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Archaeology and
Cultural Heritage
Desk-Based
Report

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Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Desk-Based Report

Introduction

This Archaeology and Cultural Heritage desk-based report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Kildare County Council (the Client) to support the Kildare County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre (the 'Proposed Development'). The Phase One planning application relates to a development area owned by the client located on the corner of Main Street and Athgarvan Road in Newbridge, County Kildare.

The Proposed Development concerns a sub-rectangular area measuring 104m south-west to north-east by 72m at its widest point. It is currently comprised of Newbridge Library.

Scope

This assessment is concerned with the cultural heritage resource. This comprises archaeological assets, architectural heritage and designed landscapes such as gardens and demesnes. This baseline also considers the setting of these heritage assets, which can be described as the surroundings in which the heritage assets are experienced and appreciated.

The main objectives of this assessment are:

- to identify cultural heritage assets within the red line boundary of the Proposed Development site and associated study area which extends 200m from the boundaries of the Proposed Development site;
- to assess the baseline information and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological assets within the Proposed Development site.
- to assess the importance of the cultural heritage assets; and

- to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the Proposed Development site; and
- to assess the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the settings of cultural heritage assets within the settings assessment study area which extends 200m from the site boundary.

It is noted that JCA Architects are appointed to the project as Conservation Architects with responsibility for architectural heritage, including the Local Studies Building within the Proposed Development which is recorded as a Protected Structure (B23-41) on the County Kildare Development Plan 2017-2023. While this structure will be discussed as part of this report, it is understood that assessment of impact and any proposed mitigation measures are the responsibility of JCA Architects.

Methodology

This Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Desk-based assessment has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines. The documents utilised in the preparation of this study include:

- National Monuments Acts (1930 – 2004);
- The Heritage Act 2018;
- National Heritage Plan (2002);
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2016;
- County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025
- Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019 and
- Newbridge Local Area Plan (extended 2019 version).

Local and National Policy Framework

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 was published in 2017 but adopted Variation 1 as effective from 9th June 2020. It aims to establish a framework for the sustainable development of County Kildare. It seeks to develop focus on (section ix) “*Protecting local assets by preserving the quality of the landscape, open space, recreational resources, natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets of the county*” which is reinforced by the County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025. This document creates context and continuity between national and regional policy. These are achieved by a series of Strategic Objectives, all connected to heritage.

- Strategic Objective 1: Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training and to foster stewardship of and involvement in heritage
- Strategic Objective 2: Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource
- Strategic Objective 3: Disseminate heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys/research and to inform and develop heritage policy which promotes heritage and
- Strategic Objective 4: Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life and to cultural and economic development in County Kildare.

Newbridge Local Area Plan

This local area plan was formally adopted to run from 2013 – 2019, but has been extended, with amendments, to be applicable until December 2021. The following policies, in addition to those supplied in the County Development Plan, provide protection to the archaeology and built heritage within the area.

- 7. (x) Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
The protection and enhancement of the built

heritage and streetscape in Newbridge is one of the core objectives of this plan. Policies and objectives have been incorporated which seek to protect, preserve and enhance the town's archaeology, built heritage and townscape.

- ED 2: To promote and facilitate synergy between heritage, retail and tourism developments that enhances the economic profile of Newbridge town.
- RR 3: To encourage and facilitate the development of a combined and unique heritage, retailing and tourism experience within the town and to encourage strong linkages between these attractions.
- RO 6: To safeguard the important architectural and streetscape heritage of the Town Centre area.
- AH 1: To resist the demolition of vernacular architecture of historical, cultural and aesthetic merit, which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of the local streetscape and the sustainable development of Newbridge.
- AH 5: To protect views to/from the River Liffey from St. Conleth's Bridge.
- AH 6: To protect and preserve the remaining sections of the original barrack walls and cavalry barracks as follows: i) the Archway and all associated stonework on the Athgarvan Road ii) internal structures pertaining to the original cavalry barracks within the Bord ná Mona and Conleth's GAA grounds.

Sources

The preparation of the baseline was informed by material gathered and collated from various online sources, including:

- National Monuments Service (NMS) and Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH);
- UCD Digital Library;

- National Library of Ireland;
- Heritage Maps.ie; and
- Kildare County Council Record of Protected Structures.

Assessment of Importance of Heritage Assets

A cultural heritage asset is defined as a monument, building, group of buildings and sites which are the combined works of nature and man constituting the historic or built environment (World Heritage Convention 1972). A heritage asset's value is not solely expressed through any designated status but can also be exhibited through a series of values or special interests. These include architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interests. There is the potential for non-designated assets to display special interests equivalent to a designated asset. Therefore a "designated" status does not necessarily confer a set level of importance on an asset, rather professional judgement and an assessment of the special interest displayed by that asset are examined and a level of importance is assigned.

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines a 'national monument' as "a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto." National Monuments are considered nationally important and any works carried out at, or in close proximity to, an archaeological site designated as a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority may require a Ministerial Consent.

National Monuments and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites/ Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) sites are not clearly differentiated in the National Monuments Act 1930 – 2004. However, not

all RMP and RHM sites and associated constraint areas demonstrate the same level or degree of heritage special interest as can be found in National Monuments. Therefore, they can be considered to be of either of national or regional importance and an assessment of the special interest of the asset and professional judgement is used to identify the appropriate level of importance.

Some archaeological and architectural heritage assets are also included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each county or city development plan, under Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised). These protected structures are included in the RPS due to their special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical interest. Protected structures are considered to be of international, national or regional importance.

Architectural Conservation Areas are areas which are designated in a county development plan, under Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised), in order to "preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape" that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value; or "contributes to the appreciation of protected structures." Architectural Conservation Areas are considered to be of either national or regional importance.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was established to assist councils in assessing whether structures should be added to their Record of Protected Structures. These architectural heritage assets are rated to be of either international, national, regional, local or 'record only' importance.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage also contains a Garden Survey which includes designed landscapes such as parks, gardens and demesnes. These can be divided into those with substantially

intact landscapes and features; and those where the landscape has been significantly eroded by later changes with only peripheral features intact. For the purposes of this assessment, the substantially intact landscapes are judged to be of international, national or regional importance while the denuded landscapes are judged to be of local importance.

Townlands are the lowest level, officially defined geographical area in Ireland and date to before the Anglo-Norman period (12th century). The boundaries of townlands are often visible in the landscape as walls, tree-lined ditches and embankments or natural features such as streams. They provide visible physical evidence of historical territory or political boundaries and are regarded as being of local importance as historic, cultural heritage features.

Assessment Methodology

The assessment of baseline conditions was carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- EPA, 2003, Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs & Transport Infrastructure Ireland 2017 Code of Practice for Archaeology agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Dublin.
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2004, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2004, Architectural Heritage Guidelines;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2017, NIAH Handbook;

- National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006, Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes; and
- National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006, Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes.

Setting Assessment Methodology

This assessment has been guided by Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3 (Second Edition) – The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE 2017). The Setting of Heritage Assets provides guidance on setting and development management, including assessing the implications of development proposals, a counterpart to which has not yet been produced in Ireland.

A staged approach is recommended for setting assessments, the first step of which is to identify the cultural heritage assets affected and their settings. The second step is to assess whether, how and to what degree these settings make a positive contribution to the importance of the heritage asset(s), i.e. "*what matters and why*". This includes a description of the key attributes of the cultural heritage asset itself, then considers the physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets; the way the cultural heritage asset is appreciated; and the asset's associations and patterns of use. The third step (where appropriate) is to assess the effect of the proposed development on the significance of assets through the consideration of the key attributes of the proposed development in terms of its location and siting; form and appearance; additional effects; and permanence.

The assessment methodology has also been guided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Architectural Heritage

Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities which was published in 2004 and revised in 2011. This contains the relevant guidance which is detailed below. It is important to note that paragraph 13.8.1 of the guidance states that proposed development outside the curtilage or grounds of a protected structure or ACA should be given similar consideration as for proposed development within the attendant grounds. This methodology has been combined with the Historic England methodology, in order to conduct a similar and more robust assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on recorded archaeological monuments, in addition to architectural heritage.

Development Within the Attendant Grounds

“13.7.1 It is essential to understand the character of a site before development proposals can be considered. Where attendant grounds of particular significance are proposed for development, a conservation plan could be prepared in advance of any planning application which would identify the significance of the site and locate areas within the designed landscape, if any, which could accept change and development and those areas which could not without damaging the architectural heritage of the place.

13.7.2 When dealing with applications for works within the attendant grounds of a protected structure, a visit to the site should be considered an essential part of the assessment. The planning authority should consider:

- a) Would the development affect the character of the protected structure?*
- b) Would the proposed works affect the relationship of the protected structure to its surroundings and attendant grounds?*
- c) Would the protected structure remain the focus of its setting? For example, a new building erected*

between a structure and a feature within the attendant grounds will alter the character of both;

d) Do the proposed works require an alteration of the profile of the landscape, for example, the creation of a golf course? How would this affect the character of the protected structure and its attendant grounds?

e) Do the proposals respect important woodland and parkland? Do they conserve significant built features and landscape features?

f) Are there important views of or from the structure that could be damaged by the proposed development? Would important vistas be obstructed by new development?

g) Would distant views of important architectural or natural landmarks be blocked or changed? Would a significant skyline be altered?

h) Even where the proposed development is at a distance from the protected structure, could it still have an impact? This could include tall or bulky buildings interrupting views of or from the protected structure and other features of the designed landscape;

i) Where the new works would not be directly visible from the protected structure, would they be visible from the approaches to the structure or from other important sites or features within the attendant grounds? If so, would this be acceptable?

j) What effect would the scale, height, massing, alignment or materials of a proposed construction have on the protected structure and its attendant grounds?”

Other Development Affecting the Setting of a Protected Structure or an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

“13.8.1 When dealing with applications for works outside the curtilage and attendant grounds of a protected structure or outside an ACA which have the potential to impact upon their character, similar consideration should be given as for proposed development within the attendant grounds. A visit to the site should be considered an essential part of the assessment.

13.8.2 New development both adjacent to, and at a distance from, a protected structure can affect its character and special interest and impact on it in a variety of ways. The proposed development may directly abut the protected structure, as with buildings in a terrace. Alternatively it may take the form of a new structure within the attendant grounds of the protected structure. A new development could also have an impact even when it is detached from the protected structure outside the curtilage and attendant grounds but is visible in an important view of or from the protected structure.

13.8.3 The extent of the potential impact of proposals will depend on the location of the new works, the character and quality of the protected structure, its designed landscape and its setting, and the character and quality of the ACA. Large buildings, sometimes at a considerable distance, can alter views to or from the protected structure or ACA and thus affect their character. Proposals should not have an adverse effect on the special interest of the protected structure or the character of an ACA.”

In addition to the documents listed above, the setting assessment methodology has also utilised the guidance contained within the following document:

- Cork County Council, 2006, Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings. This document was prepared by Cork County

Council in response to increasing adaptation and redevelopment of planned landscapes within the county. While written for County Cork, the guidance presented is applicable to sites throughout Ireland.

The guidance notes advise the following stepped approach:

- Identification and description of development, history, features and boundaries of the designed landscape using scoping, archival research and fieldwork;
- Evaluation & assessment of significance including Historical Landscape description, archaeological and horticultural aspects;
- Assessing development proposals through an assessment of the heritage impact; and
- Recommendations for mitigation & management including future research.

Cultural Heritage Baseline

Geology and Topography

The Proposed Development is the Kildare County Library, which is located in Newbridge (An Droichead Nua), Co Kildare. The landscape of the town and its surrounding environment is mostly alluvial floodplain from the River Liffey which passes through the town. The town itself is small, but extremely busy, served by good railway and bus services. The nearby (c.3km south west of the Proposed site) Curragh Plains exemplify the fertile, flat grazing land which has shaped the history of the region. The GSI Bedrock Geology map indicates the site is underlain by a cherty and often dolomitised limestone of the Rickardstown Formation. This formation is Dinantian (Lower Carboniferous i.e., 330.9–346.7 million years) and has also been described as a pure bedded limestone. The formation is mostly surrounded by Waulsortian limestones, which are unbedded lime-mudstones of older Dinantian age (346.7–358.9 million years old). However, some 3.5km from Newbridge, the Hill of Allen represents an andesite lava intrusion similar to that of Lambay Island, Co. Dublin. The area around Newbridge also is punctuated by several calcium-rich springs, due to the limestone aquifers in the area.

Newbridge is formed around a crossing point of the River Liffey with the river running parallel to the Athgarvan Road. Historic mapping shows the river as meandering with oxbows to the north and south of the town. The section of river within the town has been straightened and canalized and there is a possibility that the original river channel, or multiple infilled channels, ran under the location of the Proposed Development. The remains of such infilled river channels could have trapped sediments and palaeoenvironmental sequences from earlier times, before the establishment of the town.

National Monuments

There are no National Monuments within the study area. The closest National Monument to the Proposed Development are the Curragh plains, which are about 3km south west of the site. It was designated as a recorded monument under the National Monuments Act, 1994. The 5000-acre site is also a Special Environment location, as well as being a proposed Natural Heritage Area as there are almost 200 archaeological monuments and features of cultural heritage value identified within the Curragh plains.

Record of Monuments and Places

There are no assets recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places either within the boundaries of the Proposed Development or the surrounding study area.

The nearest recorded archaeological asset to the Proposed Development is a rath or enclosure (KD023-010) located some 640m to the west, in Piercetown townland, which is shown on the Historic 6" Map of 1829-41 (not reproduced here) as bisected by a road leading to Piercetown House.

Architectural Heritage and the History of the Proposed Development Site

The Proposed Development site is not located within an Architectural Conservation Area though Newbridge is within Kildare County Council's proposed Architectural Conservation Areas (Kildare County Council, ACA. 1.).

All recorded architectural heritage within the study zone (Figure 2 and Appendix A) are well maintained with four of them listed on the Record of Protected

Structures (Kildare.ie RPS 2020). One of these, Newbridge Library (B23-41) or old Library Headquarters, occupies the north-east corner of the Proposed Development. This asset is later in date than most of the other structures, having opened on the 20 August 1936. The old Library Headquarters is a prominent landmark on Main Street as an example of an 'Art Deco' building. The library was purpose-built to improve the education of the population in the locality and to administer library services throughout the county. Some aspects of the building were replaced in 2000 including windows.

There are very few buildings in the town older than the early-mid 19th century, as Newbridge, itself, is a modern-period settlement. The earliest reference to Newbridge, which is very much an afterthought, is by one John Dunton, a bookseller, in 1698 (Kildare Local History.ie). A chapel was built close to the original bridge across the Liffey in 1730, and an inn constructed in 1750. The current bridge (NIAH 11818035) was built in 1930, replacing a series of bridges which were destroyed by floods over the decades (Newbridge Tidy Towns 2017), although local folklore (per county archivist Ms K Kiely) relates that the wooden bridge over the Liffey could not take the increased footfall generated by an increasing military presence during the 19th century and it was replaced several times. The 'new bridge' and roads designed by architect William Chapman (responsible for the Naas section of Dublin's Great Canal) around 1790 commenced the formalisation of a rural hamlet into a village, opening new economic possibilities.

The Proposed Development is located on, what was, the north section of the Newbridge British Army Barracks. The near-success of the United Irishmen Rebellion of 1798 during the Napoleonic Wars had unnerved the government of the day, making them resolute in shoring up the island of Ireland against potential invasion by France. As a result, the military

presence in Ireland was increased dramatically and there was a constant quest to find suitable locations for garrisons. The new roads, which allowed rapid deployment of military personnel, were one factor in the choice of Newbridge as a barracks, although the topography of the bend in the Liffey also contributed, as the barracks would be on a natural observational elevation, while the horses could be brought to water to drink, without being far removed from the garrison itself. This 'watering hole' is marked on the Liffey Linear Park signposts.

From 1819 onwards, various Cavalry Regiments were stationed in the Newbridge barracks. The barracks in Newbridge housed some 1,500 men and 1,000 horses until it was decommissioned in 1922. Built on 39 acres, the barracks stretched from the Main Street to Ryston and from the Athgarvan Road to the limits of the modern Whitewater Shopping Centre. A plan of the barracks in 1837 shows that the site occupied a sub-rectangular area of ground (Plate 1). Structures within the barracks comprised barrack blocks, stables, dwellings, a canteen and the barrack master's house. The location of the Proposed Development occupies the north east of the former barracks which is shown as containing the Barrack Master's House and a stable block at this time.

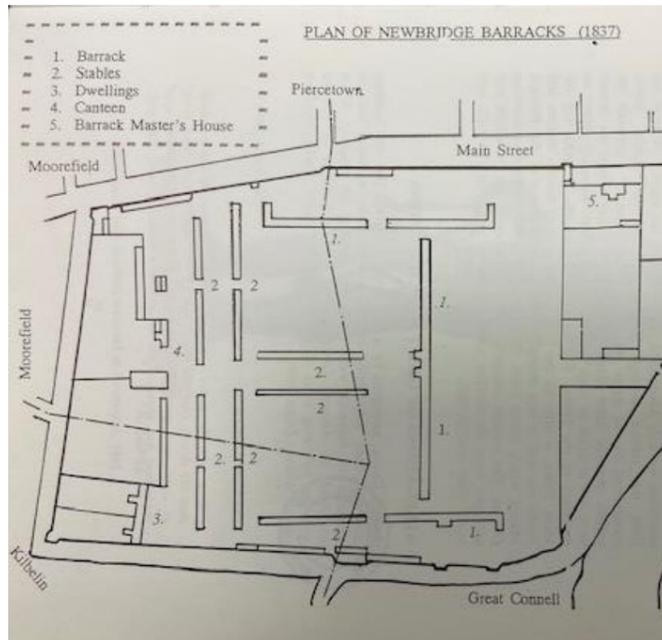


Plate 1 Plan of Newbridge Calvary Barracks dating to 1837.

The 1st edition OS map shows the barracks during the middle of the 19th century (map not reproduced). This map shows the barracks in greater detail with the area to the immediate south of the Barrack Master's House laid out as a garden. An area of dense planting is located between the Barrack Master's House and the stable block. Further dense planting is shown in the south east corner of the barracks. Newbridge was focused on Main Street at this time with no development elsewhere around the barracks. The route of the River Liffey has been straightened as it passes through the town, although large oxbows are evident to the north and south. This clearly suggests that the line of the river was canalized when the barracks were established.

Newbridge expanded rapidly after the Curragh military camp, some 3km south west of the town, was established in 1855. Eyre Street, named after local landowner and major Eyre Powell, and Edward

Street (named after Prince Edward, later King Edward VII, who was stationed on the Curragh at the time) were built in the years 1855 – 1861 (Kildare Local History 2018). The bank, (NIAH 11818028), built in the 1870s on the corner of Charlotte Street stands as testimony to the successful economy of the garrison town. The clusters of terrace houses and cottages along Francis St and John Street, all within the radius of the 200m study area, show the beginnings of urban Newbridge.

The Town Hall (NIAH 11818029) located 124m to the south west of the Proposed Development, is an unusual relic of the 19th century barracks, as it was originally used as a church and school. The gateway of the barracks parade ground also remains upstanding (NIAH 11818062), 360m south of the Proposed Development.

The large-scale OS map published in 1872 shows the layout of the Proposed Development around this period (map not reproduced). The area is still occupied by the Commanding Officer's Quarters while the long building running parallel to the boundary with the Athgarvan Road is identified as Infirmary Stables. The planted area is still extant between the Infirmary Stables and the Commanding Officer's Quarters while the area formerly shown as a garden is now occupied by Married Soldiers Quarters.

The Infirmary Stables would have housed hundreds of horses and, while no photographs of this particular building appear to exist, a photograph of the barracks dating from 1910 shows two rows of stable blocks which would have been similar (Plate 2).



Plate 2 The Troop Stables with barrack blocks to rear c.1910, National Library of Ireland Collection (Boland, F. 2019).

These appear to consist of a row of single storey brick buildings with pitched slate roofs and centrally placed doorways. A row of ventilators is present on the ridge of the roof while a brick chimney with three pots is visible on the roof of the last building in the row. This building has a centrally placed doorway with single windows on either side suggesting this structure was intended for human use and may have been accommodation for soldiers responsible for the horses while on duty. Each stable has its own wooden lean-to located adjacent to the entrance while a sign on the wall clearly identifies the building as the Troop Stables. Cobble or brick drains are clearly visible running parallel to the Troop Stables.

A plan produced in 1901 shows the layout of the barracks during this period (Plate 3). Plate 2 clearly shows two three-storey buildings behind the Troop Stables. These buildings are joined by a covered archway. Examination of the 1901 plan suggests that these three-storey buildings are the barrack blocks shown within the centre of the Barracks. This would place the Troop Stables in the photograph between the Parade Ground to north and the Cavalry Parade to the south. The Proposed

Development would have been located in the north east corner of the barracks complex.

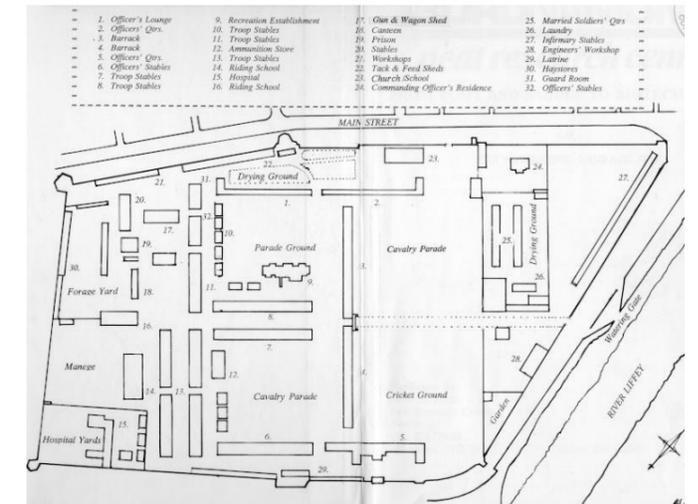


Plate 3 Plan of Newbridge Calvary Barracks dating to 1901.

This is still shown as occupied by the Infirmary Stables, Commanding Officer's Residence and Married Soldier's Quarters. The Infirmary Stables are depicted as a narrower structure than the Troop Stables although its general construction and layout was probably similar to that shown in Plate 2. A laundry is now marked to the immediate south of the Married Soldier's Quarters while an Engineer's Workshop is marked to the south of the laundry. There is still a large open space between the Infirmary Stables and the Commanding Officer's Residence and Married Soldier's Quarters. The 5" OS map of Newbridge published in 1910 still shows this area as partially under vegetation (map not reproduced).

During the War of Independence (1919-1921) and subsequent Civil War (June 1922-May 1923), the barracks were used as a detention centre. It was the location of a mass escape in October 1922 when 112 Republican prisoners tunnelled into the barrack's main sewer which led past the Married

Soldier's Quarters to the River Liffey (this sewer did not run through the location of the Proposed Development). After the Civil War, the barracks were assessed as surplus to the requirements of the National Army of the Irish Free State. From 1931 the bulk of the land once occupied by the barracks was transferred to the GAA for St. Conleth's Park while the western end of the barracks accommodated two fledgling industries for the new State – Newbridge Cutlery and Irish Ropes – which helped fill the gap in employment left by the departure of the British troops from the town.

The layout of the majority of the barracks at this time can be seen in an aerial photograph (Plate 4).



Plate 4 Aerial photograph of the former barracks taken in the early 1930s (English Heritage)

This shows the former cricket ground which has been taken over by the GAA ground while the adjacent barrack blocks and arch have been partially demolished. The Troop Stables shown in Plate 2 are still extant as are most of the buildings within the north, west and south of the former barracks. The location of the Proposed Development is just out of shot to the north east of the GAA ground.

The 3rd edition 6" OS map shows the layout of the location of the Proposed Development during the late 1930s (map not reproduced). While the former Commanding Officer's Residence and Married Soldier's Quarters are still extant, the Infirmary Stables and planted area have been redeveloped with buildings now occupying the frontages onto Main Street and the Athgarvan Road. Most of these buildings are set within plots of ground which extend to their rears so that the location of the Proposed Development now appears outside the boundaries of the former barracks.

Of particular note is a building located on the corner of Main Street and the Athgarvan Road. This is the Old Library Headquarters (B23-41) which was constructed in 1936 with the Infirmary Stables demolished at the same time.

The library was purpose-built to improve the education of the population in the locality and to administer library services throughout the county. It comprises a detached eleven-bay, two-storey library constructed in an International Modern-style.

The 3rd edition 6" OS map shows the remainder of the former cavalry barracks as housing St. Conleth's Park GAA ground to the north east with other buildings largely extant. The buildings around the former cavalry parade ground are noted as a Cutlery Factory while the former Manege is now occupied by the ropeworks.

The former barracks has been redeveloped in subsequent years with the last remaining red-brick building of the Victorian barracks maintained as a working office by Bord na Móna. Other remaining barrack features comprise the Town Hall (NIAH 11818029) fronting onto Main Street and the former gateway (NIAH 11818062) leading onto Athgarvan Road.

Site Visit

The Proposed Development was visited on November 12th, 2021. The weather conditions were reasonable, with scattered light showers and intermittent sunshine.

The site is located on the corner between the Athgarvan Road and Main Street, Newbridge, some 15m from the River Liffey.



Plate 5 Looking north east along the Main Street Frontage of the Proposed Development.



Plate 6 Looking south west along the Main Street Frontage of the Proposed Development.

The south west extent of the Proposed Development is bounded by the Riverbank Arts Centre which is a modern building (Plates 5 & 6). The Arts Centre fronts onto Main Street and also Liffey Terrace

which forms the south west boundary of the Proposed Development (Plate 6).



Plate 7 Liffey Terrace which forms the south west boundary of the Proposed Development.

The 1930s library itself is an elegant and unique Art Deco building at the corner of Athgarvan Road and Main Street (Plate 8).



Plate 8 The Old Library Headquarters (B23-41).

The Proposed Development includes a single-floored modern library which fronts onto Athgarvan Road. It is a modern brick building dating from 1978 with an annex providing access directly into the Old Library Headquarters. The ground around the modern library to Athgarvan Road comprises paving and gravel with evidence for services and drainage.

A yard / car parking area is located to the rear of the Arts Centre, Old Library Headquarters and the modern library (Plates 9 & 10). The yard is under tarmac with evidence of drainage. It is accessed by a gate leading onto Main Street between the Arts Centre and the Old Library Headquarters.



Plate 9 Yard to rear of the libraries and Arts Centre.



Plate 10 Yard at the rear of the library buildings.

The Proposed Development is bounded to the south by domestic properties and their rear gardens (Plate 11). These properties correspond with those shown on the 3rd edition 6" OS map suggesting that they date from when this part of the barracks was redeveloped during the 1930s.



Plate 11 Looking north west across Athgarvan Road towards the Proposed Development.

There are no visible traces of the former barracks within the boundaries of the Proposed Development and it has also largely been removed within the surrounding area. Visible elements still extant are the former gateway (NIAH 11818062) on Athgarvan Road (Plate 12) and the former chapel / school (NIAH 11818029) on Main Street which is now Newbridge Town Hall (Plate 13).

The river is a prominent feature to the east of the Proposed Development and played a part in the daily activities of the cavalry barracks (Plate 14). An area known as The Watering Hole is located to the south of the Proposed Development and was originally opposite the eastern gate into the barracks (now redeveloped). This is where the cavalry horses were brought each evening to drink their fill and cool down after manoeuvres.



Plate 12 Former Barracks Gateway (NIAH 11818062) on Athgarvan Road.



Plate 13 The former chapel / school (NIAH 11818029) now the Town Hall.



Plate 14 The Watering Hole on the River Liffey.

Assessment of the Baseline

There is one recorded heritage asset located within the Proposed Development. This is the Old Library Headquarters (B23-41) which is a Protected Structure. This asset will be impacted by the development proposals. The assessment of impact and any proposed mitigation measures will be undertaken by the Conservation Architects, JCA Architects with any proposed mitigation measures outlined in their report.

There are no other recorded heritage assets within the boundaries of the Proposed Development which was part of the Newbridge cavalry barracks from 1815 to the 1930s. The layout of the location of the Proposed Development within the barracks remained largely unchanged during this period containing the Infirmary Stables, Commanding Officer's Residence and Married Soldier's Quarters.

There are no longer any visible traces of these structures within the Proposed Development now, which is occupied by the library buildings and the Riverside Arts Centre. The library building occupies the former location of the Infirmary Stables. This comprised a long, narrow building most likely very similar to the Troop Stables shown in Plate 2. These were brick buildings with chimneys which would have been built on foundations for support while drainage was also present.

It is likely that groundworks associated with the demolition of the Infirmary Stables and construction of the subsequent library buildings including associated services will have severely impacted the remains of the Infirmary Stables. However, there is the possibility that buried remains could exist *in situ* under the modern library building. The potential for encountering such remains is considered **low to moderate**.

Such remains would be associated with the former barracks which was the impetus for the early development of Newbridge. As such, they would be considered locally important.

Historic cartographic evidence also suggests that there is some potential for former alluvial channels within the development site. These could contain trapped geoarchaeological or paleoenvironmental sequences pre-dating the establishment of the town. The upper levels of such deposits will have been heavily disturbed by the construction of the barracks and subsequent libraries, there is the potential for lower levels to exist *in situ*.

The potential for encountering such remains is considered **low to moderate**.

Such remains would be associated with riverine activity within the area prior to the development of Newbridge. As such, they would be considered locally important.

Conclusions

This desk-based assessment has set out the baseline for the Proposed Development, with a 200m study area for all heritage assets. A discretionary consideration of assets within a broader 1km buffer area has been undertaken for assets of particular historic interest, or those which may contribute specifically to an understanding of the historic and archaeological environment of the Proposed Development.

The assessment has concluded that there is a potential for unrecorded heritage assets within the Site comprising the remains of former barrack buildings and possible geoarchaeological or paleoenvironmental sequences within former alluvial channels.

Recommendations

This desk-based assessment has predicted **low to moderate** potential for the presence of archaeological remains associated with the 19th century Infirmary Stables and former alluvial channels to survive within the Proposed Development.

These remains would be located under the existing modern library building. Pre-development archaeological testing is, therefore, impractical.

Consultation will be held with the KCC Heritage Officer in order to agree archaeological mitigation which would likely take the form of archaeological testing of the footprint of the modern library and the new library building in order to record:

- archaeologically significant remains associated with the former use of the Proposed Development as a cavalry barracks and also any evidence for former alluvial channels associated with the River Liffey (**Figure 4**).

It is anticipated that the KCC Heritage Officer and the National Monuments Service (NMS) will require that a programme of archaeological test trench evaluation be undertaken as soon as the Proposed Development area is available (after demolition of the Modern Library), to assess the potential presence for below-ground archaeological remains within the Proposed Development area. Early consultation should be undertaken in order to determine the requirement for archaeological evaluation.

Following interpretation of the results of test trench evaluation, further consultation with the KCC Heritage Officer and the NMS should be undertaken to determine any requirement for further archaeological mitigation, such as a detailed, targeted strip and map (excavation) or watching brief(s) on intrusive groundworks.

Any archaeological evaluation and mitigation works should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under licence in accordance with an archaeological Programme of Works that sets out the scope of work and is approved in advance by the KCC Heritage Officer and the NMS.

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Figures

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Proposed Layout of the Development

Figure 3 Heritage Assets within, or just outside, 1km of the Site

Figure 4 Archaeological Test Trenching Regime

Appendices

Gazetteer 1 – NIAH and Protected Structures

NIAH Ref	RPS Ref	Name	Type	Street/Town	Description
11818013	B23-18		House	Eyre Street, Newbridge	This house is an attractive, small-scale range that retains most of its original form and character. The house is of social and historical significance, representing the expansion of the historic core of Newbridge in the mid nineteenth century. Composed on a symmetrical plan of graceful balanced proportions, the house is an attractive feature on the streetscape of Eyre Street, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the surrounding terraces. The house retains many important early or original salient features, including timber sash fenestration having early glazing.
11818001	B23-29		House	7 Canning Place, Newbridge	A house erected as one of a pair of houses (including 11818002) representing an important component of the mid nineteenth-century domestic built heritage of Newbridge with the architectural value of the composition confirmed by such attributes as the compact rectilinear plan form centred on a Classically-detailed doorcase not only demonstrating good quality workmanship, but also showing a pretty fanlight; the margined glazing patterns; and the high pitched roof. A prolonged period of unoccupancy notwithstanding, the elementary form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior, thus upholding the character or integrity of a house forming part of a self-contained ensemble making a pleasing visual statement overlooking the River Liffey.
11818002	B23-30		House	Canning Place, Newbridge	A house erected as one of a pair of houses (including 11818001) representing an important component of the mid nineteenth-century domestic built heritage of Newbridge with the architectural value of the composition confirmed by such attributes as the compact rectilinear plan form centred on a Classically-detailed doorcase not only demonstrating good quality workmanship, but also showing a pretty fanlight; the margined glazing patterns; and the high pitched roof. Having been well maintained, the elementary form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior, thus upholding the character or integrity of a house forming part of a self-contained ensemble making a pleasing visual statement overlooking the River Liffey.

11818036	B23-41	Newbridge (County) Library	Library	Main Street / Athgarvan Road	Newbridge (County) Library is an attractive and prominent building that is of particular interest as an early example of the Modern movement in Newbridge. The library is of social and historical significance, having been purpose-built in an effort to improve the education of the population in the locality. The building is distinguished by the reserved Modern detailing, achieved primarily through the judicious use of render that produces a fielded effect, and which attests to the high quality of craftsmanship traditionally practised in the town. The library retains many important early or original features and materials, including iron casement windows to the primary elevations, and slate roofs having cast-iron rainwater goods. The library is an imposing landmark in the centre of Newbridge, identified by the profiled parapet walls that articulate the skyline, while forming the corner at the junction of Main Street (to south-west) with Athgarvan Road to the south.
11818003			House	Eyre Street, Newbridge	This house is an attractive, small-scale range that retains most of its original form and character. The house is of social and historical significance, representing the expansion of the historic core of Newbridge in the mid nineteenth century. Composed on a symmetrical plan of graceful balanced proportions, the house is an attractive feature on the streetscape of Eyre Street, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace. The house retains many important early or original salient features, including timber sash fenestration having early glazing.
11818005			House	Eyre Street, Newbridge	This house, which has been very well maintained to present an early aspect, is of social and historical interest, representing the continued expansion of the historic core of Newbridge in the late nineteenth century. Typical of many small-scale urban dwellings, the house is composed of regular proportions and is distinguished by the shallow segmental-headed door opening. The house retains many important early or original salient features, including timber fittings to the door opening and timber sash fenestration having early glazing. The house is an important component of the streetscape of Eyre Street, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace.
11818006			House	Eyre Street/ Francis Street Newbridge	This house is an attractive, small-scale range that retains most of its original form and some of its early character. The house is of social and historical significance, representing the expansion of the historic core of Newbridge in the mid nineteenth century. Composed on a symmetrical plan of graceful balanced proportions, the house is an attractive feature on the streetscape of Eyre Street, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace. The

					house retains important early timber fittings to the door opening, while the re-instatement of traditional-style timber fenestration might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance.
11818007			House	1 Francis Street	This cottage, built as one of a terrace of four, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, which is in marked contrast to the anonymous design of the later buildings constructed at the far south end of Francis Street. Renovated in the late twentieth century the replacement fenestration does not detract considerably from the original integrity of the design. Retained are important salient features including a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with remaining cottages in the terrace (11818093 - 5/KD-27-18-93 – 95), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of Francis Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818032		P. Higgins / Farrels,	Commercial	Main Street, Robert Street,	This house, probably originally two separate houses, has been comprehensively renovated in the late twentieth century leading to the loss of most of the original fabric. The house is of social and historical significance for its age, representing the continued development of the historic core of Newbridge in the early nineteenth century. Despite alterations, the first floor retains its original form, composed of graceful proportions, while important surviving early features include the fine doorcase and timber fittings to the door opening. The timber shopfronts to ground floor are not attractive additions to the house, following the gradual incline of the street, thereby resulting in a variation in the level of fascia boards that detracts from the original harmony of the composition. The house nevertheless remains an attractive feature on the streetscape of Main Street, continuing the established streetline of the street, forming the corner leading to Anne Street to the north-west, while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace.
11818033		Brophy Farrell Auctioneers	Commercial	Main Street, Anne Street,	This house, which has been comprehensively renovated in the late twentieth century leading to the loss of most of the original fabric, is of social and historical significance for its age, representing the continued development of the historic core of Newbridge in the mid nineteenth century. Despite alterations, the first floor retains its original form, composed of graceful proportions, while important surviving early features include the slate covering to the roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The timber shopfront to ground floor is not attractive addition to the house, neglecting to correspond with the arrangement of openings

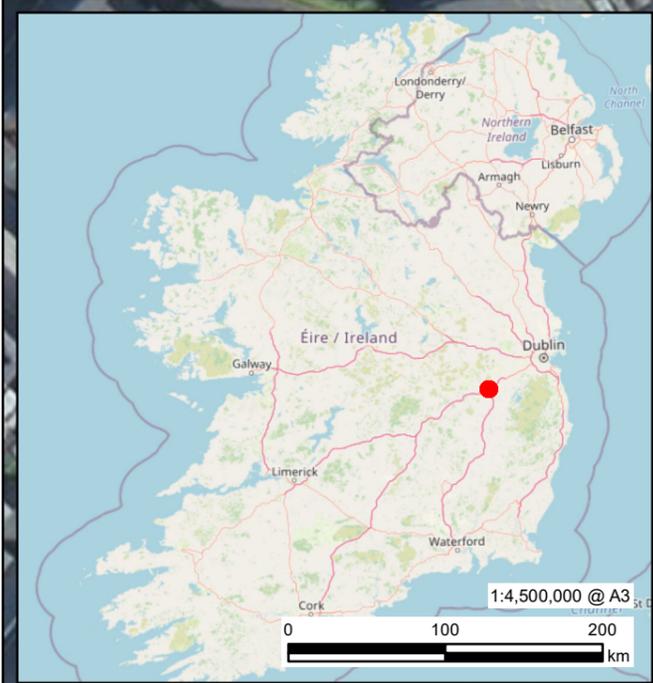
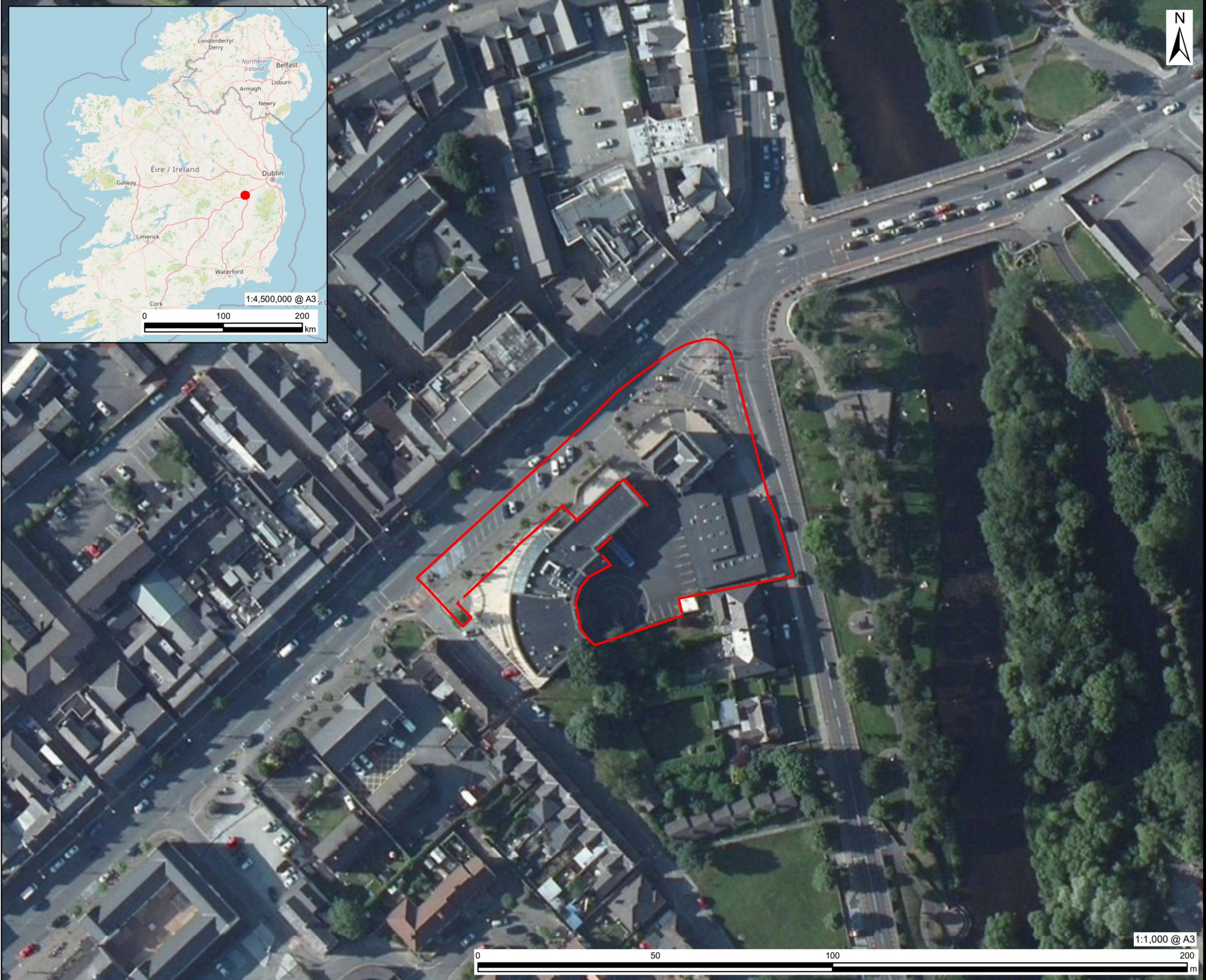
					over and excessively detailed, in contrast to the reserved detailing to the remainder of the house. Future renovation works might aim to incorporate a shopfront that alludes to the true traditional Irish model, without unnecessary ornamentation, while the re-instatement of traditional-style timber fenestration might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance. The house nevertheless remains an attractive feature on the streetscape of Main Street, continuing the established streetline of the street, forming the corner leading to Anne Street to the north-west, while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace.
11818034			House	1 John Street	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818070 - 74/KD-27-17-70 - 74), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818035		Newbridge Bridge	Bridge	Main Street, Newbridge	Newbridge Bridge is a fine bridge that forms an attractive feature on the River Liffey and is one of a group of bridges on the section of that river that passes through County Kildare. The construction of the arches that have retained their original shape is of technical and engineering merit. The bridge is of considerable historical and social significance as a reminder of the road improvement schemes in Ireland in the early twentieth century.
11818070			House	2 John Street	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818034, 71 - 4/KD-27-17-34, 71 - 4), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818072			House	4 John Street	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local

					authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features possibly including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818031, 70 - 1, 73 -4/KD-27-17-31, 70 - 1, 73 -4), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818093			House	2 Francis Street	This cottage, built as one of a terrace of four, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retain its original form and picturesque appearance, which is in marked contrast to the anonymous design of the later buildings constructed at the far south end of Francis Street. Renovated in the late twentieth century the replacement fenestration does not contribute positively to the original integrity of the design – the re-instatement of timber fenestration, using the extant original models to the cottage to right (south; 1181809?/KD-27-18-9?) as a model, might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance. Retained are important salient features including a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with remaining cottages in the terrace (11818007, 94 - 5/KD-27-18-07, 94 - 5), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of Francis Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818094			House	3 Francis Street	This cottage, built as one of a terrace of four, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original aspect and picturesque appearance, which is in marked contrast to the anonymous design of the later buildings constructed at the far south end of Francis Street. The cottage retains important salient features including timber sash fenestration, a glazed timber door, and a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods – the remaining units in the terrace having been renovated in the late twentieth century leading to the loss of some of the original fabric, future renovation works might use this cottage as a reference point to restore an accurate representation of the original appearance. The cottage, together with remaining cottages in the terrace (11818007, 93, 95/KD-27-18-07, 93, 95), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of Francis Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).

11818095			House	4 Francis Street	This cottage, built as one of a terrace of four, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, which is in marked contrast to the anonymous design of the later buildings constructed at the far south end of Francis Street. Renovated in the late twentieth century the replacement fenestration does not detract considerably from the original integrity of the design. Retained are important salient features including a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with remaining cottages in the terrace (11818007, 93 - 4/KD-27-18-07, 93 - 4), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of Francis Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818037		Newbridge National School	School	Chapel Lane, Newbridge	Newbridge National School is a fine and attractive long, red brick range of much character, distinguished on the streetscape by the many gabled projecting bays. The school is of considerable social and historical significance as one of the earliest educational facilities in the town, built to improve the quality of education among the Catholic population of the town. The construction entirely in red brick attests to improvements made in the manufacturing industry in the previous century, allowing for the mass-production of economic building materials, while the yellow brick dressings produce a discrete polychromatic effect. Renovated in the late twentieth century, the replacement fenestration and fittings to the door openings are not attractive features of the composition, lacking the fine detailing of the original design, although the survival of the original covering to the roof is important. The school is an attractive landmark in the locality, and forms a neat group with further Catholic-related buildings in the immediate vicinity, including the church, presbytery and convent to east (11818038 – 40/KD-27-18-38 – 40).
11818071			House	3 John Street, Newbridge	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818031, 70, 72 -4/KD-27-17-31, 70, 72 -4), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).

11818073			House	5 John Street, Newbridge	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features possibly including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818031, 70 - 2, 74/KD-27-17-31, 70 - 2, 74), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).
11818074			House	56John Street, Newbridge	This cottage, one of a terrace of six, is of considerable social and historical significance, representing a small-scale residential development in Newbridge, and one possibly sponsored by the local authority. The cottage retains its original form and picturesque appearance, with important surviving salient features possibly including timber sash fenestration, a timber panelled door and cast-iron rainwater goods. The cottage, together with the remaining houses in the terrace (11818031, 70 - 3/KD-27-17-31, 70 - 3), forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of John Street and is a subtle landmark when viewed from Eyre Street (to north) and Main Street (to south).

Figures



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FIGURE TITLE
Proposed Development Location

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 1



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— Proposed Site Layout

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ISSUE PURPOSE
DRAFT

PROJECT NUMBER
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FIGURE TITLE
Proposed Layout of the Development

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 2

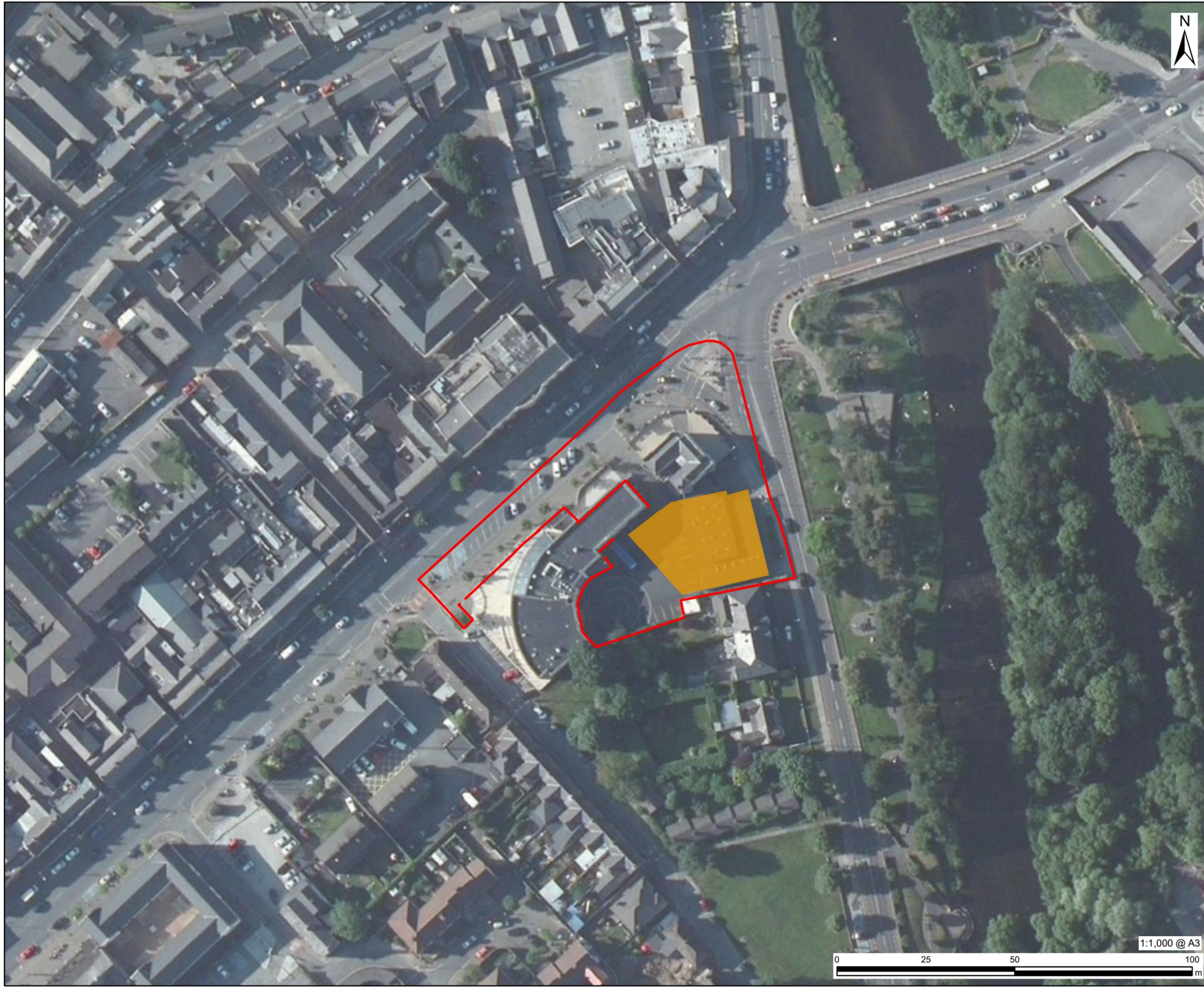
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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Area where archaeological testing should be carried out once the existing library building has been demolished

NOTES

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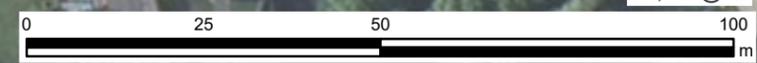
ISSUE PURPOSE
DRAFT

PROJECT NUMBER
60669624

FIGURE TITLE
Proposed Mitigation

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 4

1:1,000 @ A3



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