

**PROPOSED ROAD MAINTENANCE DEPOT (NEWHALL)**

**JIGGINSTOWN,  
NAAS, Co. KILDARE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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**Report Commissioned by  
Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers  
Kylekiproe,  
Well Road,  
Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois  
FOR  
Kildare County Council**

**FEBRUARY 2019**

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Archaeological Impact Assessment Report has been prepared with respect to the proposed development of a Road Maintenance Depot at Jigginstown, Naas, Co. Kildare. The report was commissioned by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers, Kylekippoe, Well Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for Kildare County Council.

#### 2. METHODOLOGY

The study involved a documentary and cartographic search, aerial photographic research and field inspection/surface reconnaissance survey.

##### 2.1. Paper Survey

This is a documentary source study. The following sources were examined from which a list of sites and areas of archaeological and architectural interest/potential was compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places – Co. Kildare (RMP)
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) / Archive files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI)
- *Excavations – Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* – [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage – [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)
- Historic O.S. Map series – [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)
- Documentary and Cartographic Sources in Kildare County Library (Local History Section)
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (KCDP)

In addition, the following reports were consulted:

- Cultural Heritage Report prepared by Claire Walsh, Archaeological Projects Ltd, included in the Newhall Retail Park - Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by Brady Shipman Martin (August 2003).
- Archaeological Monitoring Report – Newhall Retail Park; Archaeological Projects Ltd (September 2004).

##### 2.2. Field Inspection

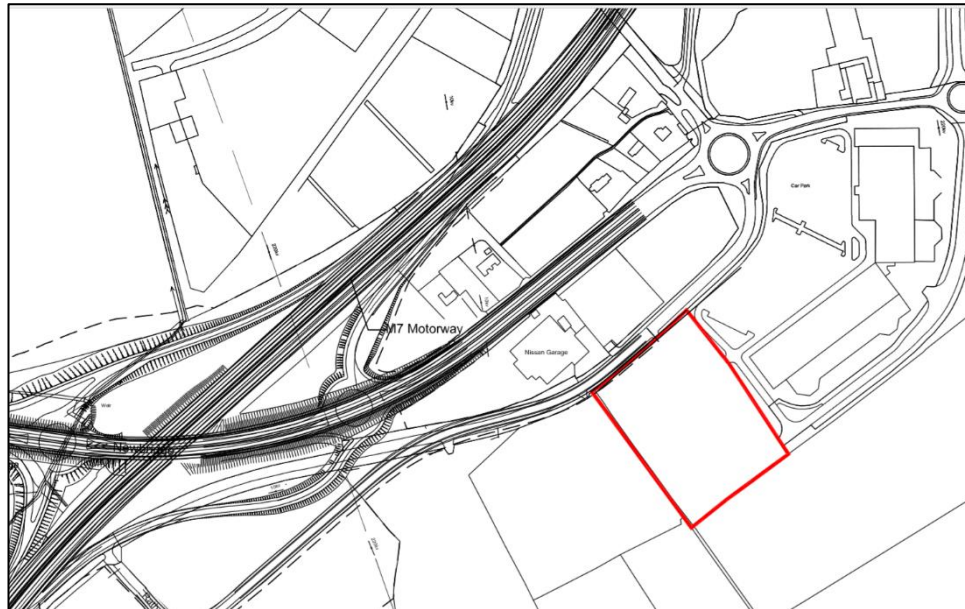
Following completion of the Paper Survey, the subject proposed works areas and immediate environs were subjected to a site inspection/surface reconnaissance survey in early February 2019.

**2.3. Study Area**

Given the nature of the proposed development it was considered that the Archaeological Study Area should comprise the subject site and an area of 500m surrounding the boundaries to such.

**3. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The site is located on the south-western outskirts of Naas, approx. 2.3km from the centre of the town and in an area known locally as Newhall. It is bounded to the north by a slip road to the M7, to the east by Newhall Retail Park and to the south and west by agricultural lands – Figure 1; Plate 1.



**Figure 1 Site Location**



**Plate 1 Aerial View of site and immediate environs**

In general, the boundary to the north, which is formed by a line of tree planting, interrupted by a blocked-up access, is of relative modern date and is associated with the development of the adjacent M7 slip road. The western boundary incorporates a line of planting (trees & bushes, inside of which is an open

drain/stream which is very overgrown in places. The southern boundary is also formed by tree and bush planting and the eastern boundary is currently not established,

The area between the eastern site boundary and retail park access road incorporates drainage features associated with the adjacent retail park, while surface of site extents comprise areas of partially levelled spoil mounds.



**Plate 2 Drainage Features outside eastern site boundary**



**Plate 3 General view of site – from east**



**Plate 4 Eastern site area – from south**



**Plate 5 General View of site – from south**



**Plate 6 Western site area**

#### 4. GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The subject development site is located in the townland of Jigginstown, in the civil parish of Naas and in the barony of Naas North (O.S. 6" Map – Kildare Sheet 19). The name Jigginstown derives from the Irish *Baile an tSigínigh* – the homestead of the Siggins family (Placenames Commission – [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).

The history of the immediate area is dominated by the town of Naas, the placename of which - Nás an Ríogh - means 'place of the assembly of the kinds', and was the seat of the kings of Leinster from at least the eighth to the tenth century (de Burgh, 1891-5, 184-6). The fort (dún) of Naas is first referred to in 705. This was the royal residence and is believed to have been incorporated into the later Anglo-Norman motte. Naas was also the site of an Early Christian monastery known as Cill Corbhán or Cill Náis. De Burgh (1891-5, 324) notes that "the monastery of Tulach Fomhair was at Millbrook, near Corban's Mill...it was founded in the seventh century by St. Fechin of Fobhair and built upon lands given by a king of Leinster. Comerford (1830-3, 107) also states that this was the site of the monastery. However, Bradley (1987, 344) argues that 'despite these suggestions...the precise location of Tulach Fomhair cannot be established. In 1175 the Barony of Naas was granted by Strongbow to Maurice Fitzgerald. This grant was confirmed to his son, William Fitzmaurice, by Henry II in 1177 and reconfirmed by Prince John who, as king, visited Naas in 1206 and 1210 when he held a council in the town. An Augustinian priory was established before the end of the twelfth century and the parish church, dedicated to St. David, was in existence by the early thirteenth century. Information on Naas in the Later Middle Ages is scanty. The town was apparently burned and plundered by Edmund Bruce in 1316, but it clearly recovered and its importance in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries may be gauged from the fact that at least nine parliaments and thirteen councils were held in Naas between 1355 and 1484. In addition, a Dominican Friary was founded by the FitzEustace family in 1355 and an Augustinian Friary in 1484. Although there are no indications that the town was walled at this period, there are references to town gates as Henry V granted to the Corporation the power to collect tolls at all the entrances to the town in 1413. In 1534 the Lord-Deputy, Skeffington, took the town from the Fitzgeralds in 1534 as that family were then in open rebellion with the Crown. Naas was incorporated by charter of Elizabeth I in 1568 and a new charter was granted by James I in 1609. In 1577 the town was attacked and burned, during which an estimated 150 houses were burned. The population of the town in 1659 is recorded as 303. Large garrisons of crown forces were stationed at Naas from the late sixteenth century. In 1648 it was garrisoned by the Earl of Ormonde who surrendered the town the Cromwellian forces under the command of Cols. Hewson and Reynolds in 1650. The town maintained its status in the seventeenth century, being described in 1606 as 'the chief corporate town in the county of Kildare'. Further charters were granted to the town by Charles I in 1628 and Charles II in 1671.

The area of Jigginstown is synonymous with Jigginstown Castle, which is located approx. 1.7km to the east-northeast of the subject development site. Jigginstown, or Sigginstown House as it was also known, was constructed under the guidance of Thomas Wentworth. Wentworth was Earl of Stafford and was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland during the reign of Charles I. Stafford had planned the building with the idea that it could be home to the king on royal visits to Ireland. While the building of Jigginstown castle is reputed to be the work of Rev. Mr. Johnson, rector of Dromlease, in the diocese of Kilmore, Cromwell in his 'Excursions through Ireland' credits the construction to a member of the Allen family - most likely John Allen, who was noted for his taste in architecture. A reasonable explanation for this conflict regarding the constructor of Jigginstown is that Allen was responsible for the planning of the building while Johnson carried them out. From 1632 to 1639, Wentworth instituted a harsh rule as Lord Deputy of Ireland. Recalled back to England, he became a leading advisor to the king, attempting to strengthen the royal position against parliament. However Thomas Wentworth was accused of treason in the House of Commons and never lived to see if Jigginstown indeed housed a king, as he was sentenced to death. Charles I signed the death warrant and Wentworth was executed before a crowd of about 200,000 on 12 May 1641. After his death there is still controversy today as to whether Jigginstown was ever really finished however it was described as 'In a manner finished' at a cost of £6000. Thomas Wentworth was certainly frequently resident at Jigginstown as many of his letters are written from 'The Naas'. Following news of Strafford's execution, Ireland rose in rebellion in October 1641. It was at Jigginstown that James Butler, the 1st Duke of Ormonde signed the Cessation with the Confederates in 1643. Ormonde had been

working as head of government of Ireland under Stafford and had been treated with great favour. After the Restoration, Ormonde went on to move some of the marble door-cases and chimney-pieces from Jigginstown to Kilkenny Castle or Dunmore House.

In 1641, the lands of Jigginstown, then known as Leakirath Sillagh (No. 36; Figure 2), were owned by Simon Luttrell, Robert Sherlock and John Lattin. A census of 1659 ([www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)) notes that such lands comprised 219 plantation acres of profitable land and had a population of 71 English and 12 Irish, with Philip Carpenter and John Browne acting as ‘Titulados’. In 1670, the lands were owned by Philip Sherlock.



Figure 2 Extract from Down Survey Map – 1656-8

The area is shown as undeveloped and in agricultural use in Noble & Keenan’s map of 1752 (Figure 3), while Taylor’s map of 1783 (Figure 4) indicates a planted boundary to the north and a small cluster of structures to the southwest.



Figure 3 Extract from Noble & Keenan – 1752



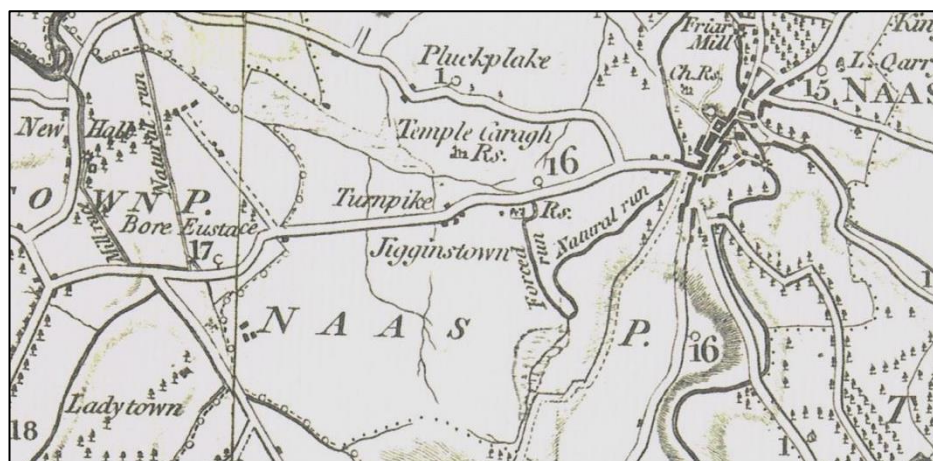


Figure 4 Extract from Taylor - 1783

The Ordnance Survey map of 1837 (Figure 5) indicates the layout of the site at that time. It comprised areas of three individual fields and was in agricultural use; the stream along the western boundary is also indicated. This map also indicates that a section of the townland, civil parish and barony boundary is located outside the north-western extent of the subject site, along the present M7 slip road. Furthermore, a section of the Naas –Corbally Canal, constructed in 1810, is illustrated to the east



Figure 5 Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1839

Griffith's Valuation (*Primary Valuation of Ireland 1848-64*) of 1854 notes that the subject development lands formed part of a much larger landholding, owned by Andrew Montgomery and leased by William Powell.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1908 (Figure 6) also indicates that the lands were in total agricultural use at this time. The layout of the site has changed and it is shown as comprising part of a single larger field, the western boundary of which was formed by a stream flowing in a north-west direction. The Ordnance Survey map of 1939 (Figure 7) indicates no changes to the subject site and overall environs had since occurred.



Figure 6 Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1908



Figure 7 Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1939

In the more recent past, a slip road to the M7 was constructed outside the northern extent of the site, at which time the existing northern boundary was established and planted. A number of commercial premises were constructed across this road to the north of the site (Newhall) and a retail park, with associated access road was constructed to the immediate east in the mid-2000s. The subject site originally formed part of the adjacent retail park lands and part was used as a construction compound; spoil was subsequently dumped and stored on the site.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Archaeology is the study of past societies through their material remains and the landscapes they lived in. "The archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence" (DoAHG 1999, p9).

### 5.1 Statutory Protections

The statutory and administrative framework of development control in zone of archaeological potential or in proximity to recorded monuments has two main elements:

- (a) Archaeological preservation and licensing under the National Monuments Acts and
- (b) Development plans and planning applications under the Planning Acts.

### 5.1.1 National Monuments Acts 1930 - 2014

#### Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 provides that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect to each county of the State. This is referred to as the ‘Record of Monuments and Places’ (RMP), and monuments entered into it are referred to as ‘Recorded Monuments’.

Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 provides for the protection of monuments and places in the record, stating that

“When the owner or occupier (not being the Minister) of a monument or place which has been recorded under subsection (1) of this section or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Minister and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

### 5.1.2 Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

The following relevant Archaeological Heritage Policies are set out in Section 12.9.1 of the Plan:

<b>AH 1</b>	Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of the county, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principals for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.
<b>AH 2</b>	Have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Urban Archaeological Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.
<b>AH 3</b>	Secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest, included in the Record of Monuments and Places and their settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHG (1999), or any superseding national policy document.
<b>AH 4</b>	Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

## 5.2 Relevant Archaeological Inventory

There are no previously identified archaeological monuments located within, or in the immediate environs of, the subject development lands. In addition, cartographic and aerial photographic research, together with a surface reconnaissance survey of the site did not indicate any surface features of archaeological potential within, or in the general environs of, the subject lands.

The nearest Recorded Monuments to the subject site are listed below in Table 1 and their respective locations indicated in Figure 8.

The following abbreviations/codes are used in relation to Tables 1.

**SMR No.:** Individual number assigned to site in the Sites and Monuments Record of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland

**ITM:** International Transverse Mercator Grid Reference

**Classification:** Brief nature of the archaeological site as listed in the RMP

**NM:** National Monument in State Care

**PO:** Subject to a Preservation Order made under National Monuments Acts

**RHM:** Listed in Register of Historic Monuments

**RMP:** Listed in the Record of Monuments and Places

**KCDP:** Listed in the Kildare County Development Plan

**Distance:** Distance from monument to closest element of proposed development

SMR No(s).	ITM	Townland	Classification	Protection	Distance
KD019-032	687900 718966	Jigginstown	Gatehouse	PO; RMP; KCDP	1200m
KD019-033001	687995 718962	Jigginstown	House – 17 <sup>th</sup> Century	NM; PO; RMP; KCDP	1300m
KD019-033002	688016 718953	Jigginstown	Enclosure	PO; RMP; KCDP	1300m
KD019-033003	688000 718920	Jigginstown	Designed Landscape – Formal Gardens	PO; RMP; KCDP	1300m
KD019-033004	688004 718956	Jigginstown	Lime Kiln	PO; RMP; KCDP	1300m
KD019-034	687868 718879	Jigginstown	Castle – Tower House	PO; RMP; KCDP	1100m
KD019-035	685641 717708	Ladytown	Ringfort - Rath	RHM; RMP; KCDP	1000m
KD019-071	685254 718907	Newhall	Enclosure	RMP; KCDP	1200m

**Table 1 Archaeological Inventory**



**Figure 8 Locations of closest Archaeological Monuments to subject site**

### 5.3 Archaeological Artefacts

There are no 'stray' artefacts listed in the Topographical Registers of the National Museum of Ireland, as having been discovered in Jigginstown, other than those recovered by licenced archaeological investigations.

### 5.4 Results from documented relevant archaeological investigations

A search undertaken of the annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) indicates that a number of licenced archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the general area of the subject site, none of which were located within the defined Study Area.

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring was undertaken by Archaeological Projects Ltd in 2004 of site preparation works/topsoil stripping associated with the Newhall Retail Park, to the east of the subject site.

Such monitoring included works within the eastern area of the subject site in advance of the provision of drainage features, together with works associated with a construction compound in the central and southern site area. Such work was carried out in compliance with a condition included in the associated Grant of Planning (Ref: 03/1655). No subsurface features of archaeological interest/potential were uncovered and the only artefacts recovered were factory-made ceramics of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The proposed Road Maintenance Depot is to replace the existing facility currently located in Newbridge. It provides a range of services to Kildare County Council including coordination of winter maintenance, coordination of surface dressing operations, vehicle hire and purchase, provision of vehicles for pothole repair and street sweeping, fuel storage, salt storage, bitumen storage, vehicle re-spray facility, plant storage, workshop facilities and offices for administration purposes.

The two main structures to be constructed on the site are –

- An Administration building and workshop. The administration building comprises offices on the first floor (350sq.m) over storage & ancillary accommodation on the ground floor (320sq.m). The workshop will be 630sq.m and is attached to the Administration building.
- A 23,000 tonne (3,480sq.m) Regional Salt Barn for use by Kildare County Council and the Department of Transport. There is an open fronted lean-to (415sq.m) proposed to the side of the salt barn for the storage of snow ploughs, gritters and other equipment associated with the salt barn. A small welfare building (52sq.m) is proposed for the use of night time gritter drivers.

The ancillary structures to be constructed on the site are

- a 30,000 litre raised bitumen tank with access stairs and platform
- 2no. 10m x10m aggregate storage bays
- 1no. covered 10m x 10m covered ancillary storage bay
- covered truck wash area with raised platform
- brine storage tank

Other ancillary and associated works are

- site entrance
- weighbridges
- perimeter fences/walls
- internal fencing to secure storage areas
- parking areas
- fuel storage and pumps
- drainage and site services.

A 3-D layout plan of the development, as proposed, is illustrated below in Figure 9.



Figure 9 Proposed Layout

## 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The two main impacts of a development of this nature, with respect to archaeological features, can broadly be described as Physical and Visual.

### 7.1 Physical Impacts

There are no Recorded Monuments located within, or in the immediate environs of the subject development site, the closest being approx. 1000m to the southwest (KD019-035; Ringfort – Rath; Ladytown Td).

Part of the site was topsoil stripped as part of the development of the adjacent Newhall Retail Park, and such work was monitored by an archaeologist. Nothing of archaeological potential was uncovered by such works either within the area of the subject site or in the wider retail park area.

Given the above and the existing nature of the site, it is considered that the subject site is of very low archaeological potential for the discovery of subsurface archaeological features.

### 7.2 Visual Impacts

There are no Recorded Monuments located within, or in the immediate environs of the subject site. The nearest extant archaeological monuments are located a minimum of 1km from the site and, consequently, it is not envisaged that the development has the ability to impact on the settings of such monuments.

## 8. DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTED MITIGATION

As noted above in Section 7, it is not considered that any elements of the development proposals will cause any direct or visual impacts with respect to previously recorded and/or extant archaeological monuments. In addition, given the nature of the site, and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area, it is considered that the subject lands are of low archaeological potential. Consequently, it is suggested that no further archaeological interventions are required of the development.

**APPENDIX 1****List of Consulted Documentary Sources**

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