



CourtneyDeery
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Heritage Report

Proposed Pipeline

Staleen WTP to Duleek Trunkmain

Co. Meath

For

Nicholas O'Dwyer

On behalf of

Uisce Éireann (Irish Water)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an archaeological heritage assessment for a proposed pipeline to connect the Staleen Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to the Windmill Hill Reservoir, in County Meath. It was produced by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Nicholas O'Dwyer on behalf of Uisce Éireann (Irish Water).

The proposed pipeline route is partially within the south-eastern edge of the buffer zone of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property (WHP). Given the location of the proposed scheme – beginning just inside the outer edge of the buffer zone, but predominantly outside of it – and the nature of the development (a below-ground pipeline), there will be no negative effects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the WHP. Nor will the proposed scheme result in any negative visual impacts on the recorded archaeological sites in the wider landscape surrounding it.

There are no recorded monuments (RMP / SMR sites) within the proposed scheme boundary. The nearest is a ring-ditch (SMR ME027-116), located c. 75m west of the proposed pipeline wayleave, identified as a cropmark in an arable field, with no above-ground presence. Its presence speaks to the high archaeological potential of the landscape through which the proposed scheme passes.

The proposed scheme runs predominantly through agricultural greenfield areas, which have an inherent archaeological potential. In addition, the proposed pipeline will cross a watercourse, a tributary stream of the River Nanny at Garballagh. Riverine environments and water crossings have long attracted human activity. Considering the known and recorded archaeological sites in the wider landscape, there is therefore the potential for the discovery of previously unknown archaeological sites, features or deposits along the length of the proposed pipeline.

A geophysical survey (Licence No. 24R0184) undertaken for the proposed scheme in 2024 covers c. 40% of the current proposed pipeline route. The survey identified a number of features of potential archaeological interest, which demonstrates the inherent below-ground potential of the agricultural greenfield areas along the remainder of the proposed pipeline route.

The disused railway line (MIHS027-001; Navan, Kells & Oldcastle Branch of the Dublin-Drogheda Railway) crossed by the proposed scheme survives in good working order and is of interest from an industrial heritage perspective.

Given the inherent below-ground archaeological potential of the agricultural fields, it is recommended that geophysical survey be undertaken along the proposed pipeline route in greenfield areas not previously surveyed. This non-invasive technique will assist in determining the archaeological potential and provide greater certainty for the proposed scheme. Further recommendations will be made based on the results of the additional geophysical survey. These may include archaeological testing to establish the nature, extent, and date of any potential archaeological sites or features that lie within the proposed pipeline route and archaeological monitoring.

It is recommended that any disturbance to the railway line (MIHS027-001) be made good to ensure the preservation of this industrial heritage asset.

All recommendations made in this report are subject to approval of Meath County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), who may make additional recommendations.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report provides an archaeological heritage assessment for a proposed pipeline to connect the Staleen Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to the Windmill Hill Reservoir, in County Meath. It was produced by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Nicholas O'Dwyer on behalf of Uisce Éireann (Irish Water).

1.2. Study Area

The proposed pipeline will begin at the Staleen WTP in the townland of Stalleen¹ and terminate at the Duleek Trunkmain at the Boolies crossroads on the L1610, c. 8.4km to the south / south-west passing through 9 other townlands (Table 1; Figure 1).

Table 1 Townlands along proposed pipeline route (from north to south)

Townland	Civil Parish	Barony
Stalleen	Donore	Duleek Lower
Cruicerath	Donore	Duleek Lower
Newtown	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Clonlusk	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Longford	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Downestown	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Commons	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Garballagh	Duleek	Duleek Lower
Deenes	Duleek	Duleek Lower

The route traverses a mixed landscape, with industrial areas at its northern end associated with the Irish Cement factory in Platin, Co. Louth and smaller quarries in Newtown and Longford townlands (Roadstone Duleek, Keegan Quarries). It skirts the residential developments at Duleek town, with other more dispersed linear and one-off housing in the landscape as it runs southwards. The proposed pipeline route runs almost entirely through greenfield, with some short sections passing through previously disturbed brownfield sites (e.g. Keegan Quarries in Newtown and the grounds of Duleek Care Centre (Silverstream)).

Where the proposed pipeline route begins at the existing Staleen WTP, it is inside the south-eastern edge of the buffer zone of the Boyne Valley Archaeological Park / Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property (WHP), c. 1.3km south of the core zone. The WHP contains the three great Neolithic burial mounds of Knowth, Newgrange, and Dowth, all National Monuments (Figure 2). These are surrounded by about forty satellite passage tombs and constitute a funerary landscape recognised as having great ritual significance, subsequently attracting later monuments of the Iron Age, early medieval and medieval periods. The proposed pipeline exits the WHP buffer zone c.

¹ The official townland name is spelled Stalleen, though the modern placename 'Staleen' (as used in the WTP) can sometimes apply. Where the townland is being referred to in the report, this spelling (Stalleen) is used.

400m south of Staleen WTP, and continues the Duleek Trunkmain at the Boolies crossroads on the L1610, c. 8.4km to the south / south-west.

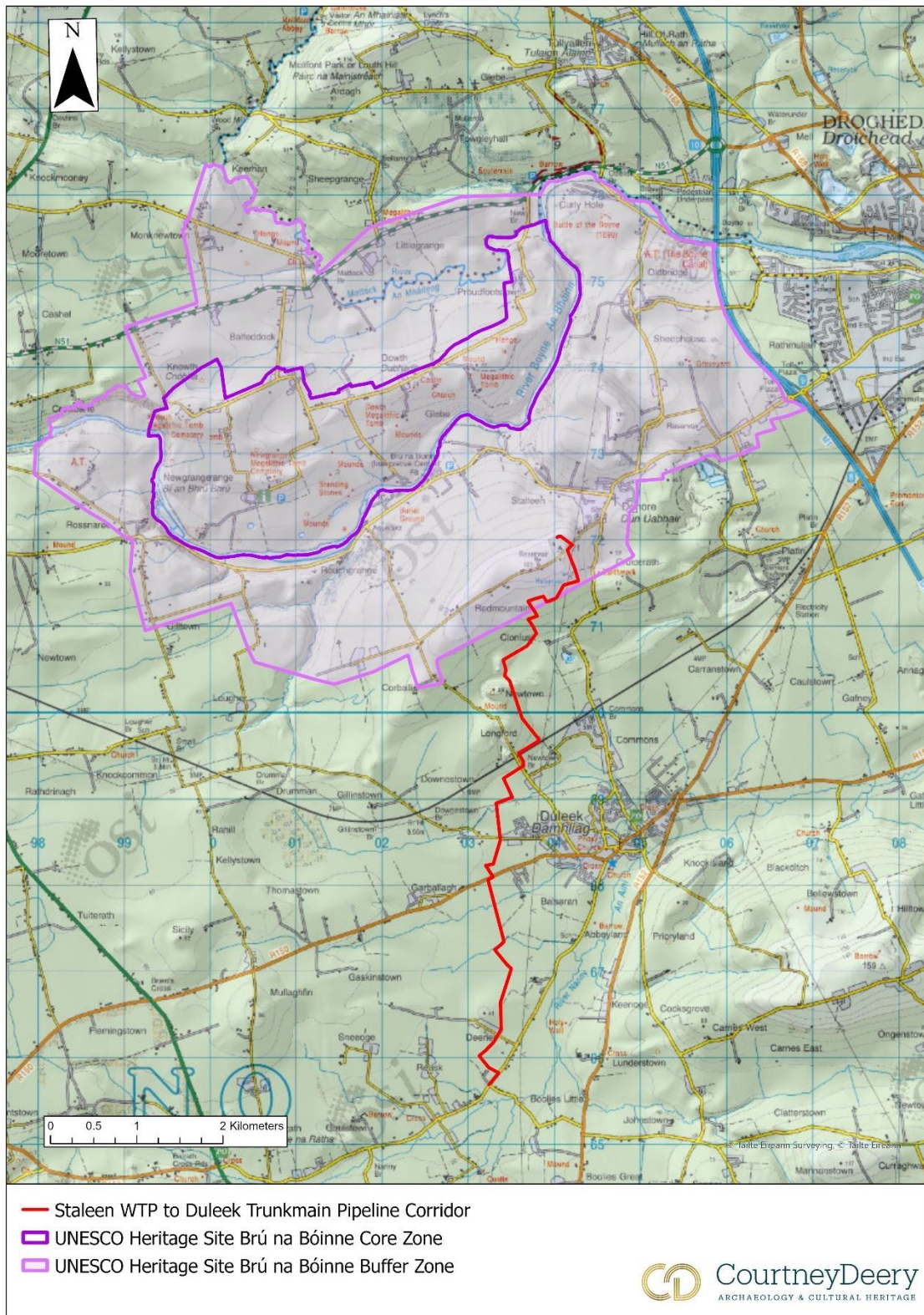


Figure 1 Overview of proposed scheme location, showing Core and Buffer Zones of the Boyne Valley Archaeological Park / Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property

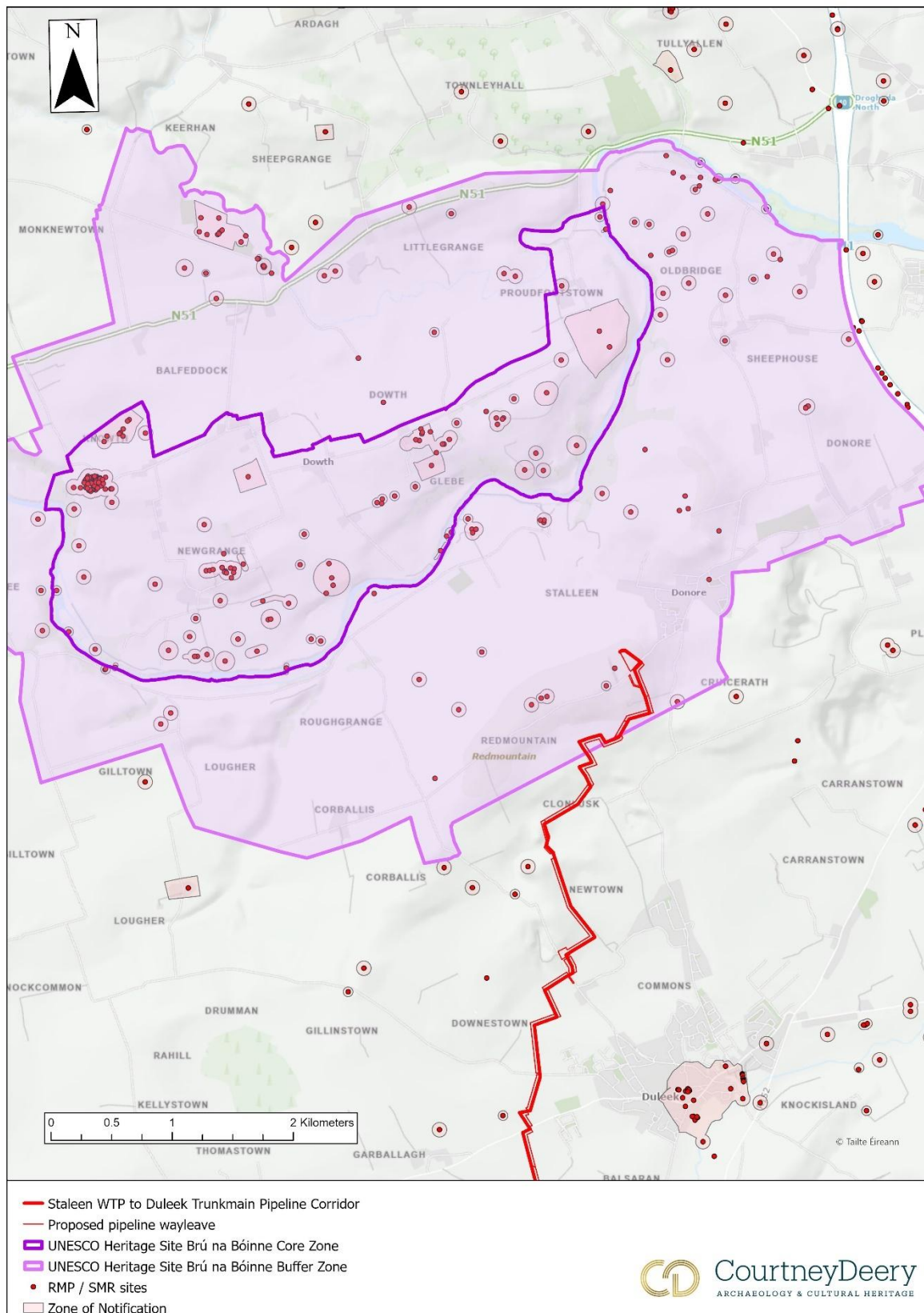


Figure 2 Detail of proposed scheme location, showing clusters of archaeological monuments within the Core Zone of the Boyne Valley Archaeological Park / Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property

1.3. Methodology

The assessment of the proposed scheme was based on a desk study, supported by a targeted field inspection of areas identified as archaeologically sensitive. review of the following information took place in order to inform this report:

- UNESCO World Heritage Properties (WHP) and those monuments on the tentative list;
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders;
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; The statutory RMP² records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 are placed on the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion on the next revision of the RMP;
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland's topographical files;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e., Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names, townland names and toponymy (logainm.ie);
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
- Meath County Development Plan (2021-2027).
- County Meath Heritage Plan (2015-2020);
- **Draft** County Meath Heritage Strategy (2023-2030);
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSi Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2025, Bing 2025) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches (see Appendix 2).

A bibliography of sources used is provided in the References section (Section 8).

The area examined for this study includes the full extent of the proposed pipeline wayleave. In order to inform the potential impacts from an archaeological perspective, an assessment corridor measuring 250m either side of the pipeline route was established (Figure 3).

² The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and this Act is now law. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage commenced certain provisions in May 2024 (S.I. No. 252/2024), however until the Act is fully commenced, the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.



Figure 3 Overview of proposed scheme location, showing Core and Buffer Zones of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property, Recorded Monuments, and the 250m assessment corridor

This approach is tailored to the greenfield landscapes through which the route passes and is the accepted best practice for linear infrastructural projects in greenfield areas. The study area was assessed in order to identify known and recorded archaeological assets within it, as well as areas of archaeological potential.

Professional judgement was used to determine where the study area should be extended to consider archaeological sites / monuments that lie beyond its boundaries. As required and where appropriate, the relationship of structures, sites, monuments, and complexes that fall outside this study area were considered and evaluated. The wider landscape was also considered, to provide an archaeological and historical context for the proposed scheme (as in Section 2, for example).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Prehistoric Period (c. 7000 BC – AD 500)

A collection of flint and chert tools with waste were recovered from a restricted area of plough soil on the summit of Donore Hill, c. 1.2km north of the proposed development (SMR ME020-077). More prehistoric activity in the wider area has been discovered during a programme of monitoring and testing in the townlands of Staleen and Roughgrange, associated with works for the Staleen Raw Water Rising Mains Replacement Scheme, between c. 130m and 2km west / north-west of the proposed scheme. Some diagnostic lithic artefacts, retrieved from topsoil during work on the pipeline, indicated earlier activity from the Mesolithic and the Neolithic (Licence No. 18E0342, Bulletin Ref. 2018:626).

However, the earliest substantial evidence for human activity in the area dates to the Neolithic period. The Boyne Valley was undoubtedly an important area during the Neolithic and indeed into later times. The complexes of sites at Newgrange (National Monument No. 147; RMP ME019-045), Knowth (National Monument No. 409; RMP ME019-030), and Dowth (National Monument No. 652; RMP ME020-017), located between c. 2.5 and 4.5km to the north-west of the proposed scheme, comprise a multitude of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, including megalithic tombs, passage tombs, mounds, tumuli, and a henge (see Section 3.1 for further detail on the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property).

In 1935 a cist with an inhumation was discovered c. 1m below the sod during construction of the existing reservoir at Staleen (RMP ME027-001), c. 140m south-west of the proposed scheme. It was destroyed before it could be investigated but was described locally as being formed of slabs of slate placed upright against the remains; one end was destroyed, and it is not known if the burial was covered in slabs (Cahill and Sikora 2011). Archaeological testing within the reservoir site (Licence Nos. 07E0840 & 15E0379, Bulletin Ref. 2007:1391 & 2015:116) produced no related material.

A cairn (SMR ME027-105), located c. 290m south-west of the proposed scheme and c. 160m from the burial, was first identified in 2018. It is a grass-covered cairn supporting four hawthorn trees, but the centre has been dug out. A possible fragment of a saddle quern was recovered from the monument (Duffy 2018).

A ring-ditch with burial urns was found in the western outskirts of the village of Donore during monitoring activity (Licence No. 04E0625, Bulletin Ref. 2004:1342). Four burials were recovered in total: a small stone disc, a natural fossil found between two vessels, and a few small sub-angular stones were placed against the urns. A cone-shaped flint core was recovered from inside the fourth vessel. This ring-ditch is likely to date to the Middle or Late Bronze Age. The term ring-ditch refers to the circular or annular shape in plan of a ditch ('ring-ditch'), sometimes surrounded by a

low concentric bank ('ring-bank') or enclosing a low interior mound ('ring-barrow'). Ring-ditches are usually associated with pits filled with cremated human burial remains. They seem often to be distributed along river valleys, frequently in topographical locations that mimic their shape or accent their prominence, e.g., on hillslope spurs or 'false crests' near to the summit of hills. They date primarily to the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

A cluster of recorded sites identified as cropmarks in Deenes townland (SMR ME027-108001 to -108009), six of which are possible ring-ditches, speak to likely prehistoric burial and ritual activity on the banks of the River Nanny. These are located in arable fields adjacent to the proposed scheme. Notably, c. 560m north-east of these sites on the opposite side of the river is a recorded burial mound (RMP ME027-030) of Early Bronze Age date, from which 14 burials were recovered in the 1930s. The wealth of grave-goods, which included eight Food Vessels, one Cinerary Urn and a jet necklace, suggests that this was a cemetery of a significantly prosperous and settled community. This was likely the result of the fertility of the surrounding soils and the possibility of a very productive mixed agriculture (Mount & Buckley 1997).

Another ring-ditch (SMR ME027-116) is recorded in Garballagh townland, c. 175m west of the proposed scheme.

There are also numerous *fulachtaí fia* recorded in the wider landscape providing further evidence for Bronze Age activity. This includes two (SMR ME020-029002 and -029003) in Sheephouse townland, c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed scheme, associated with a burnt mound (RMP ME020-029001). Archaeological excavation (Licence No. E000973, Bulletin Ref. 1994:194) recorded several spreads of burnt stone with troughs, but it has since become incorporated into a quarry (Campbell 1994). Two more *fulachtaí fia* were found in Carranstown (SMR ME027-058 and -103), c. 1.1km south-east, and another one was uncovered after archaeological investigation in the same area (Licence No. 03E0465, Bulletin Ref. 2003:1381). *Fulachtaí fia*, or burnt mounds, are one of the most common discoveries of development-led investigations. They comprise of pits or troughs which were typically lined with timber, wattling or stone, and which were filled with water. Stones would be heated in an adjacent fire and immersed in the water to heat it. Spent or shattered stones were subsequently discarded around the trough in a characteristic horseshoe shape. These features are typically interpreted as cooking places, possibly open-air feasting areas for small family groups (Hawkes 2015). Other interpretations also include their use for bathing, dying, or brewing. They typically date to the Bronze Age and are usually found in wet areas adjacent to watercourses.

Archaeological excavations undertaken in the early 2000s, in advance of the M1 motorway c. 3km to the east, demonstrate the high archaeological potential of the landscape for the discovery of previously unknown sites. Several archaeological sites of varying size and complexity were excavated. Activity at these sites ranged in date from the Neolithic through the Bronze Age and all were characterised by scatters and agglomerations of pits, post-holes, and slot trenches.

Other signs of prehistoric occupation of the area were uncovered in the townlands of Cruicerath and Carranstown, c. 1.2km east of the proposed development, in advance of works for the extension of Platin Concrete quarries. Finds included a curvilinear ditch, prehistoric pottery, and worked flint (Licence No. 04E0714, Bulletin Ref. 2004:1196), and a Neolithic house (Licence Nos. 04E1551 / 2004:1214 & 04E1551ext. / 2005:1169).

2.2. Early Medieval Period (c. AD 500 – AD 1200)

The development lies within an area referred to in early historical sources as *Mag Breg*. The term *Mag* translates as Plain and generally implies an area of antiquity of settlement. The site was

formerly within the kingdom of Brega, in an area controlled by the Ciannachta, the most prominent of the subject peoples of the Brega during the Early Medieval period.

The Early Medieval period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles, and free farmers. There was an increase in settlement during these times, and the ringfort, otherwise known as the 'rath' or 'fairy fort', is the best-known native monument of this period (Stout 1997). Ringforts are essentially enclosed farmsteads, formed by an earthen bank and an external fosse or ditch, defining an internal area on which dwellings and ancillary buildings would have been constructed. Ringforts were not simple isolated homesteads, and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, route ways, and natural resources. Typically, ringforts are sited on good, well-drained soils, usually over the 100m contour, close to a water source, and often located in proximity to routeways (ridges, eskers, moraines).

A ringfort (SMR ME027-111) is recorded c. 650m to the east of the proposed scheme in the townland of Cruicerath; the placename likely derived from the presence of this or another ringfort (rath) within the townland. It is described in the SMR record as the cropmark of a circular enclosure situated on a shelf on the east side of a hill. It is visible only on Apple Maps, which utilises a survey conducted by Bluesky International during June 2018. A magnetic gradiometer survey (Licence No. 19R0174) by Earthsound Archaeological Geophysics recorded it independently, but it was not identified in subsequent targeted archaeological testing (Licence No. 19E0704, Bulletin Ref. No. 2019:655).

Numerous enclosures recorded in the surrounding landscape may represent denuded ringforts, i.e. with little or no above-ground trace. These include a second one in the townland of Cruicerath (RMP ME027-002), c. 160m east of the proposed scheme, and another in Newtown (RMP ME027-004), c. 245m west. While they have not been reliably dated, it is probable that at least some date to the Early Medieval period.

Where ringforts were the major secular component of early Christian settlement, ecclesiastical centres became the focus of the new religion that was readily adopted in the 5th and 6th centuries. Early Medieval monastic settlements tend to be defined by a large curvilinear bank and ditch or stone enclosure (topography permitting), enclosing an area circa 90-120m in diameter, often preserved in the line of townland or field boundaries and roads. The majority of ecclesiastical settlements had one or more concentric curvilinear enclosures, with the church placed at the centre, in the inner sanctum (frequently preserved in the surviving graveyard boundary), with more secular activities (domestic, commercial and industrial) reserved for the outer enclosures. They usually had a network of radiating roads, with the principal approach road (often from the east) terminating in a triangular market place. Features commonly found to be associated with early ecclesiastical sites include holy wells (usually outside of the main settlement), bullaun stones, high crosses, cross-inscribed stones and round towers.

Early Medieval ecclesiastical activity is represented at Duleek by the two high crosses, remains of a round tower and early Christian cross slabs of St Cianan's Church (National Monument No. 179; RMP ME027-038003 to -038005 and -038013). A church was reputedly founded here by St Cianan who died in 489 AD. The foundations of a church on the same site as above (SMR ME027-014) may be the remains of this early church. The first references to a stone church in Ireland are to Duleek, mentioned in Tirechan's Life of St Patrick written in the second half of the 7th century, and in the Annals of Ulster 724. The place-name Duleek is derived from the Old-Irish word for stone church, *damliac*, and the site may have acquired this name either because at that time stone churches were unusual or because this example was unique.

Abbots of Duleek are recorded in the *Annals of Ulster* and the *Annal of the Four Masters* from AD 783 to 1098, while bishops are mentioned in AD 783, 872, 885, 907, 920 and 929. Duleek was chosen as one of two bishoprics of Meath at the Synod of Rathbreasail in AD 1111. It is recorded that Murchad O Maelsechlainn, King of Tara, was attacked by men of Gailenga at Duleek in 1123 and escaped 'by the protection of St Cianan', though 80 houses were burnt and many were killed (*Annals of Ulster*). Duleek was plundered by the knights of Miles de Cogan in 1171 and St Cianan's Church was burnt in 1179 (*Annals of the Four Masters*).

2.3. Medieval Period (c. AD 1200 – 1600)

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th and early 13th centuries brought about further changes in the appearance of the physical and political landscape of Ireland. County Meath provided a focus for Anglo-Norman settlement following the invasion in the 12th century, with its good agricultural land and proximity to Dublin. A settlement pattern based on manorial villages and market towns quickly emerged (Graham 1975), accompanied by the presence of castles and monastic orders newly arrived from Britain and the Continent. The early Anglo-Norman occupation saw the creation of cantreds as a territorial subdivision. Many of the manorial divisions made use of ancient territorial divisions (*trícha cé*) as well as pre-existing settlements (MacCotter 2005).

The 12th century saw a two-fold change in Duleek's status. It was recognised as a diocesan see in the first half and created a chartered town in the latter half of the century. The size and prosperity of the ecclesiastical settlement at Duleek attracted Hugh de Lacy to choose it as the site of one of his first castles (SMR ME027-038017) in Meath. Duleek was retained as a seignorial manor by de Lacy. De Lacy may have also considered Duleek as a site for his *caput* but chose Trim as Duleek was not sited on a major river and was not centrally located in his grant of Mide.

De Lacy's motte castle (SMR ME027-038017) was erected just outside the enclosure. Entrusting the castles at Trim and Duleek and his lands to Hugh Tyrell, de Lacy returned to England in late 1172. In 1174 the Irish high king, Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, decided to invade Mide. De Lacy's constable at Duleek, Hugh Tyrell, decided that forces at the castles at Trim and Duleek were not adequate for a successful defence, destroyed some of the fortifications and abandoned the castles, retreating to Dublin. The Irish forces marched on to the outskirts of Dublin and into east Mide where they destroyed de Lacy's castle at Duleek. The Irish were forced to retreat when Strongbow and Raymond le Gros mustered their forces and inflicted a defeat on the Irish rearguard. Tyrell returned to restore the fortifications and guard them.

The site at Duleek was adapted with the town (RMP ME027-038) being established to one side of existing ecclesiastical settlement and strengthened militarily with the motte. Duleek had a defensive enclosure which could be adapted to protect the new town. The street pattern of the new town followed the lines of the monastic enclosure. The street plan reflects the early ecclesiastical enclosure but there are also elements of a linear pattern, one of the most important features of a town - a planned street pattern. It is relatively easy to trace the Anglo-Norman influence on the layout of the street pattern of Duleek. The town developed as a linear settlement.

De Lacy also founded a dependency of Llanthony-by-Gloucester in Duleek c. 1180, as the 'cell of St Cianan' or St Michaels (*De Hibernia, et Antiquitatibus ejus*). The old stone church of St Cianan (SMR ME027-038003 and ME027-038011) was granted to St Michaels. It was built mainly by Walter de Lacy after his father's death in 1186 and became one of the richest monasteries in Ireland. It was used as a cell for only a few canons to supervise the great farming estates for the support of Llanthony. To avoid visitations by the archbishop of Armagh as metropolitan and

expenditure on charity etc, the canons maintained that St Michael's was merely a grange; the master was sometimes called prior but more often 'proctor' or 'agent' (Gwynn & Hadcock 1970).

From the mid-14th century most of the property seems to have been leased out to laymen and, from that time, the proctor only had one or two fellow canons as companions (Brooks 1953). The cell appears to have been suppressed before 1538. Duleek had a 'frankhouse' of the Knights Hospitaller. Frankhouses (or free-houses) occur in a number of locations in Ireland, the most famous being Kilmainham Hospital, which became the Order's priory and chief house in Ireland (Falkiner 1906-07). The frankhouse in Duleek appears to have been run by seculars and to have catered only for the members of the Order when they were travelling or staying in town (*Registrum de Kilmainham*). No trace of this building remains.

The *Irish Chartularies of Llanthony* records a leper house known as St Mary Magdalen at Duleek c. 1202. In 1403 it was in the Kings hands and the custody, together with some gardens, part of the possessions of St. Marys of Odder, was granted to Thomas Scargyll. In 1410 Henry V granted the custody of the house called 'Le Magdelyns' in Duleek to John Traynor (*Monasticon Hibernicum*). Again, the exact location of this building is unknown.

Beyond the urban settlement at Duleek, there is further evidence for activity and settlement in the wider landscape. An archaeological investigation was carried out in 2003 in Cruicerath, uncovering the traces of a medieval rural settlement (Licence No. 03E0264, Bulletin Ref. 2003:1378). The material recovered from the site, in particular the pottery sherds, has been provisionally dated to the 13th/14th centuries. No earlier or later pottery has been recovered from the sealed contexts on the site. This indicates the strong possibility that the site fell into disuse after the 14th century.

The medieval parish church of Donore located in Sheephouse townland (RMP ME020-011), c. 770m north of the proposed scheme, is listed in the ecclesiastical taxation (1302-06) of Pope Nicholas IV (Cal. doc. Ire. 5, 254). Ussher describes the church and chancel at Dunmore or Donowre as repaired (Erlington 1847-64). According to Dopping's Visitation (1682-5) the church of St Mannore had been repaired by John Jemmet, a papist, and the graveyard was not fenced (Ellison 1971). The church, as described in the RMP records, is within an oval graveyard (SMR ME020-011001) defined by masonry walls and many of the headstones have been recorded (Sadleir 1913-14). The graveyard is located on top of Donore Hill. Near the gate of the graveyard is a watch-house, which would have formerly used to guard against the possible exhumation of the recently buried by body-snatchers. The head of a disc-headed cross (SMR ME020-011003) and a 17th century graveslab (SMR ME020-011002) are recorded within the graveyard.

A tower house (National Monument No. 539; RMP ME033-004) was erected in 1590 for William Bathe and his wife, Jane Dowdall. The monument is located in Athcarne townland, c. 1km south of the proposed scheme. A 19th century illustration depicts the castle as a four storey tower house, which has a two storey house (RMP ME033-004001) attached at the south-west side. The tower house continued to be occupied into the 19th century and was considerably altered with the insertion of large windows on the upper floors, but the attached house was replaced by a new wing to the south-west.

2.4. Post-Medieval Period (c. AD 1600 – 1800)

In 1542, Henry VIII created the county of Meath from the pre-existing Anglo-Norman baronies (Simington 1940). During his lifetime, he had failed to bring the country to knee, and by the time of his death in 1547, English rule was largely confined to the Pale. However, policies such as surrender and regrant and the first successful attempt at colonial plantation in Ulster in 1606

helped to copper-fasten English power in Ireland. The 1641 Rebellion was a watershed moment, prompting the depredations of Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army as well as sectarian massacres of Protestants. This was followed by the forced expulsion of thousands of Catholics and, following the Land Grant Act of 1652, wholesale confiscation of land and possessions (Prendergast 1997). Between 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland was undertaken to facilitate the redistribution of land to loyal subjects. It involved surveying and mapping the country to an unprecedented level of detail. The mapping was preceded by the Civil Survey in 1654-6, which identified and classified lands as profitable or unprofitable and listed the religion of the owners. Furthermore, the Books of Survey and Distribution provided an official record of land distribution between 1656 and 1702, including the name and religion of landowners in 1641 and the townland names.

During the late 17th century, the village of Donore (c. 675m north-east of the proposed scheme) was used as a defensive position by the Jacobite army of King James II against King William III during the Battle of the Boyne (1690). The Jacobite army camped on the hill before the battle of the Boyne in 1690, and James II is said to have viewed the battle from the vantage point of Donore Church (RMP ME020-011; Hall 1842).

In Simington's Civil Survey of County Meath (1940), the barony of Duleek is described as being of generally good and profitable lands, characterised by arable, meadow, and pasture. The Parish of *Donowre* is owned for most part by Lord Moore, protestant and only Cruicerath is owned by Stephen Cormacke, Irish Papist. This is the reason why the Down Survey map does not bear details on this area (see below) because land owned by a protestant was unforfeited and hence, in no need of being evaluated. *Staleing* comprises 400 acres of arable, pasture, and meadow lands, and a mountainous area (*Baron Mountayn*), with two farmhouses and a mill. Sheephouse and Oldbridge are annotated among the townlands comprised in this parish and they each include one stone house and some cabins. There is no mention of the structure depicted in Cruicerath on the Down Survey map (see below).

2.4.1. Study area as described in the Civil and Down Surveys

William Petty's Down Survey was undertaken from 1656 to 1658 and was at the time the most detailed survey undertaken anywhere in the world. The majority of townlands traversed by the proposed pipeline are named and or depicted on the barony map for Duleek (which includes an extract of Skreen barony, showing Kilmoon Parish) and their boundaries are similar to the present ones. The River Nanny is shown and named ('Nanney Water'). Few of the townlands contain features of interest. A large manor house and possibly an attached / adjacent tower house is depicted in Downestown ('Doninstonne') (Figure 4), in a location a good distance north of where the later Downstown House is shown on the first edition OS six-inch map. Features are not always accurately placed on these maps and it is possible that this was the predecessor of Downstown House. The RMP does not record any earlier buildings associated with it or elsewhere in the townland. A smaller house is shown in Hawkinstown, though there is no later named house with which to associate it.

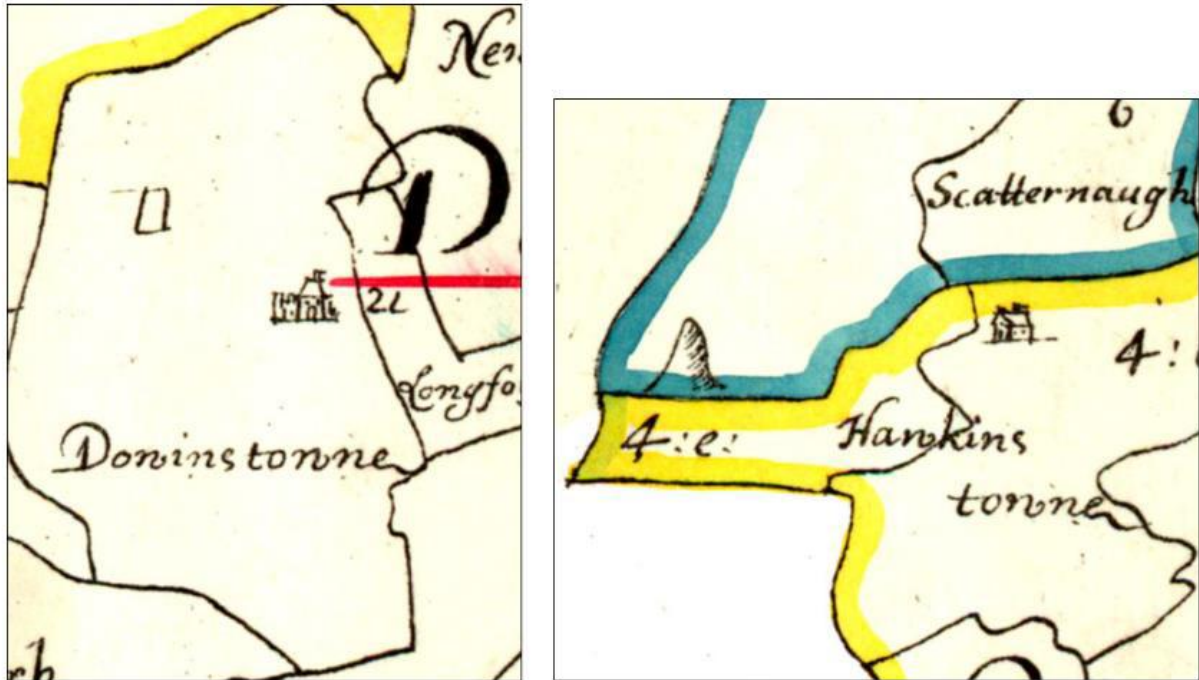


Figure 4 Down Survey map of Duleek Barony, c. 1656, showing manor house in Downestown (left) and Hawkinstown (right) townlands

2.5. Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the proposed pipeline wayleave and relatively few in its vicinity (Table 2), considering its length. While some of these found nothing of archaeological interest, where archaeology was found it confirmed what is recorded in the wider landscape, with indications of considerable activity and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. The results of the investigations are discussed in the context of the archaeological and historical background (Section 2).

Table 2 Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed wayleave

Licence No.	Excavations Bulletin Ref.	Townland	Findings
15E0379	2015:116	Stalleen	Archaeological testing in 2015 in advance of construction of the existing Stalleen WTP. Despite being located at the site of a previously excavated burial (RMP ME027-001), it did not identify any features or finds of archaeological interest.
07E0840	2007:1391	Stalleen	Monitoring of SI works, road adjacent Stalleen WTP. Vicinity of burial ME027-001. No archaeology found.
03E0264	2003:1378	Cruicerath	Excavation of probable truncated medieval settlement uncovered during monitoring associated with extension to Platin Quarry in Cruicerath. Also fulacht fia-type trough.
01E0257	2001:963	Newtown	Testing in advance of development. Nothing of archaeological interest found.
19E0411	2019:433	Downestown	Testing in advance of development. Three area of archaeology exposed, identified as three possible burnt mounds/fulachtaí fiadh. Full excavation and monitoring of topsoil stripping recommended.
93E0105	1993:180	Commons	Testing in advance of development in vicinity of St Cianan's Church (SMR ME027-038003). Traces of a

Licence No.	Excavations Bulletin Ref.	Townland	Findings
			ditch exposed, possibly the line of the southern boundary of the Early Christian enclosure.

2.6. Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

Finds associated with one of the graves in an Early Bronze Age flat cemetery excavated in the 1930s in Keenoge townland (RMP ME027-030; discussed in Section 2.1) are recorded in the NMI files and include a flint arrowhead, thumb scraper, and a flint flake (NMI Reg. No. 1929:30). Although located c.800m east of the proposed pipeline wayleave, the site is of particular interest given the proliferation of ring-ditches and enclosures recorded on the opposite side of the River Nanny in Deenes townland (see Section 2.1), indicating a focus of prehistoric funerary activity in this area. The topography and soils in this landscape would have supported both pasturage and arable cultivation, while the proximity to the river provided a means of travel, communication, and trade, as well as fresh water and a source of food. Thus, while no settlement sites have been identified, it is likely that there was settlement in the vicinity of these burial sites.

The topographical files also record an iron blade (date unknown) to Downestown townland (NMI Reg. No. 2006:84).

2.7. Townland names and boundaries

Townland names³ are a valuable source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. While most place names were anglicised or translated relatively accurately, some were corrupted virtually beyond recognition. By the time the Ordnance Survey collected place names in the area in the 1830s, both the native Irish and introduced English forms would have been simultaneously in use in the area. Most of the townland names in the study area are not of Irish origin (Table 3), demonstrating a connection with Anglo-Norman and later English colonists, with one (Staleen) being a mixture of Irish and Danish words, pointing to Viking influence. This is not unexpected, as Meath, with its good agricultural land and proximity to Dublin has a long history of non-Gaelic land ownership. Those Irish names that do occur are largely topographical in nature.

Table 3 Townland names

Townland name	Origin and Meaning
Staleen	From <i>Sta</i> , the Danish form of <i>teach</i> , meaning 'house', and <i>lin</i> , meaning 'of the flax'
Cruicerath	From the Irish <i>Rath Chrúis</i> , meaning Cruice's rath
Newtown	English placename (first documented in 1540-41 as 'Newton')
Clonlusk	From the Irish <i>Cluain lusc</i> , meaning lawn or meadow of the cave
Longford	From the Irish <i>Long phoirt</i> , meaning a fort or fortress
Downestown	English family name (first documented in 1379 as 'Douanstoun')
Commons	Commonage land around a town or village (in this case Duleek)
Garballagh	From the Irish <i>Garbhlach</i> , meaning rough land

³ Information on the townland names in Table 3 was sourced from www.logainm.ie

Townland name	Origin and Meaning
Deenes	English family name (first documented in 1540-41 as 'Denys')

Townlands are land divisions that form a unique feature in the Irish landscape. Their origins can be of great antiquity and many are of pre-Norman date. They can take the form of natural boundaries or routeways – as in the case of the River Nanny south of Deenes townland, which acts as a barony, parish, and townland boundary – as well as artificially constructed earthen banks and ditch divisions. They are predominantly formed of substantial boundaries which are often distinguishable from standard field division boundaries. The proposed pipeline passes through 10 townlands. The majority of the boundaries are bank / ditch with mature hedgerow / trees in form. In five instances, the boundary follows a watercourse: Longford and Downestown with Commons and Garballagh with Commons.

3. DESIGNATED SITES

3.1. Brú na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage Property

Brú na Bóinne is a UNESCO World Heritage Property and is of international importance. It represents one of the most important monumental landscapes in Europe and is dominated by the three great Neolithic burial mounds of Knowth, Newgrange, and Dowth, all National Monuments. They are surrounded by about forty satellite passage tombs and constitute a funerary landscape recognised as having great ritual significance, subsequently attracting later monuments of the Iron Age, early medieval and medieval periods. The UNESCO statement of attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), integrity and authenticity of the complex are:

- The Bend of the Boyne monuments represents the largest and most important expression of prehistoric megalithic plastic art in Europe.
- The concentration of social, economic, and funerary monuments at this important ritual centre and the long continuity from prehistory to the late medieval period make this one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe.
- The passage grave, here brought to its finest expression, was a feature of outstanding importance in prehistoric Europe and beyond.

Also included in this landscape and part of its significance are protected structures, demesnes, industrial heritage features, the site of the Battle of the Boyne, and architectural conservation areas. These represent a continuity of settlement since the Neolithic and a living landscape that is considered to be part of the significance of the complex. The navigable river Boyne is also significant since the earliest of times as a route way and a resource and in later periods attracted industrial activity to the area with canals and mill structures and associated workers dwellings.

There are 247 monuments currently recorded within the WHP, 154 in the core zone and 93 in the buffer zone (Figure 5). The core area of the WHP comprises approximately 780 hectares contained within the bend of the River Boyne. The buffer zone (approximately 2,500 hectares) extends to the River Mattock in the north and includes the River Boyne to the south, extending to the ridgeline of an escarpment that overlooks the core area (DAHG & OPW 2015). The boundaries of the buffer zone were set having taken into account views into and out of the core zone.

While the sacred and monumental landscape of the bend of the Boyne is well documented, little has been recorded of the hill side ridge to the south, known as Redmountain. This ridge line forms the southern boundary of the World Heritage buffer zone and is a natural topographical feature that performs the dual purpose of providing a protective barrier to the south while enabling expansive views over the Boyne Valley. Stout and Stout (2008) have described how the sun rises

on the shortest day of the year over Redmountain which forms the horizon, at a height of over 100m above sea level, as part of the solstice phenomenon. As the sun appears above this horizon a shaft of sunlight illuminates the interior of the passage and chamber at Newgrange.

Redmountain is integral to the landscape character of Brú na Bóinne, the steep grassy slopes rise majestically above the river Boyne encapsulating this exceptional archaeological landscape and providing a distinctive and discrete physical feature that is inextricably linked to the archaeological, historical, and cultural importance of the valley. This landscape reflects the complex history of the people who occupied this area and just because there are no large-scale upstanding monuments on the hillside now does not mean that the hillside was not used and occupied by our ancestors in the past. The siting of monuments was carefully and deliberately chosen by our predecessors. Proximity to the River Boyne, good soils, shelter, views and intervisibility between monuments would have all contributed to the placement of a site and its position in the landscape.

Both the core area and the buffer zone are recognised in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, where protection against undesirable development is the stated objective (for more details see Appendix 3).

Given the location of the proposed scheme at the outer edge of the buffer zone (Figure 2 and Figure 5) and the nature of the development (a below-ground pipeline) it is considered that there will be **no negative effects on the OUV of the World Heritage Property**.

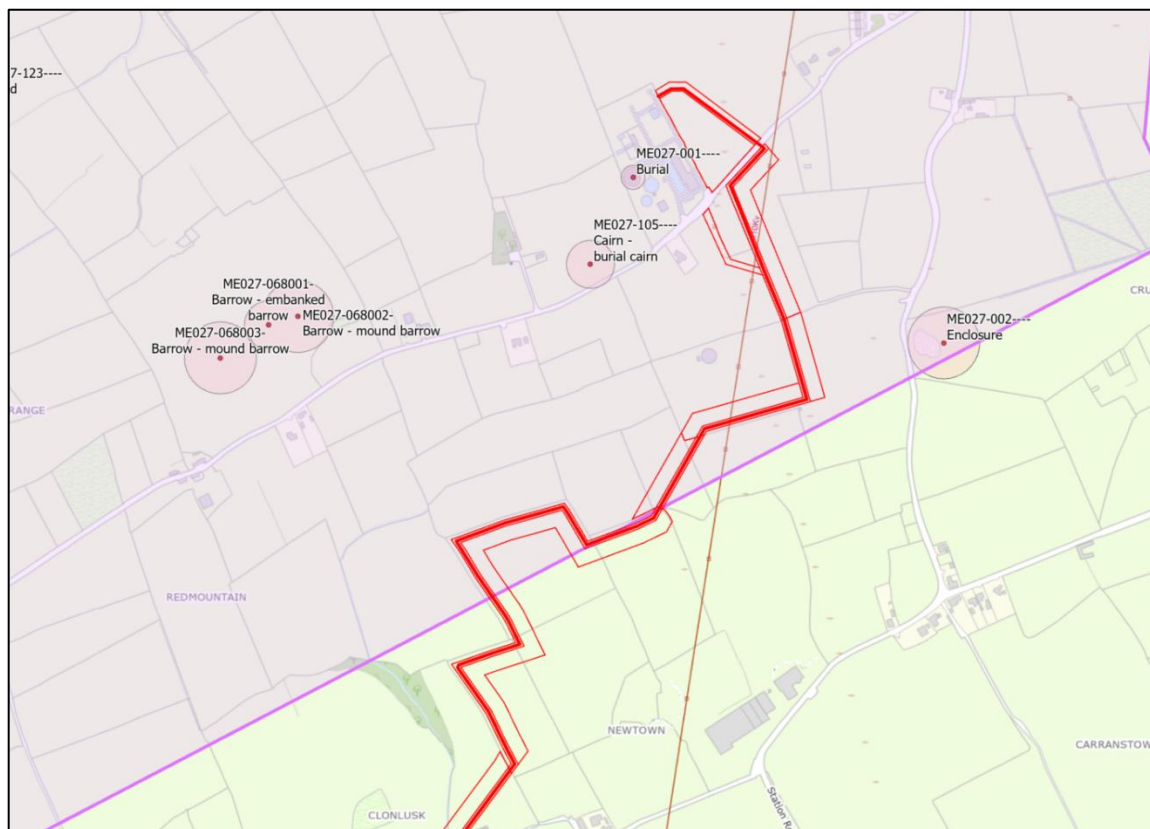


Figure 5 Detail of section of proposed pipeline at the outer edge of the WHP buffer zone (in blue), showing recorded monuments

3.2. National Monuments

There is one national monument within a 1km radius of the proposed scheme, a late 16th century tower house (NM No. 539; RMP ME033-004) in Athcarne townland (c. 1km south).

In addition to those within the core zone of the Brú na Bóinne WHP, the only other national monuments in the wider study area are located at the centre of Duleek town, comprising the church and two high crosses (NM No. 179; RMP ME027-038003 to -038005 and -038013), c. 1.1km east of the proposed pipeline wayleave. Given the distance from the proposed scheme and the nature of the development (a below-ground pipeline), it is considered that there will be **no negative effects on the national monuments**.

3.3. Recorded Monuments

There are no recorded monuments (RMP/SMR sites) within the proposed route (Figure 6 to Figure 8).

A total of 6 recorded monuments are located within c. 250m of the pipeline route (Table 4). These predominantly date to the prehistoric and early medieval periods and the majority are located along the northern half of the proposed pipeline wayleave.

Recorded monuments in the wider area are described in the context of the archaeological and historical background in Section 2.

Table 4 Recorded monuments within c. 250m of the proposed pipeline route

RMP / SMR no.	Classification	Townland	ITM E	ITM N	Distance from proposed pipeline wayleave
ME027-001	Burial	Stalleen	703917	771916	c. 90m W
ME027-002	Enclosure	Cruicerath	704435	771640	c. 165m E
ME027-004	Enclosure	Newtown (Duleek Lower By., Duleek ED)	703201	770278	c. 145m W
ME027-105	Enclosure	Cruicerath	704435	771640	c. 190m W
ME027-116	Ring-ditch	Garballagh	702995	768222	c. 75m W
ME033-043	Ring-ditch	Stalleen	703917	771916	c. 200m S

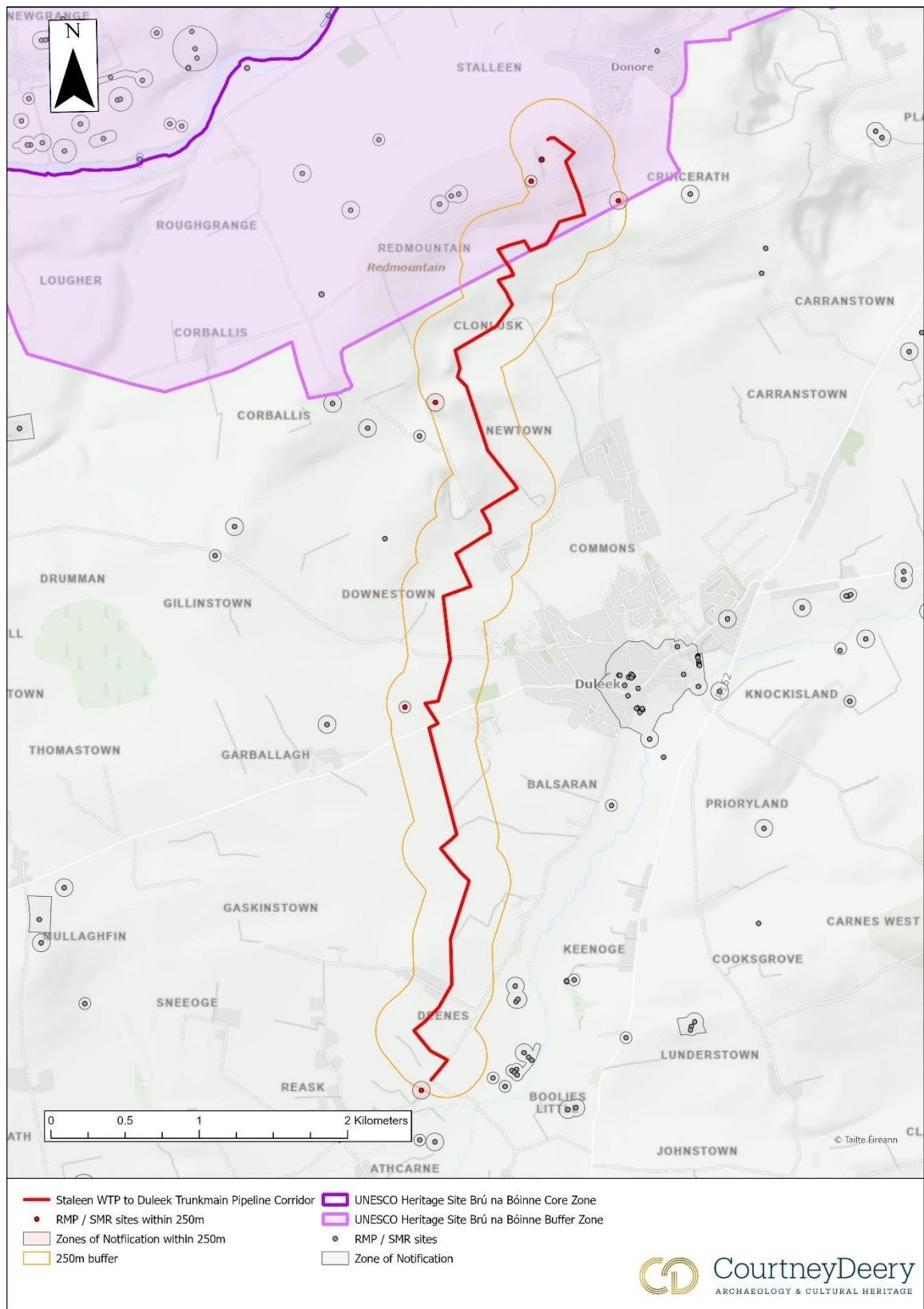


Figure 6 Recorded monuments (RMP) in the wider area of the proposed scheme, showing buffer zone of the World Heritage Property

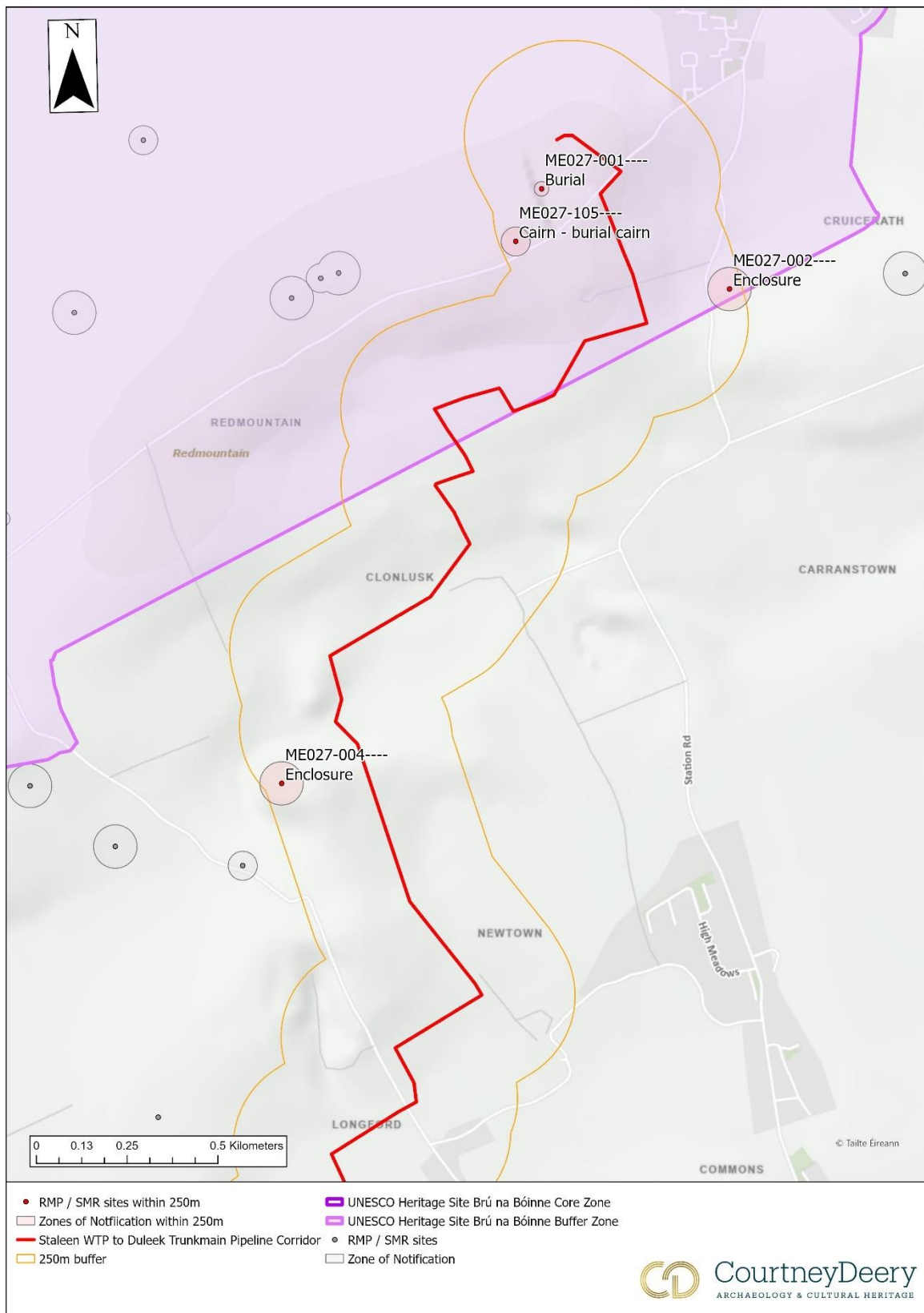


Figure 7 Detail of RMP sites within the study area at northern end

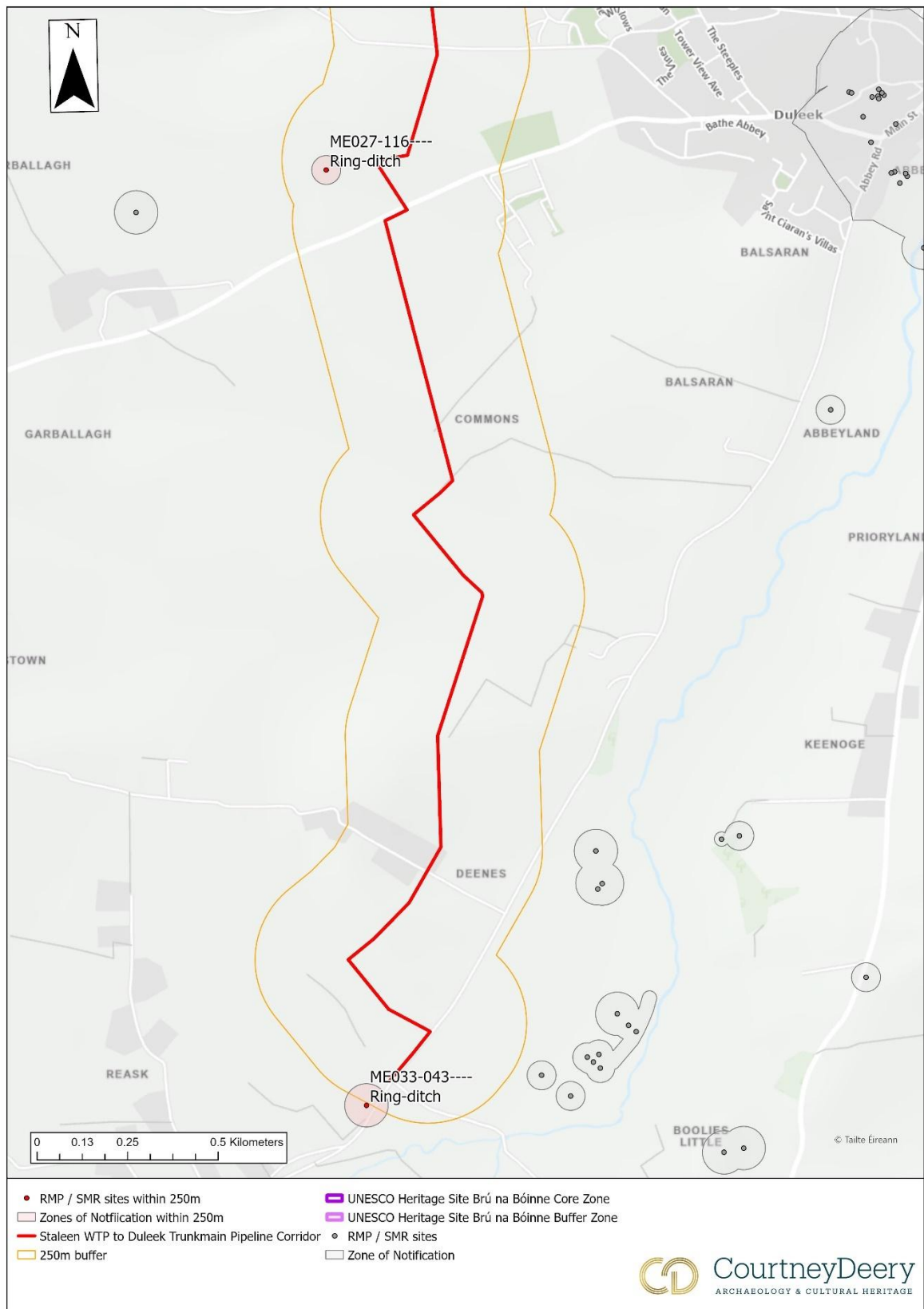


Figure 8 Detail of RMP sites within the study area at southern end

4. UNDESIGNATED SITES

4.1. Meath Industrial Heritage Survey (MIHS)

There is only one undesignated site along the proposed pipeline wayleave and this is recorded in the MIHS. The proposed pipeline wayleave crosses the disused railway line of the Navan, Kells & Oldcastle Branch of the Dublin-Drogheda Railway (DDR), a feature of industrial heritage interest (MIHS Ref. 027-001). The DDR was opened in 1844 with the Drogheda-Navan section completed by 1850 (Johnson 1997). It closed for passenger transport in 1958, though the line, which was used for a time for freight, has been preserved. The railway line first appears on the 25-inch OS map of 1911 (Figure 9), representing one of the more significant changes in the landscape.



Figure 9 Location MIHS027-001 within proposed scheme. Insets show site on Tailte Éireann (2013-2018) aerial imagery (top) and on OS (1911) 25-inch map (bottom).

5. FIELD INSPECTION

Field survey, including a visual impact assessment, was carried out on 7th December 2023 on a wet, overcast day by two qualified archaeologists. This targeted the fields located around the existing Staleen WTP, which lie within the buffer zone of the WHP. Areas identified as of possible archaeological interest during the desk study were visited, where accessible, or otherwise viewed from the nearest publicly accessible point.

The setting of the proposed scheme is generally characterised by a mixed landscape, comprising residential, industrial, and agricultural development. The industrial element is predominantly large quarries (both active and disused) and the Irish Cement plant at Platin at the northern end of the proposed scheme (Figure 10). The Irish Cement plant is a dominant feature in the landscape. Other modern elements include pylons and overhead lines that cross the study area at various points. The fields through which the proposed scheme runs are a mixture of pasture and arable. A number of watercourses are crossed by the route.

Views into Brú na Bóinne WHP are restricted by the topography at Staleen, where the proposed scheme is located within the WHP buffer zone, with views of the landscape open only to the south and west, away from the WHP. The topography generally falls away from this point as the proposed scheme progresses southwards (Figure 11), with the undulating landscape providing further protection for the WHP. Where the pipeline begins on the north side of the public road, at the highest point of the scheme, the Staleen WTP and existing mature field boundaries block any views into the WHP (Figure 11).

The railway line (MIHS027-001) appears to be in good condition and has been kept free of the vegetation overgrowth that is encroaching its embankments (Plate 1).

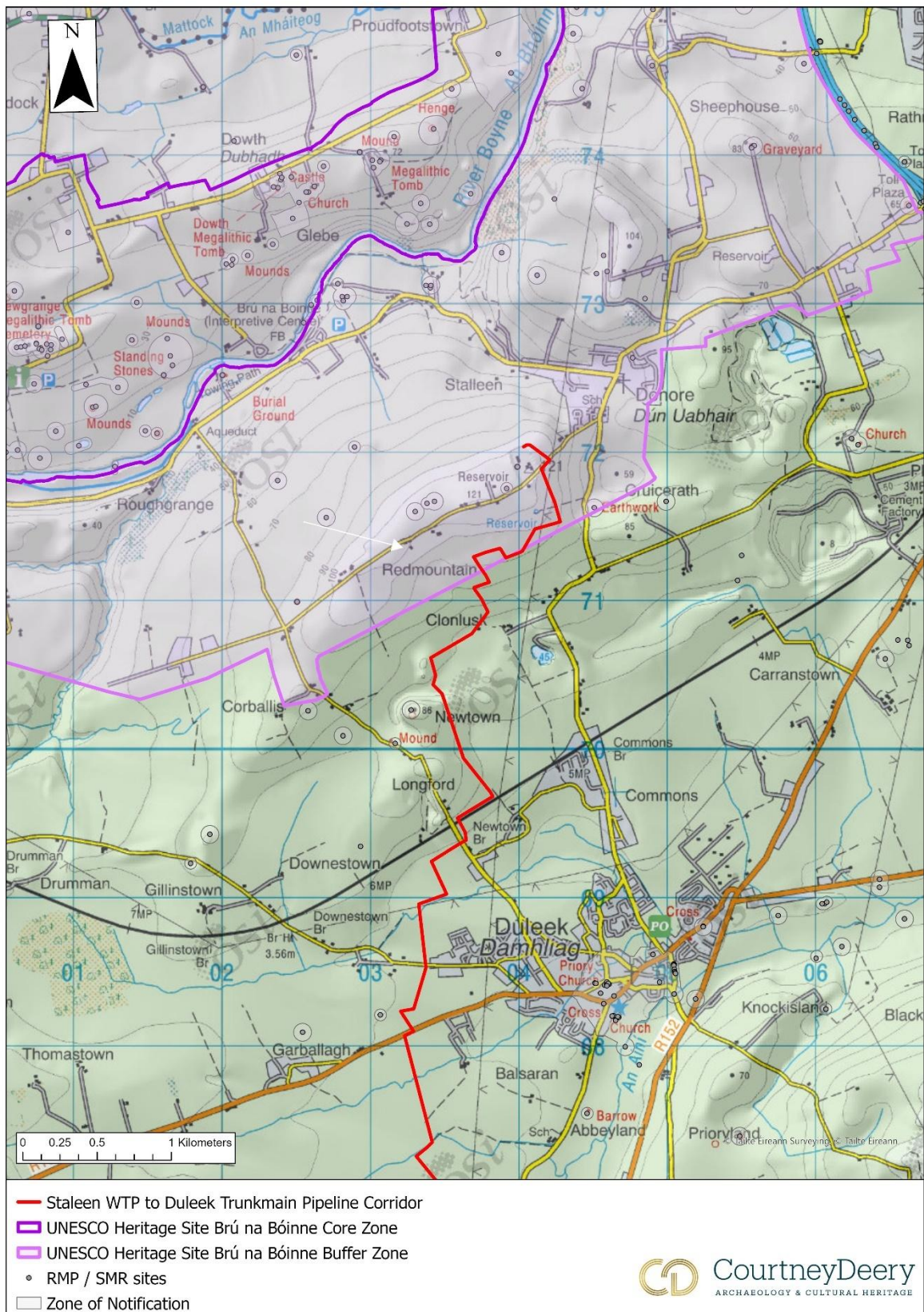


Figure 10 Tailte Éireann Discovery map showing topography of the landscape along the proposed pipeline route in the vicinity of the World Heritage Property



Figure 11 Location of proposed pipeline route at existing Staleen Water Treatment Plant within the WHP buffer zone.



Plate 1 Railway line viewed from bridge parapet, facing ENE

6. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Between October and November 2024, a geophysical survey (Licence No. 24R0184; Gimson and Davitt 2024) commissioned by Irish Drilling Ltd was conducted over a series of preselected areas along a portion of the then proposed route of the Staleen Water Treatment Plant to Windmill Hill Reservoir Trunkmain within the townlands of Stalleen, Cruicerath, Clonlusk, Newtown & Longford, County Meath (Figure 12). Area 3 could not be accessed and, as a result, was not included in the survey. The areas covered comprised c. 3.3km of the total length of the proposed pipeline wayleave. An electromagnetic survey was undertaken at a sample resolution of 1m x 0.25m.

The geophysical surveys revealed a series of previously unknown features. The majority of these appear to be agricultural in origin often representing relict field boundaries, both unknown and corresponding the historic mapping, as well as cultivation furrows and field sub-divisions. Three ditches were also revealed that are possibly associated with unknown service trenches.

Throughout the survey areas a number of features were detected which could be associated with archaeological or agricultural processes (Figure 13 to Figure 16), including a compact earth deposit within Area 5A and a 'U-shaped' ditch in Area 5B, as well as a number of possible ditches, cut features and disturbed ground.

Throughout the survey area a large number of zones of disturbed soil have been identified. These have different sizes and shapes and could be archaeological, agricultural or geological in formation.

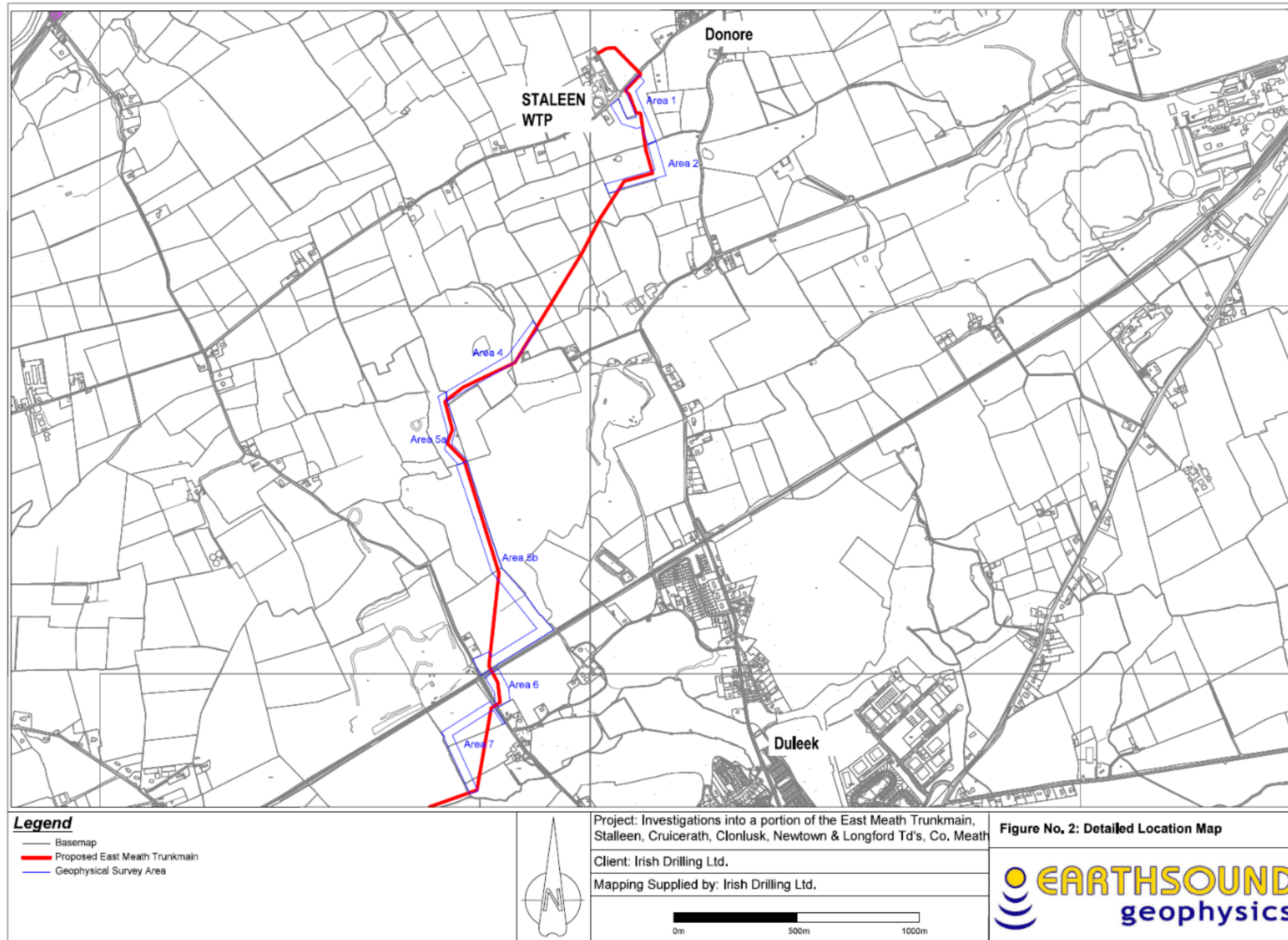


Figure 12 Areas subject to geophysical survey (after Gimson and Davitt 2024)

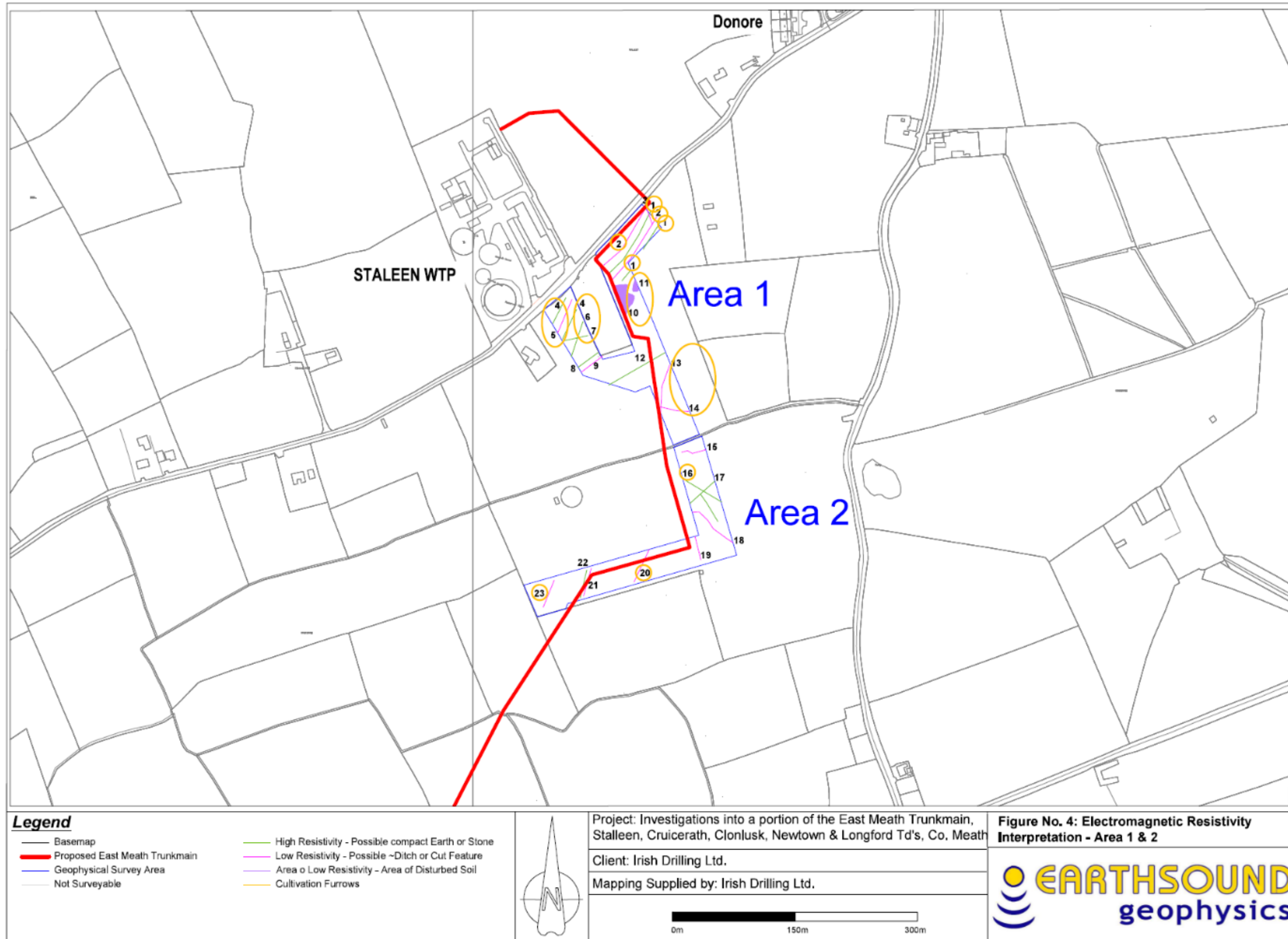


Figure 13 Interpretation drawing of geophysical survey results in Areas 1 and 2 (after Gimson and Davitt 2024), with potential archaeological features highlighted in yellow.

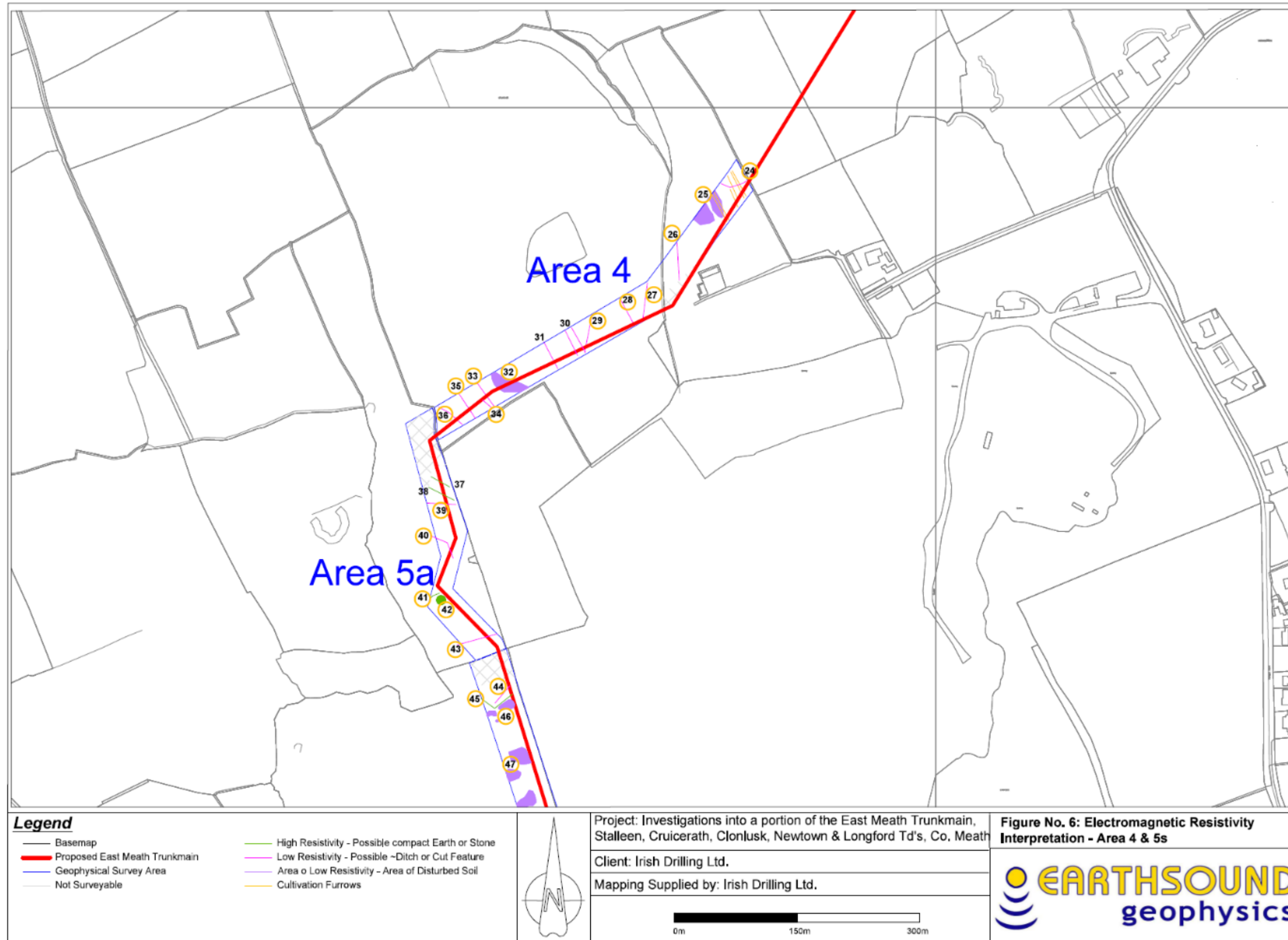


Figure 14 Interpretation drawing of geophysical survey results in Areas 4 and 5a (after Gimson and Davitt 2024), with potential archaeological features highlighted in yellow.

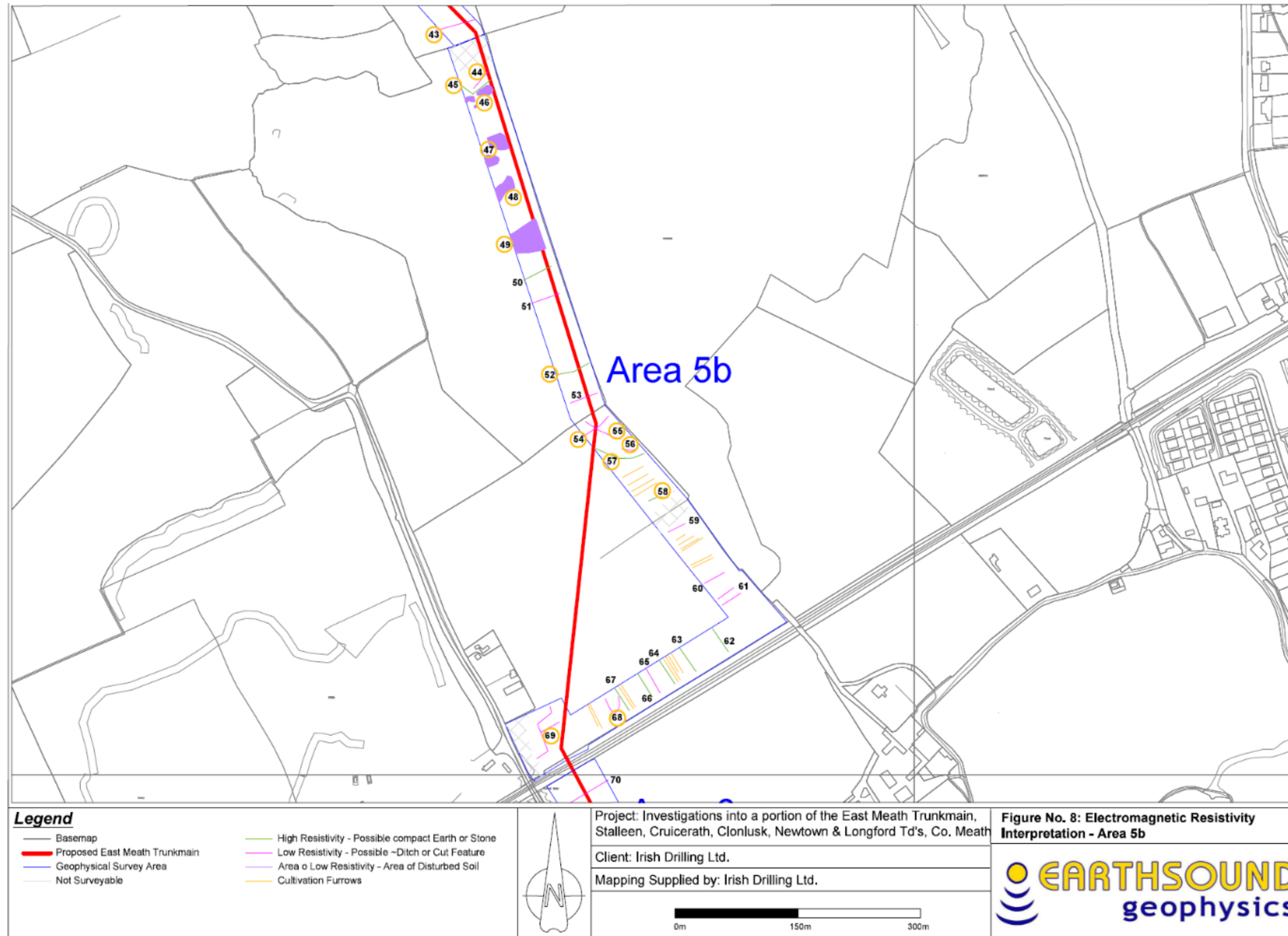


Figure 15 Interpretation drawing of geophysical survey results in Area 5b (after Gimson and Davitt 2024), with potential archaeological features highlighted in yellow.

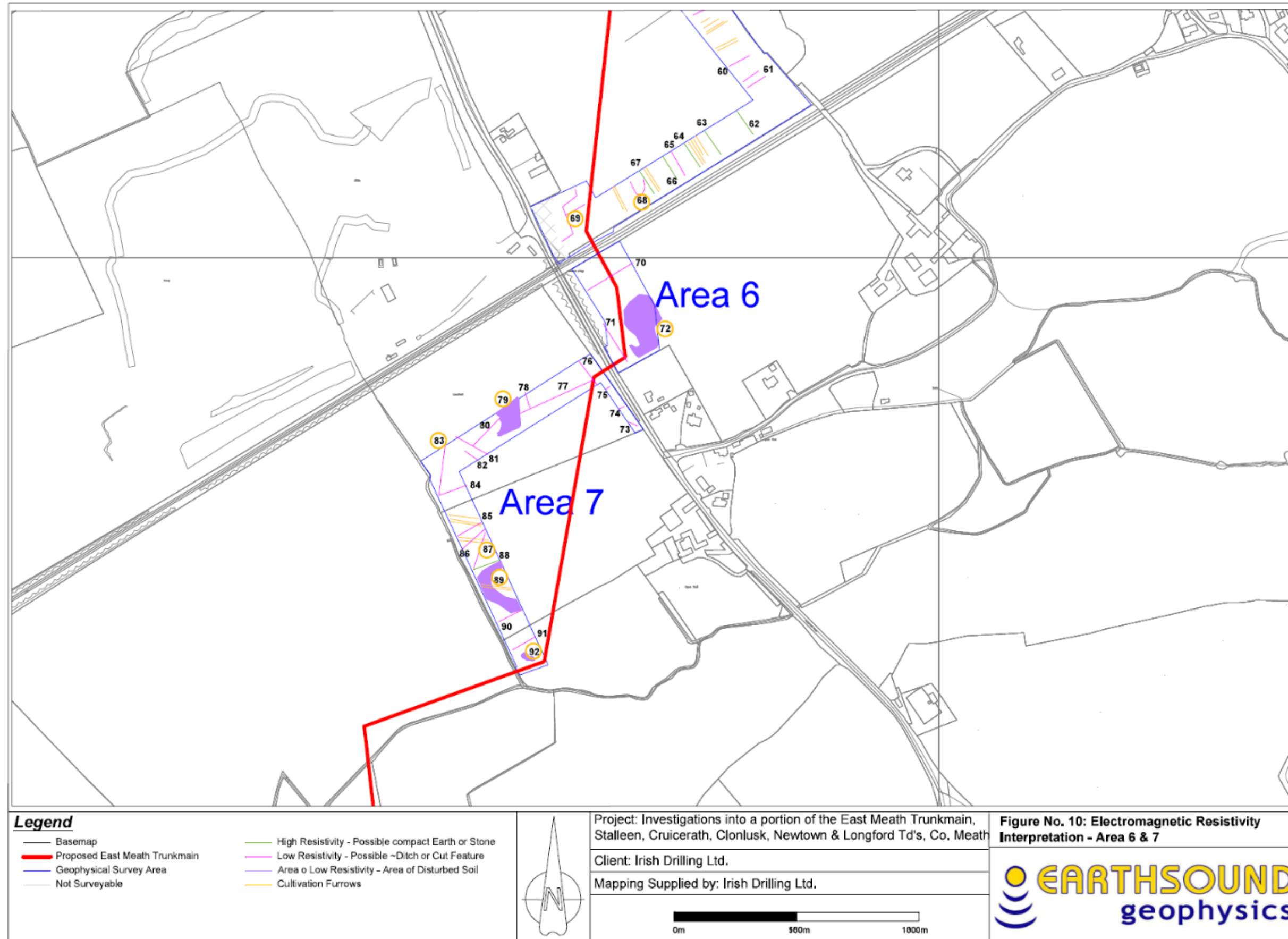


Figure 16 Interpretation drawing of geophysical survey results in Areas 6 and 7 (after Gimson and Davitt 2024), with potential archaeological features highlighted in yellow.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1. Potential Impacts

The proposed pipeline route is partially within the south-eastern edge of the buffer zone of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property. Given the location of the proposed scheme – beginning just inside the outer edge of the buffer zone, but predominantly outside of it – and the nature of the development (a below-ground pipeline), there will be **no negative effects on the OUV of the World Heritage Property**. Nor will the proposed scheme result in any negative visual impacts on the recorded archaeological sites in the wider landscape surrounding it.

There are no recorded monuments (RMP / SMR sites) within the proposed scheme boundary. The nearest is a ring-ditch (SMR ME027-116), located c. 75m west of the proposed pipeline wayleave, identified as a cropmark in an arable field, with no above-ground presence. Its presence speaks to the high archaeological potential of the landscape through which the proposed scheme passes.

The proposed scheme runs predominantly through agricultural greenfield areas, which have an inherent archaeological potential. In addition, the proposed pipeline will cross a watercourse, a tributary stream of the River Nanny at Garballagh. Riverine environments and water crossings have long attracted human activity. Considering the known and recorded archaeological sites in the wider landscape, there is therefore the potential for the discovery of previously unknown archaeological sites, features or deposits along the length of the proposed pipeline.

A geophysical survey (Licence No. 24R0184), undertaken for the proposed scheme in 2024, covers c. 40% of the current proposed pipeline route. The survey identified a number of features of potential archaeological interest, which demonstrates the inherent below-ground potential of the agricultural greenfield areas along the remainder of the proposed pipeline route.

The railway line (MIHS027-001) crossed by the proposed scheme survives in good working order and is of interest from an industrial heritage perspective.

7.2. Recommendations

The following is recommended in relation to the potential impacts outlined above:

- Geophysical Survey: Given the inherent below-ground archaeological potential of the agricultural fields, it is recommended that geophysical survey be undertaken along the proposed pipeline route in greenfield areas not previously surveyed. This non-invasive technique will assist in determining the archaeological potential and provide greater certainty for the proposed scheme.
- Further Recommendations: These will be made based on the results of the additional geophysical survey. These may include archaeological testing to establish the nature, extent, and date of any potential archaeological sites or features that lie within the proposed development site and archaeological monitoring.
- It is recommended that any disturbance to the railway line (MIHS027-001) be made good to ensure the preservation of this industrial heritage asset.

The attention of the developer is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004; Appendix 1)⁴, which describes the responsibility of the site owners to report the finding of archaeological items if any should be discovered during construction works to the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) who will determine the nature and extent of archaeological work to be carried out on site. This legislation also outlines the developer's obligation to facilitate and fund all archaeological works that may be considered necessary by the National Monuments Service or the National Museum in respect of development proposals.

All recommendations made in this report are subject to approval of Meath County Council and the National Monuments Service (DHLGH), who may make additional recommendations.

⁴ The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and is now law. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage commenced certain provisions in May 2024 (S.I. No.: 252/2024), however until the Act is fully commenced the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.

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APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION**Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023)**

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and this Act is now law. The Minister for DHLGH commenced certain provisions in May 2024 (S.I. No. 252/2024) which relate to World Heritage Property in the State, inventories, the protection of certain records, the promotion of heritage, and the issuing of statutory guidance. Certain related and supporting provisions concerning implementation and enforcement are also commenced. However, until the Act is fully commenced, the National Monuments Acts and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act have not yet been repealed and therefore remain in force.

The Act also contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 to continue in operation while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. An example of this would be provisions enabling the Record of Monuments and Places to continue to have effect pending the establishment of a new Register of Monuments.

A person performing a function under this Act shall recognise and take due account of the following principles in performing that function:

- a) that historic heritage is a non-renewable resource of great cultural and scientific importance which, in addition to its intrinsic value, provides evidence for the development of society and promotes public understanding and appreciation of all periods of the past;
- b) that the first option to be considered should be the protection in situ of historic heritage and that there ought to be a presumption in favour of this option;
- c) that any removal or alteration of historic heritage should be accompanied by all necessary and appropriate recording of such heritage;
- d) that the Valletta Convention should be adhered to as well as any other international treaty, to which the State is a party, the provisions of which are aimed at promoting or securing the protection of the archaeological, architectural or other historic heritage;
- e) that responsibility for the protection of historic heritage is, as a resource of benefit to all, shared by all and, accordingly, that those permitted to remove or interfere with such heritage should, in the normal course, bear the costs of any recording or protective work necessitated by, or associated with, such removal or interference.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the destruction, whether in whole or in part and by whatever means, of a monument to which general protection or special protection applies shall not prejudice the continuation of such protection to the remainder (if any) of the monument, including the site, surrounding area and immediate surroundings of the monument.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 will establish a Register of Monuments which will replace and supersede the existing Record of Monuments and Places and the Register of Historic Monuments. The Register shall include

- a) prescribed monuments known to the Minister which are deemed appropriate to be entered in the Register;
- b) relevant things of a relevant interest deemed appropriate to be entered in the Register.

A prescribed monument will be a relevant thing of archaeological interest or of other relevant interest. It may be prescribed by reference to any one or more than one of the following criteria:

- (a) age, date or period (including by reference to any terminology relating to periods) that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or has been in use in archaeology or other relevant disciplines;
- (b) morphology;
- (c) condition;
- (d) typology (including by reference to typologies which, in the opinion of the Minister, are or have been in use in archaeology or other relevant disciplines);
- (e) the environment in which the relevant thing is situated (including whether or not the relevant thing is situated under water);
- (f) the circumstances in which the relevant thing is found (including the manner of finding);
- (g) whether the relevant thing is or is not marked or shown on any—
 - i. edition of any ordnance map, or
 - ii. map prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

“Relevant thing” means any of the following things, means any of the following things, whether situated on, in or under land and whether or not attached to the surface of the land or forming part of land and whether or not intentionally or originally in the sites where they respectively are::

- a) any artificial structure, construction, deposit, feature or layer (including any building and any burial or interment);
- b) any artificially altered structure, construction, deposit, feature or layer, whether or not natural in origin;
- c) any wreck;
- d) any ritual or ceremonial site;
- e) any site where an historic event took place, including any other site directly associated with that event;
- f) any battlefield;
- g) any site with legendary or mythological associations;

- h) any feature, deposit or layer, whether or not natural in origin and whether or not artificially altered, containing or providing information or evidence relating to the past environment;

The Register shall be in the form of an electronic database which is easily accessible to members of the public through public telecommunication networks. The registered monument may include a surrounding area which is considered reasonably necessary to secure the protection of the monument or thing.

Where a person finds, or believes that he or she has found a prescribed monument other than a registered monument, the person shall make a preliminary report Minister or a member of An Garda Síochána within 72 hours, or in the case of discovery in the course of licensable activity, that it be reported to the Minister in such a manner as specified in the licence.

Special protection may be applied to a registered monument taking into account whether the monument is, in terms of such heritage, of special or particular interest, character, integrity, community or amenity value, whether at a local, regional, national or international level. This includes

- a) a national monument,
- b) a wreck of 100 or more years old, or
- c) a guardianship monument.

A person shall not carry out works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument to which special protection applies, or direct or authorise the carrying out of such works, other than under and in accordance with a licence. This shall be deemed to apply to a registered monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority where special protection does not otherwise apply to the monument.

General protection applies to

- a) a registered monument to which special protection does not apply, and
- b) a prescribed monument (not being a registered monument).

A person shall not carry out works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument to which general protection applies, or direct or authorise the carrying out of such works, other than under and in accordance with a licence.

A person shall not, except under and in accordance with a licence, do any of the following at, on, in, over, under or in the vicinity of a wreck 100 or more years old, a registered monument or prescribed monument which is under water, or an archaeological object which is underwater:

- a) dive or direct or authorise diving;
- b) use or possess, or direct or authorise the use or possession of, diving, survey or salvage equipment;
- c) dump or deposit, or direct or authorise the dumping or deposition of, any thing whether or not it interferes with or causes damage to the thing;

- d) interfere, remove or tamper in any way (whether with or without causing damage) with the thing.

The Minister may prescribe a licence, consent, approval, permission or other authorisation where

- a) a licence, consent, approval, permission or other authorisation is required to be granted, issued or given under an enactment (not being the Act of 2000) for works to be carried out which may require an EIA, and
- b) the Minister is satisfied that such works are capable of being at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument, and it is reasonable and proportionate to do so and compatible with the protection of monuments,

The Minister shall consider whether or not the relevant works in respect of which they should be made subject to conditions and may require all or any of the following:

- a) the carrying out of an assessment of heritage interest or potential including an assessment by way of archaeological excavation, use of detection devices or any form of photographic or geophysical survey equipment or any other appropriate form of survey or inspection;
- b) the recording of the monument as a whole or any part or aspect of it (including its immediate surroundings) or any objects on, in, under or within it or its immediate surroundings including recording by way of archaeological excavation, use of detection devices or any form of photographic or geophysical survey equipment or any other appropriate form of survey or inspection;
- c) the carrying out of any form of monitoring (including archaeological monitoring), supervision or inspection;
- d) the salvaging, collection or protection of any part of the monument (including its immediate surroundings) or any object on, in, under or within it or its immediate surroundings and, where appropriate, the preparation of such part or object for deposition in an appropriate museum or other site for such deposition;
- e) the specification of the time period when the relevant works are to be carried out;
- f) that the relevant works be done in a specified manner or be funded or carried out by a specified person or a person falling within a specified category of persons.

The Minister shall make a screening determination for EIA in respect of the proposed relevant works on the basis of the information provided by the applicant. The Minister shall ensure that, before the application is determined, proposed relevant works likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of their nature, size or location (or any combination thereof) are made subject to an EIA. The applicant shall in this case submit to the Minister an EIAR in respect of the proposed relevant works, having regard to guidelines issued by the Minister.

The Minister may appoint himself or herself, or with the consent of a local authority, appoint the local authority as the guardian of a registered monument to which special protection applies. A

national monument under the Act of 1930 will be deemed both a registered monument and a guardianship monument.

Any archaeological object where such object has no known owner shall be vested in the State. An owner or owner exception of land, not being the State, or a finder of an archaeological object is deemed not to acquire any rights of ownership to an archaeological object found on, in or under the land.

Where a person finds, or believes that he or she has found an archaeological object, the person shall make a preliminary report of the finding of the thing to the Board of the National Museum of Ireland or a member of An Garda Síochána within 72 hours, in the case of licensable activity, to the Minister or the Board in such manner as is specified in the licence. A person, other than a relevant person, shall not interfere with or remove a relevant archaeological object, or cause it to be interfered with or removed, except under and in accordance with a licence, or where there is reasonable grounds to believe that it is necessary to remove the thing from the site where he or she found it for the purposes of the safekeeping of the thing.

“Architectural heritage” means—

- a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- b) groups of structures and buildings referred to in paragraph (a), and
- c) sites,

that are of archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, social or technical interest;

A person shall not, other than under and in accordance with a licence—

- a) undertake or carry out, or direct or authorise the undertaking or carrying out of, archaeological excavation,
- b) ... archaeological monitoring,
- c) search for or collect... archaeological objects lying exposed on the surface of land, whether or not any such object is known to be on, in or under that land,
- d) search for... wrecks one hundred or more years old or archaeological objects or prescribed monuments, or other relevant things of archaeological interest, situated on, in or under the sea bed or land covered by water...
- e) be in possession of a detection device in, at, on, over or above, or within the immediate surroundings of, a registered monument or a wreck one hundred or more years old, or

- f) use... a detection device for the purpose of identifying, locating (including searching for), investigating, surveying or recording any archaeological object or monument or relevant thing of archaeological interest...

Anything done by a person in the course of his or her employment shall, in any proceedings brought under this Act, be treated as done also by that person's employer, whether or not it was done with the employer's knowledge or approval. Anything done by a person as agent for another person, with the authority (whether express or implied and whether precedent or subsequent) of that other person shall, in any proceedings brought under this Act, be treated as done also by that other person.

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2014)

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by

the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines “architectural heritage” as:

- (a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,
- (c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, which came into force on 1st January 2000, provides for the inclusion of protected structures into the planning authorities' development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures, thereby giving greater statutory protection to buildings. All structures listed in the development plan are now referred to as Protected Structures and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the 1999 Act the entire structure is protected, including a structures interior, exterior, the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage. This Act was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act.

Protected Structures, Curtilage & Attendant Grounds

A protected structure is defined in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 as any structure or specified part of a structure, which is included in the planning authorities' Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that "...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of

- (a) the structure, or
- (b) any element of the structure, which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

By definition, a protected structure includes the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage and their interiors. The notion of curtilage is not defined by legislation, but according to Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) and for the purposes of this report it can be taken to be the parcel of land immediately associated with that structure and which is (or was) in use for the purpose of the structure.

The attendant grounds of a structure are lands outside the curtilage of the structure but which are associated with the structure and are intrinsic to its function, setting and/or appreciation. The attendant grounds of a country house could include the entire demesne, or pleasure grounds, and any structures or features within it such as follies, plantations, lakes etc.

APPENDIX 2 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted for this cultural heritage impact assessment:

- National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended);
- The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- The Heritage Act 1995;
- CAAS Environmental Ltd on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2002), Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements;
- CAAS Environmental Ltd on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2003), Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements);
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands, (1999a), Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Code of Practice between Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2017;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 and the Planning and Development Act (as amended)
- Cork County Council Heritage Unit (2007) Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estate and their Settings;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (2024) Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects (hereafter referred to as TII Guidelines);
- TII (2023) Project Management Guidelines, PE-PMG-02041;
- UNESCO (2022) Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Ireland (2000) Archaeology and Development Guidelines for Good practice for Developers, prepared for the Heritage Council;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023. This was enacted in October 2023 and is now law. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage commenced certain provisions in May 2024 (S.I. No.: 252/2024), however until the Act is fully commenced the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.

APPENDIX 3 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL (2021-2027)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Archaeology is the systematic study of past human societies through the investigation and analysis of the material evidence left behind. Uniquely archaeology provides insights into periods and civilisations that existed prior to written records. The archaeological heritage of an area includes monuments, sites, and objects whether situated on land or under water. In this respect, the County has a significant archaeological heritage, and provides a valuable cultural, educational and tourism resource.

Relevant Policies:

- **HER POL 1:** To protect sites, monuments, places, areas or objects of the following categories:
 - Sites and monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record as maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
 - Monuments and places included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under the National Monuments Acts;
 - Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the Register of Historic Monuments as established under the National Monuments Acts;
 - National monuments subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Acts and national monuments which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or a local authority;
 - Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts; and Wrecks protected under the National Monuments Acts or otherwise included in the Shipwreck Inventory maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- **HER POL 2:** To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places, in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999).
- **HER POL 3:** To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.
- **HER POL 4:** To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery as identified by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- **HER POL 5:** To seek guidance from the National Museum of Ireland where an unrecorded archaeological object is discovered, or the National Monuments Service in the case of an unrecorded archaeological site.

Relevant Objectives:

- **HER OBJ 1:** To implement in partnership with the County Meath Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the community the County Meath Heritage Plan and any revisions thereof.
- **HER OBJ 2:** To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracting from the monument or its setting.
- **HER OBJ 3:** To protect important archaeological landscapes from inappropriate development.
- **HER OBJ 4:** To encourage the management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historic burial grounds, in accordance with best conservation practice that considers the impact of climate change.
- **HER OBJ 5:** To promote awareness of, and encourage the provision of access to, the archaeological resources of the county.
- **HER OBJ 6:** To work in partnership with key stakeholders to promote County Meath as a centre for cultural heritage education and learning through activities such as community excavation and field/summer schools.

UNESCO World Heritage Property - Brú na Bóinne

The World Heritage Property of the Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne is commonly known as Brú na Bóinne. It refers to the area within the bend of the River Boyne around Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth, and is one of the world's most important archaeological complexes. Brú na Bóinne contains many outstanding archaeological features, including the largest assemblage of megalithic art in Europe, large and varied grouping of monuments, and evidence of continuous settlement and activity in the area for some 7,000 years. The international significance of Brú na Bóinne has gradually been revealed through an ongoing process of discovery and research which began 300 years ago. In December 1993 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) inscribed Brú na Bóinne as a World Heritage Property. This inscription recognises the universal importance of this landscape to the whole of humanity and requires the State to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the area of the World Heritage Property to the highest international standards.

One of the best known features of Brú na Bóinne is the mid-winter solstice phenomenon, when the sun, rising over the ridge of Red Mountain, shines through the roof box above the entrance to the tomb at Newgrange to light the chamber within.

Brú na Bóinne is one of the foremost and popular heritage site visitor attractions in the Country and as such, is a very important Local, Regional and National tourism asset with 261,340 visitors recorded in 2018.

Sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value

The first management plan for the site was published in 2002 by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The management plan was included in the 2013-2019 County Development Plan. Under the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (July 2019), every site contained on the World Heritage list must have a management plan which explains how the Outstanding Universal Value is to be maintained. The replacement for this 2002 management plan was sent to UNESCO in January 2017 by the Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht. The Management Plan is not a statutory planning document.

Planning Guidance, additional information on UNESCO World Heritage and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Brú na Bóinne and Brú and Bóinne World Heritage Property Management Plan are contained in Appendix 8 of the County Development Plan.

Statement of Policy

Meath County Council is committed to the protection and conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne. The Council acknowledges the need for additional bed spaces and other tourist facilities to enable the local community to benefit from the area's World Heritage Property status. The refurbishment of existing building stock will be supported and encouraged in this regard. The World Heritage Property is a key component of Ireland's Ancient East and its potential to generate additional tourist activity in the wider Boyne Valley region as a generator of local employment is acknowledged. The Council welcomes the support of key national stakeholders in developing appropriate policies to ensure the area benefits from its unique International heritage standing.

Relevant Policies (Brú na Bóinne)

- **HER POL 6:** To protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne in accordance with the relevant guidelines and national legislation, so that its integrity, authenticity and significance are not adversely affected by inappropriate development or change.
- **HER POL 7:** To encourage the retention, conservation, and appropriate re-use of traditional buildings within the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne in preference to either their replacement, or the construction of new buildings on green field sites.
- **HER POL 8:** To ensure that development within the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne shall be subject to the Development Assessment Criteria set out in Appendix 8 and the Development Management Guidelines in Chapter 11.
- **HER POL 9:** To consider individual housing within the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne, as shown on Map 8.1 - UNESCO World Heritage Property - Brú na Bóinne, only for those involved locally in full time agriculture and who do not own land outside of the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne and subject to compliance with all other relevant provisions contained in this Development Plan.
- **HER POL 10:** To ensure that residential extensions within the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne respect the scale, design and character of the original building.
- **HER POL 11:** To support the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and all stakeholders in the implementation of the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan, 2017.

Relevant Objectives (Brú na Bóinne)

- **HER OBJ 7:** To work in partnership with the community and all other relevant stakeholders to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne.
- **HER OBJ 8:** To encourage and facilitate pre-application discussions, in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, regarding the siting and design of developments affecting the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne and the scope of any necessary impact assessments.
- **HER OBJ 9:** To refer all planning applications within the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for comment. These comments will be considered in the assessment of all such planning applications.
- **HER OBJ 10:** To actively support and encourage the re-use of vacant and derelict dwellings within the Core and Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property of Brú na

Bóinne by providing assistance and professional advice to owners seeking to re-develop such sites.

- **HER OBJ 11:** To protect the ridgelines which frame views within and from the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne from inappropriate or visually intrusive development.
- **HER OBJ 12:** To prepare and implement a Business Plan for the World Heritage Property in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, subject to funding.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Relevant Policies

- **HER POL 14:** To protect and conserve the architectural heritage of the County and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures.
- **HER POL 15:** To encourage the conservation of Protected Structures, and where appropriate, the adaptive reuse of existing buildings and sites in a manner compatible with their character and significance. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure.
- **HER POL 16:** To protect the setting of Protected Structures and to refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a protected structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.
- **HER POL 17:** To require that all planning applications relating to Protected Structures contain the appropriate accompanying documentation in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable the proper assessment of the proposed works.
- **HER POL 18:** To require that in the event of permission being granted for development within the curtilage of a protected structure, any works necessary for the survival of the structure and its re-use should be prioritised in the first phase of development.
- **HER POL 19:** To protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in Meath.
- **HER POL 20:** To require that all development proposals within or contiguous to an ACA be sympathetic to the character of the area, that the design is appropriate in terms of height, scale, plot density, layout, materials and finishes and are appropriately sited and designed with regard to the advice given in the Statements of Character for each area, where available.
- **HER POL 21:** To encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.
- **HER POL 22:** Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of Meath and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.
- **HER POL 23:** To actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.
- **HER POL 24:** To encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.
- **HER POL 25:** To protect and enhance the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and Boyne Navigation and associated structures and to ensure, in as far as practically possible, that development which may impact on these structures and their setting be sensitively designed with regard to their character and setting. Development of the project will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process.

- **HER POL 26:** To encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.

Relevant Objectives

- **HER OBJ 15:** To review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.
- **HER OBJ 16:** To identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.
- **HER OBJ 17:** To promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to protected structures or historic buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area.
- **HER OBJ 18:** To provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.
- **HER OBJ 19:** To commission a study over the lifetime of the Plan to assess the significance of the Mass Rocks and Holy Wells throughout County Meath.
- **HER OBJ 20:** To identify places of special character, with a view to their designation as Architectural Conservation Areas and to modify existing ACAs, where necessary.
- **HER OBJ 21:** To prepare and review, where necessary, detailed character statements and planning guidance for each ACA.
- **HER OBJ 22:** To avoid the demolition of structures and the removal of features and street furniture which contribute to the character of an ACA. The Council will require that any planning application for demolition or alteration within an ACA be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, condition report and architectural heritage assessment.
- **HER OBJ 23:** To ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.
- **HER OBJ 24:** To update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.
- **HER OBJ 25:** To carry out a survey of Land Commission dwellings over the life of the Development Plan, to acknowledge their contribution to the building stock of the County, as appropriate.
- **HER OBJ 26:** To require an architectural / archaeological assessment, as appropriate, which references the Meath Industrial Heritage Survey and other relevant sources, for all proposed developments on industrial heritage structures or sites.
- **HER OBJ 27:** To carry out Phase 2 of the Industrial Heritage Survey which will comprise a field survey and assessment of surviving structures and sites and consider (if appropriate) proposing them for addition to the Record of Protected Structures.
- **HER OBJ 28:** To discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.
- **HER OBJ 29:** To require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals.