

Proposed Woodquay Park Enhancement, Galway

Archaeological Impact Assessment

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Work

The Proposed Development comprises the refurbishment of Woodquay Park, at Townparks townland, Galway city. Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. was appointed to carry out an archaeological impact assessment of the Proposed Development. The assessment comprises a desk-based study and a site walk-over and provides an assessment of potential impacts on the archaeological heritage resource within and adjacent to the Proposed Development site. A project description is provided below and detail regarding the proposed site layout can be referred to in the planning application drawings.

1.2 Project Team and Qualifications

Miriam Carroll is a director of Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd and graduated from University College Cork in 1998 with a Masters degree in Methods and Techniques in Irish Archaeology. Miriam is licensed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to carry out excavations and is a members of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI). She has been working in the field of archaeology since 1994 and has undertaken numerous projects for both the private and public sectors including excavations, site assessments (EIAR) and surveys.

1.3 Development Description and Site Location

The Proposed Development site is situated in the townland of Townparks at Woodquay, Galway City (Figure 1). The site comprises an existing park which largely consists of a grassed area delimited by fencing and hedging. Mature trees also stand around the perimeter of the park, inside the aforementioned hedge. Access to the park is via a gate in the fence at the north-east and south-west side of the park.

The Proposed Development will consist of the following:

Redevelopment of Woodquay Park to enhance public usage including the creation of a new paths, planting, a small events space/outdoor classroom, seating, river viewing areas, sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), boundary treatments, lighting and artwork. Environmental enhancements will also be undertaken to the surrounding streets of Corrib Terrace, Riverside and Waterside.

1.3.1 Photographic record of Proposed Development Site



Plate 1: Woodquay Park and adjacent car parking to south, looking NW.



Plate 2: Park interior and existing fencing, looking NW.



Plate 3: Northern end of park interior, looking NW.



Plate 4: Southern end of park interior, looking SE.



Plate 5: North-west end of Proposed Development site, looking S.



Plate 6: Galway Rowing Club and site of GA094-100059- Quay, located a short distance to NW of the Proposed Development site, looking W.



Plate 7: River Corrib, Galway Rowing Club and NW end of Proposed Development site in background, looking SW.



Plate 8: Street (Corrib Terrace) at west side of Proposed Development site, looking SE.



Plate 9: Street (Riverside) at east side of Proposed Development site, looking SE.

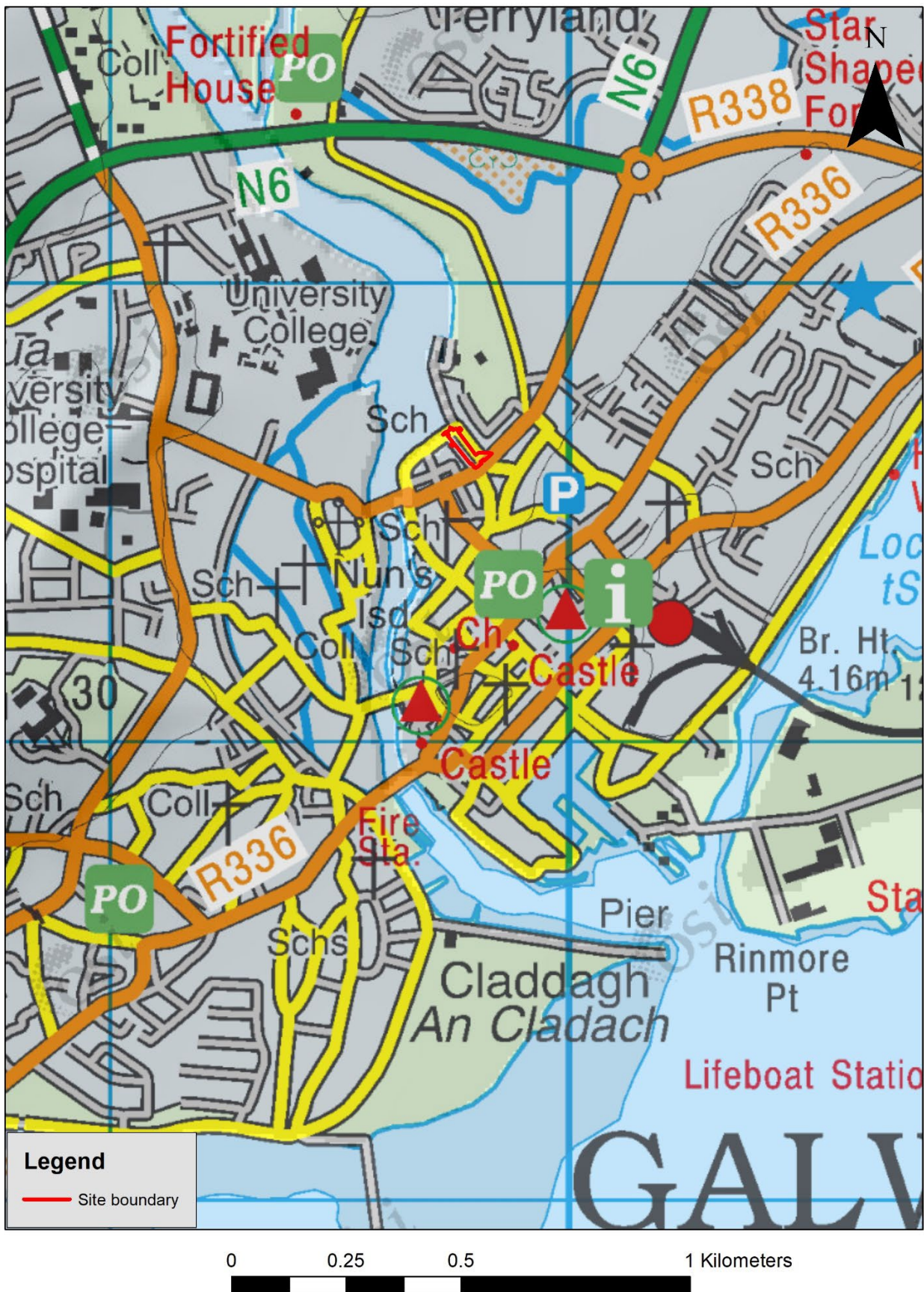


Figure 1: Site location map.

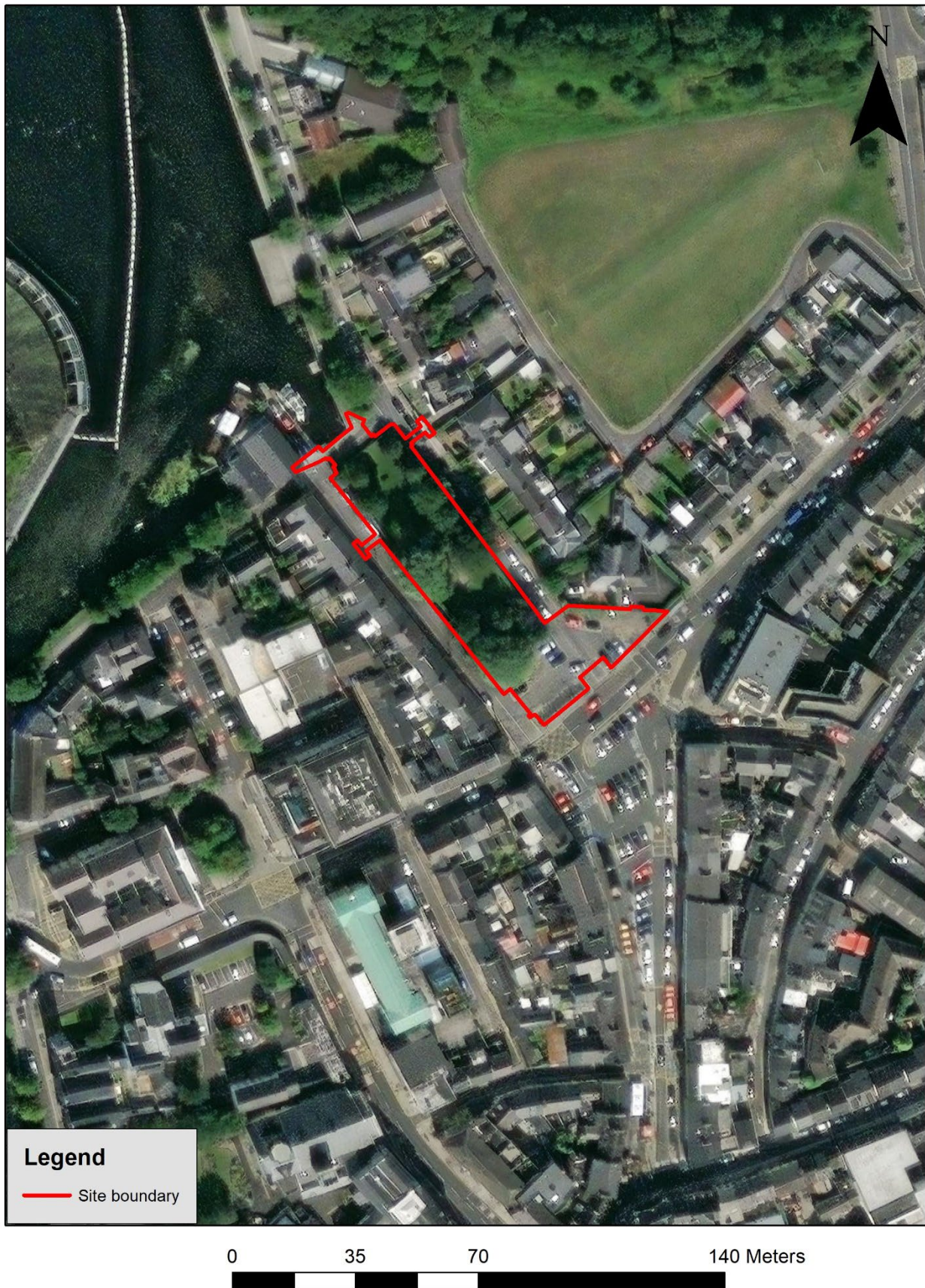


Figure 2: Proposed Development boundary on aerial background.

2 STATUTORY CONTEXT

2.1 Current Legislation

Archaeological monuments are safeguarded through national and international policy, which is designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention). This was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

Both the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring protection of archaeological monuments, the latter of which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date. There are a number of provisions under the National Monuments Acts which ensure protection of the archaeological resource. These include the Register of Historic Monuments (1997 Act) which means that any interference to a monument is illegal under that Act. All registered monuments are included on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and consists of a list of known archaeological monuments and accompanying maps. The Record of Monuments and Places affords some protection to the monuments entered therein. Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Amendment Act states that any person proposing to carry out work at or in relation to a recorded monument must give notice in writing to the Minister (Environment, Heritage and Local Government) and shall not commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice. All proposed works, therefore, within or around any archaeological monument are subject to statutory protection and legislation (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

Under the Heritage Act (1995) architectural heritage is defined to include 'all structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including street-scapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents...'. A heritage building is also defined to include 'any building, or part thereof, which is of significance because of its intrinsic architectural or artistic quality or its setting or because of its association with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, political, social or religious history of the place where it is situated or of the country or generally'.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), sets out the legal framework for the protection of buildings/structures which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Such protection is afforded through the mechanism of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the term 'structure' includes the interior of the structure, the land lying within the curtilage of the structure, any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interior, and all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of that structure. The protection also extends to any features specified as being in the attendant grounds.

2.2 Policies of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

The Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 outlines a number of policies relating to archaeology and built heritage as follows.

Policy 8.4 Archaeology

1. Protect, preserve and promote the archaeological heritage of the city including underwater archaeology in rivers, lakes, canals, marine, intertidal and subtidal environments.

2. Ensure that proposed development within the designated city centre Zone of Archaeological Notification is not detrimental to the character of an archaeological site or its setting.
3. Have regard to the archaeological recommendations of the DHLGH on any planning applications.
4. Endorse the sustainable use of archaeological heritage as an educational and cultural resource and promote public awareness of the archaeological heritage of the city.
5. Require the surveying, recording or excavation of archaeological heritage to include standing historic buildings and underwater archaeological heritage during the development process, where appropriate.
6. Seek the preservation in situ or, at a minimum, preservation by record of archaeological sites/monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and of previously unknown sites, features or objects of archaeological interest that are revealed through development activity.
7. Ensure that any development proposal with potential to impact on archaeological heritage, including the setting and amenity of sites and monuments, includes for an archaeological assessment. This includes within terrestrial, riverine, lacustrine, marine inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments.

Policy 8.5 Industrial Archaeology

1. Promote the protection of the varied industrial heritage of the city and encourage greater appreciation and public awareness of this heritage.

Policy 8.6 Galway City Walls

1. Secure preservation in situ of the historic medieval city walls and seek to protect and enhance their settings.
2. Support the implementation of recommendations set out in the 'Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013)'.
3. Progress the Atlantic Museum extension and the associated interpretation of the city walls and medieval features of the city.

Policy 8.1 Record of Protected Structures

1. Protect structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with legislation and DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011.
2. Ensure new development enhances the character or setting of a protected structure.
3. Avoid protected structures becoming endangered by neglect or otherwise by taking timely appropriate action.
4. Have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the assessment of development.
5. Consider the inclusion of buildings and structures of special interest or of distinctive heritage value in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and consider any recommendations for inclusion in the RPS made by Ministerial Recommendation.
6. Consult with the DHLGH and have regard to recommendations of the DHLGH on planning applications relating to protected structures.
7. Implement proactive measures to encourage the conservation of protected structures.
8. Promote sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings

Policy 8.3 Vernacular Heritage

1. Encourage the conservation and rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing structures that contribute to the character of the city.
2. Take cognisance of the 'The Inventory of Thatched Buildings' in the assessment of any proposed works to such structures.

3 PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. was appointed to undertake an archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment report which will be submitted with the planning application.

4 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The assessment of the archaeological heritage of the Proposed Development area comprised desk-based research, GIS analysis and a site walk-over and photographic record (see Section 1.3.1).

4.1 Desktop Assessment

A number of sources were consulted as part of the desktop assessment of the Proposed Development in order to ensure that all the known and potential archaeology and cultural heritage of the area was considered as part of this report.

The sources consulted included but were not limited to the following:

- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Down Survey Barony maps (1656-8) (www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)
- First edition Ordnance Survey map
- Second edition Ordnance Survey map
- Third edition Ordnance Survey map
- Aerial photographs
- Excavations Database
- Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029
- Irish Historic Towns Atlas No. 28 Galway
- Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013)

4.1.1 Record of Monuments and Places

A primary cartographic source and base-line data for the assessment was the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Galway. All known recorded archaeological monuments are indicated on 6 inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and are listed in this record. The SMR/RMP is not a complete record of all monuments as newly discovered sites may not appear in the list or accompanying maps. In conjunction with the consultation of the SMR and RMP the electronic database of recorded monuments which may be accessed at <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com> was also consulted.

4.1.2 Cartographic sources and aerial photography

The 1st (1840s) and 2nd (1900s) edition OS maps for the area were consulted as was OSI aerial photography and Down Survey Barony maps (1656-8).

4.1.3 Topographical Files - National Museum of Ireland

Details relating to finds of archaeological material and monuments in numerous townlands in the country are contained in the topographical files held in the National Museum of Ireland. The townland within which the development is located was checked for such finds.

4.1.4 Excavations Database

The excavations database is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license in Ireland. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to 2024. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this assessment to establish if any archaeological excavations had been carried out within or near to the Proposed Development site.

4.1.5 Record of Protected Structures and NIAH

The Record of Protected Structures for Galway City and the NIAH are dealt with and assessed in the Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment carried out for the Proposed Development.

4.2 Geographical Information Systems

GIS is a computer database which captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data that is linked to location. GIS is geographic information systems which includes mapping software and its application with remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, photogrammetry, geography and tools that can be implemented with GIS software. A geographic information system (GIS) was used to manage the datasets relevant to the archaeological and architectural heritage assessment and for the creation of all the maps in this report. This involved the overlaying of the relevant archaeological and architectural datasets on georeferenced aerial photographs and road maps (ESRI), where available. The integration of this spatial information allows for the accurate measurement of distances of a proposed development from archaeological sites and the extraction of information on 'monument types' from the datasets. Areas of archaeological sensitivity may then be highlighted in order to mitigate the potential negative effects of the Proposed Development on archaeological heritage.

4.3 Site Inspection

A walk-over survey and photographic record of the Proposed Development site was carried out as part of this assessment (see Section 1.3.1 above).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK CARRIED OUT ON THE SITE

Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical site investigation trial pits was carried out by Tobar Archaeological Service Ltd in May 2024. The work involved the excavation of two trial pits within the park to establish existing ground conditions and the presence of ground water. All excavation works were monitored by the author and no archaeological finds, features or deposits were noted in either pit (please see archaeological monitoring report for further detail).

6 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Archaeological Heritage

For the purposes of this report archaeological heritage includes all recorded archaeological monuments listed in the RMP/SMR and shown on the associated maps, sites identified during archaeological excavations as summarised in the Excavations Database and any find spots listed in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.

6.1.1 National Monuments

The term 'national monument' as defined in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act (1930) means a monument 'the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto...'. National monuments in State care include those which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG). Other owners of national monuments are empowered under Section 5 of the National Monuments Act (1930) to appoint the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as guardian of such monuments. This means in effect that while the property of such a monument remains vested in the owner, its maintenance and upkeep are the responsibility of the State. Monuments which may be defined as national monuments are also in the ownership or guardianship of Local Authorities which have similar responsibilities under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) to DCHG.

For national monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority or which are subject to a preservation order or temporary preservation order, the prior written **consent of the Minister** is required for any works at or in proximity to the monument.

No National Monuments are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development site. The nearest National Monument comprises Merlinpark Castle, No. 609 which is located c. 3.6km to the east (Figure 3).

The monument comprises a tower house which is described on the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) as follows:

GA094-023---- : Castle - tower house : MERLINPARK

Description: On a short rise in the former demesne of Merlin Park House. This Nat. Mon., known as 'Doughiske Castle' until the mid-18th C, was in existence in 1574 when it was in the possession of Stephan Lynch (Nolan 1901, 113). It consists of a well-preserved four-storey rectangular tower (L 8.95m, Wth 7.85m) over a basement. A doorway, centrally placed in E wall, gives access, via a lobby, to ground floor, to spiral stairs in SE corner and to basement stairs in NE. There are subsidiary chambers and latrines to S of the main rooms on ground and 1st floors and an intramural passage in same position on 2nd floor. Stone vaults exist between basement/ground floor and 2nd/3rd floors. Fireplaces occur in N wall of the basement, 2nd, and 3rd floors. Two small chambers (one concealed) occupy the thickness of the vault between the 2nd/3rd floors. The gabled roof contained a garret and had wall-walks with machicolations at parapet level on N, S and W walls. Apart from the horizontal gun slits on ground floor, all the windows are either single or double lights with ogival heads. A sheela-na-gig (GA094-023001-) figure is carved onto the spandrel of a single-light ogee-headed window on 2nd floor of S wall. A later extension adjoined at E, where traces of a high pitched roofline, a doorway inserted off the spiral stairs and a raised platform indicate a former two-storeyed building, possibly of 17th-C date. (Lynch Athy 1914, 146-52; O'Flanagan 1927a, Vol. 1, 330).

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Galway Vol. I - West Galway'. Compiled by Paul Gosling (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1993). Date of upload/revision: 29 May 2012

This monument was taken into Ownership under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 - National Monument 609.



Plate 10: Merlinpark castle, National Monument No. 609). Photograph courtesy of Galway City Council.

The nearest monument subject to a Preservation Order (14/1977) is located over 4km to the north-east and comprises a field system, two ringforts and a castle (Figure 3).

As a walled town Galway and its town defences is also considered a National Monument. The National Policy on Town Defences (2008, 8) states that:

'Monuments such as town defences included in the statutory Record of Monuments and Places are referred to as recorded monuments. In addition, within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts, all town defences are considered national monuments by reason of the historical, architectural, and archaeological interest attaching to them.'

Galway's town defences are located c. 170m to the south of the Proposed Development site. The historic town and its associated defences are discussed below in Section 6.1.2.

The Proposed Development boundary is shown in relation to the nearest National Monument, monument subject to a Preservation Order and walled town of Galway in Figure 3.

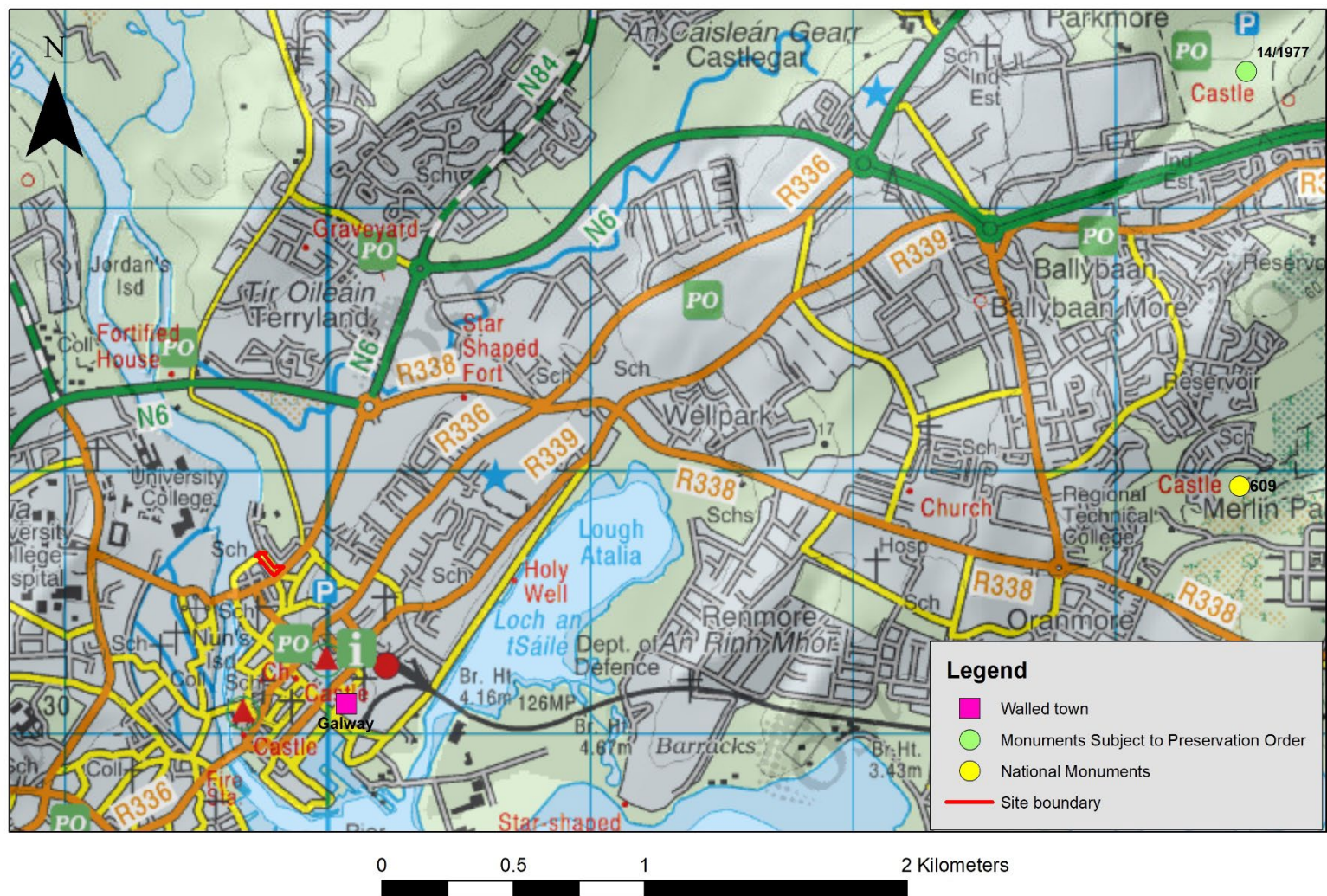


Figure 3: Proposed Development boundary in relation to nearest National Monument, monument subject to a Preservation Order and the walled town of Galway.

6.1.2 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within the Proposed Development site (Figure 5). The Proposed Development boundary does, however, partially fall within the Zone of Notification (ZoN) for the historic town of Galway (GA094-100----) and its associated town defences (GA094-100001-) which are located c. 170m to the south. The historic town and the town defences are described on the HEV as follows:

GA094-100---- : Historic town : TOWNPARKS (Galway By., St. Nicholas Par.)

Description: On E bank of the River Corrib at its outflow into Galway Bay. Its foundation dates from the 1230s when Richard de Burgh erected a castle on the site of the O'Flaherty stronghold of Bun Gaillimhe (Lynn 1986, 101). The construction of its defences dates from the 1270s and it was confirmed as a royal borough in 1396. The walled town covered an area of c. 60 hectares but an extra mural suburb also existed at the Claddagh, on W bank of the river (see GA094-091002-). Three friaries (GA094-091----, GA094-099003-, GA094-102----), a hospital, a (nunnery and an infirmary (GA094-105----, GA094-106----, GA094-113----) also stood outside the walls. The visible remains comprise substantial portions of the town walls, the collegiate church of St Nicholas, and the remains of c. 20 late medieval houses (Higgins 1984-6). In the 17th century a series of artillery fortifications (GA094-032----, GA094-057----, GA082-083---, GA094-099002-, GA094-112----, GA094-022----) were erected around the town. (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 284-8; Hardiman 1820; Casey 1988b)

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Galway Vol. I - West Galway'. Compiled by Paul Gosling (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1993). Date of upload: 05 August 2010.

GA094-100001- : Town defences : TOWNPARKS (Galway By., St. Nicholas Par.)

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

A description of the town defences is not currently available on the HEV, however, an overview of the defences and their sequence of construction is provided in the *Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan* (2013) and is summarised as follows:

'The first reference to Galway dates to 1124 when the annals record that the Connachta erected a castle or fortification at Galway, which is referred to as Bun Gaillimhe or Dún Gaillimh.'

'Records from 1233 indicate that the castle was destroyed by Felimid O'Conchobair within one year of its construction. The first official record of a town at Galway dates to 1247 when 'both the town and castle were burned' and many of the town's inhabitants were killed¹³. Richard de Burgo's son Walter can be credited with the establishment and development of the town and the construction of the earliest town defences.'

'Murage returns dating to 1272-75 and 1277- 80 indicated that murage charges were being collected and used for the purchase of lime and tools and the payment of tradesmen and labourers engaged in the making of walls. The requirement for fortification was strongest along the east side of the settlement which did not have the same natural topographical advantages and was in fact overlooked by rising ground giving advantage to an enemy force. It is likely that the earliest stretch of wall was constructed on this side of the settlement.'

'The defences along the eastern side of the town were strengthened with an external fosse and the principal entrance gateway, fortified by a bulwark or barbican, was constructed along this section of

the wall. Further murage returns are recorded from 1298, indicating that that William de Burgo's son Richard continued the process of the town's enclosure.'

'Measuring approximately 1,330m in length, the wall enclosed an area of only 11ha which is considerably smaller than many of the other significant medieval port towns, such as Drogheda (43ha), Dublin (20ha), New Ross (39ha), Waterford (23ha) and Limerick (28ha). Galway was, however, comparable in size medieval with towns such as Cork and Kinsale (14ha), Carlow and Kilmallock (both 13ha) and Athlone (11ha).'

'The first murage charter for Galway dates from 1361 in the reign of Edward III. It was provided for a period of five years and suggests that the enclosure of the town was substantially complete at this stage. This is supported by historical records referring to land lying without the walls of Galway and others indicating that entry and egress from the town could only be gained by one of the town gates.'

'Historical references dating to the sixteenth century indicate that works were undertaken on three key areas of the city defences including the southern curtain wall, the western curtain wall and the area around the Spanish Arch. From 1499-1500 a section of the southern curtain wall was constructed adjoining the New Tower. This work continued towards the Quay in 1503-4 and a further section was built in the vicinity of Michael's Tower in 1519-20. A new opening, the New Quay Gate, was broken through the western curtain wall in 1536-7 to ease traffic on the quays.'

'The continued threat of Spanish invasion in the early seventeenth century led to Galway, and other strategic Irish ports, constructing additional defences. Substantial improvements to the city defences, including the introduction of the bastion system, were undertaken to counter the threats posed by artillery.....A large fort was constructed on a ridge of high ground to the south of the city in 1602. Named St. Augustine's Fort, it was constructed on a site containing the remains of the Augustinian Friary. By November 1602, the fort was occupied by a garrison of 150 soldiers.'

'A strategic rethink of the city defences was undertaken in the mid-seventeenth century¹⁸. The programme of works included the construction of substantial stone-faced batteries to protect the east side of the city. Bastions were constructed around the Lions Tower in 1646 and the New Tower in 1647, located at the north-east and south-east corners of the eastern curtain wall. Archaeological excavations have uncovered the South Bastion and photographs taken of the Lions Bastion prior to its demolition in the 1970s indicate the substantial size of these structures.'

No elements of Galway's town defences are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development site (Figure 6).

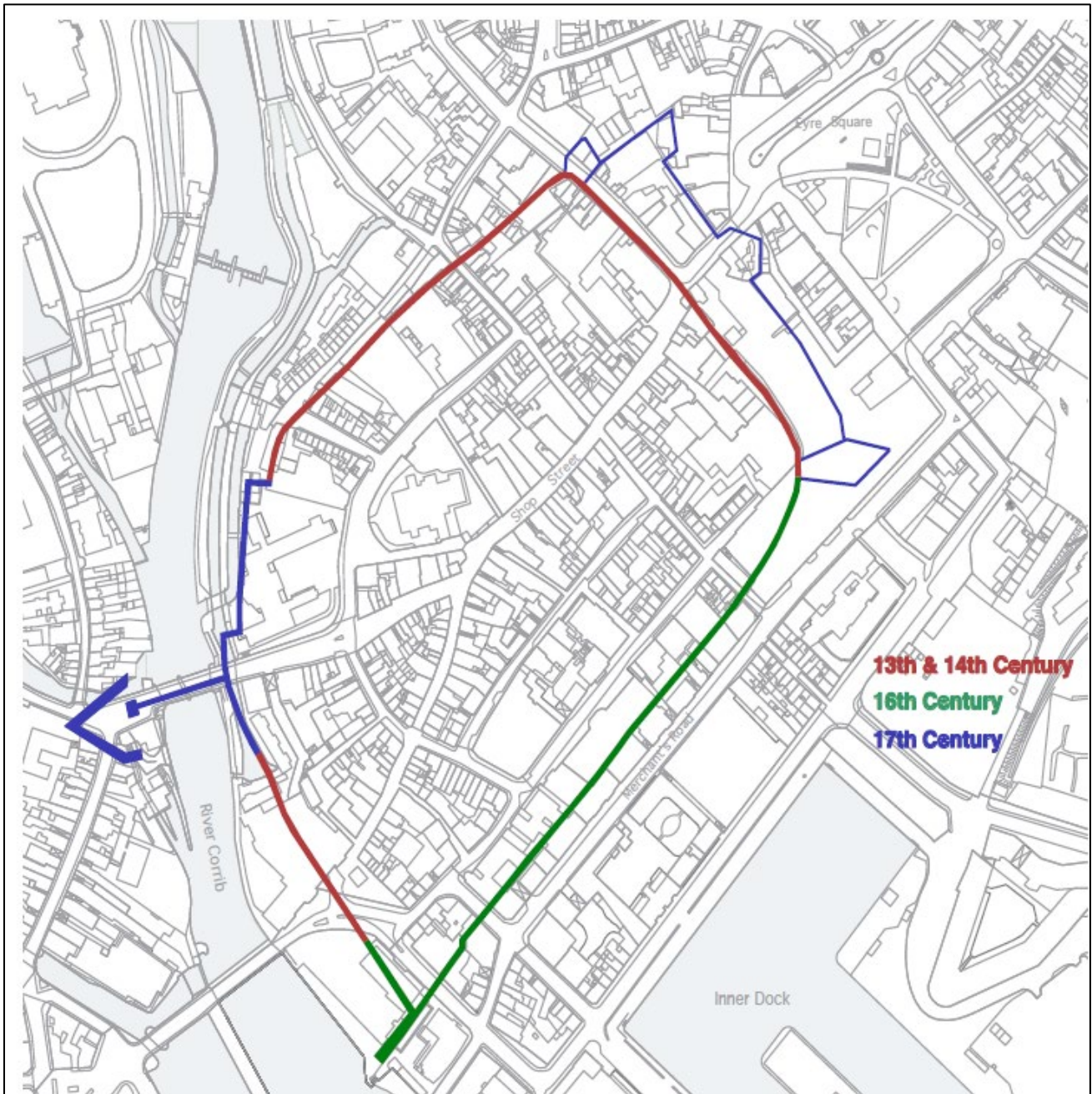


Figure 4: Extract from Galway City Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (2013) Fig. 9 showing main building phases of the town defences.



Figure 5: Recorded monuments and associated Zones of Notification in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site.

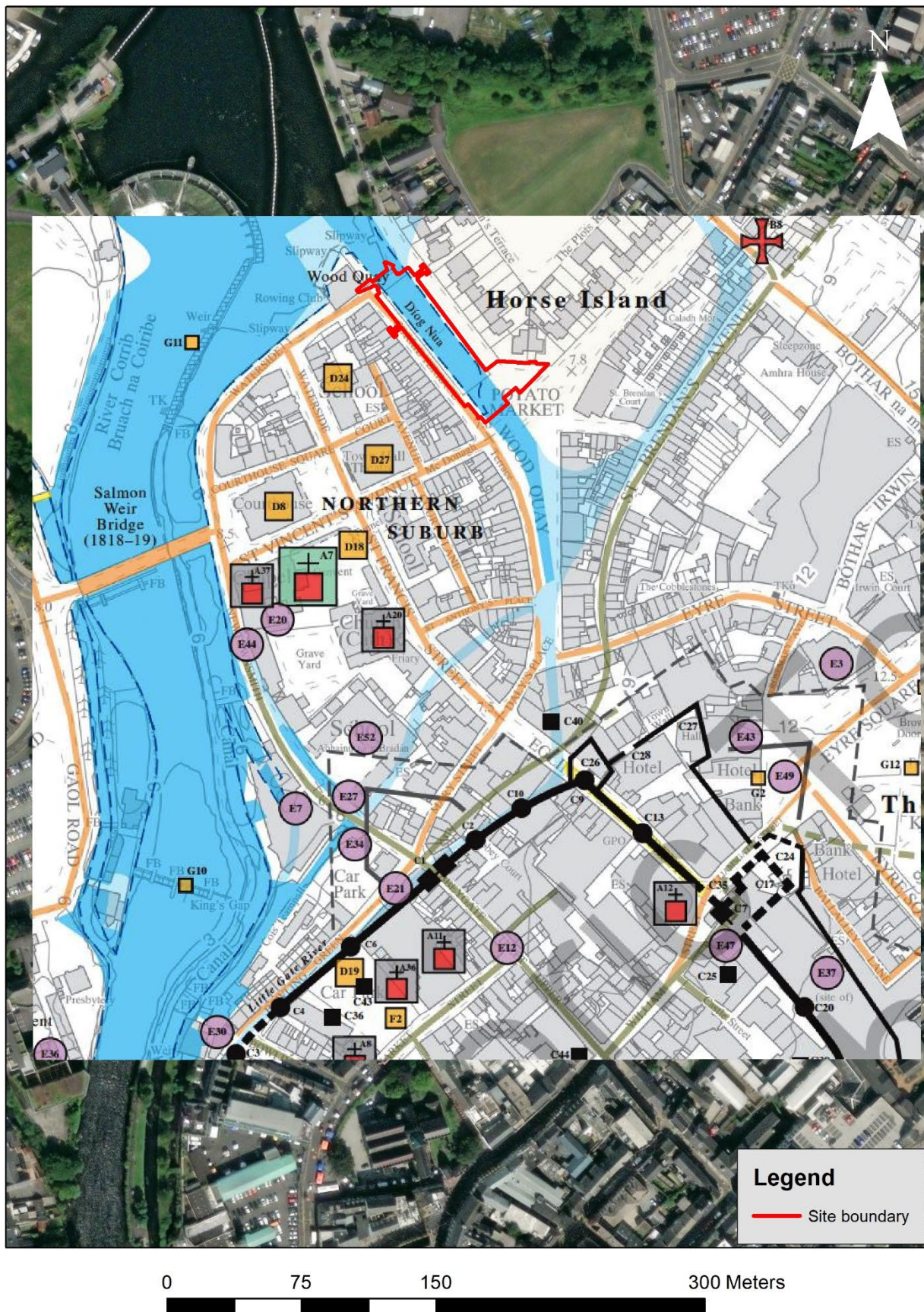


Figure 6: Extract from Map 5 of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) for Galway showing the town defences in relation to the Proposed Development boundary.

The Proposed Development site lies within the Northern Suburb of Galway and a Franciscan friary was established here on St Stephen's Island in the late 13th century by William de Burgh. The Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) for Galway notes the following in relation to the friary '*The Franciscans had been brought to Galway in 1296 and had established their friary on St Stephen's Island to the north of the town..... Impressive religious buildings, surrounded by their own enclosures, stood outside the walls – the Franciscan friary to the north, the Augustinian friary at the endpoint of the southern ridge and the Dominican friary on the side of Fairhill to the west..... The Franciscans [later] built a new friary and chapel c. 1723 close to the site of their medieval foundation.*'

The Franciscan friary (GA094-102----) is located c. 120m to the south-west of the Proposed Development boundary.

The nearest recorded monument to the Proposed Development site comprises a quay GA094-100059- which is located c. 30m to the north-west of the northern site boundary in the vicinity of Galway Rowing Club (Figure 5). A description for the monument is not currently available on line on the HEV. The quay is shown on the first edition OS map (see Section 6.1.6 below).

6.1.3 Excavations Database

A review of the database of excavations undertaken in Ireland (www.excavations.ie) yielded a number of results for Townparks townland within which the historic town of Galway is located. Many produced archaeological material, however, only one entry relates to work undertaken in the vicinity of Woodquay. There is no reference in the latter to any archaeological material being uncovered in that area.

6.1.4 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The database of find spots held in the National Museum of Ireland was checked for any recorded finds within the townland of Townparks within which the Proposed Development site is located. No finds are listed for Woodquay.

Table 1: Findspots listed in the Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland for Townparks, Galway.

NMIRRegisterNo	SimpleName	Component	Townland	FindPlace	County
1954:65	Pin	Bronze	TOWNPARKS (2ND DIVISION)	UNKNOWN	GALWAY
1993:46	Dish	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane	GALWAY
1993:47	PLATE	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane	GALWAY
1993:48	PLATE	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane	GALWAY
1993:49	Vessel	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane	GALWAY
1999:137	Vessel	Glass	TOWNPARKS	Quay street	GALWAY
2002:63	Axehead	Stone	TOWNPARKS	Claddagh	GALWAY
2002:64	Axehead	Stone	TOWNPARKS	Claddagh	GALWAY
2002:65	Tracked stone	Stone	TOWNPARKS	Claddagh	GALWAY
2006:24	Bann flake	Flint	TOWNPARKS	Corner Cross Street Lr & High Street Galway City	GALWAY

2009:215	Pottery	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane, off Quay Street	GALWAY
2009:216	Pottery	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane, off Quay Street	GALWAY
2009:217	Tile	Ceramic	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane, off Quay Street	GALWAY
2009:218	Sample	Shell	TOWNPARKS	Courthouse Lane, off Quay Street	GALWAY
2011:126	Barge board	WOOD	TOWNPARKS	20 High Street, Galway	GALWAY
E269:4	Sword	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:5	Sword	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:6.1	Sword	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:6.2	Scabbard	Leather	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:7.1	Knife	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:7.2	Knife	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:8	Knife	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY
E269:9	Knife	Iron	TOWNPARKS	River Corrib	GALWAY

6.1.5 Review of Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photography was carried out for any potential archaeological sites within the Proposed Development site. No such features were noted within the Proposed Development site boundary.

6.1.6 Cartographic Review

A review of the available historic mapping for the Proposed Development site was also undertaken. The latter is located in the Barony of Galway and the parish of St Nicholas. The Down Survey map (1656-8) for Galway shows the city, however, further detail of same is not available.

The 17th century Pictorial Map of Galway (1651) depicts the historic town of Galway and its defences. The Proposed Development area is located on the left hand side of the map on St Stephen' Island. The river channel on which the Proposed Development is largely located is depicted on the map (Figure 7).

By the mid 19th century the river channel at Woodquay was still open and is depicted on the first edition OS map with Wood Quay named immediately to the west (Figure 8). No further features or any items of archaeological potential are depicted on that map. The later second edition map also shows the channel, however, the southern portion of same has been reclaimed by that time with a potato market named at the south end of the Proposed Development site (Figure 9). The later Cassini 6-inch OS map shows the Proposed Development site now completely reclaimed and occupied by

Woodquay Park (Figure 10). A market is named at the south end of the Proposed Development area, which is presumably a continuation of the earlier potato market.

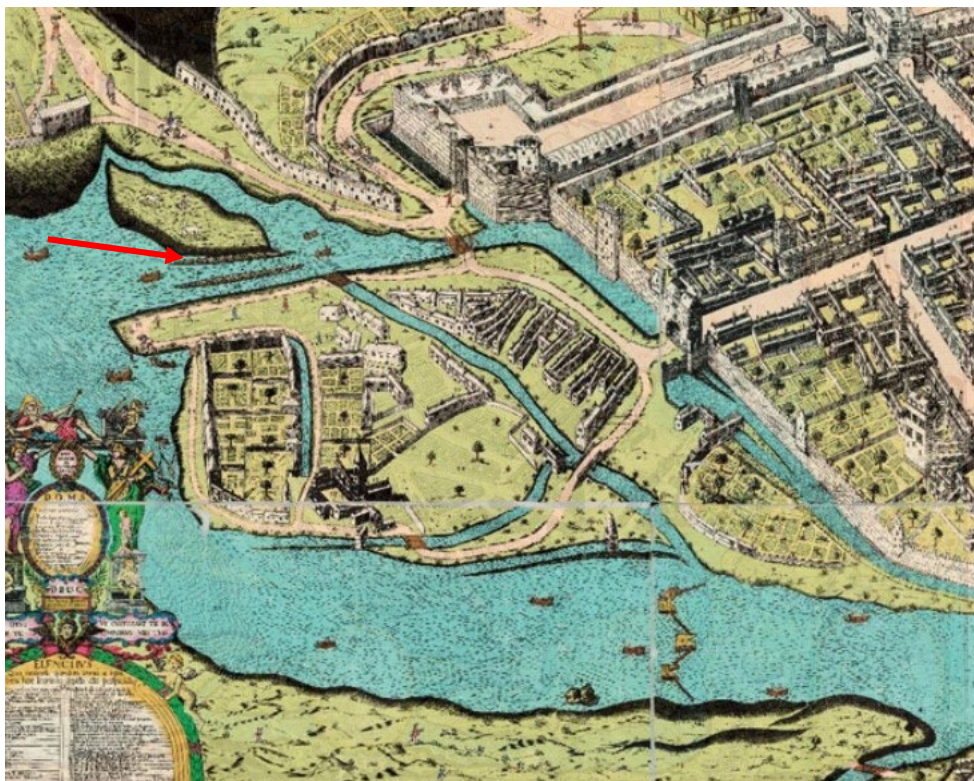


Figure 7: Extract from Pictorial Map of Galway showing St Stephen's Island and adjacent river channel on which the Proposed Development area is now located. Arrow indicates approximate location of the proposed Development area.

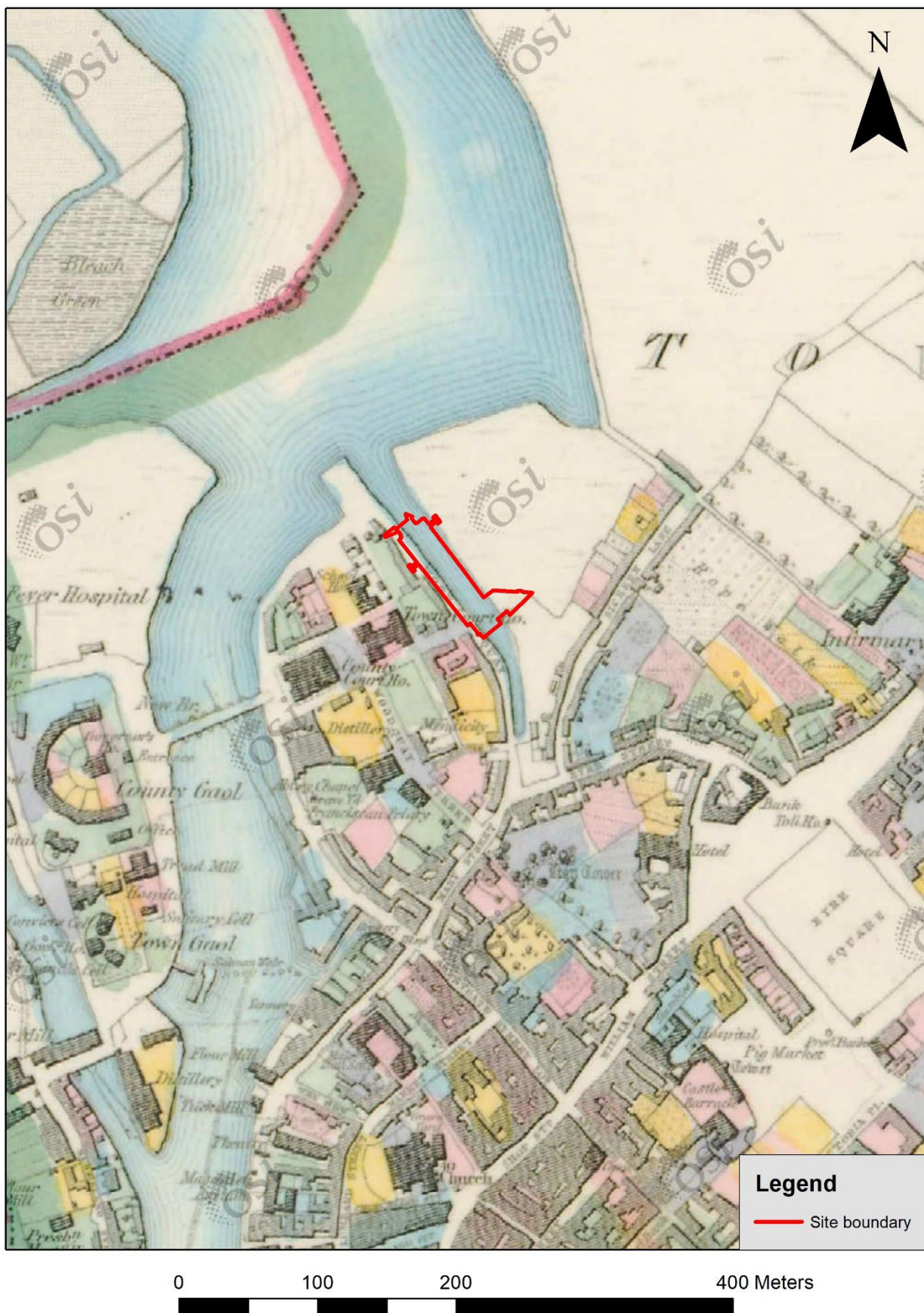


Figure 8: Proposed Development boundary on first edition OS background.

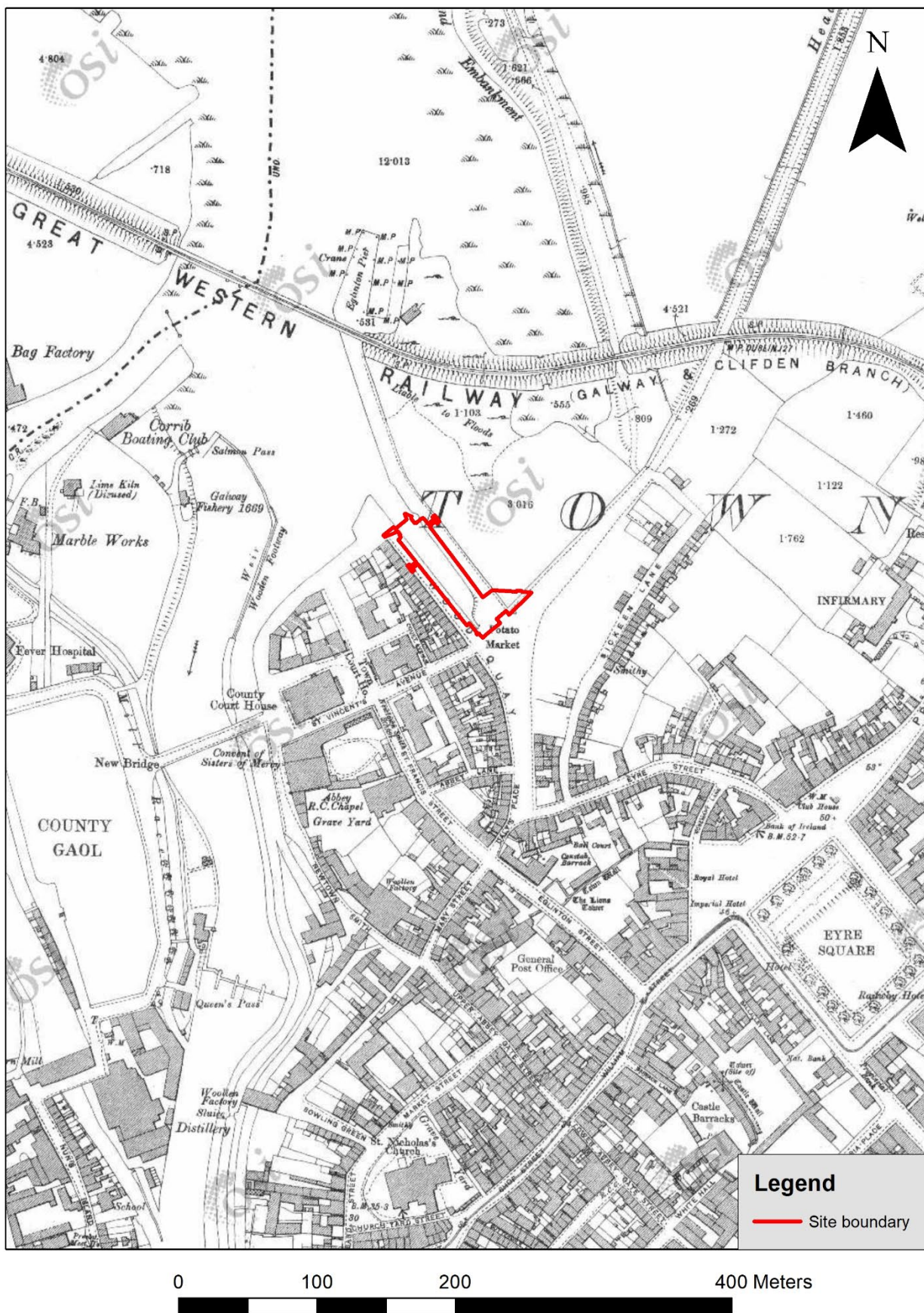


Figure 9: Proposed development boundary on second edition OS background.

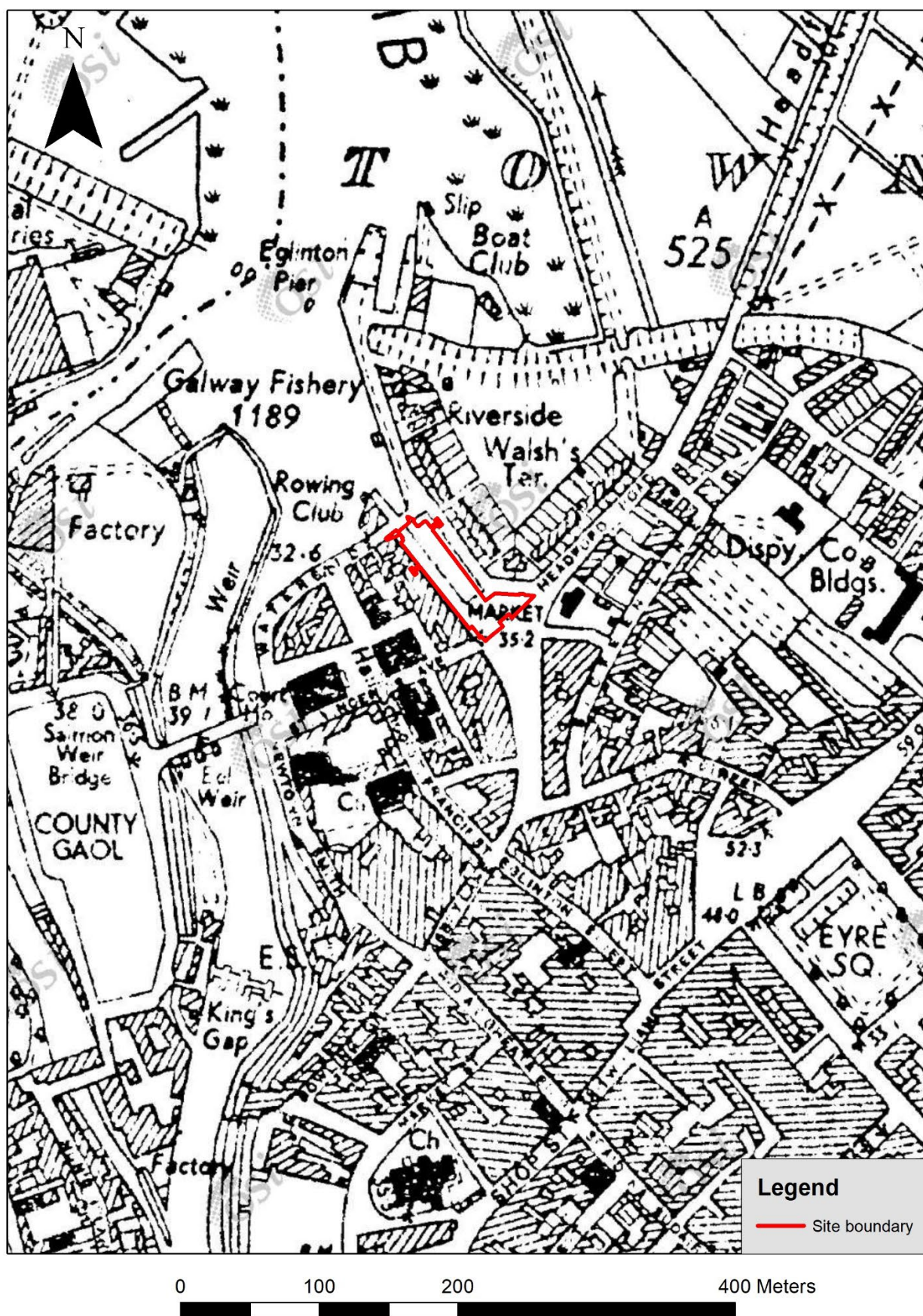


Figure 10: Proposed Development boundary on Cassini 6-inch background.

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource. The overall objective of this assessment of impacts of the proposed development is to ensure that where a potential impact has been identified that it can be mitigated against to ensure that the archaeological heritage will be available for future generations. The potential impacts on the archaeological and cultural heritage, both recorded and potential sub-surface sites, are assessed here.

Impact will be discussed according to the types of impacts that may occur during and after the project has been completed.

7.1 Construction Impacts

7.1.1 Direct Impacts

Potential impacts during the construction phase of the proposed development could include damage to recorded monuments, newly recorded monuments and sub-surface features by excavations works or tracking machinery etc. The aim of the assessment, however, is to highlight any potential impacts as described above so that suitable mitigation measures may be implemented in order to avoid or ameliorate any such impacts.

7.1.1.1 National Monuments

No National Monuments are located within or in close proximity to the Proposed Development site. No direct impacts to such monuments as a result of the Proposed Development are therefore identified.

7.1.1.2 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within the Proposed Development boundary. The latter is, however, partially located within the Zone of Notification for the historic town (GA094-100----) and its associated town defences (GA094-100001-) which are located c. 170m to the south.

The nearest recorded monument comprises a quay (GA094-100059-) which is located c. 30m to the north-west of the northern site boundary in the vicinity of Galway Rowing Club. As the quay is located outside the Proposed Development boundary no direct impacts to same as a result of the Proposed Development are identified.

7.1.1.3 Sub-surface Archaeology

The Proposed Development area largely comprises reclaimed ground and a culverted river channel. St Stephen's Island on which the proposed development is partially located and the original river channel are located in a northern suburb of Galway city which was the subject of human activity in the 13th century when the Franciscan friary was founded. It is possible that medieval activity occurred in the Woodquay area when it is likely that the quay and riverside was an area where boats would have moored and where commercial activity may also have taken place. While later reclamation works and the culverting of the river channel in the 20th century may have disturbed earlier archaeological deposits, if present, there is still the potential for sub-surface archaeological features and deposits within the Proposed Development area. It should be noted, however, that archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial pits excavated within the park in May 2024 did not reveal the presence of potential sub-surface archaeological material and only post-medieval inclusions were apparent in the excavated spoil.

Appropriate mitigation measures are recommended, however, in order to ameliorate any potential impacts to such features or deposits, should they exist. The following measures are recommended in order to ascertain the below ground potential of the site and to minimise the risk of revealing archaeological remains during the construction phase of the project.

7.1.1.3.1 Pre-mitigation Impact

Ground works associated with the Proposed Development will involve topsoil removal, excavation of foundation trenches as well as service trenches throughout the Proposed Development area. Should sub-surface archaeological finds, features or deposits exist within the Proposed Development boundary a direct, negative impact to same will occur as a result of ground works in the absence of appropriate mitigation.

7.1.1.3.2 Mitigation measures

- Archaeological monitoring, under licence from the National Monuments Service (NMS), of all geotechnical Site Investigations which may be carried out within the Proposed Development site. A report on the monitoring will be compiled on completion of the works and submitted to the relevant authorities.
- Construction Stage archaeological monitoring of all topsoil removal and other relevant ground works associated with the Proposed Development by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the NMS. A report on the monitoring will be compiled on completion of the works and submitted to the relevant authorities.
- Should archaeological finds or features be uncovered during the course of the monitoring the National Monuments Service shall be informed of such findings and further mitigation in the form of preservation in situ or preservation by record (excavation) may be required.

7.1.1.3.3 Residual Impact

Sub-surface sites, if detected, during the monitoring will be preserved by record (archaeologically excavated) or preserved in-situ (avoidance) and therefore a full record made of same. In this regard, the potential impact after the implementation of mitigation measures is likely to be Not Significant.

7.1.1.3.4 Significance of Effects

Not Significant.

7.2 Operational Impacts

7.2.1 Indirect (Visual) Impacts

Operational impacts are taken to be those that occur after the construction phase of the project, when all construction activities have been completed and the Proposed Development is built. In terms of archaeology these impacts are mainly indirect (visual) impacts.

7.2.1.1 National Monuments

No National Monuments are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development boundary. The nearest National Monument comprises Merlinpark Castle, No. 609 which is located c. 3.6km to the east. Given the distance between the Proposed Development and the National

Monument and the nature of the Proposed Development, no effects to its immediate or wider setting will occur.

7.2.1.2 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located on the Proposed Development site. The Proposed Development boundary is, however, partially located within the Zone of Notification for the historic town (GA094-100----) and its associated town defences (GA094-100001-) which are located c. 170m to the south. The nearest recorded monument comprises a quay (GA094-100059-) which is located c. 30m to the north-west of the northern site boundary in the vicinity of Galway Rowing Club.

Given the nature of the Proposed Development and the urban environment within which it is located, no visual effects to the immediate setting of the historic town or its defences are identified. The setting of the nearby quay is also largely altered, with Galway Rowing Club house located on or immediately adjacent to same. In this regard visual effects to the immediate setting of the monument as a result of the Proposed Development are not anticipated, however, a change to its wider setting is acknowledged and is regarded as Imperceptible.

8 CONCLUSION

This report comprises an archaeological impact assessment of a Proposed Development at Woodquay Park, Townparks, Galway. The assessment is based on desktop research, GIS and a site walk-over survey. The Proposed Development boundary does not contain any recorded monuments, however, it is partially located within the Zone of Notification for the historic town of Galway (GA094-100----) and its associated town defences (GA094-100001-). No direct impacts to any recorded monuments as a result of the Proposed Development have been identified. A potential direct impact to any previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological finds, features or deposits which may exist within the Proposed Development site has been identified. Appropriate mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring of Site Investigations and construction stage ground works has been recommended. A change to the wider setting of the nearby recorded monument Quay GA094-100059- is acknowledged and is regarded as Imperceptible.

9 SOURCES

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Galway

1st Edition 6 inch OS map

2nd Edition 25 inch OS map

Cassini 6-inch OS map

Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) www.webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment