

**Buncrana Leisure Centre, Co. Donegal
Archaeological Impact Assessment**

Client: Donegal Co. Co.

Licence No: N/A

Archaeologist: Maeve Mc Cormick

Report Date: 24th May 2023

Our Ref: 2023_30

Buncrana Leisure Centre, Co. Donegal

SITE NAME	Buncrana Leisure Centre
CLIENT	Donegal County Council
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Impact Assessment
LICENCE NO	N/A
PLANNING REF	N/A
TOWNLAND	Ardaravan
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	634426, 931622
RMP NO	N/A
RPS NO	N/A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Maeve Mc Cormick
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SUMMARY

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at a site in Buncrana, (Ardaravan Townland, Fahan Lower Parish, Barony of Inishowen West, County Donegal, ITM 634426, 931622) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Donegal Co. Co. The desk-based study was undertaken in May 2023 by Maeve Mc Cormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The development covers an area of c. 0.65 hectare.
- There are no RMPs within the subject site
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential was identified from the study of historical mapping.
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential was identified from the study of aerial images.
- There were no previous archaeological excavations within the subject area.
- There are no protected structures within the subject area and the site is not within ACA.
- Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site visit.
- Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during analysis of available LiDAR survey.
- The site is occupied by existing building and car park.

The desk-based assessment noted nothing of archaeological significance and recorded heavy disturbance in both the Former Buncrana Leisure centre and Car Park areas. A laneway was recorded on Historical Mapping as running NE/SW along the southern boundary to the south of the Former Leisure Centre.

The above factors indicated that there is a **low** potential for the continued survival of buried archaeological sites or features within the site. It is therefore likely there will be **little to no** archaeological impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No further works are required in this area, however it is advised that that the laneway noted on historical mapping which runs along the southern boundary of the site, is taken into consideration during future development planning.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Issued by
1	Final	24/05/23	MMC	AOC	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Buncrana, (Ardaravan Townland, Fahan Lower Parish, Barony of Inishowen West, County Donegal, ITM 634426, 931622) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Donegal Co. Co. The desk-based study for this assessment was undertaken in May 2023 by Maeve Mc Cormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

1.1 Proposed Development

Demolition of existing derelict leisure centre and the erection of a replacement leisure centre comprising of a pool hall (25M Pool, 11M Learner Pool, Flume, Sauna & Steam Room), fitness suite, multi-use studio, combined wet and dry changing, reception/lobby area, staff offices/facilities and required plant areas to operate the centre. Externally, there will be upgrade works to the landscaping immediately around the proposed building and, across from the building at the existing car park, there will next to no works except for signage.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located close to Lough Swilly on the shorefront of Buncrana Town. The site is split by the Aileach Road with the building plot on one side and parking on the other. The subject site neighbouring properties are Scoil Mhuire to the east and a local business premises to the south. To the north is Scoil Mhuire's combined running track and pitch, to the east is Scoil Mhuire's tennis courts, to the south is the local business premises and to the west is the Aileach Road.

The parking plot has the Aileach Road to the east, residential property to the south and the shorefront and play park to the north and west.

The site can be accessed directly from the Aileach Road and has a pedestrian path connection to Scoil Mhuire. This path to Scoil Mhuire has a gate at the boundary between the Leisure Centre and Scoil Mhuire that will be managed by Scoil Mhuire to provide their pupils access and egress to the public realm and into the school when required.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record¹
- Aerial photography

¹ Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ,

- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

On the northern bank of Lough Swilly sits the three-storey O 'Doherty's Keep, which is the only surviving part of an original 14th-century Norman castle. The first two levels of the keep were built after 1333. In 1601 the O 'Doherty's Keep was described as being a small, two-storey castle, inhabited by Conor McGarret O 'Doherty. In 1602 the third level was added and it was upgraded by Hugh Boy O 'Doherty as an intended base for Spanish military aid that hoped to land at Inch (Harbison, Peter 1975).

The castle was burned by the English on the occasion of Sir Cahir O Doherty's rebellion (1608), and thereafter was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester who leased it to Henry Vaughan (Killanin & Duignan, 1989).

Buncrana, was restored and laid out in its present form by Sir John Vaughan with a new castle built in 1717; it is approached by a very handsome bridge over the river, and in front are extensive gardens and terraces, all in excellent preservation. In 1745, linen manufacture was introduced by Col. Vaughan, and flourished for some time, and, in 1784, various branches of the cotton trade, particularly the weaving of velvets, fustians, corduroys, and plain cloth, to which the printing of cotton was added, but, although carried on with much spirit, it declined after his death. A manufactory for sail-cloth and ducking was afterwards established, and continued to flourish till the year 1830, when the premises were destroyed by fire (Lewis 1837).

4.2 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are no RMPs within the subject site. The details of RMPs within a 1km radius around the site are presented in Appendix 1, Figure 2.

4.3 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps)

are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material).

The area of this development is recorded in early 19th century maps, described in Table 1 below and presented in Figure 4.

No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were identified from the study of historical mapping, however a laneway was recorded running NE/SW along the southern boundary to the south of the Former Leisure Centre. This lane is still utilised by the school.

Map	Date	Description
OS 1st edition	1836	The site is located near the shore. The general area on this depiction is described as <i>Bathing Ho</i> . There is a small pond marked in the area of the car park and the current leisure centre is shown as part of the grounds of Rockfort house (the current Scoil Mhuire) with a lane leading from the house to the shore (this is the lane currently on the southern boundary of the leisure centre)
OS 3rd edition	1851-5	The street that the site is located at (Aileach Rd) is depicted on this map. No other change. Mature trees on the boundaries of Rockfort house.
Cassini	1900-5	A Military Barracks is shown in the area along the shore, extending into the car park area. Rockfort house is now shown as the Convent of Mercy.

Table 1: Cartographic sources relating to the site

4.4 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google/Bing Maps 2020). The Google Earth and the OSI Aerial Photography shows the area of this development as it is in its current state (Figure 5).

No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were identified from the study of aerial images.

4.5 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 onwards. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section.

There were no previous archaeological excavations within the subject site. There are a number of excavations undertaken in the vicinity of the subject site, the majority of these yielded nothing of archaeological significance. Details of previous excavations in the vicinity of the site are presented in Appendix 2.

4.6 Architectural Heritage

There are no protected structures within the subject site. There are two RPS entries located S and SE of the subject area.

Drift Inn - c. 370m SE from the subject site. 1860-1865. detached 6 bay, 2 storey former railway station built 1864 with gabled dormers, projecting gabled end-bay to right hand side and entrance bay 3 bay single storey former sheds to left hand side extended by one storey. NIAH No. 40905517.

Mill, c. 560m E from the subject site. Freestanding multiple-bay four and five-storey former corn mill complex in several blocks, built c. 1868 and extended c. 1890. Later also in use to generate electricity from 1905 or 1923 until 1954. Mill remained in production until 1980s, now derelict. Detached single-storey turbine house to rear of site. Pitched roofs, some now collapsed, originally of natural slate and later of corrugated-metal. Hipped natural slate roof (purple slate) to former office block having brick eaves courses including dogtooth course. Double pitched roof with steel truss structure to block to west with smooth rendered gable copings. Squared and coursed rubble stone walls with flush quoins to the corners; roughcast render to top floor of south-east block, smooth rendered walls to south gable of west block. Segmental headed window openings with polychromatic red and yellow brick surrounds with remains of multi-pane metal and timber casement window frames. Square-headed and segmental-arch door openings, some now infilled with blockwork, having polychromatic red and yellow brick surround and ashlar lintels. Set back from road overlooking Mill River to the south end of Buncrana. Weir to west. Steps giving access to river to rear of complex. Rubble stone boundary wall to road. Interior burnt out but some metal machinery remains in-situ. NIAH No. 40815032

4.7 Topographical Files

The National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928 onwards.

The topographical files were searched in May 2023 for the townlands surrounding the site including Buncrana, Ardaravan, Tullyarvan, Ballymacarry, Aghilly, Gransha and Ballymagarry Lower. The results were;

NMI Register No	Simple Name	Component	Townland	Find Place	County
1872:41.1	Arrowhead	Flint	BUNCRANA	N/A	DONEGAL
1872:9	Arrowhead	Flint	BUNCRANA	Dunree Sands	DONEGAL
1929:1718	Axehead	Stone	BUNCRANA (NR.)	Near Buncrana	DONEGAL

1930:545	Arrowhead	Flint	BUNCRANA		DONEGAL
1930:546	Arrowhead	Flint	BUNCRANA		DONEGAL
1930:547	Arrowhead	Flint	BUNCRANA		DONEGAL
1968:230	Sword	Bronze	BUNCRANA	UNKNOWN	DONEGAL
1968:231	Sword	Bronze	N/A	Near Buncrana	DONEGAL
E92:316	Ring	Bronze	BUNCRANA	'Kennygoon'	DONEGAL
E92:317	Disc	Bronze	BUNCRANA	'Kennygoon'	DONEGAL
P1950:1	Arrowhead	Flint	UMRYCAM	Derrinmoor Peat Bog 2 Miles East of Buncrana	DONEGAL
RIA1903:204	Blade	Flint	BUNCRANA		DONEGAL
SA1898:2	Cauldron	Copper alloy	N/A	Buncrana	DONEGAL
1978:128	Human remains	Bone	ARDARAVAN	McCarter's Road	DONEGAL
1997:32	Axehead	Stone	BALLYMACARRY LOWER	White Strand	DONEGAL

Table2: Topographical finds relating to the site

4.8 Site Visit

The site was visited by Maeve Mc Cormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd in May 2023 in clear conditions. The site is accessed via Aileach Road which bisects the site in two with the former Buncrana Leisure Centre to the east and a large car park to the west.

Former Buncrana Leisure Centre

Largely occupied by a large modern building with small green areas to south and west, the site has been graded at its eastern end where the neighbouring school sits on the original ground level which slopes gently from the town to the shore east to west. Paving slabs cover the northern part of the site with a rough storage area to the rear (east). There are large semi- mature trees along the Aileach Road and a narrow laneway that runs along the southern boundary leading to the school further to the east (marked on 1st Edition OS as a laneway on the grounds of Rockfort House).

Car Park

This is a large oval shape set out in tarmacaded parking bays around the edges and in the centre. The car park slopes very slightly from west to east (from the Lough towards the road). It would appear to have been levelled somewhat in comparison to the untouched grass area to the west.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site visit.

5. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Buncrana, (Ardaravan Townland, Fahan Lower Parish, Barony of Inishowen West, County Donegal, ITM 634426, 931622) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Donegal Co. Co. The desk-based study for this assessment was undertaken in May 2023 by Maeve Mc Cormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

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- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential was identified from the study of aerial images.
- There were no previous archaeological excavations within the subject area.
- There are no protected structures within the subject area and the site is not within an ACA.
- Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during analysis of available LiDAR survey.
- The site is occupied by an existing building and car park. The site survey revealed no indications of archaeological potential.

5.1 Impact Assessment

The desk-based assessment noted nothing of archaeological significance and recorded heavy disturbance in both the Former Buncrana Leisure centre and Car Park areas. A laneway was recorded on Historical Mapping as running NE/SW along the southern boundary to the south of the Former Leisure Centre.

The above factors indicated that there is a **low** potential for the continued survival of buried archaeological sites or features within the site. It is therefore likely there will be **little to no** archaeological impact.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

No further works are required in this area, however it is advised that that the laneway noted on historical mapping which runs along the southern boundary of the site, is taken into consideration during future development planning.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

Harbison, Peter (1975). *Guide to the national monuments in the Republic of Ireland*. Gill & Macmillan

Killanin, M. & Duignan, M. 1989 *The Shell Guide to Ireland*, London

Lewis, S. 1837 *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*, London

7.2 Web references

Online Excavations bulletin www.excavations.ie [accessed May 2023]

Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed May 2023]

Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland www.archaeology.ie [accessed May 2023]

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage www.buildingsofireland.ie [accessed May 2023]



Maeve Mc Cormick

24th May 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1: Table of RMP/SMR sites in vicinity of the site

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM reference	Distance to site
DG029-025001-	Castle - tower house	TULLYARVAN	634253, 932627	c. 1000m N
<p>Buncrana Castle, described in 1601 as a small castle inhabited by Connor McGarrett O'Doherty, it was repaired early in 1602 by Hugh Boy O'Doherty. After Sir Cahir O'Doherty's revolt in 1608 it was burnt by English forces and may have been repaired soon after. It was granted to Chichester at the time of the Plantation and he leased it to Henry Vaughan who is described in 1611 as having 'buylte at Buncrannagh viz. The castle stronglie rebuylded w'th a parapitt on the topp of it, after the English fashion; . . . lyme burnte and other pr'parations made ready for a bawne (DG029-025003-) aboute the castle' (Hunter 1975, 81). The Vaughan family resided there until the present house (DG029-025002-) was built in 1718 (Davies and Swan 1939, 183-5). The building is now a National Monument in state guardianship (No. 435).</p> <p>The ruined and much altered tower-house is situated beside the Crana River. Most of the original features are obscured by later alterations. Sub-rectangular in plan 9.9m × 8.6m externally, the walls rise from battered lower courses and are built of large blocks and rubble laid in mortar. The building is three storeys in height. The floors were of timber joists set in the E and W walls of the first floor and carried on scarcements at second-floor level. The original entrance was probably in the centre of the N wall at ground-floor level. The opening was subsequently built up and fitted with a small central win-dow (now blocked) flanked by two gun-loops. Within is a mural-lobby with a murder hole over it and to the W is a small mural-passage with a wall-press on the S and beside it a blocked-up loop. To the E of the entrance a mural-stairs leads to the upper apartments. The doorway to the main ground-floor chamber is opposite the entrance; it has been altered. The chamber was lighted on three sides by narrow loops set in rectangular embrasures; only that in the E wall is intact. The embrasure on the S was subsequently reduced in width to accommodate a door, now blocked-up, and the outer wall in that on the W was rebuilt. The present entrance to the tower-house is at first-floor level by a door centrally set in the E wall. Opposite it is the entrance to the first-floor chamber. It probably was originally lighted on three sides by Windows set in embrasures with splayed ingoings. That in the N wall has been converted to a fireplace, that in the W wall has been reduced in width and fitted with a small loop, and that in the S wall has been almost completely blocked up save for a passage to the mural-garderobe at the W end of the S wall; the outer corner wall of the garderobe is secondary and contains three gun-loops. The mural-stairs continues through the E wall and around the SE corner to a door in the S wall at second-floor level. This storey may be a complete rebuilding of the earlier walls or might be a later addition. The chamber was lighted by a large rectangular window in the N, E and W walls, and there is a fireplace in the W wall. Within the N and S gables was an attic; it is featureless and was probably approached through a trapdoor. Access to the wall-walk was by a continuation of the mural-stairs in the S wall. The plan of Buncrana Castle, particularly the two lower storeys, is that of a typical medieval tower-house and the date of the building certainly must not be earlier than the 15th century (for plan see Davies and Swan 1939, 186-7).</p>				
DG029-025002-	House 18th/19th century	TULLYARVAN	634168, 932608	c. 1000m N
<p>Buncrana Castle (DG029-025001-) is a tower house described in 1601 as a small castle inhabited by Connor McGarrett O'Doherty, it was repaired early in 1602 by Hugh Boy O'Doherty. After Sir Cahir O'Doherty's revolt in 1608 it was burnt by English forces and may have been repaired soon after. It was granted to Chichester at the time of the Plantation and he leased it to Henry Vaughan who is described in 1611 as having 'buylte at Buncrannagh viz. The castle stronglie rebuylded w'th a parapitt on the topp of it, after the English fashion; . . . lyme burnte and other pr'parations made ready for a bawne aboute the castle' (Hunter 1975, 81). The Vaughan family resided there until the present house (DG029-025002-) was built c. 70m W of the tower house in 1718 (Davies and Swan 1939, 183-5).</p> <p>Built in 1718 for Sir John Vaughan, large seven-bay two-storey over basement house with flanking single-bay pavilion wings, approached by an 18th-century six-arched stone-built bridge over the Crana River. There is a range of stone-built outbuildings to W of the house, and walls to the S of the house represent remains of a once fine terraced walled garden.</p>				
DG029-025003-	Bawn	TULLYARVAN	634253, 932627	c. 1000m N
<p>Buncrana Castle (DG029-025001-), described in 1601 as a small castle inhabited by Connor McGarrett O'Doherty, it was repaired early in 1602 by Hugh Boy O'Doherty. After Sir Cahir O'Doherty's revolt in 1608 it was burnt by English forces and may have been repaired soon after. It was granted to Chichester at the time of the Plantation</p>				

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM reference	Distance to site
and he leased it to Henry Vaughan who is described in 1611 as having 'buylte at Buncrannagh viz. The castle stronglie rebuylded w'th a parapitt on the topp of it, after the English fashion; . . . lyme burnte and other pr'parations made ready for a bawne aboute the castle' (Hunter 1975, 81). The Vaughan family resided there until the present house (DG029-025002-) was built in 1718 (Davies and Swan 1939, 183-5).				
DG029-030----	Cist	ARDARAVAN	635061, 931662	c. 650m E
Situated 50m from the NE end of the central spine of a NW-SE aligned glacial ridge. This severely damaged short cist was uncovered in 1978 during quarrying. It was investigated the same year by O'Kelly. It was positioned 1.07m beneath ground level. The capstone was the only structural stone that had not been removed. Kelly tentatively reconstructed the remainder of the monument but was unable to accurately determine its original dimensions. He believed that it was originally square in plan and composed of five slabs set on edge – two at one side and one each at the other three sides. The floor was paved with a single stone and the structure was roofed by a single capstone (sim. 1.2m x 0.6m). A deep pit had been dug to receive the cist. The floor was paved with a single stone and the structure was roofed by a single capstone. The cremated remains of a single adult, 25 and 30 years of age, of indeterminate sex (NMI 128) were identified but the cist contained no artifacts. (Cahill and Sikora 2011, Vol 1, 111-113)				
DG029-031----	Standing stone	ARDARAVAN	635434, 931834	c. 1000m E
A standing stone c. 1.55m high x 1.4m wide, set in a field boundary. Situated in a prominent position on rich pasture land.				
DG029-063----	Cremated remains	GRANSHA	635410, 931063	c. 1000m SE
Monitoring of the construction of a residential development at Gransha, Buncrana (April 2007) BY Maurice F. Hurley under licence No. 07E0861, revealed a spread of charcoal-rich material containing six sherds of pottery that are likely to be of Early Bronze Age date, together with six fragments of cremated bone and three flakes of quartz (not worked). The apparent extent of the spread measured 4.5m east-west by 8.5m. Preliminary examination of the pottery suggests the sherds were part of a bowl food vessel. Excavation (September 2007) of the spread revealed the heavily truncated and disturbed remains of an Early Bronze Age cremation burial. The remains consisted of a shallow spread of charcoal-rich grey clay lying directly on the natural boulder clay. No further finds of archaeological significance were uncovered during the excavation of the site (Bennett 2010, 78-9).				

Appendix 2: Table of previous excavations in vicinity of site

Licence	SMR No.	ITM Ref.	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
11E0375	N/A	635048, 931198	Ballymacarry, Donegal	2011:138	M. McGonigle
<p>A programme of monitoring undertaken on the site of a proposed housing development in September 2011 revealed two features of potential archaeological significance (a burnt spread and a large pit containing burnt material).</p> <p>Excavation of the two potential features was undertaken on 26 October 2011. One of the features proved to be non-archaeological root-burning. The other proved to be a large suboval pit, 2.3m long, 1.4m wide and 0.17m deep, aligned east-west. It contained two fills and was lined by in situ burnt material. The identification of an ephemeral in situ burnt deposit in the base of this feature, overlain by a deposit of thick charcoal, suggests that it was a fire pit. The pit appeared to be capped by a deposit of light yellowish-brown sandy clay containing moderate amounts of stones and pebbles. No artefacts were recovered from this excavation; nevertheless, this feature is thought to have been of archaeological significance. Testing carried out at this site in 2008 (Excavations 2008, no. 299, 08E0987) identified two similar features in areas beyond the limits of the current proposed development. These features were not excavated and are preserved in situ at present but may attest to possible prehistoric activity in this area.</p>					
02E1720	N/A	635144, 931984	Buncrana, Donegal	2002:0410	E. Halpin
<p>It is proposed to construct an inner relief road along a disused railway line that ran around the eastern side of Buncrana town. The archaeological impact assessment revealed evidence of the cut-and-fill construction methods employed in the construction of the railway. Owing to the impact of the railway, nothing of archaeological interest survived.</p>					
02E1822	N/A	634709, 931175	Buncrana, Donegal	2002:0411	B. Quinn
<p>Excavation and subsequent testing in the vicinity of an exposed timber on Buncrana strand, Co. Donegal, took place from 16 to 18 December 2002. The work was commissioned in order to remove a timber protruding from the sand near Black Rock that had been identified by Management for Archaeology Underwater Ltd during a walkover assessment in February of 1999. The initial assessment was undertaken in respect of a proposed development to reclaim the existing foreshore to enable the development of a marina.</p> <p>A trench measuring 12m by 2m was opened by hand to establish the extent of the timber. No other associated finds were identified during the excavation. The investigation revealed a single worked timber with five bored holes, one of which contained a dowel. It is not known from where the timber originated or what its function was. A further three trenches were inserted in the area surrounding the timber, but no other associated finds were identified</p>					
-	N/A	634944, 931784	Ardaravan, Donegal	1978:015	E. P. Kelly
<p>In May 1978, an unaccompanied cremation of an adult was found during gravel quarrying. The rectangular structure was formed of five slabs set on end. There was a stone floor and the burial was roofed with a large slab.</p>					
01E0477 ext.	SMR 29:26	634852, 932058	Magherainture, Donegal	2002:0427	D. Moore
<p>Monitoring was carried out in the townland of Magherainture, Ballymacarry, Buncrana, on 26 January 2002. The proposed development entails the construction of 29 detached and semi-detached houses. The site is on high ground to the north of Buncrana, overlooking the town. A cashel has been preserved in situ near the development.</p> <p>Testing had previously been carried out on the site of the proposed development (Excavations 2001, No. 292). Nothing of archaeological significance had been observed. Monitoring of topsoil-stripping took place on 26 January 2002. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the monitoring.</p>					
09E0017	N/A	634291, 931449	Lough Swilly Hotel, Swilly Road, Buncrana, Donegal	2009:203	C. J. Farrimond
<p>Test-trenching was carried out at the site of the former Lough Swilly Hotel on 12 January 2009. Although the site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area, no archaeological artefacts, deposits or remains were identified during the test-trenching works within the boundaries of the proposed development site.</p> <p>Features associated with the former use of the buildings which currently occupy the site as a hotel and an area within the northern portion of the site formerly used as a quarry were noted. However, the excavation of one of</p>					

Licence	SMR No.	ITM Ref.	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
the trenches did not reveal the natural rock outcrop atop which the hotel was believed to be situated but rather provided for the identification of landscaping works which appear to be associated with the Lough Swilly Hotel. Furthermore, the extant nature of the former hotel building and the large concrete ramp located to its immediate north-west precluded the undertaking of testing within the area of the proposed basement car-parking.					



Archer
Heritage Planning

Unit 8 Beat Centre
Stephenstown,
Balbriggan,
Co. Dublin

Buncrana Leisure Centre,
Co. Donegal

Archaeological Impact Assessment

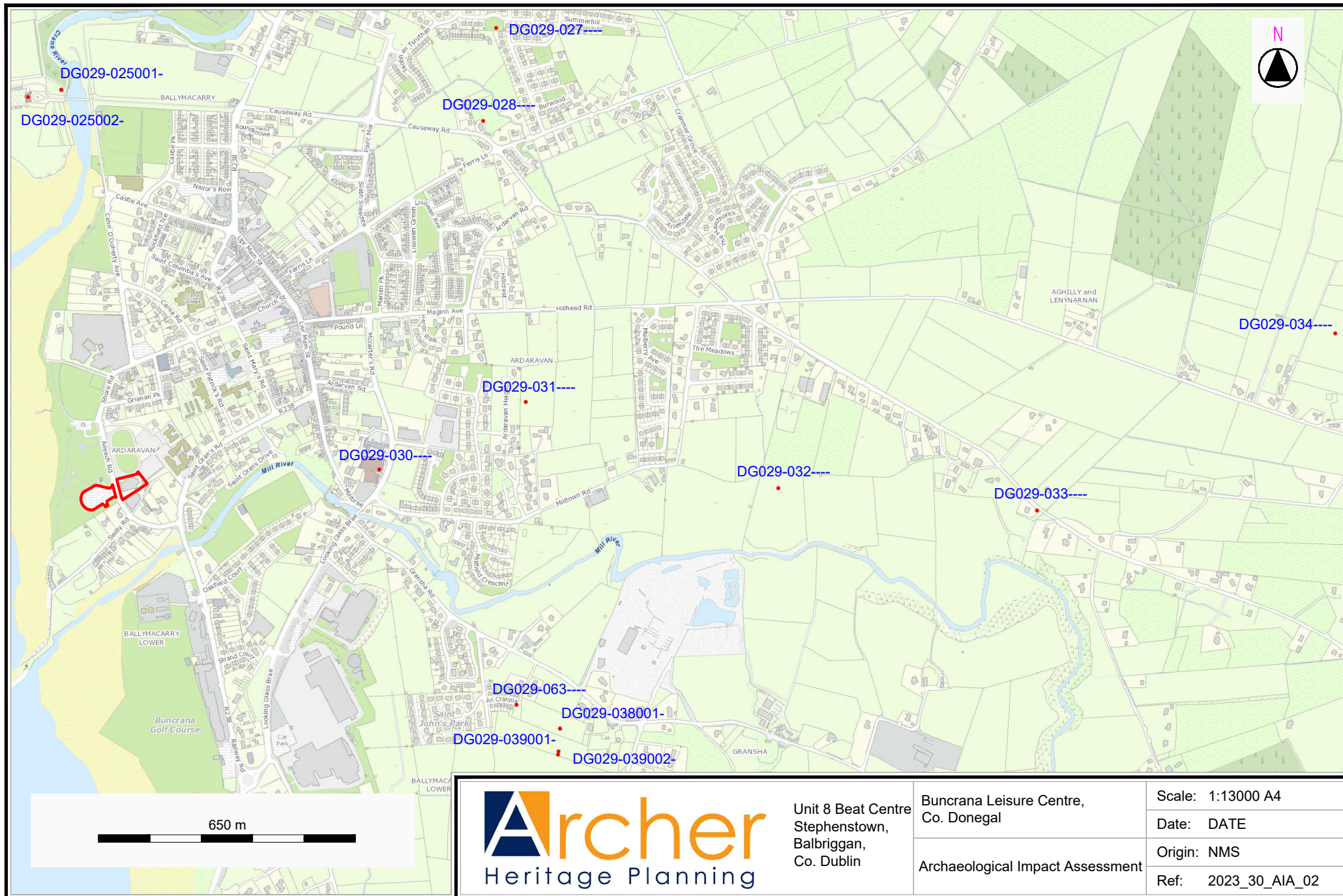
Scale: 1:2000 A4

Date: May 2023

Origin: NMS

Ref: 2023_30_AIA_01

Figure 1: Location of site




	Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Buncrana Leisure Centre, Co. Donegal	Scale: 1:13000 A4 Date: DATE
	Archaeological Impact Assessment		Origin: NMS Ref: 2023_30_AIA_02

Figure 2: Location of site with surrounding RMPs




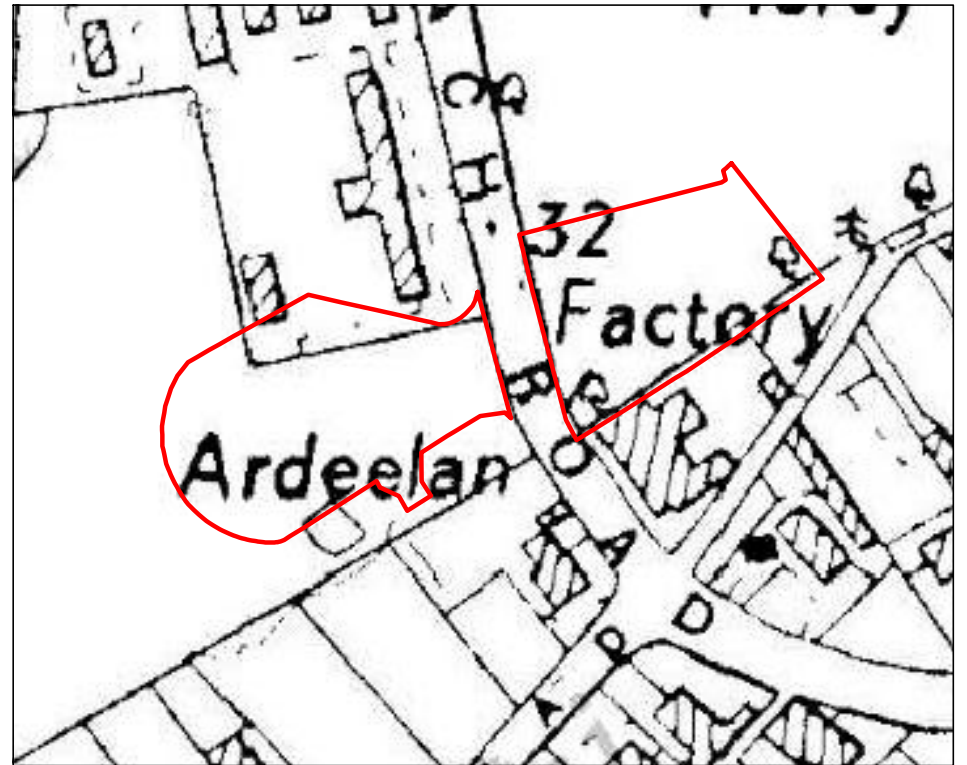
	Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Boncrana Leisure Centre, Co. Donegal	Scale: Not to scale Date: May 2023
		Archaeological Impact Assessment	Origin: Client Ref: 2023_30_AIA_03

Figure 3: Proposed development layout



(l) 1st edition OS - 1836

(r) Cassini - 1900-5



Unit 8 Beat Centre
Stephenstown,
Balbriggan,
Co. Dublin

Boncrana Leisure Centre,
Co. Donegal

Archaeological Impact Assessment

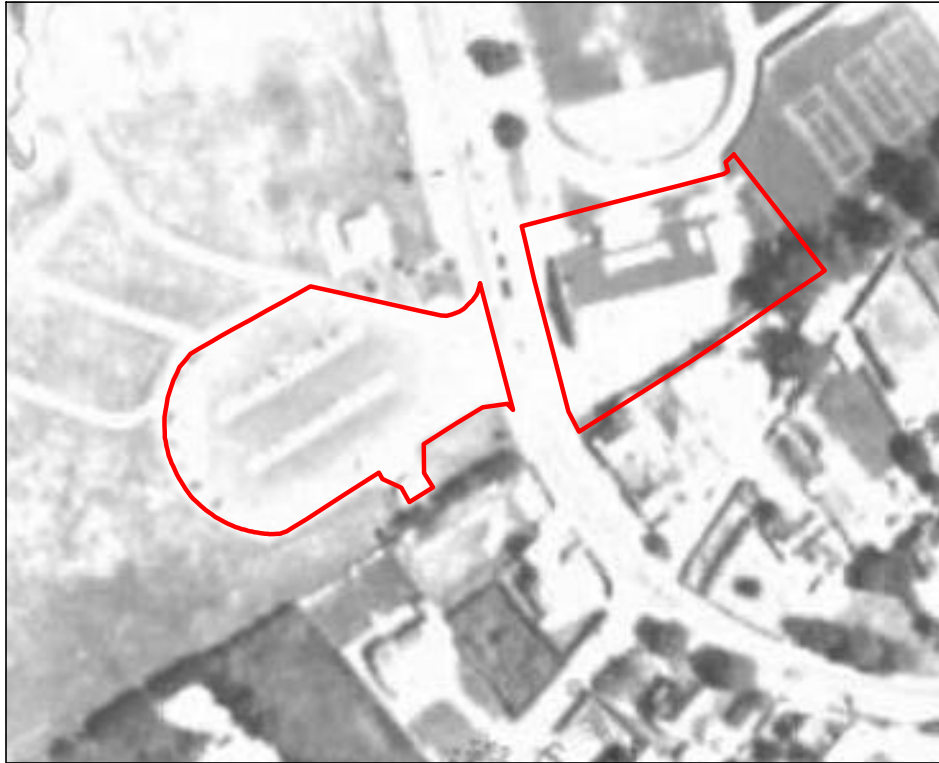
Scale: Not to scale

Date: May 2023

Origin: NMS

Ref: 2023_30_AIA_04

Figure 4: Extracts from historical maps



(l) 1995

(r) 2013-18


	Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Boncrana Leisure Centre, Co. Donegal	Scale: Not to scale
		Archaeological Impact Assessment	Date: May 2023
			Origin: NMS
			Ref: 2023_30_AIA_05

Figure 5: Extracts from aerial photography



Plate 1: Former Buncrana Leisure Centre from Aileach Rd (looking east)



Plate 2: Car park from west looking east to Aileach Rd



Plate 3: Car park from SW



Plate 4: Northern boundary of Leisure Centre showing paved area.



Plate 5: Laneway on southern boundary of Leisure Centre (looking east)



Plate 6: Eastern boundary of Leisure Centre site



Plate 7: Western boundary of Leisure centre (Aileach Rd to right)



Plate 8: Car park from Aileach Rd (looking west)