

# HERITAGE WALKING ROUTE PROJECT

**OLD KILCULLEN  
Co. KILDARE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SCREENING APPRAISAL (FEASIBILITY STAGE)**

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**Report Commissioned by  
HAYES RYAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
For  
Old Kilcullen Area Community Association  
And  
Kildare County Council**

**APRIL 2024**

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**BYRNE MULLINS & ASSOCIATES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an Archaeological Heritage Screening Appraisal with respect to the feasibility of a Heritage Walking Route Project, Old Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.

The report was commissioned by Hayes Ryan Landscape Architects, Kilmead, Athy, Co. Kildare on behalf of the Old Kilcullen Area Community Association and Kildare County Council.

### 1.1 Definition of Archaeological Heritage

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

Archaeological heritage comprises all material remains of past societies, with the potential to enhance our understanding of such societies. It includes the remains of features such as settlements, burials, ships and boats and portable objects of all kinds, from the everyday to the very special. It also includes evidence of the environment in which those societies lived. The terms “site” or “monument” are used generally to refer to fixed structures or areas of activity, as opposed to particular moveable objects. Historic wrecks are also part of the archaeological heritage (DHLG&H, 2021, 3).

### 1.2 Definition of Study Area

The Project Red-Line Boundaries and an area of 200m surrounding such were determined to be the Study Area for Archaeological Heritage. The extent of the Study Area was chosen to reflect an appropriate context for the project, beyond which it was considered that a scheme of this nature would have no direct/indirect impacts.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

An archaeological appraisal comprises the results of a survey and evaluation of selected sites of archaeological interest and/or potential, if any, within and/or in the immediate environs of a proposed development area. In terms of the subject development site, the work consisted of the following:

- Paper / Desk Assessment
- Field Inspection
- Review of Geophysical & LiDAR Surveys undertaken by Earthsound Geophysics

### 2.1 Paper Survey

As part of a documentary/cartographic search, the following principal sources were examined from which a list of sites and areas of Archaeological Heritage interest/potential was compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places – Co. Kildare (RMP)
- Sites and Monuments Record of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (SMR); National Monuments Register, Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), Lists of Monuments subject to Preservation Orders

- (PO) and Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
  - Annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin – [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)
  - Aerial Photographic & Cartographic Archive of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland – [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)
  - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) – [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)
  - Placenames Commission – [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)
  - Documentary and historic cartographic sources (see Appendix 1)
  - Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (KCDP)
  - Heritage Council Heritage Database – [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)
  - Open Topographic Data Viewer (LiDAR information) – [www.dcent.maps.arcgis.com](http://www.dcent.maps.arcgis.com)

## 2.2 Field Inspection

Following completion of the preceding paper survey, field surveys were undertaken in early-December 2023 and late-March 2024. This entailed a surface reconnaissance within the red-line boundaries, together with visual inspections of the surrounding lands, where possible.

An attempt was also made to identify previously unrecorded sites of archaeological heritage potential within, and in the immediate environs of, the project area.

Sites/features of archaeological heritage potential identified on the basis of the paper survey were inspected in an attempt to confirm their locations on the ground and to determine, if possible, their likely extent.

## 2.3 Geophysical & LiDAR Survey

In 2022, Earthsound Geophysics Ltd. was commissioned to undertake a series of geophysical surveys on lands surrounding Old Kilcullen Graveyard, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. The work forms part of the Old Kilcullen Research Project commissioned by the Kildare County Council Heritage Officer. The geophysical survey areas form parts of the overall Archaeological Study Area for the subject project, as defined above in Section 1.2.

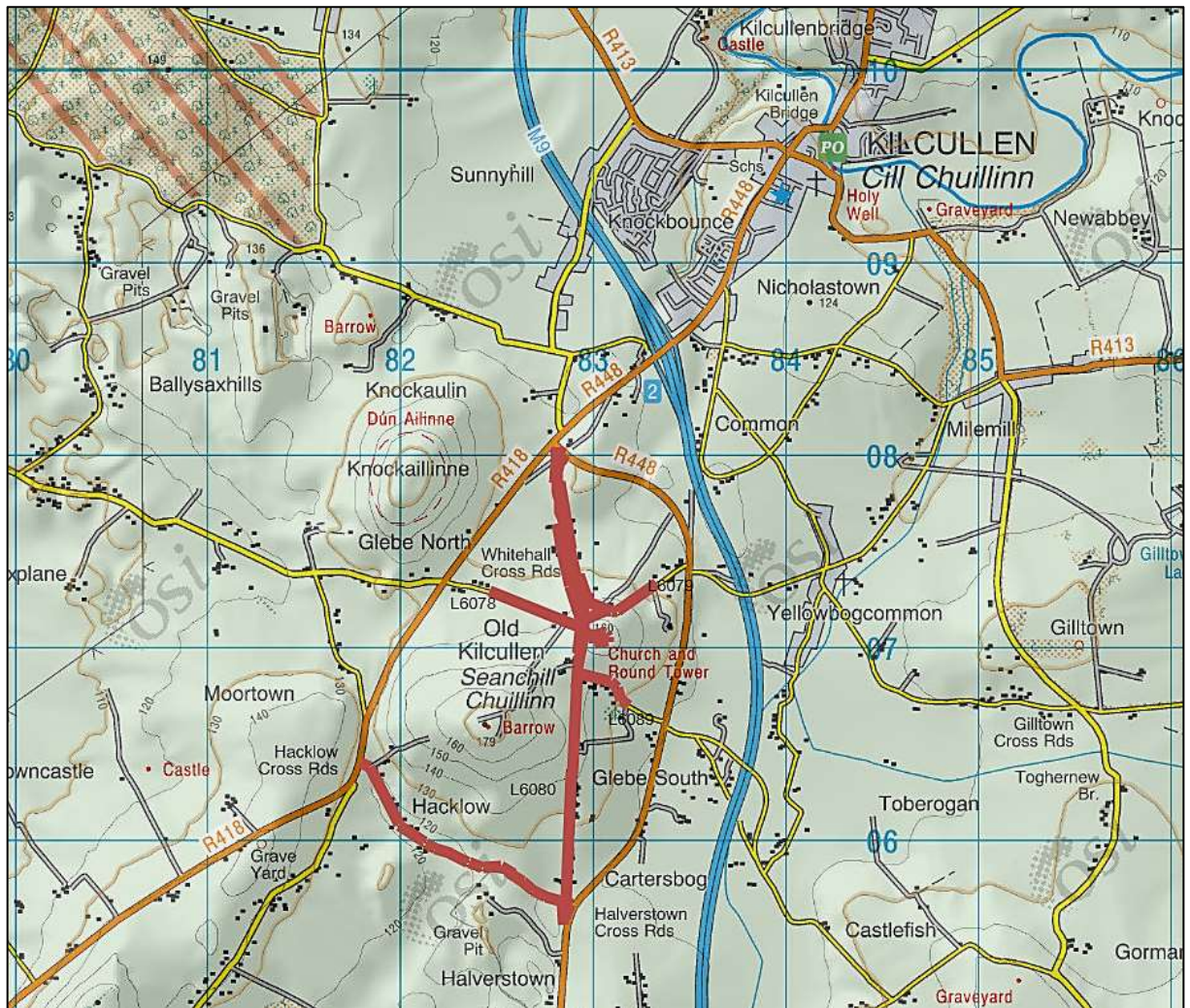
The geophysical survey was requested to determine the possible nature of features of archaeological potential identified from a review of LiDAR and associated with previously identified archaeological remains located within or adjacent to the survey area. It was agreed to assess the site using a magnetometer with targeted resistivity surveys undertaken on areas of interest.

The results of LiDAR & Geophysical Surveys are discussed below in Section 5.5.

## 3. LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The general district of Old Kilcullen is located approximately 2km south-southwest of the village of Kilcullen (Figure 1); it is bounded to the north, east and southeast by the R448 Road (Kilcullen – Castledermot) and to the general west by the R418 Road (Kilcullen – Athy); a laneway/trackway, running in a general north-westerly direction from Halverstown Crossroads to Hacklow Crossroads marks the south-western extent.

The area is bisected by a Local Road (L6080) which runs in a general northerly direction from Halverstown Crossroads to the 1798 Monument (and a short length past), with the northern and southern extents joined to the R448; two additional roads (L6079 & L6089) lead east from the L6080 to the R448, with one (L6078) leading west to the R418. These roads generally consist of restricted widths of c.4m, with grass margins of varying widths along the edges and largely bounded by mature hedgerows; there is an unusually wide grass margin along the western edge of the L6080 along its northern extent from the central triangular road junction area ("The Barrow"). In addition, there is also a network of laneways in the district.



**Figure 1 General Location  
(Project Extents Marked Red)**

The subject district area incorporates two hillocks, from which the lands slope down on all sides towards the regional road networks (R448 & R418). The lands are largely in agricultural use, with a gravel pit to the southwest and a construction-related compound adjacent Hacklow Crossroads; there is a water-supply reservoir in the general central area and a public house to the south of Old Kilcullen Graveyard.

There are a number of residential plots located along the road network, with a 1798 Monument to the north.

A detailed map of the district is illustrated in Figure 2, which incorporates the red-line extents of the project



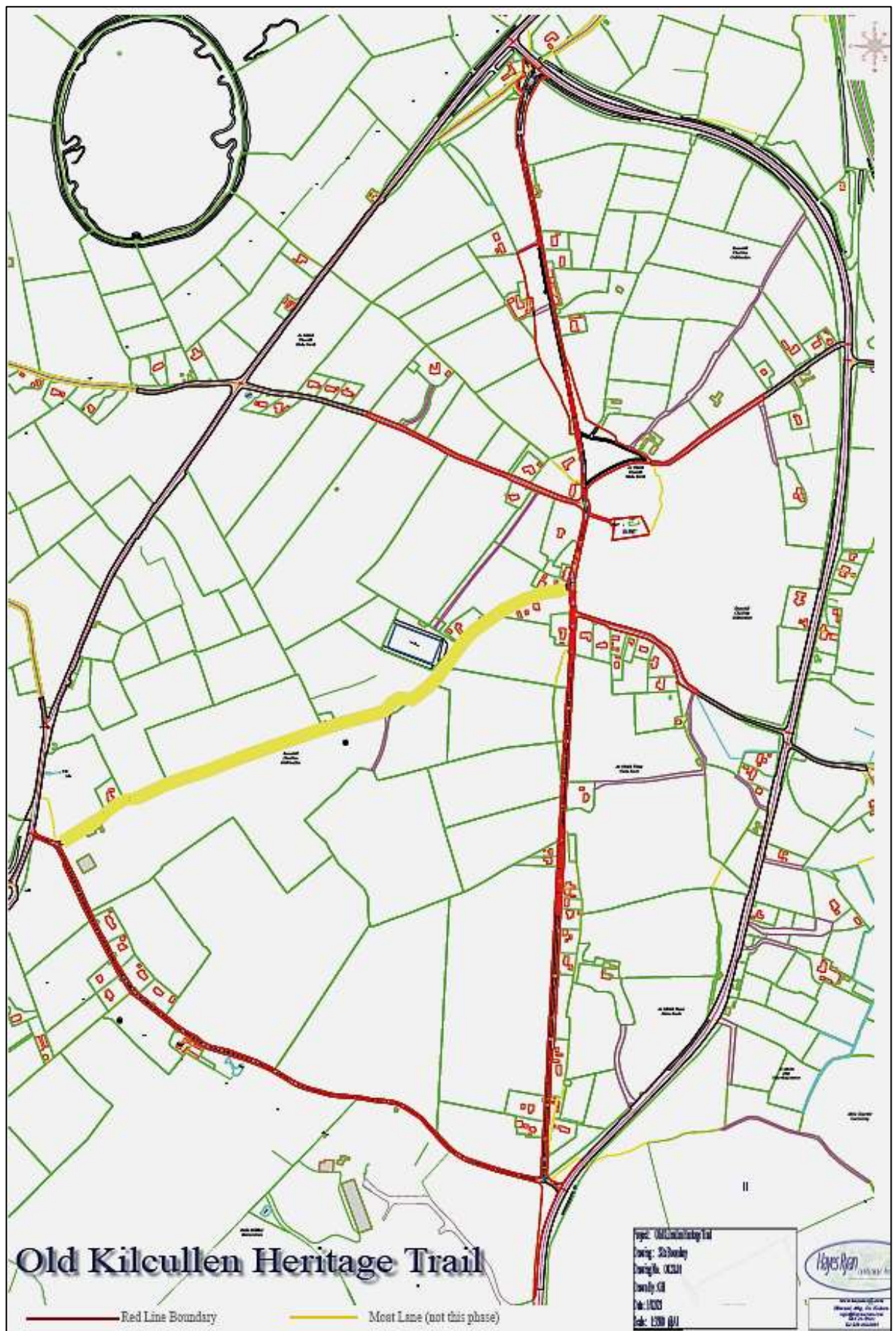






Plate 1 Satellite View of Old Kilcullen District (Google Earth Pro: August 2022)

#### 4. GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The subject project lands and wider defined study area incorporate parts of the townlands of Oldkilcullen, Glebe South, Glebe North, Halverstown and Mooretown, in the civil parish and barony Kilcullen (O.S. 6-inch map: Kildare Sheet 28). The derivation of the name Oldkilcullen is unclear; the Irish form of the name is *Seanchill Chuillinn*, which is non-validated by the Placenames Database of Ireland ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)); the Database also notes that Ordnance Survey Parish Namebooks (1835 & 1838) indicate that *Cill Cuillinn* can be translated as the 'church of the holly', although de hÓir (1975, 100-1) considers that it derives from the 'church of the steep slope'. The name Glebe refers to an area of land within an ecclesiastical parish used to support a parish priest. Halverstown may derived from *Baile Halbhaí* – the 'townland or homestead of the



Halvers' (family), although the Irish form is non-validated by the Placenames Database; Moortown derives from *Baile an Mhúraigh*, a validated Irish name meaning the 'townland or homestead of the Moores'.

Prehistoric activity in the area is attested to by extant monuments such as the Bowl Barrow (SMR No: KD028-048), adjacent Moat Lane, Oldkilcullen Td and the burials (SMR No: KD028-054) uncovered in Halverstown in the later 1930s; of particular significance is the ceremonial enclosure (SMR KD028-03001) on Knockaulin Hill; this dates to the late Bronze Age/Iron Age and is the royal seat of the kings of Leinster.

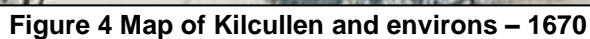
The first settlement of importance at Old Kilcullen was an early church site, traditionally connected with *Iserninus* (d. 468) and *MacTail* (d. 548 or 549). Its location near the hillfort ritual centre of *Dún Áilinne* almost certainly indicates that the church was established at an early date in the Christianization of Ireland. The deaths of its abbots are recorded from the later 8<sup>th</sup> century and a number of bishops are noted in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1970, 42-3). The plundering of Kilcullen by *Amhlaibh*, son of Godfrey, and the foreigners (Norse) of Dublin is recorded by the *Annals of Ulster* in 937-8 and a thousand prisoners are said to have been captured. Another raid is recorded in 944. The 'damhliag' is mentioned in 1037 and this, together with the surviving archaeological remains, suggests that it was a church of considerable wealth and prominence during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. According to the *Annals of the Four Masters* it was burned in 1114 but its proximity to Kildare meant that it did not achieve Episcopal status during the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Details of the coming of the Normans to Kilcullen are obscure. According to Bradley *et al.* (1989, 385) a deed of c. 1190 refers to Raymond le Gros as patron of Kilcullen but it is difficult to understand how this came about when all the available evidence indicates that Kilcullen was retained by the lords of Leinster as part of their seigniorial demesnes. For instance, in c. 1207, William Marshall was proposing to grant land at Kilcullen, while in 1232 his son Richard offered the vill of Kilcullen as dower to the countess of Pembroke. No records survive of the activities of the Anglo-Normans at Kilcullen during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and even the descent of the manor is unclear. In 1315-16 the tenant of the barony of Kilcullen was David le Low and in 1331, David le Wolf, probably the same person. By the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century Kilcullen had passed into the hands of the FitzEustace family.

Any account of Kilcullen in the Later Middle Ages is hampered by the documentary confusion arising from the formation of a new settlement beside the stone bridge built across the Liffey in 1319 in the site of the present village of Kilcullen. This was generally distinguished from the older settlement by being termed Kilcullen Bridge. However, it is clear that Old Kilcullen remained a sizable settlement into the 17<sup>th</sup> century and references throughout the Middle Ages to 'Kilcullen' actually relate to today's Old Kilcullen.

The scarcity of references to Kilcullen in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries suggests that the borough declined at this time. An inquisition of the lands forfeited by James Eustace, viscount Baltinglass, in 1581 refers to the 'old walls and close within the walls called the old manor house of Kilcullen'. In 1588 the manor and town of Kilcullen were leased to Brian Fitzwilliams but the lands were returned to William Eustace in 1592. The settlement was not totally abandoned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, however. In 1609 William Eustace received a grant to hold a weekly market, yearly fair and court there, while the census of Ireland in 1659 recorded a population of 115, which when compared to the figure of 43 for Kilcullen Bridge, indicates that Old Kilcullen remained the larger of the two centres.

The Civil Survey of 1656-8 records "severall ruined Castles and Stone houses" (Simmington, 1952, 77), illustrated on the associated map (Figure 3). The terroir to this map states that the "soyle and nature of the soyle in the aforesaid half barony of Kilcullen is generally good for all sorts of Corne and Cattle". The Survey ([www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)) notes that Kilcullen (Old) was owned by Maurice Fitzgerald (catholic) but by 1670 had been granted to John Eustace, Edward Loftis, Viscount of Ely and Sit William Parsons, all described as protestants. Sir William Parsons is also the recorded owner of Halverstown, described as comprising 200 plantation acres; Moortown was owned by William Sarsfield in 1641 and by Elinor Sarsfield in 1670. Glebe North and Glebe South are described as 'Protestant Church Lands' in 1641 and 1670, with the latter comprising 122 plantation acres.



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settlement centred at the convergence of three roads at Old Kilcullen, with the ecclesiastical remains to the south and Knockaulin to the northwest; the settlement at Kilcullen Bridge appears to be largely on the northern side of the bridge. Apart from the church and roads, no settlement is indicated at Old Kilcullen by Taylor & Skinner in 1777 (Figure 6), while that at Kilcullen Bridge is shown on both sides of the bridge. Taylor's map of 1783 (Figure 7) indicates some settlement at Old Kilcullen, largely centred on the old church and the road network is similar to that which exists today; the circular barrow (SMR No. KD028-048) is illustrated on the summit of 'Kilcullen Hill'.



Figure 5 Extract from Noble & Keenan – 1752



Figure 6 Extract from Taylor & Skinner – 1777 (Sheet 117)  
North to bottom



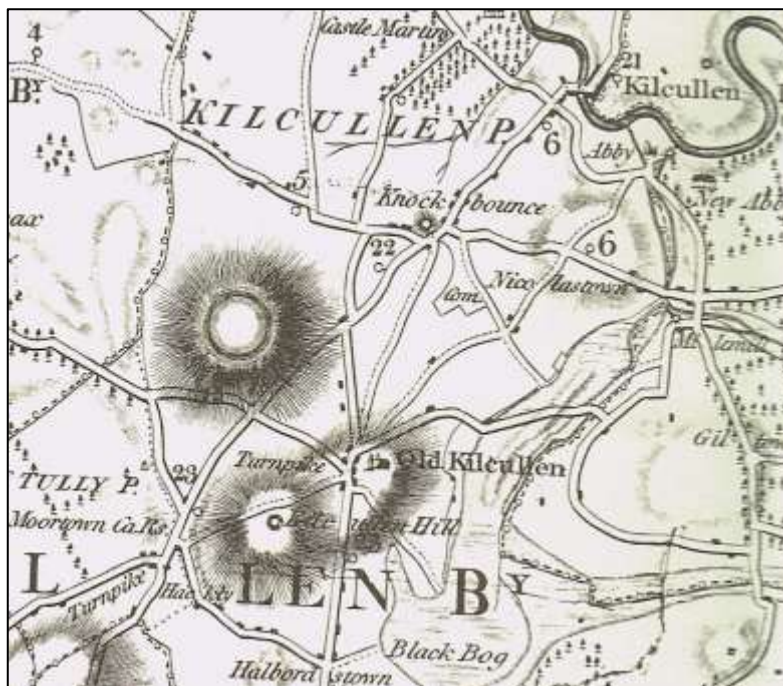


Figure 7 Extract from Taylor – 1783

During the 'Rising' of 1798, on the 24 May, around 300 rebels had entrenched themselves in the old churchyard on top of the hill near Old Kilcullen. General Dundas was at his headquarters at nearby Castlemartin, with about 60 troops at his disposal - around 40 cavalry of the Romney Fencibles and the 9th Dragoons and around 20 infantry of the Suffolk Fencibles. At about 7 am, without waiting for the support of the infantry, the cavalry charged up the hill. Captains Erskine and Cooke and about 21 of their men were killed, with 10 more seriously wounded. Erskine it seems was thrown from his horse and broke his leg. An old woman who recognised him stabbed him to death with a rusty knife. Dundas forced his way to Kilcullen Bridge where he was joined by Captain Robert La Touché and 100 local Yeomen. Sometime around 9 am on 24th May, the rebels, having earlier been victorious at Old Kilcullen, posted themselves at Turnpike Hill astride the Naas/Kilcullen road. On the left of the road rose the hill at their back, on the right, they dug in behind the high banks of the fields. This effectively cut off General Dundas' retreat to Naas. They numbered almost 1,000 men, as opposed to around 30 soldiers and 100 yeomanry under the command of General Dundas. The General sent two parties forward, with orders not to engage the enemy but to draw the rebels down the hill. This strategic feint gave the victory to Dundas as the concentrated fire decimated the rebels who descended the hill. They were routed by the cavalry as they forded the Liffey at Athgarvan. Dundas reported; "The slaughter was considerable for such an action - about 150 lay dead. No prisoners." The troops suffered no losses. The rebels defeated by General Dundas at Turnpike Hill, amassed themselves on Knockaulin near Kilcullen. On Saturday the 26th May they began to negotiate a surrender. When Dundas replied favourably to the rebels overture for peace, they delivered terms - they would surrender themselves and their arms and return to their homes, provided the free-quarters would end and plundered property was restored. While Dundas may have been favourable to negotiate terms and end hostilities, the government was indignant and sent General Lake, commander-in-chief of the army, to Castlemartin. By the time Lake arrived on Sunday, Dundas had agreed that the surrender would take place the next day, Whit Monday. Patrick O'Kelly was chosen to accept the surrender on behalf of the rebels and was appointed a Colonel so he could properly treat with General Dundas. The meeting was cordial but Lake refused any terms, other than the complete surrender of the rebels in the avenue of Castlemartin. O'Kelly said the rebels would only surrender on the hill. Despite Lake's objections, Dundas climbed Knockaulin. The presence of Dundas greatly mollified the rebels' disappointment at the refusal of terms, and the men began to deposit their arms and return home. The subsequent piles of arms were later removed to Castlemartin. It seems Lake had 3 regiments of infantry and 4 pieces of artillery lying within one mile of Castlemartin, ready to engage the rebels if necessary.

Lewis, writing in 1837, notes that the parish of Kilcullen was on the mail coach road from Dublin to Athy and Carlow and contained 2918 inhabitants. He further notes that "this place, which since the erection of the new town of Kilcullen-Bridge, has been called Old Kilcullen, derived its name from the foundation of a church and monastery in the district of Coulan, of which St. Patrick appointed St. Isernine bishop, who died in 469 and was succeeded by St. Mactalius. The monastery and the town which grew up around it were plundered repeatedly by the Danes, between the years 883 and 1037; but after the English obtained a settlement in the

country, the town was fortified and greatly increased in importance. Soon after the invasion, a castle was erected here by the Fitzmartins, which afterwards became the property of the Fitz-Eustace family, of whom Thomas Fitz-Eustace, afterwards Viscount Baltinglass, was created Baron of Kilcullen by Henry VIII. Previously to the year 1319, the town was surrounded with strong walls and defended by seven gates, but Maurice Jaques having in that year built a bridge over the river Liffey, about two miles from this place, the town of Kilcullen-Bridge began rapidly to increase, and the ancient town to decline. During the civil war this castle was garrisoned for the parliamentarians, in 1641, but was taken two years afterwards by the Marquess of Ormonde. In the same year, the commissioners appointed to treat for a cessation of hostilities assembled here, but afterwards adjourned to Jigginstown, near Naas, and in 1647 the castle was taken and burnt by the parliamentarians. In the disturbances of 1798, a large number of the insurgents posted themselves in the churchyard, on the summit of a very steep hill, and Capt. Erskine and Cookes, who advanced to dislodge them, were killed in the attempt, and their party repulsed. The insurgents afterwards assembled in great numbers on the heights above the town, from which they were driven with great loss by General Dundas, who was stationed here, and several thousands of them subsequently surrendered to him on the hill of Knockawlin, about a mile distant, where they had occupied an intrenched camp. The town, which stood on a bleak eminence in a very commanding position, is now only an insignificant village; its market, which belongs by patent to the Rev. Thomas O'Moore, has been removed to Kilcullen-Bridge, but fairs are still held here on June 22nd and Oct. 3rd". Lewis further notes that "the parish comprises 6619 statute acres, of which more than four-fifths are in tillage, and the remainder, with the exception of a small portion of woodland and exhausted bog, is in pasture. The soil is fertile, and the lands are in a high state of cultivation; the system of agriculture has, within the last 15 years, been very greatly improved, and the surrounding scenery is pleasingly diversified...The living is a vicarage (otherwise called a perpetual curacy), in the diocese of Dublin, united, in 1833, to the improper curacies of Davidstown, Giltown, and Brannickstown, together forming the improper or perpetual curacy of Kilcullen; the rectory is partly appropriate to the precentorship, but chiefly united to the half rectory of Glasnevin, together constituting the corps of the chancellorship of the cathedral of Christchurch, Dublin, in the patronage of the Crown. The tithes amount to £332. 6. 10., of which £37. 6. 6. is payable to the precentor, £197. 6. 5. to the chancellor, and £97. 13. 11. to the perpetual curate. The church, for the erection of which the late Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £1000, is undergoing an enlargement, which will render it cruciform, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners having granted £238. Divine service is also performed during the summer in a school-house at Calvertstown. The glebe-house is a neat building, and the glebe comprises 20 acres. The R. C. parish is co-extensive with that of the Established Church; there is a chapel at Gormanstown, and also at New Abbey; the latter stands within the cemetery, and is built partly with the materials of the ancient abbey, some of the ornamental sculptures of which are preserved in the present building. About 430 children are taught in five public schools, of which one was built by a bequest of £100 from the Rev. Kildare Burrowes, and is aided by donations from the Rev. J. Burrowes and Mrs. Purcell; and there is also a Sunday school...In the churchyard at Old Kilcullen are the remains of a slender circular tower, and the erect shaft of an ancient cross divided into compartments, each containing an emblematical sculpture".

The Ordnance Survey map of 1837 (Figure 8) indicates the largely rural nature of the area; most residences are dispersed along the road network, with some grouped together to the south of the cemetery; in addition, some houses/properties are named. The existing roads and laneways within the district had been established by them and a 'Fair Green' is indicated on the western side of the road leading north from the triangular junction (The Barrows) to the Athy-Kilcullen road. The present Whitehall Crossroads is named Kilcullen Crossroads

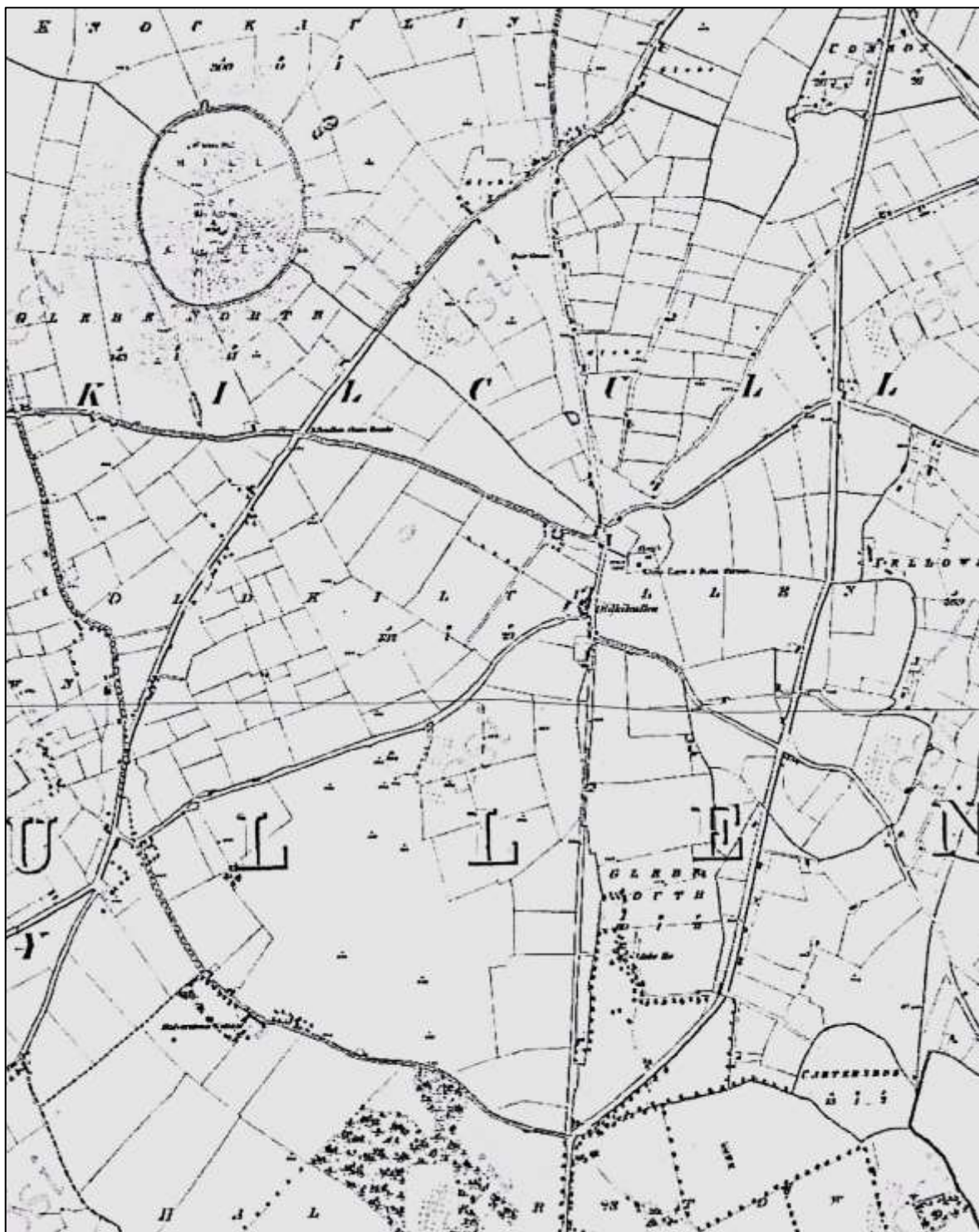


Figure 8 Extract from O.S. 6-inch map - 1837

The Ordnance Survey map of 1939 (Figure 9) indicates a number of topographical changes to the district since the 1837 map; these are largely associated with changes to agricultural field sizes and boundaries. A number of the existing houses are named, as are Halverstown, Hacklow and Whitehall crossroads. The trackway/lane linking Halverstown crossroad to Hacklow crossroad is named as 'Lorg Lane' and a 110kV electricity transmission line is indicated along the western area of the district. More details of the features within Old Kilcullen Cemetery (Round Tower in ruins; Church in ruins; Base of Cross, etc.) are also indicated.



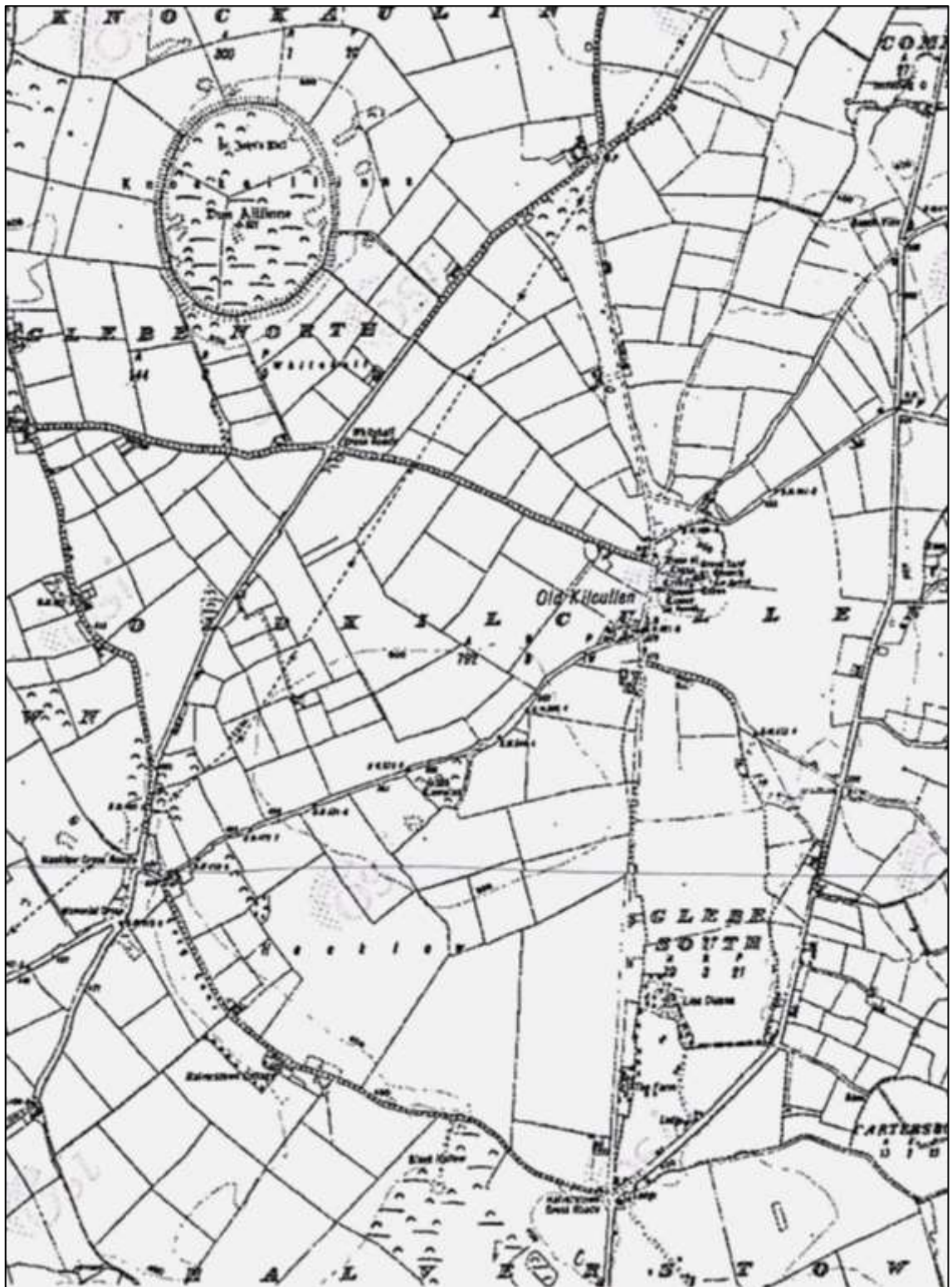


Figure 9 Extract form O.S. 6-inch map - 1939

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

### 5.1 Statutory Protections

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

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

### 5.1.1 National Monuments Acts 1930-2014

Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended) requires that the consent of the Minister is required for archaeological works at or near a national monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or to which a preservation order applies. The Minister is required to consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland in relation to such an application for consent.

In addition the *National Policy on Town Defences* (DoEHLG 2008) declares that “The known and expected circuits of the defences (both upstanding and buried, whether of stone or embankment construction) and associated features of all town defences are to be considered a single national monument and treated as a unit for policy and management purposes. It further states that “The National Monuments Acts afford protection to town defences including where town defences exist at sub-surface level only and have no above-ground expression” and that “...within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts, all town defences are considered national monuments by reason of the historical, architectural, and archaeological interest attaching to them”. It further states that “All works that will impact on the fabric of town or city defences, or any ground disturbance in proximity to the defences in local authority or the Minister’s ownership or guardianship, or that have been the subject of a preservation order, are subject to a requirement for Ministerial Consent from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government”.

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

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

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

### 5.1.2 Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023

This Act (October 2023) repeals the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and replaces those Acts with provisions for the protection of historic heritage, provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, provisions for the regulation of certain activities in the interests of such protection and provisions enabling the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions which relate to such protection or regulation; to give effect to the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive in relation to the carrying out of works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of monuments; to give further effect to the Valletta Convention; to consequentially repeal or amend certain other enactments; and to provide for related matters.

The Act contains a range of provisions that seek to streamline and simplify existing systems and processes, including the automatic legal protection for finds of archaeological sites, a system of civil enforcement to be used as an alternative to, or to supplement criminal proceedings, and an appeal process for license applications.

In terms of monument protections, the key change will be the creation of a single Register of Monuments to replace the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); two levels of protection are provided, Special and General, and automatic protection will be afforded newly discovered monuments.

Although the Act has been signed into law, it will be enabled on a phased basis and the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2014 are still in force.

### 5.1.3 Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029

The following relevant Archaeological Heritage Policies are set out in Chapter 11 of the Plan:

<b>AH P2</b>	Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and where appropriate and following detailed assessment, their setting, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface and underwater archaeological remains.
<b>AH O2</b>	Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage

	of County Kildare, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features, or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, including underwater cultural heritage. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
<b>AH 03</b>	In co-operation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage require archaeological impact assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring and/or underwater archaeological impact assessments for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance and where a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits, based on recommendations of a suitably qualified archaeologist and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>AH 04</b>	Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects and areas of underwater archaeological heritage
<b>AH 05</b>	Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of the setting of archaeological monuments. As a general principle, views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, archaeological visual impact assessments will be required to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context
<b>AH 06</b>	Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994</li> <li>any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, including underwater cultural heritage and protected wrecks</li> <li>any subsurface archaeological features, including those underwater, that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural/development works in the operational area of the Plan. Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings</li> </ul>
<b>AH 07</b>	Contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with rivers and associated features

## 5.2 Archaeological Inventory

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) inventory database is known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR contains details of all monuments and places (sites) where it is believed there is a monument known to the ASI pre-dating AD 1700 and also includes a selection of monuments from the post-AD 1700 period. The RMP (Section 5.1.1 above) is a subset of the SMR; monuments included in the RMP (published 1995) are legally protected and are generally referred to as “Recorded Monuments”. The SMR also includes monuments subject to Preservation Orders, including National Monuments. The addition of a monument to the ASI SMR database does not, of itself, confer legal protection; however, these are protected in the Kildare County Development Plan under Policy AHP2 (Section 5.1.3 above). The reclassification of a monument does not affect its legal status in any way.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) includes a number of Archaeological Monuments and associated RMP Zones within the defined archaeological study area, as illustrated below in Figure 10; in particular, Nos: 48 (SMR No: KD028-048; Tumulus), 49 (SMR No: KD028-049; Shrunken Settlement), 54 (SMR No: KD028-054; Cemetery Site) and 61 (SMR No: KD028-061; Enclosure Site) are of relevance to the subject project.

The SMR Zones of Notification (ZoN) uploaded to the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) of the National Monuments Service ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) are broadly similar to those indicated in the RMP map (Figure 10); the extents of the SMR ZoN are illustrated in Figure 11 which also indicates the centre-points of all previously identified individual monuments, structures and features of archaeological relevance within the ZoN. Two additional archaeological monuments (designated AR-3 and AR-5 in Figure 10) are included, while the ZoN



indicated for AR-4 (SMR No: KD028-049) is much smaller than that indicated in the RMP.

The individual singular- or multi-element monuments are listed below in Table 1 with more detailed mapping of SITES AR-3, AR-4, AR-5 and AR-6 illustrated in Figures 12 – 15.

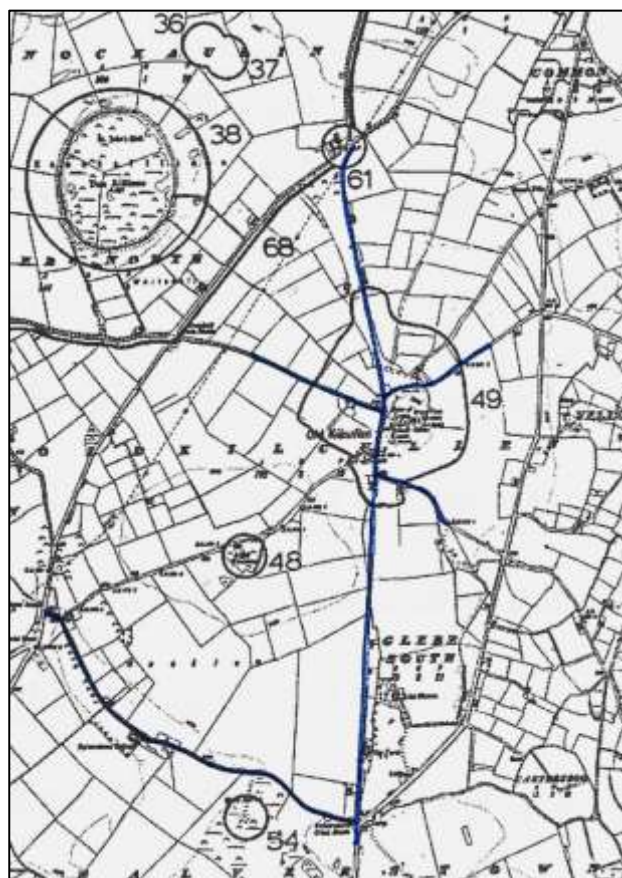


Figure 10 Extract from RMP Map (Kildare Sheet 28)

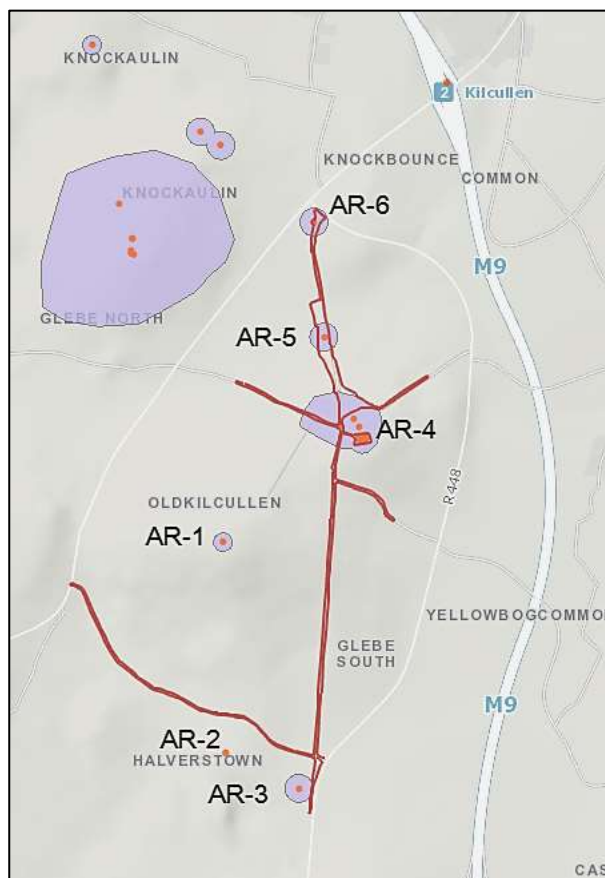


Figure 11 Relevant SMR ZoN (From HEV)

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

**Site No.:** Individual site number assigned to site with respect to the defined study area.

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

**Townland(s):** Location of Townland(s) in which monument is located

**RMP Classification:** Brief nature of archaeological site, as designated in RMP

**SMR Classification:** Brief nature of the archaeological site, as designated in SMR

**RMP:** Listed in the Record of Monuments and Places for County Kildare

**PO:** Subject to a preservation order made under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014

**NM (TD):** Designated a National Monument - *National Policy on Town Defences*

**KCDP:** Protected by Kildare County Development Plan

Site No.	SMR No.	Townland	RMP Classification	SMR Classification	Protection
AR-1	KD0028-048	Oldkilcullen	Tumulus	Barrow – bowl barrow	RMP; KCDP
AR-2	KD028-054	Halverstown	Cemetery Site	Burial	RMP; KCDP
AR-3	KD028-089	Halverstown	N/A	Enclosure	KCDP
AR-4:A	KD028-049	Oldkilcullen Glebe North Glebe South	Shrunken Settlement	Settlement Deserted - medieval	RMP; KCDP
AR-4:B	KD028-049001	Oldkilcullen Glebe North		Ecclesiastical Site	RMP; KCDP
AR-4:C	KD028-049014	Oldkilcullen Glebe North		Ecclesiastical Enclosure	RMP; KCDP
AR-4:D	KD028-049008	Oldkilcullen Glebe North		Town Defences	NM(TD); RMP; KCDP
AR-4:E	KD028-049-015	Oldkilcullen Glebe North		Battlefield	RMP; KCDP

<b>AR-F</b>	KD0028-049005	Oldkilcullen		Church	PO (No. 71); RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-G</b>	KD028-049004	Old Kilcullen		Cross – High Cross	PO (No. 71); RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-H</b>	KD028-049002	Oldkilcullen		Cross – High Cross	PO (No. 71); RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-I</b>	KD028-049003	Oldkilcullen		Cross – High Cross	PO (No. 71); RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-J</b>	KD028-049010 KD028-049011	Oldkilcullen		Architectural Fragment Graveyard	PO (No. 71); RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-K</b>	KD028-049006	Oldkilcullen		Round Tower	RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-L</b>	KD028-049012	Oldkilcullen		Grave Slab (Original Location)	RMP; KCDP
<b>AR-5</b>	KD028-093	Oldkilcullen	N/A	Enclosure	KCDP
<b>AR-6</b>	KD0028-061	Oldkilcullen Knockaulin	Enclosure Site	Enclosure	RMP; KCDP

**Table 1 Archaeological Inventory**

The monuments are described as follows (from SMR HEV ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)):

#### **SITE AR-1**

**SMR No:**

KD028-048

**TOWNLAND:**

Oldkilcullen

**SMR CLASSIFICATION:**

Barrow – bowl barrow

On a hilltop, in pasture, with panoramic views in all directions. A low, sub-circular mound (H. 1m at W-1.5m at N and E; base diams: 10.5m E-W; 9.9m N-S; summit diam. 4.3m E-W; 3.3m N-S) is composed of earth and stone. An iron Trigonometrical Station, revetted by earthfast stones, is embedded on the surface, and the height (OD 594 feet) is recorded on the 1st ed. (1838) of the OS 6-inch map. The monument may have been a pre-existing mound modified for that purpose. Traces of a fosse and possible external bank are visible on Digital Globe aerial photography suggesting that this mound may be the remains of a bowl-barrow. This burial mound or barrow is annotated 'Moat' on Longfield's 1809 map of part of Oldkilcullen (NLI MS. 21 F. 34(28)). On this map it is depicted as a small mound standing immediately south of a road annotated 'Green Road called Drawwell Lane'.

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy; revised by: Caimin O'Brien based on details kindly provided by Edward O'Riordan. Date of revised upload: 18 January 2019

#### **SITE AR-2**

**SMR No:**

KD028-054

**TOWNLAND:**

Halverstown

**SMR CLASSIFICATION:**

Burial

Three crouched inhumation burials were found in a gravel ridge:

1. A pit containing the contracted inhumation of a middle-aged adult female;
2. The crouched inhumation of a young adult male, facing E, accompanied by a bowl food vessel placed upright behind the skull
3. The crouched inhumation of an adult male, facing E, accompanied by an ox femur (Raftery 1940, 57-61). This area has been completely quarried.

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 14 May 2013

#### **SITE AR-3**

**SMR No:**

KD028-089

**TOWNLAND:**

Halverstown

**SMR CLASSIFICATION:**

Enclosure

Cropmark of oval-shaped enclosure (approx. dims. 30m x 40m) visible on Google Earth aerial photograph taken 28/06/2018 (Plate 2 below). Outlined as an oval-shaped earthwork on the revised OS 6-inch map (Figure 9 above).

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien based on details kindly provided by Pat Reid Date of upload: 05 December 2018

The extent of the SMR ZoN incorporates a short narrow section of the red-line boundary for the subject project – Figure 12.



Plate 2 SITE AR-3: Satellite Image  
(Google Earth Pro; 28/06/2018)



Figure 12 SITE AR-3: Extent of SMR ZoN with respect  
to red-line boundary

#### SITE AR-4

##### SMR No:

Multiple – see across

##### TOWNLANDS:

Oldkilcullen

Glebe North

Glebe South

This comprises a complex of individual monuments, the centre-points for which are indicated in Figure 13, together with the extent of the overall SMR ZoN.



Figure 13 SITE AR-4: Extent of SMR ZoN and centre-points of individual  
monuments with respect to red-line boundary

#### SITE AR-4A; SMR No: KD028-049; Deserted Settlement – Medieval

On a moderately steep-sided hilltop (OD c. 150m) upon which several roads converge. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 384-99), Kilcullen is a deserted medieval borough established on the site of an Early Christian monastery (KD028-049001-). The earliest reference to the borough occurs in 1403 when the provost and burgesses received a royal charter for a weekly market - the borough is described in that charter as having been recently burned. In 1456, it was again "burned, laid waste and destroyed" by the native Irish and parliament authorised a levy of £10 on the county of Kildare to enable Roland FitzEustace to build a fortified tower or towerhouse there. In 1478, FitzEustace obtained a murage grant for the town's defences (KD028-049008-). The scarcity of references to Kilcullen in the 16th and 17th-centuries suggests the borough declined at this time. An inquisition in 1581 (ibid 386) refers to the 'old walls and close within the walls called the old manor house of Kilcullen', while in 1588 the manor and town of Kilcullen were leased to Brian FitzWilliams. The Civil Survey of 1654 records 'severall ruined Castles and Stone houses' and the census of Ireland in 1659 recorded a population of 115. No visible surface trace of the borough, town walls, castles or stone



houses survive, but the borough probably occupied the area at the intersection of the several roads, immediately W of the surviving church (KD028-049005-) round tower (KD028-049006-) and graveyard (KD028-049011-).

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4B; SMR No: KD028-049001; Ecclesiastical Site**

According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 384-5, 391-599), the placename Kilcullen derives from Cill Chuilinn, 'church of the steep slope'. This was an Early Christian foundation traditionally associated with Isernius (d. 468) and MacTail (d. 548). The deaths of its abbots are recorded from the later 8th-century, and a number of bishops are noted in the 10th and 11th-centuries. Its plundering by Amhlaibh and the foreigners (Norse) of Dublin is recorded in 937-8 and another raid is recorded in 944. A stone church is mentioned in 1037 and the monastery was burned in 1114. Little physical evidence of the early monastery survives, but some curving field boundaries may reflect the line of an early monastic enclosure (KD028-049014-). The site's importance is reflected in the later, High crosses (KD028-049002-, KD028-049003- and KD028-049004-), round tower (KD028-049006-) and church ruins (KD028-049005-) which do survive. (Gwynn and Hadcock 1979, 42-3)

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4C; SMR No: KD028-049014; Ecclesiastical Enclosure**

According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 389), the possible line of an ecclesiastical enclosure may be preserved in a curving, but now levelled field boundary (visible on aerial photographs), to the E of a church (KD028-049005-) and graveyard (KD028-049011-), and also in the slightly curving line of the laneway to the N of the green. (CUCAP ATA072, BDU030, BDR033)

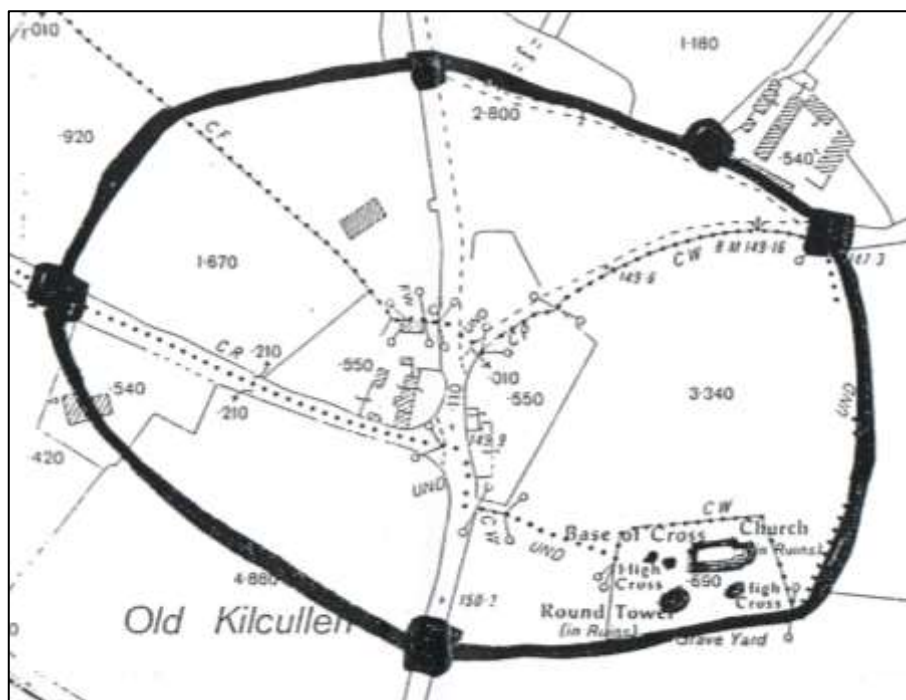
Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4D; SMR No: KD028-048008; Town Defences**

According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 389-90), in 1478, parliament imposed a levy for the walling of Kilcullen, a medieval borough (KD028-049---), and also released the townspeople from all levies in order to enable them to strengthen their town. An inquisition in 1581 refers to the 'old walls and close within the walls called the old manor house of Kilcullen.' Archdall, visiting Kilcullen in 1781, recorded a tradition that it had been 'a large walled town with seven gates', one of which was apparently still standing which he described as 'about 10 feet wide (c. 3m), with a handsome Roman arch, under which the present turnpike road runs', and he added that traces of a second gate were to be seen to the SW. In 1795, Seward noted that Kilcullen was entered by 'an arch at the turnpike'. By 1837, according to the OSL (Herity 2002, 67 (197)), 'This gate does not now remain; it was, tradition says, pulled down when Coaches began to run by that town, as it stood an obstacle ...; it being at where a small slated house is now near the turnpike gate on that road.' No visible surface trace of any of the gates survives, nor is the circuit of the town walls identifiable.

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

It has been suggested (Bradley et al. 1997; Thomas, 1992 Vol. 2, pp. 228-9) that the defences enclosed the summit of the hill. An outline of the line of such possible defences is illustrated in Figure 14 (based on Bradley et al, 1997), and is based on the curving line formed by the churchyard on the south, the townland boundary on the east and the existing trackway to the north. This indicates that the postulated line of defences runs through the subject site. However, Thomas (1992, Vol. 2, 229) argues that the enclosure seen by Archdall may have been the ecclesiastical enclosure, as "his work is sometimes of doubtful veracity – Askeaton and Kells-in-Ossory are cases in point".



**Figure 14 SITE AR-4D: postulated line of town defences (from Bradley et al, 1986)**

The 1798 United Irishmen rebellion broke out in the east midlands of Ireland on the night of 23-24 May. Here the counties of Dublin, Meath and Kildare were to see the most significant military action. Events in Dublin on the night of 23 May were significant for what did not happen, as the rebellion was crushed by Crown forces here almost as soon as it began. Meath and Kildare were to see greater, and longer-lasting, military action, however, as the rebellion took hold much more firmly in those two counties. The battle of Kilcullen, fought on 24 May, has the distinction of being one of the first of the major military clashes in the east midlands. In Kildare, during the night of 23-24 May United Irish insurgents carried out attacks in the towns of Ballymore-Eustace, Naas, and Prosperous, but these all failed. Subsequent to this, that same night, insurgents began to mobilise at the old churchyard in old Kilcullen, which was on the southern outskirts of that town. By daybreak on 24 May (c. 5 am) c. 300 insurgents had gathered there. This seditious congregation was soon brought to the attention of the commander of the local Crown forces, Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Dundas, however. He almost immediately gathered some forces together and set out to defeat the insurgent forces. The scene was thus set for the subsequent battle. After the outbreak of rebellion in Kildare county on the night of 23 May, 300 insurgents gathered at the churchyard at Old Kilcullen on 24 May, where they set up camp. This churchyard was on a hill on the southern outskirts of the town, about 100 feet above the fair green. The local government commander in the area was Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Dundas. His headquarters were at Castlemartin some 2 miles away, and when he learned of the assembly of United Irishmen partisans at Kilcullen, he gathered a force to oppose them. Altogether, this General had 200 soldiers at his disposal. The Crown forces consisted of approximately 120 infantry and approximately 80 Cavalry. The Cavalry was made up of a party of Romney Fencibles and 9th Dragoons. Captain Erskine led the latter, while the Romneys were led by Captain Cooke. The Suffolk Fencibles infantry was under Captain Beale's command. Once gathered, Dundas moved his force to the churchyard, but the Cavalry outran the infantry and arrived there first. Essentially, the battle of Kilcullen took place at two locations; the initial engagement took place at Old Kilcullen churchyard, while the second engagement occurred in the area of Kilcullen/Kilcullen Bridge and Turnpike Hill. Given the similarities between contemporary accounts of these landscapes during the battle and their depiction in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1837-8), it may be concluded that the general environment had not changed much in the intervening forty years; thus the landscape as shown in the first survey map may be taken as being representative of that during the time of the battle. The Old Kilcullen churchyard is a recorded archaeological site (KD028-049---) which is designated as a national monument (Ref. No. 71) and protected structure (Ref. No. B28-01). The site comprises of the ruins of a church, a round tower, a cross and a graveyard and is delineated on all sides by a stone wall, presumably that which was present during the time of the battle. The wall stands to a height of approximately 1.2m. The site is situated in a rural environment and is elevated above the surrounding landscape: the hill fort of Dun Ailinne

is visible to the northeast. As a result of the churchyard's elevation, the insurgents would have been able to clearly observe the advance of Crown forces. It is unclear if the Government forces advanced from Castlemartin demesne or from Kilcullen village to the churchyard, thus two possible routes of advance are possible. However, both of these roadways lead to the fair green which is mentioned in contemporary accounts. Consequently, it can be asserted that the latter section of the route taken by the Crown forces constituted that which ran to the east of the fair green in a north-south orientation. As it is known that the Government forces retreated to Kilcullen, it can be taken that they travelled via the old main road to the village. The fields immediately surrounding the churchyard, as well as those constituting the fair green and its environs, comprise open grassland and the field boundary pattern within the region remains almost identical to that depicted on the first survey map. Consequently, the presence of associated archaeological material within the area is most likely. North of Old Kilcullen is the present-day town of Kilcullen/Kilcullen Bridge (both essentially constitute one settlement area) where the Crown forces reassembled after their defeat at Old Kilcullen. Although a new road has recently been constructed to the town's west, the road network remains almost identical to that as depicted in the first survey and the road that was used to travel between Old Kilcullen and Kilcullen (once regarded as the main road) during the battle, is still in use. Settlement is nucleated along the roadside of Kilcullen/Kilcullen Bridge but is primarily dispersed beyond the extent of the town. Castlemartin House which is located to the west of Kilcullen and was occupied by General Sir Ralph Dundas at the time of the battle, is still present; the boundaries of the estate have since changed however. A substantial portion of Turnpike Hill, located approximately 1km just north of the town, is currently in the private ownership of Castlemartin Stud and principally comprises undeveloped grassland. Commanding views are provided from the summit of the hill, which stands to a height of approximately 150m above sea level, though hedgerows and the presence of structures in the town may have obscured the insurgents' view of Crown manoeuvres here. Clearly the hill's prominent location was also valued in the past as a tumulus (KD028-024-----) is situated at its summit. The roadway east of this hill (i.e. the Dublin road) constitutes the same roadway the insurgents would have been positioned on while waiting to attack Government troops. This road is lined on either side by a large number of industrial and residential sites, though there are undeveloped green areas also. As the region has been developed in modern times, the field boundaries that are still present display a predominantly different layout to those depicted on the first survey; some of the field boundaries depicted on the first survey map, within the battlefield zone as depicted in this report, are still present however.

#### **SITE AR-4F; SMR No: KD028-049005; Church**

To NE of centre in a graveyard (KD028-049011-) on an early monastic site (KD028-049001-). Part of a National Monument (No. 71) in state ownership. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 391-93), the church retained its dedication to St MacTáil throughout the Middle Ages suggesting a direct continuity with the original pre-Norman monastic foundation. It was one of the churches confirmed to Glendalough in 1179 by Pope Alexander III, and was subsequently granted to the Augustinian Holy Trinity in Dublin and remained in their possession throughout the Middle Ages. Evidently a church of some importance, in 1584 it had five annexed chapels. An episcopal visitation of 1615 noted that the chancel was in ruins, although the nave was sound, and in 1630 both were reported to be 'in reasonable reparation'. Grose (1791) shows the building roofed with an additional structure attached at N. The remains comprise portions of the wall footings of the nave (15.5m E-W; 4.5m N-S) and chancel (4.5m E-W; 4m N-S) built of roughly coursed limestone blocks. The N walls of the nave and chancel are levelled, and only portions of the N and S walls of the chancel survive. The E wall of the chancel is a later insertion, the S wall of the nave is buttressed and the W door is represented by two splays. In 2000, O Carragáin (pers. comm.) noted a granite slab (L 1.86m; Wth 0.64m) with a circular notch (diam. 0.14m) at one end and a circular perforation (diam. 0.13m) at the other – a possible threshold stone. In July 2019, Seán Sourke recorded the presence of the base plinth of Romanesque date which is decorated with an angle roll that may have come from the base of the chancel arch. This fragment appears to be the same stone that was uncovered during archaeological excavations carried out on the church in 1939 (Ó h-Iceadha 1941, 150). At this time the excavators uncovered the base of the chancel arch which was the only fragment found in situ. The excavator described the base as being of 'the bulbous type and closely resembles the base of the chancel arch of the Nuns' Church at Clonamnoise. These excavations uncovered several fragments of worked stone in area where the chancel arch stood. Two types of worked stone were uncovered consisting of a friable granite and a calciferous tufa. In 1939 the church remains were described as following; 'Internally the nave measured 50 ft. 3 ins. [15.3m] x 18 ft. 3 ins. [5.5m] with side walls 2 ft. 9 ins. [0.83m] thick. The western or end wall of the nave was 3 ft. [0.9m] in thickness. The chancel, which had been cut off from the nave by a wall with a door opening inserted in the arch - possibly



during the 18th century - measured 13 ft. 4 ins. [4m] in width and had side walls 2 ft. 8 ins. [0.8m] thick. Two buttresses, erected as a support to the south wall of the nave, and portion of a wall which formed part of an extension on the north side are indicated on the plan. The entrance at the western end of the nave was splayed as shown but there was no indication of recessive orders. Traces of a porch, excavated outside the west door, would also appear to have formed part of a restoration' (ibid., 151).

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Revised by: Caimin O'Brien Date of revised upload: 04 September 2019

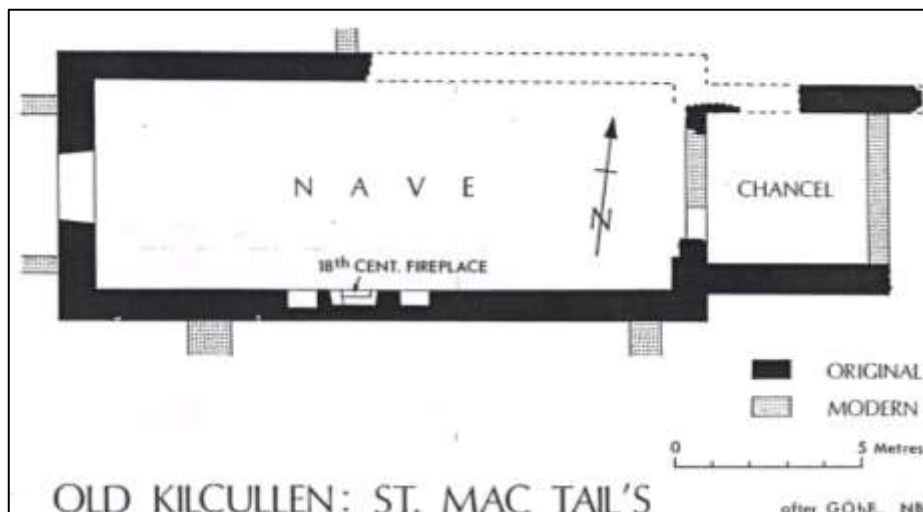


Figure 15 SITE AR-4F: Outline Ground Plan

**SITE AR-4G; SMR No: KD028-049004; Cross – High Cross**

To W of centre in a graveyard (KD028-049011-) on an early monastic site (KD028-049001-). Part of a National Monument (No. 71) in state ownership. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 394-5), the West Cross, of granite, comprises an almost square shaft (H. 0.5m; L 0.4m; Wth 0.35m) and rectangular base (H. 0.4m; L 0.5m; Wth 0.4m). It is undecorated.

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**SITE AR-4H; SMR No: KD028-049002; Cross – High Cross**

In the NW sector of a graveyard (KD028-049011-) on an early monastic site (KD028-049001-). Part of a National Monument (No. 71) in state ownership. According to Bradley et al. 1986 vol. 4, 393-4), the North Cross, of granite, comprises a square shaft (H. 1.6m; L 0.4m; Wth 0.4m) set into an almost square base (H. 0.35m; L 0.9m; Wth 0.8m). The N, E, and W faces of the shaft have decorative panels representing biblical figures, and several panels of interlace, while the S face has heavily eroded interlace. (Harbison 1992, 160-1)

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4I; SMR No: KD028-049003; Cross – High Cross**

To SE of centre in a graveyard (KD028-049011-) on an early monastic site (KD028-049001-). Part of a National Monument (No. 71) in state ownership. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 394), the East Cross, of granite, comprises a tall rectangular shaft (H. 3m; L 0.5m; Wth 0.4m) with undecorated panels outlined by low rounded mouldings, set in a pyramidal base (H. 0.3m; L 1m; Wth 0.9m). (Harbison 1992, 159: Figs. 531)

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4J**

**SMR No: KD028-049010 (Architectural Fragment)**

In a graveyard (KD028-049011-). Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 395) mentions a possible graveslab, described in the Dublin Penny Journal (iv, no. 185, Jan. 1836, 229) as a tapering slab with a hole at either end, and measuring 6' (c. 1.83m) by 2' 2" (c. 0.66m), that was not located. This may, however, be the slab subsequently noted by O'Carragáin in 2000 (pers. comm.) as a possible threshold stone at the medieval church (KD028-049005-).

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**KD028-049011 (Graveyard)**

A subrectangular area (c. 75m E-W; c. 40m N-S) is enclosed by a stone wall and accessed through a gate at the NW corner. Legible grave markers date from the 18th-century to the present. The interior contains a ruined medieval church (KD028-049005),

a round tower (KD028-049006-), and fragments of three High crosses (KD028-049002-, KD028-049003- and KD028-049004-) (Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 391) Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013

**SITE AR-4K; SMR No: KD028-049006; Round Tower**

To SW of centre in a graveyard (KD028-049011-) on an early monastic site (KD028-049001-). Part of a National Monument (No. 71) in state ownership. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 393), this is a circular tower (diam. 4.5m; H. 10m), the upper portion of which is missing, built of roughly coursed limestone blocks. There is a slightly battered, round headed door at the N side (H. above ground 1.8m). There is a rectangular flat-lintelled window facing S at second floor-level, with granite jambs and a limestone sill. (Barrow 1979, 116-7)

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 17 May 2013



Plate 3 SITE AR-4K – from west

**SITE AR-5**

**SMR No:**

KD028-093

**TOWNLAND:**

Oldkilcullen

**SMR CLASSIFICATION:**

Enclosure

The partial curving cropmark of an enclosure is visible on Google earth aerial imagery taken 28/06/2018. - information supplied by Edward O'Riordan

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien based on details kindly provided by Edward O'Riordan

Date of upload: 20 February 2019



Plate 4 SITE AR-5: Satellite Image  
(Google Earth Pro; 02/04/2018)

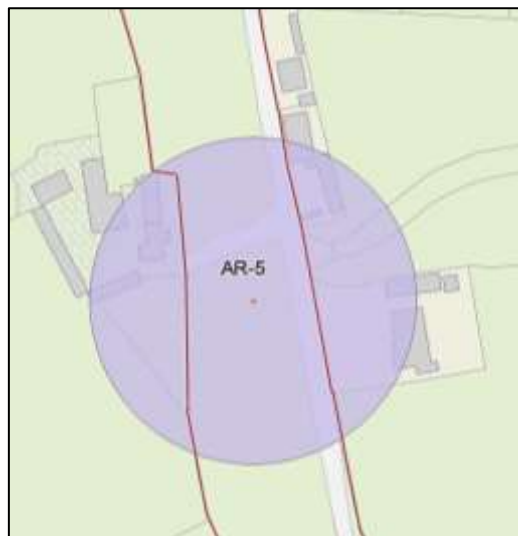


Figure 16 SITE AR-5: Extent of SMR ZoN with  
respect to red-line boundary

#### **SITE AR-6**

##### **SMR No:**

KD028-061

##### **TOWNLAND:**

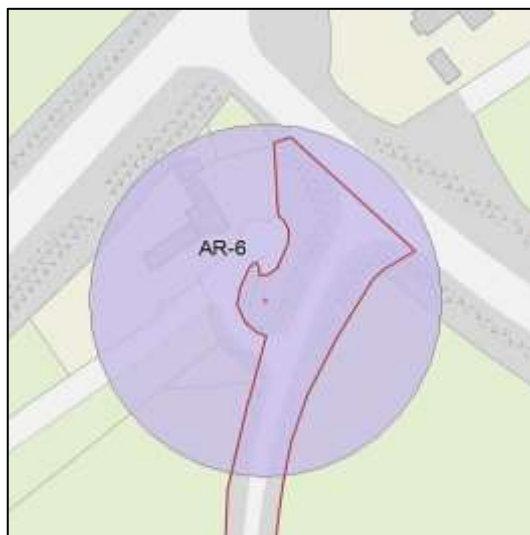
Oldkilcullen

##### **SMR CLASSIFICATION:**

Enclosure

Marked on Longfield's 1815 survey map of the Glebe of Kilcullen (NLI Ms. No. 21 F. 34(29)) as an enclosure and depicted by two concentric circles. Not recorded on any edition of the OS mapping. No visible surface trace survived in 1986 (SMR file).  
Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy Date of upload: 14 May 2013

Part of the project red-line boundary is located within the SMR ZoN (Figure 17), which also included a memorial to the 1798 battle (Plate 5).



**Figure 17 SITE AR-6: Extent of SMR ZoN with respect to red-line boundary**



**Plate 5 1798 Memorial within SMR Zone of SITE AR-6**

### **5.3 Archaeological Artefacts**

Bradley et al (1997, 396) note that a hoard of Hiberno-Norse coins, deposited c. 1103, were found at Kilcullen in 1305.

### **5.4 Results from previous documented relevant archaeological investigations**

A search undertaken of the annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) indicates that a number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the subject district, as follows:

- ❖ A programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Martin Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 1998 (Licence No.: 98E0019; ITM: 682558 706837) with respect to a single residential development in the townland of Old Kilcullen. No subsurface features of archaeological interest/potential were uncovered and a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.
- ❖ A programme of archaeological monitoring associated with the construction of a single residential development at Ballysax Road, Old Kilcullen was undertaken by Clare Mullins, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 1998 (Licence No.: 98E0385; ITM: 683476 708272). Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.
- ❖ A programme of archaeological testing of a single residential development at Glebe North, Old Kilcullen was undertaken by Clare Mullins, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 1998 (Licence No.: 98E0344; ITM: 681714 707545). The western site boundary coincides with the suggested western line of the town defences as defined in the Urban Archaeological Survey, and a low earthen bank, which appears to act as a field boundary, at present defines this western site boundary. Four test-trenches were inserted within the area of greatest impact from the development. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered during the excavation of these trenches. A feature visible on the ground surface as a shallow, linear depression running in a north-east to south-west direction, parallel to the western site boundary, proved to represent a field drain.
- ❖ A programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Clare Mullins, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 2000 (Licence No.: 00E0229; ITM: 682627 707066) with respect to a single residential development in the townland of Old Kilcullen. No subsurface features of archaeological interest/potential were uncovered.
- ❖ A limited programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Martin Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 2004 (Licence No.: 04E0338) within the grounds of Knockaulin House; this is situated within the RMP Zone and SMR ZoN for KD028-061 (Enclosure). Four trenches were machine excavated and nothing of interest was uncovered.
- ❖ A programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Martin Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates in



2006 (Licence No.: 06E0361; ITM: 682617 707224) with respect to a single residential development in the townland of Old Kilcullen. The site is located on the northern extremity of the zone of archaeological potential (ZAP) established for Old Kilcullen. The ecclesiastical elements of the ZAP are situated c. 175m to the south-west of the site. A triangular green, c. 30m to the south of the proposed development area, is believed to be the site of the medieval 'fair green', the northern edge of which is speculated to retain the line of the town wall/defensive bank. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.

- ❖ A site, located in the townland of Old Kilcullen, was excavated by Lydia Cagney, Headland Archaeology Ltd (Licence No: E002887; ITM: 683577 706543) as part of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford scheme, Phase 3: Kilcullen to Carlow. A small spread of burnt-mound material was identified during testing by CRDS Ltd. Resolution of the site was undertaken in October 2007. An area measuring 100m<sup>2</sup> was stripped of topsoil. No additional features were identified.
- ❖ A further site, located in the townland of Old Kilcullen, was excavated by Lydia Cagney, Headland Archaeology Ltd (Licence No: E002889; ITM: 683599 707576) as part of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford scheme, Phase 3: Kilcullen to Carlow. An area measuring 100m<sup>2</sup> was stripped of topsoil prior to the excavation. The pit was fully excavated. Evidence of in situ burning would suggest that it might represent an ephemeral fire-spot. No additional features were identified.
- ❖ Testing was carried out in March 2009 along a section of proposed pipeline that will form part of the Kildare Water Strategy. The work was undertaken by Dave Bayley, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (Licence No: 07E1016). The pipeline route was tested for 140m as it passes through the townland of Old Kilcullen, located within the archaeological constraint for a deserted medieval settlement and ecclesiastical remains. The pipeline runs along the N78 before turning east along a regional road, crossing over to pass through a greenfield area immediately north of a road. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded during the testing programme. The current road surface and foundation layers sealed an older tarmac surface and the foundation layers for this earlier road surface lay directly on natural subsoil.
- ❖ The construction of the reservoir access road, located to the immediate west of the subject development site, was monitored by Faith Bailey (Licence No: 11E0447) and nothing of archaeological interest/potential was uncovered.
- ❖ A programme of archaeological testing of a single residential development at Old Kilcullen was undertaken by Martin Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates in 2017 (Licence No.: 17E0044; ITM: 682829 707065). The subject development lands are located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential established for Old Kilcullen (KD028-049). The landholding includes the postulated location of the former Town Defences (KD028-049008) associated with the medieval settlement of Old Kilcullen, evidence for which is largely based on a tradition recorded by Archdall in 1781 (Bradley et al, 1987, 390). However, Thomas (1992, Vol. 2, 229) argues that the enclosure seen by Archdall may have been the ecclesiastical enclosure, as "his work is sometimes of doubtful veracity – Askeaton and Kells-in-Ossory are cases in point". There is no topographical evidence for this feature. Furthermore, the construction of a reservoir access road, located to the immediate west of the subject development site, was monitored by Faith Bailey (Excavations – 2012:329) and nothing of archaeological interest/potential was uncovered. A total of 9 test trenches were excavated in the area of the proposed development. In general, the trenches had been positioned to gain information with respect to any subsurface features that might be located within, and in the immediate environs of, the subject development area, and in particular to test across the postulated location of any former borough enclosure. All trenches were excavated by machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Width 1.2m) and all resultant spoil was 'raked through', in an effort to increase the chances of artefact recovery. The trenches were excavated in spits of approx. 10cm depth, with the surface of each spit examined before excavation of the next spit. Nothing of archaeological interest/potential was uncovered and it was not considered that the development, as proposed, would cause any visual impact to any extant archaeological monuments and features. Consequently, it was suggested that the development should proceed and that no further archaeological interventions were required.

## 5.5. Review of LiDAR & Geophysical Survey

Between the 11th and 22nd April 2022, a series of geophysical surveys were undertaken by Earthsound Geophysics (Licence No: 22R0070) on land surrounding Old Kilcullen Graveyard. The work was part of the Old Kilcullen Research Project commissioned by Kildare County Council Heritage Officer. Land to the north, east and south of the graveyard was covered by a high resolution magnetometer survey. Areas of interest were further investigated through electromagnetic resistivity surveys. All surveys were undertaken at a sample resolution of 0.5m x 0.25m.

Prior to the geophysical survey a LiDAR survey was commissioned by Kildare County Council. The data collected in this survey was processed and interpreted as part of the Geophysical Report. The survey was conducted upon a bedrock geology consisting of greywacke, siltstone and shale, with rock at or near surface. The majority of the survey area was covered in short grass with piles of wood and rutted areas present.

### 5.5.1 LiDAR

The LiDAR survey of the landscape surrounding Old Kilcullen graveyard revealed a large amount of previously unknown topographical features – Figure 18.

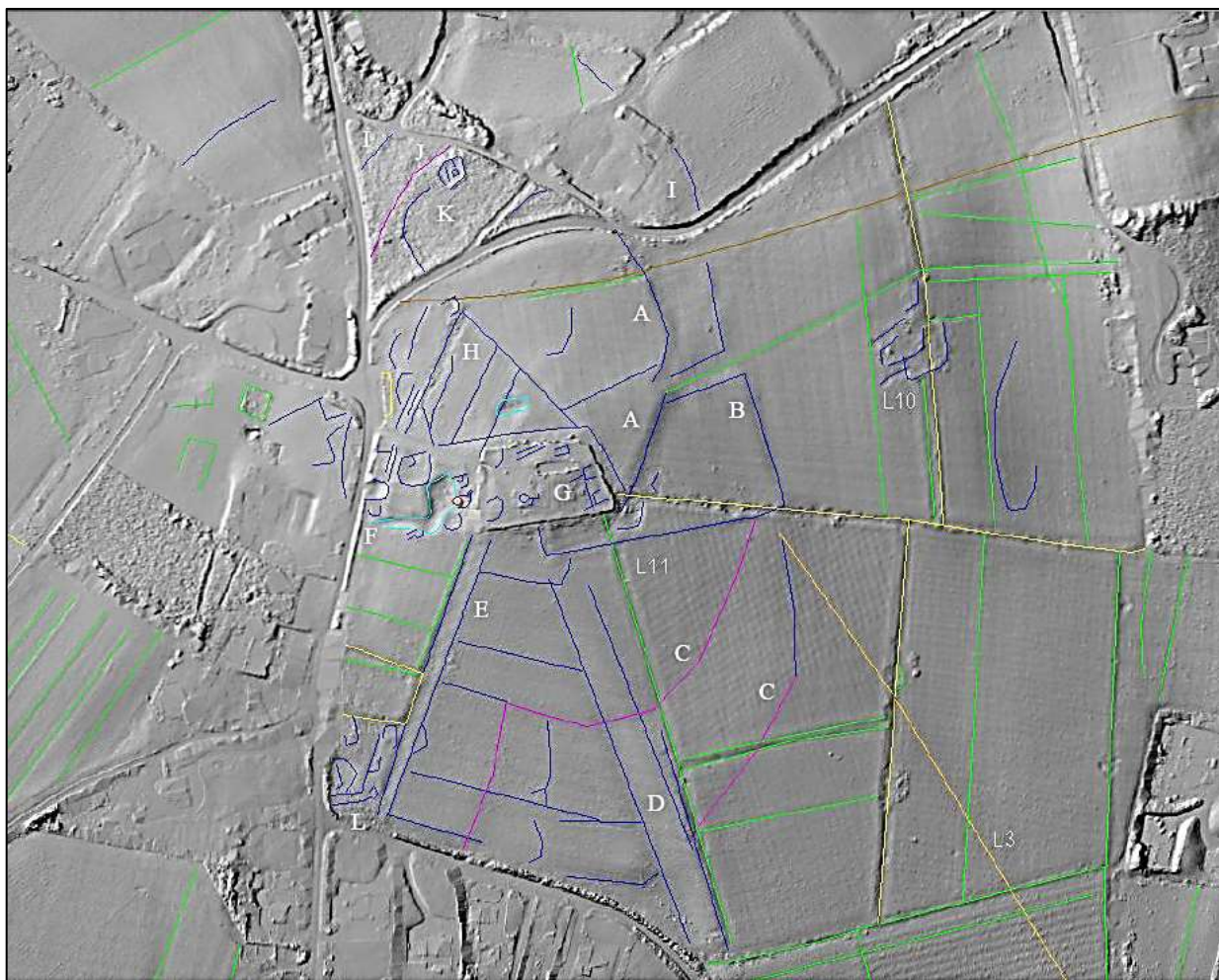


Figure 18 LiDAR Survey centred on Old Kilcullen Graveyard

- A series of relict field boundaries have been identified which divide up the landscape. A number of these are recorded on the historic OS maps but the majority of them appear to be previously unknown.
- To the east of the graveyard a series of interconnecting curving features were identified (**L10**). Covering an area 35m E-W and m N-S these are likely to be archaeological in origin and could be associated with habitation or enclosing elements. It is worth noting that these anomalies appear to be in the same location as possible cattle feeding areas, however the shape and size of the detected LiDAR anomalies do not match that activity and therefore are unrelated. The magnetometer survey also detected archaeological remains within this area. To the east of L10 an arcing shallow topographical expression was detected which may be archaeological, agricultural or geological in origin.
- Within the vicinity of Old Kilcullen graveyard a series of interconnecting linear and arcing expressions were detected (**L11**).
- The most distinctive features within the LiDAR are two areas where the ground has been modified from the natural hillslope (**L11A**). It is unclear if these features have been caused by the scarping of material on the downhill side to form a partial terrace or the building up of material on the uphill side. These features, 67m and 89m in length are visible within the field and on aerial images as well as being recorded as part of the townland boundary on the historic OS mapping. The features appear to form an arcing boundary which surrounds the hillside with a possible central entranceway. It is unclear if these features are archaeological or agricultural in origin.
- A second feature which is clearly seen in both the LiDAR data and the aerial images is **L11B**. This rectangular enclosure abuts the Old Kilcullen graveyard and measures 131m by 71m. It is possible that the enclosure joins the possible entranceway seen in L11A and/or has been cut by a relict field boundary. A further rectangular enclosure can be seen to the north which is likely to have similar origins to L11B.
- Two arcing ditches were detected within the southern fields (**L11C**). These anomalies appear to be archaeological in origin and indeed match anomalies detected within the magnetometer geophysical

survey.

- **L11D** comprises two parallel ditches which run towards the Old Kilcullen graveyard. Measuring c.206m in length these features match anomalies detected within the magnetometer geophysical survey and are partially visible within the aerial images of the site.
- **L11E** consists of two parallel ditches which run from the southwest corner of the Old Kilcullen graveyard. These features are partially visible within the aerial images and appear to form a significant boundary on site which likely predates the field boundary pattern visible on other parts of the site. It should however be noted that the relict boundaries within the area appear to terminate on L11E indicating that it was present in the landscape for many years and is possibly associated with the medieval settlement known to have existed on site.
- **L11F** represents a large number of features detected on the western edge of the graveyard. Two distinctive depressions are visible within the area. The smaller of these, adjacent to the road would appear to be associated with quarrying, the larger, 43m by 21m, has a more curious formation which could indicate an archaeological origin. It is possible that the western extent of this feature represents an archaeological ditch which leads to a depression which may be contemporary or may be associated with quarrying activity. Indeed it is also possible that the larger square depression started off with an archaeological origin and was then modified by later quarrying.
- Surrounding these features is a series of sub-circular ditches which are likely to represent archaeological remains. These features appear to extend west across the road and north suggesting that they are associated with a large archaeological settlement either ecclesiastical or secular. Indeed when the aerial images are examined in detail further evidence of probable settlement activity can be seen within an area which has now been developed and therefore the features were not detected in the LiDAR data.
- Within the graveyard a number of potential archaeological features were also detected in the LiDAR results (**L11G**) which are similar in origin to L11F. While the area has been heavily impacted by burials, these features do not appear to follow the alignment of these burials or the surrounding paths and therefore could be archaeological in origin, probably associated with settlement remains.
- **L11H** consists of a series of interconnecting linear ditches which appear to form a series of divisions on site. These features match anomalies detected within the magnetometer survey and could be associated with L11E. To the north of L11H an arcing ditch was detected, 33m in length which could be archaeological in origin. A sub-rectangular depression was also detected within the area. Measuring 16m by 6.5m this anomaly could be associated with quarrying; however its shape and location indicate that it is more likely to be archaeological in origin.
- **L11I** represents a series of arcing ditches which run in the fields to the north of the geophysical survey area. The geophysical surveys showed that a series of enclosure ditches once surrounded Old Kilcullen and it is possible that LiDAR anomalies L11I may represent the continuation of these outer enclosure ditches.
- **L11J** is an arcing ditch, 74m in length, which runs through the centre of the triangular field to the north of the geophysical surveys area. The alignment and location of this ditch appears to match the projected alignment of one of the enclosure ditches detected in the geophysical surveys and it is likely that L11J represents the northern extent of this enclosure.
- **L11K** consists of an arcing ditch, 54m in length, which matches the alignment of part of L11H and therefore may be archaeological in origin. To the northeast and close to L11J the remains of a possible structure were detected. Measuring 14m E-W by 11m N-S this sub-rectangular structure appears to contain internal divisions and while it could be agricultural or relatively modern in origin (situated next to the road), it does not appear on any of the historic OS maps. Moreover its position within the confines of enclosure ditch L11J indicates that it could be archaeological in origin.

### 5.5.2 Geophysical Survey – Magnetometer

The extent of the magnetometer survey is indicated in Figure 19, which also contains interpretative information.

Within the survey area an extensive selection of anomalies were detected. These features are often overlapping, likely to relate to multiple periods and are very difficult to interpret. Due to the vast amount of anomalies detected it is impossible to describe each feature individually. Instead the interpretation diagram (Figure 18) has divided the features into likely origins and zones of activity or feature types.

- **M1** relates to a highly magnetic double probable ditch which traverses the western edge of the survey area. The highly magnetic responses associated with this feature suggest that it contains burnt or fired remains or has suffered burning. Measuring 151m in length and with a separation of 10m, the presence of negative magnetism in between the anomalies could be an indication of stone or bank material. Running from the southwest corner of the field to the southwest corner of the graveyard, it is likely that the remains continue into the northern field where the return of the double ditch was been detected. It is likely that these remains present the boundary of the medieval settlement known to have existed at Old



Kilcullen. The formation and spacing of the anomalies would match that of town defences.

The gap in the detected remains (on the northern edge of the graveyard) may represent the location of an entranceway and the remains may be less magnetic within this area or the presence of modern magnetic interference and modern agricultural processes may have obliterated any archaeological remains. The presence of possible structural remains (**M2**) close to this gap may also be archaeologically significant. Measuring 20m by 12m this structure may represent habitation or a defensive structure.

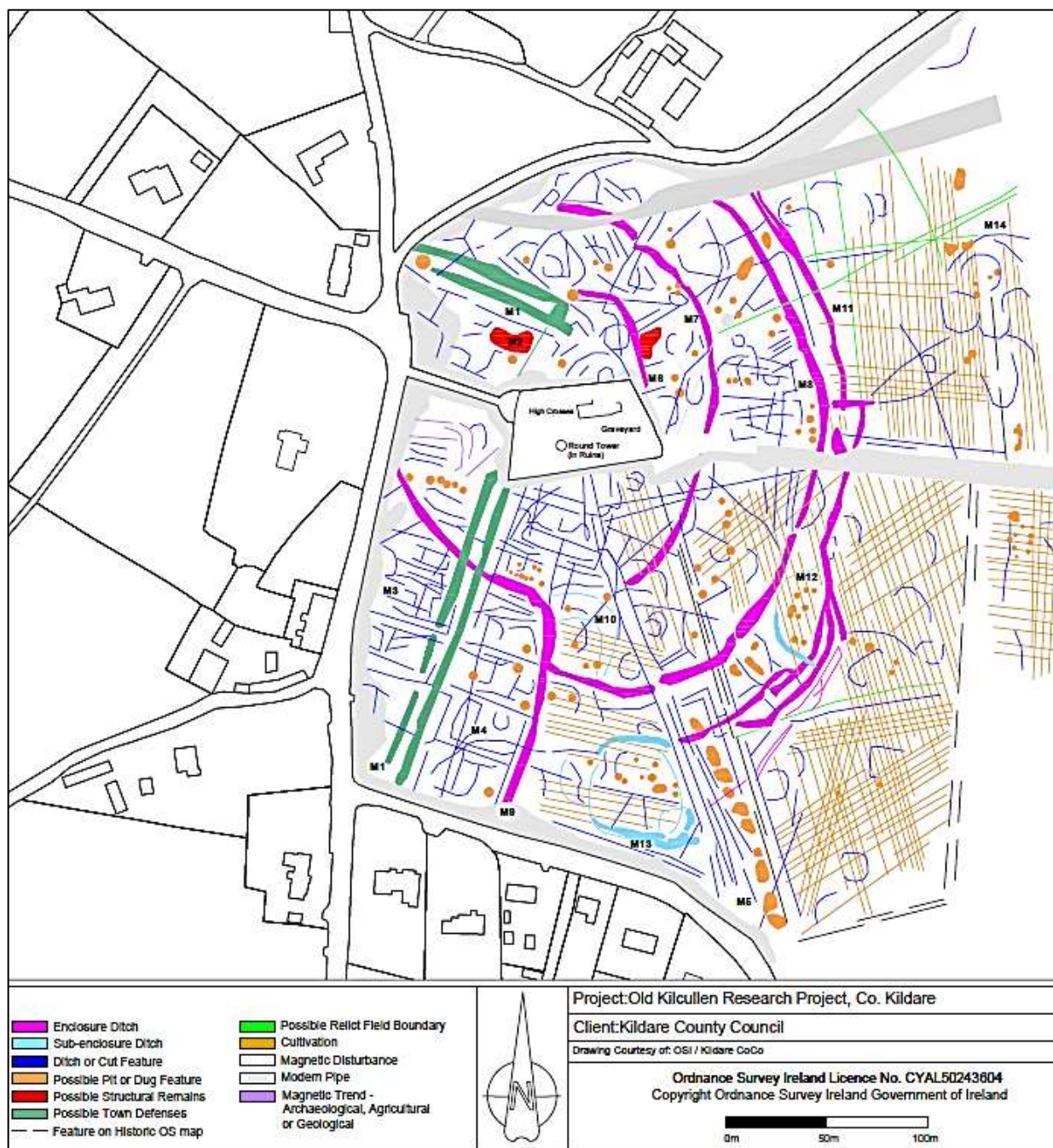


Figure 19 Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation

- On the western edge of M1 a series of linear and interconnecting divisions were identified (**M3**). These are likely to be associated with the medieval town and may represent land divisions. A linear collection of pits or dug features were also detected which follow this alignment. To the north of this only limited evidence for settlement activity remains as later quarrying activity is likely to have impacted the land.
- On the western edge of the field a number of rectangular and curving features (**M4**) were detected which could indicate the presence of settlement remains, while external to the defenses (on the eastern side) a number of narrow land divisions were detected which could be associated with medieval burgage plots.
- **M5** comprises a series of linear ditches which run from the southern edge of the survey area towards the round tower and church building present in the extant graveyard. These features partially correspond to

topographical features detected in the LiDAR data indicating that they must be one of the later features on site. Covering an area 33m in width and 238m in length these anomalies appear to consist of a series of roughly parallel ditches which would appear to lead people towards to round tower and relict church building present in the extant graveyard. It is unclear the exact purpose of this feature, however it would have been a significant feature within the landscape and possibly contained a series of large pits or a large ditch containing isolated deposits which ran up its centre.

A series of large arcing enclosure ditches were detected which appear to surround the hill at Old Kilcullen. The majority of these ditches do not match the any topographical expressions visible within the LiDAR data indicating that they are early features within the landscape. Four distinct enclosure ditches have been identified. All the ditches are highly magnetic indicating that they contain brunt or fired remains.

- The internal enclosure **M6** probably runs under the modern graveyard and under the town defences. Only a small section of the ditch was detected, 66m in length making the diameter of the enclosure impossible to ascertain. The presence of numerous arcing and curvilinear ditches within this enclosure suggests the likelihood of settlement remains.
- The second enclosure **M7** measures 180m in diameter and 35m outside M6. The enclosure is likely to have once run under the adjacent road and its alignment is probably reflected in the curve of this road. A small section of this enclosure ditch was not detected in the magnetometer survey. It is likely that the remains have been impacted by later agricultural activity and this activity may be masking the underlying enclosure ditch.
- The enclosure does not take advantage of the topographical feature L11A detected in the LiDAR data and indeed follows a different alignment indicating that the features are not contemporary. Contained within enclosure M7 is a number of arcing ditches which are likely to be associated with habitation as well as possible pits and an area of possible structural remains.
- **M8** represents the third enclosure ditch on site. It is located 54m outside M7 and measures c.250m in diameter and contains a number of possible breaks or entranceways. The alignment of this enclosure matches that of M7 and it is likely to continue into the triangular field to the north of the survey area where it was probably detected in L11J. The enclosure contains further habitation and settlement evidence with a wide array of geophysical anomalies being detected. The western portion of this enclosure has been masked by the later town defences and probable burgrave plots, alternatively it always terminated at **M9** an apparent enclosure ditch which heads from M7 in a southerly direction and is of unknown function and origin. One probable sub enclosure **M10** was detected within M8. This double ditched feature measures 42m in diameter and is situated near the intersection of M8 and M9.
- **M11** is the outer enclosure detected on site. Measuring at least 285m in diameter this enclosure extends beyond the survey area to the north and was possibly detected within the LiDAR data L11I, giving it a possible diameter of 362m. Evidence for reworking or possible extensions to the enclosure were detected on the eastern and south-eastern portion of the enclosure, while the southern extent of the enclosure ditch has been masked by other archaeological and agricultural signatures. The separation between M8 and M11 is between 17m and 32m and limited evidence for settlement activity was detected between these two enclosures.
- A possible sub-enclosure **M12** has been detected within the southeast section of M11. Measuring 42m in diameter this feature appears to meet the enclosure ditch and contains a series of possible pits which could be suggestive of habitation or internal divisions.
- **M13** is an oval enclosure which was detected on the southern edge of the survey area. Measuring 48m N-S and c. 43m E-W this sub-enclosure appears to abut or be cut by M5 and contains a small circular sub-enclosure, 15m in diameter at its southeast corner. Contained within M13 are a series of arcing ditches and possible pits which are likely to be associated with habitation remains. A possible arcing addition to the enclosure was also detected on the western edge measuring 15m E-W and c.21m N-S.
- **M14** represents a series of arcing ditches and possible pits which were detected close to the northeast corner of the survey area. The arcing ditches range in size from 13m to 19m in diameter and may be surrounded by an arcing ditch to the north. These features are likely to be archaeological in origin, possibly associated with habitation and roughly correspond to anomaly L10 within the LiDAR data. Their presence outside the enclosure system (M6 –M8 and M11) could indicate that the archaeological activity associated with M14 is not contemporary and may predate the enclosures.

Further arcing ditches and possible pits were detected throughout the land external to M11. These features could represent habitation remains which are contemporary but outside the enclosure system or predate the enclosures. Alternatively the landscape has been heavily impacted by agricultural processes and therefore some of these remains could be associated with cultivation.

### 5.5.3 Geophysical Survey - Resistivity

Two distinct areas were subjected to resistivity geophysical survey, the locations of which are illustrated in

Figure 20; the figure also contains interpretation data.



Figure 20 Resistivity Survey - Interpretation

A significant amount of archaeological remains were detected within the resistivity survey. A number of linear parallel ditches were detected which represent relict field divisions. Spaced between 11m and 16m these boundaries appear to represent possible strip lynchets which cover the northern portion of the survey area and appear to run up the natural hillside. The presence of these boundaries indicates that the landscape has been heavily impacted by agricultural processes.

- To the north of these possible strip lynchets, two parallel stone or compact earth features were detected **R1**. Running on the same orientation as the lynchets these walls or banks appear to mark the northern extent of the agricultural area and may once have been a boundary feature associated with the Northeast to southwest large field boundary detected within the dataset. The remains of a relict field boundary have also been identified which match a boundary shown on the historic OS maps.
- **R2** comprises two compact earth or stone features which match L11A within the LiDAR data and appear to represent a modification to the natural hill slope. The high resistance nature of the anomalies suggests that stony material has been built into the natural hillslope or soil has been removed to create an arcing feature which possibly has boundary or defensive purposes and contains a central break or entranceway.
- Anomalies **R3**, **R4**, **R5** and **R6** represent arcing enclosure ditches which were previously identified in the magnetometer data (M6, M7, M8 & M11). It is interesting to note that the second enclosure ditch R4 appears to have been impacted by R2 within the resistivity data. This could indicate that while the ditch exists at depth as shown in the magnetometer data, the upper layers have been impacted or modified by R2 which appears to be a later feature. Surrounding R3, R4, R5 and R6 a large number of arcing and circular ditches were detected. These are likely to be associated with settlement activity. The majority of



these features appear

- to be contained within or respect the alignments of the enclosure ditches, indicating that they are likely to be contemporary. However a few of these arcing and circular ditches appear to cross enclosure ditches R3, R4, R5 and R6 indicating that they are not contemporary. These features may be associated with R2 or a later period of occupation. Areas of disturbed earth or pits have been detected within or in close proximity to a number of these probable settlement remains. It is likely that further subtle features exist within the vicinity but the later agricultural activity will have obscured many of them.
- **R7** consists of two parallel ditches which cross an extant boundary, hence the break in the anomalies. R7 matches the location of M1 within the magnetometer data and appears to represent town defences. The resistivity data indicates that the ditches join at their eastern end and may overcut enclosure ditch R3.
- Anomaly **R8** represents a roughly 'L-shaped' area of disturbed ground, measuring 31m in length this anomaly partially matches M2 within the magnetometer data and indicates that archaeological remains are present possibly associated with a structure or robber trench. On the southern edge of R8 a sub-oval ditch was detected, 26m by 16m which could also be associated with habitation. To the east of R8 a series of compact earth or stone features have been identified. Measuring between 11m and 8m in length these may be associated with archaeological remains; however their position on the top of a hillside means that a geological explanation such as near surface rock cannot be ruled out.
- **R9** consists of an oval ditch, 30m in diameter which has a strong geophysical signature and appears to overcut enclosure ditches R5 and R6. The strength of the geophysical signature indicates that R9 is likely to be the later feature on site and while it could represent geological remains it is likely to be archaeological in origin, possibly representing an enclosure. A break or entranceway in the northeast portion of the feature can be seen.
- Anomaly **R10** represents a possible enclosure located near to eastern edge of the survey area. Measuring 35m in diameter this enclosure may be double ditched and contains a number of internal probable pits and a larger area of disturbed ground on its southern edge.
- Surrounding R10 a number of arcing and oval ditches **R11**, between 11m and 24m in diameter, were detected as well as possible pits and areas of disturbed ground. These features are likely to be archaeological in origin, probably associated with settlement remains although a geological explanation cannot be totally ruled out for some of the anomalies. A number of these features (R11) are located in the same area as M14 within the magnetometer data. Measuring between 13m and 21m in diameter these features are likely to be archaeological. The presence of possible pits and zones of disturbed earth within the same area is also likely to be associated with archaeological activity.
- Anomaly **R12** consists of a linear zone of disturbed ground, 21m by 9m. This anomaly is located close to a relict field boundary shown on the historic OS maps and other parallel boundaries which appear to not be contemporary. Anomaly R12 and the possible pits surrounding it could be archaeological in origin or associate with agricultural processes.
- **R13** comprises a series of parallel ditches which cross the eastern portion of the southern survey area. These ditches match feature M5 detected in the magnetometer data and are bounded on the eastern edge by a relict field boundary shown in the historic OS maps. The presence of R13 within the resistivity and magnetometer data indicates that it was a significant feature within the landscape which appears to comprise of multiple parallel ditches and central possible pits. The presence of a large area of disturbed ground which undercuts R13 ditches could represent non contemporary archaeological remains.
- Anomaly **R14** represents an oval enclosure ditch, 45m in diameter which matches M13 in the magnetometer data. This enclosure contains a number of internal divisions within it as well as a series of boundary features which overcut it. The presence of a western extension to the enclosure also matches what was detected in the magnetometer data, while the presence of an arcing ditch to the southeast may also be associated with anomalies detected in the magnetometer data.
- **R15** consists of two linear ditches which intersect each other and run parallel to R13. It is likely that these ditches are agricultural in origin and may be part of the extensive agricultural landscape which was shown in the magnetometer data. To the north of R15 an arcing ditch was detected, 37m in length which could be archaeological, agricultural or geological in origin. To the south a curvilinear compact earth or stone feature was detected which cuts R14. This anomaly, 80m in length could be associated with archaeological, agricultural or geological processes.

## 6. SUMMARY OUTLINE OF PROJECT

The central theme of the project is the use of the natural resources that already exist to allow the community, particularly children, to find out about the area whilst exercising. The aim is to create a safe social space that has good natural passive surveillance which will help make people feel safe in their community when out walking or jogging in the knowledge that there are plenty of others in the community watching out for each other's safety. This is important as the community is so close to the motorway network and vulnerable to

criminal disruption from a good distance outside the community.

Phase 1 of the project comprises an examination of the feasibility of developing a walking trail at Old Kilcullen. Having consulted with the community it was decided not to proceed with the Moat Lane element in the first phase which would have given a looped route to the community. Instead, the proposals utilise the existing road surface as a shared surface for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and local equine enthusiasts.

A section of old road (Lorg Lane from Halverstown Cross towards Hacklow) which is in a state of disrepair is to be resurfaced and opened only to pedestrians, cyclists and equines. Staggered gates and collapsible bollards will ensure there will be no vehicular access other than for emergency vehicles.

The Quiet roads concept is to be used on the shared surface from the 1798 monument to Halverstown Cross. This community involved initiative will allow for pedestrians and vulnerable road users to enjoy recreation with a voluntarily reduced speed in the community. Managed margins along the road will allow for pedestrians to have space to step in and allow traffic to pass. Signage and false cattle grids will remind motorists that the surface is shared by pedestrians and cyclists and vulnerable road users.

Measures to increase biodiversity and hedgerow protection will align with highlighting the radial nature of the field pattern and its relationship to the wider landscape. This will involve voluntary community input.

Some wall segments to be restored balanced with the biodiversity of the walls. This will include a section of the graveyard walls to Old Kilcullen graveyard, where some disrepair is evident (subject to professional appraisal and notification).

The radial pattern and the location of interesting archaeological and historical landscape elements will be utilised to guide the positioning of QR codes in the community which will deliver a wealth of information on all the layers of historical archaeological natural landscape and views that pertain at each node.

## 7. DISCUSSION

The subject project is located in an area of significant archaeological and archaeological interest, as outlined above in Sections 4 and 5. Human activity in the area dates back to prehistoric times, with continuity of activity though the Early Historic/Christian represented by an ecclesiastical settlement, the medieval period represented by a urban settlement and modern times represented by domestic, agricultural and commercial holdings in the area.

In terms of the subject project, as outlined above in Section 6, a number of archaeological features and areas of archaeological interest have been identified by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland/National Monuments Service (Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)); the statutory protections afforded such sites, features and areas are introduced above in Section 5.1.

Further subsurface evidence of past human activities was detected by a limited geophysical survey project undertaken in 2022, which also included an interpretative review of specially commissioned LiDAR data. This indicates substantial evidence for both the extent of the former ecclesiastical and urban settlements, together with associated activities within existing agricultural lands.

A review of the outline proposals indicate that very little intrusive/ground disturbance works are required of the project; any such works are largely associated with the management of pedestrian margins, installation of bollards and geosynthetic reinforcing grass-grids, hedgerow reinstatement/management and biodiversity planting. Although some of these works will be located within defined RMP Zones and SMR Zones of Notification, it is considered that the nature of the works is such that the potential for adverse impacts is minimal with regard to archaeological heritage.

It is noted that it is intended that sections of the boundary wall to Old Kilcullen graveyard which have fallen into disrepair will be subject to conservation works, if allowable.

Based on the above, it is considered that, from the perspective of archaeological heritage, there are no significant impediments to the feasibility of the proposals. However, the following general measures will need to be considered/implements with respect to future phasing of the project:

As noted above in Section 5.2, sections of the project are located within defined RMP Zones and SMR Zones of Notification. Consequently, it is considered that it would be beneficial to undertake consultation with the National Monuments Service with regard to the following aspects of the overall proposals:

- Various physical/structural elements within Old Kilcullen Graveyard (SMR No: KD028-049011) form part of a National Monument (No. 71); likewise, the former medieval town defences (walls/ditch; SMR No: KD028-048008) are also considered to be National Monuments as set out above in the *National Policy on Town Defences* (Section 5.1.2 above). Consequently, it is likely that some or the entire overall project may be subject to a requirement for ministerial consent. This should be discussed with NMS. In addition, the requirement for a detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposals should also be determined.
- It is intended that some limited conservation works to the wall of Old Kilcullen Graveyard (SMR No: KD028-049011) will be undertaken. The works will need to be assessed and scoped by a suitably qualified and experienced Conservation Architect/Engineer, in conjunction with an archaeologist. Such works will require Ministerial Consent.
- The installation of bollards in the area of the triangular green ('The Barrow') should be agreed with NMS in advance of a formal planning application and any archaeological recommendations relating to such should form part of an archaeological mitigation strategy; likewise, the methodologies to be implemented with respect to the creation/establishment of pedestrian margins, drainage and installation of geosynthetic reinforcing grass-grids should also form part of the consultative discussions.
- General hedgerow and wall reinstatement/management issues should also form part of the discussions.

#### QR Signage:

Consideration should be given to the commissioning of specialist 3-D imaging of the various high-cross panels located within Old Kilcullen Graveyard. Such images should be accompanied by detailed descriptions/interpretations of the panels.



## APPENDIX 1

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