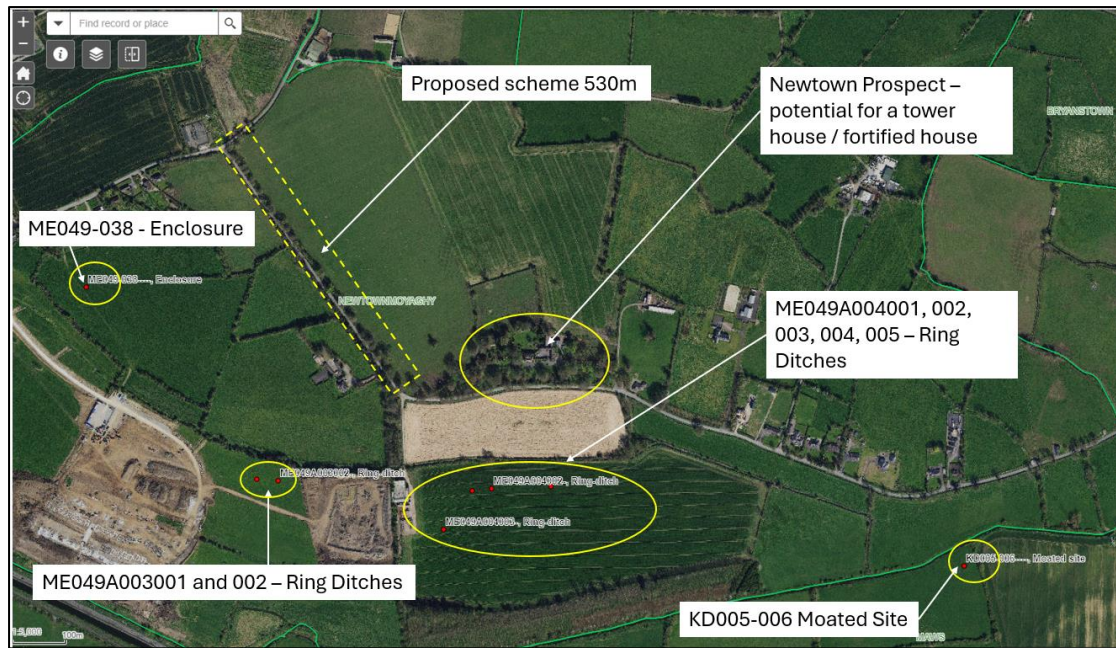




Moyglare Road, Newtownmoyaghy, Co. Meath

Archaeology Heritage Desk Based Review and Assessment **V2**

Newtownmoyaghy townland

Site Area: Approx. 530m new ditch realignment including
1.29 ha required for construction (including 0.44 ha compound)
plus a further 0.98 ha restricted access during construction

ITM: (centre) 689668, 739935

Record of Monuments and Places: None

Record of Protected Structures: None

Architectural Conservation Area: None

Niall Roycroft

31st July 2024

Non-Technical Summary

Meath County Council is proposing to realign the Rye Water tributary stream channel that currently runs along the W side of the Moyglare road approx. 1km E of Kilcock in ITM 689668, 739935 in Newtownmoyaghy townland, County Meath. The proposed new ditch is approx. 530m long comprising 1.29 ha of greenfield land (including 0.44 ha for compound). The project is to preserve a further 0.98 ha of mature trees, earthen banks, a large ditch and the current roadside wall.

The existing Moyglare road has been built to pass around the outside of Newtown Prospect demesne-estate. This Moyglare road would originally have been around 3m or so wide and has been enlarged in recent times over whatever roadside verges once existed. Today the road is directly bounded by the estate wall on the E side and a bank and deep ditch-Rye Water tributary to the W. Due to flooding from the stream, the road is collapsing and it is proposed to realign the stream through the adjacent fields in a large channel. The Moyglare road will then be widened into the old stream channel.

Map regression suggests that Newtown Prospect house (located around 200m – 350m from the proposed project) may have originally been a tower house / stone fortified house shown on the 1650s Down Survey. Taylor & Skinner 1777-85 Map 61 shows a house at Newtown Prospect. Also, Newtownmoyaghy is a very large 'parish-like' townland and such townlands tend to be associated with high status 'big houses' (often with associated churches). The present Newtown Prospect is not a Protected Structure, but it may qualify (as a large 18th century house with residual kitchen garden and a small demesne garden with mature tree planting) if surveyed. The 'New Town' in the townland name seems to be suggested on the 1650 Down Survey Deece Barony map in and around the E side of Kilcock and apparently not in the location of the proposed new road.

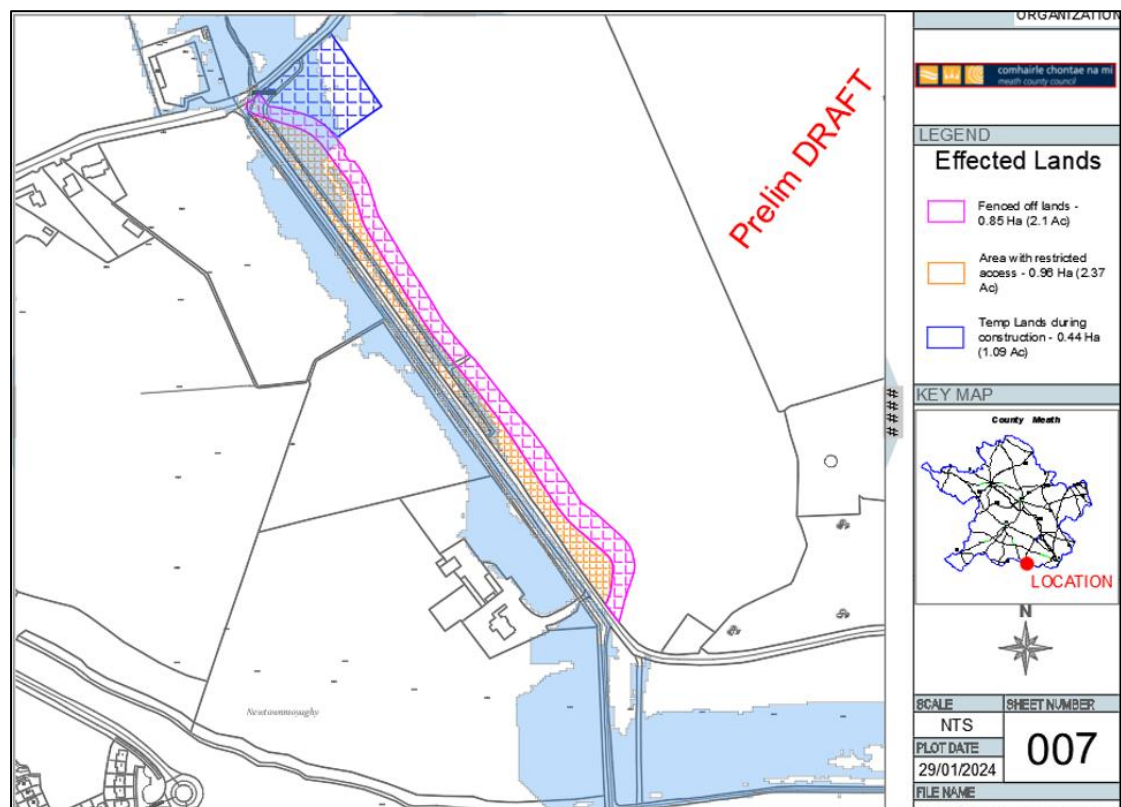
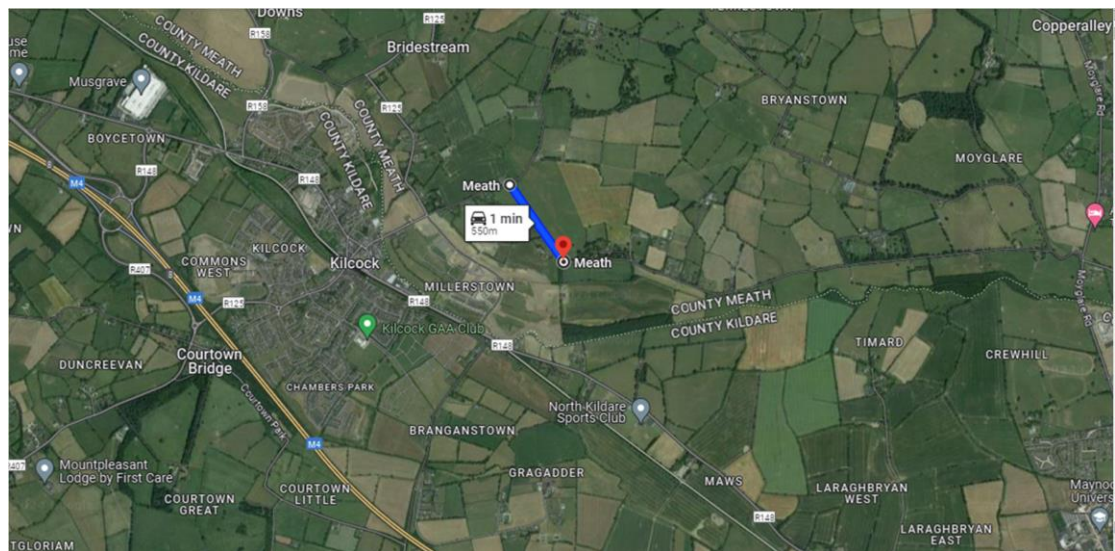
The Moyglare road East boundary comprises several elements. Adjacent to the existing road is the low Newtown Prospect estate masonry boundary wall with a soldier course capping. Such walls are typically 18th – 19th century and are usually built in the original roadside ditch. Inside the wall (to the E) is a wide single or double bank planted with two lines of mature, mixed woodland trees. This embanked boundary with tree planting is a typical 18th century form, and several of these trees have been felled, apparently because they had reached end-of-life. On the field (E) side of this planting is a wide, open drainage ditch that has been dug parallel to the Moyglare road. The ditch was originally screened from the field side by another line of tree planting, but most of this planting has now gone. In the middle of the ditch was a spring / waterhole that was fed by a now erased field boundary ditch. This spring is now erased; but may have been tapped as drainage.

The northern end is a T-junction where 'New Bridge' is marked on the 1837 OS adjacent to the project. This is a two-by-single arch, dogleg form, skew bridge of 19th C type. This bridge is to be retained.

The project comprises more than the 0.50 ha of land that triggers an archaeological response in the Meath CDP. Therefore, a programme of archaeological trial trenching under Licence to 12% of the land take would be required before construction: to ensure there are no archaeological remains on the project. Should remains be found, then they

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1 INTRODUCTION



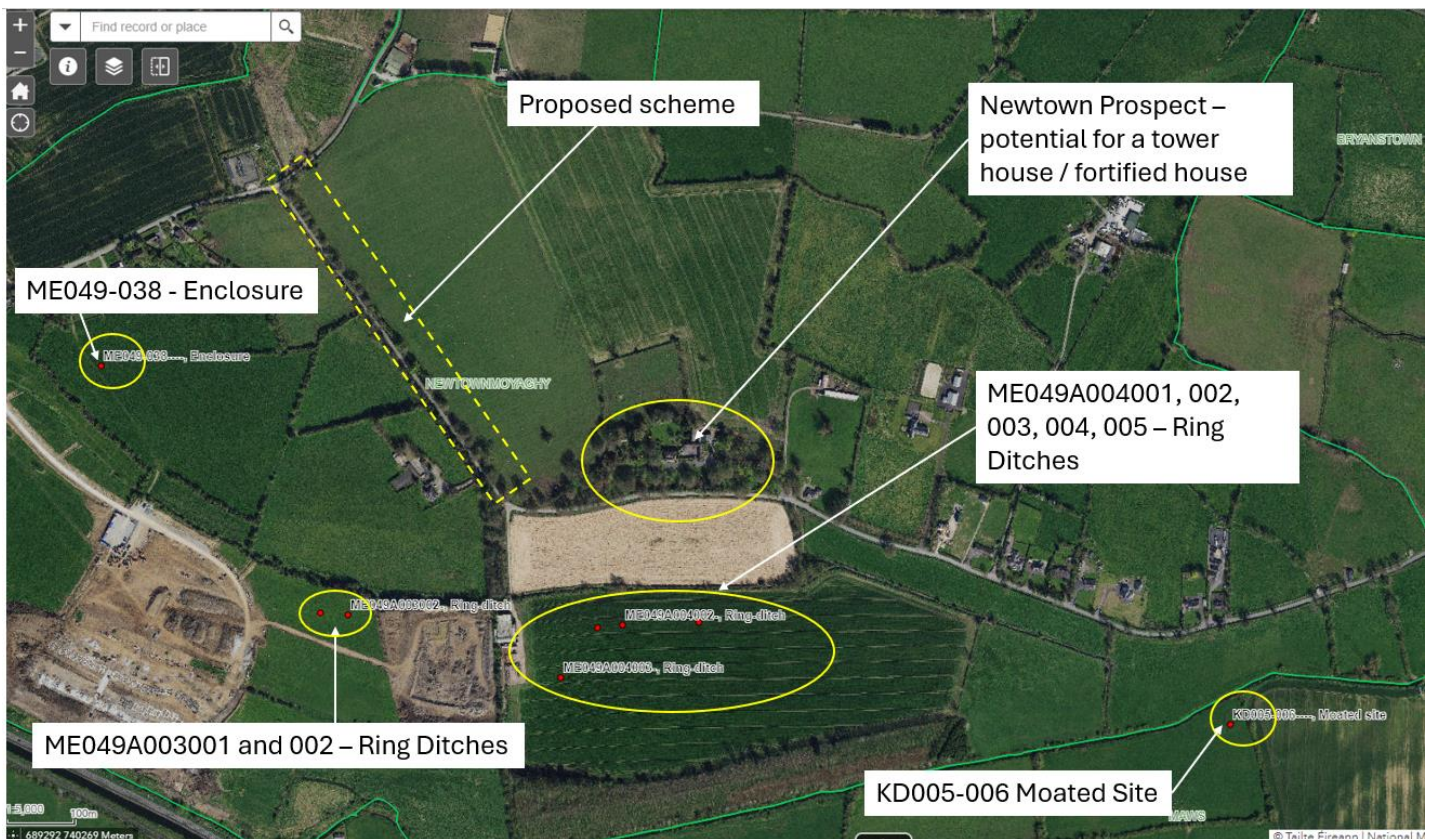
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2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and hydrology

The W side of the Moyglare road comprises a canalised stream – a tributary of the Rye Water River which forms the County Meath-Kildare border in this area and flows into the River Liffey at Leixlip.

2.2 Record of Monuments and Places



ME049-038---- : Enclosure : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Moyglare Par.)

Description: Situated on a slight S-facing slope overlooking a small NW-SE stream c. 80m to the SW and the NW-SE Rye River which is c. 500m to the SW. Archaeological testing (19E0547) of an extensive area (max. dims c. 350m NW-SE; c. 280m NE-SW) identified a D-shaped enclosure (int. dims c. 53m NE-SW; c. 50m NW-SE) with the straight edge at SE (excavations.ie 2019:243). It is defined by a fosse (Wth of top 2-2.5m) that was sampled at two points (D 0.95; 1.2m) and there is an entrance gap (Wth 2.9m) at SW. No artefacts were recovered from the fosse, but a furnace bottom was encountered 8.5m N of the enclosure. (Coen 2019, 13-14) Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 29 September

References: Coen, L. 2019 Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath. Archaeological Impact Assessment. Licence: 19E0547. Unpublished report, Archer Heritage Planning

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated
Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated
ITM Coordinates: 689248 , 739865
Latitude and Longitude: 53.401377 , -6.657909

[Zoom to](#)

ME049A003001- : Ring-ditch : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Rodanstown Par.)

Description: Situated on a slight E-W ridge in a fairly level landscape. The cropmark of a small circular feature (int. diam. c. 10m) defined by a single fosse feature is visible on an aerial image (OSAP: 1995). The ring-ditch (ME049A003002-) is 23m to the E along the rise, and they were first noted by Tom Condit in 2017.

Archaeological testing (19E0547) by L. Coen (2019, 12) confirmed this feature (excavations.ie 2019:243) as a circular platform (int. diam. c. 12m; ext. diam. 15.75m) defined by a V-shaped fosse (Wth 1.05-2.7m; D 0.8m) filled with a brown sandy clay. Later, it was completely excavated (19E0686) by the same archaeologist (excavations.ie 2020:305) when it was recorded as a circular area (ext. diam. 15.8m) defined by an annular fosse (Wth 1.2-2.45m; D 0.48-1.24m) which was deepest at S-SW. There was no uncut causeway or any internal features and the ditch had eight naturally-accumulating deposits. A fragment of ash charcoal from a lens of silty material at the base of the fosse at SW returned a C14 date of 1620-1490 cal. BC (UBA: 43429), placing it in the Middle Bronze Age. The sample contained some burnt human bone, but no artefacts were recovered. (Coen 2020, 4) See the attached enhanced view (_1) from OSAP (1995) and the finished excavation (_2) on left Date of upload: 9 January, 2017 Amended: 27 August 2019, 28 May 2021, 12 July 2022;

References: Coen, L. 2019 Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath. Archaeological Impact Assessment. Licence: 19E0547. Unpublished report, Archer Heritage Planning
Coen, L. 2020 Archaeological excavation of two ring-ditches, Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath. Licence: 19E0686. Final unpublished report, Archer Heritage Planning

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated
Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated
ITM Coordinates: 689563 , 739510
Latitude and Longitude: 53.398134 , -6.653274

[Zoom to](#)

ME049A003002- : Ring-ditch : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Rodanstown Par.)

Description: Situated on a slight E-W ridge in a fairly level landscape. The cropmark of a small circular feature (int. diam. c. 10m) defined by a single faint fosse feature is visible on an aerial image (OSAP: 1995). The ring-ditch (ME049A003001-) is c. 23m to the W along the rise, and the features were first noted by Tom Condit in 2017. Archaeological testing (19E0547) by L. Coen (2019, 12-13) confirmed this feature (excavations.ie 2019:243) as a circular platform (int. diam. c. 10.5m; ext. diam. 12.3m)

defined by a fosse (Wth of top 0.85-1.15m; D 0.3m) filled with a brown sandy clay. Later, it was completely excavated (19E0686) by the same archaeologist (excavations.ie 2020:305) when it was recorded as a circular area defined by a penannular fosse (Wth 0.66-1.66m; D 0.17-0.65m) that was shallowest at N where it was slightly truncated by a modern WNW-ESE ditch. There were no internal features but the defining fosse has a small gap (Wth 0.58m) at E. One fleck of ash charcoal from the topmost of four fills in the fosse yielded a C14 date of 2030-1820 cal. BC (UBA: 43430), placing it in the Early Bronze Age and c. 400 years earlier than its companion. No bone was recovered, nor were any artefacts recorded. (Coen 2020, 5) See the attached enhanced view (_1) from OSAP (1995) and the finished excavation (_2) on right Date of upload: 9 January, 2017 Amended: 27 August 2019, 28 May 2021

References: Coen, L. 2020 Archaeological excavation of two ring-ditches, Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath. Licence: 19E0686. Final unpublished report, Archer Heritage Planning Coen, L. 2019 Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath. Archaeological Impact Assessment. Licence: 19E0547. Unpublished report, Archer Heritage Planning OSAP - Ordnance Survey Aerial Photographs. Photographic collection. Ordnance Survey of Ireland. Dublin.

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 689602 , 739508

Latitude and Longitude: 53.398110 , -6.652689

[Zoom to](#)

ME049A004001- : Ring-ditch : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Moyglare Par.)

Description: Situated on an E-W ridge in an undulating landscape. The cropmark of a small enclosure (diam. c. 5m) defined by a single continuous fosse feature is visible on Google Earth (28/06/2018). The ring-ditch (ME049A004002-) is c. 30m to the E and ring-ditch (ME049A004003-) is c. 90m to the SSW. It was first reported to the National Monuments Service by Brian Doyle. Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 20 February 2019

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 689961 , 739490

Latitude and Longitude: 53.397887 , -6.647297

[Zoom to](#)

ME049A004002- : Ring-ditch : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Moyglare Par.)

Description: Situated on an E-W ridge in an undulating landscape. The cropmark of a small enclosure (diam. c. 5m) defined by a single continuous fosse feature is visible on Google Earth (12/07/2013; 28/06/2018). The ring-ditch (ME049A004001-) is c. 30m to the W and ring-ditch (ME049A004003-) is c. 120m to the SW. It was first reported to the National Monuments Service by Brian Doyle. Compiled by: Michaela Moore Date of upload: 20 February 2019

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated
ITM Coordinates: 689996 , 739494
Latitude and Longitude: 53.397917 , -6.646770
[Zoom to](#)

ME049A004003- : Ring-ditch : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Moyglare Par.)

Description: Situated in what might be a low-lying position in an undulating landscape. The cropmark of a small enclosure (diam. c. 10m) defined by a single continuous fosse feature is visible on Google Earth (28/06/2018). The ring-ditches (ME049A004001-; ME049A004002-) are c. 90m to the NNE and c. 120m to the NE respectively. It was first reported to the National Monuments Service by Brian Doyle. See the attached view from Google Earth
Compiled by: Michael Moore
Date of upload: 20 February 2019

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated
Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated
ITM Coordinates: 689908 , 739418
Latitude and Longitude: 53.397249 , -6.648115

ME049A005---- : Enclosure : NEWTOWNMOYAGHY (Deece Upper By., Moyglare Par.)

Description: Located on a fairly level landscape. The cropmark of a circular enclosure (int. diam. c. 32m; ext. diam. c. 38m) defined by two fosses is partially visible on Google Earth (18/06/2018). Both ditches are visible WNW-NW and NE-SE, and traces of the outer ditch are also visible at WSW and W. The cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (dims c. 20m N-S; c. 20m E-W) defined by faint ditches is visible in the interior. The enclosure is also faintly visible on Google Earth (12/07/2013) and it was first reported by Simon Kendrick. See the attached enhanced view from Google Earth (18/06/2018)
Compiled by: Michael Moore
Date of upload: 1 September 2022

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated
Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated
ITM Coordinates: 690106 , 739497
Latitude and Longitude: 53.397925 , -6.645116

KD005-006---- : Moated site : MAWS

Description: On the S bank of the E-flowing Rye Water river in gently undulating pasture. A sub-rectangular area (int. dims. L 32.2m E-W; Wth 22m) is defined by a broad shallow fosse (Wth. 3.2- 6m; D. 0.2-0.4m) along E, S and W, and by the river along the N. A modern drain crosses the S limits NE-SW. Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy
Date of upload: 10 June 2011

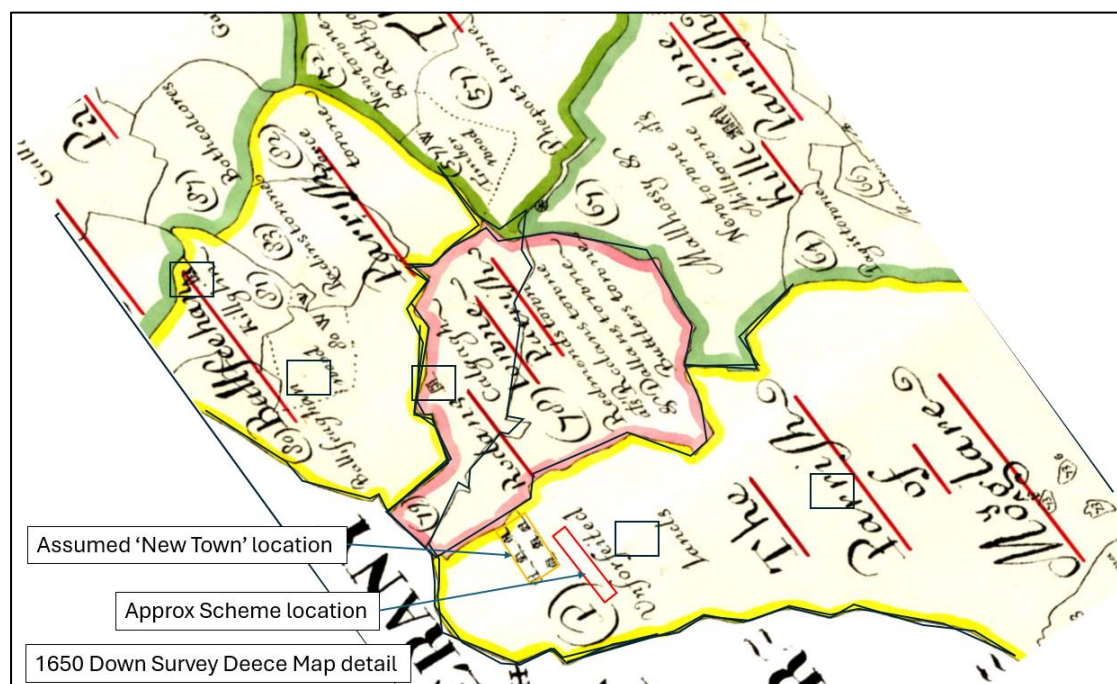
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ITM Coordinates: 690869 , 739350
Latitude and Longitude: 53.396474 , -6.633689

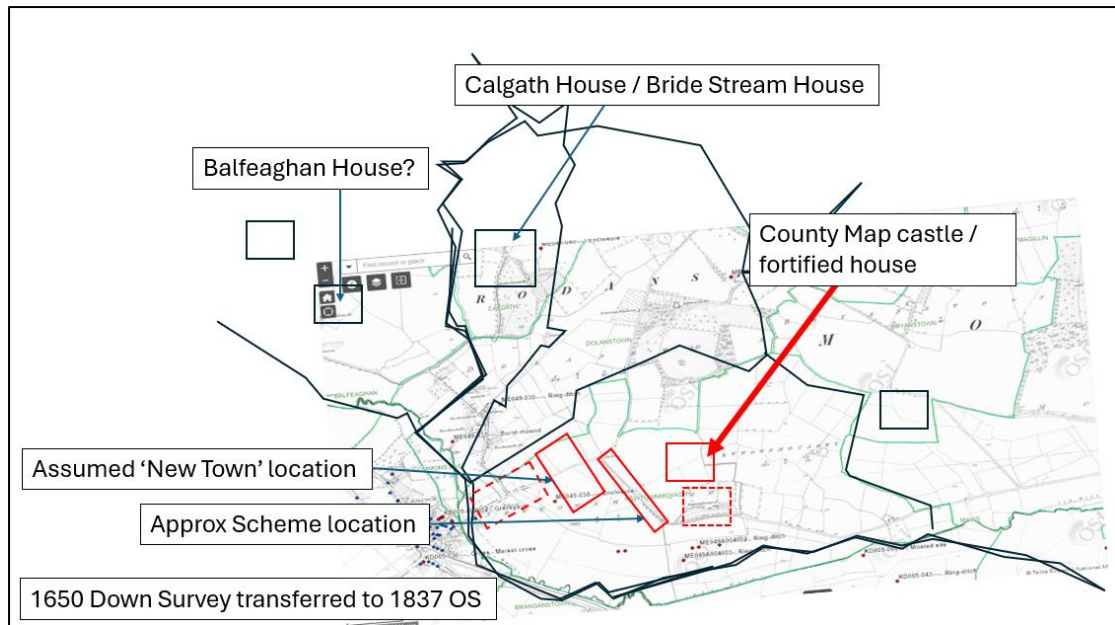
2.3 Details of the previous nearby archaeological works

See ME049A003002 above.

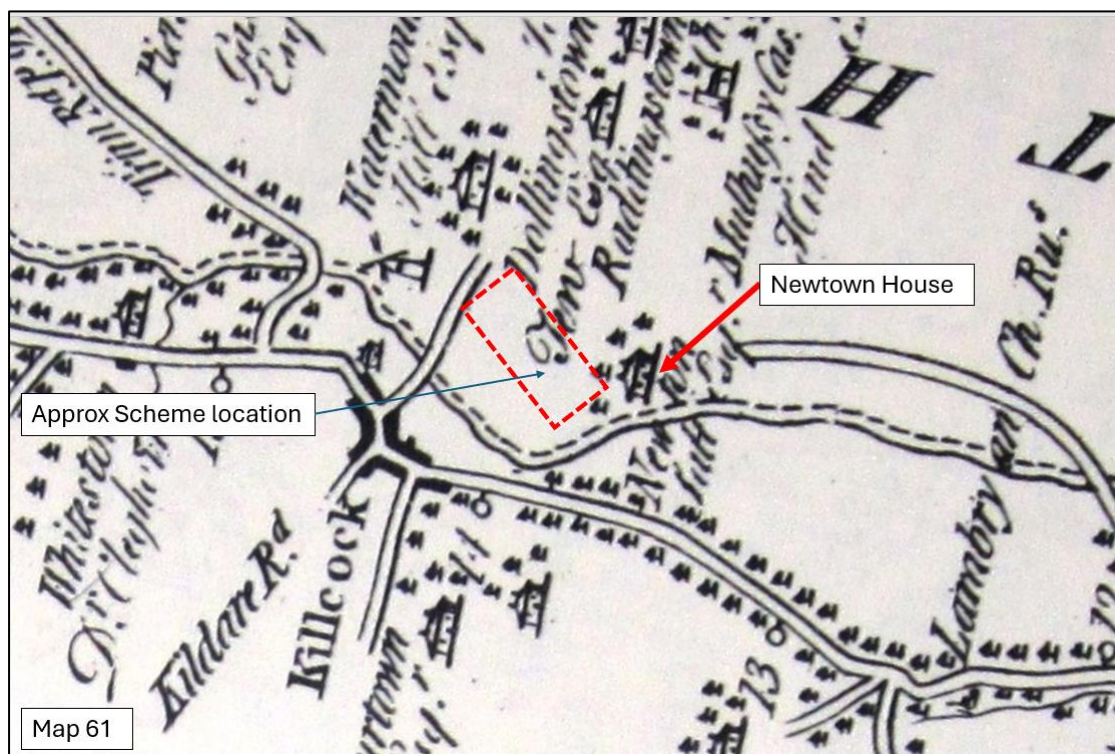
3 MAP REGRESSION

3.1 1650s Down Survey

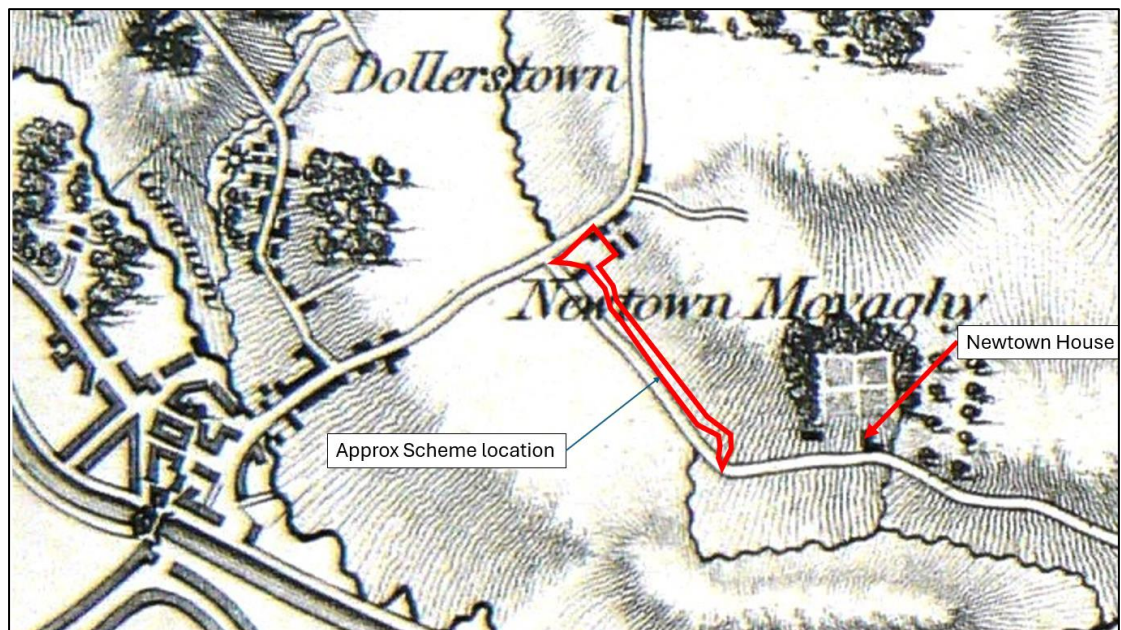




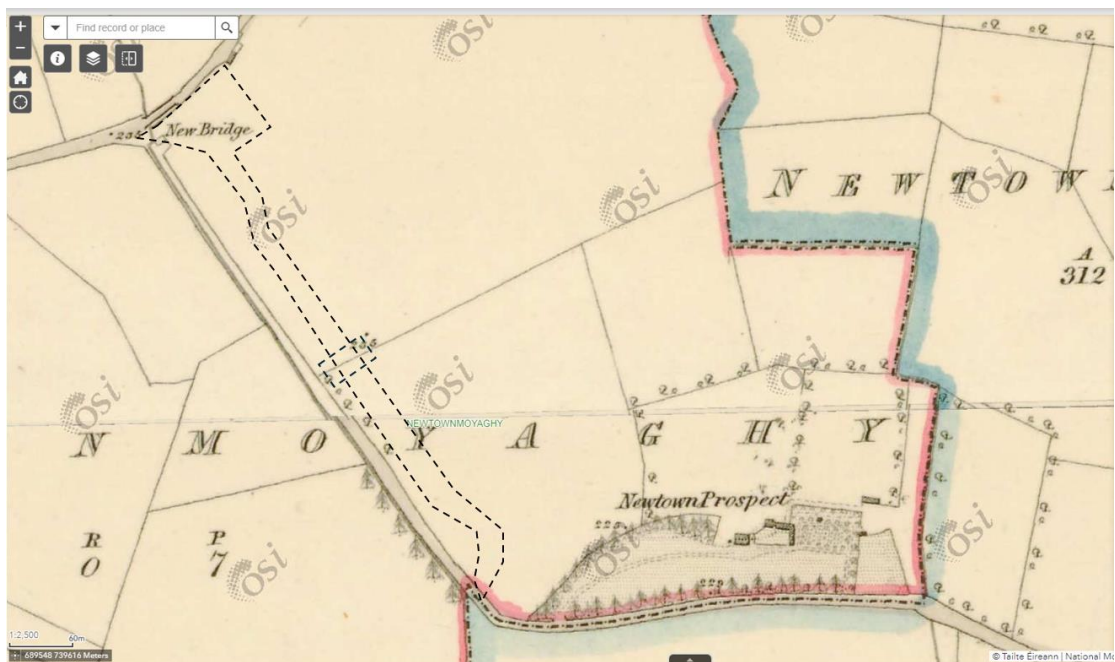
3.2 1777-85 Taylor & Skinner



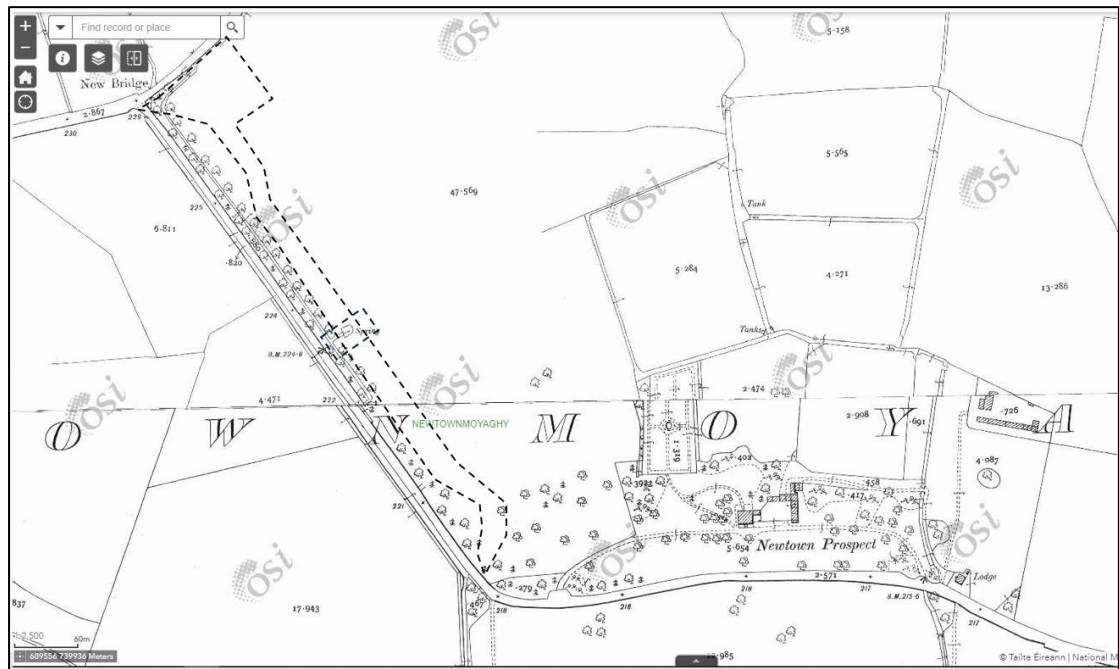
3.3 William Larkin Map 1812-17



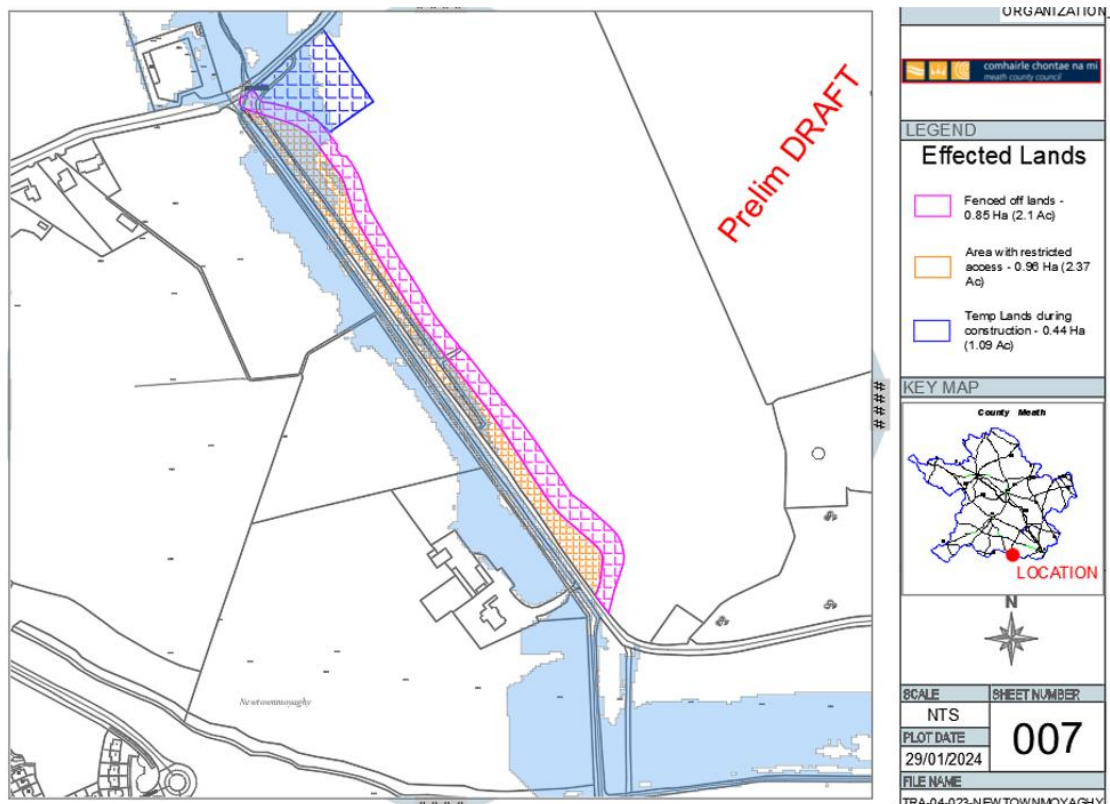
3.4 1837 OS



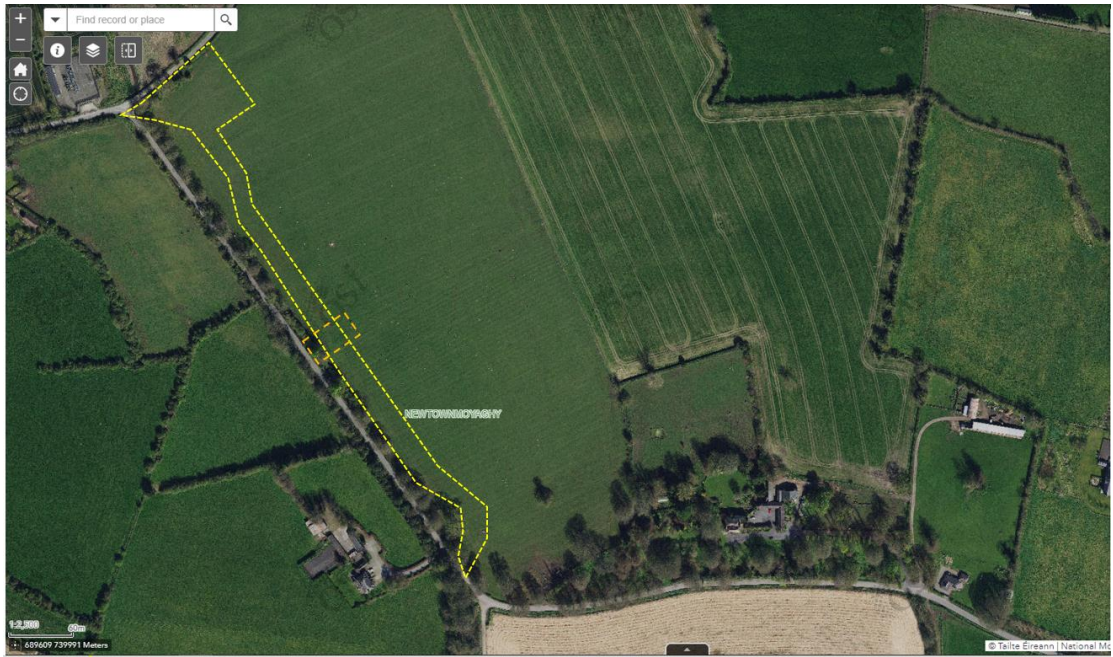
3.5 1888-1913 OS



3.6 Modern mapping and aerial images



The pink area comprises the land take for the large stream diversion. The existing road will be maintained and widened into the old stream channel on its E side.



4 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

4.1 Record of Protected Structures: Buildings and Gardens

None. However, the New Bridge needs a brief discussion.

The Bridge is marked as New Bridge on the 1837 OS and the type of skew bridge is an early 19th century type. The bridge is unusual in that one single arch (Arch 1) is under the E-W Dollanstown Road and the other single arch (Arch 2) is under the N-S Moyglare road.

Bridge survey photographs show both arches are skew and of the same design of lightly rusticated voussoirs in an unadorned rubble abutment and parapet walling. The coping is a combination either of loose soldier course or simple unadorned concrete flaunching. The bridge has been damaged so many times that neither is likely to be original.

The Rye Water Stream channel has been mostly lined in concrete and the arch abutments have concrete scour protection added.

If these bridges are to be altered then a full architectural survey would be required.

Summary pf photos from Meath Bridge Surveys:





EAST ARCH 1: N face

Showing skew

L-6219-0 Dollanstown Bridge

WEST ARCH 2





WEST ARCH 2 E face



W Side



E Side

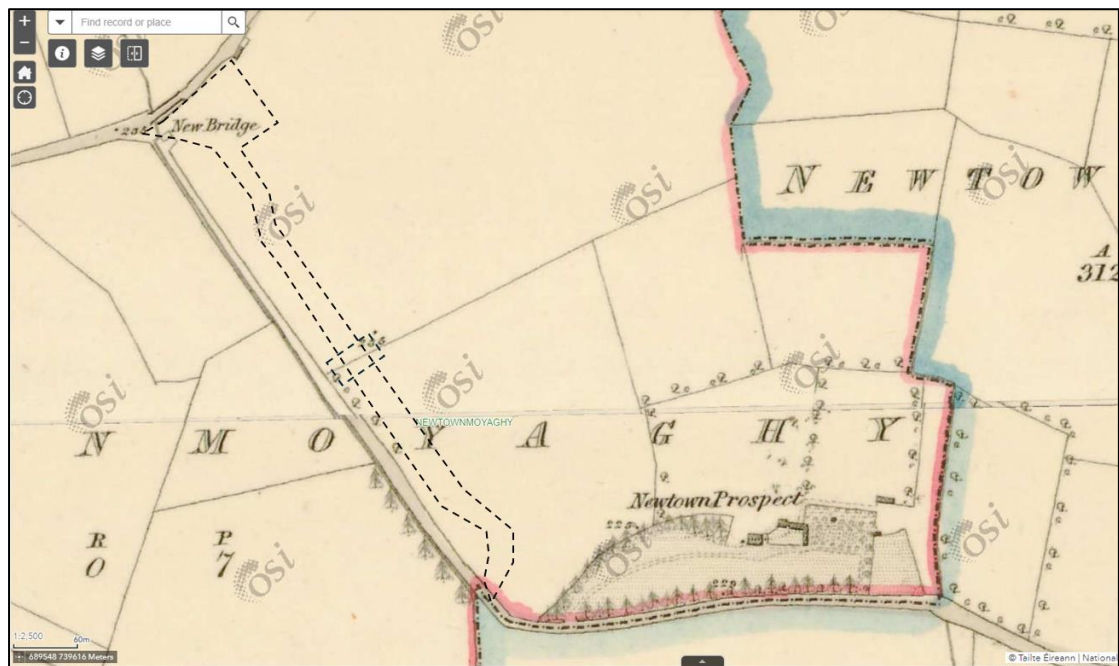
WEST ARCH 2

Single arch skew bridge. Note concrete lined channel and scour protection



Traffic impact damage 2014 and 2017

4.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: Buildings and Gardens



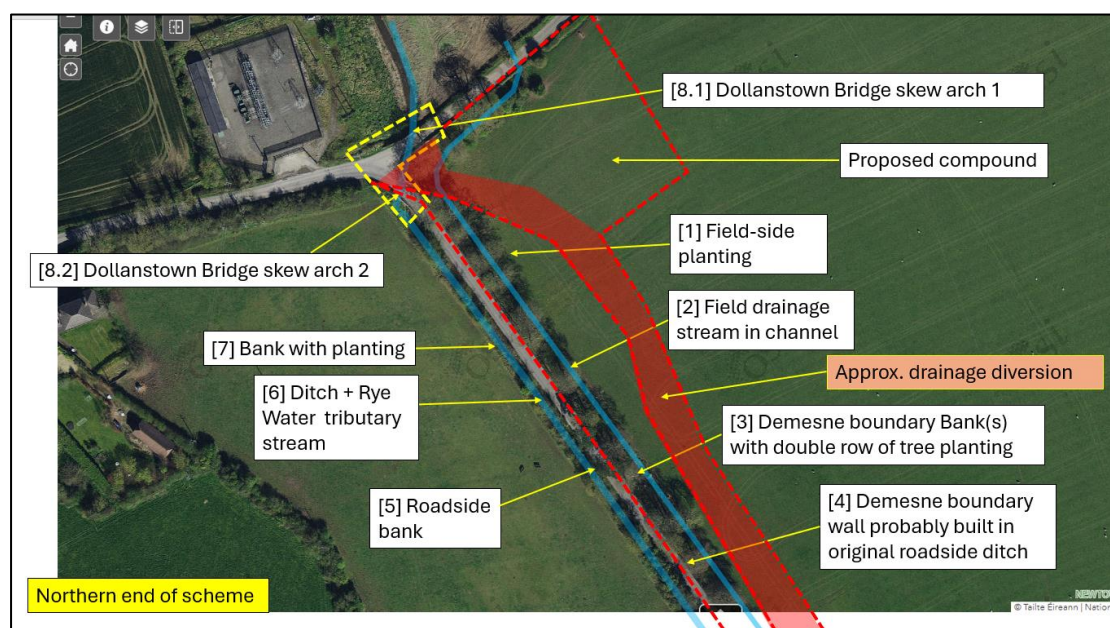
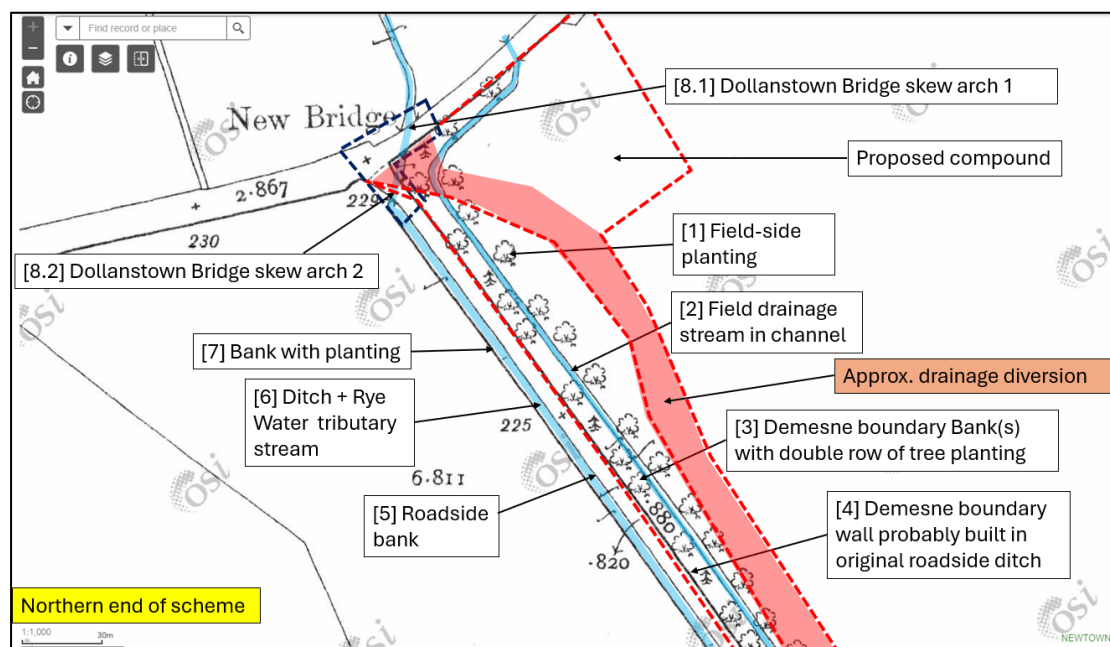
Newtown Prospect shaded demesne on the 1837 OS is not impacted by the proposed stream diversion. The probable landscaped planting along the Moyglare Road (not marked on the 1837 OS) is to be retained in the most part. Recently street view photos show several trees toppled in storms or taken down through end-of-life degeneration.

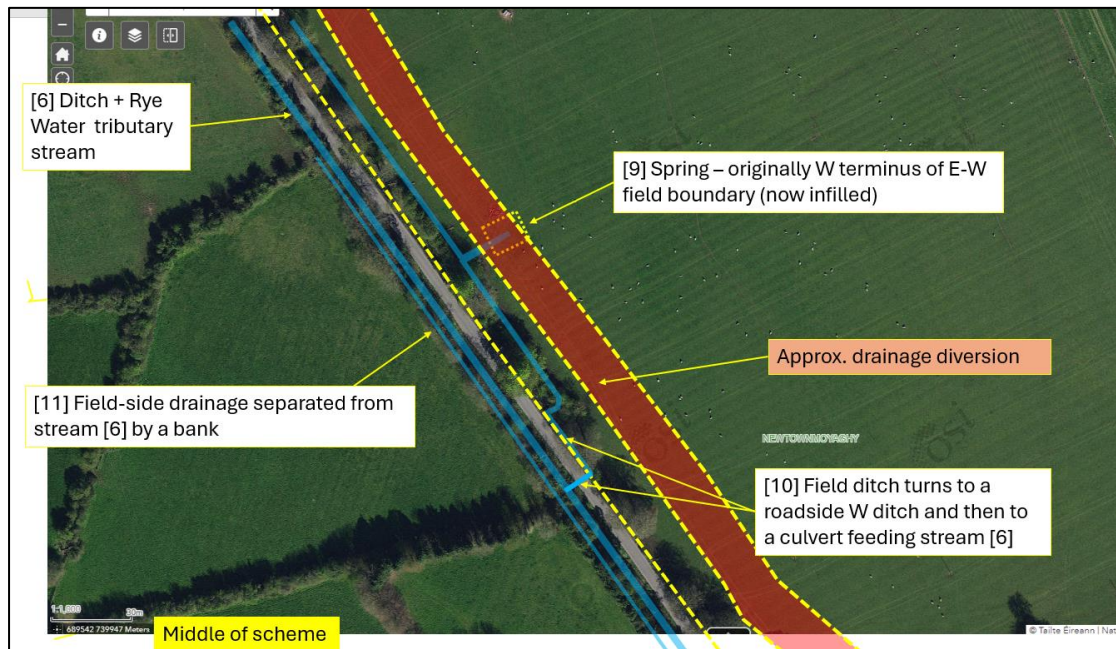
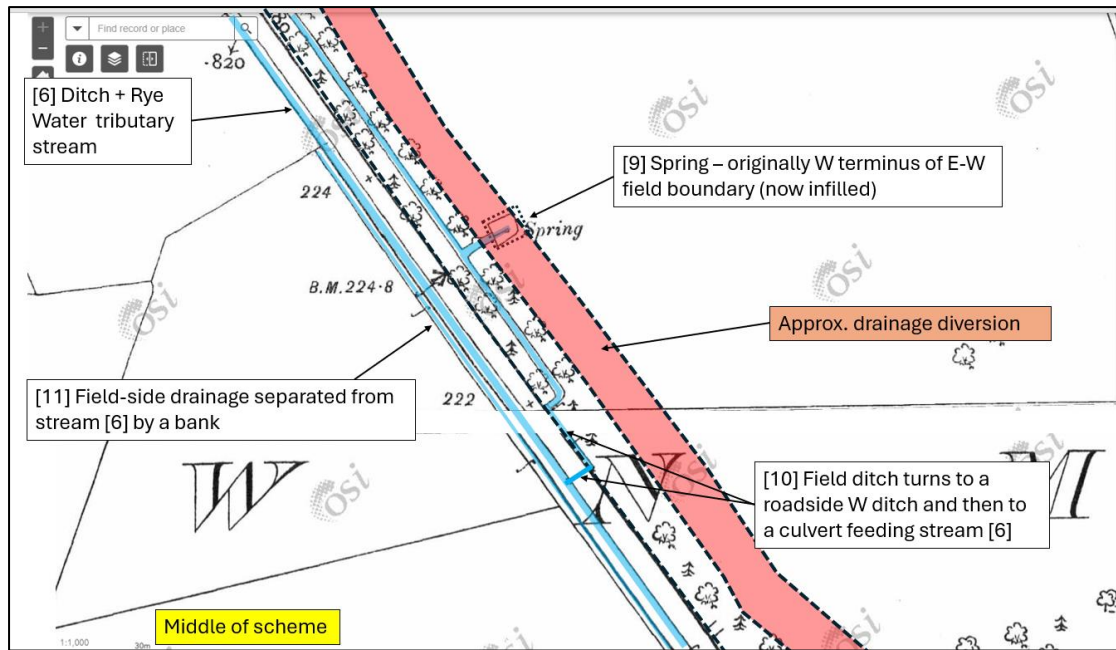
4.3 Architectural Conservation Area

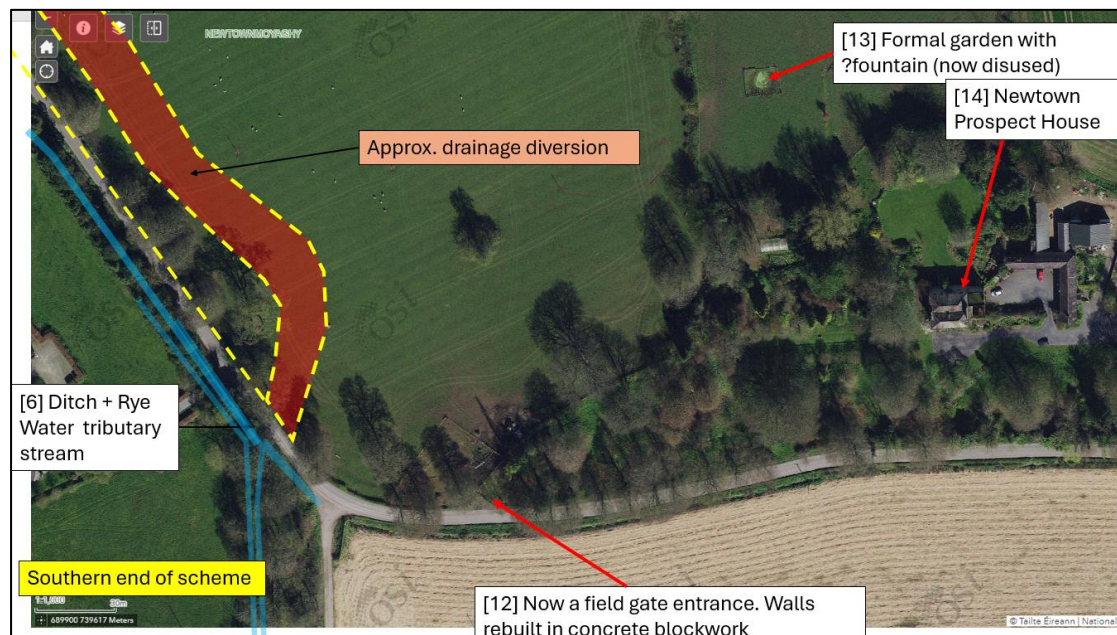
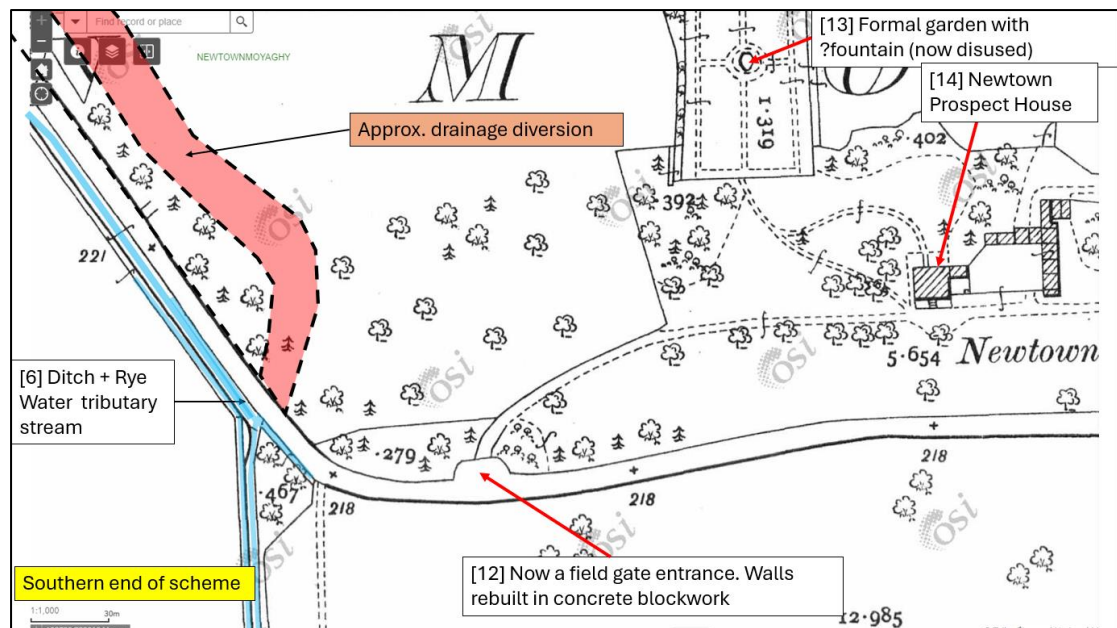
None.

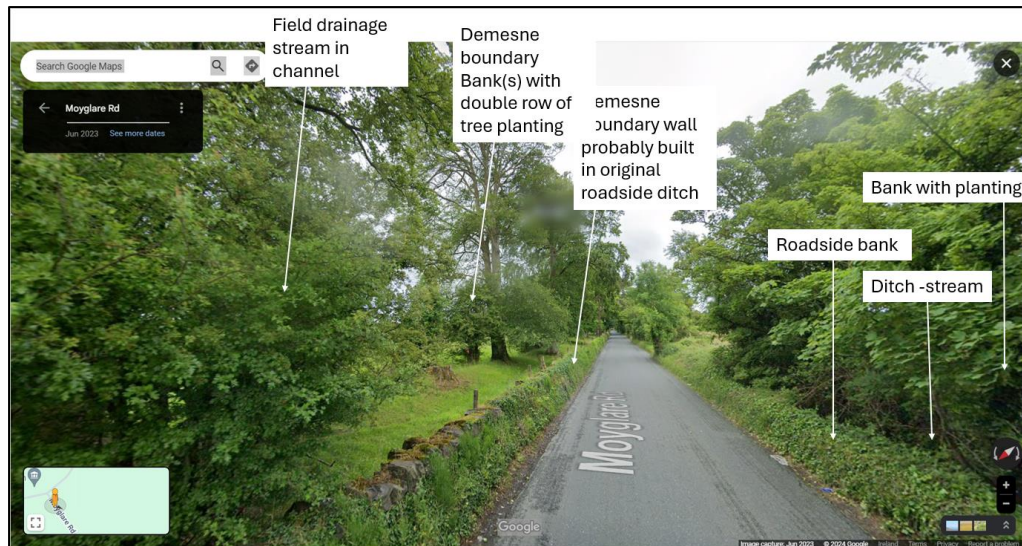
5 SERVICES AND SITE VISIT

The site has been reviewed using Street View and Meath County Council Bridge Survey. A description of the components and proposed road is given in the mapping and images below;

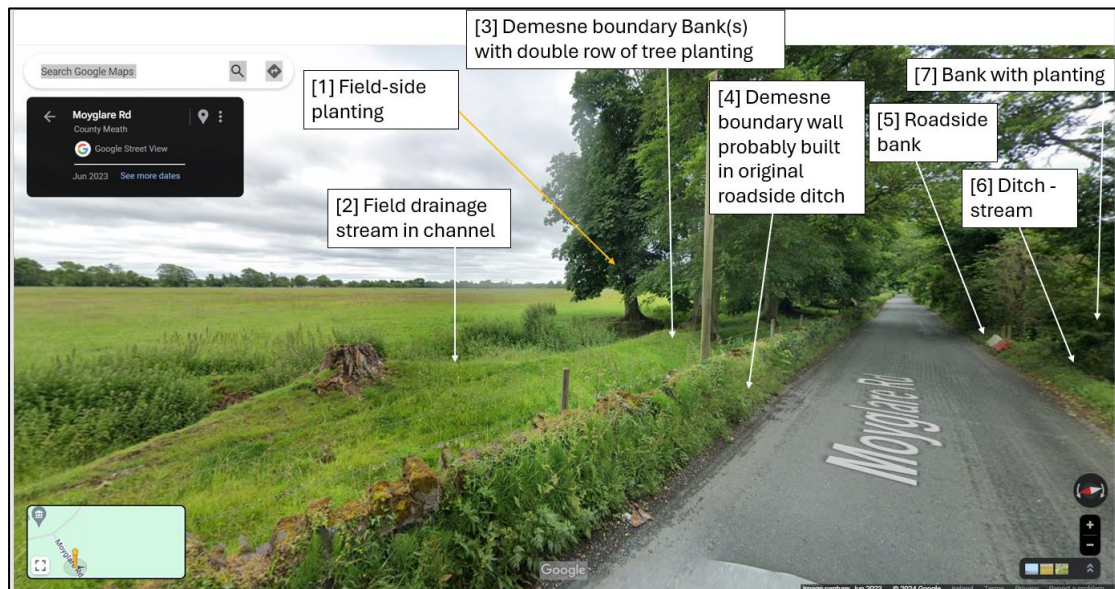








Facing S on Moyglare Road with summary of general components



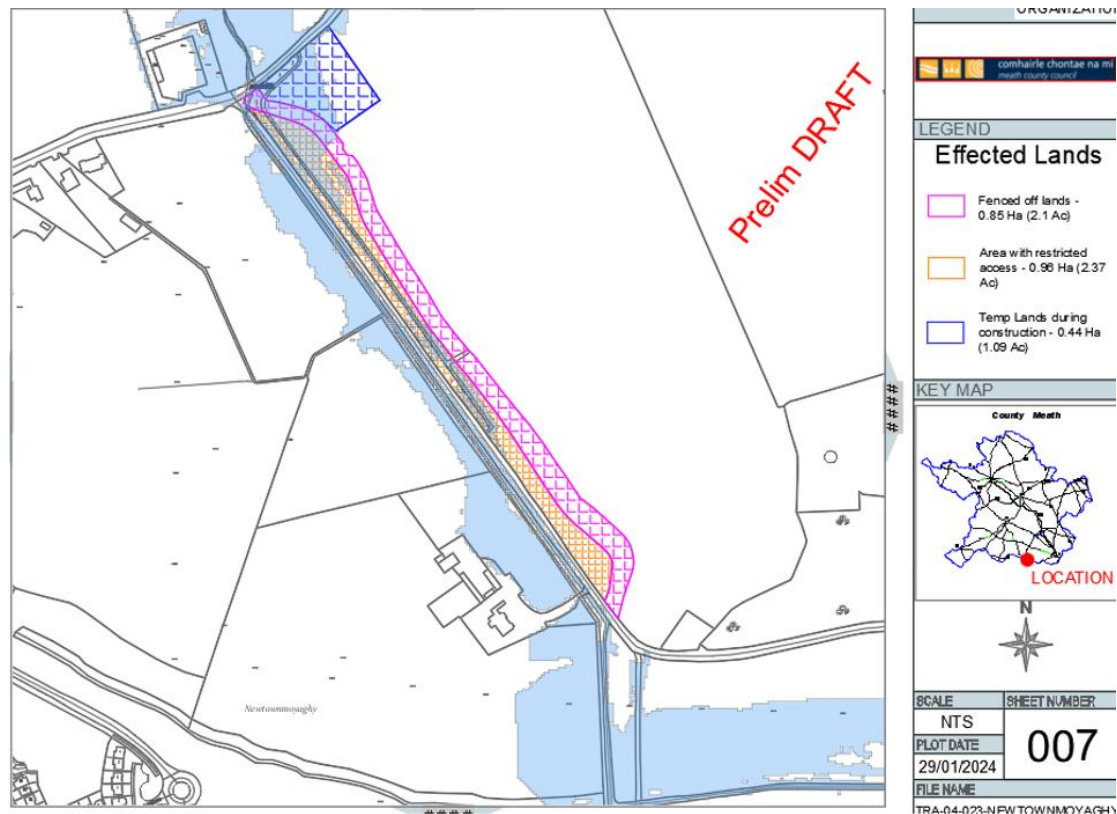


Southern end



Fallen trees following a storm in 2009

6 PROPOSED WORKS



The existing Moyglare road has been built to pass around the outside of Newtown Prospect demesne-estate. This Moyglare road would originally have been around 3m or so wide and has been enlarged in recent times over whatever roadside verges once existed. Today the road is directly bounded by the estate wall on the E side and a bank and deep ditch-Rye Water tributary to the W. Due to flooding from the stream, the road is collapsing and it is proposed to realign the stream through the adjacent fields in a large channel. The Moyglare road will then be widened into the old stream channel.

7 DISCUSSION

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REFERENCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970+.

www.archaeology.ie – National Monuments Service website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs.

www.osi.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs (1995, 2000 & 2005) and historic OS mapping (first edition 6" and 25").

<https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>

<http://www.logainm.ie/> - Placename index

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/> -National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Environment Protection Agency website

<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php> Down Survey mapping

http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=LCN14679989_001

Taylor & Skinner 1777-85 Maps of the Roads of Ireland

Heritage Maps

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

Google Maps

Bing Maps