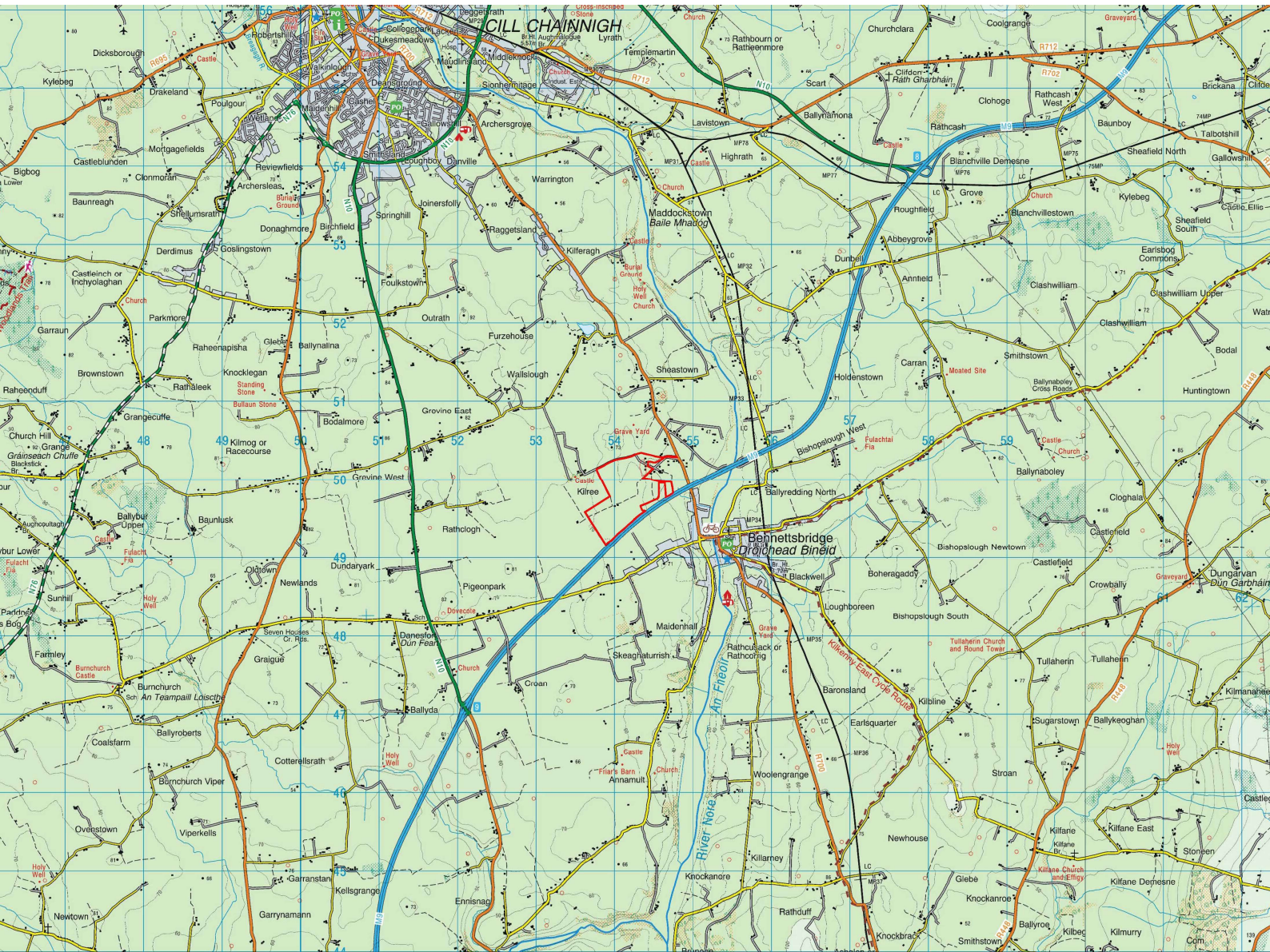


CHAPTER 14

CULTURAL HERITAGE

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ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Introduction

- 14.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared on behalf of Bennettsbridge Limestone has been undertaken to assess the significant effects, if any, on the cultural heritage, archaeology and architecture that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the proposal to extend quarrying on land in the townland of Kilree, Sheastown, Bennettsbridge Co. Kilkenny. A wide variety of paper, cartographic, photographic and archival sources was consulted. All the lands of the application area were visually inspected and were the subject of archaeological geophysical survey and test excavation.
- 14.2 An impact assessment and mitigation strategy has been prepared. The assessment has been undertaken to assess the significant effects, if any, on the cultural heritage, archaeology and architecture that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the proposal to extend quarrying in the application area, while a mitigation strategy has been designed to remedy any significant adverse effects on cultural heritage.
- 14.3 The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management and is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

Methodology

- 14.4 This study complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU. The chapter is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022). It consists of the following study stages:
- Baseline Studies; and,
 - Assessment of the proposed development area.
- 14.5 The criteria and definitions for describing effects set out below is drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines (see below).

Quality of Effects	Positive A change which improves the quality of the environment.
	Neutral No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds or variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment.
Significance	Imperceptible

of effects	An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
	Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.
	Slight effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
	Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	profound effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing extent and context of effects	Extent Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions.
Describing probability of effects	Likely effects The effects can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely effects The effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing duration & frequency of effects	Momentary effects Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	Brief effects Effects lasting less than a day.
	Temporary effects Effects lasting less than a year.
	Short-term effects Effects lasting one to seven years.

	Short-term effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	Long term-term effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	Permanent effects Effects lasting over sixty years.
	Reversible effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
	Frequency of effects Describe how the effect will occur.
Describing types of effects	Indirect effects Impacts on the environment which are directly result of the project.
	Cumulative effects The addition of minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger more significant effect.
	'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the project not go ahead.
	'Worst case' effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable effects When full consequences of change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible effects When the character distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual effects The degree of environmental change that will, occur after the proposed mitigation measures take effect.
	Synergistic effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.

14.6 The study involved detailed investigation of the cultural heritage including the archaeological, architectural and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area up to 1km from the development and the study area is indicated on Fig 13.1. This area was examined using information from the:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Kilkenny;

- The Sites and Monuments Record which is maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- The Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27 including the Record of Protected Structures;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavation reports;
- Cartographic and
- Documentary sources.

14.7 A field assessment was carried out on the 10th of December 2024 to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and structures and previously unrecorded features, possible finds and structures within the green field lateral extension lands that lie within the application area. An archaeological geophysical survey was conducted by Earthsound Geophysics in September 2024 (NMS Licence No. 24R0429) and a test excavation was carried out by Aidan O’Connell for Archer Heritage Planning in November 2024 (Licence No. 24E1133).

Existing Environment

The Landscape

14.8 The application area is located in central Co. Kilkenny in the townlands of Kilree, in a landscape of undulating lowland, 1.15km north-west of Bennettsbridge on the northern side of the M9 Motorway. The soil of the application area is a fine loamy drift with limestones overlying drift with limestones (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>).

Archaeological and historical development of the study area

14.9 The following is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the surrounding landscape. The information is drawn from the assessment. It is intended to indicate the types of sites and monuments known to be present in the study area as well as the pattern of landholding and to place this material in its cultural heritage context. The application area is situated in the townlands of Kilree, in the civil parish of Grangekilree and the barony of Shillelogher. Note the spellings of place names varied throughout history, the historical spellings are used here.

Prehistoric Period

14.10 Prehistoric activity in the study area is indicated by a barrow (a prehistoric burial monument) in Wallslough townland (RMP KK023-029----), a ring-ditch (another prehistoric burial monument) in Kilree (SMR KK024-126----), possible prehistoric settlement activity and a cremation pit in Kilree townland (A032/107; E3728), a Fulacht fia (prehistoric mound of burnt stone) (SMR KK023-154----) and a corn-drying kiln in Danesfort (SMR KK023-153----) (see Fig. 13.1).

Early Medieval Period

14.11 In the Early Medieval period (500 AD-1170 AD) the study area was part of the Kingdom of Osraige (Ossory) which by the twelfth century included most of modern Kilkenny and part of western Laois. Osraige was a buffer Kingdom between Munster and Leinster. At the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland Osraige was ruled by the MacGiollapadraig. The study area formed part of the cantred of Shillyrhir later known as Shillelogher (MacCotter 2008, 180-81). Settlement at this period is indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts and cashels. There is one ringfort known from the study area in Wallslough townland (RMP KK024-0007----). There are also a number of enclosures, possible remains of ringforts, in the study area in Kilree (RMP KK023-023----, KK023-028----, KK023-048001-, KK023-049001-, KK023-049002-, KK023-049003- and SMR KK024-127----) and one associated with possible souterrains (E003643) Bennettsbridge (RMP KK023-062001-, KK023-063----, KK024-034001-, KK024-032---- and KK024-058----), Sheastown (RMP KK024-006----, KK024-00901-, KK024-00902- and KK024-029----) and Wallslough (SMR KK023-113---- and KK024-123----) which probably indicate settlement in this period. The burial found on the west bank of the Nore in Sheastown (RMP KK024-030----) also dates from this period.

The later medieval period

14.12 In the Medieval period Kilree was an outlying rectory of the Cistercian Monastery of Jerpoint. Jerpoint Abbey was founded between 1151 and 1165 by Donal MacGillapatrik I, King of Ossory, but it was not officially recognised as part of the Cistercian Order until 1180, when it was made a daughter house of Baltinglass. In 1178 Bishop Felix of Ossory granted Kell Rudi (Kilree) to Jerpoint Abbey (Flanagan 2005, 57). In 1210 King John granted Jerpoint Abbey a Charter that confirmed the grant of Kell Rudi (Kilree which includes the application area) (Carrigan 1905, 287). Jerpoint Abbey retained Kilree for the rest of the Medieval period until the dissolution of the Abbey 1540. Possibly dating to this period are the church and graveyard in Wallslough (RMP KK024-008001- and KK024-00802-) and Bennettsbridge (RMP KK024-031001- and KK024-031002-). A probable Moated site was constructed in Sheastown townland in this period (11E0390).

14.13 Towards the end of the period a Tower House was constructed in Kilree (RMP KK023-047001-) with a small settlement (RMP KK023-047002-) mentioned in the 1540 extent of Jerpoint Abbey. Although the current bridge at Bennettsbridge (RMP KK024-106001-) was built in 1763 there has been a bridge in this location since the Medieval period.

The Post-Medieval Period

14.14 In the extent of 1540 Jerpoint Abbey was found to be in possession of the Grange of Kylrey with a castle and 4 messuages or houses. All the lands of Jerpoint were granted to the Earl of Ormond (White 1943, 183-4). The castle mentioned in the extent is RMP KK023-047001- a Tower House situated north-west of the application area. In 1589 a Chancery Commission looking into the bounds of the Earl of Ormond's estates found that he still held Kilry near Bennettsbridge (Curtis 1943, 120). In the Down Survey Kilree and Wallslough are included as one townland and are recorded as being in the hands of Sir Robert Rooth in 1641 but had come to Colonel Daniell Redmond and Marcus Shee by 1670 (<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie>). By

the time of Griffiths Valuation of 1847-1864 Kilree was recorded as being held by John H. Whitecraft in fee .

Buildings

Designated structures

14.15 The Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27 and the Record of Protected Structures was examined as part of the baseline study for this section of the EIAR. The review established that there are no structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures situated within the application area. There are eight structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures situated within the study area (see below and Fig 13.1). The closest Protected Structure to the application area, Kilree House (RPS C839), is situated 0.35km to the north-west (See Plate 13.1). This is considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal. Views of the application area from Kilree House are mostly screened by field boundaries with hedgerow and intervening trees. However, the house does have some views of the southwest part of Area 2 of the proposed development (See Plate 13.2). These views will be screened by the construction of a landscaped screening berm on the north-facing edge of Area 2 so that the setting of the building will not be affected. The remaining Protected Structures in the study area are further away and are also considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

No.	C18
Structure type	Bridge
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	6 arched bridge with cut-waters, well cut voussoirs and triple keystones dating from the 1760's.
Photos:	-

No.	C19
Structure type	Mill
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural	Regional

Significance:	
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Several good mill buildings.
Photos:	-

No.	C21
Structure type	Garda Barracks
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Detached three-bay two-storey Gothic-style Royal Irish Constabulary barracks, c.1850, on an L-shaped plan with single-bay three-stage flanking corner turrets on circular plans.
Photos:	-

No.	C874
Structure type	National School
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	National School, detached five-bay single-storey national school, dated 1914, on a symmetrical T-shaped plan.
Photos:	-

No.	C877
Structure type	Former Barracks
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure

Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Detached six-bay two-storey Royal Irish Constabulary barracks, c.1800, on a corner site with elliptical-headed carriageway to ground floor.
Photos:	-

No.	D51
Structure type	Mill (Grain)
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Fire-gutted shell of 6-storey flour mill on right of Nore below Bennettsbridge. Little machinery now survives, although a Francis turbine continues to generate electricity for the complex, part of which is used as a pottery. Now repaired.
Photos:	-

No.	D113
Structure type	Mill (Grain) /Seed Dressing Mill
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Large 4-storey former grain mill, later converted to seed dressing on left bank of Nore below Bennettsbridge. Only the latter's machinery survives, powered from electricity generated by Francis turbine. The building is being reconverted to flour milling.

Photos:	-
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No.	C839
Structure type	Country House
Townland	Kilree
Designation	Protected Structure
Data source	Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-27
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Slight effect
Description	Freestanding, three-bay, two-storey over basement rendered house, c.1800, with central gabled breakfront, flanked by two flights of stone steps.
Photos:	Plate 13.1

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

14.16 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Dept. of House, Local Government and Heritage was examined on 5th of December 2024 as part of the baseline study for this section of the EIAR. The review established that there are no structures listed in the NIAH situated within the application area. There are two structures listed in the NIAH situated within the study area (see below). The closest NIAH structure to the application area, Bennettsbridge Lodge (NIAH 12312012) is situated 0.96km to the south-east. This is considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal. The remaining NIAH in the study area is further away and are also considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

No.	RPS12312012
Structure type	Lodge
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	None
Data source	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1825, with single-bay two-storey lower return to west. Refenestrated, c.1925. Pitched slate roofs with clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stacks, timber bargeboards to

	gables, and cast-iron rainwater goods on timber eaves. Ivy-clad unpainted rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with cut-stone sills, and replacement one-over-one timber sash windows, c.1925. Square-headed door opening with timber paneled door having overlight with leaded panel. Set back from line of road in own grounds with unpainted roughcast boundary wall having rendered coping, cut-stone channelled piers, and wrought iron gate.
Photos:	-

No.	RPS12312015
Structure type	cobbles/flags/paving/kerbing
Townland	Bennettsbridge
Designation	None
Data source	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
Perceived Architectural Significance:	Regional
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	Section of dressed limestone kerbing, c.1875. Road fronted.
Photos:	-

Field inspection

14.17 On the 10th of December 2024 fieldwork was carried out to identify any additional non-designated structures of heritage interest in the vicinity of the proposed new extraction area. This involved assessing all upstanding structures that are marked on the 1947 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 300m of the extraction area (see Fig. 13.1). There is one upstanding structure within this area that is not special architectural heritage interest (see below).

No.	1
Structure type	Outbuildings
Townland	Kilree
Designation	None
Data source	1947 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping
Perceived Architectural Significance:	No significance
Quality of effect:	Neutral
Significance of effect	Not significant
Description	A group of modern farm sheds

Photos:	Plate 13.3
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Archaeological Assessment

Recorded Monuments

14.18 Note that in accordance with the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 the RMP will be replaced by the Register of Monuments, but the RMP was still legally in force when this assessment was prepared. Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Kilkenny indicated that there are no Recorded Monuments situated within the application area (see Appendix 13.1 and Fig. 13.1). The closest external Recorded Monument to the application area are KK023-049001- and KK023-049002-, the cropmarks of a pair of conjoined levelled enclosures in Kilree townland situated c.39m to the south-west of the application. These cropmarks are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly affected by the proposal. As these cropmarks have been levelled their setting will not be affected by the proposal. Another cropmark enclosure KK023-049003- is located further away from the development to the northwest and will not be affected by the proposal. Kilree Castle - unclassified (RMP KK023-047001-) is situated c. 260m to the west of the application area. The mostly demolished structure survives as part of an lvey-clad upstanding east wall and a low short section of north wall (see plate 13.4). The castle has no views of the application area (see plate 13.5). The site of the levelled Kilree church and graveyard (RMP KK023-098001- and KK023-098003-) are located c.340m to the west of the application area and will not be affected by the proposed development. The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are further away from the application area and are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

Sites and Monuments Record

14.19 Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 5th of December 2024 indicated that there are no SMRs situated in the application area. There are several SMR sites external to the application area situated in the study area (see Appendix 13.2 and Fig. 13.1). None of these are situated within 0.3km of the application area and are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

Cartographic Sources

14.20 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch maps of the area were examined. This analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites or monuments within the application area.

Place Name Evidence

14.21 The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The English translations of the

townland names of the study presented below are based on the Placenames Database of Ireland. The analysis did not indicate any additional cultural heritage material in the application area.

Placename	Translation
Bennettsbridge	Benedict's bridge
Dunbell Big & Little	Big fort
Kilree	Church of the King
Sheastown	Land of the Shee family
Wallslough	Lake of the Wall family

Aerial Photographs

14.22 Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 2000 and 2005 imagery as well as Google Earth imagery from 2005, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 and Bing maps imagery from 2011 did not indicate any additional cultural heritage or archaeological sites in the application area.

Other sources

14.23 No find spots listed in the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are located on or within the immediate vicinity of the quarry site. Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1965, 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Simpson 1990), and pottery (O' Ríordáin and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) did not reveal any additional material in the study area.

Excavations

14.24 Examination of the Excavations Bulletin www.excavations.ie indicated that there have been no previous archaeological excavations carried out in the application area. There have been seven investigations carried out in the study area (see below).

Kilree Settlement activity, cremation pit A032/107; E3728

14.25 This site was located within the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road scheme along Contract 2, Phase 4B, Knocktopher to Powerstown, in a flat field with general views of the surrounding areas. A modern limestone quarry was located to the north-east of the site. An area 23.5m by 30m was stripped and a large, subrectangular pit (1.46m length by 1.1m width) with a charcoal-rich fill with four stake-holes and a post-hole in its base was revealed. A possible circular hearth (0.55m diameter by 0.12m depth) with an oxidised base was located c. 10.5m to the south-east of this pit. A second hearth (0.88m by 0.72m by 0.11m) containing charcoal and heat-shattered stone also had an oxidised base. A possible cremation pit (0.4m by 0.62m by 0.38m) was covered with a saddle quernstone which was lying face down on the pit; the association between the stone and the pit is unknown.

Kilree Pits A032/108; E3729

- 14.26 This site, located within the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road scheme along Contract 2, Phase 4B, Knocktopher to Powerstown, was located in a flat field with general views of the surrounding areas. A modern limestone quarry was located to the north of the site. An area 33m by 27m was stripped and five pits and several linear features were revealed. One of the pits was subrectangular and contained charcoal, burnt bone and burnt soil. A further two pits, one of which contained burnt bone fragments, and a hearth were cut into a linear feature (possibly a drainage ditch).

Kilree Early medieval enclosure, possible souterrains E003643

- 14.27 This site was located within the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme, Waterford to Powerstown Phase 4 – Knocktopher to Powerstown. It was situated on an east-sloping hill with good visibility and consisted of an early medieval, multi-ditch enclosure with one timber-lined souterrain and one subterranean passageway, also a probable souterrain.
- 14.28 A circular ditch (Ditch 1: 1.15–3.47m width by 0.4–1.4m depth) enclosed an area 90.6m east–west by 85.5m. The primary, mainly sterile fills in the ditch had resulted from natural slumping and silting, indicating that the ditch had remained open for some time. The middle fills contained occupational debris and an inhumation burial, and the final, upper fills had been deliberately backfilled. There was no evidence of a bank, either internal or external. A later ditch (Ditch 3) obscured the exact location of the entranceway into the enclosure which appeared to have been along the north-east section. Inside the area enclosed by Ditch 1 was a concentric, internal enclosure (Ditch 2: 1.7m width by 0.965m), c. 38m in diameter. There was a possible causeway entrance in the east of this internal enclosure. A second inhumation burial was identified in the interior. Internal field divisions/livestock enclosures were evident along with numbers of possible post-holes and pits, although no patterns or alignments were discernible. Two smaller annexes were associated with Ditch 1; these were formed by Ditch 3 (enclosed area: 24m north–south by 43m) and Ditch 4 (37m east–west by 20m); a burial was associated with Ditch 3. No significant features were recorded within these annexes. Several drainage ditches were identified across the site, especially in the areas which were prone to flooding during the N9/N10 excavations.
- 14.29 An earth-cut souterrain (Souterrain A) was found within the enclosed area; it consisted of a drop-hole shaft in the east, which sloped westwards into a subterranean restricted linear passageway (14m long by 0.8m wide), which had two right-angled turns and which led to a lower, square chamber (16m²; 3m deep). The chamber contained in situ upright wooden posts, along with several collapsed oak roof planks (left as a dark impression in the floor surface), and the passageway also had evidence of decayed upright posts, indicating that the souterrain had been reinforced with timber. A partially metal floor surface was evident in both the chamber and also the passageway. A billhook and a small iron anvil were found within the fills of this feature.
- 14.30 Another subterranean passageway (10.2m long by 5m wide by 2.3m deep), possible chamber and drop-hole (which was stone-lined in places, giving it a corbelled effect) may represent the remains of a second earth-cut souterrain (Souterrain B) which was positioned in the south-western interior of Ditch 1. There was no evidence for a ramp between the drop-hole

and the passageway; possibly steps or a ladder had been used to provide access in and out of the passageway. The drop-hole was later used as a waste pit from which a decorated, partial copper vessel rim and a sherd of Roman Samian ware were recovered. The fills within Souterrain B indicated at least three discernible phases of use: construction, occupation, and abandonment. This was possibly an earth-cut souterrain, as there was no evidence of drystone or wood construction; it appears that a large pear-shaped cut was constructed into which Souterrain B was erected. A compacted floor surface was evident in both the passageway and also the chamber. A pseudo-penannular, possible copper-alloy brooch was found in this layer. The fills over the floor surface contained charcoal, animal bone and wood fragments indicating some degree of occupation/use. In the final phase of use the souterrain was abandoned and backfilled after it had subsided.

14.31 A total of five inhumations were present in isolated positions across the site. Two burials were located within Ditches 1 and 3; one burial was positioned in the internal area of Ditch 2, with the remaining two burials on the outer edges of Ditches 1 and 4. The inhumations were in varying orientations: north-south, north-east/south-west, north-west/south-east; associated finds recovered included a broken flint scraper, a metal knife, and a fragment of lignite bracelet.

14.32 The later medieval activity consisted of a stone-lined, keyhole-shaped kiln with evidence for three phases of use, situated within the south-eastern fills of Ditch 1, as well as several smaller kilns and three metalworking pits which contained charcoal, slag and burnt clay. The post-medieval features on-site consisted of several field drains and a large, modern stone-filled pit.

Sheastown No archaeological significance 07E0576

14.33 Testing was carried out at Sheastown, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny on a proposed quarry extension site that was partially within the area of constraint for KK024-006 Enclosure-Circular and adjacent to the areas of constraint for KK024-009(01), Enclosure Cropmark, KK024-009(02), Enclosure and KK024-029, Enclosure Cropmark. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

Sheastown Moated site (probable) 11E0390

14.34 Test excavations were undertaken for a 2.7ha extension to an operating sand and gravel pit at Sheastown. Testing of a proposed northern extension area to the quarry was undertaken previously in 2007 (Excavations 2007, no. 1018, 07E576). This yielded nothing of archaeological significance. Nine trenches were excavated in the 2011 extension, which was within the area of constraint for a probable moated site. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in these excavated test trenches. It was recommended that the topsoil-stripping for the development be monitored.

Sheastown No archaeology found 22E0495

14.35 Archaeological monitoring was carried out in July 2022 relating to a residential development in Sheastown townland in Co. Kilkenny.

- 14.36** The conditions in the grant of planning by Kilkenny County Council required archaeological monitoring of all site clearance and groundworks associated with improving sightlines along the road frontage at the entrance to the site. The permitted sight-line improvements involved the removal of a 20m-length of roadside bank and hedgerow to the north-west corner of the site.
- 14.37** Initially, hedgerow trees and vegetation were manually removed using a chainsaw, to facilitate access to a dry-stone rubble stone wall. The wall was subsequently removed by hand, with the removed stone retained at the property for reuse. Remaining vegetation and the earthen bank were then removed, with limited levelling at ground level being carried out using a mini-excavator.
- 14.38** No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were uncovered during the works.

Dunbell Big Testing 22E0704

- 14.39** Archaeological test-excavations were carried out as part of an Archaeological Impact Assessment in relation to the proposed construction of a residential dwelling house, with associated site works, on a greenfield site in Dunbell Big, Co. Kilkenny. The site is located within the same field as, and approximately 50m east of the Zones of Notification associated with two RMP sites, enclosures KK024-013001 and KK024-013002.
- 14.40** Four test trenches were machine excavated across the proposed development site. These were laid out in a targeted array to cover the main footprint of the proposed development at the site. Trenches were 15-40m in length, 1.5m in width and 0.23-0.35m in depth. The sod layer measured 0.1m in depth, the topsoil being mid-brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small sub-rounded stones. The natural subsoil layer comprised a moderately compact, mid-yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.
- 14.41** No archaeological features were found at the proposed development site during archaeological test-excavation.

Previous Archaeological Assessments

- 14.42** The existing development was the subject of a cultural heritage assessment carried out by Tobar Archaeological Service in 2017 and by the author in 2018. These assessments identified no affects on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage arising from the development of the existing quarry.

Field Inspection

A field inspection was carried out on the 10th of December 2024. This involved an inspection of all the lands of the application area (see Plate 13.6).

Area 1

14.43 This is a southeast-sloping trapezoidal shaped field of pasture enclosed by hedgerow with mature trees and wire fencing. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level (see Plate 13.7).

Area 2

14.44 This is the southern part of an east-sloping field of pasture enclosed by hedgerow with mature tree and wire. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level (see Plate 13.8).

Area 3

14.45 This is an area of woodland. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level (see Plate 13.9).

Area 4

14.46 This is an irregular quadrilateral-shaped area of east-sloping pasture enclosed by hedgerow and trees. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level (see Plate 13.10).

Archaeological Geophysical Survey

14.47 A magnetometer survey was conducted by Earthsound Geophysics in September 2024 (NMS Licence No. 24R0429) on four fields (16.3 Ha) in the proposed development. Part of the southeast of the application area (Area 3) could not be surveyed due to the presence of woodland. The survey revealed a series of relict field divisions as well as two field boundaries which relate to features shown on the historic ordnance survey mapping (see Fig 13.2 and table below). The influence of agriculture was also seen in the detection of cultivation furrows and imported soils as well as interference from two cattle feeding troughs. Three arcing possible ditch or cut features were also detected which were thought could be of archaeological in origin. While a large area of magnetic enhancement was most likely geological in origin. Anomalies 1 and 6 were identified as relict field boundaries visible on the 1947 edition OS six-inch map and didn't require further assessment. Anomalies 2-5 and 7 were thought potentially to be of archaeological significance, (although 7 was of low significance) and required archaeological testing to assess their archaeological significance. There was no indication of anything associated with RMP KK023-049001-, KK023-049002- extending into the application area.

Anomaly	Type	Interpretation	Significance	Effect	Recommendation
1	linear ditch 183m in length	matches a relict field boundary shown on the first edition -1947 edition OS six-inch map	Low	High	Don't test
2	arcings possible ditch or cut features, measuring	may be archaeological in origin	Potential	High	Test

	46m in length				
3	oval possible ditch or cut features, measuring 41m in diameter	may be archaeological in origin	Potential	High	Test
4	arcing possible ditch or cut features, measuring 38m in length	may be archaeological in origin	Potential	High	Test
5	arcing possible ditch or cut feature, measuring 45m in length	could be archaeological, agricultural or geological in origin	Potential	High	Test
6	linear ditch 27m in length	matches a relict field boundary shown on the first edition -1947 edition OS six-inch map	Low	High	Don't test
7	area of magnetic enhancement which measures 65m in width and stretches across the width of the survey area	unlikely to be archaeological in origin given its scale. Situated within a sloping field this anomaly is likely to be geological in origin.	Low	High	Test

Archaeological Test Excavation

14.48 As the archaeological geophysical survey identified anomalies of archaeological potential, and it was not possible to survey the woodland, it was decided to have the anomalies and forestry archaeologically tested in advance of development to assess their archaeological significance as this is a standard procedure in the process of archaeological assessment. This work was carried out in November 2024 by Aidan O'Connell for Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. Under excavation license number 24E1133 issued by the National Monuments Service. A total of 2841 linear m (5,115 sq. m.) of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision (see Fig 13.3). These trenches targeted the geophysical anomalies and additional areas of the application area, including in the area of woodland, to rule out the possible presence of any additional potential subsurface archaeology. No archaeological sites, features or finds were identified by the archaeological testing. All the geophysical anomalies were found to not be of archaeological significance. testing report concluded, following desk based assessment, site inspection, geophysical survey and licensed archaeological test trenching that the potential for the continued survival of buried archaeological sites or features is:

- Neutral for the areas where the geophysical survey and test trenching was conducted without obstruction.
- Low-moderate for the forest plantation area (Area 3) where geophysical testing was not conducted and test trenching took place to a limited capacity.

14.49 The report recommended that the area of forest plantation (Area 3) be subject to archaeological monitoring during topsoil stripping.

Effects of the Development

Direct Effects

14.50 There are no direct effects on any known items of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance in the application area or the vicinity.

Indirect Effects

14.51 There are no indirect effects on any known items of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance in the application area or the vicinity

Interaction with Other Effects

14.52 No interaction with other any other effects has been identified.

Do Nothing Effects

14.53 No do nothing effect has been identified.

Worst Case Effect

14.54 In the worst case scenario, the development might disturb previously unknown archaeological deposits or artefacts without preservation by record taking place the forest plantation (Area 3).

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Direct Effects

14.55 Due to the possibility of the survival of previously unknown subsurface archaeological deposits or finds within the forest plantation (Area 3) topsoil-stripping in this area should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

Indirect Effects

14.56 No indirect effects warranting specific mitigation measures were identified during the course of the cultural heritage assessment and no mitigation measures are required.

Residual Effects

14.57 No residual effects have been identified.

Conclusions and Recommendations

14.58 There are no items of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance known from the application area. There are no direct or indirect effects on any known items of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance in the application area or the vicinity. Due to the possibility of the survival of previously unknown subsurface archaeological deposits or finds within forest plantation (Area 3) topsoil-stripping in this area should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

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Figures

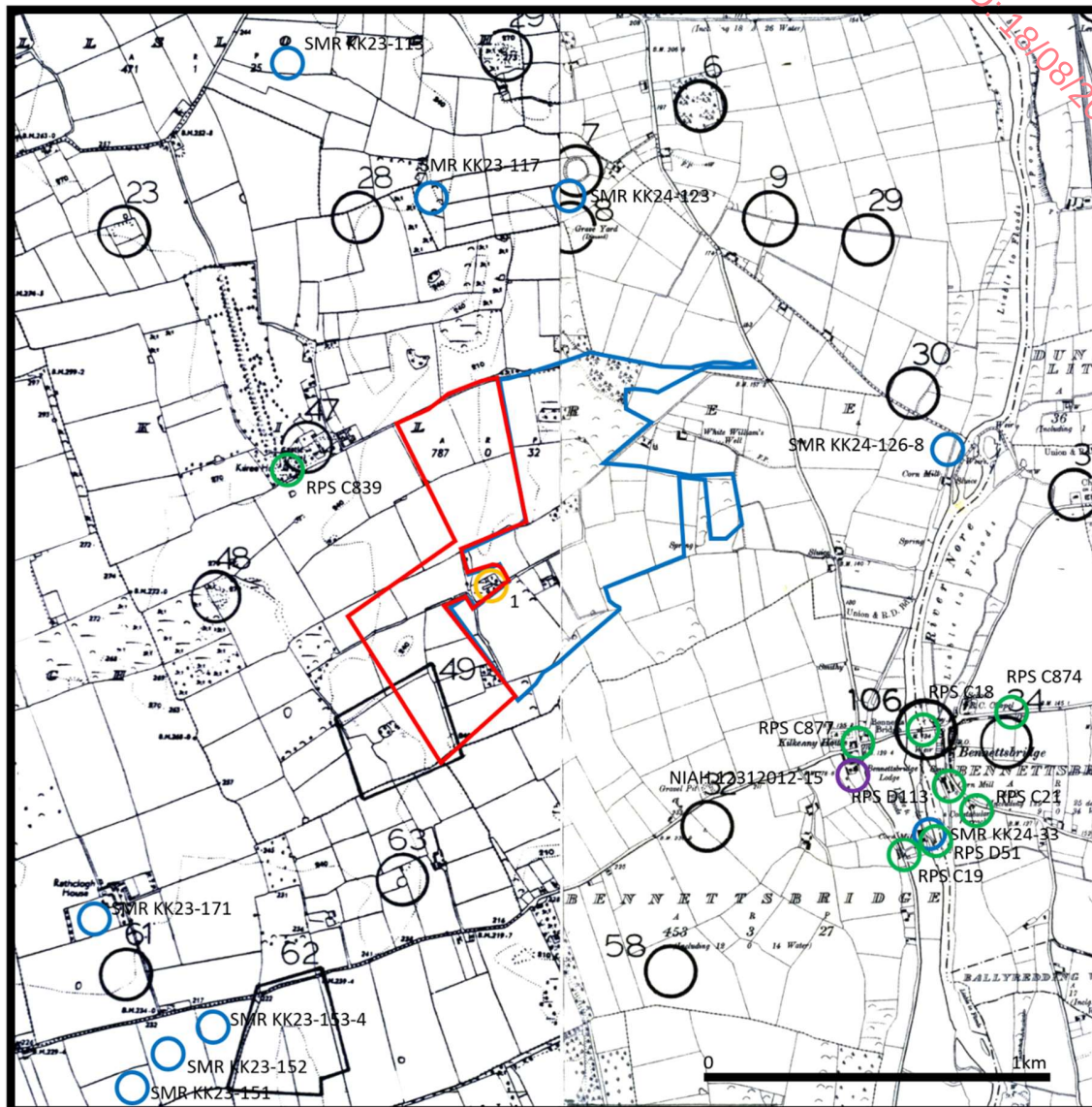


Fig. 13.1. The assessment study area superimposed on the Record of Monuments for Co. Kilkenny. The green field area to be developed is outlined in red and the existing quarry in blue. RMP sites are indicated with black circles and SMR sites with blue circles. Structures in the RPS with green circles, in the NIAH with purple circles and on the 1947 edition of the six-inch OS map with gold circles.

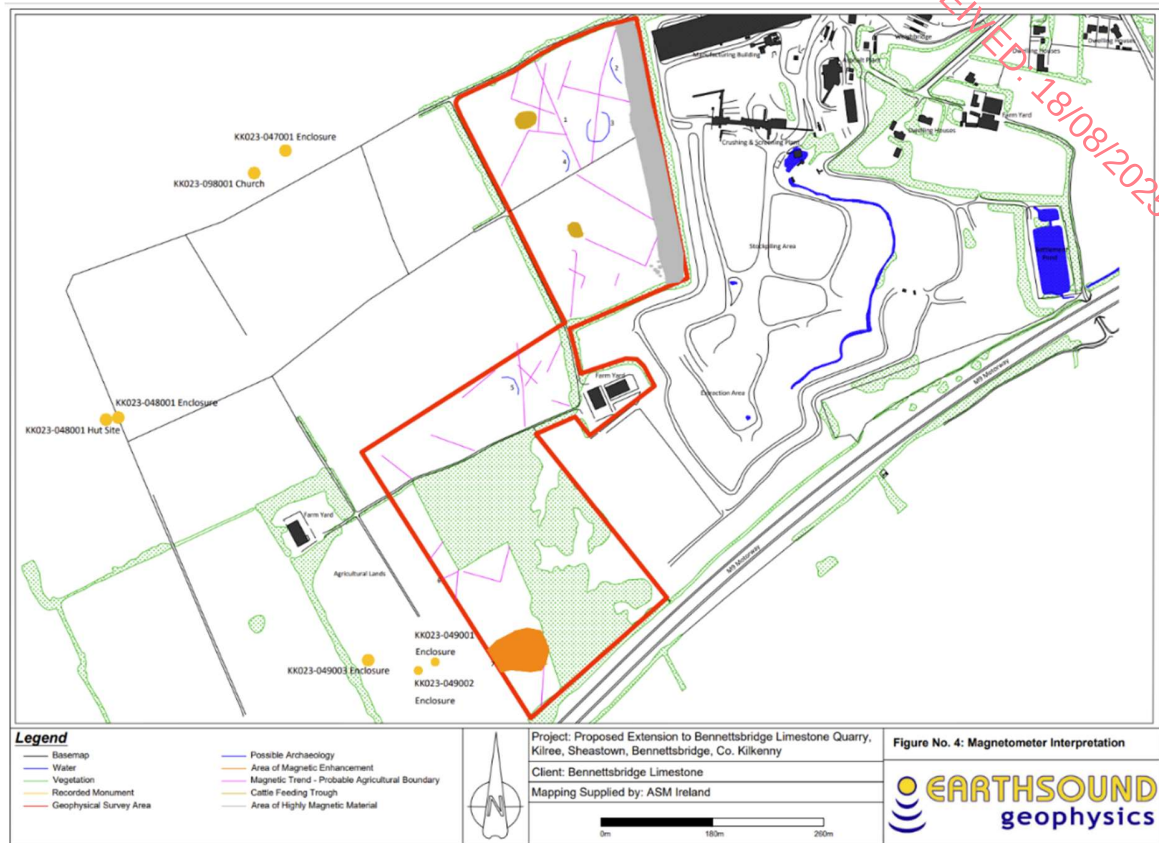


Fig. 13.2 Kilree, Bennettsbridge view of the geophysical survey area.

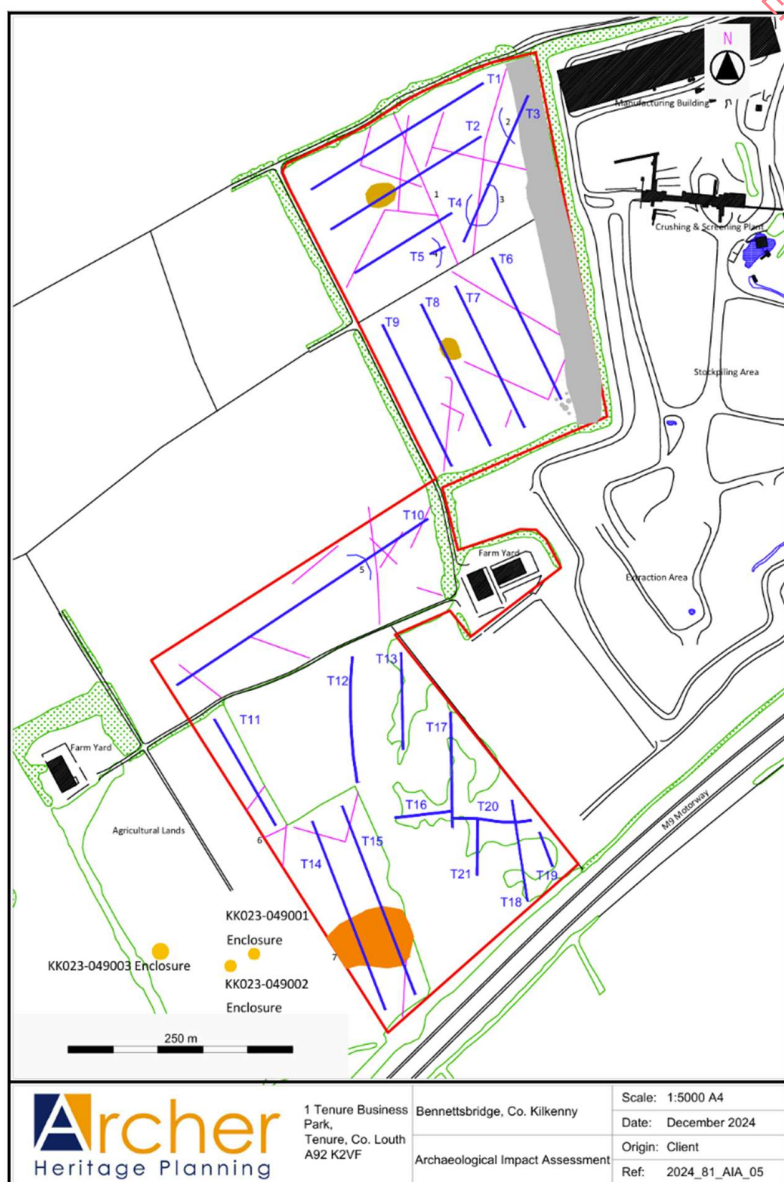


Fig. 13.3 Test trench locations with the geophysical survey.

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Plates



Plate 13.1. Kilree House looking northeast.



Plate 13.2. Panoramic view from Kilree House looking southeast toward the application area. Area 2 of the proposed development is visible in the distance across three field boundaries



Plate 13.3. Structure 1 looking northwest.



Plate 13.4. Ruins of RMP KK023-047001- Kilree Castle looking west.



Plate 13.5. Panoramic view from the ruins of RMP KK023-047001- Kilree Castle looking southeast toward the application area.



Plate 13.6. Aerial image of the green field lands to be developed, outlined in red, indicated on a recent aerial photograph with the fieldwork areas numbered.



Plate 13.7. Panoramic view of area 1 looking southeast.



Plate 13.8. View of area 2 looking west.



Plate 13.9. Drone view of area 3 looking northeast.



Plate 13.10. View of area 4 looking northwest.

Appendix 13.1 Recorded Monuments in the study area

KK023-023---- KILREE Enclosure

A polygonal enclosure (dims. c. 60m E-W widening to c. 70m towards the S; c. 65m NNW-SSE) indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map as having five unequal straight sides, with a small wooded square enclosure occupying much of the NW-W portion of the interior and a lime kiln on the edge of the monument at the SE angle. On the 1947 revision of the OS 6-inch map the enclosure is indicated as a roughly oval enclosure (dims. c. 56m N-S; c. 70m E-W) though the W-NW sector is not indicated and the monument is enclosed by field boundaries. Between 1947 and 2005 (Google Earth satellite imagery, 20 November 2005) the monument was levelled, as were the field boundaries to the S and W.

KK023-028---- KILREE Enclosure

In tillage. A roughly D-shaped cropmark, identified as the fosse of an enclosure (dims. c. 30m WNW-ESE along the straight side; c. 36m NE-SW; c. 40m NW-SE) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP BDI041, 14 July 1970). A field boundary runs NE-SW immediately N of the enclosure.

KK023-029---- WALLSLOUGH Barrow - unclassified

Heavily overgrown with trees and scrub. Indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map, and on the 1947 revision, as a circular enclosure (diam. c. 45m N-S; c. 42m E-W) with a trig. station in the NW sector.

KK023-047001- KILREE Castle - tower house

Indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map as 'Castle (in ruins)' and described in the OS Letters (1839) as, 'a small portion of the walls of a castle on Kilree Townland' (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 1, 280 (94)). Hogan (1860-61, 365) describes it as, 'the remains of a rude stone edifice, which may have been either a church or a castle. The east wall is about three feet [c. 0.9m] high, and the remainder is a mass of rubbish, little above the level of the ground'. According to Carrigan (1905, vol. 3, 372), 'Kilree castle, still traditionally remembered to have belonged to the "Friars," stood within a few perches [1 perch = 5m] of Mr. Whitecroft's house; a part of it yet remains. It marks the position of the monastic Grange of Kilree'. O'Kelly (1969, 153) also mentions this castle and states that it is, 'built on an elevation called the Cruaichín, commanding a fine view'.

KK023-048001- KILREE Enclosure

On level ground. A roughly oval enclosure (max. diam. c. 45m) indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map, the W side, running NW-SE is depicted as being straight, and the monument is contained within a small roughly triangular-shaped field. On the 1947 revision OS 6-inch map the field boundaries to the E and S have been removed and the W field boundary, running NW-SE, transects the W sector. The monument was inspected in March 1957 when it was densely overgrown with thorny scrub (OPW Correspondence, 25 March 1957). The interior (int. diam. 32m N-S; 39.6m E-W) was enclosed by a collapsed dry stone wall (Wth 3m; int. H 0.3m; ext. H 1.06m) and outer fosse (Wth 3.65m; D 0.76m) (ibid.). By August 1957 the monument had been levelled (OPW Correspondence, 16 August 1957). Aerial photographs (CUCAP AYK062, 9 July 1969; BDI039, 14 July 1970; BGG011 and BGG012, 16 July 1971) show the enclosure as a cropmark with a wide deep fosse and a small circular cropmark, probably a hut site (KK023-048002-) in the W quadrant of the interior.

KK023-048002- KILREE Hut site

Within the W quadrant of an enclosure (KK023-048001-). A small circular cropmark, probably a hut site, identified on aerial photographs (CUCAP AYK062, 9 July 1969; BDI039, 14 July 1970; BGG011 and BGG012, 16 July 1971).

KK023-049001- KILREE Enclosure

Indicated as an oval enclosure (diam. c. 40m) on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map and as a square enclosure with rounded corners on the 1947 revision with an unenclosed area (dims. c. 28m NW-SE; c. 24m NE-SW) outlined as a dashed line adjoining to the E. By 1969 the enclosure had been levelled and is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs (CUCAP AYK063, 9 July 1969; BDI038, 14 July 1970). Also visible as cropmarks on these aerial photographs are an enclosure (KK023-049002-) which adjoins to the W and another (KK023-049003-) located c. 70m to the W.

KK023-049002- KILREE Enclosure

An oval enclosure (dims. c. 36m N-W; c. 47m N-S) identified as the cropmark of a fosse on aerial photographs (CUCAP AYK063, 9 July 1969; BDI038, 14 July 1970). On the OS 6-inch maps (1839 1st ed. and 1947 revision) a field boundary is indicated running along the W edge of the enclosure, from SSW-W. An enclosure (KK023-049001-) conjoins to the E and another enclosure (KK023-049003-), also identified as a cropmark on the aerial photographs, is located c. 30m to the WNW.

KK023-049003- KILREE Enclosure

A circular enclosure (dims. c. 36m) identified as the cropmark of a fosse on aerial photograph (CUCAP AYK063, 9 July 1969). On the OS 6-inch maps (1839 1st ed. and 1947 revision) a field boundary with a trackway is indicated running NW-SE, through what is visible on the aerial photograph as the W sector the enclosure. Another field boundary is also indicated on these maps running along the S edge of the enclosure, this has since been levelled and is visible as a cropmark on the aerial photograph. Two conjoined enclosures (KK023-049001- and KK023-049002-) conjoins to the E are located c. 70m to the E and c. 30m to the ESE respectively.

KK023-061---- RATHCLOGH Enclosure

A circular cropmark (diam. c. 55m) identified as the fosse of an enclosure on an aerial photograph (CUCAP AID077, 22 July 1963). Another enclosure (KK023-171----) lies c. 100m to the NNW and several monuments (KK023-151----; KK023-152----), including a fulacht fia (KK023-154----) and a corn-drying kiln (KK023-153----) have been identified on archaeological excavations c. 200-300m to the SE in advance of the construction of the M9 motorway.

KK023-062001- BENNETTSBRIDGE Enclosure

A curvilinear enclosure identified as a cropmark on an aerial photograph (CUCAP BGG014, 16 July 1971). It consists of an inner enclosure (diam. c. 50m) with an inner curve on the E side, possibly indicating an earlier enclosure which was subsequently extended. The inner enclosure is within a bivallate outer enclosure (overall diam. c. 100m), formed by two closely concentric fosses from S-W-N. Only one outer fosse is evident in the E quadrant. A field boundary, indicated on the 6-inch OS maps (1839 and 1947 revision) but since removed, runs NNW-SSE though the W side of the outer enclosure and another field boundary, visible on satellite imagery (Digitalglobe, viewed 23 August 2021), runs ENE-WSW through the monument, just S of centre.

KK023-063---- RATHCLOGH Enclosure

A roughly circular enclosure (diam. c. 32m) which appears to be faintly indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map and is outlined on the 1947 revision. The monument was levelled in 1961 as part of reclamation work (OPW correspondence). It is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs (CUCAP BGG013, 16 July 1971; GB89.AN.05, 22 July 1989) as an enclosure (overall diam. c. 50m) defined by a levelled bank and external fosse and another outer concentric fosse, the two fosses are c. 10m apart. .

KK024-006---- SHEASTOWN Enclosure

In a forest plantation. Indicated as a circular enclosure (diam. c. 40m) on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map in a small forest plantation, with a sand/gravel quarry c. 10m to the NE and another one immediately to the SE. On the 1899-1903 revision of this map the forest plantation is indicated but not the monument.

KK024-0007---- WALLSLOUGH Ringfort - unclassified

Aerial photographs (GB96.FW.15, July 1996; ASIAP (18) 7-10, August 1996) taken in 1996 show a cropmark of an inner enclosure within the plough-levelled ringfort; the inner enclosure is defined by a fosse, with an entrance facing SE. The two fosses which defined the original monument are widely spaced.

KK024-008001-WALLSLOUGH Church

According to Carrigan, "Kilree Church" stood about a quarter of a mile [c. 400m] east of the castle, in the "Church Field." No trace whatever remains of it now. The graveyard, in which it stood, has been obsolete, time out of mind; has neither enclosing rampart, nor appearances of graves; and is now quite overgrown with bushes'. The graveyard (KK024-008002-) is indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map and on the 1899-1902 revision..

KK024-008002-WALLSLOUGH Graveyard

Indicated on the 1st (1839) ed. OS 6-inch map as an unenclosed sub-rectangular area (dims. c. 24m N-S; c. 27m E-W in the N portion, narrowing to c. 21m in the S portion) and as a triangular area (dims. c. 28m N-S; c. 19m E-W) on the later revision (1899-1902). According to Dan Byran (1966, vol. 19, 59-60) it was situated on a little elevation, just over the stream that divides Dunbell from Holdenstown, about opposite the "avenue" that runs from near Prospect House into the fields towards Holdenstown: It was quite small, unfenced, but surrounded by a ring of old, large, whitethorn bushes. It is understood to have disappeared recently during land reclamation'.

Carrigan (1905, vol. 4, 290) notes that Dunbell had belonged to Jerpoint Abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, after which it became a civil parish. Byran (ibid.) suggests that as a monastic grange it is likely to have had a chapel, which could have been at the location of the graveyard in Holdenstown.

KK024-00901- SHEASTOWN Enclosure

On the edge of a large quarry to the N-NE, with a field boundary running N-S along the W side and another running E-W along the S side. Identified as the cropmark of a roughly circular enclosure (diam. c. 30m) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP AYK065, 9 July 1969) with traces of another, possibly earlier, enclosure utilising the same fosse to the S-SW but extending beyond it by c. 10-15m to the N and NE. Another partial curving fosse of another enclosure (KK024-009002-) is visible on the same aerial photograph immediately to the S..

KK024-00902- SHEASTOWN Enclosure

On the edge of a large quarry which extends from N-E, with a field boundary running E-W along the N side and another running N-S through the monument. Identified as the cropmark of a roughly circular enclosure (diam. c. 20m) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP AYK065, 9 July 1969). Another enclosure (KK024-009001-) is visible on the same aerial photograph immediately to the N. A quarry access road, visible on satellite imagery (Digitalglobe, viewed 21 September 2021), appears to be running over the enclosure.

KK024-029---- SHEASTOWN Enclosure

Identified as a possible rectangular enclosure (dims. c. 120m E-W) defined by two concentric fosses visible as cropmarks on an aerial photograph (CUCAP AYK066, 9 July 1969). The S portion of the enclosure, S of a roughly E-W running field boundary, is more visible (dims. c. 40m N-S). The outer fosse (L c. 20m) is visible running N of the field boundary on the E side. The enclosure is within Bennettsbridge limestone quarry and on satellite imagery it appears to have been much disturbed, at least partially quarried out, with a quarry road running NW-SE through it (Google Earth, imagery date 25 April 2021)..

KK024-030---- SHEASTOWN Burial

On an E-facing slope on the W bank of the River Nore. Human remains discovered during quarrying in a sandpit in 1971. Bone was exposed over an area c. 35m x 50m. Four graves were excavated consisting of unlined shallow pits in the surface of the gravel deposit, aligned E-W. Each grave contained a single extended inhumation and some contained other disarticulated bones (in all, the remains of four males and two females were found). A small, tanged, iron knife was found alongside the left femur with the finger bones close to it in one of the graves containing a male. Radiocarbon dating yielded a date of 1576+/- 35 BP or AD 413-561.

KK024-031001- BENNETTSBRIDGE Church

Centrally located within a roughly square graveyard (KK024-031002-), located immediately N of a public road. According to Carrigan, 'The old Catholic parish church stood on the site of the present Protestant church of Bennettsbridge, and was probably cleared away when the latter was built by Colonel John Shee, in 1795'. The C of I church was demolished in 1960. The interior of the graveyard is heavily overgrown with scrub (visible on Google Earth satellite imagery date May 2009)..

KK024-031002- BENNETTSBRIDGE Graveyard

A roughly square graveyard (dims. c. 33m N-S; c. 30m E-W) enclosed by a stone wall, located immediately N of a public road. The interior is heavily overgrown with scrub (visible on Google Earth satellite imagery date May 2009). According to Carrigan (1905, vol. 3, 486), 'The old Catholic parish church [KK024-031001-] stood on the site of the present Protestant church of Bennettsbridge, and was probably cleared away when the latter was built by Colonel John Shee, in 1795. The surrounding graveyard is very small and very old; it is still, occasionally, used for Catholic interments'. The C of I church was demolished in 1960.

KK024-034001- BENNETTSBRIDGE Enclosure

No description available in RMP.

KK024-032---- BENNETTSBRIDGE Enclosure

On the N end of a ridge running NE-SW. Identified on a Grand Jury Map, 1812-24 as an enclosure. A house has been built at this location.

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KK024-034001- BENNETTSBRIDGE Enclosure

Identified as the fosse of a circular enclosure (diam. c. 10-15m) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP ATA010, 19 July 1967). Another smaller ring-ditch (KK024-034002-) is located c. 20m to the NE.

KK024-034002- BENNETTSBRIDGE Ring-ditch

Identified as the fosse of a circular enclosure (diam. c. 8-10m) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP ATA010, 19 July 1967). Another larger ring-ditch (KK024-034001-) is located c. 20m to the SW.

KK024-058---- BENNETTSBRIDGE Enclosure

Identified as the cropmark of a fosse of a possible oval enclosure (diam. c. 30m N-S, tapering towards the W; c. 40m E-W) on an aerial photograph (CUCAP ATA009, 19 July 1967). The fosse is well-defined from NW-N-E but is very faint from SE-S-W. A field boundary, evident on satellite imagery, runs NNW-SSE immediately E of the enclosure..

KK024-106001- BENNETTSBRIDGE Bridge

According to Carrigan, the bridge crossing the River Nore at Bennettsbridge was called St Bennet or Benedict's Bridge as early as 1384. In that year there is a reference to a chapel on the bridge dedicated to the blessed Virgin, 'The King (Rich. II), ratifies the status of John Horley, parson of the free chapel of Benetbrygge, Ossory Diocese, in the aforesaid chapel'. Carrigan (ibid. 486-7) mentions two other references to the chapel, in 1393 and 1419.

In 1393 a stone tower was erected by John Middultoun, 'within the said bridge adjoining the said chapel' (ibid.). The Patent Rolls (Richard II, 1391-96) 19th June 1393, record that, 'John Midelton, warden of the chapel of St. Mary by Benetysbrigge, Co. Kilkenny' was granted a licence, 'to complete and crenellate a stone tower, newly began on that bridge as a protection to travellers, on account of robberies, homicides and other evils done by Irish enemies and English rebels and licence also to construct all other needful fortifications on the bridge and to hold the tower to him and his successors forever, saving to all lieges free passage over the bridge'.

The bridge is indicated on the Down Survey (1655-6) barony map of 'Gowran' (Hibernia Regnum, courtesy of Trinity College Dublin) and on the parish map of Killerney (NLI MS720). The terrier accompanying the parish map lists 'S[i]r Edw[ard] Blanchvill' as the proprietor in 1640.

Carrigan notes that the medieval bridge had been replaced by 1743, when a traveller, describing the River Nore, remarked, 'to Bennetts Bridge, where there is a stone bridge over it, and a few yards below ye present the Ruins of an old bridge w[hi]ch, had a small castle at ye end of it to defend the passage'. This suggests that the location of the medieval bridge is a few metres 'below' or downstream of the present bridge, which would be to the S.

KK024-106002- BENNETTSBRIDGE Chapel

According to Carrigan (1905, vol. 3, 486) the bridge crossing the River Nore at Bennettsbridge was called St Bennet or Benedict's Bridge as early as 1384. In that year there is a reference in the Patent Rolls to a chapel on the bridge dedicated to the blessed Virgin, 'The King (Rich. II), ratifies the status of John Horley, parson of the free chapel of Benetbrygge, Ossory Diocese, in the aforesaid chapel' (ibid.). It is recorded in the Irish Council Roll XVI, Richard II that on the 29th January 1393, 'John de Midityoun, clerk, and guardian of the chapel of Bene[ts]bridge, was granted leave to be absent in England for five years' receiving in the meantime all the profits of the said chapel' (ibid.). Later that year, on 29th of April, a petition to construct a stone tower on the bridge was granted to, 'John Middultoun, Guardian of "the chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge of St. Benet, in the County of Kilkenny in Ireland, "forasmuch as before now, the Irish enemies, as well as the English malefactors,

have passed and returned by the said bridge, and inflicted many evils and injuries on the King's lieges of these parts, as is well known to you, until lately that there was commenced there, by the said John Middultoun and his predecessor, a tower within the said bridge adjoining the said chapel' (ibid. 486-7).

The Patent Rolls record that on the 22nd November 1419, 'The King (Henry V) granted John Lydington, chaplain, the free chapel of the Blessed Mary of Benetsbrige, Ossory Diocese, vacant and in the King's gift, with all appurtenances' (ibid. 487).

Carrigan notes that after 1419 there are no further references to this chapel, which suggests that it may have fallen into disuse sometime after this date (ibid. 487). He adds that the medieval bridge appears to have been replaced by 1743, when a traveller, describing the River Nore, remarked, 'to Bennetts Bridge, where there is a stone bridge over it, and a few yards below ye present the Ruins of an old bridge w[hi]ch, had a small castle at ye end of it to defend the passage'. This suggests that the location of the medieval bridge, and the associated chapel, is a few metres 'below' or downstream of the present bridge, which would be to the S.

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Appendix 13.2 Sites in the Sites and Monuments Record in the study area

KK023-113---- WALLSLOUGH Enclosure

In tillage. A circular enclosure (diam. c. 30m) identified as the cropmark of a fosse on aerial photographs (ASIAP (105) 10-11, 22 July 2000; GB96.FW.10, 20 July 1996).

KK023-117---- WALLSLOUGH Burnt mound

In a wet area in a formerly marshy field, close to the W field boundary, with a pond c. 50m to the N. A black spread (diam. c. 15m) with charcoal and heat-shattered stones was revealed during ploughing. There is no visible trace at ground level.

KK023-151---- DANESFORT Excavation - miscellaneous

On a gentle SE-facing slope in pasture. Excavated in 2007 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road improvement scheme (Licence no. E3461). A pit, dated to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age transition, with 46 pottery sherds representing at least 11 Beakers. There were three decorated vessels, one of which has a close parallel from concentration D at Knowth, Co. Meath. Adjacent possible field boundaries may be contemporary but there is a possibility that the dated evidence is residual from further disturbed pits. A sample from the pit yielded a radiocarbon date of 2457-2205 cal BC (UBA-11011).

KK023-152---- DANESFORT Structure

On a gentle S-facing slope in pasture. Excavated in 2007 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road improvement scheme (Licence no. E3458). A short curvilinear trench and three post-holes representing a prehistoric shelter or the ephemeral remains of a domestic dwelling. A single pit was discovered 2.5m to the NE. The design and proximity to Late Neolithic and Bronze Age remains suggest a prehistoric date.

KK023-153---- DANESFORT Kiln - corn-drying

In a low-lying basin within a gently undulating wide landscape. Excavated in 2007 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road improvement scheme (Licence no. E3459). Four cereal-drying kilns were excavated in the vicinity of a pond (10m square). The kilns all showed evidence of intense burning in situ and were either circular or oval in plan. Two post-holes were found near the kilns but their precise function is uncertain. A sample of charred barley from one kiln returned a radiocarbon date of 184 cal BC – cal AD 56 (UBA-15559).

KK023-154---- DANESFORT Fulacht fia

In a low-lying basin within a gently undulating wide landscape. Excavated in 2007 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road improvement scheme (Licence no. E3460). Seven pits filled with charcoal and heat-shattered stones. One of the pits contained stake-holes and resembled a trough. A pond 40m to the SW was the nearest water source. A post-medieval boundary cut through several of the pits.

KK023-171---- RATHCLOGH Enclosure

A circular enclosure (diam. c. 65m) identified on lidar (Open Topographic Data Viewer, viewed 8 June 2020) and as a cropmark on satellite imagery (Google Earth satellite imagery, 14 September 2019) by Jean-Charles Caillère. It is located in a field immediately S of Rathclogh House and

farmyard. A farm building appears to have been built partially on the N fosse of the enclosure. A field boundary runs NE-SW across the S portion of the enclosure. There is another enclosure (KK023-061----) c. 110m to the SSE.

KK024-123---- WALLSLOUGH Enclosure

An aerial photograph (GB96.FW.14; ASIAP (18) 11-14, 2 August 1996) shows a cropmark of an irregular curvilinear enclosure (diam. c. 75m), defined by a fosse, which may have functioned as a field enclosure to the plough-levelled ringfort located immediately to the NE (SMR KK024-007----).

KK024-126---- KILREE Ring-ditch

Situated on a relatively flat field adjacent to the River Nore and its floodplain to the E. Excavated in 2007/8 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road scheme (Licence no. E3730). A double penannular ring-ditch (inner ditch: diam. 10.4m x 9.8m; outer ditch: diam. 19.8m x 16.7m) cut at E by a field boundary. The entrance for both ring-ditches faces E, suggesting the river was an important focus for the site. In the interior were four post-holes and a large waste pit. A group of 17 stake-holes, two of which were cut by a possible cremation pit were just outside to the SW and were probably contemporary. The fills of the ring-ditch contained charcoal, burnt bone, animal bone and shells. Two Bann flakes are likely to have been residual rather than indicative of an earlier date. There was no evidence of a bank or of any recuts within either the inner or outer ring-ditch. The ring-ditch was cut by a large medieval square enclosure (KK024-127----).

KK024-127---- KILREE Enclosure

Situated on a relatively flat field adjacent to the River Nore and its floodplain to the E. Excavated in 2007/8 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road scheme (Licence no. E3730). A square ditched enclosure (42.8m by 42.3m) with rounded corners possibly with an internal bank evidenced by slipped bank material. The entrance (Wth 3.6m) was at NE. Pottery finds from the ditch indicate a medieval date. A possible structure consisting of two L-shaped features and a line of post-holes and two pits was located towards the centre. Other features include keyhole and figure-of-eight kilns cut into the enclosing ditch, pits, post-holes, linear ditches and hearths. The enclosure superimposed a prehistoric double penannular ring-ditch (KK024-126----). A human burial (orientated E-W; KK024-128----) was found just outside the SSE corner.

KK024-127---- KILREE Burial

Excavated in 2007/8 in advance of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford road scheme (Licence no. E3730). Situated just outside the SSE corner of a large medieval square enclosure (KK024-127----) that superimposed a double ring-ditch (KK024-126----). The burial was orientated E-W and had been truncated by field boundaries. Two pieces of modern pottery and a piece of modern iron were found in the fill of the grave suggesting a late date for the burial.

KK024-033---- BENNETTSBRIDGE Building

Attached three-bay six-storey flour mill, c.1825, originally detached with eight-bay six-storey side elevations. In use as corn mill, 1899-1902. Extensively renovated, post-1976, with some openings remodelled to accommodate commercial use. Hipped slate roof with clay ridge tiles, and cast-iron rainwater goods on slightly overhanging rendered eaves. Unpainted roughcast lime rendered walls over random rubble stone construction with sections of unpainted replacement cement render, post-1976, throughout. Square-headed window openings in camber-headed recesses with no sills, concealed red brick surrounds, and timber casement windows (some replacement timber casement windows, post-1976). Elliptical-headed door opening inserted, post-1976, with glazed timber

double doors having overlight. Interior remodelled, post-1976, with timber floors on cast-iron and/or reinforced concrete posts retaining some early cast-iron machinery. Set back from road in own grounds on bank of River Nore.

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Appendix 13.3 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report

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Appendix 13.4 Archaeological Testing Report

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