

From: Jerry O'Sullivan, TII Archaeologist and Project Archaeologist at Galway National Roads Project Office (NRPO)

To: Ian Donoghue, Project Engineer; Seán Breathnach, Senior Executive Engineer, Galway NRPO

Re: Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the N59 Kentfield Improvements Project

Date: 24 January 2024

Ian,

Thank you for asking me to comment on the final design proposal for the N59 Kentfield Road Improvements project by the National Roads Project Office (NRPO) at Galway County Council. I am responding with reference to the drawings you supplied to me in December 2023, which are titled as follows:

- Proposed Site Extents Drawing SE-01-GC/19/18753 (July 2023)
- Drainage Layout Drawing DR-01-GC/19/18753 (May 2023).

I first wrote a detailed illustrated assessment report on the project, for Galway County Council NRPO, in January 2020 and identified some possible adverse impacts in terms of Archaeology (potential discovery in greenfield land-take) and Architectural Heritage (early modern period houses and traditional roadside boundary walls). The detailed information and mapping compiled in that report still provides a good background source for any assessment of potential Cultural Heritage Impacts of the project.

However, the project now proposed is very much smaller in extent than what was first proposed, and assessed by me, in 2020, and will only require a narrow strip of greenfield land on the north or downslope side of the road, so I would tailor my conclusions and recommendations accordingly, as follows.

- No Protected Structures (Killeen House; Glenlo Abbey) or other early period houses (Albano Villa) or the peripheral remains of any early period house (remnant boundary wall of former Riverview House) are affected. No action is needed in respect to these properties.
- No Recorded Monument (archaeological site or monument) is affected. Given the small amount of land now being acquired there is no need for any archaeological intervention other than recorded site visits during first ground-breaking work at construction stage, to inspect the site on a purely precautionary basis, which I would do myself.
- The project will have an impact on short sectors of traditional stone walls that are roadside boundary walls. The Council should aim to replace these, like-with-like, in this sensitive location, as rubble stone walls and mortared rubble stone walls are characteristic of the built environment in this area and contribute to a sense of place, locally.

I am happy for this communication to be used to support the development proposal, in tandem with my earlier (2020) detailed assessment report.

Please let me know if I can assist you in any other way with this project.

Sincerely,

Jerry O'Sullivan
TII Archaeologist
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