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**Archaeological Impact Assessment  
of the proposed site at Leixlip, Co. Kildare.**

**Client:**

Plus Architecture.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES UNIT

ITM: 700759, 736038

RMP/SMR Nos: N/a-

Donald Murphy & Jeanne Rochford.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

ACSU Ref.: 2354

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## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	Proposed development site at Leixlip, Co. Kildare
<b>Report Type</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<b>Archaeologist</b>	Donald Murphy & Jeanne Rochford
<b>Client</b>	Plus Architecture
<b>Site</b>	Clúid Housing, Leixlip, Co. Kildare
<b>Townlands</b>	Leixlip & Newtown
<b>ITM Refs</b>	700759, 736038
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<b>Protected Structure Nos</b>	N/A
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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment prepared for a site at Leixlip, Co. Kildare (ITM 700759, 736038). The site is located north of the junction of Main Street and Mill Street within the town of Leixlip, and between Captain's Hill to the west and Cypress Springs to the east. The project known as The North Main Street Backlands Regeneration objective is located behind street-facing buildings on Main Street and will be accessed via Mill Street once developed. This assessment was carried out at the request of the client and is based on the findings of a study of available historical, cartographic and photographic sources. It aims to identify and describe the known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs and, where present, offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts.

The site does not contain any Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Two monuments are in the immediate environs of the site. The closest monument to the site is a House, of 17th century date (KD011-004015----) and the site is also partially located within the historic town of Leixlip which is itself a Recorded Monument (KD011-004001-). The nearest such structure to the site is Ivy House, located on Main Street (RPS No. B11-51), which is also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Kildare (NIAH Reg. No. 11804023) and is located southwest and adjacent to the site.

A cartographical and aerial review of the site was also carried out. The site was visible as an open greenfield site on the Down Survey Map of Kildare (1656). The majority of the site was depicted as an open greenfield site on the survey of Dublin by John Rocque (1790). Buildings were depicted fronting on to the street in the southwest corner of the site and shrubbery was visible in the northwest corner. The site was still depicted as an open greenfield site on the 1st edition OS Map (1839) and buildings were also still visible along the southwest corner fronting on to the street. It was still depicted as an open greenfield site by the time the 3rd edition OS Map was compiled. Additional buildings were however added in the southwest corner. Aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating between 1995 and 2013 and google aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2022 and google street view were consulted. The site remains largely unchanged since the 2009 aerial photograph. There is along rectangular building fronting onto Mill Street. An entrance to the site is visible to the east of this building and a laneway extends up to the back of the site which is a large greenfield area, overgrown in places.

This assessment concludes that while the site contains no Recorded Monuments, it is located within the Historic town of Leixlip which includes the townlands of Leixlip, Leixlip Demesne, Newtown (Leixlip ED) and St Catherines Park. The site is also in proximity to the shores of the River Liffey. Furthermore, the site has not been developed previously and consists of a green space, suggesting the site has the potential to contain undisturbed, previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature.

In order to fully assess the archaeological potential of the site, a full archaeological assessment, including test trenching, is recommended. A geophysical survey is not recommended for this site as it is unsuitable (overgrown and uneven). Should features of archaeological significance be identified as a result of test trenching, further mitigation might include excavation or preservation in situ (avoidance) if feasible. Such work should be carried out by an experienced, licence-eligible archaeologist in line with method statements submitted to and approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment prepared in relation to the site at Leixlip, Co. Kildare (ITM 700759, 736038; Figures 1-2). It comprises a rectangular shaped site and it is located north of the junction of Main Street and Mill Street within the town of Leixlip, and between Captain's Hill to the west and Cypress Springs to the east. The project known as The North Main Street Backlands Regeneration objective is located behind street-facing buildings on Main Street and will be accessed via Mill Street once developed. The site lies just north of the county boundary between Kildare and Dublin, on the north side of the River Liffey. The site is bounded to the south by commercial units and to the north-west by residential dwellings.

This assessment is based on the findings of a study of available historical, cartographic and photographic sources and aims to identify and describe the known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs and, where present, offer recommendations for the mitigation of any potential impacts.

## **2. THE DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 Proposal**

This assessment has been carried out at the request of the client to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

### **2.2 Archaeological Requirements**

This archaeological impact assessment will inform the client of any possible underlying archaeological issues. It will assess the archaeological potential of the site and determine if any archaeological constraints are apparent in relation to any proposed development works.

### **2.3 Methodology**

This assessment comprised a literature review and consultation of various written, cartographic and photographic sources. This included the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The last published RMP for County Kildare is dated 1996, and as such, many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list, on a townland basis, all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also taken into account in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area. This was primarily achieved by searching the Database of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)), which contains summaries of all investigations carried out under licence from 1970 to the present. Historical maps, including those held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin, aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland, Griffith's Valuation of County and aerial imagery from Google Earth were also consulted. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, crop marks and soil marks, and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance. Griffith's Valuation, which is a property tax survey with accompanying mapping, includes lists and details of every taxable piece of agricultural land or built property in Ireland (published county by county between 1847 and 1864).

The *Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029* was also consulted, as this contains a Record of Protected Structures. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included in the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

In addition, a site visit was also carried out. Its purpose was to assess whether or not the site contained any visible evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The site is located between two townlands, Leixlip (Léim an Bhradáin) in the Barony of Newcastle and Newtown (An Baile Nua) in the Barony of Salt North and both within the Civil Parish of Leixlip. The River Liffey is located slightly further south and forms Leixlip's townlands southern boundary. The Royal Canal is located adjacent to and north of the modern town of Leixlip.

The name Leixlip or Léim an Bhradáin translates to Salmon Leap, in Old Norse lax hlaup. This name is said to have derived from the Vikings who established their settlement at Leixlip in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, utilising the River Liffey and the River Ryewater, a tributary of the Liffey, as transport routes to and from Dublin. The site is also partially located within the townland of Newtown or An Baile Nua. Newtown was first mentioned as 'Neweton' in 1584 in the *Calendar to Fiants of reign of Henry VIII. 1510-1547* which were state papers that were calendared and highlight Irish affairs during the Tudor period. Newtown was frequently mentioned in historical sources thereafter.

There are two tower houses within the town of Leixlip. One, the 'Black Castle', with its earliest evidence in 1562 when it was granted to William Vernon. The castle is located on the eastern end of the town of Leixlip, further along Mill Lane, but it has



been modernised to a degree that none of its original features are recognised. The other castle which is an Anglo-Norman masonry castle, and is known as 'Leixlip Castle' is located south of the River Liffey and its tributary the Rye Water River. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 3, 309-311), Adam de Hereford's grants to St. Thomas' Abbey, which mention his castle of 'Hernie' or 'Ernia', can be dated to before 1212. While the original castle may have been a motte, by the time of the grants the castle had a grange and a chapel attached. The castle currently incorporates building material of many periods from the late twelfth century up to the modern period as the property is now in private ownership as a country house. It underwent substantial renovation in the mid-eighteenth century so the property retains a lot of features from this period.

In the mid-17th century, Leixlip was marked on the Down Survey map of the county as *Lexlip* and is illustrated west of the approximate site location. Directly south and east of the River Liffey is annotated as *Solmonleap*. There are no structures or landmarks illustrated on this south side of the river in *Solmonleap*, however on the west side of the river there are depictions of trees and some buildings alongside the river and bridges portrayed.

## Castles

Castles are the primary reminder of the medieval landscape in the Irish landscape, as pointed out by O'Connor (1998). The term castle covers a number of types of field monuments that can date from the late 12th to the 16th century AD. These include Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle; Castle - hall-house; Castle - motte; Castle - motte and bailey; Castle - ringwork; Castle - ringwork and bailey; Castle - tower house.

Prior to the stone-built castles, the majority of castles in Ireland in the 12th and 13th centuries were made of earth and timber; these are classed as earthwork castles. Two types of these can be distinguished – a motte and ringworks. Mottes consist of a mound of earth with a flat summit where a wooden building and defences were located, sometimes with a bailey, a defended enclosure at the base, with defences of timber or clay and timber. It has been suggested that c. 476 mottes were constructed in Ireland. The nearest monument, Castle – motte and bailey (KD023-012----) to the north of the site, represents such a monument.

The location of mottes was sometimes chosen where ringforts or other defensive structures once stood. Masonry and earthwork castles in Ireland date to the late 12th to early 14th century. These structures represented the first phase of stone castle-building in Ireland (c. 1180 and 1310-20) and were mostly built by Anglo-Norman lords. The monuments consisted of a wide diversity of defensive and domestic accommodation, like keeps, mural towers, fine twin-tower gatehouses, curtain-walls looped for archery etc. Under 100 of these types of structures have been confirmed. However, it is more likely the number is 150, as suggested by Sweetman (1875–1886). This would suggest that c.630 castles and up to 700 castles were built between the 12th and 14th centuries.

Tower houses are another type of Castle; these are tall rectangular or square masonry towers with three to five storeys in height. The early 15th-century date was suggested by McNeill (1997), and these were built as late as c.1650s (Cairns 1987). While earlier examples were built by people of Anglo-Norman descent, the Gaelic-built ones came shortly after. Some had a stone-walled enclosure, called a bawn; references suggest bawns were defended by wooden palisades, sod walls or even

thick hedges and had angle towers, and gun-loops for defence, however most were not seriously defensive in nature. It was suggested by Barry (1996) that up to 7000 tower houses were built in Ireland between the 14th and 17th centuries.

The final type of Castle is called a fortified house; these were built in the late 16th century to c. 1650. These consist of large rectangular blocks with massive square towers at each corner. Domestic accommodation is the primary purpose; however, gun-loops, flanking defence and machicolations suggest that they were also built to repel an attack; often a bawn is attached. It has been suggested that up to 200 examples exist in the Irish countryside.

### 3.2 Recorded Monuments

The site does not contain any Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Two monuments are in the immediate environs of the site. The closest monument to the site is a House, of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (KD011-004015----) and the site is also partially located within the historic town of Leixlip which is itself a Recorded Monument (KD011-004001-).

The following is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the site (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

RMP No./ SR No.	Class/Sit e Type	Description
KD011- 004015-	House - 17 <sup>th</sup> century	<p>Corner building at 32 Main Street and Captain's Hill. Two storey, two bay with return. Ground floor café with accommodation above. Masonry construction with wall thickness (0.8m) and interior downstand beam running from E-W at ground floor indicative of a pre-Georgian building. Window at first floor level has widely splayed embrasures to the interior.</p> <p>Compiled by: Margaret Keane</p> <p>Uploaded on: 4th April 2022</p>
KD011- 004001-	Historic town	<p>Located at the confluence of the E-flowing River Liffey and its tributary, the S-flowing Rye Water. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 3, 304-305), the existence of a Scandinavian placename 'Lex-hlaup' / 'salmon leap', suggests a Viking settlement. In the late-12th/early-13th century, Leixlip was also known by the name 'Ernia' or 'Hernie', possibly derived from An Urnaidhe, meaning oratory, which may also indicate the presence of a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site. The earliest definite evidence for settlement occurs in the late-12th century when Adam De Hereford established a castle and borough and granted the church and burgage to St Thomas' Abbey. Subsequently another burgage was given to St. Mary's Abbey in Dublin. The borough was looted and burnt by Edward Bruce's army in 1317, but otherwise seems to have remained relatively undisturbed. A population of 100 was recorded in the census of 1659. The town was confined to a narrow strip of land between the Liffey on the S, a high ridge on the N, and the Rye Water on the W, with the main street running</p>

RMP No./ SR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
		<p>roughly E-W along the centre of this strip of ground. A burgage plot pattern survives on the N and S of Main Street. The settlement included an early castle (KD011-004002-), a church (KD011-004003-) and graveyard (KD011-004004-), and a tower house (KD011-004005-), while archaeological excavation has uncovered medieval deposits to the N of Main Street (KD011-004007-).</p> <p>Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy</p> <p>Date of upload: 10 June 2011</p>
KD011-004005-	Castle – tower house	<p>Located at the E-end of the town. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 3, 307-8), the earliest evidence for this building is in 1562 when it was granted to William Vernon. In 1570 it was granted to Nicholas White, and in 1654, the Civil Survey notes that 'Black Castle' was on the lands of the earl of Kildare. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was described as, 'a residence so modernised as to be indistinguishable except to one well acquainted with the locality'. The present structure is inhabited. It is a tall, narrow, four-storied, rectangular building (int. dims. L 7.5m E-W; Wth 6.5m N-S; wall T c. 0.65m), with a possible cellar, said by the present owner to be closed-up. There is a modern, single-storied extension to the S.</p> <p>Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy</p> <p>Date of upload: 10 June 2011</p>
KD011-004003-	Church	<p>In a graveyard (KD011-004006-) just N of the confluence of the Rye Water with the River Liffey. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 3, 312-18), the church of St. Mary of Hernie was granted by Adam de Hereford to the Abbey of St. Thomas in Dublin before 1212. In the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302-6, a moiety of the church of Leixlip was valued at 100s. The church was looted by Bruce's army in 1317. In 1463, the full tithes of the church of Blessed Mary of Leixlip were restored to St Thomas' Abbey, and remained in its possession until the Dissolution, after which the tithes were held by Nicholas Stanynghurst. The rectory was leased to Richard Manwaringe in 1567, surrendered by his widow in 1584, and subsequently leased to James Ryan. The visitation of Archbishop Buckley in 1630 noted that the church and chancel at Leixlip were ruinous. According to parish records, a major restoration commenced in 1675. A 13th century, rectangular, nave (int. dims. L 16.65m; Wth 7.95m; wall T 1.13m) and chancel (int. dims. L 9m; Wth 6.18m; wall T 0.83m) structure with a plain chancel arch (Wth 6.17m) is built of roughly coursed limestone blocks, and has a 15th century, four-storied, rectangular tower (int dims. L 3.5m; Wth 3m; wall T 1.25m), built of regularly coursed undressed limestone blocks, attached at W. A modern porch has been added at N. The remains have been substantially rebuilt; walls raised in height and fragments of earlier windows and doors incorporated in the walls. The steep pitch of an earlier roof line is visible in the E wall of the tower and in the E gable of the nave. The nave is entered through a modern doorway (Wth 0.93m) at the E end of the N wall, and an earlier, blocked, pointed doorway, with chamfered sandstone jambs, is visible mid-way along the wall. A splayed, flat-arched doorway (ext. Wth 1.57m; int Wth 1.71m) in the W gable gives access through the tower, and a blocked, splayed slit above opened into the tower. The nave is lit by two modern, pointed windows in the N wall, which also contains a blocked rectangular window, and by three round-arched and one pointed-arched window in the S wall, which also contains the jambs of a large, blocked window near the W end, and a blocked slit window near the E end. The chancel is lit by a modern, round, twin-light window in the E gable wall and by a modern, round-arched window in the S wall, which also contains a blocked, single-light, ogee-headed window, a carved head (KD011-004012-) and a 17th century graveslab (KD01-004010-). There is a blocked, modern, round-arched window in the N wall, which also contains a small, blocked, pointed-arched window. There is a 17th century graveslab (KD011-004009-) in the chancel floor, and the N wall of the chancel arch contains a 17th century armorial plaque</p>

RMP No./ SR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
		<p>(KD011-004008-). The later tower is built against the W gable of the nave and has a projecting stair turret at the NW angle which is lit at each level by rectangular, double-splayed loops. There is a round-arched doorway (Wth 1.4m) in the W wall, with a doorway opposite into the nave. The ground and first floors are both barrel-vaulted and the ground floor has blocked double-splayed slits in the N and S walls. First-floor level (dims. L 3.34m N-S; Wth 3.2m) is accessed through a doorway with a re-used medieval graveslab (KD011-004006-) as a lintel, and is lit by a single-light, cusped ogee-headed window in the S wall and by a similar window in the W wall. The E wall contains a blocked slit which looked into the church, and there is a double-splayed slit in the S wall. There is a blocked-up fireplace with an overhanging chimney supported on a corbel in the N wall. Second-floor level (dims. L 3.46m N-S; Wth 3.09m; wall T 1.06m) is lit by single-light, ogee-headed windows in the S and W walls, and there is a partially blocked, pointed-arched opening in the E wall which looked into the roof-space of the nave. There is a fireplace canopy in the NE corner. A modern ceiling is supported on original corbel stones. Third-floor level (dims. L 3.6m N-S; Wth 3.08m) has a blocked rectangular window in the S and W walls, and a round-arched window has been inserted into the E wall. The modern roof is supported on brickwork and the wall-walk outside has a drainage course below the parapet (wall T 0.4m). The tower contains a font (KD011-004011-) on the ground floor, and there is a second carved head (KD011-004013-) at the W end of the stair-turret's N wall, and a third carved head (KD011-004014-) at the E end of the tower's N wall.</p> <p>Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy</p> <p>Date of upload: 10 June 2011</p>

### 3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

No archaeological investigations are listed within the site.

Listed below (Figure 2, Table 2) are the investigations located within the environs of the site. The details below are derived from the *Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

Table 2: Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the study area

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
1997:276 – Leixlip: 67 Main Street, Kildare	97E0010	Fragmentary remains of a stone-footed building were uncovered during monitoring works at 67 Main Street. The building had partial remains of an internal clay floor and external cobbling. The associated pottery was types datable from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> centuries.	Monitoring
2011: 368 – 3 Dublin Road, Leixlip, Kildare	11E0416	A box trial pit within a small yard was excavated ahead of a proposed development and a deposit of garden soils and modern demolition rubble were uncovered. Nothing of	Archaeological Test Trenching

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
		archaeological significance was noted.	
2005:764 – 19 Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	05E1250	Three test-trenches were excavated along the lines of the foundations of the proposed development at the rear of 19 Main Street, Leixlip. No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded.	Archaeological Test Trenching
2001:659 – 7 The Mall, Leixlip, Kildare	01E0206	Two test trenches were excavated ahead of a proposed development. Trench one was excavated to a natural subsoil at 1.3m with no archaeological features recorded. Trench two was excavated down to approximately 1m when a layer of soil was detected which had seven sherds of local/Dublin-type medieval pottery and Leinster cooking ware within. This deposit was sealed by a cobbled surface.	Archaeological Test Trenching

### 3.4 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

There are no protected structures listed within the *Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029* located within the site. The nearest such structure to the site is Ivy House, located on Main Street (RPS No. B11-51), which is also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Kildare (NIAH Reg. No. 11804023) and is located southwest of and adjacent to the site (Figure 2).

Table 3: Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Kildare

NIAH Reg No./ RPS No.	Name	Description
RPS ID: B11-51 NIAH Reg No: 11804023	Ivy House, Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	Attached three-bay two-storey house, c.1780, originally detached on a symmetrical plan retaining early fenestration. Extended, c.1820, comprising single-bay two-storey projecting end bay to right (east) having tripartite window openings, two-bay two-storey side elevation to east and two-bay two-storey lean-to lower return to rear to north. Extended, c.1920, comprising three-bay two-storey return to rear to north with two-bay two-storey lower projecting bay at right angles to east. Renovated, c.1990, with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting porch added to centre of original block. Gable-ended roofs behind parapet walls with slate (lean-to to earlier return). Clay ridge tiles. Red brick and rendered chimney stacks. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Gable-ended roofs to additional return with slate. Red clay ridge tiles. Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Flat-roofed to porch. Materials not visible. Replacement cement render, c.1990, to walls. Unpainted. Cut-stone coping to parapet walls. Roughcast walls to additional return to rear (north). Painted. Rendered walls to porch. Pre-cast concrete columns to corners with frieze and moulded cornice over having blocking course to parapet wall. Square-headed window openings (in tripartite arrangement to projecting end bay). Stone sills. Early 6/6 timber sash windows (with 2/2 sidelights to tripartite openings). Square-headed window openings to additional return. Rendered sills. Replacement casement windows, c.1990. Fixed-pane timber window to

NIAH Reg No./ RPS No.	Name	Description
		porch. Square-headed door opening to porch. Glazed timber double doors with overlight. Set back from line of road (projecting end bay to right (east) fronting on to road. Hedge boundary to front. Laneway alongside elevation to east.
RPS ID: B11-80 NIAH Reg No: 11804024	8 Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	Terraced three-bay two-storey double-pile house, c.1820, with round-headed door opening to left ground floor. Reroofed and renovated, c.1980, with openings remodelled to right ground floor to accommodate commercial use. Gable-ended double-pile (M-profile) roof (shared) behind parapet wall. Replacement fibre-cement slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Roughcast and rendered chimney stacks. Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Rendered wall to ground floor (possibly replacement). Painted. Roughcast walls to remainder. Painted. Rendered dressings including strips to ends and parapet wall having cut-stone coping. Square-headed window openings to first floor. Stone sills. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Round-headed door opening to left ground floor. Timber panelled door. Spoked fanlight. Openings remodelled, c.1980, to right ground floor with fixed-pane timber display window and glazed timber door having timber panelled fascia over. Road fronted. Concrete footpath to front.
RPS ID: B11-81 NIAH Reg No: 11804025	10 Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	Terraced three-bay two-storey double-pile house, c.1820, retaining early fenestration. Reroofed, c.1980. Now in use as offices. One of a pair. Gable-ended double-pile (M-profile) roof (shared) behind parapet wall. Replacement fibre-cement slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Red brick and rendered chimney stacks. Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered dressings including strips to ends and parapet wall having cut-stone coping. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. 6/6 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening. Rendered surround. Timber panelled door. Overlight. Concrete footpath to front.
NIAH Reg No: 11804026	14 Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1925, retaining some original fenestration with single-bay two-storey return to rear to north-east. Part refenestrated, c.1990. Hipped roof on an L-shaped plan with slate. Rolled red clay ridge tiles. Red brick chimney stacks. Timber eaves. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughcast walls. Unpainted. Rendered dressings including strips to ends and string/sill course to first floor. Square-headed window openings. Concrete sills. 1/1 timber sash windows to front (south-west) elevation with margins. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990, to remainder. Square-headed door opening to centre ground floor. Replacement timber advanced doorcase, c.1990. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1990, with sidelights and overlights. Set back from line of road in own grounds. Rendered boundary wall to front (south-west) with sections of iron railings over and rendered piers having iron gate.
11804027	26 Main Street, Leixlip, Kildare	Terraced three-bay two-storey house, c.1780, retaining early fenestration to first floor. Renovated, c.1920, with window opening remodelled to right ground floor possibly to accommodate commercial use. Reroofed and refenestrated to right ground floor, c.1970. Now in residential use to ground floor. Gable-ended roof. Replacement artificial slate, c.1970. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack (shared). Cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves course. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered strips to ends. Square-headed window openings (remodelled, c.1920, to right ground floor). Rendered sills. 1/1 timber sash windows (with exposed sash box to left ground floor). Replacement timber casement window, c.1970, to right ground floor. Square-headed door opening. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1990. Road fronted. Concrete footpath to front.



NIAH Reg No./ RPS No.	Name	Description
RPS ID: B11-42 NIAH Reg No:11804074	Leixlip House, Captain's Hill, Newtown, Leixlip, Kildare	Detached five-bay three-storey over basement house, built 1772, possibly retaining some early fenestration with two-bay three-storey shallow return to rear to north-west. Extended, c.1875, comprising four-bay three-storey recessed wing to right (east) with single-bay three-storey red brick bowed projecting to centre. Renovated, c.1990. Now in use as hotel. Hipped roof with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Flat-roofed to wing behind parapet walls. Materials not visible. Coursed squared rubble limestone walls. Coursed squared rubble limestone walls to wing with red brick to bowed projecting bay. Irregular coursed rubble stone to rear elevations to north. Shallow segmental-headed window openings to ground floor. Square-headed window openings to remainder (including wing) with some round-headed window openings to rear to north. Stone sills. Red brick dressings to some openings. Cut-stone voussoirs. 6/6 and 6/3 timber sash windows (possibly original). Some replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Square-headed door opening approached by flight of four cut-stone steps. Cut-stone surround with moulded cornice and lintel over having double keystone. Timber panelled door. Fixed-pane sidelights. Set back from road in own grounds. Tarmacadam forecourt/carpark to front. Section of iron railings to basement. Gateway, c.1775, to south comprising pair of cut-stone piers with moulded capping having ball finials. Renovated, c.1990, and relocated to current position with replacement iron gates.
RPS ID: B11-41 NIAH Reg No:11804073	Leixlip Manor, St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip, Kildare	Detached three-bay two-storey over basement house, c.1765, on a symmetrical plan retaining early fenestration with single-bay two-storey breakfront, three-bay two-storey side elevations to north-east and to south-west having single-bay two-storey bowed bay windows and five-bay two-storey rear elevation to south-east. Renovated and extended, c.1800, comprising single-bay two-storey curved linking wings to left (east) and to right (west) having single-bay two-storey lower pavilion blocks with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting porch added to centre. Now in use as hotel. Hipped roofs behind parapet walls with slate (on a quadrangular plan to main block). Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Flat-roofed to porch behind parapet wall. Materials not visible. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered dressings including recessed panels over openings to first floor and parapet walls having moulded stringcourses. Rendered walls to porch. Painted. Engaged Ionic columns with frieze over having moulded cornice to parapet wall with blocking course to centre. Square-headed window openings (in round-headed recessed panels to ground floor front (north-west) elevation; in tripartite arrangement to bowed bay windows). Stone sills. 6/6 timber sash windows (2/2 sidelights to tripartite openings). Square-headed door opening. Glazed timber panelled double doors (possibly replacement). Interior with carved timber staircase and timber panelled shutters to window openings. Set back from road in own extensive grounds. Tarmacadam forecourt/carpark to front. Detached seven-bay two-storey outbuilding, c.1765, to north-west flanking courtyard with square-headed integral carriageway to left ground floor. Renovated and refenestrated, c.1990. Hipped roof with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered buttresses along front (south-west) elevation. Square-headed openings (some possibly remodelled). Rendered sills. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Square-headed door openings. Glazed timber panelled doors (probably replacement). Square-headed integral carriageway to left ground floor. No fittings. Detached two-bay single-storey rubble stone outbuilding with half-attic, c.1765, to north-east framing courtyard with square-headed integral carriageway. Gable-ended roof with slate. Red clay ridge tiles. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Random rubble stone walls. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. Timber casement windows (probably replacement). Square-headed integral carriageway. Timber boarded doors. Detached multiple-bay two-storey outbuilding, c.1765, to north-east

NIAH Reg No./ RPS No.	Name	Description
		flanking courtyard retaining some original fenestration. Renovated and part refenestrated, c.1990. Hipped roof with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Roughcast walls. Painted. Shallow segmental-headed window openings to left ground floor (one in tripartite arrangement). Rendered sills. 1/1 timber sash window to tripartite arrangement with 1/1 sidelights having lattice glazing. Fixed-pane timber windows to remainder with lattice glazing. Square-headed window openings to remainder (some possibly remodelled, c.1990). Rendered sills. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Square-headed door openings. Glazed timber panelled doors (probably replacement, c.1990). Subterranean tunnel, c.1765, leading to house to south-east approached by flight of stone steps having iron railings. Rubble stone boundary wall, c.1765, to courtyard (to north-west and to south-east) with pair of shallow segmental-headed integral carriageways with cut-stone piers, cut-stone voussoirs having stringcourses over and parapet walls. Rubble stone boundary wall, c.1765, to walled garden to north-east approached through farmyard courtyard.

### 3.5 Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland

The following is a list of artefacts recovered from the townland of Newtown.

NMIRegisterNo	SimpleName	Component	Townland	FindPlace	County
1935:450	Axehead	Bronze	NEWTOWN		KILDARE
1936:1897	Ringed pin	Bronze	NEWTOWN	Temple na Shanagh	KILDARE
1936:1898	Brooch	Bronze	NEWTOWN	Temple na Shanagh	KILDARE
1979:71	Spearhead	Bronze	NEWTOWN	Exposed section face c.14" deep	KILDARE
2008C1:726	Weight	Lead	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:727	Clay pipe	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:728	ANIMAL REMAINS	ANIMAL REMAINS	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:729	Glass	Glass	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:730	Glass	Glass	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:731	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:732.1	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:732.2	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:732.3	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:732.4	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:732.5	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE



NMIRegisterNo	SimpleName	Component	Townland	FindPlace	County
2008C1:732.6	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.1	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.10	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.11	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.12	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.2	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.3	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.4	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.5	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.6	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.7	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.8	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:733.9	Pottery	Ceramic	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:737	Stirrup	Copper alloy	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:738	Object	Copper alloy	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:739	Sheet metal	Copper alloy	NEWTOWN	UNKNOWN	KILDARE
2008C1:740	Mount	Copper alloy	NEWTOWN		KILDARE
2008C1:741	Mount	Copper alloy	NEWTOWN		KILDARE

### 3.6 Cartographic Review

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include the 6-inch 1836 and the 25-inch 1910 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, and earlier maps including the Down Survey map of County Kildare (1654-6) and An actual survey of Dublin by John Rocque (1760) (Figures 3-6). The site was visible as an open greenfield site on the Down Survey Map of Kildare (1656). The majority of the site was depicted as an open greenfield site on the survey of Dublin by John Rocque (1790). Buildings were depicted fronting onto the street in the southwest corner of the site and shrubbery was visible in the northwest corner. The site was still depicted as an open greenfield site on the 1st edition OS Map (1839) and buildings were also still visible along the southwest corner fronting onto the street. It was still depicted as an open greenfield site by the time the 3rd edition OS Map was compiled. Additional buildings were however added in the southwest corner.

No archaeological or cultural heritage features are shown within the proposed development site on any of the examined mapping.

### 3.7 Aerial Photography Review

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS Maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating between 1995 and 2013, google aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2022 and google street view were consulted. Aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating between 1995 and 2013 and google aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2022 and google street view were consulted. The site remains largely unchanged since the 2009 aerial photograph. There is a long rectangular building fronting onto Mill Street. An entrance to the site is visible to the east of this building and a laneway extends up to the back of the site which is a large greenfield area, overgrown in places.

### 3.8 Site Inspection

A site inspection was carried out by the author on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 (Plates 1-8). The site was accessed through a gateway adjacent to the 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial premises which led to a tarmacked yard/storage area behind the commercial premises and to a tarmac laneway, orientated north-south, and leading to the Leixlip radio mast.

The rear of the site is roughly rectangular and bounded on the west by a 19<sup>th</sup>-century mortared stone wall, by a post and wire fence to the north and south and by a rendered concrete residential wall to the east. The land is neglected grassland and is grassed and overgrown with wildflowers and weeds to a height of 0.65m.

No above-ground archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This assessment has been carried out at the request of the client to assess the archaeological potential of a site located at a site in Leixlip, Co. Kildare (ITM 700759, 736038). The site is located north of the junction of Mill Lane and Main Street in Leixlip and comprises a rectangular shaped site, with an extended entrance fronting on to Mill Lane, which will provide access to the site. The site lies just north of the county boundary between Kildare and Dublin, on the north side of the River Liffey. The site is bounded to the south by commercial units and to the north-west by residential dwellings.

This assessment concludes that while the site contains no Recorded Monuments, it is located within the Historic town of Leixlip which includes the townlands of Leixlip, Leixlip Demesne, Newtown (Leixlip ED) and St Catherines Park. The site is also in proximity to the shores of the River Liffey. Furthermore, the site has not been developed previously and consists of a green space, suggesting the site has the potential to contain undisturbed, previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature.

In order to fully assess the archaeological potential of the site, a full archaeological assessment, including test trenching, is recommended. A geophysical survey is not recommended for this site as it is unsuitable (overgrown and uneven). Should features of archaeological significance be identified as a result of test trenching, further mitigation might include excavation or preservation in situ (avoidance) if feasible. Such work should be carried out by an experienced, licence-eligible

archaeologist in line with method statements submitted to and approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## 5. REFERENCES

- Bradley, J., Halpin, A., and King, H.A. 1986 Urban Archaeological Survey - County Kildare (4 vols.). Unpublished report commissioned by the Office of Public Works, Dublin.
- Barry T. b. (1996), Rural settlement in Ireland in the Middle Ages: an overview. *Ruralia* 1, 134-141
- Cairns, C. T. 1987 Irish tower-houses, a Co. Tipperary case study. Athlone
- O'Connor, K., 1998, The Archaeology of Medieval Rural settlement in Ireland, Discovery Program Monographs 3, RIA, Dublin
- McNeill, T.E., 1997 Castles in Ireland: Feudal Power in a Gaelic World. London and New York
- Sweetman, H. S., 1875–1886 Calendar of documents relating to Ireland preserved in the Public Record Office, London, 1171-1307, 5 vols, London: Longman.

### Other Sources

- GeoHive by Ordnance Survey Ireland (<https://geohive.ie/>)
- Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).
- National Library of Ireland, 7–8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie))
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).
- The Schools Collection, National Folklore Collection, UCD (<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>).
- The National Museum of Ireland: Finds Database (2010)

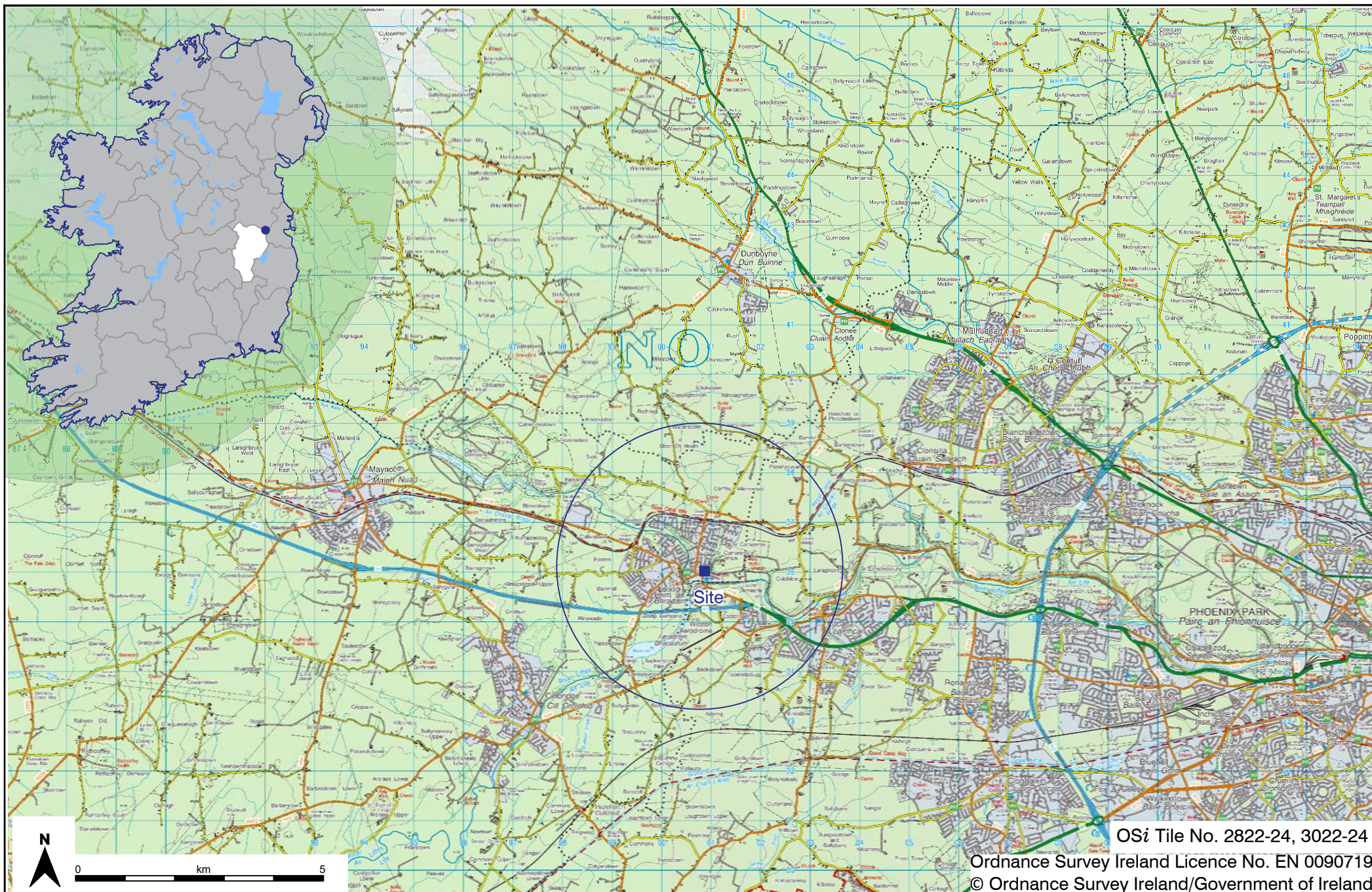
### Cartographic & Photographic Sources

- An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque – southwest sheet (1760)
- Down Survey barony and parish maps (1654-6)
- Google Earth 1985-2022
- Google Street View
- Ordnance Survey first edition 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 – published 1839)

Ordnance Survey third edition 25-inch (1:2500) map (surveyed 1908 – published 1910)

Ordnance Survey Ortho (aerial photography) series, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2013.





Project Leixlip, Co. Kildare

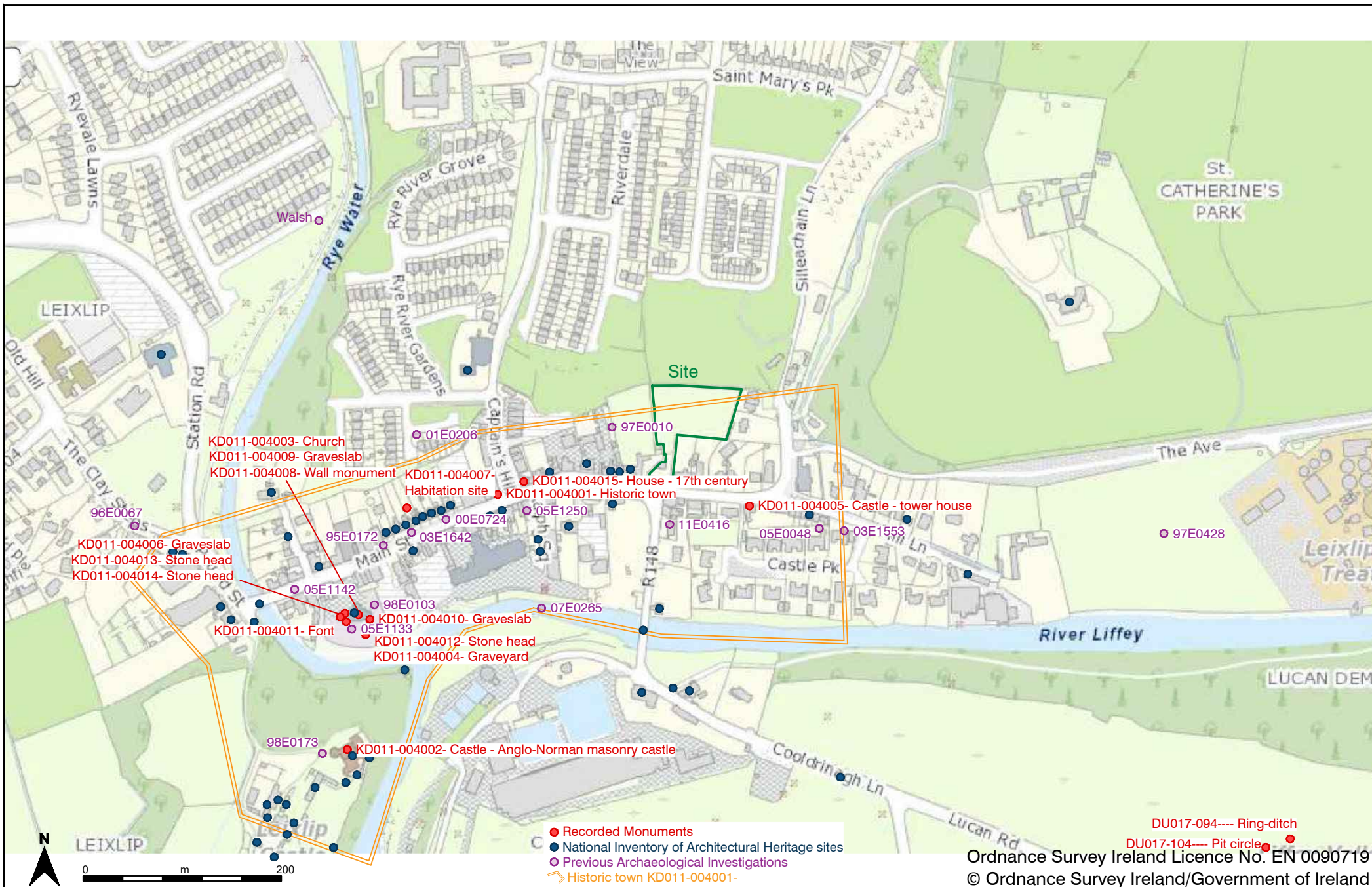
Figure 1 Location of site

Date June 2023

Drawing No. 2354\_C0001

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





**Project** Leixlip, Co. Kildare

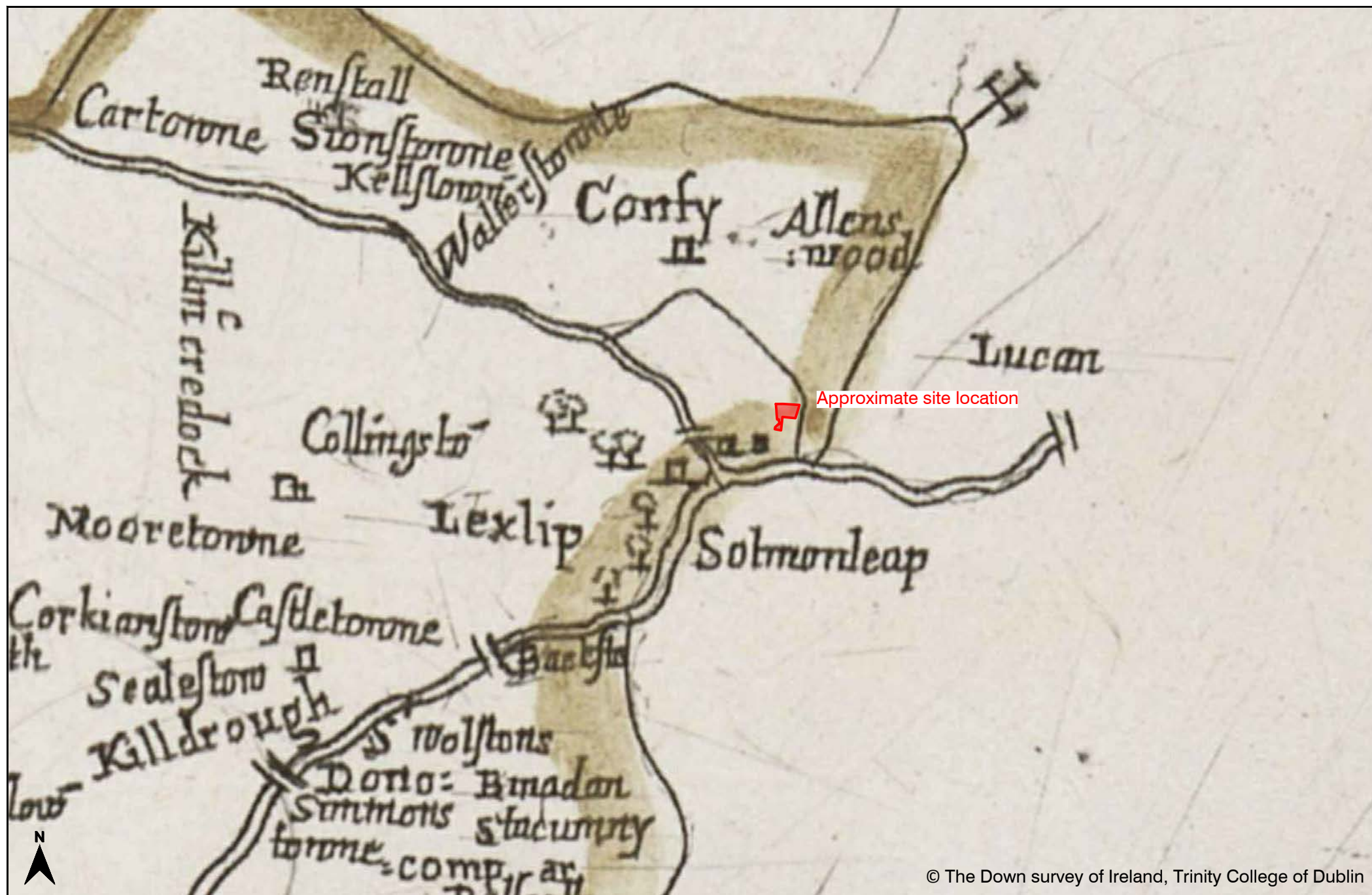
**Date** June 2023

**Drawing No.** 2354\_C0002

**Figure 2** Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites

**Scale** 1:5,000 @ A4





© The Down survey of Ireland, Trinity College of Dublin

Project Leixlip, Co. Kildare

Date June 2023

Drawing No. 2354\_C0003


Figure 3 Extract from Down Survey map of County Kildare (1656), showing approximate location of site

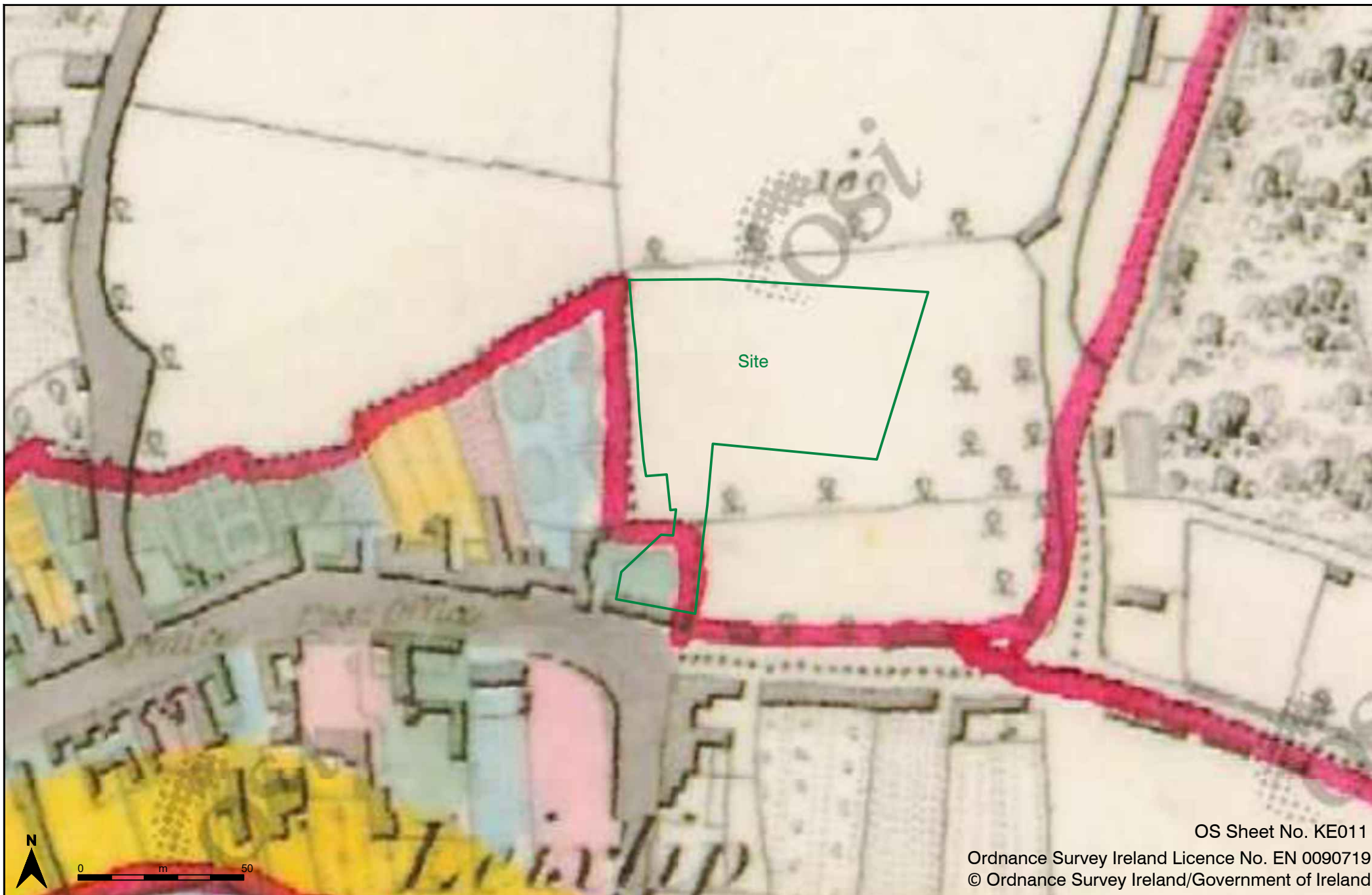
Scale Not to scale





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<b>Project</b> Leixlip, Co. Kildare	<b>Date</b> June 2023	<b>Drawing No.</b> 2354_C0004	 <b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL</b> CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
<b>Figure 4</b> Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - southwest sheet (1760) , showing approximate location of site		<b>Scale</b> Not to scale	



OS Sheet No. KE011

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**Date** June 2023

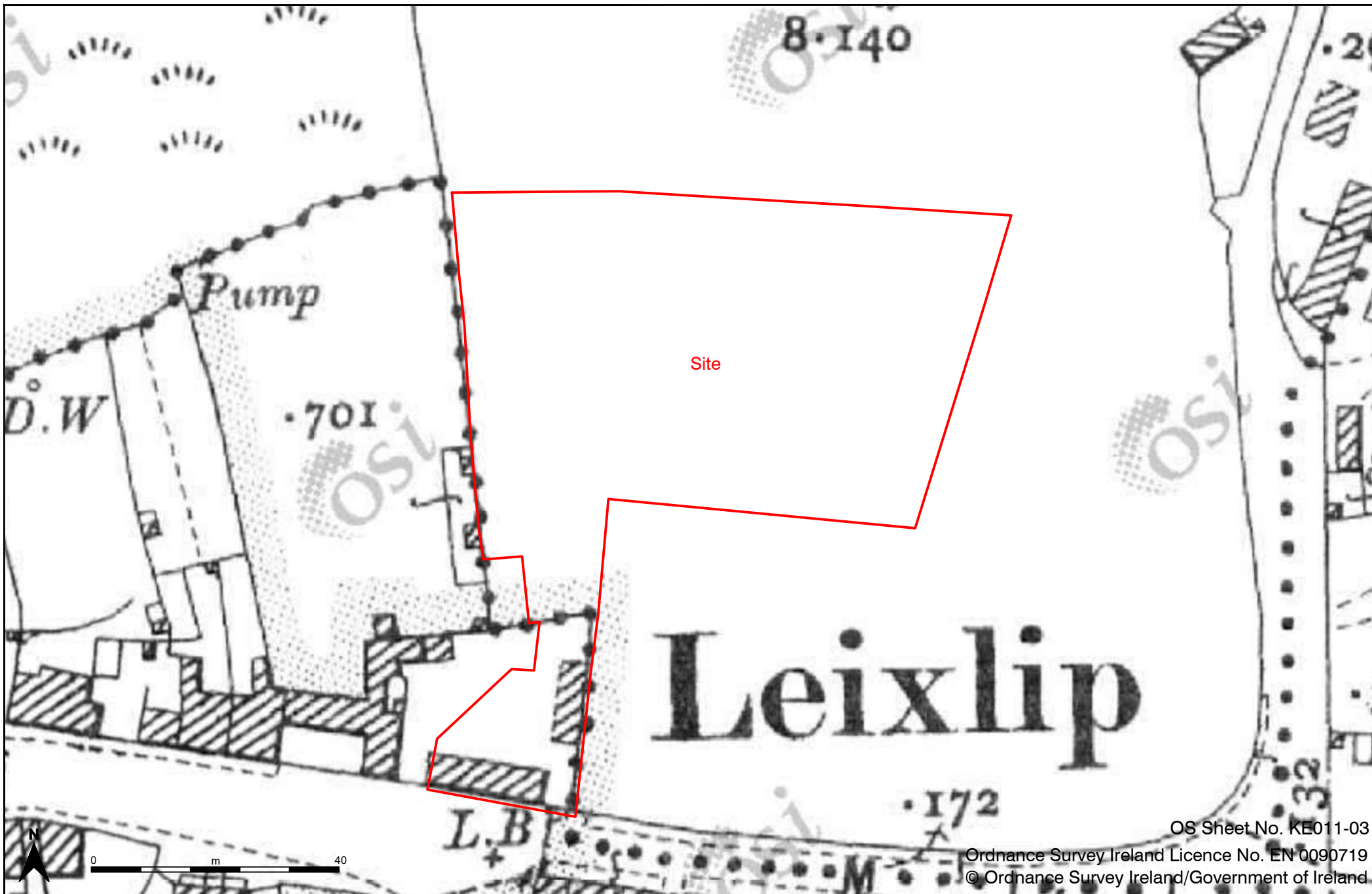
**Drawing No.** 2354\_C0005

**Figure 5** Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1839), showing location of site

**Scale** 1:1,500 @ A4







OS Sheet No. KE011-03

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**Drawing No.** 2354\_C0006

**Figure 6** Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1908 - published 1910), showing location of site

**Scale** 1:800 @ A4



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**Figure 7** Aerial view of site

**Scale** 1:750 @ A4





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**Date** June 2023

**Drawing No.** 2354\_C0008

**Figure 8** Detail of site development

**Scale** 1:750 @ A4





Plate 1: Front of commercial premises looking northwest.



Plate 2: Rear of commercial premises looking southwest.



Plate 3: Tarmac yard area looking east.



Plate 4: Tarmac laneway looking south.





Plate 5: General view of site looking northeast.



Plate 6: General view of site looking east.



Plate 7: General view of site looking west.



Plate 8: General view of site looking northwest.