

Rannán 2b
PLEAN CEANTAIR ÁITIÚIL DAIRBHRE

1.0 COMHTHÉACS

1.1 Suíomh

Tá Dairbhre (oileán na coille darach) suite amach ó chósta thiar leithinis Uíbh Ráthaigh. Is é an t-oileán is mó amach ó chósta Chontae Chiarraí é agus nasc aige leis an mórthír le droichead chuig An Caladh agus bád farantóireachta chuig An Rinn Ard i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh. Tá an t-oileán timpeall 11 ciliméadar (6.8 míle) ar fhad agus beagnach 3 chiliméadar (1.9 míle) ar leithead.

1.2 Daonra

Clúdaíonn Toghroinn Dhairbhre bailte Bhaile an Ridire agus An Caol agus an chuid eile den oileán. Léirigh daonáireamh 2006 go raibh 713 duine ann. Méadaigh an figiúr sin ó 690 i 2002. Is ionann seo agus méadú 3% ar an daonra. Ba é figiúr 2011 ná 664, ar ionann é agus laghdú 6% ar an daonra.

1.3 Feidhmeanna agus Áiseanna

Tá dhá phríomhlonnaíocht ar an oileán ag Baile an Ridire agus An Caol. Tá siad seo ainmnithe mar nóid lonnaíochta sráidbhaile/sráidbhaile beag i bPlean Forbartha Contae Chiarraí 2009-2015. Soláthraíonn na lonnaíochtaí réimse seirbhísí don cheantar tuaithe ina dtimpeall. Is tithe saoire iad mórán de na tithe cónaithe ar an oileán.

Tá réimse leathan áiseanna ar an oileán a bhfuil a bhformhór laistigh de theorainn an dá lonnaíochta. Toisc éileamh séasúrach a bheith ar sheirbhísí sa cheantar bíonn roinnt de ghnóthaí an oileáin dúnta i gcaitheamh an gheimhridh.

Is ospidéal 16 leaba é Ospidéal Dhairbhre a sholáthraíonn cúram fadchónaithe agus lae.

Tá Ionad Oidhreacht Dhairbhre suite ar an oileán. Tugann sé scéal ginealaigh, daonna, staire nádúrtha agus tionsclaíochta an oileáin, le taispeántais ar an Stáisiún Cábla, Stáisiún Raidió an Mhuiríne (Garda cósta) agus bád tarrthála an RNLI lifeboat.

Tugann Eispéiriú an Sceilg scéal Sceilg Mhichíl agus ar shaothar agus saol na manach ar an Sceilg sa luath-thréimhse Críostaí, a ngníomhaíochtaí, a bhfulangacht agus a dtiomantas maidir le cónaí ar oileán beag doicheadallach mara, agus pobal a chruthú ann a mhair ar feadh timpeall 600 bliain.

Is cuid de sheirbhís Met Éireann é Réadlann Dhairbhre. Cuireadh an réadlann ar bun i mí Lúnasa 1868. Tá an stáisiún aimsire ar Dhairbhre ar an gceann is fliche in Éirinn. Fuarthas cead pleanála do shaoráid nua monatóireachta aeir ar an oileán. Tá stáisiún Raidió Cósta Dhairbhre (fo-ionad Tarrthála ar Muir) suite i nDó Choille i dtuaisceart an oileáin.

Tá cairéal tábhachtach sa chuid thuaidh den oileán a d'oscail in 1816 fós ag feidhmiú inniu. Úsáideadh Scláta cáiliúil Dhairbhre i mórán foirgneamh mór le rá ar a n-áirítear Teach na dTeachtaí sa Bhreatain. Tá fochla in aice leis an gcairéal sclátaí.

Is suíomh 40 acra atá i nGairdíní Ghleann Laoim lena aghaidh ar bhá ar an taobh thoir de Dhairbhre. Ba é Ridire Chiarraí a chruthaigh iad sa 19ú haois, le plandaí a chuir

bailitheoirí plandaí ar ais ó áiteanna ar fud an domhain, go háirithe an Astraláise. Tá chuid mhór den bhailiúchán agus dá shliocht fós ann, ag leathnú agus ag fás go hollmhór de bharr teasa ó Shruith na Murascaille.

Dún Chromalach a bhí i dteach solais Dhairbhre uair, é ag cosaint an chuain le dún den chineál céanna trasna béal an chuain ar Oileán Bheiginis.

1.4 Infreastruchtúr

Is i mBaile an Ridire amháin atá ionad cóireála fuíollusice. Tá soláthar uisce poiblí ag freastal ar an oileán. Cé go bhfuil raidhse uisce ann d’aga an Phlean seo, b’fhéidir go mbeidh gá le roinnt céimeanna bainistíochta uisce nuair a bhíonn buaic ar an éileamh go séasúrach, toisc teorainn a bheith le méid chuid de líonra na bpíobán.

1.5 Foirm Tógtha

Tá an dá shráidbhaile ar an oileán nasctha ag an R565 a leanann chuig Droichead Cuimhneacháin Maurice O’Neill a nascann an t-oileán leis an mórthír. Cruthaíonn an R565 cnámh droma na forbartha ar an oileán le formhór na forbartha cóngrach dó. Tithe scaipthe tuaithe atá ar an oileán a bhfuil a bhformhór le hais an ghréasáin bhóithre.

1.6 Oidhreacht Tógtha

Tá oidhreacht saibhir ailtireachta agus tógtha ar an oileán. Tá mórán struchtúr atá faoi chosaint laistigh de theorainn Bhaile an Ridire. Ba é an t-ailtire cáiliúil as Corcaigh Thomas Deane a dhear an Stáisiún Cábla, atá ar cheann de os cionn caoga Struchtúr atá faoi Chosaint i mBaile an Ridire, sa bhliain 1868.

Ba é Dairbhre ceann aistir an oirthir don chéad chábla trasatlantach teileagraif a bhí inmharthana ó thaobh tráchtála. Theip ar an gcéad iarracht in 1857 cábla a thabhairt ó Thrá Bhaile Uí Chairbre chuig an mórthír díreach soir ó Dhairbhre. Tar éis d’iarrachtaí eile ar cháblaí a thabhairt i dtír i nDairbhre in 1858 agus ag Faill an Amhráin in 1865, d’éirigh leis an móriarracht sa deireadh le cumarsáid teileagraif a bhí inmharthana ó thaobh tráchtála ó Fhaill an Amhráin go Heart’s Content, Talamh an Éisc in 1866. Bhí cáblaí teileagraif trasatlantaigh ag feidhmiú ó Dhairbhre ar feadh céad bliain, ag críochnú nuair a chuir Western Union International deireadh lena hoibreacha cábla i 1966.

Tá roinnt struchtúr atá faoi chosaint lasmuigh de theorainn Bhaile an Ridire.

Tag KY-079-082 teach cónaithe, Baile an Ridire

Tag KY-079-083 Teach Coombe, Baile an Ridire

Tag KY-079-087 Teach Solais Chromail

Tag KY-078-001 2 theach iarfhoirne (in aice leis an bhfochla)

Tag 21307904 Teach Ghleann Laoim

Níl sé molta go n-áireofaí aon struchtúir bhreise ar Thairfead na Struchtúr atá faoi Chosaint.

1.7 Seandálaíocht

Tá láithreacha réamhstairiúla, láithreacha luath-chríostaí agus láithreáin thuata ón Ré Luath-Mheánaoise ceannasach i seandálaíocht ghinearálta an oileáin.

Léirigh staidéar Frank Mithcell ar Dhairbhre an saibhreas seandálaíochta curtha faoi bhun agus laistigh den mhóin, agus léirigh tochailt ina dhiaidh sin i gceantar Bhré ag ceann thiar theas an oileáin mórán gnéithe nua a bhain leis an tírdhreach fairsing meánaoiseach seo.

Fuarthas tírdhreach fairsing meánaoiseach le gnéithe reámhstairiúla ó thréimhse níos luaithe – tithe, locaí, ballaí páirce, cosáin, áitheanna arbhair etc i mbaile fearainn Bhré. Bheadh na gnéithe seo íogair go leor agus tá soláthar déanta le deimhin a dhéanamh de go ndéantar cosaint ar na ceantair seo chomh maith agus is féidir é, agus a rá gur dhá shárshamplaí iarmharach iad de thírdhreacha Luath-Mheánaoise. Is láthair tírdhreach fairsing Luath-Mheánaoise atá i mbaile fearainn Bhré agus is ann dó ina riocht sárchaomhnaithe a bhúí lena shuíomh i gceantar ardtailte ar thalamh imeallach. Medieval houses with associated out-buildings, enclosures, corn drying kilns, paths and tracks attest to the lifestyle of people on Valentia during the Early Medieval period, while the finding of earlier prehistoric features within and under the peat illustrate the importance of this area from the earliest settlement of the region.

Tugann na tithe meánaoiseacha leis na botháin a bhain leo, na locaí, áitheanna arbhair, cosáin agus rianta tuairisc ar nósanna maireachtála na



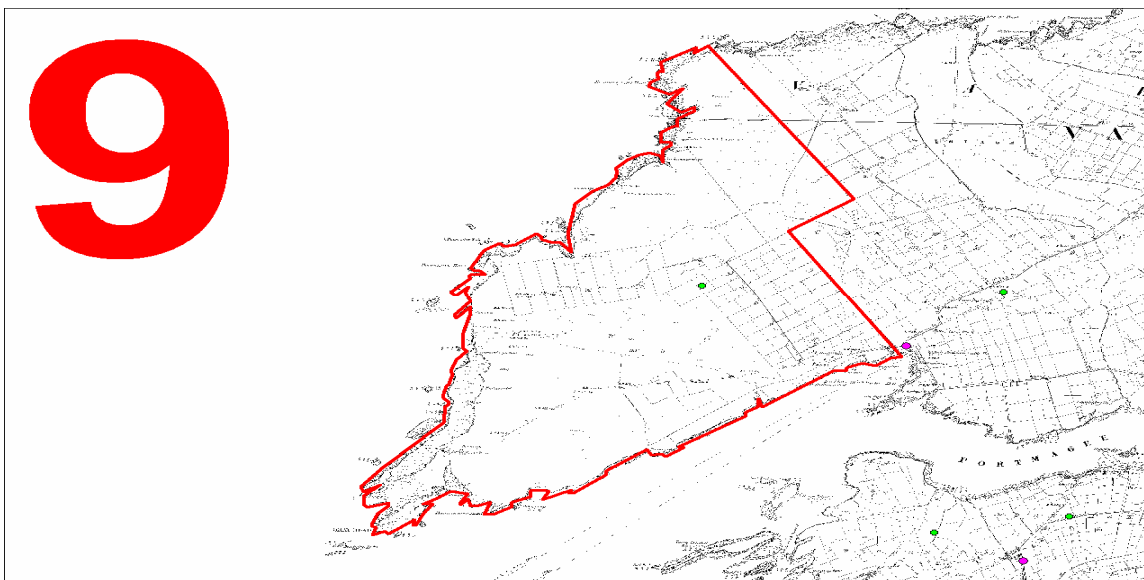


Figure 1; Bray, Valentia Island

1.8 Natural environment and Amenity

Knightstown is located on a flat coastal plain at the north eastern tip of Valentia Island. The village's sheltered harbour area makes it a popular location for water based activities. It is part of the Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel candidate Special Area of Conservation. The site contains important examples of reefs, shallow inlets and tidal mudflats. Part of the island is also designated as the Iveragh Peninsula SPA.

Fossilised tetrapod trackways and footprints have been preserved in Devonian rocks on the north coast of the island. These prints date to about 385 million years ago. The Valentia Island trackways are among the oldest signs of vertebrate life on land.

The Island predominantly consists of extensive agriculture/ natural vegetation, moors/heathland, pasture, broad leaf forest, transitional woodland/shrub, natural grasslands and complex cultivation patterns, (Source; Corine 2006 Landuse Database).

Part of the island is also designated as a Special Protected area (the Iveragh Peninsula SPA). This SPA is of special conservation interest for the following species; Chough, Peregrine, Kittiwake, Guillemot and Fulmar. Vegetative cliffs are the predominant habitat in the site and support a good variety of plant species such as Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Campion (*Silene vulgaris subsp. Maritima*), Sea Spleenwort (*Asplenium maritimum*) and Rock Sea-spurry (*Spergularia rupicola*). The land adjacent to the cliff edges, areas of sand dunes and some uplands are also included within the SPA. The chough is a medium sized, red legged member of the crow family. It is a specialised feeder on soil invertebrates, although it also takes split grain. Coastal areas of the island are a stronghold for the Chough with feeding and nesting sites available. Particularly high densities of Chough occur at Valentia Island where livestock grazing presents the species with widespread feeding opportunities. The high cliffs of this Natura 2000 site are steeply sloping rather than sheer and are likely to be suitable for breeding Fulmar. The frequent

rock outcrops in the site provide excellent nesting ledges for peregrines, which utilise the coastal fringe, bog and heath habitat in the area for foraging.

1.9 Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic

The Valentia island ferry operates from March to October. The ferry generates quite an amount of traffic especially during the months of July and August. During the winter season access to the island from the mainland is via the bridge at Portmagee.

1.10 Employment

The 2006 Small Area Population Statistics for the ED in which Valentia is located (Valencia) indicate that the main source of employment for males in the area is the construction industry (20%) followed by manufacturing (10%). These figures are likely to have reduced due to the current economic situation. The majority of employed females are professionals, followed by those working in the service sector (28%). There is no major employment on the island other than Valentia Hospital and the Coast guard radio station. Small and medium sized businesses predominate. Employment opportunities on the island and within the villages are limited and many islanders travel to work on the mainland. In order to encourage indigenous businesses and more employment on the island and in the villages, lands are designated for tourism and small scale commercial/industrial use within the settlement boundaries. It is the policy of the council to promote the sustainable development of specialised niche markets and businesses such as the production and sale of local food, boat building/repairs and appropriate tourism related activities.

1.11 Growth and Residential Development

There has been a considerable amount of development on the island in recent years mainly in the two settlements and one off single dwellings type development. These developments cater predominantly for the holiday home market.

1.12 Amenity

It is proposed to develop green route (s) in a sustainable manner at appropriate locations on the island. Subject Environmental Assessments at project level, such routes could facilitate recreational activities such as walking, cliff/rock climbing, cycling and nature observation. These would provide a valuable amenity resource for the area with some spectacular sea and mountain views and would constitute an additional tourist attraction on the island and in the Cahersiveen area.

In deciding on exact routes Article 6, Habitats Directive Assessments will be required and alternative routes / solutions may need to be considered in order to avoid significant effects on biodiversity. Issues to be considered include the potential for wildlife disturbance (light, noise etc), trampling and erosion of sensitive vegetation / soils and the potential for the introduction / spread of invasive species.

1.13 Tourism

Tourism is an important element of the economy of Valentia Island. The existing tourism product needs to be protected, with greater value being derived from it. In addition, efforts need to be made to lengthen the tourism season.

Tourism needs to focus on the strengths of the area, namely the untouched rural landscape, birdlife, the marine environment, the built heritage and the areas interesting history which includes the Trans Atlantic Cable, the Skellig Experience, the Observatory, and the Slate Quarry etc. The area offers scope for outdoor pursuits such as birdwatching, walking, hill and mountain/rock climbing, astrotourism and marine leisure where compatible with nature conservation designations. The island also has the unique opportunity for astronomic activities due to its dark and unpolluted skies. The potential for eco-tourism in the area is immense, but is not fully developed.

Geo/Ecotourism is a form of tourism which appeals to the ecologically and socially conscious. It focuses on the local environment and culture, typically involving travel to destinations where flora, fauna, geology, high quality environment and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible geo/ecotourism includes programmes that minimize the negative aspects of conventional tourism on the environment, and enhance the local community. An integral part of geo/ecotourism is the promotion and creation of economic opportunities for the local communities. The development of a small geopark at an appropriate location focussing on the tetrapod prints would greatly promote the sustainable development of geotourism on the island.

The landscape, cultural and linguistic heritage and amenities of the area constitute a prime asset on which the tourism industry is based. The size of the settlements and their unique character make them particularly sensitive to development. It is accepted however that expansion of the tourism industry is based on appropriate development. This plan, in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism development outlined by Fáilte Ireland promotes suitable sustainable tourism development. When considering proposals for new tourism development, priority will be given to those that are encouraging longer visitor stays and add to the range of facilities available to people who live in the area all year round.

Recreation and tourism activities can cause increased disturbance to habitats and species that are important for biodiversity. Accordingly, tourism and recreation projects, strategies and activities should ensure that the ecological integrity of the region's natural environment is maintained, particularly with regard to Natura 2000 sites.

In order to boost tourism, the profile of the Island needs to be highlighted with increased and updated tourist signage at strategic points in the functional area and throughout the island. Tourist signage needs to be improved. The Altazamuth Walk is a walk created by the Tidy Towns Committee. It begins at the Altazamuth Stone on Peter Street, Knightstown and is edged by wildlife habitats and gardens, ending on the seafront adjacent the Catholic Church.

It is an objective to promote and facilitate the development of 'green routes', in a throughout the island in sustainable manner. These walkways will promote sustainable ecotourism, geotourism and other niche markets.

The ‘Telegraph field’ at Foilhommerum Bay is located along one of the ‘green routes’. The redevelopment of the original cable station would be an attractive addition to the island and boost tourism.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Valentia Island is probably one of the most attractive rural seaside areas in County Kerry with very few if any locations matching its mix of architectural, historical, natural and cultural heritage. The island still retains its innate character and it is essential, that this is retained. The retention of this heritage is critical to its future development as a tourist destination. The Island has a number of innate strengths including an attractive landscape, spectacular sea views, character and charm. It is important that the Island capitalises on its location and its heritage in a sustainable manner. It is considered, that the Island can enhance its development potential as a tourist destination with sustainable heritage and marine/water based activities as its main attractions. It is important that the features which attract tourists to the area are protected, while appropriate opportunities for employment generating tourist development are encouraged.

The development strategy for the Island is:

- That future development should support the existing roles and functions of Knightstown and Chapelstown as rural service centres and small tourist villages and should have regard to the local rural community living in an attractive landscape.
- That all future tourism developments shall be sensitive to the existing character of the island. Facilities and developments which are open on a year round basis should be encouraged in order to counteract peripherality and seasonality.
- To ensure that future residential development on the island should cater for the needs of the local population who wish to live on the Island on a permanent basis.
- Protect the natural environment and the architectural and archaeological heritage of the Island
- To provide for greater commercial opportunities in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of the local island community and to provide for an expansion in the range and number of commercial services on the island. This in turn will provide local employment and improve the quality of life of the local community.
- To promote the development of sustainable ecotourism, geotourism and other niche markets along with the sustainable extension and diversification of tourist facilities as a possible source of employment
- Encourage the development of a boat building, storage and repair facility at an appropriate location and in a sustainable manner.

- Promote and facilitate the development of ‘green routes’, in a sustainable manner.

3.0 OVERALL OBJECTIVES

Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
OO-1	Encourage the sustainable development, extension and renewal of all aspects of tourism related activities.
OO-2	Ensure that the high quality natural setting of the island is maintained and protected from inappropriate development.

4.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Objective No.	Architectural & Built Heritage It is an objective of the Council to:
AH-1	Preserve the architectural heritage and encourage development to be designed in a manner that is in keeping with the scale and character of the island. New developments should respect local design features.
AH-2	Encourage the appropriate reuse and sensitive restoration of unused/derelict properties on the Island.

	Archaeology Objectives It is an objective of the Council to:
A-1	Secure the inclusion of the structures included the archaeological special protection area into the Record of Protected Structures
A-2	Protect the views and vistas around the monuments, the inter-visibility of the monuments and the integrity of the existing archaeological landscape setting in the prehistoric landscape identified (see Fig 1). Applicants are advised to liaise with the County Archaeologist in advance of any application for development within these sites.

	Amenity & Tourism It is an objective of the Council to
AT-1	Encourage the improvement of sensitively designed tourist information boards and signage at appropriate locations.
AT-2	Protect and encourage the sustainable development of literary, musical, artistic, sporting and other cultural heritage initiatives.
AT-3	Facilitate the development of ‘green routes’, in a sustainable manner, throughout the island at appropriate locations and subject to Article 6 Appropriate Assessment Screening. These green routes could be used, where appropriate, for recreational activities such as walking, cycling and nature/historical observation.
AT-4	Promote Geo tourism at appropriate locations and other scientific disciplines as form of sustainable development.

Objective No	Natural Environment It is an objective of the Council to:
NE-1	Preserve any existing mature trees where possible and promote additional planting of native trees and shrubs in new developments.

	Piers And Harbours It is an objective of the Council to;
PH-1	Support the sustainable development of the harbour as a potential economic generator for the island

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Protected Buildings

Unique identity number: RPS KY

Address: Reenglass House, Kilinane, Cahersiveen
Farranreagh, Valencia

Description: Two storey over basement structure,

Ordinance Survey Map: 6259D

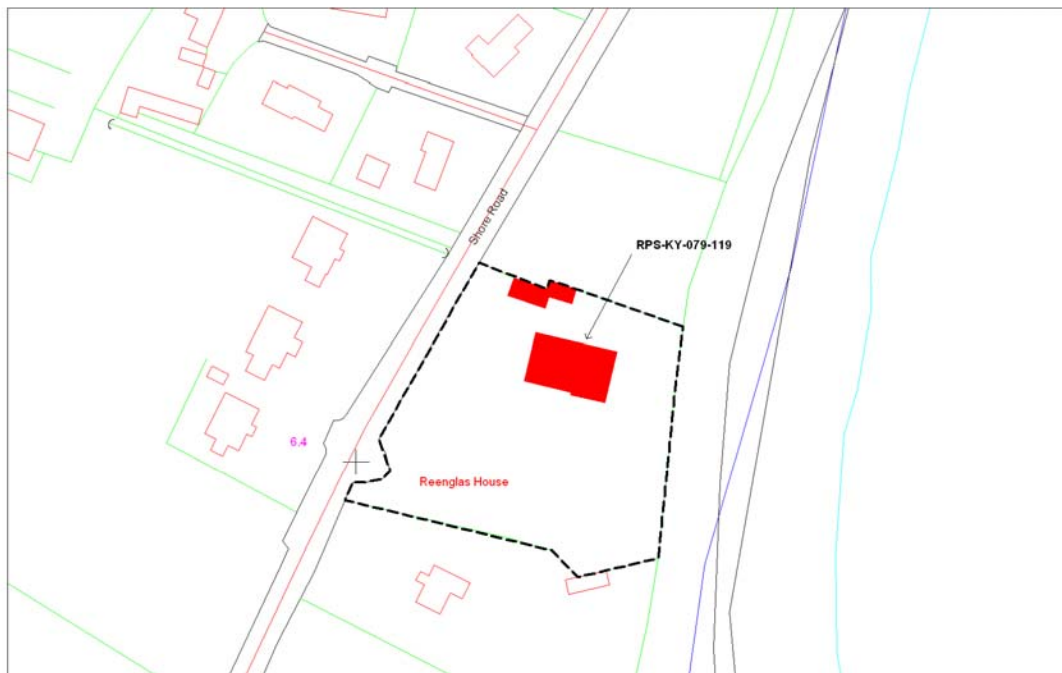
National Grid co-ordinates: 42,511m, 76,348m

Site features: Remains of a number of other structures
and farm buildings to rear

Special interest; Architectural, historical, social



Location Map (not to scale)



Appraisal: Associated with the Fitzgerald family (Knight of Kerry) Part of the house
once housed a thriving knitting industry

Unique identity number: RPS KY

Address: Ballyhearney House, Ballyhearney, Valentia

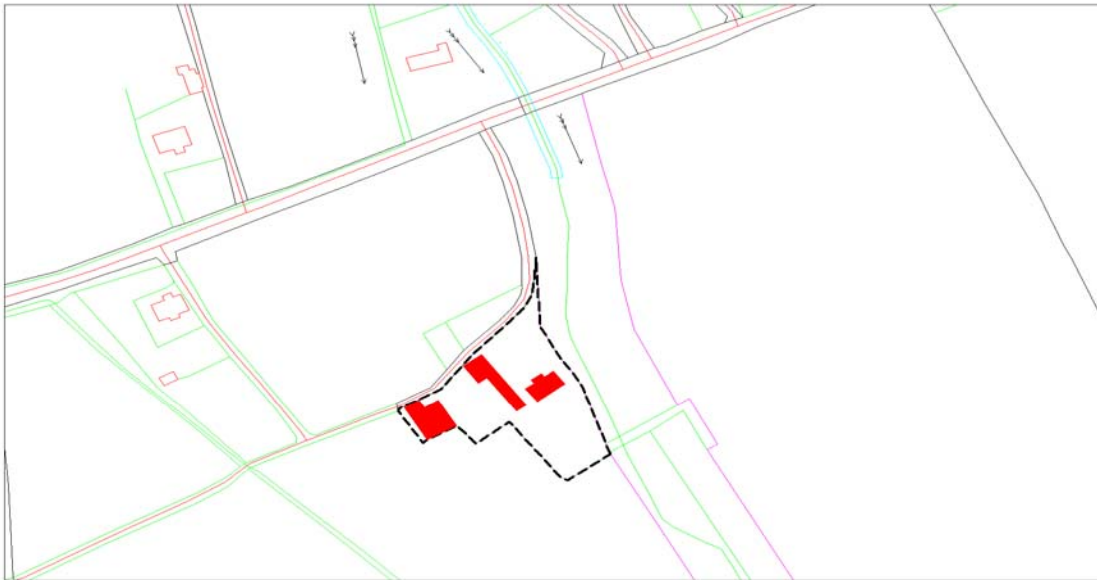
Description: **Detached** Two storey three bay structure, Gabled single storey porch to front, with two storey gabled projection to rear.

Ordnance Survey Map: 6306

National Grid co-ordinates: RPS-079-40,355m, 75,549m

Site features: Outhouses to the north of the building.

Special interest; Architectural, historical, social



Location Map (not to scale)

Appraisal: Built in the last decade or the eighteenth century, the large solid wall to window ratio is an indicator of its age. In terms of design this is a unique building. Used as a hospital during the Famine. The building was abandoned for a time and was reroofed by the Knight of Kerry in 1874. A modest scale house of informal design it nonetheless represents an important element of the architectural history of Valentia. This building has architectural historical and social significance and should be included in the RPS.