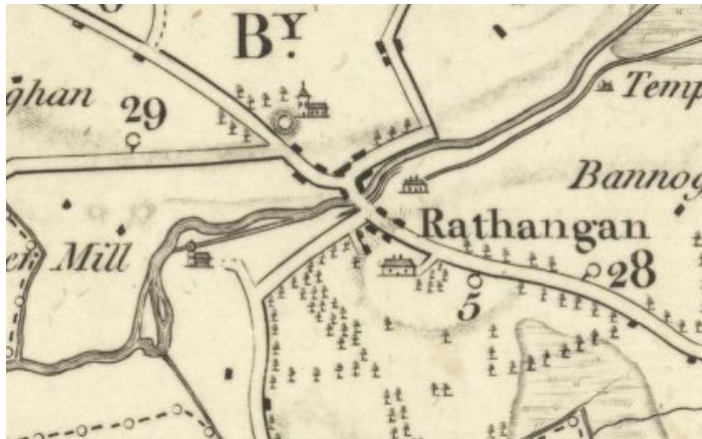




ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM WORKS AT MARKET SQUARE, BRIDGE STREET, MAIN STREET AND CHAPEL STREET, RATHANGAN, CO. KILDARE



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***Note:** All recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by the Paul Hogarth Company, on behalf of Kildare County Council, to assess the impact on archaeology of a proposal to undertake Public Realm works in the historic town of Rathangan, Co. Kildare. The proposed development area is centred on Market Square, Rathangan, which is probably coterminous with the former medieval borough of Rathangan, as identified in the Urban Archaeological Survey - County Kildare and a protected archaeological monument under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act (1930-2004), identified in the Record of Monuments and Places as RMP KD017-011--- (Bradley, Halpin and King 1986 vol. 4, 414) (Figure 1). The majority of the proposed development area also falls within the Architectural Conservation Area for Rathangan, as defined in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. To the north of the development area is the medieval parish church of the borough, which was located on the site of the present early-nineteenth century Church of Ireland church (RMP KD017-011003-; NIAH 11810032) and graveyard RMP KD017-011007- (Figure 3). A large early medieval ringfort RMP KD017-011001-, which may have been modified into an Anglo-Norman ringwork castle RMP KD017-011004, stands 50m west of the church. This formed the manorial *caput* until it was moved to the south-west of the village, where a now lost tower house RMP KD017-011002- was recorded in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A well RMP KD017-011006- and a designed landscape feature RMP KD017-011005- are noted on the Record of Monuments and Places to the west of the development area. Rathangan Lodge, a protected structure, (RPS B17-12; NIAH 11810037), is situated in what may have been a medieval burgage plot to the south of the parish church and also to the north of the development area. In the south of the development area the present, late eighteenth century, road bridge (RPS B17-26; NIAH 11810003) - known as Rathangan Bridge - spans the river Slate in the east of the village may have replaced medieval precursors on or near the same site. A second bridge, also of late eighteenth century date, located immediately to its south and forming the south end of the development area, spans a section of the Grand Canal, which runs parallel to the river. A cut stone wharf and landing stages for boats/barges on the canal are extant upstream and downstream of the bridge. The power of the Slate River was harnessed for substantial milling enterprises and the remains of a large Malthouse (NIAH 11810038), which incorporated an earlier Police Barrack on the same site, is present on the east side of Rathangan Bridge. Mills, and their attendant mill races, are also recorded on the historic maps to the west and east of the bridge.

This assessment report begins by detailing the methodology that was employed in its compilation; this is followed by an overview of the archaeological and historical background to settlement at Rathangan, which is in turn followed by documentation of the specific, recorded archaeological sites and monuments within and in the immediate environs of the proposed development area and the results of field inspection. An Archaeological Impact Statement and recommendations for further mitigation conclude the report.

1.1 Assessment Methodology

The methodology which was employed in compiling this assessment report was guided by the *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (E.P.A. 2002, 2003), and conforms to the methodologies recommended in *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999), Section 3.3 of which requires that 'whenever the archaeological heritage is affected, or proposed to be affected, by development the approach to be followed must be preservation in-situ or preservation by record through archaeological excavation and recording. Archaeological assessment is a method of, and the first step in, ensuring that the approaches of preservation in-situ and preservation by record are applied appropriately. In certain circumstances it may, on the basis of the results of archaeological assessment, be considered appropriate to carry out archaeological monitoring. However, archaeological monitoring is not an end in itself, rather a method of ensuring that preservation in-situ or preservation by record take place as appropriate'. The methodology also conforms with the legislative frameworks of the *National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (as amended)*, *Heritage Act 2000* and the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ratified by Ireland 1997)*. The National Roads Authority's (NRA) *Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes* (2005) was also consulted because of its in-depth consideration of archaeological heritage as part of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The assessment of architectural heritage was guided by the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DAHG 2011).

The methodology for this assessment also conforms to the policies and strategies for the architectural and archaeological heritage of the county as set out in Section 12.2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023:

- Protect and conserve buildings, structures and sites of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.
- Protect and conserve the archaeological heritage of the county. The Council will favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principals for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.
- Protect and conserve areas that have particular environmental qualities that derive from their overall layout, design and character.
- Protect and conserve historic milestones, street furniture, and other significant features of interest wherever feasible.
- Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of existing older buildings where appropriate.

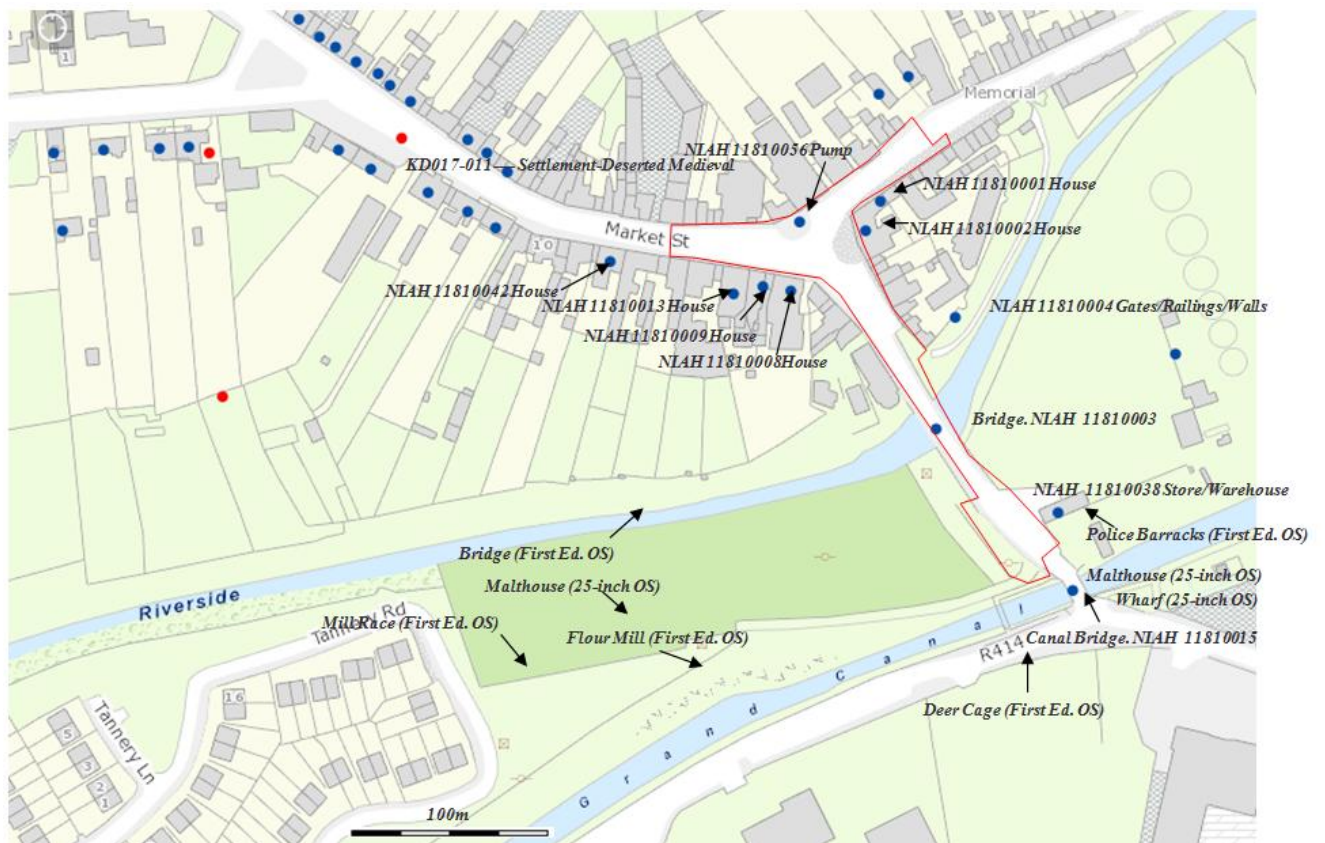


Figure 1: Proposed Development Area and archaeological and architectural heritage sites, see table 1 for detailed descriptions of each site

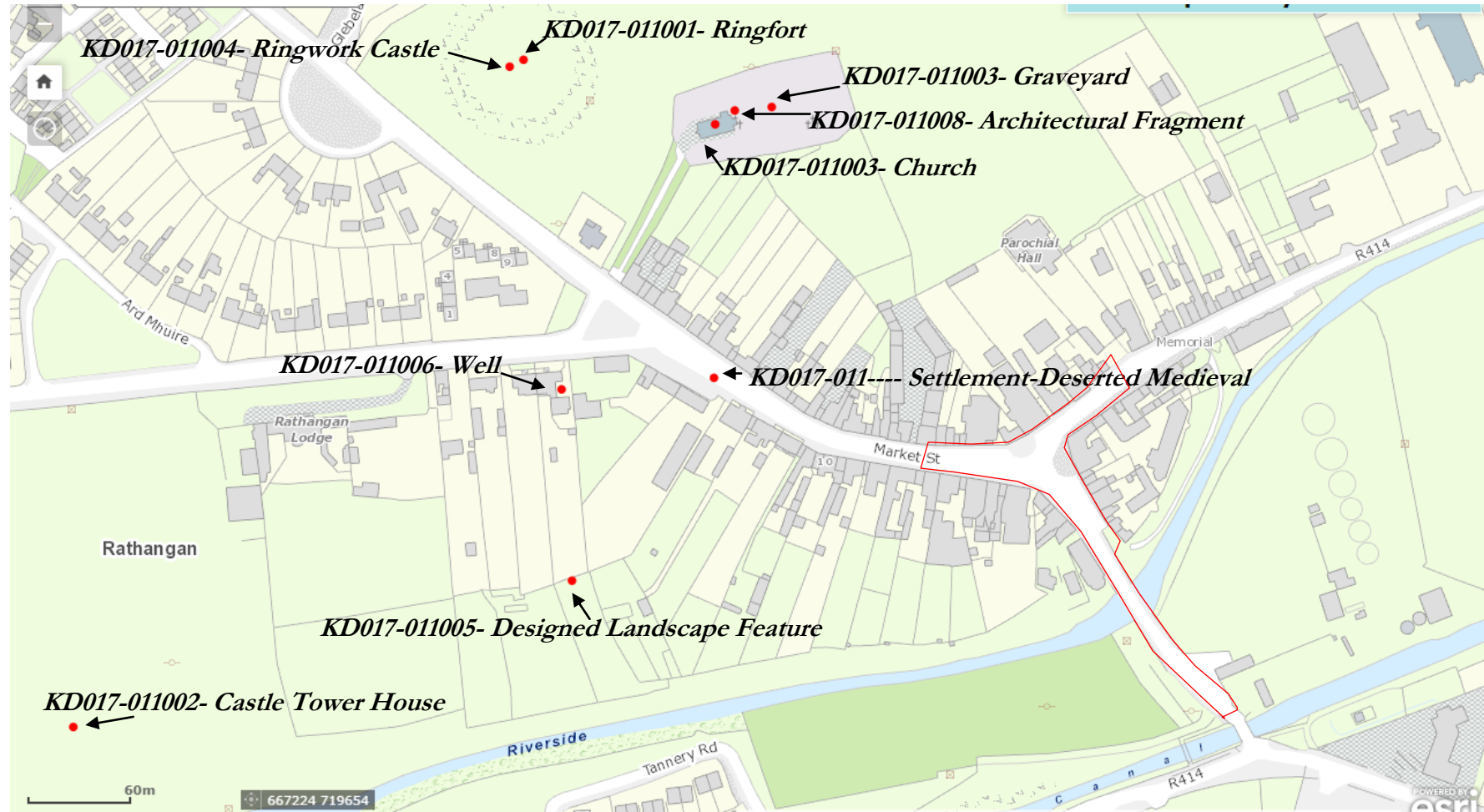


Figure 3: Proposed Development Area on map of Recorded Monuments, Rathangan

1.2 Defining the Study Area

This assessment is primarily focused on the proposed development area, which comprises of Market Square, the west end of Chapel Street, the east end of Main Street, Bridge Street and Rathangan Bridge and the Grand Canal (Athy branch) bridge. In addition, the assessment incorporates the immediate environs of the development area, taking in the archaeological monuments to the north of Rathangan (Figure 1).

1.3 Assessment Components

This assessment comprises a desk-based study and a field survey of the application area.

Desk-based study

The aim of the desk-study is to present a coherent archaeological and historical narrative for the historic town of Rathangan, its archaeological monuments and its architectural heritage. To this end the following documentary sources were examined:

- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Archaeological Survey of Ireland RMP files
- Historic maps of Rathangan and Kildare
- Aerial photographs from 2000, 2005 and 2018 (Google Earth and Bing)
- Accounts of previous archaeological excavations in Rathangan in the 'Excavations Bulletin', www.excavations.ie
- Architectural Heritage sites in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Kildare and the Record of Protected Structures for County Kildare in the 2017-2023 Kildare County Development Plan
- Archaeological 'grey literature' reports
- Secondary sources (see bibliography)

Field Survey

Field inspection was undertaken with the primary aim of identifying any potential impacts that the proposed development may have upon archaeological heritage and identified/previously

unidentified archaeological sites/areas of archaeological potential that lie within or in close proximity to the proposed development area. Field survey included examination, photography and written descriptions of each archaeological monument/area.

1.4 The Proposed Development

Proposed environmental improvement works in Rathangan Town Centre, comprising (Figure 2):

- a. footpath widening and resurfacing,
- b. upgrade of street furniture and street lighting,
- c. replacement of existing trees with new trees and additional trees (5 existing trees removed, 14 trees proposed to replace)
- d. Formalisation of car parking spaces and resurfacing, including additional disabled parking bays
- e. Sensitive restoration of water pump NIAH No. 11810056
- f. Re-design of 'William A Byrne memorial garden
- g. Welcome signage at approach to town
- h. Gateway feature artworks on approach to town
- i. New street lighting columns and pedestrian feature lighting to replace existing

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Rathangan, in the Barony of East Ophaly and the Civil Parish of Rathangan, is located on a ridge immediately north of the Slate River, on ground surrounded to the south, west and north by large tracts of bog. The placename Rathangan is derived from 'Ráth Iomgháin'¹, probably in reference to the large bivallate ringfort RMP KD017-011001- which stands to the north of the town (Bradley et al 1986 vol. 4, 418; Stout 1997, 115-16) (Figures 3, 4). In AD 801 'Flaithiusa, son of Cinaedh, lord of Ui Failghe, was slain at Rath Imghain'.² A royal fort, perhaps the site in question, is also described in an early Irish poem as the burial place of the kings of the local clan: 'The fort over against the oak-wood, Once it was Bruidge's, it was Cathal's, It was Aed's, it was Ailill's, It was Conaing's. It was Cuiline's, And it was Maelduin's. The fort remains after each in its turn And the kings asleep in the ground' (Meyer 1913, 93). Sweetman suggests that the ringfort was refortified as a ringwork castle by the Anglo-Normans in the late twelfth century

¹ <https://www.logainm.ie/en/1373359>

² *AFM* 801.5; *AU*, 291-2.

(Sweetman 1999, 13-14). The Archaeological Survey of Ireland describe the present remains as 'a fairly well-preserved, roughly circular, raised area (int. diam. 58m) enclosed by a broad, inner, earthen bank (Wth 9m; int H 1.7m; ext H 5m) best preserved along the N and E, denuded along the W and reduced to a scarp at SW, and by a U-shaped fosse (Wth 4m; D 2m). An entrance gap (Wth 3m) in the bank has a corresponding causeway (Wth 5.2m) across the fosse at SE. Mature oaks grow on the bank E-S-W, and both the outer faces of the bank and fosse are overgrown with briar and nettle. Two ESB poles stand on the outer face of the fosse, at N and SE. In 1955 'a slight outer bank' was noted (SMR file) today this outer bank which has been mainly levelled and is visible as a low rise of ground that is only visible when the vegetation cover is low such as in the winter months'. Numerous other ringforts surround Rathangan, the details of a number of which were revealed in the summer drought of 2018.³



Figure 4: Rathangan Fort, RMP KD017-011001-, from south

³ <https://mythicalireland.com/MI/blog/ancient-sites/google-imagery-reveals-fantastic-array-of-drought-archaeology-in-ireland/>



Figure 5: Graveyard and early nineteenth century Church of Ireland parish church of Rathangan, which replaced the medieval parish church (RMP KD017-011003), from east

Following the Anglo-Norman conquest Rathangan was granted by Strongbow to Robert de Bermingham, as part of his cantred of Offaly and by the mid-thirteenth century the manor of Rathangan, then belonging to the FitzGeralds, was in existence (Orpen 1911-20, I, 381). In 1270 the manor was granted to Thomas de Clare, brother of the earl of Gloucester, through his marriage with Juliana FitzMaurice, daughter of Sir Maurice FitzGerald (Cal. doc. Ire, 141). By 1331 the manor contained a castle, a parish church and a substantial borough which was burned by the 'Irish' in 1300 and which, on the death Richard FitzThomas, earl of Kildare, had a burgage rent of £6 3s. 2d., indicating that there were some 120 burgages, and a population perhaps in the region of 500-600, present at this time (MacNiocail 1964, 102; Bradley et. al. 1986, 414). In 1540, the population had reduced substantially, with just eight messuages, ten cottages and a watermill being present at this time, and by 1621 the settlement comprised just the castle and a watermill (Fitzgerald 1907, 155). It is likely that at least some of the present street pattern may be of medieval origin and similarly the plots that run off of Main St., Market Square and Chapel Street may reflect a burgage-plot pattern (Bradley et al 1986 vol. 4, 413-21).

The manorial castle may been sited until the early fourteenth century at the earth-and-timber stronghold on the possible ringwork (KD017-011004-), but by the late medieval period it

appears to have moved to the south west of the borough, where a castle (KD017-011002-), possibly a tower house, was built at a later date (O'Connor 1998, 35). This castle is marked 'Ophaly' on Noble and Keenan's 1752 Map of County Kildare, on John Rocque's map of 1760 as 'Ophaly Castle in Ruines', and is marked 'Site of Castle' on the 1st ed. (1838) Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (Figures 7, 8, 10). This was probably the castle that was seized in 1535, during the Silken Thomas revolt, when it was used as a base for the Lord Deputy, and described later, in an extent of 1540, as, 'a castle surrounded by stone walls sufficiently repaired ... very necessary for the protection and defence of the subjects of the lord the King in these parts' (Bradley et al 1986 vol. 4, 416-17). In 1551, Redmond Oge Fitzgerald received a lease of, 'the castell of Rahangan with the howses and offyces belonging to the same'. The castle was probably laid to ruin after the 1641 rebellion and what remained of it was demolished *c.* 1765 and its fabric used for the building of Rathangan Lodge (Fitzgerald 1907, 144, 157). The area is now a small golf course and there is no visible surface trace of the monument. Test-excavations and geophysical surveys of the putative castle site failed to uncover any structural remains and it may have been located outside the investigated area and elsewhere in the environs (Byrne 2006; 2016).

The medieval parish church of Rathangan (KD017-011003) dedicated in honour of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was probably built by the Fitzgeralds in the thirteenth century (Fitzgerald 1907, 158) (Figure 3). The church had fallen into disrepair by 1744 when Robert, earl of Kildare left £200 in his will for rebuilding the structure (FitzGerald 1907, 158). The medieval church was eventually demolished and replaced *c.*1815 by the current Gothic-style Church of Ireland church (Figure 5). Nothing remains above ground of the church and even its precise site is unclear (Bradley and King 1986, vol. 4, 417-8). A punch-dressed stone corbel (KD017-011008-), possibly from the medieval church, is reused as gravemarker within the graveyard. There are no pre-1700 grave memorials in the graveyard.

In 1672 a royal grant was given to the 18th Earl of Kildare for a market at Rathangan and this presumably acted as a catalyst for the development of the current street plan (Fitzgerald 1907, 157). Rocque's 1760 map shows housing concentrated along the east side of Market Square and Chapel Street (Figure 8). A substantial Georgian country house, Rathangan Lodge (NIAH 11810037), was built on the north side of Rathangan in 1765 by Boyle Spencer, who had been granted the lands at Rathangan by the Earl of Kildare. The first edition (1838) Ordnance Survey map depicts its demesne containing a formal parterre garden, a walled garden, an orchard and

parkland to the west (Figure 10). The property was bought by the Duke of Leinster in 1858. A second demesne, Rathangan House, now demolished, was also built by Spencer on the south side of the Slate River and is marked on Rocque's map (Fitzgerald 1907, 157) (Figure 8).

Lewis's Topographical Dictionary presents the following description of the town in 1837: 'RATHANGAN, a market and post-town, and a parish, partly in the barony of EAST OPHALY, but chiefly in that of WEST OPHALY, county of KILDARE, and province of LEINSTER, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles (W.) from Naas, and 30 (S. W. by W.) from Dublin, on the road from Kildare to Edenderry; containing 2911 inhabitants, of which number, 1165 are in the town, which is entirely in the barony of West Ophaly, and near the Grand Canal, and in 1831 contained 215 houses. It is a chief station of the constabulary police, and has a market on Monday, and fairs in June, and on 26 Aug. and 12 Nov.. The parish comprises 8872 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act: the principal seat within its limits is Tottenham Green, that of Geo. Tottenham, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Kildare, being the corps of the prebend of Rathangan in the cathedral of Kildare, and in the patronage of the Duke Dumont of Leinster and the Bishop, of whom the former has the right of presentation for two turns and the latter for one: the tithes amount to £553. 16. 11. The glebe-house was erected in 1810, by aid of a loan of £625 and a gift of £100 from the late board of First Fruits; and there is a glebe comprising 29a. 2r. 26p. The church is a neat edifice with a handsome tower; the whole is in excellent order. In the R. C. divisions the parish forms part of the union or district of Kildare. The chapel is a spacious building: there is also a meeting-house for the Society of Friends. In a school under the National Board, and one supported by Lord Harberton, about 200 children are educated; and there are three private schools, in which are about 120 children. There is a dispensary in the town, supported in the usual manner' (Lewis 1837).

The present bridge over the River Slate (NIAH 11810003) was built *c.* 1780, probably to replace an earlier structure shown on the Noble and Keenan (1752) and Rocque's 1760 map of Rathangan (Figures 7, 8). Whilst there are no indications that there was a bridge crossing at Rathangan in the medieval period, the present structure incorporates on its east side some of the arches of an earlier bridge, probably part of the structure shown on the Noble and Keenan and Rocque maps (Figures 8, 9). The construction of the Athy Branch of the Grand Canal (NIAH 11810016) on the south side of Rathangan between 1783 and 1795 provided a major boost to the local economy and probably was responsible for the construction of many of the

mills along the Slate river at Rathangan. Two bridges were constructed over the canal, Rathangan Bridge (NIAH 11810015) and Spencer Bridge (NIAH 11810017), and a Police Barrack, which acted as a chief station for constabulary, was added between the canal and the River Slate (Figures 12, 15, 16). The latter was converted into a Malthouse (NIAH 11810038) in around 1840 (Figure 14). A Catholic chapel was built to the south-east of the Protestant church c. 1700 and replaced by a larger church (NIAH 11810006) c. 1825 (Fitzgerald 1907, 159). It is currently used as a parish hall/theatre, following the opening of the current Catholic Church of the Assumption and Saint Patrick (NIAH 11810040) on New Street.



Figure 6: 'Rathangan' on Down Survey map of the Barony of Ophaly



Figure 7: 'Rathangan' on Map of county Kildare, J. Noble & J. Keenan; 2 sheets (D. Pomarede, Dublin, 1752).



Figure 8: 'Rathangan' on map of Kildare by John Rocque (1760)

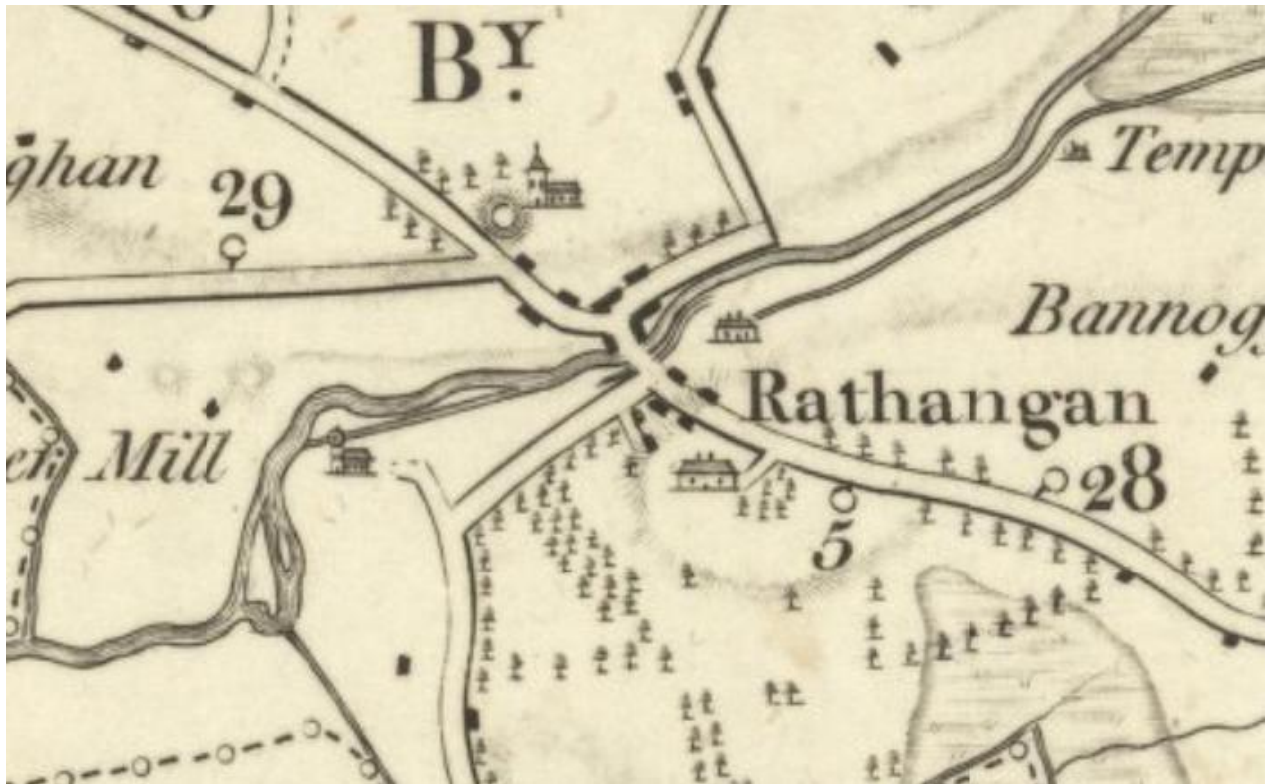


Figure 9: 'Rathangan' on *A map of the County of Kildare by Alexander Taylor 1783*

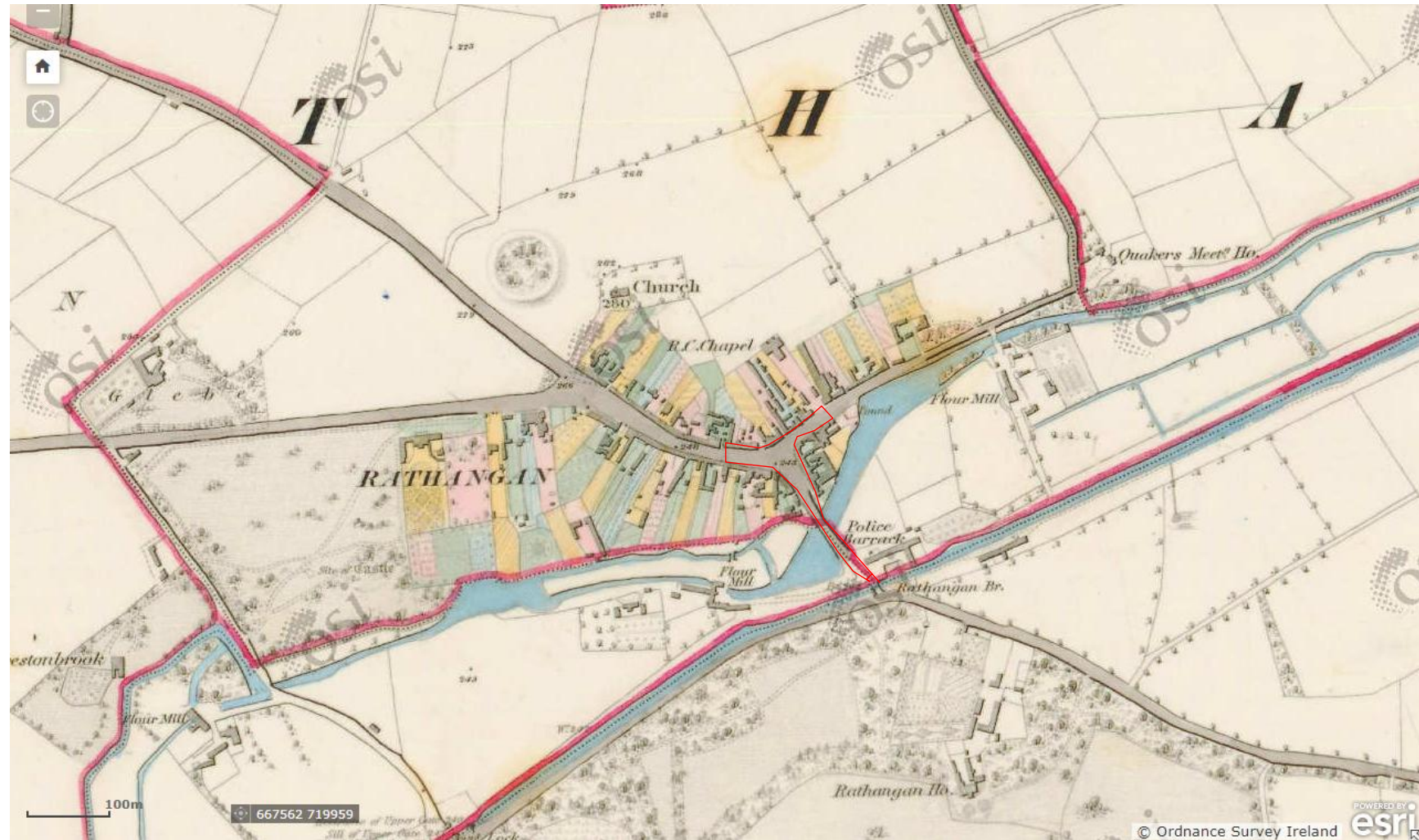


Figure 10: Proposed Development Area on First Edition (1838) Ordnance Survey map of Rathangan, Sheet 17 (extract)

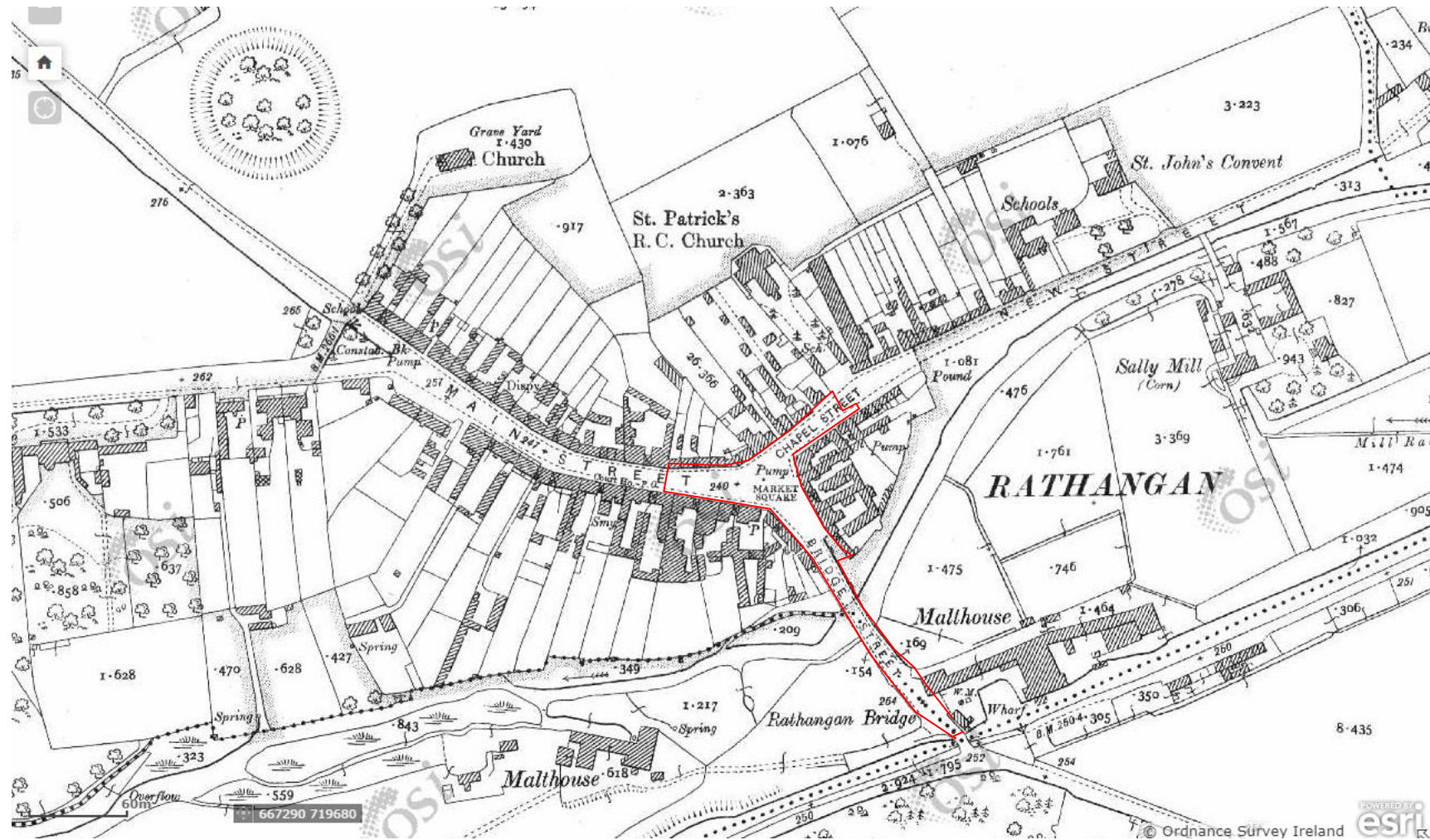


Figure 11: Proposed Development Area on 25-inch (1890) Ordnance Survey map of Rathangan (extract)

Table 1: Table of archaeological and architectural heritage sites within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development (refer to figure 1 for locations)

LABEL	SOURCE	RPS	DESCRIPTION
<p><i>KD017-011----</i> <i>Settlement-Deserted</i> <i>Medieval</i></p>	<p>RMP</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The name Rathangan ('Rath Iomghain') derives from the rath (KD017-011001-) on the NW edge of the town, which appears to have been reused as an Anglo-Norman ringwork (KD017-011004-) when Rathangan was granted by Strongbow possibly to Robert de Bermingham, as part of his cantred of Offaly, or to Maurice Fitzgerald, to whom it belonged by 1268. Located in frontier territory, on the borders of the Ui Conchobhair's Ui Failghe, in 1300, the 'vill' of Rathangan was burned by the 'Irish'. An assize of 1308 records that Gerald Fitzgerald held his court there, indicating that it was a manor of some importance, and in 1331 there were possibly one hundred and twenty burgages there (Bradley et al 1986 vol. 4, 414). It also contained a church (KD017-011003-). During the 15 century, Rathangan passed into the hands of the Ui Conchobair Failghe. The castle (KD017-011003-) was described as one of the strongholds of Silken Thomas during his rebellion in 1535, and in 1540, the village of Rathangan numbered eight messuages, ten cottages and a watermill (Fitzgerald 1906-8, 137-63). It was plundered in 1546, but was later granted a market in 1672. Rathangan stands on a ridge immediately N of the Slate River, surrounded to S, W and N by large tracts of bog. The street pattern is linear, and while plots on Main St. reflect a burgage-plot pattern, the layout of the settlement appears to be no older than the 17 c. (Bradley et al 1986 vol. 4, 413-21) In 1999, archaeological monitoring (Licence no. 99E0728: www.excavations.ie) was undertaken at a residential development site at Mullatine immediately to the south of the zone of archaeological potential for Rathangan. While no archaeological features were uncovered, 56 pottery sherds of were found; 25 were medieval (Leinster cooking ware and possibly locally made glazed and unglazed wares), one was a 17th century sherd from North Devon, with the remainder dating to the 18th/19th c. It was postulated that the pottery could have been introduced to the site from the adjoining medieval settlement in Rathangan.</p>

<i>NIAH 11810056 Pump</i>	NIAH	-	<p>Description Freestanding cast-iron waterpump, c.1905, comprising cylindrical shaft with raised horizontal banding, fluted upper section with fluted spout, fluted ogee-domed capping and 'cow-tail' handle having finial. Now disused. Road fronted on concrete brick cobbled footpath. Freestanding cut-stone trough.</p> <p>Appraisal This waterpump is of some historical and technical interest, dating to a period before mains water supply when a communal source of clean drinking water was deemed sufficient. Despite not being in its original location, the survival of the waterpump is of importance as a reminder of early cast-iron work. The waterpump is attractively sited on the side of the road and is of artistic importance, having been conceived as an aesthetic, as well as functional, piece.</p>
<i>NIAH 11810001 House</i>	NIAH	B17-18	<p>Description Terraced four-bay two-storey house, c.1800, on an L-shaped plan on a corner site with three-bay side elevation to north-west. Extensively renovated, c.1980, with openings remodelled to ground floor to accommodate commercial use having fascia over. Hipped and gable-ended roof on an L-shaped plan. Replacement artificial slate, c.1980. Decorative iron ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Rendered coping to gable. Cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves course. Rendered walls. Painted. Channelled piers to corners. Square-headed openings (remodelled, c.1980, to ground floor). Stone sills (replacement concrete sills, c.1980, to ground floor). Replacement timber casement windows, c.1980. Replacement fixed-pane timber windows, c.1980, to ground floor with replacement glazed timber panelled door, c.1980, having overlight. Timber fascia, c.1980, over openings to ground floor on both elevations supported by timber pilasters. Square-headed door opening to side elevation to north-west approached by flight of steps. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1980. Decorative overlight. Road fronted on a corner site. Concrete brick cobbled footpath to front. Attached three-bay two-storey outbuilding with half-attic, c.1800, to north-east with segmental-headed integral carriageway. Reroofed and renovated, c.1980, with additional window opening inserted. Gable-ended roof (shared with building to north-east). Replacement artificial slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Replacement aluminium rainwater goods on eaves course.</p>

			<p>Rendered walls. Painted. Iron tie plates. Square-headed slit-style window openings. No sills. Square-headed window opening, c.1980, to right with concrete sill and timber casement window. Segmental-headed integral carriage way to left. Timber boarded doors with timber overpanel.</p> <p>Appraisal This house, remodelled to ground floor in the late twentieth century to accommodate a commercial use, is a prominent building located in the centre of Rathangan, terminating the vista of the road leading into the town from the north-west while flanking Market Square to north-east, forming an attractive corner leading on to Chapel Street to the north-east. Of social and historic significance, the house represents a component of the early development of the historic core of Rathangan in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries. Originally designed as a symmetrically-planned composition of graceful, balanced proportions, the remodelled openings detract from the harmony of the original design and present a blank appearance to the ground floor. Future renovation works might aim to restore the original form of the openings, thus presenting a more accurate representation of the original appearance. The house retains little original features and materials, although the decorative overlight and iron ridge tiles are important survivals. The outbuilding, adjacent to north-east, remains substantially unaltered in terms of its form and is an attractive feature on the streetscape of Chapel Street.</p>
<i>NIAH 11810002 House</i>	NIAH	B17-19	<p>Description Terraced three-bay three-storey house, c.1800, with round-headed door opening to right ground floor. Extensively renovated and amalgamated with building to north-east, c.1980, to accommodate commercial use to ground floor. Gable-ended roof. Replacement artificial slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Rendered walls. Ruled and lined. Painted. Channelled piers to ends. Square-headed window openings (window opening to left ground floor remodelled, c.1980, to accommodate use as door opening). Stone sills. Replacement timber casement windows, c.1980. Replacement glazed timber panelled door, c.1980, to left ground floor with timber fascia over having consoles. Round-headed door opening to right ground floor approached by flight of steps. Cut-limestone block-and-start surround with keystone. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1980.</p>

			<p>Spoked fanlight. Road fronted. Concrete brick cobbled footpath to front.</p> <p>Appraisal This house, amalgamated with the building immediately to north-east (11810001/KD-17-10-01) in the late twentieth century to accommodate a commercial use, is a prominent building located in the centre of Rathangan, terminating the vista of the road leading into the town from the north-west while flanking Market Square to north-east. Of social and historic significance, the house represents a component of the early development of the historic core of Rathangan in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries. Composed of irregularly displaced openings, the front (south-west) elevation retains much of its original form, with the exception of a remodelled opening to left ground floor. An attractive feature in the design is the cut-limestone block-and-start doorcase to the round-headed door opening that retains an early fanlight. The house retains little original features and materials, although the doorcase and fanlight are important survivals - the re-instatement of traditional style fenestration might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance of the house.</p>
<p><i>NIAH 11810004 Gates/Railings/Walls NIAH 11810042 House</i></p>	<p>NIAH</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p>	<p>Description Section of rubble stone boundary wall, c.1800, with bowed projecting section to south-east and rubble stone coping.</p> <p>Appraisal This section of rubble stone boundary wall is a fine example of the once prolific, but increasingly rare, traditional method of constructing boundary walls. Replacement or modern boundary walls are frequently built with less attention paid to stone masonry traditions. The boundary wall is an attractive feature on the north bank of the Slate River, forming a semi-enclosed park along the river.</p>
<p><i>NIAH 11810013 House</i></p>	<p>NIAH</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Description Terraced five-bay two-storey house, c.1870, with segmental-headed integral carriageway to right ground floor and three-bay two-storey return to rear to south-west. Reroofed and renovated, c.1950, with openings remodelled to ground floor to accommodate commercial use. Refenestrated, c.1990. Now part disused to ground floor. Gable-ended roofs. Replacement artificial slate, c.1950. Clay ridge tiles. No chimney stacks. Rendered</p>

			<p>coping to gable. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course with sections of replacement uPVC rainwater goods, c.1990. Rendered walls. Ruled and lined. Painted. Rendered quoins. Roughcast walls to return. Painted. Square-headed window openings (remodelled, c.1950, to ground floor). Stone sills (concrete, c.1950, to remodelled openings). Rendered surrounds. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990 (fixed-pane uPVC display windows to ground floor). Segmental-headed integral carriageway. Rendered surrounds. No fittings. Pair of square-headed door openings (one probably additional, c.1950). Rendered surrounds with round-headed overpanel, c.1950, to door opening to left having raised lettering. Replacement glazed timber panelled double doors, c.1950. Road fronted. Concrete flagged footpath to front.</p> <p>Appraisal This house, which has been remodelled to ground floor in the mid twentieth century to accommodate a commercial use, is a fine long building that retains most of its original form to the first floor. Composed originally of graceful balanced proportions, the altered openings to the ground floor detract somewhat from the harmony of the original design and future renovations might aim to restore the original form, using the arrangement to first floor as a guide - the building would also benefit from the re-instatement of traditional-style timber fenestration. The building retains little of its original external features and materials, although the rendered overpanel to the door opening to left is an attractive addition, and represents a traditional style of name plate. The building is an attractive component of the streetscape of Main Street, continuing the established streetline of the terrace while contributing to the varied roofline of the street.</p>
<i>NIAH 11810009 House</i>	NIAH	-	<p>Description Terraced four-bay two-storey house, c.1885, with square-headed integral carriageway to left ground floor. Reroofed, c.1970. Extensively renovated, c.1990, with replacement timber pubfront inserted to ground floor. Gable-ended roof. Replacement red clay tiles, c.1970. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course with sections of replacement uPVC rainwater goods, c.1990. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered dressings including strips to ends and eaves course. Iron clock to centre first floor. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Square-headed integral carriageway to</p>

			<p>left ground floor. Timber fittings. Replacement timber pubfront, c.1990, to ground floor with pilasters, fixed-pane display windows (possibly earlier in date in bipartite and tripartite arrangements) with round-headed frames and timber panelled double doors having overlight and timber fascia over with consoles. Road fronted. Concrete flagged footpath to front.</p> <p>Appraisal This house, originally built on an almost-symmetrical plan of graceful proportions, has been remodelled to ground floor in the late twentieth century to accommodate a replacement pubfront, leading to the loss of much of the original form to the ground floor. The re-instatement of the original proportions to the openings, using the arrangement to the first floor as a guide, might restore a more accurate representation of the intended appearance. The building is of historical and social significance, being one of the earliest purpose-built commercial buildings in the locality, representing the early commercialisation of the town. The house is an integral component of the streetscape of Main Street, flanking the road leading in to the town from the north-west before it veers south-east to carry over the bridge, and continues the established streetline while contributing to the undulating roofline of the terrace. The house retains little of its original features and materials, however, with the exception of an iron clock to the first floor and the re-instatement of traditional fenestration, together with a more sympathetic pubfront, might benefit the composition.</p>
<i>NIAH 11810008 House</i>	NIAH	-	<p>Description End-of-terrace four-bay two-storey house, built 1886. Extensively renovated, c.1980, with openings remodelled to ground floor to accommodate commercial use having timber fascia over. Gable-ended roof. Replacement artificial slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Replacement uPVC rainwater goods, c.1990, on rendered eaves course. Rendered walls. Channelled to ground floor. Ruled and lined to first floor. Painted. Channelled piers to ends. Square-headed openings (remodelled, c.1980, to ground floor). Stone sills (no sills to ground floor). Moulded rendered surrounds to first floor. Replacement timber casement windows, c.1980 (replacement fixed-pane timber windows, c.1980, to ground floor). Square-headed door openings. Replacement timber panelled doors, c.1980, with overlights. Timber fascia, c.1980, over openings to ground floor with moulded cornice. Road fronted. Concrete brick cobbled</p>

			<p>footpath to front.</p> <p>Appraisal This house, originally built on an almost-symmetrical plan of graceful proportions, has been remodelled to ground floor in the late twentieth century to accommodate a commercial use, leading to the loss of much of the original form to the ground floor. The re-instatement of the original proportions to the openings, using the arrangement to the first floor as a guide, might restore a more accurate representation of the intended appearance. The building is of historical and social significance, being one of the earliest purpose-built commercial buildings in the locality - a public house has been in existence on this site since 1886 - and represents the early commercialisation of the town. The house employs render to decorative effect, including channelling to ground floor and channelled piers, which distinguishes the building on the streetscape. The house is an integral component of the streetscape of Market Square, flanking the road leading in to the town from the north-west before it veers south-east to carry over the bridge, and continues the established streetline while contributing to the undulating roofline of the terrace. The house retains little of its original features and materials, however, and the re-instatement of traditional fenestration might benefit the composition.</p>
Bridge. NIAH 11810003	NIAH	B17-20	<p>Description Three-arch rubble stone road bridge over river, c.1780, with triangular cut-waters, rubble stone voussoirs, buttress to south-west and single-arch pedestrian underpass to south-east with cut-stone voussoirs. Rubble stone walls. Rubble stone triangular cut-waters. Cut-stone buttress to south-west. Rubble stone parapet wall with rubble stone coping. Four segmental arches (including pedestrian underpass to south-east). Rubble stone voussoirs (cut-stone to pedestrian underpass). Rubble stone soffits with render over. Replacement iron gate, c.1985, to pedestrian underpass. Sited spanning Slate River with grass bank to north-west and gravel tow path to bank to south-east.</p> <p>Appraisal This bridge is a fine rubble stone bridge that forms an imposing feature on the Slate River and is one of a small group of bridges on the section of that river that passes through County Kildare - the bridge forms the approach road in to Rathangan from the</p>

			<p>south-east, leading in to Market Square. The construction of the arches that have retained their original shape is of technical and engineering merit. The bridge exhibits good quality traditional stone masonry. The bridge is of considerable historical and social significance as a reminder of the road network development in Ireland in the late eighteenth century. An unusual feature is the pedestrian underpass to south-east, which retains its original form and which is demarcated from the arches spanning the river by a stout buttress pier.</p>
<p><i>NIAH 11810038</i> <i>Store/Warehouse</i></p>	NIAH	B17-36	<p>Description Detached six-bay four-storey rubble stone warehouse, c.1840, with single-bay four-storey side elevation to south-west originally having segmental-headed opening. Renovated, c.1970, with some openings remodelled. Now disused. Hipped roof with slate. Red clay ridge tiles. Cast-iron rainwater goods with sections of replacement aluminium rainwater goods, c.1970. Random rubble stone walls. Dressed stone quoins to corners. Square-headed window openings (most remodelled, c.1970). No sills (concrete sills, c.1970, to remodelled openings). Stone lintels. Rendered surrounds, c.1970, to remodelled openings. Remains of timber fittings to original openings. Replacement timber casement windows, c.1970, to remodelled openings. Remains of segmental-headed opening to south-west elevation. Red brick block-and-start surround with shallow red brick relieving arch over. Now blocked-up (rubble stone). Set perpendicular to road with side (south-west) elevation fronting on to road.</p> <p>Appraisal This warehouse is a fine and imposing rubble stone structure that acts as a prominent landmark from Market Square and the bridge to the north, and the Grand Canal and Rathangan Bridge to the south-west. Although renovated in the late twentieth century, including the remodelling of some openings, the building retains some of its early character and later alterations might be easily reversed. The construction of the building in rubble stone with red brick dressings is representative of the traditional method of building in the early nineteenth century, and early features and materials remain in situ, including the remains of timber fittings to openings to the top floor, together with a slate roof. The warehouse is of considerable social and historical importance, attesting to the early industrialisation of Rathangan in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries following the establishment of the Grand Canal in the locality. The building,</p>

			which is an important component of the architectural heritage of the town, is structurally sound and ideal for conversion to an alternative purpose.
<i>Police Barracks (First Ed. OS)</i>	First Edition OS	-	'Police Barracks' marked on first edition (1838) Ordnance Survey map.
<i>Wharf (25-inch OS)</i>	25-inch OS	-	'Wharf' for north side Grand Canal marked on 25-inch OS map.
<i>Canal Bridge. NIAH 11810015</i>	NIAH	B17-26	<p>Description</p> <p>Single-arch cut-stone hump back road bridge over canal, c.1785, with cut-stone voussoirs and coping. Coursed cut-stone walls and curved flanking walls. Cut-stone coping. Single segmental arch. Dressed stone voussoirs and keystone. Rubble stone soffits with render over having cut-stone stringcourse to spring of arch. Sited spanning Grand Canal (Athy Branch) with grass banks to canal.</p> <p>Appraisal</p> <p>Rathangan Bridge is a fine stone bridge that forms an imposing feature on the Grand Canal (Athy Branch) and is one of a group of bridges on the section of that canal that passes through County Kildare. The construction of the arch that has retained its original shape is of technical and engineering merit. The bridge exhibits good quality stone masonry and fine, crisp joints. The bridge is of considerable historical and social significance as a reminder of the canal network development in Ireland, which brought about many technical advances and developed commercial activity in the late eighteenth century.</p>
<i>Deer Cage (First Ed. OS)</i>	First edition OS	-	'Deer Cage' marked on first edition OS map. No longer extant.
<i>Mill Race (First Ed. OS)</i>	First edition OS	-	Mill race marked on first edition (1838) OS map. No longer extant.
<i>Flour Mill (First Ed. OS)</i>	First edition OS	-	'Flour Mill' marked on first edition OS map. Superseded by Malthouse. No longer extant.

<i>Malthouse (25-inch OS)</i>	25-inch OS	-	Malthouse marked on 25-inch OS map. No longer extant.
<i>Bridge (First Ed. OS)</i>	First edition OS	-	Bridge marked to north of Flour Mill on first edition OS map. No longer extant.



Figure 12: Bridge (NLAH11810015) over Grand Canal, from west



Figure 13: Grand Canal (Athy Branch) tonpath from east



Figure 14: Malthouse (NLAH 11810038) from south



Figure 15: Proposed Development Area, Eighteenth century road bridge (NLAH 11810003) over River Slate, from east



Figure 16: Proposed Development Area, Eighteenth century road bridge (NLAH 11810003) over River Slate, from west



Figure 17: Proposed Development Area, Eighteenth century road bridge (NLAH 11810003) over River Slate, from north



Figure 18: Bowed projection from rubble-stone wall (NLAH 1810004) parallel with Slate river, from east



Figure 19: Proposed Development Area, Bridge Street from north



Figure 20: Proposed Development Area, Market Square from south



Figure 21: Pump (NLAH 11810056) from south

3.0 FIELD INSPECTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

The development area was walked 13th March 2019. Each site in the development area and in its immediate environs was inspected and photographed. The proposed development area commences in the south of Rathangan at Rathangan Bridge, a single-arch hump-back road bridge which was built over the Grand Canal c.1785 (Figures 1, 12). The Grand Canal flows under the bridge and immediately upstream is the now-infilled site of a former wharf, shown on the first edition OS map, which was located beside a large Malthouse that itself replaced a Police Barracks (Figures 10, 13, 14). The Grand Canal towpath and stone revetted sides of the canal are present both upstream and downstream of the bridge (Figure 13). The area to the north west of the bridge was formerly an island in the Slate river which was occupied by a now lost flour mill and its associated mill race (Figure 10). A malthouse replaced the flour mill in the late nineteenth century (Figure 14). The development area continues north along Bridge Street and meets the c. 1780 three-arch rubble stone road bridge over the river (Figures 15, 16). This may incorporate part of an earlier bridge which is marked on the Noble and Keenan (1752) and Rocque (1760) maps (Figures 7, 8, 9). Upstream of the bridge, on the north bank of the river, a walkway is bounded on its north side by a rubble stone wall containing a bow-shaped projection along its western length (Figure 18). The area of the walkway to the east of the wall was reclaimed from the river in the nineteenth century and the structure would have originally projected into the river, suggesting it may have been a boat house (Figures 10, 18).

The medieval borough of Rathangan was located on the north side of the bridge and whilst there is currently no evidence to suggest there was a medieval bridge crossing in place, it remains a possibility. It is possible that some of the property plots that run off Market Street/Chapel Street and Market Square originated as medieval burgage plots (Figure 10). Likewise, the Market Square could reflect the medieval market place and almost certainly that which is referred to in the seventeenth century. Market Street is flanked on the south side by three late nineteenth century houses and an early twentieth century pump is present at the junction between the street and Chapel Street (Figure 1). Both Market Street and Chapel Street (named after the former Catholic chapel which it leads up to) are also probably of medieval origin and some of the plots that run off the latter may be of similar age.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STATEMENT

4.1 Potential Impacts on Archaeology

No structures or features of archaeological significance were identified as having the potential to be impacted, directly or indirectly, by the proposed development works. However, the development area lies within the Zone of Archaeological Protection for Rathangan deserted medieval settlement RMP KD017-011--- and engages with and is proximal to several areas of archaeological, architectural and industrial heritage significance. The proposed development area can therefore be considered to be an area of archaeological potential. Although the proposed public realm project is largely restricted to shallow resurfacing works and the insertion of services, any groundworks on the site have the potential to disturb subsurface archaeological deposits, features, burials or structures, should they exist in the area.

4.2 Proposed mitigation strategy

In light of the above, it is recommended that all groundworks (ground reductions, site investigations, service trenching) associated with the proposed works should be monitored by an archaeologist under licence to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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