

## 10 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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### 10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) has been prepared to assess the potential significant effects on the cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage resource, which may have occurred, are occurring or can reasonably be expected to occur because of quarrying and restoration carried out by the applicant in the townland of Hempstown Commons, Co. Kildare.

#### 10.1.1 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The scope of this assessment comprises a study of the known heritage assets within the quarry and a 500m study area surrounding the quarry (see Figure 10.1). The impact assessment considers direct impacts of the quarry upon heritage assets, and also considers cumulative and combined effects. Informed by the results of the impact assessment, an appropriate and proportionate mitigation strategy has been developed, with residual effects subsequently assessed.

For the purposes of the assessment, heritage assets include physical features either created by, or that have undergone modification from, human activity, and placenames, historical events, language, memories and other intangible cultural considerations. For the purposes of this study the various types of heritage asset are divided into archaeological heritage, architectural heritage, and cultural heritage, encompassing objects of beauty, cultural, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value.

##### 10.1.1.1 Site Location and Study Area

The quarry is located in the townland of Hempstown Commons, Co. Kildare, approximately 4 km northeast of Blessington, and approximately 350 m northwest of the N81 Dublin Road.

The study area of 500m from the quarry was chosen to capture sufficient baseline data to robustly assess direct impacts from changes within the setting of known heritage assets. It also establishes the local archaeological and historical context, providing an understanding of the historical development of the quarry and the surrounding landscape.

##### 10.1.1.2 Technical Competence

The assessment was prepared by Dr. Vidhu Gandhi who has twenty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. She holds a BArch degree, a Masters degree in Sustainable Development and a Ph.D. specialising in cultural heritage and planning.

## 10.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The following national legislation and regulations are in place for the protection and recording of cultural heritage:

- Planning and Development Act 2000;
- National Monuments Act, 1930 – 2004;
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023;
- The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999;
- Heritage Act 1995;
- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997;
- National Monuments (Exhibition of Record of Monuments) Regulations 1994;
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-29; and
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-28

## 10.2.2 RELEVANT POLICIES AND PLANS

The County Kildare Development Plan 2017 – 2023 and 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 Council's 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 12 of the 2017 – 2023 and Chapter 11 of the 2023 – 2029 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.

The following policies are relevant to the assessment:

#### Archaeology Resource

The following policy, objectives and actions are set out in Section 12.4 of the KCDP 2017:

**Policy PS1** 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.

**Policy AH 1** Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of the county, 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. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.

**Policy AH 2** Have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Urban Archaeological Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.

**Policy AH3** Secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest, included in the Record of Monuments and Places and their settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHG (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

**Policy AH 4** 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. 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 and objects.

**Policy AH 5** Contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with rivers and associated features.

**Policy AH 6** Contribute towards the protection of historic burial grounds within the county and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles in co-operation with the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and National Monuments Section of Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA).

**Policy AH 7** Promote and support in partnership with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA), the concept of Archaeological Landscapes where areas contain several Recorded Monuments.

**Policy AH 8** Encourage, where practicable, the provision of public access to sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places under the direct ownership, guardianship or control of the Council and/or the State.

**Policy AH 9** Encourage the provision of signage to publicly accessible recorded monuments.

The following policy, objectives and actions are set out in Section 11.10 of the KCDP 2023 - 2029:

**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 02** 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 03** 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 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.

## **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 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 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 O45** Support the implementation of the National Policy on Architecture, ‘Places for People’ prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### 10.2.3 RELEVANT GUIDANCE

The assessment has been produced in accordance with the following professional standards and guidance:

- ClfA 2020, Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment;
- ClfA 2020, Standards and Guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999, Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage; and
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022, Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports

## 10.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Cultural significance lies in the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest; this may be archaeological, architectural, cultural, artistic, historic, traditional, aesthetic, scientific or social. The determination of a heritage assets cultural significance, or value, is based on legal status and/or professional judgement.

Table 10.1 identifies factors which are appropriate to consider during the assessment of heritage assets, with the adoption of five ratings for value: very high, high, medium, low, and negligible

**Table 10.1 – Criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets**

Value	Example
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites); and</li> <li>▪ National Monuments of acknowledged international importance.</li> </ul>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Monuments that are in the ownership or guardianship of the State, or in the ownership of a local authority;</li> </ul>

Value	Example
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage assets that are listed within the Register of Monuments and Places (RMP) and are the subject of Preservation Orders;</li> <li>Heritage assets that are listed within the RMP and are deemed to be of national importance;</li> <li>Protected Structures;</li> <li>Architectural Conservation Areas containing nationally important buildings/structures;</li> <li>Historic Parks and Designed Landscapes within the NIAH Garden Survey deemed to be of national importance; and</li> <li>Walled towns.</li> </ul>
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage assets that are listed within the RMP and are deemed to be of regional importance;</li> <li>Structures that are contained within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and are deemed to be of regional importance;</li> <li>Architectural Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character;</li> <li>Historic Parks and Designed Landscapes within the NIAH Garden Survey deemed to be of regional importance; and</li> <li>Newly identified heritage assets that are deemed to be of regional importance.</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage assets that are listed within the RMP that have been compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations;</li> <li>Heritage assets that are listed within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and are deemed to be of local importance;</li> <li>Structures that are contained within the NIAH and are deemed to be of local importance;</li> <li>Historic Parks and Designed Landscapes within the NIAH Garden Survey deemed to be of local importance; and</li> <li>Newly identified heritage assets that are deemed to be of local importance.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage assets (RMP, SMR or newly identified) with very little or no surviving archaeological interest;</li> <li>Artefact find spots (where the artefacts are no longer in situ and where their provenance is uncertain); and</li> <li>Poorly preserved examples of particular types of minor historic landscape features (e.g. quarries and gravel pits, agricultural features, etc).</li> </ul>

The criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact from the quarry on heritage assets is shown in Table 10.2.

**Table 10.2 – Criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact on heritage assets**

<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Beneficial</b>
Major	<p>Loss of most or all key archaeological materials or key historic building elements such that the significance of the heritage asset is totally altered.</p> <p>Comprehensive changes to setting such as extreme visual effects, gross change of noise or change to sound quality, or fundamental changes to use or access.</p>	<p>Preservation of a heritage asset in situ where it would otherwise be completely or almost lost.</p> <p>Changes that appreciably enhance the cultural significance of a heritage asset and how it is understood, appreciated, and experienced.</p>
Moderate	<p>Changes to many key archaeological materials or key historic building elements, such that the significance of the heritage asset is clearly modified.</p> <p>Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the heritage asset such as visual change to many key aspects or views, noticeable differences in noise or sound quality, or considerable changes to use or access.</p>	<p>Changes to important elements of a heritage asset's fabric or setting, resulting in its cultural significance being preserved (where this would otherwise be lost) or restored.</p> <p>Changes that improve the way in which the heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.</p>
Minor	<p>Changes to key archaeological materials or key historic building elements, such that the significance of the heritage asset is slightly altered.</p> <p>Slight changes to setting such as slight visual changes to few key aspects or views, limited changes to noise levels or sound quality, or slight changes to use or access.</p>	<p>Changes that result in elements of a heritage asset's fabric or setting detracting from its cultural significance being removed.</p> <p>Changes that result in a slight improvement in the way a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.</p>
Negligible	<p>Changes to archaeological materials or historic buildings elements such that alterations to the significance of the heritage asset are very minor.</p> <p>Very minor changes to setting such as virtually unchanged</p>	<p>Very minor changes that result in elements of a heritage asset's fabric or setting detracting from its cultural significance being removed.</p> <p>Very minor changes that result in a slight improvement in the</p>



Magnitude	Adverse	Beneficial
	visual effects, very slight changes in noise levels or sound quality, or very slight changes to use or access.	way a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.
No Change	Changes to fabric or setting that leave significance unchanged.	

The terms shown in the matrix below have been used to define the significance of the effects identified and apply to both beneficial and adverse effects.

For the purpose of this assessment, significance of effects of Moderate or greater are potentially significant in the context of the EIA Regulations and are highlighted in bold in Table 10.3.

**Table 10.3 – Significance of Effect**

Value	Magnitude of Impact					
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No Change
	Very High	<b>Very Large</b>	<b>Large</b> or <b>Very Large</b>	<b>Moderate</b> or <b>Large</b>	Slight	Neutral
	High	<b>Large</b> or <b>Very Large</b>	<b>Moderate</b> or <b>Large</b>	<b>Moderate</b> or Slight	Slight	Neutral
	Medium	<b>Moderate</b> or <b>Large</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	Slight	Neutral or Slight	Neutral
	Low	Slight or <b>Moderate</b>	Slight	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Neutral
	Negligible	Slight	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Neutral	Neutral

## 10.4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

### 10.4.1 INTRODUCTION

The archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage assets that lie within the quarry and the 500m study area are detailed in Table 10.4 Inventory of Heritage Assets below and are shown in Figure 10.1. Each entry in the inventory has a heritage asset (HA) reference number which is used to identify it within the assessment and on Figure 10.1.

### 10.4.2 INFORMATION SOURCES

The area was examined using information from:

- The Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 and 2023-29;
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-28;
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the tentative list of candidate sites;
- National Monuments in State Care, a list available by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Potential National Monuments in the ownership of a Local Authority, derived from religious sites in the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD);
- Sites subject to Preservation Orders, a list available from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Walled towns, information derived from <https://irishwalledtownsnetwork.ie>;
- Register of Historic Monuments (RHM);
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);
- Sites and Monuments Record Zones of Notification [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie);
- Architectural Conservation Areas, information from the various County Development Plans;
- Protected Structures from relevant local authorities;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) from [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie);
- Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens from the NIAH Garden Survey;
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports from [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie);
- Cartographic sources including 1st edition OS 6 Inch maps (1826–1841), 2nd edition OS 25-inch maps (1841-1952), and 3rd edition OS 6-inch maps (1916–1926);
- Aerial photographs; and
- Documentary sources.

### 10.4.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

#### 10.4.3.1 Geology

The underlying geological formations comprise a bedrock geology of Pollaphuca Formation which has formed between 299 to 251 million years ago and is described as consisting of coarse grey greywacke sandstones and grits and dark grey shales. This rock is useful as a building material and has been extensively quarried across this region. The superficial geology consists of a fine loamy drift with limestones overlying drift with siliceous stones. This type of drift material is relatively free draining and can provide a suitable location for early settlement.

#### 10.4.3.2 Walkover Survey

A field inspection of the quarry was conducted on 26 August 2020 and 8 January 2024. Due to the previous quarrying activity, there were no heritage assets visible within the development boundary and there is no potential for archaeological remains to be present.

#### 10.4.3.3 Previous Assessments

The existing quarry and part of the current application area was the subject of an EIA carried out by Golder Associates in 2019 that included an assessment of archaeology,

architecture and cultural heritage. The assessment identified no sites of archaeological significance associated with the lands under consideration.

#### 10.4.3.4 Archaeological Investigations

Examination of the excavations i.e. database of Irish excavation reports indicated that there have been two licensed and one unrecorded archaeological investigations carried out in the study area. No heritage assets or features of archaeological significance were identified.

#### 10.4.3.5 Baseline Summary and Inventory of Heritage Assets

There are no known heritage assets within the quarry extents. There are two heritage assets within the 500m study area (see Table 10.4 for details), comprising two Cists, one of which was inscribed by Rock Art.

**Table 10.4 Inventory of Heritage Assets**

HA No.	Ref No.	Townland	Designation	Description
HA1	KD020-016	Hempstown Commons	Recorded Monument	Cist: In 1937, the discovery of a cist in a sand pit in Hempstown Commons was reported but upon investigation it was found that it had been opened sometime previously and its contents were much disturbed. The rectangular cist (dims. L 1.06m NE-SW; Wth 0.44m; D 0.61m) had three sides formed by single slabs set on edge and the fourth was of dry stone walling covered by a flat slab. It was covered by a large subrectangular capstone (L 1.34m; Wth 1.02m) and contained the fragmentary remains of the crouched skeleton of an adult female lying on her right side and possibly accompanied by a ceramic vessel and small pieces of chert and 'ochreous pebbles'. (Cahill and Sikora 2011, Vol 1, 221-23) A second cist (KD020-015001-) lies c. 300m to the ENE.
HA2	KD020-015001 and	Hempstown Commons	Recorded Monument	Cist: In 1949, an irregularly oval-shaped cist (dims. L 1m NE-SW; Wth 0.8m) was accidentally

HA No.	Ref No.	Townland	Designation	Description
	KD020-015002			<p>uncovered during the bulldozing of topsoil from the highest point of a low drumlin to expose gravel deposits. The cist lay 0.7-0.8m below the ground surface and was formed by a drystone wall two courses in height (H 0.4-0.5m), a floor paved with thin flags bedded in a thin film of clay resting on the gravel, and was roofed by two slabs, one of which was decorated on its underside (KD020-015002-). It contained the crouched inhumation of a male about 5' 6" in height and aged 30 to 40 years. (Hartnett 1950, 193-8; Waddell 1970, 120) A second cist (KD020-016----) lies c. 300m to the WSW.</p> <p>One of the slabs was decorated on its underside. It is a sandstone slab, roughly triangular in shape with one end coming to a point (dims. L 1m; max Wth 0.7m; T 0.2m). One surface carried a pecked decorative pattern of several scattered motifs, including a penannular or horseshoe-shaped pecked area, small pecked cupmarks, a pair of conjoined pecked circles, irregular patches of pecking, and a pecked lozenge-shaped area with an incised outline. (Hartnett 1950, 193-8; Waddell 1970, 120).</p>

#### 10.4.3.6 Baseline Discussion

The following is a brief summation of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of heritage assets 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.

### Prehistoric Period

The study area and the wider landscape appear to have been used for burials during prehistory. There are two Bronze Age burials known from the wider 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.

In the later Iron Age, there are two cists (HA1 and HA2) within the study area, one of which contained an incised stone. The abundance of funerary activity in the area suggests it was part of a ritual landscape rather than a settlement location during this period.

### 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. 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.

### 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). The study area may have formed part of this estate during this period or may have been agricultural or wild land outside the estate. No heritage assets from this period are located within the quarry or the study area. 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.

### **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, and the other possessions of the Earl of Kildare to Walter Trott (Tudor Fiants Henry VIII No. 184). The lands changed hands numerous times throughout this period. The development location was always on the fringes of the estate and would have been used for agricultural purposes. Cartographic evidence does not show any buildings within the quarry from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

## **10.5 SELECTION OF SENSITIVE RECEPTORS**

### **10.5.1 BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

#### **10.5.1.1 Designated structures**

The Kildare County Development Plan 2019 – 2023 and 2023-29 and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-28 were examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the rEIAR. The review established that there are no Protected Structures situated within the substitute consent application area or within the EIA study area.

#### **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 rEIAR 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 substitute consent application area or the EIA study area.

### **10.5.2 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).

### **10.5.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **10.5.4 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. There are three Recorded Monuments within 500m of the application site:

#### **KD020-016---- Cist: Hempstown Commons**

The asset located approximately 400m to the south-east of the substitute consent application area but will not be directly or indirectly effected by the proposal.

#### **KD020-015001 and KD020-015002 --- Cist with Rock Art: HEMPSTOWN COMMONS**

The asset located approximately 420m to the south-east of the study area but will not be directly or indirectly effected by the proposal.

### **10.6 POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

There are no known heritage assets within the quarry that would have been impacted upon by the quarrying activity, therefore there are no direct physical impacts on heritage assets.

The heritage assets within the study area are located approximately 400 to 450 m away from the edge of the quarry. There are no direct views into the quarry and the rural setting of the heritage assets has been retained, with minor industrial activity from the quarry and adjacent works present in some views. The impacts from the quarry are assessed as No Change, resulting in a Neutral significance of effect on all three heritage assets

#### **Interaction with other effects**

No interaction with other effects have been identified.

### **10.7 REMEDIAL MEASURES REQUIRED**

There have been no impacts on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage and no mitigation is required.

### **10.8 RESIDUAL EFFECTS**

The residual effects are Neutral on the heritage assets within the study area.

### **10.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

The cumulative effects associated with other permitted / under construction third-party developments have been considered in Chapter 15 of this rEIAR. Cumulative effects are considered to be Not Significant.

### **10.10 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED**

No difficulties were encountered in the compilation of this assessment.

### **10.11 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

This remedial environmental impact assessment report is intended to assess the potential significant effects on any cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage assets, which may have occurred, are occurring or can reasonably be expected to occur because of the quarry, located in the townland of Hempstown Commons, Co. Kildare. There are no known archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage assets in the application site and the development has no impact on any known heritage assets within the surrounding area.

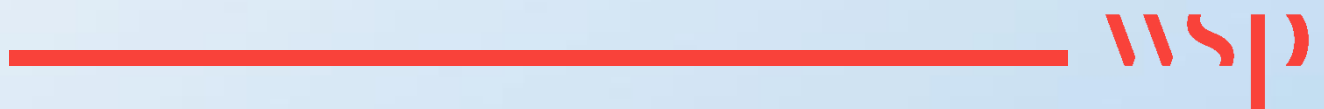
## 10.12 REFERENCES

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# Appendix 10A

## **GOLDER (2019) EIAR: ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CHAPTER**





## 10.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 10.1 Background and Scope

This chapter of the EIAR considers the potential effects of the proposed phased extraction and restoration plan ('Proposed Development') for the existing quarry site at Hempstown Commons, Blessington, Co. Kildare (hereafter referred to as the "Site") on cultural heritage. It is proposed to continue extracting aggregates from the existing quarry, and to extend extraction into previously unquarried areas of the Site in a phased approach. The worked-out areas will be restored throughout the life of the quarry, with the land largely returned to grazing land, with mixed planting of native trees, scrubs, grasses and wildflowers, and a waterbody within the quarry footprint.

A detailed description of the Proposed Development, as well as the Site location and description, can be found in Chapter 2 of this EIAR (Project Description).

#### 10.1.1 Scope

The scope of this cultural heritage assessment comprises a baseline study, effects analysis and impact assessment for the Site. The baseline is informed by the results of desk-based and archival research.

The impact assessment considers both direct and indirect impacts of the restoration of the Site upon cultural heritage assets, and also considers cumulative and combined effects. Informed by the results of the impact assessment, an appropriate and proportionate mitigation strategy for the Site has been developed, with residual effects subsequently assessed.

In lieu of specific guidance from the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI), this impact assessment conforms to the guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014<sup>1</sup>; 2017<sup>2</sup>).

For the purposes of this EIAR, the term 'cultural heritage' is used as a collective term to refer to all assets of archaeological, architectural and historical or cultural value. Archaeological heritage typically refers to objects, monuments, buildings, environmental remains or cultural landscapes older than AD 1700, although it can also be used to describe objects, monuments and other tangible remains which date from post-AD 1700<sup>3</sup>. Architectural heritage (or built heritage) refers to structures or buildings (including their contents) of cultural value which are younger than AD 1700. Designed landscapes and gardens dating to post-AD 1700 are also considered to be architectural in this assessment. In both cases, the setting of an asset is considered an integral part of its value.

#### 10.1.2 Site Location and Description

The Site is located 4.3 km northeast of Blessington. The site is situated approximately 500 m northwest of the N81 Dublin Road and in the townland of Hempstown Common. The locality is generally rural, agricultural land. Linear settlements are found along the N81 main road and dispersed, singular farmhouses across the wider area. There is also evidence of recent and historic quarrying activity in the local landscape and the existing operational quarry site has been in use since the early 1940s.

#### 10.1.3 Study Area

In order to capture sufficient baseline data to robustly assess direct impacts to cultural heritage assets, the spatial scope of the assessment comprises all the land that may be required for the Proposed Development (i.e. land situated within the 'red line boundary'), together with a buffer of 500 m around the Site to allow the

<sup>1</sup> CIfA (2014). Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment.

<sup>2</sup> CIfA (2017). Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.

<sup>3</sup> AD 1700 is a point in time used by the National Monuments Service and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage to distinguish between 'archaeology' and 'architecture'. Although archaeological remains exist that are younger than AD 1700, any buildings, structures or designed landscapes/gardens built during this period are considered in this assessment to be 'architectural'.

assessment of indirect impacts. This buffer area is considered to be appropriate, given the current use of the Site and the nature of the Proposed Development. The Study Area is shown in Figure 10-1 (Section 10.4.3).

### 10.1.4 Chapter Structure

This chapter is divided into the following sections:

- 10.1 – Background and Scope, which includes details of the assessment scope, study area and structure;
- 10.2 – Policy and Legislation Context, which includes a description of legislation, policy, standards and guidance relevant to cultural heritage;
- 10.3 – Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria, which presents a description of how the assessment has been undertaken and includes any assumptions that have been made or limitations that have been encountered;
- 10.4 – Baseline Conditions, which presents the sources of information used, a detailed breakdown of the assets recorded, a summarised historic map regression and a summarised appraisal of previous archaeological investigations in the study area;
- 10.5 – Potential Effects, which summarises the cultural heritage assets considered in the assessment and identifies the sensitivity of those assets. It also presents the potential effects upon these assets as a result of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. The assessment of potential effects includes consideration of embedded design mitigation that form part of the project design;
- 10.6 – Mitigation and Monitoring, which presents details of mitigation and monitoring that needs to be adopted to manage the potential effects identified in Section 10.5. It also presents any recommendations for further archaeological investigation that may be required;
- 10.7 – Residual Effects, which presents the residual effects of the Proposed Development, taking account of proposed mitigation; and
- 10.8 – Summary and Conclusions, which presents a summary of the assessment and final conclusions.

## 10.2 Policy and Legislation Context

### 10.2.1 Legislation and Guidance

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (representing the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) is responsible for the conservation, preservation, protection and presentation of Ireland's cultural heritage. The protection of archaeological heritage is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS), whilst architectural heritage is the responsibility of the Built Heritage Policy Section (including the Architectural Heritage Advisory Service (AHAS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)).

At the national and international level, the key legislation pertinent to this assessment includes:

- The National Monuments Acts, 1930 to 2004;
- The Heritage Act, 1995;
- The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999;
- The Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2016;

- The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), ratified by the Irish Government in 1991; and
- The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (1992), ratified by the Irish Government in 1997.

Guidelines have been produced by both the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which provide guidance on the assessment of impacts on, and the protection of, cultural heritage assets in Ireland. These were consulted and adhered to for this IA, and include:

- Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2017) – EPA;
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002) – EPA;
- Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003) – EPA;
- The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG); and
- Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

### 10.2.2 Legislative Mechanisms of Protection

There are a number of mechanisms for heritage protection in Ireland. Heritage assets can be protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 in four ways:

- The asset is recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);
- The asset is registered in the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM);
- The asset is a national monument subject to a Preservation Order (or Temporary Preservation Order); or
- The asset is a National Monument in State Care.

Heritage assets can also be protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires all Local Authorities to curate and maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). An asset is protected if it is inscribed on a county's RPS. Protected Structures may be archaeological in nature, and so an asset may appear on both the RMP and county RPS.

The 'Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' (1972) provides The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the power to inscribe assets of international importance on the World Heritage List as a World Heritage Site. Local authorities and stakeholders are encouraged to protect these sites through the production of Management Plans, which aim to manage the site in a suitable fashion.

Local authorities also have mechanisms by which to protect heritage assets, including the creation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs).

The mechanisms of heritage protection described here also afford protection to the setting of cultural heritage assets, as well as the physical assets.

### 10.2.3 Planning Policy

At the local level, the Kildare County Development Plan (KCDP) (2017-2023) guides planning policy in relation to cultural heritage. Chapter 12 of the KDCP specifically outlines the approach taken by the Local Planning

Authority to protecting architectural and archaeological heritage within the planning process, with the stated aim being *“to protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and the encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations”*. Policy areas pertinent to this assessment are summarised in Table 10-1.

**Table 10-1: Kildare County Development Plan (2017 - 2023) Policies - Cultural Heritage**

Policy Area	Policy
Protected Structures (Section 12.4)	PS 1: To conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained on the Record of Protected Structures of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.
	PS 2: To protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a protected structure which would adversely impact on the special character of the protected structure including cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of architectural heritage value within the curtilage of the 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 built heritage complex and contributes positively to that aim.
	PS 3: To require that new works will not obscure views of principal elevations of protected structures.
	PS 9: To favourably consider the change of use of any structure included on the Record of Protected Structures provided such a change of use does not adversely impact on its intrinsic character.
	PS 10: To actively encourage uses that are compatible with the character of protected structures. In certain cases, the Planning Authority may relax site zoning restrictions / development standards in order to secure the preservation and restoration of the structure.
	PS 11: To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse 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 necessary works should be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.
	PS 14: To 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.
	PS 15: To require an architectural heritage assessment report, as described in Appendix B of DAHG <i>Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> , 2011, in all applications involving a protected structure.
	PS 16: To protect and retain important elements of the built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes and demesnes, and curtilage features.

Policy Area	Policy
	<p>PS 18: To require where appropriate that a Conservation Plan is prepared in accordance with DAHG Guidelines and conservation best practice to inform proposed visual or physical impacts on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.</p> <p>PS 20: To have regard where appropriate to DAHG Guidelines and conservation best practice in assessing the impact of development on a Protected Structure its curtilage, demesne and setting.</p>
Country Houses and Demesnes (Section 12.5)	<p>CH 1: To promote appreciation of the landscape and historical importance of traditional and historic gardens, demesnes and parks within Kildare in general and particularly where they constitute an important setting to a protected structure.</p> <p>CH 2: To have regard to the historic gardens and designed landscape sites in County Kildare identified in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p> <p>CH 3: To encourage conservation, renewal and improvement which enhances the character and the setting of parks, gardens, and demesnes of historic interest within the county.</p> <p>CH 7: To preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of, heritage/ traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/ regional biodiversity resource and that contribute to local identity.</p> <p>CH 9: To require that planning applications take into consideration the impacts of the development on their landscapes and demonstrate that the development proposal has been designed to take account of the heritage resource of the landscape.</p>
Archaeological Heritage (Section 12.8)	<p>AH 1: To manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of the county, 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. The Council will favour preservation in-situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.</p> <p>AH 2: To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Urban Archaeological Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>AH 3: To secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest, included in the Record of Monuments and Places and their settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHG (1999), or any superseding national policy document.</p> <p>AH 4: To 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</p>



Policy Area	Policy
	location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment. 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 and objects.
World Heritage (Section 12.12)	AH 12: To contribute towards the protection of any site designated as World Heritage Site in Kildare

Chapter 17, which addresses development management standards, is also pertinent to this assessment. In particular, Section 17.15.

County Kildare has a heritage management plan (County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2011) but is currently reviewing and producing an updated version (consultation undertaken in 2013). The existing, but outdated, plan has been consulted for reference, where applicable.

## 10.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

### 10.3.1 Assessment Methodology

This assessment has been produced in accordance with national and local legislation and policy, as well as best practice guidance. The impact assessment methodology aligns with EPA guidelines (EPA, 2003 and EPA, 2017) and has been adapted from the advice provided by the National Roads Authority (NRA), in their Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Roads Schemes and Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Roads Schemes (no publication date). These guidelines can be equally applied to other development schemes.

The assessment has been completed using a phased qualitative assessment methodology, as outlined here:

- Cultural heritage assets with the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are identified and ascribed a 'value', ranging from "unknown" to 'very high';
- The 'magnitude' of any effects resulting from the Proposed Development upon the identified receptors are established, ranging from 'no change' to 'major' (assuming no mitigation is in place);
- A comparison of the magnitude of effect and receptor value is used to calculate the significance of effect;
- Where required, a mitigation strategy is proposed, with the significance of effect re-calculated (assuming any proposed mitigation is in place) to ascertain the residual effects.

Effects to cultural heritage assets can result from both direct and indirect effects. Direct effects are considered here to be those that result in an immediate, physical impact to an asset, such as ground disturbance. Indirect effects are considered here to include those that occur through an environmental pathway (e.g. air, waterways, and groundwater) or that are secondary (e.g. mitigation measures for a different impact affecting cultural heritage). These indirect effects may be physical but may also affect the setting of an asset. Indirect effects can include, but are not limited to:

- Noise effects;
- Air pollution/dust effects; and

■ Visual effects.

Consultation with other specialists, in particular air quality, noise and landscape and visual, have been undertaken to capture combined effects and provide a holistic assessment of impacts upon cultural heritage assets.

### 10.3.2 Assessment of the Value of Cultural Heritage Assets

The value of a cultural heritage asset can be assessed using the criteria presented in Table 10-2.

**Table 10-2: Criteria for Assessing the Value of Cultural Heritage Assets**

Value of Asset	Criteria
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites);</li> <li>■ Assets of acknowledged international importance; and</li> <li>■ Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.</li> </ul>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Protected Assets (e.g. assets inscribed on the RMP, RHP or RPS);</li> <li>■ Undesignated assets of recognised quality or importance (e.g. proposed for inclusion on the RMP, ACAs); and</li> <li>■ Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.</li> </ul>
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Undesignated assets of regional importance or that might contribute to regional research objectives.</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Undesignated assets of local importance;</li> <li>■ Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations; and</li> <li>■ Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assets with very little or no surviving cultural interest.</li> </ul>
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The importance of the asset cannot be ascertained.</li> </ul>

### 10.3.3 Assessment of Magnitude of Effect

The scale and magnitude of effects on cultural heritage assets can be assessed using the tiered grading system presented in Table 10-3.

**Table 10-3: Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Effect on Cultural Heritage Assets**

Magnitude of Effect	Criteria
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changes to most or all key archaeological/architectural elements, such that the asset is totally altered; and</li> <li>■ Comprehensive changes to setting.</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changes to many key archaeological/architectural elements, such that the asset is clearly modified; and</li> <li>■ Considerable changes to setting.</li> </ul>

Magnitude of Effect	Criteria
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to key archaeological/architectural elements, such that the asset is slightly altered; and</li> <li>Slight changes to setting.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very minor changes to elements or setting; and</li> <li>Archaeological receptors are altered but no information is lost (through archaeological excavation and recording).</li> </ul>
No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>

### 10.3.4 Assessment of Significance of Effects

Using the value of an asset as indicated in Table 10-2, and the magnitude of effect as ascertained from Table 10-3, Table 10-4 indicates how the assessment of the significance of an effect has been concluded.

**Table 10-4: Significance of Effect Matrix**

		MAGNITUDE OF EFFECT				
		No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
VALUE OF ASSET	Very High	Imperceptible	Slight	Moderate/ Significant	Significant/ Profound	Profound
	High	Imperceptible	Slight	Slight/ Moderate	Moderate/ Significant	Significant/ Profound
	Medium	Imperceptible	Not Significant	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/ Significant
	Low	Imperceptible	Not Significant	Not Significant	Slight	Slight/ Moderate
	Negligible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Not Significant	Not Significant	Slight

The methodology outlined in this section is reliant on an element of subjectivity, and so inherently requires a level of professional judgement. It is considered, however, that the criteria described in Tables 10-2 and 10-3 provide robust and transparent decision-making guidance that can be widely applied to a variety of potential cultural heritage assets.

### 10.3.5 Assumptions and Limitations

A key limitation is that the assessment methodology cannot account for cultural heritage assets that are not recorded in the available data sources. Previously unrecorded assets, such as sub-surface archaeological remains, which do not present any diagnostic features, would not necessarily be identified by the desk-study.

If it is concluded that there is real potential for unidentified archaeological remains to exist below the surface (e.g. from density of recorded archaeological remains in the vicinity) then further archaeological investigation may be required, either through site survey and ground-truthing, non-destructive survey (e.g. geophysical survey) or through systematic trial trench and test pit excavation.

Information has been used from a range of sources to determine baseline cultural heritage conditions. This assessment is therefore limited by the availability and reliability of these data sources.

## 10.4 Baseline Conditions

The results of the baseline study are presented here as a summarised appraisal of the various disparate data sources. They have been separated into archaeological and architectural assets. For ease of reference, each asset has been assigned a unique ID reference comprising a two-letter prefix ('AR' for archaeological assets and 'BU' for architectural assets), followed by a sequentially increasing number. This allows information from different datasets, each with their own reference systems, to be collated into a single receptor list.

### 10.4.1 Data Sources

The baseline study comprised a comprehensive desk-based review of existing, remotely available heritage datasets within the Study Area, which has allowed a good understanding of the baseline cultural heritage conditions at and around the Site to be established. Sources of information consulted include:

- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) unit of the NMS, for details regarding all known monuments and sites<sup>4</sup>;
- The NIAH Building<sup>4</sup> and Garden<sup>5</sup> Surveys, for details regarding buildings, structures, demesnes, designed landscapes and historic gardens of architectural importance;
- The RMP, compiled and maintained by the NMS, for details regarding protected sites;
- The NMS for details regarding national monuments in State care (ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) and for monuments subject to Preservation Orders;
- The Kildare County Development Plan (2017-2023) for details regarding the county's RHM, RPS, national monuments in State care (ownership or guardianship of the Local Authority), monuments subject to Preservation Orders, ACAs and ZAPs;
- The Wicklow County Development Plan (2016 - 2022) for details regarding the county's protected heritage, including the county RPS (relevant where the Study Area extends beyond Co. Kildare into Co. Wicklow, to the south and east);
- UNESCO for details regarding inscribed and tentative World Heritage Sites;
- The SMR and Excavations Bulletin (1970 – 2006) for details of previous excavations;
- Ordnance Survey Ireland for historic cartographic and aerial image sources, in order to conduct a map regression
- Pre-existing environmental reports containing information pertinent to the historic environment of the Site; and
- Modern online aerial image sources (e.g. Google Earth, Bing Maps).

### 10.4.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Context

County Kildare's archaeological record stretches from the Late Neolithic to the modern, and comprises a variety of material culture, with both archaeological and architectural heritage evident within the landscape. The present landscape was shaped largely by industrialisation throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, with localised urban growth in planned towns and sprawling agricultural land densely populated with country houses and demesnes. The imprint of the process of industrialisation was strengthened by the introduction of canals and railways to

<sup>4</sup> The SMR and NIAH Building Survey datasets are available in a downloadable Geographical Information System (GIS) format.

<sup>5</sup> The NIAH Garden survey is a work in progress. The desk-based survey (Phases 1 and 2) has been completed, but the field survey (Phase 3) remains incomplete. A policy framework and method of protection remains to be determined.

the county, which have contributed to the architectural heritage of Kildare. Within the sprawling agricultural environment outside the towns, the majority of the population lived in small settlements and farmsteads, which are extant in the landscape.

### 10.4.3 Archaeological Heritage

#### Sites and Monuments Record and the Record of Monuments and Places

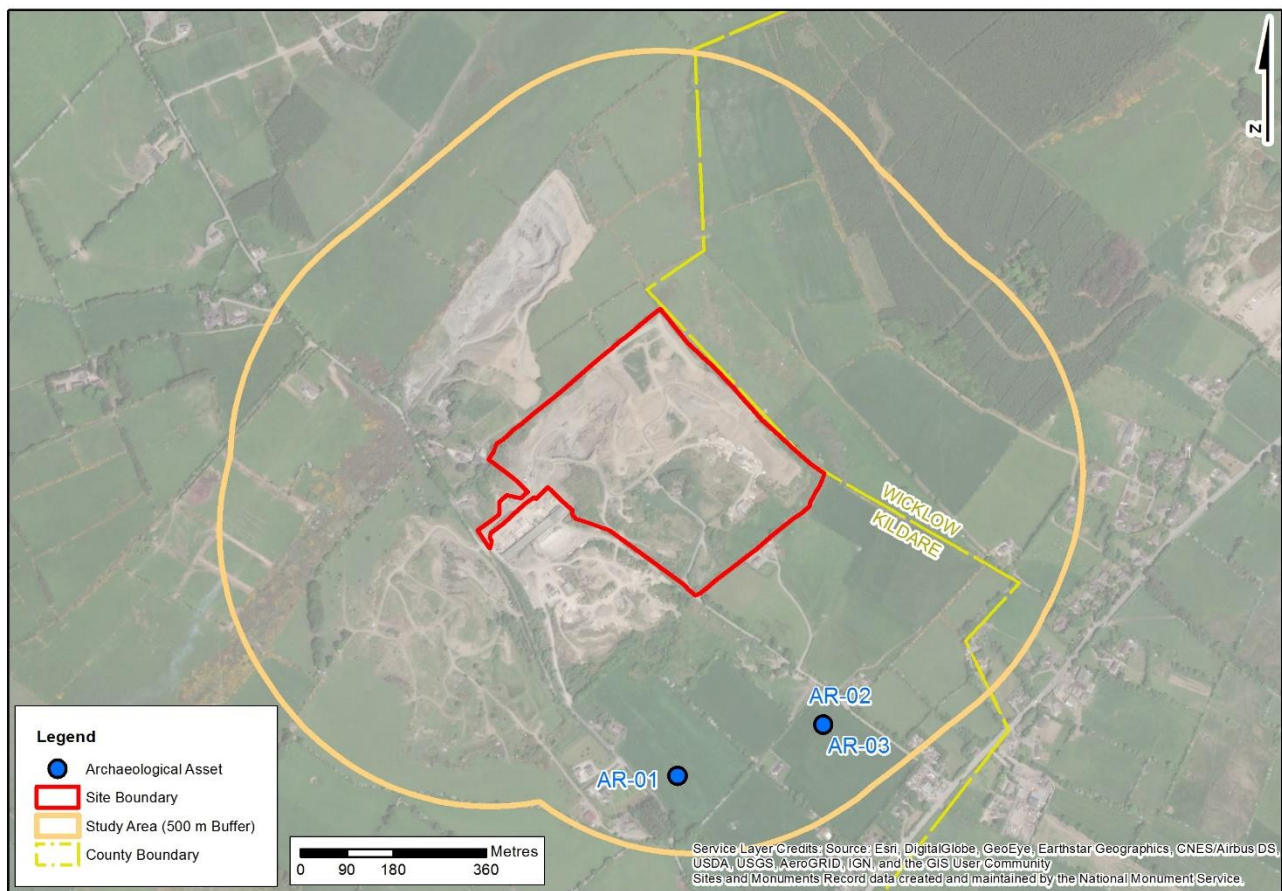
There are three archaeological assets from the SMR recorded within the Study Area, although, as shown in Figure 10-1, none of them are located within the Site. The details of these assets are summarised in Table 10-5. Two of the assets are stone burial structures, known as cists<sup>6</sup>, whilst one is an example of prehistoric rock art (AR-03). They are all approximately 350 m from the Site, with two of them adjacent to each other and assumed to be associated (AR-02 and AR-03).

**Table 10-5: Archaeological Assets within Study Area**

Golder ID	SMR Ref	Easting (ITM95)	Northing (ITM95)	Asset Description	Included (or Proposed for Inclusion) on RMP	Distance to Site	Value
AR-01	KD020-016----	699559	717848	Cist	Yes	350 m (south)	High
AR-02	KD020-015001-	699849	717950	Cist	Yes	350 m (south)	High
AR-03	KD020-015002-	699849	717950	Rock Art	Yes	350 m (south)	High

<sup>6</sup> A complete list of class definitions used in the SMR is available here: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/NationalMonuments/WebServiceQuery/Lookup.aspx>





**Figure 10-1: Archaeological Assets within Study Area**

## Preservation Orders

None of the assets within the Study Area are subject to a Preservation Order. The nearest asset to the Site that is subject to a Preservation Order is a mound (SMR ref: WI001-018----) located in Goldenhill, approximately 2 km to the southeast of the Site.

## National Monuments in State Care

A national monument is defined by the National Monuments Act, 1930 as an asset 'the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto'. A National Monument in State Care is one in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or a Local Authority.

The nearest National Monument in State care is the high cross in Killeel Upper (SMR ref: KD020-007005-), located 2.6 km northwest of the Site.

## Register of Historic Monuments

None of the assets within the Study Area are listed on the RHM. The nearest monument to the Site that is inscribed on the RHM is the medieval settlement in Killeel (including the high cross that is in State care; SMR ref: KD020-007002-- to KD020-0070010-), approximately 2.6 km to the northwest of the Site.

## Zones of Archaeological Potential

The Site is not located within a ZAP. The nearest ZAP (listed as an 'Area of Archaeological Potential or Significance' in the Wicklow County Development Plan (2016 - 2022)) is in Burgage/Blessington, approximately 4 km south of the Site.

## World Heritage and the Tentative List

There are no World Heritage Sites recorded within the Study Area. The nearest World Heritage Site to the Site is Brú na Bóinne (Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne), located 53.5 km to the north. The Royal Sites of Ireland, comprising five individual sites in Ireland (Cashel, Dún Ailinne, the Hill of Uisneach, the Rathcroghan Complex and the Tara Complex) as well as Navan Fort in Northern Ireland (UK), is listed on the Tentative List for Ireland for consideration for inclusion on the World Heritage List. Dún Ailinne, the seat of the kings of Leinster, is located approximately 19.5 km southwest of the Site.

### 10.4.4 Architectural Heritage

#### The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

There are no architectural assets listed on the NIAH Building Survey that are recorded within the Study Area. There are also no assets listed on the NIAH Garden Survey that are within the Study Area. The nearest architectural assets to the Site are Tinode House (NIAH ref: 16400101) and demesne (NIAH ref: 4267), listed on the NIAH Building and Garden Surveys, respectively. These assets are located approximately 1.5 km to the northeast of the Site.

### Architectural Conservation Areas

The Site is not within an ACA. The nearest ACA to the Site is the Blessington ACA, located 4 km south of the Site.

### 10.4.5 Previous Studies and Archaeological Investigations

There is one excavation recorded within the Study Area on the Excavations Bulletin database. This was undertaken in 1996 to the northeast of the Site, towards Tinode House and demesne. The archaeological excavation was completed prior to construction of two houses at that location, where the SMR indicated the presence of a potential earthwork enclosure. Six trenches were excavated, with no evidence of an earthwork identified. Some cultivation ridges were noted, but no evidence for earlier features or settlement were found.

A previous impact assessment, completed in support of application for the continuance of quarrying and aggregate processing at the Site in 2007 (Byrne Environmental Consulting, 2007), re-affirms that no known archaeological assets are recorded at the Site. It indicates that quarrying activity has taken place at the Site since circa 1948. A subsequent archaeological investigation of the Site was conducted in August 2007 (Headland Archaeology, 2007; not recorded on the Excavations Bulletin database), which comprised 11 trial trenches being excavated across the Site, seven of which targeted the area included in the Proposed Development. These trenches varied in length (between 37.5 m and 122 m) and depth (between 0.4 m and 0.6 m). No features of archaeological significance were identified in any of the trenches excavated across the Site, and it was recommended that no further archaeological investigation was required.

### 10.4.6 Historic Map Regression and Aerial Imagery

Historic mapping for the Proposed Development site is available from Ordnance Survey Ireland, including:

- 6 Inch Colour and Black & White – 1829-1841;
- 25 Inch Black & White – 1897-1913;
- Aerial photography (black and white - orthorectified) – 1995;

- Aerial photography (colour - orthorectified) – 2000;
- Aerial photography (colour - orthorectified) – 2005.

The 6" map, dating from the early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, depicts the Site as undeveloped land; either agricultural or scrubland. This reflects the wider rural landscape depicted at this time, with a network of small local roads and scattered individual homesteads present (particularly along roads and lanes). No quarrying activity is evident at this time, and the area surrounding the Site, particularly in terms of field boundaries, is largely recognisable as it exists today.

The 25" map, dating from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is equally recognisable when compared to modern aerial imagery. The Site largely remains as undeveloped agricultural land at this time, although there is evidence of some quarrying and extraction work at the eastern edge of the Site and in the adjacent field.

The next available imagery, aerial photography from 1995, documents small scale quarrying and stockpiling activity over a large proportion of the Site, particularly in the eastern and northeastern areas of the Site, and the western area where present activity is focussed. It also evidences the appearance of a number of structures within the central area of the Site. Aerial photographs from 2000 and 2005 indicate that similar scale extraction and stockpiling continued at the Site during this time. Modern aerial imagery, dating from 2009 onwards, documents the larger scale extraction of materials within the Site and the formation of the current quarry pit. Throughout this period, a rural landscape persists in the surrounding Study Area.

## 10.5 Potential Effects

Using the assessment methodology described in Section 10.3, the effects of the Proposed Development upon cultural heritage assets have been assessed. Due to the nature of the proposals (i.e. continuation of the current operational activities at the Site, with an extension of quarrying activities in a north-easterly direction and on-going restoration occurring throughout operation), effects have only been considered during the operation and decommissioning phases. There is no construction phase to consider.

### 10.5.1 Operation Phase

There are no known cultural heritage assets within the Site and archaeological investigation work completed in 2007 concluded that there were no undiscovered remains below the surface within the Site (Headland Archaeology, 2007). As such, no direct effects are predicted to designated or non-designated assets during operation.

The air quality, noise and landscape assessments indicate that there will be no significant effects during the operation of the Site. As such, no indirect effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets within the Study Area are predicted. This is reflective of the baseline conditions (i.e. an existing quarry site).

### 10.5.2 Decommissioning Phase

The restoration of the Site, which will commence during the operation phase but will be completed once aggregate extraction has been completed, will result in a landform vegetated with a mix of native trees, scrubs, grasses and wildflowers, which is expected to deliver biodiversity benefits to the Site. It is not expected, however, that the landform will be reinstated to its pre-quarrying appearance.

No direct or adverse indirect effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets are predicted as a result of this decommissioning work. The restoration of the Site may, however, result in a slight improvement to the current visual setting of the three archaeological assets within the Study Area. A minor magnitude effect is predicted, resulting in a slight positive effect.

Table 10-6 presents the potential effects on cultural heritage assets during operation.

**Table 10-6: Potential Effects - Decommissioning**

Asset	Description of Effect	Magnitude of Effect	Asset value	Significance of Effect (before mitigation)
AR-01	Slight change to setting as a result of visual changes to the landscape.	Minor	High	Slight (positive)
AR-02	Slight change to setting as a result of visual changes to the landscape.	Minor	High	Slight (positive)
AR-03	Slight change to setting as a result of visual changes to the landscape.	Minor	High	Slight (positive)

## 10.6 Mitigation and Monitoring

As no adverse effects are expected as a result of the Proposed Development, no mitigation or monitoring is required to avoid or reduce effects on cultural heritage assets.

## 10.7 Residual Effects

As no mitigation is proposed, the residual effects of the proposed restoration of the Site are the same as those presented in Table 10-6. In summary, it is expected that there will be a slight significance positive effect on the setting of three archaeological assets located to the south of the Site.

## 10.8 Summary and Conclusions

It is proposed to continue aggregate extraction at an existing quarry site and to extend quarrying activity northwards and eastwards into previously undisturbed areas of the Site. Progressive restoration of the Site as quarrying progresses is also proposed, which will deliver a landform vegetated with a variety of native tree, scrub, grass and wildflower species, resulting in enhanced biodiversity at the Site.

The Site, which was previously undeveloped agricultural and scrub land, has been quarried since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is considered that quarrying activity in the worked area has removed any sub-surface archaeological remains that may have existed in that area of the Site. Archaeological trial trenching in the undisturbed areas of the Site indicate that there are no remains of archaeological significance present.

A detailed desk-based assessment has been undertaken to determine the cultural heritage baseline conditions and a full impact assessment of the proposed restoration works has been completed.

It is considered that there will be no adverse effects on cultural heritage assets as a result of the Proposed Development. There is potential that the restoration of the Site will deliver slight significance positive effects on the setting of three archaeological assets within the Study Area.

## 10.9 References

Byrne Environmental Consulting Ltd. (2007). Environmental Impact Statement to accompany a Planning Application for continued operation of a sand, gravel and rock quarry on 14.4 ha of land at Hempstown Commons, Blessington, Co. Kildare.

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