

N72 Christ Church Junction, Fermoy Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment report

Rev.1 (update to design drawing)

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For:
Cork County Council (National Roads Office)

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1. Introduction

This report provides a cultural heritage impact assessment of the preliminary designs for the proposed N72 Christ Church Junction (Fermoy Town, north County Cork) Road Safety Improvement Scheme. The works relate to the junction between the N72 national secondary road (Mallow Road/St James Place/Abercromby Place) and the R639 regional road (Oliver Plunkett Hill/Allen’s Walk), south of Christ Church in Fermoy. The works are confined to the townland of Carrignagroghera, north of the River Blackwater, ITM Grid Reference 581088E/598924N. (Figures 1 and 6). The proposed scheme aims to improve safety at the junction by reducing all approaches to single lane approaches and reducing the carriageway widths and pedestrian crossing distances.

2. Proposed development

3.1 Nature of proposed works

Cork County Council requires to provide road safety improvements at N72 Christ Church Junction, Fermoy Cork ((Figures 1 and 6). There is no requirement for land acquisition. The vertical profiles of the existing N72 and R639 are generally being retained, the key changes relating merely to:

- The reduction in carriageway widths
- Corresponding revision of kerb lines.
- Relocation of existing gullies with new connections to the existing surface water drainage system. No new carriageway drainage systems are proposed.
- Incorporation of controlled pedestrian crossing facilities and a raised table across the junction
- Resurfacing the vehicular carriageway

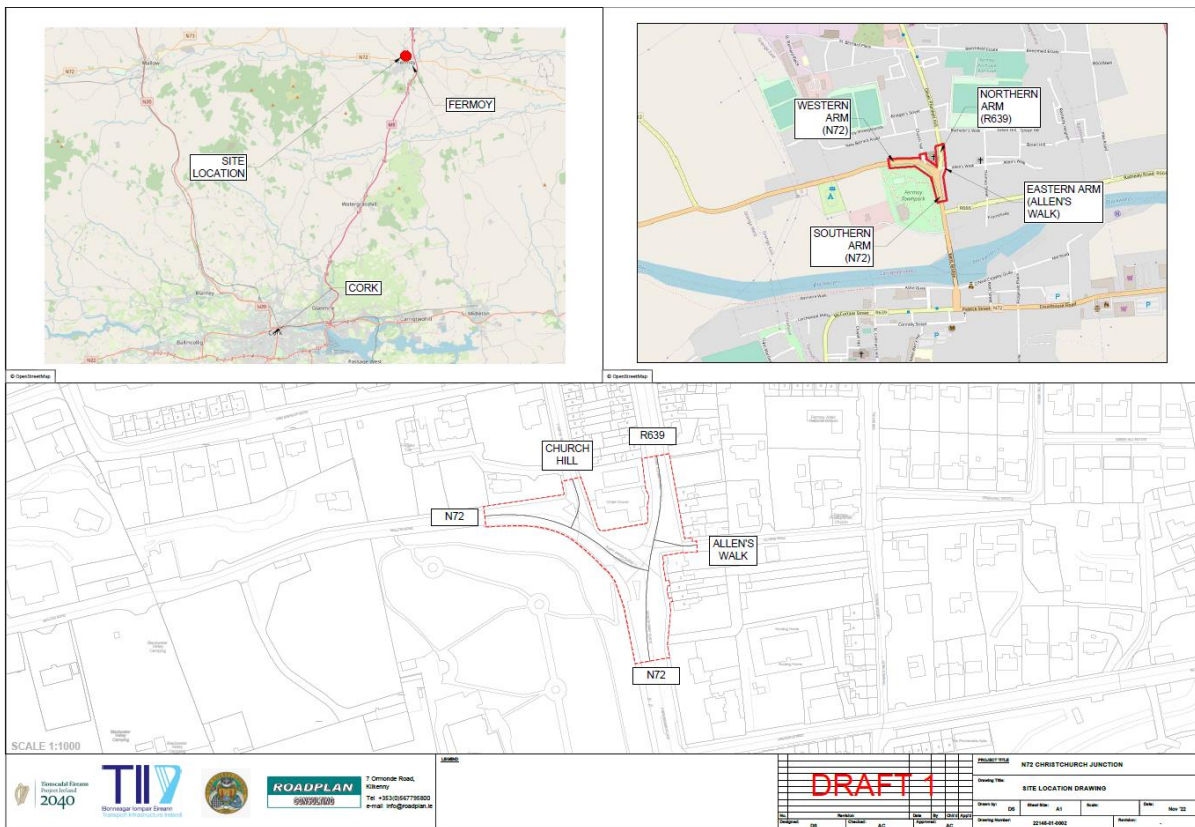


Figure 1—Composite plan showing location of proposed N72 Christ Church Junction works.

3. Cultural heritage within the environs

3.1 Fermoy area and town

The soils around Fermoy are dominated by Acid Brown Earths/Brown Podzolics (Teagasc 1969). These deep, well-drained, fertile soil types are known to have developed from extensive oak forests that developed across the region following the retreat of last ice sheets. Such resource-rich environments soon attracted human settlement along the alluvium-rich river valleys, such as the River Blackwater. All evidence suggests that the region was settled since the early prehistoric period.

The earliest recorded archaeological site from the immediate environs of the proposed works area relates to ringfort enclosure (SMR CO035-074 in the townland of Duntahane, on the south side of the River Blackwater).

The foundation of Fermoy town derives from the Cistercian monastery (SMR CO035-024), that is believed to have been located in the general area between what is now Pearse Square and Abbey Street, south of the Blackwater.



Figure 2—Extract from Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie) showing sites on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR, red dots) and on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH, blue dots) in the environs of N73 Christ Church Junction

While a wooden bridge was built over the River Blackwater in 1626—washed away in 1628, replaced by substantial 13-arch bridge in the 1687, then widened by Anderson in 1799, then replaced by the present bridge in 1865 (Power et al. 2000, 634-5)—it is clear from the cartographic and historical evidence that Fermoy town developed to the south of the river initially and only developed north of the river, to any meaningful degree, in the late 18th/early 19th century, following the Scottish immigrant John Anderson’s purchase of land and his construction of barracks for the military, an event that ignited the subsequent economic prosperity of Fermoy (Dickson 2005, 428).

The branching of the road in the area that now comprising the N72 Christ Church Junction is potentially discernible in Smith’s map of 1750 (Figure 11). If correlated, it would suggest that the junction has been in use ever since. Anderson’s development of a coach route from Cork, via Fermoy, to Dublin that got travellers from Cork to Dublin within 24 hours was regarded as one of his great achievements (Dickson 2005, 431).



Figure 3—Extract from Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie) showing SMR and NIAH sites in the environs of N73 Christ Church Junction

4.2 Designated sites–Archaeological

The proposed works will intersect with the Zone of Notification for two recorded monuments, as follows (Figure 3):

- Christ Church (SMR CO035-021), built in 1802 on a new site . The SMR notes record the following:

CO035-021----

Scope note

Class: Church

Townland: CARRIGNAGROGHERA

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

Description: In Fermoy, in commanding position on N side of Blackwater River. C of I parish church of Fermoy, known as Christ Church. Built in 1802 on new site to the design of A. Hargrave, and consecrated in 1809 (Brunnicardi 1984, 4-6). Built of random-rubble dark stone with lightly coloured stone detail. Wide rectangular nave (long axis E-W) with tower at W end and shallow apse at E end roofed with hipped continuation of main roof. Triple-light round headed E-window of limestone. Large round headed window in side walls of nave have limestone surrounds; at W end of side walls is blind rectangular window-like niche with oval niche overhead, both outlined in light stone; similar features form sides of apse. Tall 2-storey tower at W end topped by spire; original spire removed in 1820s and replace sometime later with the present one. Tall round-headed door in S wall of tower is main entrance. Access to interior not gained. Mortar, or water stoup (H 10in; diam. 11in; D 6in) discovered in nearby garden in early 20th century, now in church; this has four carved faces, one damaged, set between vertical rolls (see Zajac et al. 1995, 38-9, plate 4); described by Day as a 13th/14th century mortar (Abbot 1928, 48); according to local tradition, came from nearby Cistercian abbey (14384). The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 4: North Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2000). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload/revision: 14 January 2009

The proposed works will impact on the streetscape setting only of this structure.

- Fermoy 'Infant School', c. 1836

CO035-102----

Scope note

Class: School

Townland: CARRIGNAGROGHERA

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

Description: Single-storey school in Fermoy; indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as rectangular structure, named 'Infant School'. Entrance front (W) of 4 bays, off-centre porch entrance with limestone plaque reads 'A.D. 1836'; large rectangular window opens with modern frames. Modern addition to

rear. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 4: North Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2000). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload/revision: 14 January 2009

The proposed works will have nil impact on this structure.

4.3 Designated sites—Built Heritage

(a) Architectural Conservation Areas

In terms of built heritage, the proposed works will not directly intersect with any Architectural Conservation Areas associated with the Fermoy Conservation Area but will serve to improve the streetscape are of St. James Place (Figures 4 and 6).



Figure 4—Extract from Cork County Development Plan 2022 mapping of Fermoy Conservation Area (in blue). None are intersected directly by the proposed works. <https://corkcoco.maps.arcgis.com/>

(b) Record of Projected Structures

The proposed works (Figure 6) will impact directly on the following structure listed on the Record of Protected Structures (Figure 5):

- RPS ID 2,246: Structure—Limestone Kerbing. Church Hill.

With respect to RPS ID 2,246 (Limestone Kerbing at Church Hill/St. James Place), a proposed new footpath/public realm intersects with the line of the protected limestone kerbing.

The proposed works will also intersect with the streetscape of the following structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures:

- RPS ID 2231: Structure—Christ Church - Church of Ireland. Church Place.
- RPS ID 2233: Structure—Terraced House. 1 Church Place.
- RPS ID 2234: Structure—Terraced House. 2 Church Place.
- RPS ID 2235: Structure—Virginia House. 7 Church Place.
- RPS ID 2236: Structure—Terraced House. 4 Church Place.
- RPS ID 2241: Structure—1 St James's Place.
- RPS ID 2242: Structure—2 St James's Place.
- RPS ID 2243: Structure—3 St James's Place.
- RPS ID 2244: Structure—4 St James's Place.
- RPS ID 2262: Structure—Boundary Walls/Gates. Fermoy House. Brian Boru Sq.
- RPS ID 2253: Structure—Tudor Revival-Style House. Ambercromby Place.

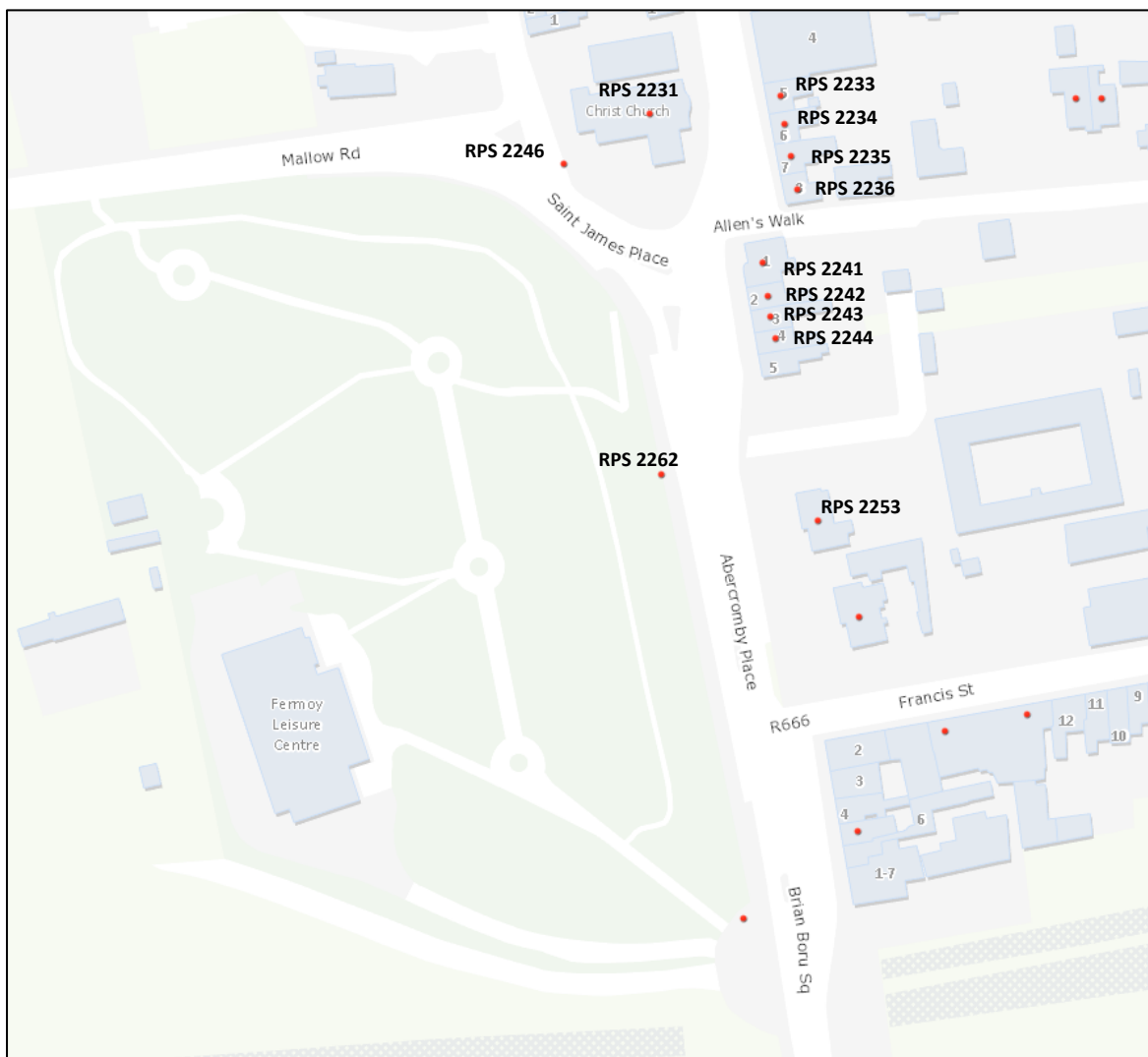


Figure 5—Annotated extract from Cork County Development Plan 2022 mapping of structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures in the vicinity of the proposed works



Plate 1— Christ Church (RPS ID: 2,231) on left of image with 1-4 St. James' Place (RPS IDs: 2241-4) on right. (Google Street View, image capture date August 2022)



Plate 2—Buildings of architectural interest on Church Place

(c) National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The footprint of the proposed works area will intersect with the streetscape of several buildings and other structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). Relevant extracts from the NIAH survey are as follows:

- Christ Church (Fermoy), Church Hill, Oliver Plunkett Hill, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821022):



Plate 3—Christ Church (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821022)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821022

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social

Original Use: Church/chapel

In Use As: Church/chapel

Date: 1800 - 1830

Coordinates: 181127, 98906

Date Recorded: 24/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Freestanding cruciform Church of Ireland church, built 1802, with two-stage entrance tower to west with spire, three-bay nave elevations, bowed chancel to east, transept to south, and two-bay single-storey vestry to north-west. North transept demolished and spire to tower added 1820s to replace original. Pitched slate roofs with carved limestone eaves course to main block, and moulded bracket course and copings with carved kneelers to transept. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Rubble sandstone walls, partly rendered to apse, with moulded limestone string course at impost level and above bottom stage of tower, heavier to transept. Rubble sandstone buttresses to corners of transept, with dressed limestone quoins. Oval recessed panels to tower, east and south elevations, and square-headed panels to south and east elevations, all with moulded limestone surrounds. Round-headed niche to west elevation of nave, with cut sandstone voussoirs, and round-headed recessed panel to west elevation of tower with stepped cut sandstone surround and voussoirs. Cut limestone copings and kneelers, bracket courses, and dressed limestone quoins to vestry. Tower has rubble sandstone walls, with cut sandstone facing to bottom stage and to panelled pilasters to faces of upper part, recessed part of upper stage having corbel table, moulded limestone cornice, and cut limestone spire. Round-headed window openings throughout, grouped in

threes to side elevations of transept with chamfered block-and-start surrounds and stained-glass, triple-light to gable of transept and to former north transept arch, latter set into having rendered walling with round-headed chamfered brick surround. Nave windows are two-light and traceried with carved limestone surrounds and sills and having quarry glazing. Round-headed traceried triple-light window to chancel with surround comprising rendered engaged Ionic columns supported by carved limestone console brackets and having carved limestone archivolt, with stained-glass window. Round-headed recesses to tower, with stepped cut sandstone surrounds and having louvered double lights with oculi over, all lights having chamfered dressed limestone surrounds. Square-headed double-light and single-light round-headed windows to vestry, with chamfered cut limestone surrounds. Oval window to west side of tower, with chamfered sandstone surround and spoked window. Round-headed entrance opening in south side of tower, with chamfered dressed limestone block-and-start surround and voussoirs, set into round-headed recess with sandstone voussoir, with timber battened double-doors with ornate cast-iron hinges, and approached by limestone steps. Church retains internal features, such as braced timber kingpost ceiling timber gallery supported on timber Ionic columns, carved marble Corinthian engaged columns and pilasters to elliptical-headed east window, ornate marble sprocketed reredos, ornate marble pulpit, stained-glass windows, memorial tablets and brass plaques and font incorporating bowl dating from thirteenth century. Round-headed niches flanking altar area. Sited back from the street with lawn bounded by cast-iron railings set in dressed limestone plinth, with square-profile dressed limestone piers and cast-iron gates.

Appraisal

The design of this large-scale church, by one of Cork's distinguished architects, Abraham Hargrave the Elder, was to accommodate not only the parishioners but also the large number of military at the nearby barracks. A distinct feature is the very tall entrance, made to admit, without dipping, the colours carried on military church parades. Another unusual feature is the placing of the entrance on the south side of the tower as opposed to the west. The remaining transept to the south was one of two added to accommodate the growing congregation, that to the north and the original spire having been removed at a later date. The cost of the church's construction was borne by Sir John Anderson, founder of Fermoy, and John Hyde, who built the nearby Castle Hyde estate and its site was given by the Baylor Family. Prominently sited on a hill to the north of Fermoy Bridge, this church is a very notable feature in the townscape. Its façade is given decorative emphasis by the numerous carved stone dressings as well as the variety of window openings. The use of cut sandstone and carved limestone adds textural and chromatic variety to the site. Many interior features are also retained, the finely carved altar piece and pulpit being the most interesting, but also the timber gallery and the stained-glass windows, all giving considerable artistic interest to the building. The bowl of the font to the interior is a survival from the now destroyed thirteenth-century abbey of Fermoy and it, together with the memorial tablets, adds context to the site.

- Virginia House, 7 Church Place, Oliver Plunkett Hill, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821026)



Plate 4— Virginia House, 7 Church Place (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821026)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821026

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Social

Original Use: House

In Use As: Guest house/b&b

Date: 1800 - 1840

Coordinates: 181174, 98895 (Irish Grid)

Date Recorded: 21/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Terraced four-bay three-storey house, built c. 1820, now also in use as guesthouse. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks, and cut limestone ridge tiles. Rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows, and cut limestone sills. Round-headed doorway with timber panelled door, dressed limestone surround incorporating plinth blocks and cornice. Fanlight above and cast-iron boot scrape to limestone threshold. Site bounded by cut limestone plinth wall.

Appraisal

This substantial house occupies a prominent site, on a hill and opposite the Church of Ireland church. It is a notable and pleasing feature on the streetscape. The diminishing windows and shallow reveals are a characteristic feature of townhouses of its type and era. It retains its fine door surround and timber sash windows, which are probably replacements of the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

- Adair National School, Oliver Plunkett Hill, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821023):



Plate 5— Adair National School (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821023):

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821023

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Social

Previous Name: Fermoy Infant School

Original Use: School

Date: 1835 - 1840

Coordinates: 181184, 98952 (Irish Grid)

Date Recorded: 24/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Detached four-bay single-storey former national school, dated 1836, with projecting gabled porch to front elevation and uncompleted extension to rear. Now disused. Pitched slate roofs with dressed limestone chimneystacks, clay ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods. Timber bargeboards to gable of porch. Rendered walls, with carved limestone date plaque to front elevation. Square-headed openings with cut limestone sills and fixed timber windows with overlights. Recent openings to south gable. Square-headed opening to porch with timber battened double-doors. Sited back from street with rubble stone boundary walls having two pedestrian entrances with cast-iron gates. Former teacher's house to site.

Appraisal

The size and single-storey form of this structure are typical of the national schools of its era in Ireland. The entrance porch and rectangular form are also characteristic of these buildings. The date plaque and double pedestrian entrances, the latter probably used as separate entrances for the boys and girls, all add context to the building which retains much of its original fabric, including the slate roof, dressed limestone chimneystacks and date plaque.

- 1 Saint James's Place, Allen's Walk, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821032):



Plate 6—1 Saint James's Place (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821032)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821032

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Artistic

Original Use: House

In Use As: Office

Date: 1820 - 1860

Coordinates: 181164, 98864

Date Recorded: 16/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Corner-sited end-of-terrace three-bay three-storey over half-basement house, built c. 1840, as a terrace with the adjoining houses. Now also in use as offices. North end bay recessed although projecting to rear elevation, and middle bay has rounded corner. Two-bay two-storey return to rear. Hipped slate roofs with rendered chimneystacks. Red brick parapet having dressed limestone coping. Flemish bond red brick walls with dressed limestone quoins. Rendered walls to basement and to other elevations. Square-headed window openings with render reveals, cut limestone sills, and six-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows, having brick voussoirs to front elevation. Segmental-arched door opening with brick voussoirs and limestone step. Timber panelled door set into timber doorcase comprising carved fluted engaged columns and architrave, with stained-glass sidelights having panelled risers, and fanlight. Set back from street with cast-iron railings having rendered plinth with cut limestone coping and cast-iron gate.

Appraisal

This house forms part of a very fine and intact terrace, which occupies a prominent site on a hill and opposite the Church of Ireland church. The

building is an important element of the terrace, terminating its north end. Its form is in keeping with the regularity and proportions of the other structures, but is differentiated by the recessed bay and the rounded corner, which add extra interest to the façade and point to the style of a country house. The largely intact structure shows evidence of fine crafting and materials. It maintains notable elements such as the timber sash windows, deep chimneystacks, limestone quoins and cast-iron railings.

- 2 Saint James's Place, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: Reg No: 20821033):



Plate 7—2 Saint James's Place (NIAH Reg. No.: Reg No: 20821033)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821033
Rating: Regional
Categories of Special Interest: Architectural
Original Use: House
Date: 1820 - 1860
Coordinates: 181166, 98854 (Irish Grid)
Date Recorded: 16/08/2006
Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Terraced two-bay three-storey over half-basement house, built c. 1840, as terrace with adjoining houses. Now disused. Hipped slate roof with rendered chimneystack and red brick parapet having dressed limestone coping. Flemish bond red brick walls with rendered walls to basement and rear elevation.

Square-headed window openings with cut limestone sills, front elevation having one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows, and rear having six-over-six panes. Round-headed door opening with red brick voussoirs, carved stone roll moulded surround, timber architrave, timber fill to fanlight, and timber panelled door. Cut limestone steps to threshold. Site bounded by cast-iron railings on rendered plinth.

Appraisal

This substantial house comprises part of a notable and largely intact early nineteenth-century and prominently-sited terrace. The elegant proportions and tall openings are typical of town houses of this period. It retains timber sash windows, probably replacements from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The round-headed doorcase is also characteristic of the house's period and style and, along with the cast-iron railing surround, providing a focal point for the façade.

- 3 Saint James's Place, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821034):



Plate 8—3 Saint James's Place (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821034)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821034

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural

Original Use: House

In Use As: House

Date: 1820 - 1860

Coordinates: 181169, 98849

Date Recorded: 16/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Terraced two-bay three-storey over half-basement house, built c. 1840, as part of terrace. Hipped roof with rendered chimneystack and red brick parapet having limestone coping. Flemish bond red brick walls, with rendered walls to basement. Square-headed openings with cut limestone sills, brick voussoirs, and replacement uPVC windows, those to first floor having cast-iron balconies. Round-headed opening with brick voussoirs, timber panelled door having carved timber roll moulded architrave, spoked fanlight, and carved limestone plinth blocks. Flagstones to threshold. Site bounded by cast-iron railings with rendered plinth having cut limestone coping and cast-iron gate.

Appraisal

This substantial house comprises part of a notable and largely intact early nineteenth-century and prominently-sited terrace. The elegant proportions and tall openings are typical of town houses of this period. The round-headed doorcase is also characteristic of provincial houses of this period and style and, along with the cast-iron railing surround, provides a focal point for the façade. The cast-iron balconies add interest to the façade and differentiate it from the surrounding buildings.

- 4 Saint James's Place, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821035):



Plate 9—4 Saint James's Place (NIAH Reg. No.: 20821035)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821035

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Artistic

Original Use: House

In Use As: Surgery/clinic

Date: 1820 - 1860
Coordinates: 181168, 98842 (Irish Grid)
Date Recorded: 16/08/2006
Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Terraced two-bay three-storey over half-basement house, built c. 1840, as part of terrace. Now also in use as doctor's surgery. Hipped roof with rendered chimneystack and red brick parapet wall having dressed limestone coping. Flemish bond red brick walls, with rendered walls to basement. Square-headed openings with render reveals, cut limestone sills, red brick voussoirs, and six-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows, basement windows being four-over-eight pane. Round-headed door opening, with red brick voussoirs, and carved limestone roll moulded surround, timber doorcase incorporating architrave and cornice supported by decorative consoles, and timber panelled door with spoked fanlight. Approached by flight of cut limestone steps with cast-iron bootscrape. Site bounded by cast-iron railings with rendered plinth having dressed limestone coping.

Appraisal

This substantial house comprises part of a notable and largely intact early nineteenth-century prominently-sited terrace. The elegant proportions and tall openings are typical of town houses of this period. It retains its six-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows and their limestone sills add variety of materials and texture to the façade. The finely made round-headed doorcase is characteristic of the house's period and style and, along with the cast-iron railing surround, provides a focal point for the façade.

- Fermoy House, Brian Boru Square, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK:



Plate 10— Fermoy House railings (NIAH Reg No: 20821053). No image in NIAH online files. Image above from Google Maps Street View (Image date July 2022) .

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821053
Rating: Regional
Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Artistic, Historical
Original Use: Gates/railings/walls
In Use As: Gates/railings/walls
Date: 1810 - 1830

Coordinates:181142, 98744 (Irish Grid)

Date Recorded: 24/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Boundary walls and entrance gates, built c. 1820, and marking perimeter of now demolished Fermoy House and forming boundary to public park. Rubble limestone plinth walls with dressed limestone coping and cast-iron spearhead railings. Cast-iron lamp standards mounted at intervals on square-profile dressed limestone piers with plinths and caps. Quadrant entrance to avenue having ten square-profile piers to three vehicular gateways, one gateway being flanked by pedestrian entrances. Piers are of rusticated ashlar limestone, with moulded caps and plinths, and having cast-iron gates, with decorative cast-iron railings between gateways.

Appraisal

These walls once formed the boundary to the demesne of Fermoy House. John Anderson, the founder of Fermoy town, built and lived in this house in the early nineteenth century. The walls and piers are a reminder of Fermoy's foundations and history and enhance their prominent site, near the river and surrounding the large park. The piers are well executed and show evidence of fine stone crafting. Their simple design offsets the decoration provided by the cast-iron railings and gates.

- Oliver Plunkett Hill, CARRIGNAGROGHERA, Fermoy, CORK



Plate 11—Oliver Plunkett Hill (NIAH Reg No: 20821015)

Survey Data

Reg No: 20821015

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Social, Technical

Original Use: Cobbles/flags/paving/kerbing

In Use As: Cobbles/flags/paving/kerbing

Date: 1845 - 1855

Coordinates: 181125, 99033 (Irish Grid)

Date Recorded: 24/08/2006

Date Updated: --/--/--

Description

Rubble limestone wall, built c. 1850, to each side of Oliver Plunkett Hill and side streets, and retaining higher footpath level. Surmounted by cast-iron railings and having dressed and tooled limestone coping to some sections. Rendered to some sections and having cut limestone steps.

Appraisal

Constructed during the Great Famine, these walls were built as a relief scheme to provide employment. Their regular and flush elevations enhance and add continuity to the terraced streetscape, and their survival and intact condition are a testament to the fine stone craft involved in its construction. This also shows in the tooled coping and cut limestone steps. Similar schemes were undertaken at Richmond Hill and Ardán Chnuic Mhic Dhonnchadha. They are notable features in the Fermoy townscape.

4.4 Non-designated sites

In the area of what is now Abercromby Place, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey six-inch mapping appears to indicate the former presence of an on-street well. For the purpose of this report, this location has been designated as Site of Potential No. 1 (Figure 14). With respect to the proposed works area, the cartographic evidence suggests the site is located in the immediate environs of the southern tie-in to the existing road (compare to Figure 6).

4.5 Historic landscape characterisation

The proposed work areas are confined to the existing urban streetscape, between the N72 national secondary road (Mallow Road/St James Place/Abercromby Place) and the R639 regional road (Oliver Plunkett Hill/Allen's Walk), south of Christchurch in Fermoy. This part of Fermoy town is of comparatively modern construction, mostly constructed after the late 18th/early 19th century, however the routeway leading north from the strategic Fermoy Bridge was likely in use since the 17th century. North from Fermoy Bridge, the branching road—at what is now Christ Church junction—is implied on Smith's map of 1750 (Figure 11).

4.6 Placenames

The proposed works will pass through just a single townland, that of Carrignagroghera, associated with Fermoy town. The name 'Fermoy' applies to a town, a civil parish, a townland and a barony. Place names can often provide evidence for historical associations. The principal place names traversed by the proposed works are as follows in Table 1:

Table 1- Placename evidence for places traversed by the proposed works

| Placename | Meaning | Origins |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Carrignagroghera | Possibly 'Rock of the hangmen' | Earliest recorded use of placename: 1591 ('Carriginchroughere', ref. https://www.logainm.ie/10130.aspx) |

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Fermoy | <i>Fhear Mai</i> 'Men of the plain' | Earliest recorded use of placename: 640 ('Fernmuighe', ref. https://www.logainm.ie/10133.aspx) |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|

4.7 Previous archaeological investigations

The Archaeological Excavations Database (www.excavations.ie) was reviewed to identify the results of archaeological testing and excavations in the vicinity of the proposed pavement strengthening works, as follows:

Fermoy:

In 2007, archaeological monitoring was undertaken in areas of archaeological potential within the town of Fermoy during the excavation of service trenches for broadband cable. These trenches were excavated through the modern roadway and in areas previously disturbed by modern service trenches. No archaeological finds or features were encountered. (Lalonde 2007)).

In 2009, archaeological monitoring of topsoil-stripping of large trench-like areas was undertaken to accommodate the construction of flood protection walls and embankments close to the north bank of the River Blackwater. Trenching was undertaken along some streets/roadway to facilitate the laying of storm pipes. One such trench (Trench 10) was located between the south end of St James' Place and the north corner of Francis' Street. Extended along the roadway approaching the north side of Fermoy Bridge was a section of a rough cobbled surface, 0.12m thick, exposed 1.3m below the present road surface and directly overlaid the natural deposition. This feature was sealed by a thick layer of colluvium and may be the remains of the earliest road surface c. 1718. (Henry 2009).

4.8 Cartographic evidence

Pre-18th century mapping for the Fermoy area provide little specific detail on Fermoy. Fermoy town does not appear on any of the mid-17th century Down Survey mapping (Figures 8 and 9), and no crossing of the River Blackwater is indicated in the area of what is now Fermoy town—this coincides with the original wooded bridge of 1626 having been washed away in 1628 and not replaced until replaced (with a stone bridge) in 1687 (Power et al. 2000, 634-5).

By the time of Smith's map of 1750 (Figure 11), the southern side of the River Blackwater had been developed, with no development depicted on the north bank of the river. A similar situation is depicted on the Taylor and Skinner map of 1783 (Figure 12). Despite Smith's map of 1750 suffering from deficiencies in survey precision, a road junction depicted on the north side of the River Blackwater may well correspond to the area of the present day N72 Christ Church Junction. Indeed, archaeological investigations (Henry 2009) along the road leading north from the bridge towards Christ Church junction did reveal an earlier road surface (potentially dating to 1718) located c.1.3m below the present road surface.

It is not until the Grand Jury map of 1811 (Figure 13), that urban development is cartographically depicted on the north bank of the river. At this point Christ Church and the two military barracks, constructed by Anderson, are depicted.

By the time the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch mapping (c. 1840, Figure 14), the northern part of Fermoy town is well developed. The Christ Church junction, between what is now the N72 national secondary road and the R639 regional road, is in place and, based on subsequent Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping (Figures 15 and 16), remained so up to the present time.

Features of note from the historical mapping: The proposed works are confined to the existing N72 and R639 thoroughfares. The cartographic evidence indicates little by way of archaeological significance within the footprint of the proposed. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping does, however, depict a potential on-street well. For the purpose of this assessment, this feature has been designated as Site of Potential No. 1 (Figure 14). The location of the former well would appear to be in the area of the tie-in with the existing road surface.

4. Cultural Heritage Protection

5.1 Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 Objectives

This Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment report takes cognisance of the objectives listed Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 and, as relevant, makes recommendations aimed to ensure adherence to same. The development plan sets out some key objectives for the protection of cultural heritage within the county. These include, *inter alia*:

HE 16-2: Protection of Archaeological Sites and Monuments

Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments and their setting included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see www.archaeology.ie) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally.

In securing such preservation, the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as outlined in the Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage policy document or any changes to the policy within the lifetime of the Plan.

HE 16-4: Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns and Settlements

Proposed development works in Historic Towns and settlements, Zones of Archaeological Potential, Zones of Notification and the general historic environs in proximity to the zones, should take cognisance of the impact potential of the works, and all appropriate archaeological assessments employed to identify and mitigate the potential impacts.

HE 16-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential

Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located within historic towns, urban areas and around archaeological monuments generally. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the upstanding and potential for subsurface archaeology, through appropriate archaeological assessment.

HE 16-6: Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology

Protect and preserve industrial and post-medieval archaeology and long-term management of heritage features such as mills, limekilns, forges, bridges, piers and harbours, water-related engineering works and buildings, penal chapels, dwellings, walls and boundaries, farm buildings, estate features, military and coastal installations. There is a general presumption for retention of these structures and features. Proposals for appropriate redevelopment including conversion should be subject to an appropriate assessment and record by a suitably qualified specialist/s.

HE 16-7: Battlefield, Ambush and Siege Sites and Defensive Archaeology

Protect and preserve the defensive archaeological record of County Cork including strategic battlefield, ambush and siege sites, and coastal fortifications and their associated landscape due to their historical and cultural value. Any development within or adjoining these areas shall undertake a historic assessment by a suitably qualified specialist to ensure development does not negatively impact on this historic landscape.

HE 16-8: Burial Places

Protect all historical burial places and their setting in County Cork and encourage their maintenance and care in accordance with appropriate conservation principles.

HE 16-9: Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes

All large scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5 ha or more in area or 1km or more in length) and Infrastructure schemes and proposed roadworks are subjected to an archaeological assessment as part of the planning application process which should comply with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's codes of practice. It is recommended that the assessment is carried out following pre planning consultation with the County Archaeologist, by an appropriately experienced archaeologist to guide the design and layout of the proposed scheme/development, safeguarding the archaeological heritage in line with Development Management Guidelines.

HE 16-10: Management of Monuments within Development Sites

Where archaeological sites are accommodated within a development it shall be appropriately conservation/protection with provision for a suitable buffer zone and long-term management plan put in place all to be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist

HE 16-11: Archaeological Landscapes

To protect archaeological landscapes and their setting where the number and extent of archaeological monuments are significant and as a collective are considered an important archaeological landscape of heritage value.

HE 16-13: Undiscovered Archaeological Sites

To protect and preserve previously unrecorded archaeological sites within County Cork as part of any development proposals. The Council will require preservation in situ to protect archaeological monuments discovered. Preservation by record will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

HE 16-14: Record of Protected Structures

- d) Ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) contained in the Record of Protected Structures.
- e) Protect the curtilage and attendant grounds of all structures included in the Record of Protected Structures
- f) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.
- g) Ensure high quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.
- h) Promote and ensure best conservation practice through the use of specialist conservation professionals and craft persons.

HE 16-15: Protection of Structures on the NIAH

Protect where possible all structures which are included in the NIAH for County Cork, that are not currently included in the Record of Protected Structures, from adverse impacts as part of the development management functions of the County

HE 16-16: Protection of Non- Structural Elements of Built Heritage

Protect non-structural elements of the built heritage. These can include designed gardens/garden features, masonry walls, railings, follies, gates, bridges, shopfronts and street furniture. The Council will promote awareness and best practice in relation to these elements.

HE 16-18: Architectural Conservation Areas

Conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas included in this Plan. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock, material finishes, spaces, streetscape, shopfronts, landscape and setting.

HE 16-23: Cultural Heritage

Protect and promote the cultural heritage of County Cork as an important economic asset and for its intrinsic value to identity of place and the well being of people within the County

5. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

In terms of potential impact on Cultural Heritage, the preliminary design indicates that the vertical profiles of the existing N72 and R639 are generally being retained. No new carriageway drainage systems are proposed. Carriageway widths are to be reduced, requiring a corresponding revision of kerb lines.

5.1 Items/Areas of interest with nil meaningful impact anticipated:

- RMPS/SMR sites: The proposed works will intersect with the Zone of Notification for two recorded monuments—Christ Church SMR CO035-021 (built 1802) and Fermoy ‘Infant School’ SMR CO035-102 (built c. 1836)—but nil meaningful impact on either monument, or any associated features, is anticipated.

- Architectural Conservation Areas: The proposed works will not directly intersect with any Architectural Conservation Areas. Indeed, the improvements to the junction are expected to enhance the safety, aesthetics and public realm at the junction and add to the aesthetics of adjacent the Architectural Conservation Areas associated with Fermoy town.
- Record of Protected Structures: The proposed works will intersect with the streetscape of the following structures listed on the record of protected structures, however nil associated features are deemed likely to be directly impacted:
 - RPS ID 2,231: Structure—Christ Church - Church of Ireland. Church Place.
 - RPS ID 2,233: Structure—Terraced House. 1 Church Place.
 - RPS ID 2,234: Structure—Terraced House. 2 Church Place.
 - RPS ID 2,235: Structure—Virginia House. 7 Church Place.
 - RPS ID 2,236: Structure—Terraced House. 4 Church Place.
 - RPS ID 2,241: Structure—1 St James's Place.
 - RPS ID 2,242: Structure—2 St James's Place.
 - RPS ID 2,243: Structure—3 St James's Place.
 - RPS ID 2,244: Structure—4 St James's Place.
 - RPS ID 2,262: Structure—Boundary Walls & Gates. Fermoy House. Brian Boru Square.
 - RPS ID 2,253: Structure—Tudor Revival-Style House. Ambercromby Place.

The improvements to the junction are expected to enhance the safety, aesthetics and public realm at the junction.

- Potential early 18th century road surface: the rough cobbled surface identified by previous archaeological investigations (Henry 2009) c. 1.3 m below the present road surface, and directly overlying natural subsoils, which is considered of potential 1718 date, appears unlikely to be impacted by the propose works given the vertical profiles of the existing N72 and R639 are generally being retained.

5.2 Items/Areas of interest with potential impact anticipated:

- Record of Protected Structures: The proposed works will impact directly a structure (RPS ID 2246: Limestone Kerbing. Church Hill/St. James Place) listed on the Record of Protected Structures. A proposed new footpath/public realm will intersect with the line of the protected limestone kerbing.
- Site of Potential No. 1 (former on-street well): The exact location of the former well could not be ascertained, however, based on its depiction on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, it was located in the area of the proposed works (southern) tie-in with the streetscape.

6. Mitigation measures for consideration

As the proposed work area is, based on the preliminary design, confined to existing N72 national road and R639 regional road, and as the vertical profiles of the existing N72 and R639 are generally being retained, with no new carriageway drainage systems proposed, the works are considered to pose relatively limited risk to Cultural Heritage in the area.

In consideration of on-going design, measures are to be put in place to:

- Safeguard the Limestone Kerbing at Church Hill/St. James Place, which is listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS ID 2246). The current design proposes new footpath/public realm that will intersect with the line of the protected limestone kerbing.
- Safeguard Site of Potential No. 1 (former on-street well, Figure 14) .
- Safeguard other identified structures in Record of Protected Structures, including their curtilages and attendant grounds.
- Safeguard Christ Church (SMR CO035-021) and any associated features.
- Safeguard all structures which are included in the NIAH for County Cork, that are not currently included in the Record of Protected Structures.

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8. Other figures and plates

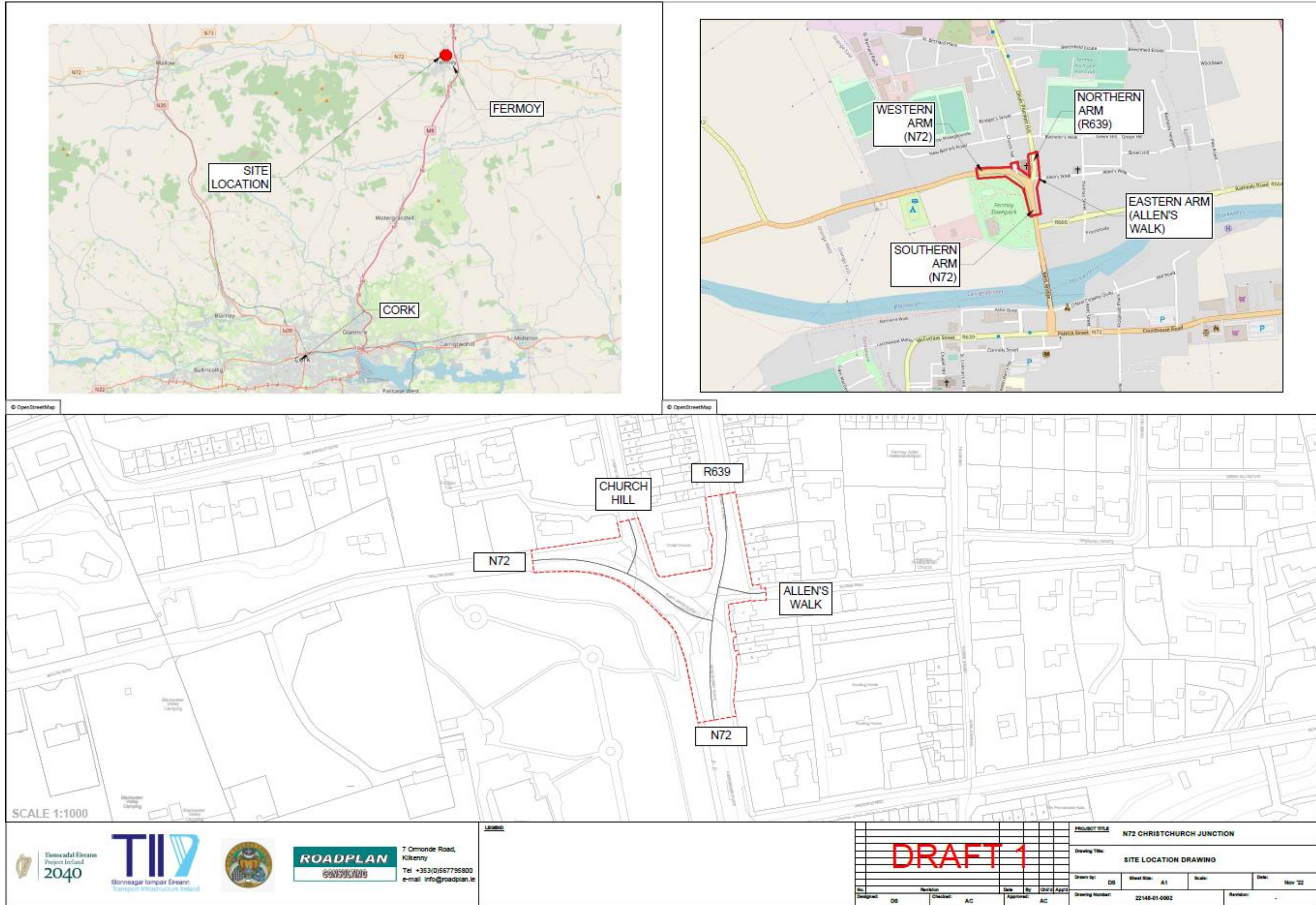


Figure 6—Composite plan showing location of proposed N72 Christ Church Junction works.

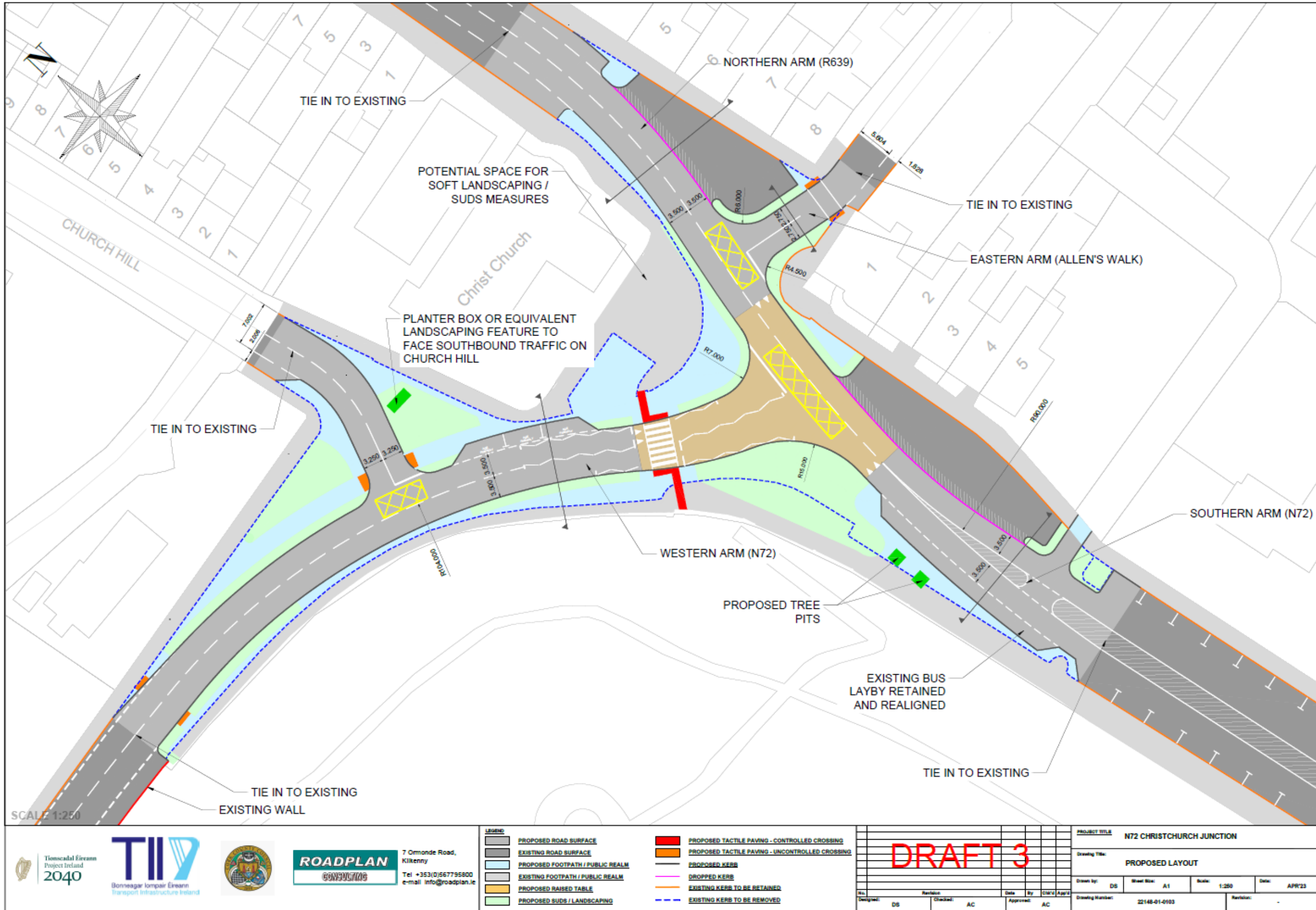


Figure 7—N72 Christ Church Junction preliminary design drawing (Draft 3).

Figure 8— Fermoy area, extracted from William Petty's General Map of Ireland (from Down Survey, 1656-8)



Figure 9—Down Survey mapping (county scale, 1656-8) showing Fermoy area



Figure 10—Down Survey mapping (parish scale, 1656-8) showing Fermoy area

No mapping available



Figure 11—Extract from Smith's 1750 map of County Cork, depicting Fermoy town



Figure 12—Taylor and Skinner map of Fermoy area (1783, p122) (map orientation: north is to the bottom right)



Figure 13—Grand Jury map of Fermoy area (1811) (<https://doi.org/10.48495/hq37vq12p>)

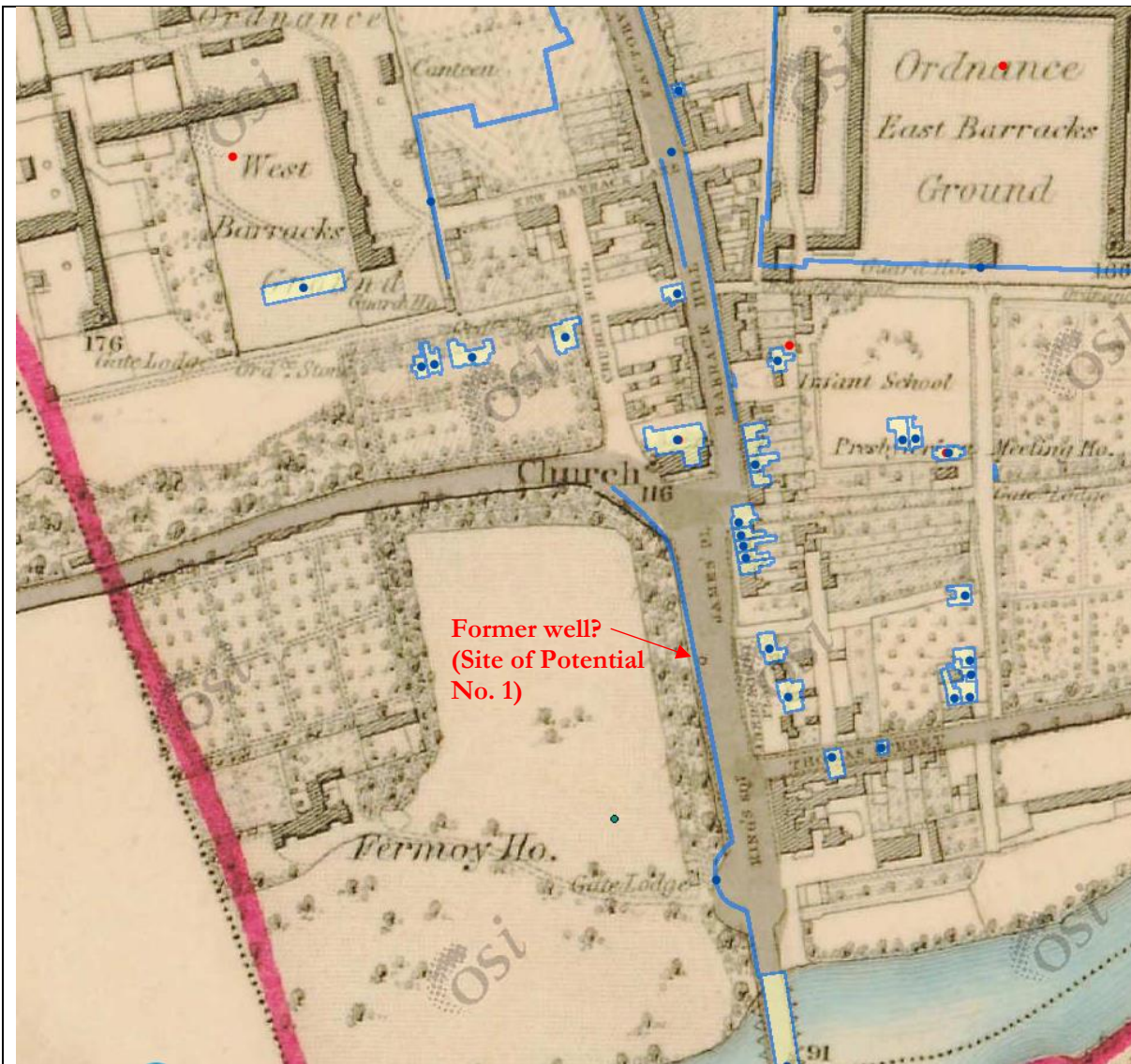


Figure 14—Extract from Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie) showing 1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey mapping.

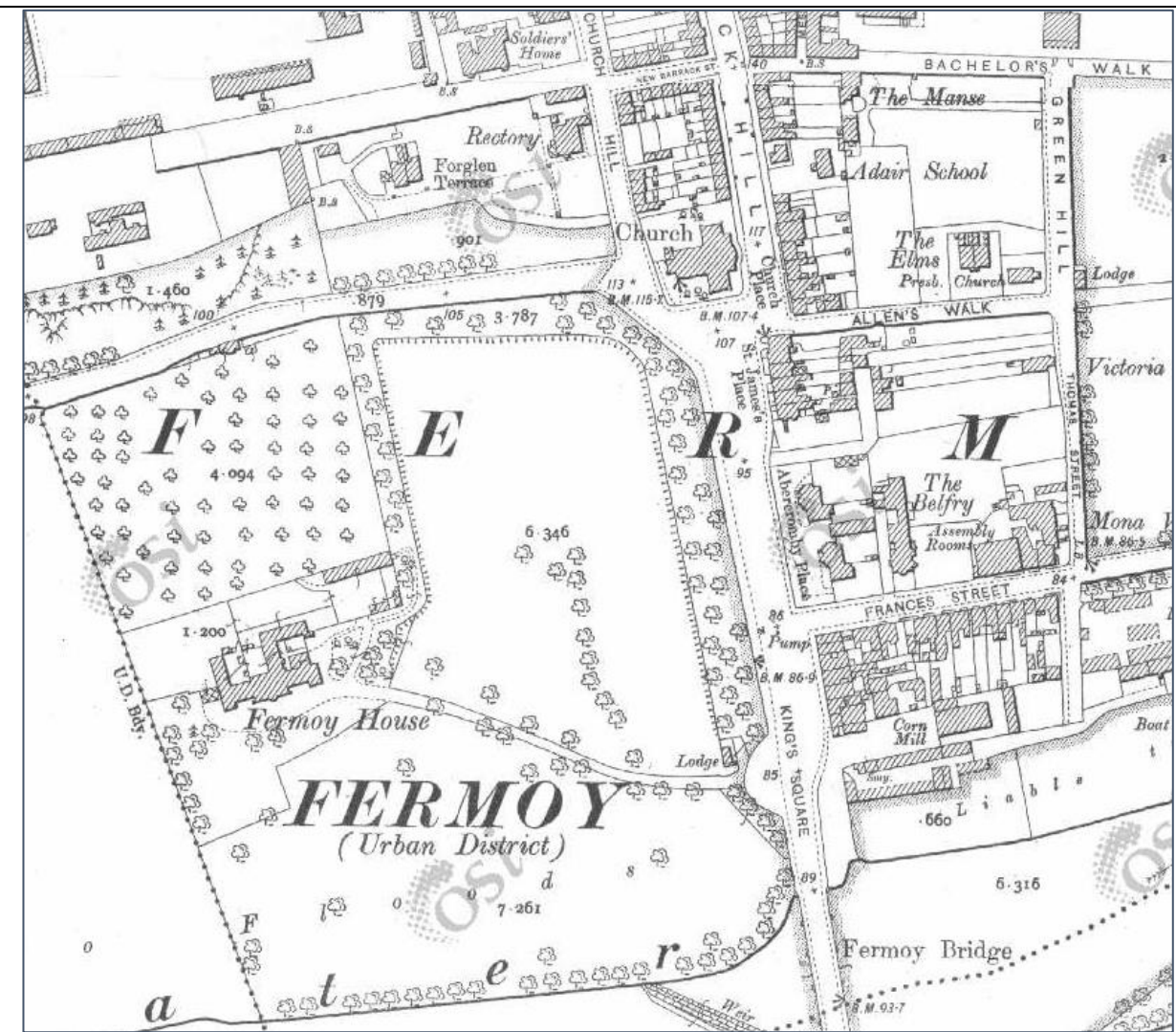


Figure 15—Extract from Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie) showing historic (c. 1900) 25-inch Ordnance Survey mapping.



Plate 12— View looking south along southern end of Oliver Plunkett Hill (formerly Barrack Hill). (Google Maps Street View, image date July 2022)



Plate 13— View looking south at approach to Christ Church Junction at southern end of Oliver Plunkett Hill (Google Maps Street View, image date July 2022)



Plate 14— Looking south across Christ Church Junction from southern end of Oliver Plunkett Hill (Google Maps Street View, image date July 2022)



Plate 15— View looking east along N72 road towards Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date August 2022)



Plate 16— View looking east along N72 road towards Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date August 2022)



Plate 17— Eastwards approach to Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date August 2022)



Plate 18— View looking south at southern end of Church Hill towards Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date September 2019)



Plate 19— View looking east from N72 across Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date September 2019)



Plate 20— View north towards Christ Church Junction (Google Maps Street View, image date July 2022)



Plate 21— View of N72 Christ Church Junction looking north (Google Maps Street View, image date August 2022)