

## Archaeological Impact Assessment

### Part 8 Application, Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter Project, Nenagh, County Tipperary



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# 1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by Scott Tallon Walker Architects, on behalf of Tipperary County Council, to prepare an Archaeological Impact Assessment of proposals to implement the **Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter (NHCQ)** Project. The project seeks to maximise the potential of the Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter (NHCQ) and its contribution to Nenagh as a successful and sustainable visitor destination. The Quarter is located in the centre of Nenagh (see **Figure 1** below). The principal landmark buildings are the Castle and Gaol. It is proposed that the visitor experiences offered at these two sites be significantly upgraded. The project also includes extensive improvements to the public realm at Banba Square and the adjoining streets which will greatly enhance Nenagh town. There are a number of Protected Structures within the development area and the site lies within an Architectural Conservation Area. Nenagh Castle is a national monument in State Guardianship (Nat. Mon. 513). Nenagh is classified as a “Historic Town” (TN020-037----) by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.



**Figure 1:** Extent of the Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter (boundary defined by red line)

The proposed development has evolved from a masterplan process prepared by STW Architects which focused on a number of “precincts” or “zones” for the purposes of understanding the parts and places involved in the overall development. Not all the zones examined for the masterplan process are being proposed for development. These are set out on the site location plan and in a series of precinct plans that relate to the supporting drawings and reports.

- Banba Square (NHCQ Zone 1)
- Nenagh Castle - Forecourt (NHCQ Zone 3)
- 35 & 36 Pearse Street - archway & yard (NHCQ Zone 4)
- Nenagh Castle - Barbican & Bailey (NHCQ Zone 5)
- Nenagh Castle - Castle Park (NHCQ Zone 6)
- Nenagh Gaol & Courthouse/Gaol carpark (NHCQ Zone 7)
- O’Rahilly Street & Tourist Office/former Town Hall (NHCQ Zone 8)
- Streets upgrade - business district footpaths (NHCQ Zone 9)

Pursuant to the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council proposes to carry out the following development, which consists of the distinct works:

- I. Public Realm upgrade works to Banba Square, O’Rahilly Street & Carpark, Gaol Carpark & Courthouse frontage, Castle park, Barbican entrance & bridge.
- II. Reinstatement of historic access gates and posts (incorporating light) to the courthouse including extension of the Banba Square paving to the courthouse steps & portico.
- III. Removal of unnecessary street clutter, road signage, pedestrian barriers throughout the development area of the NHCQ and including those described in the March '23 Nenagh Traffic Management Plan - One Way System under Section 38 of the road traffic act 1994
- IV. Installation of natural stone paving to the footpaths of the main business district streets,  
Kenyon Street, Mitchel Street, Pearse Street, Silver Street and Emmet Place.
- V. Refurbishment with internal and external alterations to the Protected Structure, the existing Nenagh Heritage Centre (former Governors’ house, Gatehouse and the single storey and three storey Gaol Cell Blocks) conservation and adaptive reuse works, installation of new accessible toilets on the ground floor of the truncated Cell Block.
- VI. Reinstatement of an elevated footbridge structure and associated works connecting the cell block to the Governor’s House.
- VII. Demolition of the former Civil defence building & adjacent lean-to stores in the courthouse public carpark and reorganisation of the parking including the partial removal of a dividing stone wall.
- VIII. Installation of a new universal access pedestrian route (comprising elevated bridge, paved walkway, and ramped footpaths) from the O’Rahilly Street Carpark to Nenagh Castle forecourt (utilising the Castle barbican entrance).
- IX. Demolition of the modern single storey lean-to structure adjacent to the Barbican entrance of Nenagh Castle and associated works at O’Rahilly Street Carpark.
- X. Accessible public realm to the O’Rahilly Street carpark comprised of predominantly hard landscaping with soft landscaping areas including installation of new edgings at junctions between hard and soft landscaping, asphalt surfacing to car park, natural stone paving to the public areas, with installation of Nature Based Drainage Solutions.
- XI. Installation of high & low lighting to public realm (Banba Square, Courthouse carpark, O’Rahilly Street carpark) generally as well as facade lighting to Nenagh Castle and Nenagh Gaol buildings and the former Gaol exercise yards.
- XII. Removal of existing traffic barrier and installation of a revised vehicle access security system (automated rising bollards) at the vehicle entrance through the Gaol gatehouse archway serving the Governor’s house & existing Convent access beyond.

This assessment has been compiled in order to examine the potential impacts which the proposed project may have on both the recorded and potential archaeological heritage resource of the area. The study area for this assessment comprised a combination of the area within the scheme boundary along with the external lands extending for 50m in all directions from its boundary. The assessment firstly outlines the methodology used in its compilation (**Section 2**) and then provides an archaeological and historical context for the study area, including a summary of the relevant legal and planning framework for the recorded and potential elements of the archaeological resource within its environs (**Section 3**). A description of the project area derived from a site inspection is provided in **Section 4**, an assessment of impacts is outlined in **Section 5**, while conclusions and recommendations are presented in **Section 6**.



## 2. Methodology

This report, based on a programme of desktop research on the study area, was undertaken in order to identify known and potential archaeological heritage constraints within the study area and its close environs. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Tipperary, both published by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* (ASI), were the principal sources consulted for identifying known archaeological sites. Details on the legal and planning frameworks designed to protect these elements of the archaeological heritage resource are presented in **Section 3** of this report.

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the first edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913).
- *Aerial photography* - A review of publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google and Bing Maps was undertaken.
- *Literary Sources* - various published sources were consulted and references are provided in **Section 7** of this report.
- *Development Plans* - The local authority development plans relevant to the study area was consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The relevant development plan for the study area is the *Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028*.
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - This online database contains summary accounts of licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1969 to present. The full database summaries for investigations carried within the study area are provided in **Appendix 2** to this report. Current data was accessed via [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List*: UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites are included in a Tentative List (2022) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion.
- *Placenames Database of Ireland* - The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and place name research conducted by the State. Its primary function is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the place names of Ireland and to publish them on a public website ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).
- *Irish Heritage Council: Heritage Map Viewer* - This online mapping source collates various cultural heritage datasets and includes extracts from the National Museum of Ireland's records of artefact discovery locations as well as datasets provided by, among others, the

National Monuments Service, local authorities and the Office of Public Works. Current data was accessed via [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

## Types of impact

Impacts are categorised as either being *direct*, *indirect* or of *no predicted impact*. The criteria for determining the nature of impacts are based on the following:

- **Direct Impact** – where a cultural heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the scheme, which will result in its complete or partial removal.
- **Indirect Impact** – where a cultural heritage site or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of the scheme.
- **No predicted impact** – where the potential scheme will not adversely or positively affect a cultural heritage site.

A significance rating for these impacts is then applied; whether *profound*, *significant*, *moderate*, *slight*, or *imperceptible*

- A **profound** impact applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects that arise where a cultural heritage site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- A **significant** impact applies when an impact, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. It applies where part of a cultural heritage site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature/site.
- A **moderate** impact applies when a change to a cultural heritage site is proposed that, though noticeable, does not compromise the integrity of the site and which is reversible. This arises where a cultural heritage site can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and where all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- A **slight** impact causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect a cultural heritage site.
- An **imperceptible** impact applied where an impact is capable of measurement but does not carry noticeable consequences.

## Site inspections

A number of site inspections were undertaken at various stages of the project by suitably qualified archaeologists from John Cronin and Associates (David Murphy and John Cronin). On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2023, a stakeholder meeting (including representatives from the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the National Monuments Service) undertook an inspection of Nenagh Castle to discuss emerging proposals for providing new and improved public access; John Cronin attended this meeting as part of the design team.

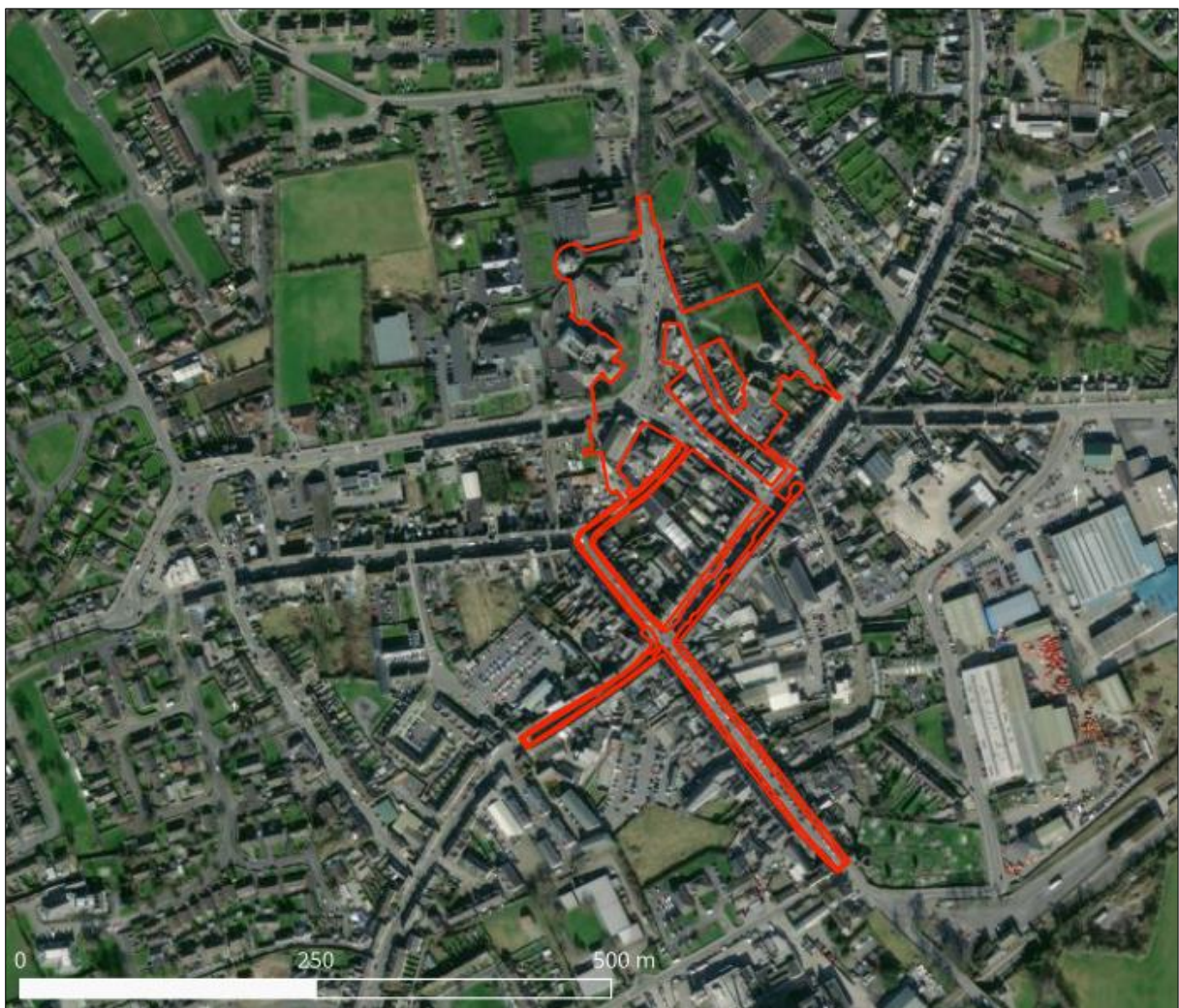
The study area has been assessed in terms of historic streetscape, recorded archaeological sites and potential for undetected archaeological sites/features. A description of the project area deriving from on-site inspections is detailed in **Section 4** and extracts from the photographic record are presented in **Appendix 1**.



## 3. Context

### Location

The *Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter* (NHCQ) (**Figure 2**) comprises the following streets: Banba Square; Kickham Street; Emmet Place; the easternmost portion of Ashe Road; the south-western half of Pearse Street; O'Rahilly Street; Mitchel Street, Kenyon Street, Silver Street. It also includes the following areas, structures and buildings: Nenagh Castle; Nenagh Castle grounds and forecourt; the rear portions of Nos. 35 & 36 Pearse Street; Nenagh Gaol, including the Governor's House (Nenagh Heritage Centre), a former cell block currently in use as a County Council storage area and a modern building of no heritage significance within the courthouse carpark which is currently occupied by the Civil Defence.



*Figure 2: Aerial image of the centre of Nenagh with the boundaries of the NHCQ outlined*

### Legal & policy framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992*)

ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003*, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed and none are located within the region of the country containing the study area.

The national legal statutes and guidelines relevant to this assessment include:

- National Monuments Act (1930) (and amendments);
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023
- Heritage Act (1995);
- National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);
- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

### ***Archaeological heritage***

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was signed into law on October 13th, 2023<sup>1</sup>. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage circulated a guidance document in relation to this Act in November 2023 which provides an overview of its current status, and this is summarised hereafter. While the Act is now law most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister has made one or more “Commencement Orders”. This means that Section 7 of the Act (which provides for the repeal of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and related legislation) has not entered into force. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and other legislation which section 7 of the Act will, when it comes into force, repeal, remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October and will continue to do so for the time being. The Act contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 to continue in operation notwithstanding their repeal post-commencement of the Act while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. This includes provisions enabling the Record of Monuments and Places to continue to have effect pending the establishment of the new Register of Monuments (see section 48 of the Act).

The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, therefore, remain the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource and include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/act/2023/26/eng/enacted/a2623.pdf>

Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites. There is **one** structure within the study area subject to Preservation Order and that is Nenagh Castle (PO no. 2/1984).

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘*a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance*’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. There is **one** National Monument in the Guardianship of the State within the study area and that is Nenagh Castle (TN020-037001-; National Monument No. 513).

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier RHM and SMR, comprises county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months’ notice in advance of any works proposed at their locations. To this end, the NMS have designated areas surrounding the recorded locations of archaeological sites with Zones of Notification (ZON) and the extent of these are indicated on the Historic Heritage Viewer. **The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) record seven archaeological sites within the NHCQ boundary.** These include the records for the historic town (TN020-037----), the town defences (TN020-037006-) and Nenagh Castle (TN020-037001-). The remaining four records relate to cross-slabs which are presently displayed in the Nenagh Heritage Centre. However, these cross-slabs in fact originate from St. Odhran’s Monastery in Latteragh, County Tipperary. These sites are listed in **Table 1** and mapped on **Figure 3** below as are an additional three archaeological sites located outside but within 50m of the scheme boundary. The Archaeological Inventory entries for the recorded sites within the study area are provided in **Appendix 1** to this report.

The *Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028*, which is the valid county development plan for this area, includes the following policies in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

**Policy 13.4** - *It is the policy of the Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest, including Recorded Monuments, National Monuments and Monuments on the Register of Historic Monuments, and archaeological remains found within Zones of Archaeological Potential located in historic towns and other urban and rural areas. In safeguarding such features of archaeological interest, the Council will seek to secure their preservation (i.e. in situ or in exceptional circumstances preservation by record) and will have regard to the advice and recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

*Where developments, due to their location, size or nature, may have implications for archaeological heritage, the Council may require an archaeological assessment to be carried out. This may include for a requirement for a detailed Visual Impact Assessment of the proposal and how it will impact on the character or setting of adjoining archaeological features. Such developments include those that are located at, or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more), those that may impact on the underwater environment and developments requiring EIA.*

**Policy 13.5** - *It is the policy of the Council to respect and preserve the remains (both sub-surface and upstanding) of the medieval towns in line with the Conservation, Management and Interoperation Plans in place for each town, in line with the guidance of the Heritage Council and the National Policy on Town Defences (DEHLG, 2008).*



## Archaeological and historical context

The Anglo-Norman town at Nenagh was founded between 1200 and 1220 by Theobald Walter, the first Butler of Ormond, when he built his castle at this location. There was possibly an earlier settlement here as there are references to 'Aenach thete', which appears to be Nenagh, being burned during raids in 994 and 1056 (Annals of the Four Masters). Besides Nenagh Castle (TN020-037001-), few remnants of the medieval town survive, and the modern layout of the town reflects its development in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Sheehan 1949). The Nenagh *Historic and Cultural Quarter* (NHCQ) extends within the *Zone of Archaeological Potential* (ZAP) for the historic town of Nenagh (TN020-037----). Additionally, the postulated line of the medieval town defences (TN020-037006-) also extends through the defined NHCQ area, however, the definitive route of the town defences has not been located to date.

The *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* (ASI) record a further four archaeological monuments (see **Table 1**, **Figure 3** and **Appendix 2** below) within the NHCQ boundary and these relate to cross-slabs which are presently displayed in the Nenagh Heritage Centre which is housed within the Governor's House of the town's former gaol. However, these cross-slabs in fact originate from St. Odhran's Monastery in Latteragh, County Tipperary. The study area also contains the recorded locations of two 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings, a prison (TN020-037004-) and a market house (TN020-037004-) which formerly stood on the south side of Pearse Street just outside the scheme boundary. In addition, a disused church (TN020-037004-), originally constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is located c.15m outside the south end of the scheme boundary on Kenyon Street.

**Table 1:** Recorded archaeological sites located within the study area

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM (E, N)</b>
TN020-037----	Historic town	Nenagh North, Nenagh South	586563, 679123
TN020-037001-	Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle	Nenagh North	586660, 679364
TN020-037006-	Town defences	Nenagh South, Nenagh North	586560, 679102
TN020-037009-	Cross-slab (present location)	Nenagh North	586485, 679440
TN020-037010-	Cross-slab (present location)	Nenagh North	586485, 679440
TN020-037011-	Cross-slab (present location)	Nenagh North	586485, 679440
TN020-037012-	Cross-slab (present location)	Nenagh North	586485, 679440
TN020-037004-	Prison	Nenagh North	586618, 679162
TN020-037005-	Market House	Nenagh North	586586, 586586
TN020-037007-	Church	Nenagh North	586734, 678933



**Figure 3:** Location of recorded archaeological sites within the study area for the NHCQ (boundary indicated by red line) are indicated in pink. The ZAP surrounding the historic town of Nenagh is represented by the yellow shaded area. The definitive circuit of the town defences (TN020-037006-) has not been located to date

The following presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record with references to the recorded archaeological sites located within the study area. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service (NMS).

#### *Prehistoric periods*

Until the recent identification of Palaeolithic human butchery marks on animal bones dated to 31,000 and 12,800 BP, the earliest recorded evidence for human activity in Ireland dated to the Mesolithic period (*circa* 7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers lived on the heavily wooded island. The archaeological record indicates that these nomadic groups tended to favour coastal, lake and river shores which provided a transport resource and also provided elements of their varied diet. While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments

that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields, shell middens adjacent to shorelines or sub-surface traces of temporary settlements uncovered during development works. There are no recorded sites dating to the Mesolithic period located within the study area or its immediate vicinity.

The Neolithic period (*circa* 4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. While there are no recorded Neolithic sites within the study area, there is evidence of a significant Neolithic site (TN020-079002-) at Tullahedy on the south-western outskirts of Nenagh which indicates settlement in the general area during this period.

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (*circa* 2400–500 BC) and saw the introduction of a new artefactual assemblage, including metal and ceramic objects, to the island. This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and burnt mounds known as *fulachta fiadh*. The development of new burial practices during this period also saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (*circa* 500 BC – 400 AD). This period has traditionally been associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’, but recent archaeological evidence points instead to a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe. Relatively little was known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices in Ireland until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of sub-surface sites dating to this period during archaeological investigations in advance of development projects. There are no recorded Bronze Age or Iron Age sites within the study area, however, there is evidence of later prehistoric funerary activity in the wider area. This takes the form of nine probable ring barrows (TN020-099---- to 099008-), located in Knockanpierce on the southern edge of Nenagh, *circa* 550m to the south of the study area.

#### *Early medieval period*

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12<sup>th</sup>-century (*circa* 400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape and the early medieval terms for these sites, rath/lios/dun, still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that the majority functioned as farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems.



While no physical evidence of a pre-Norman settlement at Nenagh has been revealed to date, documentary sources indicate that an earlier settlement may have existed. The Annals of the Four Masters contains references to 'Aenach thete', which appears to be Nenagh, being burned during raids in 994 and 1056. Prior to the Norman conquest, the Nenagh area was part of the *Dál gCais* territory, whose most prominent sept was the *Ua Bríain* (O' Brien), who in fact held the High Kingship of Ireland during the 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup>-centuries. The Nenagh area was controlled by the less powerful *Ua Cennetig* (Kennedy) sept who were also members of the wider *Dál gCais* dynasty.

The four cross slabs (TN020-037009- to 037012-) which are presently housed in the Nenagh Heritage Centre and originated at St. Odhran's Monastery in Latteragh, County Tipperary, date to the early medieval period.

### *High and late medieval periods*

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12<sup>th</sup>-century broadly marks the advent of the Irish high medieval period which continued to *circa* 1400 and was followed by the late medieval period which extended to *circa* 1550. These periods saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns began to develop as local or regional market settlements. The Anglo-Norman town at Nenagh was founded between 1200 and 1220 by Theobald Walter, the first Butler of Ormond, when he built his castle at this location. Theobald is remembered as one of the greatest aristocrats of his time (Simpson & Duffy 2019, 29). The Castle consists of a 'large circular keep and a twin-towered gatehouse with adjoining hall' (Corlett 2020, 3). The castle underwent several stages of development throughout the 13<sup>th</sup>-century and was in use by the Butler family up until the latter half of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century.

The town appears to have suffered in the 14<sup>th</sup>-century: first in 1316 Robert Bruce's army wasted the manor of Nenagh but left the castle and settlement intact (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 250), then in 1348 the town was burnt by the O 'Kennedy's (Prendergast 1851, 392). At the end of this century, in 1392, the Butlers acquired Kilkenny Castle and transferred their chief residence from Nenagh to there (ibid., 393-4). The castle remained in use up to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century, when following the Williamite wars, castles were commonly deconstructed to prevent them being utilised in a military sense in future wars (Corlett 2020). Nehemiah Donellan purchased the castle and the town of Nenagh in 1703. In 1706, a local tenant farmer, in an attempt to scare off the local swift species from nesting in the keep, blew it up, however, this was not fully successful and the keep partially remained.

Although there is no surviving evidence of the town walls (TN020-037006-), it is generally accepted by historians and archaeologists that medieval Nenagh was walled (Bradley 1985, 50-52). Historic sources make reference to the collection of 'murage', and the Civil Survey from 1654 mentioned walls (though possibly ones recently built at that point). A paper from Brian Hodkinson (2006) reviewed all of the relevant historic sources and archaeological excavations and offered a plan of the likely location of the walls, this covering a smaller area than had been previously suggested by the Tipperary Urban Survey. By 2006, no foundations of town walls had been found, however, an excavation undertaken by Mary Henry in 2015 (C000697) uncovered a section of masonry that 'had all the attributes of a well-built medieval wall' along the projected line of the town defences at Kenyon Street, near the junction with Stafford Street. However, 'due

to the trench dimensions, it was not possible to confirm whether this is, in fact, part of the town wall, but it is considered it is part of a major medieval structure’.

There are three recorded late medieval archaeological sites within the study area and these comprise the historic town of Nenagh itself (TN020-037---), its town defences (TN020-037006-) and Nenagh Castle (TN020-037001-).

#### *Post-medieval and early modern periods*

The centuries following 1550 are referred to as the post-medieval period, which is generally considered to continue into the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century and the period thereafter is described as early modern. The early part of this period was a turbulent time in Irish history and in the later decades of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century the Tudors began to re-assert English control. The resultant wars between the 1560s and 1603 brought this unsettled period to an end and the following centuries were a time of prosperity for the newly established Protestant gentry and landowners. An agricultural boom in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup>-centuries saw a rise in prices for both tillage and dairy produce and resulted in Irish landlords investing in extensive land improvement works within their holdings. This period saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish countryside and rural settlement clusters at this time typically consisted of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farmhouses became more common in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century.

In 1533, Sir Piers Butler re-took possession of Nenagh and set about redeveloping the settlement. Henry VIII granted the town permission to hold 6 fairs annually (on April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>). However, over the course of the following century the town suffered many set-backs, including being attacked and burnt by Irish forces under O’Carroll in 1548. In 1641 the town was captured by Red Owen O’Neill, but shortly afterwards it was recaptured by Lord Inchiquin. It surrendered to Henry Ireton in 1651 during the Cromwellian period and was burned by Patrick Sarsfield in 1688 during the Williamite Wars.

In the 18<sup>th</sup>-century, the Butlers suffered a difficult period and their lands in Nenagh were eventually sold. Much of what survives in the town in terms of architectural fabric dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Writing in the 1830s, Samuel Lewis notes the presence of a courthouse, “old” bridewell, fever hospital, an infantry barracks, a brewery, flour mill, a “small stuff manufactory”, a glebe and Church of Ireland church (built 1809), an R.C. chapel, Methodist meeting house, three free schools and six private schools. In 1838, County Tipperary was split into two ridings and Nenagh became the administrative capital of the North Riding. This stimulated growth of the town and resulted in the construction of a number of quality public buildings to facilitate this role: a new Court House, built by the grand juries, was opened in 1844; Nenagh Gaol (now Nenagh Heritage Centre) was built in 1840-1842. A railway station was added in 1863 thereby improving connections with Limerick and Dublin.

The study area contains the recorded locations of two 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings, a prison (TN020-037004-) and a market house (TN020-037004-) which formerly stood on the south side of Pearse Street just outside the scheme boundary. In addition, a disused church (TN020-037004-), originally constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is located c.15m outside the south end of the scheme boundary on Kenyon Street.

## Cartographic review

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include first edition 6-inch OS maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (**Figure 4**) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (**Figure 5**).

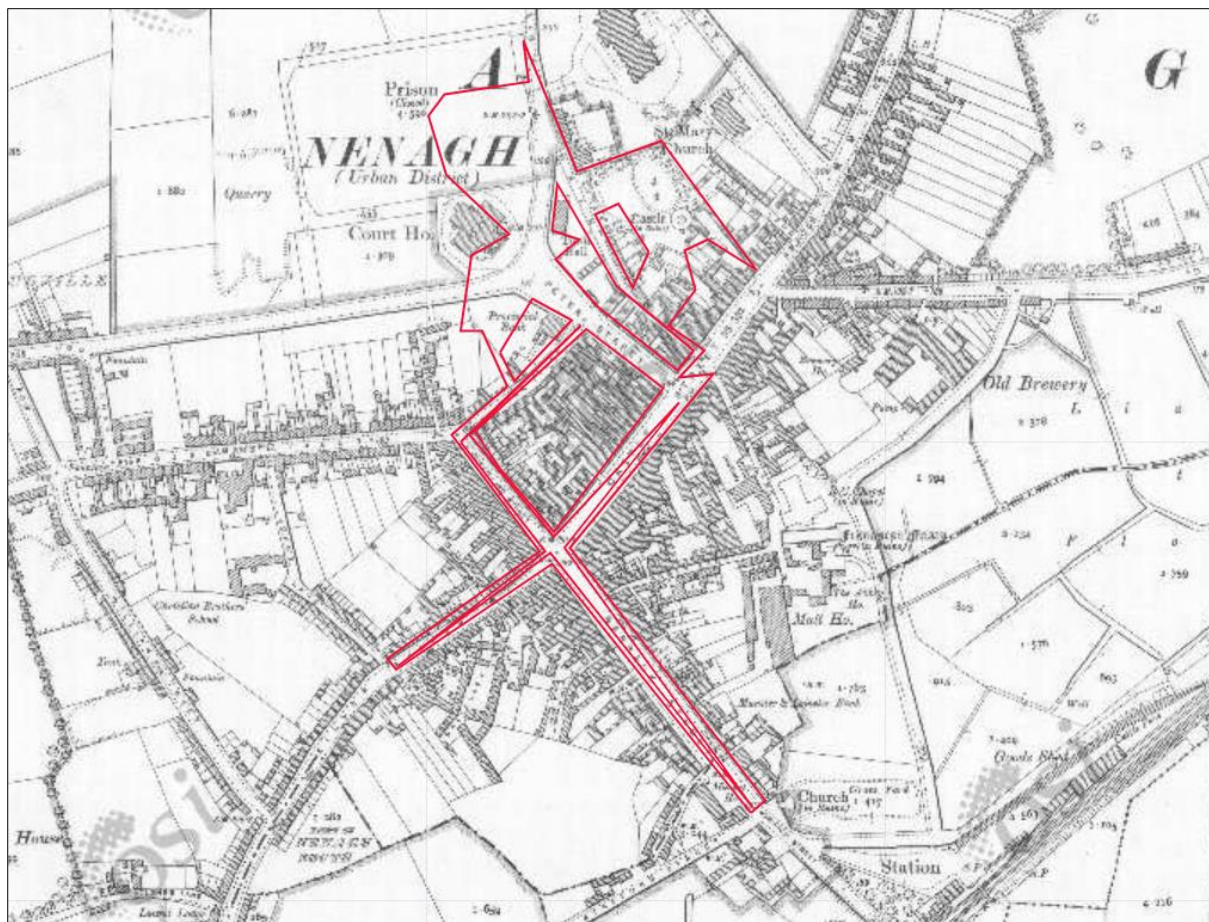
The first edition 6-inch map indicates that the built environment of Nenagh town centre was less developed at its time of survey. The town was focused around Castle Street (now Pearse Street), Queen Street (now Mitchel Street), Barrack Street (now Kenyon Street) and Silver Street. Tentative development had occurred along the southern portion of Peter Street (now Kickham Street) and Bachelor's Walk, however, Banba Square and its associated buildings such as the Town Hall and the former Rialto Cinema were not in place nor were Ashe Road or Emmet Place. The courthouse and gaol are depicted as being *in-situ*, however, at this point in time they are somewhat detached from the core of the town. A probable well is depicted in the central area of what would become Banba Square. Nenagh Castle is depicted in a more complete form than its present day remains with the western curtain wall still extant.



**Figure 4:** Extract from first edition 6-inch OS map with the boundary of the NHCQ overlaid (OSI Licence No. SU0003323, © OSI/Government of Ireland)



By the time of the production of the 25-inch OS map circa 1900, streets such as Kickham Street, Emmet Place, Banba Square and Ashe Road have been laid out but not fully developed. The probable well depicted in the Banba Square area on the first edition map is no longer evident. No development has yet taken place on the future Rialto cinema site, although the adjacent Provincial Bank (now the Garda Station) had been built. Some significant buildings had, however, been constructed since the production of the first edition map including St. Mary's R.C. Church (1896) and the Town Hall (1889). There was also an increase in the number of smaller structures, such as houses, in the area. Although the boundary walls of the Nenagh Gaol are depicted on this map edition, the gaol buildings themselves are not, with it having been closed in 1887. Shortly after closure the complex was transferred to the Sisters of Mercy for use for educational purposes.



**Figure 5:** Extract from 25-inch OS map with the boundary of the NHCQ overlaid (OSI Licence No. SU0003323, © OSI/Government of Ireland)

## The Excavations Database

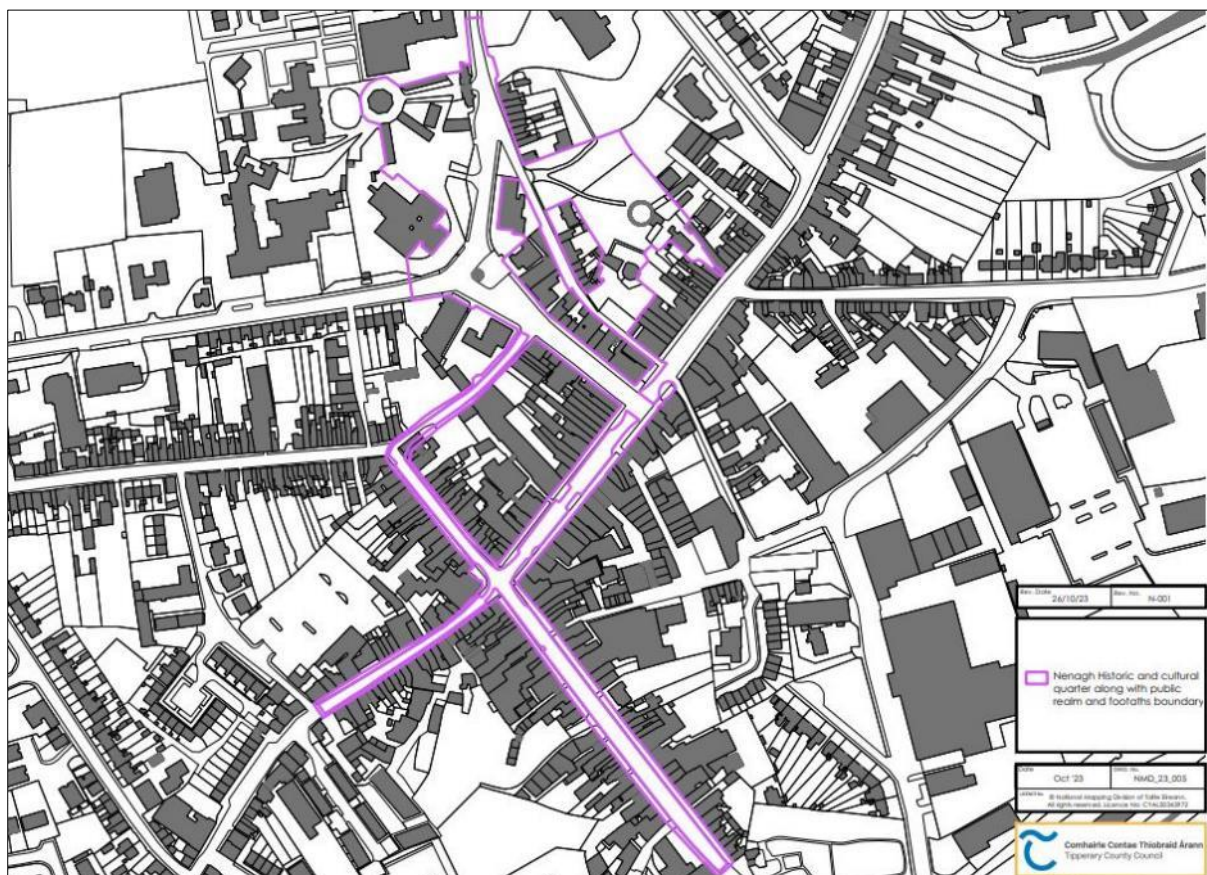
The Excavation Database (Excavations.ie) contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1969 onwards. It has been compiled from the published Excavations Bulletins from 1969 to 2010 and online material only from 2011 onwards, it now provides access to over 30,000 reports that can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, licence number, RMP number and author. The database lists 23 programmes of licensed archaeological investigation as having been undertaken within the redline boundary of the NHCQ area. Some of these were long running programmes of investigation which were undertaken within and

surrounding Nenagh Castle.. These investigations revealed a number of subsurface features including a section of 14m wide ditch or moat which appears to surround the castle, a section of the western curtain wall, metallised surfaces and other features such as pits and smaller ditches.

The Database records a further 15 licensed programmes of investigation as having been undertaken outside of the grounds of Nenagh Castle but within, or immediately adjacent to, the NHCQ planning boundary. While a number of probable post-medieval pit and linear features were revealed during these investigations, in general, nothing of an archaeological nature was revealed in the areas away from Nenagh Castle. Please consult **Appendix 3** for the full Excavation Database summaries which are presented in chronological order.

## 4. Description of the development area

The Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter (NHCQ) and public realm upgrade area (**Figure 6**) comprises the following streets: Banba Square; Kickham Street; Emmet Place; the easternmost portion of Ashe Road; the south-western half of Pearse Street; O’Rahilly Street; Mitchel Street, Kenyon Street, Silver Street. It also includes the following areas, structures and buildings: Nenagh Castle; Nenagh Castle grounds and forecourt; the rear portions of Nos. 35 & 36 Pearse Street; Nenagh Gaol, including the Governor’s House (Nenagh Heritage Centre), a former cell block currently in use as a County Council storage area and a modern building of no heritage significance within the courthouse carpark which is currently occupied by the Civil Defence.



**Figure 6:** Map depicting the extent (purple outline) of the NHCQ along with public realm and footpaths upgrade area

While a separate architectural heritage assessment has been prepared for the proposed scheme it is noted that the urban streetscape within Nenagh town centre predominantly dates to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century, with a consolidation of development during the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Banba Square comprises the area at the intersection of Ashe Road, Kickham Street and O’Rahilly Street and is the most prominent area of streetscape within the NHCQ. Banba Square contains a number of impressive and imposing administrative and cultural buildings such as the Courthouse, the former Town Hall, the former Rialto Cinema and the Garda Station which occupies a former bank building. Kickham Street extends south-eastwards from Banba Square and comprises two and three-storey traditionally built stone or brick buildings with pitched slate roofs and commercial



premises to the ground floor. Pearse Street, Mitchel Street, Kenyon Street and Silver Street are similar type streets with predominant commercial building usages and occasional residential usage. These streets contain many well-built, architecturally pleasing, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century structures which are generally two to three stories in height, but occasionally rise to four stories.

O'Rahilly Street and Emmet Place comprise narrower backstreets which contain less architecturally significant buildings: generally, the rear sections or yards of commercial buildings which front the more significant streets, as well as occasional residential development and carparking areas. The land uses at the south-eastern end of Ashe Road include a yard area attached to the former Rialto Cinema, as well as a portion of the grounds within the curtilage of Nenagh Courthouse.

The NHCQ contains a number of historic and culturally significant buildings and structures, many of which are concentrated around Banba Square. The aforementioned courthouse is located at the northern end of Banba Square and was built in 1843 to the designs of John Benjamin Keane. The building, which possesses an imposing columned façade, is set within its own grounds and is presently separated from the existing public realm by decorative cast-iron railings. The Art Deco style former Rialto cinema is located on the northwest side of Banba Square. This building was designed by W.M. O'Dwyer was opened in 1946. To the south of the former cinema is a former bank building now in use as a Garda station. Built in 1864, it has retained many of its original features, although it has lost its formal garden to the north.

To the north of Banba Square and O'Rahilly Street lies the former Nenagh Gaol. Nenagh Gaol was designed in 1839 by John Benjamin Keane, architect and built by contractor John Hanly of Nenagh who also built the courthouse in 1843. The former prison governor's house and gatehouse were built between 1840 and 1842. The gatehouse accommodated condemned prisoners awaiting execution and 17 prisoners were publicly executed from the gatehouse window between 1842 and 1858. The gaol fell into disuse in the 1880s and the majority of the prison cell blocks were demolished *circa* 1909 leaving one intact block to the south of the Governor's house and a single-storey partial block to the southeast. To the rear of the Governor's house, St Mary's Convent was constructed and completed in 1913 following the purchase of the site by the Sisters of Mercy in 1887. The convent building itself is not within the NHCQ planning boundary.

In archaeological terms, the most important structure in the town comprises the remains of Nenagh Castle (TN020-037001-; National Monument No. 513). This is an impressive early 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle which is five-sided in plan and consists of a circular keep at its north angle, flanking towers at its east and west angles, a large twin-towered gatehouse to the south and originally had an enclosing curtain wall. There are no visible remains of the western tower, while only fragmentary remains survive of the flanking tower on the eastern side. An undeveloped area to the north of the castle, known as the Castle Field, which has been improved and landscaped in recent decades, is also within the NHCQ boundary, as is an area to the southeast of the castle which extends beyond its former curtilage, through an existing Office of Public Works (OPW) yard area and onto a passageway which links to Pearse Street.

## 5. Assessment of impact

Due to their proximities, a number of the NHCQ project *Zones* have been grouped together in terms of assessing potential impacts on the archaeological heritage resource.

### NHCQ Zones 1 & 8

The following are the interventions which are proposed within *Zone 1* and *Zone 8* as part of the NHCQ project:

#### Zone 1 – Banba Square

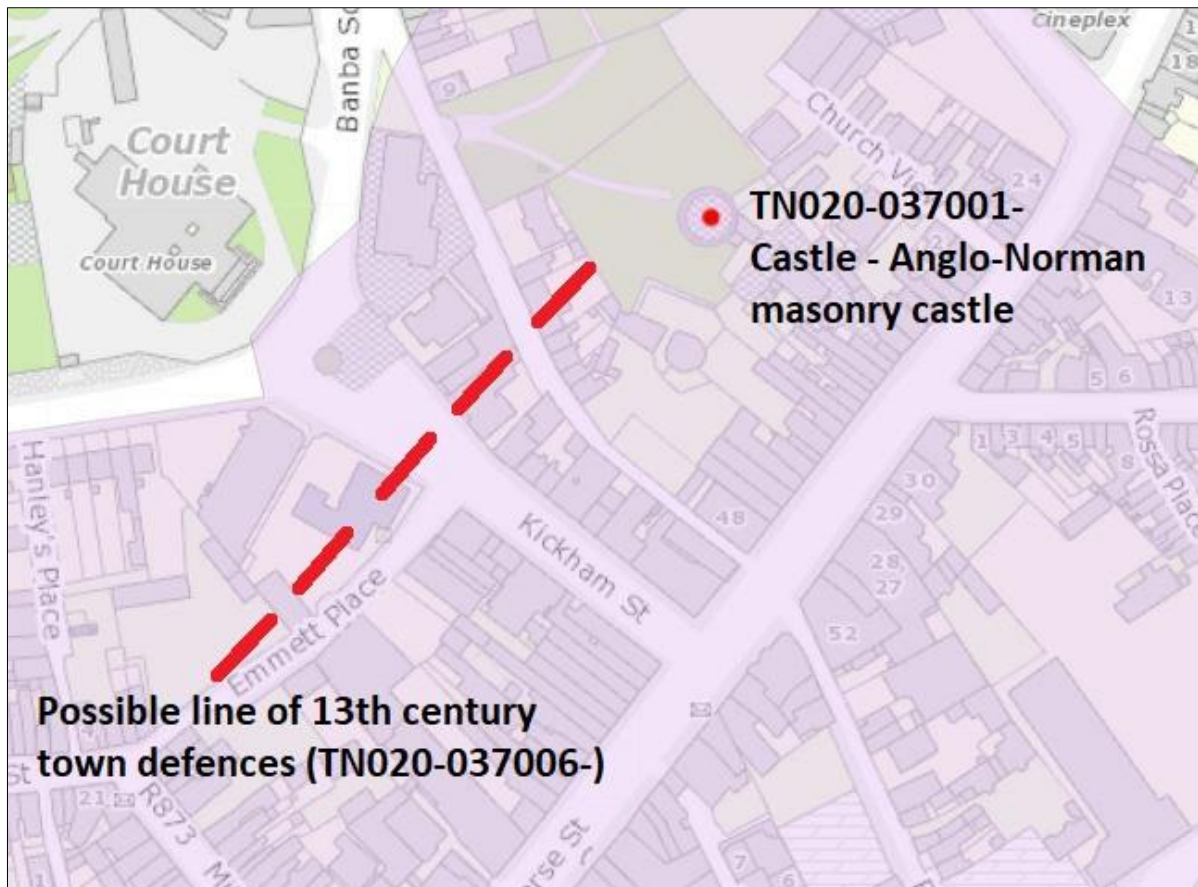
- regeneration of Banba Square to include traffic calming
- on-street carparking reduction
- public realm upgrades across Banba Square and O’Rahilly Street
- increase percentage of paved areas for pedestrians
- removal of street clutter
- new street furniture and new street trees.

#### Zone 8 – Northern end of Banba Square and O’Rahilly Street

- regeneration of northern end of Banba Square and O’Rahilly Street
- public realm upgrades
- increase percentage of paved areas for pedestrians
- removal of street clutter
- new street furniture and new street trees.

The majority of *Zone 1* and *Zone 8* are located within the *Zone of Notification (ZON)/Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)* for the historic town of Nenagh (Monument Number TN020-037---). Only the northernmost portions of Banba Square and O’Rahilly street are located outside of the archaeological zones. Additionally, the postulated line of the medieval town defences (TN020-037006-) also extends through this area (see **Figure 7** below). While the definitive route of the town defences has not been located to date, it is theorised to extend across the southern portion of *Zone 1*, near the junction with Emmet Place, and the south-eastern portion of O’Rahilly Street in *Zone 8*, in a northeast to southwest direction.

Any subsurface ground excavations associated with the installation of new services or public realm upgrades within *Zones 1 & 8* **have the potential to impact on unrecorded archaeological remains** as both zones are substantially located within the ZON for the historic town of Nenagh. Particular note has to be given to the potential alignment of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century town defences which may extend across the southern portion of *Zone 1* and the south-eastern portion of *Zone 8*. The entirety of the area can be considered to possess **a heightened archaeological potential**.



**Figure 7:** Graphic depicting the Banba Square and Kickham Street area, ZON of historic town (purple shaded area) extends as far as courthouse railings. The postulated alignment of the 13<sup>th</sup> century town defences extends across the southern portion of Zone 1

### NHCQ Zones 3, 4, 5 & 6

The following are the interventions which are proposed within Zones 3, 4, 5 & 6 as part of the NHCQ project:

#### Zone 3 – Castle forecourt/O’Rahilly Street

- Demolition of existing lean-to storage structure (owned by TCC) abutting Nenagh Castle wall
- Widening of footpaths, minor reduction in on street carparking to create space for street trees, resurfacing of footpaths, new pedestrian crossing
- Removal of existing surface carpark surface finishes, kerbing
- Removal of existing street lighting, relocation of pay-and-display machines to reduced carpark area
- Removal of existing street lighting, relocation of pay-and-display machines to reduced carpark area
- Reconfiguration of below-ground drainage, electrical cabling, other services to provide for proposed landscape design proposals
- In-ground up-lighting of Nenagh Castle Barbican southern façade
- Resurfacing of former carpark area with high quality paving to provide paved public square

- Installation of in-ground soft landscaping / planting areas along northwest and southeast site boundaries to include a variety of plants and trees
- Installation of ‘wildflower moat’ planting scheme to area adjacent to Nenagh Castle formerly occupied by the TCC storage shed with possible additional Castle plan demarcation, through paved landscape features
- Below ground drainage
- Construction of a *circa* 10-metre-long pedestrian bridge, single span, springing from the former carpark area and landing inside the Nenagh Castle keep; thereby passing through the existing Nenagh Castle barbican entrance archway
- Preparatory works to receiving environment of Nenagh Castle
- Crane on site to hoist bridge unit into position. Bridge secured to pre-installed structural points

#### **Zone 4 – 35/36 Pearse Street (rear)**

- Levelling and resurfacing of existing loose gravelled areas in beige bonded gravel
- Installation of hard landscape feature in shape of and position of former Nenagh Castle defensive curtain wall (to suggest / give understanding of former extents)
- Installation of planting beds / soft landscaping borders
- Tidying and presentation of existing rubble stone-built sheds as landscape feature

#### **Zone 5 – Nenagh Castle - Barbican & Bailey (site thereof)**

- Clearance of existing piles of stone rubble
- Installation of hard landscape feature in shape of and position of former Nenagh Castle defensive curtain wall (to suggest / give understanding of former enclosure)
- Resurfacing of bailey area with high quality paving (such as stone flags in rectilinear arrival room, and bound gravel with stone drainage channels in original outdoor bailey outline)
- Landing point of pedestrian bridge
- Installation of electrical cabling below ground to provide for In-ground uplighting of Nenagh Castle keep (interior and exterior) and southern façade of tower

#### **Zone 6 – Nenagh Castle - Castle Park/Field**

- Addition of biodiverse planting beds to perimeter areas of Castle Field beneath existing mature trees
- Alteration of existing footpaths to widen and improve shape to frame a central multipurpose lawn in the middle of the park
- Resurfacing of these footpaths with a brighter material such as beige bonded gravel
- Levelling of central lawn area
- Installation of stepped retaining feature to create informal seating area
- Installation of water supply and drainage conduits below ground to serve in-ground drainage / provide water and drainage for future park events
- Installation of electrical cabling below ground to provide for In-ground up-lighting of specimen trees / provide power for future park events

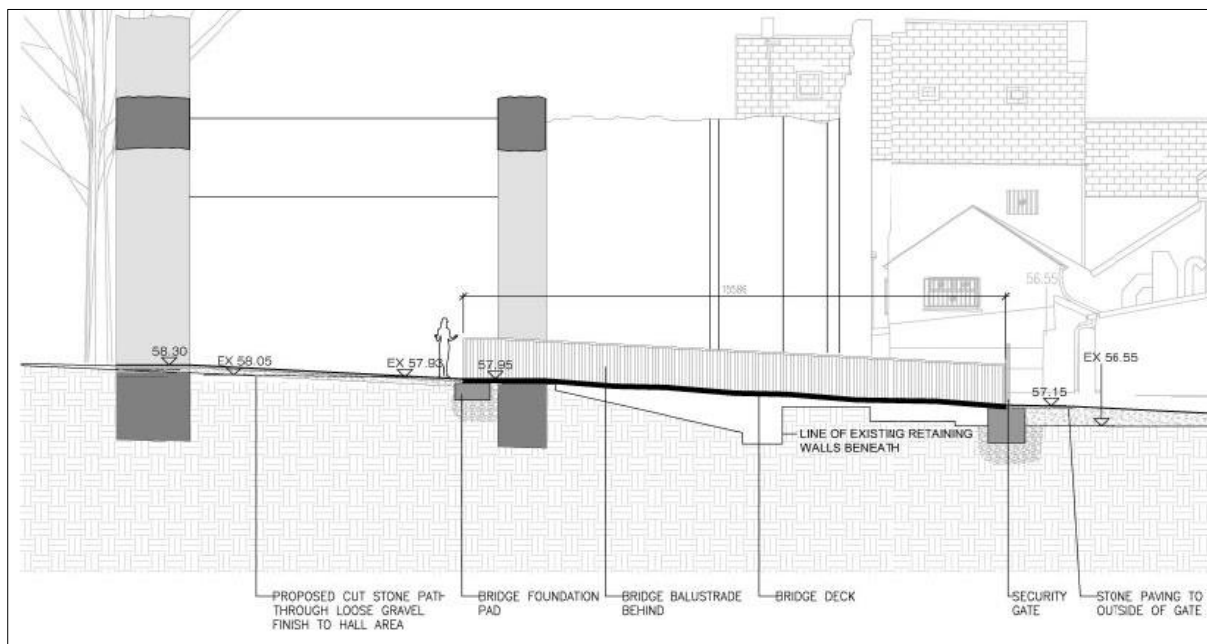
#### *Zones 3 and 5*

The main intervention in these *Zones* relates to the construction of the pedestrian access bridge from O’Rahilly Street carpark, through the gatehouse (or barbican) entrance and into the hall of

the castle. The access bridge has been designed to land **within** the interior of the great hall in order to minimise any potential impacts to the upstanding fabric of the gatehouse (**Figure 8**). Furthermore, subsurface impacts relating to the installation of the bridge footing foundation pads **will not exceed 1m in depth below existing surface level**, thereby minimising any potential for subsurface archaeological impacts (see below). Additionally, a cut stone pathway, which is proposed to extend from the northern landing point of the bridge, through the gatehouse and beyond its northern entrance, will be set within loose gravel at surface level. At the threshold of the northern gatehouse entrance, the pathway and any associated electrical ducting will be **elevated above extant surface level masonry**, thereby **removing any direct impacts** on same (see **Figure 9** below).

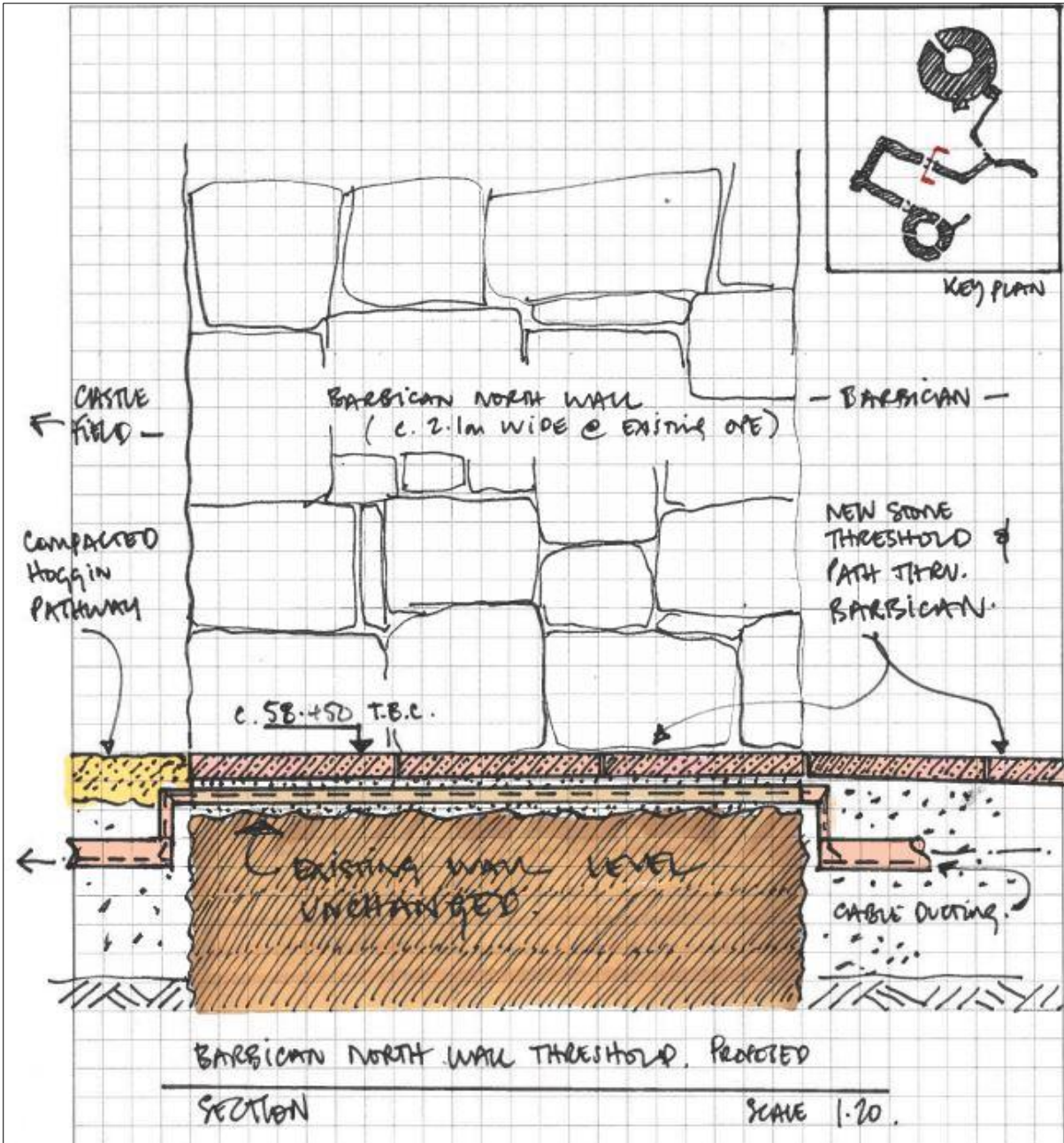
The great hall and central passageway were subject to full archaeological excavation by Brian Hodkinson (96E0228) in 1996 and 1997 (see **Figure 10** and **Appendix 3** below). The excavations revealed that the whole level inside, and around, the hall and gatehouse had been substantially reduced in level during the post-medieval period. While there are some surviving structural elements at surface level at the entrance to the gate house, the previous ground reductions mean that **there are unlikely to be any direct, negative impacts on unrecorded subsurface remains due to the northern landing point of the bridge being fixed within the confines of the hall structure**. Furthermore, if the progression of NHCQ proposals within and around the gatehouse and hall of the castle result in the requirement to undertake consolidation work on existing masonry fabric, such works will be carried out under the remit of the OPW and shall be archaeologically recorded.

The access bridge which has been sensitively designed in consultation with the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works, respects the upstanding fabric of the gatehouse and will result in a **sympathetic, positive development** allowing greater public access and appreciation of the upstanding remains of this impressive National Monument.



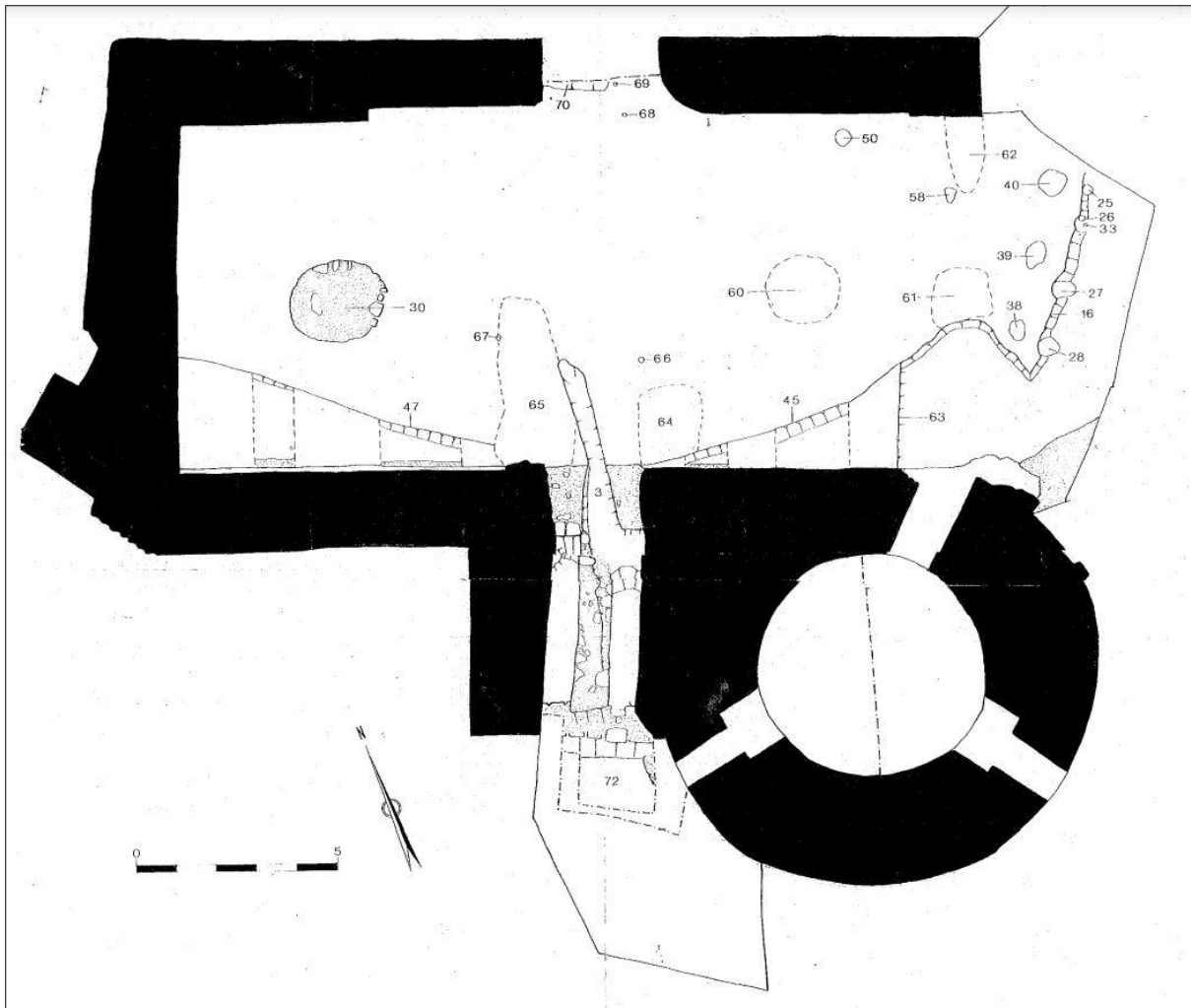
**Figure 9:** Section through proposed new access bridge. Northern landing point is within the previously excavated hall of the gatehouse and avoids extant masonry features (Source: STW Architects)





**Figure 9:** Architectural sketch showing level of proposed path and associated ducting through threshold of northern gatehouse entrance. The provision of services and ducting will not require interventions to the underlying masonry (Source: STW Architects)





**Figure 10:** Excavation plan of archaeological features revealed within the hall and central passageway of the gatehouse during the 1996/1997 archaeological excavations (96E0228)

The proposed southern landing point of the access bridge within the O’Rahilly Street carpark is located **outside** the areas which have been subject to previous archaeological excavation. As such, **there is potential here for the subsurface survival of unrecorded archaeological features.** However, these risks have been factored into the design with **the ground level in this area proposed to be raised above existing surface level.** Any subsurface impacts associated with the southern landing point of the access bridge will be restricted a depth of no greater than 1m below existing surface level within the carpark.

Additional subsurface impacts may occur during the demolition of Tipperary County Council’s lean-to structure which is located to the west of the gatehouse entrance. The modern lean-to structure is constructed upon the footprint of the western gatehouse tower. No excavations were undertaken in this area previously and the excavator of the hall/eastern gatehouse tower noted the potential for the survival of subsurface features in this area. As part of the NHCQ project, it is proposed to demolish the lean-to structure and investigate for the presence of any surviving elements of the western gatehouse tower within the strata immediately underlying the modern levels. As such, **any subsurface ground works undertaken within this area have the potential to reveal unrecorded archaeological remains** and, without appropriate mitigation (see Section 6 below), **there is potential for direct, negative impacts** on same.

Finally, any subsurface excavations associated with the installation of new services or public realm upgrades within the remainder of *Zone 3* and *Zone 5* have **the potential to impact on unrecorded archaeological remains**. Proposals for lighting and associated cabling within the castle grounds have been reviewed as part of this assessment. While the depth at which the services are proposed to be buried (within PVC ductwork) is generally *circa* 300mm below existing surface level, without appropriate mitigation (see **Section 6** below), there remains **potential for direct, negative impacts** on unrecorded archaeological remains.

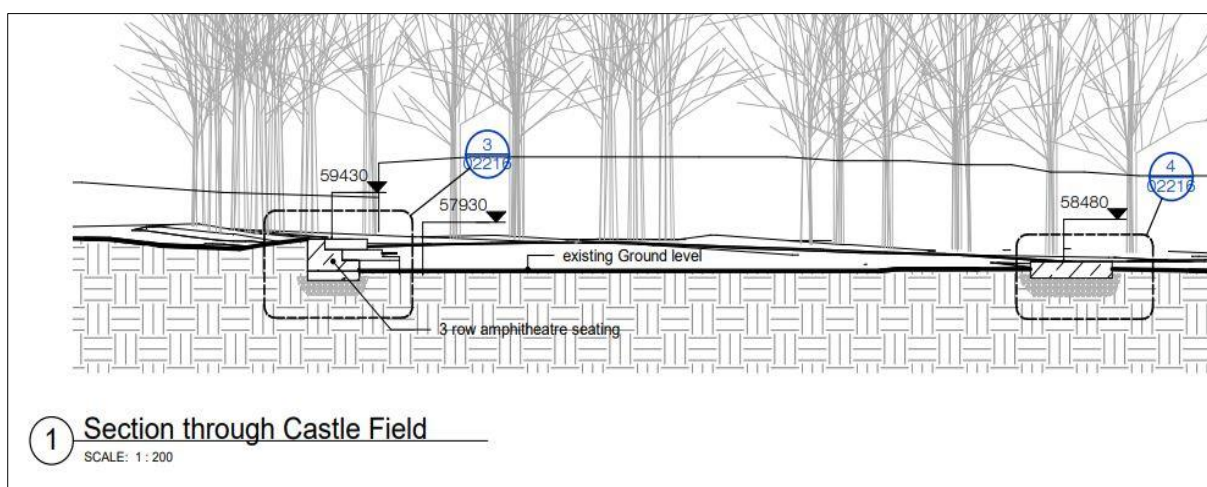
#### Zone 4

The interventions that are proposed within *Zone 4* consist of soft and hard landscaping and surface tidying/treatments. It should be possible to undertake these works with minimal subsurface impacts. While this area has been the subject of a number of past archaeological investigations, there does, however, remain potential for the uncovering of unrecorded archaeological remains within this area during the undertaking of any subsurface works, as such, appropriate mitigation measures must be implemented (see **Section 6** below).

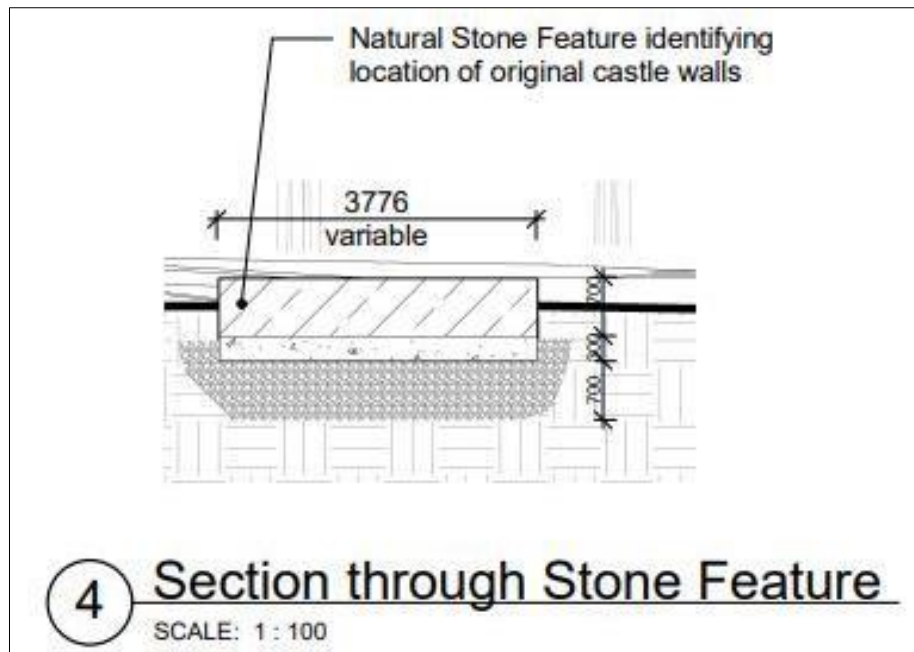
#### Zone 6

The interventions proposed within this *Zone* consist of soft and hard landscaping, the installation of services and drainage routes, ground reductions associated with the installation of a stepped retaining feature which will create an informal seating area (see **Figure 11**), as well as the creation of a natural stone feature identifying the alignment of the original defensive walls of the castle within this area (see **Figure 12**). **Necessary ground reductions associated with the above proposals will not extend to a depth greater than 1m below existing surface level.**

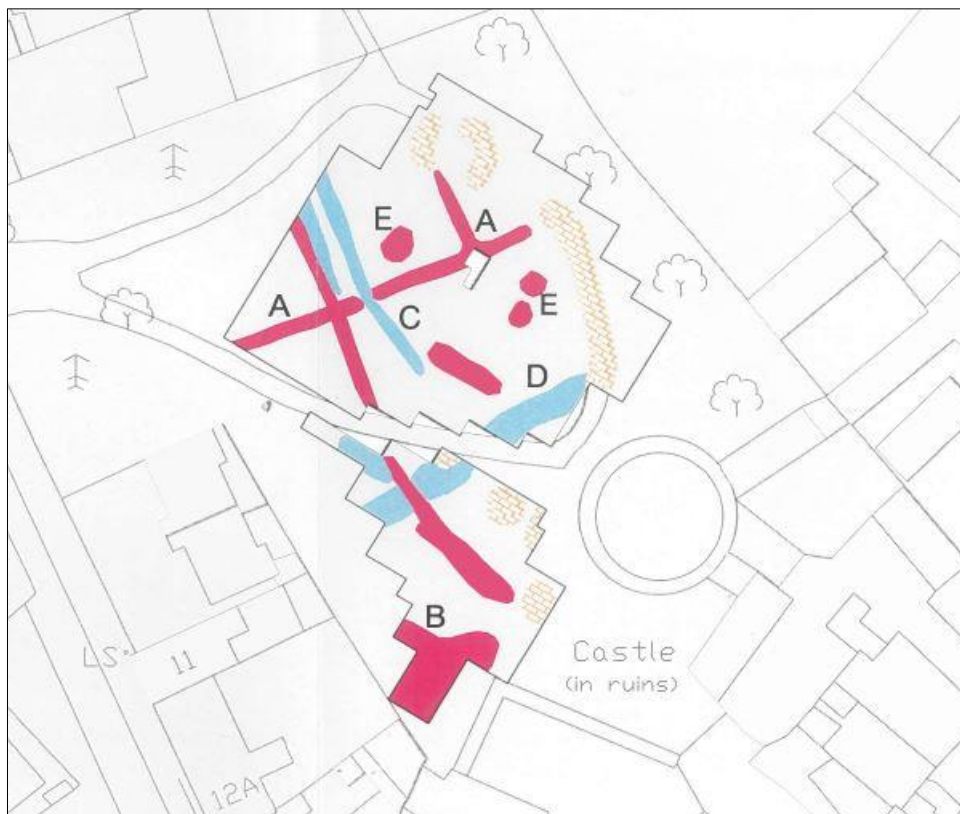
A geophysical survey undertaken in 2006 on behalf of the OPW revealed areas of potential archaeological activity within the relevant part of the castle field (see **Figure 13** below). A number of the geophysical responses were interpreted as potentially being related to wall and ditch type features. As such, any ground reductions undertaken within the castle field have **the potential to impact upon unrecorded archaeological features**, resultingly, should the project proceed to construction, appropriate measures (see **Section 6** below) will have to be implemented in this area to mitigate any such impacts.



**Figure 11:** Section drawing showing proposed interventions within the Castle Field



**Figure 12:** Section drawing showing the subsurface impacts of the proposed stone feature identifying the alignment of the original defensive walls of the Castle



**Figure 13:** Interpretative results of 2006 geophysical survey undertaken within the castle field and grounds. Pink and blue shaded areas indicate possible subsurface archaeological features

## Zone 7

There are a wide range of interventions proposed for the Nenagh Gaol complex and surrounding area (*Zone 7*), however, the vast majority of these are architectural interventions which **do not have an archaeological impact**.

There are, however, a small number of interventions proposed that will have subsurface ground impacts. These include:

- proposed ground reductions around the base of the Governor’s House and basement area
- ground reductions around the three-storey prison cell block
- removal of tarmac surfacing abutting the foot of prison gatehouse building
- lowering of ground level and formation of a French drain around the building perimeter
- excavation of new service routes across the entirety of the zone

*Zone 7* is located outside the *Zone of Notification* (ZON) which surrounds the historic town of Nenagh (TN020-037----) and is outside the postulated circuit of its medieval town defences (TN020-037006-) (**Figure 14**). There is a ZON surrounding the Governor’s House, but this relates solely to the present location of four cross slabs (TN020-037009-; TN020-037010-; TN020-037011-; TN020-037012-), originally from St. Odhran’s Monastery, Latteragh, which are now held as exhibits in Nenagh Heritage Centre based within the Governor’s House. Neither the Governor’s House nor any element of the gaol complex is a recorded archaeological monument.



**Figure 14:** Graphic depicting the extent of the archaeological ZON's (purple shaded areas) surrounding the historic core of Nenagh. The gaol complex is located outside the ZON for the historic town. The ZON surrounding the Governor's House relates solely to the cross slabs held within the heritage centre and not the building or site itself



While not a recorded archaeological monument, the grounds of the former Nenagh Gaol must be considered an area of interest due to the number of prisoners that were executed at the site during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. While some individuals were buried off-site and others exhumed and reinterred elsewhere, it is known that a number of undocumented burials of executed prisoners remain within the former goal complex (Nora O'Meara, pers. comm.) Also, due to the site's proximity to the historic town and the grounds of Nenagh Castle, it must be considered to retain a degree of archaeological potential. As such, while the **general archaeological potential of the area is considered to be low to moderate**, any future subsurface groundworks undertaken within the bounds of the former complex have the **potential to disturb undocumented burials** and appropriate mitigation should apply.

Displayed and stored in Nenagh Heritage Centre are a collection of four cross-slabs and quern stones that are recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, (having SMR Number TN020-037012-). It is anticipated that these will need to be removed to a safe location in advance of any site development works. It is recommended that arrangements for the removal, safe storage and redisplay of the carved objects be agreed with the National Monuments Service and/or National Museum of Ireland. The process of removing and storing the cross slabs and quern stones shall be supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist or museum specialist.

### **Zone 9**

This zone includes the following streets: Kickham Street, Emmet Place, Pearse Street (part of), Silver Street (part of), Mitchel Street and Kenyon Street. Proposed works within these streets entail the upgrade of the existing footpaths. While much of this zone is contained within the ZON which surrounds the historic town of Nenagh (TN020-037----), subsurface impacts associated with the proposed footpath upgrades are not proposed to extent to a depth greater than 600mm below existing surface level. Consequently, **the potential for direct, negative impacts** occurring to unrecorded archaeological remains as a result of the footpath upgrades is considered to be **low**.

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions

This archaeological assessment was compiled in order to assess the potential impacts which may arise to the known and potential archaeological heritage resource within, and immediately adjacent to, the proposed the Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter as a result of the proposed scheme. While much of the scheme focuses on delivering improvements to the public realm within the boundary of the project area, the main area of interest in archaeological terms are the proposals within, and immediately adjacent to, Nenagh Castle and its associated grounds. General mitigation recommendations relating to the wider public realm improvements are outlined below.

The intervention of greatest interest within the Castle area is the creation of a pedestrian access bridge which will span from the O’Rahilly Street carpark into the great hall of the gatehouse thereby providing a new, improved access route into the Castle from the town centre. The access bridge has been sensitively designed in consultation with the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works to respect the upstanding fabric of the gatehouse and the refined design ensures that the likelihood of **direct impacts** occurring to **unrecorded archaeological features** are **minimal**. It is the consideration of this assessment that the new access bridge will result in a **sympathetic, positive development** allowing greater public access and appreciation of the upstanding remains of this impressive National Monument.

Additional works within the Castle grounds include the installation of services, the installation of a stepped retaining feature which will create an informal seating area in the Castle Field and the creation of a natural stone feature identifying the alignment of the original defensive walls of the castle within this area. Necessary ground reductions associated with the above proposals will not extend to a depth greater than 1m below existing surface level (service excavations will generally not exceed 300mm depth). **The implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (see below) will mitigate any potential negative impacts to the archaeological heritage resource as a result of the proposed works with the Castle grounds.**

The demolition of Tipperary County Council’s modern lean-to structure in O’Rahilly Street Carpark, which was constructed on the footprint of the western tower of the gatehouse, will present an opportunity to investigate whether any architectural features associated with the tower survive beneath the modern strata. If any such features are revealed during archaeological investigations at this location they may be incorporated into finalised detailed designs for the public realm finish at this location.

Finally, the grounds of the former Nenagh Gaol must be considered an area of interest due to the number of prisoners that were executed at the site during the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century. While some individuals were buried off-site and others exhumed and reinterred elsewhere, it is known that a number of undocumented burials of executed prisoners remain within the former goal complex (Nora O’Meara, pers. comm.) Also, due to the site’s proximity to the historic town and the grounds of Nenagh Castle, it must be considered to retain a degree of archaeological potential. As such, while the general archaeological potential of the area is considered to be **low to moderate**, any future subsurface groundworks undertaken within the bounds of the former complex have the potential to disturb undocumented burials and appropriate mitigation should apply (see below).



## Recommendations

In general terms, any substantive subsurface groundworks undertaken at project locations within the *Zone of Potential* surrounding medieval historic core of Nenagh will be required to subject to licensed archaeological mitigation. As such, it is recommended that any subsurface Site Investigations (SI), service installations or public realm works which extend to a **depth greater than 600mm** below existing surface level **outside** the curtilage of Nenagh Castle and grounds, and **all subsurface works within the curtilage of the castle and grounds**, be subject to **licensed archaeological monitoring**.

In relation to the more substantive proposed interventions within the curtilage and immediate vicinity of Nenagh Castle (e.g., the foundation pads of the new access bridge landing points, the installation of the stepped retaining feature creating an informal seating area in the Castle Field and the creation of a natural stone feature identifying the alignment of the original defensive walls), it is recommended that location specific programmes of **archaeological test excavation** be undertaken in advance of the commencement of construction works at these locations. Furthermore, it is recommended that the demolition of Tipperary County Council's modern lean-to structure in O'Rahilly Street Carpark and any subsequent ground reductions at that location be subject to **licensed archaeological monitoring**, with the potential for further investigations should *in-situ* archaeological remains be uncovered.

The undertaking of any archaeological mitigation programmes or construction works within, or immediately adjacent to, Nenagh Castle will be required to be carried out under **Ministerial Consent** due to the site's status as a **National Monument**.

Finally, while the portions of the NHCQ that are outside the ZON surrounding the medieval historic core of Nenagh are **not** subject to any statutory archaeological protection, it is considered that there is *low to moderate potential* for the survival of archaeological remains within this area due to its proximity to the historic town. Furthermore, the grounds of the former Nenagh Gaol must be considered an area of interest due to likely presence of undocumented burials within the site. It is recommended that any substantive subsurface groundworks undertaken within these areas be subject to **archaeological monitoring**.

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### Internet resources

- Database of Irish Archaeological Excavations: <http://www.excavations.ie/>
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Historic Environment Viewer: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>
- Google Earth: <https://earth.google.com>
- Heritage Map Viewer - various interactive heritage maps: <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>
- Irish Placename Resource: <https://www.logainm.ie/1165378.aspx>
- Libraryireland.com 'Nenagh, The Castle and the Abbeys: The Book of County Tipperary' 1889. accessed 16/03/2021: <https://www.libraryireland.com/genealogy/bassett/tipperary/nenagh-castle.php>
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Buildings/>
- Nenagh Town and Environs Development Plan 2013-2019. Tipperary County Council. accessed 16/03/2021: [https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Nenagh%20Town%20%26%20Environs%20Development%20Plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Nenagh%20Town%20%26%20Environs%20Development%20Plan_0.pdf)

## Appendix 1: Photographic record



*Plate 1: View westwards from top of Nenagh Castle overlooking Banba Square, O'Rahilly Street, Ashe Road and Emmet Place*



*Plate 2: View towards Nenagh Castle from Banba Square, facing east-northeast*





*Plate 3: View of the eastern elevation of the circular keep of Nenagh Castle as viewed from the existing OPW yard, portion of curtain wall evident in foreground*



*Plate 4: Elevated view of from the top of the keep of the gatehouse and hall of Nenagh Castle*





*Plate 5: Exterior view of the gatehouse of Nenagh Castle as viewed from the O'Rahilly Street carpark. Modern lean-to structure occupies the location of the original western flanking tower of the gatehouse, the modern structure is proposed to be demolished as part of the NHCQ project*



*Plate 6: View of the gatehouse hall as viewed from the base of the circular keep of Nenagh Castle, facing south*





*Plate 7: View of the green recreational space to the north and northwest of Nenagh Castle known as the 'Castle Field', facing north*



*Plate 8: View of the green recreational space to the north and northwest of Nenagh Castle known as the 'Castle Field', facing northwest*





*Plate 9: View of the existing OPW yard located to the east and southeast of the keep of Nenagh Castle*

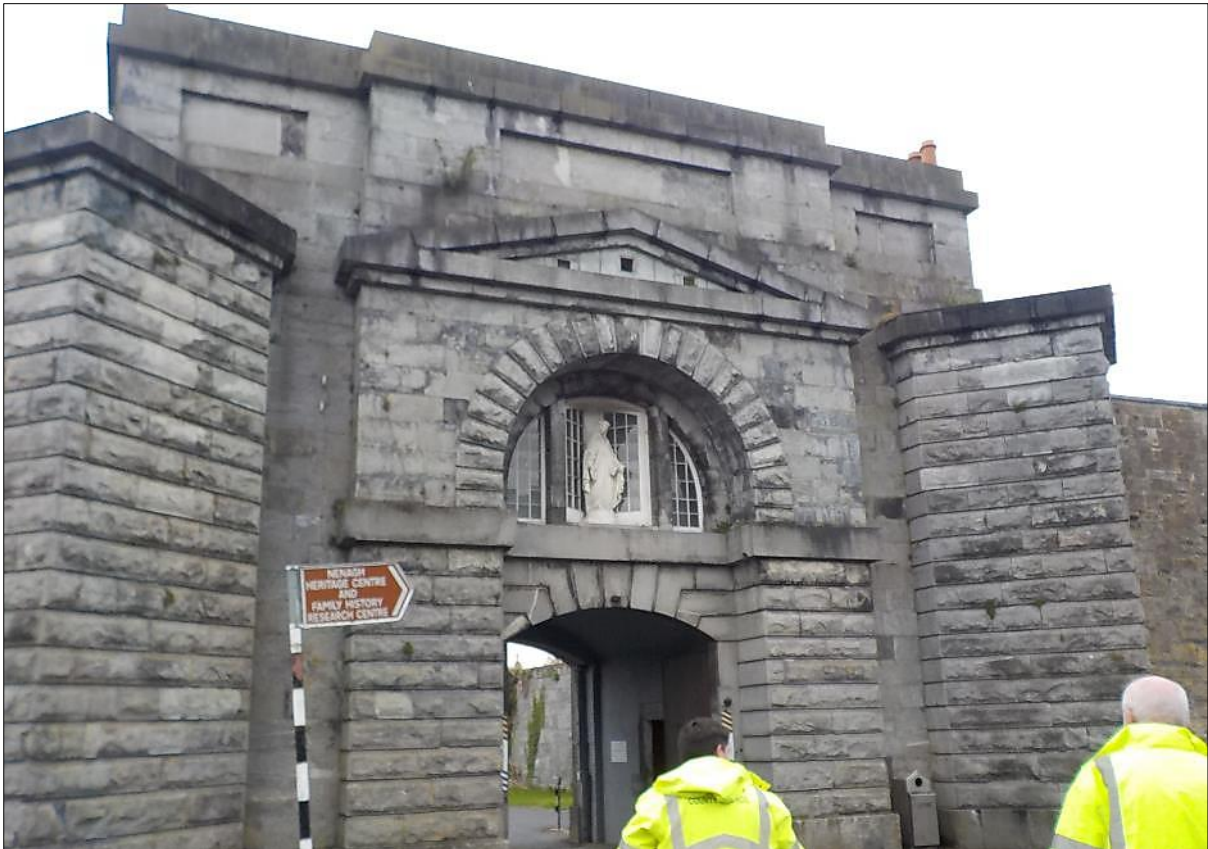


*Plate 10: View of the southeast facing façade of Nenagh Courthouse and the north-western portion of Banba Square*





*Plate 11: View of the northern portion of Banba Square as it extends into O'Rahilly Street. Former town hall evident at right of frame, facing north*



*Plate 12: View of the gatehouse of Nenagh Gaol as viewed from O'Rahilly Street*





*Plate 13: View of the Governor's House of Nenagh Gaol, facing west*



*Plate 14: View of the four cross-slabs which are presently displayed in the Nenagh Heritage Centre, housed within the Governor's House of the former gaol. These cross-slabs originate from St. Odhran's Monastery in Latteragh, County Tipperary*

## Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory entries

### TN020-037----

**Class:** Historic town

**Townland:** Nenagh North, Nenagh South

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Situated on a low rise of ground with good views in all directions. The Anglo-Norman town at Nenagh was founded between 1200 and 1220 by Theobald Walter, the first Butler of Ormond (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 248). There was possibly an earlier settlement here as there are references to 'Aenach thete', which appears to be Nenagh, being burned during raids in 994 and 1056 (Annals of the Four Masters). An inquisition dated 1299 concerning the alteration of a roadway near the town concluded 'that it would not damage any but those who dwell in Theobalds Town of the Nanagh in the street below the castle to the east viz. Robert, son of David and his neighbours dwelling in that street' (CJR, vol. 1, 234). In 1323 the village of the Nanagh accounts for 641 for remitting the account of murage (PRI rep. DK 42nd, 42). In 1305 and 1338 burgesses are mentioned in state papers (CJR, vol. 2, 108; CIPM, vol. 8, 121). The town appears to have suffered in the fourteenth century: first in 1316 Robert Bruce's army wasted the manor of Nenagh but left the castle and settlement intact (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 250), then in 1348 the town was burnt by the O'Kennedys (Prendergast 1851, 392). At the end of this troublesome century, in 1392, the Butlers bought Kilkenny Castle and transferred their chief residence from Nenagh to there (ibid., 393-4). There is a fifteenth-century reference which mentions that the 'reeve and community [were] summoned to seneschal's court' in 1432 (Martin 1981, 47). The town possesses a thirteenth-century castle with curtain wall and gatehouse (TN020-037001) and a Franciscan friary (TN020-037002). Although there is no surviving evidence of town walls (TN020-037006) around Nenagh many historians and archaeologists believe that medieval Nenagh was walled (Bradley 1985, 50-52). In 1287 it is recorded that Walter de la Hyde did 'repairs of roofs and in building a house below the gate; in repairing and roofing other towers and houses; in rebuilding a bridge, gate and palisades which were thrown down by a storm' (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 249). A more substantial fortification may have been built in the fourteenth century as murage was being collected in 1322-3 and 1344-5 (Bradley 1985, 2). Two gates, Thomond Gate at Connolly Street on the west side of the town and the unlocated Sparragibba, were referred to in the seventeenth century (Bradley 1985, 50; Thomas 1992, vol. 2, 173; Grace 1993, 115). According to Sheehan (1949, 8), Sparragibba was located at River Lane, in the angle between Kenyon Street and Connolly Street. In the Civil Survey (1654-6) Thomond gate is described as being located on the W side of Nenagh town (Simington 1934, vol. 2, 211) and there is a reference to the 'Walls' southwestward of Nenagh (ibid., 278). According to the Civil Survey the road from Ballycahill led to 'a gate on the walls of Nenagh called Sparragibba bounded on the southeast with the lands of Tyone' (ibid., 295). The town is described as containing 'sixty cottages & thatcht houses lately built' (ibid., 295).

A parish church (TN020-037007), supposedly of seventeenth-century date but possibly overlying an earlier structure, was located on Kenyon Street, a site now occupied by the remains of an eighteenth-century church. A seventeenth-century market-house (TN020-037006) was demolished in 1812 - it measured in length 12m along Pearse St. and 10m along Kenyon St. (Sheehan 1949, 3). In 1696 a 'Session House and Goal were built' on Pearse Street (Sadlier 1943, 131-54) but this court and jail (TN020-037005) have since been replaced by later building. Two burials (YN020-131) were revealed prior to a development south of Saint Conlan's Road in 2000 (Collins and Lynch 2000). These consisted of adult male inhumations, in close proximity, the better preserved skeleton was orientated almost east-west which suggests a Christian burial (ibid.). There were no accompanying grave-goods (ibid.).

In 2001 archaeological testing by Brian Hodkinson for a shop development in Silver Street revealed no archaeological features (Bennett 2003, 385). Testing was carried out under licence no. 01E0890.

In 2000 archaeological monitoring by Kenneth Wiggins of a supermarket development on Thomas Mc Donagh Street revealed no archaeological features. Carried out under licence No. 00E0360 (Bennett 2002, 323).

### TN020-037001-

**Class:** Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle

**Townland:** Nenagh north

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** National Monument in state guardianship no. 513. Situated on flat ground at the N end of Nenagh town, Nenagh castle was the chief residence of Theobald Walter and served as the main seat of the Butler family until the second half of the fourteenth century. It was in the hands of the Mac Ibrien family in the fifteenth century and returned to Butler ownership in 1533 under Piers Butler, Earl of Ossory (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 254-5). Dated by Leask to the period 1200-1220 based on the use of chevron and [the position of the keep] (its position) in relation to the curtain wall (ibid., 268-9). In 1332 the 'prisoners took the castle of Nennogh and the gates there was burned; which was recovered again and the prisoners kept' (Cal. Carew MSS, 159). In the extent of Nenagh, the castle in 1338 is described as 'A castle surrounded with five towers, a hall, a house beyond the gate, a kitchen with stone walls roofed with shingles' (Cal. inq. post mortem vol. 8, no. 184). The castle is described in the Civil Survey 1654-6 as a 'Castle lately repayed by Collonell Abbott to this manor apptaineth a court leet and a courte Barron with all the rights, privileges & imunities belonging to a manor', with the Countess of Ormond being listed as the proprietor in 1640 (Simington 1934, vol. 2, 295). After the Williamite wars, Nenagh castle was one of a number of castles to be dismantled as a precaution against their use in any future disorders (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 258). In the eighteenth-century Solomon Newsome tried to blow up the castle which left a large breach now visible in the N wall at ground-floor level (ibid., 259).

This is an impressive thirteenth-century castle, five-sided in plan, consisting of a circular keep (int. diam. 7.3m; wall T. 5m) at the N angle, flanking towers at the E and W angles, a large twin-towered gatehouse to the S and a curtain wall (T 2.7m) all around. There are no visible remains of the W tower while only fragmentary remains survive of the flanking tower on the E side. There may have been a postern gate or sallyport immediately SW of the E tower as there is the trace of a springing arch of a gateway (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 264). Of the curtain wall only a short stretch survives where it adjoins the SE face of the keep while only the tie stones survive on the W face. The keep itself was constructed with uncoursed rubble limestone with base-batter and stands four storeys high above which there is a Victorian addition from the latter half of the nineteenth century (ibid., 259). The main first-floor entrance at SE consists of a round-headed doorway (now blocked up) situated between the remaining section of curtain wall (containing a possible garderobe chute) and a short stretch of walling protruding from the keep slightly to the W of the blocked-up doorway. This arrangement of the curtain wall with garderobe and a second wall to the W suggests that the doorway may have been protected by a stone fore-building. The main entrance leads into a lobby area from which the upper floors could be accessed via the spiral stairs contained within the thickness of the wall at S. Access to the ground floor was from the first-floor hall either by a wooden stairs or by a trapdoor in the floor. The ground floor is featureless and has an eighteenth-century breach in the wall at N (ibid., 259).

The first floor is lit by two long plunging arrowloops with sandstone surrounds set into deep wide round-arched embrasures at N and S. The second floor appears to have been the main public hall of the castle and is entered through a chevron-decorated arch which was probably lit by a sandstone pointed window set into the wall in a similar fashion to the surviving NW window at third-floor level. Other features of the second floor include a destroyed fireplace at W which had a sloping stone fire-hood in a manner similar to Roscrea castle (TN012-010007-). Beside the fireplace to the N there is a round-arched window embrasure. A doorway in the W splay of this window leads to an external round-arched doorway from which the wall-walk of the curtain wall was accessed. The hall was lit by long narrow plunging arrowloops set into large deep round-arched embrasures set into the wall at NE, E and S. Double corbels set opposite each other provided support for a decorative timber ceiling. The third storey was probably the private residential hall of the lord. It has a partially destroyed fireplace at W with engaged sandstone columns and decorated capitals which supported a sloping stone fire-hood. Lighting was provided by five large windows. The rear arch of the SW window embrasure, which also acts as the entrance lobby, is decorated with a triple roll sandstone moulding while the other window embrasures are flat-headed, segmental and shouldered. The shouldered or Caernarvon arch is generally dated to the end of the thirteenth century and may be part of the refurbishment of the castle during this period (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 249). The W splay of the NW window embrasure contains a doorway which gives access to a box machicolation which helped protect the curtain wall where it joins onto the keep. The pointed N window is of sandstone and is not flush with the external face of the wall; it is set into a segmental-pointed embrasure.

The gatehouse (ext. dims. 22.8m E-W; 12.5m N-S) at the S consists of a two-storey central rectangular block with two D-shaped flanking towers of which only the E tower survives. Recent excavations indicate that the gatehouse complex was constructed in two phases with a fine two-storey hall added to the rear of the twin-towered gatehouse in the latter half of the thirteenth century (Hodkinson 1999, 162-82). This two-storey hall had rib vaulting over the ground floor supported by a series of centrally placed pillars (ibid., 165). The first floor was lit by large pointed sandstone windows with the first-floor entrance in the N wall located off-centre to the E (ibid., 164-5). The gatehouse was entered through a large round-headed archway with evidence of a portcullis slot and was accessed by a drawbridge, the two-slot pit of which was unearthed during the recent excavations (ibid., 163-4). The excavation revealed that the ground floor entrance to the W flanking tower is concealed behind blocking. The ground floor chambers of the hall were divided by a central passage, possibly barrel vaulted (ibid., 165). A coin, minted between 1205 and 1218, was discovered in the base of the foundation of the gatehouse which suggests that it was built during the minority of Theobald II, who succeeded Theobald I (ibid., 178). No evidence of an external moat was uncovered although it is very likely that the castle was externally defended by a moat.

**TN020-037006-**

**Class:** Town defences

**Townland:** Nenagh South, Nenagh North

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Situated on a low rise of ground with good views in all directions. The Anglo-Norman town at Nenagh was founded between 1200 and 1220 by Theobald Walter, the first Butler of Ormond (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 248). There was possibly an earlier settlement here as there are references to 'Aenach thete', which appears to be Nenagh, being burned during raids in 994 and 1056 (Annals of the Four Masters). An inquisition dated 1299 concerning the alteration of a roadway near the town concluded 'that it would not damage any but those who dwell in Theobalds Town of the Nanagh in the street below the castle to the east viz. Robert, son of David and his neighbours dwelling in that street' (CJR, vol. 1, 234). In 1323 the village of the Nanagh accounts for 641 for remitting the account of murage (PRI rep. DK 42nd, 42). In 1305 and 1338 burgesses are mentioned in state papers (CJR, vol. 2, 108; CIPM, vol. 8, 121).

The town appears to have suffered in the fourteenth century: first in 1316 Robert Bruce's army wasted the manor of Nenagh but left the castle and settlement intact (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 250), then in 1348 the town was burnt by the O'Kennedys (Prendergast 1851, 392). At the end of this troublesome century, in 1392, the Butlers bought Kilkenny Castle and transferred their chief residence from Nenagh to there (ibid., 393-4). There is a fifteenth-century reference which mentions that the 'reeve and community [were] summoned to seneschal's court' in 1432 (Martin 1981, 47). The town possesses a thirteenth-century castle with curtain wall and gatehouse (TNO20-037001) and a Franciscan friary (TN020-037002). Although there



is no surviving evidence of town walls around Nenagh many historians and archaeologists believe that medieval Nenagh was walled (Bradley 1985, 50-52).

In 1287 it is recorded that Walter de la Hyde did 'repairs of roofs and in building a house below the gate; in repairing and roofing other towers and houses; in rebuilding a bridge, gate and palisades which were thrown down by a storm' (Gleeson and Leask 1936, 249). A more substantial fortification may have been built in the fourteenth century as murage was being collected in 1322-3 and 1344-5 (Bradley 1985, 2). Two gates, Thomond Gate at Connolly Street on the west side of the town and the unlocated Sparragibba, were referred to in the seventeenth century (Bradley 1985, 50; Thomas 1992, vol. 2, 173; Grace 1993, 115). According to Sheehan (1949, 8), Sparragibba was located at River Lane, in the angle between Kenyon Street and Connolly Street. In the Civil Survey (1654-6) Thomond gate is described as being located on the W side of Nenagh town (Simington 1934, vol. 2, 211) and there is a reference to the 'Walls' southwestward of Nenagh (ibid., 278). According to the Civil Survey the road from Ballycahill led to 'a gate on the walls of Nenagh called Sparragibba bounded on the southeast with the lands of Tyone' (ibid., 295). The town is described as containing 'sixty cottages & thatcht houses lately built' (ibid., 295).

**TN020-037009-**

**Class:** Cross-slab (present location)

**Townland:** Nenagh north

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Displayed and stored in Nenagh Heritage Centre are a collection of four cross-slabs and quern stones. The Centre is on the west side of O'Rahilly Street, a former jail turned convent school. In the collection there is a decorated quern stone and four cross-slabs. All the slabs are from St. Odhran's Monastery, Latteragh. They are decorated with an incised cross surrounded by a single or double incised circle. Dorothy Kelly has described them in detail in JRSAI 1988, 92-100. In the basement there are seven quern stones, two of which are decorated. There is also a mortar with a sign '15th century monastic bowl' and a broken stone ring.

One of three cross-slabs discovered in 1977 during the digging of a grave in the O'Brien family plot in Latteragh Graveyard (TN028-025002). A fourth cross-slab was discovered during the digging of the Berkery family plot. Both plots were located to the N of the N wall of Latteragh Church. All of the slabs (TN028-025003; TN028-025006; TN028-025007; TN028-025008) consisted of a dense, fine grained stone.

Described as Latteragh 1 by D. Kelly and consists of a tiny slab (0.21m x 0.17m x 0.05m ) decorated with a carved equal armed cross with expanding arms contained within a broad circle. The arms of the cross nearly touch the circle within the which the cross is inscribed(Kelly 1988, 92-100) (TN028-025003).

**TN020-037010-****Class:** Cross-slab (present location)**Townland:** Nenagh north**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Displayed and stored in Nenagh Heritage Centre are a collection of four cross-slabs and quern stones. The Centre is on the west side of O'Rahilly Street, a former jail turned convent school. In the collection there is a decorated quern stone and four cross-slabs. All the slabs are from St. Odhran's Monastery, Latteragh. They are decorated with an incised cross surrounded by a single or double incised circle. Dorothy Kelly has described them in detail in JRSAI 1988, 92-100. In the basement there are seven quern stones, two of which are decorated. There is also a mortar with a sign '15th century monastic bowl' and a broken stone ring.

One of three cross-slabs discovered in 1977 during the digging of a grave in the O'Brien family plot in Latteragh Graveyard (TN028-025002). A fourth cross-slab was discovered during the digging of the Berkery family plot. Both plots were located to the N of the N wall of Latteragh Church. All of the slabs (TN028-025003; TN028-025006; TN028-025007; TN028-025008) consisted of a dense, fine grained stone. Described as Latteragh 2 by D. Kelly and consists of an irregular shaped slab (0.30m x 0.28m x 0.10m ) decorated with an equal armed linear cross with curvilinear expanded terminals contained within a double lined incised circles(Kelly 1988, 92-100) (TN028-025006).

**TN020-037011-****Class:** Cross-slab (present location)**Townland:** Nenagh north**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Displayed and stored in Nenagh Heritage Centre are a collection of four cross-slabs and quern stones. The Centre is on the west side of O'Rahilly Street, a former jail turned convent school. In the collection there is a decorated quern stone and four cross-slabs. All the slabs are from St. Odhran's Monastery, Latteragh. They are decorated with an incised cross surrounded by a single or double incised circle. Dorothy Kelly has described them in detail in JRSAI 1988, 92-100. In the basement there are seven quern stones, two of which are decorated. There is also a mortar with a sign '15th century monastic bowl' and a broken stone ring.

One of three cross-slabs discovered in 1977 during the digging of a grave in the O'Brien family plot in Latteragh Graveyard (TN028-025002). A fourth cross-slab was discovered during the digging of the Berkery family plot. Both plots were located to the N of the N wall of Latteragh Church. All of the slabs (TN028-025003; TN028-025006; TN028-025007; TN028-025008) consisted of a dense, fine grained stone. Described as Latteragh 3 by D. Kelly and consists of a rectangular shaped slab (0.38m x 0.26m x 0.05m ) decorated with an equal armed linear cross with slightly expanded terminals contained within a double lined incised circles(Kelly 1988, 92-100) (TN028-025007).

**TN020-037012-****Class:** Cross-slab (present location)**Townland:** Nenagh north**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Displayed and stored in Nenagh Heritage Centre are a collection of four cross-slabs and quern stones. The Centre is on the west side of O'Rahilly Street, a former jail turned convent school. In the collection there is a decorated quern stone and four cross-slabs. All the slabs are from St. Odhran's Monastery, Latteragh. They are decorated with an incised cross surrounded by a single or double incised circle. Dorothy Kelly has described them in detail in JRSAI 1988, 92-100. In the basement there are seven quern stones, two of which are decorated. There is also a mortar with a sign '15th century monastic bowl' and a broken stone ring.

One of three cross-slabs discovered in 1977 during the digging of a grave in the O'Brien family plot in Latteragh Graveyard (TN028-025002). A fourth cross-slab was discovered during the digging of the Berkery family plot. Both plots were located to the N of the N wall of Latteragh Church. All of the slabs (TN028-025003; TN028-025006; TN028-025007; TN028-025008) consisted of a dense, fine grained stone. Described as Latteragh 4 by D. Kelly and consists of a rectangular shaped slab (0.65m x 0.23m x 0.09m ) decorated with an unequal cross with spatulate arms contained within an incised circle (Kelly 1988, 92-100) (TN028-025008).

**TN020-037004-**

**Class: Prison**

**Townland: Nenagh North**

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes**

**Description:** According to *Analecta Hibernica* 'In 1696 a Session House and Gaol were built on a piece of ground 40 feet by 20 feet situate in Nenagh, and granted to James Harrison of Cloughjordan by Robert Boardman of Nenagh' (No.12, 1943, 131-54). These buildings have been located to Nos.10 and 11 Pearse St., though the locations are now occupied by later buildings.

**TN020-037005-**

**Class: Market House**

**Townland: Nenagh North**

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes**

**Description:** This market house, of seventeenth-century date, was demolished in 1812. In length it measured 12m along Pearse St. and 10m along Kenyon St. (Sheehan 1949, 3).

**TN020-037007-**

**Class: Church**

**Townland: Nenagh North**

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes**

**Description:** Situated at the S end of the town of Nenagh with the Franciscan friary (TN020-037002) and castle (TN020-037001) to the N and NW respectively. The eighteenth-century church which was rebuilt in the nineteenth century and is now disused was possibly built on the site of an earlier church which is described as being in a ruinous condition in 1615 (Sheehan 1949, 39). This Royal Visitation of 1615 described the church as 'ruynous, chancell downe' (Murphy 1914, 218). The precise location of the medieval parish church is unknown. According to Gleeson the Parish church of Nenagh was founded by St Colman (Gleeson 1982, 148) and is mentioned in a deed of c. 1217-21, the advowson being jointly held between the Butlers and the abbots of Abingdon, Co. Limerick (Bradley 1985, 52). According to the OS Letters 'not a vestige' of the parish church now remains 'but it is probable that the modern Church of Nenagh stands near or on its site. This was built about twenty six years ago, close by the site of a former, but comparatively modern Church, til then in use' (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 3, 99). The reference goes on to describe how at 'the rear of Barrack Street, about sixty paces north of the Church of Nenagh, and between it and the old Abbey ...Mr. Rd. Burr of this town discovered, at the depth of about eighteen inches from the surface of the ground, the foundation stones of some old building. The north and south walls were about thirty feet in length [9m], about twenty feet [6m] from each other and were connected at the east end by a wall, the form of which was that of a curve or segment of a circle, less than a semi-circle. The stones of these old walls which were four or five feet [1.2-1.5m] in thickness have been entirely removed. At this spot was dug up a ring-seal of bronze'. The present church tower was built in 1760 onto the body of the church which existed in the seventeenth century, this church was rebuilt in 1809. The earliest headstone noted, lying broken against the S wall of the graveyard (TN020-037008), dates to 1730. There were two other eighteenth-century headstones noted but the majority are nineteenth century.

## Appendix 3: Relevant Excavations.ie entries

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence and author</i>	<i>Summary</i>
45 Pearse Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Pre-licensing system Brian Hodkinson	<p>At the request of the developer, the undersigned monitored excavation on this site during the week 30th March-3rd April 1992. The site is being redeveloped as an extension for an existing supermarket and the work involved dropping the level of the site by c. 1m to match that in the adjacent store. The property backs onto the gate-tower of Nenagh Castle and planning permission required, amongst other conditions, that a 5m wide band be left around the castle. The rest of the site, which was of potential archaeological interest, was excavated down to the required level by mechanical digger. No features or remains of archaeological interest were encountered. The existing floors etc. all rested directly on the natural subsoil and it was clear that the whole site had previously been lowered removing all stratified deposits. A comparison of ground levels on either side of the north-west boundary wall showed the area in the gateway to be c. 2m higher than on site. The tower, despite being defaced, also shows a change c. 1.7m above the present ground level which may mark the transition from facing stone to foundations.</p> <p>At the west end of the site, the excavated area clipped the very edge of a feature which lay for the most part within the 5m band around the tower. This feature measured c. 2.75m across, had almost vertical sides and was filled with redeposited grey subsoil. The purpose of the feature and its depth are unknown but judging from the angle at which the sides ran into the section, it is unlikely to be associated with the castle (e.g., a moat). A fragment of red brick was noted in the upper fill which suggests that the feature is of no great antiquity. A number of other features were cut into the subsoil but these were service trenches, foundations and a soak away (?) of recent date.</p> <p>No finds were retained from the site. All the features on the site are of 19th-century or later date. No further publication is planned.</p>
Pearse Street/Abbey Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	96E0017 Dominic Delany	<p>Archaeological test excavation was undertaken in advance of a proposed commercial development at Pearse Street/Abbey Street, Nenagh, in June 1996. The site is located within the zone of archaeological potential as defined in the Urban Archaeological Survey. The ruins of the thirteenth-century Franciscan friary stand just 50m east of the site. The site measures approx. 70m north-south by 20m east-west.</p> <p>A large corrugated warehouse and a concrete shed were demolished prior to testing. Four trial-trenches were then mechanically excavated along the lines of the proposed foundation trenches. The natural yellowish-brown subsoil was encountered between 0.8m (north-east) and 1.7m below the existing ground level. There was evidence that the site had been levelled in modern times, and this inevitably led to the disturbance of the stratigraphy on the higher ground at the north-east. There was also considerable stratigraphic</p>



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		<p>disturbance associated with nineteenth/twentieth-century developments at the site. Many of the excavated wall foundations correspond with walls and buildings which are shown on the first edition of the OS 6" map for Tipperary. There was also evidence of more recent site developments (petrol tank and concrete pits) associated with a garage which was in use here until about 1950.</p> <p>The undisturbed stratigraphy was consistent across the site. The concrete and tarmacadam surfaces overlay modern rubble overburden which varied from 0.3m to 0.7m in thickness. Underlying the rubble were a series of silty clay deposits averaging 1m in thickness. The upper layers were light to dark greyish-brown in colour with moderate inclusions of flecks of charcoal, mortar and brick and occasional roots, animal bone and slate. The lower layers were grey and light yellowish-brown in colour and contained occasional roots and flecks of charcoal. These deposits directly overlay the yellowish-brown subsoil.</p> <p>At the north end of the site there were traces of two linear features, cutting into the subsoil and aligned north-east/southwest and east-west. One of these was rested. It was 0.4m deep and narrowed from 0.75m wide at the top to 0.6m at the base. The fill consisted of a light greyish-brown clay with moderate inclusions of stone, slate, animal bone, oyster shell, iron slag, mortar and flecks of charcoal. No datable finds were recovered.</p>
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	96E0228 Brian Hodkinson	<p>A four-week season of excavation in the gatehouse complex of Nenagh Castle was carried out in September for the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. There are essentially two phases to the gatehouse: an original twin-towered gatehouse of early thirteenth-century date, and a later thirteenth-century rectangular first-floor hall built across the back of it. At ground level the gate passage continued through the hall building, with chambers flanking it on either side, both of which had central pillars.</p> <p>Within the hall area the ground level had been reduced in the nineteenth century, removing the flanking walls of the passage, the east wall of the hall and all medieval deposits, except for the foundation trench for the first phase. The foundation trench was quite wide and up to 0.7m deep, and it seems that a particular stratum of the subsoil had been deliberately sought out on which to found the wall. An English silver short-cross penny, minted between 1205 and 1218, was found at the base of the trench next to the wall.</p> <p>Between the gate-towers were the remains of a twin-slot drawbridge pit. The fill of the pit, post-medieval in date, contained 29 pieces of moulded sandstone dumped during the dismantling of parts of the castle. These included two fragments of faces, window and door mouldings, and the central boss of a vault, decorated with a rosette. Two of the pieces have mason's marks.</p> <p>Analysis of the standing fabric has revealed a possible garderobe chute in the angle between the east tower of the</p>

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		<p>gatehouse and the curtain-wall, and one side of a ground-level embrasure in the western curtain, which suggests that the whole circuit of the curtain may have had two levels of defence.</p> <p>Two areas were investigated in 1997 in advance of conservation by the National Monuments Service. The vegetation and topsoil on top of the eastern tower of the gatehouse were removed to reveal a curious arrangement. The tower had been reduced in height, probably during the 1690s, and, where necessary, had later been brought up again to a uniform height using narrower walls. The inserted vault within the tower had been sealed with clay and covered in slates held in position with iron nails set into the clay, giving a conical roof. A gully around the base of the roof, following the inner edge of the tower wall, led to a drain which discharged through the wall in front of the drawbridge. The top of the tower wall was sealed with a brown puddled clay which pitched inwards to the gully, and the gully itself was lined with similar material. No finds were made to date this arrangement, but it has the 'feel' of 19th-century work. The vault itself is believed to be inserted into the tower and could date from the same period, but it is felt that it probably dates from earlier in the post-medieval period.</p> <p>The second area was a small blocked-up chamber in the western wall of the hall. This proved to contain a flight of steps leading from the ground floor of the hall to a garderobe set on the outside of the curtain-wall. One side of the garderobe chute had earlier been misidentified as the outer face of the western gate-tower, but the tower wall was identified to the east of the garderobe chute. This identification of the true tower wall means that the two towers are more similar in size than previously thought. A door from the centre of the western ground-floor room into the tower was also identified. This ground-floor room is believed to have been a parlour because it was equipped with high-quality stonework, a fireplace and, now, a private garderobe. A coin, under conservation at the time of writing but probably an Elizabethan sixpence, was the only significant find from the fill within the chamber.</p> <p>The excavation of a cable trench running from next to the donjon and into the gatehouse was monitored. The trench crossed the line of the former curtain wall but no remains of it were noted and there were no other features of interest revealed.</p>
54 Pearse Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	98E0535 Anne Connolly	<p>In the course of monitoring of manual excavations at the site of a proposed development at 54 Pearse Street, Nenagh, no finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.</p> <p>The entire site was covered by concrete, and the underlying stratigraphy comprised mainly redeposited materials that appeared to date to the 19th century. Natural, undisturbed subsoil was reached at a depth of 0.45–0.5m below ground level.</p>

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95 Silver Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	01E0890 Brian Hodkinson	Monitoring of trenching for the foundations of a new shop development revealed only recent rubble deposits down to the base of the trenches. Towards the rear of the site this rubble bottomed out onto a grey clay which may be a buried topsoil. These lower deposits were not investigated further and will be sealed in under the new building. Other work in this part of the town has revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance and no finds of medieval date. It is therefore probable that the lower sealed deposits are of no major significance.
15-18 Sarsfield Street/Mitchel Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	02E1706 Avril Hayes	Monitoring of the extension to a property on Sarsfield Street revealed nothing of an archaeological nature. The site was within the zone of archaeological potential of Nenagh. Foundation trenches were dug through a concrete floor, 0.2m deep, and a modern foundation, 0.3m deep, which overlay natural boulder clay.
9 Pearse Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	03E1418 Brian Hodkinson	Monitoring of the excavations for ten shallow pads and a sewer trench inside a shop refurbishment revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance. It should be noted, however, that the bases of all the holes were within modern fill, so there is still the possibility of an underlying stratigraphy untouched by the present work.
Pearse Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	04E1568 Linda Clarke	It is proposed to construction a three-storey retail and apartment unit with associated services at Pearse Street, Nenagh, on the former site of the Ormond Hotel, which is located within the zone of archaeological potential associated with the medieval town of Nenagh. Five test-trenches were excavated and a large amount of modern disturbance was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.
24 Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	05E0684 Brian Hodkinson	Monitoring of groundworks for a new building revealed nothing of archaeological significance. A late well in the centre of the site was capped and is preserved in situ.
19a Pearse Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	05E0961 Brian Hodkinson	Monitoring of groundworks for an extension to a property under renovation revealed nothing of archaeological significance.
11-13 Silver Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	05E1389 Brian Hodkinson	Stripping of a small site for the foundations for proposed new offices revealed one feature cut into subsoil and continuing under the west boundary. It was the only feature which pre-dates the houses that were demolished immediately prior to excavation. The feature measured c. 3.1m along the boundary, extended c. 2.5m into the site and had homogenous grey clay soil fill. A fragment of red brick may have been part of the fill, but this is not definite. The probability is that the feature is post-medieval. The feature will be sealed intact under a raft foundation.
Silver Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	05E1410 Kate Taylor	Monitoring and excavation in advance of residential and retail development located probable post-medieval linear features and pits. Ten features were recorded, eight being possible pits and two possible ditches. Five of the pits were U-shaped and all



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		<p>contained multiple deposits. One of the larger pits measured 1.9m by 1.95m and had four main deposits. The uppermost fill contained charcoal, bone and slag. The bottom fill was a compacted natural-like clay deposit. The largest feature on the site was a pit that could not be fully exposed as it ran right up to the Kenyon Street carpark boundary. The feature was c. 8m by 4m and at least 1.75m deep and was vaguely rectangular, with irregular sides, and contained sixteen different deposits, from which bone, slag, brick and possible tile were retained.</p>
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C075, E2852 Brenda O'Meara	<p>Test assessment was carried out within the designated area of the national monument Nenagh Castle, and within the delineated zone of archaeological potential for Nenagh town, Co. Tipperary. Testing was carried out in advance of a submission for planning for a proposed visitor centre at the site.</p> <p>Thought to have been built around ad 1200–1220, Nenagh Castle consisted of a cylindrical masonry tower keep (16m in diameter) incorporated into the northern corner of a pentagonal curtain wall. A rectangular gatehouse with flanking circular towers was incorporated to the south-west, while to the south-east and north-west two more circular towers completed the defences. The curtain walls no longer exist aboveground, but the intact tower keep and part of the gate tower, including one flanking tower, remain. A wall stump to the south-east of the tower keep represents the remains of the flanking tower at this location.</p> <p>Test assessment was carried out on the south-east side of the standing remains of Nenagh Castle, to the rear of the properties fronting on to Pearse Street. Five test-trenches were opened. Investigation suggested that considerable truncation of original ground levels had occurred across the site. A date for this truncation (or landscaping) was not firmly established, although a 19th-century date is likely.</p> <p>Work within the footprint of the circular tower to the south-east of the keep, and immediately adjacent to the remaining tower stump, found no further masonry remains associated with that tower (Trench 1). The truncation in this area was such that no construction cut or demolition evidence associated with the tower remained.</p> <p>Trench 2 was located immediately to the south-east of the keep and crossed a potential area of occupation inside the curtain wall, extending across the supposed line of the curtain wall and continuing in a north-easterly direction. Again, it appeared that the area was truncated. No remains of the curtain wall remained aboveground at this location, and no medieval strata remained inside the line of the curtain wall. Masonry representing the remnant of a curtain wall base batter was exposed, forming the north-east-facing slope of an associated ditch or moat measuring c. 8m wide at this location. The deep inner part of the ditch measured c. 3m wide and 1.8m deep, before stepping up to the north-east and finally rising again as a 1.1m-high outer bank.</p>

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		<p>Trench 3 was located across the centre of the site on a roughly south-west/north-east alignment. A metallised floor surface and associated possibly in situ masonry remains were found close to the pre-existing ground surface. A date for the masonry remains was not established. The trench abutted a post-medieval outbuilding at its south-western end. The outbuilding gable wall continued to a depth that suggests it may be related to the castle curtain wall. Reinforcing this idea, it appeared that an associated ditch, minimum 2.75m wide and minimum 1.5m deep, was also represented at this location.</p> <p>Trench 4 was located across the centre of the site on a roughly north-west/south-east alignment to the south of Trench 3. A cut feature measuring a minimum 2.5m wide and filled with mixed masonry rubble and garden soil was exposed crossing the trench on a roughly north-south alignment. The cut feature possibly represents a construction foundation trench, but is more likely to represent a continuation of the ditch and outer bank revealed in Trench 2.</p> <p>Trench 5 was located at the rear of the Pearse Street properties, extending from the south-west wall of the site, on a south-west to north-east alignment. The truncated remains of an 18th/19th-century masonry foundation were encountered crossing the trench.</p> <p>Significantly, the evidence suggested the presence of a massive cut ditch curving around the south-east side of Nenagh Castle over a distance of at least 15m from Trench 2 to Trench 4 and with a width of up to 8m. No datable artefacts were recovered from the disturbed ditch fills and it was not clear if the ditch represented an earlier earthwork at the site or if it represented a defensive feature constructed in association with the stone castle.</p>
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C075, C043; E3285 Miriam Carroll	<p>Excavations at Nenagh Castle, Co. Tipperary, were undertaken in two phases in 2007. The excavations were required to investigate areas of ground surrounding the 13th-century circular keep on which it was proposed to construct a visitors' centre and pedestrian footbridge. The Phase 1 excavations were undertaken between February and April 2007 and concentrated on the area in which the proposed visitors' centre is to be located (Area A) and the foundations of the proposed footbridge (Area C).</p> <p>The excavations in Area A revealed the presence of a 14m-wide ditch/moat (F12) which occupies much of the area proposed for development. Three cuttings were excavated across the ditch/moat which showed it to be filled with relatively sterile deposits containing only small amounts of poorly preserved animal bone. No pottery or any other readily datable finds were recovered from the fills of the ditch. Only the eastern edge of the ditch/moat was detected in Cuttings 1 and 2, while both sides were revealed in Cutting 3. A short stretch of the curtain wall (F50) of the castle was uncovered within the ditch in Cutting 3 and was built against the west edge of the latter. It</p>

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		<p>survived as the basal courses of the base batter of the wall within the ditch and as mortared masonry at the top of the ditch cut.</p> <p>Excavations within Area C (proposed footbridge foundations) revealed the presence of a smaller ditch cut (F49) which had been partially excavated as part of the initial test excavations on the site. Some limited excavation in the area of a footbridge foundation adjacent to the keep revealed the presence of a large pit (F34), which was partially excavated.</p> <p>The Phase 2 excavations were carried out over a period of three weeks in August–September 2007. The purpose of this phase of excavations was to establish the relationship between the large ditch/moat (F12) and the possibly later ditch cut (F49) in Area C. Further excavation was also required in the area adjacent to the keep where a large pit had been partially uncovered in Phase 1. The investigation of the two ditches in Areas A and C was centred on an area between Cutting 3 and the footbridge foundation in which ditch F49 had been exposed. One cutting (Cutting 4) was excavated across this area and revealed that both F12 and F49 were part of the same ditch cut. The cut was significantly narrower here, however, measuring only 6–7m in width. The partial remains of the curtain wall (F50) were exposed at the south-west side of Cutting 4, again abutting the cut of the ditch. The fills of the ditch also differed to those excavated in Cuttings 1–3 (Phase 1) and contained finds dating to the 17th/18th century. A later, shallower, ditch cut (F63) was apparent at the south-west side of the cutting and appeared to cut the fills of the ditch (F12). F63 is likely to be post-medieval in date and appeared to cut the south-west edge of the ditch (F12) and may also have resulted in the removal of the curtain wall masonry.</p> <p>An area measuring 6m in width (north-east/south-west) by 4.7m in length was opened immediately south-west of the standing circular keep of the castle. The remains of a pit (F34) were partially excavated here in Phase 1 and were further excavated during Phase 2. The pit contained two fills which contained post-medieval finds (possibly 18th/19th-century).</p>
O’Rahilly Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C276; W0032 Linda G. Lynch	Impact assessment (excluding testing) was undertaken on this site in 2007. It is proposed to develop the site of the former rear yard area of Nos 46 and 47 Pearse Street, along with several rear gardens of houses facing on to O’Rahilly Street, as a carpark. This proposal would involve the demolition of a number of extant structures on the site. The site is immediately adjacent to Nenagh Castle. Following that report, the render was removed from a number of walls and they were examined under ministerial consent, specifically to assess if they may be related to the castle. No medieval architectural features were identified in the walls. The project is currently still at planning stage.
Town Hall, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	08E0432 Linda G. Lynch	An impact assessment (including test-trenching) was carried out at Nenagh Town Hall in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. The site is located within Nenagh



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		town and is 80m to the west of Nenagh Castle. It was proposed to open four trenches across the projected footprint of the development. One of these trenches was abandoned due to the presence of modern services, while another trench could not be excavated at all due to the detection of same. Nothing of an archaeological nature was uncovered in the trenches.
Town Hall, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	08E0432 ext. Lee Scotland	Monitoring was undertaken of groundworks associated with the extension and refurbishment of Nenagh Town Hall. The development was located on the line of the zone of archaeological potential for TN020-037, the historic town of Nenagh, and was less than 80m to the west of the remains of Nenagh Castle, a national monument, TN020-037001. The town hall is also a protected structure. A test-trenching assessment was carried out by Linda Lynch (Excavations 2008, No. 1153, 08E0432), with nothing of an archaeological nature noted during the assessment. Nothing of an archaeological nature was observed during the monitoring.
Kenyon St/Stafford St, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	09E0334 David Sweetman	Test-trenching as part of a request for further information for a mixed development produced nothing of archaeological interest.
O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C467; E4326 Frank Coyne	Monitoring of the demolition of two boundary walls was carried out in May and June 2011. The walls were recorded photographically and also by a scaled plan. After demolition, the rubble was spread out and was searched for architectural fragments but none were identified. Any useful building stone was retrieved and stored in the grounds of Nenagh Castle for possible future use in the ongoing restoration works. Two shallow trial holes were also monitored in the car park. These were cut into modern fill. No archaeological features or deposits were noted.
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C75 ext.; E4410 Frank Coyne	Monitoring of the excavation of service trenches and associated manholes at Nenagh Castle was carried out in December 2011. The service runs and associated manholes extended through an area that has already been partially archaeologically excavated. The service trenches were limited to areas of previous disturbance. The edge of the moat associated with Nenagh Castle and known to survive along the route of the proposed ducting was previously discovered in the area; all necessary trench and manhole excavations in this area avoided the edge of the moat. As associated material/features are known to survive 0.8m below present ground level in some areas, the service trenches were kept at a higher level. A portion of a wall was noted, measuring 3.6m wide north-south and extending across the width of the trench (1.2m). The wall had no dressed facing stones and consisted of large, undressed stones with a rubble core and bonded with a buff-coloured gritty lime mortar. A sample of this mortar was taken for further analysis. This wall may represent a portion of a late medieval/early post-medieval manor house. As the wall is constructed in the moat area, it post-dates the main period of

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		<p>use of the castle. No other archaeological features or deposits were noted.</p>
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C75 ext.; E3285 Frank Coyne	<p>The excavation of service trenches and associated manholes was monitored in March/April 2012. Some of the service runs and associated manholes extended through an area that has already been partially excavated. A limited excavation was also carried out inside the keep in April 2012.</p> <p>The trenching would be limited to areas of previous disturbance. It was also indicated that the edge of the moat associated with Nenagh Castle, and known to survive along the route of the proposed ducting, was discovered by Miriam Carroll, Tobar Archaeology, at a depth of 56m OD in Cutting 1, and at 56.3m OD in Cutting 4 (Excavations 2007, No. 1706). The proposed ducting layout indicated existing ground levels in the area of the moat at 57.21m OD, 57.13m OD etc. This suggested that all necessary trench and manhole excavation in this area should potentially manage to avoid the edge of the moat and associated material/features which are known to survive 0.8m below present ground level in some areas.</p> <p>Additional monitoring was carried out in March and April 2012. This involved monitoring of a trench for a ground termination system for a lightning conductor. This was excavated in a circular direction around the keep at a distance of 2m, but 3m from the wall where the scaffolding is in place. Gravel and topsoil were noted in the trench fill. The trench averaged 0.3m deep, and was approximately 28m in length, north-north-west/south-south-east. No archaeological features were noted. This trench was extended in a south-south-west direction for approximately 30m. It averaged 0.4m deep and 0.5m wide. Its depth meant that the bottom of the trench was above the known archaeology levels. No archaeological features were noted. The spoil was also metal detected. No archaeological artefacts were recovered.</p> <p>A short trench, 0.6m deep was excavated through previously disturbed ground, leading from a previously monitored ducting pipe, in a westerly direction into a percolation area. No archaeological features were noted.</p> <p>Two stretches of pipe trench for a CCTV cable were also monitored. The shortest was to the south-east of the keep, and extended from an existing manhole for a distance of approximately 15m in a northerly direction. The trench was 0.5m wide, 0.7m deep. It terminated in 1m by 1m wide excavated hole, 0.7m deep for a CCTV pole. Yellow boulder clay was encountered at the bottom of this hole. No archaeological features were noted. A second trench was excavated for a CCTV cable and pole at the north side of the keep. This ran from an existing manhole at the entrance to the keep, in a north-north-east direction for 28m. This trench was 0.7m deep at south, 0.5m deep at north. It was cut through topsoil, with yellow boulder clay encountered at a depth of 0.5m. No archaeological features were noted.</p> <p>Six fence posts were excavated at the west side of the keep. These varied between 0.6-0.7m in depth, and were cut through</p>

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		<p>gravel, with rubble and brick also noted. Two gateposts were also monitored. These were 0.7m by 0.7m, and 0.8m deep. These were cut through topsoil and rubble (containing brick). Boulder clay was encountered at a depth of 0.6m. No archaeological features were noted.</p> <p>In addition to the monitoring, limited excavation was conducted within the keep (see below No. 565). A circular stone-filled cut was identified by Dave Pollack measuring 3.5m in diameter. The largest stones had been placed with their long axes aligned radially against the outside of the cut. The excavation revealed alternating deposits of rubble and compacted clay. It appears that, after a layer of stones had been placed within the cut, clay was deposited and compacted down till it formed a relatively level finish. This sequence continued to the surface with the thickness and compaction of the layers increasing with depth. The base of the feature was not achieved with the excavation having to be stopped at a depth of approximately 1.2m. At this level the stones had become significantly bigger than those at the top.</p> <p>No clear evidence of the feature's function was revealed. The alternating bands would suggest that these layers were deliberately laid down. It is possible however that this is the remains of a foundation for a central pillar, which was abandoned at an early stage and was never constructed (Con Manning, pers. comm.) No artefacts were recovered.</p>
O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	C467; E4326 Frank Coyne	<p>The monitoring of the demolition of two walls and the excavation of trial holes at O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh, immediately adjacent to Nenagh castle, Co. Tipperary, was carried out on various dates in 2011 (Excavations 2011, No. 576) and 2012, and also the monitoring of landscaping works in Nenagh castle field in May 2012. Where the walls had been demolished, and piles of rubble were to be examined, any stone which could be re-used was brought to the OPW storage facility in Nenagh Castle. One architectural fragment was recovered from the monitoring of removal of stone from the moat area (23 March 2012). It was brought to the OPW yard in the castle, where it is now stored. The trial holes were excavated into modern fill. No archaeological features were noted.</p> <p>The Castle Field is on the north-western side of the keep. It was necessary to landscape this area in advance of a presidential visit in June 2012. Monitoring of landscaping works was carried out over two day from 15-16 May 2012. A trench was excavated from the control box/shed at the eastern side of the site, and measured 0.4m wide and averaged 0.4-0.5m in depth. This trench was cut through topsoil. Yellow boulder clay was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.4m below the ground surface. This trench was excavated at the east, north and western sides of the Castle Field. The gravel remains of a modern path were encountered immediately below the sod in the northern section of the trench. The western section of this trench was cut through the current access track, then alongside it on its western side. This section was 0.5m deep. Boulder clay was noted at the bottom of the trench. An area for a pathway</p>



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		and kerbs was also excavated, following the general line of a now overgrown gravel path. This was shallow, and involved the removal of the top sod. No archaeological featured were encountered or artefacts recovered.
Nenagh Castle, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	E4416 Dave Pollack	Initial monitoring inside the circular keep at Nenagh Castle in 2009 found considerable truncation below the medieval floor level, but possible survival of earlier levels below remains of an artificial mound or bank. Investigations in the keep in 2012, in association with the installation of ducting, found a pit and a large central foundation, cut and laid at the start of castle construction, before work was underway on the masonry tower.