely split into two sections- the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience (Visitor Centre) and associated spaces to the east of the external grand stair and the café and back of house (BOH) support spaces to the west of the stair, though both sides are connected via the external circulation route that circumnavigates the northern boundary of the building.

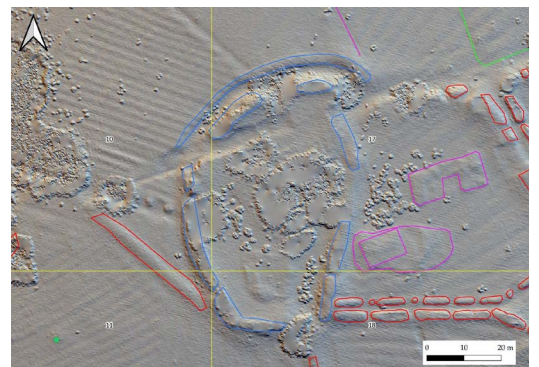
Plan Form



Passage Tomb - Newgrange



Monastic Settlement - Kells

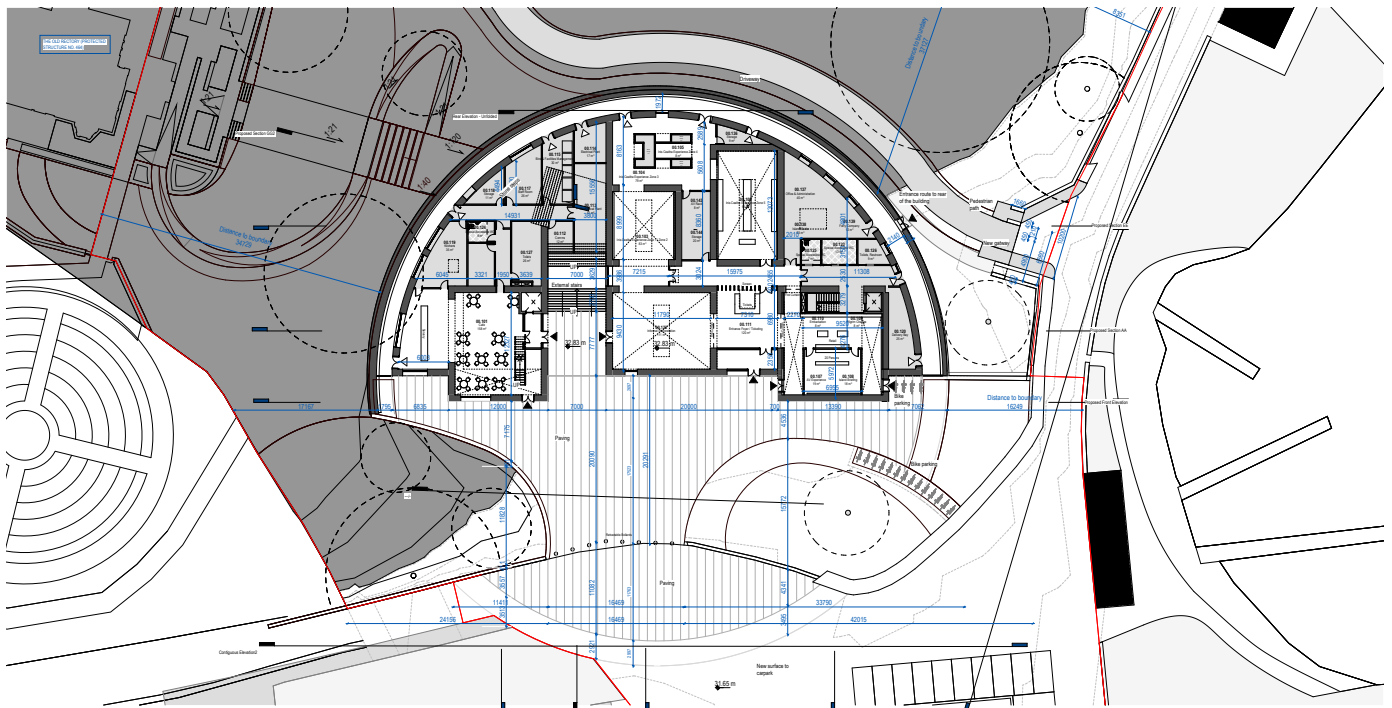


Cillin by St. Michael's Church - Inis Cealtra

Ground Floor

The visitor centre section to the east of the stairs has six principal spaces at ground floor level comprising the Entrance Foyer/ Ticketing, Informal Interpretation, Inis Cealtra Experience Zones 1&2, Inis Cealtra Experience Zones 3&4, Inis Cealtra Experience Zone 5 and AV Experience/ Embarkation/ Island Briefing/ Pilgrim Change. These spaces have been arranged in relation to one another so that the visitor can move through each of them in a clear, sequential route that follows the interpretation narrative. Support and back of house (BOH) spaces are arranged between these principal spaces, some accessible to the public and others to staff only.

The café and BOH spaces to the west of the stairs contains the main café dining room and servery space, the café support spaces such as kitchen and WCs and the general building support spaces such as staff areas and plant and maintenance areas.



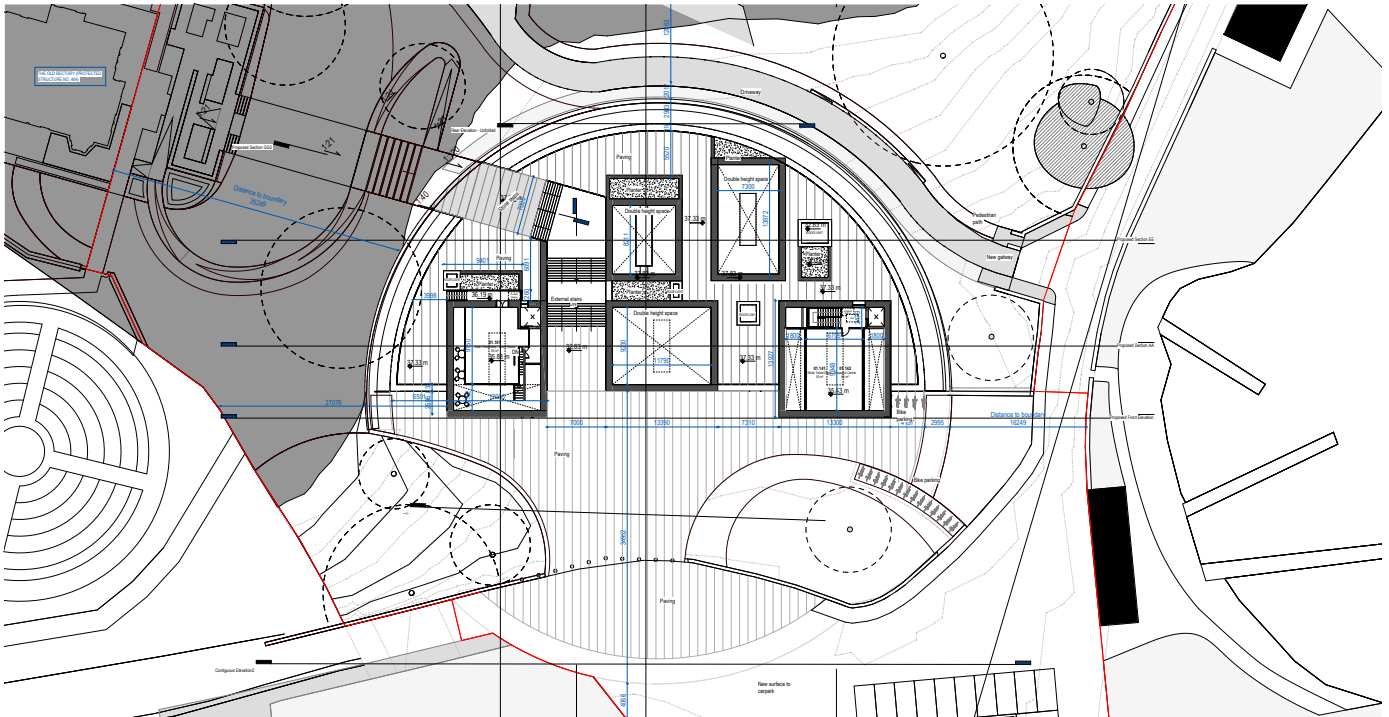
New Visitor Centre - Ground Floor Plan

First Floor

At first floor level, the internal accommodation is housed in two of the five pop- ups that form a series of independent volumes rising above the lower roof level. The one over the café provides a mezzanine space that can be used by the café or separately for functions, the other houses research spaces, while the remaining three volumes enclose double height spaces below. The mezzanine level of the café has direct access to the roof terrace externally.

Roof Terrace

As noted previously, the lower roof of the building will be publicly- accessible terrace that will be level with the external ground level to the north of the building and can be accessed at this point. Visitors can move around this terrace, between the two- storey volumes which pop up from the floor below and out to its south-western edge, where they will have elevated views back out over the water towards Inis Cealtra.



New Visitor Centre - First Floor Plan

Building Uses & Facilities

The visitor centre facilities can be subdivided in the following categories:

- a) Entrance and ticketing area.
- b) Interpretation, exhibition, and education facilities. The facilities include an audiovisual and exhibition rooms and an education rooms. They are intended to cater to tourists (domestic and international), school groups, special interest groups, and corporate groups.
- c) Flexible café/event space: It is located on the building's western side and accommodates a ground floor dining room and servery space with additional seating at an upper mezzanine level, which can be used with the café or independently for functions.
- d) Visitor facilities including retail area, waiting spaces, island briefing and preparation areas and management facility.
- e) Research Centre and facilities for the support the white-tailed sea eagle project.
- f) Office and Administration area.
- g) Back-of-house facilities include plant rooms, kitchen, delivery bay, bins, facilities management, comms room and storage.
- h) Circulation area including two stair/lift cores.

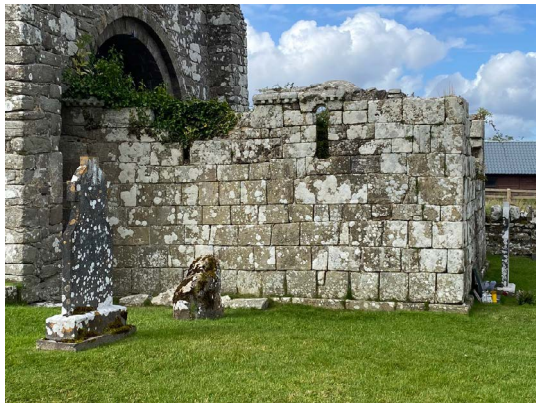
The buildings contain the following accommodation:

Visitor Centre and Harbour Area		
Number	Name	Proposed Area in (m²)
Ground Floor		
0.101	Cafe / Hospitality	158
0.103	Inis Cealtra Experience Zone 1 / Zone 2	83
0.104	Inis Cealtra Experience Zone 3	79
0.105	Inis Cealtra Experience Zone 4	8
0.106	Inis Cealtra Experience Zone 5	95
0.107	AV Experience	19
0.108	Island Briefing	18
0.109	Pilgrim Change	8
0.11	Embarkation	8
0.111	Entrance Foyer/Ticketing	120
0.112	Comms	12
0.113	Mechanical Plant	41
0.114	Electrical Plant	17
0.115	Bins & Facilities Management	30
0.117	Staff Room	26
0.118	Storage	11
0.119	Kitchens	35
0.12	Delivery Bary	25
0.122	Informal Interpretation	111
0.123	Special Accessible WC	13
0.124	Special Accessible WC	8
0.125	Special Accessible WC	7
0.126	Toilets	9
0.127	Toilets	26
0.128	Toilets	16
0.129	Storage	2
0.130	Storage	2
0.131	Storage	7
0.136	Storage	9
0.137	Office & Administration	40
0.138	Island Guide	23
0.139	Ferry Company	12
0.143	AV Rack	8
0.144	Storage	20
Circulation	Corridor	48
	Corridor	12
	Corridor	27
	Entrance Lobby	18
	Café Lobby	8
	Stairs 1	17
	Corridor	28
	Stairs 2	12
	Lift 1	7
	Lift 2	5
Total Ground Floor Net Area		1288
Total Ground Floor Gross Area		1426
First Floor		
1.101	Cafe / Hospitality / Event Space	65
1.141	Research Centre	29
1.142	White Tailed Eagle	40
Total First Floor Net Area		134
Total First Floor Gross Area		168
Total Net Floor Area		1422
Total Gross Floor Area		1594

Materials & Elevational Treatment

Choice of Material

The approach to the choice of material in the visitor centre is driven by a desire to sit the building comfortably in its context and that it feels of its place. The reference to pre-Christian passage tombs and monastic settlements share a sense of weight in their construction, of being built into the landscape but also being part of it through their use of materials, which was invariably local stone. Here too, the intention is for the building to share this sense of weight by being made of local stone. This material choice is suitable both in the immediate built context of the visitor centre, with the stone boundary wall of the Rectory and adjacent boundary walls on harbour road, the wider Mountshannon context with its significant stone Protected Structures such as St Caimin's Church and the Market House, and of course the stone churches and Monuments on Inis Cealtra Island itself.



Stone Wall - St. Caimin's Church, Inis Cealtra



Stone boundary wall - Old Rectory, Mountshannon

External Finishes & Elevational Treatment

All of the facades of the building will be faced in local stone which will help to give it a sense of weight and to bed the building down in its site. Though clad in traditional material, it will be used in a contemporary way through its precise laying, pointing and use of large openings to mark it out as something new and to avoid pastiche. The principal southwest façade contains a small number of large, carefully chosen openings that frame selected views from within and give a view of the internal life of the building from without. These larger openings will be interspersed with smaller openings for windows and recesses which will be planted to animate the façade.



New Visitor Centre - Materiality Study Elevation

This material treatment will continue at first floor level too where the upper volumes will share the same stone facing. The accessible roof terrace of the building will be an intensive green roof meaning that it can be planted with substantial local plants that will give the sense of moving through a lush landscape held between stone volumes. Similarly, the upper roofs over the first floor pop- ups will be planted with sedum so that the view from the upper level of the Rectory will be down to the vegetation of the visitor centre roofs and stone of its walls, embedding it in the landscape. The pedestrian routes on the roof terrace will be stone and they will bring visitors out to its southwestern extremity where they can take in views out over the lake and Inis Cealtra.

Internal Finishes

This use of stone will continue inside the building, with the principal, double- height vaulted spaces finished in the same material internally to give the sense of moving through and between hefty volumes. These vaulted spaces will contain rooflights that will bring light in from above that will change with the passing of the day and the year.

Landscape Ha-Ha – Visitor Centre Retaining Wall

The retaining wall around the northern boundary of the building has been thought of as an 18th century ha-ha, a traditional landscape feature which gives the impression of a continuous, unbroken landscape when viewed from a country house, whilst providing a defined boundary on its other side. In this case, the rectory landscape will rise to meet the retaining wall, giving the impression of a continuous landscape feature, with the building captured on its far side.



Ha-Ha, Hopetoun House, West Lothian

Landscape

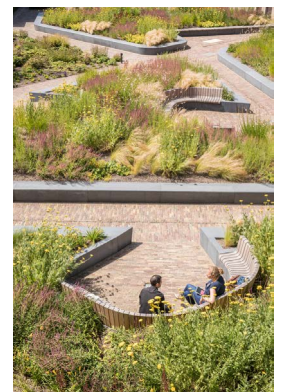
The area to the front of the new building, in front of its main façade has been designed as a new piece of public realm. The generosity of the space will provide a comfortable place for people while they wait to board a boat, to gather after they have returned from the island, or to sit out and enjoy something from the café. The area will be paved in natural stone, with its geometry continuing the curved form of the building to complete the circle.

Care has been taken to retain as much of the existing boundary wall and as many of the existing mature trees that form part of the southern boundary of the rectory site as possible, and these trees will remain in place in new concrete retaining structures. Where openings are made in the existing stone wall is to facilitate access from the ground level of the building to the harbour as well as providing a strong visual connection between the building and the water. Where the public realm intersects with the existing road, it will be shared space with cars, with its slightly raised level helping to control their speed and to make it safe for pedestrians.

Landscape reference images



Madalena, Durango, Spain - Ele Arkitektura



Delfland Water Authority, Delft, Netherlands - Ele Arkitektura

Access

Pedestrian access arrangements between the proposed new car park and the visitor centre site have been carefully considered. A pedestrian route has been facilitated through an entrance from Aistear Park, to the west of the Old Rectory site, with a view to providing a pleasant approach for the visitor through its richly planted gardens. From here, people will be able to directly access the rectory and visitor centre site through an existing gated opening between the two. From here, visitors can approach the visitor centre via the routes described in *Building Siting, Levels & Access* above.

The existing, recently- installed brick gateway to the Rectory site from the south, which replaced the historic stone gateway at some point in the recent past, will be removed and replaced with a new gateway with provision for segregated vehicular and pedestrian access. This new gateway will be contemporary in its design to clearly delineate it from the surrounding historic fabric, unlike the structure which is currently in place, which is a pastiche of generic historic precedents.

Mountshannon Harbour Car Park

The existing car park in Mountshannon Harbour (2647 m², 46no. spaces, 2no. of which are accessible) will be reconfigured (2647 m²) to accommodate 49no. spaces in total (46no. standard parking spaces, 3no. accessible spaces) and additional visitor amenities, including a seating area, a bin store, and new tree planting. New paving and finishes will be provided throughout.

Please refer to Malachy Walsh & Partners and Mitchells & Associates drawings and documentation for further details.

New Public Car Park in Mountshannon Village

To facilitate the requirements for parking both coming out of the increased visitor numbers to the village, and to manage an existing need for parking on busy days in Mountshannon, a new public car park (8685 m²) is proposed for the north side of Mountshannon main street.

Demolition Works

To facilitate construction of the car park, it is proposed to carefully remove the mound/wall (approx. 155m in length) extending from the northern boundary of the site down to the neighbour's boundary in the south.

The existing stone boundary wall to the main street (approx. 13m in length) will have an 8m-long opening made, along with removal of the existing gate, to allow for the new vehicular and pedestrian entrances into the car park. The stone that is removed will be retained on site for reuse where required in the repair and consolidation.

Proposed Works

The car park has been designed to provide 169 total car parking spaces, together with coach and bicycle parking facilities, as follows:

- 6 coach parking spaces
- 11 accessible car parking spaces
- 105 car parking spaces
- 53 overflow car parking spaces on reinforced grass to the northern part of the site
- 40 secure bicycle parking spaces

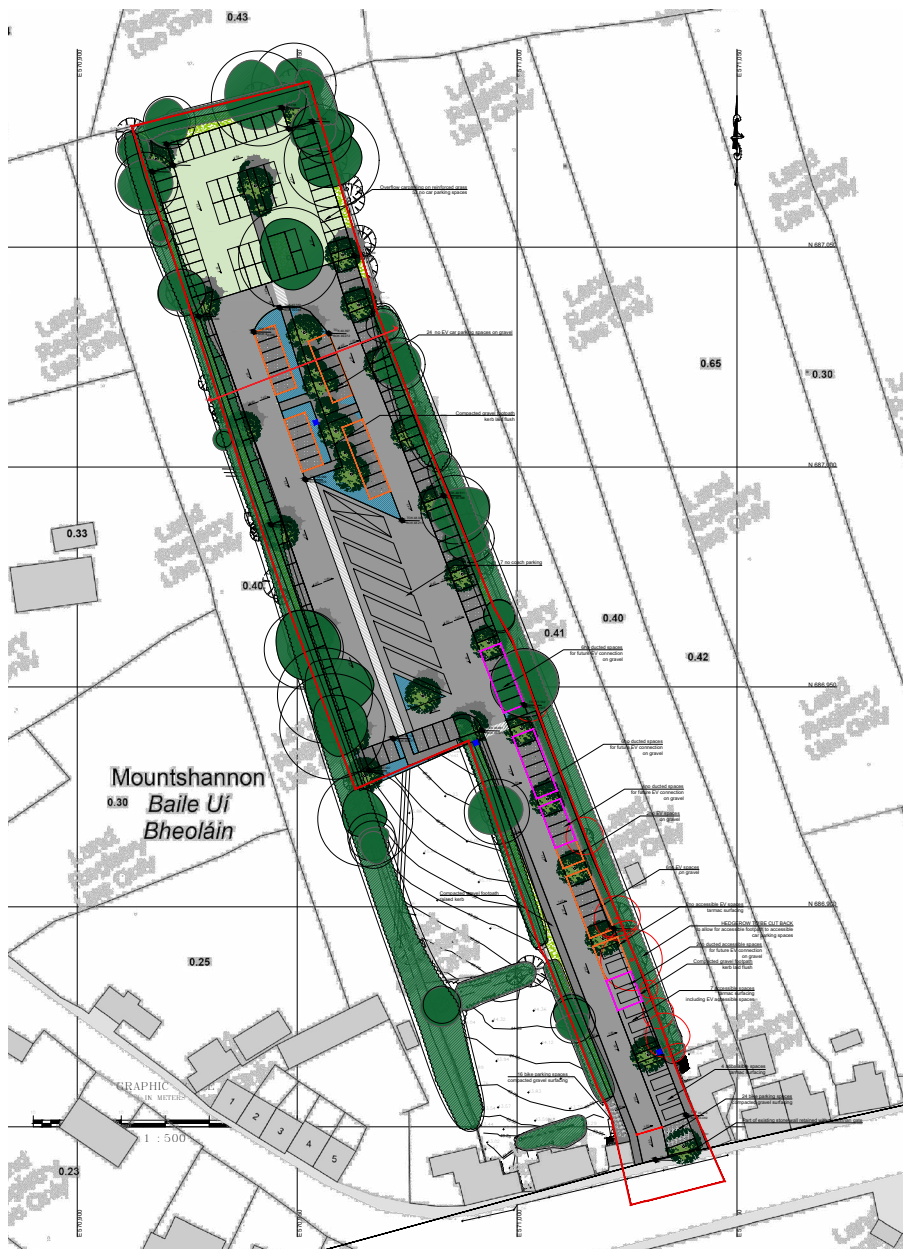
The numbers of parking spaces required have been calculated based on the projected visitor numbers (Please refer to *Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience - Visitor Management Plan* from Susan Heffernan Marketing & Project Management Consultant), and the car park design takes account of the fact that the full capacity will not be required year-round, so it is split between permanent and overflow parking.

The design of the car park seeks to create a place is densely planted and has a variety of surface materials so that it feels like a soft-edged, rural space which is suited to its surroundings. The site is surrounded by an existing natural boundary of trees and hedgerows, with as much as possible being retained. New trees and planting will be introduced to the site to compensate for those which are removed, and to retain the verdant quality of the existing site and fields around.

Surface finishes will be varied throughout the area, ranging from tarmac on the carriageway, to compacted gravel in the parking bays and pedestrian paths, to reinforced grass in the overflow parking area.

The car park will also provide for 34no. EV charging points (20% of total spaces) with a further 18no. spaces (10% of total spaces) ducted for future provision of EV chargers. New drainage and utilities works, site lighting, payment kiosks and new metal vehicular and pedestrian gates to Mountshannon main street will also be provided.

Please refer to Malachy Walsh & Partners and Mitchells & Associates drawings and documentation for further details.



Mountshannon Car Park - Landscape Masterplan

Mountshannon Car Park - Reference material images

05 CONCLUSION

As stated at the outset, the client's objective in undertaking the development described above is two- fold;

a) To conserve Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) as a significant historical, ecclesiastical, archaeological and cultural site and

b) to expand its attractiveness as a sustainable tourism destination, and in so doing, address population decline and rural deprivation by providing social and economic benefits derived from tourism for East Clare and the wider Mid-West Region.

These principle objectives were formulated through the development of the Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan (VMSTDP) in 2017, commissioned by Clare County Council and prepared by a team of specialists from various fields. This plan was prepared in line with the requirements of the Burra Charter process to Understand Significance and to Develop Policy relating to sites of Cultural Significance, with the overarching imperative that places of cultural significance should be conserved.

In addition to the requirements for conservation of places of cultural significance, the natural environment of Inis Cealtra, Lough Derg and its environs is also significant being a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

It was in this context the McCullough Mulvin Architects and the wider design team were appointed to progress proposals for a development which would take into account the significant imperatives described above.

The proposed development, taking place across sites on Inis Cealtra and on the mainland in Mountshannon, takes into account these various, sometimes competing parameters to provide a holistic proposal that aims to mitigate any significant negative effects on this place of cultural and natural significance. This is done through systematic appraisal of all existing information to hand and through new investigations where required, and developing a design solution which responds to these. In all cases, a cautious approach is adopted, responding to the aims of the Burra Charter and the environmental imperatives of the place. The design proposal has been carefully considered to respond sensitively to its context and has been undertaken to the highest international standards required of a place of such importance.

The proposed development, once implemented, will aid national and international visitors in understanding the cultural significance of Inis Cealtra, Lough Derg and its environs, will assist in sustainably managing tourism to the area, and will ensure the conservation and protection of the site for future generations.

Appendices

*Architectural History of
Mountshannon Rectory,
Inish Cealtra, Co. Clare* by
Professor Lynda Mulvin

Architectural History of Mountshannon Rectory, InishCealtra, Co Clare¹

By Professor Lynda Mulvin Historic Building Consultant 10/02/21

DRAFT



Fig 1. Mountshannon Rectory, InishCealtra, Co Clare

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Architecture and the Glebe House and Rectory House pp. 15-23

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3.3 Conclusion p.33-34

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¹ <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/publications/clare-county-development-plan-2017-2023-volume-4-record-of-protected-structures-24145.pdf> p. 177.

4.1 List of Figures pp.36 -37.

1.0 Introduction and archival sources

This is a study of the architectural history of the Rectory House at Mount Shannon. It is a large house built c. 1900 in red brick situated in a large grassy lawn that is bounded by a redbrick garden wall and driveway with a gate, which occupies the steep curve in the road, which leads to the harbour of Mount Shannon. The situation on the bend in the road would serve to emphasise the importance of the Rectory house in the community.

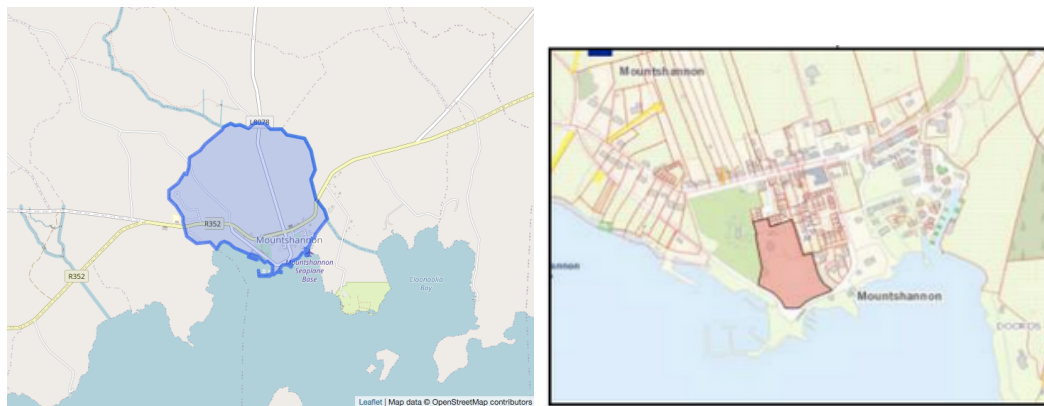


Fig. 2. Mountshannon area map and Mountshannon Rectory, InishCealtra, CO. Clare, Site Plan

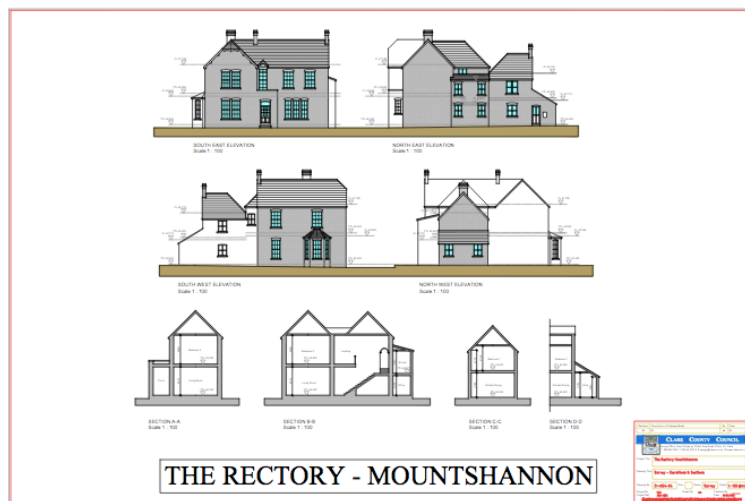


Fig 3. Mountshannon

Rectory Elevation and Section

Mountshannon is accessed by the R352 and is situated approximately 8.3 km north east of Scarriff and approximately 25 km north of Killaloe. It was planned as a linen town in the eighteenth century by Alexander Wood on land from Daly' of Dalsandle, Co. Galway. The town plan shows long plots onto the u-shaped circulation route leading to the harbour and inland in parallel connecting roads. This plan linked the parish with that of the Holy island of Inishcealtra. The location of the rectory overlooking the lake with a view towards the Holy Island Iniscealtra formed a visual link from the rectory to the pre-reformation church of St Patrick from the early Christian era on Holy Island.

The large red brick rectory building is of note in the region where most administrative and ecclesiastical buildings were of rubble building stone. Large Red brick structures would stand out. This was built on the cusp of the Edwardian era c. 1900, which is a period of great transformation both technologically and architecturally. This was an era that brought electricity and modernisation of manual labour tasks to domestic architecture. It was also a turbulent period in Irish history where the changing pace of the time was reflected in this new house type, built as the modern face of the Church of Ireland: with a mix of Celtic nationalism and London influence that dominated the Arts and Crafts movement in Dublin at

this time. By mid 1890s a distinctive house style had emerged in newly formed suburbs such as Herbert Park, Donnybrook Dublin.

Furthermore, the aim of establishing a new cultural identity through home industry such as lacemaking and the historic connections of Mountshannon with its history of Linen production - post 1900, was a new focus on what was once an indigenous local industry. Linen making² had its roots in post machine industrial age in Britain Scotland and Ireland and the aim to re-establish harmony and hand craftsmanship production of well designed material objects with a reform in working conditions, democratic architecture and production were aspirations of this new age. The reform of aspects of the Church of Ireland to facilitate and administer to the needs of the congregation was inherent in this new rectory design idea and representative of this new age.

1.1 Archival Material consulted under COVID Restrictions

It should be noted that because of current COVID restrictions many of the usual archival sources and library resources are not available to be consulted for this architectural historical report of the Rectory, Mountshannon Co. Clare. The details of this report will be confirmed as soon as possible when restrictions permit. It is necessary to note therefore the reliance on these following sources:

For archival material, the report had access to heritage sources supplied by Clare County Council in the form of on site photographs and other documents including the photographic archive of *the RCB online exhibition by Michael O' Neill on the Glebe House*. It would be recommended that scans of these be sent to the Irish Architectural Archive. The online National Newspaper Archive had been consulted and several local references presented. The Irish Builder is not available in microfilm and would be advised to examine for the

² E. Cumming and W.Kaplan , *The Arts and Crafts Movement* (Thames and Hudson, London, 1991), p. 87.

possibility of determining if there was an architect and local contractor for the building of the rectory.

Existing source material is also drawn from *National Inventory NIAH* and the *County Clare Local Area Plan 2014-2020* (2014) which is also essential reading. The Ordnance Survey Map Library UCD Richview, Maps 1867 and 1911 are on order and copies of which can be added in due course. The National Library of Ireland has photographs, which are unavailable and could be added in due course in due course. Both have been contacted. Access to the Irish Architectural Archive digital online resource *The Dictionary of Irish Architects* is invaluable resource.³ Images have been generated to illustrate the report and some photographs the report draw together relevant information.

The Rectory architect is unknown, and no drawings appear to survive. The Local newspapers of Clare Champion and Limerick Leader have been trawled through, the Irish Builder is not available. The records consulted are related in the bibliography the Irish Architectural Archive was consulted as was the RCB Library and information about a recent exhibition by Michael O' Neill on the Glebe house. Much has been made of the online resources of Clare County Council. The Rectory which is the subject of this study has been designated a preserved structure and it is noted here that the terminology of the Glebe House covers the accommodation of the various accommodation of rectory, deanery and vicarage. The most common term is rectory.⁴

The coordinates of the rectory as it is cited in the National Inventory are as follows:
RPS No.: 464

³ Grateful thanks is due to Colum O' Riordan, Irish Architectural Archive for supplying information on the Rectory NIAH entry. Grateful Thanks is also due to Eugene Roche UCD Special Collections who supplied copies of Clare Champion and Limerick Leader. Sue Dod from the RCB Library is also to be gratefully thanked for supplying information about the Michael O' Neill RCB Exhibition on Glebe houses.

⁴ Connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Guidelines-for-Glebes-NI-July-2015.pdf

NIAH No.: 20300502 Structure: House

Date: 1900-1910 In use as: Residence Additional Use: N/A

Historical Use: Residence

Rating: Regional Name: The Old Rectory Area: Mountshannon

Townland: Mountshannon Bay

NGR: 171177 ; 186687

Map: Volume 2 Map reference:



Fig 4. Mountshannon Rectory South East Elevation

1.2 History and Topography of Mountshannon

The study is concerned with locating the building of the rectory within the historical context of Church of Ireland in the area in an historic eighteenth century town in East Clare. Mountshannon is in the Electoral Division of Mountshannon in the civil parish of Inishcealtra, in the barony of Leitrim in the county of Clare.

Alexander Woods linen manufacturer founded the village and created a prosperous linen village until 1766. Mountshannon is now in Clare boundary but from 1610-1898 the parish was located in Co. Galway. Despite its location within the Barony of Leitrim, the parish of Mountshannon remained part of the diocese of Killaloe.⁵

⁵ https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/places/mountshannon_history.htm

Mountshannon is located on the shores of Lough Derg, one of Ireland's biggest lakes, in East Clare. Constructed as a model village it has a scenic location which is connected to the lake founded in the 18th century as a linen village.⁶ The locality where the Rectory is located is Mountshannon in the townland of Carrownerribul, *Baile Uí Bheoláin*, meaning "townland of Ó Beoláin", historically anglicised as *Ballybolanis* which is a village in east County Clare.⁷ The village was situated on the western shore of Lough Derg, north of Killaloe and recognised as one of the model planned towns of Ireland by Alexander Wood. During the eighteenth century there was a substantial Protestant population with St Caimin's Church c. 1789, which was renovated in 1831 by James Pain with the tower added to left side. Other contemporary buildings were the Mountshannon markethouse dated to c. 1740.



Fig. 5. The Church of Ireland Church at Mountshannon South Elevation James Pain
St Caimin's Church 1785-90

⁶https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/clare_men_women_great_war_11.pdf

⁷ http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Clare/Census_Co_Clare_1901_and_1911_mount_Shannon_predominantly_Irish_English_speaking_of_Roman_Catholic_faith.



Samuel Lewis proved an eyewitness account of the Mountshannon in 1837 describing the topography notably a reference to the parish of Inniscalthra which Lewis described as being partly in the barony of Tulla, County of Clare and province of Munster :

“4 m takes its name from the celebrated island of Lough Derg .⁸. How much land has been reclaimed since 1820 principal seats are Woodpark the residence of P. Reade it is a vicarage in the diocese of Killaloe united in 1803 to the vicarages of Moynoe and Clonrush and in the patronage of the Bishop the rectory had as the representatives of G. Tandy. Esq. and as the principal vicarage seat at Woodpark. The vicarage tithes amount to £23 and of the union to £119.8.51/2. There is a glebe house with a glebe of 12 acres in the parish of Clonrush The church in Mountshannon is a neat building and was erected by aid of a loan of £390 from the late Board of First Fruits in 1789 and repaired with a loan from the same Board in 1831. The Roman Catholic Division forms part of the union or district of Clonrush and has a chapel at Mount Shannon there is also a meeting house for Welseyan Methodists.”

⁸ Samuel Lewis *County Clare; A History and Topography* 1837, p.44. Lewis with an eye to antiquities mentioned near the shore of the lake is a circular Danish Fort and silver coins of King Johns reign minted at Waterford have been found in Wood Park bog. County Clare

The major significant in his topographic account is the reference to the vicarage, the property and the tithes. The notice and the reference to the value of the tithes, of which the rectorial tithes were appropriated, to the dean and chapter of Killaloe. The Church of Ireland Church was built on the Tandy Estate in 1789. Also a value was given on the restoration of the Church of Ireland Church: St Caimin's Church was repaired and enlarged by Board of First Fruits and James Pain (1779-1877) at a cost of £390 in 1831. Other significant facts that would follow Lewis's description was that the Reade family vault was located in the churchyard. Historical references to a wall plaque in the church was a reminder of the drowning of the two Coghlan brothers who were sons of Rev. Augustus Coghlan, in 1876. Another plaque dedicated to the Son of Reverened Somers who lived at the Rectory died in 1915 great War. The R.C Church also St Caimins was less ornate structure built c 1836 and a schoolhouse dated to c. 1846 was constructed with a separate sections for boys and girls.⁹



Fig. 6. Roman Catholic Church also St Caimins, Mountshannon

In 1841, the population of the parish was close to 2,000. The famine carried off c 500 souls Woodpark House was nineteenth century Victorian pile The Reade and the Hibbert family lived there. Mountshannon House large Victorian mansion by the lake was also a nineteenth century residence. It was associated with various landlord families, including the Tandy and Napper Tandy, United Irishman.

⁹ Andrew Carpenter, Rolf Loeber, Hugh Campbell, Livia Hurley, John Montague and Ellen Rowley Urban Environment and Housing Art and Architecture of Ireland Volume IV Architecture 1600-2000 (Royal Irish Academy, Dublin 2016) p 395.



Fig. 7. Mountshannon House

2.0 Act of Union and the Church of Ireland

The Act of Union in Ireland, 1801, would create a new structure for the Church of Ireland, and would serve to concentrate the structure of the Church of Ireland as a legal union with the Church of England as the United Church of England and Ireland. The polity of the church of Ireland was the episcopal church governance, with a system of geographical parishes, thirty reduced to twelve: for example: Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh parish were linked in 1834. The organisation of the Church of Ireland Dioceses (United diocese) each was headed by a bishop, and belonging to either northern or southern provinces. Each diocese led by the Ordinary: one bishop and two archbishops, archdeacon and rural dean. The administrative structure followed with a number of positions in the hierarchy requiring housing and each requiring a living.¹⁰

In spite of dwindling congregations, the church authorities in eighteenth and nineteenth century spent considerable sums providing glebe land for parish clergy. In this regard the This was an indirect way of supplementing clerical income. A glebe house is a residence provided in each parish (or parish union) for the clergy man or woman and his or her family. In the past glebe land (farm land) was also provided for the rector/vicar/curate of rural parishes, the clergyman was often also a

¹⁰ Eleanor Flegg “Portfolio” *Irish Arts Review* 2019 Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 54- 56,
A collection of almost 9,000 original drawings the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and of collected by the Representative Church Body (RCB), are available to view online in the RCB Library.

farmer who leased out farmland and introducing and implementing agricultural improvements to their land.¹¹

After the Act of Union 1801, the Church of Ireland, carried on a church-building programme with funds from the government and from the Board of First Fruits, which was a concerted programme of building and a church-building fund, which sponsored and enabled a building programme for rectories and glebe houses in Ireland during the early nineteenth century. The First fruits act was the means by which much of the eighteenth century building work was funded as much of the first fruit income of young clergyman the *Annata* directed into house building this became a feature of support.

This became a condition of the tenure resulting in the Irish landscape during late eighteenth and nineteenth century became punctuated with spires, towers and glebe houses which comprises a body of Church of Ireland ecclesiastical architecture¹² The Board of the First Fruits in Ireland appointed John Bowden and John Semple for ecclesiastical province of Dublin (Bowden was trained in the office of Richard Morrison architect) in the early nineteenth century. The glebe system had its own distinctive rules relating to property and living it would provide as part of the improvement of the land, some tithes were due to be paid from the land as each the glebe was established. In many cases plans were drawn up including the outhouses including equipment and farm storage.

Churches Temporalities Act of 1833 amalgamated provinces of Armagh and Tuam. Dublin and Cashel and united other diocese such as Glendalough and Dublin and Kildare. Income for higher clergy came from land with lesser income coming from tithes. The state in England abolished the payment of tithes to the established church by tenants. This led to widespread agrarian unrest, which was alleviated by

¹¹ <http://connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Guidelines-for-Glebes-NI-July-2015.pdf>

¹² Andrew Carpenter, Rolf Loeber, Hugh Campbell, Livia Hurley, John Montague and Ellen Rowley "Ecclesiastical Architecture", *Art and Architecture of Ireland Volume IV Architecture 1600-2000* (Royal Irish Academy Dublin 2014), p 287-8.

the passage of the Church Temporalities Act (Ireland) 1833, reforming the tithing system, and eventually in 1869 by the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland.¹³ These changes led to state building programme for the building of churches and cathedrals for the under-served Catholic population.

After the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, the system would become for a time, a source of resentment as the means of was the funding of the Church was by tithes imposed on all. The Act ended the Church's status as a state organisation; its bishops were removed from the House of Lords and its property transferred to the government. Compensation was paid but in the immediate aftermath, parishes faced great difficulty in local financing after the loss of rent-generating lands and buildings.^[37] The disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871 would lead to the property of the Church of Ireland being transferred to the Commissioners of Church Temporalities. The Representative Church Body (RCB) was set up in 1870 as the trustee body for the Church of Ireland and churches, schools and glebe houses (rectories) was then given to the RCB. The RCB would build up a fund to enable the building of glebe houses and rectory buildings.¹⁴

Rules governing the Glebe and the property were decided in Church of England and translated via RCB as follows:

“Every church of common right is entitled to house and glebe.”¹⁵ The laws pertaining to the Church of England Glebe houses: “the same body of laws, amongst the first of the ecclesiastical laws of England, it is provided that “one entire manse be given to every church without other service. For the tithes the tithes, oblations of the faithful, houses, churchyards, gardens near

¹³ The Church in Ireland: the speeches delivered at the Hanover Square rooms, on ... June 11, 1863 ... in aid of the West Connaught Church Endowment Fund. Source: JSTOR Primary Sources, 01-01-1863

¹⁴ <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/welcome-to-disestablishment-150/disestablishment-in-context>

¹⁵ Glebes and glebe houses, with remarks on the operation of the inclosure acts. 01-01-1876

the church, and for the manse before mentioned, let the priests constituted in them do no service but ecclesiastical.”

“The Act of 17 Geo. III. cap. 53 gave facilities for the erection of glebe houses, giving the incumbent the right to purchase one if necessary, and to raise the money by the sale of part of the glebe or of tithes. Another Act (50 Geo. III. cap. 147) gave the incumbent power to exchange parsonage or glebe houses and lands for other houses and lands as well as to purchase land, which lands “so purchased shall be ever, from and after the grant and conveyance thereof, be, and become annexed to and glebe of such benefice.”¹⁶

The Act of Union would create a new structure for the Church of Ireland: The Province of Armagh: Clogher, Connor, Derry and Raphoe, Down and Dromore, Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Tuam, Killala and Aconry; Province of Dublin: Dublin and Glendalough; Cashel and Ossary; Cork Cloyne and Ross; Limerick and Killaloe; Meath and Kildare. The Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe was known as: The United Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert, Ahgadoo, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly and this was s a diocese of the Church of Ireland that is located in mid-western Ireland. The diocese was formed by a merger of neighbouring dioceses in 1976 and is in the ecclesiastical province of Dublin. It is one of the twelve Church of Ireland dioceses that are make up the whole of Ireland. The Primate of all Ireland is the Archbishop of Armagh who is leader of the northern province while Primate of Ireland is the leader of the southern province and archbishop of Dublin.

Changes to the structure in 1833, with an attempt to reduce the number of bishoprics. Funding of the Church was a perennial issue with the use of a system of

¹⁶ Edward Alexander Cooke, The diocesan history of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, and Kilmacduagh (A.D. 639-A.D. 1886)

Tithes imposed on Irish tenants. Friction would lead to a tithe war and rent charge and a disestablishment of the Irish Church in an act from 1869 which removed the source of Church and state. Afterwards parishes faced difficulties in local financing and many were reduced in income. The adjustment also caused resentment as the Act ended the Church's status as a state organisation; The historic link of Bishop installed in the House of Lords was broken. All property was transferred to the government. This change in structure would lead to a reducing in the number of new buildings as compensation was paid but in the immediate aftermath, parishes faced great difficulty in local financing after the loss of rent-generating lands and buildings.

Much of the operational structures continue as arranged from then. The General Synod Doctrine, canon law, church governance, church policy, and liturgical matters decided by Two houses: the House of Bishops with ten Diocesan Bishops and two archbishops and a House of representatives. The representative body of the church of Ireland, RCB, is the corporate trustee of the church and caretaker of the church property. Each diocese led by Ordinary: one bishop and two archbishops, archdeacon and a rural dean who live in Glebe Houses, rectory, parsonages. The polity of the church of Ireland is the episcopal church with the governance connected to the pre-reformation structure with a system of geographical parishes thirty parishes. The locality survives from such historic roots in Mountshannon situated within range of both Killaloe and Inishcealtra : The locality of Kildalua diocese of St Molua and St Flannan dates back to c. 639AD¹⁷ with historical benefactors of St Flannan's episcopacy and Muirceartaigh O' Brien as patron, of St Flannan's of Killaloe.¹⁸ The connections with the Pre-reformation of significance.

¹⁷ Edward Alexander Cooke, *The diocesan history of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, and Kilmacduagh* (A.D. 639-A.D. 1886), Dublin.

¹⁸ Ponsonby p194



Fig. 8. Diocesan structure Church of Ireland

3.0 English House Development and Irish Country House Designs:

Architecture and the Glebe House and Rectory House

The characteristic glebe-house evolved a simple and effect plan type which would vary from a two storey, three bay house with a basement, a hipped roof and either two stacks or a single chimney stack, established with trees and a yard at the back.¹⁹ A great number, some estimations of c. 800 glebe houses were built in the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in 26 dioceses across Ireland.²⁰

The definition of a glebe house should be a residence provided in each parish (or parish union) for the clergy man or woman and his or her family. In the past glebe land (farm land) was also provided for the rector/vicar/curate of rural parishes, the clergyman was often also a farmer and they might lease out farmland. The clergymen were often exemplars in introducing and implementing agricultural improvements. The provision of land was a left-over from medieval feudal system which compensated often for the lack of direct income This was an indirect way of supplementing clerical income.²¹ Early eighteenth century provision through the

¹⁹ Maurice Craig, *Classic Irish Houses of the Middle Size* (London 1976), p.39
www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6357/architectural-drawings-archive

²⁰ M.O'Neill, A roof over Clerical Heads: Visual RCB Exhibition There are some 70 sets of drawings (some 280 drawings including some written specifications), 28 of these sets are 20th century, mainly from the 1960s. The remainder are 19th century, the majority from the first three decades.

²¹ O' Neill, RCB Glebe Exhibition : Clergymen in the medieval period lived in residential towers generally located at the west end of the parish church, also serving as a belfry to call the faithful to church. Bishop Ussher in his 1622 visitation of Meath diocese referred to them as castles. Some 17th century glebe houses were built in the style of fortified houses. However 18th century visitations often

Board of First Fruits in Ireland, redirected the *annata* or first year income of young clergyman in exchange for land to a fund for building new churches, glebes and glebe houses. A fund set towards the building of churches and glebes led to the populating of the Irish landscape with many churches and houses. An estimation of c. 600 churches and glebe houses built in Ireland by the Act of Union in 1801. The 'First Fruits' glebe house was a steadfast feature of the Irish landscape and also in the urban setting.

The established Board of First Fruits from 1814 to 1821 provided a living also for an architect, in this case, John Bowden, trained in the offices of Richard Morrison. In c. 1823 John Semple was appointed architect to the Board of First Fruits for the ecclesiastical province of Dublin and Joseph Welland, a pupil of Bowden, became Board of First Fruits architect for the province of Tuam and after 1843, under the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, later becoming church architect for the whole country.

The early nineteenth century glebe house building developed as a type which had a classical formality to the plan and a notable symmetry with public and more private areas of the house, functioning in different ways, from the parlour room and the office to the rere which was connected through to the working farm. The activities of the house meanwhile a connection to the outbuildings and the industrial elements of farming. Urban and suburban glebe houses less emphasis on farming in urban setting, small dairy outbuildings associated with farming. The small glebe house at Grangegorman built in 1827 by John Semple had small offices to the rear.

also referred to the 'miserable cabbins' provided for the incumbent, in most cases precluding residence in the parish or union, particularly for a clergyman with a family.



Fig. 9. Colloney Glebe Ballasodare and GrangeGorman Dublin 1828 classical plan
RCB Library Drawings and Glebe County House Bandon Co Cork
| <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6909/a-roof-over-clerical-heads>

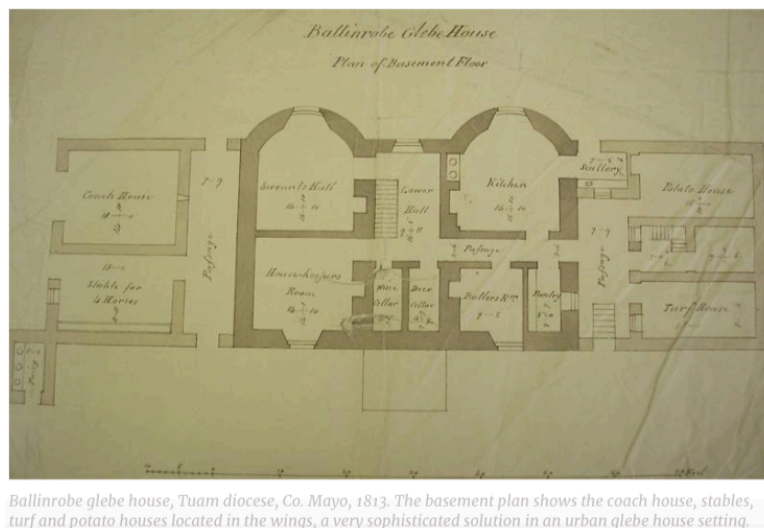
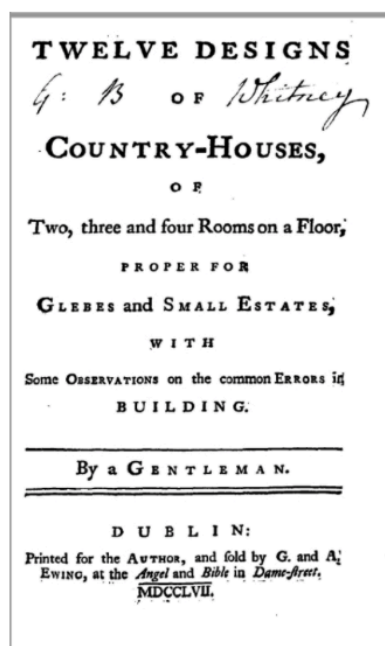


Fig. 10 Ballinrobe Basement Floor Plan RCB Library

1 <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6909/a-roof-over-clerical-heads>



Title page from Revd John Payne's Twelve designs of country-houses, of two, three and four rooms on a floor, proper for glebes and small estates, published in Dublin in 1757

Fig. 11. Title page from Revd John Payne's Twelve designs of country-houses, of two, three and four rooms on a floor, proper for glebes and small estates, 1757

1 <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6909/a-roof-over-clerical-heads>

In the eighteenth century the interest in pattern books and dissemination of architectural ideas would translate into a publication by Reverend John Payne of country house design would have a considerable impact as Payne was primarily concerned with the design and layout of the glebe house. The common emphasis was on the notion of a working farm with an integration of activities associated with the running of a glebe house. The courtyard to the rear was the main linking unit from the rear enclosed yard with offices and outhouses, stables, coach house, dairy and barn. These integrated plans made for self sufficient and enabled significant amounts of surplus provision associated with farming glebe land.

The houses were derived from simple elevations with drawings surviving in the RCB Library,²² which demonstrate the house type was plainer than those proposed by Paine, however simple repeating units and patterns emerge with minimal decoration applied to the openings: consistent use of motifs such as tripartite windows, doors with side lights and ubiquitous fan lights. In many cases windows (and doors) are recessed in blind round-headed arches – a motif used by Richard Morrison and John Bowden. The interior layouts were equally parsed with two story bedrooms above single staircase with large study generally located at the rear of the house, indicating the profession for which these houses were designed.

While the style of architecture for church building would approach Gothic revival, architects such as A.W.N. Pugin published a scholarly justification for Gothic architecture from the Middle Ages as a basis for church design. Gothic architecture would be preferred by the Church of Ireland, the Catholic hierarchy initially promoted classically inspired churches, although latterly the Gothic became equally favoured by both. This did not extend to Glebe house design and as produced by Paynes volume the Glebe house would take a more classical route and follow classically inspired plans and stylistic details. During the nineteenth century across the many parishes, some eight hundred rectory and glebe houses were constructed.²³

²² O'Neill, RCB Glebe House Exhibition, 2017.

²³ David Hicks Ballyaskeery Glebe House, Mullafarry, Co. Mayo History Ireland , Vol. 26, No. 4 (2018), p. 39

George.E.Street and William Butterfield had been building parsonages in the midlands of England and the development of the English house plan surged in this aspect as a catalyst around 1860.²⁴ The example of William Butterfield's Coalpitheath, Gloucestershire, St Saviour's Vicarage, 1844-5 comes to the fore. The example of Philip Webb's Red House 1859-60 and Webb's Barnett, Trevor Hall 1868, with its simple arched entrance, Gothic in its intention, the windows matched to William Butterfield's houses, comes to mind in connection with the Rectory in Mountshannon.²⁵

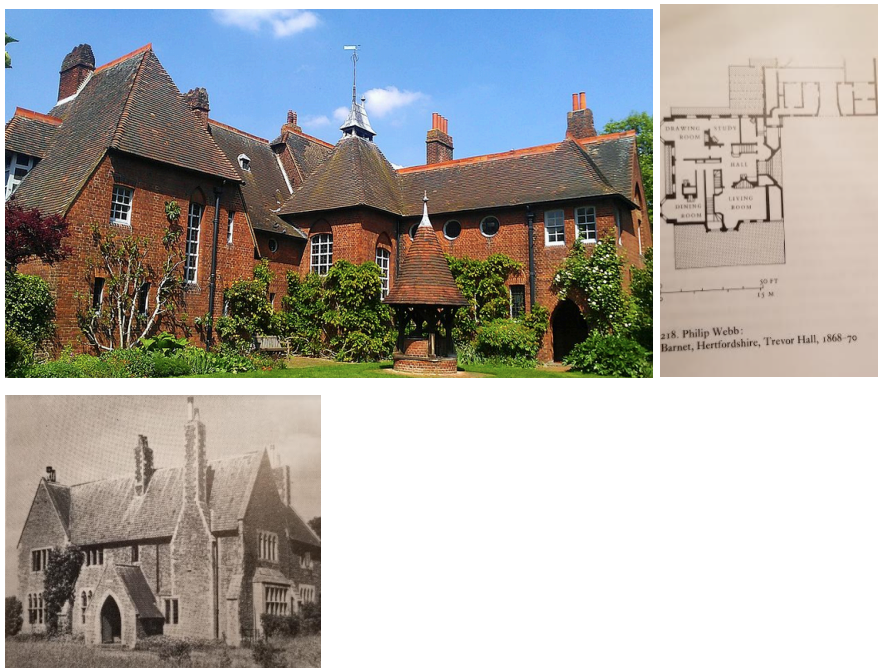


Fig. 12. Philip Webb Bexley Heath and Barnet 1859-60 and William Butterfield Coalpitheath, St Saviour's Vicarage, 1844.

These were the leading domestic designs forming a breakthrough in the Arts and Crafts sphere from 1890s onwards, with kernel ideas emerging in the work of Richard Norman Shaw at Bedford Park, London, laid out in 1876.²⁶

²⁴ H.R. Hitchcock, *Architecture nineteenth and twentieth centuries. the detached house in England and America* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, edition 1987,), p 358

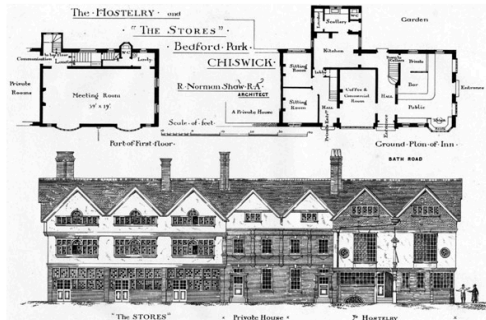
²⁵ Mountshannon Rectory Home to the Whatley, Church of Ireland and Cooke families. Still standing and inhabited. See 'Houses of Clare' by Hugh W L Weir p.200.

²⁶ Hermann Muthesius, *Das englische Haus: Entwicklung, Bedingungen, Anlage, Aufbau ...*, Volume 1

1879 – The Tabard Inn & Stores, Bedford Park, London

Home / Buildings / Architecture of England / Architecture of London /

Architect: Richard Norman Shaw



A public house, housing and commercial units designed for Bedford Park, the planned garden suburb. As estate architect from 1877-79, it was Shaw who set the predominant style of the development and also designed the important church and inn, with its adjoining buildings. Published in The Building News. Januarv 2nd 1880.

Fig. 13 Richard Norman Shaw at Bedford Park, London, laid out in 1876.



[Perspective Drawing](#)

Bedford Park Commentary

... garden suburb, located near Turnham Green in West London.



Abb. 99-101. Grundriss eines Doppelhauses der Kolonie Bedford Park bei London. Von R. Norman Shaw. Erbaut um 1880. 1:400.

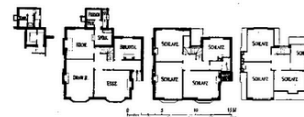


Abb. 102-104. Grundriss eines Doppelhauses der Kolonie Bedford Park bei London. Von R. Norman Shaw. Erbaut um 1880. 1:400.

Bei der alten Kolonie blieben zu müssen. Der Ruhm, hier helfend eingegriffen zu haben und das kleine Haus der neuen Art vollständig heimisch in England gemacht zu haben, gebührt wieder Norman Shaw, und zwar tat er dies durch die Villenkolonie Bedford Park bei London. Ein kunstsiniger und unternehmender Mann, Jonathan Gery, hatte westlich von London, direkt hinter dem Vorort Hammer-smith gelegen, Mitte der siebziger Jahre den Grundbesitz eines alten Landhauses, genannt Bedford House, gekauft und wollte] dieses baureif geordnete Gelände mit Häusern für den kleineren Mittelstand bebauen. Er zog Norman Shaw zu Rate und dieser widmete sich hier mit Eifer der Aufgabe, eine Reihe von Typen kleiner Häuser zu entwickeln, die alle Ansprüche an Beiligkeit, Bequemlichkeit und sogar an künstlerische Gestaltung befriedigten und dabei in ihrer Billigkeit mit den üblichen Unternehmerbauten wetteiferten. Der Versuch gelang über alle Erwartung. Das Grundstück wurde so aufgeteilt, daß möglichst viel von dem wertvollen alten Baumbestand bewahrt wurde, man scheute sich nicht, alte Bäume seitlich am Wege stehen zu lassen, oder den Bürgersteig ihnen zu

after Muthesius p 184 and p134



Abb. 102 und 104. Zeigergruppen aus der Villenkolonie Bedford Park bei London. Erbaut um 1880 von R. Norman Shaw.

The doctrine of realism gave way to the rejection of mass produced materials preferring the approach of the medieval craftsman. Economy also discouraged overt ornamentation as is the case of the Rectory.²⁷ Rooms with large windows overtook the older large hall, with the movement through vestibule-type hall to main rooms where gatherings of people took place. The style enabled modest rooms with different focus and functions which were light. Rooms infused with light through larger leaded window lights, echoing medieval arrangements of the single, double and triple lancet windows adapted, so each room was brightly lit with asymmetrical aspect of windows.

As domestic functions modernised, by the turn of the twentieth century in line with many houses and plans in domestic architecture represented a gradual historical and cultural change that was already underway. From 1890 to 1930, Victorian aesthetic was replaced by the style of the Arts and Crafts movement and a more streamlined approach to detail, and design features. A precise illustration in planning is the compact nature of the situation of the study and its relationship to the entrance hall as Rectories came to function as more public and private spaces, becoming the home-‘office’, the study is shifted and elevated to a proximity to the front of the house beside the entrance hall replacing the parlour room.

The focus of the domestic architecture during this period of transition to the Edwardian period, was emphasised in planning by a reduction of functions and freedom of expression in terms of design.. There was also a notable increased awareness of local tradition and material details. Furthermore, it should be considered that the style for the rectory or the future glebe house, evolved out the Arts and Crafts, garden city movement, which planned ideal housing which espoused simple utilitarian values where the inhabitants could live in comfort with modern convenience, with the ability to know more about the ‘science of life’. William Owen (1846-1910) designed Port Sunlight Lancashire 1889-90 in this idiom using red brick, timber pargetting details, barge boards, situated in large

²⁷ H.R. Hitchcock p357

grassy areas, white painted casement windows. These values suited the Church of Ireland Rectory as a new and modern adaptation.²⁸



Fig. 14. William Owen (1846-1910) Port Sunlight Lancashire 1889-90

3.1 Mountshannon Rectory, Co. Clare

This former Rectory was designed as a period house situated on an irregular shaped site extending to 1.32 hectares (3.26 acres) of land zoned ‘Existing Residential’.

This is a detached four bay two storey house which could be described as a T-plan house with the projection. It is situated in landscaped surroundings of c 3.45 acres with outhouses and a sweeping curved driveway leading to the lakeshore. It is described in NIAH as a four-bay two-storey former rectory, built c. 1905. The unity of the red brick and pitched slate roof with red brick chimneystacks, clay ridge crestings, clay finials and decorative timber bargeboards created a simple strict design which continued through the garden to a Red brick English garden wall and gates. These details underpin the Arts and Crafts connections of the Rectory design.

²⁸ Cummings and Kaplan, 1993, p. 60.



Fig. 15. Site Exterior Elevation looking West, South West and North East with Entrance gates to the roadside



Plate 7



Fig. 16. Site Exterior East and North West elevation details

As with houses of this era the entrance was often asymmetrical as domestic planning was subject of major architectural expression at the close of the nineteenth and early twentieth century.²⁹ Therefore the facades register different rhythms with fenestration creating movement as the arrangement of window lights shifts and as roof details from gable to a hipped roof elaborated with bargeboards as ornamental decoration. The front entrance is as is the style understated single doorway leading to a hall and staircase to first floor. The entrance bay comprises a projecting single-storey entrance bay and central gable, which is flanked by a projecting hipped single-bay two-storey block and then followed by recessed two-bay two-storey block. This then proceeds to a single-bay, single-storey canted bay window to left side elevation and a single-bay two-storey return to rear. This pattern and contradiction is often at the core of the Arts and Crafts movement design ideals where individualism and functionalist contributed to the stripped down aesthetic, which anticipated modernism.

²⁹ Hitchcock, p 354

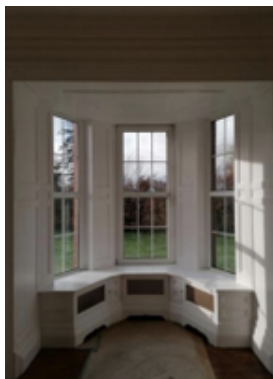
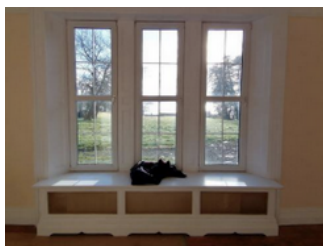
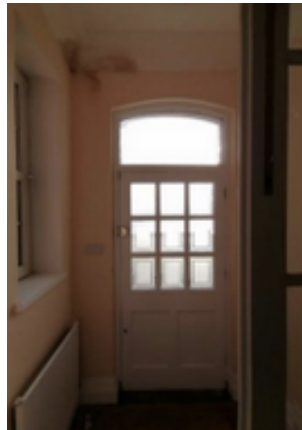
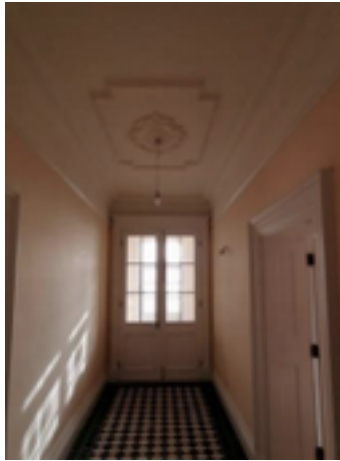


Fig. 17. Entrance Hall and porch to main entrance and reception room marble fireplace and Bay window



Fig. 18. Bedroom and kitchen details

Internally, the property comprises a period small scale hallway decorated with painted plaster. The plain plastered walls of the two reception rooms leading off both sides of the entrance hall. Both rooms benefit from punctuations of significant window lights and projecting bay to capture views of Lough Derg. Marble fireplaces with cast iron insets are in the main rooms. Plain cornicing, and cast-iron fireplaces appealed to the traditional skills of local craftsmen. While the steps were towards modernity, the services were maintained to the rear of the property and the kitchen is located to the rear. Meanwhile it was possible to communicate via the main entrance hall giving a kitchen to dining room shifting the emphasis away from the elitist activity heretofore of the master dining and withdrawing rooms. This more evolved democratic architecture was a product of the flourishing age. Beyond the kitchen, there was the scullery, also a secondary office and separately a

downstairs a WC.³⁰ The interior spaces reflect this shift and the small entrance to a small stair hall echoed in particular the character of the plan and the simplicity of aesthetic of the modern middle-sized country house. In the Rectory, the stairhall occupied a central position with the principal rooms radiating off of this main conduit and on both storeys gathered about it within the bounding rectangle of the main block of the house.

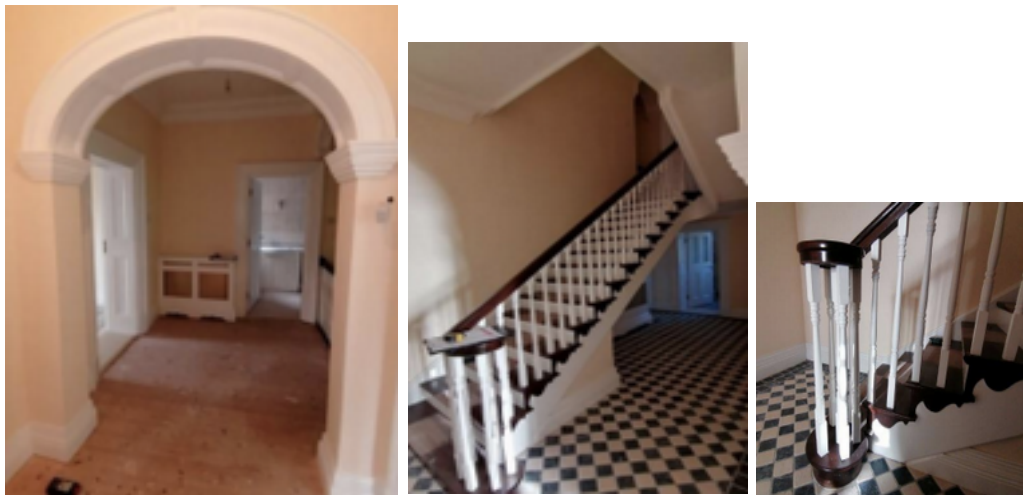


Fig. 19. Landing and stair detail

The bedrooms upstairs had simple cornice and bare pine floorboards generously laid out with tiled fireplace grates which remain in-situ; two sets of windows, of casement style. The emergence of the Edwardian sash windows are sometimes viewed as the pinnacle of sash window design. They replaced the Victorian plate glass sash windows and utilised a hybrid of sash and two over two and combinations of smaller panes with obvious connections to the medieval origins of lancets. They are recognisable for their combination of features from earlier periods of history. The top sash is usually of multiple glass panes separated by astragal bars. A version of these would have been used in combination in the Mountshannon Rectory.

³⁰ 'Houses of Clare' by Hugh W L Weir page 115.

The situation of the Rectory in its own grounds some distance away from the existing church and glebe ground is also an indication of a new century assertion of the presence of a modern Rectory at the heart of the community. The Church of Ireland Church of St Caimin's was the focal point of the Religious affairs of the Church of Ireland community and the new rectory would be the at the core of the spiritual and social life of the community



Fig. 20 Richard Norman Shaw Bedford Park Richard Norman Shaw House Frognal Hampstead 1889



Fig. 21. Examples of Edwardian Casement window details Shaw Bedford Park, London

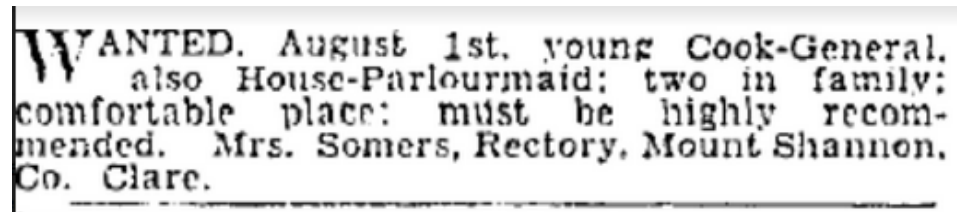
3.2 Society and Mountshannon Rectory

While it is not yet known the architect and contractor on this project, it is recorded by H.W.L. Weir that Mountshannon Rectory was home to the Whatley, Church of Ireland and Cooke families.³¹ However, the family that occupied the house in the

³¹ See H. W L Weir 'Houses of Clare' by p. 200

early century and initial stages left a trace in the local news editions. Mrs Somers seeking home help in 1905.

A record from 1905 in the Irish Independent reveals personal life details for a household of two persons. Mrs Somers advertised to hire a Cook-General and a House-Parlourmaid to look after the Reverend Somers and herself.

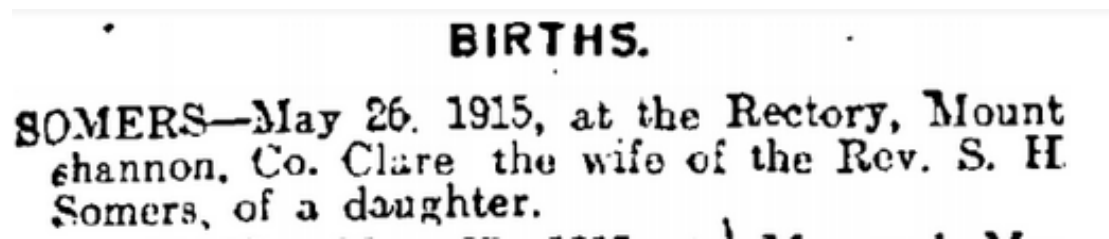


WANTED. August 1st. young Cook-General. also House-Parlourmaid; two in family; comfortable place: must be highly recommended. Mrs. Somers, Rectory, Mount Shannon, Co. Clare.

Fig. 22. 1905 Irish Independent Advertisements

The kitchen and rooms at the top of the house would have had a shared space for the maid to sleep in and the cook perhaps living locally, would be a daily arrival to the house. The rooms in the house larger and asymmetrically arranged to cater for the visitors of the clergy as much as for the working household.

Further hints of life in small print as Rev. S.H. Somers registered the birth of a girl, his daughter during the early summer of May 31st 1915, advertised in the Belfast Newsletter, perhaps indicating the origins of the household.



BIRTHS.
SOMERS—May 26. 1915, at the Rectory, Mount Shannon, Co. Clare the wife of the Rev. S. H. Somers, of a daughter.

Fig. 23. 1905 Belfast Newsletter

The early century years and the new beginnings were soon replaced with the anxieties of the approaching age with the involvement of many Irish men and women in the cause of the Great War. The elder son of the Reverend Somers lost his life on the battlefield in France in 1917 and is commemorated with a plaque in St Caimin's Church.³²

'Cyril Dermott Fouace Somers: Mountshannon Rectory, died May 1917 aged 20, Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers, G/M in France. He was the elder son of the Rev. S.H. Somers, Rector of Inniscaltra Parish, Co. Clare'³³



Fouace Somers: Mountshannon Rectory, died May **Cyril Dermott** 1917 aged 20, Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers, G/M in France. He was the elder son of the Rev. S.H. Somers, Rector of Inniscaltra Parish, Co. Clare.



Fig. 24. Plaque dedicated to Cyril Dermott, Somers 1917, St Caimin's Church

³² See H. W L Weir 'Houses of Clare' by p. 200

³³ file:///Users/lyndamulvin/Downloads/silo.tips_clare-memorials-and-graves-from-the-great-war%20(1).pdf

A pause and a reference to a sale of household contents suggests a change of occupancy of the Rectory: at the eve of the Second World War, The Nenagh Chronicle published a notice about sale of contents August 1941. The auction from local sale demonstrated an emphasis on farm machinery and modern equipment. This a poignant reminder of the interest fostered by the Rectory in farming and the years of the Tithes system supported by the endeavours of these spirited families.

Wm. B. FITT, & Co., M.I.A.A.
Auctioneers, Limerick

COUNTY OF CLARE

Mount Shannon Rectory

SALE by Auction of Antique and Modern Household Furniture and Appointments. Also Cattle, Hay and Outside Effects, to be Held
On **FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th.**
At 12 O'Clock (Summer Time) prompt.

For the Executors of the Rev. Canon Samuel H. Somers, Deceased. Wm. B. Fitt and Co. have been instructed to Sell as above the following : — Drawingroom, Diningroom and Study Furniture, including—Cottage Piano (Cramer Wood and Co. London), antique mahogany pull-out diningroom Table with 3 spare leaves; Chippendale Mahogany Bookcase, Carved Oak Sideboard, 6 Carved Oak Diningroom Chairs with 2 Carving Chairs to match, Carved Oak Dumb Waiter; Antique Roman Brass Lamp, Mahogany Sutherland Tea Table, Easy Chairs, Brass Fenders and Brasses, Brass Coal Bucket, Mantelpiece Clocks, Barograph, His Master's Voice Table Gramophone, Pye Portable Wireless Set with extra loud speaker, Circular Brass Tray, Copper Plate Warmer, Quantity of Plated Ware, China and Glass, some old Glass, Pictures and Oil Paintings, Carpets and Hearth Rugs, Curtains and Poles, some Novels, Walnut Occasional Table.

Bedroom Furniture — Mahogany Dressing Tables, Bow Fronted Chest of Drawers, Satin Walnut Four-piece Bedroom Suite, Walnut Davenport, Toilet Ware, Beds, Springs, Mattresses and Bed Linen.

Hall, Staircase and Landing—Stair Carpet and Rods, 2 Oak Hall Chairs, Oak Hall Seat, Oak Hall Stand, 2 Deer's Heads, Pair of Antlers. Large Quantity of Fishing Tackle, including some by Hardy, 6 Trout Rods, 10 Dapping Rods, 1 Salmon Rod, Fishing Nets, Flahing Wheels, Lot of Flies and Bait, Set of Golf Clubs, Mahogany Book Case, Etc., Kitchen Furniture.

Cattle and Outside.—Two Dairy Cows (1 calved April and 1 in July)

Fig 25. Auction Catalogue of Sale of contents Nenagh Chronicle August 29th 1941

3.3 Conclusion

This Rectory house was constructed as part of the Arts and Crafts revival and leaned towards ‘authentic’ style, harking back to medieval precedents, typically making use of elements such as coloured tiles fireplaces, timber porches details and casement windows, some, with leaded lights. Richard Norman Shaw constructed many houses in this genre which were a good indicator of the mixture of functions of public and private activities under the one roof in terms of modernity. The exemplars such as parsonage works by William Butterfield, Philip Webb and Richard Norman Shaw were revolutionary: their plans pivoted between the Picturesque and the Medieval Gothic where modes were adapted to the modernised dwelling as this instance in Mountshannon where a paired back style is presented. Many of these late nineteenth century schemes were in houses which demonstrated certain patterns of individual commissions. The basic design principles were used in groups of houses such as Bedford Park, London, laid out by Richard Norman Shaw, 1876;



Fig. 26. Herbert Park Donnybrook Dublin c. 1908

Park Dublin (Herbert Baker); and Mount Merrion Dublin, for example.³⁴ These were contemporary houses announcing a new convenient lifestyle, situated along main roads in an urban setting, prominent along new roads.

The situation of this red brick large rectory on the prow of the hill at the bend in the road links it to its medieval monastic pre Reformation past, on the the island of Iniscealtra in the Lake while at the same time, the emphasis on modernity of modern age with a car sweeping up the curving driveway, glimpses of the house from different angles, was as much a part of the return to the authentic principles of the spiritual life in the rectory. The twentieth century rectory has a purpose functions as a office in the front ground floor which functioned as a public space where parishioners could attend the rectory. the evident need is continue to provide solid and imposing residences for the clergy in each parish or union.³⁵

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³⁴ Hermann Muthesius *Das englische Haus: Entwicklung, Bedingungen, Anlage, Aufbau ...*, Volume 1

³⁵ www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Buildings/ and also archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org

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