CLONASLEE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Appendix 16-3: Inventory of Archaeological Investigations within the Study Area

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Licence No.	11E0318
Type of Investigation:	Archaeological monitoring (Wastewater Improvement Scheme Contract C)
DIER Reference:	2011:395
Site Name:	Ballynakill, Clonaslee
Site Type:	N/A (no archaeological remains found)
RMP/SMR:	N/A
Townland:	Ballynakill
Coordinates (ITM):	ITM point provided in DIER entry incorrectly places the investigation in Kerry [463190, 571234]
Consultant:	Michael Tierney
Summary Findings:	It was a requirement of the Laois Towns and Villages Wastewater Improvement Scheme Contract C—Clonaslee Integrated Constructed Wetland that the works be monitored. The client was Killeen Civil Engineering, Cork Road, Portlaoise, on behalf of Laois County Council. The entire site was stripped under supervision and nothing of archaeological significance was identified.
Source:	Database of Irish Excavation Report. Available at: https://excavations.ie/report/2011/Laois/0023097/

Licence No.	14E0057
Type of Investigation:	Archaeological monitoring (wastewater pipeline and treatment works)
DIER Reference:	2014:171
Site Name:	Mountrath, Stradbally, Clonaslee, Durrow, Abbeyleix and Rathdowney, Co. Laois
Site Type:	N/A (no archaeological remains found in Clonaslee)
RMP/SMR:	N/A
Townland:	Clonaslee (and various others outside study area)
Coordinates (ITM):	None provided for Clonaslee area [634589, 695266 provided for Mountrath area]
Consultant:	Tim Coughlan, IAC
Summary Findings:	This project involved the improvement of wastewater treatment works and pipeline scheme at six locations: Mountrath, Stradbally, Clonaslee, Durrow, Abbeyleix and Rathdowney, Co. Laois. The maximum width of the wayleave for the proposed pipeline was 20m. Monitoring was carried out between December 2013 and September 2014. With the exception of a number of post-medieval walls and drains in Mountrath, nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the course of the works. The segment of wall identified during pipe laying on the laneway south of Patrick Street and west of the Whitehorse River in Mountrath represented an earlier river boundary wall […]
Source:	Database of Irish Excavation Report. Available at: https://excavations.ie/report/2014/Laois/0024035/

Licence No.	19E0100
Type of Investigation:	Archaeological Monitoring
DIER Reference:	2019:454
Site Name:	Clonaslee

Licence No.	19E0100
Site Type:	N/A (no archaeological remains found)
RMP/SMR:	N/A
Townland:	Bunastick and Clonaslee
Coordinates (ITM):	631702, 710797
Consultant:	Ruth Elliott, Murphy International Limited
Summary Findings:	Murphy International Ltd. were appointed main contractor for improvement works to the Tullamore Water Supply Scheme being undertaken by Irish Water. Works included upgrading the water treatment plant at Clonaslee, Co. Laois. Archaeological monitoring was a condition of planning permission (16/220) further to an archaeological screening report (John Cronin & Associates, 2016) which concluded the site was of moderate archaeological potential and close to the fording point from which the town of Clonaslee originated. The site, less than a hectare in area, was located on the border between the townlands Bunastick and Clonaslee on the southern outskirts of Clonaslee Village. It was bounded by the Clodiagh River to the west. A 'Water Works' had been built in the location by the early 1900s and the existing water treatment plant was constructed in the 1970s. Monitoring of topsoil stripping was carried out on 22 and 23 March 2019. This took place within grass verges to the south and west of the treatment plant. Topsoil was 0.3m deep and comprised a mid-orangey brown, silty clay. Natural subsoil was revealed at a depth of 0.3m. Two linear drainage features, orientated east-west, were uncovered crossing Area 1 in the direction of the river. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered.
Source:	Database of Irish Excavation Report. Available at: https://excavations.ie/report/2019/Laois/0029291/

Licence No. Consent No.	24D0179 24R0245
Type of Investigation:	Wade Survey (24D0179) and Metal Detection Survey (24R0245)
DIER Reference:	N/A
Site Name:	Clodiagh River, Clonaslee
Site Type:	Cultural heritage features (weir, remains of footbridge and other associated structural features; two culverts; and boulder groynes)
RMP/SMR:	N/A
Townland:	Brittas and Bunastick
Coordinates (ITM):	631675, 710751
Consultant:	Dr Conn Herriott, Alistair Branagh and Dr Fergal Donoghue (AMS)
Summary Findings:	A wade and metal detection survey was carried out along a 45m-long stretch of the Clodiagh River in Brittas and Bunastick townlands near Clonaslee, Co. Laois, ahead of the proposed FRS works in this area (an embankment and debris trap). The survey was carried out on 1 May 2024 under dive survey licence number 24D0179 and detection device consent number 24R0245 issued to Dr Herriott by the NMS. A detailed visual walkover, wade and metal detection survey was undertaken in order to identify any cultural heritage remains (objects, features or deposits) which may have been present. A number of cultural heritage features were investigated and recorded in the course of the survey. These included a culvert in the west bank of the Clodiagh River within the survey area (ITM 631673, 710755), as well as a series of boulder groynes approximately 30m to the south of the survey area and the remains of a former footbridge, relict culvert, weir and other associated structural features situated approximately 35m to the south of the survey area. The features located outside the survey area are all situated to the immediate east of the proposed embankment location.

Licence No. / Consent No.	24D0179 / 24R0245
	Based on historical OS mapping and the field survey, the culvert within the survey area was interpreted as relatively modern in date, while the footbridge and associated weir and groynes to the south of the survey area were dated to the mid-/late nineteenth century. Mitigations for adverse impacts on these cultural heritage remains proposed in the survey report include physical distancing and minimising of visual impacts. In construction and maintenance of the proposed embankment, it has been recommended that care be taken to avoid damaging or visually impeding these cultural heritage features. And it is noted that this will be best managed by barriers during works, and an adequate distancing of the embankment's base from any cultural heritage features. Similarly for the debris trap, it has been recommended that care be taken that the concrete posts supporting this structure do not physically impact or visually obscure from pedestrians any of the cultural heritage features in the survey area or vicinity.
Source:	Herriott, C. 2024. DRAFT Wade and Metal Detection Survey Report for Clonaslee Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Laois. Unpublished report prepared by AMS for RPS.

Consent No.	24R0216
Type of Investigation:	Archaeological Geophysical Survey (Magnetometry and Electromagnetic Induction)
DIER Reference:	N/A
Site Name:	Clonaslee Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Laois
Site Type:	Areas of archaeological potential each characterised by a series of geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological significance.
RMP/SMR:	N/A
Townland:	Clonaslee
Coordinates (ITM):	GS-01 – 631662, 710925 (approximate centre point) GS-02 – 631902, 711273 (approximate centre point) GS-03 – 631940, 711609 (approximate centre point)
Consultant:	Finn Melia, AMS
Summary Findings:	Surveys were carried out at three sites along the banks of the Clodiagh river in the townland of Clonaslee Co. Laois, as part of the Clonaslee Flood Relief Scheme. The survey area comprised 2ha across three sites, the southern survey area comprises 0.5ha (GS-01), the central Study Area comprises 0.8ha (GS-02), and the northern survey area comprises 0.7ha (GS-03). The investigation comprised a high-resolution Magnetometry and Electromagnetic Induction (EMI) Survey undertaken in March 2024. The survey of the sites successfully characterised the extent of potential archaeological deposits. The responses across the survey areas were generally good, revealing some possible archaeological features. GS-01 presented several anomalies, including a former water course, as depicted on the 1837 first-edition six-inch OS map. Additionally, several linear and rectilinear anomalies with possible archaeological significance were identified, along with two areas of strong magnetic responses that may indicate potential areas of burning. The EMI survey revealed a large high contrast area cutting through the middle that is possibly archaeological or modern in-fill. GS-02 presented many potentially archaeological significant anomalies including a circular curvilinear anomaly visible in both the magnetometry and EMI datasets, a curvilinear anomaly, an area of magnetic enhancement containing several pits that may represent parts of a structure, and a number of areas of strong magnetic responses that have a signal that may have an archaeological or natural cause that could include occupational disturbance, imported soil or ploughed out archaeological remains. The anomalies identified in GS-03 area were representative of dipolar anomalies which may be ferrous materials and several strongly positive magnetic responses that may indicate potential pits that may be of archaeological significance. The were also a range of anomalies that may represent areas of *in-situ* burning.

Consent No.	24R0216
Source:	Melia, F. 2024. Clonaslee Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Laois: Archaeological Geophysical Survey. Unpublished report prepared by AMS for RPS Group.