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## **8. CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **8.1 Introduction**

For the purposes of this report, the term ‘Cultural Heritage’ encompasses the archaeological, architectural and local heritage resource.

### **8.2 Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 and Draft Plan 2018-2024**

Donegal County Council has written policies on the preservation of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage remains in relation to permitted development. These relate to archaeological features and objects, built structures and views, scenic routes and are set out in detail in Chapter 2.

### **8.3 Methodology**

This assessment comprises of a desk-based review of the Cultural Heritage of the area, in respect of an application for Substitute Consent in respect of a quarry at Gortletteragh, Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

The chapter addresses three separate sections: -

- Sites and Monuments
- Archaeology

The assessment entailed documentary research from a number of sources as detailed below.

- Previous planning applications for Patton Bros. Quarry Limited
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for County Donegal;
- ‘Record of Monuments & Places’ (RMP) for Co. Donegal<sup>1</sup>;
- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)<sup>2</sup>;
- Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018.
- Draft Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024
- Record of Protected Structures
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage [www.niah.ie](http://www.niah.ie)
- First edition ordnance survey maps;
- Second edition ordnance survey maps;
- Third edition ordnance survey maps;
- Aerial photography’
- Excavation bulletins.

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly ‘Sites and Monuments Record’ (SMR)

<sup>2</sup> Online version of ‘Record of Monuments & Places’

This involved an examination of the archaeological and historical context of the area in general and specifically in relation to the site of the existing quarry development. It involved a paper survey of archaeological, historical and cartographic sources.

An archaeological study area of 1km was assessed around the quarry to record the presence of recorded archaeological monuments, architectural and cultural heritage features and the presence of any additional features recorded in the Donegal County Development Plans.

An impact assessment and mitigation strategy has been prepared to highlight potential adverse impacts that the existing development may have had on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource. The mitigation strategy is designed to avoid and reduce existing adverse impacts or offset any potential adverse impacts.

### **8.3.1 Previous Planning Applications**

Planning application 09/60062 was submitted to Donegal County Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009. A request for further information sought the following: -

7. *Applicant shall submit an assessment of the proposed development carried out by an archaeologist approved by the National Monuments Service. Said assessment shall address the following items:*
  - (a) *nature, extent and locations of archaeological material on site of the proposed development;*
  - (b) *impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material (if such can be shown to exist), with particular regard to the impact of all proposed foundation structures and service trenches on existing archaeological deposits or structures. The above assessment should be prepared on the basis of at least one trial trench excavated on site by the archaeologist and any additional trial trenches the archaeologist may deem necessary. Testing can be carried out by machine to the top of archaeological deposits, the remaining portions should be excavated by hand. If archaeological testing of the site reveals extensive deposits further monitoring, testing, excavation or preservation in situ shall be required.*

The response submitted stated: -

7. Applicant to submit an assessment of the proposed development by an archaeologist approved by the national monuments service.

We can confirm that a sub terrain monument exists at a distance approximately 175 east of the maximum extents of this proposal. While the County Development Plan Policy NRD48 refers to engaging the services of an Archaeologist for any recorded monuments / archaeological site within the vicinity (300 metres). We can confirm that we have liaised with Ms Catherine Desmond from the National Monuments Service, who has confirmed to us that the National Monuments do not require an Archaeological Assessment of this particular site given the nature of the monument and the distance of this monument from the proposal. Confirmation can be obtained from Ms Desmond if required.

The Planning Officers report on the response to further information stated: -

7. The applicant has discussed this matter with the National Monuments Service who has confirmed that it does not require an Archaeological Assessment of this site given the nature of the monument and the distance of this monument from the site. **FIC.**

The grant of permission did not contain any conditions relating to archaeology or cultural heritage.

### 8.3.2 Record of Monuments and Places

All known archaeological monuments are indicated on 6-inch ordnance survey maps and are listed in this record. The RMP and the SMR are not complete records, as newly discovered sites may not appear. In conjunction with the RMP and SMR the electronic database of recorded monuments the files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland were consulted. The Sites and Monuments Record records that there are no archaeological monuments within the quarry landholding. The aerial photograph below (Plate 10.1) indicates a total of three recorded monuments within 1km of the quarry site. The reference to each monument is detailed in Table 8.1.

Two of the Monuments are located c.150m to the east of the quarry, and contains two separate features, a *ringfort* and a *Souterrain*.

One other 'Monuments and Places' is located c1km west of the quarry and each one is indicated below on the Figure 8.1 as red dots. Each site is identified by a letter ranging from A-C and the letters are also set out in column 1 of Table 8.1.

Columns 2 to 4 of Table 8.1 also provided the SMR reference number for each Monument and Place, the Class of Monument/Place and the Townland in which it is located. Detailed descriptions of each Monument/Place are provided in column 5. The final column describes the location of the Monument or Place relative to the location of the quarry site.

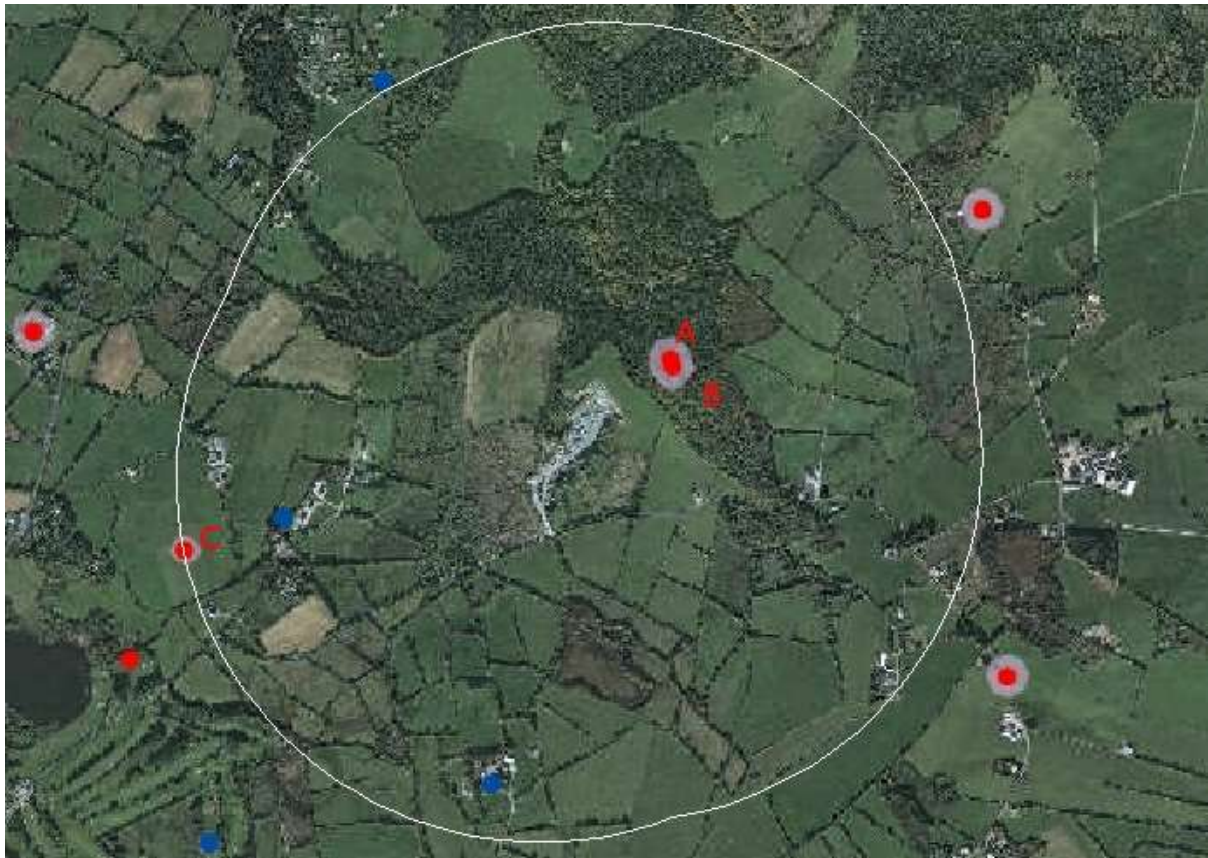


Plate 8.1 Aerial view indicating archaeological monuments within 1km of Patton Bros Quarry

Table 8.1 Sites and Monuments within 1km of quarry site

	SMR No	Class	Townland	Description	Distance from site
A	DG078-039001-	Ringfort - cashel	Gortletteragh	Description: A souterrain (DG078-039) located within a Cashel. There are substantial remains of a sub-circular stone enclosure around the souterrain location which have been respected (just about) by the surrounding forestry. There are at least 2 gaps in this perimeter and some stones which may have been part of a second outer enclosure or an entrance. While I have not seen any remains there is reputed to have been a 'Summer house' belonging to the local estate somewhere in the vicinity which has been covered by the forestry and may have been built using some stone from the cashel. There are no other visible standing remains within the enclosure. A fence has recently been placed around the souterrain to protect it and local walkers from falling into it as there has been development of walking trails in the vicinity one of which now goes through the cashel (pers comm. Tony Wilkinson).	150m (north-east)

B	DG078-039----	Souterrain	Gortletteragh	A souterrain located within a Cashel (DG078-039001-). There are substantial remains of a sub-circular stone enclosure around the souterrain location which have been respected (just about) by the surrounding forestry. There are at least 2 gaps in this perimeter and some stones which may have been part of a second outer enclosure or an entrance. While I have not seen any remains there is reputed to have been a 'Summer house' belonging to the local estate somewhere in the vicinity which has been covered by the forestry and may have been built using some stone from the cashel. There are no other visible standing remains within the enclosure. A fence has recently been placed around the souterrain to protect it and local walkers from falling into it as there has been development of walking trails in the vicinity one of which now goes through the cashel. The souterrain is in reasonable condition with a stepped entrance into a passage from which 2 chambers are visible extending at right angles. The passage is roofed by substantial flagstones some of which are missing. There is an air vent at the end of the passage furthest from the entrance (pers comm. Tony Wilkinson).	150m (east)
C	DG078-044----	Megalithic tomb - unclassified	Knockfair	A feature named 'Druid's Altar in ruins', shown on a pre-publication field map, was omitted from the published OS 6-inch map of 1845-8. There is no information about it in OS documents, nor are there any remains at the site now. Its nature remains uncertain. The above description was published in the 'Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland. Volume VI, County Donegal.' Compiled by: Eamon Cody (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2002). Date of upload: 22 September 2008	1km (west)

### 8.3.3 Protected Structures

The Donegal County Development Plan (2012 -2018) and the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024) were consulted for the schedule of buildings (Record of Protected Structures) and items of cultural, historical or archaeological interest in the area of the quarry. There are no protected structures within 1km of the quarry.

### 8.3.4 National Monuments in State Care

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government maintains a database on a county basis of National Monuments in State Care. The term National Monument is defined in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act (1930) as a monument or the remains of a monument...

*“The preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto”*

The list contains no monuments in the area of the quarry.

### 8.3.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The NIAH maintains a non-statutory register of buildings and structures recorded on a county basis. There are two structures recorded within 1km of the quarry and they are identified by blue dots on Plate 8.2 below. The NIAH also maintains a non-statutory register of historic gardens and designed landscapes recorded also on a county basis. There are no gardens or historic landscapes within 1km of the quarry.



**Plate 8.3 Buildings recorded on NIAH indicated by blue dots**

The first structure located c750m west of the site and is described as follows on [www.niah.ie](http://www.niah.ie). A full description is set out in Appendix 8.1.

<b>Reg. No.</b>	40907837
<b>Date</b>	1840 – 1880
<b>Previous Name</b>	N/A
<b>Townland</b>	CASTLEBANE (STRANOLAR)
<b>County</b>	County Donegal
<b>Coordinates</b>	216262, 396385
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	ARCHITECTURAL
<b>Rating</b>	Local
<b>Original Use</b>	Outbuilding
<b>In Use As</b>	Outbuilding



**Plate 8.3** Outbuilding from [www.niah.ie](http://www.niah.ie)

The second structure, a house, is located c950m southwest of the site and is described as follows on [www.niah.ie](http://www.niah.ie). A full description is set out in Appendix 8.1.

<b>Reg. No.</b>	40907838
<b>Date</b>	1900 – 1910
<b>Previous Name</b>	N/A
<b>Townland</b>	TREANAMULLIN
<b>County</b>	County Donegal
<b>Coordinates</b>	216814, 395682
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	ARCHITECTURAL
<b>Rating</b>	Regional
<b>Original Use</b>	House
<b>In Use As</b>	House



**Plate 8.4** House from [www.niah.ie](http://www.niah.ie)

### 8.3.6 Previous Archaeological Work in the Area

A search through the ‘Irish Excavations’ archive recorded archaeological monitoring associated with The website [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) contains 480 records of archaeological excavations carried out in County Donegal between 1969 and 2017. The closest excavations to the quarry site were carried out at in the town of Stranorlar.



#### **8.4 Impacts of the Existing Quarry**

As the existing quarry has been excavated, it is not possible to determine if any archaeological historic sites were disturbed. However, a review of all available historic records showed no sites or monuments on that part of the landholding that has been excavated, while the National Monuments Service has previously indicated that there was no requirement to prepare an archaeological assessment for development within the quarry site. The archaeological record indicates that there are no features within the landholding while a ringford-cshel and soutterain are located c 150m to the east of the existing quarry. Two structures on the NIAH are located within 1km of the site. The existing quarry poses no direct impact to any recorded archaeological or architectural heritage sites. Any future extension of the existing quarry to the northeast would directly impact on the recorded archaeological monument as indicated on the archaeological record. However, the land upon which the monuments are located are in third party ownership and does not part of this application site.

The existing quarry has disturbed the ground throughout the site and as such there is no possibility of archaeological monuments surviving in that area. The existing quarry does not have a negative visual impact on any archaeology or heritage that might be mitigated by additional screening.

There are no indirect impacts on any known items of cultural heritage, archaeology or buildings of heritage interest in the substitute consent area or the vicinity.

#### **8.5 Mitigation**

No mitigation measures are considered necessary.

## **Appendix 8.1 – NIAH description of Outbuilding**

### **Description**

Attached four-bay two-storey outbuilding, built c. 1860, having flight of external stairs to the main elevation (south-west) giving access to doorway at first floor level, and with attached two-bay single-storey addition to the north-west gable end having single-storey shed attached to the north-west gable with mono-pitched roof over. Associated with detached three-bay single-storey house with attic level to the south (not in survey). Pitched natural slate roof with some remaining sections of cast-iron rainwater goods. Limewashed rubble stone construction with modern repairs in places. Square-headed window openings with remains of timber-framed windows, generally unglazed. Single multi-pane timber window survives to the rear (north-east). Square-headed door openings having early and replacement battened timber doors. Modern square-headed carriage-arch to the west end of the main elevation having corrugated-metal doors. Attached two-bay single-storey outbuilding to the north-west having pitched corrugated-metal roof, rubble stone walls, and square-headed openings with timber fittings, ruinous single-bay single-storey shed to the extreme north-west gable end having mono-pitched corrugated metal roof, rubble stone walls, and square-headed openings. Set back from road in own grounds to the north-east of Stranorlar. Associated three-bay single-storey house with attic level adjacent to the south having pitched corrugated-metal roof, roughcast rendered walls, and square-headed window and door openings with replacement fittings, two-bay single-storey outbuilding attached to the north gable end of house having pitched corrugate-metal roof, rubble stone walls, and square-headed openings.

### **Appraisal**

This substantial utilitarian two-storey outbuilding, of mid-to-late nineteenth-century date, retains much of its original character and form despite becoming increasingly dilapidated. It is well-built using local rubble stone masonry while the retention of the natural slate roofs adds to its integrity and appeal. The external flight of steps to the main elevation giving access to a doorway at first floor level is a common feature of such outbuildings in Donegal. The associated house to the south, now altered, was thatched as recently as 1994. This simple outbuilding is a modest addition to the built heritage of the local area, adding interest to the landscape to the north-east of Stranorlar.

## Appendix 8.2 – NIAH description of House

### Description

Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1905, having projecting gable-fronted single-bay glazed entrance porch to the centre of the front elevation (south), and with two-bay two-storey return to rear (north). Pitched natural slate roof (Bangor blue\purple slate) having terracotta\clay ridge tiles, profiled cast-iron gutters and cast-iron downpipes, decorative pierced timber bargeboards to the side elevations (east and west), and with yellow brick chimneystacks to the gable ends (east and west) having corbelled heads. Pitched natural slate roof to porch having cast-iron rainwater goods, decorative pierced timber bargeboards to the south gable with timber finial to gable apex. Smooth rendered ruled-and-lined walls over projecting smooth rendered plinth course to front elevation (south) and to porch, and with render block-and-start quoins to the corners of the front elevation and to the east gable end. Smooth rendered walls to the west gable end, roughcast rendered walls to the east elevation, the rear elevation, and to the return. Square-headed window openings to the front elevation at first floor level having corbelled sills, rendered hoodmouldings over, and with two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows; paired square-headed window openings at ground floor level having moulded rendered classical pilasters with entablature over, central mullion, and with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Square-headed window openings to other elevations having two-over-two and one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Narrow square-headed window openings to the east gable end having render surrounds, render hoodmouldings over, and with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Multi-pane fixed timber windows to glazed porch over smooth rendered ruled-and-lined base. Square-headed door opening to the east side of entrance porch having replacement panelled door, overlight and concrete. Set well back from road in own grounds to the north-east of Stranorlar with complex of single- and two-storey outbuildings arranged around a yard to the rear (north), and with garden to the front (south). Detached two-bay two-storey outbuilding to the rear, c. 1860, having external flight of steps to the front elevation giving access to doorway at first floor level, and attached single-storey outbuilding to one gable end. Pitched natural slate roof. Rubble stone walls. Square-headed window and door openings with red brick surrounds and voussoirs, and with remains of timber fittings. Detached multi-bay single-storey outbuilding to the rear (north) having pitched corrugated-metal roof, rubble stone walls, and square-headed openings.

### Appraisal

This well-proportioned and well-detailed house or farmhouse, of early twentieth-century date, retains its original character and form. Its integrity is enhanced by the retention of much of its salient fabric including timber sliding sash windows and natural slate roof. The front elevation is enlivened by the render detailing, particularly by classical surrounds to the paired ground floor windows with entablatures over and by the render hood mouldings to the first floor openings. The yellow brick chimney stacks, and the decorative pierced timber bargeboards to the gable ends and porch add

additional interest. This attention to detail helps to elevate this building above many of its type and date in County Donegal. The collection of rubble stone outbuildings to the rear, which appear to predate the house and were probably associated with an early dwelling to site, add significantly to the context and setting of this interesting and appealing site. This attractive house is an interesting addition to the rural landscape to the north-east of Stranorlar, and is an integral element of the built heritage of the local area