






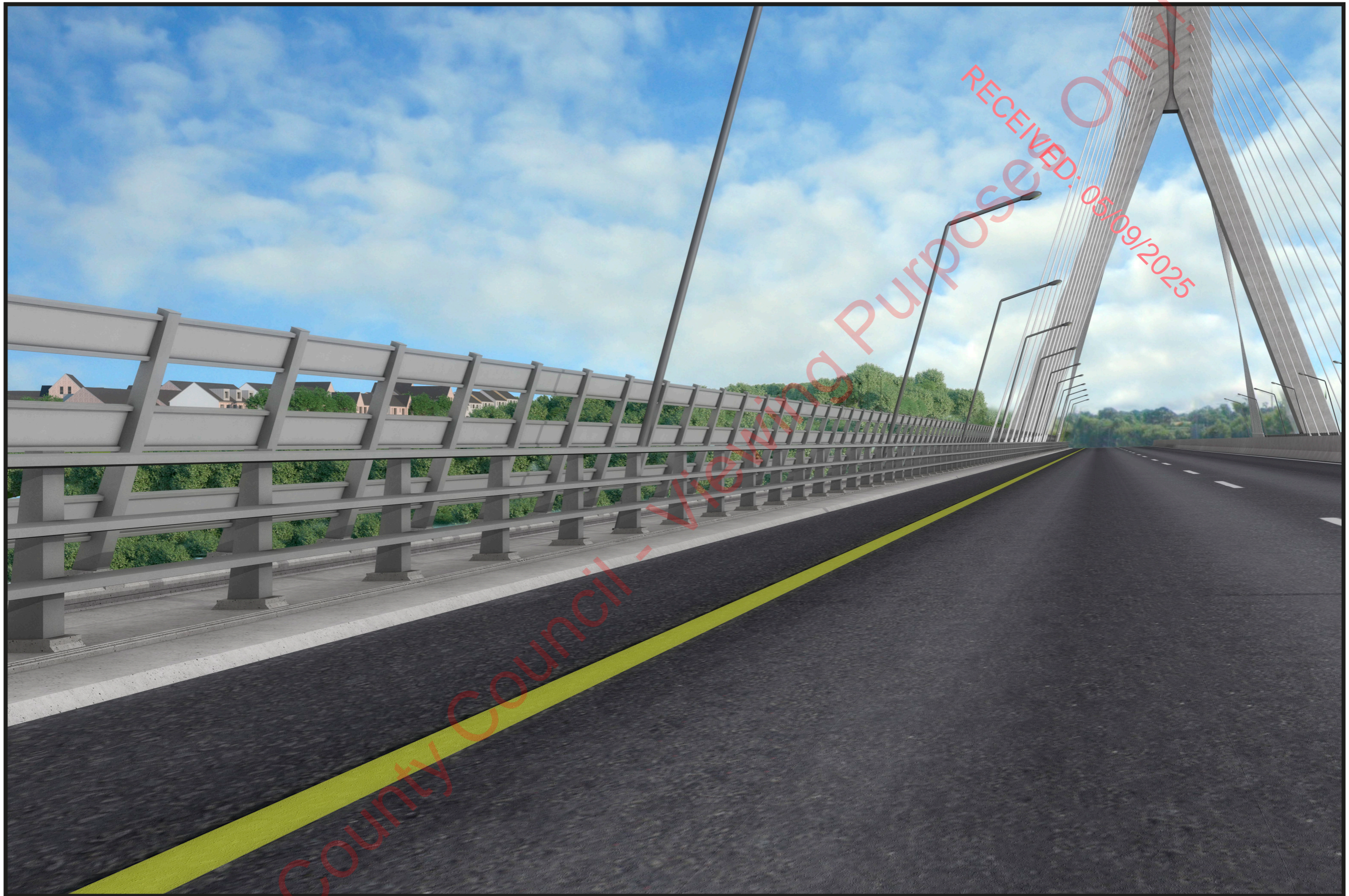
Name PM12 Status Proposed Reference: Tullybrook Housing looking SSW	Earlsfort Developments Drogheda Limited	Camera location 706340, 775954, 21.8	Camera Canon 6D Mk 2 Lens Canon EF 50mm HView Angle Nominal 40 degrees	
Residential Development on Rathmullan Road, Drogheda		Rev: 0	Target Direction 705848, 775063, 27.9	
Recommended viewing distance with both eyes is 500mm.				




Name PM13 Status Existing Reference: N51 at Mell looking S	Earlsfort Developments Drogheda Limited	Camera location 706083, 776552, 34.2	Camera Canon 6D Mk 2 Lens Canon EF 50mm HView Angle Nominal 40 degrees	
Residential Development on Rathmullan Road, Drogheda		Rev: 0	Target Direction 706054, 776346, 31.6	
Recommended viewing distance with both eyes is 500mm.				



Name PM13 Status Proposed Reference: N51 at Mell looking S	Earlsfort Developments Drogheda Limited	Camera location 706083, 776552, 34.2	Camera Canon 6D Mk 2 Lens Canon EF 50mm HView Angle Nominal 40 degrees	
Residential Development on Rathmullan Road, Drogheda		Rev: 0	Target Direction 706054, 776346, 31.6	



Name CGI01 Status Proposed CGI Reference: From Mary McAleese Boyne Valley Bridge Southbound Carriageway looking South	Earlsfort Developments Drogheda Limited	Camera location 705820, 775713, 21.0	Camera Virtual CGI Lens Virtual 50mm HView Angle Nominal 40 degrees	
Residential Development on Rathmullan Road, Drogheda		Rev: 0	Target Direction 706089, 774512, 15.4	
Recommended viewing distance with both eyes is 500mm.				

Photomontage Methodology / Method Statement

Work has been completed in accordance with best practice guidelines a summary of which are provided below.

Preparation

Prior to site visit camera locations were identified and located on digital map to enable GPS routing to the correct locations. The site was "scouted" for access using Google Streetview (c) Google.

Photography

- Photographs were taken on site at locations specified using a high-resolution professional digital camera. The Camera a Canon 6D is a full frame format (which corresponds to a traditional 35mm film format) as recommended by best practice guidelines.
- Images will be taken in RAW format which provides the maximum flexibility in adjustment along with the best quality available, and with bracketed exposure. The images were stored with embedded camera/photo exif data.
- The camera was tripod mounted, spirit leveled and set at a nominal 1.6m above ground level
- The lens used as a Canon prime (fixed) 50mm or normal lens. The 50mm lens provides a similar magnification to the human eye and will provide an image which is accepted.

Control

A series of survey points were captured on site for each photograph using Trimble R8 survey grade RTK-GPS. The following were measured:

- The camera position, plan and height
- Measured points of detail visible when the photograph was taken. On streetscape scenes points of detail (corners of buildings, poles, sign, white lines, structures, etc) are surveyed to provide an accurate orientation base where insufficient existing detail is available we supplement with either with red/white ranging rods or smaller orange cones placed in the camera's field of view while taking the photograph.
- Regardless of the type of control the configuration shall be non-collinear with a good photogrammetric geometry. This ensures that computational analysis is convergent.

Setting up AVR Images

- Survey and OS mapping is imported into 3D software
- A calibrated virtual 50mm camera is created to match the physical one used to capture the image. These are snapped to the surveyed locations. The individual photograph frames are loaded into the viewport.
- Using in-built software algorithms the virtual camera is adjusted so the points of detail on the photograph and the surveyed points in real-life coalesce in the camera viewport. Once complete the virtual camera will be orientated so that it is identical to the physical camera that took the base photograph.
- Checks are made using the surveyed information and project mapping and cross referenced with the photographs to ensure they align.
- A Daylight system is then accurately introduced into the scene at it correct geo-referenced coordinates. Once the time/date and time zone is set the digital sky will match the position of the sun and shadows created by the same in the base photograph.

Verifiable Photomontage & Proposed development modelling

- The proposed development, structure, road works and earthworks is modeled up in 3D from the drawings provided by the Client / Design Team.
- The building is located in accordance with surveyed location and at the correct FFL.
- True life digital materials are designed and assigned to the 3D model elements using reference imagery provided by the client. Sophisticated real world rendering shaders are used in conjunction with the daylight system to produce final renders which will react in a verifiable manner to match the reference photographic base images.
- Finally, the new development image and the existing original photograph are merged with due care for any demolitions/removals, foreground / background existing objects, landscaping, lighting, shadows, etc. to produce a single believable and verifiable composite image.

Viewing instructions

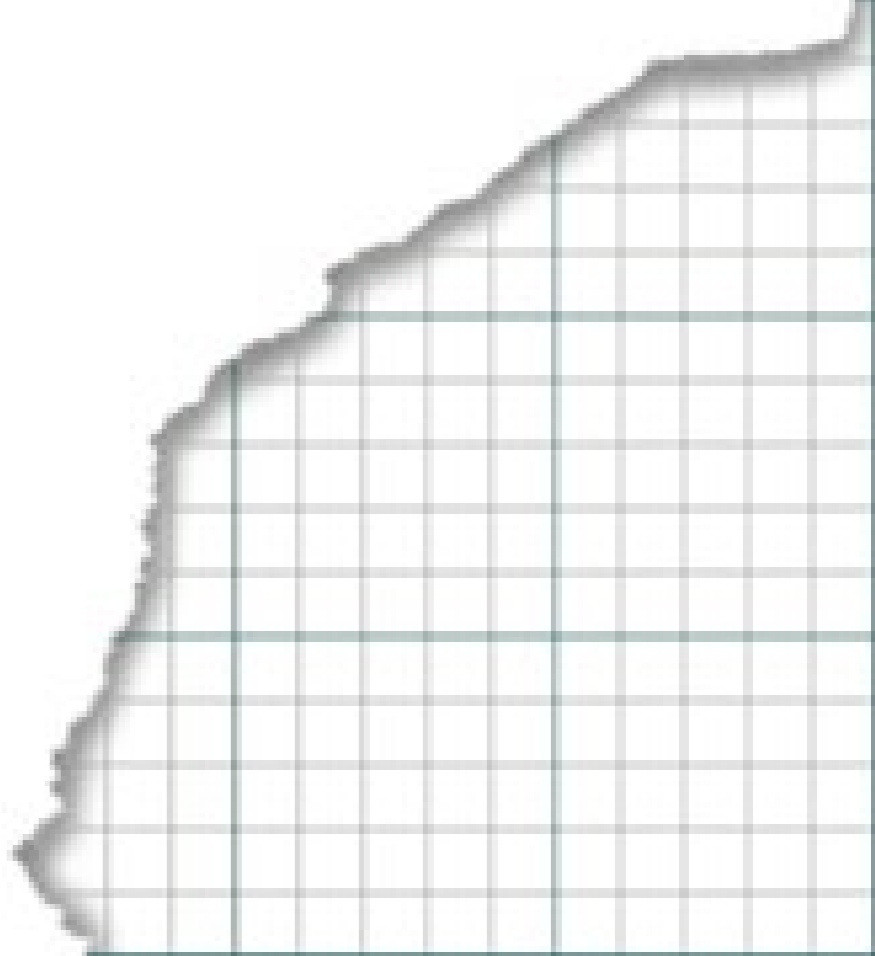
These images are designed to be printed at A3 and taken to site to evaluate the impact of the development.

Images should be viewed with both eyes open from the locations indicated and held 500mm from the viewers eyes. (Arms length). When held at arms length the viewer should be able to effectively focus not only on the photomontage in hand but also on the surrounding landscape which will give them a much wider field of view.

When used in this fashion the existing landscape will line-up and the photomontage will provide similar perspective and thus enable the viewer to visually evaluate the proposal.

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Appendix 12-1

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Appendix 12.1 Notes on key data sources

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

Section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 provides that the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments. The record comprises of a list of monuments and relevant places and mapping showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. Sites recorded on the RMP all receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

The SMR holds documentary evidence and records of field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection. As a result these are omitted from the RMP. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the DCHG.

National Monuments in the State Care Database

This is a list of all the National Monuments in the State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of each monument. A National Monument receives statutory protection and is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act, 1930, Section 2).

The Minister for the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the Local Authority as guardian of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List

Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, can be assigned to a site or sites that are deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction. Orders are allocated under the National Monuments Act, 1930. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the National Monuments Act, 1954. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister (DCHG).

Register of Historic Monuments

This register was established under Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 and requires the Minister to establish and maintain such a record. Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the register are afforded statutory protection pursuant to the regime under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the RMP.

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland

This is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum of Ireland. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and

unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources

These are important in tracing land use development within the receiving environment of the Proposed Development as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the construction of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

The cartographic sources consulted include:

- Down Survey Map, Barony Map of 'Duleek' c. 1655;
- William Larkin's, Map of the County of Meath, 1812; and
- Ordnance Survey 6-inch and 25-inch maps of Meath (1836 and 1909).

Documentary Sources

Documentary sources (as identified above) were consulted to compile background information on the archaeological, architectural and Cultural Heritage receiving environment of the Proposed Development.

Development Plan

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures, archaeological sites and Architectural Conservation Areas within every county. The development plan of relevance that was examined as part of this assessment is the Meath County Development Plan 2021–2027.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The NIAH is a government based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of locally, regionally, nationally and internationally significant structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses.

Aerial Photographic Coverage

This is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. Ordnance Survey aerial photographs (1995, 2000, and 2005), Google Earth coverage (2003–2018) and Bing Maps were examined for this assessment.

Excavations Bulletin

This is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is also available online from 1970–2018. Information from this resource is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files.

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Appendix 12.2 Plates



Plate 12.1 View to the north across the study area toward Louth Hill, Tullyallen and Red Mountain



Plate 12.2 View southwards showing the developments on the east side of Pass, the Proposed Development Site is to the right



Plate 12.3 Western perimeter of Proposed Development Site, showing mature planting along the line of M1 motorway with Mary McAleese bridge marking the location of the Boyne



Plate 12.4 Looking south across the Proposed Development Site towards the hill at Donore



Plate 12.5 Panorama of Proposed Development Site from the south east



Plate 12.6 Cluster of modern farm buildings to the south of the Proposed Development Site.



Plate 12.7 Remains of older farm buildings under modern developments



Plate 12.8 Additional remains of older farm buildings surrounded by 20th century modifications.



Plate 12.9 View of Proposed Development site from hill at Donore ME020:011



Plate 12.10 View from Drybridge House, south east towards the Proposed Development site.



Plate 12.11 View south from Red Mountain, which Story notes as 'A hill from whence his Majesty first saw the Irish camp'.



Plate 12.12 The location of Mill Ford, the point where William crossed the Boyne. Note the steeply rising ground to the left, on top of which is the Proposed Development site.



Plate 12.13 Detail of the steeply rising ground to the left which forms the southern bank of the Boyne at Mill Ford



Plate 12.14 The entrance to the ravine, Pass-if-you-can from Mill Ford, the undoubted route William's forces took towards the Jacobite forces positioned at Donore.

Appendix 12-3

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Appendix 12.3 Sites and Monuments Record

SMR No. ME020-004--- Townland: Oldbridge Class: Souterrain

Description Two circular chambers connected by a Y –shaped passageway. Field Survey, 13/06/83, Sweetman: "The original entrance is now completely blocked with collapse. There is a well preserved chamber at the east side. It is constructed with dry-stone walling with largish boulders (up to 2.50m x .40m) near the base and getting smaller higher up.

"The passages are built with dry-stone walling and lintels over. In some cases, there are substantial gaps between these lintels, which are filled with boulders. The eastern chamber has a jamb at the south side of the exit; otherwise the dry-stone rises directly from the floor level. Some animal bone was to be seen to the east of the chamber, and maybe some occupation debris."

SMR No. ME020-008--- Townland: Sheepphouse Class: Enclosure site

Description: A circular cropmark is evident from an aerial photograph (No. 912). This existence of this feature was confirmed survey conducted in 1984. (Diameter c.50m).

SMR No. ME020-011--- Townland Sheepphouse Class Church

Description Located on the top of Donore hill. The remains of the medieval church (ME020-011----) are located in a walled graveyard (dims c. 60m ENE-WSW; c. 35m NNW-SSE) which contains a 17th century tombstone (ME020-011002-) and a cross-head (ME020-011003-). There are also 18th century and 19th century memorials, which are recorded (Sadleir 1913-14). 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 and part of the shaft of a disc-headed cross (H c. 0.5m) were in Donore graveyard (ME020-011001-) in 1968. One side is plain and the other has a raised cross in a solid ring, a cap and blank panelling. It was not present in 1984, but it might be inside the locked watch house.

SMR No. ME020-025--- Townland Oldbridge Class Battlefield

Description Battle of the Boyne, 1690: The table below shows all sites associated with the battle field site.

SMR No.	Class
ME020-025001-	Battlefield
ME020-025002-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025003-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025004-	Burial
ME020-025005-	Road - road/trackway
ME020-025006-	Ford
ME020-025007-	Ford
ME020-025008-	Ford
ME020-025009-	Ford
ME020-025010-	Cultivation ridges
ME020-025011-	Field system
ME020-025012-	Field system
ME020-025013-	Settlement cluster
ME020-025014-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025015-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025016-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025017-	Ring-ditch
ME020-025018-	Field system
ME020-025019-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter
ME020-025020-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter
ME020-025021-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter
ME020-025022-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter
ME020-025023-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter

SMR No. ME020-030--- Townland Oldbridge Class Standing Stone

Description: This monument was identified by Tom Condit, Department archaeologist.

SMR No: ME020-034--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Excavation (Misc)

Neolithic Pit: A single pit was uncovered on the access road route of the M1 ,50m north of its junction with the Sheephouse Road by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd. The pit, 1 m in diameter, produced sherds of a Western Neolithic shouldered bowl.

SMR No: ME020-035--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Excavation (Misc)

Prehistoric Pit. A small quantity of struck flint was recovered from a pit uncovered on the motorway approach to the Boyne Bridge route of the M1 by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd.

SMR No: ME020-036--- Townland Sheephouse Class: Excavation (Misc)

Prehistoric enclosure. An oval enclosure, situated on a gentle north-facing slope and measuring c. 30m x 30m, was discovered during test-trenching carried out by Valerie J. Keely Ltd. Topsoil stripping began in November 2000, revealing the extent of the enclosure, long with internal post holes and pits and additional peripheral material including cremation pits. Excavated by Dermot Neilis, IAC Ltd.

Multi-phase habitation site. This site was located 1 km west of Drogheda on the Rathmullan road and overlooked the Boyne to the north. It was excavated by Declan Moore, AES Ltd. It consisted of a line of post holes containing Neolithic Pottery, enclosure ditches, an oval enclosure, a circular ditch feature, a large enclosure. Throughout the site there was evidence of hearths, pits and post holes as well as a number of kilns.

Prehistoric activity. This site was discovered during monitoring of topsoil stripping during the construction of the M 1 motorway it was located between the two sites described above 2000:0778 and 2000: 1055. It contained a scattering of typical subsoil cut features such as refuse pits, hearths, stakes and post holes. The site produced very few artefacts and was excavated by Dermot Neilis, IAC Ltd.

SMR No. ME020-039--- Townland Oldbridge Class Ford

Description: This monument was identified by Tom Condit, Department archaeologist.

SMR No: ME020-040--- Townland: Donore Class: Excavation (Misc)

The site is one of a series of potential prehistoric sites identified during pre-development testing along the route of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7. This site (Site 10) is located approximately 500m to the south of the Donore Road, south-west of the town of Drogheda. The site is on a low ridge, with a good view of the surrounding countryside, including the Bronze Age complex (Sites 15 and 16) currently under excavation to the south. The site comprises a series of small pits and post-holes, with no obvious delimiting feature or structure. Identification of any structures is hampered by the site being transected by a modern field boundary ditch that cuts through what appears to be its central focus. Activity at the site appears to span a broad period of the earlier Bronze Age. To date, over 700 sherds of Bronze Age pottery have been recovered. Provisional identification suggests the presence of Beaker, Food Vessel, and Collared or Cordoned Urn pottery. Of particular interest are what appear to be the remains of several polypod bowls or similar, footed vessels. Five feet have been identified to date, in two distinct sizes, suggesting the presence of at least two vessels of this type. The function of the site is still unclear. It is least likely to be a funerary site. While cremated bone is present in many contexts, only small amounts are found, and there is no deliberation to their deposition. The absence of any hearths or clear structures at the site would appear to mitigate against a domestic function. However, the richest area of the site comprises a series of occupation-type layers delimited on the east side by a row of deep post-holes. Unfortunately, both these layers and the row of post-holes have been truncated by the field boundary ditch. Given the wealth of artefacts, and the span of time that they indicate, a ritual function for the site cannot be ruled out.

SMR No: ME020-041--- Townland: Oldbridge Class: Standing stone
Description Found to the east of the souterrain (ME020-004----).

SMR No: ME020-042--- Townland: Donore Class: Habitation site

The site was discovered during monitoring along the line of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7 (Drogheda Bypass). It was in an area of firm ground on a north-facing slope rising up from the River Boyne. When first uncovered by mechanical excavator the site appeared as a scattering of small subsoil-cut features, including one possible structural slot-trench, grouped within an area measuring 40m east-west by 50m. The distribution of archaeological features across the site formed no discernible pattern. Two groups of features, which in the absence of artefactual evidence cannot be identified as contemporary, were excavated. These two groups were situated in the north-eastern and south-western corners of the site. A minimum distance of over 10m separated the two groups of features and the rest of the site appeared to be archaeologically sterile. The south-western group consisted of ten subsoil-cut features grouped within an area approximately 15m east-west by 10m. Most of these features were irregular in plan, with gently sloping sides and uneven or rounded bases. The morphology of two features was relatively post-hole-like. These features, which were 0.15m and 0.25m deep respectively, were both roughly circular or oval with sheer sides and flat bases. The stratigraphy of their fills did not, however, support a structural interpretation, nor was there any other surviving structural evidence in the immediate vicinity. Although more than half of the features in this group contained varying amounts of charcoal, none of them could be directly interpreted as hearths or showed any sign of burning in situ. One feature, which was suboval in plan, 0.27m deep and with a maximum diameter of 0.9m, was filled with a burnt stone and charcoal-rich deposit which may have represented the dumped residue of an open fire. The fills of two other rounded features, C4 and C26, also contained quantities of burnt stone and charcoal. No diagnostic artefacts were retrieved from these features. One finely struck flint flake from a prepared core, with a modern fracture, was retrieved from the topsoil in this area. The north-eastern group consisted of sixteen subsoil-cut features grouped within an area measuring approximately 30m north-south by 20m. In common with the features in the south-western group, the fills of over half of these features contained varying amounts of charcoal. None of them, however, contained traces of burnt or heat-shattered stone such as that removed from features in the south-western group. This group of features was artefactually richer than those to the south-west. Traces of burnt bone were recovered from the fill of a shallow possible rubbish-pit situated at the south-east of the group. A flake of struck flint was recovered from the upper fill of an irregular, steep-sided feature. More pieces of flint and some poorly preserved sherds of apparently prehistoric pottery were recovered from the largely sterile, grey silty clay fill of a slot-trench excavated at the centre of this group. The profile and dimensions of the slot varied widely from a shallow, almost bowl-shaped 'U' with a minimum depth of 0.12m to a more sheer-sided near-'V' profile with a maximum depth of 0.29m. It was 0.31-0.6m wide. The function of the slot remains unclear. It appeared to be a structural slot-trench encompassing a roughly oval area with a subrectangular annexe to the west. These areas, which appeared to form an annexed or figure-of-eight structure, had combined dimensions of 7.75m east-west by 5.8m. However, little further structural evidence supported this appearance. No evidence of stake- or post-holes was uncovered at the base of, or within the areas encompassed by, the slot. No interruption suggestive of an entrance occurred at any point in the sweep of either arc. At the extreme western side of the smaller arc a deposit of medium-sized stones contained within the fill was removed from the trench. These stones could be tentatively interpreted as a drainage feature at the threshold of a slot-built structure. Immediately to the north of these stones a small concentration of charcoal, which could represent an accumulation of charcoal blown through the possible entrance from an internal hearth, directly overlay the upper fill of the slot. Only one internal feature (C52) was uncovered within the possible structure. The survival of only one internal feature may be the result of post-depositional truncation or an original absence of internal supports. The internal feature was a shallow, subcircular, bowl-like pit 0.15m in depth with a maximum diameter of 0.5m. It was filled with a compact sterile sandy clay which revealed no indication of the feature's

function. The presence of an apparently structural slot combined with randomly scattered subsoil cuts, some containing burnt bone, charcoal, burnt and heat-shattered stone with some flakes of struck flint and sherds of prehistoric pottery, suggests that Donore 2 may have been an occupation site at one or several stages in prehistory. Immediately downhill of the site, 200m to the north, a large, possibly Bronze Age enclosure has recently been excavated by Dermot Nelis, and 300m further to the north an enclosure site dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age or Early Christian period has also been recently excavated by Declan Moore.

SMR No. ME020-049--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Excavation (Misc)

A two-day excavation was carried out on a 4m x 4m area of loose stone and associated deposits containing animal bone on the route of the M1 by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd. No dating evidence recovered.

SMR No: ME020-054--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Excavation (Misc)

This site was identified during monitoring along the route of the Northern Motorway, Gormanston– Monasterboice, Contract 7, approximately 500m south of the River Boyne. It was on gently sloping, northerly-facing ground. The two-month excavation revealed a series of narrow linear ditches, a curvilinear ditch, a U-shaped ditch and several possible post-holes. The earliest activity appeared to have been a shallow pit, aligned east–west. It was 0.17m deep, 0.77m long and 0.7m wide. It was oval in plan with a gradual break of slope at the top and was truncated on the east side by a later ditch. No finds were recovered from the single fill. The next phase of activity was the cutting into the natural of a ditch which also truncated the above-mentioned pit. It was a broad V-shaped ditch, c. 11.2m in maximum excavated length and c. 0.8m in width. It contained three fills. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and steeply sloping sides and was aligned on a north–south axis. An oval pit, orientated north–south and measuring 0.37m in depth, 1.85m in length and 1.1m in width, truncated the above-mentioned ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. A curvilinear ditch represents the next phase of activity on the site. It measured 1.42m in length, 0.36m in width and was 0.63m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the eight fills. A small post-hole was found to be stratigraphically later than this ditch. A series of shallow pits was also uncovered on the site, sealed by topsoil and truncated natural. No more precise stratigraphic relationships could be established for these features. As before, no dating evidence was recovered to help aid interpretation.

SMR No: ME020-063--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Kiln

Prehistoric. This site was identified during monitoring of the M1 motorway. It was located in the southern end of a field close to the road between Oldbridge and Sheephouse town lands and the area of excavation measured approximately 130m x 10m. A bowl shaped feature that may represent the remains of a kiln was excavated by Dermot Neilis, IAC Ltd, along with a series of irregularly shaped pits.

SMR No: ME020-072--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Enclosure

A possible enclosure was identified on Lidar imagery.

SMR No: ME020-088--- Townland Oldbridge Class: Enclosure

Located at the bottom of a N-facing slope down to a W-E section of the River Boyne, with the river c. 100m to the N, and just E of the M1 motorway. Archaeological testing (08E0506) identified a large enclosure (int. diam. c. 70m) defined by a ditch which produced a wealth of Middle Bronze Age pottery.

Appendix 12-4

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Appendix 12.4 Excavations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development Site

Oldbridge, Co. Meath N/A

1999:706; 99D013 & 99R034 (dive survey and detection licences)

Meath County Council commissioned an underwater inspection and metal detector survey to be carried out along the southern shore of the River Boyne at the site of the new bridge pylon for the M1 motorway in Oldbridge, Co. Meath. This work was carried out by Niall Brady, VJK Ltd but nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Oldbridge, Co. Meath ME020-034---

2000:0769; 00E0929

Neolithic Pit. A single pit was uncovered on the access road route of the M1, 50m north of its junction with the Sheephouse Road by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd. The pit, 1 m in diameter, produced sherds of a Western Neolithic shouldered bowl.

Oldbridge, Co. Meath ME020-035---

2000:0770; 00E0938

Prehistoric Pit. A small quantity of struck flint was recovered from a pit uncovered on the motorway approach to the Boyne Bridge route of the M1 by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd.

Oldbridge, Co. Meath ME020-049---

2000:0771; 00E0939

A two-day excavation was carried out on a 4m x 4m area of loose stone and associated deposits containing animal bone on the route of the M1 by Kieran Campbell, VJK Ltd. No dating evidence recovered.

Donore, Co. Meath ME020-040---

2000:0775; 00E0813

The site is one of a series of potential prehistoric sites identified during pre-development testing along the route of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7. This site is located approximately 500m to the south of the Donore Road, south-west of the town of Drogheda. The site is on a low ridge, with a good view of the surrounding countryside. The site comprises a series of small pits and post-holes, with no obvious delimiting feature or structure. Identification of any structures is hampered by the site being transected by a modern field boundary ditch that cuts through what appears to be its central focus. Activity at the site appears to span a broad period of the earlier Bronze Age. To date, over 700 sherds of Bronze Age pottery have been recovered. Provisional identification suggests the presence of Beaker, Food Vessel, and Collared or Cordoned Urn pottery. Of particular interest are what appear to be the remains of several polypod bowls or similar, footed vessels. Five feet have been identified to date, in two distinct sizes, suggesting the presence of at least two vessels of this type. The function of the site is still unclear. It is least likely to be a funerary site. While cremated bone is present in many contexts, only small amounts are found, and there is no deliberation to their deposition. The absence of any hearths or clear structures at the site would appear to mitigate against a domestic function. However, the richest area of the site comprises a series of occupation-type layers delimited on the east

side by a row of deep post-holes. Unfortunately, both these layers and the row of post-holes have been truncated by the field boundary ditch. Given the wealth of artefacts, and the span of time that they indicate, a ritual function for the site cannot be ruled out.

Sheephouse, Co. Meath ME020-036---
2000:0778; 00E0811

Prehistoric enclosure. An oval enclosure, situated on a gentle north-facing slope and measuring c. 30m x 30m, was discovered during test-trenching carried out by Valerie J. Keely Ltd. Topsoil stripping began in November 2000, revealing the extent of the enclosure, long with internal post holes and pits and additional peripheral material including cremation pits. Excavated by Dermot Neilis, IAC Ltd.

Donore, Co. Meath ME020-042---
2001:0960; 01E0399

The site was discovered during monitoring along the line of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7 (Drogheda Bypass). The distribution of archaeological features across the site formed no discernible pattern. Two groups of features, which in the absence of artefactual evidence cannot be identified as contemporary, were excavated. These two groups were situated in the north-eastern and south-western corners of the site. A minimum distance of over 10m separated the two groups of features.

The south-western group consisted of ten subsoil-cut features grouped within an area approximately 15m east-west by 10m. The stratigraphy of their fills did not support a structural interpretation, nor was there any other surviving structural evidence in the immediate vicinity.

The north-eastern group consisted of sixteen subsoil-cut features grouped within an area measuring approximately 30m north-south by 20m. In common with the features in the south-western group, the fills of over half of these features contained varying amounts of charcoal. None of them, however, contained traces of burnt or heat-shattered stone such as that removed from features in the south-western group. This group of features was artefactually richer than those to the south-west. Traces of burnt bone were recovered from the fill of a shallow possible rubbish-pit situated at the south-east of the group. A flake of struck flint was recovered from the upper fill of an irregular, steep-sided slot feature.

The presence of an apparently structural slot combined with randomly scattered subsoil cuts, some containing burnt bone, charcoal, burnt and heat-shattered stone with some flakes of struck flint and sherds of prehistoric pottery, suggests that the site may have been an occupation site at one or several stages in prehistory.

Oldbridge Co Meath ME020-054---
2001:1017 01E0267

This site was identified during monitoring along the route of the Northern Motorway, Gormanston– Monasterboice, Contract 7, approximately 500m south of the River Boyne. It was on gently sloping, northerly-facing ground. The excavation revealed a series of inter-cutting narrow linear ditches, a curvilinear ditch, a U-shaped ditch and several possible post-holes. No dating evidence was recovered to help aid interpretation.

Sheephouse, Co. Meath ME020-036-
2001:1055, 00E0810

Multi-phase habitation site, located 1 km west of Drogheda on the Rathmullan road and overlooked the Boyne to the north. It consisted of a line of post holes containing Neolithic Pottery, enclosure ditches, an oval enclosure, a circular ditch feature, a large enclosure. Throughout the site there was evidence of hearths, pits and post holes as well as a number of kilns.

Donore, Co Meath
2001:962: 01E0373

The site consisting of pre-historic activity, was discovered during testing along the line of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7 (Drogheda Bypass). It was in an area of firm ground toward the ridge of a north-facing slope rising up from the River Boyne. When first uncovered by mechanical excavator the site appeared as a scattering of small subsoil-cut features grouped within an area measuring 11m north–south by 10m.

The site consisted of a series of four small to medium-sized pits, grouped in an apparently random manner. The largest of these features was an irregularly cut, steep-sided pit with an average width of over 1m and a maximum depth of 0.59m. The pit was filled by one deposit, which contained a large quantity of prehistoric pottery, charcoal, flint and burnt bone. These would appear to suggest that the feature functioned as a domestic refuse-pit.

Approximately 0.55m to the south a second, smaller pit was excavated. The morphology of this feature suggested that it may have been the result of the removal of a natural stone by modern ploughing activity, and although its fill contained inclusions of charcoal these may have originated in the larger feature to the north.

The other features excavated on the site were uncovered at some distance from these pits. A subcircular bowl-shaped pit, 0.15m in depth with a maximum diameter of 0.8m, was situated approximately 6.2m to the south. Its fills contained no direct evidence of its function.

A subcircular flat-based pit, 0.13m in depth with a maximum diameter of 0.44m, was situated approximately 4.1m to the south-east of the first feature discussed. This pit also contained flint, some apparently burnt stones and a large proportion of charcoal, which appeared to suggest its use as a refuse-pit.

No other deposits or features were identified during the excavation of Site 6. It is likely that the features excavated on the site represent an area of prehistoric domestic activity. These pits may have been the last remaining features of a more extensive occupation site almost completely destroyed by modern agricultural practices. However, given the situation of the site at the extreme western edge of the area of archaeological investigation along the road-line, it is possible that these features represent the eastern limit of a settlement site still preserved immediately outside the line of the road.

Donore, Co Meath
2001:959: 01E0398

The site, consisting of possible burnt mound activity, was discovered during monitoring along the line of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7 (Drogheda Bypass). It was in an area of firm ground on a north-facing slope rising up from the River Boyne. When first uncovered by

mechanical excavator the site appeared as a scattering of small subsoil-cut features and a pair of large pits grouped within an area measuring 20m north–south by 10m.

The pair of large pits appeared to form the focus of the site. Both were filled with a loose, darkish grey soil with a high composition of burnt stone in a charcoal-rich matrix. This burnt mound-like material also filled a depression which formed a link between the two features. The morphology of the pits was similar; both were roughly suboval in plan with gently sloping, rounded sides leading to undulating rounded bases. The larger of the two pits measured 2.4m by 1.55m by 0.36m deep. The smaller was 1.62m by 0.6m by 0.1m deep. The site overall was heavily truncated by machine activity and any possible archaeology which may have been present to the east of these pits would have been removed by bulldozer in the topsoil-stripping process.

Three other subsoil-cut features were excavated. The morphology and sterile fills of these features did not support any particular interpretation of the site's date or function.

Donore, Co Meath
2001:961: 01E0400

The site consisting of an isolated pit was discovered during monitoring along the line of the Northern Motorway, Contract 7 (Drogheda Bypass). It was in an area of firm ground on a north-facing slope rising up from the River Boyne. When first uncovered by mechanical excavator the site appeared as a scattering of small subsoil-cut features grouped within an area measuring 6m east–west by 9m.

During the initial site clearance and investigation it became apparent that the majority of features initially identified as possibly archaeological were actually of modern origin, most being the result of recent machine activity. Only one feature was of an archaeological nature.

This was a circular pit with a maximum depth of 0.28m and a diameter of 0.73m. It had steep sides and a flat base, giving it a broad 'U' shape in profile. The feature was filled with three deposits, all of which contained inclusions of burnt bone and charcoal, suggesting that it may have served as a domestic refuse-pit or even as a token cremation pit.

No other archaeological features or deposits were discovered during the investigation of this site. The pit may represent the remains of a phase of prehistoric activity, the majority of which has not survived in the archaeological record. It is possibly more likely, however, that the pit is related to the large prehistoric enclosure, Site 3 Sheephouse (see para 11.7.7 above 00E0811), excavated by Dermot Nelis approximately 40m to the north.

Sheephouse, Co. Meath ME020-036---
2001: 1056; 01E0449

The area of prehistoric activity was discovered during monitoring of topsoil stripping during the construction of the M 1 motorway. It contained a scattering of typical subsoil cut features such as refuse pits, hearths, stakes and post holes. The site produced very few artefacts.

Sheephouse, Co. Meath ME020-063---
2001:1058; 01E0907

A prehistoric identified during monitoring of the M1 motorway. It was located in the southern end of a field close to the road between Oldbridge and Sheephouse town lands and the area of

excavation measured approximately 130m x 10m. A bowl shaped feature that may represent the remains of a kiln along with a series of irregularly shaped pits.

Rathmullan, Co Meath

2002:1509; 02E1265

Excavations were carried out at the IDA Business Park, Rathmullan, after testing of the site (25.5ha in extent) and monitoring of the topsoil-stripping for the site compound and Phase 1 of the roads (see No. 1508, Excavations 2002, 02E0183). Three of the areas excavated (A, B, D) were within the road-take, and the fourth, Area C, was to the east of the road.

Rathmullan is at the eastern end of the Boyne Valley and overlooks Drogheda to the east, the high ground of Tullyesker, Red Mountain and Coolfore to the north, and Drybridge, the location of the new bridge over the Boyne, to the north-west. It is bounded on the south by the Drogheda–Donore Road and on the west by the M1 motorway. Significant archaeological sites were uncovered on both sides of the Boyne during the construction of the M1 motorway; six of these were in the immediate vicinity of the business park. They ranged in date from the Neolithic (c. 4000 BC) to the early historic period (AD 900).

Area A

Area A was on a natural rise in the landscape that sloped gradually to both north and south. It measured 24m north–south by 20m. Fourteen features were noted during the topsoil-stripping for the road, one of which later proved to be non-archaeological. These comprised pits, post-holes, stake-holes and burnt spreads. Two of the pits had heavily burnt material in their fill. One pit had four stake-holes at its base and was dug into a second burnt pit, which was alongside a backfilled watercourse. No diagnostic material was recovered, but samples have been taken for radiocarbon dating. Burnt material, including animal bone, teeth, burnt stone and wood, was evident at the base of the adjacent gully. This material was well preserved owing to the waterlogged conditions. The watercourse itself was a natural feature; it was very deep (over 1.8m) and filled very rapidly with water. It did not require full excavation and has been preserved in situ. Another pit with burnt fill was situated c. 3m north-west of this feature and contained a similar fill of burnt stone and charcoal.

Two post-holes near to one another were excavated. They contained similar grey clay deposits with flecks of charcoal. Unfortunately no diagnostic finds were found in either of these features, so analysis of their fills will need to be carried out. A pit with a grey clay fill produced animal teeth, charcoal, one flint scraper and one flint flake. Only one hearth feature and one burnt spread were recorded in this area. Overall, the finds and features suggest a Bronze Age date for the site.

Area B

Area B, 10m north of Area A, measured 115m north–south by 20m; it sloped gently from south to north and then more steeply at its northern end. It was noted during excavation that the northern end was particularly water saturated and that it had possibly undergone some form of land reclamation.

Initially twenty features were identified in this area. Twelve were considered to be archaeological, comprising pits, a post-hole and a hearth. The other eight consisted of glacial features, drainage systems and field boundaries.

Two of the pits contained Bronze Age pottery, one with most of a pot, as well as a quartz pebble, burnt bone and flint artefacts. Although the burnt bone noted in these features was not of a high concentration, its association with Middle and Early Bronze Age pottery sherds suggests token burial deposits. However, this bone has yet to be positively identified as human. Also contained within these features were flint artefacts, including a thumbnail scraper, a flint blade, waste flakes and a possible stone axe, which was severely damaged at the blade end. The pottery, flint implements, burnt bone and charcoal samples await specialist analysis. The location of these pits at the western edge of the area suggests that more features may remain outside the road-take.

The remaining seven pits noted in this area were similar to each other, with relatively inorganic fills. In some cases these contained flint tools, e.g. a thumbnail scraper, a flint core and a possible worked chert. Small quantities of burnt bone and charcoal were included in these deposits. One post-hole and one possible hearth were also uncovered.

At the northern end of the area, in the lower-lying ground, a deep pit was excavated. This appeared to have functioned as a well or sump into which a shallow gully channelled water. When emptied of the fills, which had blocked it completely, it filled with water quite rapidly. Initial inspection showed that some of the fills contained snail shells, indicating that the feature had silted up and was not entirely backfilled as one operation. Wood taken from it had been worked and will be dated in due course. One piece has been identified tentatively as a medieval barrel spigot.

The other features investigated in Area B included modern drainage systems, field boundaries, furrows and natural glacial formations. The furrows indicate that the area was intensively farmed, resulting in the truncation of all of the features.

The diagnostic material in Area B appeared to suggest Bronze Age activity incorporating ritual and burial practices. Some of the undiagnostic features may relate to domestic activity that is not necessarily of Bronze Age date. As all of the features had been truncated by later ploughing, it was not possible to relate them stratigraphically.

Rathmullan, Co Meath
2002:1510; 02E1267

Excavations were carried out at the IDA Business Park, Rathmullan, after testing of the site (25.5ha in extent) and monitoring of the topsoil-stripping for the site compound and Phase 1 of the roads (No. 1508, Excavations 2002, 02E0183). Excavations were carried out in four separate areas; Areas A and B were dealt with under licence 02E1265 (No. 1509, Excavations 2002). Area C, in the east of the site, was excavated to allow ESB and security ducting to be inserted.

Area C area measured 35m east-west by 25m. The terrain was generally level, with a slight fall to the east. In contrast to Areas A and B, in which the features were generally dispersed, Area C consisted of a complex of post-holes, stake-holes, pits, burnt spreads and a possible trough, all in reasonably close proximity, and modern furrows. Unfortunately, owing to intensive later farming on this site, it was very difficult to determine the relationship between the features, as they had been badly truncated. A total of 69 features were recorded; two were non-archaeological, and 39 were post-holes. A large proportion of the post-holes formed a possible double-walled semicircular structure at the north-east of the site. The remaining post-holes were

widely dispersed throughout the site, and further analysis of their fills will determine the relationships, if any, between them.

The possible trough, with a series of post-holes on its perimeter, was situated roughly in the centre of the site. It was thought initially that the post-holes may have marked a windbreak for a hearth within the trough. However, the fill was a uniform, charcoal-rich deposit, suggesting a single dump of material. Seven stake-holes were recorded near the post-holes and therefore formed part of the structure.

Ten burnt spreads were noted. They were very irregular in shape and spanned the southern half of the site. This burnt material was also recorded as the latest fill of many of the post-holes. The presence of furrows truncating these spreads also explains why the burnt spread was widely and irregularly distributed throughout the site.

Three pits containing burnt stone and charcoal were uncovered. However, during excavation it was evident that none of these deposits was burnt in situ. This suggests that these pits in this area had been dug specifically for the purpose of dumping material that had been burnt elsewhere. One fragment of worked flint was found in the burnt deposits.

Another pit type consisted of irregularly shaped features containing grey silty clay deposits.

As a result of truncation by later farming activities, the archaeology uncovered was cut directly into subsoil, with all intermediate layers of activity having been destroyed. Without the survival of these layers, recreating a sequence of events for the area may prove difficult. Dating evidence, find analysis and background research are necessary to understand this site fully.

Rathmullan, Co Meath

2003:1450; 03E0916

The site is situated in Rathmullan Business Park, Co. Meath, in an area of high archaeological potential, as the existence of a ringfort (SMR 20:21) and the discovery of several sites in its vicinity during testing of the M1 motorway shows. The excavation was undertaken as a result of the proposed relocation of an ESB pylon. This site had already been identified during intensive testing of the area (Excavations 2002, No. 1510, 02E0183), undertaken prior to the proposed construction of an IDA business park. During the testing phase, 63 acres of farmland were examined and many archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric to the modern era were uncovered. The site under discussion was uncovered in Field 1.

The initial testing in the area of the proposed pylon site had been carried out in Test-trench 1.8. Two features were uncovered and the trench was subsequently backfilled for later evaluation. Prior to the start of the excavation, the footprint of the pylon was surveyed and a 2m buffer on the perimeter of this grid was added to allow for possible disturbance during the construction of the pylon. The final dimensions of the cutting were 11m in width by 11m in length by 0.45m in depth. This was stripped of topsoil by a 2m-wide ditching bucket. Archaeological features uncovered during the testing phase were reopened and excavated fully.

Two gullies were uncovered in this area. They ran parallel to each other, orientated roughly north-south, and merged at the northern extent of the site. Upon merging, both features appeared as a single ditch containing a mixed deposit. The point at which they merged was not apparent on excavation, therefore no stratigraphic relationship between both features could be obtained. No diagnostic finds were uncovered from their deposits, though charred grain was recovered from one, so dating of this feature is dependent on radiocarbon results, not yet

obtained. The results of the soil sample analysis may shed more light on both the function and dates of these features.

Rathmullan Road, Co Louth

2004:1089; 04E0507

Initial pre-development testing was undertaken at Rathmullan, Drogheda, Co. Louth, on 27 April 2004, using an eighteen-tonne tracked machine equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Twenty-seven trenches were excavated across the development area, many of which were specifically placed to target potential archaeological features that were identified during a geophysical testing programme that was undertaken prior to testing.

The geophysical testing results indicated a possible enclosure in the north-west of the proposed development area, but this area was not tested during the initial testing programme. When nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the first phase of testing, it was decided to hand-excavate two test-trenches across the possible enclosure. This was carried out between 27 May and 1 June 2004. One trench was excavated across the western part of the possible enclosure, while the other was excavated across the eastern part. It was later decided to join the two hand-excavated trenches using a five-tonne mini-digger equipped with a flat, toothless bucket. The mini-digger was also used to open two small areas around two potential internal features that were identified during the geophysical survey.

A ditch feature was recorded in the western trench. It measured 2.92m in width and was 0.84m deep. It was oriented north-south and its location tied in with the possible enclosure identified during the geophysical survey. No datable material was recovered from the fill, but a quantity of disarticulated animal bone was recovered.

On excavation of the trench over the eastern part of the potential enclosure, no archaeological features were immediately apparent. The trench was left open for a period of four days and was repeatedly trowelled during this period, but nothing of an archaeological nature was identified. No archaeological features were identified in the mechanically excavated trench across the interior of the enclosure.

Rathmullan, Co Meath

2005:1235; 05E0352

Excavation was required of features identified during an intensive testing programme carried out by Finola O'Carroll (Excavations 2002, No. 1508, 02E0183). Three areas of potential were identified on the basis of suspected pits and possible archaeological features. A fourth area was identified on the basis of an anomaly identified during a geophysical scan of the area.

Four additional test-trenches were excavated to the south of Field 6. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded at this location. An additional trench was opened parallel with the southern edge of the northern hedge line in Field 9. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded from here.

Area A, an area 20m by 22m north-south, was opened over anomalies in Field 6, revealing a number of shallow pits, some containing charcoal and evidence for burning. A possible hut site measuring 2m by 2.5m was identified. This consisted of a shallow pit and appeared to be flagged with irregular but flat stones. The stones were funnelled to the east and may have formed an entrance passage. A hearth was identified c. 0.3cm to the west.

No diagnostic finds were recovered from any of the features, but a number of struck flint items were retrieved from the topsoil. It is suspected that the possible hut site and hearth may be contemporary with the ephemeral remains of the pits and hearths and may represent the remains of a temporary encampment.

Area B, an area 16m by 13m (south-east/north-west), was opened over the anomaly identified in the geophysical scan. A modern stone-filled drain was recorded to the east of the area. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded from the area.

Area C, an area 16.5m by 17.5m, was opened over a possible pit feature identified during testing. This was the only feature identified in the area. The pit was irregular and, although it contained charcoal, was not deemed to be of archaeological significance.

Area D, an area 28m by 18m, was opened over an anomaly identified during the testing programme. It was identified as a pit that contained a charcoal-rich fill with heat-shattered stone. This is probably the remains of a cooking pit. Three linear cuts were identified crossing the area and upon investigation were identified as modern drainage features.

Rathmullan, Co Meath

2006:1628; 06E0783

Excavations took place at the IDA Drogheda Business Park, Rathmullan, Co. Meath, in August–September 2006. This followed a programme of assessment and a phase of excavation of Areas A–D by Finola O’Carroll (Excavations 2002, Nos 1508–1511, 02E0183, 02E1265, 02E1267 and 02E1269). Area A revealed a series of pits and post-holes and a backfilled watercourse. Area B had a pit containing Neolithic pottery, a series of pits, hearths and a pit/sump containing a wooden handle. Area C revealed a semicircular triple-walled structure, a trough with associated stake-holes and a series of burnt stone and charcoal spreads. Area D contained a post-medieval structure, a cottage which was present on the first-edition OS map of the area. The 2006 excavations revealed a series of pits and burnt-stone deposits, along with a disused watercourse.

Area E measured 36m east–west by 28m. The area was marked by a north-west/south-east watercourse which was indicated pre-excavation by a wide band of silt cutting through the boulder clay. This feature was 7.5m in width and up to 0.4m in depth and had been truncated by the east–west field boundary that is present on the 1840 OS map. It had been truncated by two east–west field drains and was filled by a series of silt deposits ranging from orange/brown to grey in colour. The antiquity of this feature is unclear. It clearly pre-dates the post-medieval field boundaries and was detected during test-trenching both to the east and west of the excavated area. A number of post-medieval artefacts were found in the upper deposits. To the west of the excavated area this silt build-up became far deeper and it was clear that considerable amounts of colluvial material had accumulated from the flooding of this watercourse prior to the insertion of drains. It was notable during wet weather that the ground visibly moved with the movement of machinery, demonstrating the waterlogged nature of the ground.

A series of archaeological features were excavated in the south-west of the area, 3m from the watercourse.

A spread of fire-cracked limestone and charcoal-rich soil was located, measuring 3m east–west by 2.6m by 0.13m in depth. This overlay natural boulder clay. A small oval pit, 1.24m by 0.8m by 0.2m in depth, was located immediately 2m south-west of a burnt-stone spread. It was filled with

burnt-stone deposits in a charcoal-rich matrix. A large pit (F18), 1.9m by 1.65m by 1m in depth, was located 6m south of the burnt stone. This waterhole cut below the water table and contained heavily waterlogged deposits that included frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, decayed wood and reeds. It had a shelf on its northern and eastern sides and a deeper hollow at its base on the southern side.

A further substantial oval pit (F16), 1.74m by 1.18m by 0.84m, was located immediately west of F18. This was filled by alternating deposits of burnt stone in charcoal-rich sandy clay and grey/orange compact sandy clays.

A further small pit, 0.52m by 0.64m by 0.16m, was excavated 3m north-west of the large waterhole F18. This was filled by dark-brown sandy silt with frequent burnt stone and charcoal. Finally, a further small pit was excavated 2.5m to the west of F18. It was filled by dark-grey silty clay with frequent burnt stone and charcoal.

Area F measured 17.5m east-west by 14m. A total of seven features were uncovered. These comprised an arc of seven shallow ephemeral hollows. A second pit was uncovered to the north-east. The area comprised dry, relatively level ground, with ploughsoil overlying boulder clay.

No artefacts of antiquity were recovered during excavations. A programme of radiocarbon dating is under way and it is expected that the majority of the pits will be shown to be of Bronze Age date.

Oldbridge, Meath

2013:215; 13E0400

Monitoring was carried out in association with the development of the Boyne Greenway, which will provide the public with a premium cycle and pedestrian facility measuring c. 1.7km in length. The route of the greenway runs from the Rathmullan Road to the entrance of the Oldbridge Estate. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

Rathmullan, Sheephouse Donore, Co Meath

2023:0452; 23E0798 & 23R0279

Archaeological test trenching was carried out on the site at Rathmullan, Sheephouse and Donore, Co. Meath, following a geophysical survey (22R0279, Donald Murphy, 2022) as features of potential archaeological significance were recorded (including a plectrum-shaped enclosure, a ring ditch and possible ring ditches as well as features of potential archaeological significance).

A total of 54 test trenches were excavated, including additional trenches excavated to further investigate the archaeology exposed. Each trench measured 1.8m in width, and in total, 5450m of linear trenches were excavated. Anomalies identified during the geophysical survey were targeted. The test trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil, which varied significantly and was exposed at a depth of between 0.3-1.5m, but mainly at 0.3-0.8m. Test trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and two ring-ditches, C3 (Anomaly 1) and C21 (Anomaly 3a), with associated features, were recorded in Field 4. In the southern portion of the field, a possible house (C23) with a group of features, including a stake-hole (C27), post-holes (C24-26, C28, C29), a pit (C32), linear features (C30, C31, C33, C35-39) and a possible kiln (C34) were recorded. To the east, a curvilinear feature C14 (Anomaly 4c)

and associated features, including pits and linear features (C8, C10-13) were identified. In Fields 2 and 3, a plectrum-shaped enclosure, C43 (Anomaly 2), with associated linear features that could represent field systems (C40-C42, C44, C45, C47-C49, C51-60), curvilinear features (C43 and C50) and a possible kiln (C46) were exposed. Field 1, adjacent to and east of the motorway remains untested.

Reference:

Murphy, Donald. (2022) Geophysical Survey at Rathmullan, Sheepphouse and Donore, Co. Meath (22R0279) Unpublished report by ACSU.

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Appendix 12-5

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Appendix 12.5 ICOMOS Guide for assessing magnitude of impact

Grading	Historic landscape
Major	Change to most or all key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; extreme visual effects; gross change of noise or change to sound quality; fundamental changes to use or access; resulting in total change to historic landscape character unit and loss of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
Moderate	Change to many key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape; noticeable differences in noise or sound quality; considerable changes to use or access; resulting in moderate changes to historic landscape character.
Minor	Change to few key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; slight visual changes to few key aspects of historic landscape; limited changes to noise levels or sound quality; slight changes to use or access; resulting in limited change to historic landscape character.
Negligible	Very minor changes to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; virtually unchanged visual effects; very slight changes in noise levels or sound quality; very slight changes to use or access; resulting in a very small change to historic landscape character.
No change	No change to elements, parcels or components; no visual or audible changes; no changes in amenity or community factors.

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