

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Development of a new Kinnegad Community Library and Education and Training Centre,
Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath



Farrimond MacManus Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGY • SURVEY • GIS

Archaeological Impact Assessment
for proposed Kinnegad Community
Library, Education and Training
Centre

at

Main Street, Kinnegad,
Co Westmeath

commissioned by

CAKM Architects

on behalf of

Westmeath County Council

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*Archaeological Impact Assessment
for proposed Kinnegad Community Library and
Education and Training Centre
Main Street, Kinnegad, Co Westmeath¹*

Summary

The following cultural heritage impact assessment was carried out by FarrimondMacManus Ltd having been commissioned by Keys and Monaghan Architects on behalf of Westmeath County Council in relation to proposed urban regeneration development at the site of Kinnegad Community Library, Education and Training Centre, Main Street, Kinnegad, Co Westmeath. A desk-based study has confirmed that the proposed development site is located within a wider archaeological landscape, with several known archaeological sites, recorded structures and Industrial Heritage sites recorded within a 2km radius of the development. The majority of archaeological sites noted within the study area have been located as a result of construction of the nearby M4 Motorway Scheme, while there are few references to archaeological activity being uncovered within Kinnegad. The proposed development site itself is being considered as being of low archaeological potential and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological works are required.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological Impact Assessment was prepared during August 2020 by FarrimondMacManus Ltd, having been commissioned by CAKM ArchitectsCA on behalf of Westmeath County Council in relation to an urban regeneration project centred on the Kinnegad Community Library, Education and Training Centre, Main Street, Kinnegad, Co Westmeath

2. Legal and Statutory Policies Relating to the Protection of Cultural Heritage

- 2.1 The legal framework which provides for the protection of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource in Ireland consists of various national and international laws and policies. The National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 is central to this framework and provides for the protection of a number of categories of monuments;

- National monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or national monuments which are subject to a preservation order.
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments.
- Monuments or places recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places

- 2.2 The provisions of the National Monuments Acts were supplemented by the 1992 “European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage” (commonly known as the ‘Valletta Convention’) which was ratified by Ireland in 1997. The aim of the Convention is to ‘protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study’ (Article 1). The Convention provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage. The obligations on the State under the Convention include, but are not limited to:

- Providing for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas.
- the authorisation and supervision of excavations and other archaeological activities;
- providing measures for the physical protection of the archaeological heritage, including (as necessary) acquisition or protection by other means by public authorities of areas intended to constitute archaeological reserves, conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage (preferably in-situ), and the provision of appropriate storage places for archaeological remains removed from their original locations.
- providing for consultation between archaeologists and planners in relation to the drawing up of development plans and development schemes so as to ensure that full consideration is given to archaeological requirements;

- 2.3 The National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht keeps a record of all known monuments and sites (the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)). The term ‘monument’ was redefined by the National Monuments (Amendment) Act of 1987 as:

“any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections, any cave, stone or other natural product... that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon... any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or ritual, industrial or habitation site, any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection...”

but excluding

“any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes.”

- 2.4 Section 1 of the 1987 Act provides that the term “historic monument” “includes a prehistoric monument and any monument associated with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, religious

or social history of the place where it is situated or of the country and also includes all monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. or such later date as the Minister may appoint by regulations”.

- 2.5 Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations, a planning authority must refer all planning applications, which might affect or be unduly close to any archaeological site, monument, or feature, to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- 2.6 When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a Recorded Monument, they are required under Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Act to give notice in writing to the Minister 2 months before commencing that work. This time will allow the National Monuments Service to advise on how the work may proceed in tandem with the protection of the monuments in question.
- 2.7 While the owner or occupier or any persons proposing to carry out work at or in relation to a recorded monument is required under the National Monuments Act to give notice in writing to the Minister, it is the practice of DOEHLG to accept referrals from planning authorities as fulfilling the notification requirements.
- 2.8 The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes objectives for the protection of the archaeological heritage. Development plans may include such objectives and conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

2.9 *Architectural and Built Heritage*

- 2.9.1 The protection of the architectural and built heritage resource in Ireland is provided for in the Heritage Act 1995, the National Monuments (Misc. Provisions) Act 1999 and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000. Under the terms of the various elements of legislation a "Record of Protected Structures" (RPS) was compiled and produced within the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 - 2020.

3. **Methodology**

- 3.1 The following archaeological impact assessment is based upon an extensive desk-based assessment carried out on information held by the National Monuments Service as the Archaeological Survey Database along with relevant historical documentary research. Available historical mapping was consulted and all sites and monuments, and listed buildings within the vicinity of the proposed development area (PDA) were noted.

4. **Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Impact Assessment can be viewed in the context of reference to the relevant National Monuments legislation in conjunction with County Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018 – 2023 and Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 with specific reference to the following Planning Policies and Objectives;
 - Archaeological Heritage Policies P-AH1 – 5 and Objectives O-AH1 – 10
 - Industrial Heritage Policies P-IH1 and Objective O-IH1
 - Built Heritage Policies P-BH1 – 8 and Objectives O-BH1 – 4
- 4.2 In the first instance the desk-based study and field visit aims to identify any recorded archaeological remains which may exist within the boundaries of the proposed scheme, while the desk-based assessment is also aimed at analysing the wider archaeological landscape in order to assess the likely

potential for any previously unrecorded archaeological remains existing within the boundaries of the proposed development area (PDA). The second aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment is to develop a series of proposed mitigation measures in order to allow for the preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of any potential archaeological remains which may survive in line with relevant heritage planning guidelines.

5. Site Location

- 5.1 The proposed development scheme of Kinnegad Community Library, Education and Training Centre will occupy a site at Main Street, Kinnegad, Co Westmeath, specifically The Old School House and The Master's House which stands on the adjacent site. The combined site area is 0.27Ha (Figures 1 & 2).

6. Proposed Development

- 6.1 The proposed development is part of the Kinnegad Regeneration Programme which aims to address the deficient social infrastructure and encourage economic growth in the town by developing Kinnegad Community Library and an Education and Training centre at a shared space to facilitate the provision of other public and community services.

7. Geological and Topographic Setting

- 7.1 The proposed development is situated within an urban landscape on relatively low-lying land situated on the border with County Meath. The oldest rocks in Westmeath are marine sandstones of Ordovician age, about 485 million years ago, found around the summit of Sion Hill with younger rocks of Devonian age, around 400 million years ago, found under the lower slopes of Sion Hill and further west in low hills between Ballinahown and just north of Moate. These sandstones and conglomerates, with some volcanic ash layers, were deposited on a low flood plain².

7.2 Solid & Drift Geology

- 7.2.1 Geological mapping and soil mapping for Co Westmeath show that the area is composed almost entirely of carboniferous limestone. The lower limestone series is generally pure but the middle and upper series contain a proportion of shale. The county is covered by deep deposits of glacial drift and rock exposures are rare. The bedrock is overlain by a drift mantle laid down by the most recent of several ice sheets which covered the county.

8. The Archaeology of the Wider Area

- 8.1 The following background is a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the general area of the development, which is designed to put the results of the investigations into their archaeological and historical context.

8.2 Mesolithic (7,500 – 4,500 BC)

- 8.2.1 The earliest evidence of human activity in Ireland comes from the Mesolithic Period, for which evidence begins around 7,500 BC. The people were hunters and gatherers, living by catching wild animals, birds and fish and collecting wild fruit, nuts, and shellfish. They exploited local outcrops of flint and chert to manufacture characteristic microliths (to form composite implements), Larnian blades and

² Mehan et al, (2019) The Geological Heritage of County Westmeath: An audit of County Geological Sites in County Westmeath



Figure 1: Location of Proposed Development: General Site Location

butt-trimmed (Bann flake) tools. Mesolithic encampment sites are known around the lake shores of Co Cavan.

8.3 *Neolithic (4,500 – 2,500 BC)*

8.3.1 The Neolithic Period began around 4,500 BC with the arrival of farming. The introduction of a settled agricultural regime allowed some industrial specialisation (flint mining, polished stone axe production), the establishment of long-lasting settlements and the erection of megalithic tombs. Pottery was produced for the first time and exploitation of the flint resource continued for the manufacture of tools. Substantial houses and settlements were constructed and, with many such sites have been discovered in the last 10 years. Megalithic tombs, built of large stones are some of the most prominent funerary sites in the landscape, many of which were used as burial monuments to inter the remains of the dead.

8.4 *Bronze Age (2,500 – 500BC)*

8.4.1 The beginning of the Bronze Age, around 2,500 BC, was marked by the appearance of new types of pottery (Beakers, Food Vessels and Urns) and by the introduction of metallurgy (working with gold and bronze). Although wedge tombs date from this period, new burial practices in the form of single inhumations and cremations (often in cists and pits) and earthen barrows largely replaced the megalithic tomb tradition. Stone circles are probably the best-known monuments of the Bronze Age. Standing stones are sometimes assigned a Bronze Age date and may mark burials of the period. Settlement sites of the Bronze Age are being revealed at a dramatic rate in recent years; the houses are generally circular and leave no visible traces on the surface. Many artificial islands, or crannogs, also date to this period; composed of brushwood, timbers, and stone, they are found in small lakes and areas of drained and reclaimed land. The most numerous monuments of the period, however, are fulachta fiadh, or burnt mounds, composed of charcoal, ash, and fire-cracked stones; thought to be cooking places, they often have hearths, troughs and wood-lined pits associated with them. The majority of these sites have no upstanding remains and are usually revealed at the topsoil-stripping stage of archaeological investigations.

8.5 *Iron Age (500BC – AD500)*

8.5.1 Evidence of human activity and settlement in the Iron Age is surprisingly sparse, though more sites are gradually being discovered as part of development led archaeological works. Important Iron Age sites include the Black Pigs Dyke a considerable earthwork which stretches through Counties Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Cavan, Fermanagh and Down. As the name indicates, it was during this period that the manufacture and use of iron and steel tools, weapons and other artefacts first took place, though the tradition of pottery production apparently disappeared.

8.6 *Early Christian / Early Medieval (550AD – 1177AD)*

8.6.1 The term 'Early Christian' is used to refer to the period from about 500 to the Anglo- Norman invasion of east Ireland in 1169, though it is being increasingly referred to as the Early Medieval period. Monuments from this period are the most numerous in the landscape, with tens of thousands in the whole of Ireland. These include defended settlements including raths, cashels, crannogs, unenclosed settlements, ecclesiastical sites and souterrains. The most plentiful of these are raths, which were farmsteads enclosed by banks and ditches. Many of the destroyed sites listed as enclosures in the SMR are probably the remains of raths disturbed by agricultural improvement schemes. Raths are generally circular or oval but vary in size and in the number of enclosing banks and ditches. Cashels

are enclosures in rocky upland areas, of similar date and function as raths but with stone-built walls instead of banks and ditches.

- 8.6.2 Associated with such sites are souterrains, underground structures most commonly made by digging open trenches, lining them with boulders to form dry-stone walls, and then roofing them with large stone lintels before covering with soil. Due to the removal of associated upstanding remains, many souterrains are found with no obvious accompanying settlement; these are difficult to anticipate prior to their exposure.
- 8.6.3 As is clear from the name, this period saw the introduction of Christianity, and subsequently literacy into Ireland and, therefore, the start of the historic period. There are several hundred ecclesiastical sites of the period within Ireland, varying greatly in size and state of preservation. Some are occupied by modern churches, some are still used for burial, some have been completely destroyed.

8.7 *Medieval* (1177AD – 1603AD)

- 8.7.1 The Medieval period in Ireland began with the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169-70, and while the main focus of Anglo-Norman incursions were in east Ulster where Antrim and Down were quickly subdued and settled, the south Ulster borderlands were very much an “in between” place. In the early 13th century, there was an attempt to colonise parts of Cavan and Leitrim although the sporadic campaigns petered. Although. Where settlement did occur, the Anglo-Normans introduced new types of structures, prominent among which were mottes (flat-topped earthen mounds), stone castles and further monastic foundations.

8.8 *Post Medieval* (1603AD – 1750AD)

- 8.8.1 The Post-Medieval period was dominated by the Plantation of Ulster. After the Flight of the Earls in 1607, large tracts of Counties Antrim, Down, Londonderry and Cavan were granted by the Crown to English and Scottish settlers in ‘Proportions’ of land of 1,000, 1,500 or 2,000 acres, on condition that the holders were able to build strong houses and enclosures. These in turn acted as the nucleus for the growth of towns.

9. **Historical Background**

- 9.1 The Irish place name for Kinnegad is Cionn Átha Gad, which has been translated as “the head of the Ford of withes.” The Ford referred to is the present River Kinnegad, which since 1543 has marked the boundary between Westmeath and Meath. This suggests that the settlement began life as a crossing point over the river. During the early medieval period, the area surrounding Kinnegad was under the control of the ruling Southern Ui Neill family. In 1559 Queen Elizabeth gifted the village to Luke Fitzgerald. The Civil Survey of 1655–59 recorded that in 1640, Sir Luke Fitzgerald held 8,560 acres in Farbill including Ticroghan and Kinnegad but most of his land passed to his son George after the war as George had fought for Cromwell. The Down Survey of Ireland (1656 – 1658) records the land around Kinnegad as comprising mainly of bog, with reference to a castle at “Kinigad” which is described as being in “good repaire” and which is quartered by a calvalry³.
- 9.2 By 1837, According to Samuel Lewis’ “A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland”⁴, Kinnegad was a post town and district parish containing 2,812 inhabitants with 670 living in the town which comprised of 115 houses with a market house in the centre. A patent exists that this time for 3 fairs and a market

³ <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Farbill&c=Westmeath>

⁴ <https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/K/Kinnegad-Farbill-Westmeath.php>

and there is a police station, dispensary and a church with associated glebe house and a glebe of 30 acres.

- 9.3 The settlement form of Kinnegad is largely dictated by the road network within the town in particular the former N4 Primary Road, now the R148 Regional route. This network comprises of six different routes converging on the town centre. In general, the road network acts as the boundaries for development in the town, particularly the present inner relief road, the R446 route, which was the former N6 Primary route to Rochfortbridge.

10. Desk Based Study

10.1 Sites and Monuments Record

- 10.1.1 The desktop study also shows that the proposed development is situated within an established archaeological landscape, with 13 archaeological sites and monuments (SMR) recorded within a 2km study area (Figure 4; Table 1) surrounding the proposed development area (PDA). There are a number of archaeological sites in the surrounding area, predominately to the south of the town. The motorway works to the south of Kinnegad have undoubtedly intensified archaeological surveys in this vicinity.

SMR No.	Site Type	General Period	Townland
WM028-003----	Bridge	Modern	Kinnegad
WM027-069----	Ringfort - rath	Early Medieval	Kinnegad
WM027-070----	Ringfort - rath	Early Medieval	Kinnegad
ME046-004----	Ringfort - rath	Early Medieval	Rossan
ME046-019----	Bridge	Modern	Rossan
ME046-021----	Prehistoric Occupation	Prehistoric	Rossan
ME046-022----	Prehistoric Occupation	Prehistoric	Rossan
ME046-023----	Metalworking site	Medieval	Rossan
ME046-024----	Metalworking site	Prehistoric	Rossan
ME046-025----	Charcoal-making site	Medieval	Hardwood
ME046-026----	Metalworking site	Early Medieval	Hardwood
ME046-082----	Structure - peatland	Prehistoric	Rossan
ME046-085----	Burial	Prehistoric	Moydrum, Bogstown

Table 1: List of recorded SMR sites within a 2km radius of the proposed development

- 10.1.2 Past occupation within the study area is known from the prehistoric times through to the medieval and modern periods. Prehistoric occupation is represented by the site of a Prehistoric Burial (ME046-085----) was uncovered in Rossan Bog approximately 2km from the PDA during 2014 with an arm bone discovered in a pile of milled peat in March (NMI Reg. No. 2014:74) and the lower leg and foot bones of an adult were found at the same location in September (NMI Reg. No. 2014:262).
- 10.1.3 A Prehistoric structure (ME046-082----) was uncovered in peatland located 1.75km southeast of the PDA. It consisted of a cluster of archaeological deposits exposed on the field surface and in the drain face for over 14m from north to south and up to 0.5m below the field surface. While it was not possible to distinguish individual structures within, the cluster was recorded at three individual locations providing an indication of the sort of deposits exposed at the time of the survey. These contained horizontal brushwood and roundwoods up to 0.15m in diameter occurring singly or in groups. Several



Figure 4: Location of National Monuments within 2km of the proposed development area

stakes were also noted on the field surface. A mix of wood species is evident, and all deposits are located within raised bog peats. Toolmarks were present on several worked ends throughout the cluster with stone tool marks identified on wood from at least one location⁵. A sample was used for dating and the site was dated cal. 2618-2570 BC⁶.

- 10.1.4 Two prehistoric occupation sites were also uncovered within the study area. The first (ME046-021-) is situated 1.25km south east of the PDA with two rectangular troughs (1.98m x 1.24m x 0.17m; 1.95m x 1.52m x 0.25m) placed c. 5m apart. Both had primary deposits of sandy clays with some charcoal inclusions and 7 stake-holes in the floor of the first and a stake-hole in each corner of the second. In the same area there were 8 pits, measuring between 0.3m – 1.8m x 0.06m - 0.24m, some with a charcoal content, two pieces of worked flint and a worked piece of chert were recovered from them. These features were covered by charcoal-rich deposits, although the broken and burnt stones material of a fulacht fia was entirely absent and the deposits were cut by later cultivation furrows. Charcoal samples from the troughs produced C14 dates of Cal BC 1290-1283 and Cal BC 1100-790⁷. The second prehistoric occupations site (ME046-022----) is situated 1.14km south east of the PDA. Three pits were recorded with charcoal or burnt clay in their deposits with one rectangular pit measuring 1m x 0.6m x 0.15m producing a radiocarbon date of Cal AD 1030-1280, while a circular pit measuring 0.7m x 0.2m had sherds of prehistoric pottery decorated with incised lines and finger-nail impressions. A charcoal sample from the pit with the pottery produced a radiocarbon date of Cal BC 1760-1440. A third oval pit measuring 0.4m x 0.27m x 0.1m was cut into the circular pit and some linear features, measuring 0.2 - 0.6m long, were filled with metal slag⁸.
- 10.1.5 Three metal working sites have been uncovered within the study area ranging in date from the prehistoric period to the medieval period. The earliest metalworking site (ME046-024----) is located approximately 1km from the PDA situated on an N-facing slope. The site consists of 17 pits, three of which had oxidized bases, containing charcoal and large slag inclusions. They are believed to be a bowl furnace with a radiocarbon date of Cal. BC 370-350 and two bloom-smithing hearths, the larger of which may have originated as a charcoal production pit and has a C14 date of Cal BC 820-780⁹. A second metal working site (ME046-026----) appears to have been in use from the prehistoric through to the medieval period and is located 1.25km south east of the PDA. The site comprises of four bowl hearths and three other related pits, although all of the features were truncated by ploughing¹⁰. The third metal working site (ME046-023----) is situated on an N-facing slope 0.75km southwest of the PDA and includes two hearths, a posthole and a charcoal filled pit¹¹.
- 10.1.6 A charcoal-making site (ME046-025----) dating to the medieval period was uncovered 1.9km south east of the PDA and consists of five pits containing large proportions of charcoal and the surrounding clay was oxidized leading to their interpretation as charcoal-making pits and hearths¹².

⁵ Bermingham, N. (2014) Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Peatland Survey 2013: Kinnegad (Rossan), Co. Meath. Unpublished report commissioned by the National Monuments Service.

⁶ Whitaker, J. (2017) Final Excavation Report, Kinnegad Bog, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared by IAC Ltd submitted to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.

⁷ Corcoran, E. 2004 Rossan 1 in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2

⁸ Murphy, D. 2003 Rossan 3 in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2.

⁹ Murphy, D. 2004 Rossan 6 in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2.

¹⁰ Murphy, D. 2004 Hardwood 3. in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2.

¹¹ Murphy, D. 2003 Rossan 4 in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2.

¹² Murphy, D. 2004 Hardwood 2. in Carlin, N., Clarke, L., and Fintan Walsh (eds) 2008 The Archaeology of Life and Death in the Boyne Floodplain: the linear landscape of the M4, Kinnegad – Enfield - Kilcock motorway. NRA Scheme Monographs 2, vol. 2.

- 10.1.7 There are three raths located within the study area dating to the medieval period. The first rath (WM027-069----) is located on a slight S facing slope 1.6km south west of the PDA. The rath is poorly preserved measuring 40m N-S x 33.2m E-W and is defined by low scarp which is preserved as a curving field boundary along the southern edge and the only remains of an external fosse only visible at this point. There are no surface remains visible of this curving field bank or of the monument which is marked on the 1837 Edition OS 6-inch map that is intersected at N end by a road running E-W. The second oval shaped rath (WM027-070----) located on a low natural rise of ground 500m south west of the PDA is defined by a poorly preserved low earth and stone bank only visible from W-N and elsewhere reduced to a scarp with faint traces of a shallow external fosse only visible at S and NW. The third rath (ME046-004----) is a D-shaped embanked enclosure located on a S-facing slope overlooking Rossan Bog approximately 1km south of the PDA. The rath is depicted on the 1836 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described as a 'Fort'.
- 10.1.8 The bridge crossing the Kinnegad River, located 450m south east of the PDA, is recorded under WM028-003---- and ME046-019----. Three arches survive of a seven or nine arch 17th century road bridge which was replaced by the present concrete bridge in 1936. A bridge over the Kinnegad River at this location is depicted on the 1654 Down Survey map of Farbill barony where it is annotated as 'The Bridge of Kenegad'. In 1661 this medieval bridge was replaced by a new bridge and was mentioned in the House of Commons Journal under the entry for the 22nd of March where it states that 'the bridge of Kinnegad is much out of reparaire and that great damage and loss hath happened to travellers and cattle in their passing over same and have ordered that two letters be written from the Speaker of the House, one to the Judges of Assize for the Co. of Meath and another to the Justices of Peace for the Co. of Westmeath to take care that according to Law a substantial bridge can be made over the said river Kinnegad'¹³. The span of the surviving arches is 2.7m with a rise of 1.04m and a 105° degree arc segment. The piers are 3m thick with the wedge-shaped ring stone well bonded into the barrel. The joints are not truly radial, especially in the haunches, and the masonry in the cutwaters is coursed random rubble.
- 10.1.9 None of the aforementioned sites are located within the proposed development area.

10.2 Recorded Structures

- 10.2.1 There are 13 recorded structures within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage within the 2km study area (Figure 5; Table 2). The majority of the buildings listed within the study area were originally used as houses and some are still in use as residential dwellings. Two of the structures, the School Master's House (NIAH 15316003) and the school (NIAH 15316004), are located within the proposed development area and are included as part of the current development plans.
- 10.2.2 The School Master's House (NIAH 15316003) was built c.1893 on Main Street and is described as a charming and well-detailed former schoolmaster's house which retains its early form and character. The building retains many original features and is similarly detailed to the adjacent school (NIAH 15316004) and was probably built to designs by the same builder/architect, an A. Scott. The contrast between the roughcast rendered walls and the extensive red brick detailing creates a pleasant appearance. This building forms part of a good quality pair of related structures and is an important element of the architectural heritage of the local area.
- 10.2.3 The former national school (NIAH 15316004) constructed c.1893 which retains its original form and character. This building is probably the most attractive example of its type and date in Westmeath. This school was built to designs by A. Scott, architect, and the contractor was T. Reilly. The graded

¹³ O'Keeffe, P. & Simington, T. (1991) Irish stone bridges: History and heritage



Figure 5: Location of National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) sites within 2km of the proposed development area

Reg No.	Date	Address	Townland	Original Use	Current Use
15316001	1820 - 1860	Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	House
15316002	1750 - 1770	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	Graveyard	Open Green Space
15316003	1890 - 1900	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	School Master's House	House
15316004	1890 - 1900	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	School	Miscellaneous Building
15316005	1900 - 1910	Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	Church/Chapel	Church/Chapel
15316006	1900 - 1910	Kinnegad Parochial House, Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	Presbytery / Parochial / Curate's House	Presbytery / Parochial / Curate's House
15316007	1800 - 1820	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	House
15316008	1780 - 1820	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	House
15316009	1820 - 1840	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	Unknown
15316010	1880 - 1900	Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	House
15316011	1850 - 1880	J.C. Donnelly, Main Street, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	Public House
15316012	1840 - 1860	Bun Daire, Kinnegad	Kinnegad	House	Unknown
15316013	1660 - 1840	Kinnegad Bridge	Kinnegad	Bridge	Unknown

Table 2: List of buildings on NIAH register located within 2km of the proposed development

lancet windows to the advanced end bays give this building a distinctly ecclesiastic appearance. The contrast between the limestone masonry and the extensive red brick trim creates an interesting and pleasing appearance. This prominently sited building forms an important pair of related structures with the former schoolmaster's house (NIAH 15316003) to the north and makes a strong positive contribution to the Kinnegad streetscape. The former Church of Ireland graveyard (NIAH 15316002) located along Main Street which has been in use since c.1750. The graveyard contains a collection of cut stone grave markers, some with iron railings and some of artistic merit and important to the social history of the local community.

10.2.4 The Roman Catholic Church and its parochial house are listed on the NIAH. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (NIAH 15316005) was built c. 1900 – 1910. The church retains its early form, character and fabric and was built to designs by T. F. McNamara (1867-1947), a noteworthy architect of his day. The church is built in a subdued Gothic Revival-style and impresses principally with its scale and dominates the centre of Kinnegad. The substantial and well-detailed Roman Catholic parochial house (NIAH 15316006) was built c.1900 - 1910 which retains its early form and character. This parochial house is of a more elaborate form than is more commonly encountered in rural Ireland and may have been built to designs by T. F. McNamara (1867-1947), the architect responsible for the designs for Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (NIAH 15316005). The asymmetrical form of this building is enlivened by the good quality cut limestone trim, which helps to elevate this building above many of its contemporaries in Westmeath. The good quality cast-iron railings, gates, gate posts and the modest outbuildings complete the setting and add to the composition.

10.2.5 There are several houses listed on the NIAH which are located along Main Street, Kinnegad. The houses range in size and construction date. A semi-detached two storey house (NIAH 15316007) was

built c.1810 and was possibly used as a Royal Irish Constabulary barracks c.1830 to c.1922. This is a well-maintained dwelling retaining much of its original fabric with rendered surrounds, doorcase and the tripartite window opening with coloured glass panels are noteworthy features that help to elevate this building above its neighbours and many of its contemporaries. The iron security bars to the ground floor openings are a common feature of barrack buildings in Ireland and support the possibility that this is a former RIC barracks.

- 10.2.6 An unusually long vernacular house (NIAH 15316008) was built c.1780 - 1820 which retains some of its early character despite extensive alterations in recent years. The steeply pitched roof hints that this building was formerly thatched. The position of the window openings and the chimneystacks suggests that this building was extended along its length to either gable end (east and west), a common feature of Irish vernacular architecture.
- 10.2.7 An end of terrace two storey house (NIAH 15316009) was built c.1820 – 1840 which retains much of its early character and importance to the streetscape. The irregular spacing of the openings to the front façade is an unusual feature that lends this building a vernacular character. The prominently sited building makes a positive contribution to the streetscape and is an unassuming addition to the built heritage of Kinnegad.
- 10.2.8 A detached two storey house (NIAH 15316011) built c.1850 – 1880 is now used as a public house called J.C. Donnelly. This robust and well-detailed building retains its early character and form including timber sash windows and a heavy eaves cornice. This building is prominently sited on a corner marking the entrance into the town from the east side. This building is a landmark structure in the streetscape of Kinnegad and is a worthy addition to the built heritage of the local area.
- 10.2.9 A semi-detached single storey house (NIAH 15316010) built c.1880 – 1900 is characteristic of the great many labourers' cottages that were built throughout Ireland following the passing of various Labourers' Acts and Land Acts (c.1880-1921) by the British Parliament during the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Very few of these structures now survive intact today, making this an important survival of an early example of social housing. The importance of this building is enhanced by the retention of the early layout and of much of the early fabric to the interior.
- 10.2.10 A detached single storey vernacular house (NIAH 15316012) was built c.1850 at Bun Daire, Kinnegad and is a significant example of a lobby entry vernacular house, which retains its early form, character, and fabric despite being out of use. The corrugated metal roof suggests that this building was formerly thatched and the pronounced base batter to the south end is an interesting feature, suggesting that this building was constructed using field stone or maybe partially mud-walled to this end. This house type was once very common in the rural Irish countryside but is now becoming increasingly rare.
- 10.2.11 A detached two-storey extended vernacular house (NIAH 15316001) built c.1840 has retained its early character despite alterations over the years. The well-detailed and rather oversized porch to the south end of the front side is an interesting feature, which gives this building an unusual and somewhat unbalanced appearance. This porch is a later addition, probably added during the late 19th or early 20th century. The retention of the timber sliding sash windows to the side elevations of this porch is a notable feature. The position of the chimneystacks and the proportions of the window openings suggest that this building was extended on at least two occasions. The good quality traditional outbuildings to the rear add substantially to this composition and complete the setting.
- 10.2.12 The multi-arch road bridge over Kinnegad River (NIAH 15316013) is also recorded by the National Monuments Service as WM028-003---- and ME046-019---- is also listed on the NIAH. Three arches survive of a seven or nine arch 17th century road bridge which was replaced by the present concrete bridge in 1936. A bridge over the Kinnegad River at this location is depicted on the 1654 Down Survey

map of Farbill barony where it is annotated as 'The Bridge of Kenegad'. In 1661 this medieval bridge was replaced by a new bridge and was mentioned in the House of Commons Journal under the entry for the 22nd of March where it states that 'the bridge of Kinnegad is much out of reparaire and that great damage and loss hath happened to travellers and cattle in their passing over same and have ordered that two letters be written from the Speaker of the House, one to the Judges of Assize for the Co. of Meath and another to the Justices of Peace for the Co. of Westmeath to take care that according to Law a substantial bridge can be made over the said river Kinnegad'¹⁴. The span of the surviving arches is 2.7m with a rise of 1.04m and a 105° degree arc segment. The piers are 3m thick with the wedge-shaped ring stone well bonded into the barrel. The joints are not truly radial, especially in the haunches, and the masonry in the cutwaters is coursed random rubble.

10.3 Industrial Heritage Sites

10.3.1 The Industrial Heritage sites are listed in the Westmeath Industrial Heritage Survey¹⁵ which was carried out during 2019 under Action 2.1 of The Westmeath Heritage Plan to address gaps in existing datasets as few industrial heritage sites are recorded in National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Westmeath. The recording of Industrial Heritage sites was also an objective of the County Development Plan 2014-2020.

10.3.2 There are nine Industrial Heritage sites listed within the study area (Figure 6; Table 3) and the site types range from water pumps, a lime kiln, two quarries and two bridges. One of the bridges is Kinnegad Bridge which is also listed on the National Monuments Record and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

RefNo.	Name of site	Townland	Category
3123	Water Pump	Kinnegad	Utilities
3124	Water Pump	Kinnegad	Utilities
3125	Water Pump	Kinnegad	Utilities
3126	Water Pump	Kinnegad	Utilities
3127	Lime kiln	Kinnegad	Extractive
3128	Kinnegad Bridge	Kinnegad	Transport
3129	Bridge	Kinnegad	Transport
3130	Quarry (disused)	Kinnegad	Extractive
3131	Quarry	Kinnegad	Extractive

Table 3: List of Industrial Heritage Sites within 2km of the PDA

10.4 National Museum of Ireland Finds Database

10.4.1 The finds database from the National Museum of Ireland was consulted to establish whether any archaeological artefacts have been discovered within the PDA, giving further indication of the archaeological potential of the area.

10.4.2 Human remains were uncovered in Rossan Bog during 2014 with an arm bone discovered in a pile of milled peat in March (NMI reg. no. 2014:74) and the lower leg and foot bones of an adult were found at the same location in September (NMI reg. no. 2014:262). The remains of another body were discovered at Rossan Bog in 2012 (ME046-084----) that was radiocarbon dated to between 700 and 400 BC.

¹⁴ O'Keeffe, P. & Simington, T. (1991) Irish stone bridges: History and heritage

¹⁵ <http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/planning/conservationheritage/heritageresources/>

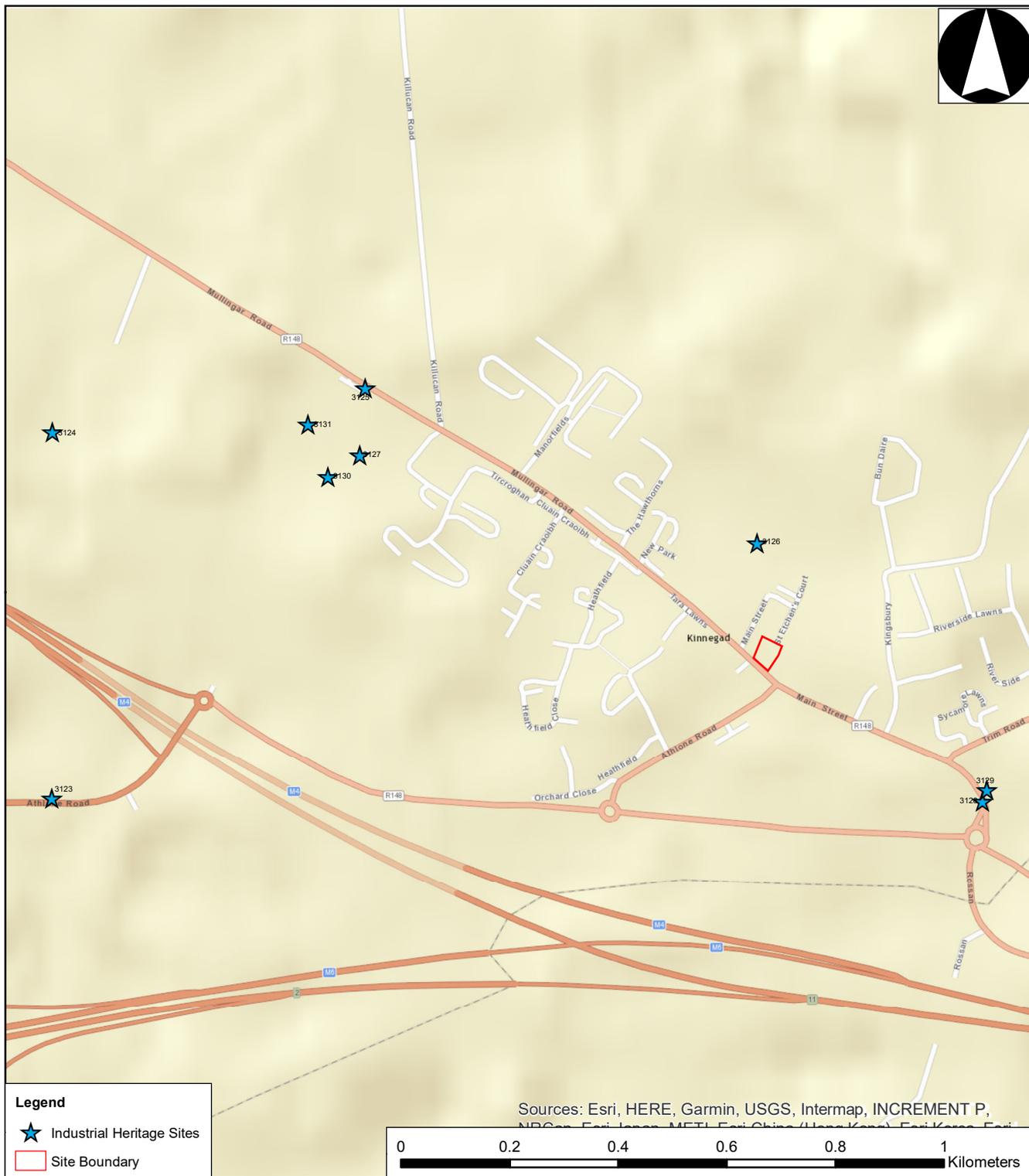


Figure 6: Location of Industrial Heritage sites within 2km of the proposed development area

10.5 Historic Maps

- 10.5.1 Both the 17th century Down Survey map (1656 – 58) and Taylor and Skinner’s 18th century Road Mop of Ireland (1777) were consulted. While both of these sources show the location of the town they are of insufficient detail and scale to depict the layout of the town during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 10.5.2 The earliest available maps date to the early 19th century onwards with the development of Ordnance Survey mapping. The 1st edition 6-inch OS map (1837), the 25-inch OS map (1910) and the 3rd edition 6-inch OS map (1914)¹⁶ were consulted to examine the development of the area within the PDA and its immediate surroundings (Figures 7-9).
- 10.5.3 Consultation of the 1st edition OS map (1837) shows an established town with residential houses and business lining the main street which runs NW-SE with a second road joining from the south west. The PDA is part of a row of houses with long narrow gardens stretching northeast. The proposed development area appears to consist of a terraced building fronting on the road with two small outbuildings to the rear.
- 10.5.4 The 25-inch OS map (1910) shows changes along the main street of Kinnegad with portions of the streetscape having been rebuilt or re-developed. The row of terraced buildings on the PDA have been demolished and replaced with a national school and a school master’s house built within a separate plot to the rear. The buildings on the three plots located between the Church and the PDA have been rebuilt and the rear garden size reduced. The size and shape of the buildings has changed from three large buildings to two sets of semi-detached buildings. A new Roman Catholic Chapel and Parochial House has been built just to the south of the Chapel depicted on the 1st edition map. A series of buildings depicted on the 1st edition OS map along the main road running to the south west have been demolished and not replaced.
- 10.5.5 Due to the brief time lapse between the 25–inch map from 1910 and the 3rd edition 6-inch OS map from 1914 there has been no change in the layout and size of the town.
- 10.5.6 No previously unknown or new potential archaeological sites or features were identified during inspection of the historic maps.

10.6 Griffiths Valuation Records

- 10.6.1 Valuation records¹⁷ were consulted as a means of confirming the historic development of the PDA. The town of Kinnegad is within plot number 63 which lists the occupiers of the 108 properties within the town. The valuation map of the town itself is slightly later than the larger scale 1st Edition OS map noted above and depicts a slightly different town layout (fig. 10). Many of the long-terraced buildings marked on the 1st Edition map have been replaced with semi-detached dwellings as is the case of those which occupied the proposed development site. At this time there is a semi-detached building on the site with an L-shaped rear garden plot and longer narrow field plots behind. The two buildings are numbered as no. 40 & 41 with the associated records indicating that no. 40 was leased by a Mary Taaffe from Christopher Hughes and consisted of a House, Yard and Garden to the value of £1 and 10 shillings. No 41 was owned by David Wheatley and consisted of an officer and garden to the value of £1 and 5 shillings. Interestingly this map also shows the footprint of the later school building on top of the building and plot layout suggesting that the school development was in planning stage at this time.

¹⁶ <https://heritagemaps.ie/>

¹⁷ <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>

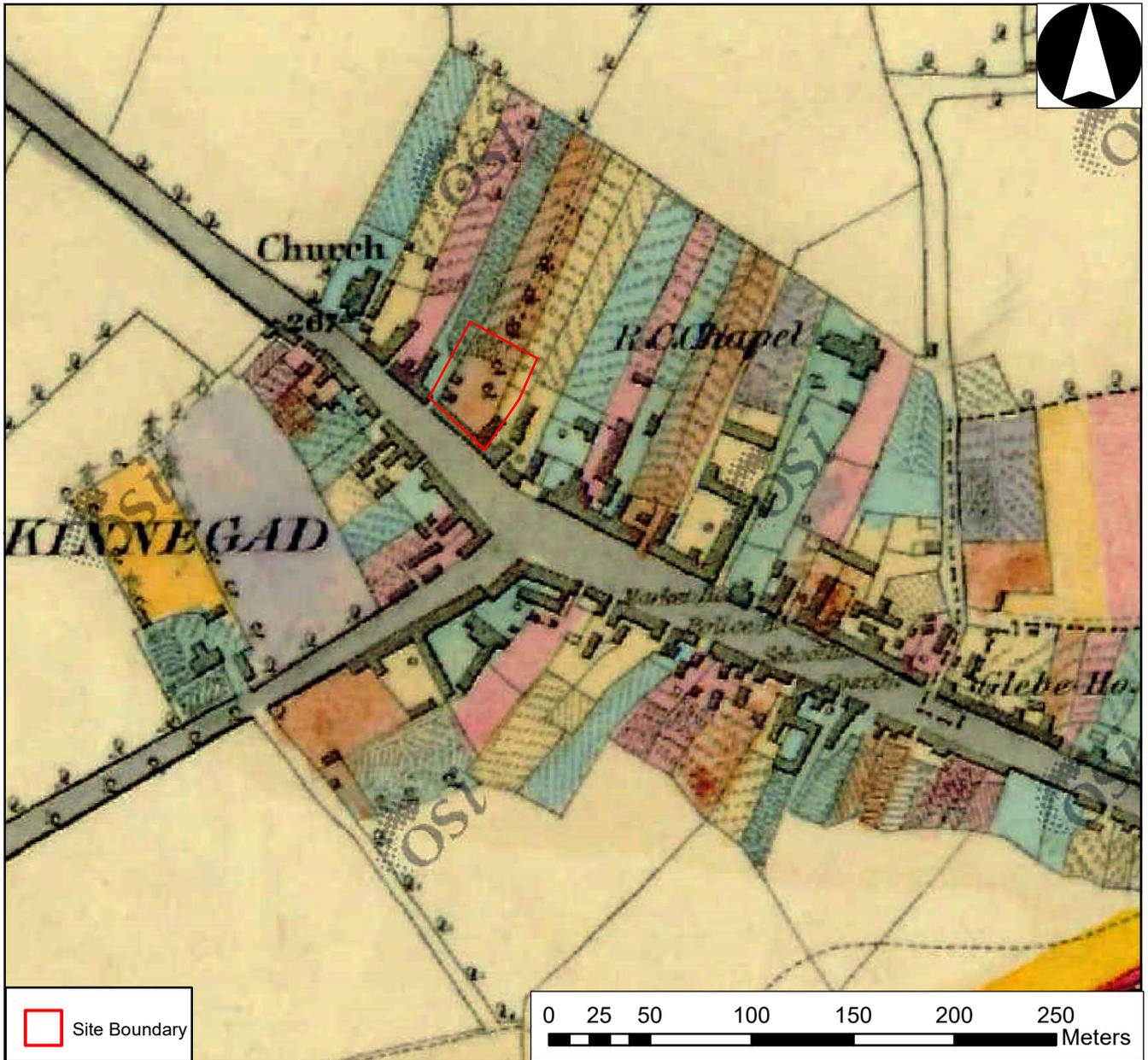


Figure 7: 6" Historic Map of Kinnegad c. 1837

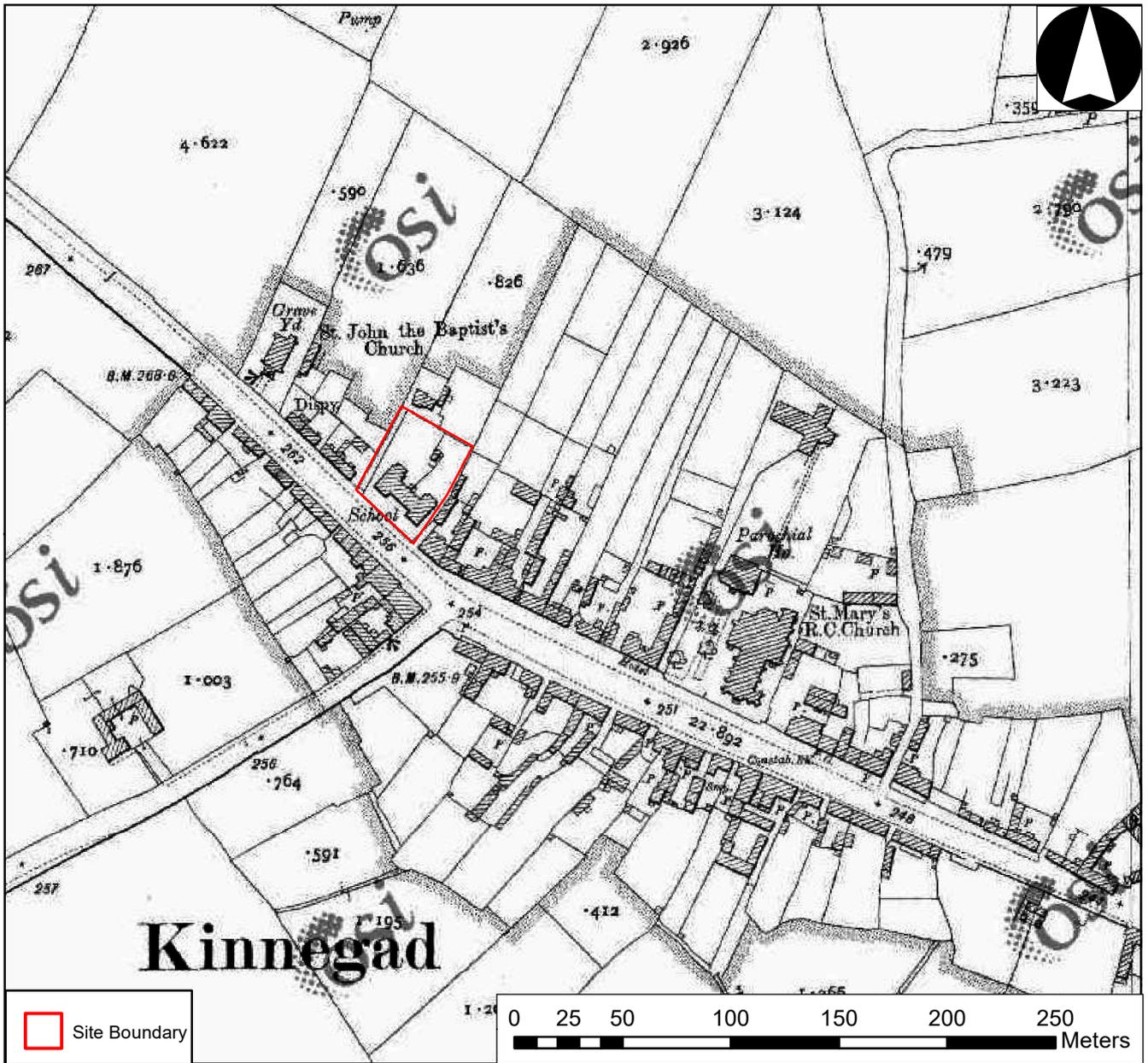


Figure 8: 25" Historic Map of Kinnegad c.1910

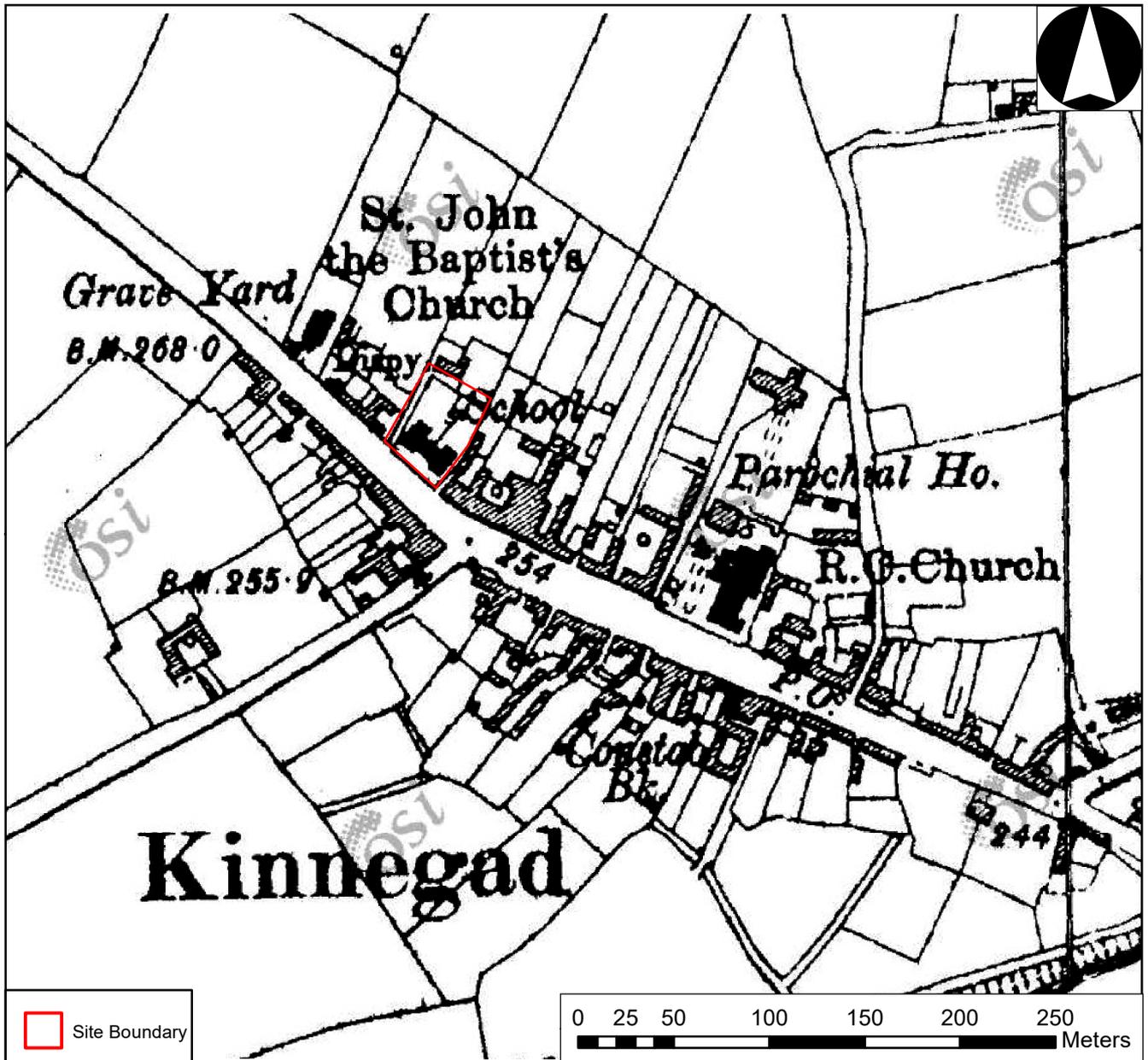


Figure 9: 6" Historic Map of Kinnegad c.1914

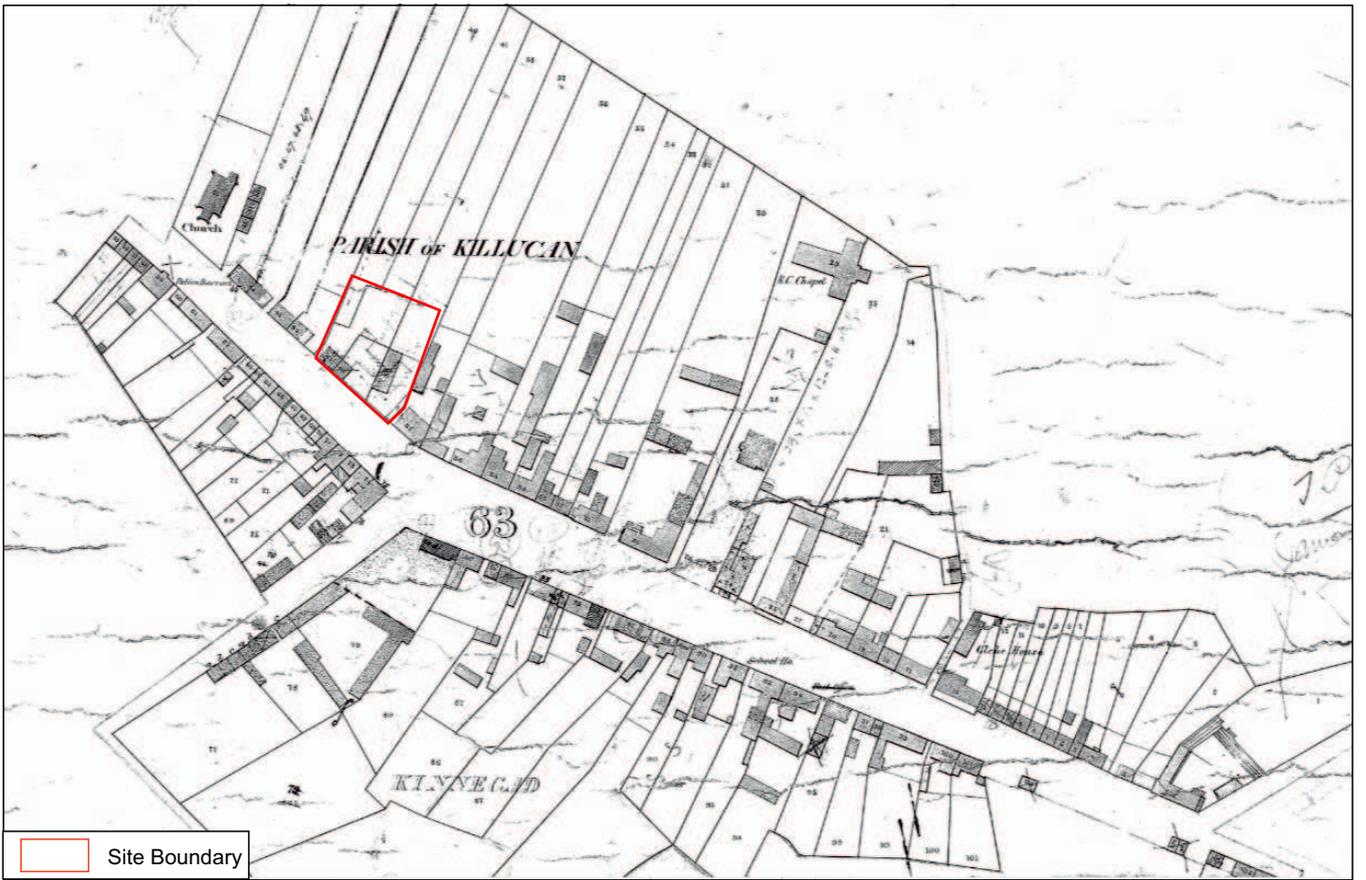


Figure 10: Kinnefad town plan c.1847 (Griffiths Valuation)

10.7 Aerial Photography

- 10.7.1 The aerial photograph of the site (Figure 11) shows the PDA to occupy a roughly rectangular block of land in the centre of Kinnegad. There has been further development and expansion of the town with modern housing estates constructed to the west and east of the PDA. The land surrounding the PDA on its northern extent has also been developed with the construction of modern houses. The site of St John the Baptist Church is now green space and many of the buildings along the main street have been redeveloped or replaced with modern buildings or car parking.
- 10.7.2 Inspection of the aerial photograph did not reveal any obvious potential archaeological features within the boundaries of the proposed development.

10.8 Place name evidence

- 10.8.1 Often the origin of town or townland names will indicate the historic topography of an area or its use in past times. As such a search of the meanings of place names can assist in the assessment of archaeological potential of an area. The following sources were consulted for place name evidence; <http://www.logainm.ie/>.
- 10.8.2 The Irish place name for Kinnegad is Cionn Átha Gad, which has been translated as “the head of the Ford of withes.” The Ford referred to is the present River Kinnegad, which since 1543 has marked the boundary between Westmeath and Meath. This suggests that the settlement began life as a crossing point over the river.

10.9 Previous Archaeological Excavations

- 10.9.1 The Database of Irish Archaeological Excavation Reports (www.excavations.ie) was consulted to identify previous archaeological investigations within the 2km study area surrounding the PDA (Table 4).

Licence No.	Site Name/Location	Reason for Archaeological Excavation	Results of Archaeological Excavation
94E0169	Kinnegad, Westmeath	Street improvements & re-surfacing work	Underbridge discovered during street improvement works
98E0481	Rossan, Meath	Kinnegad Link Road development	No archaeological remains
02E0107	Rossan 11, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	No archaeological remains
02E0114	Ardnamullan 1, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Charcoal burning kilns dating to the Iron Age/Early Medieval
02E0866	Rossan 1, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Prehistoric activity and 19 th century industrial site
02E0869	Aghamore	Bord Gáis Éireann Pipeline to the West project	Iron working site
02E0933	Kinnegad 5, Westmeath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	No archaeological remains
02E1064	Rossan 2, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	No archaeological significance
02E0165	Rossan 3, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Metalworking site, pit
02E1066	Rossan 4, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Prehistoric Hearths and Pits
02E1067	Rossan 5, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	No archaeological significance
02E1068	Rossan 6, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Metalworking site



Figure 10: Aerial Photograph of Kinnegad c.1914

Licence No.	Site Name/Location	Reason for Archaeological Excavation	Results of Archaeological Excavation
02E1139	Hardwood 1	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	No archaeological remains
02E1141	Hardwood 3, Meath	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Charcoal burning kilns and hearths dating to the Iron Age/Early Medieval
02E1144	Griffinstown 3	M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme	Early medieval industrial site
03E1122	Kinnegad 6, Westmeath	N4/N6 Kinnegad to Kilcock Motorway scheme	A small charcoal-filled feature
A001/001	Monganstown, Westmeath	Realignment of the N6 between Kinnegad & Kilbeggan, Westmeath	Metalworking site
06E0448	Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Westmeath	Excavation prior to and during development	A possible kiln, medieval burial ground, industrial pits
07E0665	Kinnegad, Westmeath	Excavation prior to development	A Ringfort
12E241	Kinnegad, Westmeath	Testing in advance of NRA Depot construction	No archaeological remains
18E0406	Kinnegad	Testing in advance of supermarket development	No archaeological remains
19E0425	Kinnegad (Bun Daire)	Testing in advance of residential development	Medieval enclosure ditch

Table 4: Details of previous archaeological investigations within the study area

10.9.2 Records indicate that 21 licence archaeological investigations have taken place within the area with the majority as a result of the M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway Scheme and resulting in a variety of sites which can be dated to the prehistoric and Early Medieval periods. Three sites archaeological excavations recorded from within the environs of Kinnegad town; Excavations were carried out in advance of a residential development at Boreen Bradach, 400m north of the proposed development. During pre-development test trenching and subsequent monitoring of topsoil stripping a medieval burial ground was uncovered along with a possible kiln and industrial pits. The remains of a buried underbridge structure were uncovered in 1994 during archaeological supervision of street improvement works and road resurfacing. The structure consisted of two vertical piers 0.7m high supporting a segmental arch 0.53m high. The pier walls were 0.25 – 0.3m thick and 2.24m apart. The total remaining length of the underbridge was 14m and the stream or drain for which it had originally been constructed was silted up to within 0.2m of the keystones. The structure was interpreted as being related to the early construction of Kinnegad town in the 18th century and was archaeologically recorded prior to removal. It is not clear from the archaeological report where exactly in the town this structure was located.

10.10 Current Site Conditions

10.10.1 At the front of the site is a detached six-bay single-storey national school with advanced gable-fronted bays to either end of the main façade (south) and to the rear elevation (north) creating H-shaped plan. The school building has a pitched natural slate roofs with overhanging eaves, decorative red clay ridge tiles, remaining sections of cast-iron rainwater goods, timber barge boards, timber finials to apexes of gable fronted sections and a pair of moulded red brick chimneystacks. A former chimneystack to the centre has been removed and the roof at this location infilled with artificial slate. The school building was constructed of squared coursed limestone with extensive red brick trim, including dressing to the openings, flush brick quoins to the corners and a continuous brick sill course. Paired shallow segmental-headed window openings to the main body of the building have timber sliding sash windows with horizontal glazing bars. Three graded lancet window openings to each advanced gable-fronted



Plate 1: Existing school building fronting on to Main Street



Plate 2: View across existing school building and car parking area to rear

section having timber sliding sash windows. There are segmental-headed doorcases with timber panelled doors to either rear return (north).

- 10.10.2 The school building is set back from the main road in its own grounds with a rubble limestone boundary wall and rubble limestone gate piers on the main road frontage which continues round to the rear of the school and around the school master's house located at the end of a narrow lane which runs south past the school building to Main Street. A modern pebble-dashed wall has been constructed along the boundary with the modern housing development along the north, west and east sides of the PDA.
- 10.10.3 There is a tarmacked area now used as a car park between the school building and the school master's house which is a detached three-bay two-storey building constructed c.1893, having an advanced gable-fronted bay to the east end of the main elevation which faces south towards the school building and Main Street. The pitched natural slate roofs have overhanging eaves and two red brick chimneystacks, one original and the other rebuilt. The roughcast rendered walls have extensive red brick trim including dressings to the openings, a projecting sill course at first floor level and flush quoins to the corners. The shallow segmental-headed window openings have timber sliding sash windows and the central shallow segmental-headed doorway has brick dressings and a timber panelled door with plain overlight.
- 10.10.4 The green area behind the school master's house is long and narrow and may originally have been a garden. The area is now overgrown with grass, trees, and some evergreen plants.

11 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

- 11.1 The assessment of the topographic potential and the examination of the type, density, and distribution of archaeological sites within that landscape give rise to the identification of the archaeological potential of any given landscape. These areas of archaeological potential may be indicated given their:
- a. close proximity to recorded archaeological monuments (as depicted on the SMR and IHR maps)
 - b. close proximity to newly identified potential archaeological sites.

11.2 Summary of Findings- Desk Based Assessment

- 11.2.1 Consultation of the records maintained by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht revealed that the wider study area has a proven archaeological heritage, with 13 recorded SMR sites and several listed buildings and industrial heritage sites within 2km of the proposed development. The archaeological record highlights that there has been activity in the area dating to the prehistoric period onwards with evidence of prehistoric occupation, metalworking, and a prehistoric burial in Rossan Bog. Occupation of the area has continued through the early medieval period with the construction of raths and a medieval bridge constructed across the Kinnegad River.
- 11.2.2 Consultation of early historical records and maps dating from the 19th century onwards indicate that while many of the upstanding buildings along Main Street have been replaced or removed, Kinnegad's modern street layout has changed since the beginning of the 19th century.
- 11.2.3 Many of the previous archaeological investigations within the area have identified sub-surface archaeological remains associated with the prehistoric and early medieval occupation and industry of the area surrounding the town itself. Evidence for past occupation within the town has been limited to the siting of a previously unknown medieval burial site within the northeast suburbs of the town and a post medieval underbridge within the environs of the town itself.
- 11.2.4 Based solely on the desk top study, the area of the PDA can be assessed to be of moderate archaeological potential based solely upon its location within the archaeological landscape.

11.3 *Summary of findings – Topographic Assessment: interpretation of the archaeological landscape*

11.3.1 Consideration of the topographic setting of any proposed development is fundamental in the interpretation of the archaeological landscape of a given area. Three topographical characteristics may be considered as of archaeological importance within the landscape setting:

- High ground/elevated areas: These may be deemed as being of archaeological potential given their prominence in the local landscape. Numerous examples of the importance of areas of high/elevated land are recorded within the archaeological record, with specific emphasis upon early Christian defensive sites (i.e. raths/forts), prehistoric funerary (i.e. Barrows/Megalithic tombs) and ritual (i.e. prehistoric enclosures) sites.
- Areas in proximity to river courses: These areas may be deemed as being of archaeological potential given their ease of access to both natural resources such as water, food, and water energy (i.e. mills).
- Areas in proximity to lakes/coastal areas: As with those areas in proximity to river courses, these may also be deemed as being of archaeological potential due to their ease of access to water and food sources.

11.3.2 The proposed development is in an urban environment along Main Street, Kinnegad which until the construction of the M4 and M6, was an important transportation route between Galway and Dublin and a focal point for occupation since the prehistoric period. Based upon its topographic setting the PDA may be considered as being located within an area of moderate archaeological potential.

11.3.3 While the proposed development is located within an area of moderate archaeological potential, the site has undergone some degree of modern development associated with the construction of the existing school house and modern landscaping in the form of construction of the tarmac car park to the rear. The construction of the school has removed any above ground evidence of the 19th century buildings which once occupied the site. The archaeological potential of the site itself may therefore be considered as being low to moderate given the degree of modern development which has occurred.

12. **Assessment of Archaeological Impact of the Development**

12.1 *Criteria for assessing the Archaeological Impact*

12.1.1 The development will consist of the development of an existing site in order to provide a Kinnegad Community Library, Education and Training Centre.

12.1.2 No nationally accepted standard method of evaluation and assessment is available for the assessment of impact significance upon archaeological / historic remains (cultural heritage). Archaeological Impact of the proposed development is assessed from a baseline which is based upon the situation that would exist if the proposed development scheme were not pursued. Previous Sections 8 through to 11 therefore form the baseline survey for this assessment.

12.1.3 The framework for identifying the archaeological impact of any development upon cultural heritage and archaeological remains uncovered during the development are governed by National legislation and Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 with specific reference to planning policies and objectives P-BH1 – 8 and O-BH1 – 4. The criteria for assessing the impact include period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival / condition, fragility / vulnerability, diversity, and potential.

12.1.4 This information, in conjunction with various other legal and statutory policies (as outlined above in Section 2) and with professional judgement, is used to assess the value of archaeological sites and monuments within a development. The approach to assessing the Cultural Heritage Value is presented in Table 5 below.

12.1.5 The magnitude of the potential impact is assessed independently for each individual site as well as its cultural heritage value. The impact categories are outlined in Table 6 below.

Value	Examples
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Sites; Assets of acknowledged international importance; Other buildings of recognized international importance; Historic landscapes of international sensitivity, whether designated or not.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Monuments; Undesignated sites/features of schedulable quality and importance; Listed Buildings; Undesignated structures of clear national importance; Designated & undesignated historic landscapes of outstanding interest.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives; Unlisted buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical association; Historic townscape or built-up areas with historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings; Designated special historic landscapes and undesignated historic landscapes of regional sensitivity.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undesignated sites/features of local importance; 'Locally Listed' buildings and unlisted buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association; Historic landscapes whose sensitivity is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations or with specific and substantial importance to local interest groups.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest; Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character; Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological sites/features where the importance of the resource cannot be ascertained; Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance.

Table 5: Determining cultural heritage value

Magnitude	Criteria
Major	Change to most or all key archaeological/historic building/historic landscape elements, such that the resource is totally altered. Comprehensive or total changes to setting.
Intermediate	Changes to many key archaeological/historic building/historic landscape elements, such that the resource is clearly modified. Considerable changes to setting.
Minor	Changes to key archaeological/historic building/historic landscape elements, such that the asset is slightly altered. Slight changes to setting.
Negligible	Very minor changes to elements or setting.
No Change	No change

Table 6: Determining Magnitude of Impact

Significance of Impact	Magnitude of Potential Impact				
	Major	Intermediate	Minor	Negligible	No change
Cultural Heritage Value					
Very high	Very Large	Large/Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Slight	Neutral
High	Large/Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Slight/ Moderate	Slight	Neutral
Medium	Moderate/ Large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
Low	Slight/ Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
Negligible	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral	Neutral

Table 7: Magnitude of impact

12.1.6 The two sets of criteria, for both the cultural heritage value and the magnitude of the impact, are therefore combined to determine the significance of the impact, as laid out Table 7 above.

12.1.7 The significance of the impact can be either beneficial or adverse (Table 8 below). In general, a beneficial impact would involve the preservation of archaeological or historical remains *in situ* and through record. An adverse impact would be the destruction of archaeological or historical remains.

Impact Significance	Criteria
Very Large	Cultural heritage features assigned this level of impact significance will represent key factors in the decision-making process. <i>Adverse</i> – Features of high/very high value which are partially damaged; sites of high/medium value which are almost wholly damaged or destroyed. Mitigation measures will have had minimal effect in reducing the significance of impact. <i>Beneficial</i> – These effects will virtually restore a site or its setting and re-establish its significance.
Large	These effects are considered to be very important in the decision-making process. These effects are important at a national level and to statutory bodies. <i>Adverse</i> – These effects will damage assets or their setting, so that their integrity or understanding is destroyed or severely compromised. This will result in a resource that can no longer be appreciated or understood. Mitigation measures may not deal appropriately with all aspects of the impact. <i>Beneficial</i> – These effects will halt rapid degradation or erosion of cultural heritage features or result in significant restoration of setting.
Moderate	These effects are likely to be important to considerations, but not key factors, in the decision-making process. However, cumulative effects may raise the overall significance of impact. These impacts are likely to be important at a regional level. <i>Adverse</i> – These effects will damage cultural heritage assets, or their setting, so that their integrity or understanding is compromised but not destroyed. Adequate mitigation measures can be specified. <i>Beneficial</i> – These effects are likely to result in the halting of degradation or erosion of heritage assets or result in the restoration of characteristics features or setting so that understanding, and appreciation is improved.
Slight	These effects are unlikely to be critical factors in the decision-making process but are likely to be important factors in the design of a project. These effects are important at a local level. <i>Adverse</i> – the proposals will damage cultural heritage assets, or their setting, so that their integrity or understanding is diminished but not compromised. <i>Beneficial</i> – the proposals will stabilise cultural heritage assets or enhance their setting, so that their integrity is maintained, or understanding is improved.
Neutral	No effects upon cultural heritage or the effects are negligible. There is no conflict with or contribution to policies for protection of heritage resources.

Table 8: Significance of Level of Impact

12.2 Assessment of Archaeological Impact: Previously Identified Cultural Heritage Features.

12.2.1 The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate archaeological, with several archaeological sites and monuments and industrial heritage sites being recorded within a 2km radius of its boundaries.

12.2.2 An Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out in tandem with this Archaeological Impact Assessment (CAKM Architects 2020). Therefore, this report will not deal further with the implications of the impact of the development upon the above recorded structures and the following Impact Assessment will refer solely to archaeological sites and monuments and industrial heritage sites.

12.2.3 Based upon the above criteria the following designations may be proposed for the existing recorded cultural heritage sites set within 2km of the site (Table 9 below).

12.2.4 As there are no recorded monuments or industrial heritage sites located within the boundaries of the proposed development or its vicinity, the significance of the level of impact of the proposed development in relation to recorded monuments in the surrounding area can therefore be considered neutral for those existing archaeological monuments and industrial heritage sites within the wider landscape around the proposed development area.

Cultural Heritage Receptor	Assessment of significance	Value	Magnitude	Significance of Impact
WM028-003----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	High	No Change	Neutral
WM027-069----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
WM027-070----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-019----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	High	No Change	Neutral
ME046-004----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-022----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-023----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-021----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-024----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-025----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-026----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-082----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
ME046-085----	Sites/features that contribute to regional research objectives	Medium	No Change	Neutral
3123	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3124	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3125	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3126	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3127	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3128	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	High	No Change	Neutral
3129	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3130	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral
3131	Undesignated sites/features of local importance	Low	No Change	Neutral

Table 9: Assessment of Impact of proposed development upon existing known archaeological sites and monuments.

12.3 Assessment of Archaeological Impact: Previously Unidentified/Potential Archaeological Remains

- 12.3.1 Previous archaeological investigations associated with development works within Ireland have highlighted the potential for subsurface archaeological remains associated with both prehistoric and historic activity to be adversely impacted upon during development works such as those carried out during development for housing, infrastructure, and commercial development.
- 12.3.2 The desk-based assessment suggests that the PDA is located within an area of moderate archaeological potential considering its location within an archaeological landscape with several known sites within the study area. The proposed site is situated within a plot of land which consisted of a row of terraced and semi-detached residential buildings along the street frontage with garden/field to the rear until the late 19th century when it was re-developed as a National School which currently also contains a tarmac car park to the rear of the school between it and the School Master's House. It is likely that the earlier buildings were removed during construction of the school building while construction of the car park to the rear is likely to have consisted of invasive ground reduction works.
- 12.3.3 The proposed development will consist of the renovation of the existing school building to a new Library with the construction of a new Adult Education and Training centre to the rear of the existing school house building. There will not be any new development works to the front of the existing school house therefore the proposed development will not have an impact upon any sub-surface remains which may survive associated with the earlier 19th century dwellings which once occupied this portion of the site.

12.3.4 While there will be invasive ground works to the rear of the existing school building, the archaeological potential in this area remains low, therefore the impact of development in this area may be also be considered low.

13. Conclusions and Recommendations¹⁸

13.1 The desktop study has confirmed that the site is located within an area of moderate archaeological potential given the location of the proposed development area within a wider archaeological landscape, however the archaeological potential of the proposed development itself is considered low as a result of the construction of the existing buildings and landscaping on the site.

13.2 As there are no upstanding archaeological remains within the site boundaries and there is a relatively low potential for survival of sub-surface archaeological remains which may be impacted upon by development, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required.

¹⁸ All recommendations are subject to discussions with and the approval of the relevant heritage authorities