

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED
ATHLONE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME,
COUNTY WESTMEATH**

**ON BEHALF OF
WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

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ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology (IAC) has prepared this report on behalf of Westmeath County Council, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed urban realm improvement scheme in Athlone, County Westmeath (ITM 603837/741465). The assessment was carried out by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology.

The proposed development area is located within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Athlone (WM029-0042), which is a recorded monument with statutory protection. There are a further 38 recorded monuments in the 150m Study Area; several of which are located in the immediate proximity of the proposed development area. Athlone Castle (WM029-0042002) and curtilage, situated to the immediate south is also listed as a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. 520).

Previous archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the proposed development area revealed the foundations of the tower wall to the east of the castle, extending c. 1m out from the visible upstanding remains and that original alluvial deposits were encountered at c. 1.5-1.6m below current ground level. In addition, archaeological testing identified the remains of an earlier quay or possible foundations of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004) in this area.

While the area of proposed development has been subject to significant disturbance in the 19th and 20th centuries, it remains possible that ground works associated with the proposed development may adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level. This includes remains associated with the castle (WM029-042002, Nat. Mon. 520).

All sub-surface groundworks associated with the proposed public realm works will require monitoring by an archaeologist under Ministerial Consent. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed urban redevelopment scheme at the Quay and Athlone Castle, County Westmeath (Figure 1, ITM 603837, 741465). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development options on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. It was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology on behalf of Westmeath County Council.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Westmeath focussed on the town of Athlone, the topographical files within the National Museum of Ireland and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection was carried out with an aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development (Figure 2) will consist of works at the northwest and proximate to the main entrance to Athlone Castle and include the following:

1. Removal of existing ramps, steps, railings, and relocation of public lighting
2. Public Realm enhancement to include hard and soft landscaping, footpaths, ramps, steps and public lighting;
3. Signage
4. Accommodation works (including utility provision, drainage and services);
5. Other associated works

The site is bounded by Athlone Castle to the south, Athlone Town bridge, also known as Shannon Road Bridge (a regional Monument and protected structure - Reference Number RPS 004) to the north, The Shannon quays to the east and Market Place to the west.

2 METHODOLOGY

A study area defined as 150m from the proposed development area was examined as part of this assessment. Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the proposed development area.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Westmeath;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Westmeath;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021–2027;
- Athlone Town Development Plan, 2014-2020;
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g., only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Westmeath County Development Plan (2021–2027) and Athlone Town Development Plan (2014–2020) were consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2022.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located within the townland of Athlone and Big Meadow, parish of St Peters and Barony of Athlone South. Athlone town is well situated on relatively flat land on the east and west side of the Shannon River.

The proposed development area is situated within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Athlone (WM029-042). There are 38 additional recorded archaeological sites within the study area of the proposed development, including two redundant records. Nine of these records note the present location of archaeological objects, which are currently on display at the Athlone Castle Museum, and in many cases originate from elsewhere. In addition, 12 of the records note the former location of archaeological objects, which are currently in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland (WM029-042005–16).

Athlone Castle (WM029-042002), to the immediate south of the proposed development area, is listed as a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. 520).

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)

In recent years, evidence has emerged of possible instances of human activity in the southwest of Ireland as early as Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016); however, the Mesolithic Period remains the earliest time for which there is clear evidence of human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence indicative of Mesolithic activity at a site comprises of scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements or rubbish middens consisting largely of shells (Stout and Stout 1997). The latter are commonly discovered in coastal regions or at the edge of lakes or rivers. While the River Shannon was likely exploited as a resource during this period, there are no recorded Mesolithic sites within the study area of the proposed development area.

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory, which saw the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period. This phase of prehistory in the Athlone area is indicated by the finding of four stone axes in Athlone town (NMI 1940:118; 1943:185; 1942:230; 1989:31) as well as three polished stone axeheads (NMI 1A/40/67) found in the vicinity of Athlone.

Archaeological excavations (carried out at Ardagawna in advance of the M6 Athlone to Ballinasloe Road Scheme, c. 4.5km to the west revealed a prehistoric landscape. Archaeological activity from four distinct phases, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age, the early medieval and the early modern period was identified at this time and these have been added to the Sites and Monuments Record (RO052-031001–005 and RO052-032001–002).

There are no recorded Neolithic sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area; however, the environs surrounding the River Shannon would have been a favourable location for settlement. This is attested to by the recovery of a wealth of prehistoric finds from the area, in particular the riverbed. A total of 17 Neolithic axeheads have been discovered in the Athlone area (Murtagh 1994).

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

This period was marked by the widespread use and production of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from the earlier Mesolithic to Neolithic periods, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megalithic tombs were no longer constructed and the burial of the individual became typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels.

Activity during the Bronze Age period is represented by a similar number of stray finds in the Athlone area. During this period, knowledge of metalworking was acquired resulting in changes in material culture such as the introduction of metal tools and artefacts. These changes are reflected in the type of finds recovered in or near the town of Athlone, which include an early Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead (NMI W.191), a bronze flat axehead (NMI 1991:82), two bronze palstaves (NMI 1985:45; 1968:319), two bronze looped spearheads (NMI 1988:3; 1988:4), a bronze flanged arrowhead (NMI 1968:313), a bronze socketed arrowhead (NMI 1968:353) and a bronze rapier blade (NMI 1988:5). An unusually large number of high-status gold objects dated to the bronze age have also been found near Athlone including a lunula (NMI W.5), bar torcs, penannular bracelets, a 'dress-fastener', a 'tress-ring', and a 'sleeve fastener' (Bradley 1987, 20). Murtagh notes that over fifty Bronze Age weapons and ornaments have been recovered from the river and its immediate environs (1994).

There are no recorded Bronze Age sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area.

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

The Irish Iron Age has traditionally been viewed as a period for which there is little evidence in comparison to the earlier Bronze Age and later early medieval period. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700 BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC. There are a

small number of finds in the Athlone area, that date to the Iron Age, comprising a Hallstatt type iron sword, a bronze ring-headed pin, a bronze bowl, and two bronze mounts (Bradley 1987, 20). It has been suggested that the decrease in the numbers of Iron Age finds in the Athlone area in comparison to the earlier Bronze Age could be as a result of the ford at Athlone being used less often, with the *An tSlighe Mhór* (a major routeway east-west in the early medieval period) utilising a river crossing further south (Murtagh 1994).

There are no recorded Iron Age sites located within the vicinity of the proposed development area.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

Athlone developed around a fording point across the River Shannon and this is reflected in the translation of the Irish placename, *Áth Luain*, meaning ‘the ford of *Luain*’. According to Murtagh (1994, 1) the ford is located at the point where the River Shannon intersects with an east-west glacial ridge.

The first evidence for settlement at Athlone dates to the early medieval period. This period is also characterised by the foundation of a large number of ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland. Many of the sites were originally defined by an enclosing wall or bank similar to that found at the coeval secular sites. This enclosing feature was constructed to define the sacred character of the area of the church rather than as a defence against aggression. Where remains of an enclosure survive, it is often the only evidence that the site was an early Christian foundation. Evidence for the presence of an early medieval ecclesiastical site (WM029-042050) on the east bank of the River Shannon is provided by the discovery of four cross-inscribed slabs (WM029-042043/44/45/47) in the graveyard (WM029-042092) of the Franciscan Friary (WM029-042001), c. 150m northeast of the proposed development area. The slabs date between the mid-eighth and eleventh centuries (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980). The detail and craftsmanship of the slabs, including one commemorating a King of Connacht, suggest that the ecclesiastical site was of high importance.

The first known Viking raids on Ireland were carried out along the east and southeast coast in the late 8th century. During the 9th century Viking ships began to move inland along navigable rivers, raiding secular and ecclesiastical settlements. The annals record that by 836 AD Meath had been overrun and Connacht devastated and in 838 AD Viking fleets were moving up the River Shannon to Lough Erne (Edwards 1996, 172). There is a high incidence of Viking objects from near Athlone (Murtagh 1994). In 1802 the largest Viking period gold hoard known from Europe was found in the vicinity of Athlone. The hoard was dated to the late 9th/early 10th century, as was a second hoard, of silver ingots and arm-rings, also found near Athlone (Bradley 1987, 21). Other Viking and Hiberno-Norse finds have been recovered from the River Shannon (ibid.). There is no record of Viking settlement at Athlone but Viking activity in the area is unsurprising given the proximity of the river, the known ford at this point and the presence of an important early ecclesiastical site there.

The earliest documentary records for Athlone point to the continued use of the ford, and also its strategic importance as the main gateway between Leinster and Connacht. The crossing point was formalised in 1001 when 'the causeway of Athlone' was built jointly by the kings of *Míde* and Connacht. In 1120, Toirdealbhach, King of Connacht, built a bridge across the Shannon at *Ath Luain*. Between the years of 1132 and 1159, five successive wicker or wooden bridges were constructed by Toirrdelbach and his son Ruaidrí to facilitate his military incursions into *Míde* (Murtagh 1994). The Kings of *Míde* destroyed these bridges each time and in 1129, Toirdealbhach constructed a wooden castle on the west bank to defend the bridge (Bradley 1987, 21).

The Cluniac priory of SS Peter and Paul (WM029-042003) has been suggested to have been established sometime in the mid-12th century (Murtagh 1994), possibly before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in Athlone.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The arrival of the Welsh Norman Knights headed by Robert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke (more commonly referred to as Strongbow) on the coast of Wexford 1169, marked the beginning of the Norman invasion of Ireland. Strongbow and his small but well-armed and disciplined force had swift successes after some initial problems. He then aligned himself to succeed the Dermot MacMurrough as King of Leinster by marrying his daughter Aoife. As a result, Henry II became concerned about his growth of power and set out for Ireland to establish his authority arriving in Waterford with a large force in 1171.

Athlone was granted to Geoffrey de Constantine by Hugh de Lacey in the late 12th century, following the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. It was an important medieval town both strategically and commercially. In 1210 it became the joint seat with Dublin of English administration in Ireland. It achieved borough status by at least the early 13th century and received a grant to hold an annual eight-day fair at the castle in 1221. The early 13th century castle (c. 1210) was possibly built on the site of the late 12th century motte, which may in turn have occupied the site of Ua Conchobhar's wooden castle (1129). It is thought that a masonry bridge (presumably close to the previous river structures), was constructed around the same time. The curtain walls and cylindrical towers were later additions, likely in the late 13th century (Murtagh 1994). The castle (WM029-042002), as it stands today, located immediately adjacent to the proposed development area, was heavily reconstructed in the late 18th century. The town appears to have developed initially around the castle but a reference in 1305 to 'the bridge between the castle and the town' indicate the presence of a main settlement on the east bank by this time. Athlone Castle is a National Monument in State Ownership (WM029-042002, Nat. Mon. 520).

The bridge (WM029-042004) was located to the southeast of the proposed development area and c. 50m south of the current bridge, forming an essential element of the medieval town and linked Bridge Street to the east to Main Street and the castle. A bridge or causeway may have been located here from as early as 1001 and, as mentioned above, a series of bridges built over the River Shannon at Athlone

between the years 1120 and 1162. Construction of another bridge commenced c. 1210 and was built by John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich who was the justiciar of Ireland and who was also responsible for the construction of the stone castle. The bridge is recorded as being in disrepair by 1305 and in 1306 it is recorded that a gate had been established at one end (presumably to the west). This is the last record of the Anglo-Norman bridge and its subsequent fate is unknown (Bradley et. al. 1985, 30). A ferry was in use from 1314, suggesting that the bridge was no longer present or was in unusable condition (Murtagh 1994). No further reference to a bridge is known until the 16th century.

A new stone bridge was constructed in the 16th century, at the location of the earlier Anglo-Norman bridge. In 1557 the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, ordered this new stone bridge to be built, which survived until demolition in 1844. The bridge is recorded to have contained three mills (WM029-042079; WM029-042080; WM029-042100), which are visible within the 18th century mapping of Athlone (Sherrard 1784, Figure 5).

The bank on either side of the bridge also served as the site of the town's two markets. The right to hold a fair at the castle was granted in 1221 and a marketplace is mentioned in a grant of 1623. The original location may have been adjacent to the castle in Main Street, near the old bridge. The location of the market in recent times was immediately outside the castle to the northwest, which may date to construction of a new bridge in the 1840s. The junction of Bridge Street, Church Street and Northgate Street was used as a marketplace (WM029-042019) in the town on the east bank since at least the late 16th century.

In the second half of the 13th century, large sums of money were spent on defence under increasing pressure from the Irish of Connacht and the first murage grant dates to this period. Athlone's position on the River Shannon, controlling the crossing point from Leinster into Connacht, placed it in the front line of Anglo-Norman and later English defence against the Irish of Connacht. Sporadic attacks continued until the late 16th century when the expansion of English control over Connacht led to stability and prosperity.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1900)

By the 17th century, the town of Athlone comprised an 'English town' on the east bank of the Shannon and an 'Irish town' on the west bank, respectively Athlone-in-Leinster and Athlone-in-Connacht. The street plan of the 'English town' was essentially linear, focussing on Church Street and broadening to form a marketplace (Custume Place), where the Tholsel (town courthouse or guildhall) originally stood (WM029-042019). Irishtown was dominated by the castle (WM029-042002) and had a less regular plan, with two east-west streets and one north-south street and the castle located to the west of the old bridge (WM029-042004). Defences on the east side of the river were completed in 1636 and consisted of a substantial wall enclosing an area of 14 statute acres with two gates, five bastions, and an outwork protecting the Dublin gate (WM029-042020). The west side was enclosed at a slightly later date (c. 1654-1691) by earthen fortifications of roughly rectangular plan, enclosing an area

of c. 4.3 hectares, with a demi-bastion at the northeast end (Murtagh 1994). These defences are outlined on Goubet's map of Athlone which dates to c. 1691 (Figure 5), which suggests that the line of the earth town defences on the western side of the Shannon, may have traversed the eastern side of the proposed development area (Figure 3). The town defences of Athlone are recorded as WM029-042020. Under the National Policy on Town Defences (2008) the above ground and potential below ground features related to the town defences are considered to possess National Monument status.

The Williamite War, between King James II and his son-in-law, William of Orange, played out across the island of Ireland. After a significant defeat at the Battle of the Boyne (1690), the Jacobite army retreated to Athlone and attempted to hold the important crossing point of the River Shannon there. The siege of Athlone lasted for 10 days, in June 1691, ending with a decisive victory for the Williamites. Both the castle and west town were badly damaged in the Ginkel's (Williamite) siege of 1691 (Bradley 1987, 24), at which time it is recorded that '12,000 canon bullets, 600 bomb, nigh 50 ton of powder and a great many ton of stones' were fired by the Williamite army (Murtagh 1994).

A military barracks was constructed in Athlone, on the western side of the river, c. 1700 (ibid.). This complex originally comprised infantry and cavalry quarters in addition to stables and a riding house. Later in the 18th century the barracks expanded to include a soldier's quarters, a cavalry square, powder magazine hospital and artillery barracks (Murtagh 1994). During this time, the castle, which was in use as part of the barracks though it was in poor condition, was significantly refurbished. Athlone continued to function as a military base even after the establishment of the Irish Free State and the barracks continues in use by the Defence Forces today. The castle; however, now is open to the public as a visitor centre.

The bridge mills (WM029-042079; WM029-042080; WM029-042100) continued to function until their demolition in the 1840s. While there were three mills, one was a 'double mill' (Murtagh 1994). Three operated as corn mills and there is evidence that significant exports of flour were sent to Dublin. The other mill functioned as a tuck mill.

The historic mapping shows that in the 18th century the castle (WM029-042002) was surrounded by residential structures (Sherrard 1784). The quay was also heavily industrialised at this time, with tan yards, warehouses and a malthouse shows between the castle and the river and to the northeast.

Athlone saw significant improvement with the adoption of steamboats on the Shannon, in the 1830s. The riverbed of the Shannon was dredged to allow navigation of the river and significant limestone quays were constructed on the banks. Around the same time, the later medieval bridge was replaced with a new bridge c. 50m to the north, which remains extant today (Murtagh 1994).

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that there have been a number of investigations within the proposed development area as well as the surrounding environs. These are summarised below.

A programme of pre-development testing was undertaken on the western side of the Main Street. This identified three pits containing finds of 18th-19th century date (Bennett 1999:776, Licence No. 99E0372). A layer of 19th century cobbles was encountered over two undated denuded walls at the junction of the Main Street and Chapel Lane after the demolition of a terraced retail premises (Bennett 2003:1594, Licence No. 03E1334; Bennett 2004:1480, Licence No. 03E1334 ext.).

Archaeological testing was carried out in April 2018, in two areas, Flood Cell 3 (Ministerial Consent C000857, Reg. No. E004955) and Flood Cell 4 (Licence No. 17E0516), as part of the Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme. Flood Cell 3 was located between the castle and the River Shannon (to the southeast of the proposed development area). Testing in this area identified a culvert, the remains of post-medieval buildings and evidence of a possible earlier quay or possible foundation of the 16th century bridge, which is recorded as WM029-042004. This series of structural remains were located at depths of between 1m and 1.9m below ground level (Danaher and Walsh 2018). Flood Cell 4 was located on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. Nothing of archaeological potential was identified during testing in this area (ibid.).

A programme of archaeological testing was carried out in November 2019 in advance of a proposed re-design of an element of the Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme (Reg. No. E004955; Ministerial Consent C000857, Fitzpatrick 2020). Testing involved the excavation of a single trench 10m in length and 2.2m wide adjacent to and abutting the south-eastern tower of Athlone Castle bawn wall (WM029-0042002, National Monument No. 520). This identified a stone fill extending 1m out from the tower wall that was filled with loose stones. This was interpreted as part of the foundation to the castle tower. The original riverbed was encountered at a depth of 1.5-1.6m below current ground level. In the eastern part of the trench, a stone and brick constructed structure was encountered. This proved to be an extension of a culvert encountered during investigations in 2018.

A programme of monitoring was undertaken for ground reduction works associated with the Visitor Centre Refurbishment Project at the Castle (WM029-0042002) in 2012. Two test trenches were hand excavated (Bennett 2012:607; Reg. No. E4398; Ministerial Consent C00505), within the courtyard that uncovered two walls, one of 16th/17th century date and one of late 17th century date.

Monitoring on Castle Street for three phases of ground reduction works consisting of the demolition and removal of street furniture and the excavation of three trial pits, uncovered subsurface basal remains of the extant mural tower and curtain walls of the castle (WM029-0042002). No artefacts were uncovered.

As part of the Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme, a programme of monitoring works was carried out in the vicinity of the castle (WM029-0042002, National Monument No. 520). The results were the uncovering of 19th century deposits including culverts and walls associated with the Shannon Navigation south of Athlone Castle (17E0516ext/ E004955 ext., Bennett 2018:546, Bennett 2018:545).

The three programmes of archaeological work tabulated below did not identify anything of archaeological significance within the study area of the proposed development.

TABLE 1: Licences of No Archaeological Significance

LICENCE NO.	REFERENCE	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
17E4398 C505 ext.	Bennett 2017: 207	Immediately adjacent to the proposed development area
C311	Bennett 2009: 824	50m southwest
C347; E4018	Bennett 2009:827	20m southwest

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony and Parish of Brawney, c. 1654–1656 (Figure 4)

The Down Survey depicts 'Athlone Towne' (WM029-042), enclosed by walls on the east bank of the River Shannon. Athlone Castle (WM029-042002) is marked on the west bank of the river and the bridge (WM029-042004) connecting both banks is annotated. The area of proposed development lies to the north of the castle.

Goubet's Map of Athlone c. 1691 (Figure 5)

This map details the town of Athlone in the late 17th century. The town defences on the eastern and western sides of the River Shannon are shown (WM029-042020). While the eastern defences were partially stone built, in the vicinity of the proposed development area on the western bank, the defences were primarily earthen. The castle (WM029-042002) is shown adjacent to the proposed development area, with the bridge (WM029-042004) to the southeast. While this map does not provide great detail in terms of the proposed development area, it does suggest that the line of the earthen town defences may have traversed the eastern extent of the proposed development area.

Sherrard's Map of Athlone, 1784 (Figure 5)

This map is accompanied by the results of a survey, which noted the function of each structure in the town of Athlone in 1784. It shows that castle (WM029-042002) at this time was in ruins, and was entirely surrounded by residential structures described as houses and cabins. A number of structures are noted to be in poor repair. In addition, a forge is shown to the immediate north of the castle and within the proposed development area. The three mills (WM029-042079; WM029-042080; WM029-042100) are shown on the bridge (WM029-042004). There is a small projection into the river from the western shore to create a small dock. The structures along the quay

are noted as in industrial use, with the survey recording tan yards, warehouses and a malthouse.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 6)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The streetscape of the town, in particular the portion containing the proposed development area, has not changed significantly since this time. The castle (WM029-042002) is depicted and the surrounding streets of Main Street, Market Place and Castle Street are annotated as such. A number of buildings are depicted in the footprint of the proposed development area, along the Quay to the east of the castle. The quay appears to project into the river creating a narrow, protected dock at this location. The bridge (WM029-042004) across the River Shannon is shown to the southeast of the proposed development area.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1874, scale 1:500 (Figure 6)

The proposed development area and layout of the town have seen some major changes since the earlier map. The proposed development area has been cleared of buildings and is now shown as an open space on the quay, which has been slightly widened. Several mooring points (MP) are noted along the quayside. The original bridge (WM029-042004) across the river has been demolished and a new 'swivel bridge' has been constructed to the immediate east of the proposed development area. Athlone Castle (WM029-042002) is shown in greater detail and is in use as a military barracks at this time.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1914, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 7)

At the turn of the 20th century a warehouse, known as 'Grand Canal Store' is shown on the quay to the southeast of the proposed development area. There are no further changes of note within the immediate environs.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Westmeath County Development Plan (2021–2027) and Athlone Town Development Plan (2014–2020) recognise the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2004). The plans list a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage that are summarised in Appendix 3 of this report.

The proposed development area is situated within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Athlone (WM029-042). There are 38 additional recorded monuments within the study area of the proposed development, including two redundant records (Table 2; Figure 3; Appendix 1). Nine of these records note the present location of archaeological objects, which are currently on display at the Athlone Castle Museum and in many cases originate elsewhere. In addition, 12 of the records mark the former location of archaeological objects, which are currently in the collections of the National Museum in Dublin (WM029-042005–16).

Athlone Castle (WM029-042002) to the immediate south of the proposed development area, is also listed as a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. 520). The earthen town defences of west Athlone, dating to the 17th century, are shown in historic mapping as potentially traversing the proposed development area and are recorded as WM029-042020. Under the National Policy on Town Defences (2008) the above ground and potential below ground features related to the town defences are considered to possess National Monument status.

TABLE 2: Recorded Archaeological Sites

RMP NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	MAP ID FIG.3
WM029-042	Loughnaskin, Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow, Golden Island	Historic town	Proposed development area within ZAP	1
WM029-042002	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle	Immediately south	5
WM029-042076	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Castle - unclassified	19m north	29
WM029-042082	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Memorial stone	25m southwest	12
WM029-042017	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque	27m southwest	28
WM029-042059	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Cross - Wayside cross	38m southwest	4
WM029-042009	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque	42m east	9
WM029-042005	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Memorial stone	42m east	11
WM029-042011	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Memorial stone	42m east	13
WM029-042007	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inscribed stone	42m east	18
WM029-042008	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inscribed stone	42m east	19
WM029-042010	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Memorial stone	42m east	22
WM029-042012	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque	42m east	23
WM029-042015	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque	42m east	24
WM029-042016	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Memorial stone	42m east	25
WM029-042013	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque	42m east	26
WM029-042014	Athlone, Athlone and	Armorial plaque	42m east	27

RMP NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	MAP ID FIG.3
	Bigmeadow			
WM029-042006	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inscribed stone	42m east	31
WM029-042004	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Bridge	44m southeast	6
WM029-042038	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque (present location)	46m southwest	14
WM029-042053	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Sheela-na-gig (present location)	49m southwest	17
WM029-042083	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Architectural fragment	49m southwest	33
WM029-042085	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Stone head	49m southwest	35
WM029-042099	Athlone	Castle - motte	49m southwest	37
WM029-042040	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque (present location)	50m southwest	10
WM029-042044	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Cross-slab (present location)	50m southwest	7
WM029-042043	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Cross-slab (present location)	50m southwest	8
WM029-042039	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Armorial plaque (present location)	50m southwest	15
WM029-042045	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Cross-slab (present location)	50m southwest	16
WM029-042052	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Stone head (present location)	51m southwest	21
WM029-042088	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inscribed stone (present location)	53m southwest	34
WM029-042089	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inscribed stone	54m southwest	36
WM029-042106	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow, Golden Island, Loughnaskin	Redundant record	73m east	39
WM029-042100	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Water mill – unclassified	83m east	38
WM029-042087	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Inn	85m south	2
WM029-042086	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Architectural feature	86m south	3
WM029-042064	Athlone and Bigmeadow	Redundant record	96m west	20
WM029-042080	Athlone, Athlone and Bigmeadow	Mill – corn	102m east	32
WM029-042079	Athlone	Mill – corn	117m east	30

3.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2007–2021) and Bing Maps failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological sites due to the urban nature of the town centre. The Athlone Castle complex is clearly visible in the aerial imagery.

3.6 FIELD INSPECTION

During the course of the field investigation the proposed development area and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1). The proposed development area comprises the space immediately north of Athlone Castle (WM029-042002; Nat Mon. 520) and is currently in use for a variety of civic purposes.

To the north of the castle a wide paved pedestrianised space provides access to the castle visitor centre and the Quay (Plate 1). The ground slopes towards the river. This area is abutted to the north by the raised roadway joining with the late-19th century bridge. A pedestrian underpass gives access to the northern riverside (Plate 2). Modern sub-surface services are evident in this area by the presence of manholes. It is evident that the ground level in this area has been altered in places, when compared to a photograph dating to c. 1900, which shows the same area (Murtagh 1994). Today, a short flight of steps links this area to the roadway to the north, which leads to the 19th century bridge (Plate 3). The historic photograph shows that this area appears level with the bridge (Plate 4), indicating that the ground level on Barracks Road has been built up.

No previously unrecorded sites or additional areas of archaeological potential were noted during the course of the field inspection. This area has been subject to a large amount of disturbance associated with the construction of the quays and the bridge during the 19th century and latterly the insertion and upgrade of buried services.



Plate 1: Pedestrianised space to the north of castle, facing east



Plate 2: Pedestrian underpass, facing north-northwest



Plate 3: Area north of the castle, facing east

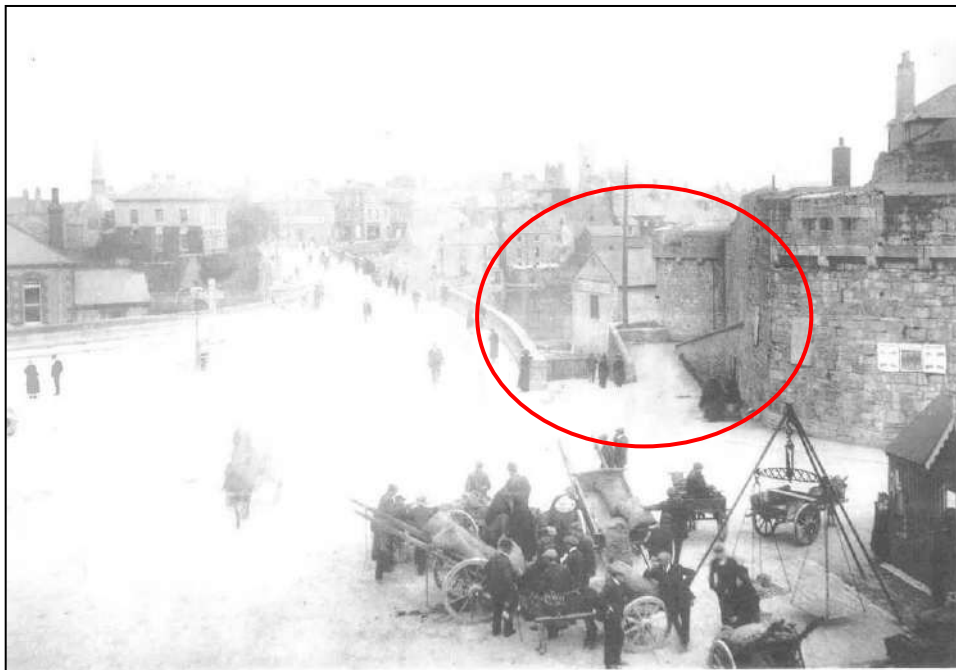


Plate 4: Area north of the castle, facing east, photograph from the Lawrence collection, c. 1900 (reproduced in Murtagh 1994)

4 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area is located to the immediate north of Athlone Castle in the townland of Athlone and Big Meadow, the parish of St Peters and Barony of Athlone South. It is situated within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Athlone (WM029-042). There are 38 additional recorded archaeological sites within the study area, including two redundant records. Nine of these records note the present location of archaeological objects, which are currently on display at the Athlone Castle Museum and in many cases originate elsewhere. In addition, 12 of the records are associated with former location of archaeological objects which are currently in the collections of the National Museum in Dublin (WM029-042005–16).

Athlone Castle (WM029-042002) is listed as a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. 520) and was considerably rebuilt in the post-medieval period (SMR File). Two circular bastions project from the east curtain wall, which may have formed part of the 13th century defences but are now almost totally hidden by later masonry (Orpen 1907, 265).

The cartographic sources also indicate that the 17th century earthen town defences as shown on Goubet's map of c. 1691 may have once traversed the eastern edge of the proposed development (Figures 3 and 5).

The environs of the proposed development area underwent significant restructuring in the late-19th century with the demolition of the bridge (WM029-042004) to the southeast and construction of the raised road and new bridge to the north. The quayside was refurbished during at this time, although it contained warehouses and stores at different points as evident on the historic mapping.

Field inspection did not identify any previously unidentified archaeological features or sites within the proposed development area. It should be noted that the urban landscape has been subject to disturbances and refurbishment throughout the post-medieval and modern periods with previous archaeological investigations in this area identifying the remains of 18th and 19th century pits and cobble surfaces. Whilst it is clear that the area has been disturbed, recent investigations have shown that earlier archaeological remains may survive below the modern disturbance and post medieval remains.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- While the area of proposed development has been subject to significant disturbances in the 19th and 20th centuries, it remains possible that ground works associated with the proposed development may adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level. This includes remains associated with the castle (WM029-042002, Nat. Mon. 520).

5.2 MITIGATION

- All sub-surface groundworks associated with the proposed public realm works will require monitoring by an archaeologist under Ministerial Consent. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

SMR NO.	WM029-042002
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603801/741444
CLASSIFICATION	Castle-Anglo Norman Castle
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	Immediately south
DESCRIPTION	<p>National Monument in State Ownership No. 520. Athlone Castle was built as a Royal Castle in 1210 to control an important fording point over the River Shannon which may have had a pre-Norman fortification (WM029-042098-) at this location. The Anglo-Norman stone castle was built on lands originally granted in 1200 to Geoffrey de Costentin who was then granted other lands in Connacht due to the construction of Athlone Castle which became the demesne lands of King John. The king of England then ordered Geoffrey de Costentin to maintain and keep possession of the castle on behalf of the king. In the year 1200 as part of the Anglo-Norman settlement of Connacht, King John of England granted Geoffrey de Costentin, 'a cantred in Connaught called Tirieghrachbothe' (Cal. doc. Ire., 22).</p> <p>Little is known of the castle in the later fourteenth and fifteenth centuries although it is clear that it was frequently in Irish hands until recovered by the Crown in 1537. In this year it was recorded that the 'castle of Athlone, standing upon a passage betwixt Connaught and these parts, is recovered, which has long been usurped by the Irish' (Gardiner 1891, 47-85). Thereafter the castle remained in English hands serving as the residence of the Presidents of Connacht after 1569 (Murtagh 1980, 81). In 1547, the Annals recorded that the 'castle of Athlone was repaired by the English, namely, by William Brabazon, the King's Treasurer in Ireland, and the English and Irish of Meath, in despite of O'Kelly (Donough, the son of Edmond) and the Irish of Connaught' (AFM).</p> <p>In 1589 Athlone Castle was captured by a Spanish army of 2,000 men who 'did break the bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone, and told that when your Lordship understood of their fortifying there you went against them with 8,000 soldiers as far as Athlone, and finding the bridge of Athlone broke by the Spaniards that your Lordship did return again to Dublin, and that they hold the fort' (Cal. S. P. Ire., 136).</p> <p>In 1590 the castle is described as 'Her Majesty's manor house' to which was attached the customs of 'the bridge (WM029-042004-) and market of Athlone' (Cal. S. P. Ire., 374). In 1592 there is a reference to 'restoration to the house of Athlone of half of the bawn or strength which Sir Edward Waterhouse hath gotten' (Cal. S. p. Ire., 443). The reference to the bawn</p>

	<p>probably refers to the curtain wall of the stone castle. In 1641 the castle is placed under a siege by Catholic forces and around 1642 the custody of Athlone Castle is surrendered to lord viscount Dillon of Costelloe (Vallancey 1786, 97).</p> <p>The 1784 plan of the castle by Thomas Sherrard depicts the freestanding polygonal-shaped keep enclosed by a polygonal-shaped curtain wall with the partial remains of a circular angle-tower on the SE angle, a circular tower on the NE angle and a square tower projecting outwards from the N wall to the W of the NE angle tower which protects the entrance into the castle ward on the N side. A second entrance into the castle ward is shown on the E side of the castle where a gap in the curtain wall located at the S end of the E wall may mark a second entrance into the castle. On this plan the S section of the curtain wall appears to have been destroyed and is not depicted as upstanding.</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042076
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603793/741506
CLASSIFICATION	Castle - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	19m north
DESCRIPTION	<p>No surface remains visible of a medieval tower known as the Connacht tower which was located to the N of Athlone Castle (WM029-042002-). This building appears to have been a feature of the west town defences on the Connacht side of Athlone and was known in medieval documents as the Connacht Tower. Described by Bradley as a rectangular structure with two circular towers at N angles, linked to Athlone Castle by defensive wall or ditch, perhaps the 'great fosse' to form the riverside bawn (Bradley et. al. 1985, 38). In 1581, the crown granted Thomas, earl of Ormond and Ossory 'an old ruinous tower called Connaghte tower covered with straw, near the castle of Athlone (WM029-042002-), with a parcel of land on the south side containing 90 feet [27m], and a garden plot with certain ruined cottages on the north side, and a parcel of land in the great foss[e] on the west, from the tower to the river Shennen [Shannon]' (Nicholls 1994, 511). The Connacht Tower was partially demolished by the artillery of the Williamite army in 1691 (Murtagh 1994, 10). The partial remains of the Connacht Tower are depicted on Thomas Sherrard's map of Athlone dating from 1784 (Murtagh 1994, map 7a). Langrishe records that its ruins survived into the mid-nineteenth century and that it was removed during the Shannon improvements and the construction of Grace Road (Bradley et. al. 1985, 38).</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042082
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603798/741452
CLASSIFICATION	Memorial Stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	25m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Rectangular memorial stone. Located just outside the entrance to Athlone Castle Museum, lying against the wall. There appears to be an inscription on it but it is impossible to decipher. Appears to be pre-1700 but exact date uncertain.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042017
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603800/741450
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	27m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Athlone Museum. Rectangular sandstone plaque. Two corners are broken but the achievement of arms in high relief is complete. The mantling is elaborate with helm and very tall feathered cap of maintenance. The shield has a cross with a lion rampant in the first quarter and a hand in the second. Incised motto partly damaged ...VENI REDEO. Lightly incised inscription on the upper corners: BUILT BY THE RIGHT WORSH.../ SIR THOMAS BOVRKE KNIGHT. 1639. Mr. Thomas Walker informed us that this plaque was removed from the bridge by his father. Dims. H 96cm, W 73cm, D 18cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 34).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042059
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603787/741434
CLASSIFICATION	Cross-Wayside Cross
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	38m southwest

DESCRIPTION	Fragment of a possible 17th century wayside cross (dims. H 0.43m; Wth 0.42m; D 0.17m) located outside Athlone Castle Museum. Decorated in low false relief with quarter of a ringed cross having incised crosses on the stem. Inscribed with INRI on the ring and the date 16.. is in one corner. Exact provenance unknown (Bradley et. al. 1985, 50).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042009
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular. Carved in high relief with a male demi-figure in a narrow-waisted armour of lames with cowters at the elbows. He holds a sword in an upright position in his right hand and his left hand rests on his waist and touches the garter which is worn knotted over his left shoulder. The head is missing. Below the figure is a small grotesque head with leavy swags protruding from his ears and held down by chains. On his left side is a coat of arms surrounded by the garter with the legend HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE. The end of the garter rests on a parchment with an ivy spray and the motto INVI/ DIA. NOTI/ OB. Dims. H 62cm, W 86cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 32).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042005
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Memorial stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular. A demi-figure holds a plaque with the letters E.R. and a crown surmounted by scroll-work and knots in relief. It is slightly damaged and the head of the figure is missing. Dims. H 23cm, W 26cm, D 20cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 31).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042011
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Memorial stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular plaque decorated in false relief with a man wearing late 16th century armour and a dog. The figure holds a ? ceremonial axe in the left hand and an arrow in the right. His sword is suspended from a belt behind his back. The name ROBARTS/ DAMPORT is in false relief and AN OWER/ SEER OF THY/ S WORKYS is incised below. Dims. H 52cm, W 54cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 32).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042007
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Inscribed stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Three stone fragments. Incised inscription: GOD SAVE * QWEN ELIZAB. The ornament after 'SAVE' is a Tudor rose. Dims. H 21cm, W 156cm, D 9cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 31).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042008
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Inscribed stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Worn rectangular panel with a bearded man wearing a long fur-trimmed mantle over a tunic. His right hand holds

	a ? pleated purse which may be suspended from his neck and his left hand is outstretched holding an animal which looks like a badger but has been described as a rat (Joly 1881, 62-3). It has a very worn inscription: E R/ PETRVS/ LEWYS. Dims. H 67cm, W 49cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 31-2).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042010
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Memorial stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. The main inscription. Carried on six stones (4 panels) in relief. There are commas between words and some letters are conjoined: THIS BRYGE OF ATHLONE FROM THE MAINE/ EARTH VNDER THE WATER WAS ERECTED AND MA/ DE THE NINTH YEARE OF THE RAIGN OF OVR MO/ ST DERE SOVERAIGNE LADIE ELIZABETH BY THE GRACE OF GOD QVENE OF ENGLAND FRAVNCE &/ IRELAND DEFNDER OF THE FAIHET & BY HE DEVICE AND OR/ DER OF SIR HENRY SIDNEY KNIGHT OF HE MOSTE NOBIL/ ORDER THE 20 DAIE OF IVLIE THEN REINGE OF THE AYGE OF 38/ YERE L PRESIDENT OF THE COVNSEL IN WALLS AND MA/ RCHIS OF THE SAME AND L DEPVTIE GENERAL OF THIS HIR/ MAIESTIS REALM IR AND FINSHED IN LES THEN ONE YEAR BI/ THE GOOD INDVSTRI AND DIILIGENS OF SIR PETIR LEWYS/ CLERKE CHANTOR CATHEDRAL CHVRCH OF CHRIST/ CHVRCH IN DVBLIN AND STEWARD TO THE SAID L DE/ PVTIE IN Wc YEARE WAS BEGONE AND FINESHED THE FAI/ RE NEWE WOVRKE IN THE CASTHEL OF DVBLIN BESIDIS/ MANY OTHER NOTABLE WORK IS DONE IN SODRI O/ THER PLACIS IN HIS REALME ALSO THE ARCHE REBEL/ (SH)ANE O NEY; OVER THROVEN HIS HEAD SET ON THE/ GATE OF THE SAID CASTEL COYNO AND LIVRY ABOLESHED/ AND THE HOLE REALME BROVGHT INTO SVCHE OBEDIENCE/ TO HIR MAISTE AS THE LIKE TRANQVILITIE PEACE AND... Dims. (a+b) H 46cm W 116cm. (c+d) H 50cm, W 117cm. (e+f) H 30.5, W 118cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 32).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042012
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518

CLASSIFICATION	Armorial plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular plaque with a shield in relief on which there is a porcupine, said to be the crest of Henry Sidney, surrounded by the garter and the words HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE. The initials H S are on either side below. Dims. H 69cm, 49cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042015
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular plaque with a heater shaped shield and garter with HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE. The centre of the shield has a ragged staff set diagonally which is considered to be the arms of Thomas Radcliff, Earl of Essex. Dims. H 64cm, W 44cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042016
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Memorial stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular panel with a tooled surface and a male figure in relief. He wears a long gown, loosely belted at the waist over a shirt with sleeves caught into a tight fitting wrist-band. He has a short square cravat and the sleeves of the outer garment are wide and pleated at the shoulders. His left hand is on his chest and the right outstretched hand holds a small animal on a twisted rope. At his feet there is an incised inscription: PETRO LEWYS/ CLERICO DOMUS NR Q DISPENSA/ HUIUS OPIS Ps SICLE. This stone may belong to the 1730 rebuilding of the

	bridge. Dims. H 75cm, W 60cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042013
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular plaque set with WM029-042014- in an elaborate surround decorated with renaissance style palmettes and foliage in false relief. Heater shaped shield with Henry Sidney's achievement of arms. It has elaborate mantling and the garter inscribed as WM029-042012-. The letters H S occur below the shield. The shield is quartered with a pheon or broad arrow in the first and fourth and a lion rampant with bars in the second and third. Dims. H 95cm, W 81cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042014
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Plaque with the arms of England on a heater shaped shield: three lions statant guardant and three fleur-de-lis in false relief. Above the shield on the chamfer are the incised words QVO ME FATA VOCANT and on the plaque a crown and the letters E. R. This may be the plaque removed to the bridge from the North gate. Dims. H 95cm, W 81cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042006
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603852/741518
CLASSIFICATION	Inscribed stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	42m east
DESCRIPTION	In National Museum of Ireland. Rectangular stone with a Tudor rose, and ivy spray. Inscribed in false relief: GEVE TO CESAR THAI W/ IS CESARS AND TO GOD/ THAT WHICHE IS GOIS MAT 22. Dims. H 21cm, W 81cm, D 10cm (Bradley et. al. 1985, 31).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042004
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603805/741424
CLASSIFICATION	Bridge
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	44m southeast
DESCRIPTION	The present town of Athlone developed around the Anglo-Norman stone castle (WM029-042002-) and medieval bridge which offered a crossing point over the River Shannon connecting the medieval kingdom of Connacht to the kingdom of Meath. In 1682 Sir Henry Piers described the siting of the town and bridge when he wrote that Athlone town was situated 'on both banks of the Shannon. The part on this side [east] the river was better built. The other part [west] together with the king's castle (WM029-042002-) situated on the western banks, is in the county of Roscommon, both parts united into one town, by a very strong, high-raised and well-built bridge' (Vallancey 1786, 85). There appears to have been a sequence of bridges built over the River Shannon possibly at the same location which may have been located close to a natural fording point over the river since prehistoric times. In the year 994 the Annals of Clonmacnoise records that Maelsechlainn [king of Mide] and Cathal O'Connor [king of Connacht] 'made a bridge at Athlone over the Synan' (Ann. Clon., 165). It has been suggested that this reference to a bridge may be describing the construction of a ford instead (Murtagh 1994, 12). In the year 1001 the Annals of Ulster recorded that the 'causeway of Ath-Luain [was made] by Maelsechlainn (high king of Ireland), and by Cathal son of Conchobar' (AU, 509). This causeway may have been a wooden bridge

built on the site of the fording point over the River Shannon. At least six bridges were built over the River Shannon at Athlone between the years 1120 and 1159. The first of these, built in 1120 by Toirrdealbach Ua Conchobhar [Turlough O'Connor], was destroyed in 1125. The second bridge was built in 1129 together with a protecting castle. A third bridge was constructed by Toirrdealbach in 1132. In 1133 both bridge and castle were destroyed and a fourth bridge was built in 1140 and lasted until 1153 when it was destroyed by Maelsechlainn, king of Mide. This was replaced by a new bridge (the fifth) in 1155 but destroyed in the same year. A sixth bridge was constructed in 1159 but it was destroyed in 1162. Around the year 1210 the Anglo-Normans commenced construction of the stone castle (WM029-042002-) of Athlone and the adjoining bridge which connected the castle located on the W side of the River Shannon to the Anglo-Norman settlement on the E side of the river. In 1210 a bridge was built by John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich who was the justiciar of Ireland and who was also responsible for the construction of the stone castle (WM029-042002-) at Athlone. In this year the annals recorded the arrival of the Bishop of Norwich, who came to Athlone where 'a bridge (WM029-042004-) was constructed by him across Ath-Luain, and a castle (WM029-042002-) instead of O'Conchobhair's castle (WM029-042098-)' (ALC). Work is again recorded at the bridge in 1232-4 when masonry work was suspended on the ward of Rindown castle (RO046-004002-), Co. Roscommon. In 1233 in order to permit the completion of the bridge at Athlone. Whether this work involved the completion of de Grey's bridge, begun twenty years earlier, or the construction of a new bridge, is unclear but it suggests that the bridge was of stone. In this year the state papers recorded that the 'justiciary of Ireland notifies that the bridge of Athlone can be completed for 80 marks, 30 marks to be employed on carriage, and 50 marks on works. As it would be advantageous to Ireland that this bridge should be finished, the K. commands the treasurer to pay the money out of the K.'s treasure, the masonry work of the ward of the castle of Reindown (Rinndown, Co. Roscommon) to be suspended' (Cal. doc. Ire., 304). A stone bridge is specifically referred to in the accounts of the justiciar, Geoffrey de Geneville for 1274-5 but again it is unclear whether this represents the rebuilding of the old bridge destroyed in 1272 or its replacement by an entirely new one. In 1290 John FitzThomas, Archbishop of Dublin, keeper of Ireland led an army against the K.'s enemies of Offaly and Leys [Laois]. During this campaign he heard of news on the feast of the Apostles Philip and James [May 6, 1290] 'that the Irish had transgressed against the peace at Athlone, and that the bridge of Athlone was falling; he then prepared himself and went to those parts. The expenses thereof begin on Saturday aforesaid as appears by accounts, and he was 9 days in going, remaining, and returning' (Cal. doc. Ire., 273). In the same year there is a receipt for payment of the expenses of 'John Archbishop of Dublin, holding the place of chief justiciary of Ireland, in going to the castle of Athlone, and remaining there to treat with the Irish of those parts, to inspect the defects of the works of the castle and bridge, and to expedite

public affairs there' (Cal. doc. Ire., 326). By 1305 the bridge was again in need of repair. In this year the crown recorded that it 'is agreed also that the houses of the King's Castle (WM029-042002-) of Athlon[e], which are much ruined and broken, and the bridge between the castle and the town (WM029-042----) there, be repaired out of the issues of the county of Connacht, in a competent manner. Therefore let a writ be made to the Sheriff of Connacht directing him to pay to Ric.[hard] de Oxon' sheriff of Roscommon, 20 marks. And let Ricard sheriff of Roscommon receive said money and spend it in repair of said houses and bridge, by advice of Ric. de Exon' justice, by the hands of lawful workmen'(Cal. justic. Rolls, Ire. Edw. I, 65). A year later in 1306 Richard de Exeter, constable of Roscommon castle, received payment for 'making a bridge at Athlone with a gate at the end thereof', presumably at the western end. This is the last record of the Anglo-Norman bridge and its subsequent fate is unknown (Bradley et. al. 1985, 30). The 13th century Anglo-Norman stone bridge presumably fell into disrepair over the centuries and was replaced by a new stone bridge in the 16th century. In 1557 the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, ordered a new stone bridge to be built and although it suffered much at the hands of both sides in the sieges of 1690-1 it survived until 1844 when the present bridge was constructed 50m to the N of it. In 1557 a new bridge was built but despite a letter of 1567 which claimed that all Connacht had been tamed by the building of the bridge (Cal. S.P. Ire., 346). Piers writing in 1682, described it as 'a very strong, high raised and well-built bridge, in the middle whereof stands a fair monument with some figures well cut in marble, together with Queen Elizabeth's scutcheon of arms and some inscriptions declaring the time and the founders of the building. This bridge, tho' the arches thereof be wide and large, causeth the river, which here is very deep, to rise and swell backwards, so that under it the river hath a great fall, which giveth an advantageous situation to several undershaft mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-; WM029-042100-) at each end of the bridge. One tower on the corner of the castle (WM029-042002-) wall is so advantageously seated that it commandeth the whole bridge, which nevertheless hath a great drawbridge on that end'. The presence of mills dates to at least 1578 when Edmund O'Fallone of Athlone was leased two watermills which he himself had built on the bridge. According to Joly (1881, 18) the bridge had nine arches and was 360 feet [110m] in length with a maximum of 14 feet [4.25m] in width. Sidney's bridge stood about 50m downstream of the modern bridge just S of the castle, linking Bridge Street on the E with Main Street on the W. It is perhaps a reasonable assumption that the twelfth century bridges occupied this site also but this remains to be definitely established. The 16th century stone bridge was ornamented with a series of plaques which were removed prior to its demolition in 1844 and are now preserved in the National Museum of Ireland. In all thirteen plaques survive, eleven of which relate to the building of the bridge, (WM029-042005- to WM029-042017-) and the remaining two plaques refer to the repair of the bridge in the 18th century (Bradley et. al. 1985, 30-1).

REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042038
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741434
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	46m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Armorial plaque from the house of John Waple dating from 1621. Currently on display in Athlone Castle Museum. Rectangular block of limestone originally from Church Street. Carved in false relief with a heater shaped shield and an inscription in Roman lettering. The shield has two bends and three cross crosslets per fess. The date 1621 is incised below. Inscription: 'ERECTED BY JOHN/ WAPLE MARCHANT'. Dims. H 0.41m, Wth 0.37m, T 0.12m (Bradley et. al. 1985, 28). According to the information panel in the Athlone Castle Museum the armorial plaque was recovered from an external wall in Custume Place, which may have been the location of the merchant's premises.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042053
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603809/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Sheelagh-Na-Gig (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	49m southwest
DESCRIPTION	On display in Athlone Castle Museum. Abraded sandstone squatting figure (dims. H 0.4m; Wth 0.21m; Wth 0.21m; D 0.2m). The hands are clasped around the legs which are drawn up under the chin and the vulva or anus is openly displayed. The face has protruding lips and slanting eyes. According to the information panel in the museum this sheela-na-gig originally came from the keystone of the archway belonging to the water gate known as St. Peter's Port which was part of the Cluniac priory dedicated to SS. Pater and Paul (WM029-042003-/ WM029-042091-) (Bradley et. al. 1985, 48-9; Weir 1980, 64). Described by Freitag as a 'sculptured almost in the round. Strong face with pursed lips, and a striated pattern incised across left cheek. With arms embracing tightly flexed knees. Big V-shaped vulva' (Freitag 2004, 122).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042083
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603793/741446
CLASSIFICATION	Architectural fragment
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	49m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Four architectural fragments, including a male and female stone head, located in the Athlone Castle Museum (one of the pieces is located just outside the entrance to the museum beside a milestone). Exact date or provenance unknown
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042085
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603793/741446
CLASSIFICATION	Stone head
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	49m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Currently in Athlone Museum. Carved stone head of uncertain date discovered at Hodson Bay. Slight damage to the nose. On loan from the Lenihan family, Athlone. Original location - Co. Roscommon. See RO049-011---- for more information.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042099
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603799/741446
CLASSIFICATION	Castle motte
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	49m southwest
DESCRIPTION	The Kingdom of Míde [Meath] was granted to Hugh de Lacy in 1172 (Mills and McEnery 1916, 177) and the process of sub-infeudation and settlement began soon afterwards but it is unlikely that any effective inroads were made as far west as Athlone for some time. The original

	<p>Anglo-Norman grantee of Athlone was Geoffrey de Costentin who was granted a cantred in Connacht adjoining Athlone in 1200 (Cal. doc. Ire., no. 137; Orpen 1907, 259; Claffey 1970-1, 55). In this year, King John of England granted Geoffrey de Costentin, 'a cantred in Connaught called Tirihegrachbothe' (Cal. doc. Ire., 22). If a motte castle had been constructed in Athlone then Geoffrey would have been responsible for the construction of this earth and timber castle (WM020-042098-) between the years 1191 and 1199 (Orpen 1911-20, II, 129; Graham 1980, 53; Bradley et. al. 1985, 35). In 1199 the annals recorded that a 'depredation was committed on the Foreigners by Cathal Crobhderg, who burned the bódhún [bawn] of Ath [Athlone], and killed many persons; and they carried with them many cows to their homes' (ALC). The use of the word bódhún [Cow fort] anglicised as bawn to describe an Anglo-Norman fortification suggests that the fortification may have been a ringwork type earthwork rather than a motte. Alternatively the bawn may have been a reference to the bailey or courtyard adjoining the motte castle. Graham (1980, 52-3) suggests that Athlone formed a part of the final western frontier of the Liberty of Meath, a frontier which also included the motte castles of Granard (LF010-080001-), Co. Longford, Kilbixy (WM011-041----) and Rathconrath (WM018-093----), Co. Westmeath. The construction dates of the latter two motte castles, in 1192 and 1191 respectively, dates the formation of this frontier in his view. Accordingly a date between 1191 and 1199 could be proposed for the construction of the Athlone motte castle (Bradley et. al. 1985, 36). Claffey (1970-1, 55) has suggested that de Costentin may not have built a motte but merely reused the Ua Conchobhar [O'Connor] fortification (WM029-042098-) in Athlone. This suggestion finds some support in the Annals of Loch Cé reference to the Bishop of Norwich building in Athlone a new bridge (WM029-042004-) and a 'castle (WM029-042002-) instead of 'Ua Conchobhar's [O'Connor's] castle (WM029-042098-)' in 1210. Even if the survival of the Ua Conchobhar castle until 1210 were accepted, however, this does not exclude the construction of a motte because mottes were frequently built on top of ringforts and other pre-existing settlements (Graham 1980, 51). Claffey (1970-1, 55) further suggests that de Costentin's settlement was sited on the east bank of the Shannon but Orpen (1907, 263-4) was of the opinion that the original motte was built, and could still be detected, on the site of the present stone castle (WM029-042003-).</p> <p>The visit of King John to Ireland in 1210 marks a turning point in the development of Athlone. John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich, was appointed justiciar of Ireland as part of John's efforts to improve the administration of the colony and he appears to have recognized the strategic importance of Athlone as the gateway between the Anglo-Norman liberty of Meath and Connacht, still effectively in Irish hands (Orpen 1911-20, II, 281; Claffey 1970-1, 56). De Grey appears to have desired to establish Athlone as the joint seat (with Dublin) of English administration in Ireland (Claffey 1970-1, 56) and the first step in this plan was the construction of new stone castle (WM029-042002-) and bridge (WM029-042004-) at Athlone in 1210. The 13th century Anglo-Norman stone castle may have been built on the site of the 12th century motte castle which in turn was built on the site of the Gaelic earth and timber fortification of the O'Connor's.</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042040
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial Plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	50m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Amorial plaque that is now on display in Athlone Castle Museum may be the Dillon memorial recorded in the Urban Survey of Athlone (Bradely et. al. 1982, 28). According to Bradley a stone mural tablet carrying the Dillon arms is mentioned in the Burgess Papers (Bradley et. al. 1985, 28; English 1974-5, 256). Partially damaged armorial plaque decorated with a shield and lion rampant with the letter D on right side of shield and the letters 620 beneath the shield with partial inscription carved in relief. According to the information panel in the museum this plaque dated 1620, bears a coat of arms possibly belonging to the Jones family and may have been inserted into the external wall of a premises belonging to this family in the town of Athlone. The partial Latin inscription has been interpreted as meaning MAKE ME JOYFUL, O LORD.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042044
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Cross slab
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	50m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Early Christian cross-slab (dims. H 0.76m; Wth 0.52m; T 0.08m) discovered in 1974, one of four cross-slabs (WM029-042043-;045-;047-) found in the graveyard (WM029-042092-) of the Franciscan friary (WM029-042001-) (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 5-6). Now on display in Athlone Castle Museum. Damaged sandstone slab decorated with an incised three-line Latin cross with a central circular expansion, containing a tetraskelion, and semi-circular terminals ornamented with worn key patterns. The cross is outlined by a two-line border with knots at the external angles. Incised inscription flanking the stem reads: OR DO CONLOC DO CHADAL (Bradley et. al. 1985, 46; Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 5-7).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042043
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Cross slab
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	50m southwest
DESCRIPTION	<p>Early Christian cross-inscribed slab (dims. Dims. H 0.82m, Wth 0.59m, T 0.13m) discovered in 1978, and one of four cross-slabs (WM029-042044-;045-;047-) found in the graveyard (WM029-042092-) of the Franciscan friary (WM029-042001-) (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 7-8). Now on display in Athlone Castle Museum. The cross-slab contains an inscription to Ailill Ua Dunchatho, King of Connacht who died in 764 AD (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 7). Roughly rectangular sandstone slab missing a small section of one corner. The decoration consists of an almost equal-armed ringed cross within a rectangular frame. The centre of the cross consists of a square enclosing a circle; the terminals are also square and bear foliage decoration. The arms of the cross have a fret pattern of interlocking T type while the frame consists of a broad band of continuous fret pattern of the interlocking L type. Incised inscription above the panel: AILILL AUE DUNCHATHO (Bradley et. al. 1985, 45-6).</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042039
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Armorial plaque
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	50m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Unidentified Heraldic Plaque. Seventeenth century. Currently on display in Athlone Castle Museum. Rectangular limestone plaque with heater-shaped shield and mantling similar to WM029-047----. Removed from Hogan's on the S side of Church Street. Engrailed shield with a bend sinister and a lion rampart overall. The family have not been identified but it could be either Gray, Lloyd, Price or Grace. Dims. H 0.5m, Wth 0.46m, T 0.16m (Bradley et. al. 1985, 28). According to the information panel in the museum this armorial plaque was erected by a member of the Jones family in the 17th century. The plaque was recovered from the external wall of premises in Church Street which was the residence of the Jones family.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042045
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Cross-slab (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	50m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Early Christian cross-slab (dims. H 0.37m, Wth 0.72m, T 0.1m) discovered in 1979, one of four cross-slabs (WM029-042043-;044-;045-) originally found in the graveyard (WM029-042092-) of the Franciscan friary (WM029-042001-) (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 9). Now on display in Athlone Castle Museum. Sandstone cross-inscribed slab that is broken into two parts. The upper half survives in Athlone and the lower left corner is in the National Museum of Ireland. Highly decorated ringed cross in false relief. The cross has a square panel at the centre filled with interlace and rectangular terminals at the end of lozenge-shaped arms. The arms and terminals are also decorated with interlace and spiral motifs. The ring is ornamented with pelta designs. Outside the ring are the winged lion of St. Mark and the winged calf of St. Luke each of which hold a book. Above the symbols of the evangelists are the pocked letters OR DO. The fragment in the National Museum of Ireland depicts a winged figure, presumably St. Matthew, and bears the incised letters MUIR M below (Bradley et. al.

	1985, 46; Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 9).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042052
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603805/741427
CLASSIFICATION	Stone Head (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	51m southwest
DESCRIPTION	On display in Athlone Castle Museum. Keystone of an archway into which has been set the medieval head of a tonsured cleric possibly of granite, with the words "St. Peter's Port" and initials 'I.B'. 'I.B' refers to a man named Booth, a property owner otherwise known as 'Copper Fisted Jack' who levied a toll on all produce brought through St. Peter's Port. (See also WM029-042088-). Head (dims. H 0.19m; Wth 0.13m; T 0.33m) has a long pointed face with damaged chin. Unknown date (Bradley et. al. 1985, 48).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042088
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603803/741425
CLASSIFICATION	Inscribed stone (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	53m southwest
DESCRIPTION	On display in Athlone Castle Museum. One of two stones (WM029-042089-) (dims. H 0.35m, Wth 0.46m, D 0.15m) removed from gateway to St. Peter's Port (see also WM029-042089-). The inscription reads 'WILL O' WISP AND JACK THE PRINTER'. Will O' Wisp and Jack the Printer refer to two prominent men with whom a man named Booth was in dispute. They were William Sproule, a Quaker merchant, and John Potts, a printer and owner of Saunders' newspaper. Booth owned the property and was otherwise known as 'Copper Fisted Jack', who levied a toll on all produce brought through the port. Stones probably date from the 18th century.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042089
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow

PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603805/741424
CLASSIFICATION	Inscribed stone
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	54m southwest
DESCRIPTION	On display in Athlone Castle Museum. Two arch stones (dims. H 0.32m, Wth 0.46m, D 0.13m) removed from the gateway to St. Peter's Port (see also WM029-042088-) which was the water gate to the south harbour of the west town of Athlone. The inscription reads 'O may not Satan's Agents enter' and 'Wil o'Wisp & Jack the Printer'. According to the information panel in the museum, a local man named booth was responsible for the inscription, which arose from a property dispute he had in Athlone with William Sproule, a local merchant, and John Potts, a colourful newspaper proprietor, who died in 1795. Probably dates from the 18th century.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042106
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603895/741472
CLASSIFICATION	Redundant record
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	73m east
DESCRIPTION	This record relates to the siege of Athlone which took place between 20 and 30 June 1691. It was investigated in the course of the Irish Battlefields Project as having the potential to be interpreted as a 'battle'. The evidence – as set out in the following account – was considered sufficient to warrant accepting it as a siege only and did not satisfy the project's criteria for a 'battle' (SMR file). By the time the campaigning season opened in Spring 1691, the third year of the War of the Two Kings, the Williamites controlled nearly all of the country to within 20 miles to the east and south of the River Shannon. The Jacobites, for their part, held all territory to the west and controlled the crossing points on the river, itself a strong natural defence. Jacobite morale was lifted somewhat at the beginning of 1691 with the arrival of a new commander, Lieutenant-General Charles Chalmont, Marquis de St. Ruth, who came with a large shipment of stores and weapons. The Williamites, for their part, also had a new commander-in-chief, General Godart de Ginkel, appointed by William of Orange towards the end of the previous (1690) campaigning season. Ginkel was intent on ending the war in Ireland during this season as it had become a drain on William's military resources: these were needed in Spanish Flanders, the main theatre of the war against the French. Ireland was Ginkel's first major independent command, and he now decided to strike

at the heart of the Jacobite strongholds west of the Shannon. His plan was to take Athlone and then Galway. Having captured the isolated Jacobite outpost of Ballymore on 8 June (see WM024-191----) the Williamites waited there ten days before marching towards Athlone. This town, a major crossing point of the River Shannon, was of great strategic importance. It was divided into two parts separated by the river (see attached map of the siege). Not long after their victory at the Boyne in July 1690 the Williamite army had attempted to take the town and had burned the eastern part on the Leinster side. This siege, however, proved unsuccessful and was abandoned. On the night of 18 June 1691 Ginkel's army camped at Ballyboran (in the townland of Creeve), c. 8.5km north-east of Athlone. Here he was joined by the duke of Württemberg and Count Nassau with reinforcements of 7,000 men. Ginkel now commanded an army of between 18,000 and 20,000 men and had an artillery train of 32 pieces and six mortars. On the following day they marched to Athlone and arrived before the town in the evening. By the 19 June, St. Ruth, who now was in overall command of the Jacobite army in Ireland, had brought his force of c. 16,000 foot, 3,000 horse and 2,000 dragoons towards Athlone from Loughrea and set up camp on a ridge between two bogs c. 3.5km to the west of the town. Initially the garrison at Athlone was commanded by Colonel Nicholas Fitzgerald, until St. Ruth placed the French General, the Marquis d'Usson, in overall charge of its defences. During the siege c. 1,500 troops were garrisoned in the town but the units were regularly relieved in accordance with St. Ruth's desire to accustom as many soldiers as possible to combat. The Jacobites had stationed four companies of foot in the eastern or Leinster side of the town in order to defend this side and delay Ginkel until the main Jacobite army could come to its defence on the west. On 20 June the Williamites set up a battery to the north of this side of the town and soon opened a major breach in its defensive wall near the north-east corner bastion. Later that evening, at about 6 o'clock, they stormed this breach and easily overran the town on this side suffering very few casualties. The Jacobite garrison retreated across the river into the Connacht side of Athlone and as they went they broke down one of the arches on the stone bridge that linked the town across the Shannon. Having captured the eastern (Leinster) section of the town the Williamites erected several batteries and commenced to bombard the other side across the river. The western part of the town, on the Connacht side of the river, was less strongly defended than the eastern 'Leinster' part. It lacked adequate walls and was overlooked by the town on the east bank which was now controlled by the Williamite army. Its defences – besides the River Shannon – were restricted to the 13th-century castle (WM029-042002-) and some small, hastily-constructed defensive works. The river remained a formidable obstacle and the Jacobites' destruction of the stone-bridge prevented the Williamite army from using this main crossing point. On the morning of 22 June the Williamite batteries on the east bank began to fire across the river upon the castle and by evening had made a great breach in its wall. By 23 June

one whole wall of the castle had been demolished by the artillery fire so that it was largely unserviceable to the besieged. The barrage also demolished the small defensive works that the Jacobites had raised and the defenders now lacked any major shelter from the continuous bombardment. That same day, Ginkel's men attempted to construct a pontoon bridge across the Shannon to the south of the town but Jacobite fire forced this project to be abandoned. Despite having destroyed much of the town's defences, Ginkel did not let up the artillery assault and by 26 June seven batteries on the east bank were firing on the Connacht part of the town. This barrage lasted for nine days (from 22 June to 30 June) and, according to the Williamite chronicler, George Story, some '12,000 cannon bullets, 600 bombs, nigh 50 ton of powder and a great many ton of stones' were fired off by their artillery during this siege. (Story 1693, 115). A further 3,600 rounds were fired by the field-guns. Despite the success of this bombardment, Ginkel was still faced with the problem of how to get his army across the river. On 24 June he sent some troops to reconnoitre a crossing near Lanesborough but this party indulged in raiding into Connacht and in doing so alerted the Jacobites to their presence. The Jacobites immediately threw up defensive earthworks at this crossing point on the Shannon. Consequently, on 26 June, Ginkel commenced his efforts to force a passage across the bridge at Athlone. Opposing troops at either end of the bridge quickly became engaged in an intense fire-fight with one another, and the Williamite army painstakingly fought their way along the bridge throughout the night. By 27 June the Williamite troops had gained possession of all the bridge except for one of the last arches that had been broken previously by the retreating Jacobites. Under cover of darkness, the Williamite engineers began to lay beams and planks across the broken arch in an effort to bridge it. On the following day this work was almost completed when a small party of Jacobites under Sergeant Custume charged onto the bridge to destroy the newly-repaired arch. These men were all quickly cut down by Williamite fire but a second Jacobite party took their place and succeeded in breaking the repairs to the arch. The Williamites made a renewed effort to repair the broken arch, this time using fascines to fill in the gap in the bridge. However, the Jacobites easily burnt these and the bridge remained uncrossable for the moment. Though the details vary about the clashes on the bridge, all accounts agree that the fighting during these particular days was extremely intense, with one Jacobite commentator, John Stevens, remarking that 'what with the fire and what with the balls and bombs flying so thick that spot was a mere hell upon earth' (Murray 1912, 208). On 28 June, following the repulse of his attempt to take the bridge, Ginkel convened a council-of-war where it was debated whether to retreat or to make a second assault on the town. After considerable discussion it was decided to attempt a crossing on the following day (30 June) at the 'Old Ford' downstream of the bridge. This ford was defended on the west or Connacht side by some form of earthwork which appears to have been unfinished. The decision by the Williamite forces to attempt a crossing

	<p>here coincided with a changing of the Jacobite garrison in Athlone. At 6 o'clock in the evening on 30 June some 2,000 Williamite soldiers began their assault across the ford. The vanguard was made up of 60 grenadiers who waded across, 20 abreast, the water coming up to their armpits. Following immediately behind came the bulk of the Williamite force. The Jacobite garrison was startled by this assault but, recovering from their surprise, opened fire on the Williamite troops crossing the river. Their fire, however, proved too weak and was badly directed, resulting in few casualties. On the opposite bank, the Williamite army provided covering fire for their troops. The main part of their assault force reached the far-bank and scrambled ashore unopposed through a small breach in the defensive earthwork. The Jacobite garrison appointed to guard this point fled their posts. Once the Williamite advance troops had crossed the river, a detachment immediately headed to the broken bridge, and together with colleagues on the Leinster side, they were able to repair the broken arch with planks. The bulk of Ginkel's troops now began to cross the bridge and, as other Williamite troops succeeded in completing the pontoon bridge, this enabled further troops to cross and head into the town. In less than half an hour, the Jacobite garrison in the Connacht part of Athlone was overwhelmed and retreated. Williamite casualties during this assault (30 June) were low; between 13 and 35 dead. In contrast the defeated Jacobite garrison may have lost up to 500 men in this assault. Upon hearing of the fall of Athlone, St. Ruth sent a body of soldiers to the town to see if they might recover it but found that the Williamite army already had manned the western ramparts and were too well entrenched to be easily removed. In the wake of this defeat the Jacobite army fell back to Ballinasloe. Overall Jacobite casualties at Athlone were estimated at c. 1,000-1,200 persons: they also lost two large and six or seven small artillery pieces. Overall Williamite casualties throughout the entire siege were less than 100. According to Story there were only about 60 killed and 120 wounded (1693, 121). The fall of Athlone was a serious blow to Irish morale and fueled the growing mood of defeatism in some sections of the Jacobite army. This victory gave the Williamites a bridgehead across the Shannon which they exploited by advancing west into Connacht, forcing St. Ruth to give battle at Aughrim (see GA087-127----) with fatal consequences for himself and Jacobite Ireland. (IBP Report 2010 - Athlone) WM029-042106--_01 Plan of the siege of Athlone from G. Story, An impartial history of the wars in Ireland with a continuation thereof (1693), facing 107. Note that north is at the bottom of the map.</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042100
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South

I.T.M.	603894/741441
CLASSIFICATION	Water mill - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	83m east
DESCRIPTION	<p>One of three mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-) built onto the S face of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. This mill was located at the W end of the bridge built onto the S face of the final arch of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) and is shown on Thomas Sherrard's map of Athlone dating from 1784 (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)). A flour mill known as Mabbot's flour mill was built on the site of the 16th century mill and may have incorporated fabric of the earlier mill. This flour mill was demolished c. 1840 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Sir Henry Piers writing in 1682, described several undershaft mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-) located at either end of the medieval bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. In 1682 he wrote that 'this bridge, tho' the arches thereof be wide and large, causeth the river, which here is very deep, to rise and swell backwards, so that under it the river hath a great fall, which giveth an advantageous situation to several undershaft mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-; WM029-042100-) at each end of the bridge' (Vallancey 1786, 86). This mill on the W side of town may have been the same mill referred to in 1619 when the Crown granted 'John Trestian, esq. – Roscommon Co. – a mes. and mater-mill, lately Hugh Magauly's' (Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Jas I, 421). There is also documentary evidence to suggest that there were four corn mills, the location of which is unknown, in 1675 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Three watermills located on the medieval bridge of Athlone are depicted on Thomas Sherrard's map (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)) of Athlone dating from 1784. On this map two watermills are located at the E end of the bridge built up against the S face of the bridge, a third bridge is shown at the W end of the bridge built up the S face of the bridge. The two mills at the E end of the bridge were probably the same mills that were constructed in the 1570s by Edmund O Fallon of Athlone. The other mill was located at the W end of the bridge and was built onto the S face of the final arch of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-)</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042087
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603834/741398
CLASSIFICATION	Inn
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	85m south
DESCRIPTION	'Sean's Bar' was originally a two storey high building with thick walls, an additional third storey in brick was added later. Preserved on the premises is a section of wattle partition removed from a first floor wall. This could be of seventeenth century date but it is not securely dated (Bradley et. al. 1985, 28). Claims to have a documented history of all its innkeepers since 1600.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042086
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603836/741397
CLASSIFICATION	Architectural feature
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	86m south
DESCRIPTION	On the premises of Sean's Bar (WM029-042086-), 13 Main Street, is a late medieval stone built fireplace from a house on an island in Lough Ree (Bradley et. al. 1985, 28).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042064
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone And Bigmeadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603677/741455
CLASSIFICATION	Redundant record
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	96m west
DESCRIPTION	Connaught Gate. At the junction of Barrack Street and Pearse Street which

	was the the main passage through the West of the town, there was a gate. Unnamed 1685, 'Connaught Gate' 1722. (Murtagh, Harman, Irish Historic Towns Atlas - Athlone, No.6 (1994, 10).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042080
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603922/741461
CLASSIFICATION	Mill-corn
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	102m east
DESCRIPTION	<p>One of three mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042100-) built onto the S face of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. This mill was located off centre to the E on S face of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) and is shown on Thomas Sherrard's map of Athlone dating from 1784 (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)). A flour mill is depicted at this location on the 1838 ed. OS 6-inch map. This flour and corn mill was demolished c. 1840 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Sir Henry Piers writing in 1682, described several undershaft mills (WM029-042080-) located at either end of the medieval bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. In 1682 he wrote that 'this bridge, tho' the arches thereof be wide and large, causeth the river, which here is very deep, to rise and swell backwards, so that under it the river hath a great fall, which giveth an advantageous situation to several undershaft mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-; WM029-042100-) at each end of the bridge' (Vallancey 1786, 86). In 1570 the Crown granted a lease to Edmund O'Fallon, a merchant of Athlone which included the condition that he was within two years of this date 'to erect a substantial corn mill of stone, roofed with tile or slate, upon the weir (WM029-042081-) of the river Shynnen at such place as the lord president shall think fit so that it be not prejudicial to the river of Athlone and the new bridge (WM029-042004-) there. The president of Connaght to have grist ground toll free, and the use of the weirs two nights every month' (Nicholls 1994, 218-19). In 1578 a lease was granted to Edmund O'Fallon of 'two water mills upon the bridge of Athelone, and a castle (WM029-042061-) on the east side of the bridge with a parcel of land adjoining, in co. Westmeath. To hold for 21 years. Rent, 12d. In consideration of his having himself built the mills and castle (WM029-042061-), which mills grind only for a quarter of the year, and his undertaking to grind toll free the corn required in her majestie's house (WM029-042002-) of Athlone. But for these considerations the rent would be £3 10s. Not to alien without license' (Nicholls 1994, 474). In 1597 the Crown granted a lease to 'Dermod M'Gwyff, of Athloane, gent.; of two</p>

	<p>water mills built by him on the bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone upon the second next arch to Edm. O'Fallon's mills. To hold for 21 years. Rent £3 10s. The rent had formerly been 12d. with the condition of grinding part of the corn for the castle (WM029-042002-), for which this increased rent is substituted. Provided also that the lessee enrol this lease in the auditor general's office, within four months; and put in sufficient security for the rent, within three months, in the chief remembrancer's office' (Nicholls 1994, 295). In the same year the Crown granted to Edward Fitz Gerald of Rathsillagh a 31 year lease of lands which included 'a mill upon the water of Clonkille, co. Roscommon, in the province of Connaght, parcel of the late abbey of Athlone, two other mills upon the bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone and a castle (WM029-042061-) at the east part of the bridge, and a small piece of land adjoining the said castle in co. Westmeath, parcel of the queen's ancient inheritance' (Nicholls 994, 301). There is also documentary evidence to suggest that there were four corn mills, the location of which is unknown, in 1675 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Three watermills located on the medieval bridge of Athlone are depicted on Thomas Sherrard's map (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)) of Athlone dating from 1784. On this map two watermills are located at the E end of the bridge built up against the S face of the bridge, a third bridge is shown at the W end of the bridge built up the S face of the bridge. The two mills at the E end of the bridge were probably the same mills that were constructed in the 1570s by Edmund O Fallon of Athlone.</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	WM029-042079
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603939/741470
CLASSIFICATION	Mill-corn
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	117m east
DESCRIPTION	<p>One of three mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-) built onto the S face of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. This mill was located at the E end of the bridge built onto the S face of the final arch of the 16th century bridge (WM029-042004-) and is shown on Thomas Sherrard's map of Athlone dating from 1784 (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)). The mill known as Jones's Flour mill was built on the site of the 16th century mill and may have incorporated some of the fabric of this mill. Jones's mill was demolished c. 1840 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Sir Henry Piers writing in 1682, described several undershaft mills (WM029-042080-; WM029-042100-) located at either end of the medieval bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone. In 1682 he wrote that 'this bridge, tho' the arches</p>

	<p>thereof be wide and large, causeth the river, which here is very deep, to rise and swell backwards, so that under it the river hath a great fall, which giveth an advantageous situation to several undershaft mills (WM029-042079-; WM029-042080-) at each end of the bridge' (Vallancey 1786, 86). In 1570 the Crown granted a lease to Edmund O'Fallon, a merchant of Athlone which included the condition that he was within two years of this date 'to erect a substantial corn mill of stone, roofed with tile or slate, upon the weir (WM029-042081-) of the river Shynnen at such place as the lord president shall think fit so that it be not prejudicial to the river of Athlone and the new bridge (WM029-042004-) there. The president of Connaght to have grist ground toll free, and the use of the weirs two nights every month' (Nicholls 1994, 218-19). In 1578 a lease was granted to Edmund O'Fallon of 'two water mills upon the bridge of Athelone, and a castle (WM029-042061-) on the east side of the bridge with a parcel of land adjoining, in co. Westmeath. To hold for 21 years. Rent, 12d. In consideration of his having himself built the mills and castle, which mills grind only for a quarter of the year, and his undertaking to grind toll free the corn required in her majestie's house of Athlone. But for these considerations the rent would be £3 10s. Not to alien without license' (Nicholls 1994, 474). In 1597 the Crown granted a lease to 'Dermod M'Gwyff, of Athloane, gent.; of two water mills built by him on the bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athloane upon the second next arch to Edm. O'Fallon's mills. To hold for 21 years. Rent £3 10s. The rent had formerly been 12d. with the condition of grinding part of the corn for the castle (WM029-042002-), for which this increased rent is substituted. Provided also that the lessee enrol this lease in the auditor general's office, within four months; and put in sufficient security for the rent, within three months, in the chief remembrancer's office' (Nicholls 1994, 295). In the same year the Crown granted to Edward Fitz Gerald of Rathsillagh a 31 year lease of lands which included 'a mill upon the water of Clonkille, co. Roscommon, in the province of Connaght, parcel of the late abbey of Athlone, two other mills upon the bridge (WM029-042004-) of Athlone and a castle at the east part of the bridge, and a small piece of land adjoining the said castle in co. Westmeath, parcel of the queen's ancient inheritance' (Nicholls 994, 301). There is also documentary evidence to suggest that there were four corn mills, the location of which is unknown, in 1675 (Murtagh 1994, 12). Three watermills located on the medieval bridge of Athlone are depicted on Thomas Sherrard's map (RCB Ms. 151; Murtagh 1994, map 7(A)) of Athlone dating from 1784. On this map two watermills are located at the E end of the bridge built up against the S face of the bridge, a third bridge is shown at the W end of the bridge built up the S face of the bridge. The two mills at the E end of the bridge were probably the same mills that were constructed in the 1570s by Edmund O Fallon of Athlone</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 STRAY FINDS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Westmeath has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

MUSEUM NO	1992:25:00
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	N/A
BARONY	Athlone South
FIND	Bone
FIND PLACE	Garden, Connolly St., Athlone
DESCRIPTION	Acquired from COUNTY LIBRARY, ATHLONE, CO. WESTMEATH. 1992:25A - child's skull. 1992:25B - part of the skull of an adult. 1992:25C - part of the long bone of an animal. Found in a ditch, described as being 3' wide and 4' deep which ran in a NE/SW direction. Ditch may be related to entrenchments made at the time of the siege of Athlone
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1991:116
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
FIND	Bronze Dagger
FIND PLACE	-
DESCRIPTION	-
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	R.1582
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
FIND	Inscribed stones
FIND PLACE	-
DESCRIPTION	2 inscribed stones depicting Peter Lewis and The Rat
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1941:568
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South

FIND	Copper alloy gunmoney halfcrown coin
FIND PLACE	Old Bridge at Athlone
DESCRIPTION	Issued October 1689. See 1941:322-323. Acquired as part of the Morris Collection, 1941:322-649.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1941:569
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
FIND	Copper halfpenny coin
FIND PLACE	Old Bridge at Athlone
DESCRIPTION	Obverse: Hibernia seated with harp by her side "INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1792". Reverse: Cypher of "HM Co", "CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC HALFPENNY". Edge inscription: "PAYABLE IN DUBLIN OR BALLYMURTAGH" See 1941:322-323. Acquired as part of the Morris Collection, 1941:322-649.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

SMR NO.	WM029-042043
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Athlone and Big Meadow
PARISH	St Peters
BARONY	Athlone South
I.T.M.	603811/741429
CLASSIFICATION	Cross slab
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	
DESCRIPTION	Early Christian cross-inscribed slab (dims. Dims. H 0.82m, Wth 0.59m, T 0.13m) discovered in 1978, and one of four cross-slabs (WM029-042044-;045-;047-) found in the graveyard (WM029-042092-) of the Franciscan friary (WM029-042001-) (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 7-8). Now on display in Athlone Castle Museum. The cross-slab contains an inscription to Ailill Ua Dunchatho, King of Connacht who died in 764 AD (Fanning and Ó hÉailidhe 1980, 7). Roughly rectangular sandstone slab missing a small section of one corner. The decoration consists of an almost equal-armed ringed cross within a rectangular frame. The centre of the cross consists of a square enclosing a circle; the terminals are also square and bear foliage decoration. The arms of the cross have a fret pattern of interlocking T type while the frame consists of a broad band of continuous fret pattern of the interlocking L type. Incised inscription above the panel: AILILL AUE DUNCHATHO (Bradley et. al. 1985, 45-6).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 3 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described 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’ (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months’ notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site

illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable

development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021–2027

It is a policy of the Westmeath County Council to;

Policy Objective 14.5 Seek to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, and in this regard, applications will be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for comment.

Policy Objective 14.6 Seek to ensure the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings and archaeological objects that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.

Policy Objective 14.7 Ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site, or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site will not be permitted.

Policy Objective 14.8 Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.

Policy Objective 14.9 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

Policy Objective 14.10 Ensure that extensions to archaeologically significant burial grounds will only be permitted, in the event the extension would not constitute a proven risk to archaeological heritage, by means of a direct impact on archaeological features.

Policy Objective 14.11 Consult the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.

Policy Objective 14.12 Ensure that archaeological excavation is carried out according to best practice as outlines by the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, The National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

Policy Objective 14.13 Prepare conservation plans for the management of archaeological sites and monuments in Council ownership.

Policy Objective 14.14 Encourage increased awareness of and public access to monuments within Council ownership.

Policy Objective 14.15 Ensure that all proposed development affecting disturbance to peatland is subject to archaeological monitoring, in consultation with Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Authority.

Athlone Town Development Plan, 2014-2020

It is a policy of the plan to;

P-ARC1 Protect the archaeological heritage of the town in accordance with Departmental Guidelines.

P-ARC2 Strictly control development that may be detrimental to any feature or site of archaeological significance or that may seriously detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.

P-ARC3 Protect and retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the town.

P-ARC4 Ensure that all sites of archaeological potential are protected from development that may injure any potentially important archaeological features or sites.

P-ARC5 Protect, preserve, conserve and restore, where appropriate, the upstanding remnants of the town's walls, embankments, gates, bastions and fortifications.

P-ARC6 Designate walking routes to archaeological sites as public rights of way where possible, subject to private landowner's consent.

P-ARC7 Promote the use of the archaeological heritage of Athlone as an educational cultural and tourism resource and to promote public access to and awareness of this rich archaeological heritage.

P-ARC8 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeology associated with the River Shannon.

It is an objective of the plan to;

O-ARC1 Endeavour to ensure that all reports, excavation results and other information relating to archaeological heritage be made available for viewing at libraries and create and maintain a database of same.

O-ARC2 Provide guidance to developers and landowners in relation to proposals for development that may potentially impact upon the archaeological heritage, drawing their attention to additional published government guidance available such as 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999'.

O-ARC3 Require, where appropriate, that an archaeological assessment be carried out by a suitably qualified person prior to the commencement of any activity that may impact upon the archaeological heritage.

O-ARC4 Ensure that any development taking place either above or below ground which is within, adjacent to, or might affect sites and features of historical and archaeological interest shall respect the character of the archaeological site and its setting and shall be sited and designed with care for the character of the site and setting.

O-ARC5 Impose conditions on development that will affect sites of archaeological potential to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the identification and mitigation of the archaeological impacts, including a licensed excavation and recording of remains prior to commencement of development where appropriate.

O-ARC6 Have regard to the provisions of the 'Athlone Town Walls and Defences Conservation Plan'.

O-ARC7 Prepare an inventory of the town's military heritage, structures, walls, fortifications, ramparts and bastions.

APPENDIX 4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2022). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 5 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

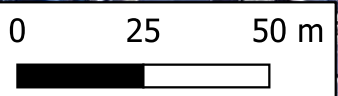
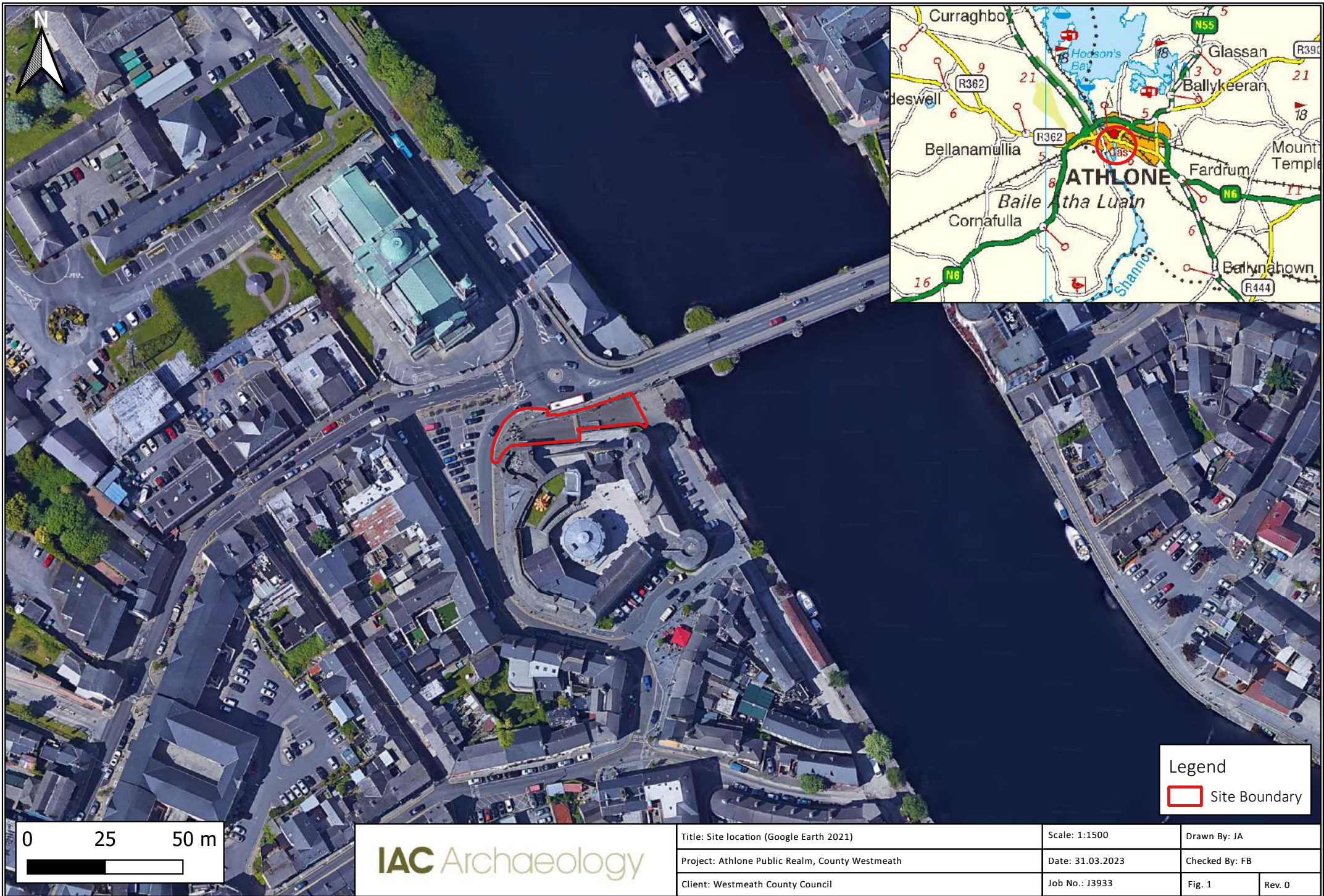
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020c).

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.



Legend

Site Boundary

	Title: Site location (Google Earth 2021)		Scale: 1:1500		Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Athlone Public Realm, County Westmeath		Date: 31.03.2023		Checked By: FB	
	Client: Westmeath County Council		Job No.: J3933		Fig. 1	Rev. 0



- General Notes
- THIS DRAWING SHALL BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS TOGETHER WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS AND SCHEDULES.
 - ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES. ALL LEVELS IN METRES. USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWINGS.
 - ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF BLOCK OR BRICK OR STUD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED OTHERWISE.
 - ALL WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT BUILDING REGULATIONS INCLUDING SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS & INCLUDING FOR ALL OTHER U.S. & BS STANDARDS AS SET OUT THEREIN INCLUSIVE OF HEALTH & SAFETY ACT.
 - CONTRACTOR MUST VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS ON SITE BEFORE SETTING OUT COMMENCING WORK. OR PRODUCING ANY SHOP DRAWINGS, WALL AND C/P DIMENSIONS ARE AS ANNOTATED. IT IS THE CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THESE DIMENSIONS.
 - ALL FIRE STOPPING TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH AN APPROVED FIRE STOPPING CONTRACTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURERS DETAILS.
 - BASE INFORMATION INCLUDES BOTH OS DATA AND SURVEY DATA.
 - DRAWING FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION.
 - FOUNDATIONS SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO SITE CONSTRAINTS.
- Legend:
- SITE BOUNDARY
 - +00.00 PROPOSED LEVELS
 - (+00.00) EXISTING LEVELS
 - LOCATION OF SITE NOTICE
 - EXISTING CONTEXT
 - RIVER SHANNON
 - Pedestrian surface Type 1 Granite slabs, silver-grey
 - Pedestrian surface Type 2 Granite slabs, silver-grey
 - Pedestrian surface Type 3 Granite slabs, silver-grey
 - Pedestrian surface Type 4 Tactile Paving Slabs, silver-grey
 - Shannon callows planting
 - Raised kerb, 125mm rise; 250x90x100mm th. Irish Blue Limestone
 - Raised kerb, 125mm rise; 250x90x100mm th. Irish Blue Limestone
 - Steel Railings
 - Tie with root coil system Fastgate horizontal
 - Shrubs
 - Wayfinding Signage at Castle Entrance
 - Wayfinding Signage at Site Entrance
 - Existing Lighting
 - Existing Zebra Crossing to remain
 - Proposed Underground Light Fitting
 - Proposed Light Fittings Mounted on support pole 4m high

DRAFT

PART VIII PLANNING

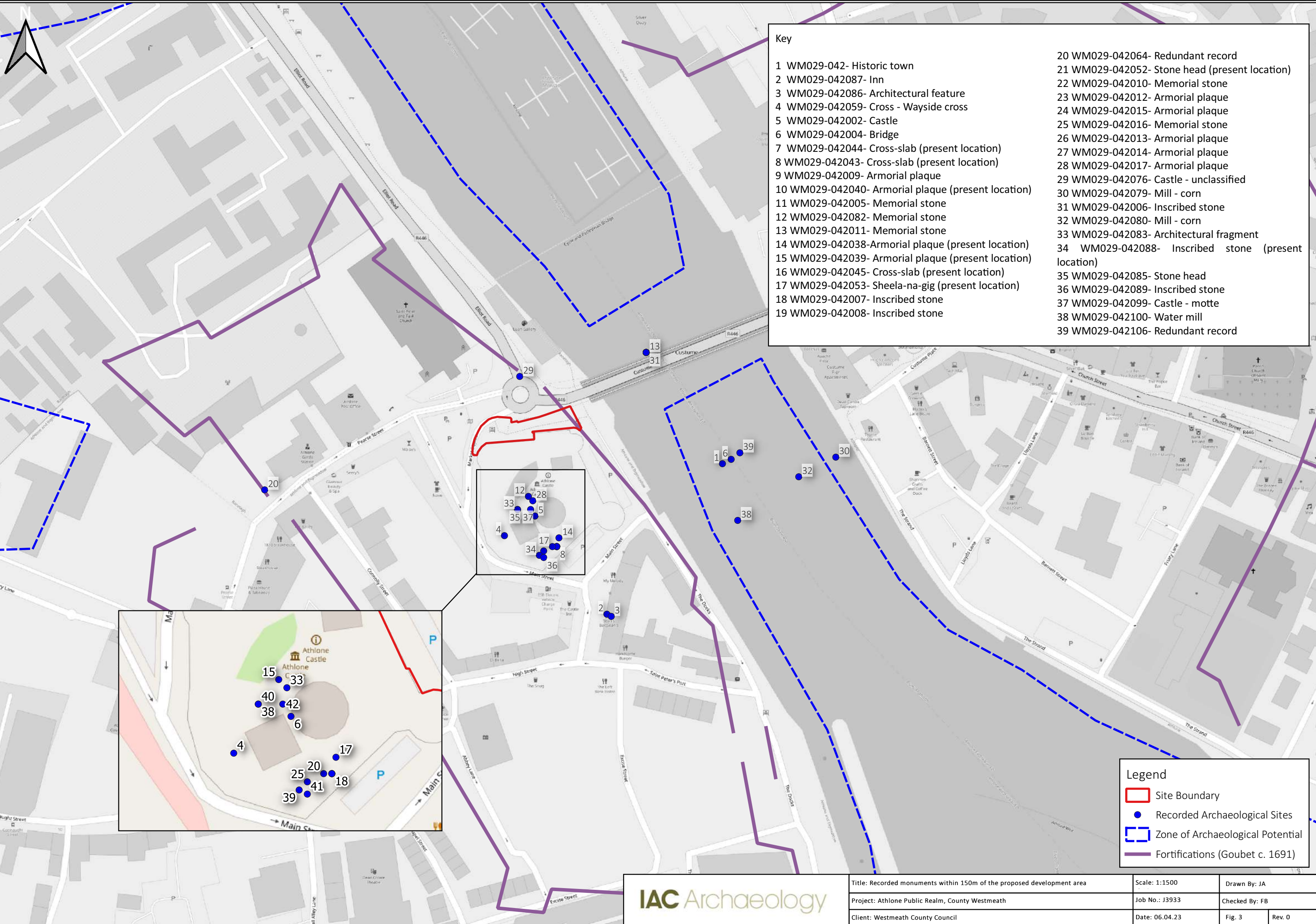
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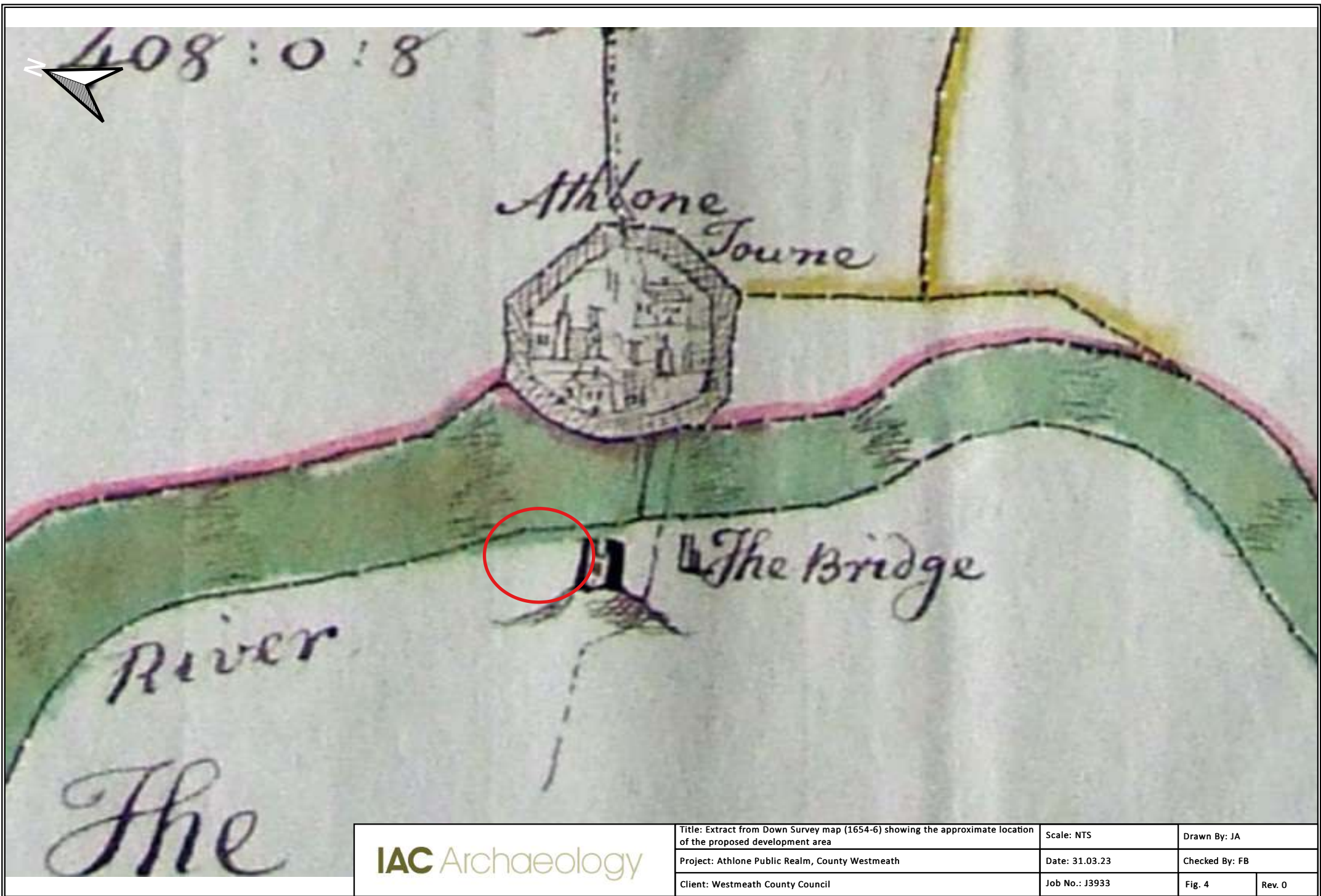
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Client:	Westmeath County Council		
Drawing Title:	Proposed Site Layout Plan Sheet 2	Rev. No.:	-
Drawing No.:	2113_UA_A_PP_0005	Drawn By:	CH
Date:	30/03/2023	Checked By:	AG
Status:	+	Purpose of Issue:	PART VIII PLANNING
			20-21 WILLIAM STREET SOUTH, DUBLIN D07 W647

1 Proposed Site Layout Plan Sheet 2
1:100 @ A1

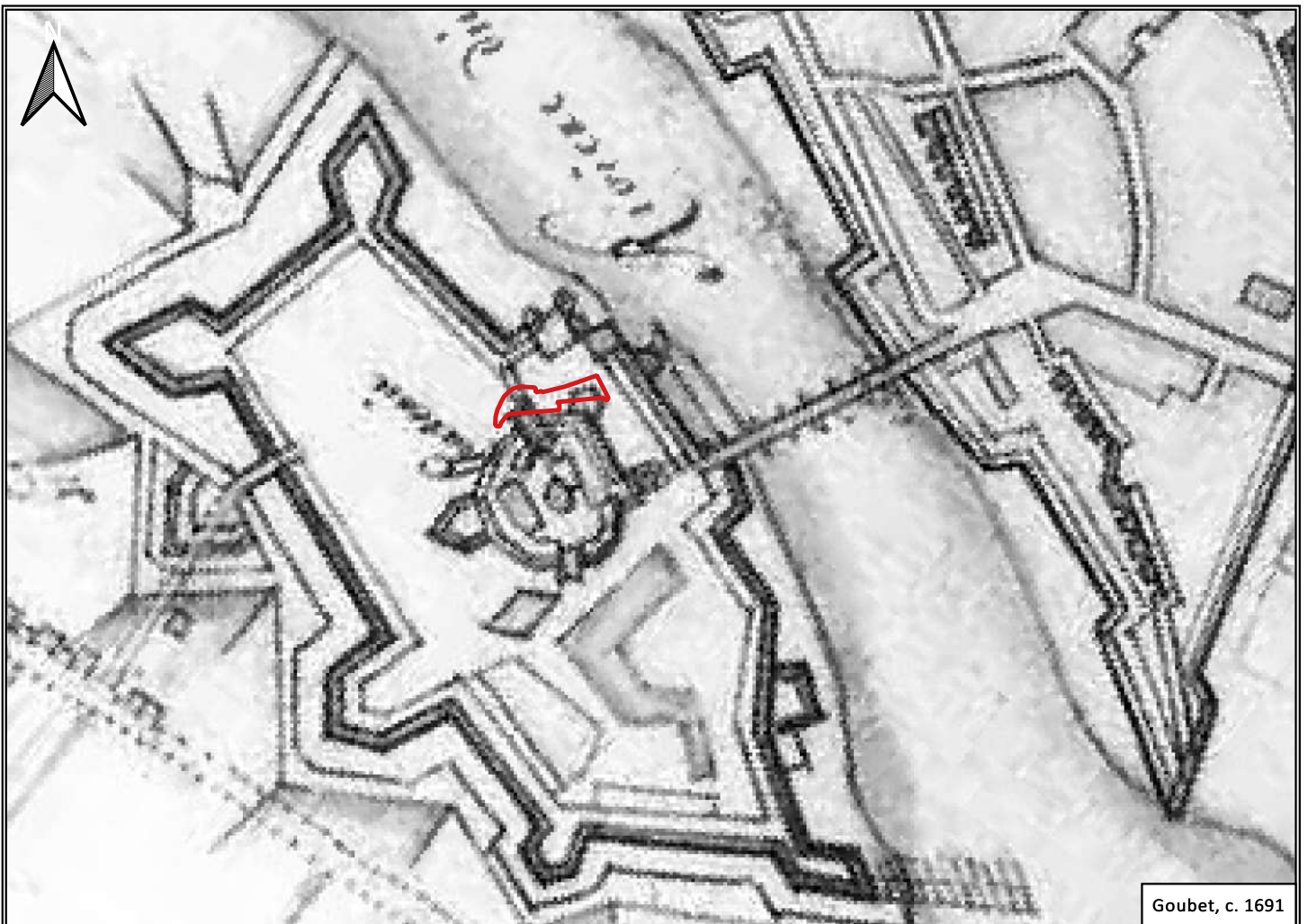
IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan of proposed development	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	JA
Project	Athlone Public Realm, County Westmeath	Date	31.03.23	Checked By	MT
Client	Westmeath County Council	Job No.	J3933	Approved By	FB
		Fig.	2	Rev.	-

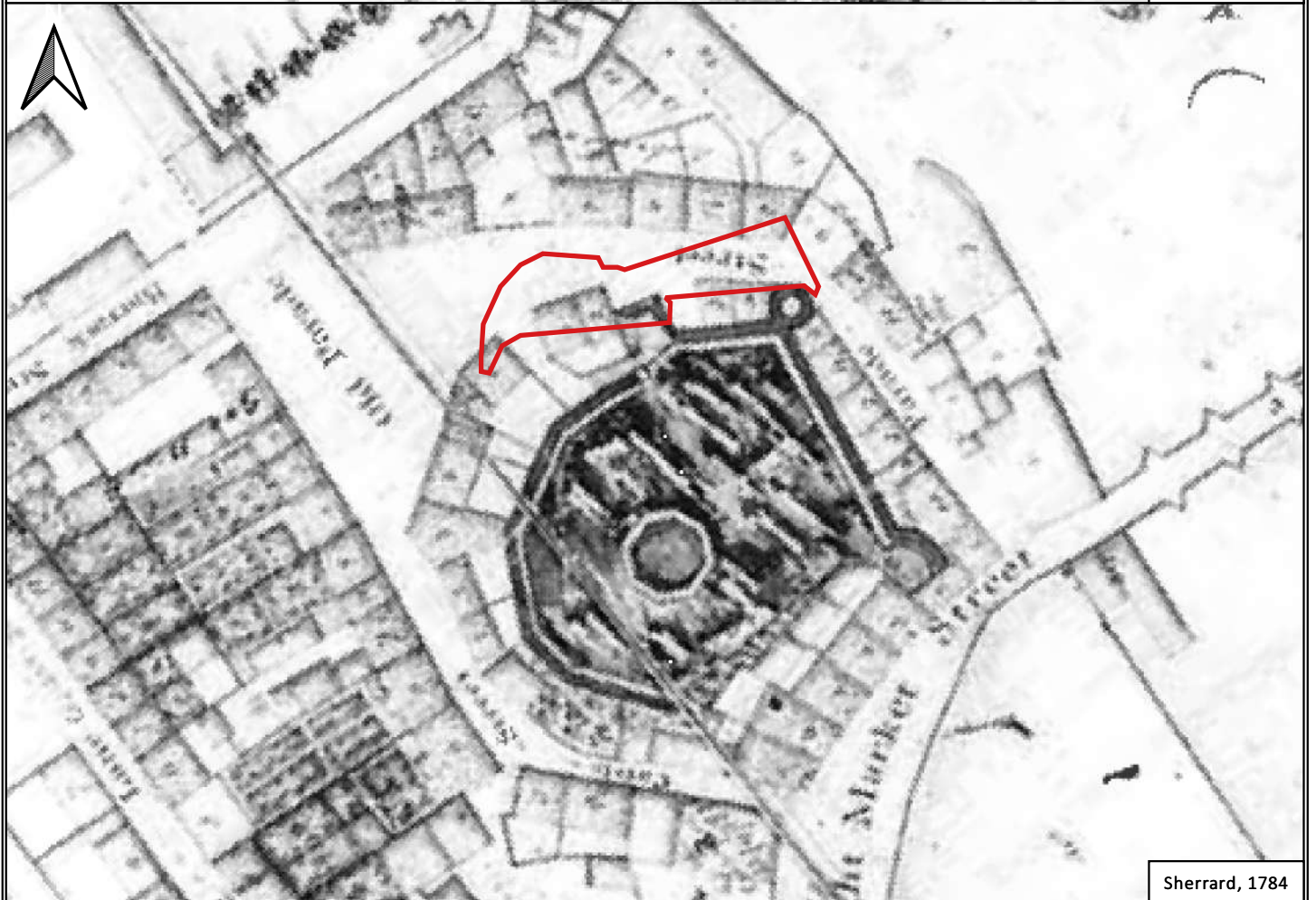




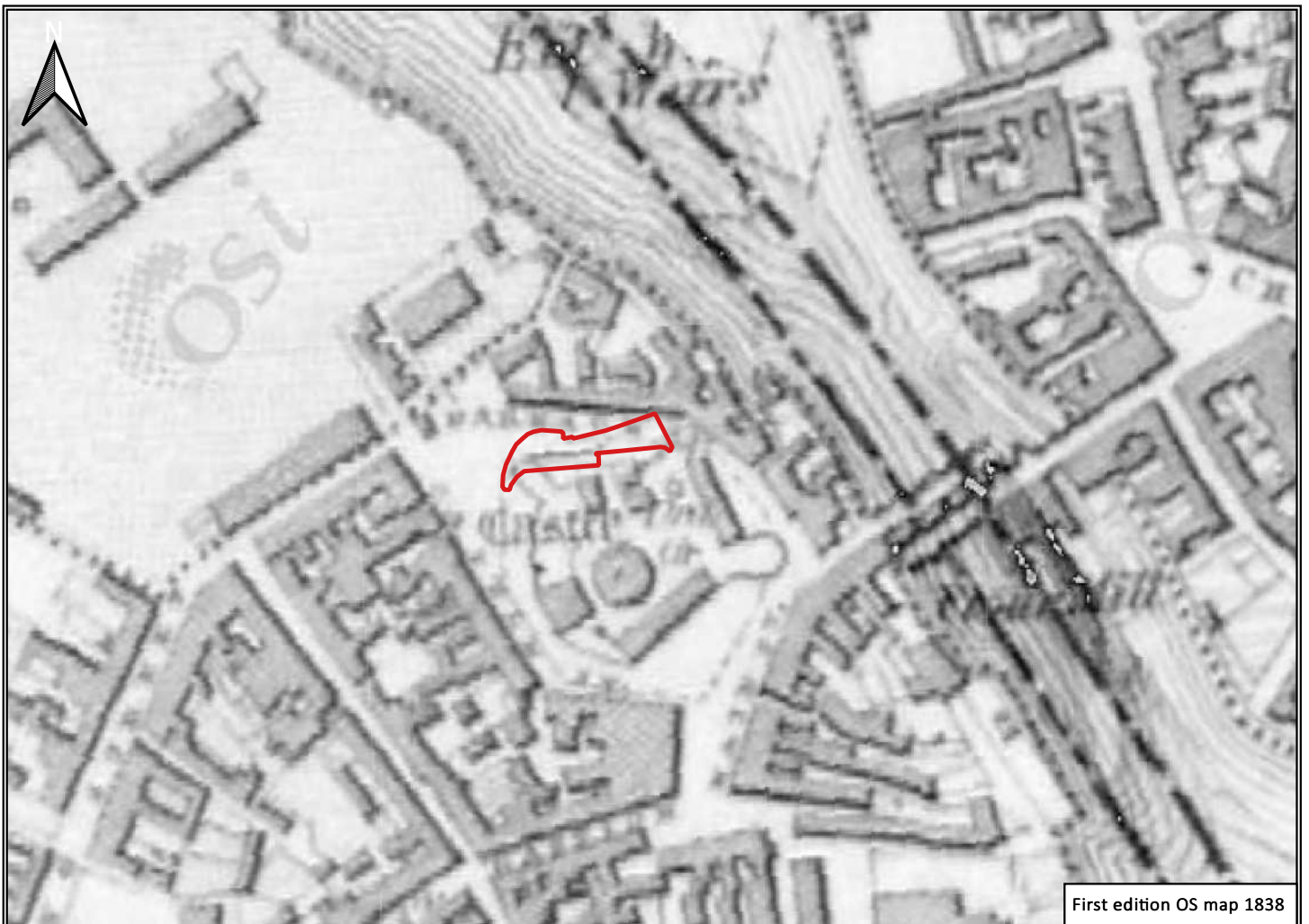
IAC Archaeology	Title: Extract from Down Survey map (1654-6) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA
	Project: Athlone Public Realm, County Westmeath		Date: 31.03.23	Checked By: FB
	Client: Westmeath County Council		Job No.: J3933	Fig. 4 Rev. 0



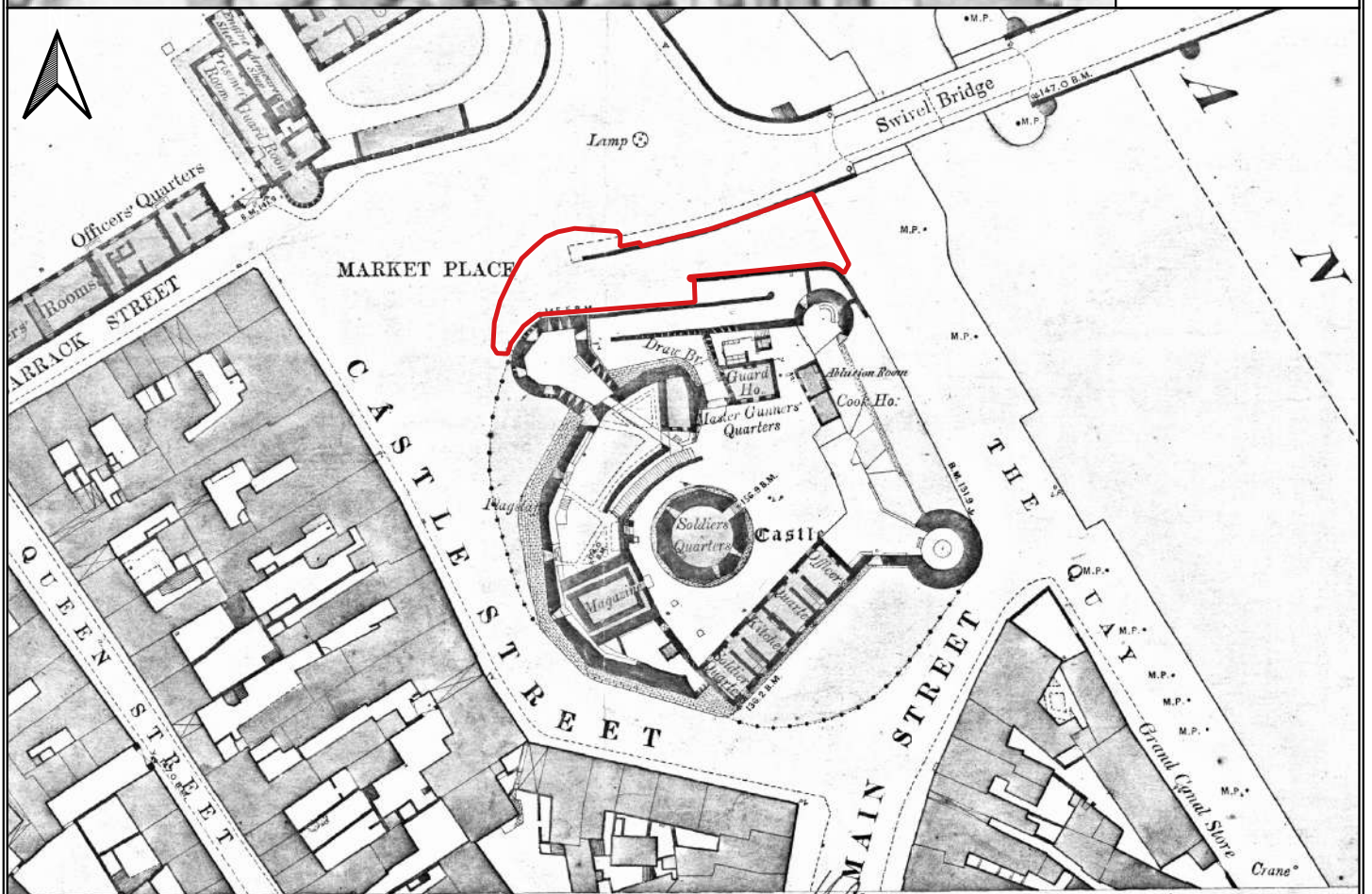
Goubet, c. 1691



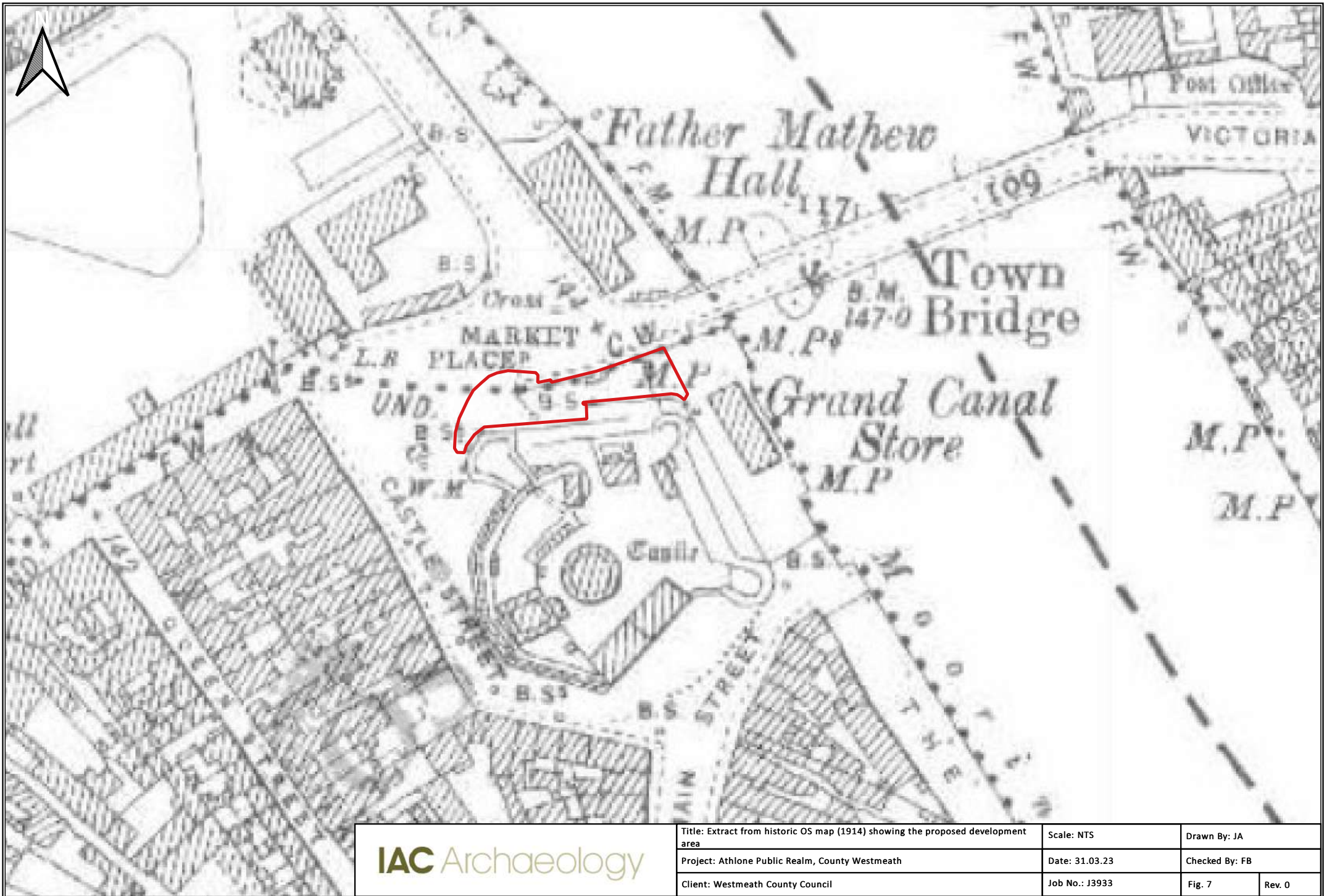
Sherrard, 1784



First edition OS map 1838



OS map 1874



	Title: Extract from historic OS map (1914) showing the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Athlone Public Realm, County Westmeath		Date: 31.03.23	Checked By: FB	
	Client: Westmeath County Council		Job No.: J3933	Fig. 7	Rev. 0