

**RICHARD CRUMLISH, B.A., M.I.A.I.
CONSULTANT ARCHAEOLOGIST**

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF A
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
AT
BÓTHAR AN CHÓISTE,
CASTLEGAR TOWNLAND, GALWAY**

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Report prepared by:

Richard Crumlish,
4 Lecka Grove,
Castlebar Road,
Ballinrobe,
Co. Mayo
Phone: (094) 9520729

Client:

Lock House Developments Ltd.,
Lock House,
Dominick Street,
Galway

Bothar an Choiste Archaeological Impact Assessment

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1. Introduction

This impact assessment was commissioned by O'Neill-O'Malley Architects and undertaken on a proposed development site at Bóthar an Chóiste, in Castlegar townland on the outskirts of Galway City (Figures 1 and 2). The study was undertaken in two parts; the first involved the research of a number of cartographic and literary sources, followed by field walking of the proposed development site which took place on 6 November 2020 and 17 May 2021.

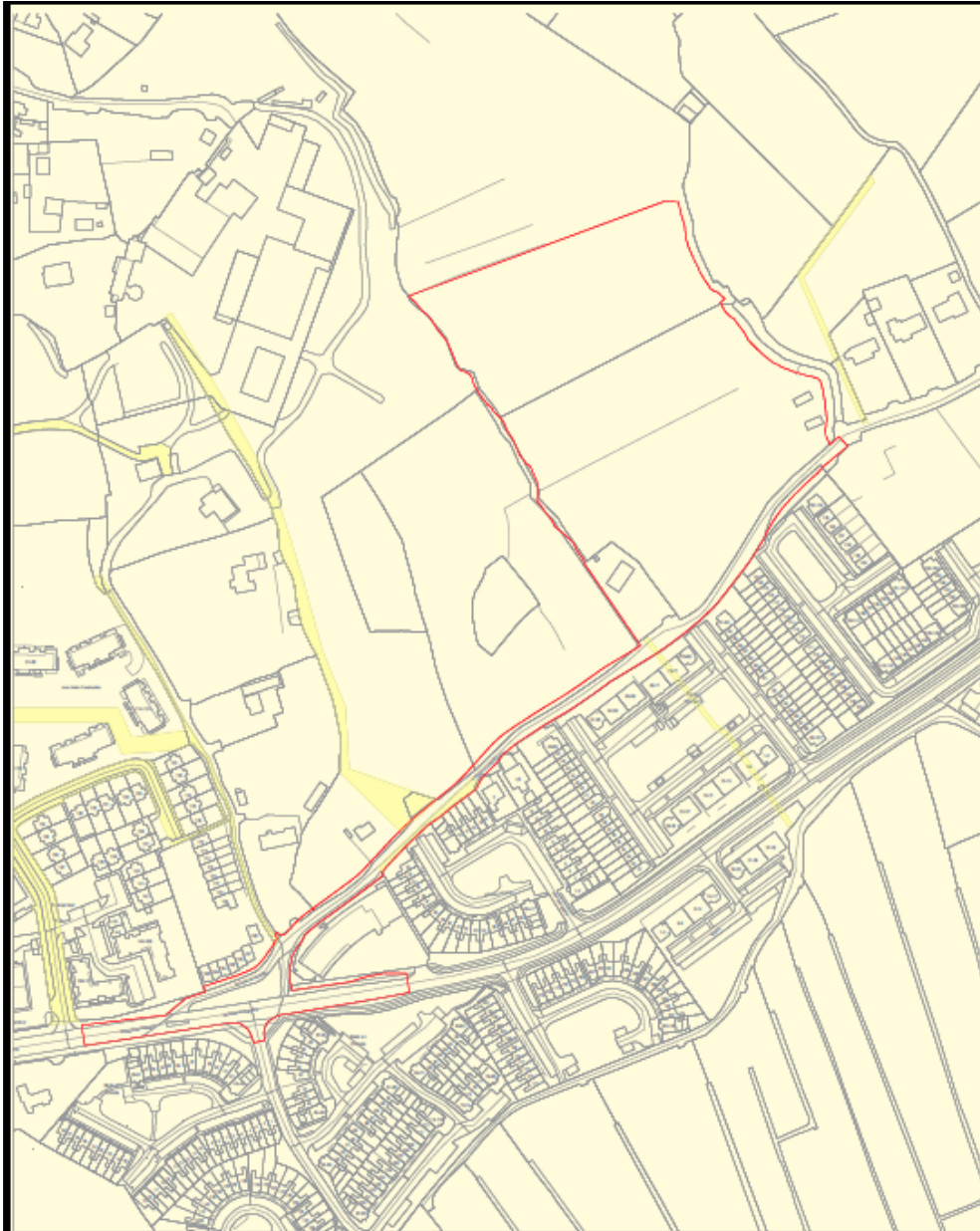


Figure 1 Site Location Map (courtesy of O'Neill-O'Malley Architects).

The impact assessment will accompany a planning application for a proposed residential development at the site.

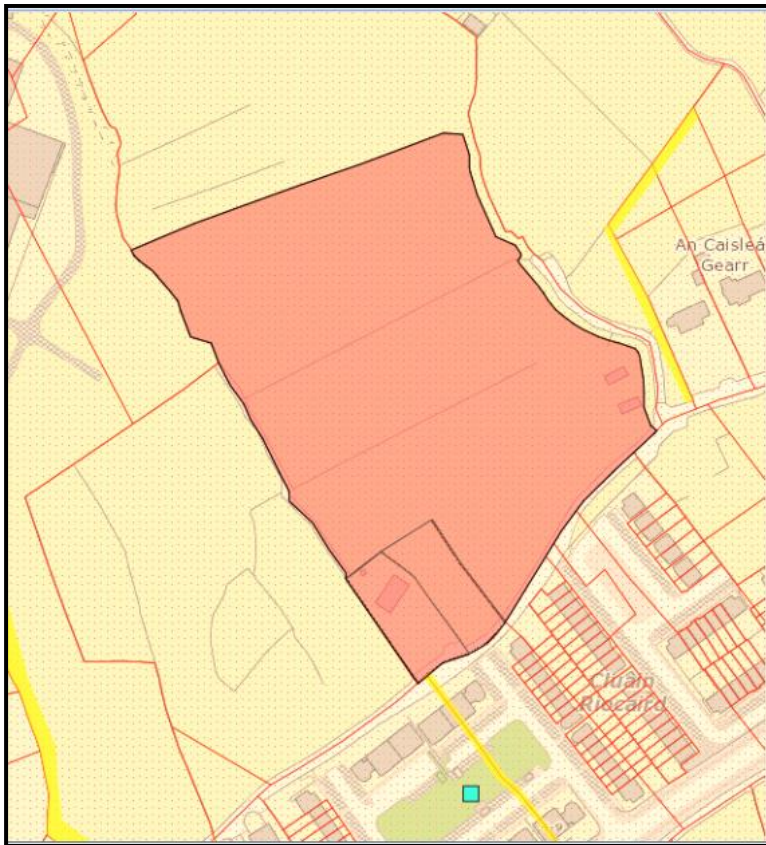


Figure 2 Site Location Map showing extent of proposed development site.

2. Research Sources

- Gosling, P (1993) *Archaeological Inventory of County Galway, Volume 1: West Galway*. Dublin.
- Ordnance Survey 1:10560 (6-inch) map of County Galway, Sheet No. 82, 1st Edition of 1838.
- Ordnance Survey 1:10560 (6-inch) map of County Galway, Sheet No. 82, Edition of 1945-46.
- Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (25-inch) map of County Galway, Late 19th/early 20th century edition.
- Record of Monuments and Places, County Galway, Dúchas, the Heritage Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1997.
- www.archaeology.ie (web-site of the National Monuments Service).
- www.excavations.ie (summary accounts of all excavations in Ireland 1969-2019).
- www.heritage maps.ie (includes the finds database of the National Museum of Ireland).

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3. Research Results

No recorded monuments are located within the proposed development site (Figure 3). A list of the recorded monuments within 1km of the study area is detailed below in Table 1.

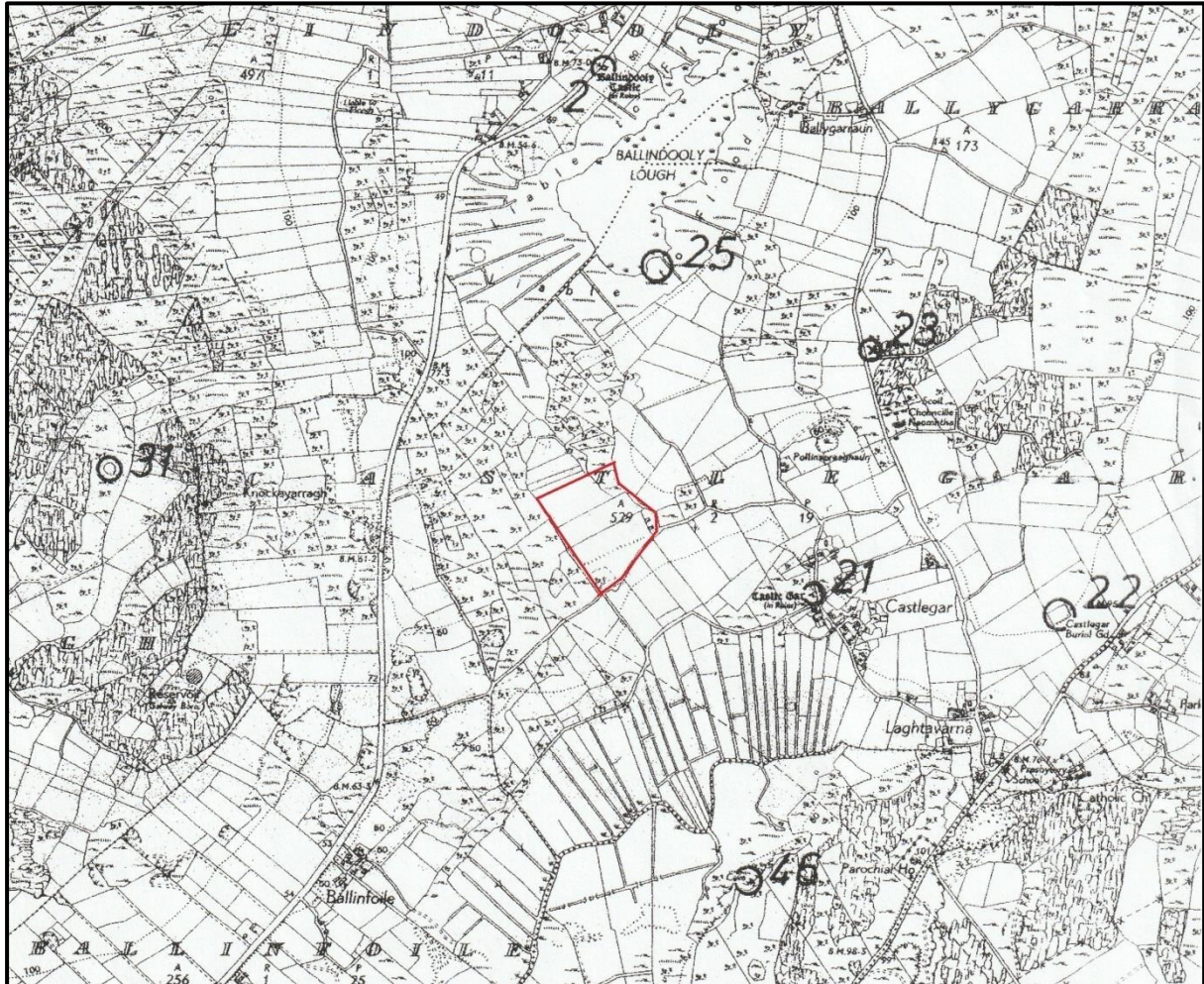


Figure 3 Site Location Map (Extract from Galway RMP, Sheet No. 82).

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RMP Number	Classification	Townland	Distance to Site
GA082-002	Tower house	Ballindooly	c. 900m
GA082-021	Tower house	Castlegar	c. 350m
GA082-022	Children's Burial Ground	Castlegar	c. 900m
GA082-023	Chapel Site	Castlegar	c. 600m
GA082-025	Crannog Possible	Castlegar	c. 450m
GA082-031	Earthwork Unclassified (*Destroyed)	Coolagh	c. 900m
GA082-046	Natural Cave (*not a monument)	Glenanail	c. 720m

Table 1 List of Recorded Monuments and Places within 1km of the study area.

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The nearest recorded monument to the proposed development site is Castlegar Castle (RMP No. GA082-021), which is located over 300m to the ESE.

RMP No. GA082-021

Description: ‘In existence in 1574 when it was in the possession of “Rolland Skeret” (Nolan 1901, 115). Rectangular four-story tower (L c. 9.3m, Wth 7.5m) in fair condition; most of SE and SW walls are gone, However, sufficient remains to indicate the position of the doorway in SE wall. The stairwell was in the SE corner. The ground, 1st and 2nd floors each comprised a main chamber with subsidiary one to SE. A stone vault existed between 3rd/4th storeys and there is an exit to a latrine chute at the base of the NW wall. A possibly concealed chamber existed beneath the floor in the SW side of the 4th storey. Most of the latter storey and the parapets above are gone. All the surviving windows are single lights with circular, flat or ogee heads’ (description courtesy of www.archaeology.ie).



The tower house, which dates to the 16th century and gives the townland its name, is partially overgrown with ivy. The NE wall of the monument was used as handball alley up to the middle of the 20th century (Plate No. 1).

Plate No. 1 Castlegar Castle from E.

National Museum of Ireland Finds Database

There are no entries in the finds database of the National Museum of Ireland for Castlegar townland in County Galway

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By the time of the OS 25-inch map, dating from the late 19th/early 20th century, the only changes are that the field to the SSE has been subdivided into three fields and a small area of rock outcrop and scrub is indicated in the S corner (Figure 5). Hachures on the 1945-46 edition of the OS six-inch map indicate the steep drop at the SSE end of the site (Figure 3). Two buildings in the SE corner of the site are first depicted on the 1945-46 map (Figure 3). The rock outcrop and scrub are still indicated in the S corner (Figure 3).

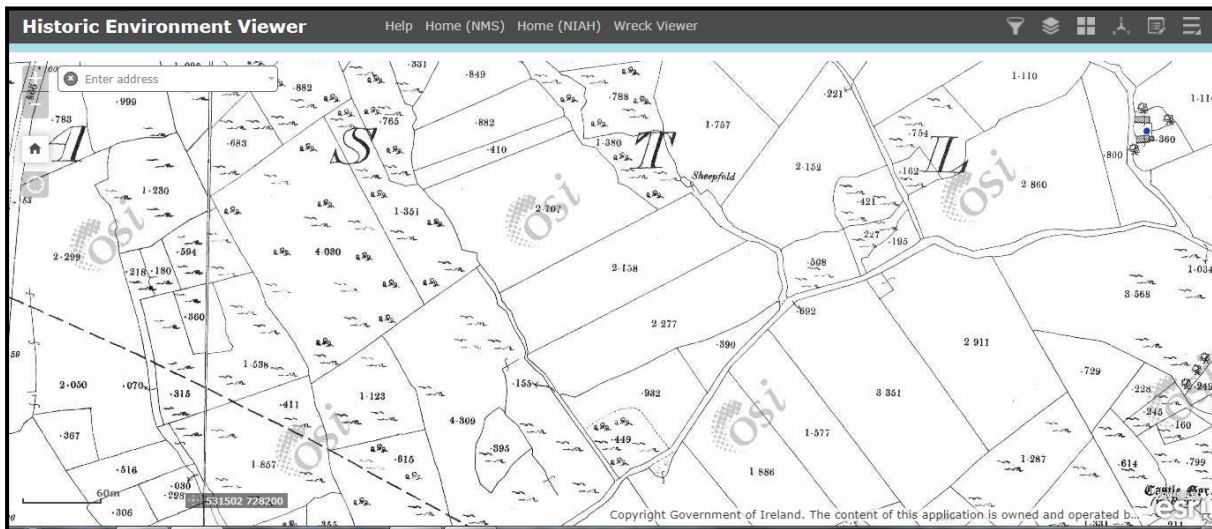


Figure 5 Site Location Map (Extract from 25-inch OS map from late 19th/early 20th century) courtesy of www.archaeology.ie.

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4. Description of the Proposed Development

Planning permission is sought by Lock House Developments Limited (the applicant) for development on a site which extends to 3.762 ha on lands located to the north of Bóthar an Chóiste, in the townland of Castlegar, Galway.

The development will consist of the following:

- 1) Demolition of an existing house (124.6m²), a ruined outbuilding (42.8m²), and a ruined dwelling (41.7m²).
- 2) Construction of 170 no. residential units comprising:
 - 84 no. two storey houses (34 no. two-beds, 42 no. three-beds, 8 no. four-beds)
 - 1 no. apartment block comprising 17 no. apartments (10 no. one-beds, 7 no. two-beds)
 - 1 no. apartment block comprising 21 no. apartments (12 no. one-beds, 9 no. two-beds)
 - 48 no. duplex units (11 no. one-beds, 24 no. two-beds, 13 no. three-beds)
- 3) Development of a two-storey creche facility with 40 no. child spaces (c. 288.7 sqm), associated outdoor play areas and parking.
- 4) Provision of all associated surface water and foul drainage services and connections including pumping station with all associated site works and ancillary services.
- 5) The upgrade of the existing Bóthar an Chóiste road from the proposed development to the junction at L5041 consisting of road improvements, road widening and junction re-alignment.
- 6) Pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular links throughout the development and access with Bóthar an Chóiste, and pedestrian and cyclist link to the adjacent Greenway route.

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- 7) Provision of shared communal and private open space, site landscaping and public lighting, resident and visitor parking including electric vehicle charging points, bicycle parking spaces and all associated site development works.
- 8) The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).



Figure 6 Proposed Site Layout.

5. Site Description



The proposed development site consists of a large field of pasture enclosed by drystone walls on three sides and modern wire fence on the NNW side (Plate No. 2). The drystone walls are overgrown with briars, hawthorn, hazel and Lelandi. The ENE half of the field slopes down from ENE to WSW (Plate No. 2).

Plate No. 2 Looking NE across the proposed development site.



The NNW end of the site slopes down towards Ballindooly Lough, which is located 400m away to the N (Figure 3). There is a steep slope down to the SSE end of the field/site (Plate No. 3).

Plate No. 3 Looking E across SSE end of the site.



In the SE corner of the site are two ruined buildings (Plate Nos. 4 & 5). That to the S is a former dwelling (Plate No. 4) with an associated outhouse to the rear (N) (Plate No. 5). The dwelling is constructed of 0.5m thick mortared rubble walls with mass concrete barges and window sills. It is partially covered in ivy.

Plate No. 4 Dwelling from SSE.

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Plate No. 5 Outhouse from S.

Neither building is marked on the 1838 map (Fig. 4) or the late 19th/early 20th century map (Fig. 5) but both are indicated on the OS six-inch map of 1945-6 (Fig. 3), suggesting a construction date from the first half of the 20th century. The outhouse is constructed of mortared rubble with a corrugated metal roof (Plate No. 5).



Plate No. 6 Looking W at the modern bungalow.

In the S corner of the site is a bungalow, dating to the second half of the 20th century (Plate No. 6), enclosed by drystone wall to the WSW and a modern concrete wall to the SSE. A landscaped lawn slopes down to the public road on the SSE side of the dwelling. The ENE boundary is completely overgrown.

To the ENE of the house in the field of pasture are a number of grass-covered spoil heaps (Plate No. 6). Lelandi line a portion of the ENE boundary and all of the SSE and WSW boundaries around the dwelling (Plate No. 6).

An overhead power line runs along the SSE site boundary outside which is Bóthar an Chóiste, on the far side of which are a number of modern housing developments (Plate No. 3). Galway City is visible beyond from E to S. The overgrown boundary to the WSW obscures views beyond.



There are good views to the N with Ballindooly Lough and Castle (RMP No. GA082-002) (Figure 3), as well as the Headford Road visible (Plate No. 7). There are near distance views of fields of pasture to the E and modern dwellings further along Bóthar an Chóist.

Plate No. 7 Looking N from NNW site boundary, showing Ballindooly Lough and Castle.

No features of archaeological significance were in evidence within or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site during the field walking.

6. Potential Impacts

Research has shown that there are no entries for Castlegar townland in the database of files in the National Museum of Ireland. Research has also shown that the three licensed excavations relating to Castlegar townland revealed nothing of archaeological significance. There are no known recorded monuments within the proposed development site and the field walking of the site revealed no features of archaeological significance. The nearest recorded monument is Castlegar Castle (RMP No. GA082-021), which is located *c.* 350m away.

7. Mitigation

Although there are no archaeological features visible within the site and no recorded monuments within or in the immediate vicinity, due to the size of the site and the scale of the proposed development, it is recommended that a programme of pre-development testing be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist in advance of the commencement of the proposed development.

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8. List of Abbreviations

Av. Th.	Average Thickness	c.	circa
C	Context	E	East
Illus.	Illustration	L	Length
m	metre	max.	maximum
mm	millimetre	N	North
NGC	National Grid Co-ordinates	OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey	RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
S	South	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record	Th.	Thickness
W	West	Wth	Width

**ALL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL
APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE**