

CHAPTER 14

ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE



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Introduction

- 14.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), prepared on behalf of McGraths Limestone Works Ltd., has been undertaken to assess the likely and significant effects, if any, of a proposed continuation of quarrying on lands in the townland of Cregaree, Co. Mayo. A wide variety of paper, cartographic, photographic and archival sources was consulted. All the lands of the proposed development were visually inspected and test excavated.
- 14.2 An impact assessment and mitigation strategy has been prepared. An impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.
- 14.3 The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management and is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

Methodology

- 14.4 This study which complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the likely and significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022).
- 14.5 The criteria and definitions for describing effects set out below is drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines (refer also to EIAR Chapter 2).

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Quality of Effects | Positive A change which improves the quality of the environment. |
| | Neutral No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds or variation or within the margin of forecasting error. |
| | Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment. |
| Significance of effects | Imperceptible An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences. |
| | Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences. |
| | Slight effects |

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| | An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities. |
| | Moderate effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends. |
| | Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. |
| | Very Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment. |
| | Profound effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics |
| Describing extent and context of effects | Extent Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of population affected by an effect. |
| | Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions. |
| Describing probability of effects | Likely effects The effects can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented. |
| | Unlikely effects The effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented. |
| Describing duration & frequency of effects | Momentary effects Effects lasting from seconds to minutes. |
| | Brief effects Effects lasting less than a day. |
| | Temporary effects Effects lasting less than a year. |
| | Short-term effects Effects lasting one to seven years. |
| | Short-term effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years. |
| | Long term-term effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years. |

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| | Permanent effects Effects lasting over sixty years. |
| | Reversible effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration. |
| | Frequency of effects Describe how the effect will occur. |
| Describing types of effects | Indirect effects Impacts on the environment which are directly result of the project. |
| | Cumulative effects The addition of minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger more significant effect. |
| | 'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the project not go ahead. |
| | 'Worst case' effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail. |
| | Indeterminable effects When full consequences of change in the environment cannot be described. |
| | Irreversible effects When the character distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost. |
| | Residual effects The degree of environmental change that will, occur after the proposed mitigation measures take effect. |
| | Synergistic effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents. |

14.6 The study involved detailed investigation of the cultural heritage including the archaeological, architectural and historical background of the application area and the surrounding area up to a distance of 1km and the study area is indicated on Fig 14.1. This area was examined using information from the:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Mayo;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Galway;
- The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-28 including the Record of Protected Structures;
- The Galway County Development Plan 2022-28 including the Record of Protected Structures;
- Aerial photographs;
- Previous excavation reports;
- Cartographic; and
- Documentary sources.

14.7 A field assessment was carried out on the 26th of November 2014 to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and structures and previously unrecorded features, possible finds and structures within the application area and vicinity. As this application is for the deepening of the area previously assessed in 2014 and the 2015 substitute consent application a new site visit was not required.

Existing Environment

The Landscape

14.8 The application area is situated in south-west Co. Mayo 0.75km north-west of the town of Cong and directly to the north of the R345 Cong to Clonbur road. The area is flat to undulating lowland and the soil of the study area consists of shallow brown earths and rendzinas with some grey brown podzolics, gleys and peats which is derived from limestone till (Gardiner and Radford 1969) – refer to EIAR Chapter 7 (Land Soils and Geology).

Archaeological and historical development of the study area

14.9 The following is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the surrounding landscape. The information is drawn from the assessment. It is intended to indicate the types of sites and monuments known to be present in the study area as well as the pattern of landholding and to place this material in its cultural heritage context. The application area is situated in the townland of Cregaree, the parish of Cong and Barony of Ross originally Kilmaine. Note the spellings of place names varied throughout history, the historical spellings are used here.

Prehistoric Period

14.10 Prehistoric activity in the study area is indicated by two Neolithic tombs and a standing stone. There is one court tomb in Toberbiroge (GA027-39---) to the south-east of the application area. The third monument is a megalithic structure in Drumsheel townland (MA120-072---) to the north-east of the application area. A standing stone in Dringeen Middle (MA120-017---) is probably also a prehistoric monument.

Early medieval period

14.11 The study area is situated in the Barony of Ross which in the early medieval period was part of the kingdom of the Conmaicne which extended from Connemara to Tuam. In the eighth century the Conmaicne came under the control of the Uí Briúin and later in the eleventh century came under the control of the Uí Chonchobair Kings of Tuam (MacCotter 2008, 136). An abbey was founded at Cong in 624 by Domnall son of Aedh and St. Feichin is said to have been an abbot (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 166). In the early medieval period settlement is indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts, when enclosed by earthen banks, and cashels, when enclosed by stone walls. There is one cashel known from the study area in Aghalahard townland (MA120-022---) as well as a number of enclosures which also probably indicate early medieval settlement (See Appendices 14.1 and 14.2).

The Anglo Norman period

14.12 In the medieval period the area in which the study area is situated was known as the cantred of Kilmaine and also as Conmacnekuly. In 1228 Richard de Burgo was granted 25 of the 30 cantreds of Connaught in fee by King Henry III. He invaded Mayo in 1236 and established his lordship there (Annals of Connaught 1236. 11). Following his conquest Richard De Burgo granted the cantred of

- Kilmaine to Maurice FitzGerald. The area in which the study is situated was known as the manor of Lough Mask. This passed from Maurice Fitzgerald to his daughter Amabill who passed it to John FitzThomas in 1288. In 1299 John FitzThomas granted Lough Mask to the earl of Ulster and it was held by the earl's cousin Sir William de Burgo.
- 14.13 The process of Norman infeudation is classically associated with the constriction of earth and timber castles, known as Mottes. The motte is a raised earth mound, usually artificial and topped with a wooden or stone structure. The earth for the mound would be taken from a ditch, dug around the motte or around the whole castle. The outer surface of the mound could be covered with clay or strengthened with wooden supports. The bailey is an enclosed courtyard, typically surrounded by a wooden fence and overlooked by the motte. A castle could have more than one bailey, sometimes an inner and an outer. Their construction and use dated from the arrival of the Normans until at least the second decade of the thirteenth century (Sweetman, 1999, 16-17). There are no Mottes in the study area and the closest example is at Moat near Ballyhaunis (MA103-023----). In the thirteenth century timber castles were supplemented by stronger masonry castles, but there is only a single example in Mayo at Ballylahan near Claremorris (MA061-145001-) (Sweetman 1999, Fig. 13.9).
- 14.14 Manorialism describes the organisation of the feudal rural economy and society characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a lord supported economically from his own direct landholding and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. The lord lived in a Manor House and in Ireland Manor Houses were sometimes enclosed by rectangular moats and are referred to as moated sites. They are a useful indicator of Anglo-Norman settlement. There is a rectangular enclosure in Drumsheel Upper townland (MA120-040---) c. 0.39km to the east of the application area which could be the remains of a moated site.
- 14.15 The early medieval abbey of Cong was burnt in 1111 and 1137 and was refounded by Turlough O'Connor in 1137 as the Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin, and his son Rory commissioned the construction of a new monastic buildings. Rory O'Connor and his children retired to the abbey. High King Roderic O'Connor died in the Abbey in 1198 and his son Maurice was buried there in 1224. In 1203 Cong Abbey and town was destroyed by William de Burgo and was subsequently rebuilt about 1226. The abbey was suppressed in 1568. Most of the standing remains of Cong Abbey (MA120-05301-) date to the thirteenth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 19070, 166-7).

The later medieval period

- 14.16 Richard de Burgo's descendants were Lords of Connaught and earls of Ulster until the murder of William de Burgo the 3rd earl in 1333. He died without male heir and under English law the earldom passed to King Edward III. However, Edmund Albanach de Burgo took possession of the de Burgo lands in Mayo, disregarding the rights of the daughter of the dead earl of Ulster (Otway-Ruthven, 1980, 255). The de Burgos, who became the Mac William Burkes, were the dominant lords in the barony and this part of Mayo until the seventeenth century, eventually becoming the viscounts of Mayo.
- 14.17 From the fifteenth century tower house castles were constructed throughout Ireland. The example at Aghalahard (MA120-02401-) in the study area was held by the MacDonnell's, Gallowglass tenants of the Bourkes, in 1574 and remained in their hands until purchased from the MacDonnell family by Benjamin Guinness in the nineteenth century.

14.18 The Down Survey records that in 1641 Cregaree townland was held by Andrew Lynch and the Book of Survey and Distribution records that in 1670 it was held by John Lynch. The Cong estate was purchased by Neal O'Donnel in 1781. It was held by the O'Donnel family until Richard Annesley O'Donnell of Newport Prat was forced to sell Cregaree along with the rest of the estate by the Commissioners of Encumbered Estates of Ireland in November 1852 to Joseph Lambert and Manus Prendergast. Lambert sold his share to Benjamin Guinness in 1858 (London Daily News 5 October 1852, <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/>). Benjamin Guinness also purchased the Ashford Castle estate (located outside the study area to the south) from the Browne family of Castlemagarret.

14.19 In the late 1840s an attempt was made to construct a canal linking Lough Mask and Lough Corrib. This canal was built to lower winter water levels in Lough Mask and to provide a navigation channel between Castlebar and Galway. Work began in 1848 as a famine relief scheme. However, the works ceased in 1859 before the canal was complete. This was as a result of rising costs, the advancement of rail and in particular the porous nature of the limestone. The canal proved impossible to caulk because the highly fissured karstic limestone would not hold water. Several buildings from the period survive, including the piers and warehouse in Ballinrobe, locks and four miles of the canal. The work in Cong included the cutting of three lock systems into the natural limestone rock. Lock No. 1 was cut near Ashford Castle in the townland of Strandhill, where the water from the Cong River meets Lough Corrib. Lock No. 2 was situated in Cong village. Here a new road into the town was built over a dressed stone canal bridge. This also included a bridge over the Cong River, the water of which was diverted through this new bridge. Lock No. 3 was built further north in the townland of Cregaree.

Buildings

Designated structures

14.20 The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-28 and the Galway County Development Plan 2022-28 were examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR. The review established that there are three structures listed in the Co. Mayo and Co. Galway Record of Protected Structures situated within the study area.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| No. | RPS23 |
| Structure type | Church |
| Townland | Cong South |
| Designation | Protected Structure |
| Data source | Mayo County Development Plan 2008-14, No. 0023 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Single cell Church c. 1875 Gothic style. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| No. | RPS23 |
| Structure type | Former Mill |
| Townland | Cong North |
| Designation | Protected Structure |
| Data source | Mayo County Development Plan 2008-14, No. 0024 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Former Mill built c. 1839 by the Edward Estate. Section of original water wheel mechanism remains. |
| Photos: | - |

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| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| No. | RPS574 |
| Structure type | Cong canal |
| Townland | Creggaree, Co. Galway |
| Designation | Protected Structure |
| Data source | Galway County Development Plan 2009-15, No. 574 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Remnant of Cong canal, designed by Alexander Nimmo, c1848. |
| Photos: | - |

14.21 There are no Protected Structures situated within the application area. The closest designated structure to the application area is No. RPS574 the protected part of the Cong Canal in Co. Galway (Fig. 14.1). It is situated c.0.75km south-east of the application area and is considered too far distant from the application area to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development. The remaining part of the Cong Canal is not listed as a Protected Structure in the Mayo Co. Development Plan. The other Protected Structures in the study area are considered to be too far distant from the application area to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was examined. The review established that there are 17 additional structures listed in the NIAH situated within the study area.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| No. | 31312007 |
| Structure type | Farm House |

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| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Townland | Drumsheel Lower |
| Designation | Imperceptible |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31312007 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached four-bay single-storey direct entry thatched farmhouse, extant 1894, with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting porch. Refenestrated. Pitched thatch roof with chicken wire-covered exposed hazel or sally lattice stretchers to decorative raised ridge, cement rendered dwarf chimney stack having stringcourse below capping, and concrete coping to gables on roughcast kneelers. Roughcast battered walls on rendered plinth with rendered strips to corners. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills[?], and concealed dressings framing replacement timber casement windows. Square-headed opposing door openings with fittings not visible. Set in landscaped grounds perpendicular to road with rendered piers to perimeter having concrete capping supporting tubular steel "farm gate". |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31312008 |
| Structure type | Farm House |
| Townland | Drumsheel Lower |
| Designation | Imperceptible |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31312008 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |

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| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached four-bay single-storey direct entry thatched farmhouse with dormer attic, extant 1894, with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting glazed porch. Renovated. Pitched roof with replacement straw thatch, rope twist above exposed hazel or sally lattice stretchers to raised ridge having exposed scallops, cement rendered dwarf chimney stack having stringcourse below chamfered capping, and concrete coping to gables on "bas-relief" kneelers. Roughcast battered walls. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills, and concealed dressings framing replacement uPVC casement windows. Square-headed opposing door openings with fittings not visible. Set in landscaped grounds perpendicular to road with rendered piers to perimeter having stepped capping supporting "sunburst" gate. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216002 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Drumsheel Upper |
| Designation | Imperceptible |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216002 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Single-arch "accommodation bridge" over canal, prepared 1852; built 1853; complete 1854; extant 1894. Part creeper- or ivy-covered coursed or snecked limestone walls between coursed or snecked limestone battered piers with rock faced cut-limestone stringcourses supporting parapets having rock faced cut-limestone coping. Single segmental arch with rusticated rock faced limestone ashlar "crow stepped" voussoirs centred on rusticated rock faced cut-limestone keystones. Sited spanning Cong Canal with overgrown embankments to canal. |

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| | This record and No. 30402725 appear to refer to the same Bridge. |
| Photos: | - |

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| No. | 31216001 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Cregaree |
| Designation | Imperceptible |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216001 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Single-arch road bridge over canal, built 1852; extant 1854. Part creeper- or ivy-covered coursed or snecked limestone walls with lichen-covered rock faced cut-limestone coping to parapets. Single segmental arch with tooled limestone ashlar voussoirs. Sited spanning Cong Canal with overgrown embankments to canal. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 30402712 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Cregaree, Co. Galway |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30402712 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Single-arch limestone road bridge, built c.1860, having segmental arch with dressed voussoirs, walls and piers. Snecked dressed limestone parapet with rusticated limestone coping stones. Dressed limestone blockwork to soffit. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 30402711 |
| Structure type | Smithy |
| Townland | Cregaree, Co. Galway |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30402711 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached gable-fronted single-storey former smithy, built c.1850, currently disused but maintained. Pitched slate roof with concrete copings to gables, and having rendered chimneystack to north gable. Roughly coursed rubble limestone walls with roughly dressed quoins and having tooled limestone decorative quatrefoil panel to front gable over entrance. Square-headed window openings to north gable and west side having dressed block-and-start surrounds, sills and lintels with replacement battened timber shutters. Square-headed intrusive door opening to east elevation having replacement timber door. Horseshoe arch vehicular entrance to south gable having tooled limestone surround, voussoirs and keystone and having replacement double-leaf battened timber door. Located on roadside |
| Mitigation proposal | No mitigation required |

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| Photos: | - |
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| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 30402714 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Ashford or Cappacorcorcoge |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30402714 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached three-bay gate house, built c.1860, having two-storey front and single-storey rear elevations, integral pointed-arch carriageway to centre and recent single-storey additions to side elevations. Front elevation probably originally single-storey. Now in use as private house. Flat roof behind stone and rendered parapet with rendered chimneystacks and limestone eaves course. Snecked dressed limestone walls with dressed limestone quoin stones, roughcast render to additional blocks. Square-headed window openings to front elevation, those of ground floor being within former pointed-arch openings with rubble limestone voussoirs, raised render reveals, render sills and replacement one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Pointed-arch window openings to rear elevation having limestone surrounds, voussoirs and sills and replacement timber windows. Integral archway having limestone surround and voussoirs with rendered soffit, square-headed door openings to interior walls of archway having replacement timber doors. Square-headed door openings to rear elevations of additions having timber-glazed doors and rendered steps. Limestone demesne walls attached to side elevations, splayed to front with square piers and cast-iron railings enclosing small planted areas. |
| Photos: | - |

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| No. | 30402713 |
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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Structure type | House |
| Townland | Cregaree, Co. Galway |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30402713 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1840, having single-bay single-storey addition to east, side-entry porch to front, lean-to addition to west, and recent extension to rear elevation. Hipped slate roof to house with pitched slate roofs to porch and side additions and having gables to first floor front windows with carved timber bargeboards. Limestone chimneystack to house with rendered coping, and replacement uPVC rainwater goods. Rubble limestone walls with roughly dressed quoins. Square-headed window openings throughout having stone and replacement render sills and dressed stone lintels having two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows to front, mainly one-over-one pane to rear, and replacement uPVC window to rear addition. Square-headed door openings, having replacement timber-glazed door to front and replacement battened timber doors elsewhere. Rubble limestone enclosing wall to west having square-plan gate piers with rusticated capping and replacement double-leaf timber gate. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| No. | 31216006 |
| Structure type | House |
| Townland | Cong North |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216006 |

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| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Terraced three-bay two-storey house, extant 1894. One of a pair. Pitched slate roof with clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stack having "Cavetto"-detailed stepped capping supporting terracotta or yellow terracotta pots, moss-covered coping to gable, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves retaining cast-iron downpipe. Roughcast battered walls with rendered strips to ends. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills[?], and rendered surrounds framing one-over-one timber sash windows having part exposed sash boxes. Street fronted with concrete footpath to front. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216007 |
| Structure type | House |
| Townland | Cong North |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216007 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Description | Terraced three-bay two-storey house, extant 1894. Reroofed. Now disused. One of a pair. Pitched roof with replacement fibre-cement slate, roll moulded terracotta ridge tiles, rendered chimney stack having corbelled stepped stringcourse below capping supporting abbreviated yellow terracotta pot, moss-covered coping to gable, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves retaining cast-iron downpipe. Roughcast battered walls. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills[?], and rendered surrounds (ground floor) framing two-over-two timber sash windows having part exposed sash boxes. Street fronted with concrete footpath to front. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| No. | 31216008 |
| Structure type | Cross |
| Townland | Cong North |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216008 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Freestanding drag edged tooled cut-limestone market cross, erected 1930. Set on tooled cut-limestone stepped base. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| No. | 31216009 |
| Structure type | Court House |
| Townland | Cong North |

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216009 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Detached three-bay single-storey courthouse or petty sessions house, dated 1853; extant 1894, on a T-shaped plan centred on single-bay single-storey gabled projecting porch. In use, 1911. "Restored" to accommodate alternative use. Pitched slate roof on a T-shaped plan centred on pitched (gabled) slate roof with clay ridge tiles, and uPVC rainwater goods on timber eaves boards. Coursed rubble limestone walls originally rendered with tooled cut-limestone flush quoins to corners. Pointed-arch central door opening below cut-limestone date stone ("1853") with drag edged tooled cut-limestone surround having chamfered reveals framing replacement timber boarded or tongue-and-groove timber panelled door. Lancet flanking window openings in bipartite arrangement with drag edged tooled cut-limestone surrounds having chamfered reveals framing replacement one-over-one timber sash windows having lattice glazing bars. Street fronted retaining drag edged tooled cut-limestone "saddleback" plinth to perimeter with cast-iron railings now missing. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216010 |
| Structure type | House |
| Townland | Cong South |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216010 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Facade of detached three- or five-bay single-storey house, extant 1838, on a rectangular plan. Sold, 1855. Disused, 1867. In ruins, 1894. "Restored" to accommodate alternative use. Replacement pitched slate roof with clay ridge tiles, coping to gables, and cast-iron rainwater goods on cut-limestone eaves[?] retaining cast-iron downpipes. Random rubble limestone battered walls. Square-headed central door opening with tooled hammered limestone block-and-start surround having chamfered reveals framing replacement timber boarded door. Square-headed flanking window openings with diagonal dragged cut-limestone cruciform mullions, and tooled hammered limestone block-and-start surrounds having chamfered reveals framing fixed-pane timber or timber casement windows. Interior retaining timber panelled shutters to window openings. Set in landscaped grounds shared with Cong Abbey (refounded 1134; "restored" 1862-3) |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216011 |
| Structure type | Church |
| Townland | Cong South |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216011 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Description | Detached four- or five-bay double-height single-cell Board of First Fruits Church of Ireland church, rebuilt 1811-3; extant 1838, with single-bay three-stage tower to entrance (west) front on a square plan. Closed, 1865. In ruins, 1894. Roof now missing. Coursed random rubble limestone battered walls with rough hewn limestone flush quoins to corners; coursed rubble limestone walls to tower with crow stepped battlemented parapet having lichen-covered dragged cut-limestone coping. Pointed-arch window openings with lichen-covered cut-limestone flush sills, and tooled cut-limestone voussoirs with no fittings surviving. Pointed-arch door opening to tower with cut-limestone step threshold, and dragged cut-limestone surround with no fittings surviving. Roundel (second stage) with drag edged dragged cut-limestone surround. Pointed-arch openings (bell stage) with lichen-covered dragged cut-limestone sill course, and hammered limestone voussoirs with no fittings surviving. Interior in ruins. Set in landscaped grounds with drag edged tooled cut-limestone piers to perimeter having lichen-covered cut-limestone shallow pyramidal capping supporting arrow head-detailed wrought iron gate. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216004 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Cong South |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216004 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |

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| | |
|-------------|--|
| Description | Single-arch road bridge over river, built 1852; extant 1894. Part creeper- or ivy-covered tuck pointed coursed or snecked limestone walls between drag edged rock faced limestone ashlar battered piers with drag edged rock faced cut-limestone stringcourses supporting parapets having tooled cut-limestone rounded coping. Single round arch with drag edged rock faced limestone ashlar voussoirs. Sited spanning Cong River with unkempt banks to river. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 31216003 |
| Structure type | Bridge |
| Townland | Cong South |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216003 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Single-arch road bridge over canal, built 1852; extant 1894. Tuck pointed snecked limestone walls with rock faced cut-limestone stringcourses supporting parapets having rock faced cut-limestone coping. Single segmental arch with drag edged rock faced limestone ashlar voussoirs. Sited spanning Cong Canal with unkempt embankments to canal. |
| Photos: | - |

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| No. | 31216016 |
| Structure type | Demesne walls/gates/railings |
| Townland | Strandhill |

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| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Designation | None |
| Data source | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 31216016 |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | Regional |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Sections of tuck pointed snecked rock faced limestone estate wall, built 1884-6; extant 1894, on battered base with drag edged rock faced cut-limestone coping. Road fronted at perimeter of grounds of Ashford Castle. |
| Photos: | - |

14.22 There are no structures listed in the NIAH situated in the application area. The closest structure listed in the NIAH to the application area is No. 31312008 a Farm House in Drumsheel Lower townland (Fig. 14.1). This structure is situated c. 0.37km north-east of the application area and is considered too far distant area to be directly or indirectly impacted. All the remaining structures listed in the NIAH are considered too far distant from the application area to be directly or indirectly impacted.

Field inspection

14.23 On the 26th of November 2014 fieldwork was carried out to identify any additional non-designated structures of heritage interest in the vicinity of the application area. This involved assessing all upstanding structures that are marked on the 1929-32 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 300m of the application area (see Fig. 13.1). There is one upstanding structure situated within this area located outside the application area.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. | 1 |
| Structure type | Farm House |
| Townland | Drumsheel Upper |
| Designation | None |
| Data source | 1929 OS map. |
| Perceived Architectural Significance: | None |
| Significance of effect: | Imperceptible |
| Significance & quality of effect | Neutral, Imperceptible |
| Description | Three bay two storey farmhouse with slate roof. Flat roofed extension to the front links house to a second three bay slate-roofed two storey structure set at right angles. |
| Illustration | Plate 13.1 |

14.24 The fieldwork established that there are no undesignated structures of heritage interest within or in the vicinity of the application area.

Archaeological Assessment

Recorded Monuments

14.25 The Record of Monuments and Places was examined for designated monuments in the study area. There are no Recorded Monuments situated within the application area (see Appendix 14.1 and Fig. 14.1).

14.26 The closest Recorded Monument outside the application area is a Tower House in Aghalahard townland.

MA120-02401- Aghalahard Castle- Tower House

14.27 This monument is situated c.0.30km north of the application area and is considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted.

14.28 The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are considered to be too far distant from the application area to be directly or indirectly impacted.

Sites and Monuments Record

14.29 The Sites and Monuments record (SMR) was examined for additional non-designated monuments in the study area. There are no SMRs situated within the application area. There are three monuments situated within the study area listed in the SMR (see Appendix 14.2 and Fig. 14.1). The closest non-designated monument to the application area is a Megalithic Structure in Drumsheel Upper townland.

MA120-072--- Drumsheel Upper Megalithic Structure

14.30 This monument is c.0.69km north-east of the application area and is considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted.

14.31 The remaining non-designated monuments in the study area are considered to be too far distant from the application area to be directly or indirectly impacted.

Cartographic Sources

14.32 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch maps of the area were examined. This analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites or monuments.

Place Name Evidence

14.33 The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The English translations of the townland names of the study presented below are based on the Placenames Database of Ireland. All but two of the placenames refer to natural topographic or landcover features. Killimor refers to Killimor Church (RMP MA120-014---) which is outside the study area to the north. Knockalassa refers to a ringfort (MA120-02101-) to the north-east of the application area.

| Placename | Translation |
|---------------------------|--|
| Aghalahard | Field of the half hill |
| Ashford or Cappacorcoge | Ford of the ash tree, plot of land or tillage plot |
| Breandrim | Stinking ridge |
| Clogher | Stony place |
| Cloonamarve | Meadow, pasture |
| Cong North and South | Narrows north and south |
| Creevagh Middle and South | Bushy place or a place of trees |
| Cregaree | High rock or King's rock |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Cregdotia | Rock or crag |
| Creggaree | High rock or King's rock |
| Dringeen Middle and Oughter | Little place of the blackthorns middle and outer |
| Drumsheel Lower and Middle | Ridge of sand |
| Gortnaclassagh | Field of the drain |
| Killimor | Imbar's Church |
| Knockalassa | Hill of the fort |
| Nymphsfield | Field of the nymphs |
| Strandhill | Hill of the strand |

Aerial Photographs

14.34 Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-12, 21001-13 and 2013-18 imagery as well as Google Earth imagery from 2010, 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2023 and Bing maps imagery from 2016 did not indicate any additional cultural heritage or archaeological sites within the study area.

Other sources

14.35 Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1965, 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Simpson 1990), and pottery (O'Ríordáin and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) did not reveal any additional material.

Excavations

14.36 Examinations of the Excavations Bulletin www.excavations.ie indicated that there have been one archaeological excavation carried out in the application area (see below and Appendix 14.3). Nine have been carried out in the study area. (see Appendix 14.4).

Field Inspection

14.37 A field inspection was carried out on the 26th of November 2014. This involved an inspection of all the lands in the application area (see Plate 14.2). There is no visible indication of any cultural heritage material. As this application is for the deepening of the area previously assessed in 2014, which has already been stripped of overlying material, a new site visit was not required.

Test excavation

14.38 An archaeological test excavation of the application area was commissioned and was carried out by Leo Morahan in June 2020 License number 20E0263. Trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision across the application area. There was no archaeological material identified in the course of the testing (see Appendix 14.3).

Impact of the Development

14.39 There are no items of cultural heritage, monuments or buildings of heritage interest known from the application area or vicinity. There are no direct or indirect impacts on any known items of archaeological heritage in the application area or the vicinity. No further archaeological investigations or mitigation is recommended.

Worst case' Impact

14.40 No "worst case scenario" has been identified.

Conclusions and Recommendations

14.41 There are no items of cultural heritage, monuments or buildings of heritage interest known from the application area or vicinity. There are no direct or indirect impacts on any known items of archaeological heritage in the application area or the vicinity. No further archaeological investigations or mitigation is recommended.

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Figures

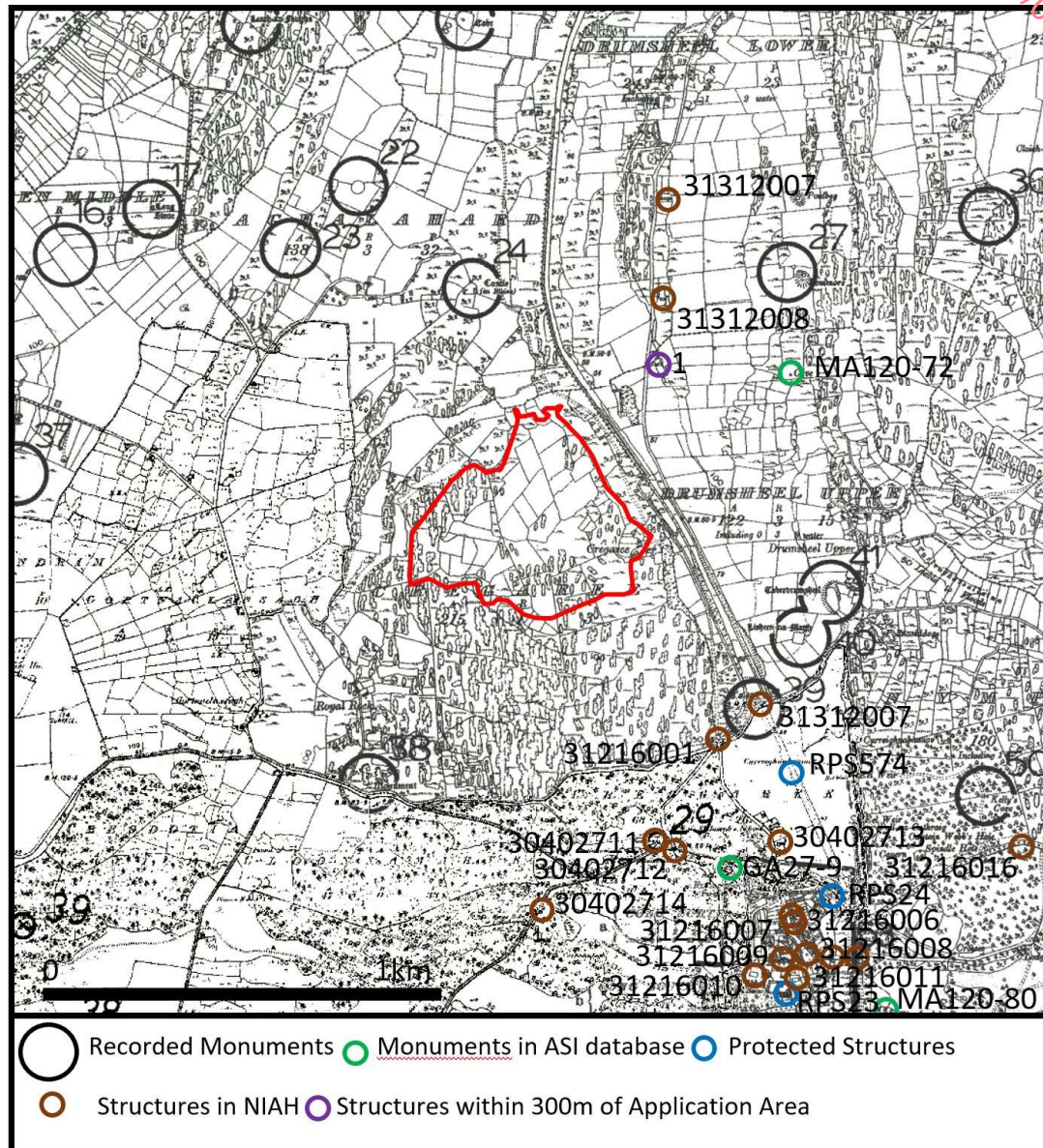


Fig. 14.1. The application area indicated in red and superimposed on the Record of Monuments maps for Co. Mayo and Co. Galway.

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Plate 14.1. View of the Structure 1 looking north-east.

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Plate 14.2. Aerial view from Bing Maps of the application area outlined in red.

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Plate 14.3. View of the application area looking east.



Plate 14.4 View of the application area looking north-east.

Appendix 14.1 Recorded Monuments in the study area

MA120-017--- Dringeen Middle Standing Stone

In rough pasture, 120m E of low ridge running E-W. Rectangular in plan (H 1.7m; Wth 0.5m; T 0.2m) orientated WNW-ESE.

MA120-022--- Aghalahard Cashel

In rough pasture. Circular area (diam. 35m E-W), enclosed by substantial stone wall (Wth 1.7m; H 1.7m), largely overgrown. Small, blocked up, linteled gap in the N. Gap (Wth 3m) in NE may have been entrance.

MA120-023--- Aghalahard Enclosure Possible

In level pasture. Shown on aerial photograph (GSI M 181 -2; Roll 197, pr. 30) as circular enclosure (est. max. diam. c. 39m). Levelled; no visible surface traces.

MA120-02401- Aghalahard Castle- Tower House

Fragmentary remains of rectangular tower (12.8m NW-SE; 9.9m NE-SW), built with ashlar blocks and standing in SW corner of polygonal shaped bawn (MA120-024001-) with square turrets. NW wall stands to three storeys with short returns of NE and SW walls. Only faint outline of SE wall, which may have contained the doorway, survives. Ground floor has broad embrasures with narrow round openings on each of the surviving walls. E corner has remnants of spiral stairs; alcove on NE wall. 1st-floor has window embrasures on NE and NW walls; angle loop in W. Splayed window embrasure on NW wall of second storey, above which are traces of vaulted ceiling. At base of vault, in NE wall, is remains of secret chamber lighted by tiny window on NW wall. Higher up, on exterior of NW wall is perfectly preserved bartizan, and twin ogee-headed window. Upper level of NE wall contains garderobe which emerges at ground-level via two openings. Bawn (MA120-024001-) rebuilt in a number of places, contains three gun loops in an embrasure W of tower house. A later building (int. dims. 11.5m N-S; 5.9m E-W) (MA120-024002-) in SE of bawn has fireplaces in N and S gables. Owned by Mac Donnell in 1574 and held by them until last century, when purchased by Sir Benjamin Guinness. National Monument no. 243

MA120-02401- Aghalahard Bawn

An Archaeological Survey of Ballinrobe and District records a 'polygonal shaped bawn with square turrets' which encloses a tower house (MA120-024----) in the SW corner and a later building (MA120-024002-) in the SE corner. The bawn 'rebuilt in a number of places, contains three gun loops in an embrasure W of tower house.' (Lavelle 1994, 106, no. 703). National Monument no. 243.

MA120-02402- Aghalahard Building

An Archaeological Survey of Ballinrobe and District records 'a later building (int. dim. 11.5m N-S; 5.9m E-W)' with fireplaces in the N and S gables, located in the SE of a bawn (MA120-024001-). (Lavelle 1994, 106, no. 703). A ruined tower house (MA120-024----) is located in the SW corner of the bawn.

MA120-027--- Drumsheel Lower Enclosure

No information in RMP file.

MA120-030--- Creevagh Middle Enclosure

In partly cleared pasture. Shown on OS map (1838) as circular enclosure (diam. c. 40m). Levelled; no visible surface traces.

MA120-038--- Cregaree Leacht Cuimhne

No information in RMP file.

A120-040--- Drumsheel Upper Rectangular Enclosure

In pasture, on SE summit of hill. Square-shaped area (28m N-S; 27m E-W) enclosed by remains of stone wall (Wth 1.5m; H 0.9m). Gap (Wth 7m) on E side, possible entrance, overlain by stone field fence. Interior contains cultivation ridges.

MA120-04101- Drumsheel Upper Holy Well

Site listed in Ballinrobe and District Archaeological Survey.

MA120-04102- Drumsheel Upper Inscribed Stone

No Information in RMP file.

MA120-050--- Nymphsfield Settlement

In densely wooded karst, protected as National Monument (No.413). Twelve steps descend to sunken forecourt; sides supplemented by dry-stone walling, leading S to entrance. Entrance (H 1.7m; Wth 0.76m) gives access to chamber (L 15.3m N-S; H 3m - 4.5m; Wth 2.6m - 3.3m), in artificially enlarged cave. Two stone benches (L 7.5m and L 4m) set along E and W walls, respectively. Recess (D 1m) set in W wall, 1.8m above floor level, contains dry-stone table. Chamber lighted from overhead by triangular shaped opening. Floor carefully paved by narrow cobbles. At end of chamber four steps lead down to D-shaped well (L 1.5m; Wth 2m). Excavated by Bersu, who concluded (1948, unpublished draft excavation report) that the cave was a place of worship rather than of secular use and could date 'tentatively' to the twelfth to fourteenth century.

MA120-053--- Cong North/South Town

Site of monastery founded in the seventh century. Augustinian Abbey founded in the twelfth century. Roderic O'Connor High king died in the Abby in 1198 and his son Maurice was buried here in 1224.

MA120-05301- Cong South Abbey

Augustinian Abbey founded in the twelfth century.

MA120-05302- Cong North Ford

Possible standing stone removed during road construction.

MA120-05303- Cong North/South Castle

No visible surface remains of castle.

MA120-05304- Cong South Bullaun Stone

Bullaun stone submerged in riverbed 100m NE of Cong Abbey.

MA120-05305- Cong South Inscribed Stone (s)

Inscribed stone slabs and decorated tombstones located in Cong Abbey.

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MA120-05306- Cong North Market Cross
Stone marked cross erected in the nineteenth century.

MA120-05307- Cong South Fishing House
Stone structure adjacent to Cong Abbey known locally as the monks fishing house. Original form and function of the building are uncertain.

MA120-05308- Cong North/South Cross-Inscribed Stone
Precise location of this stone is unknown.

MA120-05309- Cong North/South Church (s)
Precise location of this church is unknown.

MA120-05310- Cong South Graveyard
Grave yard marked on third edition of OS map. No further information in RMP file.

MA120-05311- Cong North Cross-Slab (s)
Precise location of this cross-slabs is unknown.

MA120-05312- Cong South Cross Shaft Fragment
Precise location of this cross fragment is unknown.

MA120-05312- Cong South Cross Shaft Original Location
Precise location of this cross fragment is unknown.

MA120-05314- Cong South House
Precise location of this house is unknown.

MA120-05315- Cong North/South Settlement
Precise location of this settlement and source of information is unknown.

MA120-05316- Cong South Church
Precise location of this church is unknown.

GA027-29--- Creggaree Metalworking Smithy
One storey stone building with dressed quoins, slate roof with chimney and rounded arch in S. gable.

GA027-39--- Toberbiroge Court-Tomb
In limestone cragland just beyond S rim of a little valley, in an area now covered by a large plantation of conifers. The monument, fairly well preserved but concealed by cairn material, is aligned E-W. At E is part of N side of a court and a single stone of S side. Behind these is a gallery (L 4.2m), divided into two chambers. Corbelling is well preserved along both sides of the rear chamber and extends E into front chamber where it is obscured by debris. Two large broken roofstones rest above the corbelling and a massive lintel lies across the gallery entrance. The cairn is roughly oval in plan (L 15m, Wth 12m, H c. 2m) and envelops the gallery to level of roofstones, as well as apparently concealing the greater part of the court.

Appendix 14.2 Monuments included in the Archaeological Survey Database

MA120-072--- Drumsheel Upper Megalithic Structure

Small chamber 1m x 1.5m and 0.65m high, oriented E-W. Constructed of upright slabs on N and S sides, with a single slab at W end, overlain by 3 lintels. Cairn or clearance material (L. 8.4m, Wth 5.3m, H 0.9m) piled at E end of chamber.

MA120-080--- Strandhill Cave

The lady's Buttery is an active cave with a stream flowing through it. Human remains were found in the cave in 1971.

GA027-009--- Cong North Mill - sawmill

No information in RMP file.

Appendix 14.3 Archaeological Testing Report

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Appendix 14.4 Archaeological Investigations in the study area

Main Street, Cong, Co. Mayo No archaeological significance 05E0761

Pre-development testing was carried out on 9 July 2005 at a site in advance of its development at Main Street, Cong, Co. Mayo. The proposed development, located within the constraint area for Cong, consisted of the change of use of the premises known as 'Pat Cohan's Bar' from commercial/residential to a pub/restaurant and the construction of an extension at ground-floor level to include a new kitchen/store and toilet facilities.

Prior to my involvement in the project, as part of the demolition (carried out in autumn 2004) the ground level was reduced within the proposed bar/lounge area by 0.25–0.5m. These works had revealed rubble fill and bedrock in places. The groundworks involved in the construction of the extension for kitchen/store and toilet facilities had also been completed, with this area to the north-west of the bar and lounge already concreted.

The site was located at the corner of Main Street and Abbey Street in Cong village, with Cong Abbey located a short distance south-west of the site and the market cross located at the bottom of the Main Street, a short distance east of the site. The site was formerly a grocer's shop and featured as Pat Cohan's Pub in the John Ford film *The Quiet Man*. The northern half of the building, which had been partially demolished, was older, with the southern half having been added in the 1930s (according to the former owner).

One trench was excavated through the centre of the site. It measured 10m long, 1–1.2m wide and up to 0.8m deep. Testing uncovered evidence of modern activity on the site associated with the existing building (partially demolished in autumn 2004) – i.e. rubble fill (which contained modern artefacts) over bedrock, natural boulders and sterile natural subsoil. Nothing of archaeological significance was in evidence.

Cong North, Co. Mayo No archaeological significance 08E0184

Trial-trenching was carried out at the site of a mixed-use development on 11 March 2008. The site is located in the eastern part of Cong, occupying a corner site, with the river located immediately to the east. Three trial-trenches were excavated at the site and nothing of archaeological significance was recovered.

Creggaree, Co. Galway No archaeological significance 11E0365

Pre-development testing was undertaken at the location of the proposed development of a restaurant and craft shop and associated services at Creggaree, Cong, Co. Galway, which is in the vicinity of protected structure Cong Canal and within the area of archaeological constraint established around MA120-053 (Town).

Testing was carried out on 20 October 2011 in the footprint of the proposed structures. Test trenches were excavated in the existing gravel driveway that provides access to the existing dwelling on the site. Further trenches were excavated to the east and west of the driveway through lawn cover and garden beds. Each trench was mechanically excavated using a machine equipped with a 0.5m-wide grading bucket. The depth, width and length varied in each trench, depending on constraints such as the presence of underground services, trees and walls. Eight trenches in total were opened and all were excavated to the underlying substrate. No archaeological material was

uncovered in any of the test trenches. There was no evidence uncovered of the former store yard associated with the construction of the Cong Canal that had previously occupied the site.

Nymphsfield, Cong, Co. Mayo 19th-century canal 07E0303

Pre-development testing was undertaken in advance of the construction, by Mayo County Council, of a proposed carpark and bus park in Nymphsfield, Cong. The site is located on the east bank of the Cong River and lies within the eastern part of the zone of archaeological constraint around the town of Cong. Cong lies on the shore of Lough Corrib on an isthmus of cavernous limestone, where subterranean rivers flow between Lough Mask and Lough Corrib.

In the late 1840s an attempt was made to construct a canal linking Lough Mask and Lough Corrib. This canal was built to lower winter water levels in Lough Mask and to provide a navigation channel between Castlebar and Galway. Work began in 1848 as a famine relief scheme. However, the works ceased in 1859 before the canal was complete. This was as a result of rising costs, the advancement of rail and in particular the porous nature of the limestone. The canal proved impossible to caulk because the highly fissured karstic limestone would not hold water. Several buildings from the period survive, including the piers and warehouse in Ballinrobe, locks and four miles of the canal. The work in Cong included the cutting of three lock systems into the natural limestone rock. Lock No. 1 was cut near Ashford Castle in the townland of Strandhill, where the water from the Cong River meets Lough Corrib. Lock No. 2 was situated in Cong village. Here a new road into the town was built over a dressed stone canal bridge. This also included a bridge over the Cong River, the water of which was diverted through this new bridge. Lock No. 3 was built further north in the townland of Cregaree.

The proposed carpark is being developed within a plot of land bounded to the east by the Cong River and to the west and south by the Cong to Headford road. This entire plot of land was very densely overgrown, covered with trees and scrub, and strewn with deposits of limestone rubble. A tarred pedestrian pathway built on top of the canal in the 1980s runs north–south through the plot, parallel to the road. This pathway divides the development site into an upper canal area (which corresponds with the proposed bus parking zone) and a lower riverbank area (which corresponds with the proposed car parking zone).

The riverbank area was initially cleared of trees and undergrowth revealing a carved limestone block and several smaller dressed fragments scattered on the surface. These worked stones are redeposited limestone pieces which derived from the construction of the canal. All the dressed stones appear to be discarded architectural pieces. These deposits of stone may have been dumped or may have been carved here for the dressed canal face.

Two trenches were then laid out north–south across the cleared riverbank area of the development site. A cobbled zone was identified at the south-western corner of the plot near the riverbank. The area exposed measured c. 7m by 7.7m. Further cleaning revealed extensive areas of in situ stone foundations of two 19th-century roads which traversed the area.

Further scrub clearance revealed the sides of the canal and several large dressed stones were recovered from stagnant water at the base of the canal.

Chisel marks were identified on individual blocks of limestone and also along the side of the canal. These marks were left after a hole was chiselled into the natural limestone walls of the canal during construction.

A section of the canal in this area was backfilled in the 1980s with construction rubble and rubbish. The upper levels of this material were removed during testing revealing a large natural limestone outcrop together with a section of canal wall.

Mayo County Council, in consultation with the DoEHLG, are currently drawing up plans for the completion of the carpark development, which may require further excavation in this area and/or preservation in situ of the features revealed.

Further works were conducted in 2008 and, following consultation with Mayo Council and DoEHLG, the carpark was redesigned to incorporate elements of the canal and the recently identified associated features.

A section of 19th-century paving will be left open for public viewing at the southern area of the site. The rest of this paving will be covered with terram and preserved in situ. The covered features will be delineated in the finished carpark surface using limestone edging.

Along the edge of the extant section of the canal a sympathetic limestone wall was constructed to tie in with the stonework of the existing bridge. A new public access path was then built on top of the new wall and returned at right angles over modern backfill in the canal. The unexcavated modern backfill was stabilised by revetment with heavy rock armour.

The unstable eastern wall of the dry canal was recorded and preserved in situ. Two public display 'windows' have been created – one of which shows a portion of the quarried bedrock with chisel marks visible.

A section of the canal which was backfilled in the 1980s will be utilised for bus parking. The unfinished western side of the canal that was revealed will be preserved beneath the carpark surface and its outline marked by limestone paving. A series of information panels will be erected.

Creggaree, Co. Galway No archaeological significance 11E0365

Pre-development testing was undertaken at the location of the proposed development of a restaurant and craft shop and associated services at Creggaree, Cong, Co. Galway, which is in the vicinity of protected structure Cong Canal and within the area of archaeological constraint established around MA120-053 (Town).

Testing was carried out on 20 October 2011 in the footprint of the proposed structures. Test trenches were excavated in the existing gravel driveway that provides access to the existing dwelling on the site. Further trenches were excavated to the east and west of the driveway through lawn cover and garden beds. Each trench was mechanically excavated using a machine equipped with a 0.5m-wide grading bucket. The depth, width and length varied in each trench, depending on constraints such as the presence of underground services, trees and walls. Eight trenches in total were opened and all were excavated to the underlying substrate. No archaeological material was

uncovered in any of the test trenches. There was no evidence uncovered of the former store yard associated with the construction of the Cong Canal that had previously occupied the site.

Cong North Urban 16E0437

Two trial trenches were excavated at the site of a proposed extension to the rear of Main Street, Cong. The remains of a wall were found at a depth of 0.35m to the south of the site. The wall was orientated north-east/south-west and was not perpendicular to the extant building. It measured 3.6m in length and was excavated for a width of 0.82m. It was one course thick and did not have any bonding material evident. It was not possible to date it but it may predate the vernacular house to the front.

Cong Market Cross C000716, E004634

In September 2015, Mayo County Council drew up proposals for works to protect, the Market Cross, in the centre of Cong village, in south Mayo, which is a National Monument. The vulnerability of the cross has long been a cause for concern. The aim of the project was to protect the monument from potential damage by passing traffic, without impinging on its context or heritage and character of the streetscape, while allowing traffic to move freely and safely. Research into the history of the monument revealed that the cross as it stands today is a composite of medieval, 19th- and 20th-century elements. All works pertaining to this development were carried out in 2016 under Ministerial Consent. A design concept was devised by a multi-disciplinary team, which included the council heritage officer, road engineer and archaeologist.

Two custom-made protective semi-circular limestone kerbs (c. 0.6m high x c. 0.5m deep x c. 2.575m in length) were installed, to the north and south of the cross. Each kerb was placed 1.6m from the limestone steps upon which the cross sits. These kerbs reference the concentric limestone steps and were designed and placed to prevent cars from parking between them and the cross itself. The kerbs were also designed to act as a buffer between the monument and passing traffic. As they are slightly wider than the diameter of the base of the cross, in the event of a collision, the solid, raised kerbs would take the impact, thereby protecting the cross from damage.

Two test trenches (I and II) were excavated to facilitate the installation of the kerbs. Trench I for Limestone Kerb No. 1 measured 2.6m east-west by 1.25m and was laid out to the south of the Market Cross. The tarred surface of the road was cut using a hand-operated road-cutting machine/blade. A substantial layer of compressed black tar c. 0.08 – 0.1m deep was cut through and removed. This tar surface was resting upon slabs of limestone bedrock. Cleaning revealed that this limestone layer was natural bedrock. The limestone was cut into, along its natural plains, until the required depth (c. 0.15m beneath the road surface) necessary for the installation of the limestone kerbs was reached.

Trench II was excavated to the north of the cross and laid out parallel to Trench I, and also measured 2.6m east-west by 1.25m. Similar to Trench I, a road cutting blade was used to remove c. 0.1m of compressed tar, which was again resting on uneven layers of adjoining and overlapping natural limestone. High points on the limestone bedrock were cut until a finished trench depth c. 0.15m beneath the road surface was attained.

The excavation of the two trenches at the Market Cross revealed the monument had been erected on a natural limestone rise. The road surrounding the cross is likewise constructed directly on this solid rock base.

No finds or deposits of an archaeological nature were encountered during the excavation of the two trenches.

Nymphsfield, Cong, Mayo Vicinity of cave, no archaeology found 18E0516

Monitoring of site clearance works at Nymphsfield, Cong, Co. Mayo took place over four days between 30 June and 14 August 2019. The eastern portion of the site impacts on the 'zone of archaeological potential' for the National Monument (No. 413) MA120-050-, known as Kelly's Cave. The work was carried out by a 20-tonne backhoe excavator with a 1.8m-wide toothless bucket. From conversations with the owner the site had previously been cleared in the 1980s and an access path installed. Since then the site has been used intermittently for infilling evidenced by overgrown mounds. For the most part the work consisted of clearing back light scrub rooted in a thin surface layer over limestone pavement with clint and gryke fissures. There was no archaeology found.

Abbey Street, Cong Burial ground C000890; E005006

The test excavation of a site in advance of its development at Abbey Street in Cong, County Mayo was carried out over two periods between 10 October and 23 November 2018 and between 25 February and 4 March 2019. The proposed development consisted of the demolition of a house and shed and their replacement with two semi-detached houses. Testing was carried out in response to a Request for Further Information and was necessary due to the location of the proposed development within the historic village of Cong (MA120-053).

The site contained a 20th-century two-storey dwelling with lawns to the east and north and a yard and shed to the south. Immediately south of the site was a 19th-century Church of Ireland church (in ruins), set in a graveyard. Cong Abbey (MA120-053001 and National Monument No. 432) was located approximately 11m to the south-west of the proposed development site.

Five trenches were manually excavated to best cover the areas of the proposed development which were accessible. The trenches measured 3.1m, 20m, 4m, 5m and 5m long respectively; 1.5-1.7m wide and 0.15-1.45m deep.

An adult (possibly female) human burial (Sk. 1) was uncovered in one of the trenches near the southern end of the proposed development site. Three further, disturbed, burials (Sk. 2, Sk. 3 and Sk. 4) were uncovered in a second trench adjacent to the southern site boundary. Disarticulated human bone fragments were found in the topsoil in all five trenches.

A late medieval radiocarbon date from a sample from Sk. 1 confirmed that the burial predated the adjacent 19th-century burial ground and was rather associated with Cong Abbey. It appeared likely that the three disturbed burials were also of medieval date. Osteoarchaeological analysis also favoured a medieval date for the disarticulated bone. It would appear that at least a portion of the site was in use as a burial ground during the medieval period and was disturbed at a later date, possibly by the construction of the Church of Ireland church and its associated graveyard in the 19th century and almost certainly by the construction of the two-storey dwelling in the 20th century.

The remains of a domestic dwelling dating to the 18th/19th century were uncovered in a trench at the northern end of the site. This building would have been part of a terrace of dwellings fronting onto Abbey Street. Four ridge tiles found in the topsoil, dating to the 18th century, may have come from the domestic dwelling.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Client: McGraths Limestone Works Ltd.

Project: Deepening of an Existing Limestone Quarry

Ref. No.: 65.01

Elsewhere, the testing revealed disturbed contexts above natural subsoils. Modern artefacts, including a number of inscribed clay pipe bowls and a stem manufactured at 6 Prospect Hill in Galway between 1881 and 1911, were recovered.

A number of cavities became apparent during the excavation of three of the trenches. They are a natural phenomenon, common in and around Cong, which form due to the porous nature of the underlying limestone bedrock