

13.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 General

IAC Archaeology has prepared this chapter on behalf of Breedon Cement Ireland Ltd. to assess the impact, if any, on the archaeological and cultural heritage resource of a proposed quarry deepening at Kinnegad Quarry, Killaskillen, County Meath (ITM 657046, 743194; Figure 13.1). This chapter was prepared by Faith Bailey (MA, BA (Hons) Archaeology, MIAI, MCIfA).

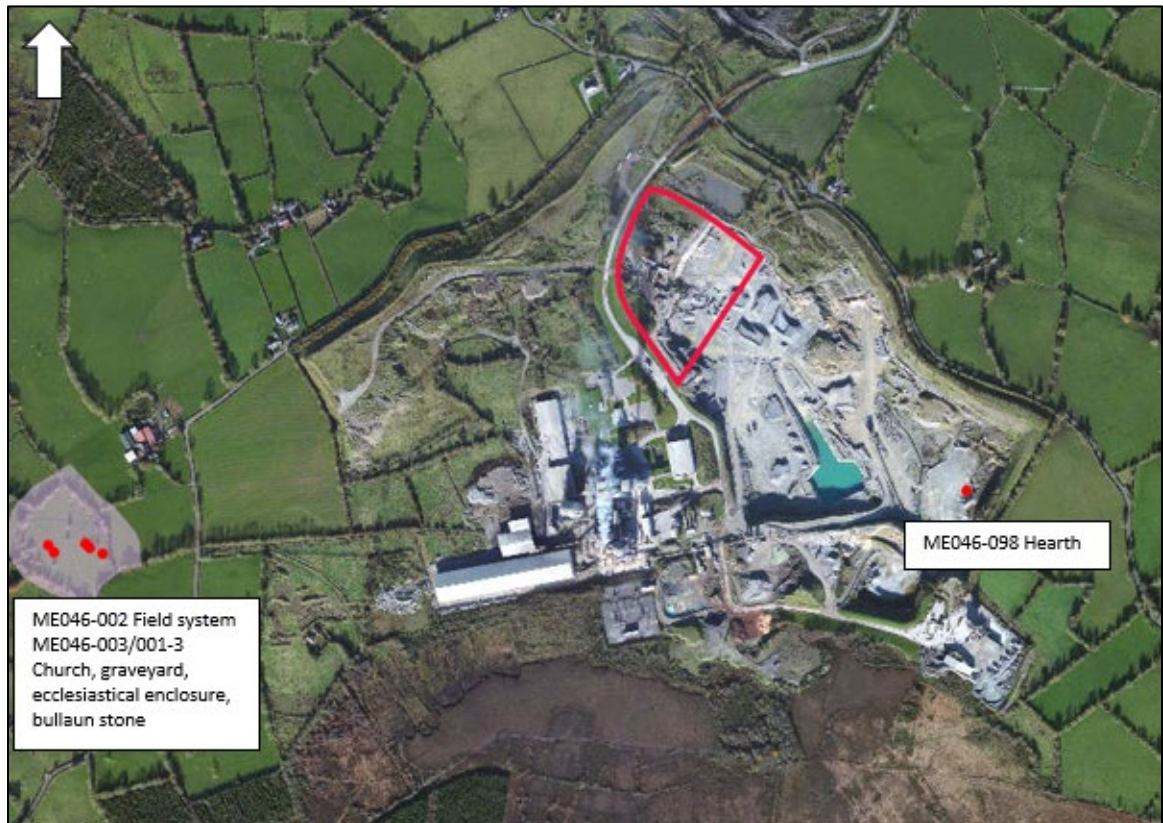


Figure 13.1: Proposed development area (outlined in red) showing surrounding recorded archaeological sites

This study determines, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource within and around the study area of the proposed development using appropriate methods of study. The study area is defined as an area measuring 500m from the proposed development area. Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (ClfA 2014).

This leads to the following:

- Determining the presence of known archaeological assets that may be affected by the proposed development;



- Assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological remains during the construction programme;
- Determining the effect upon the setting of known cultural heritage sites in the surrounding area; and
- Suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Meath, the Meath County Development Plan 2021–2027, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, and cartographic and documentary records. Inspection of the aerial photographic and satellite imagery coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey, Bing Maps, and Google Earth has also been carried out. A field inspection was carried out on the 3rd August 2022 in an attempt to identify any known archaeological and cultural heritage sites and previously unrecorded features, structures, and portable finds within the proposed development area.

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

13.1.2 Definitions

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

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

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

13.2 Methodology

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

13.2.1 Paper Study

The following sources were consulted as part of the paper study of the proposed development:

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Meath;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Meath;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;



- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Meath County Development Plan 2021–2027;
- Place name analysis;
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2022).

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

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

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

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

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

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The findspots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been carried



out to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

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

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

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology and history of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their root deep in the historical past.

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

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970-2022.

13.2.2 Field Inspection

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

The field inspection, carried out on the 3rd August 2022, entailed –

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

13.2.3 Consultation

Following the initial research, a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were consulted to gain further insight into the cultural background of the baseline environment, receiving environment and study area, as follows:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – the Heritage Service, National Monuments and Historic Properties Section: Record of Monuments and



- Places; Sites and Monuments Record; Monuments in State Care Database; Preservation Orders and Register of Historic Monuments;
- National Museum of Ireland, Irish Antiquities Division: topographical files of Ireland;
 - Meath County Council: Planning Section; and
 - Historical and Ordnance Survey Maps.

13.2.4 Guidance and Legislation

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

- National Monuments Act, 1930 to 2014;
- The Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended);
- Heritage Act, 1995 (as amended);
- Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements), 2015, EPA;
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report 2022, EPA; and
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and Islands.

13.3 Receiving Environment

13.3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development is located at the existing Kinnegad Quarry within the townland of Killaskillen, Parish of Ballyboggan, and Barony of Upper Moyfenrath, County Meath. The site has already been subject to quarrying associated with the Breedon Cement works. There are no archaeological sites within the proposed development area or within 500m (Figure 13.1). The closest recorded monument consists of the record of an excavated hearth located c. 589m southeast of the proposed development area (ME046-098).

Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (7000–4000 BC)

The Mesolithic Period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence of prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence indicative of Mesolithic activity at a site comprises scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements or rubbish middens consisting largely of shells (Stout and Stout 1997). The latter are commonly discovered in coastal regions or at the edge of lakes. The earliest indication of archaeological activity within the area was the recovery of a stray Mesolithic Bann flake found in the townland of Rattin, located c. 2.5km to the east of the proposed development area. (IAWU 2002).

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period, communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory,



which saw the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period. A stone axe (SA 1989:17), potentially of Neolithic date was recorded from the townland of Rattin (IAWU 2001). A further polished stone axehead was discovered in the environs of Kinnegad (NMI IA/185/63) and a worked flint from Griffinstown, was discovered c. 3km north of the proposed development area.

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

The Bronze Age was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. The construction of megalithic tombs went into decline and the burial of the individual became typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels (Buckley and Sweetman 1991). Barrows and pit burials are also funerary monuments associated with this period.

Human remains of possible Bronze Age date were discovered in Rossan Bog in 2014, c. 2.5km to the east of the proposed development area. An arm bone was discovered in a pile of milled peat (NMI 2014:74) as well as the lower leg and foot bones of an adult (NMI 2014:262). The remains of another body dating to the Bronze Age had been discovered in this bog in 2012 (ME046-084).

Located at the edge of Derryhinch bog c. 1.7km to the west, a section of a togher (ME046-001) was exposed at a maximum depth of 2.45m in 1932 following excavations (Macalister 1932). A socketed spearhead was found amongst the planks indicating a late Bronze Age date. These trackways can be dated from the Bronze Age period to the medieval period and their principal function was to enable the safe passage of traffic through boggy/waterlogged terrain.

Iron Age (800 BC-AD 500)

Compared to the rest of Irish prehistory there is very little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th Century BC. For several centuries the La Tène Celts were the dominant people in Europe until they were finally overcome by the Roman Empire.

A large togher discovered by Macalister in the 1930s in the townland of Baltigeer, located c. 2km to the west of the proposed development area, may possibly have been connected with the *Slí Dala* or *Slí Asail*, two ancient routeways that led to Tara and Connacht. One of the five great ancient roads of Ireland, the *Slí Mór*, is also thought to have passed through the area (Macalister 1932).

Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

In the early medieval period, Ireland was not a united country but rather a patchwork of minor monarchies all scrambling for dominance, with their borders ever changing as alliances were formed and battles fought. Kingdoms were a conglomerate of clannish principalities with the basic territorial unit known as a *túath*. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were likely to have



been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own *túath*. At this time, modern County Meath was part of *Míde* and *Brega*, which together formed one of the five provinces of early medieval Ireland. It contained a large power centre that formed a political, ceremonial, cultural and social centre of both the territory and Ireland, which was located at Tara.

The period was depicted in the surviving historical sources as entirely rural. Secular habitation sites in the early medieval period include crannógs, cashels and ringforts which are largely defined as circular enclosures surrounded by banks and ditches. In addition to these, there is some evidence for unenclosed settlements which are more difficult to identify in the archaeological record. The ringfort or *ráth* is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period. Ringforts are strongly associated with agricultural land and, as such, are rarely situated at higher altitudes. Ringforts and potential ringforts—often recorded as enclosures—are the most common archaeological sites recorded across the Irish landscape.

A ringfort (WM027-069) is located c. 2km northeast of the proposed development area in Kinnegad townland. There are also a number of enclosure sites in the vicinity of the existing cement works. These belong to a classification of monument whose precise nature is unclear. Often, they may in fact represent ringforts, that have either been damaged to a point where they cannot be positively recognised. An early-Christian date is generally likely, though not a certainty. One such site is the enclosure (ME046-011) at Knockersally/Colehill townland c. 2.1km southeast of the proposed development area.

Killaskillen contains the Irish element “*Cill*” referring to a church site, which perhaps refers to the church at Baltigeer (ME046-003) located c. 1km to the southwest of the proposed development area. This is recorded as a medieval parish church although it may be located on the site of an earlier church, as indicated by the presence of a sub-oval ecclesiastical enclosure (ME046-003002). Such enclosures are a common feature of early medieval ecclesiastical foundations.

The archaeological evidence suggests that the environs of the proposed development area may have been intensely settled during the early medieval period. Previous archaeological assessment in 2000 (Murphy 2000; Licence 00E0327) identified archaeological remains c. 589m to the southeast of the proposed development area. The features identified included hearths, ditches, pits, furrows, trenches, and field drains and have since been added to the record as ME046-098. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the excavation ranged from cal 990AD -1220AD, indicating the presence of early medieval and medieval activity within the landscape.

Medieval Period (AD 1169–1600)

Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, in his bid to regain the Kingdom of Leinster. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited this kingdom through marriage to Diarmuid’s daughter Aoife. By the end of the 12th century, the Normans had succeeded in overthrowing the previous ruling elites in much of the country. Large land grants were given by the King to his followers meaning that great swathes of land were parcelled out among the Norman elites in a process known as sub-infeudation.



Kinnegad was an Anglo-Norman stronghold on the principal road connecting the east and west of the country and this routeway may tentatively be identified as the *Slí Mhór*, a routeway that ran east-west across the country towards Galway along the tops of the esker ridges or *Esker Riada*. The original route of the M6 extends c. 500m north of the proposed development area. Ireland's first roads generally followed the lines of eskers that consist of long gravelly ridges created at the end of the last ice age by the melt-water of receding ice sheets. These eskers provided well-drained, naturally gravelled roads that would not get too muddy after rain, a feature which would have appealed to travellers in the medieval period, and perhaps even earlier. Many of these eskers still carry roads, with the N4/N6 from Dublin to Galway continuing to follow the approximate line of the *Esker Riada*.

Whilst medieval remains were identified to the southeast of the proposed development area (ME046-098), no other archaeological sites dating to the medieval period have been identified within the study area.

Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

As part of the process of achieving British colonial dominion throughout the island, several surveys and mapping programmes were completed throughout the post-medieval period. Inadvertently, these also recorded much of the pattern of society and settlement which had survived from the medieval period. Simington's Civil Survey of 1654–56, was an inquisition that visited each barony (land division) and took depositions from landholders based on parish and townland, with written descriptions of their boundaries to facilitate the 'transfer' of lands. Subsequent to the Civil Survey, a project known as the Down Survey 1656-58, used the collected cadastral information to map all forfeited lands. This survey was overseen by the surgeon-general of the English army, William Petty and a number of former soldiers. It was not just a project of mapping but of social engineering that was underpinned by a massive 'transfer' in landownership from Irish Catholics to English Protestants. Despite the obvious negative effects of colonial map drafting this survey is the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world and gives great insight into Ireland at this time.

William Petty's Down Survey Map of the Barony of Farbil in County Westmeath draws the first reference to Kinnegad "*Kenagadd*" which is the nearest large town located c. 3km to the northeast. The town most likely owes its origins to a crossing point over the River Kinnegad which flows along the north boundary of the overall footprint of the Breedon Cement Works as indicated by the Kinnegad's Irish name "*Cionn Átha Gad*" meaning "Ford of the Withies". The Civil Survey notes that Sir Luke Fitzgerald held much of the land at Kinnegad and Tícroghan. The D'Arcy's of Plattin were another family who held substantial tracts of land in the area.

The townland of Rattin is located in the west of the parish of Killucan within the barony of Farbill. It is known in Irish as *Rath Aitinne* meaning 'Rath of the furze'. The lands of Rattin were formerly part of the lands of Clonfad, situated to the west. The name Monganstown is derived from 'the town of the Mongans' and the townland covers an area of 483 acres.

The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed a more pacified Ireland and the political climate settled; this saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. Often these occupied areas on the outskirts of towns. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause and the effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a



base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable construction effort went into its creation. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion in, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland. A demesne associated with Killaskillen House, is located c. 488m to the east of the proposed development area and remains extant today. The proposed development area itself formerly contained a small demesne associated with Lansdown Lodge. Whilst this landscape has now been removed by quarrying, the gate lodge to the northeast survives.

13.3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Excavations

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has shown that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area or within 500m of it.

13.3.3 Cartographic Sources

William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony of Moyfenrath, c. 1655

This map places the proposed development area within open land consisting mostly of arable meadow and pasture. The location of ‘Kinigad Castle’ (WM027-070) and a bridge (WM028-003) that crosses the Kinnegad River, are marked to the northeast.

George Taylor and Andrew Skinner, Road Maps of Ireland, Map 74 - Road from Dublin to Galway by Athlone 1777

This map does not show great detail; however, the relative location of the proposed development area is depicted within the ‘Bog of Allen’ with Rattin Castle (WM034-008) located to the northwest.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1837, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 13.2)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The site is formed by a number of small fields and is shown as containing a group of probable vernacular farm structures. A lime kiln is also indicated within the site to the north of the structures. The surrounding landscape is characterised by scattered vernacular settlement with the modest designed landscape associated with Killaskillen House marked to the east.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1907, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 13.3)

By the time of this map, ‘Lansdown Lodge’ has been established within the proposed development area. At least eight structures that comprise the estate are marked and the lime kiln also remains present. Mature trees are indicated within the area, which indicates the presence of a modest designed landscape. An associated gate lodge is marked to the northeast adjacent to a cross roads.

13.3.4 County Development Plan

The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage.

There are no archaeological sites within the proposed development area or within 500m (Figure 13.1). The closest recorded monument consists of a hearth located c. 589m southeast of the proposed development area. This represents the record of an excavation (ME046-098).



Figure 13.2: Extract from the first edition OS map (1837), showing the proposed development area



Figure 13.3: Extract from the 1907 OS map, showing the proposed development area

13.3.5 Topographical Files

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

There are no stray finds recorded within the proposed development area or surrounding study area.

13.3.6 Aerial Photography

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2022) and Bing Maps revealed that the proposed development area has experienced a number of changes since 1995. From 1995 to 2005 the site contained structures associated with Lansdown Lodge. In the subsequent years leading to the present, the site has experienced extensive disturbance in the form of permitted quarrying associated with Breedon Cement Ireland Ltd (Figure 13.4). No previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential were noted during the course of the inspection.



Figure 13.4: Extract from 2022 Google Earth coverage, showing the proposed development area.

13.3.7 Cultural Heritage

The term ‘cultural heritage’ can be used as an over-arching term that can be applied to both archaeology and architectural sites; however, it also refers to more ephemeral aspects of the environment, which are often recorded in folk law or tradition or possibly date to a more recent period.



Place Name Analysis

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

A description and possible explanation of each townland name in the environs of the proposed development are provided in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Placename Analysis

Name	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Killaskillen	Irish " <i>Cill</i> " and possibly " <i>Cethlann</i> "	Church of Cethlann
Toor	Irish " <i>Tuar</i> "	A bleach green or drying place
Cappaboggan	Irish " <i>Ceapach</i> ", " <i>Boggan</i> "	Boggy Fields
Gortnahorna	Irish " <i>Gortnamona</i> " (Corruption)	Boggy fields
Baltigeer	Contains the Irish term " <i>Baile</i> ", " <i>Tígh</i> " (Teach) " <i>Geartha</i> "	The bushy place along a river
Kilkeeran	Contains the Irish term " <i>Cill</i> " " <i>Ciarán</i> "	Ciarán's Church
Ballinoran	Contains the Irish term " <i>Baile</i> " " <i>Uaran</i> "	The place of the cold spring

Townland boundaries

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

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

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

In the 19th century, some demesnes, deer parks or large farms were given townland status during the Ordnance Survey and some imprecise townland boundaries in areas such as bogs or lakes were given more precise definitions (ibid.). Larger tracks of land were divided into a number of townlands and named Upper, Middle or Lower, as well as Beg and More (small and

large) and north, east, south and west (Culleton 1999, 179). By the time the first Ordnance Survey had been completed a total of 62,000 townlands were recorded in Ireland.

Although not usually recorded as archaeological monuments in their own right, townland boundaries are important as cultural heritage features as they have indicated the extent of the smallest land division unit in the country—the townland—which has been mapped since the 19th century. It remains unclear how old these land units are, though it has been convincingly argued that they date to at least the medieval period and may be significantly older than this (McErlean 1983; MacCotter 2008).

The proposed development area is located within the townland of Killaskillen, Parish of Ballyboggan, and Barony of Upper Moyfenrath, County Meath. The proposed development does not contain any townland boundaries.

13.3.8 Field Inspection

A field inspection confirmed the results of the desktop analysis and shows that the site, as depicted in Figure 13.4 has been significantly disturbed due to ongoing permitted quarrying works (Plates 13.1-2). The gate lodge located to the northeast, which was associated with Lansdown Lodge, remains extant. This is accompanied by a recessed entrance (Plates 13.3-4). Both survive in poor condition and are separated from the existing quarry complex by a large earthen bund.



Plate 13.1: Proposed development area, facing north and showing permitted quarrying



Plate 13.2: Proposed development area, facing east and showing permitted quarrying



Plate 13.3: Landsdown House gate lodge, facing northwest



Plate 13.4: Landsdown House original entrance, facing southwest

13.3.9 Conclusions

The proposed development is located at Kinnegad Quarry within the townland of Killaskillen Parish of Ballyboggan and Barony of Upper Moyfenrath, County Meath. The application site has already been subject to permitted quarrying associated with the Breedon Cement works. There are no archaeological sites within the proposed development area or within 500m of it. The closest recorded monument consists of a hearth located c. 589m southeast of the proposed development area. There are no specific sites of cultural heritage interest recorded within the proposed development area or study area.

A review of Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area or within 500m of it.

Analysis of the available historic cartographic sources depicts the proposed development area within the 'Bog of Allen' during the 18th century. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the site was made up of several fields and contained eight structures associated with Lansdown Lodge. The structures included a house, outbuildings, a lime kiln, a pump, a weighing machine and a tank. A number of roads, pathways, and water channels are also depicted. The gate lodge and recessed entrance associated with Lansdown Lodge remains extant today, northeast of the proposed development area.

Analysis of aerial photographic record available for the area failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features. From 1995 to 2005 the site contained structures associated with Lansdown Lodge. In the subsequent years leading to the present, the site has experienced extensive disturbance in the form of permitted quarrying associated with the



Breedon Cement works. The disturbed nature of the site and surrounding environs was confirmed during the field inspection.

13.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed development involves the deepening of the north-western portion of the existing limestone quarry to 10m OD, which is consistent with the level approved for the adjoining quarry extraction area, as permitted under planning ref. 98/2026 (An Bord Pleanála ref. PL17.111198). This will involve the deepening of the north-western portion of the quarry extraction area by four extractive benches to 10m OD, over an area of c. 4.13 hectares. The proposed development will not result in any increase to the output of the existing limestone quarry or to the production capacity of the existing cement plant. The proposed development will be served by the existing on site haul road from the existing vehicular access point on the L8021 to the northeast of the site.

13.5 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

13.5.1 Methodology

The quality and type of an effect can be classed as one of the following (as per the Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2022):

- **Negative Impact:** A change that reduces the quality of the environment, for example, a change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological or cultural heritage site from the landscape;
- **Neutral Impact:** A change which does not affect the quality of the environment; or
- **Positive Impact:** A change which improves the quality of the environment, for example a change that improves or enhances the setting of archaeological or cultural heritage site.

The below terms are used in relation to the archaeological and cultural heritage and relate to whether a site will be physically impacted upon or not:

- **Direct Impact:** Where an archaeological/cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development and entails the removal of part, or all, of the monument or feature; and
- **Indirect Impact:** Where a feature or site of archaeological or cultural heritage merit or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of a development.

Significance of Effects

Imperceptible

An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.

Not Significant

An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.



Slight Effects

An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Moderate Effects

An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Significant Effects

An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

Very Significant

An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.

Profound Effects

An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Impacts as defined by the EPA 2022 Guidelines (pg. 50).

13.5.2 Construction Phase Impact

Archaeology

The proposed development area has been subject to permitted quarrying that would have removed any archaeological remains that may have existed within the site. Therefore, there will be no predicted direct or indirect impact on the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed quarry deepening.

Cultural Heritage

There are no cultural heritage sites located in or within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area. Therefore, there will be no predicted direct or indirect impact on the cultural heritage resource as a result of the proposed quarry deepening.

13.5.3 Operational Phase Impact

No operational impacts are predicted upon the archaeological or cultural heritage resource.

Do Nothing Impact

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



Worst Case Impact

No worst-case scenarios have been identified, as due to the permitted quarrying, no archaeological or cultural heritage remains survive within the proposed development area.

13.5.4 Mitigation Measures

Archaeology

No archaeological mitigation is required.

Cultural Heritage

No cultural heritage mitigation required.

13.5.5 Monitoring

No monitoring is required.

13.5.6 Interactions

No interactions have been identified during the course of this assessment.

13.5.7 Cumulative Impacts

No cumulative impacts upon the archaeological or cultural heritage resource have been identified as the proposed development will not affect either resource.

13.5.8 Residual Impacts

There will be no negative residual impacts upon the archaeological or cultural heritage resource.

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