

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR A PROPOSED AIRSHOW EVENT

AT KILLASPUGBRONE, STRANDHILL,

CO. SLIGO

ON BEHALF OF

SLIGO AIRPORT



Fadó
Archaeology

Planning Reference Number: P219/24

Event Licence: EL 2/24

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ABBREVIATIONS

NMI	NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND
NMS	NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE
DHLGH	DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE
VIA	VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AIA	ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SMR	SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD
RMP	RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES
RPS	RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES
NIAH	NATIONAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
PDA	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA
ZAN	ZONE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTIFICATION

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Co. Sligo on behalf of Sligo Airport.

The following archaeological impact assessment report documents the project. The proposed event Sligo Airport Airshow is a 2-day airshow that includes international and national flight display and parachute teams alongside on the ground activities including a funfair, food and craft market. The Air Display will consist of a fully programmed event on Saturday 27th July and Sunday 28th July 2024.

Due to the proximity of the events temporary parking and viewing area to the recorded archaeological sites and monuments in the Killaspugbrone area an archaeological impact assessment was required as a condition of granting planning permission and an event licence for the Sligo Airport Airshow.

A full site inspection was undertaken on the 5th of June 2024. During the site inspection which involve a walkover of the proposed viewing areas, temporary parking and access and egress to the event.

The proposed event is in proximity to several archaeological sites and monuments. The proposed parking area to the south is within the curtilage or ZAN for recorded monument

SL013-003---- Megalithic tomb – court tomb. Therefore, it is recommended that under no circumstances is any access or egress permitted within this curtilage and the monument should be temporarily cordoned off for the duration of the event to prevent any pedestrian or vehicular access.

The remainder of the proposed event areas including the viewing areas along the runway, the access and egress for emergency vehicles and all other areas will have no impact on the archaeological sites and monuments recorded in the vicinity. No subsurface works or below ground services or otherwise are proposed and therefore there is no further requirement for archaeological mitigation in relation to the proposed event.

Please note that all recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

1 SCOPE OF WORKS

1.1 Introduction

Fadó Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological assessment at Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Co. Sligo on behalf of Sligo Airport. The following archaeological impact assessment report documents the project, the existing environment at the site and the results of the site inspection.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

Sligo Airport Airshow is a 2-day airshow that includes international and national flight display and parachute teams alongside on the ground activities including a funfair, food and craft market. The Air Display will consist of a fully programmed event on Saturday 27th July and Sunday 28th July 2024. Admission to the event will be ticketed to the public and is expected to attract approximately 10,000 people over the 2 days with attendees consisting mainly of families from the community and tourists. Special event paid parking areas have been identified with a park and Ride in operation on the day from Sligo Town.

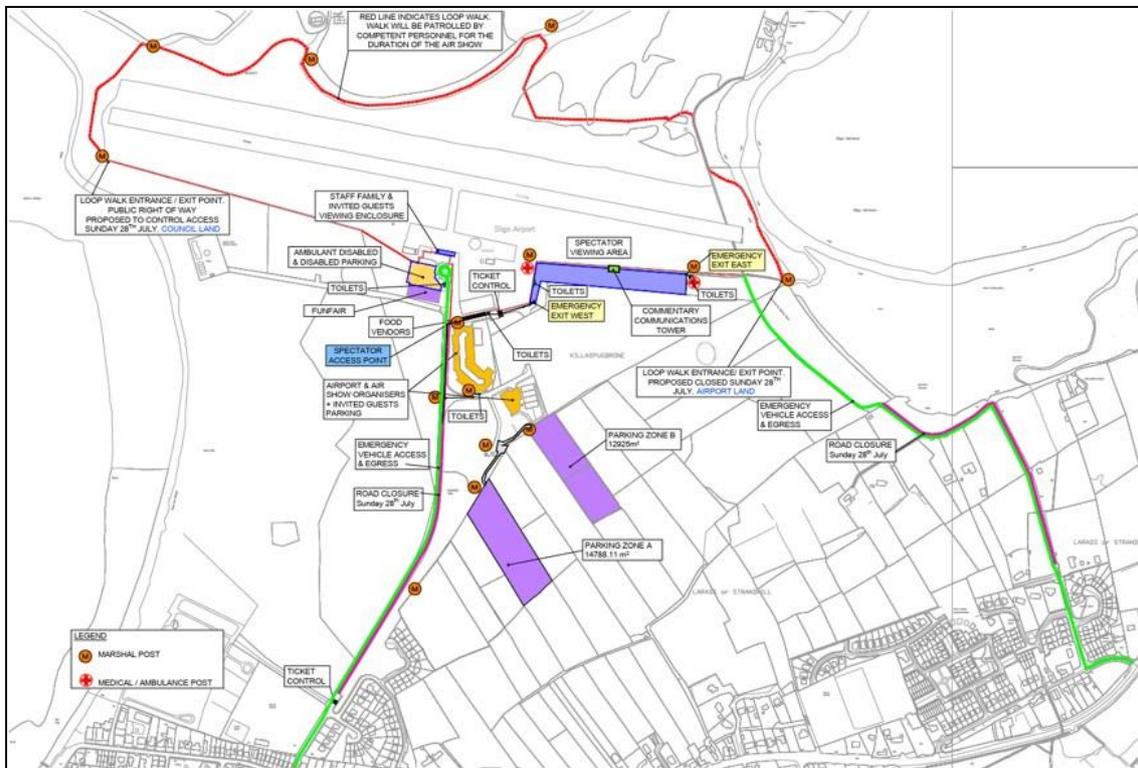


Figure 1: Plan of Sligo Airport and environs showing event access, egress, viewing areas and parking.

1.3 Planning Condition

Sligo County Council, in pursuant of Part XV1 (Section 231) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) has by Order P219/24 dated 09th May 2024, granted an Event Licence for permission to hold the An Air Display incorporating food and craft market and a funfair at Sligo Airport, Airport Road, Strandhill, Co Sligo.

The following condition was required in relation to Archaeology:

14. (a) The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified Archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development site. No sub-surface work should be undertaken in the absence of the Archaeologist without his/her express consent.

(b) The Archaeologist should carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect the site.

(c) The Archaeologist shall recommend protection / buffer zones to safeguard the archaeological monuments during this event.

(d) Having completed the work, the Archaeologist should submit a written report to the National Monuments Service of this Department. The Department will forward a recommendation based on the Archaeological Assessment to the Planning Authority.

1.4 Archaeological Assessment

In the present context archaeological assessment means investigations aimed at any of the following: (i) gaining a better understanding of a known or suspected archaeological site or monument with particular reference to considering the implications of proposed development for such a site or monument, (ii) locating previously unidentified site or monuments (or possible ones) prior to the commencement of development works with particular reference to considering the implications of proposed development for such sites or monuments, (iii) considering the potential that proposed development works or longer term effects of a development may have on elements of the archaeological heritage not identified prior to the commencement of development works.

Archaeological assessment may, as appropriate, include documentary research, fieldwalking, examination of upstanding or visible features or structures, examination of existing or new aerial photographs or satellite or other remote sensing imagery, geophysical survey, topographical assessment, general consideration of the archaeological potential of the area or areas affected by a

development based on their environmental characteristics, or archaeological testing. In all cases an archaeological assessment should consider both direct and indirect effects of proposed development. It is always essential that the report on archaeological assessment contain an archaeological impact statement describing the possible direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on elements of the archaeological heritage.

1.5 Legal Background

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, The Heritage Act 1995, The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 (as amended), are the main legal mechanisms by which the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource is protected today in Ireland.

1.6 Methodology

The assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage was based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, as well as a comprehensive site inspection of the proposed event areas including standing and parking areas.

1.7 Desk Study

This desktop study comprised a paper study of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources. These sources are described below:

National Monuments

Under the National Monuments Acts (1930 to 2014) sites in '*The Ownership Or Guardianship Of The Minister Or A Local Authority Or National Monuments Which Are Subject To A Preservation Order*' are offered the highest level of protection. For any construction or excavation works to take place either on or in the vicinity of these sites permission must first be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) in the form of a Ministerial Consent.

Sligo County Development Plans

The Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 was consulted. It contained the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for County Sligo.

Record of Monuments and Places

The RMP of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, was established under the 1994 Amendment to the National Monuments Acts (1930-14). It is based on the

pre-existing Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and information from completed county archaeological inventories. As such, it records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. The RMP information is compiled from the files of the Archaeological Survey, which combines cartographic sources, published and publicly available documentary sources, including periodicals, the records of the NMI, Geological Survey of Ireland 1:30,000 vertical aerial photographs and inspections of sites in the field. The information is read in conjunction with constraint maps, published at reduced six-inch scale, on which recorded sites are clearly marked. The RMP is constantly updated and is the first stage in the preparation of a national census of archaeological sites, with inventories also published at an interim stage. The RMP sheet relevant to the project is sheet **013** of the O.S six-inch series for Sligo (which is based on the OS revision of 1913-14).

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The discovery of artefacts can be an important indicator of past levels of activity in an area and therefore a useful guide to the archaeological potential of a site. The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) archive identify recorded stray finds that have been donated to the state in accordance with National Monuments legislation between 1928 and 2014. In most cases, files include details on the location of and nature of the find, or where applicable, reports of excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early twentieth century.

Aerial Photographs

Aerial photographs are an invaluable resource in archaeology for the recognition of new sites and contributing to the understanding of known sites. Features can be recognised from the air as earthworks in relief or as vegetation marks where a buried feature such as a wall or ditch affects the growth of the surrounding flora. The Geological Survey of Ireland Aerial Photograph Collection, based in Dublin, holds a comprehensive archive of high-level vertical photographs available for consultation by the public and researchers but may not be copied.

Sligo County Library

The Local Studies section of Sligo County Library is housed in Stephen Street, Sligo. Several local histories and general historical/archaeological texts were consulted (see bibliography for details).

Irish Excavations Database

'Excavations' is an annual bulletin, now funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, which contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out in Ireland – North and South. The bulletins can now be accessed on the Internet at www.excavations.ie. Compiled from the published excavation bulletins, the database contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out from 1970 to 2024. Both the

bulletins and database were consulted to establish whether excavations have been previously carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The NIAH is a section within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day, in a systematic and consistent manner.

Cartographic Sources

Cartographic sources consulted include the first edition map of the Ordnance Survey (O.S) six-inch series published in 1838 and the twenty-five-inch c. 1900 O.S map were also consulted. All maps were sourced online at www.archaeology.ie.

2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Description of the Site

The site is an area of rough pastureland and sand dunes on the Cuil Irra peninsula in the townland of Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Co. Sligo. The site is located at the airport runway of Sligo Airport to the north of the town centre of Strandhill. The site is accessed directly from Sligo Airport Road, the parking areas and spectator viewing areas covered in low grass, with the parking area is presently in use as grazing land. The event area comprises two fields to the south of the airport which area proposed as parking area and the spectator area is directly adjacent to the southeastern side of the airport runway.

2.2 Site Layout/Locational details

The proposed event site is in a coastal location close to Sligo Bay and directly north of the core area of the town of Strandhill. It is approximately 8.6km west of Sligo town centre along the R292. The fields proposed for parking are bounded by the industrial and commercial units to the north and farmland to the south, east and west. The temporary parking areas are accessed via a track to the north directly adjacent to the industrial and commercial units.

Study area	OS Sheet number	Central ITM	Townland
Strandhill, Co. Sligo	013	561030/836968	Killaspugbrone

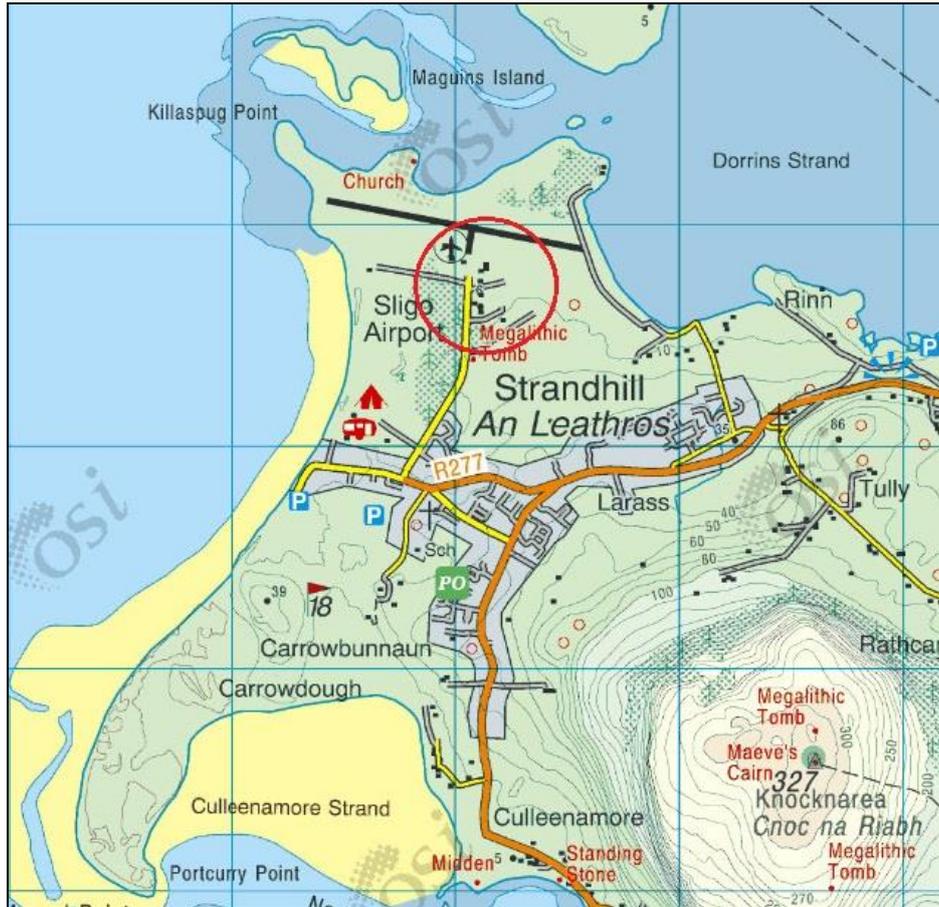


Figure 4: OSI Discovery Series Map of the proposed development area.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The geology of the Sligo region consists of carboniferous limestone, boulder clay and grey, brown podzolics. The principal soil in the area is made up of degraded grey, brown podzolics (50%), associated soils consist of peat, brown earth, gleys and podzols. The parent material in the vicinity of the subject site is predominantly a predominantly limestone glacial till. The soil varies from well drained to hill or low-level peat.

3.2 Landscape

The landscape in this part of Sligo is situated at the western end of the drumlin belt and is characterised by flat to undulating lowlands. The temporary parking area is in a slightly elevated site in use as a green field site for grazing. Access is along the Airport Road. The site is located on the Coolera Peninsula, an area dominated by Knocknarea Mountain to the east and Sligo Bay to the

west. The fields in the direct vicinity of the subject site are well drained undulating pastureland. There is no major river or tributary river in proximity to the proposed event area.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Research was undertaken in two phases. It comprised of a paper study of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources and a site walkover. The following is based on a document search and paper study.

4.1 Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age):

The first people who came to Ireland – mainly to coastal areas as the interior was heavily forested – arrived during the Middle Stone Age, eleven thousand years ago. They were nomadic hunter gatherers. They made weapons and tools from stone such as flint or chert. Some artefacts are distinctive of this period, such as microliths from the early part of the Mesolithic to the larger Bann Flakes in the later Mesolithic. The Mesolithic ranged from c.7000-4000BC. Artefacts of hunter/gatherers are sometimes found in middens, rubbish pits around hearths where people would have rested and cooked over large open fires. Once cliffs erode, midden remains become exposed as blackened areas containing charred stones, bones, and shells. Antiquarians of the 19th and early 20th centuries believed a stone flake found in Co. Sligo was evidence of Palaeolithic settlement in the county. However, this item is now believed to be natural in origin and the earliest artefacts are in fact worked chert from the excavations at Lough Gara, which date to the Mesolithic. Some of the dates received from the archaeological excavations at Carrowmore have led to speculation over a transitional Mesolithic/Neolithic 'culture' involving semi-permanent dwellings and seasonal harvesting of wild food.

4.2 Neolithic (New Stone Age):

This period saw the first farming communities in Ireland. Weapons and tools were made from stone such as flint or chert. The Neolithic ranged from c.4000-2400BC. Sligo is well represented by megalithic monuments of the Neolithic, having examples of all four types, which accounts for 15% of the national total. Carrowmore and Carrowkeel are two of the most important passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland with the former yielding the earliest C14 dates. These Sligo cemeteries account for 39% of the national total. There are also many court tombs in Sligo including a typical example of a full court tomb at Creevykeel near Cliffoney and a central court tomb at Deerpark. There are 38 wedge tombs in County Sligo including examples at Cabragh on the southern slopes of the Ox Mountains and at Culdaly near Aclare in the south of the county. Portal tombs in the county

include the Labby rock at Carrickglass, which is topped by a 70-tonne capstone and a collapsed example at Clogher. Excavations at Waste Gardens in Sligo town uncovered Neolithic chert. Recent archaeological work carried out at Caltragh uncovered a 'prehistoric' field system and Neolithic settlement site.

4.3 Bronze Age:

The period when metal working was first introduced to Ireland. People began to use bronze to make weapons and tools. Gold working also appeared during this time, with objects such as gold torcs being produced. The Bronze Age ranged from c.2400-500BC. Megalithic tomb building continued into the Bronze Age when metal began to be worked for tools alongside the stone tools. The design of the tombs changed to more being of the wedge tomb type and cist burials. Archaeological remains from this period include stone alignments, stone circles and fulachta fiadh (early cooking sites). Beaker pottery and funerary remains were found in the Moyturra wedge tomb at the end of the 19th Century. There have also been over 100 'barrow' or mound burials found in Sligo. The most common field monuments of the Bronze Age however are fulacht fiadh. These are mounds of burnt stone usually associated with troughs (often wood lined) and ancillary pits or 'pot boilers'. While the usual explanation of their use involves the cooking of meat this is by no means conclusive. Other theories have included ritual bathing, felt making and brewing. It may be more helpful to view these monuments in terms of a then current technology for the heating of water rather than focussing on the search for an exclusive employment of that water. Regional and cultural differences may have occurred. These could certainly be reflected in the variety of troughs found. Several of these monuments have been excavated in County Sligo at Carrowgobbadaw and Caltragh.

4.4 Iron Age:

The Iron Age ranged in date from c.400BC-400AD. It is the period in which iron is first produced and used to make tools and weapons. This is thought to have coincided with the arrival of Celtic speaking peoples and the introduction of the ancestor of Irish. Towards the end of this period, the Roman Empire was at its height in Britain, but it is not thought that the Roman Empire extended into Ireland to any large degree. Remains from this period, which lasted until the Early Christian period began about 325AD (with the arrival of St. Patrick into Ireland, as a slave) include crannógs (Lake dwellings), promontory forts, ringforts and souterrains of which there are numerous examples across the county. The Iron Age was a time of tribal warfare with kingships, each fighting neighbouring kings, vying for control of territories, and taking slaves. Territories were marked by

tall stone markers, Ogham stones, using the first written down words using the Ogham alphabet. The Iron Age is the time in which the tales of the Ulster Cycle and sagas took place.

In the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age distinctive settlement sites known as Hillforts arose. These are large defensive enclosures situated on elevated or hilltop locations. Promontory forts situated on cliff edges are a monument associated with the Iron Age and an example of these can be found at Knocklane in the north of the county. This is situated on a narrow peninsula defended on its eastern side by a double bank and ditch linked by a causeway and a third bank and ditch further on. There is a cliff edge fort at Carrowhubcock North near Enniscrone which consists of three outer banks and an inner ditch with a maximum diameter of 70m. Cashels and Rathes are a feature of the Early Historic or Early Christian period in Ireland. These are circular enclosures consisting usually of an earthen bank and ditch in the case of Rathes or stone walling in Cashels. There is a gap in the enclosure for access and egress and there is often a causeway to facilitate this. These sites are often associated with souterrains, stone lined underground passages which probably acted as storage areas and, when the need arose, places of refuge. Examples in the county include Rathmullagh ringfort south of Enniscrone which is a 66m bank and ditch enclosure containing a multi chambered souterrain and Clogher cashel near Monasteraden which has a 2m surviving stone wall 26m in diameter enclosing three souterrains. Cashelore, is referred to in the Annals of the Four Masters wherein, "O'Rourke invaded County Sligo but was encountered at Cashelore by the cavalry of the O'Healys. The latter were defeated, and their territory pillaged."

4.5 Early Christian or Early Medieval:

Christianity came to Ireland around the start of the 5th century AD. It brought many changes including the introduction of writing and recording events. The tribal 'tuatha' and the new religious settlements existed side by side. Sometimes it suited the chieftains to become part of the early Churches, other times they remained as separate entities. From the middle of the 6th century hundreds of small monastic settlements were established around the county. Early Christian monuments in Co. Sligo include the monastic settlement on Inishmurray Island, which consists of a cashel enclosing two churches, a beehive cell and a later medieval building. There is another church outside the main enclosure and also a sweathouse and graveyard. There are also over 50 engraved stone slabs on the island. It is recorded that the Vikings raided the island in the year 807. Other ecclesiastical sites include: Killaspugbrone in Strandhill reputed to have been founded in the 5th Century by Bishop Bronus, a disciple of St. Patrick; Carrowntemple south of Gurteen; Kiltura in the same area; St. Fechin's church northwest of Ballisodare and Drumcliffe round tower and high cross. There are also numerous holy wells including Tober nAlt holy well on the shore of Lough Gill.

4.6 Later Historic Period:

The Medieval period includes the arrival of the Anglo Normans in the 12th century. The Late Medieval Period may be running up to the 17th century. From 1169 AD when one of the warring kings (Dermot MacMurrough) in the east of Ireland appealed to the King of England for help in his fight with a neighbouring king, the response of which was the arrival of the Anglo-Norman colonisation of Ireland. Norman control meant the eclipse of many Gaelic lords and chieftains, chiefly the O'Connor's of Connacht. Following the collapse of the lordship in the 1330s, all these families became estranged from the Anglo-Irish administration based in Dublin and assimilated with the Gaelic-Irish, adopting their language, religion, dress, laws, customs and culture and marrying into Irish families. The Anglo Normans encouraged and established many religious orders from continental Europe to settle in Ireland. Mendicant orders—Augustinians, Carmelites, Dominicans and Franciscans began new settlements across Ireland and built large churches, many under the patronage of prominent Gaelic families. During the 15th and 16th centuries, despite regular conflicts between them as England chopped and changed between religious beliefs, the Irish usually regarded the King of England as their King. When Queen Elizabeth 1 came to the throne in the mid-16th century, the English people, as was customary at that time, followed the religious practices of the reigning Monarch and became Protestant. Many Irish people had close relationships with the English monarchy and the English kings and queens were welcome visitors to Irish shores. The Irish however, generally held onto their Catholic religious practices and beliefs. The early plantations of settlers in Ireland began during the reign of Queen Mary in the mid-16th century and continued throughout the long reign of Queen Elizabeth I until 1603. In September of 1588 the galleons of the Spanish Armada were wrecked by storms along the west coast of Ireland at Streedagh, Co. Sligo. Some of the hapless Spaniards came ashore, only to be robbed and imprisoned, and in many cases slaughtered. Almost all the religious foundations set up by the Anglo Normans were suppressed in the wake of the Reformation in the 16th century. Protestant settlers from Scotland, England, and elsewhere in Ireland, settled in the County in the early 17th century.

4.7 The Coolera Peninsula:

The Coolera or Cuíl Irra Peninsula is the half-promontory known as Leath Ros. The area is bounded naturally by the sea in the west, Sligo harbour and the Garavogue river further north, Lough Gill in the east and Ballysadare Bay to the south. Dominating the peninsula is Knocknarea Mountain topped with a large cairn known as Meascán Méadhbha – Meave's Cairn. The large, chambered cairn on top of Knocknarea is nearly two hundred feet long and forty feet high and is It is the largest unopened cairn in Ireland that is thought to conceal a neolithic passage tomb. The majestic Meascán Méadhbha is only one of several monuments on top of Knocknarea. At nearby

Culleenamore Strand remains of prehistoric kitchen middens, or refuse heaps, where shells were deposited. The marine life found around the Cuil Irra Peninsula served as an important source of food for the Mesolithic man and subsequent settlers. The area's remains are extensive, with some of the middens stretching 100m long. The Carrowmore area is archaeologically rich in prehistoric sites and monuments. Dating to the Neolithic (3700-2900 BC) Carrowmore (An Cheathrú Mhór, meaning Great Quarter) is one of the four major passage tomb complexes in Ireland. Thirty monuments survive in Carrowmore today. There may have been more monuments in the complex originally, but some fell victim to quarrying and field clearance during the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century. Carrowmore is the focal point of a prehistoric ritual landscape which is dominated by the mountain of Knocknarea to the west with the great cairn of Miosgán Médhbh on top and to the east is Carns Hill with two large cairns. Knocknashammer or Cloverhill lies in the drumlin plains between Carrowmore and Carns Hill. Recent excavations by the National Roads Authority for the Inner Relief Road route in Magheraboy near Sligo - three kilometres from Carrowmore - have shown that a causewayed enclosure existed at the same time as Carrowmore.

5 DESKTOP DATA

5.1 National Monuments

No national monuments listed in state care or ownership are in the immediate vicinity of the subject site.

5.2 Toponymy

Toponymy is the study of place names (toponyms), their origins, meanings, use, and typology. Place names can provide information on the previous history and heritage of a location. The townland of Killaspugbrone is in the Barony of *Cairbre/Carbury* and in the Civil Parish of *Cill Easpaig Bhróin/Killaspugbrone*. Killaspugbrone translates in Irish as *Cill Easpaig Bhróin* (genitive: *Chill Easpaig Bhróin*) which means 'the Church of the Bishop Bron.'

5.3 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database www.excavations.ie indicated that the following archaeological investigations have been carried out in the subject area of Killaspugbrone townland and wider environs:

2009:725. KILLASPUGBRONE, Sligo

Author: Angela Wallace, Connacht Archaeological Services, 19 The Meadows, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 09E0108

2009:726. KILLASPUGBRONE, Sligo

Author: Martin A. Timoney, Bóthar an Corainn, Keash, Co. Sligo.

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 09E0256

2021:520. Killaspugbrone, Sligo

Author: Mary Henry

Site type: Testing

License number: 21E0094

1998:573. KILLASPUGBRONE, Sligo

Author: Fiona Rooney, Archaeological Consultancy

Site type: Midden

License number: 98E0374

2002:1679 - Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill, Sligo

Author: Mary Henry

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 01E0307

2002:1680 - Carrowbunnaun/Carrowdough, Strandhill, Sligo

Author: Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services Ltd

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 02E1682

2003:1686 - Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill, Sligo

Author: Mary Henry, Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 01E0307 ext.

2013:336 - Knocknarea Cave K, Carrowbunnaun, Sligo

Author: Marion Dowd

Site type: Cave

License number: 13E0427

2016:152 - Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill, Sligo

Author: Angela Wallace, Atlantic Archaeology

Site type: No archaeological significance

License number: 16E0011

2017:000 - Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill, Sligo

Author: Angela Wallace

Site type: None

License number: 16E0666

2023:320 - Carrowbunnaun, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Carrowbunnaun

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 23E0683

Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: Middens

ITM: E 560846m, N 835449m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.266357, -8.601035

The proposed development entails the construction of 50 social housing units, along with associated site roads and all associated site development works at Carrowbunnaun Co. Sligo. The development site is 1.9 hectares in size, therefore it was recommended in the AIA that the proposed development should be subject to further assessment in the form of a programme of archaeological test trenching. Testing took place on 30-31 August & 1 September 2023, during which 18 trenches were mechanically excavated across the site. The subject area had a gently undulating topography, which was very steep in the eastern area of the site. All trenches were excavated to 2m width, and to the underlying natural sandy substrate which, in most of the trenches, comprised a yellowish-orange boulder clay with moderate occurrences of small to medium-sized stones.

Archaeological material in the form of two shell middens was uncovered in Trench 14 & 16. Following the recording of the middens the area was covered in terram, and backfilled. Due to the location of the presence of archaeological material within the proposed development area, it was recommended that the archaeological features should be preserved in situ and a zone of constraint/exclusion should be maintained during any future groundworks in the vicinity of these sites.

5.4 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage produced no results for the area.

5.5 County Development Plan

The Sligo County Development Plan (2017-2023) and the Draft Sligo County Development Plan (2024-2030) was consulted for the townland of Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Co. Sligo. There is no listing in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for the vicinity of the proposed development area.

5.6 Record of Monuments and Places

The following sites and monuments are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places in the vicinity of the subject site.

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM Easting	ITM Northing
SL013-033----	Earthwork	CARROWBUNNAUN	560791	835639
SL013-034001-	Ringfort – rath	CARROWBUNNAUN	561029	835093
SL013-034002-	Souterrain	CARROWBUNNAUN	561029	835095
SL013-109----	Redundant record	CARROWBUNNAUN	560837	835770
SL013-125----	Habitation site	CARROWDOUGH	560788	834862
SL013-123----	Midden	KILLASPUGBRONE	560521	836988
SL013-003----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	KILLASPUGBRONE	561024	836412
SL013-118----	Midden	KILLASPUGBRONE	561100	836607
SL014-027----	Ringfort - rath	KILLASPUGBRONE	561501	836651
SL013-002001-	Church	KILLASPUGBRONE	560772	837284
SL013-002002-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	KILLASPUGBRONE	560772	837284
SL013-002005-	Burials	KILLASPUGBRONE	560766	837342

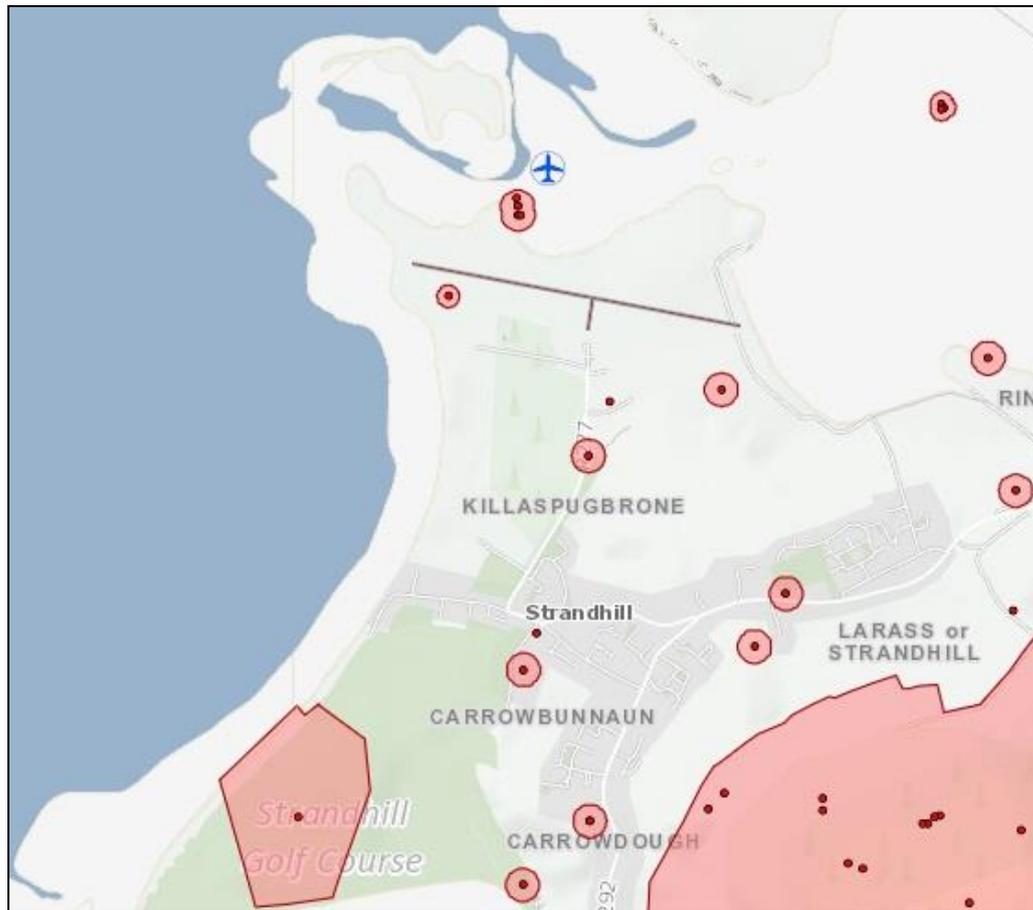


Figure 5: OSI map showing the archaeological sites and monuments in the area.

5.7 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey for the environs of the proposed development area was consulted and produced the following result:

Stone saddle quern (NMI Register no. 2020:36) found in Carrowbunnaun townland.

5.8 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the development area was consulted. The main source was the website www.geohive.ie, Google Earth and the Archaeological Survey of Ireland Historic Environment Viewer which clearly showed an aerial view of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. No features of an archaeological nature were noted in the proposed development area when the aerial imagery was consulted.



Figure 6: Aerial photograph of the Proposed Event Area & the nearby recorded monuments.

5.9 Cartographic Evidence

The following section considers major maps of County Sligo with reference to the townland of Killaspugbrone including the subject site.

5.9.1 Ordnance Survey 1838 edition (6" map)

The proposed development site at Killaspugbrone can be seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Sligo dated to the late 1830's. The site comprises an area of open land which appears to be dunes and marginal land. The church and graveyard to the NW of the airport is indicated on this map. No features of an archaeological nature were noted on this map within the PDA.

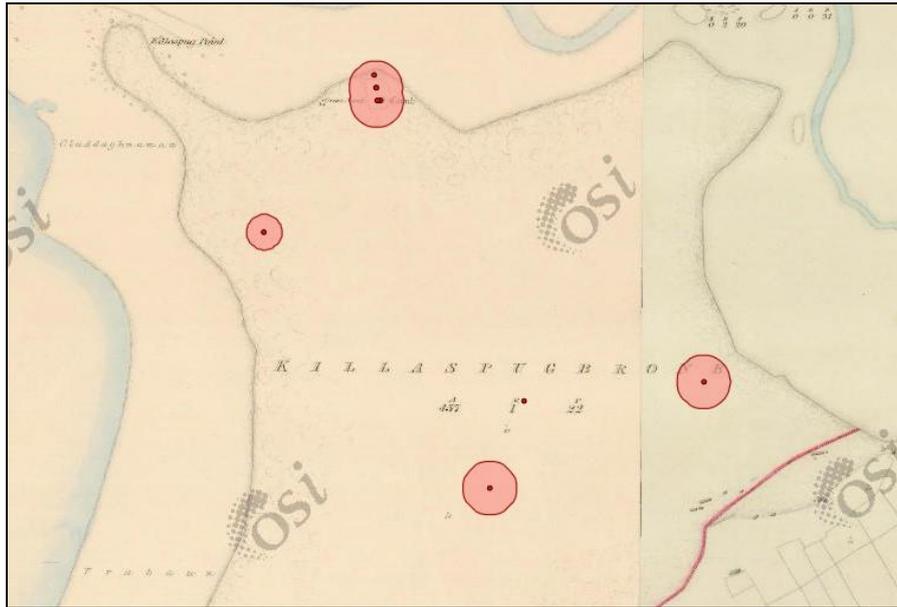


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of the Proposed Development Area.

5.9.2 Ordnance Survey c. 1910 edition (25" map)

The proposed development area can also be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1910. The field systems and boundaries are more defined than they were on the earlier map, and the recorded monuments Court Tomb and Ringfort in vicinity are indicated on this map. No features of an archaeological nature were noted on this map within the proposed development area.

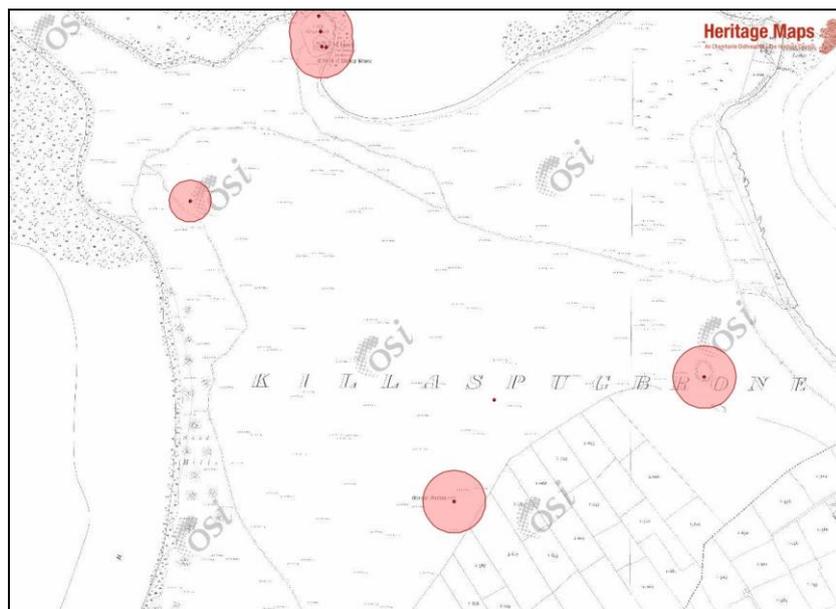


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1910 of the Proposed Development Area.

6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

The site inspection took place on the 5th of June 2024. The site conditions were good during the inspection and all areas were accessible. The site consists of two large, elongated and undulating fields of pasture lands overlooking Sligo Airport to the south. These two fields will be in use as temporary parking, no subsurface works are proposed, and the access and egress will be within existing gravelled track to the north which provides farm access to the fields. The southwestern most area of the western field is within the ZAN of recorded monument SL013-003---- Megalithic tomb – court tomb. The site is divided from the field by a post and wire fence and no access or egress will take place within proximity to this recorded monument.

A walk over was conducted of the airport runway area and the proposed spectator viewing area. The site is covered in low grass covered and the runway will be cordoned off from public access by the erection of temporary fencing which will sit on the surface and no subsurface works are proposed. A visual inspection was conducted of each field, along the runway, along the site boundaries and the access points to the proposed event. No archaeological material was visible during the site inspection of the proposed event area. There will be no impact on any of the recorded monuments by the proposed event at Sligo Airport.



Plate 1: NE facing view of the viewing area south of the airport runway.



Plate 2: West facing view of the viewing area south of the airport runway.



Plate 3: SW facing view of the access to the temporary parking facilities for the event.



Plate 4: SE facing view of the across the eastern field proposed for temporary parking.



Plate 5: SE facing view of the across the western field proposed for temporary parking.



Plate 6: West facing view of the fence dividing the Court Tomb from the western field proposed for temporary parking.



Plate 7: SE facing view of the Court Tomb – the trees in the background are the boundary between the monument and the western field proposed for temporary parking.

7 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed event is located at Killaspugbrone at Sligo Airport in Strandhill Co. Sligo. Sligo Airport Airshow is a 2-day airshow that includes international and national flight display and parachute teams alongside on the ground activities including a funfair, food and craft market. The Air Display will consist of a fully programmed event on Saturday 27th July and Sunday 28th July 2024.

Due to the proximity of the events temporary parking and viewing area to the recorded archaeological sites and monuments in the Killaspugbrone area an archaeological impact assessment was required as a condition of granting planning permission and an event licence for the Sligo Airport Airshow.

A full site inspection was undertaken on the 5th of June 2024. During the site inspection which involve a walkover of the proposed viewing areas, temporary parking and access and egress to the event.

The proposed event is in proximity to several archaeological sites and monuments. The proposed parking area to the south is within the curtilage or ZAN for recorded monument SL013-003---- Megalithic tomb – court tomb. Therefore, it is recommended that under no circumstances is any access or egress permitted within this curtilage and the monument should be temporarily cordoned off for the duration of the event to prevent any pedestrian or vehicular access.

The remainder of the proposed event areas including the viewing areas along the runway, the access and egress for emergency vehicles and all other areas will have no impact on the archaeological sites and monuments recorded in the vicinity. No subsurface works or below ground services or otherwise are proposed and therefore there is no further requirement for archaeological mitigation in relation to the proposed event.

Please note that all recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

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