

# N59 Kentfield-Killeen-Gortatleva Road Improvements Scheme Galway County Council

## Impact Assessment Report on Cultural Heritage

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January 2020

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# N59 Kentfield-Killeen-Gortatleva Road Improvements Scheme

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### 1. Summary

Galway County Council proposes to realign a section of the N59, on the outskirts of Galway City, in the townlands of Kentfield, Killeen and Gortatleva. This report assesses the potential impacts of the project on cultural heritage (i.e. impacts on archaeology, architectural heritage and the rural landscape). The following is a summary of the impacts and the recommended mitigations.

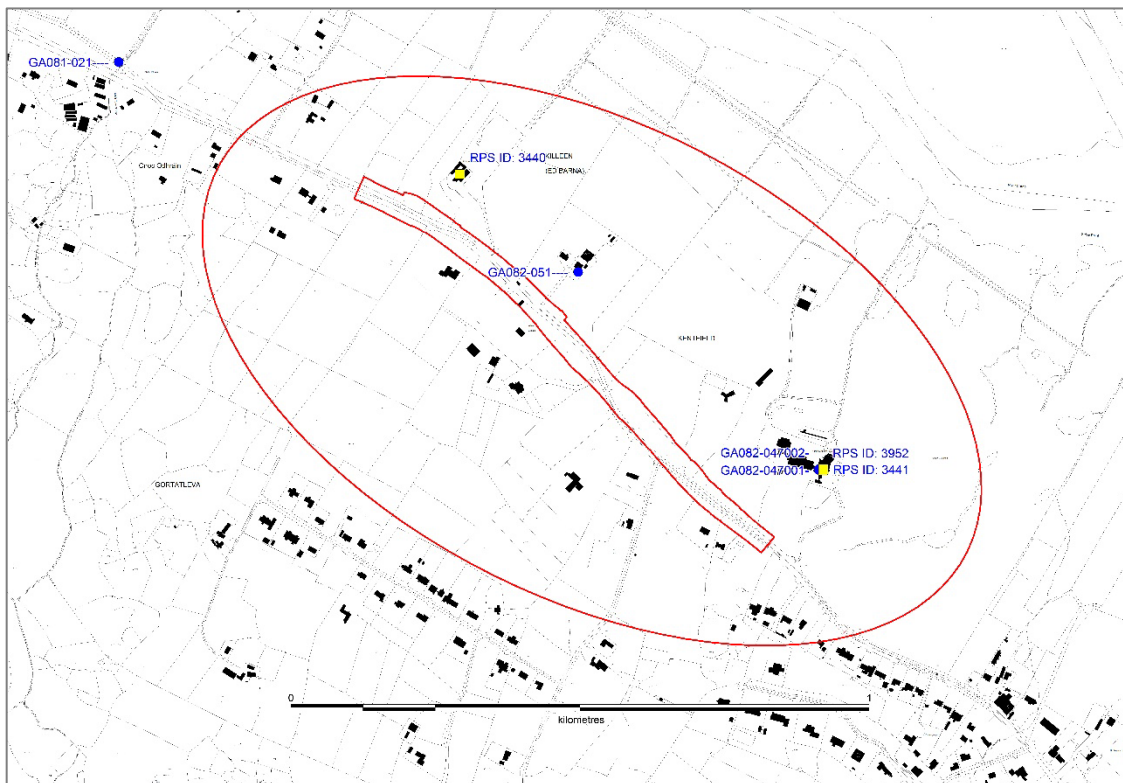
- The proposed project would have no impact on any known archaeological site or monument, however, there is always some potential for a previously unrecorded archaeological site to be discovered on lands acquired for a road project and test excavations throughout the project site are proposed on a precautionary basis.
- The project would potentially affect the boundaries of two properties that are Protected Structures, associated with some of Galway's old merchant and landowning families ('The Tribes'): Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey. Any affected boundaries should be recorded and replaced like-with-like on the new road alignment.
- The project would potentially affect the roadside boundary, entrance and associated outbuildings of another early property, Albano Villa. This is not a Protected Structure but has historical significance arising from its association with Fr Peter Daly, who had an active and sometimes controversial role in public life in Galway in the 19th century. Any affected elements should be recorded and the boundary replaced, like-with-like, on the new alignment.
- Albano Villa stands within the grounds of an older house, Riverview. This older house does not survive but there is a substantial remnant of its boundary wall along the existing N59. This should be recorded.
- In general, the project will have an adverse impact on the traditional stone walls and mature trees that form the boundaries of the existing road throughout much of this sector of the N59. The new road alignment should aim to retain the traditional character of the existing boundaries by replicating the stone walls, like-with-like, and by replacing affected trees and hedgerows.

### 2. Proposed development

The proposed development is a realignment of the N59 in the outskirts of Galway City, in the townlands of Kentfield, Killeen and Gortatleva. The sector to be realigned is c. 0.96 km long. The total footprint of the project in the current design for the realignment is 2.15 ha, including the existing road. The offline or greenfield areas to be acquired for the project amount to 1.2 ha.



*Illus. 1 Study area for the assessment (scale 1 km) (Ordnance Survey aerial photography)*



*Illus. 2 Study area showing the outline of the project site, recorded archaeological sites in the national Sites & Monuments Record (blue) and Protected Structures in the Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021 (based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map)*

### 3. Location

The project site is located along the N59 north-west of Galway City, overlooking Lough Corrib.

- **Barony:** Galway
- **Civil parish:** Ragoon
- **Townlands:** Kentfield, Killeen and Gortatleva
- **Electoral Area:** Conamara South
- **Grid References (ITM):** (west end) 526002 728811; (east end) 526709 728194

### 4. Assessment methods

#### 4.1 Study area

The study area for this assessment report is an oval area c. 1.4 km NW/SE by (max.) 0.8 m NE/SW, extending to at least 200 m from the road project site on both sides.

#### 4.2 Guidelines

In assessing the significance of affected features and the potential impacts of the proposed development the writer was guided by the following documents:

- DAHGI (1999) *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands, Dublin.
- DEHLG (2011) *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
- EPA (draft 2017) *Guidelines on Information to be Contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report*. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford.
- NRA (2005) *Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes*. National Roads Authority, Dublin.
- NRA (2005) *Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes*. National Roads Authority, Dublin.

#### 4.3 Scope of the Cultural Heritage

Current EPA *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (draft 2017, 22) give the scope of Cultural Heritage as:

Archaeology

- Known archaeological monuments

- Areas of archaeological potential (including unknown archaeology)
- Underwater archaeology

#### Architectural heritage

- Designated architectural heritage
- Other significant architectural heritage

#### Folklore and history

- Designations or sensitivities.

The EPA guidelines (2017, 22) also recognise 'historical landscapes' among potentially sensitive elements in the environment.

The *European Landscape Convention* (Florence 2000, 2) defines landscape as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.' The key word here is 'character' and, accordingly, the *Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021* (at '9.10.1 Landscape Character', Vol. 1, 166) recognises that 'Landscape is a precious national asset ... Human interaction with the natural heritage has produced a great variety of characteristic landscapes and landscape features. The natural diversity of the landscapes of the County coupled with built and cultural heritage features such as the archaeological monuments, stonewalls, hedgerows, woodlands, field patterns, settlements and buildings has given the County its distinctive character.' The Development Plan also recognises 'Archaeological Landscapes' (at Policy ARC 6, Vol. 1, 154).

The *European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta 1992, Article 1) defines archaeological heritage as 'all remains and objects and any other traces of mankind from past epochs'. According to the *National Monuments Acts 1930–2004* (Section 2, 1930 Act) a monument can be 'any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection ... and any cave, stone, or other natural product ... which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon ... and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit.' The Acts (Section 2, 1930) also state the potential interest of an archaeological site or monument in the definition of a 'national monument', which is 'a monument or the remains of 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.'

The *European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage* (Granada 1985) defines architectural heritage as 'all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings.' There is a list of potentially significant characteristics in the definition of architectural heritage in the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) & Historic Properties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999*, where this is defined as '1. structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings [and] 2. groups of such structures and buildings and 3. sites that are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.'



#### 4.4 Desk sources

Prior to inspecting the study area in the field, a desk-based assessment area was made with reference to the following sources.

- Bedrock geology and soils maps of the Geological Survey of Ireland at [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie) and Teagasc at [www.gis.teagasc.ie](http://www.gis.teagasc.ie)
- Ordnance Survey first and second-edition six-inch maps of County Galway (surveyed 1838, revised 1929) and 25-inch map (c. 1910)
- Other early maps including Taylor & Skinner's (1783) *Maps of the Roads of Ireland* and Larkin's (1819) *Maps of County Galway*.<sup>1</sup>
- vertical aerial photographs available from the Ordnance Survey at Galway County Council (1995—2016) and on the Internet at [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) (undated)
- Record of Monuments and Places in County Galway (UCG for OPW 1997)
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Galway maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service) and available to view online at [www.heritage.ie](http://www.heritage.ie)
- online gazetteer of licensed archaeological excavations in Ireland at [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) for the townlands traversed by the proposed project and adjacent townlands
- Record of Protected Structures for County Galway per the *Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021*
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Galway compiled by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2008–11 and available to view online at [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)

#### 4.5 Fieldwork

The buildings, archaeological monuments and other features of potential interest that were identified from desk sources in the study area for this report were inspected, photographed and described in the field by the writer in January 2020.

#### 4.6 Assessing impacts

The importance of cultural heritage features in the study area is rated in this report on a scale of local, regional, national or international importance. Loss of fabric (direct impact) and change of setting (indirect impact)—including severance of grouped features—were the principal criteria for the assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed road project. The magnitude of the impacts is

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<sup>1</sup> The study area is not covered by any map in the Royal Irish Academy's *Irish Historic Towns Atlas No. 28 Galway*.

rated on a scale of low, medium, high and very high. Taking these two variables together, the magnitude of impacts is calibrated against the importance of the affected features to gauge the degree or significance of the impacts, as schematised here in Table 4.1. The net assessment of the significance of the impacts is rated on scale of slight, moderate, severe or profound.

*Table 1–Assessment method. Magnitude of impact is calibrated against the relative importance of affected features to gauge the net significance of the impact*

Importance of feature	Local	Regional	National	International
Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Impact			
Very high	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Profound
High	Moderate	Severe	Severe	Profound
Medium	Slight	Moderate	Severe	Severe
Low	Slight	Slight	Moderate	Severe

## 5. Statutory Protections

### 5.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021

The general scope of protections for elements of the (physical) cultural heritage under the *Galway County Development Plan* are set out in Strategic Aims (Vol. 1, page 12, No. 10–Heritage): ‘Enhance and protect the built heritage and natural environment, including buildings, archaeology, landscape and biodiversity, within the County.’

### 5.2 Landscape

The Heritage Act 1995 recognised ‘landscapes’ as part of the national heritage. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires that a local authority development plan should include policies and objectives for the landscape and provide for ‘identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes and development having regard to the European Landscape Convention [Florence 2000]’.

The Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht published a *National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015–2025* that aims to ‘implement the European Landscape Convention in Ireland by providing for specific measures to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape’.



In the *Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021*, the Strategic Aims (Vol. 1, Chapter 9, page 162, Objective NHB 11) require that developers ‘seek to retain natural [*sic*] boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries wherever possible and seek to replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable’ and ‘discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.’

### **5.3 Archaeology**

The principal protections for archaeological sites and monuments in Irish law are provided by the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004. They include a Ministerial Preservation Order (for National Monuments) or entry on the Register of Historic Monuments or entry on the Record of Monuments and Places. The Record of Monuments and Places for County Galway was published in 1997.

Any site or monument that is a scheduled National Monument or that is entered on the Register of Historic Monuments will appear in the Record of Monuments and Places (unless a more recent Preservation Order has been issued), so that this may be regarded for practical purposes as a comprehensive source for sites and monuments having legal protection in our study area.

The minimum legal protection afforded an archaeological site or monument entered in the Record of Monuments and Places is that anyone proposing to do works to the site or monument (including an investigation) must give at least two months’ notice to the Minister. Archaeological excavations are subject to licensing and a licence will only be granted to a competent and suitably qualified person.

### **5.4 Architecture**

Architectural Heritage in Irish law is protected under the Planning and Development Acts and especially Part IV of the 2000 Act. This requires all local authorities to include in their development plans a Record of Protected Structures. The current Record of Protected Structures for County Galway is published as Appendix V in the *Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021* (as amended). Any works or alterations to a Protected Structure must be authorised by the Council, as the planning authority, and must have regard to the setting, character and features of special interest of the Protected Structure.

## **6. Existing environment**

### **6.1 Landscape**

#### **6.1.1 Geology**

In terms of bedrock ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)) the N59 in this area lies near the boundary between granite, on the uphill or southern side, and limestone, on the downhill or northern side, extending towards Lough Corrib. The granite is a Dalradian igneous rock (Errisbeg or Galway Granite), typically pink and very hard, which was formed over 400 million years ago. The limestone is a Carboniferous sedimentary

rock, hard and grey but easily worked, which was formed c. 350 million ago. Granite is the underlying bedrock in the study area, though the buildings and roadside boundary walls feature both limestone and granite.

The dominant soil type in the area is defined by Teagasc ([www.gis.teagasc.ie](http://www.gis.teagasc.ie)) as a 'fine loamy [soil] over limestone bedrock' (Ballinacurra Association). Presumably this describes a soil derived from limestone glacial drift or till, forming the deep subsoil, as the underlying bedrock in our study area is granite, not limestone, as we saw.

Outside the study area, there is deep peat to the north, on the lower ground around Lough Corrib and along the banks of the River Corrib; and thin blanket peat on the hilly ground to the south, over granite bedrock.

### 6.1.2 Topography

The study area is on a steep, north-facing slope at roughly 10 m to 60 m OD. Within this area the existing road lies roughly along the 30 m contour, skirting the low-lying basin of Lough Corrib to the north and affording good views of the lake. To the south the ground rises steeply towards a hill summit at 100 m OD in Tonabrocky townland, before descending over rugged moorland towards Galway Bay.

### 6.1.3 Drainage

The existing road is c. 600 m from the River Corrib, to the north, which issues from Lough Corrib to pursue a short but vigorous course (< 10 km) via Galway City to Galway Bay. West of our study area, Sruthan Tobar Odhráin (lit. 'Oran's Well Stream') descends from the high ground and crosses beneath the N59 to flow into the Corrib. There are other, minor streams crossing beneath the road further east, by Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey. Natural springs occur along the corridor of the N59. Tobar Odhráin is a roadside holy well, west of the study area. An unnamed spring feeds a small pond in Killeen, below the road opposite Albano Villa. (There are water features on the golf course at Glenlo Abbey but the writer does not know if these are spring fed.) As already mentioned, there are deep peat deposits on the low ground, along the river banks.

### 6.1.4 Settlement

Elevated sites with pleasing views over Lough Corrib were highly prized in early modern times, as indeed they are today. Hence, Taylor & Skinner's (1783) *Maps of the Roads of Ireland* identifies several houses of Galway's elite landowning families along this part of the N59: Ragoon, Bushypark and Moycullen of the French family; Dangan and Kentville [alias Glenlo or Glenlough] of the Martins; Menlo[gh] of the Blakes; Eyrefield of the Eyres; and Woodstock of the Kentts (*sic*). Most of these were descendants of the Galway Tribes—the rich merchant families who dominated the political and commercial life of the city in medieval times. The Eyres were descended from Colonel John Eyre, a Cromwellian planter. The first John Eyre became a Mayor of Galway and the family became established among the Galway gentry.



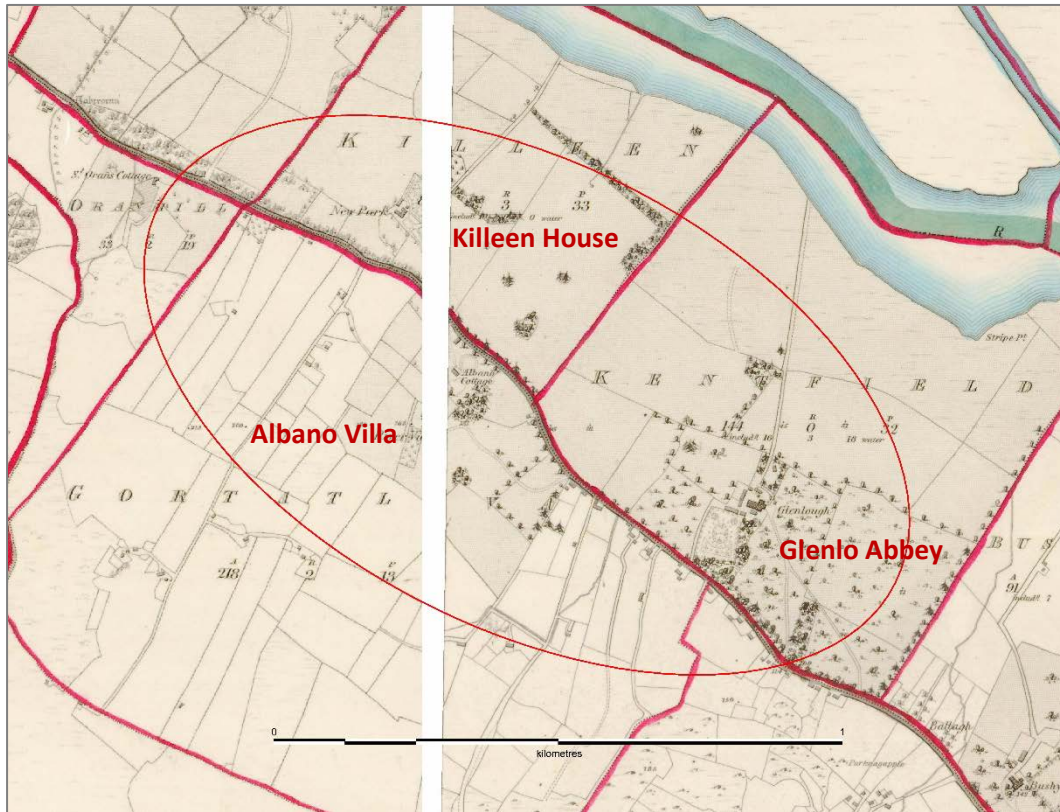
*Illus. 3 Extract from Taylor & Skinner's (1783) Atlas of the Roads of Ireland, showing the concentration of gentry houses along the road from Galway, overlooking Lough Corrib.*

The first edition Ordnance Survey maps (1838) do not identify the gentlemen proprietors of each property, but they do show in some detail the planted demesne landscapes surrounding their houses. And, unlike Taylor & Skinner's road maps, these first edition Ordnance Survey maps also show the cottages of their tenants. Some of these are strung out along the roadside, particularly near Gleno Abbey. Many others are scattered over the hillslopes above the road, singly or in small groups. A striking feature of this pattern is that the gentry houses are mostly below the road, while the tenants' cottages are mostly above it. This seems to represent an early form of planning control: tenants' dwellings were not allowed to spoil the gentlemen landowners' views of the lake. This pattern is continued on the second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1899 and 1945–46), though now there are far fewer tenants' houses, due to the depopulating effects of famine and emigration.

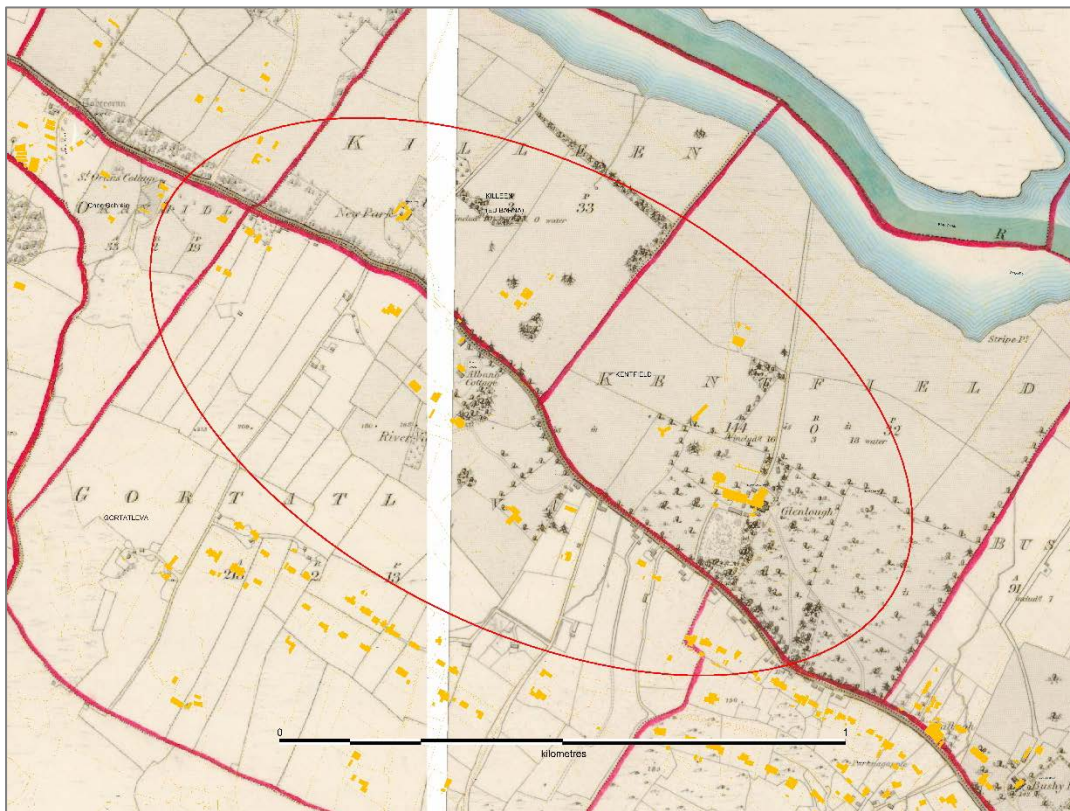
In more recent decades a kind of rural suburbia has developed in this area with numerous new dwelling houses forming ribbon developments along parts of the N59 and on many of the local roads and lanes off it. There are few farm buildings in evidence today.

There is very little commercial development in the area. The 18th-century house built by the Martins at Kentfield or Kentville was redeveloped in the 19th-century by the Frenches, who preferred to call it 'Glenlo Abbey', following Victorian fashion. It is now the Glenlo Abbey Hotel. The extensive grounds of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel are within the study area and include a golf course.





*Illus. 4—Ordnance Survey first edition map (1838) showing three period houses in the study area: Killeen House, Albano Villa ('Albano Cottage') and Glenlo Abbey ('Glenlough')*



*Illus. 5—Ordnance Survey first edition map (1838) showing the proliferation of recent rural housing ribbon development (yellow) based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.*

### 6.1.5 Rural landscape

The countryside around the project site is a mixture of low-lying peaty ground, towards the lake, some improved pasture fields on the hillslopes, and rough pasture, with frequent large tracts of naturally established furze, on the higher ground.<sup>2</sup> The pasture fields tend to be large, rectilinear enclosures closer to the lake but much smaller enclosures forming an irregular web of fields on the higher ground.

Field boundaries are an important element of the rural landscape. In our study area and its environs hedgerows, post-and-wire fencing and stone walls all appear. Stone walls are most typical, and especially along the roadside. Some of the roadside walls are simple, drystone rubble structures; others are well-finished mortared walls. Granite is the dominant stone type but limestone is preferred in the crenelated walls forming the roadside boundaries at Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey. In places, the walls are overgrown by ivy and briars. There are mature trees along the roadside throughout the study area and especially ash trees.

## 6.2 Archaeological sites and monuments

There is a concentration of Recorded Monuments on either side of the River Corrib, c. 1 km downriver from our study area. On the north bank, a miscellany of monuments of various dates in Menlough townland includes: an early medieval cashel or ringfort; a 17th-century *leacht cuimhne* or inscribed memorial monument; a clachan or early modern settlement cluster with possible medieval origins; a market cross inscribed 1815 but, again, possibly medieval in origin; Menlough Castle and a graveyard associated with the castle. On the south bank, in Dangan townland, there is an equally diverse cluster of monuments including: a possible prehistoric barrow or funerary mound; two early medieval ringforts; a *cillín* or children's burial ground; Dangan House—a 19th-century convent house; and an associated summer house and ice house.

Further upriver, in the more immediate environs of our study area and west of it, Recorded Monuments are very thinly dispersed. They include a chapel site with children's burial ground in Corcullen; the site of an enclosure—possibly a cashel—in Oranhill; and a roadside holy well at Tobar Odhráin, also in Oranhill.

In the study area proper—which contains the site of the proposed road development, there is only one Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments Acts and that is Glenlo Abbey (RMP GA082-047-001), with its private chapel (GA082-047-002), in Kentfield.

The online database also records a 'designed landscape feature (a tree ring?) in neighbouring Killeen townland (GA082-051) but notes that this is not now regarded as a monument and will not be included in the next publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.

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<sup>2</sup> Furze grows mostly now as a coloniser of neglected farmland but is believed to have been introduced by the Normans as fodder crop (it could be milled for horses), as a source of quick-growing fuel for bread ovens, and to provide shelter for managed rabbit warrens. Rabbits too were a Norman introduction.

## 6.3 Architectural heritage

### 6.3.1 Architectural heritage in the project environs

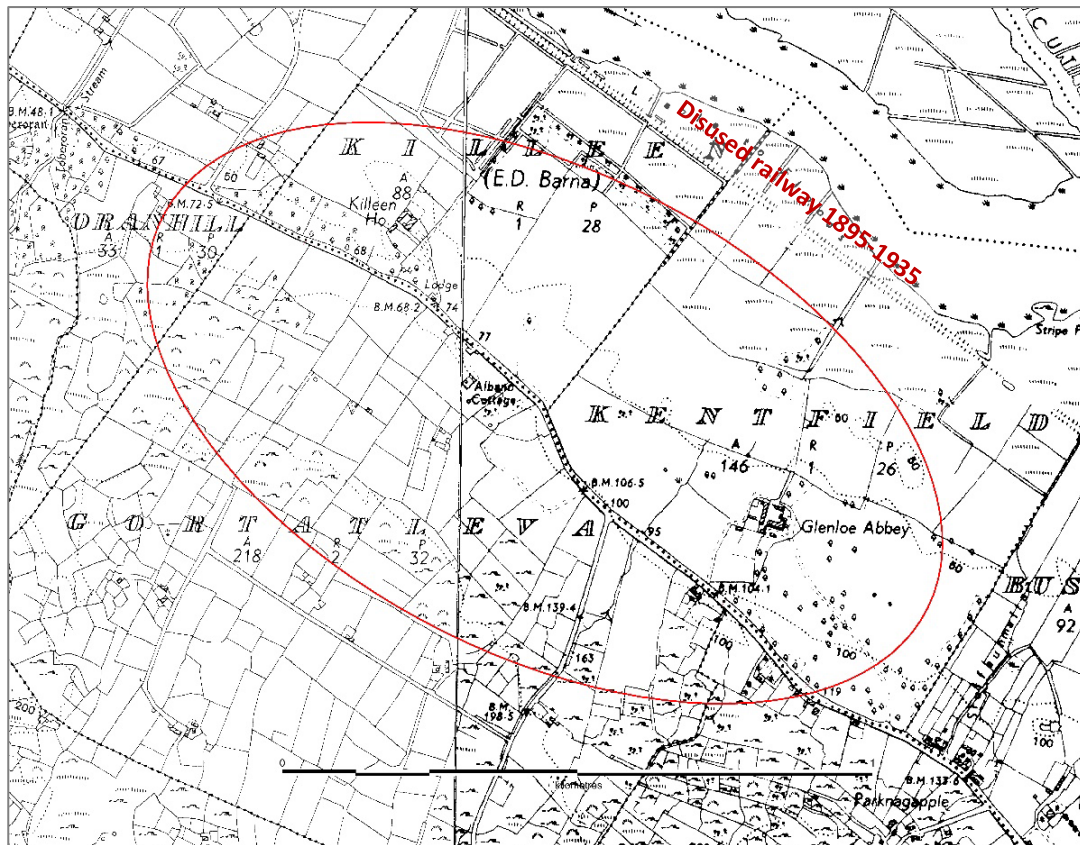
The broad characteristics of the build heritage in the study area and its environs were already stated above at '6.1.4 Settlement' and '6.1.5 Rural landscape' but can be summarised here again.

- The old rural housing stock of early modern vernacular cottages or farmhouses and outbuildings has largely been replaced by single dwelling houses and housing developments of relatively recent vintage. Some 19th-century vernacular buildings survive here and there, typically used as outhouses for newer buildings on the same sites. In the present study area, one will be affected, at Albano Villa (below).
- Some of the old gentry houses—like Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey in our study area—are still attractive and prestigious properties within landscaped grounds, though the ancillary features in their demesne landscapes (gate lodges, avenues, planting) have not all survived.
- Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey are both Protected Structures and may be affected to some degree by the proposed road project. There are no other Protected Structures in the study area.
- Albano Villa is not a Protected Structure but is interesting in historical terms. The roadside boundary, entrance and a group of ruined outbuildings at the road front may be affected by the proposed realignment.
- Albano Villa appears to have been built within the curtilage of an older house, Riverview House (situated uphill from it). This house is not extant but there is a substantial remnant of its boundary wall along the north side of the existing N59.
- Stone boundary walls are surviving traditional features that continue to lend the area much of its visible character, especially along the roadsides.

### 6.3.2 Galway to Clifden Railway

This brief review of the architectural in the project environs would not be complete without mention of the Galway to Clifden Railway (1895–1935). This was one of the so-called Balfour Lines, as it was developed under the Light Railways (Ireland) Act 1889, which was promoted by Lord Arthur Balfour during his period as Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1887–1891. (He would afterwards become Prime Minister of Great Britain and Ireland, in 1902–1905.) There are no railway buildings in the immediate environs of the current road project and the rails and tracks have all been lifted, but the disused line is still easy to identify on the level ground by the Corrib, about 500 m downslope from the present study area. The redevelopment of the old railway line as a greenway is an objective of the *Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021*.





*Illus. 6—The Ordnance Survey second edition six-inch map (1947) shows the Galway to Clifden Railway Line (1895–1935) on the low ground by the Corrib (top right)*

## 6.4 Historic houses

The most significant impacts of the proposed road development will be to the roadside elements of the historic houses described here. There is more detail on the properties in Appendix 9.4.

### 6.4.1 Killeen House (RPS No. 3440)

This substantial country house was built in 1837 (refurbished 1963) on an elevated site with views to Lough Corrib. It is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1838) as 'New Park'. This was originally a property of the Martins but was sold to the Comyns in 1849. The map shows the house and outbuildings within a designed landscape of planted tree belts, an avenue or vehicle tracks from the main road to the house, and another from the house to the banks of the Corrib. A tiny building inside the entrance was doubtless a gate lodge or gatekeeper's booth but is not extant.

Killeen is a handsome house today, well maintained, and occupies landscaped grounds with access from the N59 along the original avenue. An entry in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)) draws attention to the gateway: 'The building has an impressive entranceway with decorative stone finials to the piers and impressive wrought-iron gates.' The gateway is set within a low mortared rubble wall topped by simple crenellations (spaced, end-set limestone slabs). The wall is backed by a well-developed hedge (Lawson's Cypress).

The current preliminary design for the proposed road project (i.e. at the time of writing in January 2020) would not directly affect the entranceway to Killeen House but could affect the boundary wall, west of it.



*Illus. 7—View of Killeen House from south-east ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie))*



*Illus. 8—Entrance and boundary wall of Killeen House from west ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie))*





*Illus. 9—Glenlo Abbey is an impressive country house built c. 1740*



*Illus. 10—The house and its chapel are now part of a much larger building group, within landscaped grounds with golf course, forming the Glenlo Abbey Hotel*





*Illus. 11—Ornamental gateway to the Glenlo Abbey Hotel and golf course.*



*Illus. 12—Towards the west end the roadside boundary of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel is roughly squared limestone rubble with crenelated top course.*

#### 6.4.2 Glenlo Abbey (RPS No. 3441)

This is another substantial country house occupying a site on the north side of the N59, with views to Lough Corrib. It was built in 1740 (restored 1984) and a freestanding private chapel was added in 1790. It is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1838) as 'Glenlough'. The map shows the house and outbuildings within a demesne landscape that includes a walled garden, extensive woodland planting, three avenues from the main road and one leading to the Corrib.

There is some confusion around the ownership and occupancy of the house. The NIAH ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)) records Glenlo Abbey as 'the ancestral home of the French family' and John O'Donovan, for the Ordnance Survey, said it was the home of the French family in the 1830s ([www.places.galwaylibrary.ie](http://www.places.galwaylibrary.ie)). But the Landed Estates database ([www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie)) gives a different pedigree: 'A house called Kentville was occupied by the Martin family in the late 18th century though Wilson mentions a Mr. Irwin living there in 1786. By 1824 Thomas Redington was occupying Glenlo, which became the home of Thomas Blake in the mid 19th century and of the Palmers in the late 19th century.' Taylor & Skinner (1783) also identify 'Kentfield' with the Martins. We are inclined to believe O'Donovan, as he would have got his information at first hand.

The house and chapel survive and are well maintained, though they are not attached to a much larger building group, forming the Glenlo Abbey Hotel. The current access is realigned (i.e. none of the original avenues survives) and a golf course has replaced formed the former demesne landscape of meadows and woodland planting. Much of the walled garden enclosure is intact. The entrance is via ornamental gateway of cast iron gate pillars and railings. The roadside boundary wall is a low structure in plain mortared rubble, giving way to mortared limestone rubble with crenellations further west.

The current design for the proposed road project (i.e. at the time of writing in January 2020) would not directly affect the entranceway but could affect the boundary wall west of it.

#### 6.3.4 Albano Villa

On the opposite or south side of the N59, there is another gentry house of the early modern period (built 1828), which is worth special consideration here, though it is not a Protected Structure. Albano Villa occupies an elevated site with views to Lough Corrib. It is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1838) as 'Albano Cottage', within landscaped grounds with a group of early outbuildings or 'offices' towards the road front. (Albano Villa seems to have been built within the grounds or former grounds of an older house shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1838 as 'Riverview'.)

Today the house survives but the grounds are part of a working farm. The house is a relatively simple hipped-roof, single-storey, three-bay structure with dormers, and two substantial chimneys to the roof ridge, all on a low, stepped pediment to the front. The roadside outbuildings can be identified still, but are now ruinous and overgrown. An unusual feature on the high ground to the rear of the house is a masonry arch or 'eyecatcher' designed to frame the view to the lake. There is also a well, overgrown.





*Illus. 13—Albano Villa was built in 1828 by Fr Peter Daly, a Catholic priest who was very active in the public and commercial life of Galway, but whose affairs were sometimes controversial.*



*Illus. 14—Albano Villa from north-west, showing the entranceway and roadside boundary wall, enclosing (left) overground ruins of some early outbuildings or 'offices'.*



Albano Villa is a modest house, albeit an early one. Its importance derives partly from its period architecture but principally from its association with Fr Peter Daly, a Catholic priest who was prominent in public life in Galway in the early to middle 19th century and who led a colourful and sometimes controversial career (Appendix 9.5). Arguably, Fr Daly built Albano Villa as an expression of his ambition to be counted among the Galway gentry who occupied grander properties like neighbouring Killeen House or Glenlo Abbey.

The current preliminary design for the proposed road project (i.e. at the time of writing in January 2020) would directly affect the roadside boundary and entranceway, and possibly the ruined outbuilding.



*Illus. 15—Looking east along the N59 showing a substantial wall in mortared granite rubble, which seems to be a remnant boundary wall of former Riverview House.*

### 6.3.5 Riverview

Albano Villa seems to have been built within the grounds of an older house identified as ‘Riverview’ on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1838). This was evidently a more substantial house, standing uphill from the smaller villa. It was probably the house identified by John O’Donovan in the 1830s in his Field Name Books as ‘a neat two story high house with offices [and] garden called Riverview ... residence of ? [name] Browne, Esq.’ The Brownes were another old Galway family and held nearby Brownville, among other properties. The house at Riverview is shown as ruinous on the second edition map (1947). Aerial photography ([www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com)) suggests there are standing remains, incorporated into the grounds of a modern dwelling house, but they were not inspected on the ground by the writer.

At any rate, the existence of a country house at this location, within its own enclosed grounds, would explain the very substantial wall in mortared granite rubble that fronts the N59 west of Albano Villa. This is probably a remnant of an 18th-century roadside boundary wall to former Riverview House.

## 7. Potential impacts of development

### 7.1 Rural landscape

The road project will have an adverse impact on the traditional stone walls and mature hedgerows that form the boundaries of the existing road throughout most of this sector of the N59 and these should be replicated, like-with-like, along the new road alignment.

Table 2—Impacts on architectural heritage and archaeological monuments

Type	Name	Ref. No	Significance	Impact	Mitigation
Roadside boundaries	—	—	Local	Direct (demolition) of boundary walls, felling of natural hedgerows	Replacement of boundary walls like-with-like, hedgerow planting
Potential archaeological features	—	—	Unknown	Direct (potential destruction)	Manual excavation, sampling and recording, reporting and publication of the results
House and grounds	Killeen House	RPS 3440	Regional	Direct (demolition of part of boundary wall)	Detailed recording, replacement of boundary wall with similar
House and grounds	Glenlo Abbey	RPS 3441	Regional	Direct (demolition of part of boundary wall)	Detailed recording, replacement of boundary wall with similar
House and grounds	Albano Villa	—	Regional	Direct (demolition of boundary wall, entrance, ruined outbuildings)	Detailed recording, replacement of boundary wall and entrance with similar
Boundary wall to former house	Riverview	—	Local	Direct (demolition)	Detailed recording, replacement of boundary wall with similar

## **7.2 Archaeological sites and monuments**

The proposed project would have no impact on any known archaeological site or monument, however, there is always some potential for a previously unrecorded archaeological site to be discovered on lands acquired for a road project and test excavations throughout the project site are proposed on a precautionary basis.

## **7.3 Architectural heritage**

The road project would potentially affect parts of the roadside boundaries of Killeen House and Glenlo Abbey; the roadside boundary, entrance and ruined outbuildings of Albano Villa; and a remnant boundary wall of former Riverview House. These features should be all be recorded prior to the works. The boundary walls and entrances should be replicated like-with-like in the realigned road project.

# **8. Proposed mitigations**

## **8.1 Rural landscape**

To maintain the character of the road corridor the stone walls and mature trees forming the existing roadside boundaries should be replicated like-with-like along the boundaries of the realigned road.

## **8.2 Archaeological sites and monuments**

Test excavations should be opened throughout the project site on a precautionary basis. The work may be carried out using mechanical excavators under archaeological supervision. Any archaeological sites, objects, features or deposits that are found should be fully recorded and manually excavated, if they cannot be preserved *in situ*. The excavation results should be analysed and reported to the relevant authorities and a summary of the work should be published in a suitable archaeological periodical for the public benefit. All of this work would be subject to licence by the National Monuments Service on behalf of the Minister.

## **8.3 Architectural heritage**

The roadside boundaries of Killeen House, Glenlo Abbey, Albano Villa and former Riverview House, and also the road-front outbuilding at Albano Villa (if affected), should be recorded in detail using measured survey, photography and written descriptions. The record should be compiled in a report and submitted to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and the Irish Architectural Archive, for their records and collections. The affected boundaries should be replicated like-with-like in the realigned road.

## 9. APPENDICES

### 9.1 Townlands and place-names

The townland is an ancient land division in Ireland, thought to derive from lands collectively farmed by extended families or groups of related families in early medieval times. Our present townland boundaries were fixed during the first Ordnance Survey in the 1820s and 1830s, based on local information and custom. Townland names can sometimes indicate something of their history and archaeological potential. The proposed road project lies within three townlands: Killeen, Kentfield and Gortatleva.

#### **Killeen (civil parish Ragoon)**

The townlands database maintained by the Galway Library Service ([www.places.galwaylibrary.ie](http://www.places.galwaylibrary.ie)) gives the place-name translation *cillín* or 'small church' but acknowledges also the alternative *coill*, a wood, citing P W Joyce's classic *Irish Names of Places* (3 Vols, 1897– 1914).

The Galway Library Service database also quotes John O'Donovan's 'Field Name Books', which were compiled in the 1830s during his work for the Ordnance Survey. O'Donovan has the following information on Killeen:

Proprietor Thomas B. Martin, M.P. Ballinahinch Castle. Agent Mr. Walker Mons, Oughterard. This townland is held by Mr. Michael Horan under a lease of 21 years. Rent £2 per acre. Soil deep gravely clay, producing wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and flax. Killeen House is a neat thatched cottage one story high and neatly planted. There has been formerly a small burying place for children called a Killeen from which this townland took its name, but no trace of this grave now. Some say it was in the garden and is now called New Park.

The thatched house mentioned by O'Donovan was presumably replaced by the present building, which is dated to 1837 by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

#### **Kentfield (civil parish Ragoon)**

We do not know why some past proprietor of these lands called the townland Kentfield and, if it had an older Gaelic name, it is now lost. John O'Donovan did not record it but his Field Name Books do have the following observations on the townland:

Proprietor Lady French, Kentfield House, otherwise, Glenlo. This townland is held by Proprietor with a neat two story high house with offices and garden. Known by the name of Glenlo [Glenlough] House, and adjoining said House is a Chapel for the accommodation of the family. The Demesne is well planted. Soil good arable pasture and meadow producing wheat, barley, potatoes, flax. Nothing more remarkable on it.

Again, we noted above (6.4.2 Glenlo Abbey) that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage does not mention the French (or ffrench) family in connection with Kentfield / Glenlo, but as John

O'Donovan will have visited the property and made his observations on site, we can assume that his information is correct.

### **Gortaleva (civil parish Ragoon)**

The Galway Library Service database translates the townland name as Gort a tSléibhe ('mountain field') and cites P W Joyce's *Irish Names of Places* in support. The database also cites John O'Donovan's observations, in Field Name Books of the 1830s:

Proprietor James Val. Browne, Esq., Galway. This townland is held by 15 farmers. Rent 7s. per acre. Some have a lease of 21 years, others have none. Soil part arable and pasture and a part rocky and mountainous, producing wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. In this townland there is a neat two story high house with offices. Garden called Riverview. This residence of ? Browne, Esq. There is also a neat lodge of one story high with offices, garden and the property of the Rev. Peter Daly, R.C.P. called Albano Lodge. The tenantry of this townland are poor. Houses built of stone walls without mortar. Nothing remarkable on it. County Cess £10 yearly.

The house mentioned here as Albano Lodge was already described briefly above (6.3.4 Albano Villa). The Browne's own house, at Riverview, is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map in the 1830s but was a cluster of ruins on the second edition map of the 1940s. The site was not visited by the writer but seems to be occupied by outbuildings or farm buildings on current aerial photographs ([www.bing.com/maps/aerial](http://www.bing.com/maps/aerial)) and these buildings may incorporate some older building remnants.

## APPENDICES (continued)

### 9.2 Licensed archaeological excavations

The online gazetteer of licensed archaeological excavations in Ireland records only one investigation in the environs of the present road project (i.e. < 1 km). This was a pre-development test excavation in Attyshonock, about 800 m west of the project site. No investigations are recorded in the townlands traversed by the road project or in adjoining townlands.

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**Location:** Attyshonock (Áit Tí Seonac)

**Ref. No:** 2014:154

**Sites and Monuments Record:** GA081-001

**Licence No:** 14E0076

**Author:** Anne Carey

**Site type:** near enclosure [i.e. listed in Sites and Monuments Record]

**Grid Ref:** ITM 525175 729022

**Results:** Trial trenching was carried out at the site of a proposed house extension due to its proximity to an enclosure. Three trenches were excavated and nothing of archaeological significance was discovered. The site was seen to be composed almost entirely of naturally occurring soils, with bedrock occurring at a high level.

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## APPENDICES (continued)

### 9.3 Inventory of archaeological sites and monuments in the study area

Two archaeological sites or monuments are recorded in the online Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the National Monuments Service ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). Only one of these (Glenlo Abbey) is a Recorded Monument on the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) map.

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 1
<b>Type</b>	House and Chapel
<b>Name</b>	Glenlo Abbey
<b>RMP</b>	Yes
<b>SMR No.</b>	GA082-047 (047-001 House and 047-002 Chapel)
<b>RPS No.</b>	3441
<b>NIAH No.</b>	3040 8201
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526798 728327
<b>Townland</b>	Kentfield
<b>Significance</b>	Regional
<b>Impact</b>	Potential direct impact on part of mortared rubble roadside boundary wall along N59
<b>Mitigation</b>	Replace boundary wall like-with-like
<b>Description</b>	See 9.4 Inventory of the Architectural Heritage

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 2
<b>Type</b>	Designed Landscape Feature
<b>Name</b>	Killeen House (grounds of)
<b>RMP</b>	Nil
<b>SMR No.</b>	GA082-051
<b>RPS No.</b>	3440
<b>NIAH No.</b>	3040 8014
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526380 728668
<b>Townland</b>	Killeen
<b>Significance</b>	Nil
<b>Impact</b>	Nil
<b>Mitigation</b>	N/A
<b>Description</b>	This feature does not appear on the statutory RMP map. It is listed in the online SMR as a 'Designed landscape feature', within the grounds of Killeen House. The early Ordnance Survey maps show a tree or trees within a dotted circle. This may have been a planted tree ring within the designed landscape of the house. The site has been redeveloped for a modern dwelling house and the original feature is gone.

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## APPENDICES (continued)

### 9.4 Inventory of the architectural heritage in the study area

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 1
<b>Type</b>	House and Chapel in landscaped grounds
<b>Name</b>	Glenlo Abbey
<b>RMP</b>	Yes
<b>SMR No.</b>	GA082-047
<b>RPS No.</b>	3441
<b>NIAH No.</b>	3040 8201 House 3040 8282 Chapel
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526798 728327
<b>Townland</b>	Kentfield
<b>Significance</b>	Regional
<b>Impact</b>	Potential direct impact on part of mortared rubble roadside boundary wall along N59
<b>Mitigation</b>	Record affected features; replace boundary wall like-with-like
<b>Description</b>	The following information is taken directly from the identified sources.

#### [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage)

House—‘Detached, five-bay, two-storey, former country house over half-basement, built 1740, restored 1984, having a two-bay return to the west elevation and canted entrance bay to the front (east). Recent lower extensions to east and to rear. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystack, latter atop projecting chimneybreasts, and replacement uPVC rainwater goods. Rubble limestone walls, partly rendered to east gable. Slightly camber-arched openings with rubble limestone voussoirs, cut limestone sills and replacement uPVC windows. Square-headed entrance doorway with timber panelled door, raised dressed limestone block-and-start surround having triple-keystone detail to lintel, consoles supporting pediment, and with splayed cut limestone flight of steps with limestone balustrades, copings and piers. Carved cornices and harp motifs to interior drawing room. Complex enclosed by rubble limestone boundary walls and piers with wrought-iron gates.’

‘This impressive and imposing former country house, the ancestral home of the ffrench Family, is typical of larger eighteenth-century demesne dwellings evident throughout Ireland. The building has a distinctive form including a canted bay and grand entrance flight of steps. The retention of the elaborate door surround and the impressive landscape siting add to its architectural value.’

Chapel—‘Freestanding gable-fronted Church of Ireland chapel, built c. 1790, having three-bay nave, with three-stage tower. Now in use as a restaurant. Pitched artificial slate roof with cross finial and having replacement uPVC rainwater goods. Rubble sandstone walls having rubble limestone stepped diagonal buttresses with finials to west, plinth and carved eaves finials to front (east). Tower of rubble and coursed limestone, with crenellated parapet, carved pinnacles, and with string course to third-

stage. Clock to top stage of tower front. Pointed arch window openings with timber fixed-pane and casement clear and stained-glass windows, chamfered limestone surrounds, and limestone sills. Pointed arch door openings to front and side (north) elevations, with timber panelled doors, limestone surrounds and limestone steps. Complex enclosed by rubble limestone boundary walls and piers with wrought-iron gates.'

'This building has a form and style typical of eighteenth-century Church of Ireland chapels, which are often found on large demesnes. Despite never being used as a church, this building has a distinctive religious form with characteristic elements such as a bell tower and pointed openings. The retention of numerous decorative elements including pinnacles and string courses adds to the overall appeal of the building. Its siting, next to a country house and set within an extensive demesne, increases the architectural value of the building, making it an interesting part of the local landscape.'

[www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie) (National University of Ireland Galway)

'A house called Kentville was occupied by the Martin family in the late 18th century though Wilson<sup>1</sup> mentions a Mr Irwin living there in 1786. By 1824 Thomas Redington was occupying Glenlo, which became the home of Thomas Blake in the mid 19th century and of the Palmers in the late 19th century. Now functions as a hotel.'

<sup>1</sup> Wilson, W *The Post-Chaise Companion or Travellers Directory through Ireland*. Dublin, 1786.

### Record of Protected Structures (Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021)

'Glenloe Abbey Hotel. Detached 5-bay, 2-storey former country house over half-basement, built 1740, restored 1984.'

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 2
<b>Type</b>	House (in former landscaped grounds)
<b>Name</b>	Killeen House
<b>RMP</b>	Nil
<b>SMR No.</b>	Nil
<b>RPS No.</b>	3440
<b>NIAH No.</b>	3040 8014
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526380 728668
<b>Townland</b>	Killeen
<b>Significance</b>	Regional
<b>Impact</b>	Potential direct impact on part of mortared rubble roadside boundary wall along N59
<b>Mitigation</b>	Record affected features; replace boundary wall like-with-like
<b>Description</b>	The following information is taken directly from the identified sources.

**[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage)**

‘Freestanding five-bay two-storey house with dormer attic, built 1837, substantially refurbished in 1963, having limestone two-storey box-bay with crenellated parapet, additional canted- and box-bay windows having flat-roofed balconies to front (south-east) elevation, return to south end of rear elevation, additional projecting bays to south-west side of return and various additions to rear linking house with converted outbuildings of rear yard. Double-pile pitched artificial slate roof to house, pitched artificial slate roofs to return and additions to south-west side and rear elevations, flat roofs to canted- and box-bay windows, glazed lean-to roof to lean-to addition, artificial slate-clad water tank, rendered chimneystacks and replacement uPVC rainwater goods. Painted rendered walls with projecting chimneybreasts. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls with moulded render cornice to canted-bay windows and channel to plinth level. Snecked rusticated limestone block walls to crenellated box-bay with ogee-headed recesses to side elevations, crenellated parapet wall with stone capping having single square-headed window opening with granite sill, tooled limestone hood-moulding with corbels and replacement timber casement window to ground floor and round-headed window opening to first floor having concrete sill and replacement timber casement window flanked by round-headed recesses. Square-headed window openings to main body of house having painted concrete sills and replacement timber casement windows throughout with single iron casement window to rear elevation. Square-headed door openings having rendered hood-mouldings on decorative stone corbels with flanking lion mask mouldings, replacement timber panelled door with overlight to front elevation, timber glazed door with overlight, double-leaf timber panelled door with overlight to north-east side elevations and glazed uPVC door to rear elevation. Stone paving surrounds house with occasional groups of tooled limestone octagonal slabs. Yard to rear of house having converted outbuildings to accommodation and storage areas. Crenellated rubble-stone enclosing wall with single-stage round tower and bellcote with cast-iron bell over segmental-headed arch with tooled limestone voussoirs and wrought-iron gate to south-east. Cast-iron lamp posts around driveway. Crenellated coursed stone block boundary walls with crenellated stone block piers having tooled stone finials, recent electric lamps and decorative wrought-iron gates.’

‘This imposing building is situated on an elevated area of land with a fine view extending out to Lough Corrib. The facade of the building is greatly enlivened by the retention of the original crenellated bay. The building has an impressive entranceway with decorative stone finials to the piers and impressive wrought-iron gates.’

**[www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie) (National University of Ireland Galway)**

‘Originally known as New Park, Killeen House was bought by Peter S Comyn from the Martins in 1849 and it became his main residence. He died in 1866 and left the house to his niece Rose Comyn. It is still extant and was run as a luxury guesthouse until 2008.’

**Record of Protected Structures (Galway County Development Plan 2015–2021)**

Freestanding 5-bay 2-storey house with dormer attic substantially with limestone 2-storey box-bay, built 1837, substantially refurbished in 1963.

### **Ordnance Survey six-inch map: first edition 1838 (Sheet 81)**

The house and offices appear as a substantial courtyard group. The approach from the 'Mail coach road from Oughterard' (the present N59) is via a tree-lined avenue. A small building inside the gateway is presumably a lodge (though not identified as such). There is boundary planting along the roadway and a formal garden to the north-east of the house. The environs are hachured - indicating the house and demesne lands of a significant landowner.

### **Ordnance Survey six-inch map: revised edition 1947 (Sheet 81)**

A hundred years after the first detailed map the house, offices and avenue survive on this later edition.

### **Griffith, R 1855 Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland: County of Galway. Dublin.**

Peter S Comyn is identified as proprietor in 1855. The property is described as 'house, offices, gatehouse and land' all at 76 acres 3 roods and 33 perches of land, valued at £70. (This was a relatively high valuation, one of the highest in the parish. Neighbouring Brownville was valued at £73 and the more splendid Glenlo Abbey at £123.)

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 3
<b>Type</b>	House (former landscaped grounds)
<b>Name</b>	Albano Villa
<b>RMP</b>	Nil
<b>SMR No.</b>	Nil
<b>RPS No.</b>	Nil
<b>NIAH No.</b>	Nil
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526279 728552
<b>Townland</b>	Gortatleva
<b>Significance</b>	Regional. This is an unusual building group and is associated with a significant individual in the history of Galway in the 19th century, Fr Peter Daly.
<b>Impact</b>	Potential direct impact on the rubble roadside boundary wall and entrance at the N59 and on a former outbuilding inside the boundary wall.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Record walls, entrance and building; place boundary wall like-with-like
<b>Description</b>	The house called Albano Villa (formerly 'Albano Cottage') occupies an elevated site on the south side of the N59, with good views to Lough Corrib. It is a single-storey, hipped roof, three-bay house, built in 1828 by the colourful and controversial Catholic priest, Fr Peter Daly. For more on Fr Daly see Appendix 9.5.

Today the house is the principal element in a suite of early 19th-century features all lying within the bounds of the property. These include a well, outbuildings and an elaborate garden feature or 'eye-catcher'—an archway designed to frame a panorama of Lough Corrib. The grounds have been converted to agricultural use and can no longer boast 'a very tasteful and ornamental manner' of

laying out and planting, as reported by a 'Rental and Particulars' in 1860 (below), but the built features and boundaries largely retain their integrity.

Most of the following, more detailed information was compiled by the writer in 2001 when he was kindly afforded the opportunity to inspect the house, by the owner, Mr Peter Davoren, who also generously shared information on historical sources. (This inspection was in the course of impact assessment work for a proposed bypass of Galway City, which was not afterwards approved by the authorities.)

## **House**

The house is a simple, single-storey structure, with three bays to the front elevation (a sash window to either side of a central door, all under a hipped roof with dormers to the front. The house is set on a plinth which extends to form a flight of steps extending fully across the front of the building. The masonry is of mortared rubble blocks roughly brought to course. The front elevation was favoured with roughly dressed blocks, creating a more regular effect. There are no quoins or dressings to the door and angles.

Internally, the building retains many original features including fireplaces, moulded panelling to doors and windows, a fan-lit doorway to rear compartments, stairs. But there have also been several intrusive changes. Internally some rooms are partitioned now. A new all-weather porch encloses the entrance. The roof has been entirely rebuilt – also the ceilings – and the present dormers are unlikely to have featured in the original design.

## **Entrance, boundaries**

The entrances and avenue are of no intrinsic importance but appear to be original features – or at least occupy their original positions. Rough-hewn limestone piers once framed the entrance from the public road but are now removed. (They were still on site and seen by the writer in 2001.) The 'avenue' is a rough track, sweeping sharply upwards towards the house and probably on its original course. East of the main entrance a small gateway gives access to the garden from the public road.

Mr Davoren pointed out several long sectors of mortared rubble wall which appear to have been parts of the original boundary to Fr Daly's property at east and west. The date of these has not been confirmed with reference to early maps.

## **Outbuildings**

A group of tiny buildings in mortared rubble with, variously, slated and corrugated iron roofs stands in a cluster near the main entrance. These are undoubtedly early (they appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1838). The buildings were very dilapidated when seen by the writer in 2001 and completely overgrown when seen again in 2020.

## Well

Mr Davoren identified a small stone-lined cavity in the ground—south of the house—as a ‘holy well’ created by Fr Daly; and stated that this incorporated dressed stones from a medieval building. Dense overgrowth prevented the writer from examining these in 2001.

## Eye-catcher

To the rear of the house, the brow of the hill is crowned by a tall ornamental arch which incorporates several fragments of dressed stone from a medieval building (e.g. ogival window heads and fragments of chamfered mullions). This is the most striking feature of the whole group. Clearly it was designed to frame a panorama of Lough Corrib, below, and possibly gave access to a garden or orchard on the level ground above the house. An alternative suggestion (Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, 2001) is that the arch may have pre-existed Albano Villa and been a garden feature within a larger estate (River View House of the Browns?) from which Fr Daly acquired his own property.

## Sources in the collection of the owner Mr Peter Davoren (2001)

In the Census of Ireland 1901 Albano Villa is recorded as a dwelling house of the second class with six rooms, occupied by Patrick Concannon and family (seven in all) under lease from Hugh Davoran. [Only substantial houses, slated or tiled, and with several windows to the front elevation would have qualified as houses of the first class.]

In Griffith’s Valuation 1855 the townland, occupiers, ‘tenement’ and lands at Albano Villa (which is not named) are described as ‘Gortleva ... Rev Peter Daly ... House, offices and land, Herd’s house ... 32 [acres] 0 [roods] 30 [perches].

The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland (1844–45, 107) mentions Albano Villa in its description of the Parish of Rahoon: ‘The villa, the seat of the Very Rev Warden Daly, and West Lodge, the seat of James O’Hara Esq., are pleasant features on the outskirts of the town.’

The Records of Encumbered Estates in 1860 (National Archive Institute) show Fr Daly acquiring more land in that year, increasing his property at Albano Villa from 10 to 32 acres.

A Rental and Particulars of the Townland of Gortaleva in 1860 promotes Albano Villa: ‘On this lot a considerable expenditure has been made by the lessee in the erection of a handsome villa and offices and in laying out and planting the grounds in a very tasteful and ornamental manner.’

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<b>Inventory</b>	No. 4
<b>Type</b>	Boundary wall (former Riverview House)
<b>Name</b>	Riverview
<b>RMP</b>	Nil
<b>SMR No.</b>	Nil
<b>RPS No.</b>	Nil
<b>NIAH No.</b>	Nil
<b>Grid (ITM)</b>	526279 728552
<b>Townland</b>	Gortatleva
<b>Significance</b>	Local. The wall is a remnant of the house and grounds identified as 'Riverview' on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1838 and mentioned as a house of the Browne family in John O'Donovan's Field Name Books of the 1830s.
<b>Impact</b>	Potential direct impact resulting in demolition of the wall.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Record walls, entrance and building; place boundary wall like-with-like
<b>Description</b>	Riverview House occupied an elevated site overlooking the present N59 from the south side (uphill from Albano Villa). Remnants of a tall (< 3 m), substantial wall in mortared granite rubble still stand along the road front bordering the N59 on either side of Albano Villa, over a total distance of c. 150 m, and with an especially good sector west of Albano Villa (< 50 m length). From map evidence and field observation this seems to be the remains of a boundary wall to the grounds of Riverview House.

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## APPENDICES (continued)

### 9.5 A Note on Fr Peter Daly of Albano Villa

This short history of the career of Peter Daly of Albano Villa is based on a much more detailed paper, 'Father Peter Daly' by J Mitchel (1987), which was published in the *Journal of the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society*, Vol 39, 35-114.

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Albano Villa was built in 1828 by Fr Peter Daly, churchman, property speculator and entrepreneur. Fr Daly devoted a good deal of service to Galway's public and administrative institutions during his life, but also provoked a great deal of public rebuke for his self-seeking and most unclerical career. He is buried in nearby Bushypark Church where a fine marble bust overlooks his grave, by the altar.

The history of Galway in the early 19th century is embroidered everywhere with the name of Peter Daly. He was associated with the establishment or administration of a number of public institutions, including the Town Commissioners, the Harbour Board, the Poor Law Commission and the Lough Corrib Navigation Trust. He tirelessly promoted schemes for the economic development of the town and port, including a cherished scheme to establish Galway as a transatlantic steamer port. He harried politicians great and small to pursue these ends and even acquired a newspaper at a late stage in his career—the *Galway Press* (formerly the *Mercury*).

Fr Daly was equally energetic on his own behalf, however, and amassed land, houses and other commercial interests in the town and its hinterland. Despite his energy and ability, these interests, combined with a wilful temperament, were to cost him advancement in the Church. He was declined by the bishops of the province as an episcopal candidate, for instance, because 'he had more than once fought with his superiors over his rights [and] ... made use of a freedom of speech so little restrained that he would render hostile those subject to him' (quoted in Mitchell 1987, 67). Their fears were not misplaced. In subsequent years Bishop John MacEvilly would complain both of Fr Daly's heartless disregard for his tenants and his misuse of Church funds and even Church buildings. Ultimately, exasperated both by his unruliness and his devotion to secular interests, Bishop MacEvilly would be forced to declare an ecclesiastical suspension on the man he had begun to call 'the untameable hyena'. Of course, Fr Daly fought a fierce appeal, taking his case first to the Archbishop of Tuam and then to the Pope in Rome.

The contradictions in his career are captured by two judgements published at different times by the editor of the *Galway Vindicator*. When Fr Daly laid the foundation stone for the West Bridge (now O'Brien's Bridge) in 1857 the paper asked: 'Who amongst us is more capable of adding dignity to a civic ceremony – who more deserving of the honour conferred upon him than he who has devoted a long and active life to the moral and social regeneration of his fellow townsmen?' Only two years later it would castigate him as 'amongst the chief curse of Ireland ...the *landlord exterminators*. Every man in Galway remembers when he quenched the fires and turned out the poor from their little holdings in order to add field to field and accumulate property' (quoted in Mitchell 1987, 58 & 79).

Peter Daly died in 1878. He is buried in Bushypark Church where a very fine bust was later erected over his grave. The bitter editorialising of the *Galway Vindicator* melted at last into respectful elegy:

There is no question he was a great man, but specially, and devotedly, a local man. Galway was to him the world and he thought of nothing else. He somewhat outlived his popularity, but the demonstration at his funeral was proof of the large place he filled in the esteem of his fellow citizens. Had he died a dozen years ago, Galway would have erected a memorial to him (quoted in Mitchell 1987, 114).