



Dr. Charles Mount
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**Archaeological Impact Assessment of a landholding at Barberstown
Castle, Barberstown, South County Kildare**

Report For

**Mr. Ted Robinson
Barberstown Castle**

Author

Dr. Charles Mount



Introduction

This archaeological impact assessment report was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount for Mr. Ted Robinson. It represents the results of a desk-based assessment of archaeological heritage within the landholding and vicinity. The landholding is situated in County Kildare, north of the village of Straffan, in the townland of Barberstown on the south side of the R403 Road. The landholding is currently occupied by upstanding structures and gardens.

Methodology

This is a desk-based archaeological assessment that includes a collation of existing written and graphic information to identify the likely archaeological potential of the landholding and vicinity. The overall study area is presented in Fig. 1. This area was examined using information from the:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Kildare
- The Sites and Monuments Record that is maintained by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23
- Aerial photography
- Excavation and assessment reports; and
- Cartography

An impact assessment has been prepared and recommendations have been made.

County Development Plan

The County Development Plan is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives and policies of the local authority. The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23 has a number of relevant policies and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (see below).

Policy AH 1

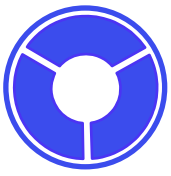
Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of the county, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.

Policy AH 2

Have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Urban Archaeological Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.

Policy AH 3

Secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest, included in the Record of Monuments and Places and their settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the



Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHG (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

Policy AH 4

Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

Policy AH 8

Encourage, where practicable, the provision of public access to sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places under the direct ownership, guardianship or control of the Council and/or the State.

Policy AH 9

Encourage the provision of signage to publicly accessible recorded monuments.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 also has a number of policies and objectives relevant to Protected Structures (see below).

Policy PS1

Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained on the Record of Protected Structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Policy PS 2

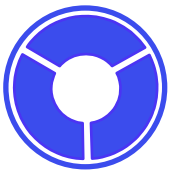
Protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a protected structure which would adversely impact on the special character of the protected structure including cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of architectural heritage value within the curtilage of the protected structure. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire built heritage complex and contributes positively to that aim.

Policy PS 3

Require that new works will not obscure views of principal elevations of protected structures.

Policy PS 7

Promote best practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of, and any works to, protected structures. Method statements should make reference to the DAHG Advice Series on how best to repair and maintain historic buildings. As outlined in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines, DAHG, a method statement is a useful tool to explain the rationale for the phasing of works. The statement could summarise the principal impacts on the character and special interest of the structure or site and describe how it is proposed to minimise these



impacts. It may also describe how the works have been designed or specified to have regard to the character of the architectural heritage.

Policy PS 8

Encourage high quality design in relation to planning applications that are made for the construction of extensions or new buildings affecting protected structures or older buildings of architectural merit not included in the RPS.

Policy PS 9

Favourably consider the change of use of any structure included on the Record of Protected Structures provided such a change of use does not adversely impact on its intrinsic character.

Policy PS 10

Actively encourage uses that are compatible with the character of protected structures. In certain cases, the Planning Authority may relax site zoning restrictions / development standards in order to secure the preservation and restoration of the structure.

Policy PS 11

Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and aesthetic merit which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of the streetscape or landscape and the sustainable development of the county. Any necessary works should be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

Policy PS 12

Promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.

Policy PS 14

Refuse planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure unless the Council is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. The demolition of a protected structure with the retention of its façade will likewise not generally be permitted.

Policy PS 15

Require an Architectural Heritage Assessment Report, as described in Appendix B of the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DAHG (2011), to accompany all applications involving a protected structure.

Policy PS 16

Protect and retain important elements of the built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes and demesnes, and curtilage features.

Policy PS 18

Require where appropriate that a Conservation Plan is prepared in accordance with DAHG Guidelines and conservation best practice to inform proposed visual or physical impacts on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.



Policy PS 19

Have regard where appropriate to DAHG Guidelines and conservation best practice in assessing the significance and conservation of a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.

Policy PS 20

Have regard where appropriate to DAHG Guidelines and conservation best practice in assessing the impact of development on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.

Policy PSO 6

Ensure that in the event of a planning application being granted for development within the curtilage of a protected structure, the proposed works to the protected structure should occur in the first phase of the development to prevent endangerment, abandonment and dereliction of the structure.

Desktop assessment

There are several references to Barberstown in medieval documents. The Calendar of Justiciary Rolls of Ireland records a court case over ownership of lands in Barberstown in 1308 that was settled in favour of Richard and Emma le Gras (Wood *et al.* 1905, 80). In 1310 Thomas McAdam, Peter Elyot, Richard Bernard and Ivor McCasse were charged and convicted of robbing and burning Barberstown, as well as other places (Wood *et al.* 1905, 149). Barberstown Tower House was probably constructed in the fourteenth century (Sweetman 1999, 137). In the Civil Survey of County Kildare of 1654-6 (Simington 1952, 15) Barbistowne (Barberstown) was recorded as the property of Katherine Dillon of Barbistowne. The survey recorded that 'There is one castle and one stone house with a garden and orchard thereunto upon the aforesaid lands of Barbistowne wch said stone house was valued to be worth Two hundred pounds in the year 1640- and is nowe valued to be worth one hundred pounds'. The Tower House is indicated on the mid seventeenth century Down Survey map of the Barony of Salt and on Noble and Keenan's 1753 map of Kildare (Fig. 1).



Fig 1. Noble and Keenan's 1753 map of Kildare indicating Barberstown castle.



Recorded Monuments

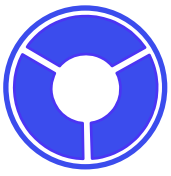
The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Kildare which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 was examined as part of the assessment (DAHGI 1996). This review established that there are two RMPs located within the landholding. RMP KD010-022---- Castle – tower house (indicated by the thick black circle in Fig. 2). This is described in the RMP as:

RMP KD010-022---- Castle – tower house Barberstown

In open, level, mixed pasture and tillage, and now used as the S end of a hotel, the main body of which, to the N, dates to the 18th century A possible bawn (KD010-022002-) lies immediately to the S.

A well-preserved, almost square, four storied tower (int. dims. L 5.9m N-S; Wth 4.85m; wall T 1.8m) with a vaulted arch over second-floor level and projecting angle towers at the NW (going W) and SW (going S) corners is constructed of roughly coursed rubble masonry. The E wall has a very gentle base-batter, while more pronounced batters are later additions to the bases of the corner towers. The external SE angle is reconstructed in ashlar-type stone suggesting that there may originally have been a third angle tower here. The building is entered through a pointed-arched doorway (Wth 1.05m; H 2.05m) at the W end of the N wall, which may be a later insertion to allow access from the adjoining hotel, and the ground floor is used as a dining-room. A blocked doorway (Wth 0.9m; H 2m) near the N end of the W wall, beside the NW corner tower, may have been the original entrance. A third, brick-lined, blocked doorway (Wth 1.08m) at the centre of the S wall may have given access to the SW angle tower but might also be a later insertion formed by enlarging a window opening? Ground-floor level is lit by two double-splayed loops set in tall flat-arched embrasures in the E wall. The embrasures originally ran down to floor-level but are now built up to sill height. There is a third, smaller, double-splayed loop in the W wall, and a very plain, flat-arched fireplace in the N wall. A fourth, narrow, doorway (Wth 0.7m; H 2.28m), with a round-head rebuilt in brick, at the N end of the W wall gives access to the NW corner tower containing a spiral stairs. The tower is lit by loops at each floor-level with additional, inter-floor-loops also present. The second, SW, corner tower is inaccessible, but is similarly lit. Corbel-stones, beam-slot holes or wall set-backs marking first-floor level are no longer visible, and the square-headed doorway off the stairs to first-floor level is now blocked-up.

First-floor level is roofed by a pointed-arched vault orientated on a N-S axis, and is lit by two windows; a single-light, pointed-arched window to N of centre in the E wall, and a similar, but larger window towards the S end of the W wall. Both are set in tall, straight-sided embrasures, with plunging sills, the flat-arched tops of which are cut into the vaulted ceiling above. Access to second-floor level is denied by a locked door in a plain, square-headed doorway off the stairs. Third-floor level is accessed by a similar doorway and is lit by three windows; a pointed-arched, twin-light window is set in a brick-lined, pointed-arched embrasure in the E wall and is matched by a similar arrangement in the W wall, while the S wall contains a square-headed window in a square-headed, gently splaying embrasure. There is a fourth, small, blocked-up square-headed window, in the N wall which also contains a plain, blocked-up fireplace into which modern plumbing pipe work runs. The stairs ends in a small, rectangular cap-house, the upper portion of which is rebuilt in brick. A low, square-headed



doorway in the E wall gives to roof level where a concrete floor supports a very large water storage tank from which pipe work runs into a blocked-up, brick fireplace in the N wall. Its low, brick chimney is in the 17th century Jacobean style but may be a later copy of same. The battlements are rebuilt in brick. At the SW angle a second small, rectangular caphouse, with a concrete floor, crowns the inaccessible projecting tower. All of the windows are rebuilt externally in brick, in a Victorian-Gothic style.

Archaeological excavation (Licence No. 03E1745: www.excavations.ie) in advance of development in the later walled garden c. 60m to the NW produced some medieval pottery.

RMP KD010-022001- Bawn is described in the RMP as:

KD010-022001- Bawn Barberstown

Some 6m S of a tower house (KD010-022001-) and separated from it by a later building, a short portion of wall (L 5.8m E-W; H 3.1m; T 1m) built of roughly coursed rubble masonry contains a blocked loop, and may be the remains of a bawn wall. A tall gate pier at its W end is not bonded to the wall and appears to be a later feature.

There are no other RMPs in the vicinity of the landholding.

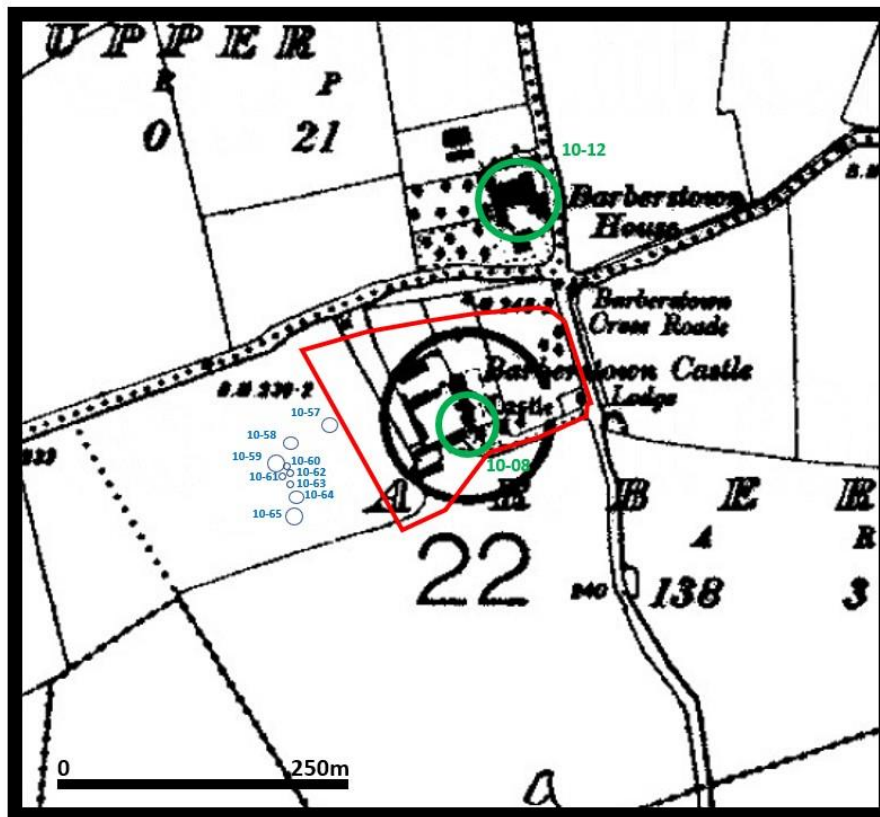
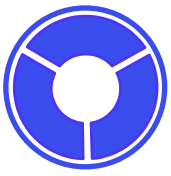


Fig. 2. The landholding is indicated on the RMP map with the red line. Blue circles are SMRs and green circles are structures listed in the NIAH.



Sites and Monuments Record

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was examined as part of the assessment on the 7th of March 2022. This review established that there are no additional sites or monuments entered in the SMR in the area of landholding (see Fig. 1). There are seven cropmarks visible on aerial photography that form a prehistoric barrow cemetery included in the vicinity of the landholding (see below).

SMR KD010-057---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 13m) intersected at E by field boundary visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-058---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 10m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-059---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 13m) with barrow (KD010-060----) attached to SSE visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-060---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 5m) with larger ditch-barrow (KD010-059----) attached to NNW visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-061---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 5m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-062---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 5m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

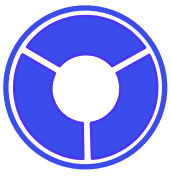
SMR KD010-063---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 5m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-064---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown

One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 10m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

SMR KD010-065---- Barrow – ditch barrow Barberstown



One of a group of nine ditch-barrows (KD010-057----/065-) located in same field. Cropmark of circular-shaped enclosure/barrow (approx. diam. 12m) visible on Google earth aerial imagery.

National Monuments

Examination of the list of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership & Guardianship issued by the National Monuments Service indicated that there are no National Monuments in the landholding or vicinity.

Protected Structures

A review of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 indicated that there is one Protected Structure in the landholding: No. B10-08 Barberstown Castle (see Fig. 2). This structure is not included in the NIAH and there is no detailed description in the RPS (but see RMP description above). There is one additional structure listed in the RPS in the vicinity of the landholding (see Table 1).

RPS No	Address	Description	Townland	NIAH No.	Type
B10-12	Barberstown	Barberstown House	Barberstown	-	House

Table 1. Protected Structure in the vicinity of the landholding.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was examined as part of the assessment on 7th of March 2022 for additional structures not listed in the RPS. The review established that there are no additional structures listed in the NIAH located within the landholding or vicinity.

Previous archaeological assessments in the landholding

A review of the Excavations Bulletin at excavations.ie indicated that the landholding has been the subject of archaeological monitoring in connection with a development in 2003. The work was carried out by Finola O'Carroll for CRDS and identified medieval pottery in the area of the garden (see Below).

*Barberstown Castle Walled Garden Licence number : 03E1745
Barberstown Castle is located c. 6km south-west of Celbridge town. Monitoring of groundworks associated with buildings in the area of the walled garden of the castle was undertaken. The western and eastern walls were demolished and the southern wall was partly so. The foundations of these walls were just at ground level. The ground-disturbance works revealed the remains of a stone-walled structure in the south-west corner of the garden. Some medieval pottery was recovered from this location. Cartographic evidence indicates that this building was built after 1837. It is possible that it was a garden shed. The remaining areas of the garden revealed stone-lined drains running north-south, and a culvert which was uncovered previously during the testing phase was further cleared back; it ran in an east-west direction. No other archaeological features were revealed during this monitoring.*



Cartographic Sources

The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch and 1st edition 25-inch maps of the landholding were examined as part of the assessment. There are no additional structures or cultural heritage features indicated in the cartography in the landholding (see Fig. 3).

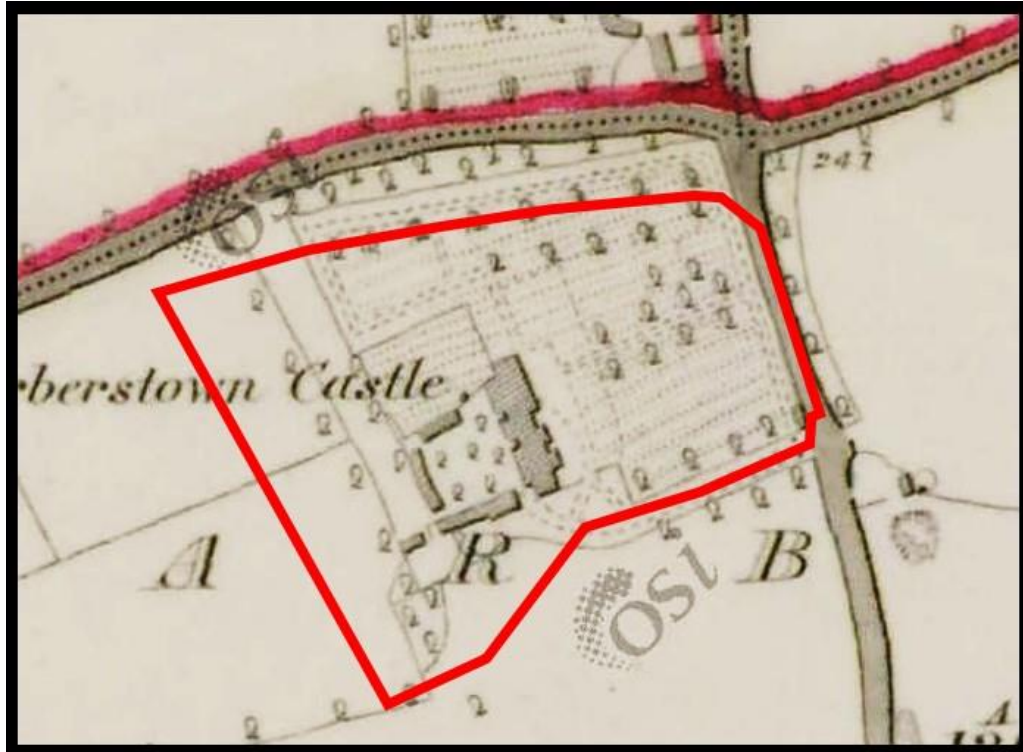


Fig. 3. Barberstown, Co. Kildare detail of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition six-inch map sheet No. 10. The landholding is outlined with the red line. The map indicates the Tower House and range of buildings in the early nineteenth century.

Aerial Photography

Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 2000 and 2005 aerial imagery as well as Google earth imagery from 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and Bing imagery of the landholding and vicinity were examined as part of the assessment (see Plate 1). There are potential archaeological monuments visible as circular cropmarks on the Google earth 2013 and 2018 imagery. These cropmarks have been included in the SMR and are noted above in the SMR section and on Fig. 2.

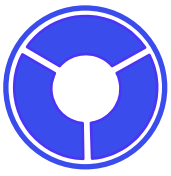
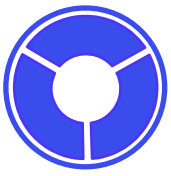


Plate 1. A Google earth aerial image from 2018 with the landholding indicated with the red line and potential prehistoric barrows visible as circular cropmarks in the field to the west.

Impact Assessment

The landholding contains upstanding archaeology (RMP KD010-022---- and RMP KD010-022001-) and Protected Structures (RPS B10-08) and there is a potential prehistoric barrow cemetery close by to the west (SMR KD010-057----/063). Part of the landholding has been subject to archaeological monitoring and some archaeological material (medieval pottery) has been identified. There is a potential for any future development to impact the upstanding archaeological and architecture heritage as well as previously unknown subsurface deposits or artefacts both within the landholding and in the vicinity of it. Any proposed development within the landholding should be designed in accordance with the plans and objectives laid out in the Kildare County Development Plan. Specifically an Architectural Heritage Assessment Report should be prepared in relation to any development proposal regarding the Tower House and Bawn (RMP KD010-022--- and RMP KD010-022001-; RPS B10-08). Topsoil stripping of greenfield areas within the landholding should also be subject to archaeological monitoring carried out by a qualified archaeologist. The full extent of the potential barrow cemetery (SMR KD010-057----/063) located west of the landholding is not known. Any development proposal for this area should be preceded by archaeological assessment so that the full extent of the potential barrow cemetery is identified and any impacts can be mitigated.



Recommendations

1. An Architectural Heritage Assessment Report should be prepared in relation to any development proposal regarding the Tower House and Bawn (RMP KD010-022---- and RMP KD010-022001-; RPS B10-08).
2. Topsoil stripping of greenfield areas within the landholding should be subject to archaeological monitoring carried out by a qualified archaeologist.
3. Any development proposal for the area of the potential barrow cemetery (SMR KD010-057----/063) should be preceded by archaeological assessment so that the full extent of the potential barrow cemetery is identified and any impacts can be mitigated.

References

DAHGI 1996. Recorded Monuments Protected under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. County Kildare.

Simington, R.C. 1952. *The Civil Survey 1654-1656 County of Kildare*. Dublin.

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10 March 2022