# Treanor, Bronagh

From:

Carrickmacross Workhouse [info@carrickmacrossworkhouse.com]

Sent:

25 May 2018 16:43

To:

!devplan

Subject:

Submission re: Carrickmacross Workhouse

Attachments:

May 2018 - Submission to MCC Development Plan, 2019-2025.pdf; Geophysical Survey Report by Joanna Leigh - June 2017.pdf; Archaeological Appraisal by Ed O'Donovan -

April 2018.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Forward Planning Team

Please find attached submission from Farney Community Development Group CLG in relation to the ongoing protection and redevelopment of the 6-acre Carrickmacross Workhouse site, buildings, and Mass Famine Graves.

Please also find attached the referenced Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Appraisal on the Workhouse, both of which were commissioned and funded by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.

If you have any queries regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact us via our details below.

Is mise, le meas

Brian Kelly Director

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Farney Community Development Group CLG Carrickmacross Workhouse Shercock Road Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan A81 E372 Ireland

T: +353 (0)42 966 4540

E: info@carrickmacrossworkhouse.com

F: www.facebook.com/pages/Carrickmacross-Workhouse/105403519506303

W: www.carrickmacrossworkhouse.com

Built in 1841, Carrickmacross Workhouse has been restored by Farney Community Development Group CLG into a Community Resource, Training and Heritage Centre.





Farney Community Development Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status. Registered as a Company in Dublin, Ireland.

Registered Office: Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, A81 E372, Ireland.

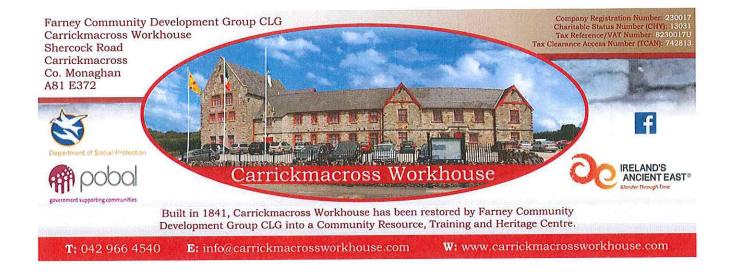
Company Registration Number: 230017 Charitable Status (CHY) Number: 13031 Tax Reference/VAT Number: 8230017U

Farney Community Development Group CLG gratefully acknowledges the support of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection through their Community Services Programme for funding towards staff, and thanks Pobal for administrating this funding.





The Community Services Programme is a Pobal managed programme



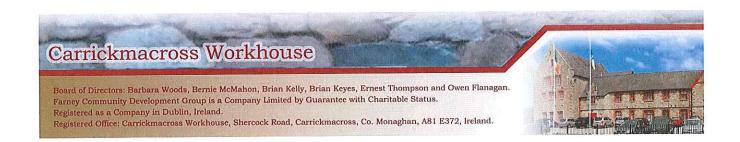
# Submission to Monaghan County Development Plan, 2019-2025

Farney Community Development Group CLG wishes to submit the following to Monaghan County Council's Draft County Development Plan, 2019-2025, under the headings of:

- 1. Tourism point 11.9 on Page 225
- 2. Recreation and Amenity point 11.10 on Page 226
- 3. Built Heritage point 11.12 on Page 227
- 4. Archaeology point 11.13 on Page 228

#### Submissions

- That the Council continue to support our efforts to return the 6-acre Carrickmacross Workhouse site, buildings, and Mass Famine Graves to public/community ownership.
- That the Council continue to support our efforts to restore and redevelop the derelict original back Workhouse building, which is a Protected Structure.
- That the Council continue to preserve the Mass Famine Graves onsite, as verified by the attached Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Appraisal commissioned and funded by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.
- That the Council continue to protect the Workhouse site, buildings, and Mass Famine Graves by retaining their current zoning of 'Community Services/Facilities', which are defined as, '....areas comprising mainly of existing Community, Civic and Educational uses.'



# **GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY**

# **REPORT**

Mullanary Glebe,
Carrickmacross Workhouse,
Co. Monaghan

Date: 14/07/2017

Licence: 17R0117

J. M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. 124 Oaklawn West Leixlip County Kildare www.jmlsurveys.com 01 615 4647



J. M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. 124 Oaklawn West, Leixlip, Co. Kildare Tel: 01 615 4647 Mobile: 0879062729 www.jmlsurveys.com

# GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET MULLANARY GLEBE, CARRICKMACROSS WORKHOUSE, COUNTY MONAGHAN

Site Name

Carrickmacross Workhouse

Ref No.

17030

**Townland** 

Mullanarry Glebe

Licence No.

17-R-0117

County

Monaghan

Licence Holder

Joanna Leigh

ITM (centre)

E683652, N804122

Purpose

Research

Client

Monaghan County Council

Reference No.

N/A

Closest RMP

MO031-030

Classification

Ringfort - Rath

ITM

E683251, N804243

Location

0.4 kilometres to the north west of

the application area

**Townland** 

Derryolam

Ground Conditions Survey are comprised of disused ground and was notably rough under foot in places. The overgrown vegetation had been subdued with weed killer. A telecommunications

mast is located to the north-east and a factory is located to the north-west.

**Survey Type** 

Detailed gradiometer and resistance survey totalling c. 0.5 hectare

# Summary of Results

The gradiometer survey was magnetically disturbed and no information could be derived from the results. The resistance survey identified high resistance responses, most likely representing some structural remains and spreads of material associated with the workhouse. In the north-west of the data there was a large low resistance response. This is in the locality of the former sewerage tanks of the workhouse. It is possible they are an associated feature, or possibly represent a large pit.

Report Date

14/07/2017

Report Author

Joanna Leigh

# **Contents**

1. Introduction	1
2. Survey ground conditions and further information	1
3. Survey Methodology	2
4. Data Display	3
5. Survey Results & Conclusion	4

# Geophysical Survey Report Carrickmacross Workhouse, Mullanarry Glebe, County Monaghan

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 A geophysical survey has been conducted by J. M. Leigh Surveys at the site of the Carrickmacross Workhouse in the townland of Mullanarry Glebe, Co. Monaghan. The survey forms part of a wider archaeological assessment by Edmond O'Donovan & Associates on behalf of Monaghan County Council.
- 1.2 A detailed gradiometer and resistance survey were requested to the immediate north of the remains of the Carrickmacross Workhouse. The survey was commissioned to identify geophysical responses which may represent the remains of the workhouse structure and activities associated with the workhouse.
- 1.3 The area highlighted for survey is located to the immediate north of the restored building of the former workhouse. A site location diagram is presented in Figure 1, at a scale of 1:1,500.
- 1.4 A detailed gradiometer and resistance survey were undertaken to identify any geophysical responses of potential interest. Survey fieldwork was conducted under licence 17R0117 issued by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The location of the detailed gradiometer and resistance survey is presented in Figure 1. Figure 2 presents an overlay of the location of the survey and the historic mapping, showing the location of the workhouse.

# 2 Survey ground conditions and further information

- 2.1 The area comprised of rough, disused ground, and was notably uneven in places. A drainage ditch runs around the site and the boundaries consist of mature vegetation.
- 2.2 A telecommunications mast is located to the north-west of the survey area. In addition, a large factory building is located to the immediate north-east of the site. Magnetic interference from the mast and factory is noted in the gradiometer survey.
- 2.3 Modern material was noted within the survey area. In the south-east of the survey area there is a spread of modern gravel, forming part of the car park. The gravel material has affected both the gradiometer and resistance survey. Although the gravel is noted in the results, its affects are localized and the overall interpretation of the resistance survey results has not been affected.

# 3 Survey Methodology

# Gradiometer Survey

- 3.1 A detailed gradiometer survey detects subtle variations in the local magnetic field and measurements are recorded in nano-Tesla (nT). Some archaeological features such as ditches, large pits and fired features have an enhanced magnetic signal and can be detected through recorded survey.
- 3.2 Data was collected with a Bartington Grad 601-2 instrument. This is a specifically designed gradiometer for use in archaeological prospection. The gradiometer operates with a dual sensor capacity making survey fast and effective.
- 3.3 The instrument is calibrated in the field to ensure a constant high quality of data. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.01nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions.
- 3.4 All data was collected in 'zigzag' traverses. Grid orientation remained constant throughout each field to facilitate the data display and interpretation.
- 3.5 Data was collected with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m, providing 3200 readings per 20m x 20m grid. The survey grid was set-out using a GPS VRS unit. Survey tie-in information is available upon request.
- 3.6 Detailed Resistance Survey
- 3.7 A detailed resistance survey is used to record variations in electrical resistance by passing an electrical current through the ground. The subsequent earth resistance (measured in ohms) is recorded and presented in map form for interpretation. Resistance surveys are typically conducted on sites where structural or stone features are anticipated.



- 3.8 Detailed resistance survey was conducted with a Geoscan RM15 instrument. Data was collected with a parallel twin-probe array of mobile and remote electrodes. The resistance survey mobile probes were separated by 0.5m. Data was collected with a sample interval of 1.0m and a traverse interval of 1.0m.
- 3.9 The survey grid was set-out using a GPS VRS unit. Survey tie-in information is available upon request.
- 3.10 The survey methodology, data display and analysis complies with the European Archaeological Council (EAC, 2015) 'Guidelines for the use of Geophysics in Archaeology'.

# 4 Data display

- 4.1 A summary greyscale image of the gradiometer survey is presented in Figure 3. Figures 4 and 5 present the raw and processed resistance survey results, both at a scale of 1:1,000.
- 4.2 Figure 6 presents an interpretation diagram with the historic mapping, at a scale of 1:1,000. Figure 7 also presents the interpretation drawing, at a scale of 1:625.
- 4.3 Numbers in parenthesis in the text refer to specific responses highlighted in the resistance survey interpretation diagram (Figures 6 and 7).
- 4.4 The display formats referred to above and the interpretation categories are discussed in the summary technical information section at the end of this report.

# 5 Survey Results & Conclusion

Gradiometer survey (Figure 3).

- 5.1 The gradiometer survey results present a magnetically disturbed data set. The disturbance is most likely modern in origin, resulting from ground disturbance and interference from the adjacent telecommunications mast and factory.
- 5.2 No information of interest can be discerned from the gradiometer survey data due to the broad magnetic disturbance. It is possible that responses of interest remain undetected, masked by the magnetic noise.

Resistance Survey (Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7)

- 5.3 The resistance survey has some responses of potential interest. High resistance response (1) is suggestive of structural remains and shows a clear correlation with the recorded remains depicted on the historic mapping.
- 5.4 Further possible structural remains have been identified as spreads of high resistance readings (2) in the south of the data set. These are less clearly defined but may represent spreads of rubble or construction material, most likely associated with the former workhouse.
- 5.5 To the north of (1) there are faint linear trends and some high resistance responses (3). Although these do not appear to correlate with features on the historic mapping, it is possible that unknown structural remains have been detected. This is speculative but most be considered.
- 5.6 In the north-west of the survey area there is a broad negative response (4). This appears to show some correlation with the former location of sewerage tanks. It is possible that the remains of a large pit feature are represented here.
- 5.7 In the south-east of the data, fluctuations in responses and a broadly high resistance background (5) result from a modern gravel surface. The modern disturbance may mask subtle responses from structural remains buried beneath. No interpretation within the modern disturbance can be provided.
- 5.8 Consultation with a licensed archaeologist and with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is recommended to establish if any additional archaeological works are required.

### **Technical Information Section**

# Instrumentation & Methodology

### Detailed Gradiometer Survey

This is conducted to clearly define any responses detected during scanning, or can be applied as a stand-alone methodology. Detailed survey is often applied with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m. This allows detection of potential archaeological responses. Data is collected in grids 40m x 40m, and data is displayed accordingly. A more detailed survey methodology may be applied where archaeological remains are thought likely. A survey with a grid size of 10m x 10m and a traverse interval of 0.5m will provide a data set with high resolution.



#### Bartington GRAD 601-2

The Bartington Grad 601-2 instrument is a specifically designed gradiometer for use in archaeological prospection. The gradiometer operates with a dual sensor capacity making survey very fast and effective. The sensors have a separation of 1m allowing greater sensitivity.

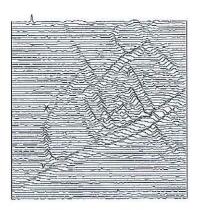
Frequent realignment of the instruments and zero drift correction; ensure a constant high quality of data. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.1nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions.



# Gradiometer Data Display & Presentation

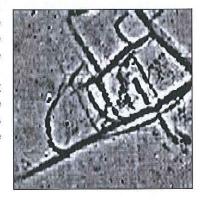
#### XY Trace

The data are presented as a series of linear traces, enabling a semi-profile display of the respective anomalies along the X and Y-axes. This display option is essential for distinguishing between modern ferrous materials (buried metal debris) and potential archaeological responses. The XY trace plot provides a linear display of the magnitude of the response within a given data set.



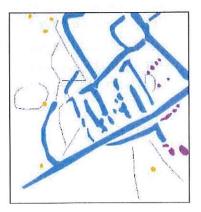
# Greyscale\*

As with dot density plots, the greyscale format assigns a cell to each datum according to its location on the grid. The display of each data point is conducted at very fine increments, allowing the full range of values to be displayed within the given data set. This display method also enables the identification of discrete responses that may be at the limits of instrument detection. In the summary diagrams processed, interpolated data is presented. Raw un-interpolated data is presented in the archive drawings along with the xy-trace plots.



#### Interpretation

An interpretation of the data is made using many of the plots presented in the final report, in addition to examination of the raw and processed data. The project managers' knowledge and experience allows a detailed interpretation of the survey results with respect to archaeological potential.



\*XY Trace and raw greyscale plots are presented in archive form for display of the raw survey data. Summary greyscale images of the interpolated data are included for presentation purposes and to assist interpretation.

#### **Glossary of Interpretation Terms**

#### Archaeology

This category refers to responses which are interpreted as of clear archaeological potential, and are supported by further archaeological evidence such as aerial photography or excavation. The term is generally associated with significant concentrations of former settlement, such as ditched enclosures, storage pits and associated features.

#### ? Archaeology

This term corresponds to anomalies that display typical archaeological patterns where no record of comparative archaeological evidence is available. In some cases, it may prove difficult to distinguish between these and evidence of more recent activity also visible in the data.

#### ? Industrial

Such anomalies generally possess a strong magnetic response and may equate with archaeological features such as kilns, furnaces, concentrations of fired debris and associated industrial material.

#### Area of Increased Magnetic Response

These responses often lack any distinctive archaeological form, and it is therefore difficult to assign any specific interpretation. The resulting responses are site specific, possibly associated with concentrations of archaeological debris or more recent disturbance to underlying archaeological features.

#### Trend

This category refers to low-level magnetic responses barely visible above the magnetic background of the soil. Interpretation is tentative, as these anomalies are often at the limits of instrument detection.

#### Ploughing/Ridge & Furrow

Visible as a series of linear responses, these anomalies equate with recent or archaeological cultivation activity.

#### ? Natural

A broad response resulting from localised natural variations in the magnetic background of the subsoil; presenting as broad amorphous responses most likely resulting from geological features.

#### Ferrous Response

These anomalies exhibit a typically strong magnetic response, often referred to as 'iron spikes,' and are the result of modern metal debris located within the topsoil.

#### Area of Magnetic Disturbance

This term refers to large-scale magnetic interference from existing services or structures. The extent of this interference may in some cases obscure anomalies of potential archaeological interest.

# **Bibliography**

European Archaeological Council (EAC) (2015) 'Guidelines for the use of Geophysics in Archaeology' by Armin Schmidt, Paul Linford, Neil Linford, Andrew David, Chris Gaffney, Apostolos Sarris and Jörg Fassbinder.

English Heritage (2008) 'Geophysical guidelines: Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation.' Second Edition.

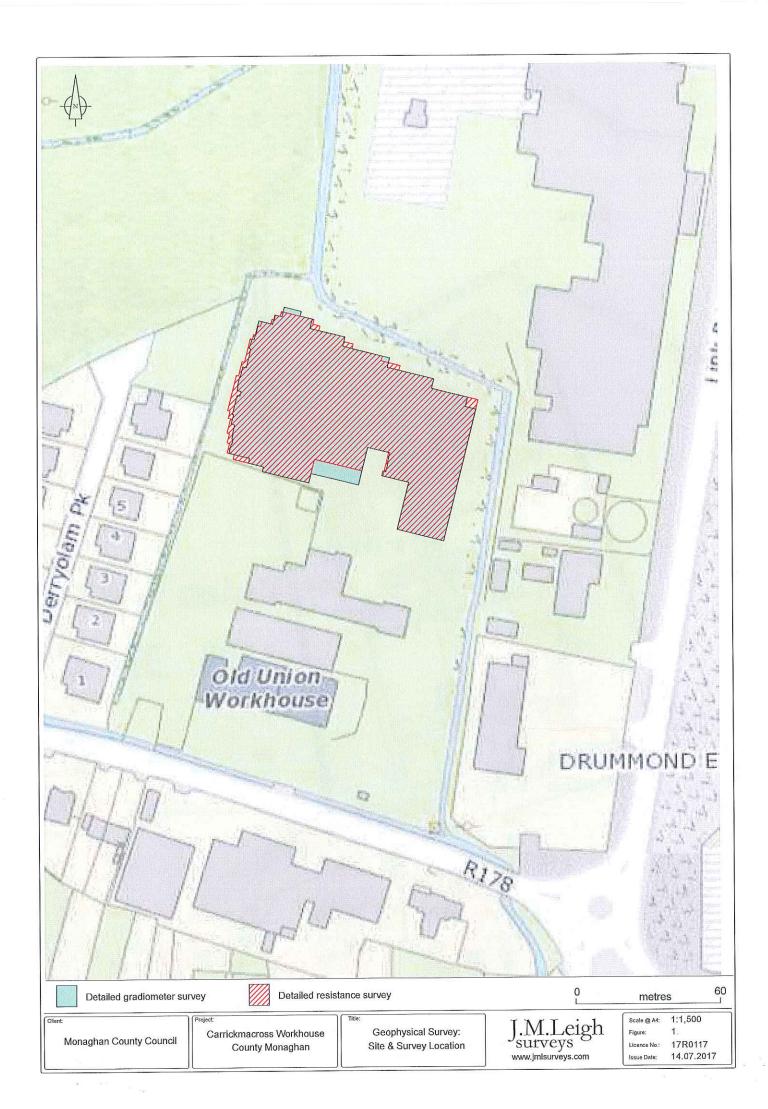
Gaffney, C. Gater, J. & Ovenden, S. (2006) 'The use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations.' IFA Paper No. 6.

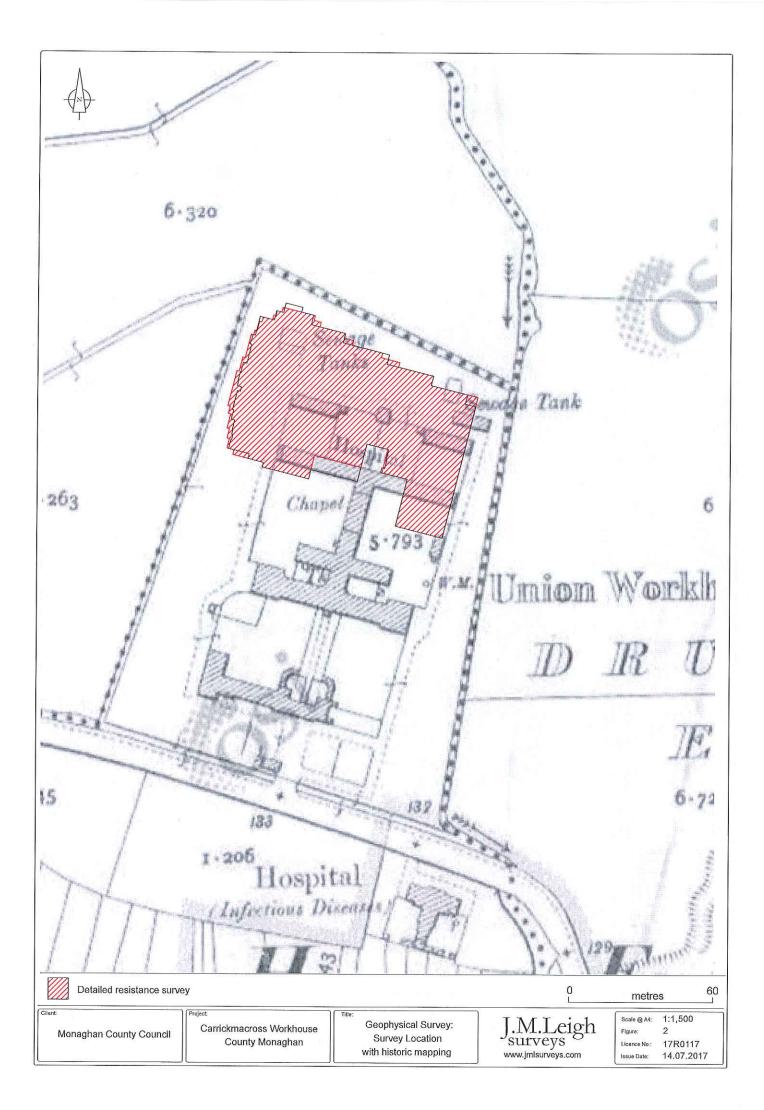
Gaffney, C & Gater, J (2003). 'Revealing the buried past: Geophysics for Archaeologists.' Tempus Publishing Limited.

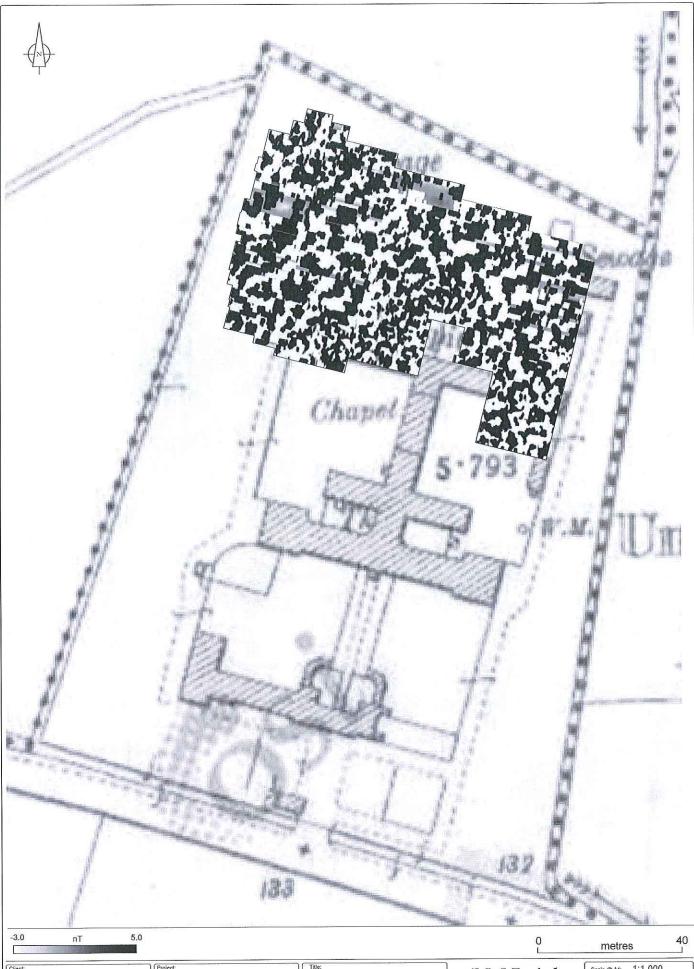
National Soil Survey of Ireland (1980) General soil map second edition (1:575,000). An Foras Taluntais.

# List of Figures

Figure	Description	Paper Size	Scale
Figure 1	Site & survey location diagram	A4	1:1,500
Figure 2	Survey location with historic mapping	A4	1:1,500
Figure 3	Summary greyscale image	A4	1:1,000
Figure 4	Resistance raw data	A4	1:1,000
Figure 5	Resistance processed data	A4	1:1,000
Figure 6	Resistance interpretation diagram with historic mapping	A4	1:1,000
Figure 7	Resistance interpretation diagram with historic mapping	A4	1:625







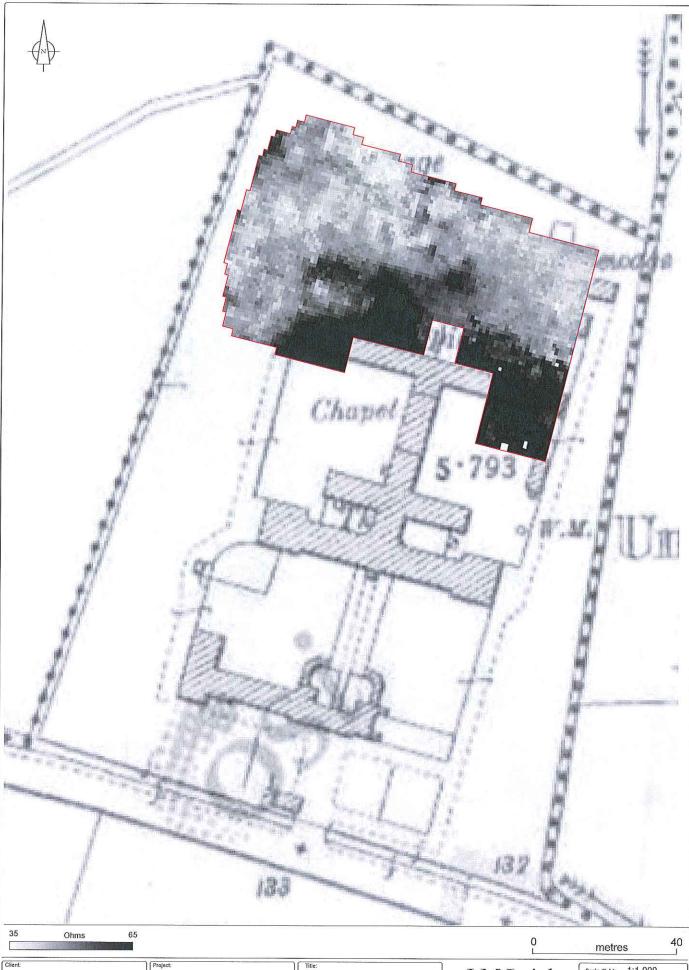
Monaghan County Council

Carrickmacross Workhouse County Monaghan

Geophysical Survey: Gradiometer Survey Summary Greyscale Image J.M.Leigh surveys www.jmlsurveys.com

1:1,000 Scale @ A4:

17R0117 14.07.2017



Monaghan County Council

Carrickmacross Workhouse County Monaghan

Geophysical Survey: Resistance Survey Raw Data

J.M.Leigh surveys www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:1,000 Figure: 17R0117 14.07.2017 Licence No.:









Archaeological Consultancy

77 Fairyhill Bray, Co. Wicklow Ireland 01 286 5771 info@donovandigs.com donovandigs.com

Gareth McMahon C.Eng, Municipal District Coordinator Carrickmacross, Castleblayney MD, Carrickmacross Civic Offices Riverside Road, A81 RY22

25-04-2018

Via e-mail gmcmahon@monaghancoco.ie

Re: Archaeological Appraisal at Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan

Dear Gareth

Please find attached a report describing the results of an archaeological appraisal of the Workhouse in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. This follows the completion of geophysical survey work and an archaeological development impact assessment in 2017.

The report was carried out following a request from Monaghan Co. Council for an archaeological appraisal of the site with a view to specifically seeking to attempt to identify some of the issues that may arise if the site was redeveloped from an archaeological perspective. The report begins with a simple overview of the site's historical and archaeological context. It is based on field inspection, a geophysical survey and a brief desk based survey to evaluate the historical and archaeological background to the site. The report seeks to address archaeological and heritage related issues in relation to potential redevelopment at the site.

Yours sincerely

Edmond O'Donovan

Encl.

# Archaeological Heritage Appraisal of Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan

#### Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological appraisal of Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan carried out for Monaghan Co. Council who are assessing development options in terms of taking an interest in the site (Figures 1 to 4, Site Location)<sup>1</sup>. The site is currently partially occupied by Farney Community Development Group Ltd. who operate the site as a not-for-profit community oganisation based out of some of the Carrickmacross Workhouse buildings. A number of other commercial, community, historical and local governmental organisations operate out of the existing buildings. Some of the buildings exist in a semi-derelict state and large parts of the site either unoccupied and / or unused.

#### Methodology

The methodology used in the preparation of this document involved the following approaches:

- Documentary Research An assessment of published and unpublished sources for the site including primary research in the Record of Monuments and Places (National Monuments Service)<sup>2</sup>, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)<sup>3</sup> and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 – 2019<sup>4</sup>.
- Field Inspection This involved structured field walking at the site at 15m intervals across which also included an examination of the upstanding, visible topographic features. A site meeting with key managers of the Farney Community Development Group facilitated a thorough site evaluation both to determine the site character and suitability of potential development areas.
- Topographical Assessment The assessment of the local topography for areas of archaeological potential based upon the local environmental and physical setting.
- An examination of Aerial Photos and Historic Maps This involved the
  examination and study of Ordnance Survey 1837 and 1890 edition maps and
  2005, 2000 and 1995 vertical aerial photos. It also involved the examination of
  the stereoscope collection of Geological Survey of Ireland Air Photos (1973 @
  1:30,000). Digital aerial photos on the Google and Bing map websites were also
  reviewed.
- Geophysical Survey A geophysical survey of the rear of the site was procured
  to assess if it was possible to identify buried features such as grave plots,
  structures or demolished buildings. JML Survey was sub-contracted to carry out
  the survey.

25/04/2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ITM Grid Ref: 683618 / 804013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/

<sup>4</sup> https://monaghan.ie/planning/monaghan-county-development-plan-2013-2019/

#### Carrickmacross Workhouse

#### Introduction

Carrickmacross Workhouse was one of 130 Workhouses built throughout Ireland between 1841 and 1843 to house the poor following the enactment of the Poor Law<sup>5</sup>. The Workhouse at Carrickmacross is thought to have been built in 1841 and continued in use into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The workhouse was built on the eastern edge of the town in Mullanarry townland. The placename Mullanarry is derived from the Irish *Mulla na Arraidh* or Hill of the Meeting<sup>6</sup>, a low hill outside the town to the south of the site.

The workhouse is sited on the northern side of the Shercock Road (modern R178) on the 19<sup>th</sup> century margins of the town. The Workhouse was an agricultural field prior to the construction of the workhouse buildings and precinct walls (Figure 3). The site has become partially encompassed within the expanding modern suburbs of Carrickmacross in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. The landscape around the workhouse is characterised by the low undulating hills of Ireland's drumlin belt set around the town of Carrickmacross. The soils are fertile and consist of brown silty gravelly clay over gravelly glacial gravels that rise between 40 and 50m OD. The workhouse site has been levelled to form a generally flat platform sloping to the north down to the water filled ditches that separate the site from the neighbouring properties to the north, east and west.

### Life in the Workhouse

Workhouse life for the poor was regulated and disciplined. Inmates rose at 7am, dressed in their rough workhouse clothes and brogues. They went to the central dining hall where they waited for prayers to be said, (paupers were government property and had to be accounted for) and then they were inspected for cleanliness. They then took their 'pannies and tin mugs' and lined up for their 'stirabout' (porridge) and milk. They sat down on wooden forms, grace was said collectively, and the meal was eaten in silence. One of the rules stipulated that, 'any paupers who shall make any noise when silence is ordered to be kept shall be deemed disorderly and shall be punished accordingly'. Work commenced after breakfast. Dinner was usually in late afternoon and consisted of potatoes or brown bread and soup. Leisure time was restricted. The inmates were not allowed go to their dormitories until bedtime at 8pm, nor were they allowed to play cards or any games of chance, smoke, or have or 'consume any spiritous or fermented drink'. They could receive visitors only in the presence of the Master of the Workhouse, the Matron or other duly authorized officer.

#### Workhouse Clothing

The prescribed clothing for adult males was a coat and trousers 'of barragon', cap, shirt, brogues and stockings and for females a striped jerkin, a petticoat of 'linsey- woolsey' and another of stout cotton, a cap, a shift, shoes and stockings. Children were not provided with shoes or stockings on the grounds that they were not accustomed to footwear. However this standard of clothing was not provided during the famine years because of lack of funds. The shoddiest

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Poor Law Act Ireland 1838

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See <a href="https://www.logainm.ie/en/39338">https://www.logainm.ie/en/39338</a> taken from the Placenames Database of Ireland created by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge in collaboration with The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

clothing was considered good enough for paupers, many of whom arrived at workhouses half naked and half starved.

#### Workhouse Work

It was a fundamental rule of the workhouse system that no individual capable of exertion must ever be permitted to be idle in a workhouse and to allow none who are capable of employment to be idle at any time. The inmates were set to work, the men breaking stones, grinding corn, working on the land attached to the workhouse or at any other manual work about the house. The women mended clothes, washed clothes, attended the children and the sick and even joined in the breaking of stones. This was work without incentive or motivation as they received no compensation for their labour.

#### The Management of the Workhouse

Ireland was divided into districts to form Unions to support Workhouses. There were 130 Unions in Ireland. There was a Board of Guardians in each Union which controlled and managed the Workhouse in the Union. The Board was responsible for the erection, maintenance and running of the day-to-day activities within the workhouse. Only ratepayers were eligible for election to these Boards and this effectively ruled out the majority of native Irish who were at the time landless, being mostly tenants-at-will. Ministers and Priests were not eligible to become members of the Board. There was general hostility and suspicion to the system of election. Staff at the workhouse included a Clerk to the Board of Guardians, a Treasurer of the Union, a Medical Officer of the Workhouse, a Master of the Workhouse, a Matron (who deputized for the Master), a Porter of the Workhouse, a School Master and Mistress of the Workhouse and a Chaplain. Rate collectors, Relieving Officers, Nurses and Servants were also employed with the approval of the Board. The inmates were also employed and to keet the number of paid staff at a low level.

#### Financing the Poor Law in Ireland

To finance the provision of poor relief in each Union a poor rate was levied and this was to be based on a valuation of all the property in the said union. The charging of rates on all property within each Union was used for the upkeep of the Workhouses and the maintenance of the paupers as well as paying the salaried officers of the Union, namely the clerk, medical officers, master and matron of the workhouse, porter, chaplains, schoolteachers, rate collectors and relieving officers etc. In some cases the poor rate was used to assist in emigration and after 1847 it was also used to pay for the management of the outdoor Famine Relief programmes.

In 1838 this poor rate was to be paid by all occupiers of land, but this was changed so that if a property was rated at under £4 the owner and not the occupier of the land was required to pay the Union rate where there was no lease. In order to ensure that this was done the Clerk ordered that all proprietors should send in lists of occupiers having more than one holding, which in aggregate exceeded £4, and lists of small occupiers holding by lease. Each electoral division was to pay for the maintenance of the poor who had resided in the district before going to the Workhouse, while those who had no fixed residence for a number of years were to be charged on the Union as a whole. In this way the local area was to be responsible for its own poverty.

### The Great Famine in Ulster

The Great Famine had a strong impact in Ulster as a whole and a particular impact in south Ulster. Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan were amongst the hardest-hit areas in all of Ireland. As Brian McDonald states at the time in the local Journal, the Clogher Record:

'More than 2,000 families gone from townlands and parishes, the traces of potato ridges, the fallen thatch and crumbling walls the only tangible evidence of their having lived and loved this place they knew as home.'

Between 1845-51 Ulster's population fell by 340,000, a drop of 16% compared with 20% for the whole of Ireland. At least 13,000 people died from starvation and disease in Co. Monaghan between 1847 and 1850. As the effect of the famine worsened, the population within Carrickmacross Workhouse grew and death became a daily phenomena.

#### Famine, Death and Burial at Carrickmacross Workhouse

A pauper's graveyard known as 'Bully's Acre' was chosen for the dead from the Workhouse during the famine in Carrickmacross. The cemetery is located at the beginning of the Crossmaglen Road at the far end of Farney Street from St. Finbarr's Church. This site is likely to have been chosen after the unnamed plots for 'strangers' within the existing graveyards in the town became full. A new lane from the Workhouse to 'Bully's Acre' was constructed at the time, this ran from Derryolam up the back of Gallows Hill to Cloughvalley and down to new cemetery, completely bypassing the town in order that the citizenry would not have to view the bodies being brought for burial<sup>7</sup>.

Finding burial space for the famine dead was a common issue for the Board of Governors within Poorhouse Unions. The following is an account of the Carrickmacross Union<sup>8</sup> 'On Tuesday April 6th 1847, at a meeting of the Board of Guardians [of Carrickmacross Workhouse], present were:-Charles McMahon, Esq, in the chair; Peter Hoey, Esq, deputy vice-chairman; Messrs Thomas Bartley; Francis McMahon; Michael McMahon; Thos. Dwyer; and Owen McKenna.

After the minutes of the last day's proceedings were read, the Chairman stated that in consequence of the crowded state of the Magheross burial-ground, and the great objection that was made to allow any more paupers to be buried there, he had written to the Right Reverend Doctor McNally, RC Bishop of Clogher, to know that if a portion of the workhouse was laid off, would his lordship have any objection to consecrate it.

The Right Reverend Prelate stated in reply that if the ground was laid off for the burial of the deceased Catholic paupers, he would have it consecrated as soon as possible.

Mr. Bartley then moved that a portion of the workhouse ground be laid off for the burial of the Catholic paupers - the Master having first intimated that the Protestant and Presbyterian inmates all had ground of their own, and that the Protestant clergyman had informed him that there was no part required to be allotted for them.

 $^{8}$  Extracts from 'Newry Examiner and Louth Advertiser' Newspaper, dated Saturday April  $10^{\mathsf{th}}$  1847.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Extract from 'St. Finbarr's Church, Carrickmacross - A History' complied by Church of Ireland Reverend, Robert Kingston (2000).

The motion was seconded by the deputy vice-chairman, and passed unanimously.

The paupers were then called up for admission, when 27 were admitted; remaining in the three houses previously were 803.

Several sought for admission, but selection was made of the most destitute; for the workhouse and two other houses are full; there are every board-day at least from 150 to 200 applicants; and it is only as vacancies occur by death or otherwise that anyone can be admitted.

There were 20 deaths within the last week. Average cost of each pauper, 2s. 2d.'

This account from the contemporary newspapers in 1847 shows that famine burials were interred in plots on the Carrickmacross site.

# The Architect and Physical Buildings at Carrickmacross Workhouse

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) described the Workhouse building complex at Carrickmacross as an H-plan former workhouse complex, dating from 1841<sup>9</sup>. They (NIAH) attribute the design to George Wilkinson who was invited to Ireland in 1839 as the architect of the Irish Poor Law Commission to oversee the construction of Workhouses throughout the country. Other architectural buildings in Ireland by Wilkinson include the railway station in Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath and an Italianate style station at Crossdoney in Co. Cavan (c. 1855). He later designed the Cavan town terminus (1862) for the Midland Great Western Railway and Harcourt Street Railway Station in Dublin<sup>10</sup>.

The buildings at Carrickmacross follow the typical Wilkinson layout. An entrance and administrative block at the east contained a Porter's room and waiting room at the centre, with the Guardians' boardroom on the first floor above. The main accommodation block had the Master's quarters at the centre, with male and female dormitory's (strictly separated) in the wings to each side. At the rear, a range of single-storey utility rooms, such as a workhouse kitchens, bakehouse and washhouse, connected through to the infirmary and 'idiots wards' or hospital via a central spine containing the chapel and dining-hall. Children stayed with the mother and orphans were houses in a separate block.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century mapping illustrates a hospital and chapel within the complex, with the addition of sewerage treatment tanks at the very rear of the site (Figure 4). The principal view of the Workhouse from the Shercock Road is dominated by the thirteen-bay two-storey main block, with projecting two-bay three-storey double gable-fronted bays. The Workhouse has an abutting rectangular-plan building to rear, incorporating a derelict store with a detached five-bay two-storey workhouse master's house to the south of the workhouse with slightly-advanced gable-fronted end bays. The facade continues to west by six-bay two-storey orphanage and school annex built 1851. The west end of this block is canted forward and has a gablet roof. The facade ends with slightly projecting gabled end of three-storey set at right angles. The latter block has a multiple-bay side elevation, with gablet roof over the middle bay.

25/04/2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah/search.jsp?type=record&county=MO&regno=41310002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in Ireland at http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/

The main block has a belvedere towards the north end overlooking the interior of the site and presumably it over looked the rear Workhouse yards. The belvedere has pyramidal corrugatedasbestos roof and dressed limestone walls. Modern warehouses are situated between the main block and former Master's house. The historic roofs are built from pitched slate and have castiron rainwater goods, with recent decorative bargeboards to the front gables. The walls are built from random coursed squared limestone with plinths and tooled quoins, with moulded string course between floors of front block. The windows consist of cast-iron single, double and triplelight diamond-paned windows set in timber frames. The windows to master's house have chamfered surrounds, having stone sills and tooled stone surrounds, with brick-surrounds to the openings of orphanage wing. The windows on the main block consist of louvered shouldered openings to apex of highest front gable, and pointed-arch louvered vents to apexes of double gables of the main block. Ventilation was considered essential in the dormitories.

The doors consist of square-headed door openings now mostly having replacement doors. A Tudor-arch doorway to the Master's house is set in a chamfered surround, with double-leaf timber panelled door and flanked by lower windows, all under continuous hood-moulding. The date of 1841 is located over the central doorway. Internally the building is constructed from a series of queen-post roof trusses. Many of the original rear buildings and workhouse precinct walls have been demolished. This is clearly visible when the historic 25 inch Ordnance Survey map is contrasted with the current plan of the buildings that survive on site.

#### The Architectural and Historic Registration of Carrickmacross Workhouse

The Workhouse building complex at Carrickmacross has been afforded a regionally important architectural rating by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Inventory Reg. No. 41310002) who state that 'this complex has a considerable survival of its structures and details, enhancing the architectural heritage value of the building. The good quality of the varied stone masonry styles, the use of gables and gablets, and the varied window and door openings, adds interest and texture to the buildings. Currently being restored, the complex has renewed meaning for the people of County Monaghan.'11

The Workhouse buildings are also listed on as Register of Protected Structures (RPS) by Monaghan Co. Council in the current Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2018 (RPS Ref. No. 41300360). Monaghan Co. Council seeks to have such buildings retained and maintained as part of its County Development Plan both as Objectives and Policies of the Council (Appendix 1).

#### Neighbouring Archaeological Sites

There is one archaeological site located to the north east of the Workhouse building complex. The site is a recorded Monument (RMP Ref: MO031-030) in Derryolam townland. The site is a ringfort defined by a circular area (diam. 37m) and is surrounded by earthen bank with external fosse. The site is located sufficiently to the northwest away (300m) from the Workhouse, so it does not present a development issue. This known archaeological site will not be physically impacted by the proposed development nor is there any overlap between the 'zone of notification' as identified around the site by the National Monuments Service and Carrickmacross Workhouse 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> NIAH, ibid.

<sup>12</sup> The 'Zone of Notification' is an area defined by the National Monuments Service around a Recorded Monument or a National Monument site. The site of this zone varies and is dependent on the relative size

# **Ordnance Survey Maps and Aerial Photographs**

The earliest historic map of the site (Ordnance Survey  $1^{st}$  edition, c. 1837) illustrates the site prior to the construction of the Workhouse as an open field surrounded by field boundaries within the very northern tip of the townland of Mullanarry (Figure 3). The field boundaries around the site in the early to mid- $19^{th}$  century were curved and reflected the natural topography of a hilly field sloping down to water filled field boundaries around its margins. The contrast between the  $1^{st}$  edition Ordnance Survey map and the later 25 inch map of c. 1900 illustrates the Workhouse as constructed and used (Figure 4). A new road linking Evelyn Street and the Dray Bridge was built in 1841 and the Workhouse site was constructed on the northern side of the new road. The plot on which the workhouse was constructed was landscaped and levelled altering the field boundaries into a regular large rectangular plot comprising 5.793 acres in extent. The Workhouse was enclosed within large walls with a wide grassy margin between the Workhouse walls and the field enclosure.

Ordnance Survey Aerial Photos (2005, 2000 and 1995), digital aerial photos from Google Maps and Bing Maps were examined in detail (Plate 2).

#### Archaeological Inspection and Geophysical Survey

The site was inspected and subject to a walk over survey by Edmond O'Donovan on 22-06-2017 (Plates 1 to 8). The site was subsequently subject to an Archaeological Geophysical Survey undertaken by JML Surveys Ltd. on the 03-7-2017<sup>13</sup>. The combination of the two evaluations allows for an appraisal of the character and archaeological potential of the surviving elements and areas of the site. The results of the Geophysical Survey (Figure 2) were mixed, however, the site can be classified into 6 Areas from a heritage perspective and the evaluation of those areas can be further expanded based on future proposals should such be required.

Figure 1 illustrates the Areas (1-6) identified at the site and suggests a development potential in those areas as follows:

- 1. Existing parking used by the Farney Community Development Group and their tenants at the front of the site along and adjacent to the R178.
- The Workhouse buildings currently utilised by the Farney Community Development Group and their tenants.
- 3. The derelict upstanding Workhouse buildings in the centre of the site.
- 4. The demolished rear northern Workhouse buildings and Workhouse precinct wall that are now sub-surface remains, these are covered by both tarmac, concrete and grassed over.
- 5. The former factory site to the west of the site and its associated concrete aprons.

and complexity of the Recorded Monument. Whilst the zone does not define the exact area around a monument, it is used to define the area where a landowner, developer or any other person must notify the National Monuments Service before any work is carried out at an archaeological/historic structure or site included in the Record of Monuments and Places or Register of Historic Monuments as define in the above referenced National Monuments and subsequent Acts.

<sup>13</sup> Geophysical Survey Report at Mullanary Glebe, Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan for Monaghan Co. Council by J. M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. 124 Oaklawn West, Leixlip, Co. Kildare www.jmlsurveys.com, 01 -615 4647. Date: 14/07/2017, Licence: 17R0117

25/04/2018

The rear grassed area that lies beyond the northern Workhouse precinct wall, this area extends to the east and west of the Workhouse in U shape; this location is the most likely position where Workhouse burials and / or later burials would have been interred.

#### General Comments on development at the Union Workhouse site at Carrickmacross

Development on the site would have to be undertaken as a Part 8 application by a Local Authority or as a normal planning application by any non-governmental organisation or individual. Consultation with statutory heritage agencies and the local community would be an important pillar of a successful application. The Local and National Government planning departments / agencies (Monaghan Co. Council and *An Bord Pleanála*) and the National Heritage Agencies (Architectural Heritage Advisory Service and National Monuments Service within the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) all may comment, enquire, request information and / or refuse development based on the sites Heritage Status. Any recommendations or conclusions in this report would be subject to their approval as arbiters of the planning process.

It is highly likely that any grant of permission to re-develop the site would include a requirement for the excavation of test trenches in advance of development or at the least would require some element of archaeological monitoring given the sites potential for burial relating to its use as a Workhouse. There is also the potential for development to uncover other archaeological remains such as walls and other structures relating to the Workhouse, which may be the subject of a requirement to preserve such upstanding or sub-surface remains *in situ* and to develop the site around these remains without removing them.

Artefacts dating from the famine and later times are also located on the site; these are both buried on site and are stored in the derelict buildings on site (Plate 6). The Torpedo Bottles identified in the rear storage sheds on site date from 1840-1870<sup>14</sup>, other architectural fragments are also located on site such as doors, window frames and other items of architectural material from the Workhouse that are no longer *in situ*.

# Area Specific Comments on development at the Union Workhouse site at Carrickmacross

Area 1 and 2

Areas 1 and 2 are not being assessed for redevelopment given that they are currently in use and occupied by the Farney Community Development Project Ltd. and their tenants. They largely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See 'Curators Choice: Torpedo Bottle, By: Kody Powers, Emily Wilson, and Madison Wilson, students of Huntingtown High School's Historical Investigations Class, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Stae Museum of Archaeology, Maryland, USA' at <a href="https://www.jefpat.org/CuratorsChoiceArchive/HHS-Highschool.../TorpedoBottle.pdf">https://www.jefpat.org/CuratorsChoiceArchive/HHS-Highschool.../TorpedoBottle.pdf</a>

consist of the external car-parking areas fronting onto the Shercock Road and offices, rooms, heritage display areas and kitchens occupied by the Farney Community Development Project Ltd. and their tenants.

#### Area 3

It is considered that Area 3 is suitable for re-development. The principal and significant heritage constraint is the existing surviving Workhouse buildings which were not restored or conserved as part of the Farney Community Development Project. These buildings have a regionally important architectural status given the site's listing in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH inventory Ref. No. 41310002). The buildings are also listed in the County Development Plan as a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. No. 41300360). It would be a requirement of any development in this location to renovate and either restore or conserve the existing buildings, demolition would be considered inappropriate. The restoration and reuse of the buildings would be a significant heritage project and would be positive action in terms of the objectives of the County Development Plan.

#### Area 4

Area 4 covers the footprint of former demolished buildings at the rear (north) of the Workhouse. The demolished structures include the Workhouse precinct wall, the mortuary building, hospital and the Chapel along with exercise yards and other ancillary buildings. The foundations for these structures are likely to survive sub-surface and were partially revealed by the geophysical survey. It was not possible to fully assess this area by geophysics as concrete does not allow for the surveys to penetrate it.

Area 4 is suitable for re-development; such re-development should seek to minimise the interference of the sub surface building remains and should be appropriate and reflect the architectural character of the site. This does not preclude the construction of utilitarian buildings, but it is suggested that such buildings should be built with a design that is sympathetic to the surviving Workhouse architecture. Such re-development would be within the curtilage of the original building complex. It is considered unlikely that Workhouse or famine related burials are located in this zone, although this possibility cannot be discounted.

New foundations, services and sub surface ground disturbance could be permitted subject to planning approval (including consultation with the National Heritage Statutory Authorities, see Appendix 1) and it is highly likely that some level of recording commensurate with the level of ground disturbance will be required as mitigation where walls and others structures relating to the Workhouse are uncovered in the course of the development construction window. Time should be allocated within any building programme to accommodate the recording of such remains. New proposed buildings within this location could and should take their orientation from the alignment of the former Workhouse buildings so that elements of the original form and layout of the Workhouse are legible in the new site layout.

#### Area 5

Area 5 is also an area where the site could be redeveloped, the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century developments could be demolished and replaced. The constraints highlighted in Area 4 are also applicable in this area, especially the potential for burials outside and along the old precinct wall (to the west of the site). It may be appropriate to use this area as a yard and maintain the existing ground level. Consideration should be given to visual issues from the south along the Shercock Road (R178) looking into the site and from within the existing Workhouse buildings. There is a possibility that Workhouse or later burials were interred in this location in the space beyond the old precinct wall and within the present site water filled boundary ditch.

#### Area 6

Area 6 contains a grassed area that has a significant potential as a famine burial site and also has the potential to be a repository for human remains (burials) related to the continued use of the site as an institutional building after the Famine through and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was limited redevelopment of this ground previously, although a number of sewerage tanks are indicated on the revised 25 inch Ordnance Survey map. The grassy ground within Area 6 was assessed by geophysics; some locations were not suitable for geophysical survey. Magnetic susceptibility was unsuccessful at the site, although the resistance survey was more successful and demonstrates the clear demarcation of the rear precinct wall and ground within the current land parcel that lay to the north of it.

Consideration should be given to leaving the original ground beyond the precinct wall (north) as an open grassed space suitable as a contemplative 'garden' area to commemorate those who lived and died within the former Workhouse buildings. It is suggested that the area is not disturbed or excavated either for development or to exhume the burials that are likely to be interred in this location. Test excavation to ascertain if burials are present could be carried out, although it should be noted that this is technically and operationally difficult and previous assessments (archaeological) have often resulted in either over estimating or under estimating the scale and complexity of burials at these sites. The central concern should be for burials interred at the site to remain *in situ* if possible.

#### **Principal Recommendation**

The principal recommendation of the archaeological appraisal is that any proposed development shall be the subject of an archaeological assessment including the excavation of test trenches. The scale and scope of the number, depth and location of the trenches is directly related to the scale and scope of any development proposal. Development should also be considered in the light of the Architectural importance of the surviving Workhouse buildings, but also based on the site's potential for archaeological remains. Discussion and consultation with the representatives from the Planning and Heritage Divisions of Monaghan Co. Council and with the archaeological and architectural sections of the National Monuments Service is strongly advised.

Edmond O'Donovan, 25-04-2018

## Appendix 1

Relevant Extracts from the Current County Development Plan

Objectives for Architectural and Built Heritage in the Current Monaghan County Development Plan

ABO 1 To secure the preservation of all sites and features of architectural and historical interest.

ABO 2 To retain the historic cores of towns and villages including existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths within towns and villages.

ABO 3 To promote the sympathetic reuse and adaption of structures having architectural heritage merit.

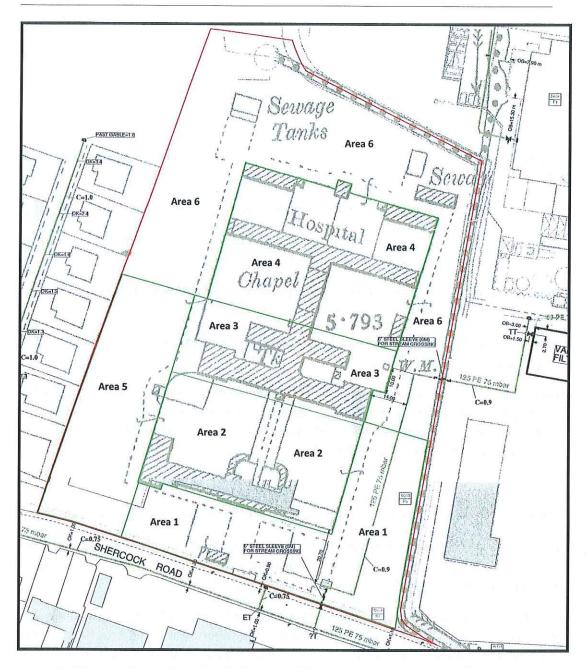
ABO 4 To protect historic demesnes and designed landscapes within the county from degradation and fragmentation.

ABO 5 Seek the retention and appropriate use of vernacular heritage in County Monaghan by resisting the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings with modern structures, and protecting vernacular buildings where they contribute to the character of an area or town, or where they are rare examples of a building type.

Policies for Architectural and Built Heritage in the Current Monaghan County Development Plan

ABP 1 All projects involving architectural and built heritage shall be considered under policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

ABP 2 In securing the conservation and preservation of built heritage, the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, both in respect of whether or not to grant planning permission and in respect of the conditions to which the permission, if granted, should be subject.



**Figure 1** – Site Location and the sub-division of the Workhouse site by Areas of differing Heritage potential, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

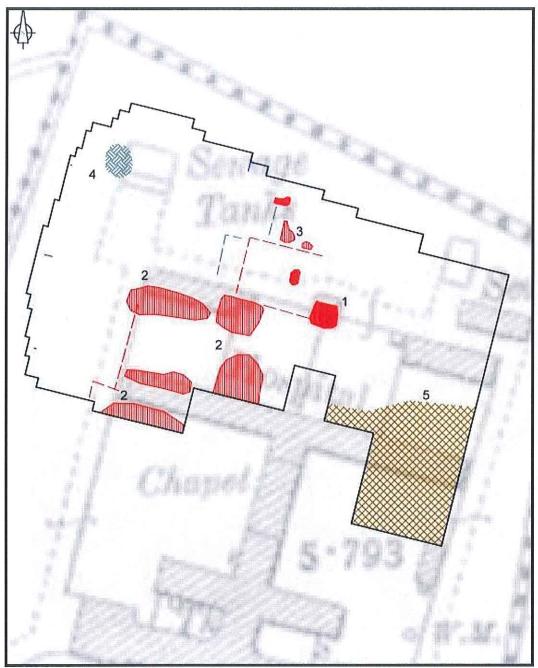


Figure 2 – The Results of the Resistivity Survey at Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

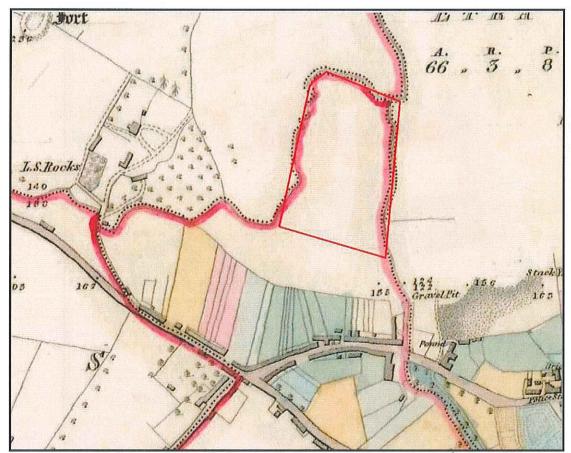


Figure 3 – The site of the Union Workhouse at Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, after Ordnance Survey, 1st edition, c. 1838

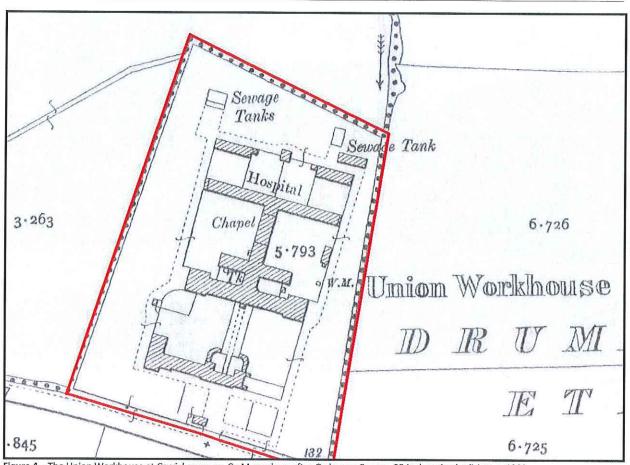


Figure 4 – The Union Workhouse at Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, after Ordnance Survey, 25 inch revised edition, c. 1900



Plate 1 – The south front elevation of Carrickmacross Workhouse from the Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan looking north northwest



Plate 2 – Aerial View of the surviving Carrickmacross Workhouse buildings (after Bing Maps, 2013), Co. Monaghan

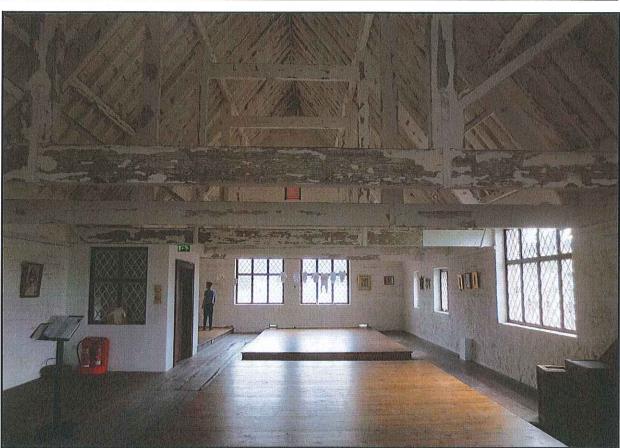


Plate 3 – The interior of one of the dormitories at Carrickmacross Workhouse located in the front western corner of the site, note the pine raised bedding area

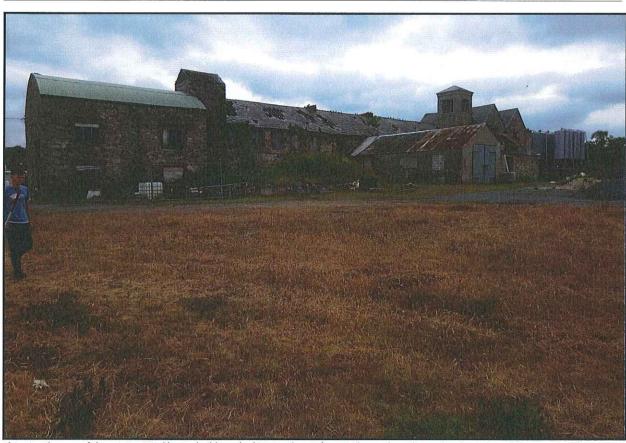


Plate 4 – The rear of the existing Workhouse buildings, looking southwest from mid-way along the eastern boundary of the site, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan



Plate 5 – Area 3 at the rear of the Workhouse looking south, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan



Plate 6 – Torpedo or Hamilton Bottles dating from between 1840-1870 in storage in disused building within Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan



Plate 7 – The middle range of buildings on site at Carrickmacross Workhouse looking southwest, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, note the precinct walls and rear range of buildings are now demolished



Plate 8 – The northern end of the site Area 6 where the burials are likely to be located at Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan, looking north

