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Leitrim Co. Co. Pl. 14/23 Bórd Pleanála No. 12.244577

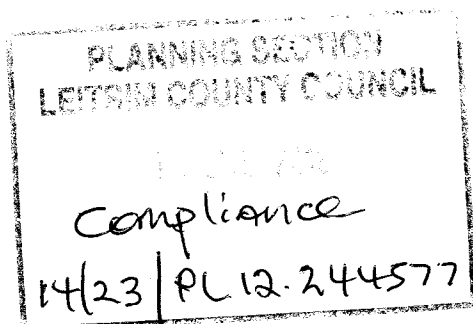
**FINAL REPORT
ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

**KEENAGHAN
Carrick-on-Shannon
Co. Leitrim**

**For
Carrick-on-Shannon Rugby Club
Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim**

ITM: 596000, 800380

Martin A. Timoney, BA, FRSAI, MIAI
Research Archaeologist



Bóthar an Chorainn
Keash
Co. Sligo
071-9183293 & 087-2863301
martintimoney06@eircom.net
8th June, 2016

**FINAL REPORT ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
KEENAGHAN
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The permission is for the construction of a car park, the erection of a small changing facility, erection of lighting poles and of connections to services. There were no archaeological discoveries during the stripping [Photos 19-22] of the surface material off a ridge [Photos 13-16, 18] for a carpark and turning area, nor in the digging of a trench [Photos 24-28] for sewage and water lines, nor in the diggings for ancillary services such as light poles. The work was begun just before Christmas 2015 and completed in January 2016. The photos are numbered from 13 onwards as the original report has photos numbered from 1 to 12.

The construction of the changing rooms which will take place at a later date will not require an archaeological involvement; the location equates with the red container on site [Photos 18-21]. As outlined in my Archaeological Assessment of 8th November, 2015, the top soil had been stripped off in the past by a previous owner [Photos 13, 15, 18] and these works revealed the sub-soil immediately below [Photos 19-22]. This material was undisturbed heavy sticky glacial soil with an inclusion of much stone [Photos 20, 21]. This material is like that exposed during my monitoring of soil stripping for a sewage line some fields to the east in late 2014.

Photos 14 to 16 show the ridge from the pitch, the pitch from the ridge and the steep slope on the east side of the pitch; photo 17 shows the trees growing on the east side of the ringfort, Le.32-11, fifty meters beyond the area requiring ground disturbance. Photo 23 shows the existing parking area between the public road and the pitch.

The development may be completed as granted planning permission without further archaeological involvement.



SUMMARY

There were no archaeological discoveries in relation to this development.

MITIGATION

There are no mitigation requirements in relation to this development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no further requirements in relation to this development. Works may be completed as granted planning permission.

Martin A. Timoney, BA, FRSAI, MIAI

8th June, 2016

APPENDIX

8th November, 2015

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT for KEENAGHAN, For Carrick-on-Shannon Rugby Club Carrick-on-Shannon Co. Leitrim

INTRODUCTION

Carrick-on-Shannon Rugby Club have been developing what was a GAA pitch and before that farmland in five fields [Photos 1 to 9]. The Planning Permission from Leitrim Co. Co., Pl. 14/23, was appealed to An Bórd Pleanála who granted the permission with many conditions; ABP No. 12.244577; archaeology was never raised as an issue by Leitrim Co. Co. The ABP archaeological condition, No. 13, essentially requires an advance assessment monitoring of works and a report on that. Photos and Plan are at the end. Photo 2 is looking across the main pitch.

PERMISSION

The permission is for the construction of a car park, the erection of a small changing facility, erection of lighting poles and of connections to services.

CONTACT

I was asked in early Nov. to be the suitably qualified archaeologist addressing the archaeological condition. I met Mr. Peter Laydon, Hon. Treasurer, on behalf of Carrick-on-Shannon Rugby Club, on site and he expanded on the mappings he had emailed to me and gave me the site history.

SITE

Carrick-on-Shannon Rugby Club's pitch is in Keenaghan townland. It is off a minor road that I monitored the soil stripping of some five to seven fields for a new sewage line at the end of 2014. There were no archaeological discoveries in that soil stripping and as part of that I examined the locations of the few archaeological sites in the vicinity.

There is an access area, 'A' and Photo 11 (background, between pair of blue toilets and the white cabin), leading to a slight ridge, 'R' and Photos 1 to 6 and 8 to 12, on the right and the main pitch, 'P' and Photos 1 to 4, on the left. Beyond this is a training pitch, 'T' and Photos 4 to 6, to the northwest of which, on another property, is a ringfort, 'F' – it is under the trees in Photo 7 and beyond the goal posts in Photo 5. This ringfort, Le.32-11, is fifty meters beyond the area requiring ground disturbance, is another property and will not be affected by it in any way. There is a walkway way on the pitch side of the ridge [Photo 6, 8 and 10] which has been stoned with pea gravel. This ridge is from half a meter to a meter above the level of the pitch (see chairs in Photos 4 and (left) for scale). In the photos the two pitches stand out because of the good green grass cover while the ridge is covered in brown rushes. Service ducting is in place (one service pipe is to be seen in Photo 8).

PREVIOUS WORKS

For the development of the main pitch, which is an exempted development, the ridge had been stripped of topsoil and that was stockpiled, the field for the pitch was likewise stripped and the soil stockpiled. The ridge was further lowered to provide material for bringing up the opposite side which was about two meters lower than the ridge side [Photo 4 in right distance where the natural slope of the Training Pitch can be seen abutting the main Pitch]. The stockpiled topsoil was then spread out for to give the playing surface, and the ridge was left to develop its vegetation which has left many bare patches; rushes abound.

ASSESSMENT

From examination of the site on aerial photos and on the ground and from questioning Mr. Laydon it is clear that the ridge has been dug into, taking away not only the topsoil but also perhaps some of the bottom soil. There are three mounded clearings of the stockpiling on this ridge; they are to be seen in Photos 3, 6 and 8 to 12.

From all this I conclude that all the area to be dug for the development, the car park, changing facility and lighting poles has all been lowered to the extent that there cannot be any surviving archaeology, not that there was any indication from any source of archaeology in the first place.

FURTHER INVOLVEMENT

However the An Bórd Pleanála archaeological condition requires monitoring of works and a report on that. The works will be done soon though the timing is dependent on weather – the soils of this part of Co. Leitrim become very slippery after rain. The works will be monitored. A further report will be issued after completion of the works.

Martin A. Timoney, BA, FRSAI, MIAI

8th November, 2015

CAVEAT

Recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service. If archaeological material is revealed during the development then work in that area must stop and the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland must be informed. Whatever further recommendations they make must be adhered to. The developers should inform the contractors and all their other agents of these conditions and their implications.