

**An Archaeological Impact Statement
Ross Road to Muckross Cycle Way,
Scrahane, Killarney, Co. Kerry**



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1. Scope of Study

This report assesses the impact on the potential archaeological environment of a proposed cycle way in the townland of Scrahane, Killarney between the Ross Road and the Muckcross Road

This report details the archaeological potential of the route and suggests suitable mitigation in respect of the potential identified., as well as a comprehensive historical background to the site, in order to consider it in its proper archaeological context.

No intrusive archaeological investigations (test trenching or excavation), have been undertaken at this stage. Suggested further archaeological investigation (if appropriate) is stated at end of the report.

2. Method of Study

The following resources and methods of establishing the archaeological status of the site of the proposed development were used:

- The Record of Monuments and Places constraint maps were consulted;
- The Sites & Monuments Record was inspected
- All available cartographic sources were consulted;
- A wide range of historical and archaeological records relevant to the study area were consulted
- Available Aerial Photography was consulted

3. The Existing Environment

3.1 The Site at Present

The proposed cycle way in Scrahane townland will link the Ross Road and the Muckcross Road, Killarney. The route runs adjacent to an existing road serving a number of housing estates for c.450m and then turns east to run through a green field area along the north bank of the Flesk River for a further c.400m.

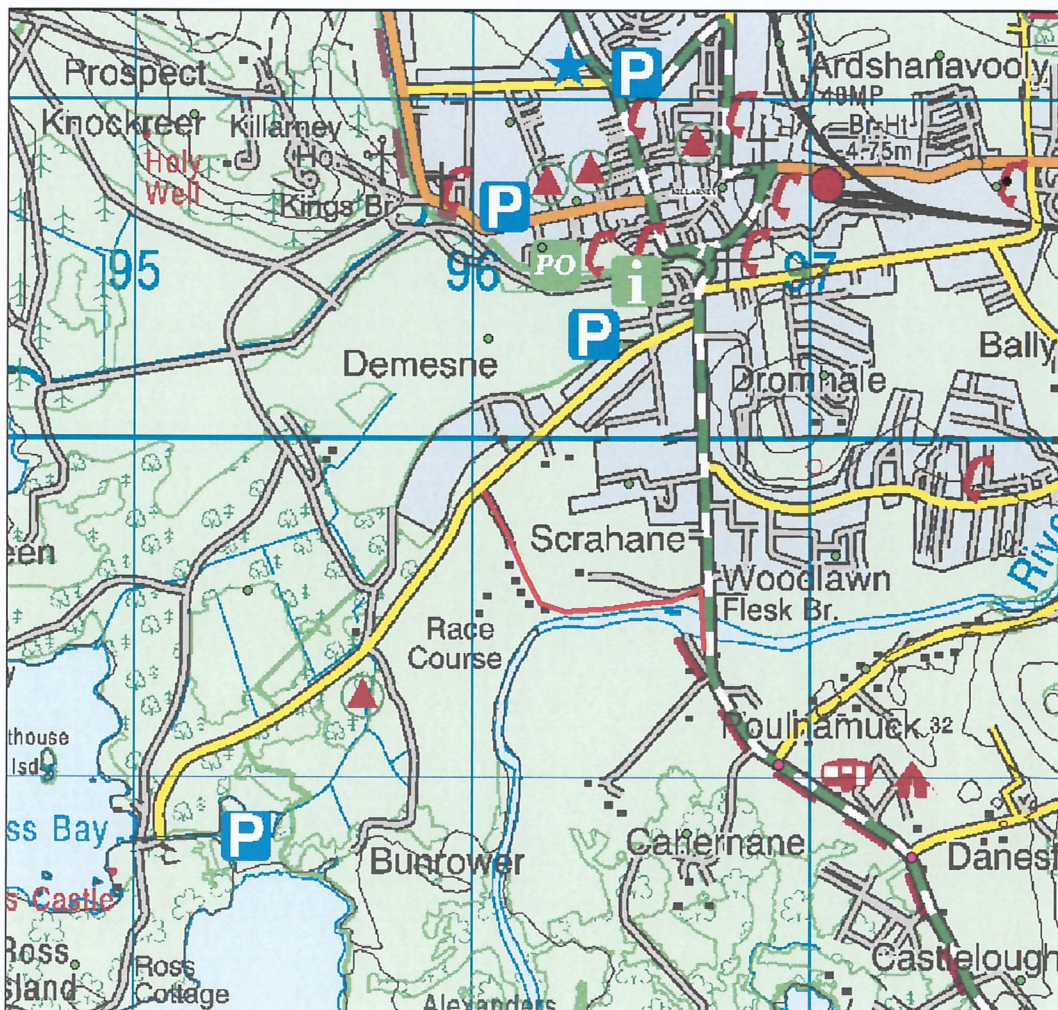


Figure 1: General location map of the northern section with cycle way in red

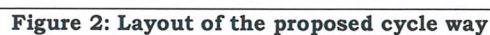




Plate 1: Aerial view of southern section of the route

4. Archaeology of the Area

There are only two monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments & Places that are within 150m of the proposed cycle way – Ke066 075 an enclosure in Scrahane townland which was excavated prior to construction of housing and Ke066 073 a crop mark enclosure across the River Flesk in Cahernane townland. There are a further five features listed in the Sites & Monuments Record Ke066 116, Ke066 209, Ke066 210, Ke066 211 & Ke066 212, all shallow pits uncovered during testing and excavation in relation to the housing developments to the north. All are fully excavated (see below)

Figure 3: The route of the southerly section of the trunk main in Gearha & Shanacloon shown on

RMP constraint map No. 65

These monuments are described below with the proximity to the trunk main noted at the end of each description.

Enclosure

Scrahane

RMP Ke066 075

In a new housing development, c. 800m S of Killarney. A circular enclosure, which is visible as a cropmark in an aerial photograph, was excavated in 1998 prior to the construction of houses (O'Donnell 2000, 95-6). Excavation revealed a circular area (int. diam. 32m) defined by a U-shaped fosse (Wth 2.35-3.66m; D 0.69-1.13m) with an undug section of the fosse at W that was interpreted as an entrance. A V-shaped inner fosse (Wth 0.62-1.39m; D 0.42-0.89m) defining a subcircular area (25m N-S by c. 22m) was found inside the U-shaped fosse but was not concentric with it and the distance between the two fosses varied. No features or deposits associated with the original use of the fosses survived and as a result it was not possible to obtain absolute dates for the enclosure. Evidence of smelting activity, noted in the interior of the enclosure, was found to post-date the construction of the enclosure. A furnace, surrounded by a semicircular arrangement of stake-holes was uncovered in the SE quadrant and a hearth, surrounded by numerous small pits and stake-holes, was found in the centre of the interior. A series of shallow pits (KE066-116----, KE066-209----, KE066-210----, KE066-211----, KE066-212----) lie immediately to the SE. (O'Donnell 1998, 87)

The green field section of the cycle way running east towards Flesk Bridge runs through lands that were formerly part of the gardens of Flesk Priory and are shown on the OS first Edition map as formal demesne/garden lands. As such these lands are likely to have been altered and designed to some degree. The later editions of the OS map also show that some embankment works took place along the Flesk River at this point between the First Edition in 1841 and the edition of 1939. These works, probably to alleviate flooding, would have disturbed the ground in the area and led to the destruction of any potential sub-surface archaeological deposits or features.

5. Impact of Proposed Development

This section might be more accurately described as the prediction of impacts on the cultural heritage, including archaeology, since the impacts by definition have not yet occurred (EPA 1995a, 23).

6.1 The “Do-Nothing” Impacts

If nothing is done in this area potential archaeological deposits on site will remain undisturbed.

6.2 The Predicted Impacts

From the evidence put forward in this report there is a possibility that sub-surface archaeological features and/or strata could be encountered during ground works on the green-field section of the cycle way along the River Flesk. As such, should excavation of the old ground surface be required along this section of the route archaeological monitoring should be undertaken

6.3 Interaction of Impacts

It is important to realize that the proposed development’s impacts relating to different disciplines (such as the ones listed above for archaeology), may have parallel impacts in other disciplines, which have not been specifically addressed here.

6. Conclusions and Suggested Mitigation

As outlined above, the proposed cycle way does not impact directly on any recorded monuments or features. All evidence suggests a low potential for encountering archaeological features or strata along the route located adjacent to existing road/s and in areas previously disturbed by construction.. However, as outlined above, despite disturbance caused by embankment of the River Flesk, there is the potential for sub-surface features or strata on the c.400m length of the cycle way running east along the River Flesk

As such, should excavation of the old ground surface be required along this section of the route archaeological monitoring should be undertaken

7. Non-Technical Summary

8.1 SCOPE OF STUDY

This is a desk-top study to assess the architecture and archaeology of the existing site, the potential impact of the proposed development and to propose appropriate mitigation measures, where necessary.

8.2 METHOD OF STUDY

A comprehensive desk-top study was undertaken which consulted all available material relating to the site.

8.3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The existing environment of is the lands and roads in the townland of Scrahane, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

8.4 IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS

It is suggested that the proposed works have no direct impact on any known or recorded archaeological features or strata and that the potential for archaeological material to be encountered over the route located adjacent to existing road/s is low. It is also suggested however, that there is a potential for sub-surface features or strata on the c.400m length of length of the cycle way running east along the bank of the River Flesk

8.5 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED MITIGATION

It is suggested that should excavation of the old ground surface be required along the stretch running east along the River Flesk that archaeological monitoring be undertaken.

8. Project References

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Various Local Histories of the Area were also consulted