

# SAINT CLERANS MANOR

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CRAUGHWELL, CO. GALWAY





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Craughwell 5.5 km, M6 7 km, Loughrea 9 km, Galway City 29 km, Shannon International Airport 73 km, Dublin City 180 km  
(all distances approximate)

## AN EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL AND AMENITY ESTATE BLENDING HERITAGE AND ELEGANCE SET IN MATURE PARKLAND

Magnificent 19th Century house including reception hall, 4 well-proportioned reception rooms, kitchen and 8 bedroom suites

Modern lift providing accesses to all three floors of the house

Additional accommodation (1-bedroom modernised cottage & 1-bedroom Angelica Suite)

Idyllic parkland surroundings, including frontage onto the Dunkellin River

Range of traditional outbuildings and farm buildings

**About 115.0 acres / 46.5 hectares**

**For sale as a whole by Private Treaty**

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## Summary

Set on approximately 115 acres of parkland and mature woodland, Saint Clerans Manor is a magnificent Georgian estate steeped in history and distinction. Originally built in 1784 and attributed to renowned architect Sir Richard Morrison, the manor stands as one of Galway's most celebrated period residences, combining classical proportions with rich architectural detail.

Occupying a tranquil position along the Dunkellin River, the estate offers exceptional privacy and natural beauty, complemented by extensive lawns, ancient trees, and a charming cottage that has been recently refurbished to a high standard.

At the heart of the estate lies the principal house, a striking four-bay Georgian residence featuring elegant arched recesses and later Victorian Gothic embellishments, including crenellations and pointed arch windows. The accommodation is both grand and inviting, with beautifully balanced reception rooms, high ceilings, and fine period detailing throughout.

Saint Clerans has undergone thoughtful restoration and enhancement in recent years, preserving its historic integrity while introducing modern comfort and convenience. The result is a residence of rare quality, where timeless architecture meets contemporary living.

A collection of traditional stone outbuildings and farm buildings adds to the estate's charm and versatility. The surrounding lands include a mix of mature parkland, grazing pastures, and woodland, enclosed by traditional stone walls.

With its rich past, Saint Clerans Manor represents a truly unique opportunity to acquire one of Galway's most notable country estates, combining historical grandeur, natural beauty, and exceptional privacy within easy reach of Galway City.





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## History

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Nestled in the heart of Craughwell, County Galway, Saint Clerans Manor is a distinguished Irish estate with a rich and fascinating heritage. Built in 1784 by the Burke family after they left their ancestral castle nearby, the house was designed by the celebrated architect Sir Richard Morrison, renowned for his work on Trinity College Dublin and Kilruddery House, Co. Wicklow. Originally known as Islington, the estate was later renamed Saint Clerans, a title steeped in charm, despite there being no saint of that name.

Throughout its storied past, Saint Clerans has been home to a number of notable figures. Robert O'Hara Burke, born at the manor in 1821, went on to lead the famed but ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition across Australia. His niece later inherited the property in 1914; she was the mother of the notorious Edwardian prankster Horace de Vere Cole, and Anne Chamberlain, wife of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

Long before the manor was built, this landscape witnessed a pivotal moment in Irish history. Patrick Sarsfield, a prominent Irish soldier during the Williamite War (1689-1691), commanded the cavalry at the decisive Battle of Aughrim on July 12, 1691, a crushing defeat for the Jacobite forces.

The following day, Sarsfield and his troops passed through Saint Clerans, crossing a bridge that has borne his name ever since. Believed to date from around 1600, the Sarsfield Bridge endured centuries of wear before an extensive restoration in 2012 returned it to its former strength, ensuring its survival for generations to come.

A new era began in 1953 when legendary film director John Huston purchased the estate. Huston restored the property and used it as both a family home and creative retreat, welcoming Hollywood greats such as Marilyn Monroe, Gregory Peck, Peter O'Toole, and Marlon Brando. He remained at Saint Clerans until 1973, and the manor even featured as a film location during his tenure.

In the late 1990s, the estate found renewed glamour under Merv Griffin, the American television mogul, who transformed it into an exclusive twelve-room boutique hotel renowned for its fine dining, led by chef Hisashi Kumagai.

In 2012, Saint Clerans Manor was returned to private ownership, its Georgian elegance and illustrious past preserved as a timeless piece of Ireland's cultural and architectural heritage.

## Location & Amenities

Saint Clerans Manor occupies a private rural setting on the banks of the Dunkellin River, just a short drive from Galway City.

The nearby village of Craughwell (5.5 km) offers a selection of everyday conveniences, including shops, cafés, pubs, and a local primary school. The larger town of Loughrea (9 km) provides a comprehensive range of services and amenities, including supermarkets, restaurants, leisure facilities, and both primary and secondary schools. Loughrea is also home to Lough Rea, a popular local beauty spot offering swimming, kayaking, and scenic lakeside walks.

Galway City Centre lies approximately 29 kilometres to the west and is one of Ireland's most vibrant and culturally rich destinations. Famed for its arts, music, and culinary scene, Galway attracts visitors year-round with its festivals and bustling streets. It is also home to the University of Galway and the Atlantic Technological University, ensuring a lively student and academic presence.

Dublin City Centre is approximately 180 kilometres to the east and offers the full range of amenities, services, and cultural attractions expected of a capital city.

The estate is well served by transportation links, with the M6 motorway, connecting Galway to Dublin just 7 kilometres away, while Athenry Train Station (12 km) offers regular rail services to both cities. Shannon International Airport is approximately 73 kilometres away, and Dublin International Airport is approximately 205 kilometres distant.

County Galway has a proud sporting tradition and offers an exceptional range of recreational activities. Racing enthusiasts are well catered for with the world-famous Galway Racecourse at Ballybrit, home to the iconic Galway Races Summer Festival. Golfers can enjoy a superb selection of courses nearby, including the scenic championship course at Galway Bay Golf Resort, designed by Ryder Cup legend Christy O'Connor Jnr. Other notable courses such as Athenry Golf Club and Portumna Golf Club are also within easy reach, each offering a unique challenge and spectacular views.

The area surrounding Saint Clerans Manor is renowned for its strong agricultural heritage. This region supports productive livestock enterprises, underpinned by a well-developed agricultural infrastructure that includes local merchants, milk processors, livestock markets, and abattoirs.



*Saint Clerans occupies a tranquil position amid mature parkland, with uninterrupted vistas across the surrounding countryside. The approach frames the house beautifully, and the orientation affords day-long natural light and privacy in equal measure.*

*The property is entered through a bell-mouthed entrance with ornate cast iron railings and cut-stone piers supporting cast iron electric gates. These open onto a sweeping tarmacadam driveway flanked by beautiful beech trees. Rising gently through traditional parkland, the drive culminates at the formal forecourt, offering ample parking.*





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## Saint Clerans Manor

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A stately period manor of elegant proportions, Saint Clerans presents classic architectural symmetry beneath a slated roof. Inside, the accommodation is arranged over three floors, combining gracious reception rooms for entertaining with comfortable, light-filled private quarters, all finished to a high specification while sensitively retaining period character. Notable features include decorative ceiling roses and corning, original sash windows with refined architraves and shutters, and feature colonnades.

A light-filled entrance hall, approached via limestone steps and framed by a graceful portico with round columns, sets an inviting tone for the residence. This impressive space flows naturally to both wings of the home and features a marble floor and decorative colonnades. Beyond, meticulously finished mahogany doors lead to the two principal reception rooms, the drawing room and dining room, each of similar proportions and showcasing impeccable craftsmanship and refined detailing.

An inner hall with a cantilevered staircase leads to a bright sitting room featuring an ornate marble fireplace and stove. A lift providing access to all three levels is also located here. Adjacent to the sitting room lies the kitchen, which combines modern convenience with period elegance.

Converted back from a commercial kitchen in 2013, it now serves as a warm family space, featuring an Aga and an extensive range of beautifully crafted floor and wall-mounted units. Large windows allow natural light to fill the room, creating a welcoming atmosphere. The ground floor also includes a spacious utility room, a comfortable living room with a marble fireplace and stove, and a bedroom with en suite.

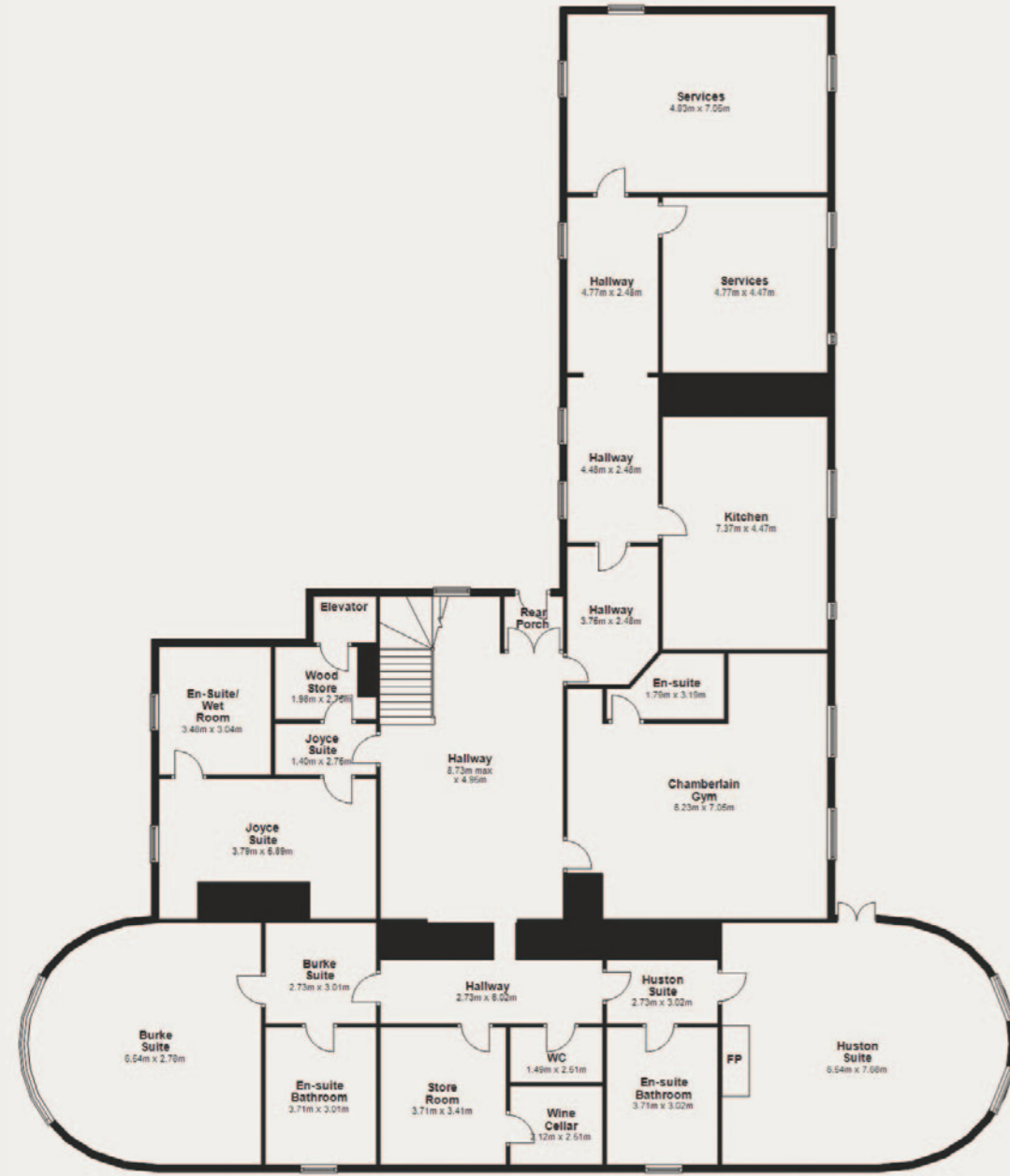
The majority of the bedroom accommodation is located on the first floor, accessed via the magnificent, cantilevered staircase. The master suite, known as the Griffin's Suite, occupies an entire wing and includes his-and-her dressing rooms with beautifully crafted built-in wooden wardrobes, a spacious bedroom featuring dual-aspect windows, and a luxurious en suite bathroom. Three additional bedroom suites are also found on this level, along with a study/home office.

The garden level, accessed via the inner hall staircase, includes three-bedroom suites, two of which feature similar proportions with elegant elliptical walls and large windows. This level also accommodates a wine cellar, a spacious gym, a fully equipped commercial kitchen, plant and service rooms, and multiple storage areas.









Lower Ground Floor



Ground Floor



First Floor

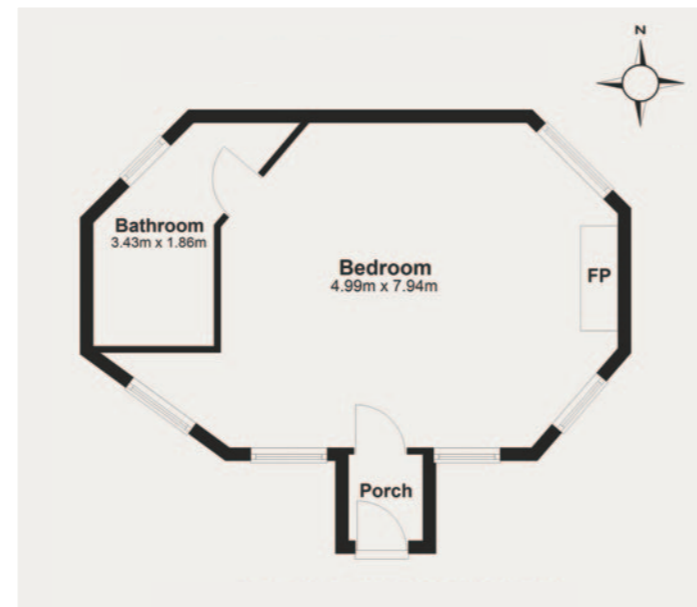
# ST CLERANS MANOR

Main House Floorplans



## Angelica Suite

To the rear of the main house is the Angelica Suite, a separate building of traditional stone construction comprising a one-bedroom suite.



## Gardens and Grounds

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A key feature of the estate is the spectacular landscaped garden grounds that surround the house. Encompassed within the well-established estate parkland, the immediate gardens and grounds encircling the house are immaculately maintained and form an impressive setting. The diverse assortment of flora, fauna, and outstanding specimen trees provides colour, shelter, and privacy.

The estate enjoys over one kilometre of private frontage along the Dunkellin River, adding to its natural beauty and recreational appeal. Behind the main house, the river widens to reveal a picturesque weir, an enchanting and rare feature that enhances the charm of the setting.

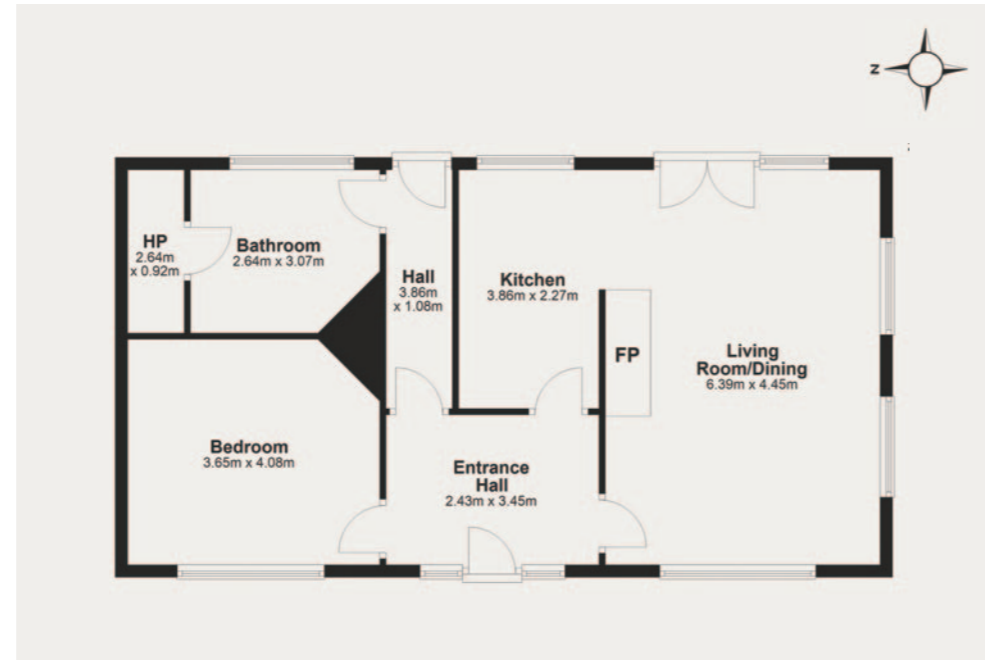
The estate can also be accessed via the L4192. This access route follows a tarmacked driveway through mature woodland, crossing a picturesque bridge over the Dunkellin River before arriving at the rear of the house. The driveway also continues around to the front of the house.



# COTTAGE

*Positioned at the entrance to the estate is a charming one-bedroom cottage, recently renovated and refurbished to create accommodation fit for contemporary living. The interior features a bright, L-shaped open-plan living, dining, and kitchen area centred around a wood-burning stove.*

*Triple-glazed windows and underfloor heating ensure year-round comfort, while the finishes throughout highlight a seamless blend of traditional charm and contemporary living*



## Outbuildings

To the rear of the main house are two traditional stone outbuildings, currently used for storage. A further yard lies to the north of the house and includes a three-bay shed with a corrugated roof and concrete floor, alongside a polytunnel, also with a concrete base, used for storing firewood. The yard benefits from ample hardstanding, offering practical space for vehicles, equipment and further expansion.

Located beyond the cottage at the main entrance, is a separate yard featuring a three-bay shed with a corrugated roof and concrete flooring. Adjacent to the shed is an additional store, offering a flexible space for storage or operational needs.

## Farmland

The farmland at Saint Clerans is enclosed by a mix of mature hedgerows, traditional stone walls, and wire fencing. It comprises gently rolling grassland interspersed with areas of mature woodland, creating a varied and scenic landscape. The northern end of the estate is about 33 metres/110 feet above sea-level while the southern boundary is about 48 metres/151 feet above sea level.

The woods at Saint Clerans are an attractive feature due to their age and variety of species. Primarily laid out to the rear and north of the house, they provide shelter, privacy and amenity.

The land can be classified as follows:

LAND TYPE	ACRES
Pasture	78
Woods	30
Miscellaneous	7
TOTAL	115



## Wildlife & Environment

The natural assets of Saint Clerans are among its most compelling features, offering significant potential for both nature conservation and ecological diversification. The estate encompasses a mosaic of habitats, each with a rich variety of flora and fauna. Wildlife thrives throughout the property, particularly along the Dunkellin River and within the surrounding woodland areas.



## General Remarks & Stipulations

### VIEWING

Strictly by appointment with Savills. Given the hazards of a working estate, we ask you to be as vigilant as possible when making your inspection, for your own personal safety.

### FIXTURES & FITTINGS

All fixtures and fittings are excluded from the sale including garden statuary, and other removable fittings, although some items may be available by separate negotiation.

### RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE

PROPERTY	WATER	DRAINAGE	HEATING	BER	EIRCODE
Saint Clerans Manor	Private	Private	Froling Wood chip boiler and a Eurotech hydrothermal system	Exempt	H91 A0TD
Cottage	Private	Private	Air to Water	B1	H91 XOYV

### ELECTRICS

Mains electricity backed up by a diesel generator.

Please be advised that the selling agents have not checked the services and any purchaser should satisfy themselves with the availability and adequacy of all services.

### ENTRY & POSSESSION

Entry is by agreement with vacant possession.

### BASIC INCOME SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY (BISS) SCHEME

For avoidance of doubt, there are no Entitlements to the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Scheme included in the sale.

### SOLICITORS

Shannon & O'Connor Solicitors (contact: Ellen O'Connor)  
6 Hatch Street Lower  
Dublin 2, D02 CT96  
Tel: +353 (0) 1 539 7321  
E: info@soc.ie

### LISTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATIONS

Saint Clerans is recorded as a Protected Structure by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Ref: 30409716).

### OFFERS

Offers may be submitted to the selling agents, Savills, 33 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Email address: country@savills.ie.

### FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

All offers (regardless of the country of residence of the offering party) must be accompanied by a guarantee or suitable form of reference from a bank, which gives the sellers satisfaction that the purchaser has access to the funds required to complete the purchase at the offered price.

### WAYLEAVES AND RIGHTS OF ACCESS

The estate will be sold with the benefit of all existing wayleave rights, including rights of access and rights of way, whether public or private. The purchaser will be held to have satisfied himself as to the nature of all such rights and others.

### LOTING

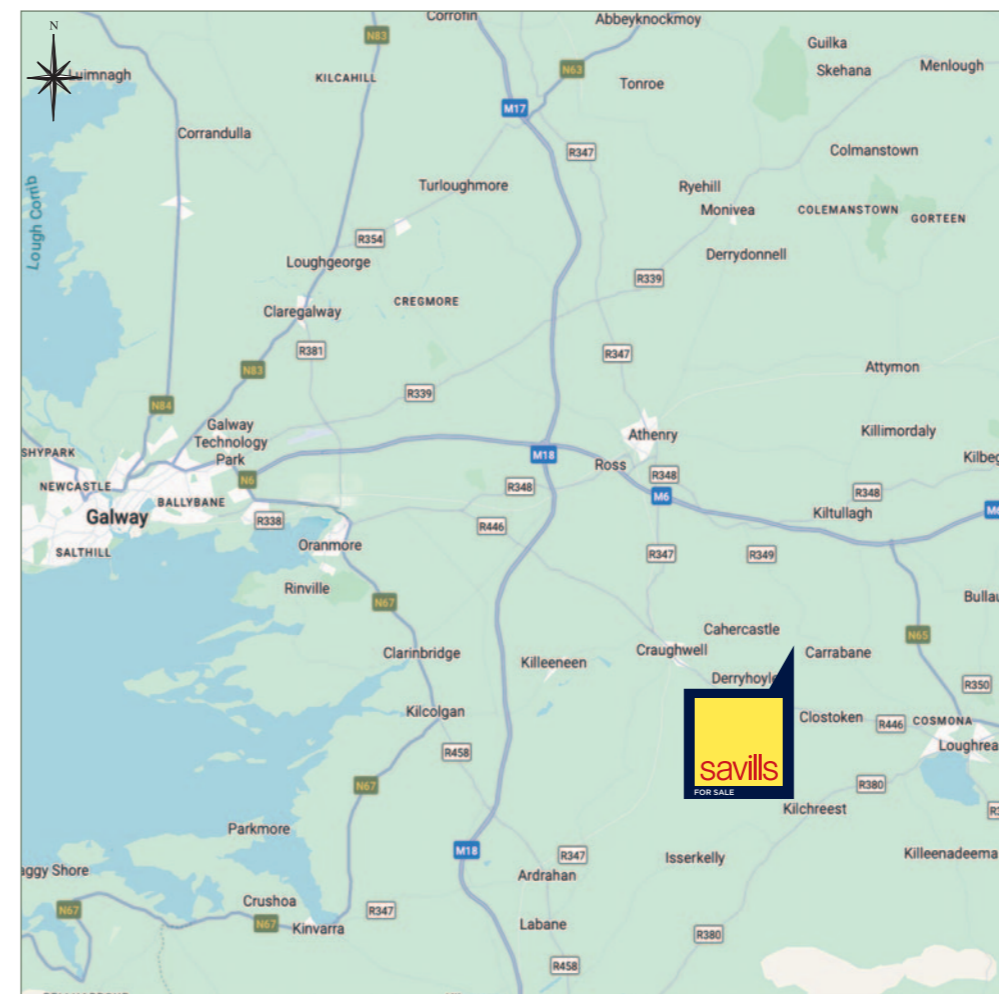
It is intended to offer the property for sale as described, but the seller reserves the right to divide the property into further lots, or to withdraw the property, or to exclude any property shown in these particulars.

### PLANS, AREAS AND SCHEDULES

These are based on the Ordnance Survey and are for reference only. They have been carefully checked and computed by the selling agents, and the purchaser shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves as to the description of the property and any error or misstatement shall not annul the sale nor entitle either party to compensation in respect thereof.

### GENERALLY

Should there be any discrepancy between these, the General Remarks and Information, Stipulations and the Contract of Sale, the latter shall prevail.



Not To Scale - Published for the purpose of identification only, although believed to be correct, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed



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**Savills Residential & Country Agency**

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