

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING
ASSESSMENT
AT
ELM GROVE, CAVAN
COUNTY CAVAN**

**ON BEHALF OF:
CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an initial archaeological screening assessment, which has been undertaken as part of a proposed residential development. The proposed development area is located in the townland of Kinnypottle, within Cavan Town, County Cavan (Figure 1, ITM 642088/ 805269) This assessment has been carried out in order to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area, and define whether further studies are required in order to define potential impacts. The assessment was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology, on behalf of Cavan County Council.



FIGURE 1: Site Location

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

It is proposed to construct 13 no. fully serviced 2 bedroom units (12 semidetached + 1 detached), form service road, connections to existing foul main, watermain and surface water discharge, landscaped open space and all ancillary and associated works (Figure 2).



FIGURE 2: Plan of proposed development

2 RESULTS OF SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The proposed development is located at Elm Grove, within Cavan town, County Cavan. It lies outside the zone of archaeological potential for the historic core of Cavan. There is one recorded monument within the vicinity of the proposed development area, a ringfort (CV020-085), located c. 213m east-southeast (Figure 3).



FIGURE 3: Recorded monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development area

A review of Excavations Bulletin (1970–2019) has revealed no previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the proposed development area to date. Archaeological testing was undertaken c. 108m south of the proposed development area prior to the construction of an apartment block (Licence Ref.: 07E0101). No features or deposits of archaeological potential were encountered (Bennett 2007:118). Archaeological testing was carried under licence 04E1361, c. 116m to the northwest, but failed to identify any features of archaeological significance (Bennett 2004:0106). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during testing at 31 Church Street, under licence 06E1014 ext., c. 168m southwest of the proposed development area (Bennett 2007:117). A programme of archaeological testing was also carried out at Farnham Street, c. 300m southwest of the proposed development area but failed to identify archaeological deposits (Licence Ref.: 02E0057, Bennett 2002:0055).

Examination of the historic OS maps of the proposed development area has revealed that the site remained as greenfield in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The first edition OS map of 1835–6 shows the proposed development area as occupying parts of two fields, with a tree lined field boundary traversing the southern half of the site, in a roughly northeast–southwest direction (Figure 4). There are no features depicted within the proposed development area, with a small structure depicted to the north situated on a laneway and the ringfort (CV020-085) depicted to the southeast as a substantial feature in the landscape. There is little change to the proposed development area by the time of the later 25-inch OS map. The structure to the north of the proposed development area is no longer shown (Figure 5).

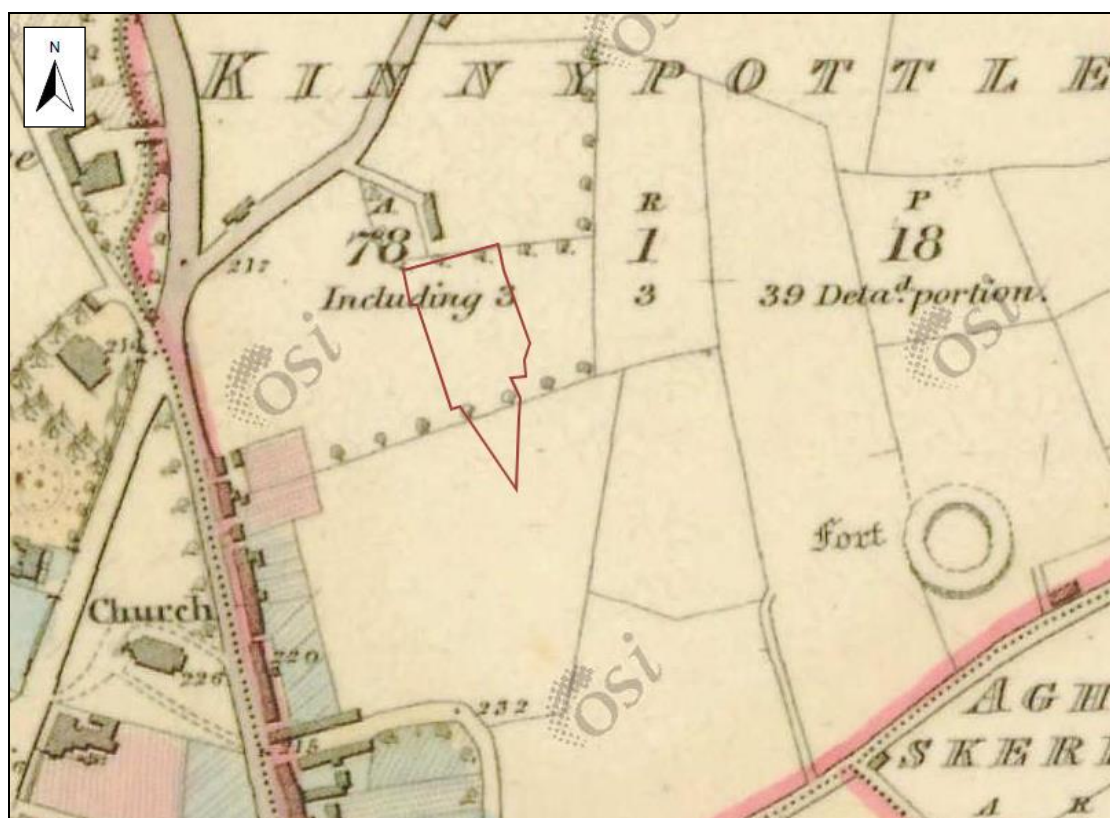


FIGURE 4: Extract from first edition OS map of 1835–6 showing the proposed development area

The available aerial photographic coverage and satellite imagery show the proposed development area has been occupied by an industrial structure since at least 1995 (OSI). The site became overgrown once the industrial unit fell out of use but recent imagery shows the site has been subject to some disturbance, possibly as a result of site clearance works (Google Earth 2020, Figure 6).

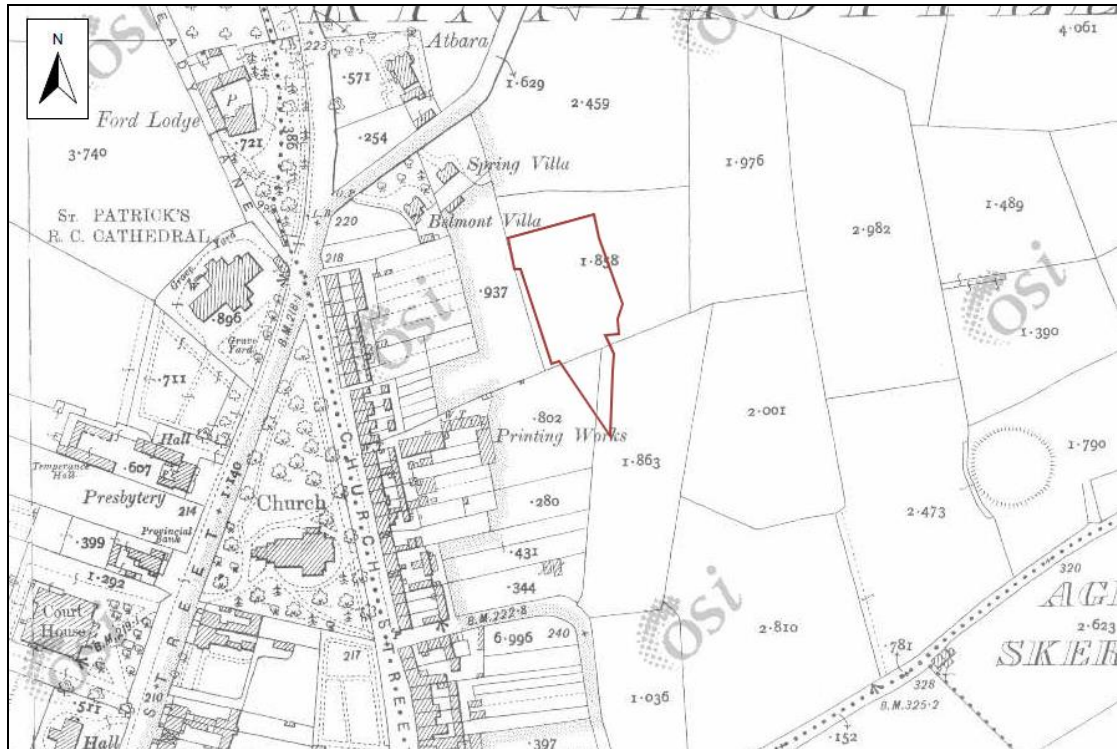


FIGURE 5: Extract from the historic OS map of 1911 showing the proposed development area



FIGURE 6: Recent satellite imagery of the proposed development area (after Google Earth 2020)

The construction of the existing industrial development on the site has led to significant disturbance within the development area and the southern portion of the

site is also steeply sloped, and therefore would not be an attractive location for settlement or habitation in the past. Given the condition of the site, the proposed development area is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

3 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Given the low archaeological potential of the proposed development area, no further archaeological assessments or mitigation is deemed to be necessary in association with future development.

4 REFERENCES

Bennett, I. (ed.) 1987–2010. *Excavations: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Wordwell, Bray.

National Monument Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *Sites and Monuments Record*, County Cavan.

National Museum of Ireland. *Topographical Files*, County Cavan.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Ordnance Survey maps of County Cavan 1835–6, 1911

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2019.

www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

www.bingmaps.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.