

Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3

Andrew, Athy, Co. Kildare

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Client: Coady Architects

Licence No: n/a

Archaeologist: Bart Korfanty

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Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3

Ardrew, Athy, Co. Kildare

SITE NAME	Ardrew, Athy, Co. Kildare
CLIENT	Coady Architects
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Impact Assessment
LICENCE NO	N/A
PLANNING REF	N/A
TOWNLAND	Ardrew
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	667519, 692885
RMP NO	N/A
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Bart Korfanty
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SUMMARY

A desk-based study and site visit was carried out on a site on the south-east outskirts of Athy, Co. Kildare. This Archaeological Impact Assessment report sought to identify and describe known and potential archaeological or cultural heritage constraints within and/or immediately adjacent to the site. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The site is very large in scale occupying an area of roughly 8.7 Ha.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries, the closest site, an enclosure, KD035-031 is over 700m to the north-east
- No potential archaeological features were recorded in aerial photos of the subject site.
- No archaeological excavations have been undertaken previously within the subject site but there have been several excavations in the wider area.
- There are no Protected or Recorded structures on the site or in the immediate environs.
- The site visit and aerial drone photography did not reveal any archaeological features visible on the surface.

These factors indicate that there is moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the site be subject to further assessment prior to development. This should be in the form of geophysical survey followed by test excavations informed by the results of the survey. Geophysical survey and test excavations must be done under licence to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	Final	15 th Jan 2021	BK (Archer)	LC (Archer)	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Ardew, Athy, Co. Kildare (ITM 667519, 692885 Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Coady Architects. The desk-based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in January 2021 by B. Korfanty of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

1.1 Proposed Development

It is proposed to construct a residential development under Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3. There is no detailed layout available at this point in time. The assessment is being undertaken as part of a pre-planning application process.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed site is located south-west of Athy Town Centre, a distance by road of approximately 1.3km. Access to the site will be via the local Fortbarrington Road, which feeds directly onto the N78 Athy to Kilkenny Road. The total area of undeveloped land in the ownership of Kildare County Council is approximately 8.7Ha. The site is bounded to the north by the route of the proposed Athy Southern Distributor Road, to the east by the Fortbarrington Road, to the south by the existing Ardew Halting site and an existing social housing development of Ardew Meadows constructed and managed by Respond housing association. The site is bounded to the west by the private residential development of Corran Ard.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record¹
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

¹ Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ,

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

Athy is an inland town located in the barony of West Narragh and Reban, County Kildare. The largest town in South Kildare, Athy was built on a ford and bridging point of the upper River Barrow on a basically level site which slopes gently towards the river (Thomas 1992). Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* described Athy as “pleasantly situated on the River Barrow” and referred to the surrounding countryside as “remarkably open and healthy”. He also wrote that Athy takes its name from an ancient ford called *Athelehac* or *Athlegar* which has been translated as ‘the ford towards the west’. This ford led from the territory of Laois to that of Caellan or O’Kelly (Lewis 1837). Another interpretation of the name is *Baile Atha Aei* or ‘the town of the ford of Aei’. Aei was a Munster chief slain at the ford during a battle which took place between AD111 and 119 (Comerford 1891–95). The prehistoric importance of the site of Athy is indicated by the wealth of artefacts which have been recovered from the River Barrow at this location. That the site was well known in the Neolithic period is indicated by the twenty-two stone axeheads found there. Bronze items, which include an axehead, three looped spearheads, a socketed dagger and two swords, demonstrate that the site’s importance continued into the Bronze Age. There is little physical evidence from the Iron Age or Early Historic periods though continuity of activity and perhaps even settlement at the site during these periods cannot be ruled out (Bradley *et al* 1986). Much of the finds from the area were recovered during dredging works connected with the draining of the Athy basin and during the construction of the Grand Canal. As a result of the drainage works on the River Barrow by the Office of Public Works (1926–34), Adolf Mahr of the National Museum of Ireland catalogued around 150 objects, two-thirds of which were stone axes. Although the main concentration of finds was recovered from fording points such as Monasterevin and Athy, the finds indicated widespread distribution of late Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement in the Barrow valley as a whole. During the Neolithic, this settlement was extended to more upland areas (Zvelebil, 1996).

Despite the concentration of finds indicating a high level of activity, there is no evidence currently available for significant settlement at Athy prior to the mid-thirteenth century. Athy as an actual place of settlement appears to have originated following the foundation of two medieval monasteries, one on each bank of the River Barrow. St. John’s Priory was founded on the western bank of the river by Richard de St. Michael in 1253 for Crouched Friars while on the eastern bank, a friary for Dominican or Preaching Friars was established by the families of Boisle (or Boyle) and Hogan (Lewis 1837). The existence of two priories in Athy indicates that a substantial community must have been in existence by the mid-thirteenth century, a fact supported by thirteenth century Athy merchants being mentioned in the State Papers (Thomas 1992).

Throughout the medieval period, Athy remained a key site in the Barrow corridor route from Dublin to Waterford and Kilkenny (Thomas 1992). Fourteenth-century features in Athy are mentioned in a document of 1339, the year in which Sir Gerald de St. Michael, Lord of Athy, died.

In 1422, the Lord Justice, James Butler, Earl of Ormond, referred to Athy as one of the keys of the marches of Kildare and placed the town in the custody of a military governor, William Scryvener, who was responsible for the castle, bridge and the town itself. In 1431, Sir Richard Wellesley was appointed to take custody of the town and to defend it against the native Irish. By this time, Athy was described as “the greatest fortress and key of the countryside” (Bradley *et al* 1986; Comerford 1891–95).

Athy was one of Silken Thomas’s strongholds during his rebellion against the English in 1534–35. After his defeat, the town was fortified by the earl of Kildare though it continued to be exposed to the Irish. In 1540, the Dominican Friary was attacked and burned by Donald McCare Kavanagh and damage was probably also sustained by the town during this incident. In 1546, the town and monastery were burned by O’Mordha of Laois and by O’Concobhair of Offaly. Around 1577, the town was burned once again by Ruaidhri Óg O’Mordha. Nevertheless, the strategic importance of Athy continued to ensure its survival and a garrison was stationed in Athy throughout the sixteenth century.

In 1613 or 1615, the borough was once again confirmed by a charter of James I awarded to Sir Robert Digby (Bradley *et al* 1986). When the Catholic Rebellion broke out in 1641, the town was once again heavily garrisoned with forces loyal to the Crown. By 1642, three companies of one hundred men each were stationed in Athy with an additional garrison based in the castle itself (Bradley *et al* 1986; Lewis 1837).

During the Cromwellian period (1653–60), Athy was one of fourteen revenue precincts in Ireland and was consequently under the control of a military governor. This extra security encouraged overseas settlers to come and occupy the surrounding confiscated lands and facilitated “a time of change and prosperity for the town” (Taaffe 2000).

In 1791, Athy was connected to the Grand Canal via the Barrow Canal but even after the opening of the canal boats continued to use the river to avoid paying tolls. The canal would have boosted the commercial life of Athy, complimenting the natural waterway which had helped to facilitate trade since the thirteenth century. However, Athy seems have been in another slump in the early nineteenth century. J.N. Brewer in his *Beauties of Ireland* (published 1826) observed that although Athy was once an important town, it was “now decayed”. This, Brewer felt, was particularly lamentable since the Grand Canal and “the fertile land of the Barrow valley” should have provided at least some measure of prosperity (Taaffe 2000).

4.2 Topographical Files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/street. These files relate primarily to

artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928².

The search of the Topographical Files revealed no entries from the townland of Ardrew or adjacent townlands.

4.3 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries, the closest site KD035-031 is over 700m to the north-east (see Appendix 1)

4.4 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded through the eighteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 1 below (Figure 3). **No potential archaeological features were recorded within the subject site.**

Map	Date	Description
Historic 6inch	1839	The area enclosed by the site boundary is depicted as a conglomeration of various size fields. At the NE end of the site there is a cluster of small buildings adjacent to the road. No features of an archaeological nature are visible.
Historic 25inch	1872-74	The cluster of small buildings is replaced by two small structures. The centrally located two fields are now one larger field. No other changes.
Cassini	1907-09	No changes to previous

Table 1: Cartographic sources relating to the site

² The NMI Topographical Files search was undertaken by the Irish Antiquities Division of the NMI on behalf of Archer Heritage and is gratefully acknowledged,

4.5 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google/Bing Maps 2018).

Aerial Photograph	Date	Description
OSi (B&W)	1995	The area enclosed by the site boundary comprise of 3 fields. No archaeological features can be noted.
OSi	2000	No change
OSi Digital Globe	2005	At the NE end of the site a small area appears to be converted to a farm/storage yard
Google Earth	2018	The whole site is one large agricultural field. The yard area was backfilled and reclaimed.

Table 2: Aerial Photographs

4.6 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 onwards. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section.

There were no previous archaeological excavations on site but there have been several excavations in the wider area (see Appendix 2).

4.7 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It

is intended to provide a basis for recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Local Authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in Records of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are no Protected Structures or entries on the NIAH within or in the immediate environs of the site. The closest RPS entry (AY180) is the Post Box located 600m to the N of the site.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides that all development plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, groups of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, in order to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area. **The Athy Architectural Conservation Area lies 800m to the NE of the subject site. There will be no direct impact or indirect impact from development on the nearest ACA.**

4.8 Site Visit

The site was visited by Bart Korfanty of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd on 15th Dec. 2020 in dry, overcast conditions (Plates 1–4). The site is comprised of a single large irregularly shaped field. The site partially surrounded by modern housing estates and partially by fields. The surrounding fields are mixture of grass land and agriculture. The surface is flat in general and there are no low or high areas. River Barrow is c. 600m to the east. There are a number of ESB overheads running through the area. On the ground inspection and aerial photographs obtained with the drone did not reveal any archaeological features visible on the surface.

5. IMPACTS

A desk-based study and site visit was carried out on a site on the south-east outskirts of Athy, Co. Kildare (ITM 667519, 692885). The site covers an area of c. 8.7 hectare. This Archaeological Impact Assessment report sought to identify and describe known and potential archaeological or cultural heritage constraints within and/or immediately adjacent to the site. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The site is very large in scale occupying an area of roughly 8.7 Ha.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries, the closest site, an enclosure, KD035-031 is over 700m to the north-east
- No potential archaeological features were recorded in aerial photos of the subject site.
- No archaeological excavations have been undertaken previously within the subject site but there have been several excavations in the wider area.
- There are no Protected or Recorded structures on the site or in the immediate environs.
- The site visit and aerial drone photography did not reveal any archaeological features visible on the surface.

These factors indicate that there is moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the site be subject to further assessment prior to development. This should be in the form of geophysical survey followed by test excavations informed by the results of the survey. Geophysical survey and test excavations must be done under licence to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

- Bradley, J., Halpin, A. & King, H.A. (1986) *Urban Archaeology Survey, County Kildare*. OPW. Unpublished.
- Brewer, J.N.(1826) *The Beauties of Ireland: Being Original Delineations, Historical and Biographical of each County, Vol 2*, Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper, London
- Comerford, Rev. (1891–95) 'The Ford of Ae: Some Historical Notes on the Town of Athy' in *Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society*. Vol. I.
- Lewis, S. (1837) *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. Lewis & Co. London.
- Taaffe, F. (2000) *Eye on Athy's Past*. Athy.
- Thomas, A. (1992) *The Walled Towns of Ireland: Vol. II*. Irish Academic Press. Blackrock.
- Svelebil, M. (1996). Agricultural frontier and the transition to farming in the circum-Baltic area. In D. Harris (ed.), *The Origins and Spread of Agriculture and Pastoralism in Eurasia*: 323–345

7.2 Web references

- Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed January 2021]
- Online Excavations bulletin www.excavations.ie [accessed January 2021]
- Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland www.archaeology.ie [accessed January 2021]
- Kildare Record of Protected Structures
<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/YourCouncil/Publications/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2017-2023/> [accessed January 2021]



Bart Korfanty 15th January 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Table of RMP/SMR sites in vicinity of site

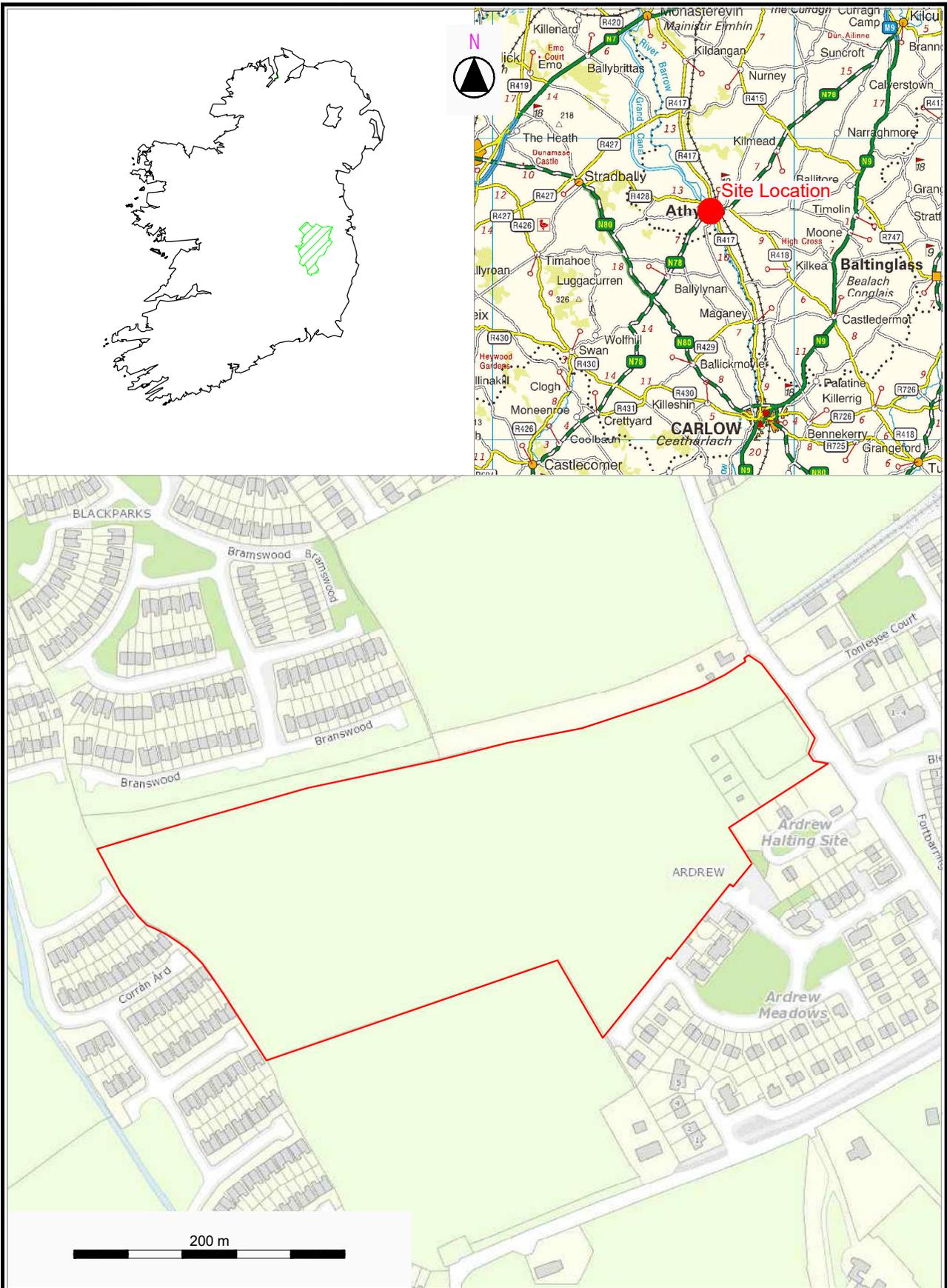
SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
KD035-024----	Moate site	Woodstock south	667000, 693579	900m NW
In pasture. Visible on an aerial photograph (GSI S 172) as the cropmark of a fosse completing the W and N sides of a rectangular enclosure (est. c. 60m E-W; c. 40m N-S), the E and S sides of which are formed by overgrown field boundaries. Also visible on a 1989 aerial photograph (GB89.AI.20) which shows the cropmark of a broad fosse completing a rectangular enclosure. Possibly a moated site.				
KD035-031----	Enclosure	Ardrew	668206, 693065	700m NE
In pasture on the W edge of the former flood plain of the River Barrow. Visible on a 1971 aerial photograph (CUCAP BGH 54) as the cropmark of a fosse enclosing a large oval area (est. max. diam. c. 60m). In 1994, a sewage pipe trench was cut through the site. A subsequent archaeological inspection did not find archaeological material in the trench or in its profiles.				
KD035-049----	Burial	Bleach	668146, 693295	800m NE
In 1994 a sewage pipe trench was being cut when previously unrecorded burials were encountered. The discovery was reported and a subsequent archaeological inspection observed disturbed bones together with an in-situ skeleton in the trench profile. It lay c. 0.8m below ground surface level and was orientated in a NE-SW direction. As the sewage pipe had already been laid and the trench was partially backfilled, it was recommended that the backfilling could be completed under archaeological supervision. The same inspection also noted that the sewage pipe trench had also been cut through a possible enclosure (KD035-031----) c. 240m to the SSE.				
KD035-053----	Enclosure	Bennetsbridge	666397, 692800	1000m W
Aerial photograph (GB89.X.07) shows the cropmark of a large oval enclosure defined by two fosses.				
KD035-101----	Excavation- miscellaneous	Ballybought (Athy ED)	668246, 692505	800m SE
Archaeological monitoring (Fegan 2002. Excavation Licence No. 02E0300) of groundworks necessitated by the Fortbarrington Sewerage Scheme, S of Athy town and to the W of and in the flood-plain of the River Barrow, revealed three, squared, oak timbers lying in river sediments. The timbers lie 21m N of a small E-flowing tributary of the Barrow, which flows S c. 150m to the E. Two timbers were excavated; 'Timber 1' (L 1.97m; Wth 0.3m; T 0.25m) and 'Timber 2' (L 0.42m; Wth 0.3m; T 0.25m), while 'Timber 3' was recorded and preserved in situ (traceable L 3.57m E-W; Wth 0.21m; T 0.18m). The excavator suggests that the timbers may be revetments that were originally set into the bank of a stream, the course of which was subsequently diverted.				
LA020-001----	Ringfort-rath	Dunbrin Upper	667956, 692056	900m SE
Marked on the 1839 and 1909 eds OS 6-inch maps; a roughly D-shaped enclosure (max. dim. c. 40m NNW-SSE). Reference to a rath here (O'Hanlon and O'Leary 1907, vol. 1, 184). No visible surface remains.				

Appendix 2: Table of previous excavations in vicinity of site

Excavation No.	RMP/SMR	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
01E0365	35:31,35:49	667712, 692875	Ardrew, Athy, Kildare	2004:0794	S. Lane
<p>Planning permission was granted for a development of 315 houses at Ardrew, Athy, Co. Kildare on a site which fell within the zone of archaeological potential for an enclosure (SMR 35:31) and a burial site (SMR 35:49). An assessment including testing was carried out by Avril Purcell in 2001 (Excavations 2001, No. 600, 01E0365). No archaeological finds or levels were noted in the area of the burial site. In consultation with Dœchas, a 15m buffer zone was allowed around the enclosure site. It was recommended that all further groundworks be monitored. Monitoring by the author took place in August 2002 during the third stage of development on site (Excavations 2002, No. 857). No archaeological finds or levels were noted. Monitoring took place during the fourth and fifth stages of development in January and November 2003 (Excavations 2003, No. 862). Further monitoring took place in April 2004 for phase six of the development. No archaeological finds or levels were noted.</p>					
18E0135	KD035-049	668249, 693398	Athy Distributor Road, Bennetsbridge to Gallowshill, Kildare	2018:251	S. Hickey
<p>Monitoring of preliminary site investigation works was undertaken over 3 days in June 2018. The monitored works were related to an asbestos survey carried out in advance of any groundbreaking works due to the presence of an asbestos factory and historic dumping in the immediate vicinity of the proposed road. The works took place intermittently along the proposed 3.4km Athy Distributor Road, Co. Kildare, through the townlands of Bennetsbridge, Blackparks, Ardrew, Bleach, Coneyburrow, Athy, Aughaboura, Chanterlands, Townparks and Gallowshill. The route crosses both open fields and disturbed brown fields south of Athy town and to the south of the zone of archaeological potential associated with the historic town. The proposed scheme follows a disused railway for a substantial stretch of the route and one archaeological site is located within the landtake of the road development, the site of a burial, SMR KD035-049, in Bleach townland. The site investigation works were undertaken by RSK Limited on behalf of Kildare County Council. The key objective of the works was to determine if asbestos was present in any of the test pits; this was achieved by a scrape back of the topsoil by machine and a visual inspection. A soil sample was taken at each location by the geotechnical personnel. In total, 79 test pits were monitored. As the methodology was to work within the first 150mm, only the topsoil could be inspected.</p> <p>No artefacts or finds of an archaeological nature were revealed during monitoring.</p>					
15E0559	N/A	673648, 693941	Athy to Ballitore, Kildare	2016:832	J. Hession
<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken along the route of a proposed overhead powerline from Athy to Ballitore, Co. Kildare from 16 December 2015 to 5 April 2016 (ITM: 673648, 639941 to 679801, 696145). The route passes through the townlands of: Bleach, Ardrew, Ballybought, Dunbrin Upper (Co. Laois), Ardree, Bray Lower, Bray Upper, Ballycullane, Turnerstown, Burtown Big, Burtown Little, Mullamast, Moone, Ballitore.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the monitoring works.</p>					
01E0365	N/A	667712, 692875	Ardrew, Athy, Kildare	2001:599	C. Grant
<p>Monitoring for Phase 1 of a large housing development commenced on 26 May 2001. All of the groundworks were monitored and found to be clear of archaeological features. However, a number of sherds of pottery were recovered from both the topsoil and the subsoil. A small number of these are post-medieval in date.</p>					
01E0365	35:31, 35:49	667712, 692875	Ardrew, Athy, Kildare	2001:600	S. Lane
<p>Planning permission was granted for the development of 315 dwelling-houses and a small number of commercial units on this site. An assessment, including testing, was carried out in May 2001 by Avril Purcell. Eight trenches were opened on the site, three in the area of the enclosure, one within the zone of potential for the burial, and the other four on the perimeter of the site. The enclosure was identified in the test-trenches and a buffer zone of 25m around it was requested by Dúchas. No other finds or features were noted in the trenches. Monitoring of all topsoil-stripping was recommended. Later in May, topsoil-stripping of Phase I of the development was carried out under the same licence by</p>					

Excavation No.	RMP/SMR	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
<p>Christine Grant (see above, No. 599). No archaeological finds or features were noted. In September 2001 the licence was transferred to the writer to monitor excavation of sewer lines through the site, of foundation and service trenches in Phase I, topsoil-stripping in the 25m buffer zone around the enclosure so that it could be reduced to 15m and to open two further test-trenches in the area of the burial (SMR 35:49).</p> <p>No archaeological finds or features were identified in the course of the above procedures.</p>					
01E0365	35:31, 35:49	667712, 692875	Ardrew, Athy, Kildare	2001:0857	S. Lane
<p>Planning permission was granted for a development of 315 houses at Ardrew, Athy, on a site that fell within the zone of archaeological potential of an enclosure (SMR 35:31) and a burial site (SMR 35:49). An assessment including testing was carried out by Avril Purcell, Christine Grant and Sheila Lane in 2001 (Excavations 2001, Nos 599 and 600). No archaeological finds or levels were noted in the area of the burial site. A 15m buffer zone was allowed around the enclosure site. It was recommended that all further groundworks be monitored. Monitoring took place in August 2002, during the third stage of development on-site.</p> <p>No archaeological finds or levels were noted.</p>					
02E0300	N/A	667828, 692565	Ardrew/Ballybought/Bennetsbridge/Tonlegee, Kildare	2002:0858	G. Fegan
<p>Monitoring took place of groundworks disturbed by the Fortbarrington Sewerage Scheme south of Athy town, to the west of and in the flood-plain of the River Barrow. The project involved the opening of trenches along the existing roadway, through one greenfield site and the route of a stream, to receive sewage pipes servicing local houses. Two pumping stations were also constructed in the low-lying areas to pump the waste uphill to the Fortbarrington Sewage Treatment Facility. One site was uncovered during monitoring of this scheme, consisting of oak timbers lying in river sediments. This site was investigated and has been preserved in situ, the works having been diverted to avoid the archaeological remains. One timber was retained after having been disturbed by machinery and will be used to provide dating evidence. The stream that passes under the Ballybought laneway 21m south of where this timber was found is a tributary of the Barrow, which it joins 150m east of the site. Its source is c. 5.5km directly west of the site, in County Laois. From consultation of cartographic, documentary and local sources, this stream does not seem to have a name. It appears to have been diverted during its lifetime. Works were undertaken to straighten sections of it, as can be seen by comparing Alexander Taylor's 1783 map with the present OS maps. According to local knowledge, many of these works took place during the mid-19th century. Groups of workmen from Laois County Council were still clearing out the stream and maintaining the banks as far as the Barrow up until 25 years ago. As can be seen from Taylor's map, there appears to have been a considerable diversion of the stream directly west of the site. It also shows a mill in the field to the south-west of the site, the remains of which still stand, making up part of the field boundary. There is further reference to this mill in the 1654–6 Civil Survey: 'There is upon ye aforesaid lands of St John's Hospital one stone house and two mills'; it also states that the land was owned by 'Sr Robert King, Knt' (Simington 1952). It is possible that the stream was diverted to the south as it entered Tonlegee. It then followed a wide arc to the mill, where it turned sharply to the north, rejoined the original course and continued to run east. However, the current route of the stream suggests that after the mill had been abandoned the stream reverted to its original course. It may at one stage have run under the Ballybought laneway farther north than it now does. The timbers uncovered may be revetments that were originally set into the bank. The stratigraphy examined during excavation certainly suggests this. Monitoring of these works began on 19 March 2002. Section 1 ran from the north-western extent of the scheme to the north-eastern. It followed the route of the roadway, cutting through the modern surface. This roadway follows the northern boundary wall of Tonlegee House estate and is noted on Taylor's map. The pipe-trench was excavated to a general width of 0.7–1.2m, widening to 2.5m at every manhole construction point; it was 1.2–5m in maximum depth and c. 1.8km in total length. A track machine fitted with a 1m toothed bucket was used. The level of ground disturbance for modern reconstruction of the road was considerable. The stratigraphy consisted of the modern road construction layers lying directly on the natural, silty sand, which was visible throughout the area monitored. A number of possible features were noted along the length of the trench. On examination it became clear that they were of natural origin. The fills were uniform throughout, orange silty sand with occasional darker, organic lenses. The features were situated randomly along the length of the trench, throughout the area affected by the scheme, and never continued on the side of the trench opposite to the one in which</p>					

Excavation No.	RMP/SMR	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
<p>they appeared. It was concluded that these features were tree holes. Section 2 ran from the north-eastern extent of the scheme to the south-eastern. It followed the route of the Ballybought laneway, which meanders south-east as far as the county boundary with Laois. This laneway at one time turned south-west and continued along the county boundary until it reached the main Carlow road, as can be seen on Taylor's map. It is now blocked up just west of the farmyard at the end of the present lane. The stratigraphy consisted of the modern lane surface construction layers lying on top of a deposit of water-rolled stones. This may be a previous lane surface. Below this was a layer of flood deposit consisting of yellow/orange silty sand. This deposit in turn covered what appeared to be an earlier lane surface. This even cobble layer could be seen at two locations along the section of the pipe-trench and was on average 0.56m below the present lane surface. No finds or datable evidence were found in these layers. During the excavation associated with construction of Pumping Station No. 2 a timber was recovered from the bucket of the excavator. Works were halted for full investigation of the remains. It was revealed that there were two more timbers in situ 1.23m below the surface of the present laneway. The layers surrounding the timbers appeared to be riverine deposits. The layers directly north of Timber 3 have been interpreted as an earlier stream bank. The composition of the deposits immediately below and around the timbers suggests erosion and deposition. On-site analysis by Ingelise Stuijts has confirmed that Timber 1 is oak and should therefore provide adequate dating evidence. A decision was made to stabilise Timber 3 in situ and divert the construction works to avoid the disturbance of this timber. Section 3 ran from the north-western extent of the scheme to the south-western. It followed the route of the Athy–Carlow road running south and had the same dimensions as the previous two sections. From Pumping Station No. 1 it crossed the main roadway and cut through a field that had been quite clearly drained, reclaimed and built up with modern material. No features were uncovered during this part of the excavation. The pipe-trench then crossed beneath the same stream as passes under the Ballybought laneway, necessitating its diversion and reinstatement. No features of archaeological interest were seen in the streambed or banks before or during these works. The trench then continued through another greenfield area. The topsoil here reached a depth of 0.5m and came down onto the natural, yellow/orange, silty sand. No features were uncovered during this part of the excavation. The trench then crossed onto the main road and continued southward, for a distance of 540m. Again cutting through modern roadway surface, the pipe-trench sections revealed similar stratigraphy to those of Section 1.</p>					



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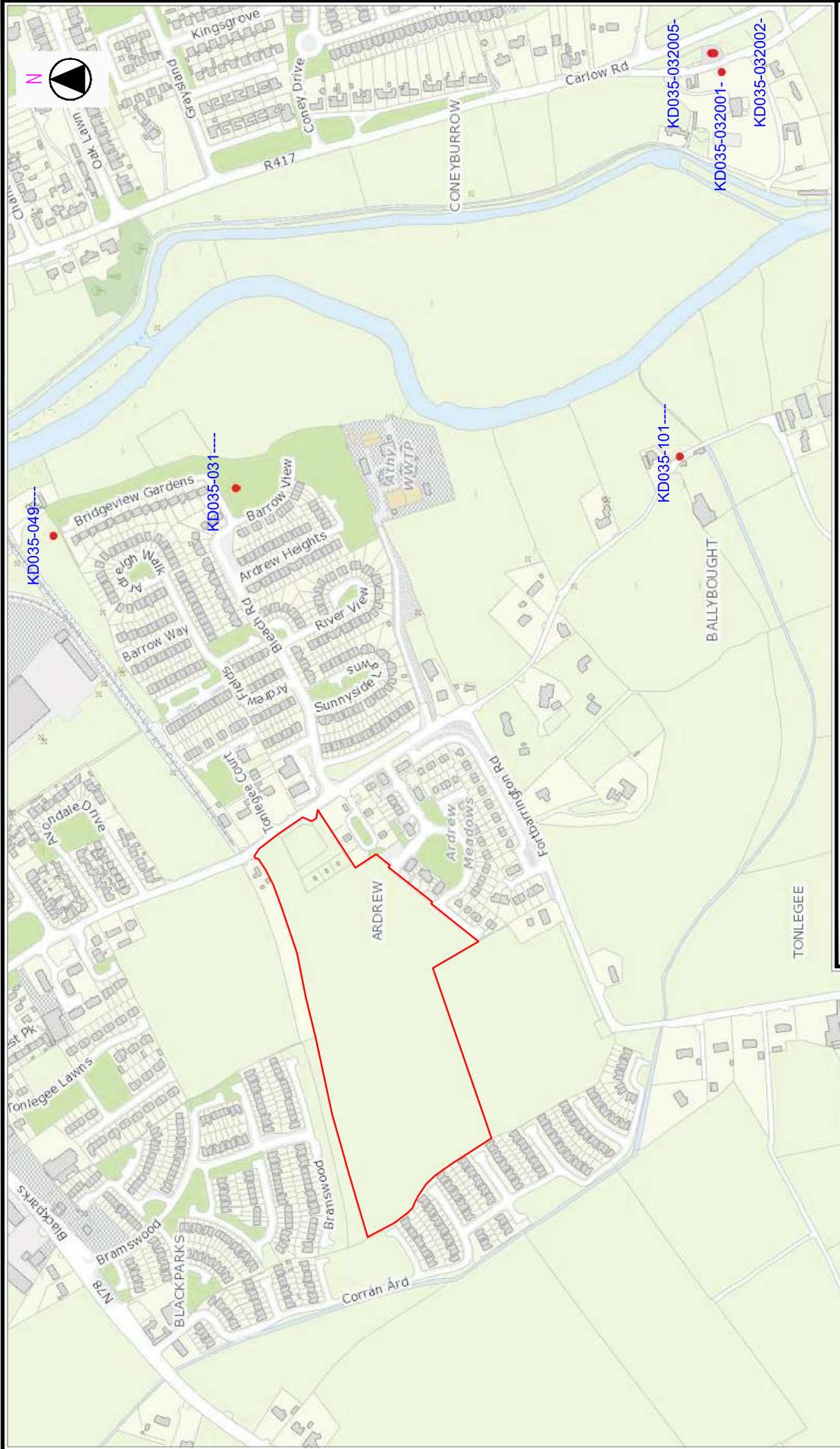
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Date: January 2021

Origin: archaeology.ie

Ref: 2021_03_AIA_01

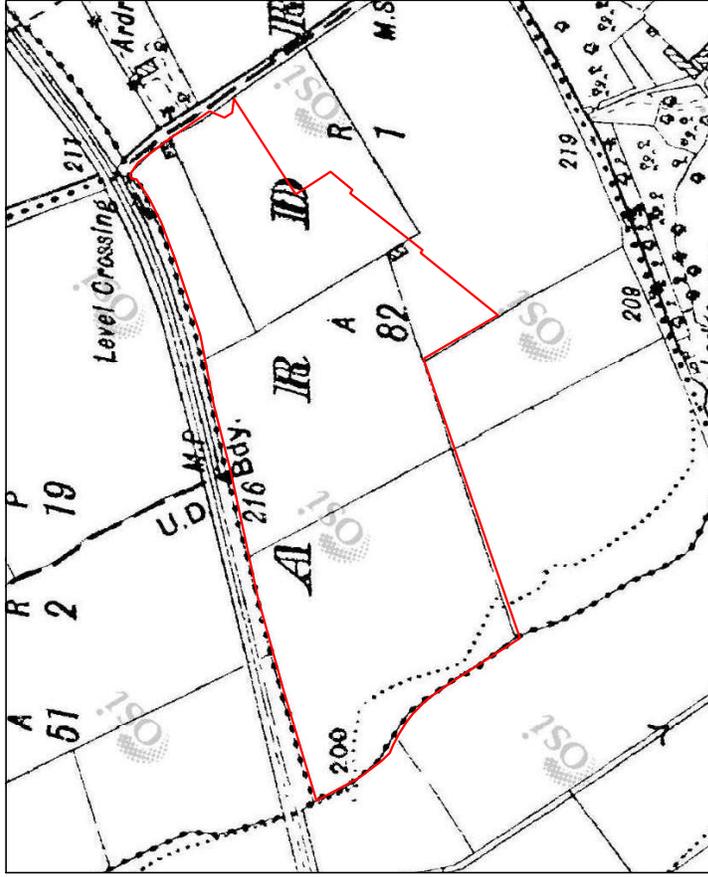
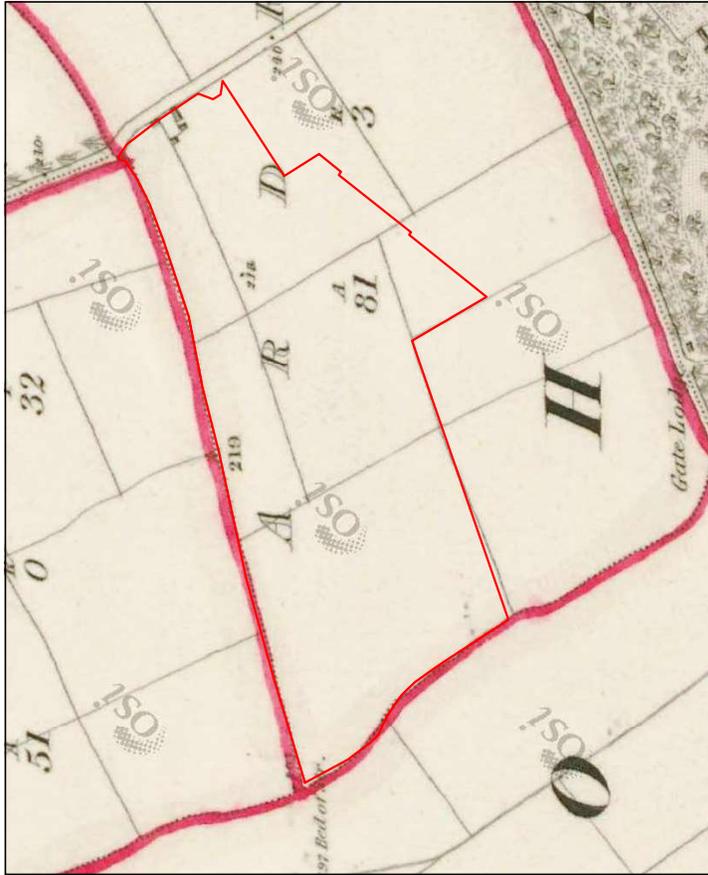
Figure 1: Site location



Scale: 1:7000 A4	Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Ardeaw, Athy, Co. Kildare
Date: January 2021	Impact Assessment	
Origin: archaeology.ie		
Ref: 2021_03_AIA_02		



Figure 2: Location of site and surrounding RMPs



(l) 1st edition OS - 1839

(r) Cassini - 1907-9



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Figure 3: Extracts from early historical maps



(l) 1995
(r) Premium



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Scale: Not to scale

Date: January 2021

Origin: geohive.ie

Ref: 2021_03_AIA_04

Figure 4: Extracts from aerial photography



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking SW



Plate 2: General view of the site, looking NE



Plate 3: General view of the site, looking S



Plate 4: Ground level view of the site, looking SE