

DOWRA

Revitalising Cavan's Towns and Villages

History

The village was formed in the late 19th century after another village close by, Tober, was washed away by landslides in the summer of 1863.

Back in 1925, Dowra village comprised 18 houses, with 10 being licensed to sell alcohol. The remains of the Black Pig's Dyke can be seen outside the village.

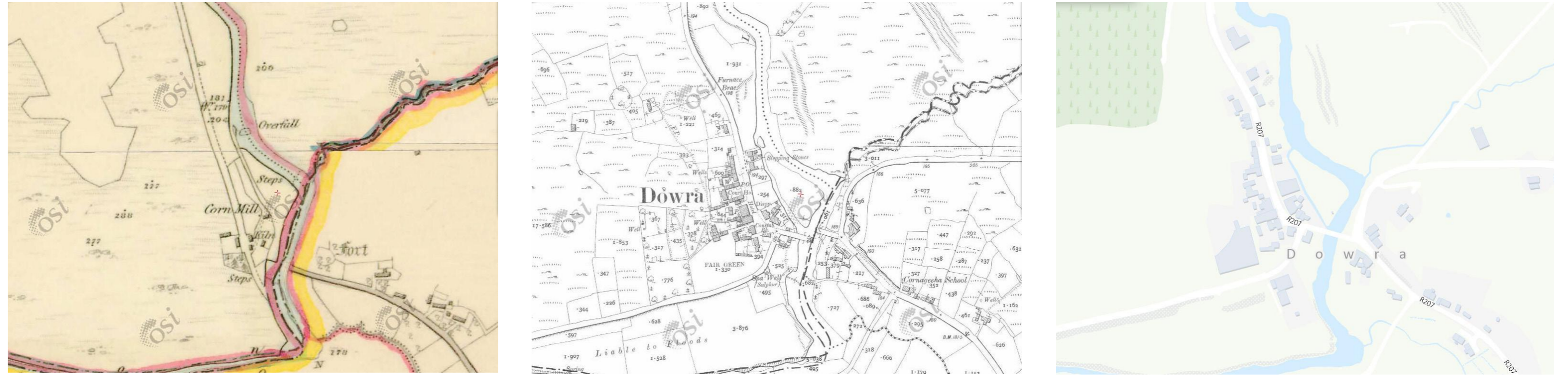


Figure 20.1.3 - Dowra in 1800, 1900 and 2017



Precedents



Opportunity to create a canoeing facility on River Shannon



Opportunity to restore the vernacular atmosphere of Dowra through traditional landscape practices and the restoration of buildings



Opportunity to create a cyclists and walkers facility referencing the historic bothy



Opportunity to add value to local agricultural produce, for example through the creation of a farmer's market



Opportunity to create a Heritage Trail across the village

Constraints

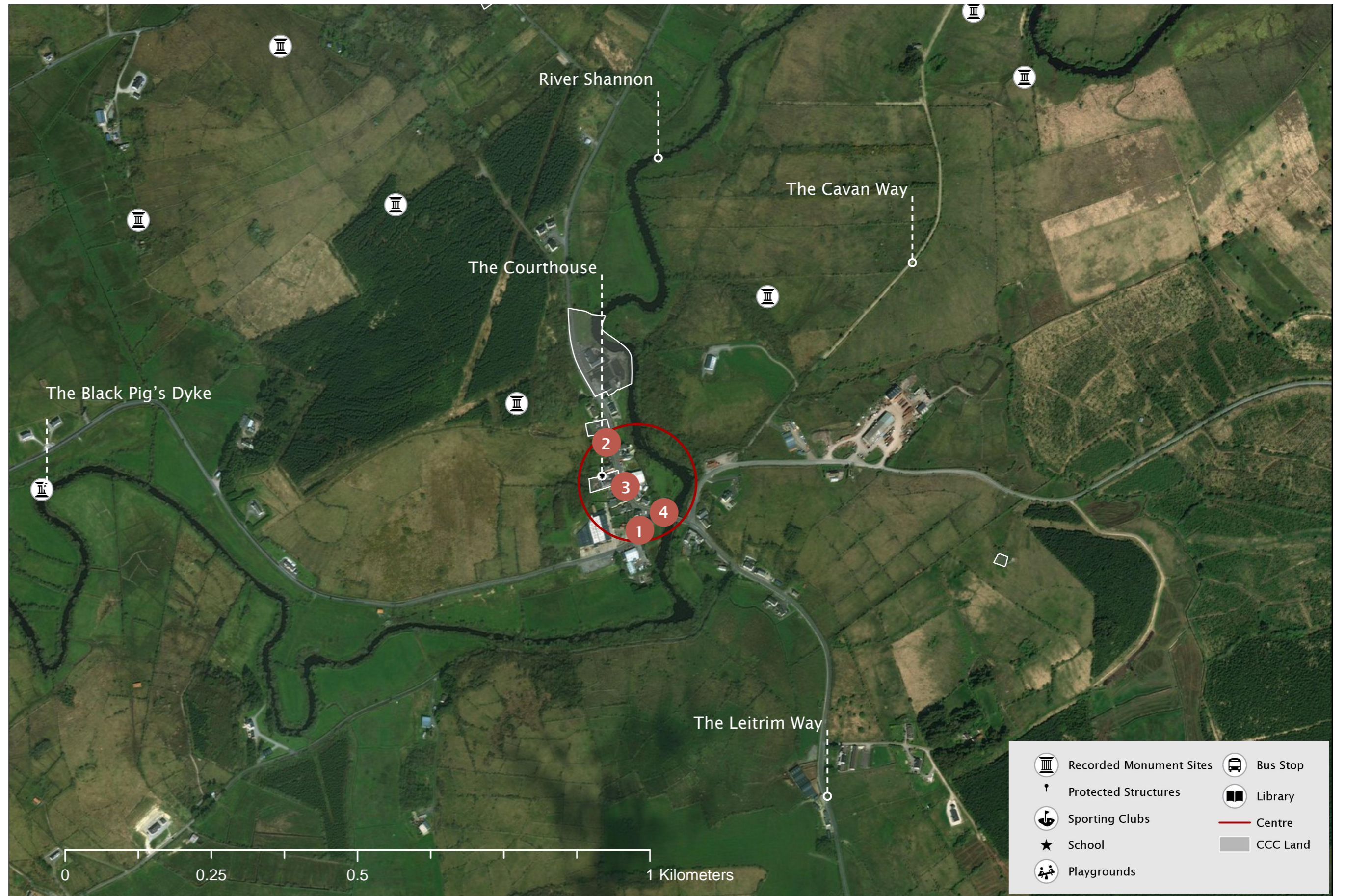
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Weaknesses

- 1 // Numerous abandoned or unfinished properties and shops
- 2 // A number of buildings and commercial units have a neglected look and are in need of refreshment or repainting
- 3 // Pedestrian unfriendly public realm: lack of footpath, no safe crossing points
 - // Located in a very remote location
- 4 // Modern signage detrimental to the traditional identity of the village
 - // Street furniture in need of refurbishment or refreshment: bollards, benches, signage
 - // Invasive on-street parking
 - // Unsympathetic new developments

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Threats / Challenges



Unfinished property in Dowra



An abandoned shop in Dowra



Lack of amenities for pedestrian and cyclists and invasive on-street parking



Modern signage detrimental to the vernacular atmosphere of the village

Opportunities

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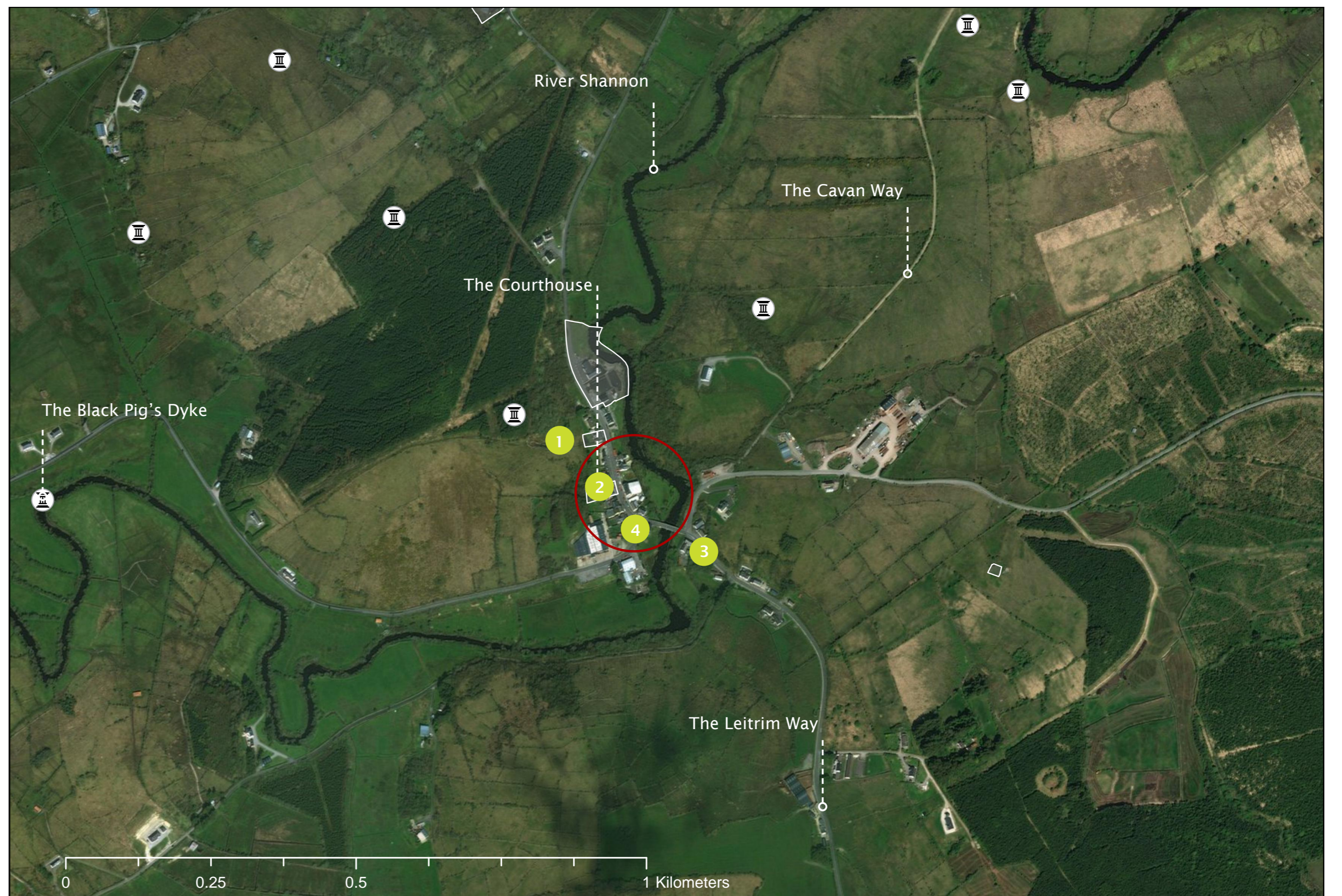
Strengths

- // Within a UNESCO accredited Geopark Site and in proximity of several touristic and recreation attractions: Cavan Way hiking trail, Leitrim Way, Shannon Pot, Lough Allen, Black Pigs Dyke ancient fortification, Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands
- // Creation of the "First Village on the Shannon" brand with the associated riverside park
- 1 // Features magnificent views towards the surrounding hills and overlooks Lough Allen
- 2 // The Courthouse is the most significant architectural structure of the village. It has recently been refurbished and retrofitted into a Community Creative Arts Space. It also acts as a tourist information point.
 - // Sinn Fein Memorial is a prominent feature in the village and well maintained
- 3 // Some attractive shop-fronts and well maintained houses

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Opportunities

- 4 // Traditional shop-fronts and buildings could be refurbished respecting traditional methods to strengthen the vernacular Irish identity of the village
 - // Similarly, landscaped areas could be treated in a more traditional manner: native hedges, stone wall, etc.
 - // Strengthen tourism offer related to history, agriculture and natural spaces: creation of a Historical Trail, Riverside park on River Shannon, strengthen features linked with the agricultural character of the village e.g. agriculture outbuildings with external steps
 - // Creation of added value to agricultural and forestry products, in link with the livestock market held every Saturday in the village
 - // Create an amenity point on the river for canoeing
 - // Creation of a meeting facility for the numerous cyclists passing by the town



Views from Dowra



The Courthouse



Attractive traditional shop frontage



Opportunity to refurbish traditional buildings