

SECTION 9 : CULTURAL HERITAGE

9.1 INTRODUCTION

9.1.1 Background

This section of the EIS outlines the Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage issues with respect to proposed quarry restoration project at Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process for anticipating the effects on the environment caused by a development. An Environmental Impact Statement is the document produced as a result of that process (EIS). Where effects are identified that are unacceptable, these can then be avoided or reduced during the design process (Environmental Protection Agency 2003:1).

This study determines, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the cultural heritage resource within the area of proposed development using appropriate methods of study. Desk based research is defined as an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information. The assessment takes place in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the cultural heritage resource;
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response;
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research. (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001a)

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the development site. Information has been obtained from the Record of Monuments and Places of Co. Kildare, relevant County Development Plans, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, and cartographic and documentary records. Aerial photographs of the study area held by the Geological Survey of Ireland were also consulted. A field inspection was carried out on the 22nd January 2008 in an attempt to identify any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and portable finds within the proposed development area.

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

9.1.2 Scope of Work

It is proposed to restore the worked out sand and gravel pit back to original (pre-extraction) ground levels and agricultural afteruse using imported inert soil and stone and some recycled construction and demolition waste. The lands were previously worked for sand and gravel under a series of 5 year duration planning permissions granted to Readymix (ROI) Ltd. Planning ref. no's 339/76; 1598/82; 799/87; and 93/592.

The existing operation comprises restoration of a worked out sand and gravel pit using inert soil and stone and recycled construction and demolition waste. Some of the concrete imported to the site for recovery is stockpiled temporarily prior to crushing and screening. Recycled aggregates are sold to the market, used for hard-standing or haul roads within the development or backfilling of existing surface water bodies across the site. Any small amounts of steel reinforcement, timber or paper arising from the recovery operations are stored temporarily in designated areas, prior to dispatch to an appropriately licenced transfer or recovery facility nearby. The plant and machinery used within the facility includes 1 no. bulldozer, 1 no. excavator, 1 no. loading shovel, 1 no. dumper, 1 no. mobile crushing unit, and 1 no. screening unit.

The total remaining void space is approximately 2.2 million cubic metres (which equates to 3.95 million tonnes at a placed density of 1.8 tonnes per cubic metre). Based on an annual intake of 260,000 tonnes of inert waste per year, this gives a life for the development of approximately 15 years. The final restoration layer will typically comprise 0.85m of subsoil overlain by 0.15m of topsoil. This will enable the lands to be returned to beneficial agricultural afteruse. No further ground disturbance will be undertaken.

9.1.3 Contributors – Project Team

Rob Lynch BA Dipl EIA Mgmt MIAPA

Managing Director / Senior Archaeologist

Rob Lynch graduated from University College Dublin in 1994 and is a Senior/ licence eligible archaeologist. He has extensive and wide-ranging archaeological fieldwork experience including directing large-scale multi-period excavations throughout Ireland. In his capacity as Managing Director of IAC Ltd., Senior Archaeologist and PSCS/Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Rob Lynch has extensive experience of large scale archaeological project management and consultancy on the following projects: Dundalk Sewerage Scheme - Contract 3, M1 Northern Motorway – Contract 7, Dundalk Western Bypass, Limerick Tunnel PPP Southern Contract, N11 Gorey to Arklow Link, N2 Carrickmacross Bypass and the N15 Bundoran-Ballyshannon Bypass, as well as numerous private sector developments.

Rob Lynch has also completed a Post-graduate Diploma course in EIA Management at University College Dublin and has received a diploma in Building Conservation from Dublin Civic Trust.

Faith Bailey MA, BA Hons

Archaeologist

Faith graduated from the University of Wales, Lampeter in 2001, having studied a single honours degree in archaeology. She went on to study on a Masters course, also at Lampeter, in Cultural Landscape Management for which she achieved a distinction in her dissertation. This course involved intensive map analysis and aerial photography analysis, along with surveying and historical landscape characterisation. During the course of this degree Faith also undertook in-depth analysis of the management of various cultural heritage sites throughout England and Wales.

Faith has gained a large amount of experience in the archaeological field on prehistoric and medieval excavations in Donegal, Kildare, Meath and Louth. She is currently a Senior Project Officer and research co-ordinator within the research and report production department of IAC.

Maeve Tobin MA, BA Hons. MIAPO

Archaeologist / Osteoarchaeologist

Maeve graduated from the University College Cork in 2004, having gained a joint honours degree in archaeology and geography. She continued in UCC studying for a Master of Arts degree in Osteoarchaeology, from which she graduated with honours in 2005. Her postgraduate thesis was entitled "Lost at Sea – Maritime death and commemoration in Cork Harbour". She was involved in the excavation and osteological analysis of the human remains from an Early Medieval site and *Cillin* at Caherlehillan, Co. Kerry and in the excavation of a Later Medieval church at Toureen Peakoun, Co. Tipperary (UCC research excavations).

Maeve has gained experience in field archaeology in Westmeath, Louth, Waterford, Kilkenny and Kerry on Prehistoric, Early Medieval and Medieval excavations. She is currently a Project Officer within the research and report production department of IAC and has an ongoing involvement with the excavation and analysis of the human remains from an Early Medieval cemetery in Co. Kilkenny.

9.2 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

9.2.1 Available Information

9.2.1.1 Archaeological Heritage

Historical and Archaeological Background

The area of land interest is located c. 5km SSE of Naas in the townland of Blackhall, Co. Kildare, approximately 600m to the E of Punchestown racecourse. The proposed site is located in the Barony

of Naas North and the parish of Rathmore, historically a frontier zone between Wicklow, Dublin and the lowlands of Kildare. The area of land interest is bound to the SE and SW by regional roads and to the NW and NE by agricultural land. A substantial ringfort (KD024-012) is located immediately adjacent (c. 5m) to the NW boundary. Blackhall Castle (KD024-011) and Kilsaintlucan graveyard (KD024-013) are both in close proximity and testify to medieval settlement in the area.

Prehistoric Period : Mesolithic (c. 7000 BC)

The earliest extant evidence suggests that Ireland was first occupied in the Mesolithic period, by communities that subsisted on hunting, fishing and foraging. The most common evidence found to show the presence of Mesolithic communities at a site is scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements. There is no evidence for Mesolithic occupation within the vicinity of the proposed development area.

Prehistoric Period : Neolithic (c.4000-2500 B.C)

During the Neolithic Period communities appear to become less mobile and their economy becomes based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition is 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. Artefacts such as flint scrapers have been found in the general region at Knockaulin near Kilcullen whilst a stone axehead from Athy and a saddle quern uncovered at Ballyhade near Castledermot are also thought to belong to the Neolithic period. To the east of the study area in the Wicklow Mountains there are several megalithic tombs however none of these are located close to the area of interest.

Prehistoric Period : Bronze Age (c.2500-600BC)

The Bronze Age is 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 is accompanied by changes in society. Megaliths were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel. Different forms of burial barrows were also being constructed during this period, as well as ceremonial monuments such as henges. The majority of the thirty recorded Bronze Age burial sites in Kildare are found in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, however there are none close to the application site.

A standing stone (KD024-009), noted as Long Stone, is located c. 1.7km WNW of the land interest. There is evidence of Bronze Age activity near this standing stone as there are three barrow sites in the surrounding area in the townlands of Punchestown, Swordlestown and Craddockstown. Also close to the standing stone, in Punchestown Great, the National Museum has recorded the discovery of a short cist grave (Museum No: 1981:355-358) containing cremated human remains. A large number of worked flints, including a serrated flint blade and thumbnail scraper, were also recorded within or near the study area, particularly in Athgarrett townland located immediately to the east of the site, offering further evidence of prehistoric activity in the region (see topographical files below).

Prehistoric Period : Iron Age (600BC – 500AD)

There is no known evidence of Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Early Medieval Period (c. 400-1160AD),

The ancient territory of Kildare was known as the *Magh Life* in the Early Medieval Period, reputedly after the daughter of the High King of Ireland, *Deltbana Mac Druict*. Kildare was significant in politics of the time as indicated by some of the placenames. Naas reputedly owes its name from this time when it served as the meeting place of kings (*An Nas na Ri*).

During this sometimes violent times roughly circular defensive enclosures known as ringforts were constructed to protect farmsteads. The most recent study of the ringfort (Stout 1997) has suggested that there is a total of 45,119 potential ringforts or enclosure sites throughout Ireland. They are typically enclosed by an earthen bank and exterior ditch, and range from 25m to 50m in diameter. The smaller sized and single banked type (univallate) were more likely to be home to the lower ranks of society while larger examples with more than one bank (bivallate/ trivallate) housed the more powerful kings and lords. Although most of the ringforts that have been excavated are shown to date to this period, some have earlier origins and may have been originally constructed during the Iron Age, or even earlier.

There is a ringfort located in the townland of Blackhall (KDO24-012) which is also designated as a Protected Structure (B24-06) by Kildare County Council in the current Development Plan (2005-2011). The land interest lies within the area of archaeological significance for this site. A previous planning application was submitted by Readymix Limited for the development of this site for the excavation of sand and gravel in June 1976. An inspection was undertaken, at which point the ringfort measured external diameter 60m with a maximum height of 1.5m. As the monument was a good example of its type and commanded a prominent location in the landscape planning was permitted (799/87) with the clause of a 5m buffer zone being placed around the edge of the monument prior to any excavation. It was also recommended that the land be graded from the 5m line to the final ground level. Another possible ringfort/earthworks site (KDO24-039) in the townland of Punchestown Great, c.1.5km west of the land interest is marked on the 1838 and 1908 OS maps but the site has been levelled and no visible traces remain.

A number of other ecclesiastical sites were established during this period in areas such as Naas, Clane, Cloncurry and Kilkea. This network of ecclesiastical sites would have undoubtedly established and maintained contact with the great monastic complex founded by St Kevin at Glendalough. The study area lies between these Kildare ecclesiastical sites and Glendalough and was most probably passed through by many pilgrims who may have had a part in establishing holy wells in the area along the pilgrim roads. Bride's Well (KDO24-035) is located c. 700m SSE of the area of land interest and is represented by two springs, the more easterly of which has a small boulder wall surrounding it. There are no written accounts of this well bar a brief account in the OS letters in 1837, and it is not known if it dates back to the Early Medieval period. It is one of twelve holy wells dedicated to St Brigid in Kildare. Also located in this region are St Patrick's well in Athgarrett (KDO25-015) and another Holy Well in Tipperkevin named in honour of St Kevin (KDO24-021) that has now been covered over, located c. 1km east and c. 1.5km south of the proposed development area respectively. The veneration of wells is a very widespread and ancient tradition in Ireland. Many holy wells can be found associated with early ecclesiastical sites. Well veneration and its antecedent well worship are not confined to Ireland or even to Europe and at least some holy wells in Ireland were important venues of pre-Christian ritual activity. Most wells are springs but occasionally other water sources, or hollowed stones that collect water, are treated as holy wells.

It is worth noting that the National Museum has recorded the discovery of a Romanesque crucifix figure in Athgarrett. This is the only ecclesiastical find listed by the museum within the study area. This crucifix figure is a rudimentary example of a style of ecclesiastical art from the 11th early 12th century (O'Flóinn, 1991, details below). A graveyard, Kilsaintlucan (KD024-013), is located c. 125m SSW of the proposed development. There is a reference to a church in the name – church of Saint Lucan, however there are no remains visible and no documentary references available until the Post-Medieval Period (see below).

Later Medieval Period (c. 1150 – 1600AD)

At the time of the Norman invasion in the 12th century the area now known as Kildare comprised of four tribal territories; *Offelan* in the N, *Offaly* to the NW and the centre, *Omurethy* to the south and *Leix* to the SW. These territories were granted to Norman lords. The area of North and South Naas, where the site is situated, was part of *Offelan* and was granted to Maurice Fitzgerald, an ancestor of the Earls of Kildare. There is little known about the early period of Norman settlement in Kildare but we do know that they established fortified towns, mottes and castles for the defence of the new settlements. The towns of Naas, Killeel, Ballymore Eustace and Killcullen became fortified Norman towns supported by several castle sites in the surrounding area. The town of Naas held eight Norman castles during this period. In the grounds of Athgarret House there is a castle site (KDO25-05) located c. 1.5km NE of the proposed development area. There are no visible traces of the castle and its precise location remains unclear. Nonetheless, according to M. Cahill of the National Museum, there have been Medieval finds in the area, which suggests that it was the site of a Medieval settlement of some sort. It is believed that there was once a castle in Punchestown Great but again no trace remains. There are also castle sites listed in the townlands Killashee, Mullacash, Punchestown, Oldtown and Rathasker, all located within a 5km radius of the site of proposed development.

There are several moated sites located in eastern Kildare. Moated sites are usually square or rectangular, or very occasionally sub-circular enclosures or platforms enclosed by wide banks and fosses. They are defensive settlements of the late 13th and 14th centuries when Norman hegemony was clearly established in the NE of Kildare.

At Tipperkevin there is a possible moated site (KDO24-01902) close to the southern end of the valley. A complex of cropmarks (KD024-019), including the possible moated site, are noted at a site located c. 600m S of the area of land interest comprising upstanding earthworks chiefly of rectangular enclosures with circular platform in one corner.

Tower houses date from the 15th and 16th century and were the fortified houses of the gentry. Predominantly found in Counties Louth, Meath and Kildare, their construction was actively encouraged by Henry VI who, in 1429, offered a grant for the building of these houses. The remains of a tower house in Blackhall (KDO24-011) are located c. 50m to the NW of the area of proposed development. The western and southern walls of a rectangular tower house are present on site. Modern dilapidated outhouses were constructed directly adjacent and a very slight batter is visible on the western wall which is comprised of roughly coursed thin limestone flags. Blackhall Castle is thought to represent a late tower house with no special features. Traces of a possible bawn are visible to SW however this might be modern. This tower house may have a connection with the Wogan and Eustace families (see Post Medieval). These two families, along with the Aymers, were some of the most important Anglo-Norman families in this area of Kildare and were related by marriage to the Fitzgeralds. There is cartographic evidence of another fortified house (KDO24-036) in Punctestown Great. All that remains on this site is a farmhouse of little archaeological or historical interest.

A profusion of such defensive settlements is typical of Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland but it is worth bearing in mind that the study area is close to where the ramparts that marked the edge of the Pale once stood. These defensive settlements were part of a broader strategy of defence. The defence of the marghery of the Pale (the outer buffer zone) was of central importance to the Anglo-Normans and there were occasional incursions of Irish septs in this area. The Normans also established a number of ecclesiastical settlements in the NE and E of Kildare such as the monastery in Great Connell and religious houses in Kilkcullen, Naas, Kiteel, Leixlip and Clane.

Post Medieval Period

The Fitzgeralds, Earls of Kildare, gradually amassed great wealth and power in the county. The Earls were at the height of their power during the period of 'Great Earl', *Garret Mór*, in the early 16th century. The Fitzgeralds experienced a reversal of fortune when in 1534 Silken Thomas, the grandson of *Garret Mór*, led a rebellion. The Geraldine rebellion was followed by a time of upheaval and disorder in Kildare which resulted in the region being placed under the direct rule of Dublin. The Church and the Fitzgeralds lost land changing the political and economic structure of Kildare and the repercussions were felt all over the county (Lyons, 2000). For instance Rathmore NE of the study area which was a relatively significant town at this time was very badly affected by the Geraldine Rebellion.

Like the branches of the Fitzgerald family, the Eustace's played a vital role in the provision of defence along the western boundary of the Pale. Their strategically located castles such as Liashee, Castlemartin, Blackhall (KDO24-011), Blackrath and Ballymore Eustace formed a buffer against raiding by the O'Connors and the O'Tooles (Lyons, 2000). Like other renowned families at the time the Eustaces built up a close network of prestigious marriages, a particularly good example of which was the case of William Eustace of Castlemartin who married four times. Certain branches of the family owed their genesis to propitious marriages such as the line of Blackhall of whom William was the head in 1535 which owed its origins to his marriage to an heiress, Catherine Archdeacon (*ibid.*).

County Kildare endured further upheaval in the following century after the English Rebellion and accession to power of Cromwell. The pattern and structure of landownership changed in parts of Kildare with the establishment of plantations. The Earls sided with the Jacobite rebellion and lost further power and prestige after the battle of the Boyne in 1690 and the consolidation of English power (O' Farrell, 2003). Most of the famous large houses and demesnes of Kildare date from this period. These houses represent a new confidence and security, and significantly landlords abandoned the defensive structures favoured by landowners in earlier periods. Closer to the study area are Forenaughts House, Kerdiffstown House and Punctestown House near Naas which were built in the first half of 18th century.

A circular graveyard named *Cill San Liúcan* (KD024-013), which signifies '*Cella Sancti Lucani*' or church of Saint Lucan (see below) is located 125m SSW of the area of proposed development. Remains of a church in the form of a nave and chancel are present however there is not much

information available for this site. In his will, dated 1640, 'Rowland Eustace asked to be buried in the graveyard of Kilsaintlucan half a mile south of Blackhall castle' (RMP file). Kildare escaped the worst effects of the 1845 famine, largely because the county had a low population density at that time. For that reason, East Kildare does not feature any known famine graveyards or other historical sites associated with the Great Famine.

Cartographic Research

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Noble and Keenan, 'Map of Co. Kildare', 1752 (Fig. 9.4)

Although lacking in accuracy this early map shows important sites and major topographical features in the landscape. An emphasis is placed on identifying religious houses, farmsteads, watermills, windmills and also the Houses of the Nobles and gentlemen in the region. Blackhall is annotated at the corner of a main road with a farmhouse (possibly associated with Blackhall Castle) shown to the west near the location of Kilsaintlucan graveyard (not shown). Two Long stones are illustrated in the region, at Puchestown and Baltracey, indicating their importance in the landscape.

Alex Taylor, 'A Map of the Co. Kildare', 1783 (Fig. 9.5)

This late 18th century map clearly depicts a road system very similar to modern layout with topographical features noted such as *Slieve Roe* Mountain to the SE of the area of land interest. A slight rise in land level is shown in the area of the ringfort but nothing substantial. There are no buildings marked within the area of proposed development however for the first and only time a mill is annotated as being present in the southern half of the proposed development area. A stream annotated as 'a run for the bleachfield' flows along the SW boundary of the land interest. This water course originates to the south, at the base of *Slieve Roe* as Glenmore River and flows north beyond Johnstown. The long stones are still depicted to the NE and so is Puchestown house. Nunsland Estate is delineated to the immediate NE of the site with Brideswell marked to the south.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838 Scale 1:10560 (Fig. 9.6)

This is the first detailed accurate mapping of the proposed land interest. The area of proposed development is shown divided into 8 plots. The ringfort is illustrated as a substantial bivallate (two banks) circular enclosure bisected by a field boundary E-W. A small sub-circular gravel pit is shown in the location of the earlier mill (as marked on Noble and Keenan map) with a further pit located midway on the SE boundary. The stream has moved to the opposite side of the road nearer to Kilsaintlucan grave yard which is noted for the first time within a circular banked enclosure (c. 150m SSW). This is also the first cartographic indication of Blackhall Castle located c. 50m NW of the land interest whilst Black Hill is shown as an area of overgrowth c. 550m to the SW.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1872 Scale 1:10560

This edition shows the area of proposed development comprising 13 subdivided plots. There are no major changes other than the changes in field boundaries within the area of land interest. The ringfort (KD024-012) has been reduced to a univallate (one bank) enclosure.

Third Edition Ordnance Survey, 1910 Scale 1:10560, (Fig. 9.7)

There have been no changes to the landscape within the area of land interest since the 1872 edition OS map. The ringfort (KD024-012) has been reduced in size once more however still appears substantial. Kilsaintlucan graveyard is now illustrated within a sub-rectangular enclosure. Puchestown Moat is annotated for the first time, c. 900m to the NW; illustrated as a sub-rectangular earthwork.

County Development Plan

Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011) contains a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. This was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites within the study area. There is also a Kildare County Heritage Plan (2005-2009) whose objective is to identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County.

There is one Protected Structure which is also a protected archaeological site (RMPs) partially located within the area of proposed development as listed in the Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011). The ringfort (DU024-012, B24-06) located adjacent to the NW boundary of the land interest has previously had a 5m buffer zone enforced by Kildare County Council in 1976 prior to works at the time as it was deemed to represent a good example of the type. A further Protected Structure within the vicinity of the proposed development area comprises a possible Motte at Punchestown Great (B24-07), also an RMP (KD024-039), located c. 900m to the WNW. For further details of aims and objectives of the County Development Plan and the Archaeological Heritage resource please see Appendix 9.3.

Aerial Photographic Research – Geological Survey of Ireland

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. Analysis of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Geological Survey of Ireland (AP Ref: N379) revealed that at the point of this survey the land interest had not been quarried and was subdivided into 13 units as illustrated on the RMP mapping. There appears to be two sub-circular depressions, possible gravel pits, in the most northern and southern fields, the latter of which is also visible on the 1st and 2nd editions OS maps.

The imprint of a possible extinct river meanders from the SW clipping the area of land interest in the western stretch to curve around the Ringfort and continue NE. The Ringfort (KD024-012) is well represented in the aerial shot as a sub-circular SSW-NNE orientated enclosure bisected E-W by a field boundary. A substantial bank is present in-situ with an external ditch visible on the eastern side of the earthwork continuing on the north-western section. A linear raised earthwork of unknown function is present in the field to the east, c. 200m SE of the land interest.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The Record of Monuments and Places is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service containing details of documentary sources and field inspections where these have taken place.

There are seven archaeological monuments recorded within proximity to the proposed development site. These include a ringfort, castle and church and graveyard in the townland of Blackhall with further earthworks and a 17th century house at Punchestown Great. The following information is listed in order of proximity to the area of land interest.

RMP No.: KD024-012
Townland: Blackhall
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Proximity to site: Within the area of proposed development
Classification: Ringfort
Description: A roughly circular ringfort set on a hilltop. The site is outlined by a univallate bank. The ground falls away sharply on the southern and western sides. On the NE side there is a fosse. The interior of the Ringfort is relatively flat with a field fence and fosse bisecting the centre on the E-W axis. The monument is in a commanding position set on the hilltop in well drained pastureland. The internal diameter E-W is 32m.
Reference: De Burgh (1896) RMP File

RMP No.: KD024-011
Townland: Blackhall
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Proximity to site: Adjacent to the area of proposed development
Classification: Tower House / Castle
Description: The western and southern walls of a rectangular tower house are present on site. Modern dilapidated outhouses are directly adjacent with a very slight batter on the western wall. Walls comprise of roughly

coursed thin limestone flags without corner stone's in general. An apparently late tower house with no special features this building appears to have been reinforced with concrete. Exterior length of west wall is 8m. Traces of a possible bawn are visible to SW however it might be modern.

On the SW side of Blackhall townland is an old castle in ruins (O' Donovan.) This castle was acquired by William Eustace in 1535 (JKAS, 1960). De Burghs map detailing castle in the region seems to be a copy of Taylors Map 1783.

Reference: O' Donovan (1837) De Burgh (1896) RMP File

RMP No.: KD024-013

Townland: Blackhall

Parish: Rathmore

Barony: Naas North

Proximity to site: 125m SSW of the area of proposed development

Classification: Church and Graveyard

Description: The site consists of a D shaped enclosure consisting of an earthen bank with modern external dry stone facing and modern drain. A fosse like gap runs between the bank and the central rising area. On the highest point of the interior are the remains of a nave and chancel church. The east wall of the chancel being represented by a grass covered bank, the nave consisting of a rectangular pit dug into a pile of stones. There are no traces of walls. The graveyard contains some 18th century gravestones and many markers. The straight side of the D shaped enclosure is probably of recent construction, in connection with straightening of the adjacent laneway (on W side). Dimensions N-S 40m, E-W 40m.

Kilsaintlucan grave yard marked on 1st edition map and 3rd edition.

In the S side of Blackhall there is a circular graveyard named *Cill San Liúcan*, which signifies '*Cella Sancti Lucani*' or church of saint lucan (O'Donovan, 165). In his will dated 1640 Rowland Eustace asked to be buried in the graveyard of Kilsaintlucan half a mile south of Blackhall castle (JKAS 1960)

Reference: O' Donavan 1837, Fitzgerald 1906-8. JKAS, 13, 1960, 370 by Sir Eustace F. Tickell. RMP File

RMP No.: KD024-019

Townland: Tipperkevin

Parish: Tipperkevin

Barony: Naas South

Proximity to site: c. 600m to the south of the area of proposed development

Classification: Cropmarks

Description: Located in well defined flat based valley an area of low upstanding earthworks consisting chiefly of rectangular enclosures with circular platform in one corner. It is probable that one site may represent a moated site-rectangular banked enclosure rising at each corner and circular platform in one corner. Structures have a linear distribution on western half of N-S valley. Moated site lied close to the end. Probably connected to the church and commons by laneway running to NE of graveyard.

Reference: RMP file.

RMP No.: KD024-035

Townland: Newtown Great

Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Proximity to site: c. 700m SSE from the area of proposed development.
Classification: Holy Well
Description: This site is represented by two springs, the more easterly of which has a small boulder wall surrounding it. Shown on 1st and 3rd edition OS maps. O' Donavan records it as a well called Brideswell in the southern side of Newtown Great which was formerly frequented as a holy well. There are no traditions associated with this well.
Reference: O' Donavan 1837, RMP File

RMP No.: KD024-039
Townland: Punchestown Great
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Proximity to site: c. 900m WNW from the area of proposed development.
Classification: Earthwork
Description: The entire gravel ledge on which this site occurred has been levelled. It is not clear whether or not 'Punchestown Moat' was applied to what seemingly could have been a well defined gravel deposit.
Reference: RMP File

RMP No.: KD024-036
Townland: Punchestown Great
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Proximity to site: c. 950m to the WNW from the area of proposed development.
Classification: 17th Century house site
Description: No visible trace of any castle. Probably not a tower house, possibly semi-fortified 18th century house. House shown on OS map in a now abandoned farmhouse of no architectural merit. To the east of farmyard is a triangular pond, possibly the Medieval fish ponds mentioned in the literature. This is not deep, weeds grow in most part however it may also be an ornamental feature associated with an early house.
Reference: De Burgh 1896, RMP file

Topographic Files

Information on artefact finds from the study area in Co. Kildare 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. The following townlands were searched for reference to the discovery of any artefacts or finds: Blackhall, Punchestown, Punchestown Great, Nunsland, Newtown Great, Walshtown and Eadestown. A number of stray finds have been recorded from the vicinity:

Museum No: 1877:110
Townland: Punchestown
Parish: Tipperkevin
Barony: Naas South
Find: Metal Container
Find place: Blackhall Castle
Description: Metal container
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

- Museum No:** 1985:104-105
Townland: Punchestown
Parish: Tipperkevin
Barony: Naas South
Find: Bronze Ingot (?) and Sherd of Glazed Pottery
Find place: Field – found by metal detector
Description: A heavy Ingot like casting of Bronze (104), resembling a miscast Palstave axe on one face which has a stop-ridge like feature. Both ends are damaged and the surface is unfinished. Overall length is 13.7cm, width 4.5cm, thickness 2.34cm.
A small sherd of glazed pottery (105) with fairly fine grey fabric. The glaze is dark green with parts of four applied pads remaining.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981:355-6; 1981:357, 1981:358
Townland: Punchestown Great
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Cist Grave containing two skeletons, cremated bone and charcoal
Find place: Field
Description: A capstone which was displaced by a harrow was discovered. The discovery of the grave was reported to the National Museum. An excavation of the cist revealed inhumations comprising one adult male and one adult female and the cremated remains of two individuals.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1984: 235
Townland: Punchestown
Parish: Tipperkevin
Barony: Naas South
Find: Fragment of Bronze object
Find place: Field – found by metal detector
Description: Small piece of bronze consisting of four arms like a cross with a rounded oval shaped projection at the centre. It may have been part of a disc-headed ring pin. Total length 1.22cm
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981:334
Townland: Blackhall
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Horse Harness
Find place: Vicinity of a churchyard
Description: Piece of horse harness consisting of two oval rings joined at right angles-solid cast. Found with a metal detector beside Kilsaintlucan graveyard. Overall length 7.15cm with the larger ring measuring 4.5 x 3.2 cm and the smaller 1.64 x 1.85cm.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981:348
Townland: Blackhall
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Lead Object
Find place: Surface find on a small mound
Description: Length of lead, roughly circular in cross section with uneven surfaces. The edges of the long sides are hammered out over the otherwise flat ends. Max. Length 2.80cm.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

- Museum No:** 1981:128 (IA/01/78)
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze Buckle
Find place: Agricultural land (metal detector)
Description: Rectangular bronze buckle with sides slightly incurving along the short axis. There is a cross-bar across the short axis centrally placed which seems to be of iron and which is heavily corroded. The object is slightly curved along its long axis and may be a shoe buckle.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981: 129 (IA/01/78)
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Fragment of lead disc
Find place: Agricultural land (metal detector)
Description: Half of a flat circular disc of lead – diameter 3.25cm
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981: 130
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Flint Fragment
Find place: Found in gravel that may have been from a quarry in Newtown Great.
Description: Fragment of flint pebble from which a number of flakes have been struck. Max length 3.55cm.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981: 131
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze Object
Find place: Ploughed Field (by Athgarrett Crossroads)
Description: Crescent shaped flat bronze object – dimensions 3.5cm x 2.85cm x 0.03cm
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981: 329-330
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: 2 flints
Find place: At the “17 acres” field - surface find
Description: Two fragments of white flint – 329 is triangular (length 4.65cm) and 330 is a narrow fragment of triangular cross section (length 3.55cm).
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981: 229-231
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Two Iron Ingots (?) and a piece of smelted copper (?)
Find place: Surface find by metal detector
Description: (229) - Small iron ingot on weight of boat shape (length 7.44cm, weight 45.3g). (230) – small iron ingot on weight of boat shape (length 7.29cm, weight 48.3g). (231) – Lump of copper slag (?) weighing 34.89g.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

- Museum No:** 1990: 142, 143
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze Seal matrix (142) Bronze Mount (143)
Find place: Found with a metal detector
Description: (142) – Circular bronze matrix – The reverse has six facets and a short handle with a circular perforation. The device is a stags head with a cross between the antlers. The Inscription is difficult to read fully but may be *S' MARTINNAMIAS. (Diameter- 19.73mm, Height of handle – 19.51mm).
(143) – Cast Bronze mount (?) – shaped like a comma with a semi-oval perforation set in a circular base. There are two projections on the top of the rectangular outline. A circular-sectioned moulding joins the head of the comma to the stem. (Length 48.55mm, width 27.72mm and thickness 13.72mm).
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1990: 137
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze saddle pommel
Find place: Metal detector
Description: Bronze Saddle Pommel – Helmut shaped object of cast bronze. Broad V-shaped cut in one side and at each side of the open end is a metal extension tag with a perforation. The tag is broken at the stem side. The outer surface is deeply scored longitudinally. In the centre back near the lower edge is an iron nail or rivet.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1990: 139-140
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Two fragments of silver armlets.
Find place: In a field – metal detector
Description: 139 – Portion of a silver armlet cut at both ends, consisting of a strip of silver, rectangular in cross-section, bent into an open loop. It tapers gently from one end to the other with the outer surface decorated with closely set stamped grooves which run at right angles to its long axis.
140 – Fragment of a silver armlet consisting of a strip of silver, rectangular in cross-section, tapering from one end to the other in width and thickness. The outer surface decorated with closely set stamped grooves which run at right angles to its long axis.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** None
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Flint Balls
Find place: Unknown
Description: A number of flint balls in possession of a local – said to be similar to those excavated at Kiltale.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

- Museum No:** None
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze Crucifix Figure
Find place: In a field 'Castle field' by metal detector
Description: Crucifix figure of copper alloy or Bronze is damaged and badly worn with overall dark green patina. The arms and feet are missing and it seems that the figure was cast in an open mould, the back of which is slightly hollow. The torso is straight, the head inclined forward. The stumps of the arms project horizontally and it is possible that the arms were created separately and attached by rivets. Christ is depicted with open eyes and with a four-pointed crown in his head. The figure is clothed in a plain short loincloth. It is simply modelled with no attempt to represent the hair or ribcage. Enough survives of this figure to date it the Romanesque – possibly 12th or 13th century. It would originally have been attached to a cross and was probably used for private devotion.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** IA/ 192/83
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Fragment of a line impressed tile
3 sherds of late medieval pottery
1 token,
2 fragments of feet cast bronze cauldron
Find place: Found during clearing of old fences and foundations - Possibly site of a late medieval house
Description: Foot from the late Medieval leg of a cast bronze Cauldron – claw type, weighing 1106g – from a substantial vessel. The underside of the foot is damaged and uneven and could not rest flat on the ground in present condition. The leg narrows towards the back giving a 3 legged appearance. A second leg was also found of similar type to above but not of same vessel. It has the appearance of being attached to a less substantial vessel. A small bronze token with a similar motif on both faces consists of the letters RK surmounted by II. (Diameter 1.7cm)
A fragment of polygonal brick red ware with dark red glaze. A square fragment of grey ware and a roughly pinkish fragment of late medieval pottery were also found.
Fragment of a line impressed tile with one finished edge surviving. Some yellow glaze survives in impressions however the pattern is not recognisable.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files
- Museum No:** 1981:99
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze Buckle
Find place: unknown
Description: Bronze buckle in D-shaped form. The tongue formed a bronze stripe loops around the cross-bar. The curved section is broader than the cross bar.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

Museum No: 1981:22
Townland: St. Patricks Well, Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Bronze washer
Find place: Metal detector beside a holy well
Description: Bronze washer (Early Christian) – roughly circular but edge uneven, rectangular aperture at centre. – diameter 2.15cm
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

Museum No: 1981: 23-59
Townland: Athgarrett
Parish: Rathmore
Barony: Naas North
Find: Stone, Pottery, Flint and Metal objects
Find place: Ploughed field
Description: Spindle whorl – circular though edge is damaged with a central perforation
Medieval potsherds are all abraded and bear a green glaze. Some have a brown glaze on the outer surface and others are unglazed cooking ware.
Long blade of grey flint with cortex at one end, bulb of percussion at the other. One side of blade has been reworked into a serrated edge.
Small well made thumb nail scraper of grey flint.
Flint fragment of irregular size and shape – a number of flakes have been struck from this. Several waste flakes are also included in this file.
Reference: NMI Topographical Files

Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

A survey of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2004) has revealed that several previous archaeological programs have been carried out within the area surrounding the proposed development. However only two of these are within close proximity to the area of proposed development and both are detailed below. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970-2002.

Excavations Bulletin No.2000:0466
Licence No. 00E0113
Site Name Blackhall
Proximity to site c. 150m NW
Classification NW of Castle KD024-011
Description Testing was undertaken at a development site located at Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare, on 12 February 2000. The work was undertaken in compliance with a request for additional information in respect of a proposed housing development. The development site lies to the NW of a ruined tower-house.
No features, structures or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered during the course of the evaluation, although four pottery sherds of medieval/post-medieval date were recovered. Given the relative paucity of pottery when compared with the amount of testing, combined with the absence of any other material of interest, it was suggested that no further archaeological involvement was required at the housing development site.
Reference Martin E. Byrne, 31 Millford, Athgarvan, Co. Kildare.

Excavations Bulletin No.1980-84:0122
Licence No. n/a
Site Name Punchestown Great
Proximity to site c. 1km SW
Classification Prehistoric/ Cist burial
Description The cist was trapezoidal in plan and built of four inclined stone slabs covered by a large capstone. It contained two crouched inhumations and a deposit of cremated bone. The latter appears to have been deposited later than the inhumations.
Reference E.P. Kelly, NMI

9.2.1.2 Built Heritage

Historical Background

The area of land interest appears to have remained mostly greenfield throughout history. The single cartographic reference to a mill in 1783 (Figure 9.5) located in the vicinity of the area of land interest provides no detail and remains unsubstantiated by available documentary sources. There is nothing of architectural significance located within the proposed development area however the ruins of Blackhall Castle (RMP- KD024-012) are located c. 50m to the NW. Only one Protected Structure, Eadestown House, was designated in the Kildare County Development Plan (B24-17), located c. 900m north of the area of land interest. No details are given for this house. Surviving remains of architectural heritage predominantly date to the Post Medieval Period, of which a brief historical background is included below.

Post Medieval Period

The 18th century, a relatively peaceful period, saw the large-scale development of demesnes and country houses in Ireland. The main residences of such estates were usually large houses built in a formal, fashionable style, conforming to national and international standards of taste. The houses generally form part of the larger demesne landscape which were dominant features of the rural landscape throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Associated structural features also included large ornamental gates, lodges, icehouses and pigeon houses. Follies found within demesne grounds are temples, grottos, columns, round towers, gazebos and ornamental bridges.

Many of the structures located in vicinity of the proposed development area are shown to be present in some form at the time of the first edition OS map in 1838. Although these have undoubtedly undergone many changes including demolition and reconstruction, there is the tradition of cottages and outbuildings in the area which were possibly associated with the Blackhall estate. Estate cottages and lodges were widely built in the late 19th century and were often treated in a formal manner, thus linking them architecturally to the main residence. After the Famine in the mid-19th century, many demesnes went into a rapid decline and the lands were subsequently divided up amongst neighbouring farmers. Once the land had been sold, the houses became neglected and were often demolished.

The majority of buildings found in the Irish countryside are part of the vernacular tradition (i.e. that they follow local traditions and use local materials). Most rural houses were farmhouses and associated outbuildings although during the 19th century, detached houses for minor gentry and professionals were also built in rural areas. Until the mid-19th century, smaller houses were often constructed from mud at which time farmhouses were increasingly built of stone and roofed with locally quarried slate, thatch or corrugated iron. There are many variations in the design, size and structure of farmhouses and their associated outbuildings, ranging from single storey cottages to large two storey structures. The most common form of residences in smallholdings is the single-storied, thatched cottage of three roomed, rectangular plan. A number of outbuildings were often grouped around a farmyard, forming a central court, especially in the richer midland regions.

During the 18th and 19th centuries the rapid expansion of Ireland's industrial productivity necessitated the construction of a wide range of processing mills such as for brewing, grain milling, distilling and textile production. Large numbers of small water-powered grain mills operated throughout rural Ireland at this time to serve the needs of the local community (Rynne, 2006). The Medieval custom of *multure* whereby tenants on an estate were legally compelled to bring all their cereals to the lord's mill to be ground continued well into the 18th century in some regions. Taylor, in his map of Kildare dated 1783(Figure 9.5), notes three mills associated with the small stretch of water course, annotated 'a run for the bleachfield', between Johnstown and the area of land interest. One of these is located within the southern area of proposed development however no further details are noted. It is possible that this mill was associated with either grain milling or textile production however despite its function it appears to have been short lived as it does not appear on the first edition OS map in 1838.

Punchestown Racecourse, located c. 200m to the west of the land interest at its closest point, is set in the heart of the countryside synonymous with horse breeding, point to pointing and hunting. The first staged race meeting back in 1824 simply took advantage of the rolling countryside where natural double and single banks along with stone walls were the only form of obstacle. In 1850, the advantages of the layout of the Punchestown track and it's natural obstacles which lended themselves so well to racing, caught the eye of some of the members of the Kildare Hunt and from

then on, Punchestown was adopted as the permanent location of the Kildare Hunt annual meeting. Some artificial changes to the landscape associated with this venture can be discerned from the later editions of OS mapping.

Cartographic Research

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Noble and Keenan, 'Map of Co. Kildare', 1752 (Figure 9.4)

Although lacking in accuracy this early map shows important sites and major topographical features in the landscape. An emphasis is placed on identifying religious houses, farmsteads, watermills, windmills and also the Houses of the Nobles and gentlemen in the region. Blackhall is annotated at the corner of a main road with a farmhouse (possibly associated with Blackhall Castle) shown to the west near the location of Kilsaintlucan graveyard (not shown). A manor house is shown to the NW within the parkland of Punchestown with further examples noted at Phillipstown, Newtown and Gaddockstown. There are no structures or other features located within the area of land interest.

Alex Taylor, 'A Map of the Co. Kildare', 1783 (Figure 9.5)

This late 18th century map clearly depicts a road system very similar to modern layout with topographical features noted such as *Slieve Roe* Mountain to the SE of the area of land interest. A slight rise in land level is shown in the area of the ringfort but nothing substantial. There are no buildings marked within the area of proposed development however for the first and only time a mill is annotated as being present in the southern half of the proposed development area. A stream/river annotated as 'a run for the bleachfield' (at Johnstown) flows along the SW boundary of the land interest. There are three mills noted along this stretch of water, one of which, located to the north is named Tucks Mill. This water course originates to the south of the area of proposed development at the base of *Slieve Roe* as Glenmore River and flows north beyond Johnstown. Punchestown House is shown surrounded by trees to the NW whilst Edgetown (Eadestown) House is visible in the NNE.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838 Scale 1:10560 (Figure 9.6)

This is the first detailed accurate mapping of the proposed land interest. Two clusters (of three) structures, possibly ancillary buildings associated with Blackhall are present in their current location outside the SW boundary. Further residential and farmyard buildings are present immediately outside the western and NE corners of land interest comprising three and two structures respectively. This is also the first cartographic indication of Blackhall Castle located c. 50m NW of the land interest. Punchestown House is shown in ruins c. 1km to NW of the proposed development whilst Eadestown House within a small demesne is shown c. 950m to the NNE. A possible farmstead with ancillary buildings is located c. 300m to the south of the land interest in Newtown Great.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1872 Scale 1:10560, (Figure 9.7)

This edition shows no further changes in the built heritage within the area of proposed development however it is possible to discern the construction of several new ancillary buildings associated with Blackhall and the enlargement of others previously noted to the south and SW. The beginnings of Punchestown Racecourse area illustrated c. 200m west of the proposed development area.

Third Edition Ordnance Survey, 1910 Scale 1:10560

There have been no changes to the landscape within the area of land interest since the 1872 edition OS map. There have been some minor revisions to the location of smaller structures adjacent to the western boundary of the land interest however none of these intrude on the subject area.

County Development Plan

Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011) contains a catalogue of all the Protected Structures within the county. This was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites within the study area. There is also a Kildare County Heritage Plan (2005-2009) whose objective is to identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County. There is only one Protected Structures in proximity of the proposed development area as designated by this Development Plan. Eadestown House (B24-17) is located c. 900m to the north of the area of land interest however no further information was available. For further details of aims and objectives of the County Development Plan and the Cultural Heritage resource please see Appendix 9.3.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Eadestown House (NIAH Ref.: KD-56-N-938174) has also been designated by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) as significant. The NIAH is a government based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. They have also carried out a desk based assessment of the parkland or demesnes within the country using historic maps and aerial photographs and rated them according to the survival of features. Published in 2002 the Co. Kildare Survey of Architectural Heritage highlights only one structure, Eadestown House, of architectural significance within the vicinity of the proposed land interest.

9.2.1.3 Cultural Heritage

Townland Names

Townland names are an invaluable source of information not only on topography, land ownership, and land use but also on the historical evolution, archaeological formation and folkloric narrative of the area. Where once a monument stood, it is often found that the place name may still refer to it and thus indicate previously unknown subsurface archaeological remains. During the Ordnance Survey of the early 19th century the entire country was mapped accurately for the first time. This task of recording placenames was undertaken by a range of people whose interests varied and therefore we see some names were merely anglicised whilst others were literally translated and more still being completely distorted.

As previously stated the line of Blackhall, of whom William Eustace was head in 1535, owed its origins to his marriage to Catherine Archdeacon (Lyons, 2000). There is no documentary evidence available as to the naming of the townland however it could possibly be that the Castle was its namesake. Black Hill, marked to the SW on all editions of OS maps may also have been a source for this title.

Townland Boundaries

The townland boundary for Blackhall borders Nunslan and Newtown Baltracey to the north, Punchestown Great to the west, Walshestown to the south and Newtown Great and Attgarrett to the SE and east. This townland boundary runs alongside the area of land interest for the length of three fields at the east, however nowhere else does this occur. This will not be affected by the proposed development.

Cartographic Research

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on local cultural heritage.

Noble and Keenan, 'Map of Co. Kildare', 1752 (Figure 9.4)

Some placenames are present in old format such as Edistonn (Eadestown), Aghagarad (Athgarrett) and Belltracy (Newtown Baltracey) however Blackhall is noted in its current form.

Alex Taylor, 'A Map of the Co. Kildare', 1783 (Figure 9.5)

This late 18th century map clearly depicts a road system very similar to modern layout with topographical features noted such as *Slieve Roe* Mountain to the SE of the area of land interest. A water course originates to the south at the base of *Slieve Roe* as Glenmore River, near Brideswell and flows along the western boundary of land interest northwards beyond Johnstown. Nunslan Estate is delineated to the immediate NE of the site. Some place names have changed since the earlier map such as Edgetown from Edistonn and Aghagarret from Aghagarad.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838 Scale 1:10560 (Figure 9.6)

This is the first detailed accurate mapping of the proposed land interest. The stream at the western boundary has changed course to the opposite side of the road nearer to Kilsaintlucan graveyard which is noted for the first time within a circular banked enclosure (c. 150m SSW). Black Hill is shown as an area of overgrowth c. 550m to the SW.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1872 Scale 1:10560, (Figure 9.7)

There are no major changes other than the subdivision of field boundaries within the area of land interest. The townland boundary has been modified slightly along its western limits. A fox cover is

shown c. 150m to the north in Nunsland townland whilst c. 200m west of the land interest we can see the outline of Punchestown Racecourse. Two obstacles are annotated within Blackhall townland - Herdsgarden Leap and Brook Leap on the Downshire Course.

Third Edition Ordnance Survey, 1910 Scale 1:10560

There have been no major changes to the landscape within the area of land interest since the 1872 edition OS map.

County Development Plan

Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011) contains a catalogue of all the Protected Structures within the county. This was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites within the study area. There is also a Kildare County Heritage Plan (2005-2009) whose objective is to identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County. In particular, the Plan sets out measures and mechanisms to contribute to the conservation of the natural, geological, archaeological and architectural facets of the landscape. No sites of cultural significance were highlighted in the vicinity of the proposed development area. For further details of aims and objectives of the County Development Plan and the Cultural Heritage resource please see Appendix 9.3.

9.2.2 Field Surveys

A field inspection was carried out on 22nd January 2008 in dull wet weather conditions. The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development area and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 3a).

The area of land interest is formed by a sub-rectangular shaped area, bordered to the south and west by tertiary roads and to the north and east by undulating pasture. A mature hedgerow forms the boundary to north, west and east of the area, along with modern residential units on the western and north-eastern borders. The entire area of land interest has been subject to heavy quarrying in the last few decades and the resultant changes in topography are dramatic. Two large pond-like features, comprising the lowest points of reference are present in the NW and north of the land interest (Plates 9.1 and 9.2). A ridge of un-quarried land survives along the boundary in the northern section indicating the original land levels. Some restoration of land has been undertaken in the southern section at the entrance to the area of proposed development. Restoration of the remaining areas of the site is ongoing (Plate 9.3).

Archaeological Heritage

The ringfort (KD024-012) was identified during field inspection situated at the brow of an artificially created hill on the NW boundary (Plate 9.4). As recommended by Kildare County Council in the 1970s any excavation in the immediate area of the ringfort was graded from the 5m buffer to the final ground level. This has resulted in the gradual grading of the land over the course of c. 50m to the final quarried base level. This has increased the predominance of the ringfort in the landscape however it would originally have had a commanding view over the surrounding landscape to the S. Some disturbance to the fabric of the enclosure was noted, especially on the SE section where the pre-existing field boundary cuts into the bank (Plate 9.5). A further field boundary bisects the enclosure running SW-NE and has also resulted in damage to the monument. The 5m buffer zone is insitu however this fence runs very close to the actual bank and ditch (Plate 9.4) and does not compensate for the possibility of external features such external banks or ditches as illustrated in the first edition OS map.

Any trace of possible features identified in the aerial photographs has been quarried out and therefore provide no further information.

Built Heritage

Substantial quarrying and restoration has been undertaken in the southern section of the area of proposed development (Plate 9.3) thus removing any possible remaining indications of a mill as shown in Taylor's 1783 map (Figure 9.5). The stream associated with the mill exists to the west of the development area. To the NW there are several abandoned vernacular farmhouses and outbuildings adjoined to Blackhall Castle which is currently covered in overgrowth. The residential units adjacent

to the area of proposed development are of new construction with little remaining of the original structures.

Cultural Heritage

Although the area has been subject to high intensity quarrying no damage to the existing townland boundary of Blackhall was noted during the inspection. It is not envisaged that any changes caused by restoration of lands will effect this boundary to the east

9.2.3 Limitations

The proposed development consists of the restoration of lands previously used for sand and gravel extraction at Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare. There has been no previous archaeological fieldwork carried out within the proposed development or its immediate hinterland. The site appears on all OS map editions as a greenfield site comprising 8-13 fields. A Ringfort, recorded as an RMP (KD024-012) and a protected structure (B24-06) exists immediately to the NW of the land interest. A small gravel pit is marked within the southern and northern boundaries on the first edition OS map whilst earlier mapping of the area in 1752 annotates a mill as being located in the vicinity.

Archaeological Heritage

- A substantial enclosure (DU024-012, B24-06) is located adjacent to the NW boundary of the land interest (Plate 9.4). The land interest is partially located within the archaeological constraint for this monument. In 1976, prior to quarrying works, a 5m buffer zone was instated by Kildare County Council encircling the SE half of the enclosure as it was deemed to represent a good example of the type. The current development proposes to adhere to these boundaries, however it was noted that some disturbance to the monument (especially on the SE section) has occurred at some point in history. There is also the possibility that other features associated with this ringfort, such as an external ditch (as evinced on early OS mapping) may partially remain outside the buffer due to the shallow gradient of quarrying.
- The ruins of Blackhall Castle (RMP KD024-011) are located c. 50m to the NW. An apparently late tower house with no special features the remains consist of the southern and western walls; the latter of which has a batter. There is a possibility of surviving subsurface remains of a bawn however this has not been confirmed.

Built Heritage

- Cartographic reference (Figure 9.5) in 1783 to a mill in the vicinity of the area of proposed development has been unconfirmed by available documentary sources however a stream, is still present adjacent to the site which may have facilitated a mill.
- There is nothing of architectural significance located within the proposed development area however the ruins of Blackhall Castle (RMP- KD024-012) are located c. 50m to the NW. An apparently late tower house with no special features the remains consist of the southern and western walls; the latter of which has a batter. This castle was incorporated into a now abandoned complex of farm buildings and is significantly overgrown.
- Several small residential structures are dotted on the southern, western and eastern boundaries adjacent to the area of proposed development. Although these are currently of modern construction buildings have been present in some form prior to the first Ordnance Survey Map and were probably once ancillary buildings to Blackhall estate.
- Only one Protected Structure, Eadestown House, was designated in the Kildare County Development Plan (B24-17), located c. 900m to the N of the area of land interest. No details are given for this house.

Cultural Heritage

- As the development intends to reinstate the land for agricultural afteruse and will not stretch past its current limits there will be no disturbance to the townland boundary or loss of townland name. Therefore there are no limitations to the proposed development due to the cultural heritage record.

9.3 IMPACT OF THE RESTORATION WORKS

9.3.1 Evaluation Methodology

Research has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, architectural, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the proposed development area.

9.3.1.1 Paper Survey

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

- Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Kildare;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Aerial photographs of the Geological Survey of Ireland, 1973-77, 1:30,000;
- County Kildare Development Plan 2005-2011;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2003)

9.3.1.2 Field Inspection

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information. An inspection of the site was undertaken on 22nd January 2008.

9.3.2 Potential Impacts

Archaeology

- The area of proposed development is partially located within the archaeological constraint for the ringfort (KD024-012) which is situated immediately beyond the NW boundary of the land interest (Figure 9.3a). If additional subsurface features of the ringfort were to exist, such as an outer ditch, the proposed restoration scheme could have an adverse impact on these. This negative impact would be caused by activities associated with the proposed development such as placement and compaction of soil.

Architecture

- There are no standing structures within the area of land interest and due to the nature of the proposed development it is envisaged that there will be no direct negative impacts on the architectural heritage or the local area.

Cultural Heritage

- As the development intends to reinstate the land for agricultural afteruse and will not stretch past its current limits there will be no disturbance to the townland boundary or name. Therefore there are no potential impacts of the proposed development to the cultural heritage record.

9.3.3 Do-nothing Scenario

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

9.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

9.4.1 Proposed Mitigation Measures

- In order to mitigate any possible features it is recommended that the existing buffer zone of 5m surrounding the ringfort be extended a further 10m. This would protect any previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level, such as an outer ditch.
- It is also recommended that the gradient of the reinstated land in the vicinity of the enclosure be graded appropriately in order to conserve the prominent position of the ringfort in the surrounding landscape.

9.4.2 Residual Impacts

- No residual impacts are envisaged as a result of the proposed development.

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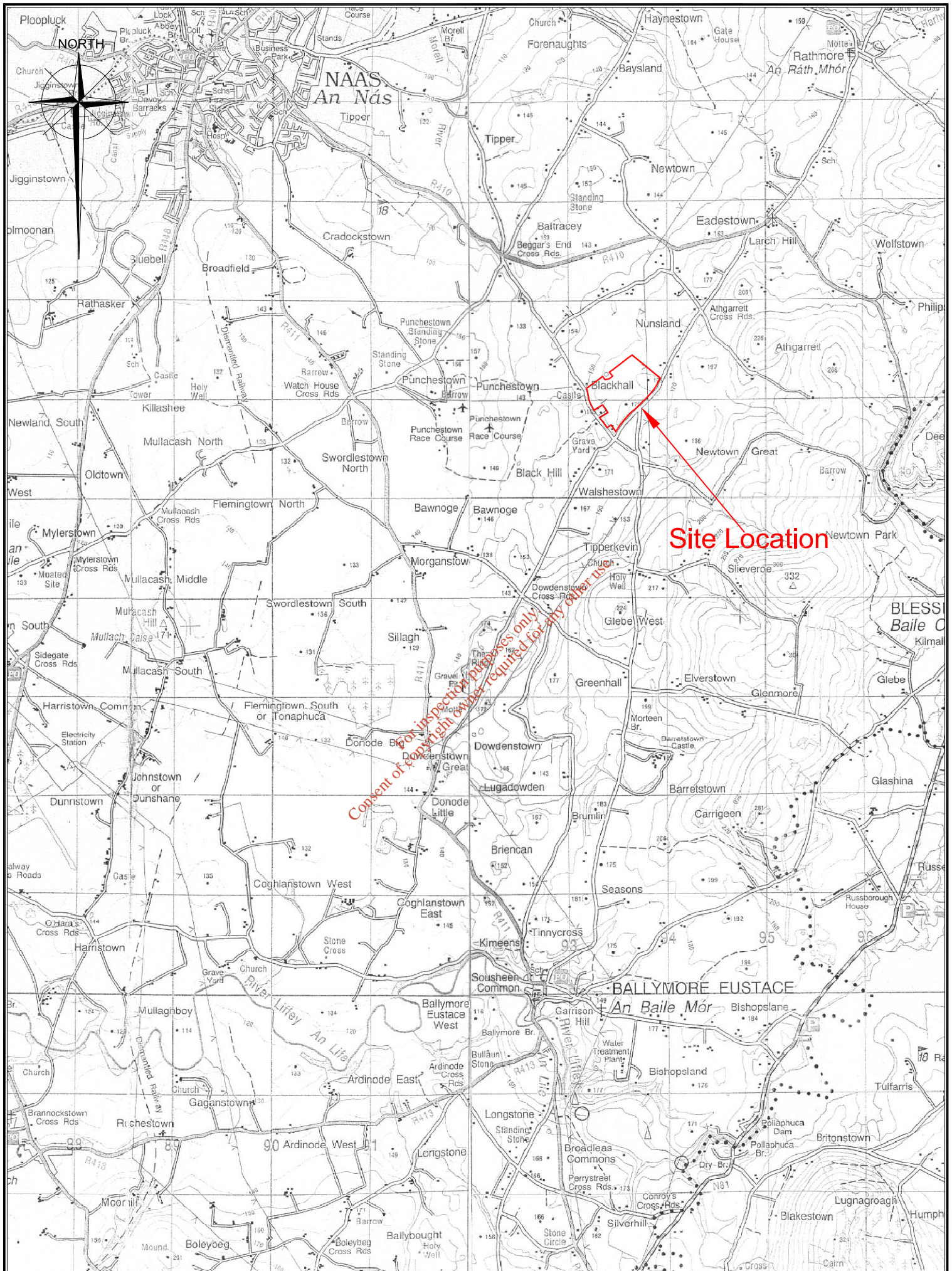
Ordnance Survey 6" maps of Co. Kildare (1838, 1872 & 1910)

PLATES

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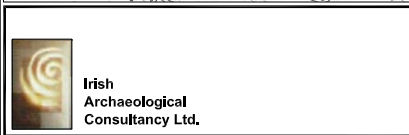
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FIGURES



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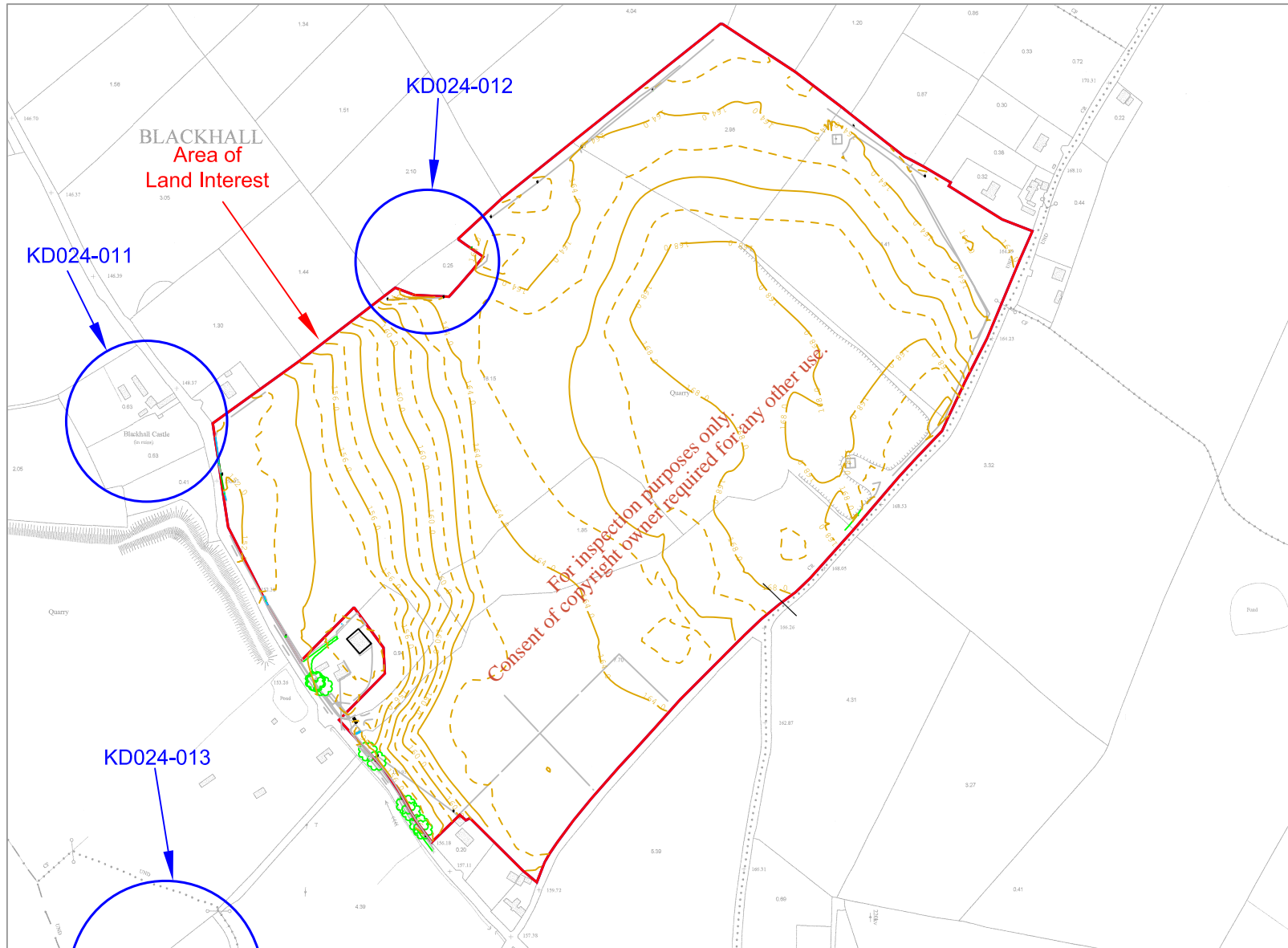
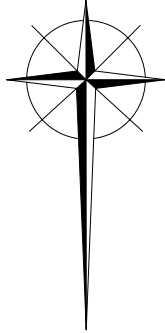
Site Location



Title:	Site Location
Project:	Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare
Client:	John Barnett & Associates

Scale:	N.T.S.
Date:	22/01/08
Produced by:	P Higgins
Job No.:	J2487
Figure No.:	9.1

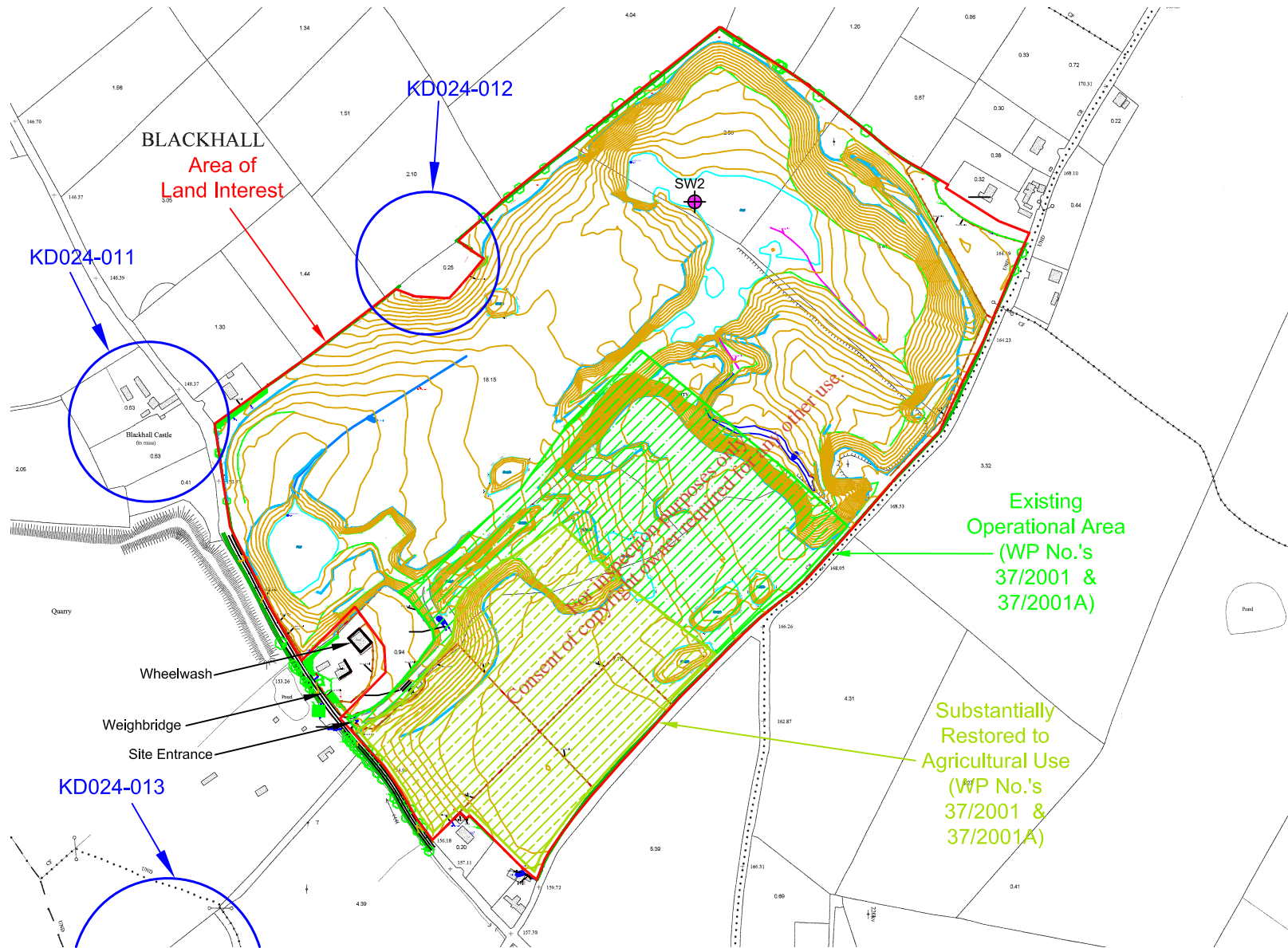
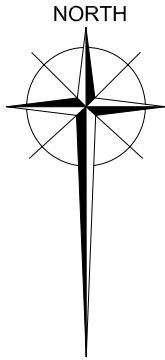
NORTH



**Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.**

Title:	Plan of proposed final restored ground level showing Archaeological Constraints
Project:	Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare
Client:	John Barnett & Associates

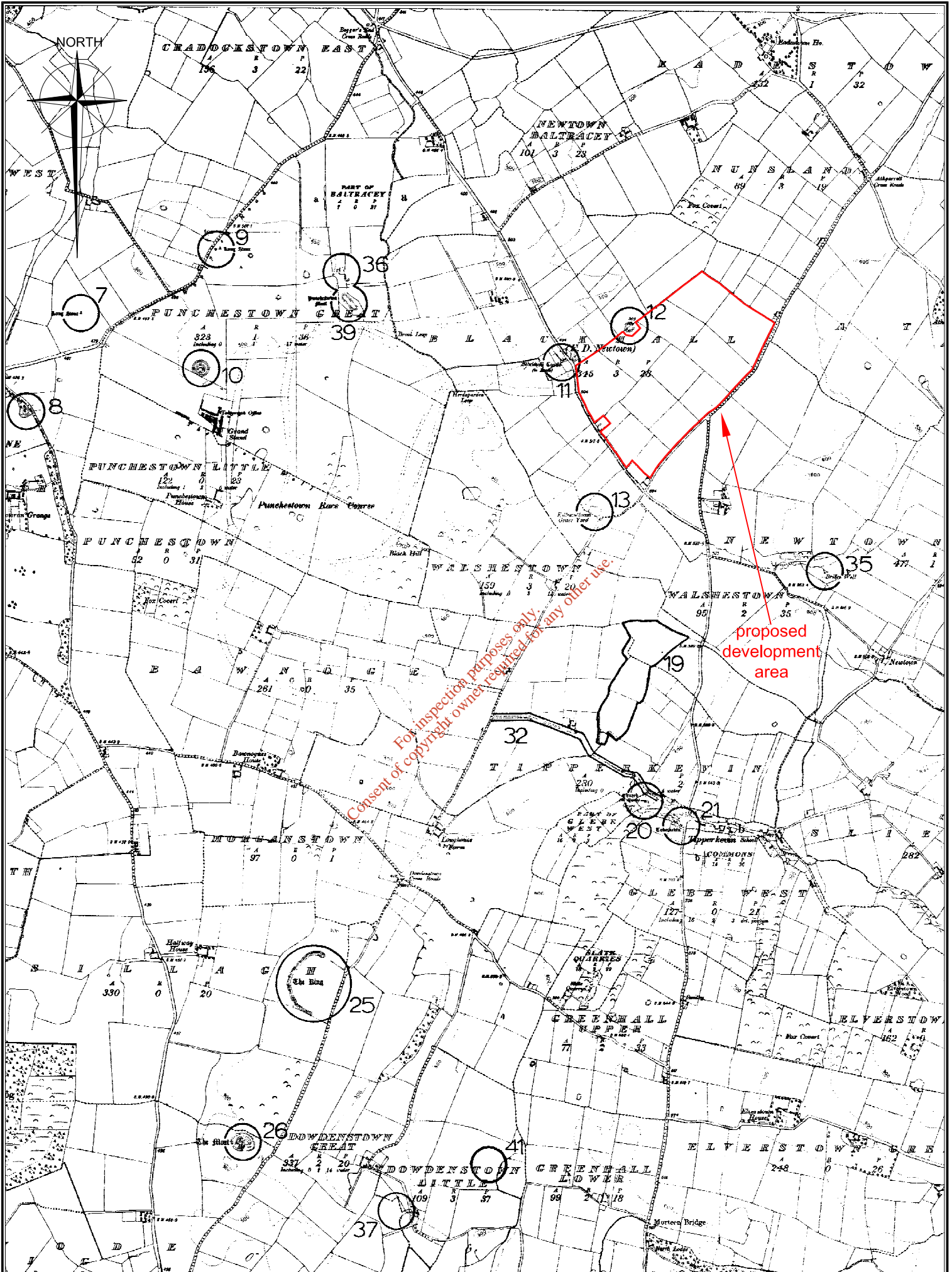
Scale:	1:6000 @ A4
Date:	23/01/08
Produced by:	P Higgins
Job No:	J2487
Figure No:	9.3b



**Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.**

Title: Plan of existing site layout showing Archaeological Constraints
Project: Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare
Client: John Barnett & Associates

Scale: 1:6000 @ A4
Date: 23/01/08
Produced by: P Higgins
Job No: J2487
Figure No: 9.3a



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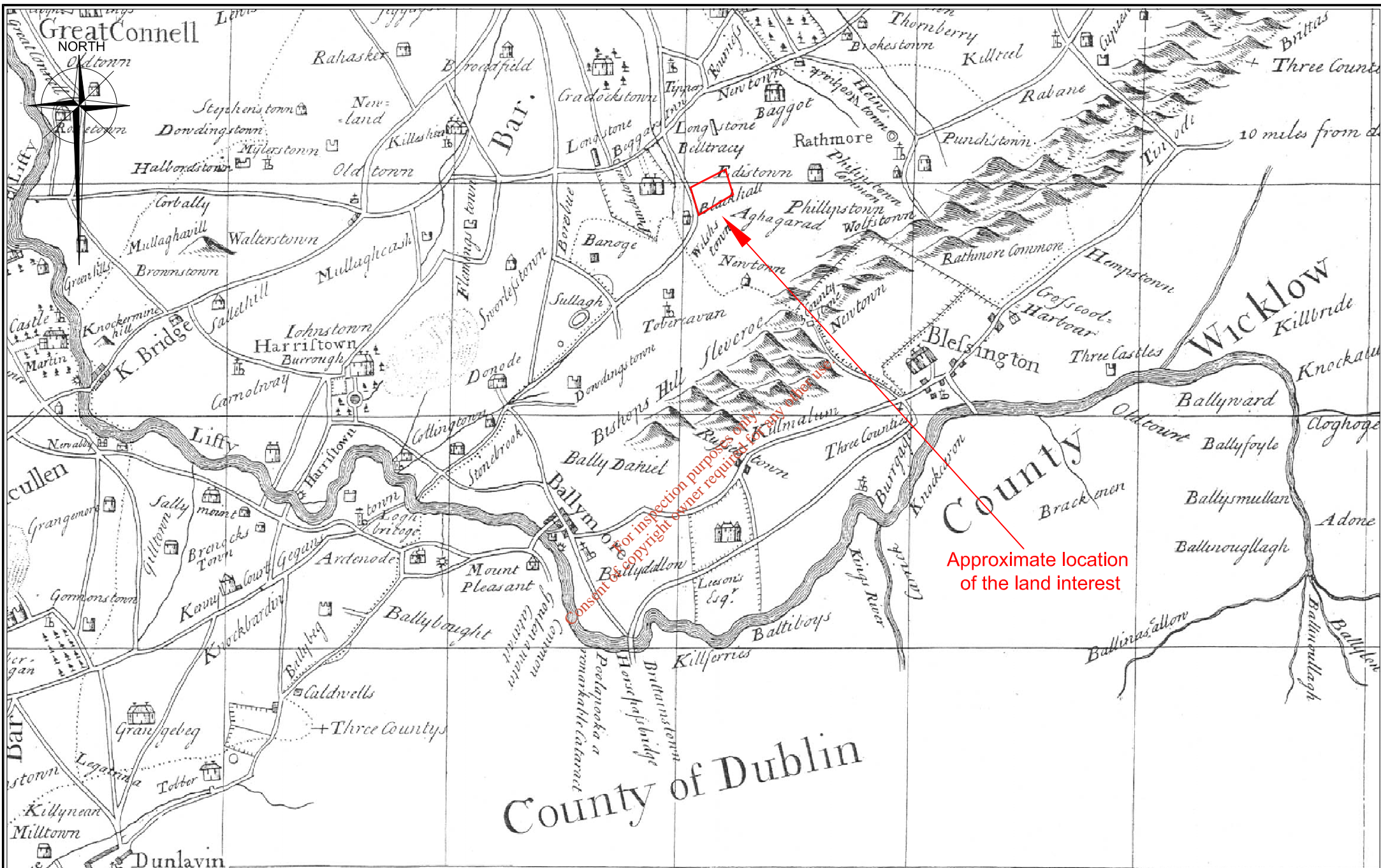
proposed development area



Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.

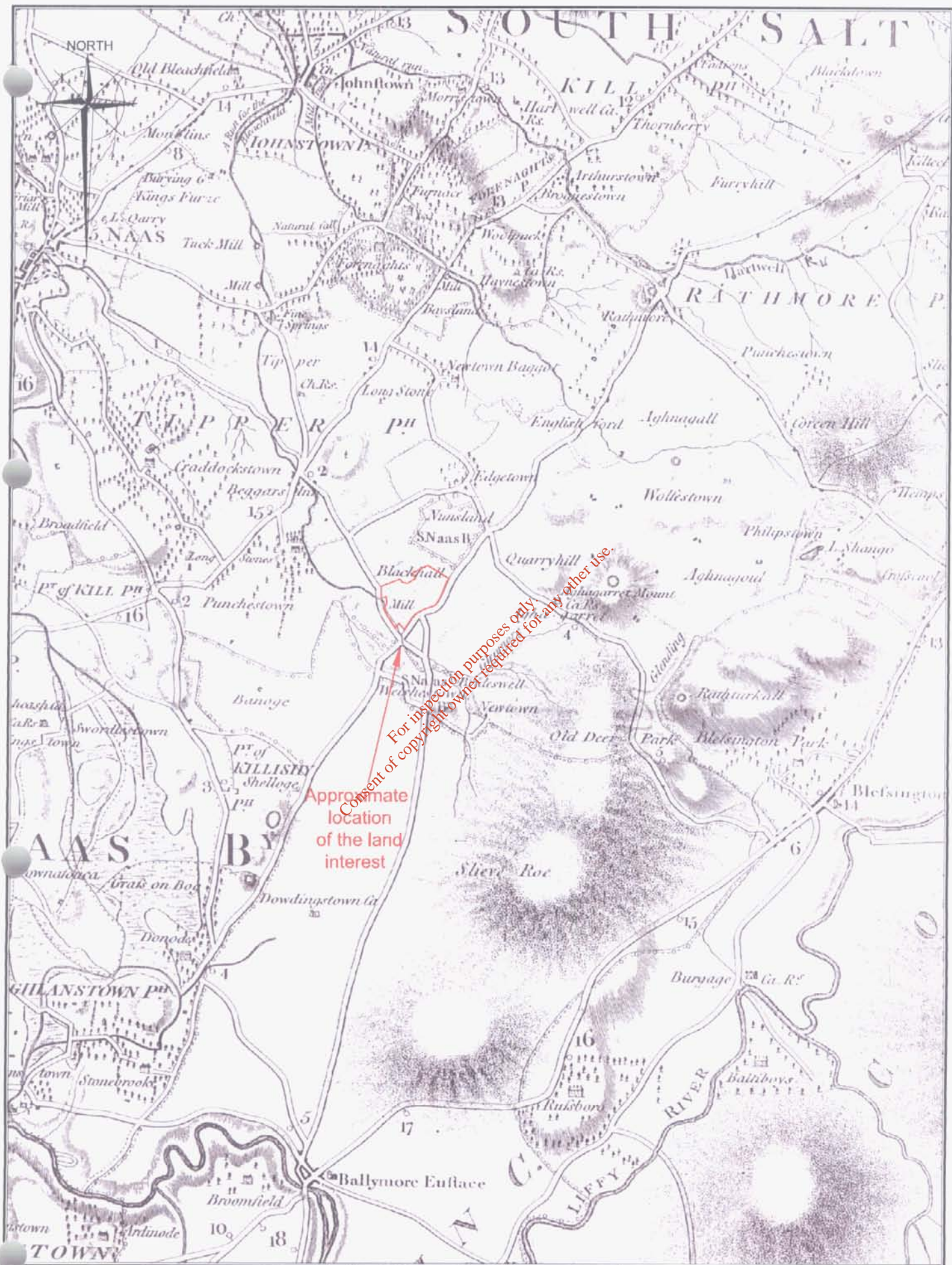
Title: Extract from RMP map (based on 1910 third edition OS map) showing proposed development area
 Project: Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare
 Client: John Barnett & Associates

Scale: N.T.S.
 Date: 22/01/08
 Produced by: P Higgins
 Job No: J2487
 Figure No: 9.2




Title:	Extract from Noble and Keenan's map of County Kildare (1752) showing approximate location of the land interest.	Scale:	N.T.S.
Project:	Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare	Date:	22/01/08
Client:	John Barnett & Associates	Produced by:	P Higgins
		Job No:	J2487
		Figure No:	9.4

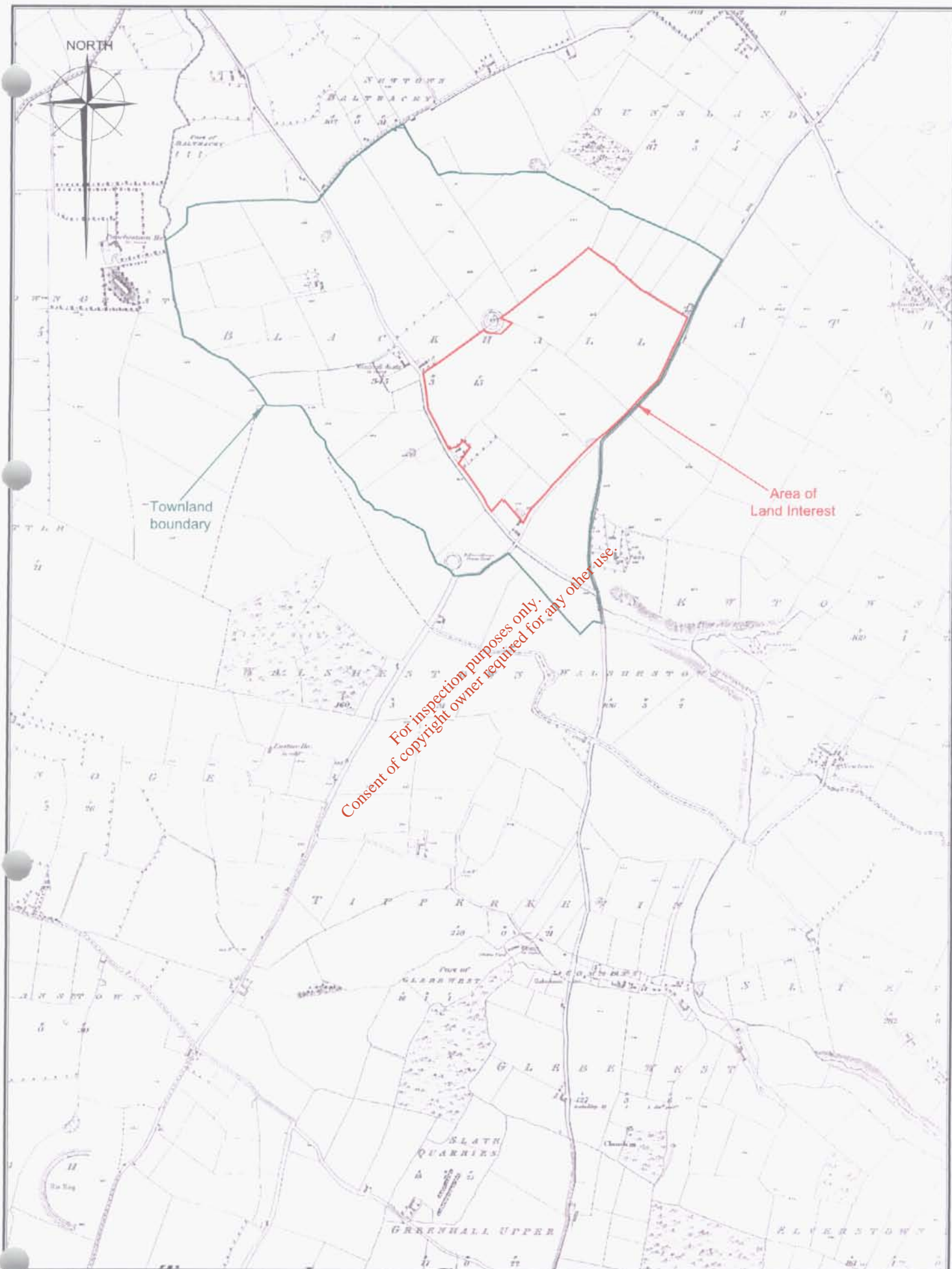




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Approximate location of the land interest

 <p>Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.</p>	Title:	Extract from Taylor's map of County Kildare (1783) showing approximate location of the land interest.	Scale:	N.T.S.
	Project:	Blackhall, Punchestown, Co. Kildare	Date:	22/01/08
	Client:	John Barnett & Associates	Produced by:	P Higgins
			Job No:	J2487
			Figure No:	9.5



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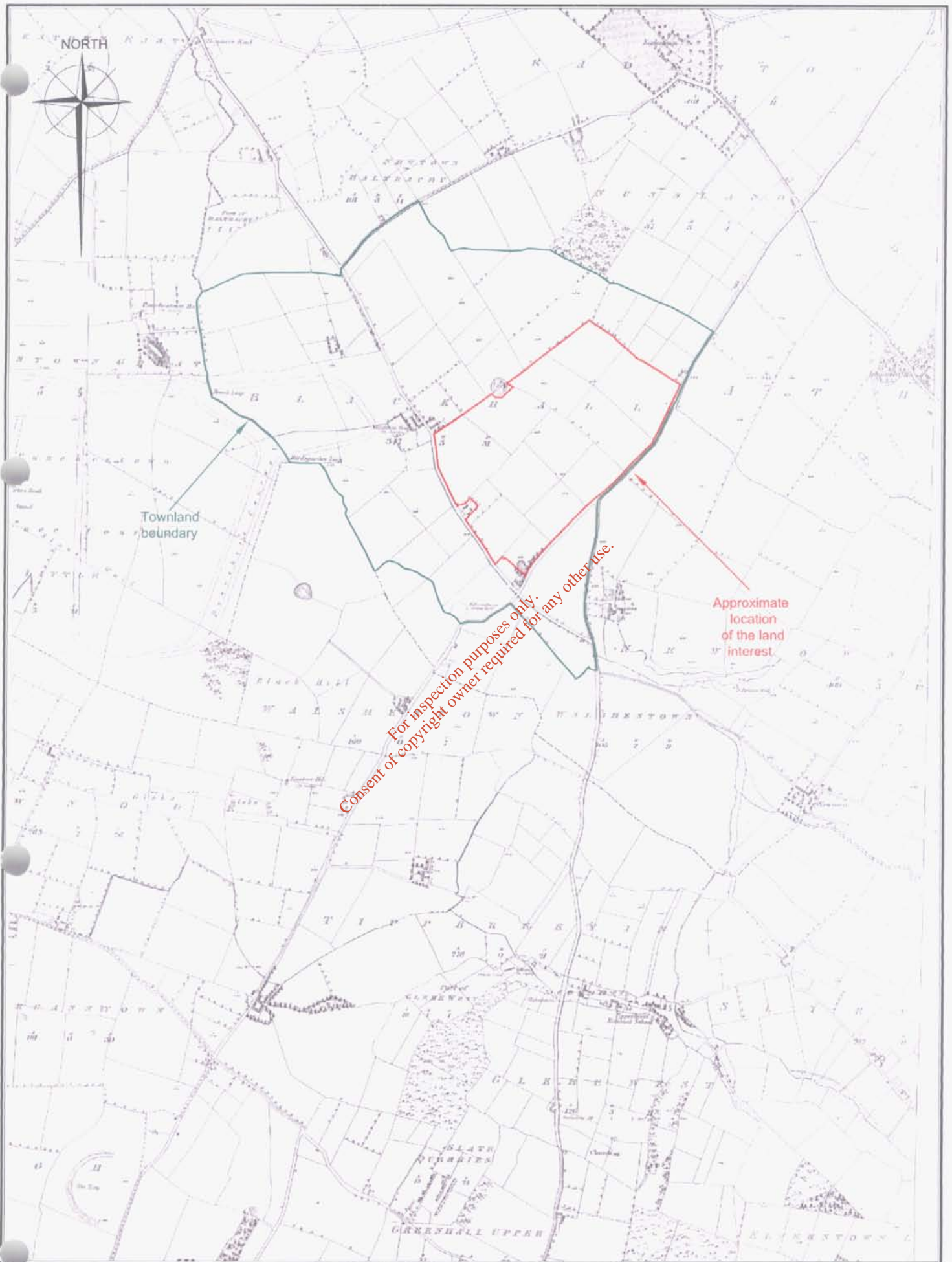
Townland boundary

Area of Land Interest



Irish
 Archaeological
 Consultancy Ltd.


Title:	Extract from first edition OS map (1838) showing area of land interest and townland boundary	Scale:	N.T.S.
Project:	Blackhall, Puncestown, Co. Kildare	Date:	22/01/08
Client:	John Barnett & Associates	Produced by:	P Higgins
		Job No:	J2487
		Figure No:	9.6



Townland boundary

Approximate location of the land interest

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 <p>Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.</p>	Title:	Extract from second edition OS map (1872) showing area of land interest and townland boundary	Scale:	N.T.S.
	Project:	Blackhall, Puncestown, Co. Kildare	Date:	22/01/08
	Client:	John Barnett & Associates	Produced by:	P Higgins
			Job No:	J2487
			Figure No:	9.7

APPENDIX 9.1

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Protection of Cultural Heritage

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

The Archaeological Resource

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments

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

Register of Historic Monuments

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

Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders

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

Record of Monuments and Places

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and

the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice'.

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

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

The Planning and Development Act 2000

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

Archaeological Heritage Policy

Extracts from the Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011)

AH 1 - To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and the Urban Archaeological Surveys when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to items recorded. 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. In all such cases the Council shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).

AH 2 - To protect and preserve archaeological sites that have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

AH 9 - To require the preparation & submission of an archaeological assessment detailing the potential of any development on both the upstanding buried structures and deposits, when considering development in the vicinity of all upstanding monuments, including town defences.

AH 10 To have regard to the Zones of Archaeological Potential or Significance when dealing with planning applications for development, as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Where permission for such proposals is granted, the applicant will have due regard to the recommendations of the Heritage and Planning Division of the DoEHLG.

AH 14 - When dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features, to promote a presumption in favour of "preservation in situ" of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with Government policy.

AH 18 - To protect the burial grounds identified in the RMP, in cooperation with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).

APPENDIX 9.2

LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK PROTECTING THE ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

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LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK PROTECTING THE ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

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

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

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

Protection under the Record of Protected Structures and County Development Plan

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

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

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

Archaeological

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

Architectural

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

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

Historical

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

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

Technical

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

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

Cultural

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

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

Scientific

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

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

Social

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

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

Artistic

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

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

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

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

Architectural Heritage Policy

Extracts from the Kildare County Development Plan (2005-2011)

AH1 - To protect the architectural heritage of the County and to include all structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.

AH2 - Using the provisions of Part IV of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2004, to continually revise the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

AH3 - To protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures from any works which would cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage of the protected structure.

AH4 - To protect structures and features that are considered to be of heritage value which lie within the attendant grounds of a protected structure.

AH10 - To promote best practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of, and any works to, protected structures.

AH18 - To strongly resist 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. In all such cases the opinion of the DoEHLG and other relevant bodies will be sought.

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APPENDIX 9.3

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

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IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

Potential Impacts on Archaeological and Historical Remains

Impacts are defined as 'the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development' (Environmental Protection Agency 2003: 31). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

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

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

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

Predicted Impacts

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

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;

- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

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APPENDIX 9.4

MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

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MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

Potential Mitigation Strategies for Cultural Heritage Remains

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

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

Definition of Mitigation Strategies

Archaeological Resource

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

Full Archaeological Excavation involves the scientific removal and recording of all archaeological features, deposits and objects to the level of geological strata or the base level of any given development. Full archaeological excavation is recommended where initial investigation has uncovered evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures and where avoidance of the site is not possible.

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as 'a limited programme... of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present test trenching defines their character and extent and relative quality.' (IFA 2001c, 1)

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as a 'formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.' (IFA 2001b, 1)

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

Architectural Resource

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

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

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

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

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

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