

## 13.0 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 13.1 Introduction

#### 13.1.1 General

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has prepared this report on behalf of Kilsaran to assess the impact, if any, on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource of a proposed development at Bellewstown, County Meath (ITM 707604/767183; Figure 13.1). The proposed development area comprises an existing quarry in the townlands of Bellewstown, Hilltown Little, Gafney Little and Hilltown Great, County Meath.

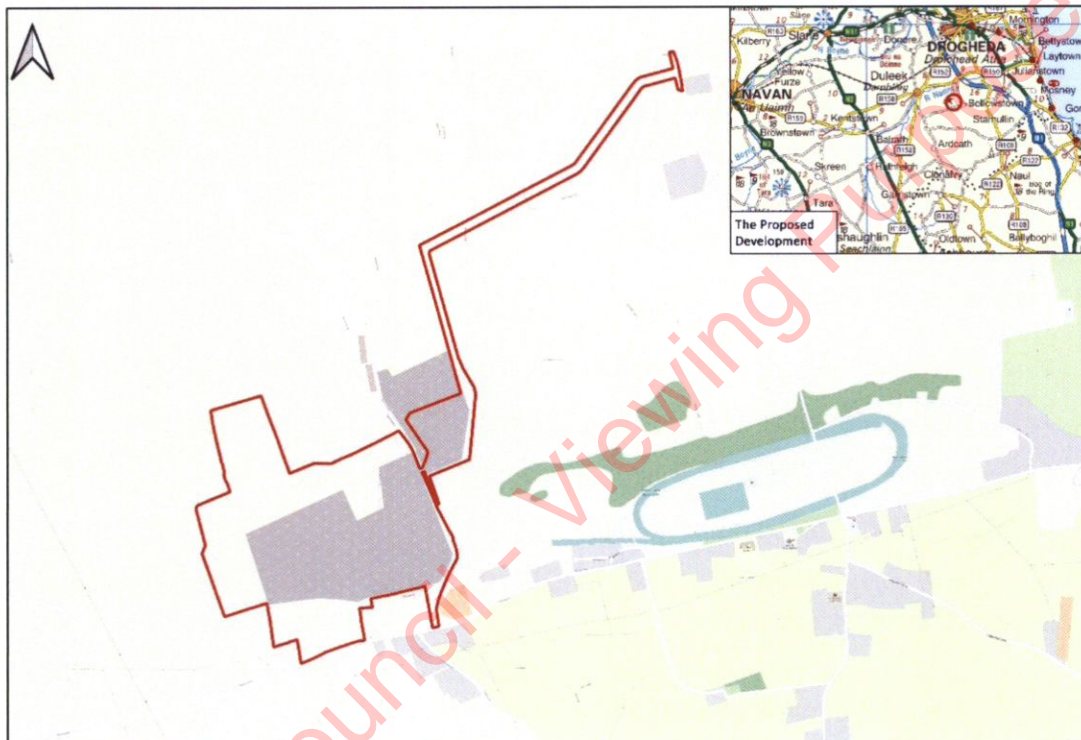


Figure 13.1: Location of the proposed development area.

This study determines, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource in and within the vicinity of the proposed development area using appropriate methods of study. Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (CIfA 2014). This leads to the following:

- determining the presence of known archaeological and architectural assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development;
- assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural remains during the construction programme;
- determining the impact upon the setting of known cultural heritage sites in the surrounding area; and





- suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.
- The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological, architectural, and historical background of the proposed development area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Meath, the Register of Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, the Meath Development Plan, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, and cartographic and documentary records. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey, Bing Maps, and Google Earth has also been carried out. A field inspection has been carried out in an attempt to identify any known archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage sites and previously unrecorded features, structures, and portable finds within the proposed development area.

An impact assessment and a mitigation strategy have been prepared. The impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource, while the mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce, or offset such adverse impacts.

### 13.1.2 Legislation and Guidelines

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted as part of the assessment.

- *National Monuments Act, 1930 to 2014*;
- *The Planning and Development Acts, 2000* (as amended);
- *Heritage Act, 1995* (as amended);
- *Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*, 2017, EPA;
- *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. Dublin. Government Publications Office, 2022, EPA;
- *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999*, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and Islands; and
- *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000* and the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000*.

### 13.1.3 Consultation

During scoping and research for the assessment and EIAR, a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were consulted to gain further insight into the cultural background of the receiving environment and study area, as follows:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH)– the Heritage Service and Policy Unit, National Monuments and Historic Properties Section: Record of Monuments and Places; Sites and Monuments Record; Monuments in State Care Database; Preservation Orders; Register of Historic Monuments;
- National Museum of Ireland, Irish Antiquities Division: topographical files of Ireland;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: County Meath; and





- Meath County Council: Planning Section.

#### 13.1.4 Definitions

In order to assess, distil and present the findings of this study, the following definitions apply:

‘Cultural Heritage’ where used generically, is an over-arching term applied to describe any combination of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage features, where –

- the term ‘archaeological heritage’ is applied to objects, monuments, buildings or landscapes of an (assumed) age typically older than AD 1700 (and recorded as archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places);
- the term ‘architectural heritage’ is applied to structures, buildings, their contents, and settings of an (assumed) age typically younger than AD 1700; and
- the term ‘cultural heritage’, where used specifically, is applied to other (often less tangible) aspects of the landscape such as historical events, folklore memories and cultural associations

#### 13.1.5 Impact Definitions

##### *Imperceptible Impact*

An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences

##### *Not Significant*

Effects which cause noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences

##### *Slight Impact*

An impact which causes changes to the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.

An impact that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly impact on the architectural structure or feature. Impacts are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the impact.

##### *Moderate Impact*

An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends. A moderate effect arises where a change to the site is proposed, which although noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.

An impact that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable, is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Impacts are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the impact.





*Significant Impact*

An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site.

An impact that, by its, magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently impacted upon leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigation is likely to reduce the impact.

*Very Significant*

Effects which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.

*Profound Impact*

Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise when an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.

An impact that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects.

Impacts as defined by the EPA 2022 *Guidelines*.

### 13.1.6 The Development

The proposed development seeks to extend the life of the current permitted quarry from 10 years to 25 years (as originally proposed 37L development) and proposes to develop a new dedicated quarry access road to facilitate an increase in the permitted number of HGV loads to and from the quarry from a maximum of 32 No. per day to an average of 81 No. per day (with +/-15% fluctuations in the number of loads to and from the quarry proposed to address certain demands on the quarry as and when required, equating to a maximum of 93 No. loads per day). The full development description is included in Chapter 3 of this EIAR.





## 13.2 Methodology

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, architectural, historical, and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

### 13.2.1 Paper Survey

This is a document search. The following sources were examined and a list of areas of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage potential was compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Meath;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Meath;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Register of Historic Monuments;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2021);
- Place Names; and
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 *National Monuments Act* and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state





or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

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

Register of Historic Monuments was established under Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act, which requires the Minister to establish and maintain such a record. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance. Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape:

- William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony of Duleek, c. 1655
- William Larkin, A map of the county of Meath, 1812
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Meath, 1836, 1882-4, and 1907-11

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The *Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027* was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey, Google Earth, and Bing Maps.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded





under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970-2021.

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology, history, and cultural heritage of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their root deep in the historical past. The main references used for the place name analysis is Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and the Place Names Database of Ireland.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a state initiative established under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses.

### 13.2.2 Field Inspection

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological, architectural, and historical remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological and architectural field inspection entailed:

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.



### 13.3 Receiving Environment

#### 13.3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development area comprises an existing quarry in the townlands of Bellewstown, Hilltown Little, Gafney Little and Hilltown Great, County Meath. There are 12 recorded archaeological sites within a 500m radius of the proposed development area, including two sites within the boundary of the proposed developed area (Figure 13.2). These comprise an unclassified barrow (ME027-035) which has previously been subject to investigation, and a recently identified ring-ditch (ME027-114) which was identified from satellite imagery and subsequently added to the SMR and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. There are no protected structures or NIAH buildings within the study area. The main section of proposed development is bordered to the east by the demesne of Hilltown House (NIAH Garden 5080) with the proposed development area extending northeast through the former demesne landscape.

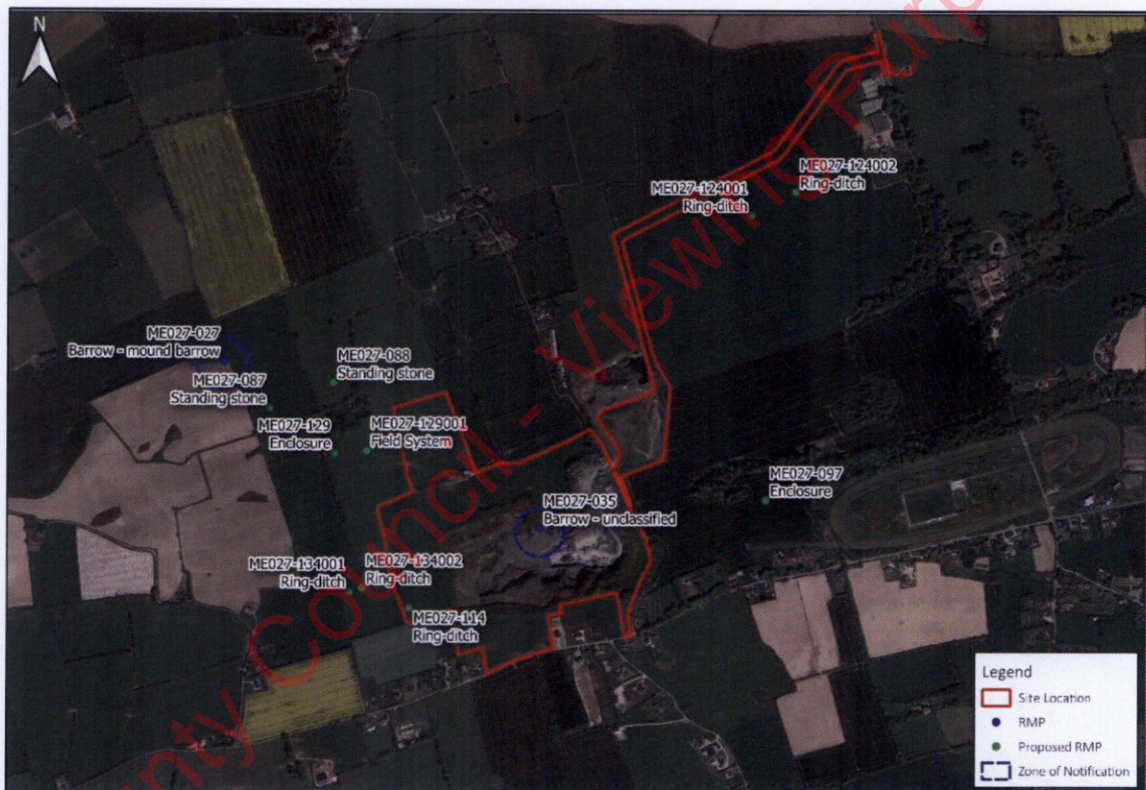


Figure 13.2: Archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development area. (Basemap Google Earth.)

##### 13.3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

###### *Mesolithic Period (6000–4000 BC)*

Although recent discoveries may push back the date of human activity by a number of millennia (Dowd and Carden 2016), the Mesolithic Period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence of prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The types of activity carried out by Mesolithic people are difficult to recognise using current archaeological methods; however, scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements





typically indicative of their presence in the landscape. While there is no evidence for Mesolithic activity within the immediate surrounding landscape, settlement has been identified in the wider region of Meath, such as within the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, situated c. 8.7km to the northwest.

#### *Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)*

The Neolithic period was a revolutionary period which provides the first evidence of the emergence of farming societies in Ireland. There was profound change as people moved from peripatetic lifestyle to one organised around animal husbandry and cereal cultivation. Understandably, the transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social transformation; communities expanded and moved further inland to create more permanent settlements. This afforded the further development of agriculture which altered the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared, and field boundaries constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time as well as a variety of other artefacts including polished stone axes, a variety of flint tools and saddle querns for grinding corn. People lived in rectangular houses that contained hearths as well as specially demarcated areas for activities such as food preparation. A saddle quern was identified during the field inspection carried out as part of this assessment. It was discovered at the fence line of a field which most probably indicates that this artefact was moved to this location during field clearance.

With the advent of the Neolithic period the emergence of the megalithic tomb occurs of which there are four types; court cairn, portal tomb, passage tomb and wedge tomb. Evidence suggests that these were large communal burial monuments and such architecture is common within County Meath. The early prehistory of the region is dominated by several important cores, including the Boyne Valley, Tara, Fourknocks, and Loughcrew. The most prolific of these centres are protected as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, c. 8.7km to the northwest, the large Neolithic complexes at Newgrange, Knowth, and Dowth. Excavations here have revealed settlement and burial evidence from the Neolithic through to the medieval period.

#### *Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)*

The Bronze Age was characterised by the introduction of metalworking technology to Ireland and coincides with many changes in the archaeological record, both in terms of material culture as well as the nature of the sites and monuments themselves. Though this activity has markedly different characteristics to that of the preceding Neolithic period including new structural forms and new artefacts (such as Beaker pottery), it also reflects a degree of continuity.

During the Bronze Age, communal megalithic tombs were no longer constructed, and the burial of the individual became more typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, a small stone box set into the ground, or a stone lined grave. Burials were often made within cemeteries which were either unenclosed or else marked in the landscape with the construction of an earthen barrow. Barrows of this period often vary in form and can include the ring-ditch, the embanked ring-ditch, the ring barrow, the bowl barrow, and the bowl barrow lacking an external bank. The proposed development contains an unclassified barrow (RMP ME027-035). Excavation of the feature in 2007 revealed that it had been disturbed, recovered several flint artefacts, and indicated that the feature may have been occupied in the early medieval period (Licence 07E0249). A mound barrow (RMP ME027-027) is located c. 500m to the northwest.





In general, ring-ditches date to the Bronze Age, with the earlier examples being simpler in form and later examples incorporating entrances and a wider range of burials practices. Ring-ditches appear to have continued to be built and earlier monuments re-used, during the Iron Age and early medieval period. A number of ring-ditches recently have been identified in the vicinity of the proposed development area through aerial photography, satellite imagery and drone photography. These have since been added to the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. This includes ME027-114 within the western extent of the proposed development area, in addition to ME027-134001 and ME027-134002 which are located c. 128m west and c. 89m west respectively. Two further ring-ditches have recently been recorded c. 100m-110m south of the proposed development area where it extends northeast through the townlands of Hilltown Little and Hilltown Great (ME027-124001 and ME027-124002).

Single upright standing stones are a common feature of the Irish landscape, and are known by various names such as gallán or leacht. They may date to different periods and serve different functions, but excavation has shown that some may mark pre-historic burials, while some may signify a route-way, a boundary, or serve a commemorative role. Generally speaking, it is likely that most date to the Bronze Age (apart from those that can be seen to be Ogham stones). The orientation of a stone may have had a significance, with their long axis aligned to another stone or toward a cairn on a mountain top, although the latter is difficult to prove. Occasionally standing stones are found which are all that remain of a formerly more complex megalithic monument. Some, it must be said, could well have been erected in modern times as scratching posts for cattle. There are two of these monuments within 500m of the proposed development area (ME027-088 and ME027-087), both located to the northwest.

The most common Bronze Age site within the archaeological record is the burnt mound or fulacht fia. Thousands of fulachtaí fia have been recorded in the country and hundreds excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 1998, 174). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, those noted in close proximity to a trough are generally interpreted as Bronze Age cooking/industrial sites. Fulachtaí fia generally consist of a low mound of burnt stone, commonly in a horseshoe shape, which are found in low lying marshy areas or close to streams. Often these sites have been ploughed out and survive as a spread of heat shattered stones in charcoal rich soil with no surface expression in close proximity to a trough. No sites of this type are recorded within the landscape surrounding the proposed development area.

#### *Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)*

The Iron Age is distinguished from the rather rich remains of preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period by a relative paucity of evidence in Ireland. However, there is increasing evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as LIARI (Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland). Evidence for 'Roman' activity in the area is suggested by the presence of artefacts of Roman origin recovered from inside the Newgrange tomb, including coins and items of personal adornment (Stout 2002). The principal evidence supporting Iron Age activity in the area comes from the Knowth excavations (Eogan 1986), where a cemetery containing up to 35 individuals was recorded around the base of Tomb 1. Grave goods, mainly items of personal adornment, were found with 11 of the burials. It is also possible that the summit of the main tomb at Knowth was utilised as a defended settlement at this time.





There are no recorded Iron Age sites within 500m of the proposed development area.

### 13.3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The proposed development area lies within the kingdom of Brega, within the territory that was controlled by the Ciannachta. The Ciannachta were the most prominent of the subject peoples of Brega during the early medieval period and were typically associated with the baronies of Ferrad, County Louth and Duleek, County Meath. Brega was controlled for most of the early medieval period by the Sil nÁeda Sláine, who claimed to be part of the Uí Néill. Though their influence on a national level waned from the 8th century onwards, various branches of the dynasty controlled Brega into the late 10th century.

This period is generally depicted in the surviving sources as being entirely rural, characterised by the basic territorial unit known as túath. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were probably at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own túath. During this sometimes-violent period, roughly circular defensive enclosures known as ringforts were constructed to protect farmsteads. Although most of the ringforts that have been excavated are shown to date to this period, some have earlier origins and may have been originally constructed during the Iron Age, or even earlier.

The early medieval landscape in Ireland is characterised by dispersed enclosed rural farmsteads, or raths, which likely housed an extended family. This site type is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period and truncated examples are regularly identified as crop marks in aerial photography or through archaeological investigation. Research undertaken as part of the 'Early Medieval Archaeology Project' suggests a conservative estimate for the number of ringforts, raths, cashels, cahers and 'enclosures' in the country to be at least 60,000 (O'Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). The sites are typically enclosed by an earthen bank and exterior ditch, ranging from 25m to 50m in diameter. These are often found in association with souterrains which are stone-lined underground chambers that vary greatly in size and scale. Whilst there are no ringforts recorded within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area, an enclosure (ME027-097) is located c. 370m to the east. There was also recently identified an enclosure (ME027-129) and adjacent field system (ME027-129001) located c. 110m-200m west of the proposed development area. Often sites recorded as enclosures represent denuded ringforts or similar sites, however; they may also represent simple animal enclosures or potentially date to earlier periods.

The early medieval period also saw the construction of a large number of ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland during the centuries following the 5th century AD. A significant early medieval ecclesiastical site is recorded at the centre of Duleek. Part of the enclosure that would have surrounded this monument is now fossilised within the path of the existing streets (ME027-038019). The centre of the site is located c. 2.8km west-northwest of the proposed development area and includes early medieval, medieval, and post medieval remains. In total 15 separate features are recorded within the ecclesiastical enclosure.

The early ecclesiastical site was reputedly founded in c. 450 AD by St. Patrick and given to the care of St. Cianan later that century. The name Duleek is derived from the old Irish word for stone church, Damliac and there is a tradition that Duleek was the location for the first stone church in Ireland (Bradley 1985). References to the stone church in Duleek occur in Tirechan's Life of St. Patrick and in the Annals of Ulster for the year AD724 (Edwards 1990). References





to the abbots and bishops of Duleek are recorded in the Annals of Ulster and the Annals of the Four Masters. The annals also record that the site suffered from Viking attacks from the 9th to 12th centuries and it is also reputed that in 1014 the bodies of Brian Ború and his son lay in state in Duleek after their deaths during the Battle of Clontarf.

### 13.3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The beginning of the medieval period is characterised by political unrest that originated from the death of Brian Ború in 1014. Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, sought the support of mercenaries from England, Wales, and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship. Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support MacMurchadha. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited the Kingdom of Leinster through marriage to Diarmuid's daughter Aoife. By the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in overthrowing the previous ruling elites in much of the country (Stout and Stout 1997). Large land grants given by the King to his followers meaning that great swathes of land were parcelled out among the Norman elites in process known as sub-infeudation. This process saw the evolution and consolidation of a network of territorial and administrative boundaries including baronies, parishes, manors, and townlands. It was largely based on and significantly influenced by pre-existing borders and settlement patterns.

At this time, the Lordship or Liberty of Meath, was composed of a large territorial area that covered counties of Meath and Westmeath as well as parts of Offaly and Longford. By 1172 Henry II had granted this lordship to Hugh de Lacy, who established Trim Castle. This time period is synonymous with castle-building, both masonry and earthwork, as well as the creation of new towns and enlargement of older urban centres. The Norman tenurial system more or less appropriated the older established land units known as túaths in the early medieval period but called the territories manors (MacCotter 2008). Meath was very well settled in this period.

The manor of Duleek was established by Hugh de Lacy in c. 1180 but after 1244 it passed to the de Verdun family. In 1332 it passed to Bartholomew de Burghersh, and in 1372 to the Flemings of Slane (Othway-Ruthven 1967, 417, 425). Cooper describes and illustrates a motte within the village of Duleek in 1783, which was then being quarried (Price 1942, 99). This feature may represent a motte and bailey castle, which were constructed across the landscape in Ireland to consolidate Anglo-Norman power. The motte (RMP ME027-038017) was located c. 2.6km northwest of the proposed development area.

The medieval borough of Duleek was aligned along the present Main Street, which is mentioned in medieval sources as Via Regia ('King Street'). There is also a reference to a Market Street in a 13th century deed. This street perhaps corresponds with the lower part of Larrix Street although this is not certain. However, in 1284, Duleek was granted an annual fair and in 1598 was listed as one of the market towns of Meath. The Civil Survey of 1654 records that Duleek contained 51 houses as well as 'St. Kenan's Church', a priory, a stone house called the "colledge". A mill and two stone bridges were also present (Bradley 1985). Despite this, Duleek had declined in importance even in Anglo-Norman times as it was superseded by Drogheda (Bradley 1988–89).

There are no recorded sites of medieval date within the study area of the proposed development area.





#### 13.3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1900)

There was a radical change in colonial policy in Ireland in the 16th century, as the English government sought to take control of crown land, dissolving the monasteries and establishing an English-manned and military-based administration at Dublin with regional officers and garrisons posted at places such as Drogheda (Stout 2002).

The landscape surrounding Brú na Bóinne, was affected by major conflicts during the 17th century. These consisted of the Ulster Rising of 1641; the Cromwellian campaign in nearby Drogheda in 1649, and the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. During this conflict, which took place between James II and William of Orange, the River Boyne was the last significant natural barrier that needed to be surmounted before progress to Dublin could be made. This clash of forces in 17th century decided the destiny of the crowns of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The core area of operations between the armies extended from Drogheda to Slane and south to Duleek. The position of bridges across the Boyne at Drogheda and Slane, as well as fords at Oldbridge and Stalleen largely determined the extent of the battle area (Stout 2002). Lewis notes in 1837 that:

After the battle of the Boyne, James II. retreated from Donore at the head of Sarsfield's regiment, and was followed by his whole army, which poured through the pass of Duleek pursued by a party of English dragoons. On reaching the open ground, they drew up in order of battle, and after cannonading their pursuers, effected their retreat in good order.

It is probable that the proposed development area was located on the periphery of the landscape involved in battle movements. Most of the actual fighting was concentrated on the south bank of the Boyne in Oldbridge, Rathmullan, and Sheephouse townlands, c. 7.6km to the north, with further incidents at the Hill of Donore and also at Platin (Brady et al. 2007, 55).

The 18th century saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause, and effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland. This was achieved at all scales, from a modest Rectory Glebe to demesne landscapes that covered thousands of acres. The proposed development extends northeast into the former demesne of Hilltown House (NIAH Garden 5080)

#### 13.3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2020) has revealed that there has been one previous archaeological investigation within the proposed development and no other investigations within the study area.





The unclassified barrow (ME027-035) within the proposed development was excavated in 2007 (Licence 07E0249, Bennett 2007:1264). The site was cleared of vegetation and a topographical survey was carried out; however, little surface evidence of the feature was identified. Topsoil was removed by hand revealing that the feature had been disturbed and only a small section of the earthen bank, c. 0.3m in height, survived to the west of the barrow. The oval-shaped ditch of the barrow enclosed an area of 4.2m by 3.1m. No cremated remains were identified in the fill of the ditch; however, a charcoal-rich deposit containing two flint blades and a flint scrapper were recovered. The charcoal-rich deposit was radiocarbon dated to 980-1010 AD, the early medieval period. This date is at odds with the flint artefacts recovered within the deposit. It is possible that disturbance of the feature's surface expression between 1985 and 2007 contaminated the earlier features and deposits of the barrow with features and deposits representing later activity.

### 13.3.3 Cartographic Analysis

*William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony of Duleek, c. 1655*

The proposed development area is depicted within the townlands of 'Fassagh' and 'Bellenstonne' within the parish and barony of 'Duleek' on this map. The townland of 'Litle Hilltonn' is depicted to the east of 'Fassagh'. The southern part of 'Bellenstonne', containing the proposed development area, is annotated as 'mountainey' and 'furzy' and the northern part contains the 'Nanne water'.

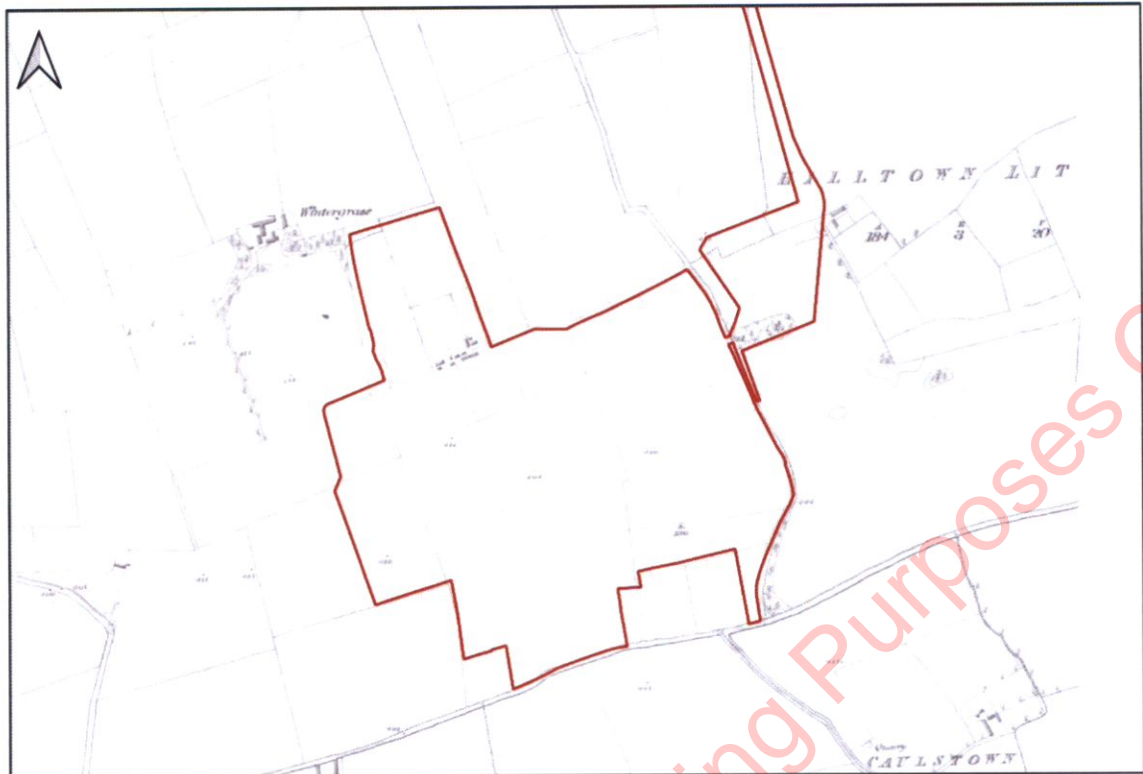
*William Larkin, A map of the county of Meath, 1812*

The proposed development area is located in an undeveloped area to the north of an unnamed road and to the west of Bellewstown Racecourse. No other features are shown.

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1836, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 13.3)*

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area which is located within open fields. The townland of 'Fassagh' from the Down Survey is no longer annotated. There is a collection of ten farmyard buildings within the northern portion of the proposed development area. The Hilltown demesne (NIAH Garden 5080) is annotated to the immediate east of Bellewstown. The road to the immediate south forms the townland boundaries between Bellewstown and Caulstown and between Bellewstown and Ongenstown. Wintergrass farm lies to the immediate northwest of the proposed development area. Bellewstown Racecourse is depicted c. 550m to the east.





**Figure 13.3: Extract from the first edition OS map of 1836 showing the proposed development area.**

*Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1882-4, scale 1:10,560*

The only significant change to the application site on this map is that there have been minor alterations to its field boundaries within the proposed development area.

*Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1907-11, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 13.4)*

By the time of this map there have been further changes to the field boundaries within the site. The proposed development area is situated within open fields and a wooded area. The townland boundary between Bellewstown and Hilltown Little is depicted extending through the site. Bellewstown Dispensary is annotated c. 520m to the east adjacent to Bellewstown Racecourse. There are no other changes of note.



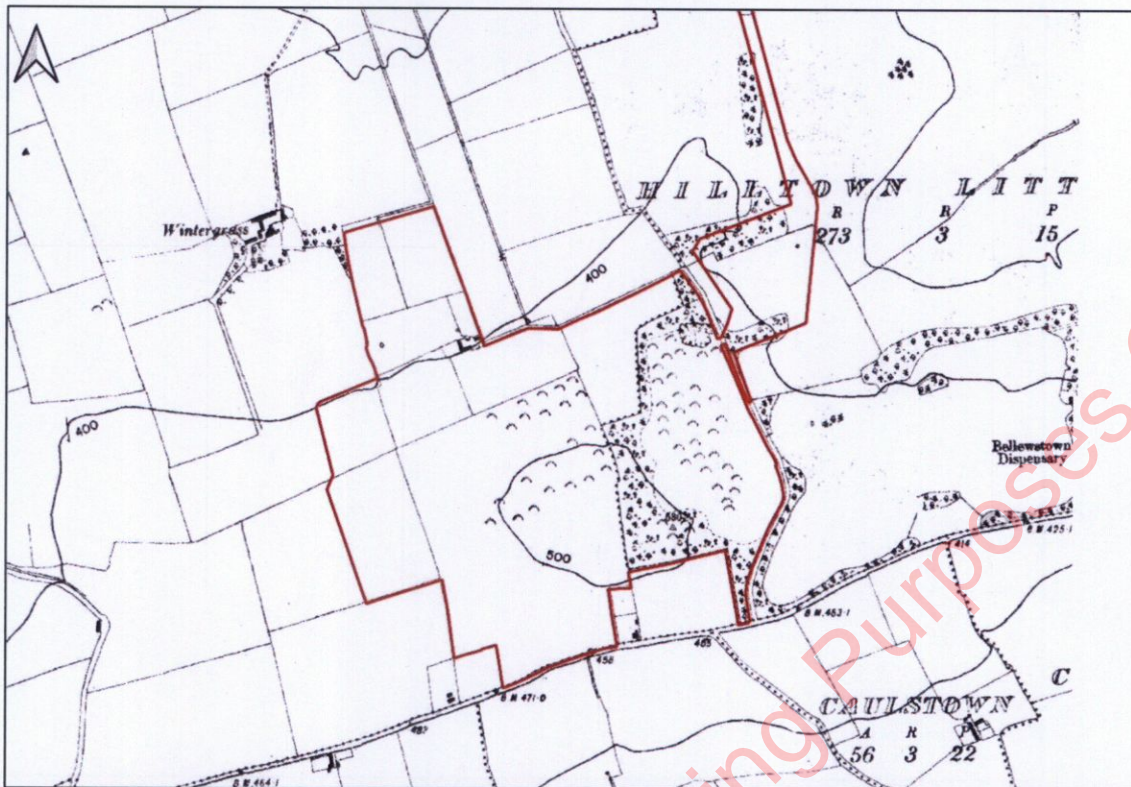


Figure 13.4: Extract from the historic OS map of 1907-11 showing the proposed development area.

### 13.3.4 Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027

#### 13.3.4.1 Record of Monuments and Places

The *Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027* recognises the statutory protection afforded to archaeological sites included within the Record of Monuments and Places and seek to protect those monuments, to including their setting, access, views, and prospects. Through policies contained in the Development Plans, it seeks to ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments, and their settings (Appendix 13.3).

There are 12 recorded archaeological sites within a 500m radius of the proposed development area, including two sites within the boundary of the proposed developed area (Table 13.1). These comprise an unclassified barrow (ME027-035) which has previously been subject to investigation, and a recently identified ring-ditch (ME027-114) which was identified from satellite imagery and subsequently added to the SMR and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. All sites are detailed in Appendix 13.1.

None of the sites are National Monuments, under preservation orders, listed on the RPS, or included on the NIAH Survey.



**Table 13.1: Recorded Archaeological Sites**

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
ME027-035	Bellewstown	Barrow - Unclassified	Within the proposed development area
ME027-114	Bellewstown	Ring-Ditch	Within the proposed development area
ME027-134002	Bellewstown	Ring-Ditch	c. 89m west
ME027-129001	Bellewstown	Field System	c. 110m west
ME027-124002	Hilltown Great	Ring-Ditch	c. 100m south
ME027-124001	Hilltown Great	Ring-Ditch	C. 110m south
ME027-134001	Bellewstown	Ring-Ditch	c. 128m west
ME027-088	Bellewstown	Standing Stone	c. 190m northwest
ME027-129	Bellewstown	Enclosure	c. 200m west
ME027-087	Bellewstown	Standing Stone	c. 370m northwest
ME027-097	Hilltown Little	Enclosure	c. 370m east
ME027-027	Bellewstown	Barrow - Mound Barrow	c. 500m northwest

#### 13.3.4.2 Record of Protected Structures

The *Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027* recognises the value of the built heritage to the county and is committed to the protection and enhancement of this heritage by providing measures for the protection of architectural heritage. These include the establishment of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) which are detailed in the section below.

There are no structures included on the RPS within a 500m radius of the proposed development, the nearest, Collierstown House (RPS 910006), is situated c. 880m to the east-southeast within the townland of Collierstown (Figure 13.5; Appendix 13.2). The house is not included on the NIAH Building Survey or listed on the RMP.





Figure 13.5: Nearest architectural sites to the proposed development area. (Source: Basemap Google Earth.)

#### 13.3.4.3 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)

There is 20 Architectural Conservation Areas designated within the *Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027*, none of which are situated within the study area of the proposed development.

### 13.3.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

#### 13.3.5.1 Building Survey

A review of the NIAH architectural survey was undertaken as part of this assessment and included buildings within 500m of the proposed development. Whilst inclusion in the survey does not result in statutory protection, these buildings may be added to the RPS by Meath County Council in the future. There are no structures listed on the NIAH building survey within the study area, the nearest comprises Saint Teresa's Roman Catholic Church (NIAH 14320002), also known as Bellewstown Church, c. 1km to the east (Figure 13.5, Appendix 13.2). The church is also included on the RPS for Meath (RPS 91028).

#### 13.3.5.2 Garden Survey

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Meath (1836) shows the extent of demesne landscapes as shaded portions of land within the study area. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry. Not all demesne landscapes are subject to statutory protection. However, where a demesne exists in





association with a protected structure (dependant on the preservation of the landscape), this can be considered to be part of the curtilage and as such falls within the remit of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The only demesne situated within the study area belongs to Hilltown House (NIAH Garden 5080), through which the proposed development area extends as it extends northeast from the existing quarry (Figure 13.5). The demesne is visible on the first, second, and third edition OS maps. The footprint of the demesne and its principal buildings remain extant.

### 13.3.6 Cultural Heritage

The term 'cultural heritage' can be used as an over-arching term that can be applied to both archaeology and architectural. However, it also refers to more ephemeral aspects of the environment, which are often recorded in folk law or tradition or possibly date to a more recent period. No individual sites have been identified that could be defined as specifically cultural heritage; however, the archaeological and built heritage features discussed above also constitute as cultural heritage features.

#### 13.3.6.1 Townlands

The townland is an Irish land unit of considerable longevity as many of the units are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. However, the term townland was not used to denote a unit of land until the Civil Survey of 1654. It bears no relation to the modern word 'town' but like the Irish word *baile* refers to a place. It is possible that the word is derived from the Old English *tun land* and meant 'the land forming an estate or manor' (Culleton 1999, 174).

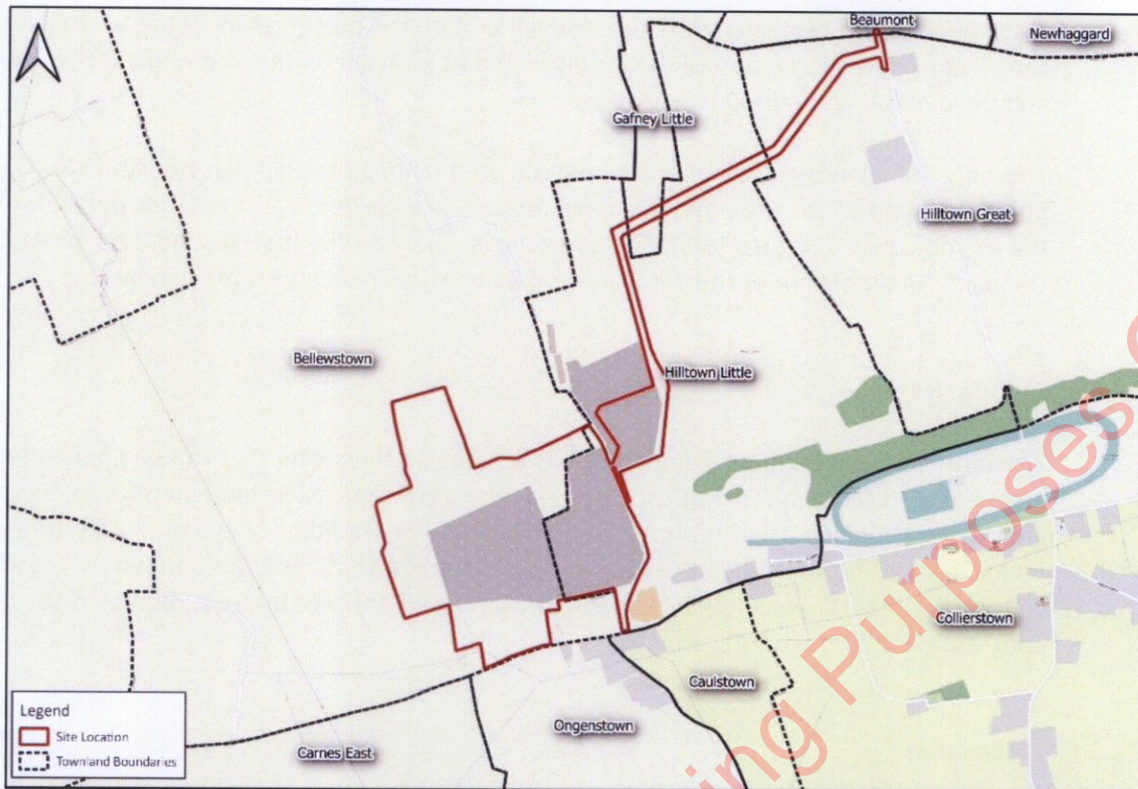
Gaelic land ownership required a clear definition of the territories held by each sept and a need for strong, permanent fences around their territories. It is possible that boundaries following ridge tops, streams or bog are more likely to be older in date than those composed of straight lines (ibid. 179).

The vast majority of townlands are referred to in the 17th century, when land documentation records begin. Many of the townlands are mapped within the Down Survey of the 1650s, so called as all measurements were carefully 'laid downe' on paper at a scale of forty perches to one inch. Therefore, most are in the context of pre-17th century landscape organisation (McErlean 1983, 315).

In the 19th century, some demesnes, deer parks or large farms were given townland status during the Ordnance Survey and some imprecise townland boundaries in areas such as bogs or lakes, were given more precise definition (ibid.). Larger tracks of land were divided into a number of townlands, and named Upper, Middle or Lower, as well as Beg and More (small and large) and north, east, south, and west (Culleton 1999, 179). By the time the first Ordnance Survey had been completed a total of 62,000 townlands were recorded in Ireland.

The proposed development area is located within the townlands of Bellewstown, Hilltown Little, Gafney Little and Hilltown Great, County Meath (Figure 13.6). The townland boundaries between Bellewstown and Hilltown Little, Hilltown Little and Hilltown Great and Hilltown Little and Gafney Little extend through the proposed development area.





**Figure 13.6 Townland boundaries within the proposed development area. (Source: Basemap QGIS.)**

### 13.3.6.2 Place Name Analysis

Townland and topographic names are an invaluable source of information on topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape. They also provide information on history; archaeological monuments and folklore of an area. A place name may refer to a long-forgotten site and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites may still survive below the ground surface. The Ordnance Survey surveyors wrote down townland names in the 1830's and 1840's, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. Some of the townland names in the study area are of Irish origin and through time have been anglicised. The main references used for the place name analysis are Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and Logainm.ie. A description and possible explanation of each townland name in the environs of the proposed development area provided in the below table.



Table 13.2: Placename Analysis		
NAME	DERIVATION	POSSIBLE MEANING
Bellewstown	-	Bedlowe is a family name. Possibly later corrupted to 'Bellevs'.
Hilltown Little	-	Hilltown, likely divided into Little and Great townlands at a later date.
Hilltown Great	-	Hilltown, likely divided into Little and Great townlands at a later date.
Gafney Little	-	Gaffney is a family name, most probably the owners of the land.
Collierstown	<i>Baile na gCailleach</i>	Town of the nuns
Caulstown	-	Cawle is a family name most probably the owners of the land.
Ongenstown	-	Possibly after a family name
Carnes East	<i>Estkernys</i>	Monumental heap of stones
Duleek	<i>Daimhliag</i>	Stone house or church
Meath	<i>Mide</i>	Middle, centre

### 13.3.7 Stray Finds within the Surrounding Area

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Meath has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

A review of the topographical files revealed that no stray finds have been recovered from within the study area of the proposed development area.

A field inspection carried out in October 2021 identified a previously unrecorded stray find, a saddle quern (see Section 13.3.9).

### 13.3.8 Aerial Photographic Analysis

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2009-2021), and Bing Maps (2020) revealed the gradual expansion of the existing quarry between 1995 and 2021. A number of recently discovered archaeological features are visible in the recent satellite imagery from Google Earth, including the ring-ditch (ME027-114) within the proposed development area (Figure 13.7). No additional features of archaeological significance could be identified from the aerial photography and satellite imagery.





Figure 13.7: Extract from Google Earth imagery (2021) showing Ring-ditch ME027114 within the southwest corner of the proposed development area.

#### 13.3.9 Field Inspection

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography, and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 13.1).

The field inspection was carried out by IAC Archaeology on the 13th October 2021. For ease of description the proposed development area has been divided into a number of areas as illustrated in Figure 13.8.





**Figure 13.8: Areas of the proposed development area inspected during field inspection in October 2021.**

At Area 1, there is a concrete slab surfaced yard adjacent to the road. The area is largely disturbed by quarrying activity associated with the quarry to the immediate north and deposits of waste material and spoil are present (Plate 13.1).



**Plate 13.1: Area 1 showing the quarry to the immediate north, facing northeast.**

At Area 2, within the proposed access roadway of the proposed development area, the ground slopes downwards from west to east. The proposed route follows a fence line with the field



to the west in pasture and the field to the east currently under crop (Plate 13.2). A possible saddle quern stone was identified along the fence line (Plate 13.3). This is likely not the original find spot of the artefact as it was likely recovered during field clearance and moved to this location. Saddle quernstones generally date to the prehistoric period and were used by farming communities to grind grains. Please note that the possible quern stone was physically too large to recover as part of the field inspection.



Plate 13.2: Area 2 facing north.



Plate 13.3: Possible Quern Stone within the field boundary at Area 2.



As the route of the access road continues to the northeast the ground surface slopes down to the north and to the east (Area 3, Plate 13.4). This part of the proposed development area passes two recorded ring-ditches (Figure 13.1). The field is currently under crop and no features of archaeological potential were identified.



**Plate 13.4: Area 3, facing northeast.**

Areas 4 and 5 are located to the immediate north of the existing quarry. Here the ground slopes down from the south towards the north. Area 4 appears to remain greenfield in its east section (Plate 13.5). A large portion of these areas have been subsumed into the quarry, with the southern extents have been traversed by heavy machinery (Plate 13.6). There are also areas of spoil deposition within these areas.



**Plate 13.5 Area 4, facing northeast.**





Plate 13.6: Area 5, facing south.

A ridge and furrow field system was visible in Area 6, although the area was largely heavily disturbed (Plate 13.7). In addition, a dry-stone wall was also present at the southern boundary of this field, measuring 1.2m in height by 0.6m in width. A modern shed was also noted in the southeast corner of this area.



Plate 13.7 Area 6, facing southwest.

The drystone wall noted in Area 6, continued westwards into Area 7, where it forms the southern boundary (Plate 13.8). This area was largely in pasture with the ground sloping gently down south to north, with the slope becoming more pronounced at the northern extent of the area.





**Plate 13.8 Dry stone wall in Area 7, facing east.**

Areas 8, 9 and 10 consisted of fields of stubble to the north of the existing quarry. At the northern end of Areas 9 and 10, a waterlogged hollow was noted, c. 25m in width, running east-west. An open field drain was present within this hollow, in Area 9 (Plate 13.9).



**Plate 13.9 Open field drain and hollow in Area 9 facing south.**





Plate 13.10 Area 10, facing south.

Areas 11 and 12 are divided by a drystone wall, averaging 1.2m in height and 0.6m in width (Plate 13.11). The ground in these areas sloped south to north, with both field fields currently in crop. There was no surface evidence of ring-ditch (ME027-114) within Area 11.



Plate 13.11 Dry stone wall in Areas 11/12 facing north.

Area 13 is located south of the existing quarry and contains a water treatment facility in the southeast of the area. This area is currently in pasture (Plate 13.12).





Plate 13.12: Area 13, facing northwest.

A derelict farm complex is located between Area 10 to the north and Area 6 to the south (Plate 13.13). None of these structures are considered to be of architectural merit.



Plate 13.13 Derelict farm structures, facing south.

#### 13.4 Conclusions

The proposed development is located within several open fields and an existing quarry in the townlands of Bellewstown, Hilltown Little, Gafney Little and Hilltown Great, County Meath. There are 12 recorded archaeological sites within a 500m radius of the proposed development area, including two sites within the boundary of the proposed developed area. These comprise an unclassified barrow (ME027-035) which has previously been subject to investigation, and a recently identified ring-ditch (ME027-114) which was identified from satellite imagery and subsequently added to the SMR and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.





The unclassified barrow (RMP ME027-035) was excavated in 2007; however, previous disturbance of the barrows surface features resulted in prehistoric flints being identified within an early medieval fill of the feature (Licence 07E0249). There have not been any other archaeological investigations within the study area to date.

There are no protected structures, NIAH buildings, Architectural Conservation Areas, or topographical files recorded within the study area of the site. The nearest protected structure comprises Collierstown House (RPS 910006) c. 880m to the east-southeast and the nearest NIAH building consists of Saint Teresa's Roman Catholic Church (NIAH 14320002) c. 1km to the east. The proposed development area traverses a section of the former Hilltown Demesne (NIAH Garden 5080). There are no other demesnes listed on the NIAH Garden Survey or depicted on the first edition OS map within the study area. There are no specific cultural heritage sites within the study area of the proposed development; however, the archaeological and built heritage sites situated within the study area should also be considered as cultural heritage sites.

An inspection of the cartographic sources revealed that the proposed development was situated within a rural landscape with shifting townland boundaries throughout the post-medieval period. An analysis of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development did not identify any previously unknown archaeological sites within the site.

The field inspection identified a previously unrecorded archaeological artefact, a possible saddle quern, within Area 2. While this artefact was ex-situ due to agricultural field clearance, it remains of significance. Furthermore, the field inspection noted a number of areas within the proposed development area where the site remains undisturbed greenfield. These areas can be considered to be of high-archaeological potential, given the high number of recently recorded archaeological features in the vicinity of the site.





## 13.5 Description of Potential Impacts

### 13.5.1 Construction Phase

- The unclassified barrow recorded within the proposed development area (ME027-035) has previously been subject to archaeological excavation. Therefore, there are no further potential impacts to this monument as a result of the development going ahead.
- A recently recorded ring-ditch (ME027-114) is located within the proposed development area and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. There is potential for a direct negative very significant impact on this site caused by works associated with the construction of the perimeter screening mound in this location.
- There may be direct negative impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level, particularly in the greenfield areas of the site. This includes the recently identified possible saddle quern. This will be caused by ground disturbances associated with the proposed development. Impacts may range from moderate to very significant.

### 13.5.2 Operation Phase

- No operational impacts upon the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource are anticipated.

### 13.5.3 Do Nothing Impact

If the development were not to proceed, there would be no impact upon the archaeological or cultural heritage resource.

### 13.5.4 Worst Case Impact

Under a worst-case scenario, the proposed development would disturb previously unidentified and unrecorded deposits and artefacts without appropriate excavation and recording being undertaken.

## 13.6 Mitigation

### 13.6.1 Construction Phase

In advance of construction, a geophysical survey and test trenching will be carried out on all greenfield areas forming part of the development, including the site recorded ring-ditch (ME027-114). Subject to the results of these surveys further mitigation may be required including preservation in situ and/or preservation by record.

The possible artefact (a saddle quern) identified during the field inspection of the proposed development area will be recovered prior to the commencement of construction and





deposited with the National Museum of Ireland, as this artefact, under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, is automatically in the ownership of the State.

All ground disturbances associated with the proposed development will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

*It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.*

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH).

### **13.6.2 Operational Phase**

No mitigation is required in relation to the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as part of the operation phase.

### **13.6.3 Monitoring**

The mitigation measures recommended above will also function as a monitoring system during the operation phase to allow the further assessment of the scale of the predicted impacts and the effectiveness of the recommended mitigation measures.

### **13.7 Cumulative Impacts**

In order to facilitate the proposed development improvement works are required at Beaumont Bridge.

Beaumont Bridge is a recorded monument (RMP ME027-008) and a protected structure (RPS 91005). The required works may result in a direct, negative impact on the bridge structure (and watercourse that it crosses). Impacts may be very significant in nature. In order to mitigate any direct impacts, a full archaeological and built heritage assessment should be carried out on the bridge prior to any works going ahead, along with an underwater archaeological assessment (carried out under licence to the DoHLGH). Detailed design for the works will require input from a Grade 1 Conservation Architect. This will ensure that the required safety works are carried out in a sympathetic manner appropriate for the conservation of the bridge.

No other cumulative impacts have been identified in relation to the proposed development.



### 13.8 Residual Impacts

Following the completion of all mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual impacts upon the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource.

### 13.9 References

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### 13.9.2 Cartographic Sources

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- William Larkin, *A map of the county of Meath*, 1812
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Meath, 1836, 1882-4, and 1907-11

### 13.9.3 Electronic Sources

- [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970-2021.
- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR sites.
- [www.osiemaps.ie](http://www.osiemaps.ie) – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995-2013 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.
- [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural, and natural heritage.





[www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

[www.buildingsofireland](http://www.buildingsofireland) – NIAH Survey results for County Meath (Built Heritage survey and Garden Survey).

[www.bingmaps.com](http://www.bingmaps.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development.

[www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesC.php](http://www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesC.php) - Contains the text from *Irish Local Names Explained* by P.W Joyce (1870).

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) – Placenames Database of Ireland launched by *Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaelige* and the DoHLGH





### APPENDIX 13.1: SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-035
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707698/767259
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Barrow - unclassified
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Within the proposed development area
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>On inspection in 1985 it was described as a slightly domed circular area defined by fosse with external earthen bank (diam. 5m). (Moore 1987, 78). The monument was excavated in 2007 (License no. 07E0249) in advance of quarrying. The report summarises the results as follows: 'The sod and topsoil was removed by hand and carefully examined to maximise finds retrieval. During the removal of the sod and topsoil a baulk or section was developed across the centre of the site, thin section clearly showed that at some point in time the surface expression of the earthworks associated with this barrow had been subject to disturbance and that only a small section of bank remained in the form of an earthen bank approximately 0.30m in height, located to the west of the barrow. The barrow itself takes the form of an oval shaped earth-cut ditch measuring on average between 1.00m and 0.90m wide and approximately 0.40m in depth with a diameter of 4.20m E – W and 3.10m N – S. The ditch was continuous with no breaks or openings. The ditch contained three fills or deposits a loose, light brown deposit with the general appearance of topsoil overlaying a lower charcoal-rich deposit (c4), overlaying a light grey silt. During the excavation of the ditch no traces of cremated bone were identified, however the general appearance of (c4) suggested that this deposit was formed by the placing of burnt material within the ditch on a number of occasions and not one single event. In total two fragments of flint blades were retrieved from (c4) and four pieces of flint debitage. During the excavation and assessment of the site no other archaeological features and deposits were recorded. However it must be noted that the area surrounding the barrow has been subject to high levels of ground disturbance associated with the development of the quarry.' (Russell 2007)</p>
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-114
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek





<b>I.T.M.</b>	707312/767022
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Within the proposed development area
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located on slight E-W ridge at the broad W end of the ENE-WSW Bellewstown Ridge. The cropmark of a small circular feature (diam. c. 7m) defined by a single continuous fosse (Wth c. 3m) is visible only on Google Earth (21/07/2021).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-134002
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707171/767082
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 89m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located at the crest of a W and N-facing slope at the W end of the ENE-WSW Bellewstown ridge. The cropmarks of two circular features are visible on a digital image captured with a drone-mounted camera by Colin Byrne on 24/07/2021. This is a small circular area (diam. c. 5m) defined by a single fosse. The ring-ditch (ME027-134001-) is c. 15m to the W, and both features are also faintly visible on Google Earth (21/07/2021).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-129001
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707183/767485
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Field System
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 110m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located at the bottom of the steep N-facing slope of Bellewstown Hill. An area of about 4 ha (c. 10 acres) with earthwork banks is visible on Google Earth (05/10/2009; 28/01/2017; 15/02/2019). The fields appear to be





	irregular in shape (dims c. 70m x c. 60m) and may be illusory, but a linear feature extends ESE from the enclosure (ME027-129----) (L c. 700m) and its E end would connect with the W end of a WSW-ENE farm-lane that is depicted on the 1838 and 1908 editions of the OS 6-inch map.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-124002
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Hilltown Great
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	708454/768246
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 100m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located on a rise on a NE-facing slope. The cropmark of a small enclosure (diam. c. 10m) is visible on Digital Globe images (c. 2013). The cropmark is also visible on vertical photographs from the 1970s (GSIAP: O 306) and is also depicted as a small tree clump on the 1908 edition of the OS 6-inch map. Ring-ditch (ME027-124001-) is c. 130m to the WSW.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-124001
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Hilltown Great
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	708323/768179
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 110m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located on an E-facing slope. The cropmark of a small circular enclosure (diam. c. 12m) defined by a single continuous fosse is visible on Digital Globe (c. 2013) and on Google Earth (12/07/2013). The ring-ditch (ME027-124002-) is c. 130m to the ENE.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-134001
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP





<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707133/767071
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 128m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located at the crest of a W and N-facing slope at the W end of the ENE-WSW Bellewstown ridge. The cropmarks of two circular features are visible on a digital image captured with a drone-mounted camera by Colin Byrne on 24/07/2021. This is a small circular area (diam. c. 8m) defined by a single fosse. The ring-ditch (ME027-134002-) is c. 15m to the E, and both features are also faintly visible on Google Earth (21/07/2021).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-088
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707085/767686
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Standing stone
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 190m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located on Wintergrass estate. Local tradition that this is an antiquity (pers. comm. Mr Colin Byrne, Briarleas, County Meath).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-129
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	707088/767478
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Enclosure
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 200m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located at the bottom of the steep N-facing slope of Bellewstown Hill. A subcircular grass-covered enclosure (dims c. 40m E-W; c. 35m N-S) defined by what appears to be a large fosse (Wth c. 8-10m) is most clearly visible on Google Earth (05/10/2009; 28/01/2017; 15/02/2019). The field system (ME027-129001-) is immediately to the E. It is also visible on Aerial Premium c. 2013-2019.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file





<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-087
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	706895/767611
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Standing stone
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 370m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Located in field known as 'Parkarinny' on farm called Wintergrass. Local tradition records this is an antiquity. The field was recently ploughed for the first time in generations and the stone was knocked over (pers. comm. Mr Colin Byrne, Briarleas, County Meath).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-097
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Hilltown Little
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	708368/767342
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Enclosure
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 370m east
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A circular enclosure (diam. c. 25m) defined by a single fosse feature is visible as a cropmark on an aerial photograph (Bing 2013). (pers. comm. T. Condit)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	ME027-027
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Bellewstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>I.T.M.</b>	706758/767749
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Barrow - mound barrow
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 500m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Small circular mound (diam. 7m, H 1m) sited on summit of E-W ridge.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file





## APPENDIX 13.2: RPS AND NIAH STRUCTURES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

<b>RPS NO</b>	MH027-107
<b>NIAH NO.</b>	-
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Collierstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Collierstown House
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 880m east-southeast
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Detached five-bay, three-storey over basement house, built c. 1775, good ranges of outbuildings.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	Meath County Development Plan, 2013-2019, extended

<b>RPS NO</b>	MH027-305
<b>NIAH NO.</b>	14320002
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Collierstown
<b>PARISH</b>	Duleek
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Duleek
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Saint Teresa's Roman Catholic Church/ Bellewstown Church
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 1km east
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Detached gable-fronted cruciform-plan church, built c.1977, comprising of four-bay side elevations to nave, with single bay transepts, and single-bay chancel to west. Sacristy to north-west. Hexagonal bell tower with glazed upper section and spire to north transept. Pitched artificial slate roof. Roughcast rendered walls. Pointed arch window openings with stained glass. Pointed arch door openings with timber doors. Church yard is enclosed to east by cast-iron gates and railings and stone piers, c.1890.</p> <p>Appraisal This church is the largest structure in Bellewstown. Because it is set back from the street, it does not dominate the streetscape. Designed in a traditional cruciform plan, it displays many interesting features of modern architecture, such as the bell tower which is a modern interpretation of a traditional form. The internal features, such as the stained glass add artistic interest to this building. The gates and railings are reminders that this was the site of a previous church.</p> <p>Early 19thC T-shaped barn type 3 galleries with classical and gothic motifs.</p>
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.buildingsofireland.ie; Meath County Development Plan, 2013-2019, extended





### APPENDIX 13.3: LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

#### PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

#### OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

#### REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

#### PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

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

#### RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that



such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice'.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological, and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

#### THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

#### MEATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2021-2027

The Meath County Development Plan contains the following Policies and Objectives with relation to the archaeological resource:

It is the policy of the Council:

##### HER POL 1

To protect sites, monuments, places, areas or objects of the following categories:

- Sites and monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record as maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;





- Monuments and places included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under the National Monuments Acts;
- Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the Register of Historic Monuments as established under the National Monuments Acts;
- National monuments subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Acts and national monuments which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or a local authority;
- Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts; and Wrecks protected under the National Monuments Acts or otherwise included in the Shipwreck Inventory maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

#### HER POL 2

To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places, in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999).

#### HER POL 3

To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.

#### HER POL 4

To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery as identified by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

#### HER POL 5

To seek guidance from the National Museum of Ireland where an unrecorded archaeological object is discovered, or the National Monuments Service in the case of an unrecorded archaeological site.

It is the objective of the Council:

#### HER OBJ 1

To implement in partnership with the County Meath Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the community the County Meath Heritage Plan and any revisions thereof.

#### HER OBJ 2

To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracton from the monument or its setting.

#### HER OBJ 3

To protect important archaeological landscapes from inappropriate development.





HER OBJ 4

To encourage the management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historic burial grounds 2, in accordance with best conservation practice that considers the impact of climate change.

HER OBJ 5

To promote awareness of, and encourage the provision of access to, the archaeological resources of the county.

HER OBJ 6

To work in partnership with key stakeholders to promote County Meath as a centre for cultural heritage education and learning through activities such as community excavation and field/summer schools.





#### APPENDIX 13.4: LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

The main laws protecting the built heritage are the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and National Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts 1963–1999*, which has now been superseded by the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The background to this legislation derives from Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention). This states that:

*For the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each member state will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage.*

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established in 1990 to fulfil Ireland's obligation under the Granada Convention, through the establishment and maintenance of a central record, documenting and evaluating the architecture of Ireland (NIAH Handbook 2005:2). As inclusion in the inventory does not provide statutory protection, the survey information is used in conjunction with the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* to advise local authorities on compilation of a Record of Protected Structures as required by the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*.

#### PROTECTION UNDER THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Structures of architectural, cultural, social, scientific, historical, technical, or archaeological interest can be protected under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of the architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the act. This act superseded the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, and came into force on 1st January 2000.

The act provides for the inclusion of Protected Structures into the planning authorities' development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures. Under new legislation, no distinction is made between buildings formerly classified under development plans as List 1 and List 2. Such buildings are now all regarded as 'Protected Structures' and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the act the entire structure is protected, including a structure's interior, exterior, attendant grounds and also any structures within the attendant grounds.

The act defines a Protected Structure as (a) a structure, or (b) a specified part of a structure which is included in a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), and, where that record so indicates, includes any specified feature which is in the attendant grounds of the structure and which would not otherwise be included in this definition. Protection of the structure, or part thereof, includes conservation, preservation, and improvement compatible with maintaining its character and interest. Part IV of the act deals with architectural heritage, and Section 57 deals specifically with works affecting the character of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures and states that no works should materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure that contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The act does not provide specific criteria for assigning a special interest to a structure; however, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) offers guidelines to its field workers as to





how to designate a building with a special interest, which are not mutually exclusive. This offers guidance by example rather than by definition:

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL

It is to be noted that the NIAH is biased towards post-1700 structures. Structures that have archaeological features may be recorded, providing the archaeological features are incorporated within post-1700 elements. Industrial fabric is considered to have technical significance and should only be attributed archaeological significance if the structure has pre-1700 features.

#### ARCHITECTURAL

A structure may be considered of special architectural interest under the following criteria:

- Good quality or well executed architectural design
- The work of a known and distinguished architect, engineer, designer, craftsman
- A structure that makes a positive contribution to a setting, such as a streetscape or rural setting
- Modest or vernacular structures may be considered to be of architectural interest, as they are part of the history of the built heritage of Ireland.
- Well-designed decorative features, externally and/or internally

#### HISTORICAL

A structure may be considered of special historical interest under the following criteria:

- A significant historical event associated with the structure
- An association with a significant historical figure
- Has a known interesting and/or unusual change of use, e.g. a former workhouse now in use as a hotel
- A memorial to a historical event.

#### TECHNICAL

A structure may be considered of special technical interest under the following criteria:

- Incorporates building materials of particular interest, i.e. the materials or the technology used for construction
- It is the work of a known or distinguished engineer
- Incorporates innovative engineering design, e.g. bridges, canals, or mill weirs
- A structure which has an architectural interest may also merit a technical interest due to the structural techniques used in its construction, e.g. a curvilinear glasshouse, early use of concrete, cast-iron prefabrication.
- Mechanical fixtures relating to a structure may be considered of technical significance.

#### CULTURAL

A structure may be considered of special cultural interest under the following criteria:

- An association with a known fictitious character or event, e.g. Sandycove Martello Tower, which featured in Ulysses.
- Other structure that illustrates the development of society, such as early schoolhouses, swimming baths or printworks.

#### SCIENTIFIC

A structure may be considered of special scientific interest under the following criteria:

- A structure or place which is considered to be an extraordinary or pioneering scientific or technical achievement in the Irish context, e.g. Mizen Head Bridge, Birr Telescope.





#### SOCIAL

A structure may be considered of special social interest under the following criteria:

- A focal point of spiritual, political, national, or other cultural sentiment to a group of people, e.g. a place of worship, a meeting point, assembly rooms.
- Developed or constructed by a community or organisation, e.g. the construction of the railways or the building of a church through the patronage of the local community
- Illustrates a particular lifestyle, philosophy, or social condition of the past, e.g. the hierarchical accommodation in a country house, philanthropic housing, vernacular structures.

#### ARTISTIC

A structure may be considered of special artistic interest under the following criteria:

- Work of a skilled craftsman or artist, e.g. plasterwork, wrought-iron work, carved elements or details, stained glass, stations of the cross.
- Well-designed mass-produced structures or elements may also be considered of artistic interest.

(From the NIAH Handbook 2003 & 2005 pages 15–20)

The Local Authority has the power to order conservation and restoration works to be undertaken by the owner of the protected structure if it considers the building to need repair. Similarly, an owner or developer must make a written request to the Local Authority to carry out any works on a protected structure and its environs, which will be reviewed within three months of application. Failure to do so may result in prosecution.

#### ***Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027***

##### HER POL 14

To protect and conserve the architectural heritage of the County and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures.

##### HER POL 15

To encourage the conservation of Protected Structures, and where appropriate, the adaptive re-use of existing buildings and sites in a manner compatible with their character and significance. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure.

##### HER POL 16

To protect the setting of Protected Structures and to refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a protected structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.

##### HER POL 17

To require that all planning applications relating to Protected Structures contain the appropriate accompanying documentation in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable the proper assessment of the proposed works.





HER POL 18

To require that in the event of permission being granted for development within the curtilage of a protected structure, any works necessary for the survival of the structure and its re-use should be prioritised in the first phase of development.

It is the objective of the Council:

HER OBJ 15

To review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.

HER OBJ 16

To identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.

HER OBJ 17

To promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to protected structures or historic buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area.

HER OBJ 18

To provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.

HER OBJ 19

To commission a study over the lifetime of the Plan to assess the significance of the Mass Rocks and Holy Wells throughout County Meath.





## APPENDIX 13.5: IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as 'the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development' (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant, or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive, or neutral, direct, indirect, or cumulative, temporary, or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected, and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences, and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

*Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to*





*archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.*

#### PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.



## APPENDIX 13.6: MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

### POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce, or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

### DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

*Archaeological Test Trenching* can be defined as 'a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality, and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIfA 2014a).

*Full Archaeological Excavation* can be defined as 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (CIfA 2014b).

*Archaeological Monitoring* can be defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (CIfA 2014c).

*Underwater Archaeological Assessment* consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.





## ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

The architectural resource is generally subject to a greater degree of change than archaeological sites, as structures may survive for many years, but their usage may change continually. This can be reflected in the fabric of the building, with the addition and removal of doors, windows, and extensions. Due to their often more visible presence within the landscape than archaeological sites, the removal of such structures can sometimes leave a discernible 'gap' with the cultural identity of a population; however, a number of mitigation measures are available to ensure a record is made of any structure that is deemed to be of special interest, which may be removed or altered as part of a proposed development.

*Conservation Assessment* consists of a detailed study of the history of a building and can include the surveying of elevations to define the exact condition of the structure. These assessments are carried out by Conservation Architects and would commonly be carried out in association with proposed alterations or renovations on a Recorded Structure.

*Building Survey* may involve making an accurate record of elevations (internal and external), internal floor plans and external sections. This is carried out using an EDM (Electronic Distance Measurer) and GPS technology to create scaled drawings that provide a full record of the appearance of a building at the time of the survey.

*Historic Building Assessment* is generally specific to one building, which may have historic significance, but is not a Protected Structure or listed within the NIAH. A full historical background for the structure is researched and the site is visited to assess the standing remains and make a record of any architectural features of special interest. These assessments can also be carried out in conjunction with a building survey.

*Written and Photographic* record provides a basic record of features such as stone walls, which may have a small amount of cultural heritage importance and are recorded for prosperity. Dimensions of the feature are recorded with a written description and photographs as well as some cartographic reference, which may help to date a feature.



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