

# Archaeological Impact Assessment

## Painestown, Beauparc, Navan, Co.

### Meath

Client: Dawn Meats Ireland UC

Planning Application Ref: LB/180300

License No: 18E0476

August 2018

Prepared by:

Seán Shanahan and Edel Barry



<b>Copies of this report have been presented to:</b>	Dawn Meats Ireland UC, the National Museum of Ireland, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and to the Planning Department of Meath County Council
<b>Please Note:</b>	<p>The International and European conventions on the protection of cultural heritage ratified in Ireland have been taken into consideration for the purposes of this report. The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, the Heritage Act 1995, Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, The Planning and Development Act 2000 plus amendments, and the most recent EPA guidelines as well as those guidelines issued by the statutory bodies have been consulted in the assembly of this report. These are listed in the reference section of the report.</p> <p>All of the recommendations made within this assessment are based on maps provided by the client at the time of writing. Should any alterations be made to these design drawings, further assessment may be necessary.</p> <p>Recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service at the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
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## Non-Technical Summary

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An archaeological impact assessment was undertaken by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd at the site of a proposed wastewater treatment plant at Painestown, Beauparc, Co. Meath, on behalf of Dawn Meats Ireland UC. The assessment was compiled in response to a planning condition (LB/180300, Appendix 1) stipulated by Meath County Council, in granting permission for a development comprising the construction of an effluent treatment plant, an extension to an existing waste water treatment plant, including coarse and fine screen, balance tank, and sludge tank, and site works, including an earthen berm to the perimeter of the extended treatment plant. An archaeological impact assessment, including excavation of test trenches (Excavation Licence No. 18E0476) was undertaken in response to this condition.

The proposed development is situated in the immediate vicinity of two recorded monuments:

- Barrow (ME026-008-), Painestown, situated 0.31km from the proposed development; and
- Ogham stone site (ME026-009-), Sensechalstown, situated 0.49km from the proposed development.

It was considered that the operation and construction phases of the proposed development may impact upon any potential associated sub-surface features related to these monuments within the proposed area of development.

Following an assessment of relevant and readily available archaeological and built heritage records, cartographic and literary sources, a visual inspection of the site and targeted investigation through test trenching, it is concluded that no features or material of archaeological significance were identified within the proposed development area.

## 1. Introduction

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An archaeological impact assessment was undertaken by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd at the site of a proposed wastewater treatment plant at Painestown, Beauparc, Co. Meath, on behalf of Dawn Meats Ireland UC. The assessment was compiled in response to a planning condition (LB/180300), Appendix 1) stipulated by Meath County Council, in granting permission for a development comprising the construction of an effluent treatment plant, an extension to an existing waste water treatment plant, including coarse and fine screen, balance tank, and sludge tank, and site works, including an earthen berm to the perimeter of the extended treatment plant (Figures 2 and 3).

An archaeological impact assessment, including excavation of test trenches (Excavation Licence No. 18E0476) was undertaken in response to this condition. The study also comprises consultation of existing archaeological and built heritage records, a site inspection, and readily available literary and cartographic sources. Proposals are set out for

- (i) evaluating the nature and extent of known archaeological remains, and potential sub-surface archaeological remains; and
- (ii) Mitigating the potential impact of the development on heritage assets.

### 1.1 Proposed Development Site

The development site is situated east of the centre of Co. Meath, approximately 7kmsouth of the town of Slane, accessed via the N2 and local road L1013. It is located approximately 13km North, North West of the town of Navan, itself the approximate centre point of the county, and accessed via the regional road R153 and the same local road.

The development site is situated within a gently undulating landscape, which is agricultural in nature, with predominantly rich, free-draining soil. To the north, the land adjacent to the south bank of the River Boyne is hilly and used as rough grazing. The site of the proposed development is on a south-facing gentle slope, enclosed by mature hedgerows.



Figure 1 Approximate location of proposed development site (outlined in orange) (OSI License No. EN 0077918)

## 1.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of an effluent treatment plant, an extension to an existing waste water treatment plant, including coarse and fine screen, balance tank, and sludge tank, with all associated site works, including an earth berm to the perimeter of the extended treatment plant, and landscaping (Figures 2 and 3).

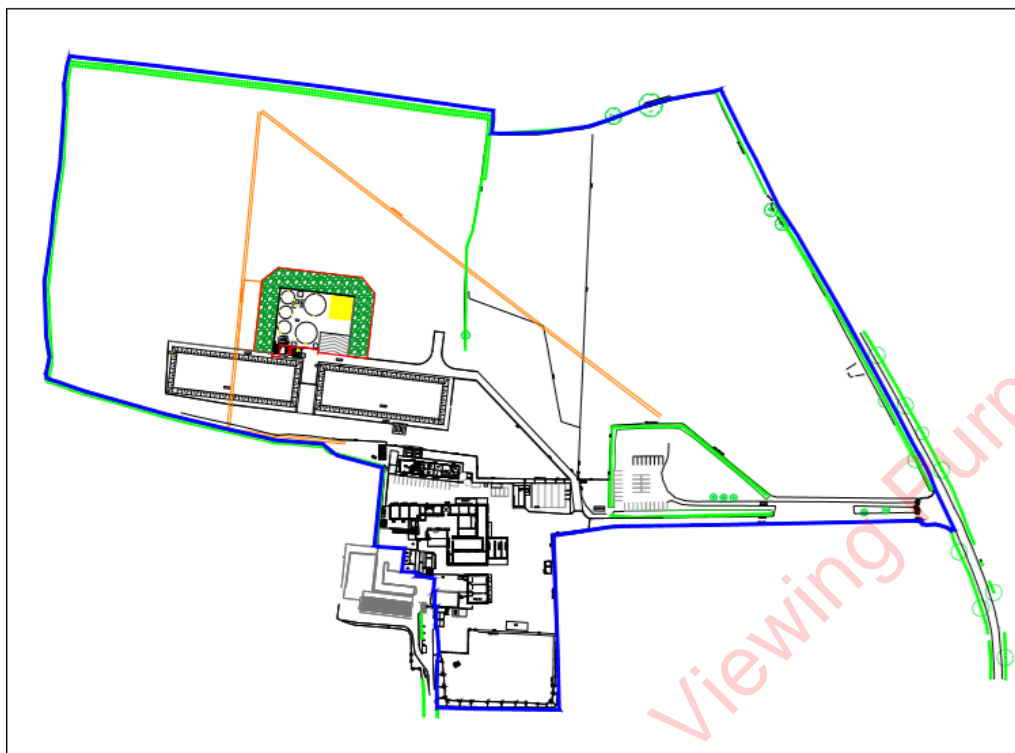


Figure 2 Proposed effluent treatment plant – overall site plan

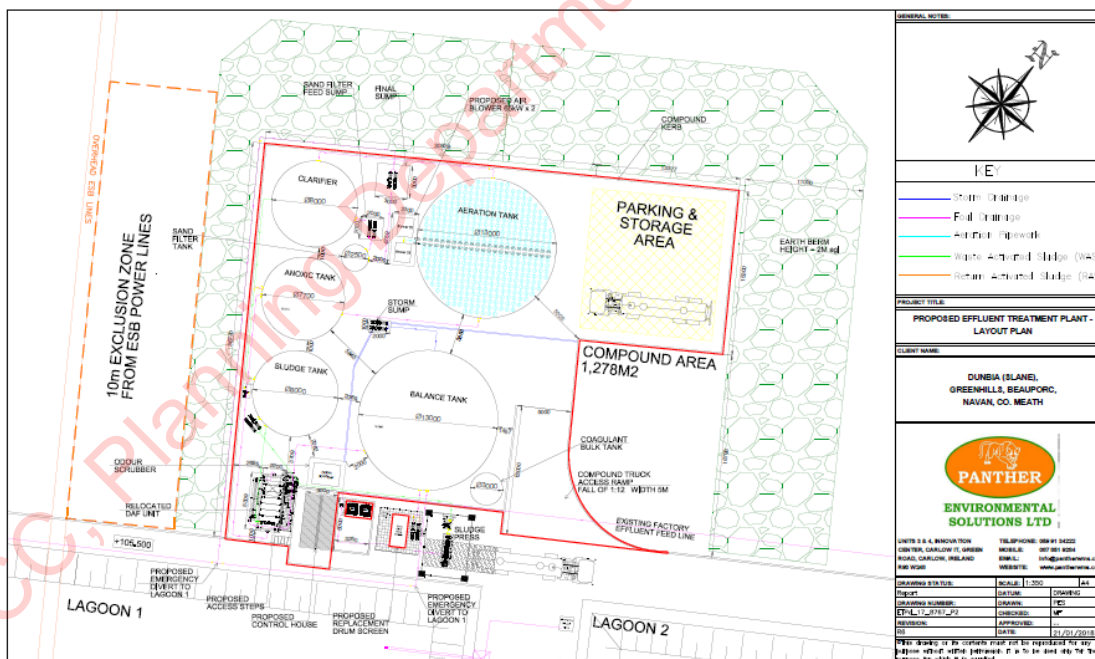


Figure 3 Plan of proposed development

## 2. Assessment Methodology

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### 2.1 Legislative Protection for Archaeological, Architectural and Industrial Heritage

Ireland has ratified several international and European conventions on the protection of cultural heritage, principally:

- UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972;
- Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice) 1964;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) 1992;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Grenada Convention) 1985;
- European Council Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC) 1995 and amending Directive by (97/11/EC) 1997 and (2003/35/EC) 2003.

National legislation protecting cultural heritage sites comprises:

- National Monuments Act 1930, amended 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004;
- Heritage Act 1995;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2014.

The following standards and guidelines were also consulted as part of this assessment:

- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;

- Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;
- The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers (2000), The Heritage Council;
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (Draft) (May 2017), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Scheme (2005), National Roads Authority; and
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Roads Schemes (2005), National Roads Authority.

## 2.2 Assessment Criteria

Impacts to cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage are generally categorised as one of three types, as described in Table 1.

**Table 1 Type of Impact**

Type of Effect	Description
Direct	Occurs where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development, resulting in the partial or total removal of that feature or site.
Indirect	Changes to an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, or its setting, caused by off-site effects that are beyond the control of the developer.
Residual	The degree of change to an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, or its setting, that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
Cumulative	The addition of many small effects to create one larger, more significant, effect.
None predicted	Occurs where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage

Type of Effect	Description
	feature, site or structure is not adversely or positively affected by the proposed development.

The impacts on cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage are assessed in terms of their quality, as described in Table 2.

**Table 2 Quality of Impacts**

Quality of Impact	Description
Negative	A change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure.
Neutral	A change that will not affect an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure.
Positive	A change that will improve or enhance the setting of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure.

The level, or significance, of impact is assessed, as described in Table 3.

**Table 3 Significance of Impact**

Significance of Effect	Description
Imperceptible	An impact on an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, which can be measured, but without noticeable consequences.
Not significant	An impact on an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, which causes noticeable changes, but without noticeable consequences.
Slight	An impact that causes a minor change in the character of the environment, which, although noticeable, does not directly impact or affect the integrity of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure. Such impacts are generally reversible and of relatively short duration.
Moderate	An impact that results in a change to an archaeological,



Significance of Effect	Description
	architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, which, although noticeable, does not compromise the integrity of the heritage. These effects arise where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
Potentially significant	An impact to a potential feature/area of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage that could be significant without mitigation measures being implemented, e.g. potential sub-surface archaeological remains.
Significant	An impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or setting of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage are permanently impacted on, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature/site/structure. Appropriate mitigation is likely to reduce the impact.
Very significant	An impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the character and/or setting of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage are permanently impacted on, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature/site/structure. Appropriate mitigation is likely to reduce the impact.
Profound	An impact that completely and irreversibly destroys an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only.

The magnitude of impact is assessed as described in Table 4.

Table 4 Magnitude of Effects

Magnitude of Effects	Description
Extent	The size of the area, the number of sites, and proportion of a population affected by an effect.
Duration	The period of time over which the effect will occur.
Frequency	How often the effect will occur.
Context	Whether the extent, duration or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions.

## 2.3 Desktop Study

An archaeological desk-based study of existing archaeological records and other relevant cartographic and literary sources was undertaken. A list of all consulted sources is provided in bibliographic form.

### 2.3.1 National Monuments

Under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004, archaeological sites in the ownership or guardianship of the State or a Local Authority and sites under Preservation Orders are designated as National Monuments. Such sites are offered the highest level of protection under Irish legislation.

### 2.3.2 Record of Monuments & Places and Sites & Monuments Record

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological monuments known to the National Monuments Service. There are over 120,000 Recorded Monuments in the RMP. This RMP list is based on the earlier Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) files housed at the National Monuments Service. The SMR was initially based on cartographic, documentary and aerial photographic sources, was revised through fieldwork and forms the basis of the statutory RMP. The record is updated on a constant basis.

### 2.3.3 Topographical Files

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) are the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the NMI. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous excavations. The NMI's files present a catalogue of objects reported to the

institution from 1928-95. The find-spots of artefacts can be an important indication of the archaeological potential of the related or surrounding area. Five artefacts have been recorded in the townlands of Painestown, Dollardstown, Ardmulchan and Haystown and Carnuff Little.

### **2.3.4 Archaeological Inventory of County Meath**

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland was initiated after the National Monuments Act 1930 and remains ongoing. The Archaeological Inventory of County Laois, compiled by Michael J. Moore was published by the Archaeological Survey, Office of Public Works in 1987. It lists 1854 sites, all known archaeological sites from the Neolithic up to approximately 1700AD.

### **2.3.5 Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019**

Each City and County Development Plan is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 and contains lists of national monuments, recorded monuments, a Record of Protected Structures (a list of buildings which cannot be materially altered or demolished without grant of permission under the Act) and Conservation Areas and Architectural Conservation Areas (to protect and enhance the special character of an area). Local Area Plans (LAPs) compiled under the City/County Development Plan are also consulted.

### **2.3.6 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an ongoing survey within the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from AD1700 to the present day and includes country houses, churches, mills, bridges and other structures of note. The NIAH survey of County Meath was carried out in 2004, with the exception of Navan town which was published in 2003.

### **2.3.7 Literary Sources**

These are a valuable means of completing the written archaeological and architectural record of an area and gaining insight into the history of the receiving environment. The various sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.

### 2.3.8 Cartographic Sources

A wide range of maps were consulted, a full list of which is provided in the bibliography. Information gathered from cartographic sources is fundamental to the identification of archaeological and architectural heritage sites and demesne landscapes which are now located based on cartographic records alone. For example, the earliest Ordnance Survey maps date to the late 1830s and 1840s. Much change has occurred in the use and treatment of the landscape in the intervening years, with the destruction rate increasing rapidly during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### 2.3.9 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The Excavations Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an on-line database ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2013. The database provides access to summary descriptions of almost 24,000 reports.

### 3. Receiving Environment

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#### 3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The extent of medieval activity within the wider study area is attested to by the number and range of known archaeological monuments within the surrounding landscape.

##### 3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

###### **Mesolithic c. 7000-4000BC**

The earliest evidence of human occupation in Ireland can be seen in the remains of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, who arrived in Ireland c. 7000BC, in the form of flint scatters and shell middens. Much of the activity in this era was riverine, allowing the natural resources furnished by the sea and rivers to be exploited. There is a strong possibility of encountering Mesolithic material at river crossings (O'Driscoll 2017, 44), and the proximity of the proposed line of development to the River Boyne may indicate the presence of evidence of Mesolithic settlement in the area.

###### **Neolithic c. 4000-2500BC**

The transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic periods is marked by the shift from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to the introduction of an agricultural economy. Neolithic monuments, evidence of communal funerary and ritual activity, represent a change in burial practices and religion during this era, as well as being emblematic of an increasingly settled style of occupation. *Brú na Bóinne* is a complex of 40 passage graves, enclosures, henges and a cursus at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. Recognised as a world heritage site, it is situated approximately 6 km north-east of the survey area.

A site identified as a megalithic passage tomb (ME025-006, NM546) is situated 0.55km from the proposed line of development. During the construction of a house, two stones with megalithic art were recovered adjacent to a low mound, thought to represent the remains of a passage tomb.

Approximately 5km east of the proposed line of development, an excavation (00E0613) in the townland of Newtown revealed a flint scatter, believed to date to the late Neolithic. A transverse arrowhead was also discovered at the site.

### **Bronze Age c. 2500-800BC**

Activity during the Bronze Age is characterised by the introduction of metalworking technology, as is evidenced by changes in material culture as well as the nature of sites and monuments of this era. The first metal artefacts were made of copper, before it was mixed with tin to form bronze. Stone tools continued in production and use. *Fulachta fiadh* are generally associated with this period. Horseshoe- or oval-shaped mounds, formed of burnt stone and charcoal, debris removed from water pits, commonly thought to have been used for cooking, although more recently a range of alternative theories have been proposed, including suggestions that these pits were employed for brewing or for sweat-houses. Despite the ubiquity of this class of monument across the country, there are none in the townlands through which the proposed line of development travels, or those in the immediate vicinity, which is indicative of a lack of archaeological investigation in the area.

In the townland of Ardmulchan a wedge-shaped cist covered by a large capstone, containing cremated remains (ME025-065) was identified in 1959, 0.54km from the proposed line of development.

A cairn, comprising a low circular mound of earth and stones with a diameter of 30m and a central mound with a diameter of 5m has been identified in the townland of Kingstown and Carnuff Great (ME026-007). Thought to have had symbolic importance and have been significant assembly sites, these possible burial monuments are associated with the Neolithic era, with their use continuing into the Bronze Age (O'Sullivan and Downey 2011)

### **Iron Age c. 800BC-AD500**

An inland promontory fort is recorded in the townland of Carrickdexter (ME019-032), comprising a semi-circular area backing onto a 30m-high cliff. This site type is thought to have its origins in the Iron Age, but continued in use into the early medieval period.

An ogham stone (ME026-009) was recovered from the grounds of Seneschals town House in the 1940s and removed to the National Museum. Ogham, a system of strokes across a vertical central line, was the earliest form of writing in Ireland and began to be used from c.300 AD. The inscription on this example, two lines on the face, read 'MAQI-CAIRATINI AVI INEQAGLAS' (Macalister 1945, 45).

### 3.1.2 Historic Era

#### Early Medieval Period c. AD500-1100

The introduction of Christianity to Ireland occurred during the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and settlement during this era is represented by the ringfort, alternatively referred to as 'Rath' 'Lios' or 'dún' to indicate an earthen bank and exterior ditch enclosing a central area, or 'cashel' to indicate a stone-walled enclosure. Usually circular or sub-circular and often sited on raised ground, there are over 45,000 currently identified in Ireland, making this the most common site type in the country. Smaller, 'univallate' examples were homesteads for lower ranks of society, while larger bi- or tri-vallate examples were used by lords or wealthy landowners. Several examples of this site type have been identified in the vicinity of the survey area.

A ringfort in the townland of Ardmulchan (ME025-007, NM496) is described as a raised oval area, 38m in diameter, having an external berm and outer scarp. An enclosure at Dollardstown (ME026-001) may have been a ringfort, or alternatively a motte. It comprises a raised area with two berms and remains of earthen banks. A ringfort in the townland of Realtoge (ME06-011) comprised an uneven oval area defined by an earthen bank and external fosse, with a house site defined by an earthen bank against inner edge of bank to east.

#### Medieval Period c. AD1100-1600

When the Anglo-Normans arrived in 1169, as mercenaries under Dermot Mac Murrough, the landscape changed dramatically, the influx of new settlers signified by the construction of several new types of homesteads, defensive and ecclesiastical sites. Motte-and-bailey defensive settlements, comprising large flat-topped mounds atop which wooden castles were constructed, date to the early years of the Anglo-Norman conquest. An example of this is situated in the townland of Thurstianstown (ME019-047), comprising a grass-covered flat-topped oval mound

with an irregular berm enclosing the base. A bank defines the berm from the south to the north-west, which may have constituted a bailey. A second motte (ME025-019) is situated in the townland of Ardmulchan, just over 2km from the proposed line of development. Again, it is a flat-topped grass-covered earthen mound defined by a bank,

Moated sites were defended farmsteads which characterise Anglo-Norman settlement throughout Ireland; one has been identified in the townland of Reatoge (ME026-012), a rectangular area defined by banks, which are highest at the corners, an external fosse and leat. Later in the Anglo-Norman era, stone tower-houses began to be built. A three-storey tower-house, having a stair tower and a garderobe tower, is recorded in the townland of Slanecastle Demesne (ME019-033002), which was thought to have been built by the D'Exeter family, who had lost their land by the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Wilde 1850, 149-50).

In the medieval period, the monastic tradition which had heretofore flourished took on a new form, as several Continental orders were introduced during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the town of Navan, adjacent to the proposed line of development, the Church of St Mary's was confirmed by John de Courcy to the Augustinian canons in 1189. The ecclesiastical settlement is thought to have been founded prior to the Anglo-Norman settlement of the county, as a charter of 1175-84 was witnessed by an abbot.

Several ecclesiastic sites of early date are to be found in the wider survey area. In the townland of Painestown, a Church (ME026-022) was described as being in ruins, with its chancel in poor repair, by Ussher in his visitation of 1622 (Elrington 1864, 64), although Lewis notes that the steeple had been repaired in 1823 (1837). Now visible only as the outline of a rectangular structure,

Ardmulchan Parish Church (ME025-020) is dated to 1232 (Cogan 1862, 70). It was in ruins at the time of Ussher's visitation, although the chancel was undergoing repair. By the time of Dopping's Visitation (1682-5), the parish of Ardmulchan had been united with that of Painestown (Ellison 1971, 33-4). A three-storey bell tower adjoins the west end of the church - O'Neill dates this structure to the 15<sup>th</sup> century (2002, 17). An example of a sandstone cross slab (ME025-020002) appears on the site, having a raised ringed cross: it is re-used on a doorway in the tower. These cross carved pillar stones are thought to date to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, indicating an earlier origin for this ecclesiastic site.



Civil parishes were based on the medieval church parish, which preserved the Gaelic *tuath* territorial boundary. Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, the *tuath* were retained for administrative purposes, and later re-named as parishes or manors.

### 3.1.3 Medieval – Late Medieval Period

The Down Survey map of 1655 indicates that the land of the parish of Painestown was predominantly owned by James Almer, who held the lands at Dollardstowne and Thenshalstown (Seneschalstown), Thurstianstowne and Rowlandstowne, while Simon Daly held 427 acres of arable pasture in the centre of the parish.

#### Nineteenth & Twentieth Centuries

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century, defensive settlements and castles gave way to the construction of country houses, and landed estates with associated demesnes began to develop across the country.

Samuel Lewis describes Painestown as being of good quality land which was employed for tillage and pasture in equal measure. Several demesnes were situated there, including Beuparc, the residence of Gustavus Lambert, Esq., Dollardstown, once the seat of the Meredyth family was by 1837 occupied by a farmer, and Seneschalstown, the property of the Aylmer family, was leased. A Church, described as 'old, but very neat edifice, with a handsome tower' had had a gallery erected and the steeple roofed and repaired in 1823. A 'neat modern structure' was the chapel, and a school, having 30 boys and 12 girls, was situated at Yellow Furze (Lewis 1837).

## 3.2 Sites and Monuments Record and Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places lists 8 sites within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. This part of Co. Meath was attractive for settlement due to its fertile land, and proximity to the Boyne River. The nearest RMP site, a barrow in the townland of Painestown (ME026-008), is located at a distance of 0.31km, and an Ogham stone in Seneschalstown (ME026-009-) is situated 0.48km from the development site (Figure 4).

**Table 5 Recorded Monuments within a 2km radius of the proposed development**

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM Ref (E,N)	Proximity
ME026-008	Barrow	Painestown	695254, 770210	0.31km
ME026-009	Ogham Stone	Seneschalstown	694777, 769312	0.48km
ME026-002--	Church	Painestown	694412, 771010	1.28km
ME026-002001-	Tomb – effigial	Painestown	694412, 771010	1.28km
ME026-002002-	Graveyard	Painestown	694400, 771000	1.28km
ME026-002003-	Font	Painestown	694422, 771010	1.28km
ME026-002004-	Architectural Fragment	Painestown	694422, 771010	1.28km
ME019-047-	Motte	Thurstianstown	695183, 771965	1.94km

**Figure 4 – Distribution map of sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (red dots) in close proximity to the proposed development site (outlined in orange)**

### 3.3 Cartographic Analysis

A wide range of historic maps were consulted, a full list of which is provided in the bibliography. Relevant extracts are presented from the following historic maps:

- Taylor and Skinner's Map, 1777 (Figure 5);
- Down Survey map of the Barony of Duleek, Eastmeath County 1657 (Figure 6);
- Down Survey map of the Barony of Skreen, Eastmeath County 1657 (Figure 7);
- Down Survey map of the Parish of Painestown (Figure 8);
- First edition Ordnance Survey 6" Map, 1837-43 (Figure 9); and
- 1906-09 edition Ordnance Survey 25" Map, 1906-09 (Figure 10).



Figure 5 Taylor & Skinners Map of Road 'From Slane to Navan and Kells' 1777

Taylor & Skinners 'Maps of the roads of Ireland' was based on a survey undertaken in 1777. Map number 263 covers the area to the north of the survey area, as it traverses the road from Slane to Navan. Haystown Demesne (Ld. 13<sup>th</sup> of Leighlin & Ferns), Dollardstown

Demesne (Meredyth Esq) and Beuparc (Lambert Esq) are all depicted therein. A bridge crossing the Boyne River is shown, which may be the current 'Broad Boyne Bridge'

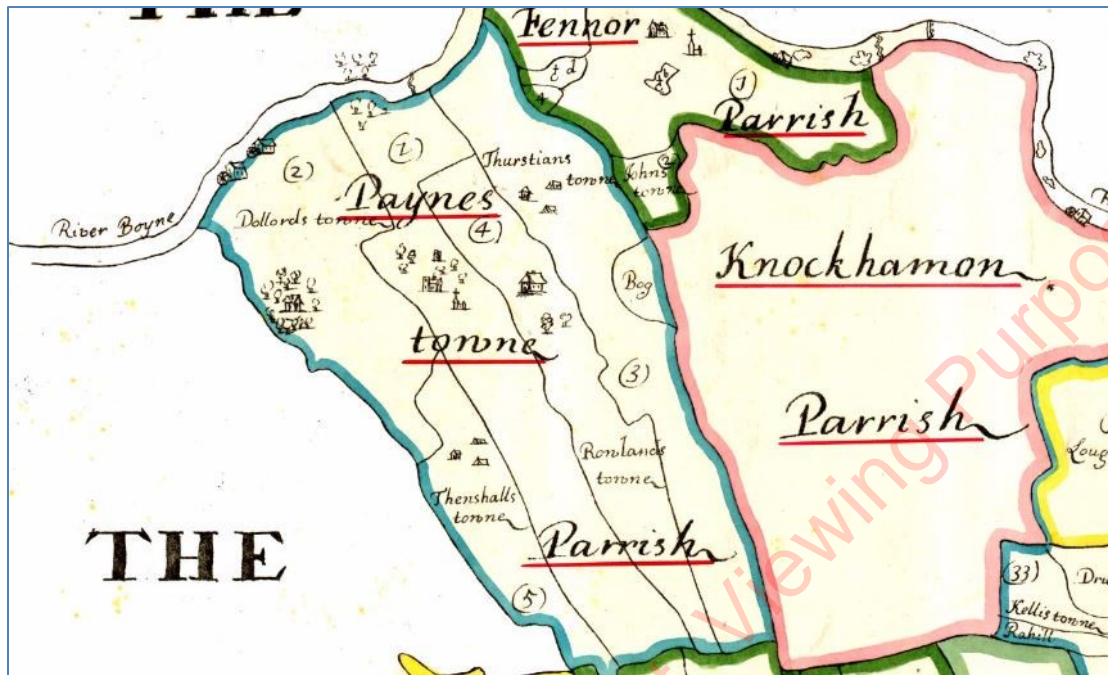


Figure 6 - Down Survey Map of the Barony of Duleek.

The Down Survey map of the Barony of Duleek shows the parish of 'Paynestown' with its component townlands of Dollardstowne, Thenshallstowne (now Seneschalstown), Painestown, Ronlanstowne (which appears to have been later absorbed into Painestown), and 'Thurstianstowne' (now Thurstiantown). The more detailed map of the parish of Painestown (Figure 6) indicate that these are a Tuck Mill (to the west) and a Corn mill (to the east). A single arch bridge is depicted crossing the river from Painestown, which is not extant today, nor is it represented on any of the later maps. A church is shown which probably represents ME026-002, the Church of the parish of Paynestown referred to by Ussher (1622). Just north-west of this is shown a house of large scale, of which no trace is extant and which is not represented on subsequent maps, and also a tower. On the detailed map of Painestown Parish, the tower is marked as 'ruined' and the substantial house is marked as 'a stone house'. It appears to have a tower to one end.



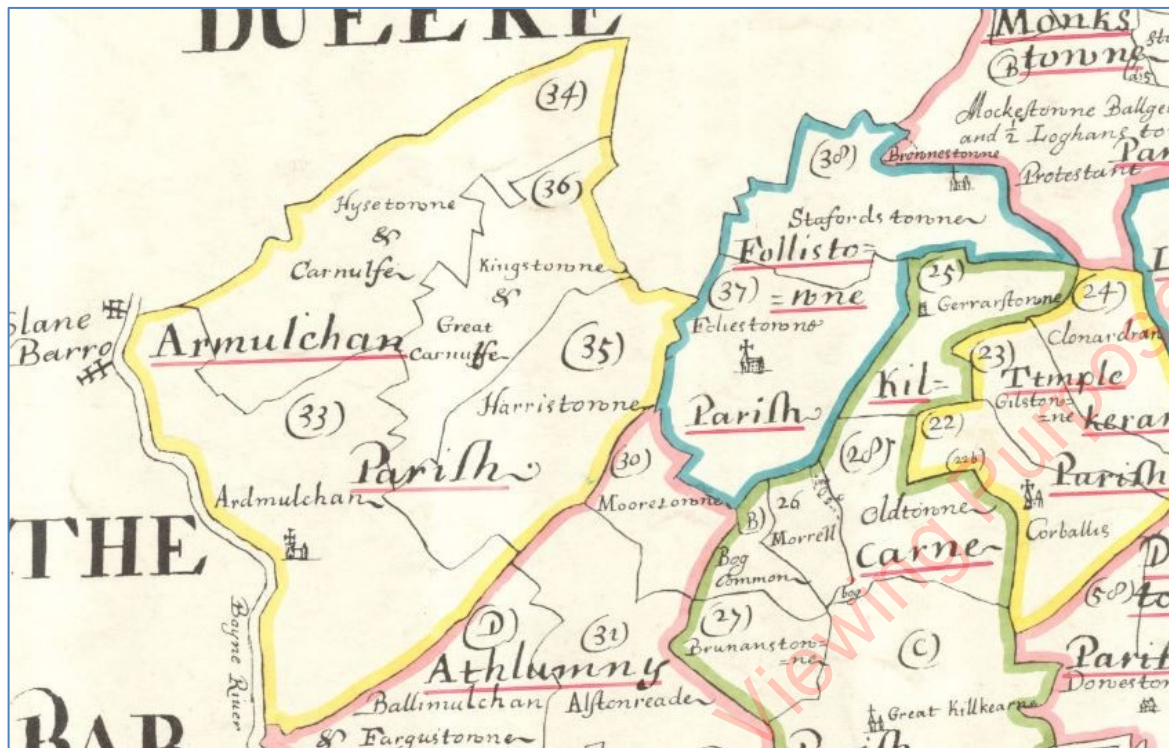


Figure 7 - Down Survey Map of the Barony of Duleek

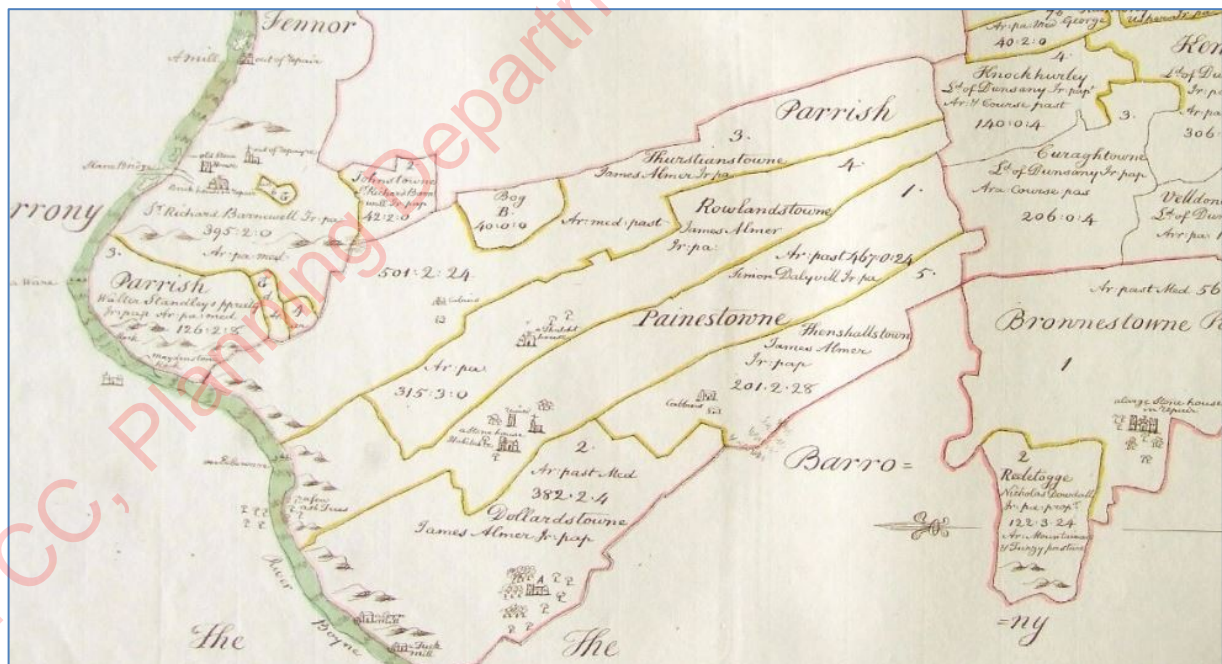
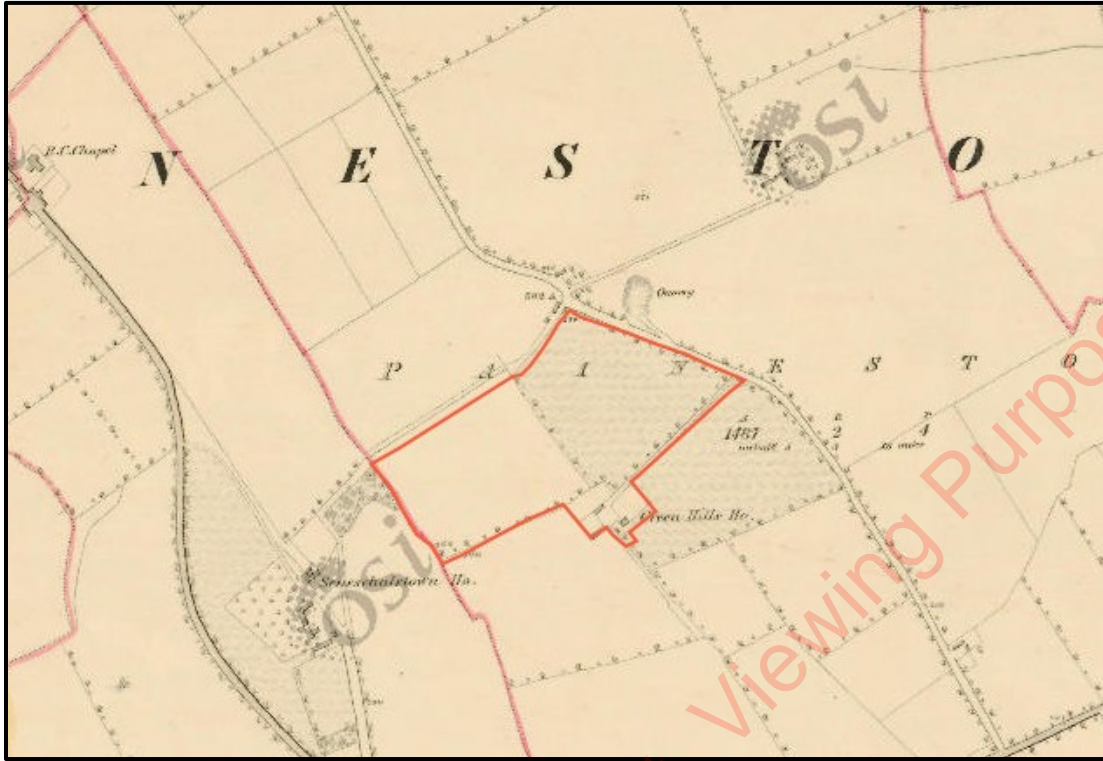


Figure 8 - Down Survey Map of the Parish of Painestown



**Figure 9 – Hand-coloured 1837-43 first edition OS map showing the outline of the proposed development area (in red).**

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map of the area in which the development is proposed to take place depicts an improved landscape, with field systems enclosed by hedgerows and roads. Shaded grey areas signify the demesne landscape associated with Green Hills House, to the southeast of the proposed development.

The 1906 -1909 editions of the 25" Ordnance Survey Map depict a field system around the village of Yellow Furze, largely similar to that which is in place today. The area of the proposed development site is a field, in agricultural use, situated northeast and possibly associated with Green Hills House.

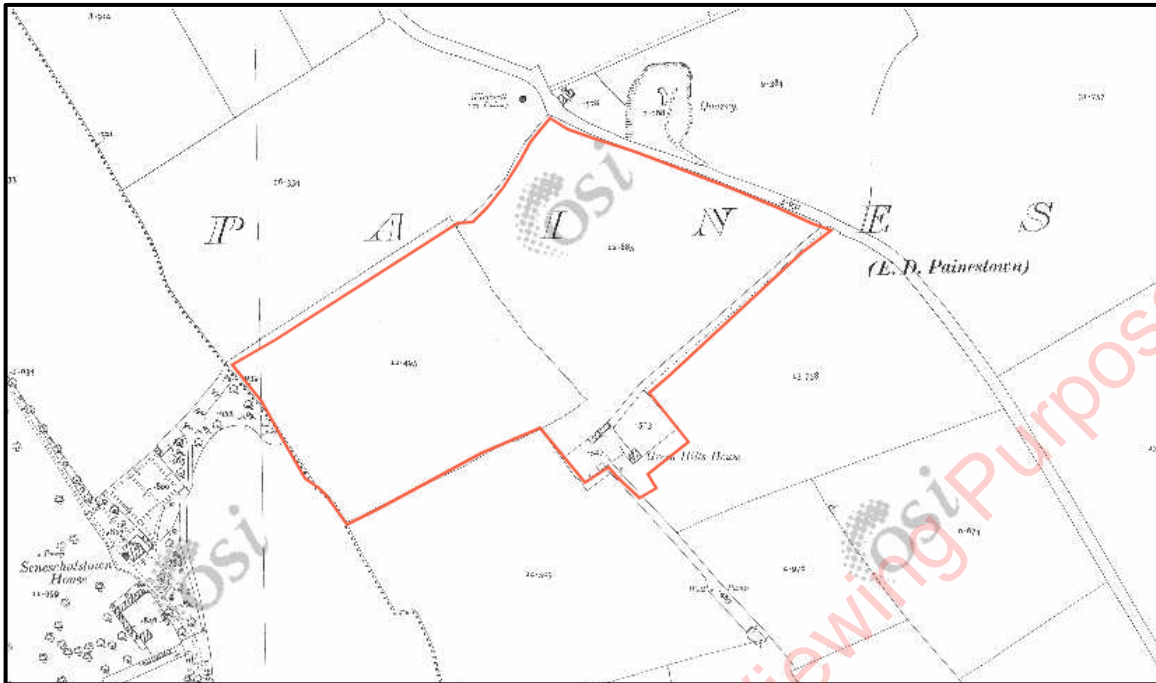


Figure 10 - Approximate location of proposed development (in orange) on 1903 third edition OS map

### 3.4 Toponymy

A townland name may preserve valuable information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, previous ownership, topography or land use. Many placenames were anglicised by the Ordnance Survey which began in the 1830's. Despite some inaccuracies in translation, the Gaelic, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English origins of placenames are generally recognisable.

The townland of Painestown is situated within the civil parish of Painestown, the name of which is derived from Baile Phaghain. Depicted as 'Paynestonne' on the Down Survey maps, it has subsequently been written as 'Painestown' and 'Painestown'. ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) accessed 21 August 2018).

### 3.5 Previous Archaeological Investigations

A search of the Excavations Bulletin website for previous archaeological investigations within the proposed development area produced no results. Few investigations have been undertaken within the wider vicinity.

Archaeological monitoring (1999:707) of the ground works for the laying of a new gas pipeline from the south of Drogheda to the outskirts of Navan involved the stopping of at 15m wide corridor and the excavation of a trench through 27 townlands, including Painestown. No features of a proven archaeological nature were uncovered as part of this. (Clinton. M, 1999.)

Monitoring of groundworks (2011: 480) in advance of the erection of pylons for a 26km-long ESB line through 18 townlands including Painestown, revealed nothing of archaeological significance (O'Driscoll, C., 2011).

### **3.6 Previous Archaeological Finds recorded in Topographical Files**

The topographical files held at the National Museum of Ireland identify recorded artefacts that have been reported to the State in accordance with national monuments legislation. The find-spots of artefacts can be an important indication of the archaeological potential of the related or surrounding area.

No finds were recovered within the proposed development site, however there were a number in the surrounding area.

Haystown and Carnuff Little 1981:16 Axehead

Axehead, measuring 12.3cm in length, 3.5cm in maximum thickness, 2.9cm wide at the butt and 6.45cm wide at the cutting edge, in good condition with a finely polished surface, slightly chipped to the body and cutting edge, found in a ploughed field in an area of reclaimed bog land.

Dollardstown:

The topographical files list no archaeological finds from Dollardstown, Co. Meath.

Painestown:

1978:139 Axehead

A large polished stone axehead was acquired in 1978 which had been found 'many years ago in a bog close to a spread of antlers'. Trapezoidal in shape with a flat butt, one side is slightly convex and at roughly a right angle to the butt, while the other side is concave and out splaying, giving the axe a 'bearded' appearance. The cutting edge is



worn and the axe is elliptical in cross section. The maximum length is 15.2cm; maximum width to cutting edge is 8.66cm and 5.8cm to the butt. Maximum thickness is 4.55cm.

#### 1970:6 Ogham Stone

Originally found in Seneschalstown (also known as Painestown) this stone was taken to Seneschalstown House and thence to Piltown House, from where it was acquired by the NMI.

An inscription on the surface reads: 'MAQI – CAIRATINI AVI INEQAGLAS' (Macalister, 1945 46). However an older inscription existed on an edge, which had been battered away, leaving it illegible. The NMI found no evidence of the earlier inscription when the stone was inspected in 1970.

Ardmulchan:

2002:199 Cremated Bone. Found within short cist burial (ME025-065).

1961: 83 Flint Object

## 3.7 Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

Meath County Development Plan came into effect on 22 January 2013. It sets out Meath County Councils vision and an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County for the six-year period.

### 3.7.1 Record of Protected Structures

Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 lists three protected structure within a 2km radius of the proposed development.

**Table 6 Protected Structures in proximity to the proposed development**

NIAH/RPS	Class	Townland	ITM Ref (E,N)	Proximity
NIAH:14402603 RPS: MH026- 106	Railway station	Painestown	694241 771440	1.74km
NIAH:14402604 RPS: MH026- 102-105	Terrace of workers' houses	Painestown	694214 771500	1.75km
RPS: MH026-107	Yellow Furze	Painestown	694353	0.67km

NIAH/RPS	Class	Townland	ITM Ref (E,N)	Proximity
	Church		770269	

### 3.7.2 Conservation Areas

There are no Conservation Areas within or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

### 3.7.3 Architectural Conservation Areas

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas within or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

## 3.8 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The NIAH survey of County Meath was carried out in 2004, with the exception of Navan town, published in 2003. It lists 3 structures within a 2km radius of the proposed development site (Table 6).

## 4. Archaeological Test-Trenching

In accordance with Excavation Licence No. 18E0476, issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and as set out in the agreed Method Statement, 6 test trenches, measuring 2 metres in width and approximately 20m in length, were machine-excavated around the area proposed for development (Figure 8). This work was undertaken on 9 August 2018, and the results are presented in Table 7 below. Upon completion the trenches were back filled to protect any archaeological deposits and for personal safety.

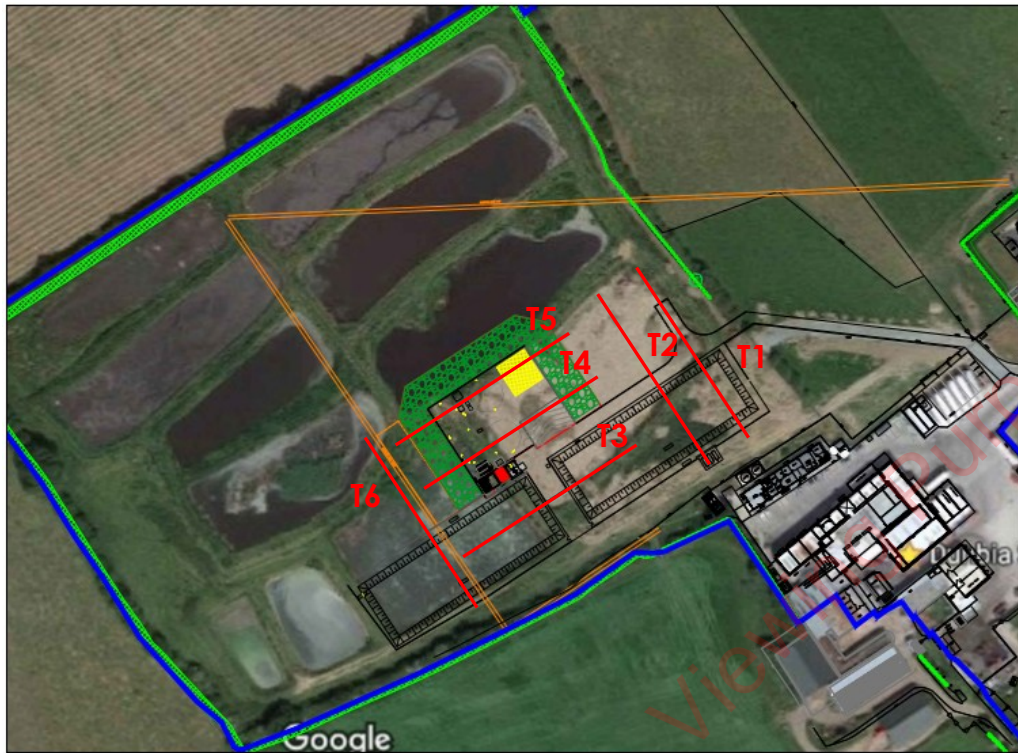


Figure 11 Test trench array (in red)

## 4.1 Results of Test Trenching

Table 7 Results of test trenching

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
1	NW-SE	20mx2m	Max. 1.80m Av. 1.40m
Trench fill made up of mixed made-up ground to an average depth of 1.40m. A mid-brown compact silt with huge amounts of rubbish to the NW end, overlay a light brown/orange clay natural, which had frequent small stone inclusions. This stone was soft and brittle, with some dark shale in places. Occasional large pieces of limestone.			
Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.			
Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
2	NW-SE	20mx2m	Max. 1.80m Min. 0.50m
The fill of trench 2 is similar to that of trench 1, with mixed infilled material and orange stony natural. To the SE end of the trench were frequent inclusions of small black shale.			

stones, while to the north end, large stones of limestone featured.

To the NW end of this trench, the natural rises sharply to 50cm below the surface level. The ground is sharply undulating where the previous backfilling of effluent ponds had occurred.

Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
3	NNE-SSW	20mx2m	Av. 1.40m
Single dirty infill with plastic, concrete and modern rubbish within.			
Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.			

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
4	NNE-SSW	20mx2m	Av. 1.40m
70-90cm of imported topsoil, comprising mixed mid-brown compact silt with moderate inclusions of small to medium limestone.			
Beneath this was 50-70cm of mixed clay, appearing to be infill as it contained some modern material including plastics.			
Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.			

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
5	NNE-SSW	20mx2m	Max. 0.80m
The fill of this trench appears to have been undisturbed, with natural much closer to the surface. The natural rises in the SSW side of the trench, to a depth of 0.40m at the SSW end.			
A layer of topsoil to a depth of 0.40m in average depth, comprising mid-brown very compact clay silt, with moderate inclusions of small and medium stones.			
Beneath the topsoil is layer , 0.40m in depth, of mid-brown very compact silty clay, with moderate inclusions of small and medium stone and occasional large stones.			
Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.			

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Depth
6	NW-SE	20mx2m	1.70m
The topsoil was 0.70m in depth, a compact mid-brown silt with frequent medium and small stones.			
Beneath this was 1.00m of mixed mid-brown clay silt, with inclusions of modern rubbish including wood and concrete.			

The natural, which is the same as in the other trenches, rises at the NW end of the trench, to 0.60m below the surface.
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Result: Nothing of archaeological significance.
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Meath CC, Planning Department, Viewing Purposes Only!



## 4.2 Plates



Plate 1 View from W corner of site, looking SSE, pre-excavation



Plate 2 View from NE to SW of site, pre-excavation



Plate 3 View across Trench 1 looking NW



Plate 4 SW-facing elevation of side of Trench 1





Plate 5 View across Trench 1 towards SE



Plate 6 View across Trench 2 looking NW





Plate 7 SW-facing elevation of side of Trench 2



Plate 8 View across Trench 2, view from SE





Plate 9 Excavation of Trench 3, viw from NNE



Plate 10 SSE facing elevation, side of Trench 3





Plate 11 View from SSW of Trench 3



Plate 12 Excavation of Trench 4, view from NNE





Plate 13 NNW-facing elevation of Trench 4



Plate 14 View across Trench 4, looking NNE





Plate 15 Excavation of Trench 5, view from N



Plate 16 NW-facing elevation of side of Trench 5





Plate 17 View across Trench 5, looking SSW



Plate 18 Excavation of Trench 6, view from SE





Plate 19 Trench 6, view from NW



Plate 20 Backfilling of trench 3

## 5. Conclusion & Recommendations

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The proposed development is situated in the immediate vicinity of two recorded monuments:

- Barrow (ME026-008-), Painestown, situated 0.31km from the proposed development; and
- Ogham stone site (ME026-009-), Sensechalstown, situated 0.49km from the proposed development.

It was considered that the operation and construction phases of the proposed development may impact upon any potential associated sub-surface features related to these monuments within the proposed area of development.

Based upon the results of the excavation of archaeological test-trenches, it is concluded that no features or material of archaeological significance were identified within the proposed development area. Extensive test excavation across the proposed development site failed to identify any features or materials of archaeological significance. No evidence of any archaeological remains associated with the barrow (ME026-008-) or the ogham stone site (ME026-009-) were identified.

The material identified during test trenching in this area is consistent with considerable disturbance in the modern era, with frequent inclusions of plastic, wood and concrete waste, and fills of made-up ground as a result of the infilling of previous effluent ponds.

### 5.1 Archaeological Mitigation Measures

No further archaeological recommendations are proposed. The requirement for archaeological investigation stipulated by Meath County Council, Condition No. 5 Planning Ref. LB/180300 is considered to have been addressed.

### 5.2 Visual Impact Mitigation Measures

The scale of the proposed development may result in a visual impact upon the barrow situated 0.31km to the northeast. This impact will be long-term to permanent in duration. It is therefore recommended in order to minimise the visual impact on the environs of the site, that the development be screened from the surround area by the retention of the

mature hedgerows enclosing the field, and by planting native trees to the north and east.

Meath CC, Planning Department, Viewing Purposes Only!

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## Appendix 1 Extract from Notification of Decision

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Meath County Council, Dated 15 May 2018 (Pl. Ref. LB/180300)

5. a) The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004) to carry out pre- development testing at the site where ground disturbance is to take place. No sub surface work shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his / her express consent.
- a) The archaeologist is required to notify the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of site preparations. This will allow the archaeologist sufficient time to obtain a license to carry out the work.
- b) The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and may excavate test trenches at locations chosen by the archaeologist, having consulted the proposed development plans.
- c) Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report to the Planning Authority and to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for consideration
- d) Where archaeological material is shown to be present, avoidance, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) and / or monitoring may be required and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will advise the Applicant / Developer with regard to these matters.
- e) No site preparation or construction work shall be carried out until after the archaeologist's report has been submitted and permission to proceed has been received in writing from the Planning Authority in consultation with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**Reason:** To ensure the continued preservation (either in situ or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.