
Appendix 13.4
Field Walkover Survey
Records Sheets

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Project Name:
N2 Slane Bypass, Slane, Co Meath



EIAR FIELD SURVEY SHEET

Inspectors: Clare Crowley & Yolande O'Brien
Date: 24/01/18, 25/01/18, 10/12/2021, 10/05/2022
Weather Conditions: Generally bright with occasional showers

Townland/s: Cullen & Johnstown

Access: No issues **Field Nos:** F1 to F5

Physical environment

F1: Small pasture field, generally level, sloping very gently down to N2 road along W side. Dense hedgerow boundaries, deep drainage ditch along N2. Subdivided by wire fences. Bales of hay silage dotted throughout.

F2: Large, undulating arable field under young winter crop. Relatively level at S and sloping gently to N. Bounded by old Dublin road to E. Mature hedgerow boundaries with drainage ditches.

F3: Large, irregular-shaped field, relatively level pasture field. Good views of Hill of Slane. High earthen bank and hedgerow along roadside (N2), with the existing road at a height above the ground level within the field. Johnstown / Fennor townland boundary along NW, ditch in SW corner (where stream terminates on historic OS mapping), remainder is low hedgerow. Johnstown / Cullen townland boundary along NE corner, now a modern property boundary.

F4: Large former arable field, now under pasture, rises to SE. High mounds of dumped material in SE corner and 20th century properties along the SW side and at N end. Very restricted views except at highest point, in SE corner of field, which provides clear views of Knowth, which forms a prominent landscape feature to the E. The long defunct section of the Dublin to Slane road survives as a farm access track running between F4 & F5. Bounded by N2 road along W side. A well is marked at the side of the old roadway on the 25-inch OS map, at the boundary with F4; not depicted on the earlier first edition map or the later 1958 OS revision. There was no visible surface trace during field survey. The location is approximately where the field entrance is now.

F5: Large former arable field, now under pasture, gently undulating and rising steadily to SSW. Hedgerow boundaries. Fennor / Cullen townland boundary runs along N side, formed by mature hedgerow and ditch, with large gaps along its length where the boundary is more sparse and has been supplemented with fencing. The long defunct section of the Dublin to Slane road survives as a farm access track running between F4 & F5 (described below under Cultural Landscape). View of Knowth from E side of field.

Cultural landscape

Fennor / Cullen townland boundary is indicated as a stream on first edition OS (though not on subsequent editions), as is the boundary between Johnstown and Cullen. Few features of interest within the proposed scheme in Cullen townland; where it passes through agricultural fields along the E side of the Dublin / Slane road (N2), the mostly small dwellings depicted on the first edition OS map had been removed by the time of the later, revised edition maps (the sites of only two of these are within the proposed scheme).

The road from Dublin to Slane was straightened at some stage in the early 19th century with work completed by 1812. Prior to these improvements the road passed by Cullen House and this is the route shown on

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Taylor and Skinner's map of 1783. The remains of this old road are extant between Fennor and Knockcommon (a section within the proposed scheme runs along the boundaries of fields F4 and F5), truncated by the railway to the south, in the townlands of Knockcommon and Thurstianstown. The northern end of the road is still in regular use as a farm access track for c. 545m, where the mud surface has been recently churned up, after which it becomes grassed-over, flanked by dense, overgrown hedgerows. Local tradition holds that the straightening of the road from Dublin to Slane is said to have been carried out in order to hasten communications between the Prince Regent in London and his love, the Lady Conyngham, in Slane Castle.

Archaeological potential

Greenfield potential.

Proximity to known archaeological monuments

(Preservation, scale and mass, visibility, vulnerability, local, regional national significance)

No visible surface trace of the recorded mound (RMP ME026-003), located in a field on the opposite side of the existing N2 road to the proposed scheme where it commences. The site description in the *Archaeological Inventory of County Meath* (1987) is of a 'circular flat-topped mound (diam. 11m, H 1.6m)'. Although currently under pasture, this field appears on aerial imagery from 1995 onwards as an arable field. Surface trace of the monument appears to have been removed by ploughing activity sometime after 1987.

Within viewshed of WHP / Hill of Slane?

WHP – F5 and eastern boundary of F4.
Hill of Slane – F1, F2, F4

Additional information

No

Photographs:



F1 facing SE

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F2 facing W



F3 facing N



F4 facing south

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View of Knowth from boundary of F5



F5 facing south

All other field survey photographs held in digital archive, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy.

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View of Knowth from boundary of F5



F5 facing south

All other field survey photographs held in digital archive, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy.

Project Name:
N2 Slane Bypass, Slane, Co Meath



EIAR FIELD SURVEY SHEET

Inspectors: Clare Crowley & Yolande O'Brien
Date: 24/01/18, 25/01/18, 10/12/2021, 10/05/2022
Weather Conditions: Overcast with some bright spells and showers

Townland/s: Fennor

Access: No issues **Field Nos:** F6 to F14

Physical environment

F6 & F7: Very large former arable field, currently under pasture. Hedgerow and drainage ditch boundaries. Subdivided by wire fencing (creating F6), with mounds of spoil in NE corner. Relatively level in northern half, rises gently to S. Three small 20th century properties in NW corner (two appear on the 1958 edition 6-inch map, but not on the 1908-11 edition, with the third being more recent again), situated at junction of N2 and old NW/SE roadway, now a farm access track (see FI Sheet for Cullen / Johnstown townland).

F8: Relatively level large arable field, bounded by the N2 road along W side, with modern houses at NW corner. Gently undulating, with a low-lying area in NE corner. Clear views of Knowth, which is prominent in the view to the E, and of Hill of Slane to NNW. Fennor Castle (ME019-036) dominates the near-view to NNW.

F9: Large arable field extending along W side of a laneway that accesses Fennor House from the Fennor-Rossraree Road. Hill of Slane visible. Generally, hedgerow and drainage ditch boundaries. The land undulates gently upwards from level ground along the S at the Fennor-Rossraree Road. The lane to the W is flanked by deep ditches and mature trees. There was no evidence of any original cobbling along the laneway, which has been repeatedly re-surfaced creating a level track for modern farm access. The recorded watercourse (ME019-082) flows along this laneway. Following the watercourse upstream, several interventions were identified along its length. The culvert on the S side of the Fennor-Rossraree Road was completely obscured by vegetation, but the watercourse was followed upstream and most of the interventions depicted on the 25-inch OS map (described below) were still in situ, though the culvert beneath the laneway at the lime kiln is now a modern concrete pipe, where visible on the E side of the lane. Approximately 18m S of the lime kiln, the stream falls from a c. 2m drop created by a construction of large irregular-sized and -shaped stones; of these, only the base stone appears to have been worked to create a roughly hewn block. The watercourse from this point has been channelled to the rear of the laneway (running parallel with it), feeding a large rectangular pond that is not depicted on the historic OS mapping (presumably a lime-slacking pond). The pond is deep, with stone-built sides, now largely obscured by overgrowth. It measures c. 37m N/S by c. 10m E/W; in contrast, the plot depicted on the historic OS mapping is c. 44m by 26m. A ramp enters the pond on the S side.

The lime kiln is depicted on the historic OS mapping. It is in poor condition and the structure has been compromised by ivy and tree growth. The present ground surface almost reaches the top of the west-facing arched opening. It has a segmental-headed arched recess with shaped limestone voussoirs which is partly infilled with fire reddened material. Overgrowth obscures all but the front and part of the S side of the structure and it could not be discerned whether the high ground it was built into is natural or artificially constructed. The kiln may have been used for the burning of lime for use as an agricultural fertiliser or in the construction of Fennor House, with the interventions along the watercourse intended to facilitate its later use.

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Fennor House and the outbuildings depicted on the historic OS maps are in varying states of dereliction. The best preserved of the outbuildings is a long single-storey stone barn, which is still roofed (albeit in corrugated iron), while the two single-storey stone adjoining structures alongside the stream survive only in part. According to the landowner, Fennor House has not been lived in since before he bought the property in the 1996. The windows are blocked up and the roof remains slated, which has protected the structure thus far. However, vegetation has encroached significantly upon the N end of the building, causing damage to the chimney and roof. Vegetation is also beginning to engulf the N end of the building and has reached the eaves. The front door is open, allowing the elements to intrude on the interior. If left unchecked, it is likely that the structure will deteriorate substantially and relatively quickly.

F10: A small rough pasture field, rising steeply S from the local road (Fennor-Rossraree Road). Contained bales of recently cut grass. Modern houses along W side. Farm shed in NE corner.

F11: Very long field of rough pasture, undulating steeply down to level ground along canal. Bounded by local public road (Fennor-Rossraree Road) and hedgerow along S. Modern houses along S (road) side, on a plateau of higher ground, within a formerly wooded area marked on the historic OS maps (on which it is named Lynch's Wood). Field boundary along W side is a high dry-stone wall, c. 1.7m high, which forms a revetment to the higher ground level in the adjoining field to the west. The wall is degraded in place. It is faced with roughly hewn coursed blocks, with a rubble-stone backing. The field is subdivided by a stream (recorded watercourse ME019-082), which is fast-flowing, measuring c. 3m wide, with low banks and little vegetation along it. It flows beneath the road via a small stone-built culvert originally thought to be of late medieval date (and was subsequently placed on the SMR in 2010) but is more likely to date to c. 1800 when the road was realigned. The culvert channels a stream which runs by Fennor House under the Rossnaree Road. It is a single-arched structure, constructed of randomly coursed rubble limestone. It has an irregular arch with roughly dressed keystones and voussoirs. The stream channel on the N side of the Rossnaree Road was significantly altered in the second half of the 20th century to feed a lime-slacking pond near Fennor House (see F9).

The remains two small structures depicted on the first edition OS map were identified in the NE corner of the field, with traces of an old lane running along the field boundary from the public road down to the structures. The degraded laneway runs north-south, marked by sections of collapsed stone wall and occasional hedgerow on the west side and a slight bank on the east. The laneway leads down to the site of two buildings and on towards the canal, with an entrance to the structures created by a gap in the bank (the S terminal is faced with neatly finished stonework). The structures are located on a terrace immediately to the south of the canal. The eastern building represents the remains of a small house. The north wall survives to a height of c. 1.7m and is constructed of squared rubble limestone. The other walls survive as grassed over foundations. Immediately to the west of the house are the grassed over wall footings of a smaller structure, possibly an associated outbuilding. The structures measure 3.6m internally from north to south. External measurements for both structures were also similar, c. 7m by c. 5m. A terraced area on the N side of the eastern structure is delineated by very low and eroded earthen banks and measures c. 13m by c. 4m. While it is possible that these represent a house and outbuilding, they are small structures of equal size and may instead be two separate dwellings. Given their proximity to the canal – and the laneway that provides access to it – it is possible that they were buildings constructed and utilised during the canal construction in the late 18th century, either as dwellings, for storage, or other works (or a combination thereof).

WWII pill-box in the adjoining field, at roadside, on the E side of the field boundary with F11. It is sub-rectangular in plan and constructed of shuttered concrete. The entrance is in the base of the wall on the E side. The N wall which overlooks the river and the west wall which overlooks Slane Bridge contain splayed square-headed openings which are 0.8m W by 0.2m H. The pillbox is built into the slope along the field boundary and survives to a maximum height of 1.4m above the current ground level. The northern elevation is 2.27m in width.

F12: Overgrown rough pasture field bounded by the Rossnaree Road to the south and the canal towpath to the north. Level at the roadside, then falls steeply towards the canal. There was visible evidence of considerable disturbance within this field, evidence of past quarrying activities (as shown on the 1911 and 1958 OS maps). The field also appears to have been roughly terraced and built up at some time in the past. It is not clear how much of the ground disturbance is related to the 19th / 20th century quarrying and how much to the construction of the canal in the 18th century. Good view of the Hill of Slane.

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F13: An unclassified mill is recorded in this field (SMR ME019-120); the Proposed Scheme only clips the south-eastern corner of this field, c. 160m south-east of the mill site. It comprises a mill race and possible footings of a mill building, neither of which appear on the historic OS maps. According to the SMR file description: *Mill-race (L c. 140m; Wth 3.5m; D 0.5m) runs W-E, curving to the N at its E end until it meets the river. At its W end it is overlain by the tow-path of the canal. About 40m from its W end a subrectangular mound (dims c. 6m N-S; c. 6m E-W; H 0.35m) on its N bank has a wall-footing (Wth 0.65m; L 2.2m) on its W side and probably represents the remains of the mill building. The S face of the mill-race is also stone-faced at this point.* This is a narrow level field on the south bank of the river, with rough overgrown pasture and areas of waterlogged ground. The canal towpath runs south of and parallel to the southern field boundary.

F14: Low-lying narrow field between canal and river. Under flood waters at time of initial inspection in 2018. Visited in May 2022 – pasture field of long grass, with some areas of waterlogging. No ground surface visibility. Named ‘Mollies’ in the MFNS, possibly a derivation of the Irish word *muileann*, meaning mill; suggesting an association with the mills located across the river or an older milling tradition in this area.

River Crossing

The proposed scheme crosses over 600m upstream of the first bend in the river to the east, where the valley broadens, with no views further down the valley than the bend, but a restricted view of Knowth from the higher ground upslope of the river. Land slopes more steeply down towards the river on the S side, with what little level ground there is along the banks being utilised by the canal and tow-path. This side of the river has been quite disturbed in the past, through quarrying and canal works. Views to Slane Mill are best from the S side, being largely screened by the trees of Mill Wood in field F15; the mills are visible from the level ground along the N bank. The S bank also provides a view of Hill of Slane, though modern residential development obscures all but the church tower on the hill. Much of the level ground was under water at the time of inspection. The land is better on the N side of the river, with good pasture and a broad flood plain undisturbed by canal infrastructure, rising more gently from the river bank. Field F14 on S side of the crossing point is named ‘Mollies’ in the MFNS, possibly a derivation of the Irish word *muileann*, meaning mill; suggesting an association with the mills located across the river or an older milling tradition in this area (site of a mill is recorded on the S bank of the river just at the bend (SMR ME019-084). There is also an unclassified mill recorded in F13 to the E (SMR ME019-120): a mill race and possible footings of a mill building, neither of which appear on the historic OS maps.

Cultural landscape

The course of the Dublin to Slane road on the first edition OS map is that of the present N2, crossing the river on Slane Bridge, crossing the canal and passing Fennor Castle and Church which occupy a site on the S side of the road as it curves round from E to S. No other features of note along the road on the historic OS mapping.

The recorded watercourse (SMR ME019-082) is depicted on the first edition OS map. The sites of two small buildings in an L-shaped plot are also shown, located on the S side of the canal and possibly associated with it (see description above in F11). The watercourse is culverted beneath the eastern approach road to Slane Bridge (Fennor-Rossraree Road) and a laneway that leads S off it; the watercourse is depicted flowing along the E side of the lane. The Fennor-Rossraree Road is shown with an irregular alignment on the Ralph Howard estate map of 1790. The road is shown in its present straightened form by the time of the 1836 first edition OS 6-inch map. It is likely that the culvert dates to around 1800 and was built at the time of road straightening. Several buildings and plots are depicted along this secondary road.

By the time of the 1908-11 25-inch OS map, the watercourse had been significantly altered. Following it from its course upstream of Fennor House to the culvert at the Fennor-Rossraree Road: the watercourse flows along the E side of the lane; at Fennor House it appears to be culverted beneath the broad entrance to the farm yard (it may be that this entrance was simply a ford as it is today); it then continues along the side of an outbuilding, flowing E away from the laneway alongside a large rectangular plot (another section of watercourse flows along the E side of this plot), before kinking and continuing N, through another culvert; it is then culverted beneath the laneway at the lime kiln to emerge on the W side; it enters the road culvert along the W rather than the E side of the lane (as depicted on the first edition OS map).

The single building on the W side of the laneway is named Fennor House on the 25-inch OS map, set within a copse of trees and is still in situ, albeit derelict (described above, under F56 etc). The site of the buildings

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on the E side of the road (all of which are shown as disused by the time of the 25-inch OS map) is now derelict (the yard remains roughly the same shape as that shown on the first edition OS). A lime kiln is shown on the first edition OS map

A gravel pit is indicated on the first edition OS on the S side of the eastern approach road to Slane Bridge; the site lies within a modern property, outside the proposed scheme .

River Boyne forms the N townland boundary between Fennor and Slane.

A surviving WWII pill-box, at roadside, just E of the eastern field boundary of F11 (described above) is depicted on the 1958 revised edition OS 6-inch map.

Archaeological potential

Greenfield and riverine potential.

Field name 'Mollies' associated with the two fields (one of which is F14) along the riverbank that run NW of recorded mill site ME019-084. Another unclassified mill site (ME019-120) is recorded in F13. Possible milling activity along the southern riverbank.

Proximity to known archaeological monuments

(Preservation, scale and mass, visibility, vulnerability, local, regional national significance)

Recorded watercourse (SMR ME019-082). Described above. Initially identified as a possibly late medieval culvert, but cartographic evidence suggests 19th century.

Recorded sites along the proposed scheme (Public Realm) in Fennor townland include Slane Bridge (ME019-024), Fennor Castle (tower house & 16th/17th century house; ME019-036001 & 002), Fennor Church (ME019-035, & graveyard, high cross, graveslab), souterrain (ME019-037).

Within viewshed of WHP / Hill of Slane?

WHP: F6-F11

Hill of Slane: Yes

Additional information

None

Photographs:

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F6, facing SSE to F7



F8 facing ENE

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View of Knowth from F8



F9 rising to S from Rossnaree Road

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F9 facing NW towards Hill of Slane



F10 facing SSW

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Retaining stone field boundary wall between F11 and F12



View ENE from F11, showing low-lying fields along the river side under water

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View across the river from F11 to F15 and F17 in Slane townland



Large quarry pit at E end of F12, overlooking Slane Mill to NW



F12 facing E towards quarry pit

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View NE from F12



W end of F12 facing NW



F12 viewed from tow-path, facing S

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F13, facing E. Buildings of Slane Mill on left side in image.



F14 facing ENE

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Stream (SMR watercourse ME019-082) flowing through F11, facing NNW



Culvert in F11

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Foundation remains of house sites at E end of F11

All other field survey photographs held in digital archive, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy.

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Project Name:
N2 Slane Bypass, Slane, Co Meath



EIAR FIELD SURVEY SHEET

Inspectors: Clare Crowley & Yolande O'Brien
Date: 24/01/2018, 10/12/2021, 10/05/2022
Weather Conditions: Mostly dry, partly overcast

Townland/s: Slane & Cashel

Access: No access to F25, private garden. **Field Nos:** F15 to F33

Physical environment

F15: Field of rough pasture on the banks of the Boyne, relatively level along its N boundary, then undulates steeply down to a level area alongside the river. Much of the level ground was under the floodwaters of the river at the time of inspection. Large area of rock outcrop and gorse in NW quadrant. Bounded by band of woodland (Mill Wood) and mature tree boundary along W side. Slane Mill visible beyond the trees from the low ground along the river. Also good view of Fennor's Castle.

F16: Very large pasture field, undulating and sloping steadily down towards the river to S. Hedgerow boundaries. Small copse of trees on natural height at southern boundary, beyond which is Mill Wood. Informal pathway runs between the two; although this is not marked on any of the historic OS maps, it may have functioned as a route from Janeville to the mills.

F17: Large irregular-shaped pasture field sloping steadily down towards the river to S. Hedgerow boundaries. Farm track along NE. A stone wall boundary encloses the copse of mature trees that surround the remains of Janeville Cottage and farmstead depicted on the first edition OS map (now in use as a modern farm yard). The remains of a two-storey farm-house and attractive courtyard buildings that are shown on the 1836 map survive on the NW side of the yard.

F18: Large relatively level pasture field, undulating only slightly down to SSW, subdivided by a wire fence. Farm access track (a broad tree-lined section of road on the first edition OS map, continuing as a path to Janeville Cottage) runs along the E side of the field. Very few of the mature trees remain along its length, with recently cut hedgerow and sloping earthen banks flanking the tarmac-surfaced lane. Remains of lodge in NE corner, in small area densely overgrown with trees and undergrowth, directly opposite the Ledwidge museum.

F19: Large triangular-shaped pasture field, relatively level, undulating slightly. Hedgerow boundaries, with N51 road at northern end and dry-stone wall boundary along S side. The wall is constructed of uncoursed rubble stone, with no coping or distinctive features, and stands c. 1m high.

F20: Narrow, level pasture field, with hedgerow boundaries and laneway to Janeville Cottage along W. View SW of Fennor's Castle (RMP ME019-036). Slane / Cashel townland boundary is mature hedgerow and otherwise unremarkable. This is in contrast with a section of the townland boundary in a large field c. 200m south (beyond the Proposed Scheme), which survives as a double-earthen bank flanking a broad shallow dry ditch, with mature trees.

F21: Large pasture field bounded by N51 road to N. Relatively level, rising up to SE corner. Mature hedgerow boundaries and restricted views. Modern house in NE corner. Slane / Cashel townland boundary is mature hedgerow.

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F22 / F23: These appear as one very large pasture field sloping generally up to the N, with only a small section of the dividing field boundary surviving between the two fields. They are separated by hedgerow, which is depicted on the OS 25-inch map of 1911. Prior to 1911, the fields were not separated but formed one large field incorporating Limekiln Hill and the area extending east of it. Distinct rise in northern half is Lime Kiln Hill, a natural height composed of rock outcrop. Very overgrown, with gorse and trees. Extensively quarried during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Lime kiln is marked on the historic OS mapping and survives as scant foundation remains. The Slane / Cashel townland boundary runs along the W side of the field, formed by a line of mature hedgerow and trees, with a distinct drop in the ground level on the other side (in Slane townland). Good views over the Boyne from the high ground in the northern half of the field, to the WHP, Hill of Slane and other hills to the N.

F24: Small pasture field with fenced boundaries and N51 road to north. Rises slightly away from the roadside to the south. The early morning sun provided good low-relief visibility. No features of archaeological interest were visible.

F25: Large landscaped garden surrounding modern house.

F26: Field of rough pasture undulating gently down to N51 road along S side. Waterlogging evident in central area at time of inspection. Townland boundary between Slane and Cashel along E side formed by mature trees, earthen bank and ditch. Collapsed stone wall boundary along N side. Only a small section of low hedgerow survives of the boundary along W side.

F27: Very large area of good pastureland around the NE, N and W slopes of Norris Hill and extending to a low-lying, waterlogged area to the NW (under water at the time of inspection), bounding F28. Hedgerow boundaries with internal wire and post sub-divisions. Dry-stone wall boundary along W side. The wall is quite degraded (the highest section is c. 0.70m high) with collapse along much its length. Mature thorn trees straddle the boundary. Two incised linear marks were noted on one of the stones at the northern end of the boundary. Collapsed stone wall boundary also noted at F26 (below) and stone also noted in boundaries around Norris Hill. Townland boundary between Slane and Cashel along E side formed by mature trees, earthen bank and ditch.

F28: Very large arable field under crop stubble, level in northern half before sloping gently to S. The sizeable lot containing Grassland Agro industrial fertiliser plant bounds field F28 to the west and south.

F29 & F30: Two of three recently ploughed arable fields, all sloping steadily down to the SE. Separated by sparse hedgerow boundaries. Good views of Hill of Slane.

F31: Very large pasture field, relatively level at N end, sloping down to stream along S side. Mooretown / Slane townland boundary along E side, formed by hedgerow and low earthen bank with deep drainage ditch.

F32 & 33: Two large fields of rough pasture (F32 to E and F33 to W), separated by a sparse boundary formed by a low dry-stone wall at the N end, with gorse and hedgerow along remainder. Land undulates gently down to N51 road along S side. Excellent views from the high points along the N boundary (at Norris Hill and Gallows Hill in F33), over the River Boyne, towards the WHP and of Knowth, and to Hill of Slane. Mature trees enclose the properties in the SE corner of F32, providing a high, dense screen for the Francis Ledwidge Museum. The latter is located within the house of his birthplace, a 19th century farm-labourer's cottage (built some time after the 1836 first edition OS map, it is depicted on the revised edition mapping of 1882-4; Ledwidge was born in 1887). The cottage fronts onto the busy N51 road, with a garden sloping up to the rear, parking to the W and mature boundaries on all sides. Well-preserved lime-kiln located close to the hill top in F32, c. 13m from the boundary with F33 (within Route E, at its eastern edge). Constructed of roughly coursed limestone and built into the natural hill slope, it stands almost to full height (c. 6-7m H by c. 6m W), with a double-arched red-brick stepped recess centrally placed at the front (c. 2.8m wide). This recess would provide a draw hole and access to the base of the kiln from which the fuel was lit and freshly burnt lime could be raked out. The back of the recess is blocked by large stones, possibly collapse from the interior of the kiln bowl.

[Description of River Crossing in FI Sheet for Fennor Townland]

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Cultural landscape

The present N2 runs through Slane townland and into Slane village after the crossing of the Boyne at Slane Bridge (RMP ME019-024); this is the same course as the early 19th century road shown on the first edition OS six-inch map. Occasional houses depicted along the roadside, with one particular cluster (including a Pound) where the road crosses a stream (culvert / bridge is marked). Most of these buildings are now gone and the site of the pound is a modern farmyard.

No features are depicted on the historic OS mapping within or near the proposed scheme, which passes through agricultural fields before reaching the western approach road to Slane village (present N51). Stanley Hill, Norris Hill and Gallows Hill are depicted as wooded knolls on the first edition OS map. None are so-named on this edition (named as Stanley Hill Wood, Norriss [*sic*] Hill Wood and Gallows Hill Wood) and none of the recorded archaeological sites present in this area are depicted. Gallows Hill and Stanley Hill represent two high points on a larger hilltop (as shown by the contour lines on the revised edition OS 6-inch map (1958); the trees had been removed from all three hills by this time (rock outcrops are depicted on Stanley and Norris Hills) and a reservoir had been built into the SW slopes of Stanley Hill. A lime kiln is depicted in the lower slopes of Norris Hill (in F32) by the time of the 1908-11 edition OS 25-inch map (the structure survives almost intact and is described above).

On the S side of the eastern approach road to Slane village (present N51), a lime kiln is also depicted (present N51) at Limekiln Hill (very little remains; described under F22). The proposed scheme crosses the sites of two small cottages on the roadside (one of which is named a lodge on the revised OS map; structural remains survive in a copse of trees) and the tree-lined avenue (now in use as a farm track) that provides access to Janeville Cottage (associated outbuildings appear to be extant within copse of trees adjacent modern farmyard). It then continues through agricultural fields to the river, to the E of a band of woodland containing Mill Lodge and a flour mill (named on 25-inch OS as Mill Wood).

A fish weir is indicated on first edition OS on the N bank of the river (ME019-083), with a second weir depicted to the SE in Crewbane townland.

River Boyne forms the townland boundary along S side of Slane townland.

Archaeological potential

Greenfield and riverine potential.

One recorded enclosure site is within proposed scheme (ME019-085), on W side of Cashel / Slane townland boundary, in Slane townland. A second enclosure site to the WNW of this, also in Slane townland (ME019-088) and possible field system (ME019-098) further W again, both outside the proposed scheme, in the same large pasture field (F27). No visible surface trace. Sites identified through geophysical survey / LiDAR.

A number of other sites are recorded in the vicinity of the Norris Hill / Stanley Hill area: two cashels (the only upstanding monuments – see below, RMP ME019-062 & -063), and an enclosure site (SMR ME019-102) and linear earthwork (SMR ME019-092), of which there is no visible surface trace.

Recorded fish weir (ME019-083) over 300m downriver to the E. Site under water at time of inspection.

Recorded sites on / immediately alongside the existing N2 road for the length of the public realm works in Slane townland include Slane Bridge (ME019-024) and a souterrain (ME019-008), the exact location of which is unknown. The bridge is one of the earliest known crossings of the River Boyne and contains elements from various periods, from the 14th century to the present day.

Proximity to known archaeological monuments

(Preservation, scale and mass, visibility, vulnerability, local, regional national significance)

RMP / SMR sites on or near the proposed scheme are predominantly sub-surface (as described above), with the exception of two cashels located outside the proposed scheme. Of the two cashels, RMP ME019-062 on Stanley Hill is the best preserved, with the enclosing low dry-stone wall surviving almost the entire

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circumference. The neighbouring cashel to the S on Gallows Hill has been damaged by quarrying (RMP ME019-063). Neither is located close to the proposed scheme; the ZAP for ME019-063 is closest at c. 55m W of Route E (ME019-062 is c. 135m W). Although both are prominently located on Stanley Hill and Gallows Hill, the monuments themselves are well absorbed into the landscape, which contains other dry-stone wall boundaries, a lime kiln and rock outcrops.

Within viewshed of WHP / Hill of Slane?

WHP: F30 at E boundary, F32, F33, F22

Hill of Slane: F31, F28-F30, F26-F27, F19-F22

Additional information

None

Photographs:

View S from high point in F15 in January 2018, showing river in flood

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F16 looking S over the valley



Informal pathway at Mill Wood, at S end of F16, facing W

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F17 facing SSW across the river valley



View NW of F18



Ledwidge Museum cottage on N51, facing N

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F19 facing NW, towards Hill of Slane



Stone wall field boundary at S end of F19



View over valley from F22, S of Limekiln Hill

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Quarried out knoll of Limekiln Hill, F22



Quarry at Limekiln Hill, F22

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F24 facing SE



View SSW of F26, towards F21



View S of F32 from Norris Hill

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F27 facing NW towards the Hill of Slane.



View F28 (ploughed field) from F27, with Grassland Agro fertiliser plant visible beyond. Facing WNW



View S in F27 up to ridge of high ground

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View NW towards location of recorded enclosure sites (ME019-062 & -063) on Stanley Hill and Gallows Hill from F33



Drystone enclosure boundary around hill top at Stanley Hill / Gallows Hill

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View of Stanley Hill from NNW, with houses at Ledwidge Hall visible on right in image



F28, looking SSE towards F27



F29 and F30, facing SE

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F31 facing SSW

All other field survey photographs held in digital archive, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy.