

10

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**



## 10 CULTURAL HERITAGE

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### 10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), addresses the effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the application site and the surrounding area of a proposal to further development of an existing quarry over approximately 64.0 hectares (ha.) located in the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog, Co. Kildare.

#### 10.1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The lands the subject of this EIAR (the subject lands) at approximately 95.8 ha (EIA study area) entirely encompasses the Section 37L application area of approximately 64.0 ha. The reserve at this quarry is greywacke rock, overlain by sand and gravel. The reserve is traditionally excavated by blasting and mechanical means, primarily processed by mobile plant at the working face. In this case, however, blasting has not occurred in the period since 07267 expired on 18 September 2020. Excavated material is transported to a centrally located existing administration and processing plant area, that holds further processing plant (washing, screening, grading). This plant and processing area is an established part of the quarry area.

#### 10.1.2 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

This study is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified study area relating to the proposed development and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment.

It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022).

The criteria and definitions for describing effect is drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines Table 3.4 Description of Effects. The study involved detailed investigation of the cultural heritage, archaeological, architectural, and historical background of the application area and the surrounding area. The overall study area extends 1km from the application area and is presented in Figure 10-1.

The area was examined using information from:

- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-29
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-28
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Kildare
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Wicklow
- The Sites and Monuments Record
- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
- Aerial photographs
- Previous investigations
- Cartographic sources
- Documentary sources



Note that although the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was signed into law by the President on October 13, 2023, the act had not been commenced at the time this assessment was prepared. This assessment uses the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, which were still in force at the time the assessment was completed.

A Field inspection was carried out on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. This involved an inspection of all the lands in the application area.

The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management and is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland an.

An effect assessment and mitigation strategy have been prepared. An effect assessment is undertaken to identify likely significant adverse effects that the proposed development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse effects.

### **10.1.3 LOCATION AND SETTING**

The Section 37L application area is located in the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog Co. Kildare, on OS Six Inch Sheet No. 25, approximately 1.8 km north-west of the town of Blessington and approximately 1.4km north-west of the N81 road.

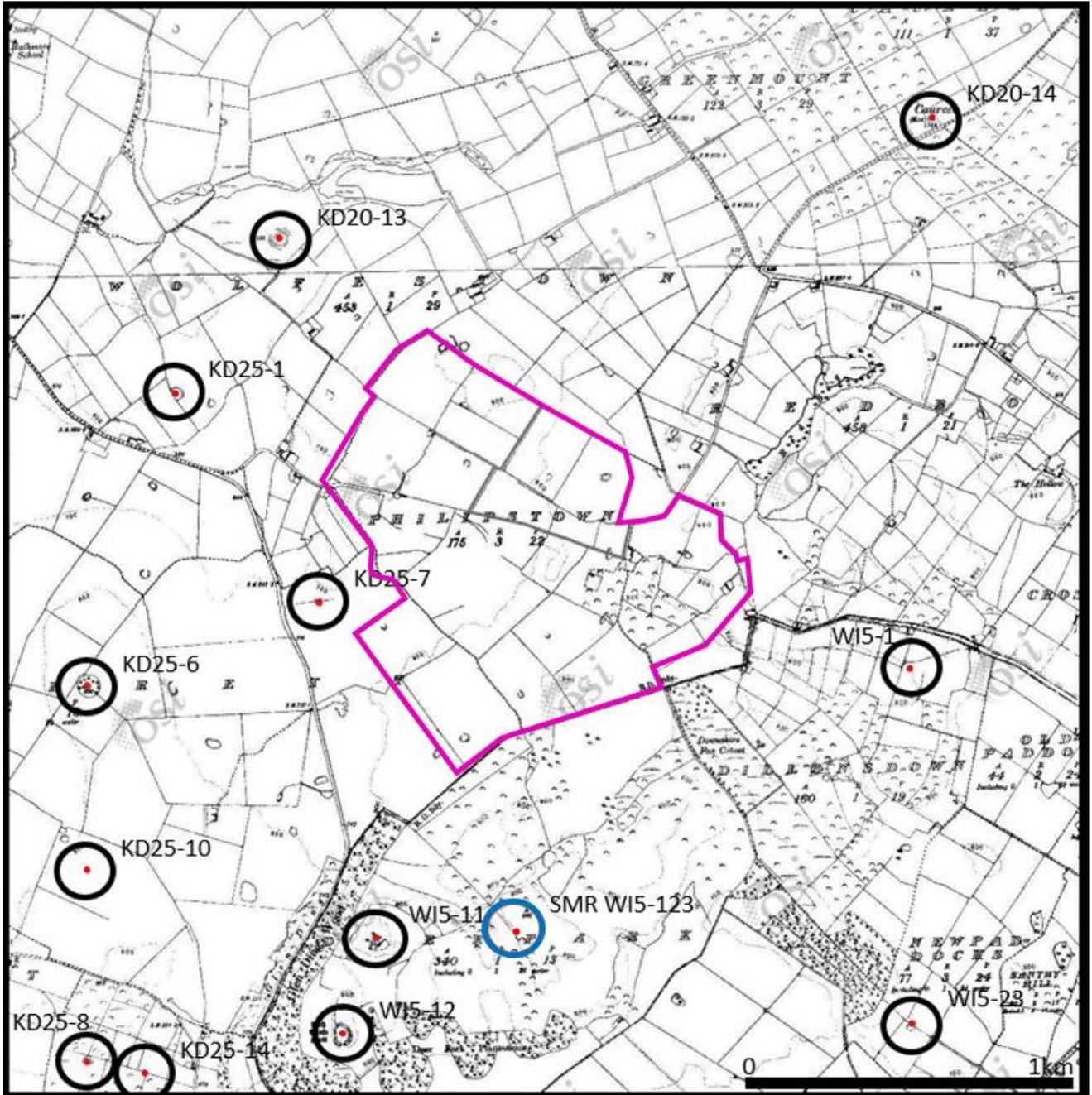


Figure 10-1. The EIA study area is indicated with the purple line. RMPs are indicated with black circles and SMRs with blue circles.

## 10.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

### 10.2.1 LEGISLATION

Apart from the EIA Directive, no specific Irish legislation exists governing cultural heritage assessments.

## 10.2.2 RELEVANT POLICIES AND PLANS

The County Kildare Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP) is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives/policies of the local authority. The plan includes objectives and policies, relevant to this assessment, i.e., with regard to cultural heritage.

The Councils aim is to protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations

### 10.2.2.1 Cultural Heritage

Chapter 11 of the Kildare County Development Plan sets out the policies on cultural heritage within the county. The Council recognises the importance of identifying, valuing and safeguarding the archaeological and architectural heritage of Kildare.

#### Archaeology Resource

The following policy, objectives and actions are set out in Section 11.10 of the KCDP:

**Policy AH P2** Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and where appropriate and following detailed assessment, their setting, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or subsurface and underwater archaeological remains.

**Objective AH O2** Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of County Kildare, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, including underwater cultural heritage. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Objective AH O3** In co-operation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage require archaeological impact assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring and/or underwater archaeological impact assessments for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance and where a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits, based on recommendations of a suitably qualified archaeologist and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Objective AH O4** Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features, objects and areas of underwater archaeological heritage.

**Objective AH O5** Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of the setting of archaeological monuments. As a general principle, views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, archaeological visual impact assessments will be required to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context.

**Objective AH O6** Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of:

- the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994
- any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest including underwater cultural heritage and protected wrecks.
- any subsurface archaeological features including those underwater, that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural/development works in the operational area of the Plan. Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings.

**Objective AH O7** Contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with rivers and associated features.

**Objective AH O8** Protect historic burial grounds that are recorded monuments and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles in co-operation with the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.

**Objective AH O9** Promote and support in partnership with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the concept of Archaeological Landscapes where areas contain several Recorded Monuments.

**Objective AH O10** Require that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites identified in Kildare Industrial Archaeology Survey (2007) or otherwise identified as being of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an industrial archaeology assessment of the surrounding environment. New development should be designed in sympathy with and to protect existing features and structures.

**Action AH A2** Where possible, facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate archaeological information and advice to prospective developers and the general public.

**Action AH A3** Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the landowners.

**Action AH A4** Support and encourage the provision of signage in Irish and English to publicly accessible recorded monuments.

**Action AH A5** Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Curragh Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan, when prepared, in association with relevant stakeholders, within the lifetime of this Development Plan.

**Action AH A6** Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives.



## Features of Historical Interest

The following policy, objectives and actions are set out in Section 11.13 of the KCDP:

**Policy AH P5** Secure the identification, protection and conservation of historic items and features of interest throughout the county including street furniture, surface finishes, roadside installations, items of industrial heritage, riverine heritage, and other stand-alone features of interest (items not listed on the RMP or RPS).

**Objective AH O19** Ensure that development within the county including Council development retains, refurbishes and incorporates features of historical interest, as deemed appropriate in each instance.

**Action AH A9** Develop a database of features of historical interest including street furniture, surface finishes, roadside installations, items of industrial heritage, riverine heritage, and other stand-alone features of interest (items not listed on the RMP or RPS) within villages and towns in County Kildare and ensure they are included in relevant Local Area Plans.

## Architectural Heritage

The following policy, objectives and actions are set out in Section 11.15 of the KCDP:

**Policy AH P6** Protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development in order to ensure its survival, protection and maintenance for future generations.

**Objective AH O20** Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained on the Record of Protected Structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

**Objective AH O21** Protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development that would adversely impact on the setting, curtilage, or attendant grounds of a protected structure, cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and/or any structures of architectural heritage value within its curtilage. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire built heritage complex and contributes positively to that aim.

**Objective AH O22** Refuse planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure unless the Council is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. The demolition of a protected structure with the retention of its façade will likewise not generally be permitted.

**Objective AH O23** Require an Architectural Heritage Assessment Report, as described in Appendix B of the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), to accompany all applications with potential for visual or physical impacts on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting. This report should be prepared by a person with conservation expertise that is appropriate to the significance of the historic building or site and the complexity of the proposed works.

### Objective AH O24

- Safeguard the amenities of Castletown House including the main avenue, Donaghcumper, St Wolstans and the River Liffey environs as shown on Map V1 - 11.14.
- Safeguard the amenities of The Wonderful Barn including the adjacent buildings.

**Objective AH O25** Maintain the views from Castletown House to the River Liffey and to protect the integrity of the designed landscape at Castletown Demesne, including the pathways, avenues, and the following views:

- Axial views between Castletown House and the Conolly Folly, Obelisk.
- Views between Castletown House and the Wonderful Barn including the trees and natural growth areas within same.
- Views from the House to the river and across the back parterre
- Views across the river and to the linked demesnes of Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans.
- Views from the main avenue to, and across, the river towards Castletown, and up and down the river to Celbridge and New Bridges.
- ensuring development does not inappropriately encroach on same.

**Objective AH O26** Require that planning applications in proximity to ‘Views to be Preserved’ are accompanied by a Visual Impact Assessment.

**Objective AH O27** Maintain the views to and from Carton House and protect the character of the historic designed landscape within Carton Demesne, as outlined in Map V1 - 11.13.

**Objective AH O28** Support the re-development of Clongowes Wood College to ensure the continued and enhanced educational use of this protected structure. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire complex including the structures, demesne and/or attendant grounds.

**Objective AH O29** Preserve and protect the historic, architectural, and military heritage of The Curragh Camp. Ensure that proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds demonstrates that it is part of an overall strategy to protect the heritage significance of the entire Curragh Camp.

**Objective AH O30** Ensure that, in the event of planning permission being granted for development within the curtilage and attendant grounds of a protected structure, a sustainable use and appropriate maintenance plan is in place for the structure and any associated buildings or structures of heritage interest. The proposed works to the protected structure should occur in the first phase of the development to prevent endangerment, abandonment and dereliction of the structure.

**Objective AH O31** Protect the designed landscapes associated with protected structures and retain important elements of the built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, pathways, and avenues within the curtilage and attendant grounds of protected structures.

**Objective AH O32** Ensure that new development will not adversely impact on the setting of a protected structure or obscure established views of its principal elevations.

**Objective AH O33** Promote best practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of, and any works to, protected structures. Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment reports should make reference to the DHLGH Advice Series on how best to repair and maintain historic buildings. The AHIA report should summarise the principal impacts on the character and special interest of the structure or site and describe how it is proposed to minimise these impacts. It may also describe how the works have been designed or specified to have regard to the character of the architectural heritage.

**Objective AH O34** Encourage high quality design in relation to planning applications that are made for the construction of extensions or new buildings affecting protected structures or older buildings of

architectural merit not included in the RPS. The Council will have regard for the visual impacts on the setting and character of protected structures and/or buildings of architectural merit not included on the RPS, when considering applications on neighbouring sites.

**Objective AH O35** Favourably consider the change of use of any structure included on the Record of Protected Structures, where such a change of use does not adversely impact on its intrinsic character or special interest and where such a use may otherwise not conform to the zoning matrix associated with any Local Area Plan.

**Objective AH O36** Actively encourage uses that are compatible with the character of protected structures. In certain cases, the Planning Authority may relax site restrictions / development standards in order to secure the preservation and restoration of a protected structure or building of architectural merit that is not included on the RPS.

**Objective AH O37** Promote the use of energy upgrade materials and technologies that follow good conservation practice and are compatible with the character and vapour permeable construction of traditionally built structures.

**Objective AH O38** Support appropriate and sensitive thermal upgrade of protected structures and other heritage buildings. These works shall be undertaken with the necessary planning permission / statutory declarations with the advice of Kildare County Council's Architectural Conservation Officer.

**Objective AH O39** Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and aesthetic merit which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of the streetscape or landscape and the sustainable development of the county. Any works associated with the re-use of such buildings should be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

**Objective AH O40** Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial buildings of heritage interest, provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

**Objective AH O41** Promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise, the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.

**Objective AH O42** Retain where practicable a protected structure which has been damaged by fire, and to retain those elements of that structure that have survived (either in whole or in part) and that contribute to its special interest.

**Objective AH O43** Ensure that national guidelines and the principles of conservation best practice are followed in assessing the significance of a Protected Structure and in considering the impact of proposed development on the character and special interest of the structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.

**Objective AH O44** Co-operate with Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance and enhancement of the Royal Canal and Grand Canal and associated structures/features. Such projects shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.

**Objective AH O45** Support the implementation of the National Policy on Architecture, 'Places for People' prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Action AH A10** Review and amend on an ongoing basis the Record of Protected Structures and make additions, deletions and corrections as appropriate over the period of this Plan.

**Action AH A11** Prepare a Buildings at Risk Register to prevent the endangerment of Protected Structures, historic or vernacular buildings.

**Action AH A12** Carry out an audit and assess the condition of all protected structures within the Council's ownership and devise a management plan including a range of proposed uses for these structures, which may include community uses.

**Action AH A13** Carry out field surveys of industrial heritage in the county and make recommendations for its protection.

**Action AH A14** Carry out an audit of all historic rail and road bridges and disused railway lines in Kildare and liaise with Iarnród Éireann and Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the management, maintenance and enhancement of same.

**Action AH A15** Carry out a pilot study on the sympathetic re-use of a Protected Structure/ or groups of buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) to address high quality residential reuse in historic urban cores of towns and villages.

### 10.2.3 RELEVANT GUIDANCE

The report format and some of the descriptions of effects are based on the Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2022

## 10.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

This study which complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022).

The criteria and definitions for describing effects set out below is drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines.



**Table 10-1 – Effect criteria and definitions, EPA EIAR Guidelines 2022.**

Quality of Effects	<b>Positive:</b> A change which improves the quality of the environment.
	<b>Neutral:</b> No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds or variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	<b>Negative/adverse effects:</b> A change which reduces the quality of the environment.
Significance of effects	<b>Imperceptible:</b> An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
	<b>Not significant:</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.
	<b>Slight effects:</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	<b>Moderate effects:</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
	<b>Significant effects:</b> An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	<b>Very Significant effects:</b> An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	<b>Profound effects:</b> An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing extent & context of effects	<b>Extent:</b> Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of population affected by an effect.
	<b>Context:</b> Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions.
Describing Probability of effects	<b>Likely effects:</b> The effects can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	<b>Unlikely effects:</b> The effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing duration & frequency of effects	<b>Momentary effects:</b> Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	<b>Brief effects:</b> Effects lasting less than a day.
	<b>Temporary effects:</b> Effects lasting less than a year.
	<b>Short-term effects:</b> Effects lasting one to seven years.
	<b>Short-term effects:</b> Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	<b>Long term-term effects:</b> Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	<b>Permanent effects:</b> Effects lasting over sixty years.
	<b>Reversible effects:</b> Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
Describing the types of effects	<b>Frequency of effects:</b> Describe how the effect will occur.
	<b>Indirect effects:</b> Impacts on the environment which are not a direct result of the project.
	<b>Cumulative effects:</b> The addition of minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger more significant effect.
	<b>'Do-Nothing Effects':</b> The environment as it would be in the future should the project not be carried out.
	<b>'Worst case' effects:</b> The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	<b>Indeterminable effects:</b> When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	<b>Irreversible effects:</b> When the character distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	<b>Residual effects:</b> The degree of environmental change that will, occur after the proposed mitigation measures take effect.
<b>Synergistic effects:</b> Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.	

## 10.4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

### 10.4.1 THE LANDSCAPE

The Section 37L application area and EIA study area are located in the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog Co. Kildare, on OS Six Inch Sheet No. 25, approximately 1.4 km north-west of the town of Blessington and approximately 1.4 km north-west of the N81 road. The local soil is a fine loamy drift with limestones overlying drift with limestones (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>).

### 10.4.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following is a brief summation of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the surrounding landscape. It is intended to place the types of sites and monuments in the study area in context. The EIA study area is situated in the Barony of Naas North and the parish of Rathmore.

#### 10.4.2.1 Prehistoric Period

There are two Bronze Age burials known from the study area in Dillonsdown (RMP WI005-001----) and Athgarrett (RMP KD025-007----) townlands that indicate prehistoric activity in the Bronze Age. There is also a ring-barrow (prehistoric burial monument) in Newtownpark (RMP KD025-008----) and a mound in Caureen townland (RMP KD020-014----) that may also be the remains of a prehistoric burial monument (see Appendix 10A).

#### 10.4.2.2 Early medieval period

In the Early Medieval period (500 AD-1170 AD) the study area formed part of the Kingdom of Leinster which was ruled by 68 Kings from various inter-related families from the fifth century AD, commencing with Bressal Belach (died c.436 AD) and ceasing with Diarmait Mac Murchade who died in 1171. The earliest historical dynasty associated with Leinster is the Dal Messin Corb who were by the 7th-8th centuries replaced by the Uí Mail and the Uí Dunlainge. The Uí Dunlainge, who occupied the Liffey Plain to the northwest of the Wicklow Mountains, held the provincial over kingship of Leinster from 738 until 1042, when the Uí Chennselaig assumed the kingship. On the death of Diarmait Mac Murchade, of Uí Chennselaig, Leinster passed, through his daughter, to her husband, Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, who became the first Norman Lord of Leinster. From the Uí Dunlainge are descended the Uí Faelain who had their political centre at Naas and ruled the eastern part of the plain of Airthir Liphí, the Liffey plain (Byrne 1973, 150). There are a number of references to the Uí Faelain in the Annals of the Four Masters commencing in the ninth century and concluding in the thirteenth. Classically settlement in the Early Medieval period is indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts. There are ringforts known in Wolfestown (RMP KD025-001---) and Deerpark (RMP WI005-012----) townlands and enclosures in Wolfestown (RMP KD020-013---), Athgarrett (RMP KD025-006----), Newtownpark (RMP KD025-014----), Deerpark (RMP WI005-011----) and Newpaddocks (RMP WI005-023----) Townlands, that may be the remains of ringforts, indicating extensive early medieval settlement in the study area.

#### 10.4.2.3 Medieval period

Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, King of Leinster, Killed the King of Ui-Faelain in 1141 and relations between Ui-Faelain and Murchadha were uneasy throughout the period. In 1166 the Ui-Faelain supported the High-King Ruaidhri OConchobhair's invasion of Ui Cheinnselaig and forced Murchadha to flee to Britain later in the year. He returned the following year aided by Norman mercenaries and retook Ui

Cheinnselaig and the town of Wexford. In 1169 he invaded Ossory and overran the Ui-Faelain lordship. On the death of Diarmaid Mac Murchadha in 1171 his son-in-law Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare claimed the Lordship of Leinster and this was confirmed to him by King Henry II the same year. By the time of his death in 1176, when Leinster passed to King Henry II, the process of sub-infeudation (the granting of lands by lords to their dependents, to be held by feudal tenure) was well under way in much of Leinster. The Ui Faeláin lands in the study area were granted to Maurice FitzGerald who established the manor of Rathmore with its caput and motte and bailey castle to the north of the study area (Otway Ruthven 1980, 43, MacCotter 2008, 174-177). In 1185 John, Lord of Ireland, confirmed the grant of the manor of Rathmore to Maurice FitzGerald (MacNiochail 1964, 14). In 1293 Rathmore passed to John FitzThomas who subsequently became the Earl of Kildare (MacNiochail 1964, 67) The Earl's of Kildare held Rathmore until the rebellion of Silken Thomas in 1534.

#### 10.4.2.4 Post-medieval period

Following the Kildare rebellion of 1534, the FitzGerald lands were confiscated by the Royal Government and in 1541 King Henry VIII leased Rathmore, including Phillipiston, Ratynekil, Monfynn, possessions of Earl of Kildare who had been attainted and Haynestown, Agarret, Little Newtown, 3 Castles by the Mountain side and Comyngston, possessions of James FitzGerald, who had been attainted, to Walter Trott (Tudor Fiants Henry VIII No. 184). In 1546 Henry VIII granted John Travers the manor of Ratymore along with Rathorkyll, Monefyne, Phillipeston, Heyneston, Athgarrett and Three Castles near the Mountains (Morrin 1861, 116-7). In 1550 John Travers sold the lands granted him by the King in 1547 to a group consisting of Luke Netterville, Thomas Talbote, Thomas FitzWilliams, Thomas Fyan, Thomas Creafe, Thomas Fleming, Patrick Barnewall and Richard Field. In 1567 John Allen leased Rathmore with Three Castles for 51 years from Queen Elizabeth (Tudor Fiants Elizabeth No. 1087).

The Civil Survey records that John Cheevers held Agarard (Athgarrett) and Redbog along with William Eustace, Edward Allen, Nicholas Sutton, John Seagrave, and Handcocke Long, and William Eustace had Pheelipstownne (Philipstown) in 1640 (Simington 1952). By 1670 Athgarrett and Redbog had come into the hands of Charles Berkeley, Lord Fitzharding and Philipstown was held by Christopher Eustace.

In 1667 the Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Chancellor, Michael Boyle, bought the lordship of Threecastles, previously the property of the Cheevers family for £1,000. Boyle received a Royal Charter to establish the town of Blessington, in the townland of Munfine, as a borough. Construction of Blessington House was begun in 1673 and afterwards St. Mary's Church in Blessington, which was completed in 1683 (Trant 2004, 31-3). At this period the formal gardens of Blessington Demesne and the Deerpark was laid out. On Boyle's death in 1702 his son Morough, Baron Boyle and Viscount Blessington, inherited the Blessington estate. Morough's son, Charles, died in 1732 without an heir and the estate was inherited by his sister Anne, then her son William Stewart, Viscount Mountjoy and Baron Stewart. Stewart died in 1769 without an heir and the estate passed to Charles Dunbar, a great grandson of Morough Boyle, who also died heirless in 1778, when the estate passed to Wills Hill of Hillsborough, Co. Down, a great great grandson of Michael Boyle and the first Marquis of Downshire. The Hills held the estate until 1908 (*Ibid.* 41-5). In 1853 the Kenelm Henry Digby was recorded as holding Philipstown and Redbog and William Cogan held Athgarrett (Primary Valuations for the Poor Law 1853, 153-7).

## 10.5 SELECTION OF SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

### 10.5.1 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

#### 10.5.1.1 Designated structures

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-29 and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-28 were examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR. The review established that there are no Protected Structures situated within the Section 37L application area or within the EIA study area.

### 10.5.2 NATIONAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. The review established that there are no additional structures included in the NIAH situated within the Section 37L application area or the EIA study area.

### 10.5.3 MAP INSPECTION

All structures marked on the 1910 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 300m of the application area were checked for potential field assessment. There are no such structures located in this area (see Figure 10-1).

### 10.5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 10.5.5 RECORDED MONUMENTS

The RMP for Co. Kildare which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 was examined as part of the assessment (DAHGI 1997). Note that in accordance with the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 the RMP will be replaced by the Register of Monuments, but the RMP was still legally in force when this assessment was prepared. The closest Recorded Monument to the application the site of a burial (RMP KD025-007---) found in Athgarrett townland during the construction of the Cork-Dublin natural gas pipeline in 1983 and preserved by record (see Figure 10-1 and Appendix 10A). This site is described in the RMP as:

*KD025-007---- Burial ATHGARRETT*

*In undulating pasture. Discovered in 1983 during topsoil-stripping for the construction of the Cork-Dublin natural gas pipeline. Most of a flat-based, bucket-shaped pot containing 'tiny fragments of burnt bone' was found standing upright in a pit of only very slightly larger volume and shape, which may originally have been sealed by a covering stone. While the paucity of the burnt bone led the excavator to caution against interpreting it as a cinerary urn, the form of the vessel suggests a Late Bronze Age date.*

This burial no longer exists, it was located 150 m north-west of the study area but will not be directly or indirectly effected by the proposal.

The next closest Recorded Monument in the study area is the site of a Ringfort in Wolfestown townland (KD025-001----). This site is described in the RMP as:

#### *KD025-001---- Ringfort - rath WOLFESTOWN*

*On a short, moderately steep-sided pasture ridge (WNW-ESE) with an extensive sand/gravel quarry c. 50m to the ENE. A circular area (diam. 30m) is defined by a generally low earthen bank (int. H 0.1-0.6m; Wth 0.8-1.9m; ext H 0.6-2.1m) S-NW-SE which is reduced to a low scarp (H 1m) elsewhere. The enclosing bank is best preserved SSW-W-NW where it is hedged and reused as a field boundary. There is no visible surface trace of a fosse. An arc of spoil and large stones (L 20m; Wth 5m) has been dumped against the enclosing bank at NE. The interior has been partially dug out, leaving an L-shaped depression (L 15m SW-NE; L 12.5m WNW-ESE; Wth 7m).*

This monument is located c.750m north-west of the application area and will not be directly or indirectly effected by the proposal. The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are located a greater distance to the application area and are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly effected by the proposal.

### **10.5.6 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD**

Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 indicated that that there are no SMRs included within the application area. There is one SMR included within the study area outside the application area. This a deerpark wall (SMR WI005-123---- ) situated in Deerpark townland (see Appendix 10B). This site is described in the SMR as:

#### *WI005-123---- Deer park DEERPARK*

*Indicated on the first edition OS 6-inch map. A detailed plan, elevation and photographic record of the north-western boundary of this Deerpark was undertaken in February 2000. This is a 285m length of mortared stone wall, revetting a low bank and internal ditch and defining part of the circuit of the 17th-century deer park.*

This Deerpark wall is situated on the southern edge of the study area forming the boundary with Deerpark townland.

### **10.5.7 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition six-inch maps and the first edition 25-inch maps of the area were examined. A lime kiln is indicated on the first edition 25-inch maps as 'L.K.' in the area of existing extraction and no longer exists. Otherwise the analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the application area or vicinity.

### **10.5.8 PLACE NAME EVIDENCE**

The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The English translations of the townland names of the study presented below are based on the Placenames Database of Ireland. The placenames refer to natural and topographic features and proprietors. There are no additional sites or monuments indicated in the application area.

**Table 10-2 - Townland Names of the Study Area**

<b>Townland</b>	<b>Description</b>
Athgarrett	Garret's ford
Blessington demesne	originally Munfine (white bog) a sub-division of the Downshire Estate
Caureen	possibly little rath
Crosscoolharbour	cross of the corner or angle
Deerpark	park for Deer
Dillonsdown	originally Munfine a sub-division of the Downshire Estate
Greenmount	green hill
Newpaddocks	originally Munfine (white bog) a sub-division of the Downshire Estate
Newtownpark	new parkland
Oldpaddocks	originally Munfine (white bog) a sub-division of the Downshire Estate
Philipstown	land of the Philips family
Rathmore west	great rath
Redbog	red bogland
Slate quarries	Area of slate quarries
Wolfestown	land of the Wolfe family
Athgarrett	Garret's ford

### 10.5.9 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 2000 and 2005 imagery, a newly commissioned drone survey carried out in March 2020, as well as Google earth imagery from 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022, and Bing imagery from 2011 did not indicate any additional cultural heritage sites in the application area.

### 10.5.10 OTHER SOURCES

Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1965, 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Mount 1989, Simpson 1990), and pottery (O'Riordáin and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) revealed an artefact find from the study area (see Appendix 10C).

### 10.5.11 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Examination of the finds registers and topographical files held by the National Museum of Ireland revealed four artefacts from the study area, a macehead found in a sand quarry near Blessington, a



polished stone axes from Deerpark townland, a coarse urn from Deerpark and a saddle quern from the bank of the Kings River (see Appendix 10C).

### **10.5.12 PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS**

The existing quarry and part of the current application area was the subject of an EIA carried out by Golder Associates that included an assessment of archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage carried out by the Archaeology Company in 2007 (Planning Reg. No. 07/267). The assessment identified no sites of archaeological significance associated with the lands under consideration. The assessment recommended that soil stripping of previously undisturbed land be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Conditions 53-58 of the 2009 grant of planning permission required that pre-development archaeological testing be carried out at the site.

### **10.5.13 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Examination of the excavations.ie database of Irish excavation reports indicated that there have been three licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the study area. The only heritage identified was a 285 m long stretch of wall enclosing a 17th-century deer park (See Appendix 10D).

### **10.5.14 FIELD INSPECTION**

A Field inspection was carried out on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. This involved an inspection of all the lands in the application area. The fieldwork areas are numbered on Plate 10.1.



**Plate 10.1: June 2018 aerial image of the application are outlined in red from Google Earth with the fieldwork areas numbered.**

### **Area 1**

This is the existing area of extraction. All topsoil and subsoil has been removed and there is no surviving archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material (see Plate 12.1).

### **Area 2**

This is a large generally rectangular-shaped southwest sloping field of pasture enclosed by banks and ditches with mature trees, (Plate 10.2). There is one historical disused quarry pit in the field identifiable on the OSI 25 Inch 1888-1913 mapping. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.2: Panoramic view of Area 2 looking east.**

### **Area 3**

This is a large trapezoidal-shaped southwest sloping field of pasture enclosed by banks and ditches with mature trees (Plate 10.3). There is one historical disused quarry pit in the field identifiable on the OSI 25 Inch 1888-1913 mapping. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.3: Panoramic view of Area 3 looking southwest.**

### **Area 4**

This is a four-sided northwest sloping area with internal haul road used to store soil, which is now grassed over (Plate 10.4). There is an agricultural shed on its north edge. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.4: View of Area 4 looking northwest.**

## Area 5

This is a wedge-shaped area that has been stripped of topsoil (Plate 10.5). There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.5: View of Area 5 looking west.**

## Area 6

This is the southeast corner of a large rectangular northwest sloping field of pasture enclosed by banks and ditches with mature trees (Plate 10.6). There are two historical disused quarry pits in the field identifiable on the OSI 25 Inch 1888-1913 mapping. There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.6: View of Area 6 looking southeast.**

## Area 7

This is a large rectangular northwest sloping field of pasture enclosed by banks and ditches with mature trees (Plate 10.7). There are eight historical disused quarry pits in the field identifiable on the OSI 25 Inch 1888-1913 mapping. The Deerpark wall forms the southeast boundary (Plate 10.8). The wall is partly ruined with mature trees growing on it in places. There was no visible indication of any other archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.7: View of Area 7 looking southeast.**



**Plate 10.8: View of the Deerpark wall in Area 7 looking southeast**

### Area 8

This is a rectangular-shaped area of undulating west-sloping pasture, enclosed by banks with hedgerow and mature trees (Plate 10.9). There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.9: Panoramic view of Area 8 looking northwest**

### Area 9

This is a pentagonal-shaped area of undulating west-sloping pasture, enclosed by banks with hedgerow and mature trees (Plate 10.10). There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.10: Panoramic view of Area 9 looking northeast.**

### Area 10

This is a long concave-shaped area of undulating west-sloping pasture, enclosed by banks with hedgerow and mature trees (Plate 10.11). There was no visible indication of any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage material at ground level.



**Plate 10.11: View of Area 10 looking northwest.**

## **10.6 POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

### **Direct effects**

SMR WI005-123---- a Deerpark wall is situated on the southern edge of the application area forming the boundary with Deerpark townland. There will be no other direct effects on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of heritage interest in the application area or the vicinity.

### **Indirect effects**

There will be no indirect effects on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of heritage interest in the application area or the vicinity.

### **Interaction with other effects**

No interaction with other effects have been identified.

### **Do nothing effects**

If the proposed development were not to proceed there would be no negative effect on the cultural heritage.

### **Worst case effect**

In the worst-case scenario soil-stripping of unstripped land within the application area in Areas 2 ,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 may have a significant, permanent, negative/adverse effect on previously unknown subsurface archaeological deposits or artefacts without preservation by record taking place.

### **Unplanned events**

No unplanned events arising from the proposal capable of effecting known cultural heritage within the application area has been identified by the assessment.



## 10.7 MITIGATION MEASURES

### Direct effects

Extraction should be set back 10 m from SMR WI005-123---- the Deerpark wall that is situated on the southern edge of the application area forming the boundary with Deerpark townland. As such, the design includes a set back for a safety/screening berm which will set back the extraction activities from the Deerpark wall.

Due to the possibility of the survival of previously unknown subsurface archaeological deposits or finds within the unstripped part of the application area in Areas 2 ,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 all soil-stripping in these areas should be archaeologically monitored under licence from the National Monuments Service.

### Indirect Effects

No indirect effects warranting specific mitigation were identified during the course of the cultural heritage assessment.

## 10.8 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

No residual effects have been identified.

## 10.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The proposed development will not have any effect on the setting of any archaeological architectural or cultural heritage and therefore the application is not considered to have any cumulative effects on cultural heritage.

## 10.10 MONITORING

No monitoring except that required to ensure no archaeological heritage is disturbed during soil stripping will be required.

## 10.11 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

No difficulties were encountered in the compilation of this assessment.

## 10.12 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This environment assessment report is intended to assess the potential effect on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the application site and the surrounding area of a proposal to further development of an existing quarry over approximately 64.0 hectares (ha.) located in the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog, Co. Kildare. There is no known the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage in the application site and the proposal will have no impact on any known cultural heritage. Extraction should be set back 10m from SMR WI005-123---- the Deerpark wall to avoid any impact on the monument. Due to the possibility of the survival of previously unknown subsurface archaeological deposits or finds within the unstripped part of the application area in Areas 2 ,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 all soil-stripping in these areas should be archaeologically monitored under licence from the National Monuments Service.

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# Appendix 10A

## **RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES (RMP) SITES IN THE STUDY AREA**



#### KD020-013---- Enclosure WOLFESTOWN

Shown on the latest ed. (1913-17) of the OS 6-inch map as a raised circular area (est. diam. c. 40m) enclosed by an outer bank from NNW-ENE and from S-WNW (est. ext. diam. c. 70m NE-SW). In 1972, there was no visible trace of these features and the area was a flat-topped hill (SMR file). The site and surrounding ground, especially to the S, are visible as having been extensively quarried on a 2000 aerial photograph (OSI Orthophoto).

#### KD020-014---- Mound CAUREEN

Prominently sited c. 60m W of a hill summit with panoramic views in all directions except E. A low, circular, grass-covered, earthen mound (diam 17m; H 1.5m at E-2m at N) has a large central depression (av. diam. 3m) which may be the result of modern disturbance, or might be the remains of a collapsed central chamber. A small earthfast boulder (visible dims. L 0.6m; H 0.5m) at the mound's base at N may be a kerb stone, while a second similar stone, just W of the mound's base at W may be a displaced kerbstone. Low whin-cover is starting to establish on the mound SW-WNW.

#### KD025-001---- Ringfort – rath WOLFESTOWN

On a short, moderately steep-sided pasture ridge (WNW-ESE) with an extensive sand/gravel quarry c. 50m to the ENE. A circular area (diam. 30m) is defined by a generally low earthen bank (int. H 0.1-0.6m; Wth 0.8-1.9m; ext H 0.6-2.1m) S-NW-SE which is reduced to a low scarp (H 1m) elsewhere. The enclosing bank is best preserved SSW-W-NW where it is hedged and reused as a field boundary. There is no visible surface trace of a fosse. An arc of spoil and large stones (L 20m; Wth 5m) has been dumped against the enclosing bank at NE. The interior has been partially dug out, leaving an L-shaped depression (L 15m SW-NE; L 12.5m WNW-ESE; Wth 7m).

#### KD025-006---- Enclosure ATHGARRETT

On summit of a high step-sided hill (OD c. 270m ), in mixed tillage and pasture. A circular area (diam. 58m) is defined by a low earthen bank (int. H 0.5-1m; ext H 0.7-1.2m) with external stone facing S-W-NE, and traces of a possible narrow, outer fosse (Wth 1m) S-W. No visible entrance. The tree-planted interior contains a centrally located, low circular mound of earth and stone (base diam. 10m; surface diam. 2m; H 0.6m), probably a trigonometrical station.

#### KD025-007---- Burial ATHGARRETT

In undulating pasture. Discovered in 1983 during topsoil-stripping for the construction of the Cork-Dublin natural gas pipeline. Most of a flat-based, bucket-shaped pot containing 'tiny fragments of burnt bone' was found standing upright in a pit of only very slightly larger volume and shape, which may originally have been sealed by a covering stone. While the paucity of the burnt bone led the excavator to caution against interpreting it as a cinerary urn, the form of the vessel suggests a Late Bronze Age date.

#### KD025-008---- Barrow - ring-barrow NEWTOWNPARK

Prominently located (OD c. 296m) at the NE end of a narrow-topped, moderately steep-sided NE-SW ridge, overlooking Glen Ding valley to the NE and with panoramic views in all directions except SW. A sub-circular area (diam. 14.4m E-W; 13.4m N-S) is defined by a shallow fosse (D 0.2-0.4m: base Wth 0.8m at N – 3.5m at E) and by a low, heavily poached outer earthen bank (int. H 0.2-0.6m; Wth 2.5m at S – 4.1m at W; ext. H 0.3-0.5m) which has a spine of dense stony material, and possible small



inner revetting stones at S (ext. diam. 29m E-W; 27.5m N-S). An entrance gap (Wth 3.3m) at ESE is flanked on its S side by a single revetting stone on the inner face of the bank.

**KD025-010----** Hearth ATHGARRETT

A 'cist-like setting of stones with evidence for extensive in situ burning' (pers. comm. M. Cahill NMI).

**KD025-014----** Enclosure NEWTOWNPARK

Situated in grassland with ring-barrow 155m to W. Circular-shaped enclosure (approx. diam. 20m) bisected by post-1700 field boundary visible on Digital Globe aerial photography.

**WI005-001----** Cist DILLONSDOWN

Situated at the NE edge of a small sand ridge in undulating terrain. A bowl and unburnt bones found in 1934 in a 'passage' (presumably a cist) of small boulders possibly under a small cairn. The site is now within a substantial sand quarry.

**WI005-011----** Enclosure DEERPARK

Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI N 333/2 (1973)). In forestry, on undulating terrain overlooking a ravine on the Wicklow/Kildare border. Pond adjacent to E.

**WI005-012----** Ringfort - unclassified DEERPARK

National Monument in state ownership No. 662. Situated on a small prominence at the S edge of a ridge with steep slopes immediately to the S, W and E. Ringwork (dims. 49m N-S; 36m E-W) defined by an earthen bank (Wth 2.5-4m; int. H 1-1.5m) with an external fosse (Wth 6m) and an outer bank (Wth 2m; H 0.5-1.5m) except at the W side. The enclosed platform is at a considerably higher level than the outer bank and fosse. The platform is probably natural and has a large depression at the east side. The entrance (Wth 1m) is at the S with a corresponding causeway across the fosse and gap in the outer bank. (GSIAP, N 332-3).

**WI005-023----** Enclosure NEWPADDOCKS

Situated on a gentle SE-facing slope. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 25m), visible on aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 332-3). The site has been removed by sand quarrying.

# Appendix 10B

**SITES IN THE SITES AND  
MONUMENTS RECORD IN THE  
STUDY AREA**



WI005-123---- Deer park DEERPARK

Indicated on the first edition OS 6-inch map. A detailed plan, elevation and photographic record of the north-western boundary of this Deerpark was undertaken in February 2000. This is a 285m length of mortared stone wall, revetting a low bank and internal ditch and defining part of the circuit of the 17th-century deer park.



# Appendix 10C

## **FINDS FROM THE STUDY AREA IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND**



### Polished Stone Axe

This axe was reported found in a bog in Deerpark townland in 1935

NMI IA 243/64

### Gold Lunula

Found in the Blessington area before 1909. Formerly in the Canon Greenwell collection and presented to the British Museum.

BM. WG 31, Price and Walshe 1933, 66, pl. VIII,

### Stone Macehead, Largs type

Found in a sandpit in Blessington in 1884

NMI 1959:521, Simpson 1989, 125, No. 59.

### Saddle Quern

Found in the Blessington area before 1990, along Kings river

NMI 1990:15



# Appendix 10D

## **SUMMARIES OF EXCAVATIONS IN THE STUDY AREA**



Wicklow

Newpaddocks and Santry Hill, Blessington

No archaeological significance

02E1581

Monitoring of subsurface groundworks before a development of 150 houses in the environs of Blessington village was requested because of the proximity of a number of Recorded Monuments, including a ringfort (SMR 5:23), a barrow (SMR 5:21) and a house site of late 17th-century date associated with Blessington Demesne (SMR 5:18). All subsurface works associated with the development were monitored, but no finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered.

Deerpark

17th-century deer park

00E0078

Monitoring was undertaken at the site of the proposed extension to the Blessington Sand and Gravel Pit in Deerpark townland, in February, March and August 2000. Prior to monitoring, a detailed plan, elevation and photographic record of the north-western boundary of the area were undertaken in February 2000. This is a 285m length of mortared stone wall, revetting a low bank and internal ditch and defining part of the circuit of the 17th-century deer park. The wall, which also marks the Kildare/Wicklow county boundary, will not be affected by the expansion of the quarry.

Within the deer park enclosure a stand of commercial forestry of c. 1.6ha was clear-felled in March 2000. An irregular area of c. 6700m<sup>2</sup>, measuring a maximum of 70m east–west by 125m, was stripped of all remaining vegetation and topsoil in August 2000. This comprised 25% of the proposed area of extraction. All ground disturbance associated with clear-felling of commercial forestry, the removal of the stumps and roots of felled trees, the access of machinery and the stripping of topsoil was monitored. No artefacts, deposits or features of an archaeological nature were identified. The almost-complete absence of even modern finds is notable, suggesting that the incorporation of this area into a deer park in the later 17th century greatly restricted subsequent use of this part of the Glen Ding ridge.

Deerpark

Monitoring

00E0078 and 02E0538

A full survey and elevation of the north-eastern extent of the Deerpark boundary was undertaken by Arch-Tech Ltd. in February 2000, and presented in a report to Dúchas and Wicklow County Council



(dated 21st March 2000). Three successive phases of licensed archaeological monitoring of tree-felling, root removal and topsoil removal were undertaken by Arch-Tech Ltd. in March 2000, August to September 2001 and May to June 2002 (Excavation Licences 00E0078 and 02E0538). During the continuous monitoring of all ground disturbance over a total area of c. 2.5 ha, no archaeological features, deposits or artifacts were identified. During the course of this monitoring work, portions of two undated field boundaries were removed, and no evidence was noted to suggest that these were of early date.