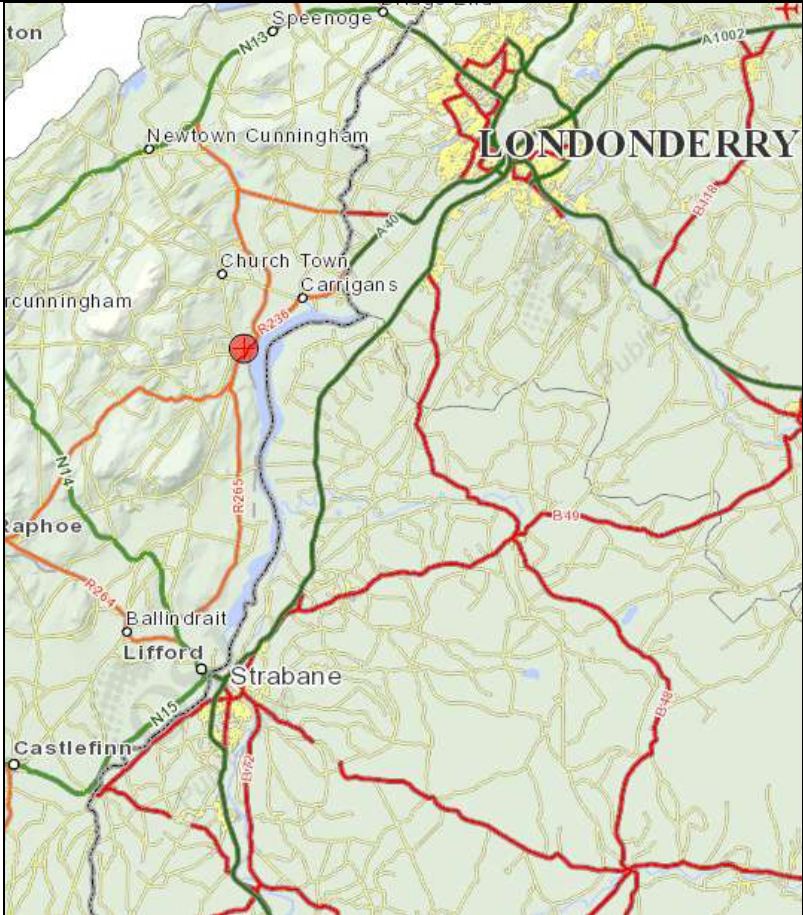
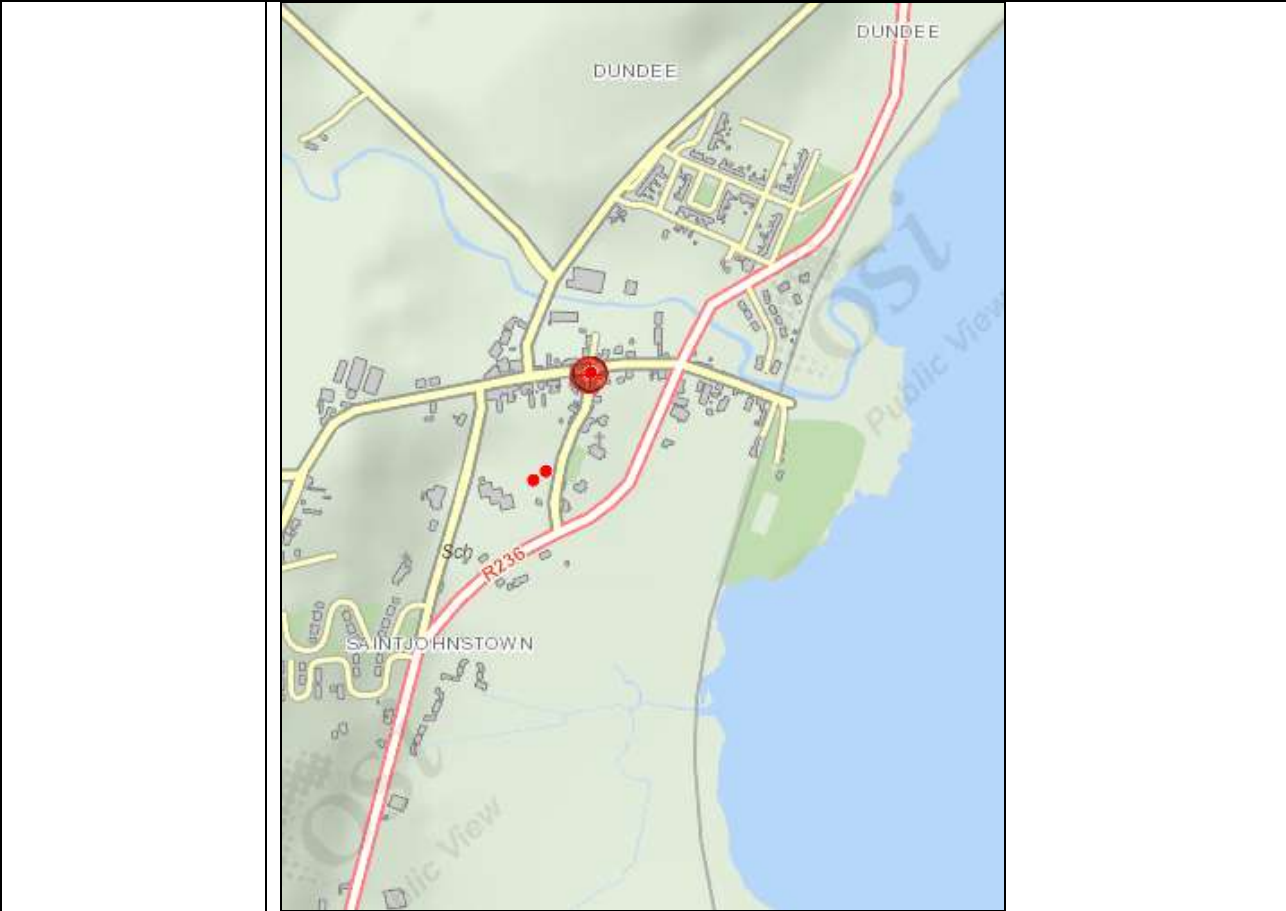


Asset Ref No.	St. Johnston: Historic Town (DG063-003)	
<b>Heritage Type</b>	Built	
	<i>Historic Town</i>	
<b>Location</b>	OS 6-inch map sheet	DG063
	Townland	SaintJohnston
	Parish	Taughboyne
	LCA	Carrigans – River Deelee
	ITM Coordinates	634576/909792
	NG Coordinates	234631/409803
<b>Protection Status</b>	RMP	
<b>Condition</b>	Substantial remains	
<b>Ownership (if known)</b>		
<b>Site Description</b>	<p>Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal as 'This town is situated on the Rver Foyle just a short distance from the border with county Derry. The town was not on any of the original lists for the plantation of Ulster and appears in 1618 as a fully fledged new town at a time when other centres such as Raphoe and Rathmullan were clamouring for incorporation. The town was situated in the old parish of Taughboyne, i.e. Teach Baithen ("the church of Baithen"), named after the abbot who succeeded Colmcille at Iona (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 406). Despite attempts to build a new church within the town, Taughboyne, some 3km north of St. Johnston, was to remain as the parish church of the new settlement.</p> <p>The land of St Johnston, then called "Dromtoolan alias Cashelduffe", was granted to Ludovic Hamilton, duke of Lennox, on condition that he should introduce thirteen English or Scottish men, "principally artificers", within the space of four years and build houses for them (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 403). The patent, which survives in the Public Record Office of Ireland, further required that the corporation should consist of thirteen members and it set out stipulations for the plan of the town (PROI, R.C. 3/4, ff. 88-93). The purpose of the proposed town is interestingly stated as being as much for the defence of loyal subjects living in the area as for the restraint of rebels. It seems, however, that the incorporation was not proceeded with before the outbreak of rebellion in 1641. The Civil Survey, compiled some years later, describes St Johnston simply as a little village. The adult population in the census of c. 1659 is given as 19 English and Scots, and 18 Irish making a total of 37, the second smallest borough population (after Killybegs) in Ulster. In 1671, however, the town returned members to parliament and it continued to do so until 1800 when the earls of Wicklow, who had bought the town from the hamiltons, received £15,000 in compensation for the loss of the borough' (Bradley and Dunne 1989, 60-1).</p> <p>The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The street plan is linear consisting of one main street running E-W, intersected by a narrower street running N-S, past the unfinished parish church. The manner in which the present Derry road cuts through the town indicates that it is not original. The market place was evidently in the main street which was made broad in order to accommodate it. The original patent stipulates that the market should be held on Mondays' (Bradley &amp; Dunne 1989, 61-2).</p>	

<b>Landscape Context (setting)</b>	Set on the western bank of the River Foyle with the R236 running through the town, located approximately 10km southwest of Derry and 12km north of Lifford.
<b>Site Appraisal</b>	The site contains substantial remains and is easily accessible.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	This site is located close to a number of dwelling houses and within an urban centre, thusly there is some potential for human interference.
<b>Associations</b>	This is one of a number of Plantation age towns in the county and it may be contemporary/associated with Lifford (DG071-008)
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Mapping</b>	 <p><i>Location Map (www.archaeology.ie)</i></p>



Location Map – close up ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))



Location Map – close up ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))



1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map c. 1830 ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie))

	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map c. 1905 (<a href="http://www.osi.ie">www.osi.ie</a>)</p>	
<p><b>References</b></p>	<p>Lacey, B. (1983) Archaeological Survey of County Donegal.</p>	
<p><b>Plates</b></p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes</b></p>		