

Montpelier:

12 houses, provision of services and all associated site works on a 0.78ha site.

Background:

There are records of a bridge (RMP LI001-005) in Montpelier since 1506 when Turlough O'Brien was credited with its construction. It has been argued that Montpelier (earliest use of the name dates from 1768) was originally called Upper Portcrusha (Hodkinson 2000, 97) and as such was held in 1655 by William, Lord Burke, Baron of Castleconnell (Simington, 1938, 59) and was part of an estate of 1960 acres. In 1659 the population of Upper Portcrusha is given as 18 (Hodkinson 2003, 117). There is a Fair Green. It is likely that a settlement grew up around the bridge and the very distinct property boundary line to the east and west of the road leading from the bridge suggest linear landholdings extending from the main street. The current development site is included within this boundary. The closest known Recorded Monument to the proposed development site (183m to the NE) is a graveyard (LI001-006) a circular enclosure where children, strangers and people drowned in the River Shannon were buried.

Recommendations:

The site is greenfield, in excess of 0.5ha and is located within the defined boundary of a settlement close to a 16th century bridge, therefore, archaeological monitoring is recommended.

Archaeological monitoring should be in place for all ground disturbance associated with the development (including ancillary disturbance such as the creation of a compound and other local arrangements caused by the contract). Should archaeological material be found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist may have work on the site stopped, pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology. The Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Planning Authority Archaeologist shall be informed. Should archaeological excavation be required as part of the mitigation then the excavation, the post excavation and the production of an excavation report to an acceptable standard must be facilitated and funded. On completion of the monitoring, an archaeological report detailing the works shall be submitted to the Planning Authority and the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

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Hodkinson, B.	2000	'Montpelier or Portcrusha Upper', <i>North Munster Antiquarian Journal</i> Vol 40, 96-7.
Hodkinson, B.	2003	'Late townland formation in north-east Co. Limerick', <i>North Munster Antiquarian Journal</i> Vol 43, 117.
Simington, R.C.	1938	<i>The Civil Survey AD 1654 – 1656, County of Limerick</i> , Vol. IV, Dublin.