



CourtneyDeery

ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Kildare Market Square

Kildare Town, Co. Kildare

For

Metropolitan Workshop Ltd

On behalf of

Kildare County Council

Dr Clare Crowley

20th December 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The archaeological, built, and cultural heritage within and surrounding Market Square is significant and lends much to the historic character of the Square. It represents the history of the town from the early medieval period onwards, with the earliest elements being the cathedral enclosure at the north-west side containing the prominent cathedral building (a recorded archaeological monument, RMP KD022-029005, and protected structure, RPS B22-45) and round tower (RMP KD022-029020). The proposed development design should be cognisant of these heritage assets and seek to enhance and celebrate the historic character of this location.

The proposed development is located within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (RMP KD022-029001), at the heart of the early medieval and medieval settlement. As such, the proposed development site is in an area considered to be of high archaeological potential. Within this there are also archaeological elements of particular note:

- The cathedral enclosure formed by the wall of the graveyard (KD022-02903) is likely to represent the innermost enclosure of the early medieval ecclesiastical site (KD022-029002), containing the site of the original church and burial ground. It is possible however, that earlier burial activity could extend outside the present wall. Part of the proposed development extends alongside the wall on the south side of the enclosure;
- Traces of the curvilinear plan of the early medieval ecclesiastical settlement, formed by its enclosures (KD022-029058), can also be found in the present street pattern. It is possible that the line of one of the ecclesiastical enclosures is preserved in part of Claregate Street to the south, continuing through Market Square and along Nugent Street to the south-east. As such it would be partly within the proposed development boundary;
- Market Square may occupy the site of the original early medieval market place, at what would have been the entrance to the monastic site;
- The conjectural line of the medieval town defences (KD022-029009) may also run through the proposed development site, at the laneway running north-west past the Verger's House to the car park on the north-west side of the cathedral.

Archaeological investigations within the town to date have revealed evidence for its early and later medieval occupation, though none as yet have uncovered definitive evidence for the enclosing elements. It is possible, however, that archaeological evidence for these survive below the shallower depths investigated. Archaeological features and finds have generally been recovered between 0-3m below ground level and there is, therefore, the potential for the discovery of further deposits within the proposed development boundary even at shallow depths.

Given the location of the proposed development within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (KD022-029001), there is considerable potential for the discovery of archaeological features and deposits, as detailed in Section 8. Archaeological monitoring is considered the most appropriate mitigation measure, given the urban nature of the proposed project's location. It is recommended that a suitably qualified archaeologist be present to monitor all ground disturbance works associated with the project. This will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). This will ensure the full recognition of, and – if required – the proper excavating and recording of all archaeological features, finds or deposits which may lie undisturbed beneath the ground surface.

Should any archaeological material be encountered, works will cease and a strategy will be devised for further investigation, in discussion with the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH. Based on these discussions and the results of any investigations that take place, additional consultation with the DHLGH will determine if further resolution is required. This may involve full archaeological excavation (i.e. preservation of the archaeology in record form of all archaeological soils or features encountered) or preservation in situ of archaeological remains, and archaeological monitoring during construction.

All recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report assesses the archaeological potential and significance of a proposed development site at Market Square, Kildare town, Co. Kildare (Figure 1). It has been carried out by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Metropolitan Workshop Ltd. The report provides an archaeological and historical background to the site and discusses the nature of the recorded archaeological sites and finds arising from previous development and excavation in its environs. In order to provide historical and cultural heritage context for the site, the report also includes a review of architectural heritage designations and cultural heritage features relevant to the proposed development.



Figure 1 Proposed site location and layout at Market Square (Metropolitan Workshop Ltd)

The proposed development is located within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (KD022-029001), at the heart of the early medieval and medieval settlement (see Figures 14 & 15, Section 7.1 of this report).

1.2. Study Area

Kildare town is in the barony of East Offaly, and gave its name to both the civil parish and the county. The town is situated on relatively high ground (c. 110m above sea level) overlooking the Curragh plain to the east at 10km equidistant from the rivers Barrow and Liffey. Within the town, ground levels slope up to two distinct high points, occupied by the Cathedral c. 112m OD and the

site of the Kildare Castle c. 110m OD. To the north and south of these high points the ground slopes down to c. 90-100m OD. The original monastic foundation evolved into a proto-urban settlement as early as the 7th century AD and, following the Anglo-Norman invasion, a borough was established in the late 12th century. The town saw a further period of prosperity in the later 18th and 19th centuries following the introduction of the turnpike road. It is arguably the oldest continuously occupied settlements in the country, in its possible origins as a pre-Christian shrine in the form of a perpetual fire dedicated to the Celtic deity, Brigid. The proposed development is located at the heart of the historic core, in Market Square, which itself may have its origins in the early medieval period, being the possible location of the triangular market place associated with the ecclesiastical settlement.

1.3. Methodology

A review of the following information took place in order to inform the report:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Tentative World Heritage Sites and those monuments on the tentative list;
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders;
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; The statutory RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 are placed on the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion on the next revision of the RMP¹;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029);
- County Councils Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and their statements of character;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey (paper survey only);
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);

¹ *The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and while this Act is now law, most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made one or more Commencement Orders. This means that the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.*

- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e. Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponomy (loganim.ie);
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
- Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029).
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSI Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2022, Bing 2022) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

A bibliography of sources used is provided in the References section.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Introduction

Kildare town is sited on top of a low ridge c.10-15m higher than the surrounding country. The ridge trends approximately from west-north-west to east-south-east, the northern flank being markedly steeper than the southern. The town has developed around the early ecclesiastic monastic site dedicated to St Brigid that was founded on the western summit. This important site grew in importance in the Early Medieval and medieval period (AD 500-1200). Notable archaeological monuments survive at the site and these include the cathedral, round tower, high cross and elements of the ecclesiastic enclosure (Andrews *et al.*, 1996).

The town is an example of an early ecclesiastical monastic site which developed into an Anglo-Norman market town. It is mainly associated with St Brigid, a semi-legendary figure, probably a Christianised version of a Celtic goddess, who is said to have established a monastery there in the late 5th or early 6th centuries. However, earlier prehistoric activity in the area is indicated by a number of stray finds, including a socketed bronze axe head of the Later Bronze Age that was found in the town, and also by two bronze spearheads and a palstave which came from nearby.

2.2. Ecclesiastical Settlement at Kildare in the Early Medieval Period

There is a notable degree of continuity that links the pagan and early Christian periods. The name *Cell Dara* (church of the oak tree), recorded in an annalist's entry for 520 AD, refers to an oak that is thought to have marked a pagan shrine and the same explanation has been applied to the tradition of a perpetual sacred fire recorded here by Giraldus Cambrensis in the 12th century (Andrews *et al.*, 1996). According to legend, St Brigid instituted the perpetual fire at Kildare for the use of pilgrims and travellers, and the tradition was continued after her death.

Legend holds that St Brigid arrived in Kildare in the year 480 (though the date of the foundation varies between the late 5th to early 6th century) and decided on *Druim Criaig* (the alternative name for the site meaning the oak covered ridge) rising above the Curragh plains. There under a great oak tree, she is reputed to have built her abbey/monastery and hence the name of the present town of Kildare - *Cill Dara*, the cell or church of the oak. She is said to have approached the King of Leinster seeking land for her abbey. In return for curing a deformity, he agreed to give as much land as her cloak would cover, which according to legend, spread out to cover the entire Curragh.

Curvilinear ecclesiastical settlements originating in the early medieval period in Ireland, conform to what looks like a universal pattern. The characteristics of this pattern commonly include an

inner and outer curvilinear enclosure (or more), with a church, burial ground and other ecclesiastical structures and features (for example, the round tower and high crosses) located within the inner enclosure. The inner enclosure was reserved for sacred activities and all commercial, industrial and domestic activity took place in the outer enclosure(s). Where urban centres grew up around these ecclesiastical foundations, the lines of the original enclosures are often still visible in the street-plan of the modern town or village, as at Kildare. Quite often other characteristic features can be seen, including a holy well (commonly outside or well outside the inner enclosure), a triangular-shaped market place positioned to the east where the entrance to the monastery would have been, and radiating approach roads.

2.2.1. St Brigid's Monastery (RMP KD22-029003)

The historical sources suggest that although originally founded for nuns, it became a 'double monastery', with nuns under an abbess and monks under an abbot or bishop (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1988). Conlaedh, the first recorded bishop of Kildare died c. 520 AD (Bradley *et al.* 1986). The monastery was later ruled by a number of abbesses whose succession can be traced from the 8th century until the arrival of the Anglo Normans (*ibid.*).

Cogitosus, writing in the 7th century, describes Kildare as '*a vast and metropolitan city*', the outskirts of which St Brigid had '*marked out with a clearly defined boundary*' (Bradley *et al.* 1986). The Annals of Clonmacnoise record that in 1012, '*all the Town of Kildare was burnt by a thunderbolt but one house*' (*Ibid.*). An 11th-century reference records the death of Cerball, king of Leinster, in 909 as the result of an accident outside the house of a combmaker (*ciormhaire*) in the street of the stone steps or flag-stones (*sraite in cheime chloici*) (*Ibid.*). These references suggest a secular, urban-type settlement had developed in association with the monastery. After another burning, in 1050, it was noted that both the wooden church (*durthech*) and the stone church (*damhlaig*) were destroyed. The Synod of Rathbreasill in 1111 recognised Kildare by making it one of the five episcopal sees of Leinster (Gwynn & Hadcock 1988).

The description of the early church by Cogitosus c. 630 indicates that Kildare had a large church with many windows and decorated formal doors, and that the altar was flanked by richly ornamented shrines of Brigid and Conleth. The monastery was burnt on a number of occasions between 710 and 1089 (Conwell & Buchanan in Bradley *et al.*, 1986). The first of 15 attacks by the Vikings in Kildare occurred in 835 AD when there was fire set to the monastery and the shrines of St Brigid and St Conleth were stolen (Annals of the Four Masters (AFM), cited in Bradley *et al.* 1986). The same source recorded that the church in Kildare was rebuilt in c. 868 (AFM in Bradley *et al.*, 1986).

In the medieval period there are few records of Irish convents of nuns, and Kildare is no exception. Gormlaith, daughter of Murchad MacDermot and coarb of Brigid, died in 1112 and there was contention over the succession in 1127. In 1132 the Ui Cennselaig under Diarmuid MacMurchada captured and burned the abbess' house and much of the church. In the late 12th century, Giraldus Cambrensis noted the richly decorated gospel book at Kildare. During this period, the men's community may have dwindled to a few senior priests serving in the Cathedral. The importance of the nun's community seems to have declined after the coming of the Anglo-Normans. The nunnery of Kildare continued until the general suppression in 1540-41; on 26th November 1540 the jurors found in the precincts a small castle or fortillage, with a chapel, suitable for a farmer's use (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1988).

Taken together, the historical evidence suggests a large and prosperous ecclesiastical foundation at Kildare in the early historic period. The precise location of the early monastery is uncertain, but it almost certainly stood on, or near, the surviving cathedral (KD022-029005), high cross (KD022-

029021) and round tower (KD022-029020) in the graveyard (KD022-029003); while the curvilinear nature of some streets may reflect the lines of early monastic enclosures (KD022-029058).

2.2.2. St Brigid's Cathedral

The cathedral church of Kildare (KD022-029005 to -029008) is second only to the Cathedral at Armagh in historical and religious interest. The building consists of a nave, chancel, crossing tower and transepts. It was a simple cross church, without aisles built with apparently a chapel of some kind opening out of eastern side of south transept. A tower rose above intersection of arms of the cross and a round tower stood near the western end of the nave.

The medieval cathedral was built in the early 13th century (sometime after 1223), with under Bishop Ralph of Bristol. Of the original building only small portions remain encased in the present one. In the 14th century an unusual, stepped parapet form was introduced in cathedral building which was to become popular – an early use was at Kildare Cathedral. The present structure, which was largely rebuilt during the late-19th century, is built of unevenly coursed limestone with well-cut ashlar quoins. The north transept, the greater part of the chancel, the west windows of the nave, and the east, north and west walls of the tower were entirely rebuilt during the restoration of 1896 (Bradley *et al.*, 1986).

The cathedral was semi-ruinous by the year 1500 and by 1604 the roof was gone having been pulled down in an attack on the town in 1598. By 1649 the cathedral was described as derelict. In 1686 the choir was rebuilt by Bishop William Moreton and it served as the cathedral until restoration of the entire structure in the late-19th century. By that time the only surviving parts of the medieval structure were the north and south walls of the nave, the walls of the south transept, the south wall of the central tower and possibly parts of the chancel (Bradley *et al.*, 1986).

2.2.3. Graveyard

The graveyard (KD022-029003) is a sub-rectangular area (est. dims. L c. 115m E-W; Wth c. 65m N-S), enclosed by a mortared stone wall, which, according to Bradley *et al.* (1986 vol. 3, 216), may have formed the innermost enclosure (KD022-029058) of St Brigid's monastery (KD022-029002). The graveyard contains a high cross (KD022-029021), a round tower (KD022-029020-), St Brigid's Cathedral (KD022-029005), numerous architectural fragments, and burials dating up to modern times.

Old sketches show the gable of a building north of the cathedral but the only remains in this position today consist of a small rectangular hollow 4.44 by 3.48m, enclosed by a rubble built walls some 60cm high and 1m wide (KD022-029026). Traditionally, a sacred fire was kept alight from St Brigid's time down to the 16th century. Although not recorded on the OS first edition six-inch map of 1836, 'Fire house (Site of)' is shown on the revised edition of 1942 in the graveyard at this location.

A small barrel-vaulted underground room (the 'cell') (KD022-029058) orientated north-south lies immediately east of the cathedral. The presence of a flat-lintelled window, with internal splay, in the south wall shows that it was originally above ground. It is now entered from the west through a rectangular opening reached by eleven steps from the modern ground level above.

At the east end of the cathedral and the north of the 'cell' is a small stone roofed chamber measuring 1.4m by 1.5m. The roof of this structure is 70cm above present ground level. It is

probably part of a burial vault. North-east of the cathedral are the footings of the two walls which may have been the mortuary chapel for the Leigh family.

A large collection of cross slabs, grave slabs, decorated stones, and three effigies, dating from the 10th to the 17th centuries, now reside in the cathedral (see Table 2 in Section 7.1). The effigies include a 13th century bishop, traditionally identified as John of Taunton, a 14th century example from Religeen, and a 16th century effigy example of Richard Fitzgerald of Lackagh (d.1575), a limestone table tomb originally from Great Connell Friary.

2.2.3.1. High Cross

The high cross is located in the south-western sector of a graveyard (KD022-029003), to the south-west of St Brigid's Cathedral (KD022-029005). According to Bradley *et al.* (1986 Vol 3, 224-5), it is a damaged undecorated, ringed, granite cross-head, the upper portion of which is missing, carried on a tall, plain, gently tapering granite shaft (H 3m; Wth 0.56m; T 0.31m) on a large, almost square base (H 1.2m; L 1.36m; Wth c.1.33m).

2.2.3.2. Round Tower

The round tower is situated north-west of the medieval cathedral. While its date is unknown, most round towers appear to have been constructed in the 9th / 10th century (Corlett 1998). The masonry is of two types – the base and lower courses are of evenly coursed granite while above this the masonry consists of roughly coursed limestone. The tower is 32.6m high and 5.35m wide above the base. It has seven floors all of which are supported on corbels except for the third floor, which is slightly off-set, and the sixth, which has a wide off-set and no corbels. The door of dressed red sandstone is the most striking feature of the tower. It faces south-east and is set 4.67m above external ground level. It has a Romanesque door of four orders with a tangent gable above and is in effect a double porch. The first order is modern; the second order has chevron decoration on the outer face of the moulding with low mouldings and a chevron motif on the soffit. The jambs of the fourth are decorated with square foliated capitals and the soffit has chevron patterns forming lozenges which enclose rosettes. There are narrow pointed splayed windows in the second, third, fourth and fifth floors while the top floor has five windows. The battlements were added in the 18th century (Bradley *et al.*, 1986).

2.2.3.3. Graveyard Enclosure Wall

The present cathedral, graveyard and round tower are located within a sub-rectangular churchyard wall or enclosure (Figure 2). This boundary is very likely to have formed the pre-Norman enclosure around the monastic site. The radial course of Priest's Lane, Academy Street, St Brigid's Square and Convent Road was almost certainly influenced by the outline of an outer enclosure of the monastery and it is likely that parts of it were incorporated into the defences of the Anglo-Norman town (Bradley *et al.*, 1986). The graveyard contains many thousands of burials dating from the Early Medieval Period up to the present day; however the graveyard has only been in occasional use as a burial place since 1986. The graveyard wall is constructed of masonry of varied composition and dates to sometime in the post-medieval period, though it may overlie the original innermost monastic enclosure (see Section 5). The current entrance in the south-east corner dates from the early 19th century.

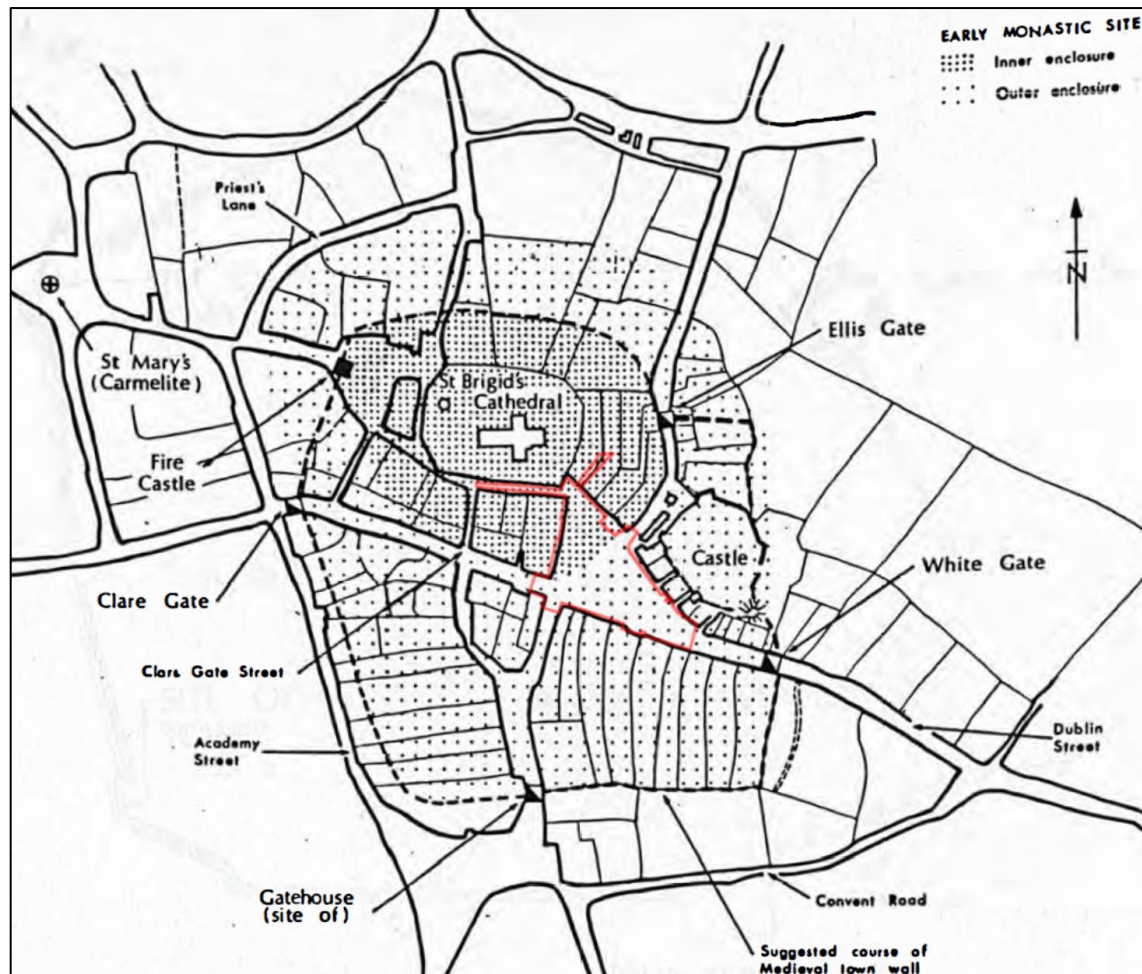


Figure 2 Outline plan showing principal archaeological features (after Bradley *et al.* 1986), overlaid with proposed development site

2.3. The Development of Kildare Town in the Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

During 12th century Kildare was the most important settlement in the county; it was of key strategic importance, with a hilltop location and rich farmland, and quickly attracted Anglo-Normans attention. A castle was built outside the monastic enclosure and it is likely that town defences, in the form of stone walls, earthen banks, ditches or timber palisades were erected around the settlement. Kildare was used by Strongbow as a base on many occasions during the early 1170s. It became the principal manor of Strongbow's lordship in North Leinster, with a borough established sometime before his death in 1176.

The first castle was likely a motte-and-bailey construction, probably the mound depicted on Rocque's map of 1757 (KD022-029025, c. 28m north-east of the proposed development boundary) to the south-east of the castle (Figure 4 and Figure 15), which was subsequently incorporated into its defences. A masonry castle (KD022-029004) was in existence before 1185, built by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster. It was situated between present Nugent Street and Cox's Lane, north-east of Market Square. Today only three sides of the polygonal walled enclosure or curtain wall (NW, NE and SE), a gatehouse converted into a tower house, and the lower courses of two mural towers (at SW and N) survive above ground, in the car park of the Silken Tomas hotel.

Ownership of the castle, manor and county of Kildare passed to William de Vesci in 1297. Although no charter to the town survives from the 13th century, the existence of such a charter is implied by the claim made in 1297 by the burgesses of the right to try offences '*by charter of the lords of the Liberty*'. There are repeated references to burgesses in the 13th and 14th centuries. The town prospered during the 13th century, as evidenced by the significant church building activity that was undertaken in the town during this period, beyond that of building the new cathedral: the Franciscan friary was founded c. 1254-60, the Carmelite Friary was founded c. 1290 and the church St Mary Magdalene was in existence by 1307. These religious houses indicate the status of the town in this period.

Evidence for industry in Kildare is scarce, although milling was clearly important. Parliament was held in Kildare town in 1309-10 an indication of the town's prosperity and status. In 1316 after the Edward Bruce invasion, the most powerful local magnate John FitzThomas FitzGerald was created Earl of Kildare and the town and castle were granted to him. The association of the FitzGerald's continued until the 20th century, although their principal seat in the Middle Ages was Maynooth Castle. Surviving accounts provide an indication of the size of the borough in the first half of the 14th century: Kildare had c. 200 burgage plots in around 1330, with population of c. 1000 (Bradley *et al.*, 1986). Based on this evidence, it is likely that the built-up area of Kildare changed little between the medieval period and the 18th century.

In 1515 Kildare got a new charter of incorporation from Henry VIII which as well as laying down regulations for functioning of the corporation, granted the town a weekly market, along with *pavage* (to maintain and improve roads and streets) and *murage* (to build and repair the town walls) rights. As a frontier town Kildare witnessed occasional attacks by the native Irish. In 1540 both the Franciscan and Carmelite monasteries burnt by the Ó Conchobair's (White, 1943, 16-7, in Bradley *et al.*, 1986, 201). The town suffered decline from the late 16th century up to the mid-18th century. The town was the scene of an engagement in 1598, during the Nine Years War, and was left so badly damaged that it was 'altogether disinhabited' (Moryson 1907, in Bradley *et al.* 1986, 201). According to Bradley *et al.* (1986), the Cathedral was still ruined and roofless in 1604 and a number of properties were described in 1607 as ruinous or lately burned. The town was an important garrison site during the Confederate wars and in 1642-43, 300 royalists troops were garrisoned there (Gilbert, 1882-91, in Bradley *et al.*, 1986, 201). In the Census of c.1659 the population was only 359.

In addition to the attacks and disruptions of the late 16th and 17th centuries, the decline in the town's posterity during this period is partly attributable to its lack of a river and not being located on a major routeway. However in 1731 the road from Naas to Maryborough (Portlaoise) was turnpiked - placing Kildare on the main route to Dublin, with the town benefiting greatly from passing trade. In the 19th century there was a steady expansion of the town, which saw the coming of the railway and the military barracks on the Curragh. The association of Kildare as a garrison town continued (from the 1640s) with the opening of the military barracks in 1901. In 1922 the British vacated the barracks. In March 1925 the newly created Artillery Corp arrived in Kildare.

2.3.1. Town Defences

The line of the medieval walls (KD022-029009) is uncertain, though the existence of at least three gates can be established by placename and other evidence (Clare Gate to the east, Ellis Gate and White Gate) (Figure 2). While the precise sites of the gates and the wall circuit are not known, a conjectural outline based on available evidence was proposed by Thomas (1992) (see also Section 7.1.4 and Figure 17). It covers an area of nine hectares, which places it among the smaller Irish walled towns of that period including those of nearby Naas and Athy. Although street widening

and the loss of its gates have made the historic layout more difficult to appreciate on the ground, the medieval street pattern has largely been retained. Of the former town walls only the enclosures to the cathedral, and to a lesser extent the former castle, remain above ground. Other sections may be buried underground, or have been partially rebuilt along more recent property boundaries.

The earliest definitive references to the town defences occur in Emerson's survey of the town dating to 1674, which names the gates and a building known as the Fire Castle. The *Clare Gate* stood near the west end of Claregate Street and was named *West Gate* in the early 19th century. The *Fire Castle* stood to the west of the cathedral on the south side of Church Lane and north of Fire Castle Lane. Two walls are shown on Roque's map of 1757, annotated 'Fire Castle'; it may be the castle belonging to the convent of *St Brigid de Firehouse* that is referred to in the Dissolution documents of 1540 as *a small castle or fortillage with a chapel* and described as lying within the precincts of the nunnery. It was demolished before 1798 but the site is recorded in the valuation of 1853. The *Ellis Gate* appears to have been located on Station Road. Demolished before 1757, its exact position is now unknown, but it was probably located at the crest of the ridge before Station Road drops towards the north. The *White Gate* was located at the eastern end of the town in Dublin Street. It was demolished before 1757 and its exact position is likewise unknown. At the west end of Dublin Street there is a slight constriction in the building lines which may correlate with the position of the gate.

Black Ditch or Clae Moor Street (present Cleamore Road) is indicated on Rocque's 1757 map of Kildare. The name is derived from *Clea Mór* meaning great ditch and it may represent the line of a ditch associated with the western sector of the monastic enclosure, subsequently incorporated into the line of the medieval defences. In the 1930s, much of the area was obliterated by the building of the wallpaper factory.

2.3.2. Market Square

The triangular market place is located mid-way along Claregate Street and Dublin Street and may occupy the space, south-east of the church, between the inner and outer ecclesiastical enclosures of the early monastic site (Swan 1985, 86). This location of a market in this position is characteristic of early ecclesiastical settlements (e.g. at Armagh, Kells, Tuam and Downpatrick) and so may be of pre-Norman origin. Its triangular shape does echo 17th / 18th century town planning, however, and it is possible that its origins are later. Bradley *et al.* (1986, 205) further note that when the Tholsel of Kildare was first referenced in 1674, it was recorded as being in Bride Street rather than Market Square. A tholsel was an important public building, generally combining the functions of civic hall, guildhall, gaol, and court. The lower part of Bride Street is also shown as wider on Rocque's 1757 map, suggesting it may have functioned as the medieval market place.

Kildare was principally a market town throughout the Middle Ages, though it is rarely referred to in the documentary sources. One reference that does survive dates to 1458, when Thomas FitzMaurice, Earl of Kildare, was permitted to change the day of the weekly market at Kildare, in order to avoid a clash with the market day at Naas. The same grant allowed him to hold an annual fair at Kildare (Berry 1910, 507, in Bradley *et al.*, 1986).

A building on the site of the present Market House – and named 'The Market House' – is depicted at the centre of Market Square on Rocque's 1757 town plan (see Section 3, Figure 4). The detached three-bay single-storey Market House that now stands in Market Square was constructed in 1817 and is a protected structure (RPS B22-42; NIAH Reg. No. 11817003; see Section 7.2). The NIAH record describes it as a fine, substantial building that conforms to traditional market house planning, comprising a Classically-composed symmetrical block of graceful proportions. It

originally had an open arcade to ground floor having a meeting / governor's room above. (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11817003/kildare-market-house-market-square-kildare-kildare-kildare>).

A well was noted by Rocque in 1757 to the east (Dublin side) of the Market House, which is marked as a pump in 1817 and a fountain in 1836 (see Section 3); these presumably referred to the same feature, a water source for the town's inhabitants. A pump was used on the Market Square until the early 20th century but was eventually removed. In 1973 an ancient well was discovered on the Market Square but filled in for safety reasons. It was re-discovered in 2003 and, now restored, has become a permanent feature on the Market Square (<https://kildareheritage.com/history-market-house>).

3. CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

3.1. Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

3.1.1. Down Survey, c. 1656

The Down Survey baronial map is the earliest cartographic source for Kildare town, showing the principal buildings, including the cathedral, round tower, castle, and the abbey on the outskirts. A house is also depicted, which can often be a way to indicate settlement. No street pattern or enclosure is shown on the map.

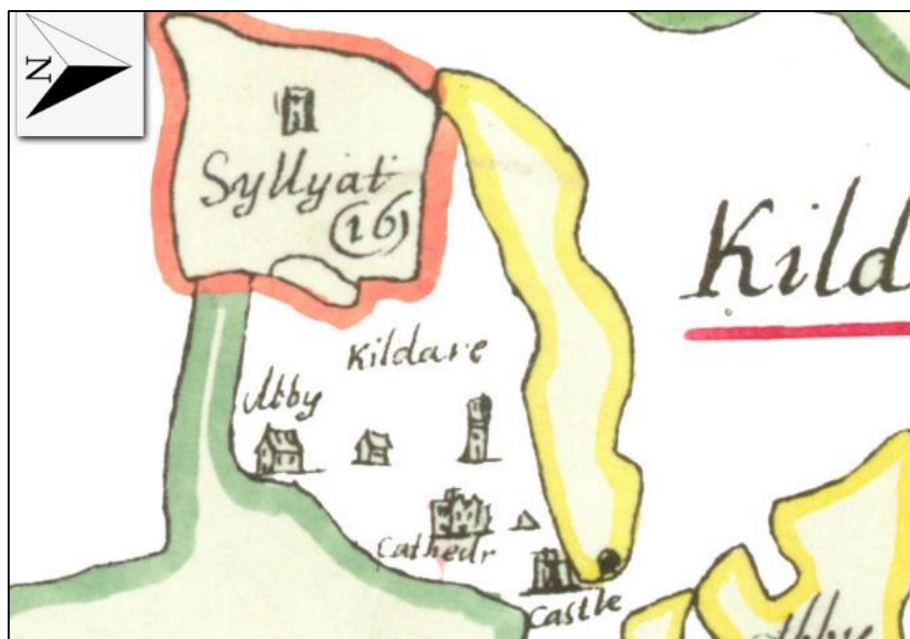


Figure 3 Down Survey map of the Barony of Ophaly, c. 1656

3.1.2. 18th and early 19th century estate maps

The 18th century estate maps by Rocque in 1757 (Figure 4) and by Sherrard in 1798 (Figure 5) show the same street pattern in and around Market Square, but demonstrate the continued urban development in Kildare town over the second half of the 18th century. The dominant position of the cathedral and its enclosure are clear on the maps. Both also show the predecessor to the present Market House. Rocque depicts three adjoining buildings and a yard, with a tree in the Square to the north-west and a well to the south-east. By the time of Sherrard's map, however,

the small square building attached to its north-east side had been removed and a much larger building is shown occupying the space, with an adjoining section to the west. It is named 'Market House' and is the same size and alignment as the present one, which is dated to 1817 (the present 19th century building may have incorporated an earlier structure). The western projection had disappeared by the time of the 1817 map by Sherrard, Brassington and Greene (Figure 6).

The core of the town had also changed in the intervening years, though the long burgage plots and the buildings fronting them on the south side of Market Square remained much the same. The 1798 map shows the development of plots indicated as vacant on Rocque's map at the west end of Claregate Street and on the west and south sides of the cathedral enclosure., with areas marked as 'Glebe' (i.e. church owned). There later map also shows infill within plots depicted on Rocque and the replacement of buildings. This is particularly evident on the north-east side of Market Square, where a row of small houses have been replaced by three larger buildings. The curtain wall and shape of the castle enclosure is clear on all three of the estate maps.

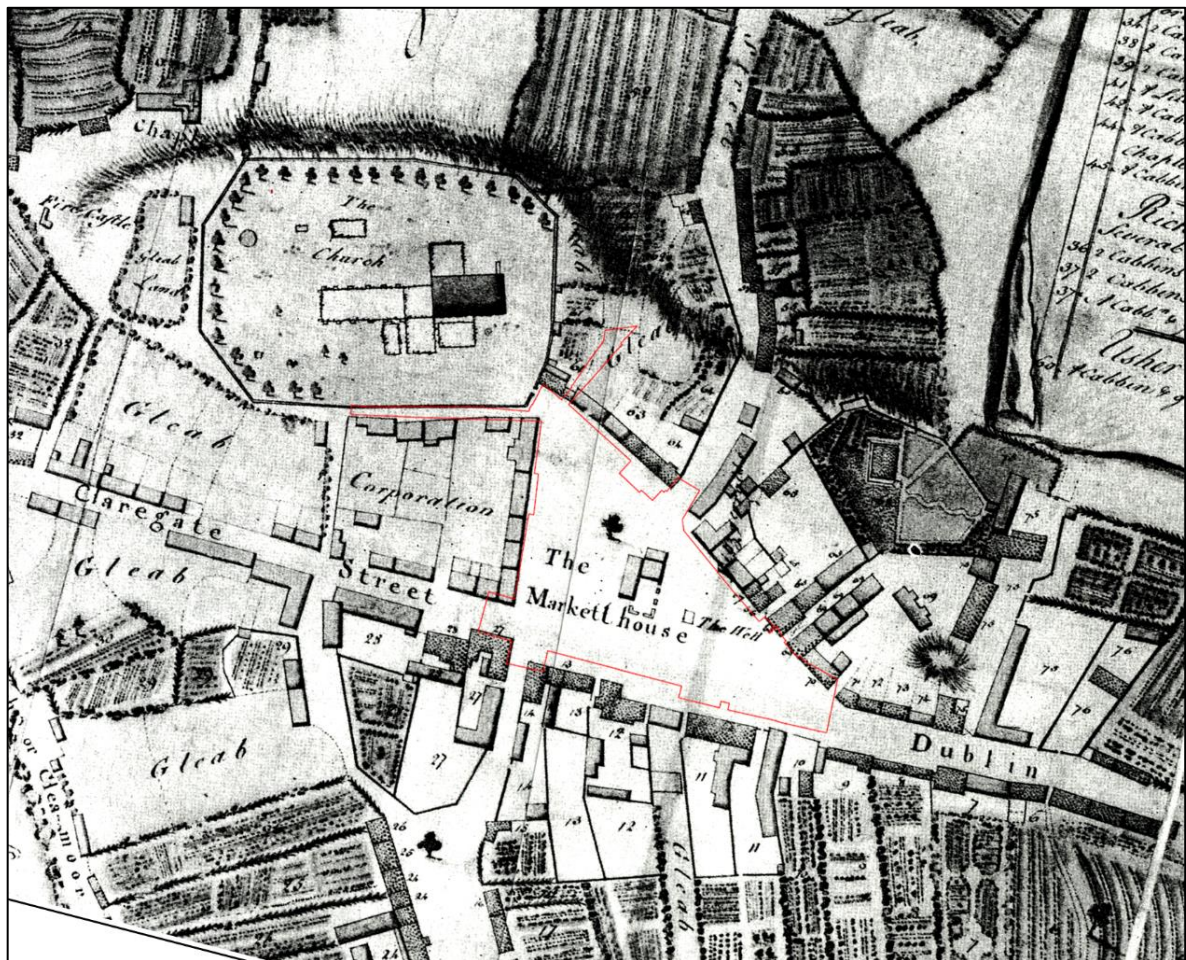


Figure 4 John Rocque's plan of Kildare Town, 1757



Figure 5 Survey by Thomas Sherrard, 1798



Figure 6 Survey by Sherrard, Brassington and Greene, 1817

3.2. Ordnance Survey Maps, 1836, 1872, 1908

The Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping is the first accurate, to scale, cartographic representation of the town reflects a similar picture as the earlier maps. At the time of the first edition six-inch OS map of 1836 (Figure 7 & Figure 8), the core of the town was still relatively confined, though there had been ongoing development within it. This can be seen on the south side of Claregate Street, for example, and infill to the rear of plots is also evident on the north-west side of Market Square. Other development is evident on the south side of the town, where a Roman Catholic Chapel, a nunnery, two schools and an infirmary are depicted. Market Square appears little changed, though a fountain is now indicated at the site of the well shown on Rocque’s map. The most notable change is to the medieval castle enclosure, the south side of which had been removed to facilitate the creation of new or extended property plots.



Figure 7 Ordnance Survey first edition six-inch map, 1836, showing approximate site location

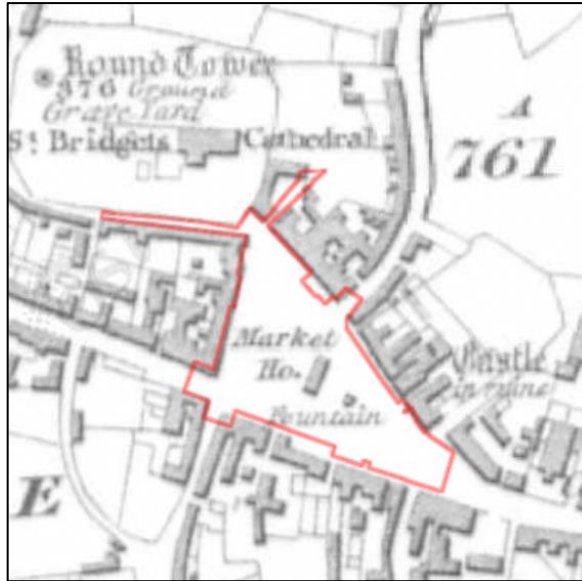


Figure 8 Detail of Ordnance Survey first edition six-inch map, 1836, showing Market Square, overlaid with approximate site location

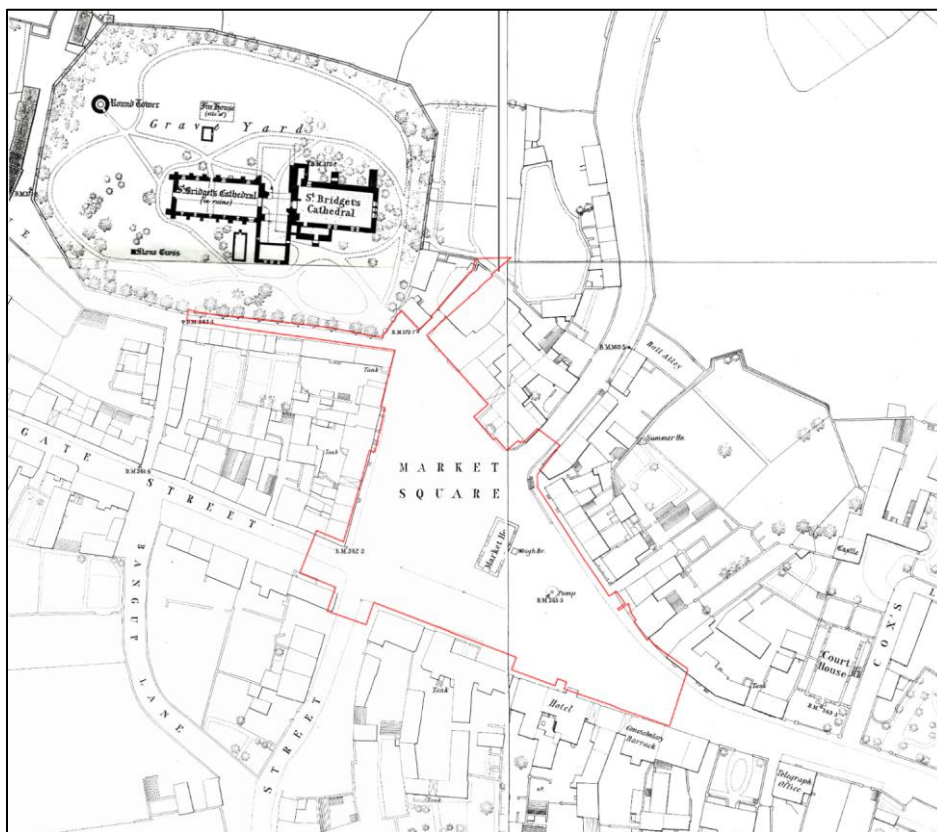


Figure 9 Ordnance Survey five-foot plan 1872, showing approximate site location

The 1872 OS five-foot plan (Figure 9 & Figure 10) provides a more detailed view of the town centre, though it reflects little change since the 1836 map. The dotted line with bollards to the south-west of Market House formalises the line of the thoroughfare between Claregate Street and Dublin Street. A weigh bridge is indicated on the south-east side of the Market House and a pump is marked at the site of the earlier fountain. Some of the other public buildings are labelled, including

the Court House on the north side of Dublin Street, opposite which is a Telegraph Office. A Constabulary Barrack is located on the south side of Market Square, as is a hotel. The remains of the Anglo-Norman castle are also indicated, to the rear of the Court House. A Ball Alley is depicted adjoining the north-west side of the castle enclosure.

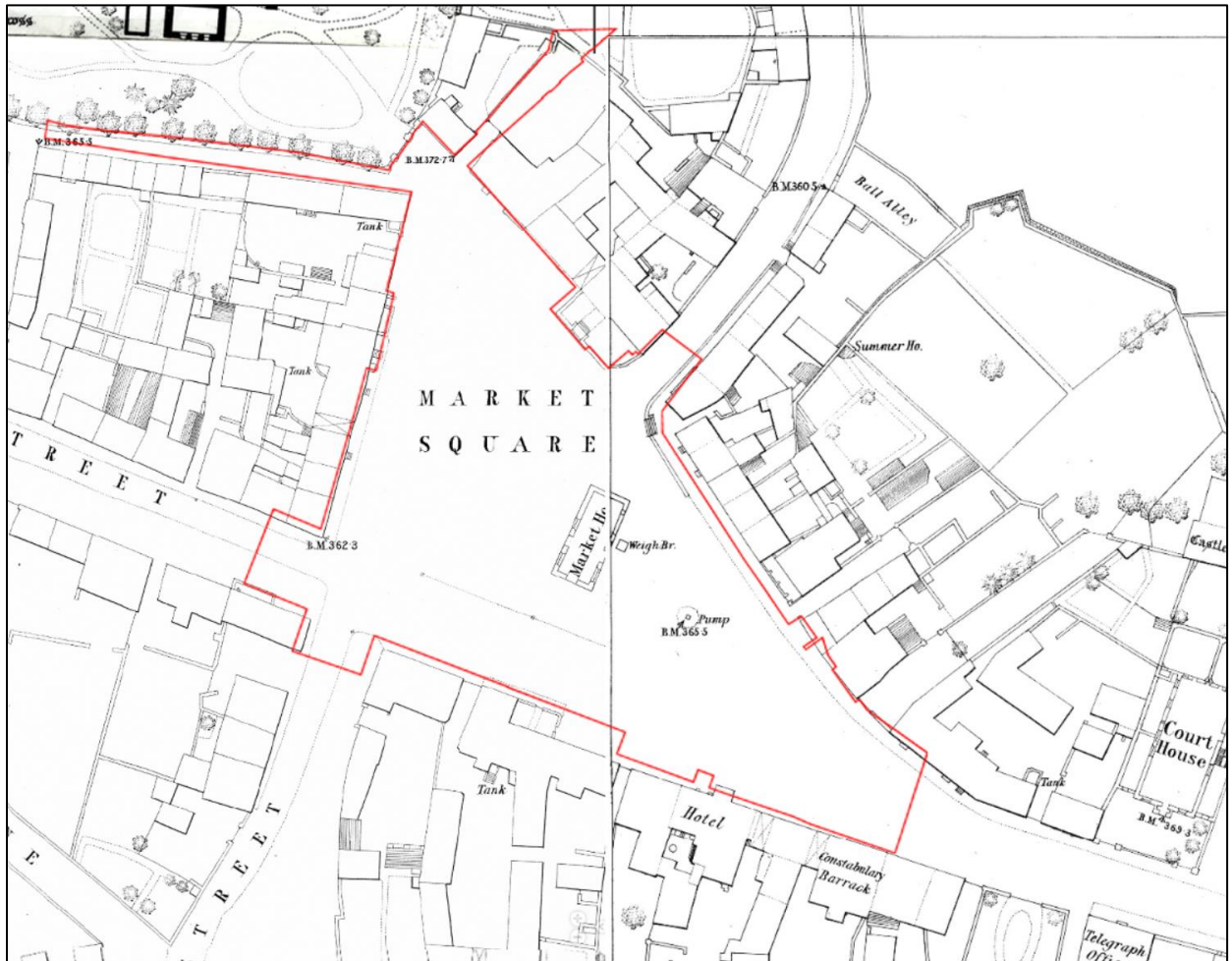


Figure 10 Detail of Ordnance Survey five-foot plan 1872, showing approximate site location

With the exception of a hotel indicated on the west side of Market Square, the most notable difference on the OS 25-inch map of 1908 (Figure 11) is that a public space has been marked out around the Market House, roughly mirroring the triangular shape of the Square, creating streets along the west and south-west sides and incorporating the division depicted on the 1872 map to the south-east. The 1942 revised edition OS six-inch map (Figure 12) depicts a further subdivision of this area, with a diagonal through-way linking the junctions of Claregate Street and Bride Street to Station Road, as today.

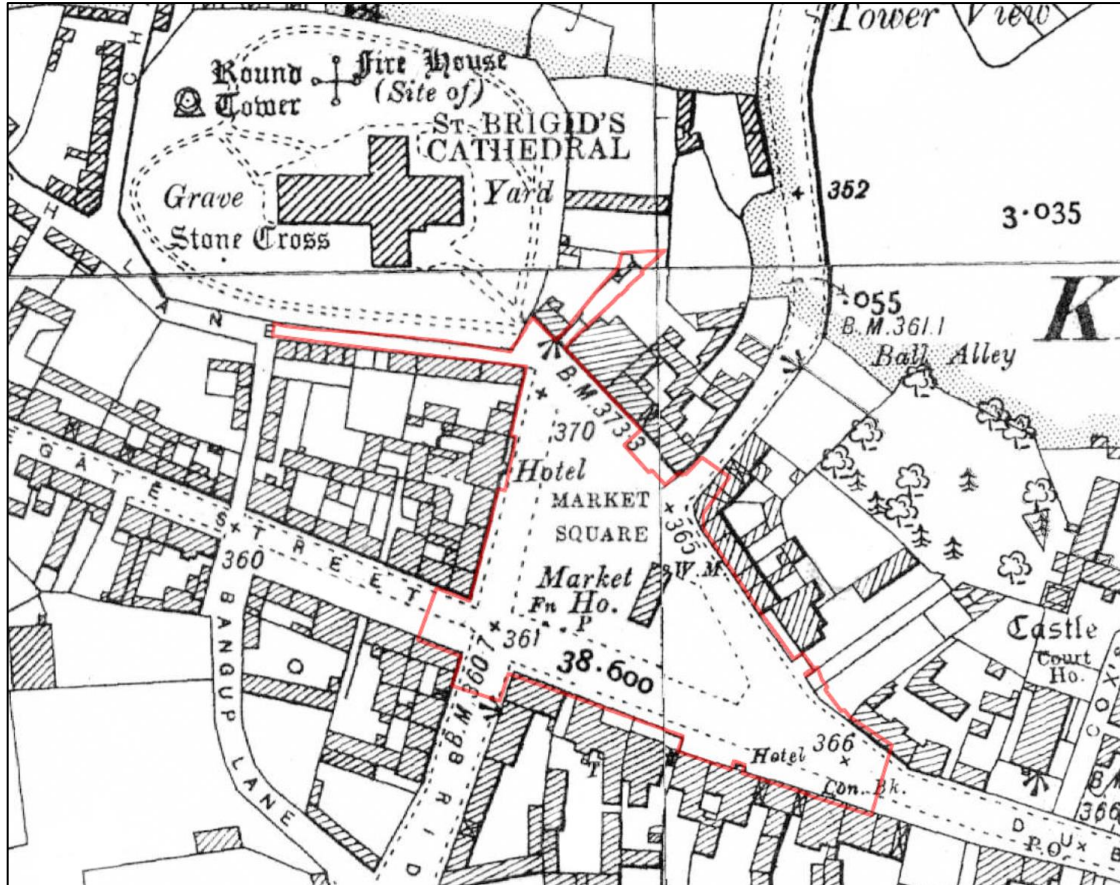


Figure 11 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, 1908, showing approximate site location

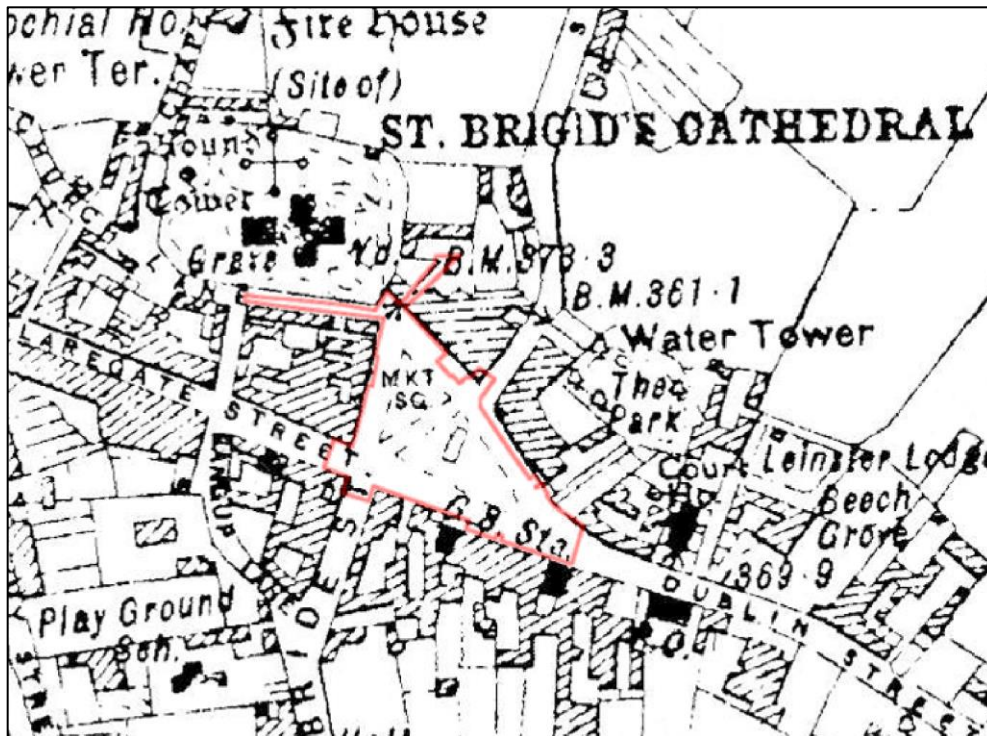


Figure 12 Ordnance Survey revised edition six-inch map, 1942, showing approximate site location

4. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Despite its urban nature, traces of the early medieval and medieval enclosures can be traced in the street pattern and property boundaries. This can be seen in Figure 13, which shows an overlay of the conjectural lines of the phases of the enclosing elements beyond the cathedral enclosure.

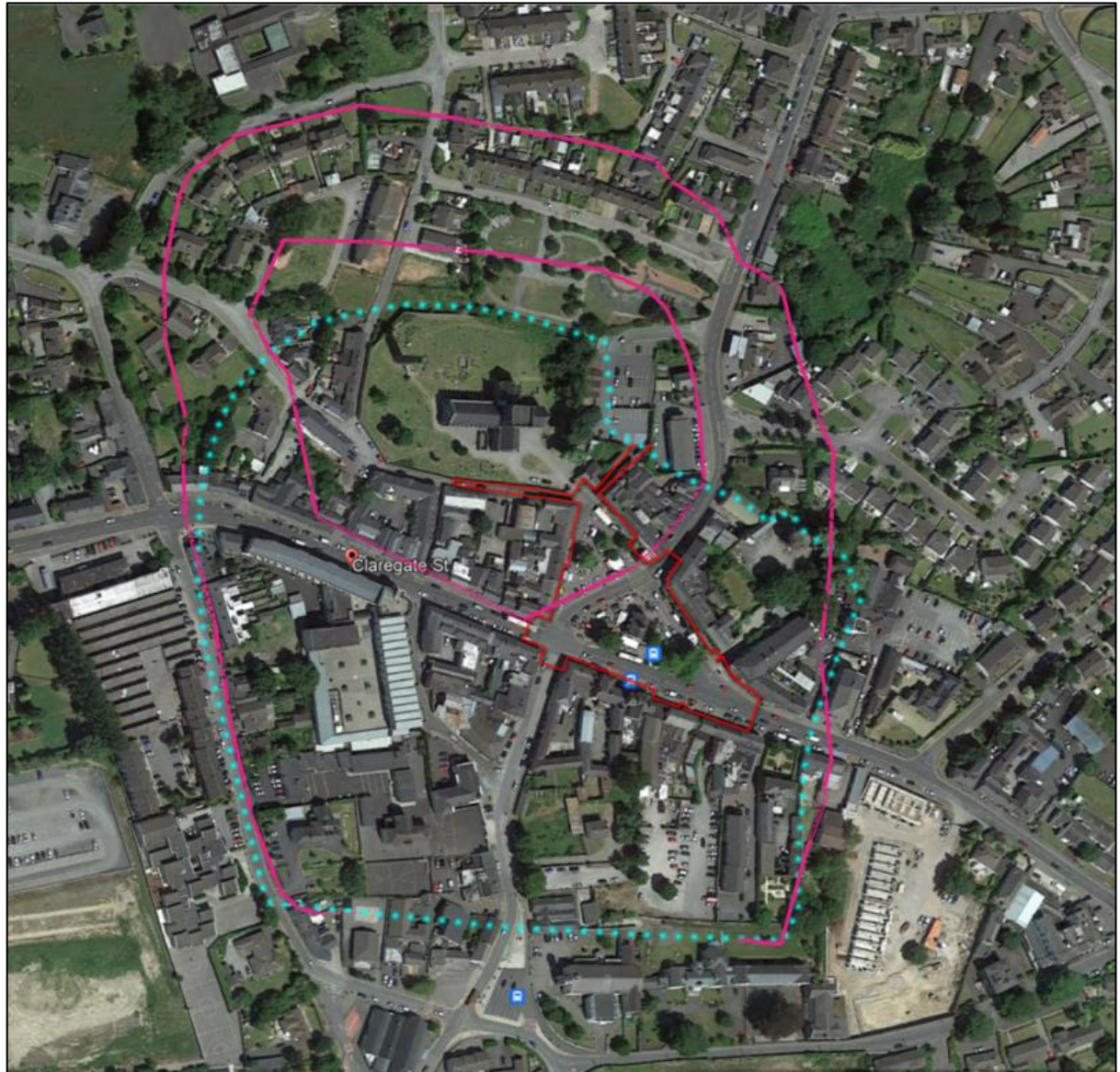


Figure 13 Conjectural line of medieval wall circuit (in blue) and monastic enclosures (in pink) and proposed development site boundary overlaid onto recent aerial imagery (Google Earth Pro 6/28/2018)

5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Only one previous archaeological investigation has taken place within the proposed development boundary, comprising archaeological testing in advance of gas pipeline laying in 1998 and 1999 (Excavation Licence No. 98E0376 & 98E0574) within the RMP zone of notification. The trench running from the junction of Bride Street northwards towards the Cathedral (through Market Square) contained seven sherds of medieval pottery, along with a cut antler, an iron nail, red brick, several pieces of cremated bone, and unburnt animal bone and teeth. Another trench running from the junction of Station Road to Dublin Street contained four sherds of medieval pottery, all

from the extreme north-west end of the trench. A trench was also excavated on the north-west side of Market Square in the centre of the town beside the cathedral and within what would have been the monastic enclosure. Significant archaeological levels were observed at the latter site only. An amount of animal bone was recovered from a dark clay layer directly underlying the surface tarmac. No artefacts were observed. The thickness of the deposit was not ascertained, although it reaches below the 0.4m depth of the excavated trench. While sections of the pipeline crossed the conjectural line of the town defences including sites at Claregate Street, Dublin Street and Cleamore Street no archaeological remains associated with the medieval town wall, gatehouses or the early monastic enclosure were uncovered. Due to the shallowness (under 1m) of the trenches excavated as part of the scheme, it is possible that medieval remains associated with the town defences survive within deeper deposits.

Several others have been carried out on sites adjacent to the proposed development. An investigation took place on the north-east side of Market Square, as part of an application for change of use at the building at the corner of Market Square and Nugent Street (formerly Graham's Bakery) (Excavations Bulletin Ref. 1989:057). The north-west tower of the castle curtain wall is believed to have stood on the site. A two-storey structure built against the curtain wall occupies the approximate site of the tower. It has three walls forming an open-backed building, the east wall abutting the curtain wall. The north-east corner has a batter which begins some 3m above ground level, while the stonework is regular and similar to that in the curtain wall itself. The foundation courses of the structure were revealed during the excavation works along with areas of disturbed boulder clay that may represent the presence of a ditch associated with the curtain wall.

Monitoring of foundation trenches took place in advance of an extension of the then 'Carnoisieur' shop at the corner of Claregate Street and Market Square in 1998 (Licence No. 98E0239). Archaeological features, which were hand-excavated, included a drain / gully bounding a cobbled surface (possibly a footpath), the fill of which contained disarticulated animal bones, slate fragments, unworked wood fragments and sherds of medieval pottery.

Archaeological excavations have revealed a wealth of medieval and post-medieval material in recent years and indicate areas of archaeological potential within the town of Kildare. While many of the excavations have intersected with the conjectured lines of the monastic enclosure, town wall or the sites of the town gates, few have provided definitive evidence for their existence (see Appendix 3 for summaries of relevant archaeological investigations in the vicinity). It is likely that the development of the town in the late 18th and 19th century, when a variety of public and private buildings were constructed, many of which were provided with cellars or basements, has resulted in the removal of much of the medieval archaeological stratigraphy.

While few sites have provided clarity on the nature of the town defences, the investigations within the town have revealed evidence for its early and later medieval occupation and material recovered, including medieval pottery and animal bones, provides an indication of the daily life of the town's inhabitants. No archaeological assessments undertaken have necessitated deep excavations for basements or underground carparking. Archaeological features and finds have generally been recovered between 0-3m below ground level and there is the potential for the discovery of further deposits within the proposed development boundary. Due to the longevity of settlement within the town, the historic core is considered to have high archaeological potential. Those that are on the conjectured line of the early monastic enclosures and later town defences have the ability to provide new information on the nature of the enclosing elements and the presence of associated features including mural towers and gatehouses.

6. TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

The Petrie papers describe the discovery on the 8th of February 1843 during an excavation at the base of the Round Tower (KD022-029020) in Kildare Town by Rev. Browne. These bracteates (decorated dishes or plates of precious metal; of which there were at least six discovered as part of Browne's work) were found immediately under the bed of mortar on which the floor of the tower was laid. Bradley *et al.* (254-55) attributes the bracteates to the Hiberno-Norse period and estimates that they were deposited c. 1135.

A bronze socketed axe was found in the town (exact find spot unknown) (NMI Reg. No. SA1927: 59; Bradley *et al.* 254-55). Another bronze axe recorded as found in Kildare town is 'curiously' engraved on both sides. Information on this artefact was sourced solely from Bradley *et al.* (254-55). This axe is part of the Nelligan collection (1853, lot 4).

7. DESIGNATED SITES

7.1. Archaeological Heritage

7.1.1. Introduction

The proposed development is located within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (KD022-029001; Figure 14), at the heart of the early medieval and medieval settlement.

There are three individual recorded archaeological monuments (RMP / SMR sites) in Market Square, located within Market House, none of which is in its original context (Table 1). Two of these came from Ballyshannon Castle, almost 10km south-east of Kildare town: an architectural feature (KD022-029071), comprising a 17th century Fitzgerald mantelpiece; and two 17th century armorial plaques (KD022-029072). The third record relates to an effigial tomb (KD022-029070), a decorated and inscribed 13th century limestone slab, the original location of which was a church and graveyard in Castledillon Upper townland, c. 27km to the north-east.

The cathedral enclosure (the graveyard boundary wall), which contains the cathedral, round tower, high cross and multiple other recorded sites (Table 2), is located immediately north-west of the proposed development boundary along Firewall Lane (Figure 15) (Section 7.1.2) and the projected line of the ecclesiastical enclosure surrounding this runs through Market Square (Figure 2) (Section 7.1.4).

In addition, the possible line of the medieval defences crosses the laneway at the car park to the rear of the Verger's House, on the north-west side of the cathedral, where the north-western arm of the proposed development boundary extends (Section 7.1.4).

There are also several recorded sites located in the vicinity of the proposed development site (Table 3, Figure 15 & Figure 2), one of which comprises the remains of an Anglo-Norman masonry castle (KD022-029004) situated between Nugent Street and Cox's Lane, north-east of Market Square (Section 7.1.5).

The sites listed in Tables 1 to 4 and outlined in Sections 7.1.1 to 7.1.4 below are also discussed in the context of the archaeological and historical background in Section 2.

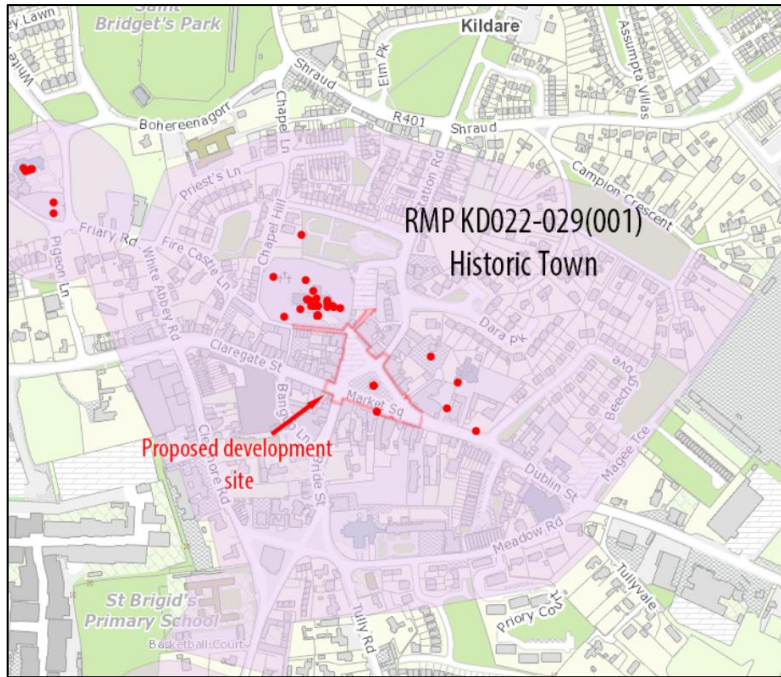


Figure 14 Location of proposed development within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town

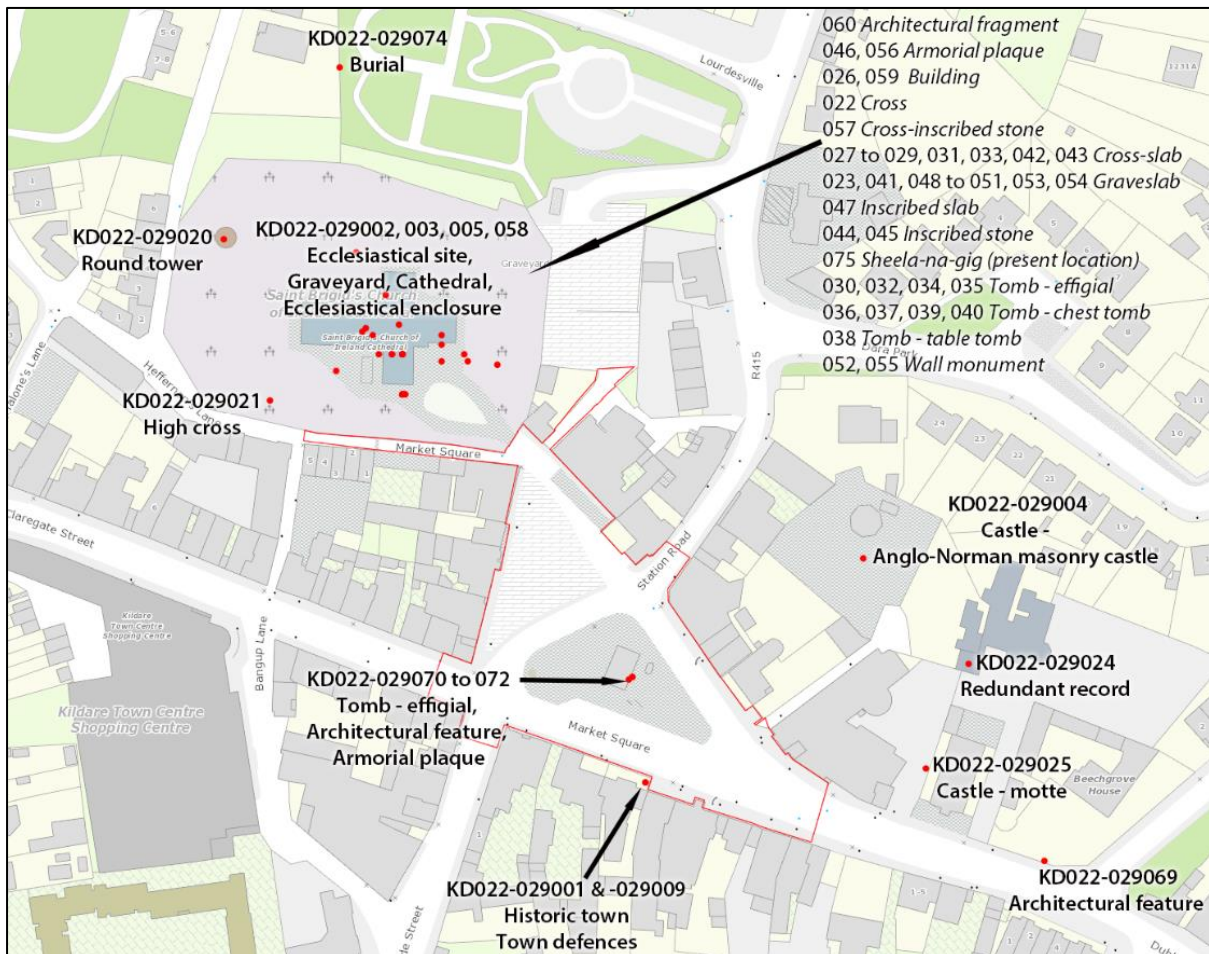


Figure 15 RMP sites within / in the vicinity of the proposed development site

Table 1 RMP / SMR sites within the proposed development boundary

RMP / SMR No.	Classification	ITM E	ITM N
KD022-029001-	Historic town	672875	712351
KD022-029070-	Tomb - effigial	672870	712382
KD022-029071-	Architectural feature	672871	712383
KD022-029072-	Armorial plaque	672871	712383

Table 2 RMP / SMR sites within the cathedral complex

RMP / SMR No.	Classification	ITM E	ITM N
KD022-029002-	Ecclesiastical site	672792	712487
KD022-029003-	Graveyard	672790	712489
KD022-029005-	Cathedral	672798	712481
KD022-029020-	Round tower	672747	712516
KD022-029021-	Cross - High cross	672761	712467
KD022-029022-	Cross	672781	712476
KD022-029023-	Graveslab	672801	712481
KD022-029026-	Building	672787	712512
KD022-029027-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029028-	Cross-slab	672801	712481
KD022-029029-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029030-	Tomb - effigial	672813	712479
KD022-029031-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029032-	Tomb - effigial	672801	712481
KD022-029033-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029034-	Tomb - effigial (present location)	672801	712469
KD022-029035-	Tomb - effigial	672801	712469
KD022-029036-	Tomb - chest tomb	672801	712469
KD022-029037-	Tomb - chest tomb	672801	712469
KD022-029038-	Tomb - table tomb	672801	712469
KD022-029039-	Tomb - chest tomb	672801	712469
KD022-029040-	Tomb - chest tomb	672801	712469
KD022-029041-	Graveslab	672801	712481
KD022-029042-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029043-	Cross-slab	672801	712469
KD022-029044-	Inscribed stone	672801	712469
KD022-029045-	Inscribed stone	672801	712469
KD022-029046-	Armorial plaque	672801	712481
KD022-029047-	Inscribed slab	672813	712484
KD022-029048-	Graveslab	672820	712481
KD022-029049-	Graveslab	672801	712469
KD022-029050-	Graveslab	672801	712481
KD022-029051-	Graveslab	672802	712469
KD022-029052-	Wall monument	672802	712469
KD022-029053-	Graveslab	672821	712479
KD022-029054-	Graveslab	672796	712499

KD022-029055-	Wall monument	672813	712487
KD022-029056-	Armorial plaque	672802	712469
KD022-029057-	Cross-inscribed stone	672800	712490
KD022-029058-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	672789	712488
KD022-029059-	Building	672830	712478
KD022-029060-	Architectural fragment	672794	712481
KD022-029075-	Sheela-na-gig (present location)	672798	712481

Table 3 RMP / SMR sites in the vicinity of the proposed development

RMP / SMR No.	Classification	ITM E	ITM N
KD022-029004-	Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle	672941	712419
KD022-029009-	Town defences	672875	712351
KD022-029024-	Redundant record	672973	712387
KD022-029025-	Castle - motte	672960	712355
KD022-029069-	Architectural feature	672996	712327
KD022-029074-	Burial	672782	712568

7.1.2. Cathedral enclosure

The cathedral enclosure contains the majority of the recorded sites associated with the early medieval monastery and later ecclesiastical settlement. The precise location of the early monastery (KD022-029002) at Kildare is uncertain, but it almost certainly stood on, or near, the surviving cathedral (KD022-029005), high cross (KD022-029021) and round tower (KD022-029020) in the graveyard (KD022-029003); while the curvilinear nature of some streets may reflect the lines of early monastic enclosures (see Section 7.1.3 below). A mortared stone wall surrounds the graveyard, forming the boundary of the cathedral enclosure and likely representing the innermost monastic enclosure. Archaeological excavation of a trial pit at the southern boundary wall in 2008 provided some evidence for this; although limited in nature, it revealed a section of a ditch and bank that appeared to follow the line of the wall and were the earliest features stratigraphically.

St Brigid's Cathedral and the round tower to its north-west are prominent features in the streetscape of the town, particularly in vistas within and around Market Square. The cathedral was built in the 1220s – and some of the medieval elements survive – though the present building was largely reconstructed during the late-19th century. The round tower, which dates to the early medieval phase of the ecclesiastical site, stands over 32m high and is topped with battlements added in the 18th century.

7.1.3. Early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures

Traces of the curvilinear plan of the original monastic site and early medieval ecclesiastical settlement, formed by its enclosures (KD022-029058), can be found in the present street pattern (Figure 2). The outer monastic enclosure is likely to be preserved in the line of (from NW to SE) Priest's Lane, Cleamore Road (formerly Academy Street), Bride Street running east-west at St Brigid's Church (formerly St Brigid's Square), and Meadow Road (formerly Convent Road) (Figure 2). In early medieval ecclesiastical proto-urban settlements, the enclosure graduated from most sacred at the centre and becoming more secular as they radiated outwards. Thus the outermost enclosure was generally used for crafting, industrial, and commercial activities. Within this large enclosure there may have been two smaller concentric enclosures, the smallest of which was formed by the present cathedral boundary, representing the inner sanctum that contained the church, burial ground, round tower and high cross. Enclosing this was a slightly larger area

probably used for domestic activities, containing the houses of the brothers and lay brothers, preserved in part of the line of Claregate Street to the south, continuing through Market Square and along Nugent Street to the south-east, and fragmented property boundaries depicted on the historic OS maps to the north/north-west.

7.1.4. Medieval town walls

The line of the medieval walls (KD022-029009) is uncertain, though the existence of at least three gates can be established by placename and other evidence (Clare Gate to the east, Ellis Gate and White Gate). While the precise sites of the gates and the wall circuit are not known, a conjectural outline based on available evidence was proposed by Thomas (1992) (Figure 16). Based on Thomas's conjectural plan, the projected line coincides with the proposed development site boundary in only one small section, where the laneway running north-west past the Verger's House meets the car park on the north-west side of the cathedral (Figure 13). The projected line varies at this point on the map provided in the *Kildare Town Walls: Conservation, Interpretation and Management Plan* (HHA 2014) (Figure 13), which would have it crossing the laneway (and so being traversed by the proposed development).

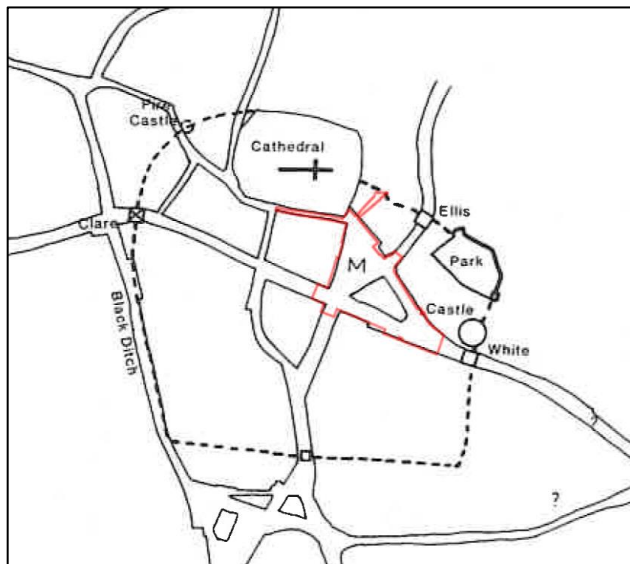


Figure 16 Conjectural line of the medieval town wall circuit and possible gate locations (after Thomas 1992), overlaid with proposed development site

7.1.5. Anglo-Norman Castle

The castle is located at the east end of a ridge of high ground that drops away sharply to the north and east and less sharply to the west and south. The remains of the Anglo-Norman masonry castle (KD022-029004) include the castle's gatehouse, on the east side of the Anglo-Norman polygonal-shaped enclosure (Figure 17). It was converted into a tower house in the 15th century and now stands in the car park of the Silken Tomas hotel. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 3, 207-13), the Anglo-Norman castle originally consisted of a curtain-walled, polygonal enclosure (area c. 0.43 hectares) with four towers, and a possible motte (KD022-029025) at its south-angle. Today only three sides of the polygonal walled enclosure or curtain wall (NW, NE and SE), a gatehouse converted into a tower house, and the lower courses of two mural towers (at SW and N) survive above ground. The interior of the castle ward was at the time of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland inspection (in 2016) used as a storage yard for Kildare County Council. Only a short portion of the curtain wall can be traced on the opposite, south-west side, of the gatehouse, from where

it presumably ran south-west to the site of the possible motte (KD022-029025). The curtain wall defence was augmented by three mural towers: one at the south-west is named 'Old Tower' on Sherrard's (1798) Map of Kildare, but no visible surface trace survives; remains of a second, rectangular and possibly open-backed tower (max. dims. L 9.8m; Wth 4m; wall T 1.6m), at north-west, are incorporated into the rear of Graham's Bakery on the corner of Market Square and Station Road; and the remains of a third, open-backed, rectangular tower (dims max. L 8.8m; Wth. could not be determined) survive at north-east (KD022-029004 RMP file description).

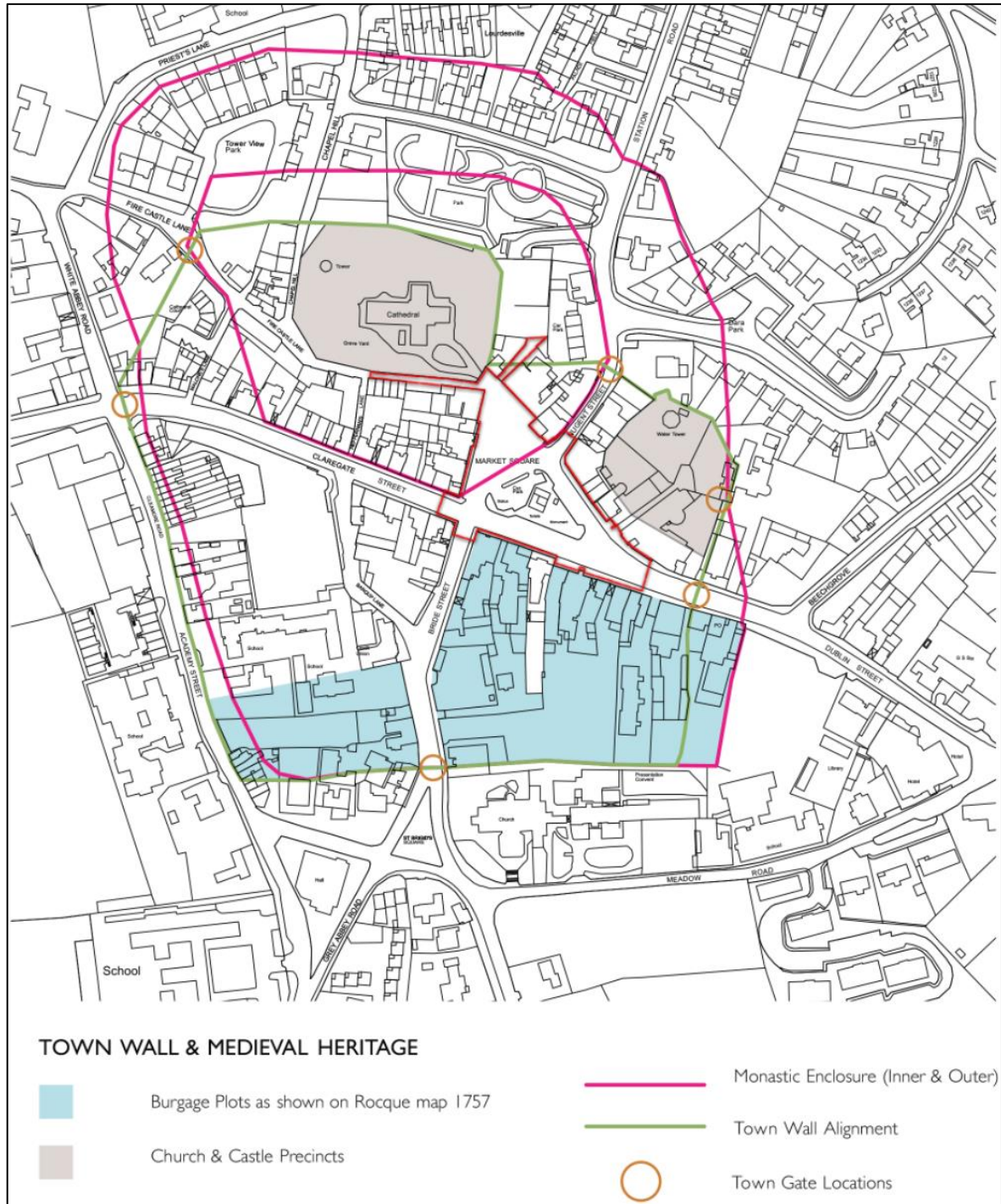


Figure 17 Map showing the conjectural lines of the monastic and town wall enclosures along with burgage plots and town gates (after HHA 2014), overlaid with proposed development boundary

7.2. Architectural Heritage

As a small town that has remained in continuous occupation for over 1500 years, Kildare has a fascinating collection of built heritage, with the cathedral, round tower and market house being particularly prominent and well known. The fine lodges, civic buildings and commercial premises in the town attest to a relatively prosperous period in recent centuries; along with the terraced streets and industrial buildings that filled in the gaps since the medieval walls were removed.

The cathedral, in addition to being a recorded archaeological monument (RMP KD022-029005) is a protected structure (RPS B22-45). It represents the earliest history of the town; although predominantly 19th century in date, it incorporates parts of the medieval building.

A further seventeen of the buildings lining Market Square, and features of cultural heritage interest within it, are listed in the Record of Protected Structures in the Kildare County Development Plan (2023-29), while others are recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (Table 4 and Appendix 2). Of these, the majority represent the late 18th / 19th century development of the town, both domestic and commercial, with 19th century houses (several of which were partly converted to commercial use at a later stage), a bank, and the Market House, and a late 18th century public house. There are also examples of 20th century buildings and street furniture, such as the mid-20th century former cinema on the south-east side of Market Square and the group of four freestanding lamp standards on the west side of the Square of similar date, as well as two memorials.

Table 4 RPS and NIAH sites within / adjacent to the proposed development site

RPS No.	NIAH Reg. No	Name	Original Use	Location
-	11817001	Monument	Monument, 1935	Market Square
-	11817002	1798 Monument	Monument, 1973	Market Square
B22-42	11817003	Kildare Market House	Market House, 1817	Market Square
B22-48	11817017	Southwells	House, c. 1820	Market Square
-	11817045	-	House, c. 1890	Market Square / Bride Street
-	11817046	-	House, c. 1870	Market Square
-	11817047	Bank of Ireland	Bank, 1903	Market Square
B22-63	11817048	Grace's Public House / Barrett House	House, c. 1770	Market Square
B22-19	11817100	Virginia Lodge	House, c. 1800	Market Square
-	11817051	Round Tower House	House, c. 1830	Market Square
-	11817101	Tower Cinema	Cinema, c. 1940	Market Square
B22-43	11817004	Lamp Standard	Lamp Standard, c. 1950	Market Square
B22-44	11817005	Nolan's / Seeta Public House	House, c. 1885	Market Square
B22-30	11817006	Verger's House	Rectory, c. 1864-65	Market Square
B22-45	11817007	St Brigid's Cathedral	Cathedral (NIAH National rating), built 1890-96, incorporating earlier, medieval elements	Church Lane
-	11817014	Fitzpatrick	Office, c. 1925	Market Square / Church Lane
-	11817015	Railings	Railings, c. 1840	Market Square

B22-47	11817016	The Vatican Public House	House, c. 1850	Market Square
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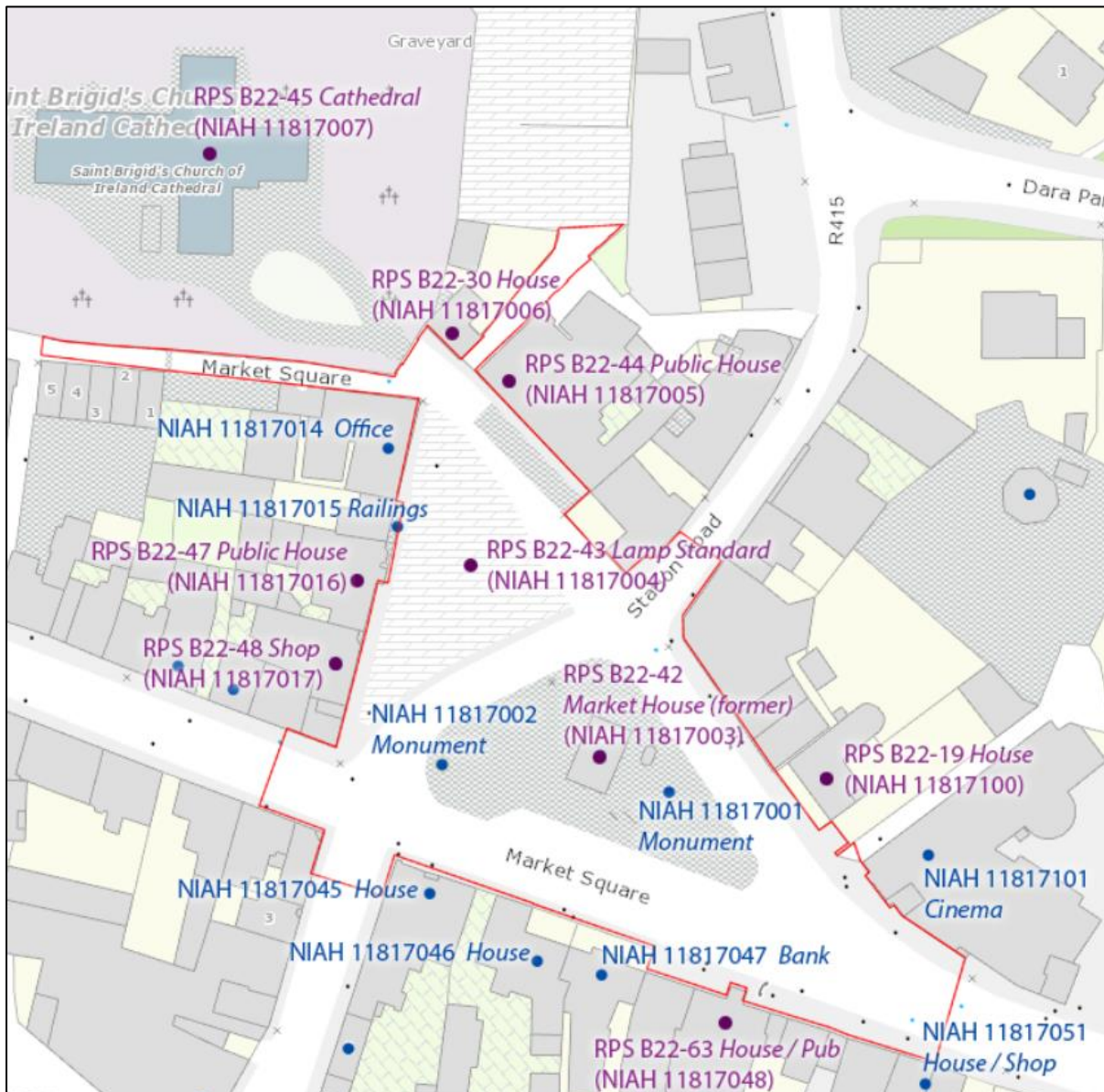


Figure 18 RPS and NIAH sites within / adjacent to the proposed development site

8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological, built, and cultural heritage within and surrounding Market Square is significant and lends much to the historic character of the Square. It represents the history of the town from the early medieval period onwards, with the earliest elements being the cathedral enclosure at the north-west side containing the prominent cathedral building (a recorded archaeological monument, RMP KD022-029005, and protected structure, RPS B22-45) and round tower (RMP KD022-029020). Medieval activity is less prominent, being characterised by the remains of the Anglo-Norman castle to the north-east (RMP KD022-029020), which is not visible from the Square. Many of the other built elements date to the 18th, 19th and 20th century development of the town. These include numerous protected structures and NIAH sites within and lining the Square, such as the early 19th century Market House (RPS B22-42) at its centre.

There are three individual RMP / SMR sites within the proposed development boundary in Market Square, however these are located within Market House and are not in their original context (17th century mantelpiece and armorial plaques, and a 13th century effigial tomb slab; KD022-029070 to -029072).

The proposed development is located within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (RMP KD022-029001), at the heart of the early medieval and medieval settlement. As such, the proposed development site is in an area considered to be of high archaeological potential. Within this there are also archaeological elements of particular note:

- The cathedral enclosure formed by the wall of the graveyard (RMP KD022-02903) is likely to represent the innermost enclosure of the early medieval ecclesiastical site (RMP KD022-029002), containing the site of the original monastic church and burial ground. Part of the proposed development extends alongside the wall on the south side of the enclosure. Limited archaeological excavation on the graveyard side of the wall at Heffernan's Lane indicates that the wall may follow an earlier ditch. It remains a possibility, however, that there could be some variation between the original enclosure and the later boundary – as can be the case at ecclesiastical sites – and that earlier burial activity could extend outside the present wall;
- Traces of the curvilinear plan of the original monastic site and early medieval ecclesiastical settlement, formed by its enclosures (RMP KD022-029058), can also be found in the present street pattern. It is possible that the line of one of the ecclesiastical enclosures is preserved in part of Claregate Street to the south, continuing through Market Square and along Nugent Street to the south-east. As such it would be partly within the proposed development boundary;
- Market Square may occupy the site of the original early medieval market place, at what would have been the entrance to the monastic site;
- The conjectural line of the medieval town defences (RMP KD022-029009) may also run through the proposed development site, at the laneway running north-west past the Verger's House to the car park on the north-west side of the cathedral.

The archaeological investigations within the town to date have revealed evidence for its early and later medieval occupation, though none as yet have uncovered definitive evidence for the early medieval enclosures or medieval town defences. It is likely that the development of the town in the late 18th and 19th century, when a variety of public and private buildings were constructed (many of which were provided with cellars or basements), has resulted in the removal of much of the early medieval / medieval archaeological stratigraphy in these areas. Within the Square and along the streets radiating from it, however, it should be noted that none of the investigations undertaken have necessitated deep excavations for basements or underground carparking and therefore it is possible that archaeological evidence for the enclosing elements do survive below the shallower depths investigated.

Archaeological features and finds have generally been recovered between 0-3m below ground level and there is, therefore, the potential for the discovery of further deposits within the proposed development boundary even at shallow depths. Previous archaeological investigation on the north-west side of Market Square involved trenches of only 1m depth, for example, and demonstrated that medieval (and possibly earlier) archaeological deposits do survive in this area at shallow depths (deposits were uncovered directly underlying the surface tarmac). There is the potential that traces of the early medieval and medieval enclosing elements may survive subsurface within the proposed development boundary, along with evidence for settlement

activity from these periods. It is also possible that burial activity may have extended outside the present graveyard wall and be present subsurface.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the location of the proposed development within the RMP zone of notification for the Historic Town of Kildare (KD022-029001), there is considerable potential for the discovery of archaeological features and deposits, as detailed in Section 8. Archaeological monitoring is considered the most appropriate mitigation measure, given the urban nature of the proposed project's location. It is recommended that a suitably qualified archaeologist be present to monitor all ground disturbance works associated with the project. This will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). This will ensure the full recognition of, and – if required – the proper excavating and recording of all archaeological features, finds or deposits which may lie undisturbed beneath the ground surface.

Should any archaeological material be encountered, works will cease and a strategy will be devised for further investigation, in discussion with the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH. Based on these discussions and the results of any investigations that take place, additional consultation with the DHLGH will determine if further resolution is required. This may involve full archaeological excavation (i.e. preservation of the archaeology in record form of all archaeological soils or features encountered) or preservation in situ of archaeological remains, and archaeological monitoring during construction.

The proposed design should be cognisant of the designated architectural and cultural heritage assets recorded within and on the boundaries of the proposed development site, in consultation with the Conservation Architect for the project. The proposed development design should seek to enhance and celebrate the historic character of this location.

9.1. General

All recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

Attention is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments legislation (Appendix 1), which outlines the developer's obligation to facilitate and fund all archaeological works that may be considered necessary by the National Monuments Section or the National Museum in respect of development proposals.

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APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004)

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and ‘places’ recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to ‘registered’ sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, 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 Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines “architectural heritage” as:

- (a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,
- (c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).

APPENDIX 2 Description of RPS / NIAH sites within / adjacent to the proposed development

RPS No.	Reg. No	Name	Original Use	Location	NIAH Description and Appraisal
N/A	11817001	Monument	Monument	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Freestanding cut-limestone Celtic High Cross-style monument, erected 1935, on inscribed pedestal on inscribed stepped base. Set on wedge-shaped site with shamrock-detailed wrought iron railings to perimeter.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> A monument 'erected by Local Committee' commemorating seven men executed (1922) at the Curragh Camp during the Civil War (1922-3): Patrick Bagnall of Fairgreen, Kildare; Stephen White of Abbey Street, Kildare; Jackie Johnston of Station Road, Kildare; Patrick Nolan of Rathbride; Patrick Mangan of Fairgreen, Kildare; Brian Moore of Rathbride; and James Connor of Bansha, County Tipperary.</p>
N/A	11817002	1798 Monument	Monument	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Freestanding monument, unveiled 1973; installed 1976, on inscribed cut-limestone pedestal on stepped base. Street fronted on a corner site.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> A monument erected 'in memory of over 350 men from Kildare and district who gave their lives at Gibbet Rath 28 May 1798' representing an integral component of the later twentieth-century built heritage of Kildare.</p>
B22-42	11817003	Kildare Market House	Market House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Detached three-bay single-storey former market house with half-attic, built 1817, on a symmetrical plan originally with round-headed open arcade to ground floor. Extensively renovated, c.2000, to accommodate use as offices. Gable-ended roof with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Louvered timber cupola, c.2000, to ridge on a square plan with elongated pyramidal roof having iron weathervane to apex. Cut-stone coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Replacement cement render, c.2000, to ground floor. Unpainted. Round-headed recessed panel to side elevation to south (possibly originally window opening). Rendered stringcourse to first floor. Squared rubble stone walls to first floor. Yellow brick English Garden Wall bond walls to first floor side elevations to north and to south. Cut-stone date stone/plaque to side elevation to south. Round-headed openings to ground floor originally open arcade. Cut-stone surrounds with block-and-start detailing to arches. Replacement fixed-pane timber windows, c.2000, with glazed timber double doors, c.2000, to opening to centre. Lunette openings to first floor. Yellow brick dressings. Blocked-up, c.2000, and rendered. Round-headed openings to gables to side elevations. Stone sills. Replacement louvered timber panelled fittings, c.2000. Sited on an island site. Concrete flagged and concrete brick cobbled square to site.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This is a fine, substantial building that conforms to traditional market house planning, comprising a Classically-composed symmetrical block of graceful proportions and originally with an open arcade to ground floor having a meeting/governor's room over. The market house is of considerable social and historical interest, representing the early commercialisation of Kildare town, and would originally have played an important role in the economic survival of the rural outskirts – the market house historically acted as a centre where rural produce would be sold. Unsympathetically renovated in the late twentieth century the building has lost most of its original fabric and some of its original form. Future renovation works might aim to restore traditional materials, thereby providing a more accurate representation of the original appearance of the building. The market house is an attractive feature in the historic core of Kildare town, forming the central focal point of the market square.</p>

B22-48	11817017	Southwells	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Terraced five-bay two-storey house, c.1820, possibly originally two separate two- and three-bay two-storey houses retaining early fenestration with round-headed door opening and originally with square-headed integral carriageway to right ground floor. Renovated, c.1840, with timber shopfront inserted to ground floor.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house, probably originally built as two separate houses, is a fine and attractive range of balanced Georgian proportions that has been well-maintained to present an early aspect on to the road. Renovated in the mid nineteenth century to accommodate a commercial use to ground floor, the building is of considerable social and historical significance as early surviving evidence of the commercialisation of Kildare town. The timber shopfront is an attractive addition to the composition, alluding to an elaborate interpretation of the true traditional Irish model, composed of Classical forms and detailing. Well-maintained, the shopfront ought to be preserved in any future renovation works to the structure. The house retains many further important early or original salient features, including a timber panelled door to ground floor, multi-pane timber sash fenestration to the first floor and a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The retention of an early external aspect suggests that the interior may also retain early features and fittings of significance. The house is an attractive and important component of the streetscape, framing Market Square to the west while contributing to the regular roofline of the terrace.</p>
N/A	11817045		House	Market Square / Bride Street	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace four-bay two-storey house, c.1890, on a corner site retaining early fenestration with two-bay two-storey side elevation to north-west and three-bay two-storey lower return to rear to south-west. Renovated, c.2000, with replacement timber pubfront inserted to ground floor to corner. Hipped roofs. Replacement artificial slate, c.1980. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Timber eaves. Replacement aluminium rainwater goods, c.1980. Rendered walls. Painted. Rendered quoins to corners. Square-headed window openings. Rendered sills. Moulded rendered surrounds. Early 1/1 timber sash windows. Round-headed door opening. Moulded rendered surround. Timber panelled door. Overlight. Replacement timber pubfront, c.2000, to ground floor with panelled pilasters, fixed-pane timber display windows having pointed-arch panels over and timber panelled double doors having timber panelled fascia over with consoles and cornice. Road fronted on a corner site. Concrete flagged footpath to front.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is a fine, substantial building that retains much of its original form and character. The house is of social and historical interest, having been purpose-built as a part-residential/part-commercial building, thereby providing early surviving evidence of the commercialisation of Kildare town in the late nineteenth century. The house retains many important early or original salient features and materials, including timber fittings to the door opening and timber sash fenestration, all openings retaining moulded rendered surrounds. The replacement timber pubfront does not complement the reserved detailing of the remainder of the composition, the Gothic-style motifs clashing with the Georgian proportions of the house. The house is an attractive and prominent feature on the streetscape in the historic core of the town, framing Market Square to the south and forming the corner leading to Bride Street to the south-west.</p>
N/A	11817046		House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace five-bay two-storey house, c.1870, on an L-shaped plan with round-headed door opening and two-bay two-storey gabled projecting end bay to right. Extensively renovated, c.1990, with timber pubfront inserted to part ground floor and to projecting end bay. Hipped and gable-ended roof (hipped to projecting end bay). Replacement artificial slate, c.1990. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Timber eaves. Replacement uPVC rainwater goods, c.1990. Rendered walls to ground floor. Channelled. Painted.</p>

				<p>Roughcast walls to first floor. Painted. Rendered dressings including strips to ends and band to eaves. Square-headed window openings. Rendered sills. Replacement 6/6 timber sash windows, c.1990. Round-headed door opening. Rendered surround with profiled panels. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1990. Spoked fanlight. Timber pubfront, c.1990, to part ground floor and to projecting end bay with paired pilasters, fixed-pane timber display windows and timber panelled doors having timber fascias over with consoles and moulded cornices. Set back from line of road with projecting end bay fronting on to road. Section of iron railings to forecourt to recessed portion to left on cut-stone plinth wall having iron double gates.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is a fine, substantial building of much character that has a positive impact on the streetscape of Market Square, the projecting end bay to right adding variety to the streetscape of the terrace. Composed of graceful Georgian proportions centred about a round-headed door opening, the main (recessed) block retains much of its original form, disrupted only to the right ground floor by the introduction of a timber pubfront continuing from the projecting end bay. The building is of social and historical importance, representing the continued development of the historic core of Kildare town in the mid to late nineteenth century. Comprehensively renovated in the late twentieth century, the house retains little of its original fabric, although replacement materials have been installed alluding to the original models. The timber pubfront to ground floor is not an positive feature of the design, the many paired pilasters, cornices and sundry details clashing with the reserved appearance of the remainder of the house. The main block is fronted on the road by attractive sections of railings with double gates, which are a good example of early surviving iron work.</p>	
N/A	11817047	Bank of Ireland	Bank	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Attached four-bay three-storey bank, designed 1901; built 1903, on a cruciform plan centred on two-bay three-storey gabled breakfront; single-bay (single-bay deep) three-storey central return (south). Pitched slate roof a cruciform plan centred on pitched (gabled) slate roof (breakfront) with roll moulded terracotta ridge tiles, paired rendered central chimney stacks having capping supporting terracotta pots, cut-granite coping to gables including finial-topped cut-granite "Cavetto" coping to gable (breakfront), and cast-iron rainwater goods on red brick header bond beaded cornice on consoles on beaded stringcourse with cast-iron square profile downpipes. Red brick English Garden Wall bond walls on red brick header bond chamfered cushion course on plinth with terracotta tiled panel (gable). Paired round-headed central window openings (ground floor) with cut-granite sills, and red brick voussoirs having bull nose-detailed reveals with hood moulding framing fixed-pane fittings. Paired camber-headed central window openings (upper floors) with cut-granite sills, and red brick voussoirs having bull nose-detailed reveals framing one-over-one timber sash windows. Camber-headed window openings with cut-granite sills, and red brick voussoirs having bull nose-detailed reveals framing one-over-one timber sash windows. Street fronted with cast-iron railings to perimeter..</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> A bank erected to designs by Francis Bergin (1855-1925) of Beechgrove (The Irish Builder 27th February 1901, 638; 10th April 1901, 687) representing an important component of the early twentieth-century built heritage of Kildare with the architectural value of the composition confirmed by such attributes as the cruciform plan form centred on an expressed breakfront; the construction in a vibrant red brick given visual interest by "diaper work"-like terracotta dressings; the diminishing in scale of the openings on each floor producing a graduated visual impression; and the high pitched roof. Having been well maintained, the form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior, thus upholding the character of a bank making a pleasing visual statement in Market Square..</p>

B22-63	11817048	Grace's Public House / Barrett House	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Terraced three-bay three-storey house, c.1770, retaining some early fenestration with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting porch to centre and single-bay two-storey lower end bay to left (south-east) having shallow segmental-headed integral carriageway. Renovated, c.1970, with openings remodelled to right ground floor to accommodate commercial use. Gable-ended roofs with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Roughcast chimney stacks. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Flat-roofed to porch behind blocking course having iron cresting over. Materials not visible. Roughcast walls. Painted. Rendered quoins to corners. Square-headed window openings (remodelled, c.1970, to right ground floor with square-headed door opening inserted). Stone sills. 1/1 timber sash windows (replacement timber casement windows, c.1970, to ground floor with timber panelled doors to additional door opening having overlight). Round-headed door opening to porch. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1970, with side panels and spoked fanlight. Shallow segmental-headed integral carriageway to ground floor end bay. Iron gate. Fittings not visible. Road fronted. Concrete flagged footpath to front..</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is an attractive, substantial building that has been remodelled to right ground floor in the late twentieth century to accommodate a part commercial use. Nevertheless, the house retains much of its original character while the alterations made to the openings could easily be reversed. The house is of considerable social and historical importance, representing the development of the historic core of Kildare town in the mid to late eighteenth century. Composed on a symmetrical plan, the front (north-east) elevation is identified by the diminutive openings set into solid wall masses, and is distinguished by the porch (possibly additional) to ground floor that is imbued with a more formal tone. The house retains many original features and materials, primarily to the upper floors, including timber sash fenestration and slate roofs having cast-iron rainwater goods. The house is an integral and important component of the streetscape of Market Square, framing the square to the south, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace..</p>
B22-19	11817100	Virginia Lodge	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace five-bay two-storey rubble stone house, c.1800, probably originally detached on a symmetrical plan with elliptical-headed door opening to centre ground floor. Refenestrated, c.1990. Gable-ended roof with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Irregular coursed rubble stone walls (ivy-clad). Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Elliptical-headed door opening approached by flight of two stone steps having cast-iron bootscrapers. Cut-stone surround. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1990, with sidelights and fanlight. Set back from line of road. Sections of iron railings to front on cut-stone plinth walls having iron gate.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is a fine and attractive middle-size residence composed on a symmetrical plan and of graceful proportions centred about an elliptical-headed door opening. The house is of social and historical significance, representing the continued development of the historic core of Kildare town in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. Renovated in the late twentieth century, many of the replacement materials are inappropriate to the original integrity of the design and future renovation works might aim to re-instatement traditional-style timber fittings. The house is an attractive feature on the streetscape of Market Square, framing the square to the north-east.</p>
N/A	11817051	Round Tower House	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, c.1830. Extensively renovated and extended, c.1990, comprising two-bay two-storey parallel return to rear to south-west forming double-pile with replacement timber shopfronts inserted to ground floor.</p>

					<p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is an attractive building, originally of graceful Georgian proportions, that has been comprehensively renovated in the late twentieth century leading to the loss of some of the original character. The house is of some social and historical significance, presumably having been purpose-built as a part-residential/part-commercial building, therefore representing the continued commercialisation of the historic core of Kildare town in the early to mid nineteenth century. The house is an attractive and integral component of the streetscape of Market Square, flanking the square to the south immediately before it gives way to Dublin Street to the south-east, continuing the established streetline of the street while contributing to the varied roofline of the terrace.</p>
N/A	11817101	Tower Cinema	Cinema	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace single-bay double-height former cinema, c.1940, with single-bay single-storey breakfront having canopy over, ten-bay double-height side elevation to north-west and single-bay double-height flat-roofed lower bay to rear elevation to north-east. Renovated and amalgamated with building to right (south-east), c.1990, with timber pubfront inserted to ground floor. Shallow barrel-roofed behind stepped parapet wall. Materials not visible. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Flat-roofed to lower bay to north-east. Bitumen felt. Timber eaves. Rendered wall to front (south-west) elevation. Painted. Rendered breakfront with concrete canopy over having round-headed red brick panel over. Rendered stepped parapet wall with red brick coping. Rendered walls to remainder. Unpainted. Rendered piers along side elevation to north-west. Timber pubfront, c.1990, to ground floor with pilasters, panels, fixed-pane windows and glazed timber double doors having timber fascia over with consoles and moulded cornice. Road fronted. Concrete footpath to front.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This former cinema is a fine and imposing building in a muted Modern style that has been renovated to ground floor in the late twentieth century, leading to the loss of some of the original appearance and character to that portion – the insertion of a traditional-style timber pubfront is not in keeping with the style of the remainder of the building. The cinema is typical of many of the designs for rural Irish cinemas in the early to mid twentieth century, comprising a barn-style structure fronted with a façade of Modern aspirations, and the undulating profile of the façade together with a stepped parapet wall is a characteristic shared with many other cinema buildings throughout the country, many of which are now lost. The cinema is of some social and cultural interest, and forms an attractive feature on the streetscape of market Square, with the stepped parapet adding variety to the roofline of the street.</p>
B22-43	11817004	Lamp Standard	Lamp Standard	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Group of four freestanding cast iron lamp standards, c. 1950, comprising fluted shafts on pedestals having moulded necking surmounted by lamp having decorative iron capping.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> These are of some artistic interest, having been designed as aesthetic as well as functional pieces.</p>
B22-44	11817005	Nolan's / Seeta Public House	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace four-bay two-storey yellow brick house, c.1885, with gabled end bay to left (north-west). Renovated, c.1925, with timber pubfront inserted to right ground floor. Extensively renovated, c.1990. Now in use as offices to first floor. Gable-ended roof on a T-shaped plan. Replacement artificial slate, c.1990. Red clay ridge tiles. Yellow brick chimney stacks with red brick dressings. Cut-stone coping to gables. Exposed timber eaves. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Yellow brick Flemish bond walls. Red brick dressings including stringcourses (one forming eaves course) and pointed-arch relieving arch to gabled end bay. Shallow segmental-headed window openings. Stone sills. Red brick dressings. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Pointed-arch door opening. Red brick dressings. Cut-stone hood moulding over. Timber panelled door. Overlight. Timber shopfront, c.1925, to right ground floor with pilasters, fixed-pane display windows and glazed timber double doors having fascia over with hood moulding. Road fronted. Tarmacadam verge to front.</p>

					<p><i>Appraisal:</i> Nolan's is a fine and attractive house that has been relatively well-maintained to retain most of its original form and some of its original character. Constructed in yellow brick with red brick dressings the house attests to the advances in technology in the late nineteenth century that allowed for the mass-production of brick, and the resulting building is typical of the Victorian taste for polychromatic designs, a rare feature in the historic core of Kildare town. The house retains most of its original form, while the timber pubfront to right ground floor is an attractive addition to the composition, alluding to the true traditional Irish model composed on a symmetrical plan, without extraneous ornamentation, and distinguished by the heavy hood moulding framing the fascia - the pubfront is also early remaining historical evidence of the commercialisation of the town. The replacement materials does not have a positive impact on the house and the re-instatement of traditional-style timber fenestration, in particular, might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance. The house is an attractive and integral component of the streetscape, framing Market Square to the north-east and flanking the road leading to the cathedral to the north-west..</p>
B22-30	11817006	Verger's House	Rectory	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Detached three-bay two-storey former rectory, built 1864-5, on a symmetrical plan with round-headed door opening to centre. Extensively renovated and extended, c.1990, comprising single-bay two-storey return to rear to north-east. Now in private residential use. Gable-ended roof (hipped to return). Replacement artificial slate, c.1990. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack. Concrete coping to gables. Replacement uPVC rainwater goods, c.1990, on rendered eaves course. Coursed squared rubble limestone wall to front (south-west) elevation. Cut-stone quoins to corners. Rendered walls to remainder (cement rendered to return). Unpainted. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills (concrete to return). Yellow brick block-and-start surrounds. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.1990. Round-headed door opening. Yellow brick surround. Replacement timber panelled door, c.1990. Replacement sidelights and spoked fanlight, c.1990. Road fronted. Tarmacadam verge to front..</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is an attractive, middle-size building on a symmetrical plan composed of graceful proportions centred about a round-headed door opening. The house is of social and historical interest for its original intended purpose as a residence for the Church of Ireland clergy in the locality. Now in private residential use, the house has been considerably renovated and extended, leading to the loss of much of the original fabric, although the form of the original block remains intact. The construction of the wall to the front (south-west) elevation in squared stone with yellow brick dressings attests to the high quality of stone masonry traditionally practised in the locality. The fine joints and detailing have been overshadowed, however, by unsympathetic replacement fittings to the openings that are excessively prominent – the re-instatement of traditional-style timber fenestration would benefit the appearance of the house. The former rectory is an attractive and integral component of the streetscape, framing Market Square to the north-east while terminating the terrace, and flanking the entrance leading in to the grounds of the Cathedral to west..</p>
B22-45	11817007	St Brigid's Cathedral	Cathedral (NIAH National rating)	Church Lane	<p><i>Description:</i> Detached nine-bay double-height Gothic Revival Church of Ireland Cathedral, built 1890-6, on a cruciform plan incorporating fabric of earlier church, 1223, and subsequent reconstructions comprising six-bay double-height nave with single-bay double-height transepts to north and to south, two-bay double-height chancel to east and single-bay three-stage tower to crossing on a square plan having battlemented roof parapet wall. Reroofed, 1996. Gable-ended roofs behind battlemented parapet walls. Replacement slate, 1996. Clay ridge tiles. Cut-stone coping to gables. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Roof to tower not visible behind battlemented parapet wall. Random rubble stone walls. Stone dressings including intermediary piers to nave</p>

					<p>with cut-stone quoins, lancet-arch relieving arches, profiled buttresses with cut-stone quoins, battlemented parapet walls (some on dentilated cornices), and crow-stepped gable to chancel to east having cross finial to apex. Cut-stone quoins to corner to tower. Cut-stone stringcourse to top stage with rubble stone parapet wall over. Lancet-arch window openings (in tripartite arrangement to gables). Cut-stone block-and-start surrounds with chamfered reveals. Fixed-pane windows. Pointed-arch apertures to top stage to tower with cut-stone surrounds. Louvered fittings. Elliptical-headed door opening to elevation to east to transept to south (with traces of gable over). Cut-stone surround with carved motif to head. Tongue-and-groove timber panelled door. Full-height interior open into roof. Mosaic-tiled floors to aisles and to crossing. Carved timber pews. Exposed rubble stone internal walls. Stained glass windows. Exposed timber roof construction. Lancet-arches to crossing on corbels. Decorative Gothic-style reredos to chancel. Set back from road in own grounds. Freestanding single-bay seven-stage round tower, c.1150, to north-west on a circular plan with battlemented roof parapet wall. Random rubble stone walls. Cut-stone stringcourse to top stage with rubble stone battlemented parapet wall over. Round-headed openings. Cut-stone surrounds. Fittings not visible. Graveyard to site with various cut-stone grave markers, c.1700-c.1950. Gateway, c.1895, to south-east comprising pair of cut-stone piers with cut-stone capping having cast-iron double gates with spear-head finials, iron gas lamp holder over, pair of square-headed flanking pedestrian gateways with iron gates, and random rubble stone flanking boundary wall..</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> Saint Brigid's Cathedral is a fine and imposing building of a convoluted architectural history that is primarily of late nineteenth-century construction, incorporating the fabric of a thirteenth-century church and subsequent reconstructions. The cathedral is of considerable archaeological, social and historical significance as the diocesan centre for the Church of Ireland population in the region, while continuing the long-standing ecclesiastical presence on the site. The present building, built in the Gothic Revival style, successfully incorporates the earlier fabric to a degree that it is difficult to distinguish between the various phases of construction. The construction of the cathedral in rubble stone with cut-stone dressings is a fine example of the high quality of stone masonry traditionally practised in the locality, and this is especially evident in the carved detailing, including surrounds to openings and decorative motifs such as gargoyles to the parapet walls, that have retained a crisp intricacy. The exterior retains most of its original features and materials, while replacement fabric has been installed in keeping with the original integrity of the building. The interior is similarly intact and contains a variety of features and fittings of considerable artistic merit, including the decorative tiled floor, stained glass windows and a fine and ornate reredos to the chancel. The construction of the lancet arches to the crossing, which have retained their original shape, together with the exposed timber roof construction is of technical or engineering interest. The church is attractively sited in its own grounds and is accompanied by a variety of ancillary artefacts of various periods, and of various interest. The round tower to north-east, dating to the twelfth century, remains almost unaltered and attests to the earliest settlement on the grounds. The cut-stone markers to the attendant graveyard are individually of artistic interest, while the gateway and boundary wall to the circumference of the site are, again, good examples of the quality of stone masonry practised in Kildare town, with the former retaining good examples of early surviving iron work to the gates and gas lamp holder. The cathedral is an invaluable component of the architectural heritage of Kildare town, forming the historic core of the locality..</p>
N/A	11817014	Fitzpatrick	Office	Market Square / Church Lane	<i>Description:</i> End-of-terrace five-bay two-storey building, c.1925, on a corner site with rendered shopfronts to ground floor having offices over. Reroofed and refenestrated, c.1970. Gable-ended roof on an L-shaped plan

					<p>(with hipped section to corner). Replacement fibre-cement slate, c.1970. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Timber eaves. Replacement plastic rainwater goods, c.1970. Rendered walls. Ruled and lined to ground floor with sections of channelling continuing into first floor. Unpainted. Square-headed openings (some remodelled, c.1970). Concrete sills. Replacement timber casement windows, c.1970 (replacement fixed-pane timber display windows to shopfronts to ground floor having raised lettering over to shopfront to left). Replacement glazed timber doors, c.1970. Square-headed door opening to centre in rendered advanced entrance bay. Replacement glazed timber door, c.1970, with sidelights. Road fronted on a corner site. Concrete footpath to front.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This building is an attractive, if unusual, mid twentieth-century addition to the architectural heritage stock of Kildare town. Positioned of a prominent site framing Market Square to the north-west and forming the corner leading on to Church Lane to the west, the building is distinguished by the use of render to decorative effect, which attests to the high quality of craftsmanship traditionally practised in the locality. Renovated in the late twentieth century leading to the loss of some of the original fabric, important surviving features include the raised lettering to the shopfront to left ground floor.</p>
N/A	11817015	Railings	Railings	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Sections of cast-iron railings, c.1840, on rendered plinth wall having decorative finials.</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> An attractive, if subtle, feature on the streetscape of Market Square. The railings form an unaltered reminder of an earlier building on site and are good examples of early surviving cast-iron work.</p>
B22-47	11817016	The Vatican Public House	House	Market Square	<p><i>Description:</i> Terraced four-bay two-storey house, c.1850, retaining some early fenestration with single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting porch and single-bay single-storey canted bay window to right ground floor. Renovated, c.1980, with timber pubfront inserted to left ground floor. Gable-ended roof behind parapet wall with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks. Cast-iron rainwater goods. Flat-roof to porch. Materials not visible behind parapet wall. Rendered walls. Ruled and lined. Painted. Rendered dressings including quoins, frieze and moulded cornice having blocking course to parapet wall. Replacement Running bond brick (painted), c.1980, to left ground floor and to porch. Moulded rendered cornice to porch with decorative iron cresting over. Square-headed window openings (including to canted bay windows). Rendered sills. Moulded rendered surrounds. 1/1 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening to porch. Timber surround, c.1980, with fluted pilasters having consoles and iron lamp holders over. Replacement glazed timber door, c.1980, with sidelights and overlight. Timber pubfront, c.1980, to left ground floor with fluted pilasters having consoles, timber casement display windows and timber panelled door having overlight and timber fascia over with cornice. Road fronted. Concrete brick cobbled footpath to front..</p> <p><i>Appraisal:</i> This house is an attractive middle-size building of graceful Classical proportions and detailing that has been renovated in the late twentieth century to accommodate a part commercial use, leading to the loss of much of the original form to left ground floor. However, the remainder of the house retains its original arrangement and fabric and is of social and historical significance, representing the continued development of the historic core of Kildare town in the mid nineteenth century. The use of render throughout to decorative effect is a good example of the high quality of craftsmanship practised in the locality and includes heavy cornices to the porch and to the main roof. The house retains some important early or original salient features and materials, including timber sash fenestration and a slate roof having cast-iron rainwater goods. The replacement timber pubfront to left ground floor is not a positive addition to the composition and has necessitated the alteration of openings, detracting from the original harmony of the design – future renovation</p>

					works might aim to restore more sympathetic proportions and a pubfront that alludes to the true traditional Irish model, without extraneous ornamentation. Nevertheless, the house remains an important and attractive feature on the streetscape, framing Market Square to the west while continuing the regular roofline of the terrace.
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APPENDIX 3 Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed development

Licence No.	Excavations Ref.	Location	Results
93E0124	1993:130	Church Lane	The site, on the corner of Church Lane and Heffernan's Lane, is located within the conjectured bounds of the Early Christian enclosure and the town walls. Apartments were planned for part of the site. Three trial trenches revealed five pit-like features, some of which were cut into the boulder clay and some cut down from the surface. One of them had modern pottery in the fill while none of the others produced finds; one of them yielded a sequence of ash and clay with charcoal and animal bone. Further investigation involved the removal of sod over a wider area. This produced several irregularly shaped pits/trenches which were filled with stones and which were interpreted as drainage features.
98E0376	1998:314	Market Square	Eight test-trenches were excavated at seven sites within the historic core of Kildare town in advance of large-scale pipe-laying on behalf of Bord Gáis Éireann. The positioning of seven trenches was to ascertain whether the gates, town wall and monastic enclosure would be revealed at the depth of the proposed works (c. 1m). The eighth trench was excavated on the NW side of Market Square in the centre of the town beside the cathedral and within what would have been the monastic enclosure. Significant archaeological levels were observed at the latter site only. An amount of animal bone was recovered from a dark clay layer directly underlying the surface tarmacadam. No artefacts were observed. The thickness of the deposit was not ascertained, although it reaches below the 0.4m depth of the excavated trench. A short stretch of pipe was laid along Station Road and Lourdesville. No archaeological deposits were noted.
98E0574	1998:316 & 387	Market Square	Approximately 2900m of gas pipeline was laid within Kildare town over 14 weeks between 30 November 1998 and 19 March 1999. Most of this was within the zone of archaeological potential, although several short stretches of pipeline just outside the zone were also monitored. Evidence of medieval activity was found at two locations, though on a limited scale. Both of these were in the Market Square area. The trench running from the junction of Bride Street northwards towards the Cathedral contained seven sherds of medieval pottery, along with a cut antler, an iron nail, red brick, several pieces of cremated bone, and unburnt animal bone and teeth. The trench running from the junction of Station Road to Dublin Street contained four sherds of medieval pottery, all from the extreme north-west end of the trench. The remains of several stone-built culverts and walls were also uncovered along the route. These all appeared to be 19th- and 20th-century in date on the evidence of their construction and the finds found in association with them. In general the trenches contained modern gravel infill, representing road foundation material, and were regularly cut by modern service pipes and cables. This, and the shallow nature of the trenches (less than 1m deep), meant that the likelihood of hitting archaeological deposits was limited. As a result, no evidence of the medieval town walls, the gatehouses or the earlier monastic enclosures was uncovered.
98E0239	1998:317	Claregate Street / Market Square	Monitoring and excavation in advance of an extension of the 'Carnoisneur' shop at the corner of Claregate St and Market Sq in 1998. Area measuring 4.6m east-west x 5.1m was stripped & 3 x 1m-wide strip foundation trenches were machine-excavated. Archaeological features were hand-excavated within the trenches to the required foundation depth of 800mm. One edge of a drain/gully feature running SW/NE was revealed in the S & E trenches. This was filled with a light brown, charcoal-flecked, organic clay. A small portion of this clay had a darker, more heavily charcoal-flecked consistency. Both clays contained disarticulated animal bones, slate fragments, unworked wood fragments and sherds of medieval pottery. At the SW edge of the drain a cobbled/ metalled stone surface was revealed. This was partially covered by a layer of stones, perhaps collapse from a wall fronting Claregate Street? The cobbled surface may have acted as a footpath along the side of the drain. Further excavation was not required, and the features were covered with terram.
99E0099 & ext	1999:390, 392, 393	Bride Street / Bangup Lane	Testing and excavation on the site of the proposed Kildare Credit Union in 1999 at the junction of Bride St & Bangup Lane. Excavations revealed the presence of a large, N-S-aligned ditch feature in the western part of the site. This development was located

			beyond the conjectured line of the inner Early Christian circuit and within the outer Early Christian circuit and later medieval defences of Kildare town. The ditch showed up as a dark, organic clay upper fill against an olive-yellow subsoil. No trace of a bank survived at the surface. A roughly square, possibly defensive, stone-built structure was later constructed at the southern limit of the site, the origin & date of which are difficult to determine. It was separated from the later medieval activity by a build-up of redeposited, natural, yellow, compact, sandy clays. The structure comprises four roughly hewn, random-coursed limestone walls, the parallel, E-W-aligned walls abutting a larger, N-S-aligned wall. The larger wall appears to be the earliest. The subsequent activity on the site consisted of a series of medieval cobbled surfaces, related pits and other features. Later, in more recent times, a series of large linear cuts and pits indicates extensive excavations relating to a nearby butcher's yard. The structure was proposed to be left in situ. Dating evidence indicated an Early Christian date for the ditch and that the structure was the base of an Anglo-Norman tower.
99E0187	1999:389	Bride Street (rear of, to S of De la Salle School)	Testing at a proposed development site at Bride St. The results indicated that the entire site had previously been disturbed. There is a probability that the levels across the site had been reduced sometime in the past and that the area had been subsequently filled. The relatively flat surface of the site in comparison with the existing slope on Bride Street, the difference in levels between the surface of the site and the area to the immediate N, and the 'modern' nature of the fill material (Layer 1) would all appear to testify to this conclusion. It is possible that the levels were originally reduced in order to provide soil to level up the school site to the immediate N. Two sherds of probable medieval pottery were recovered from a disturbed context.
99E0556	1999:391	Bride Street	Testing to rear of the Kildare Medical Centre in 1999. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.
None	1989:057	Market Square / Nugent Street (former Graham's Bakery premises)	<p>The archaeological work was undertaken at the premises of Graham's Bakery at Market Square and Nugent Street, Kildare, and wished to change the interior and use of the building. The NW tower of Kildare Castle is believed to have been incorporated into Graham's Bakery. It was agreed by the owner that archaeological exploration of the area most likely to be affected would be carried out in advance of building, and supervision of foundation and service trenches would take place.</p> <p>A two-storey structure built against the curtain wall of the castle and incorporated into the bakery occupies the north-west corner where the tower is believed to have been. The structure consisted of three walls forming an open-backed building, with the east wall abutting the curtain wall. The NE corner has a batter which begins some 3m above ground level. The stonework is quite regular where it has not been interfered with, and is similar to that in the curtain wall itself. The north wall had two windows inserted, both set in concrete, and this has resulted in much of the wall being replaced by later stonework. The NW corner contained a lot of brick and had no batter. The relationship between this structure and the curtain wall is difficult to determine as a concrete wall has been built against the junction of the two, and has removed part of both. The curtain wall is heavily overgrown at this point. As the NW corner and the west wall, which was built of small stones and also contained red brick at the end, was the area most likely to be affected by the development, it was decided to investigate a cutting centred on the NW corner in order to assess whether an earlier corner and wall had been re-modelled.</p> <p><i>The excavation</i></p> <p>An area 4.5m long and 1.75m from the N wall was opened. It extended 2.5m W of the W wall and continued for 1m along that wall. The W end of the trench had been interfered with by the insertion of a large man-hole and sewerage pipes within a concrete casing. A gas pipe had been laid here also. The foundation courses were revealed on both sides and on the N side consisted of one course of stones, averaging 0.3m x 0.2m, with a second course of rubble, averaging 0.1m in depth, beneath. This changed 0.5m from the corner and the upper stones were smaller and irregular for the remainder of the N and W west wall. These rested on a mixed grey/yellow marl which was 0.1m deep and overlay a deposit of sticky grey clay with charcoal, seashells (oyster and cockles), and mortar which was 0.55m deep. Below this was gritty yellow clay which initially had the appearance of boulder clay but proved to contain both charcoal and bone. One unidentifiable piece of iron came from the sticky grey layer. No other finds occurred. As no features were present and the disturbance to that area would not exceed the 0.85m depth arrived at, digging ceased before natural was reached. No rubble</p>

			<p>consistent with either earlier foundations or a demolished wall came to light. The presence of apparently disturbed boulder clay may suggest the presence of a ditch associated with the curtain wall.</p> <p><i>Foundation trench and service trench</i></p> <p>A foundation trench 8m long was dug running NE-SW beginning 2.4m from the curtain wall. It was dug to a maximum depth of 1.4m below the existing concrete floor. In the NE end it had been disturbed in its upper 0.65m by a sewerage pipe which was visible in section for 1.7m. Below the pipe was a layer of dark, soft, wet clay. The dark colour may be due to phosphates leaching from the sewer. This was 0.4m deep. An equally thin gritty yellow layer occurred beneath this. Both of these thin layers continued along the trench for about 6m before gradually disappearing. The yellow layer was occasionally stained with iron oxide. Beneath these was a layer of light brown clay, heavily charcoal-flecked, containing some animal bone. This was not bottomed. Towards the SW end the trench became drier. The wet clay beneath the pipe gave way to a stony, dark brown loam. This lay on the light brown clay which was also drier in the south-west side. No finds were recovered from this trench.</p> <p>A sewerage pipe was to be laid from the NE corner of the above trench to the man-hole at the W of the 'tower'. A trench 7m long and 1.2m deep was dug. At the junction with the NE corner of the foundation trench a similar arrangement of layers occurred and continued N for a short distance, but soon gave way to a uniform depth of charcoal-flecked light brown clay containing some pockets of iron pan. As the depth overall decreased somewhat from S to N to 0.7m, it can only be presumed that the disturbed material extended to at least a similar depth as in the trench above. No finds were recovered. The dismantling of the old shop-fronts on Market Square, Nugent Street and the corner of the two was observed on March 15th 1989. The wall behind that on Nugent Street was built using concrete blocks. The remaining two doorways were built using standard brick and with iron girders forming the lintels.</p>
00E0121	2000:0485	Claregate Street / Bangup Lane (W side)	<p>Testing in advance of a commercial supermarket development. Three of the proposed test-trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was situated in the NE part of the site. It was 10m long and oriented E-W. Beneath the sod layer and underlying topsoil, there was layer of rubble debris and painted wood. Beneath this was a dark grey/brown, silty soil. The silty material constituted the fill of a double-ditch arrangement that was dug into the natural subsoil of yellow/grey, friable, sandy soil. A double-ditch arrangement was revealed running perpendicular to the test-trench, in a N-S direction. The overall width of the structure was c. 5m. The eastern ditch was 1.5m wide; the western ditch was 1.7m wide. Both ditches had a U-shaped profile and were separated by a 1.8m-long plateau of natural subsoil, 0.6m high. Inaccessibility to the trench prevented a closer examination of the ditches and their fill. While quantities of animal bone were retrieved, nothing of an artefactual nature was found.</p>
02E0820	2002:0923	Bride Street	<p>Archaeological monitoring of groundworks for extending and altering the Árus Bhríde parish centre building in 2002. Though not within the main monastic zone of the town, Bride Street may have been one of the approaches to the monastic foundation, and the southern limits of the monastic enclosure may have been situated in the area of the development site. The conjecture is made that the line of the town wall corresponds with the line of the north wall of Arús Bhríde.</p> <p>There is a natural slope in ground level upward from west to east. This slope was levelled by the introduction of material 20–30 years ago. It was necessary to remove this material so that the floor level of the new building would match the floor level inside the existing building. Groundworks started with reduction of the existing ground level. This comprised the removal of the introduced material, which consisted of black soil with inclusions of building rubble and plastic. There was a large quantity of animal bone in the black soil all over the site.</p> <p>The black soil layer became thinner eastward, so that at a point halfway across the site the underlying natural was exposed immediately under the surface. Natural comprised very mixed sand and gravel. There was evidence of a good deal of modern disturbance. Three pits filled with ash and rubbish were exposed on the site. Some of these produced animal bone.</p> <p>Archaeological material was not recognised either during ground reduction or during excavation for wall footings. There was no evidence of remains of the town wall.</p>

03E0775	2003:922	Firecastle Lane, Malone's Lane, Heffernan's Lane	<p>Monitoring of excavations for a proposed residential development in Kildare was carried out on various dates in August and December 2003. The development site comprises a large block of land located between Malone's Lane on the west, Firecastle Lane on the north and Heffernan's Lane on the east. The site lies within the zone of archaeological potential around Kildare and is located immediately south of the cathedral, which probably marks the site of St Brigid's 5th/6th-century monastic foundation. The cathedral was begun by Ralph of Bristol around 1223, was partially restored in the 15th century and heavily restored in the 19th century. The churchyard contains a plain granite high cross and a round tower.</p> <p>Testing was carried out in the north-west part of the site in June 2000 and no archaeological material was discovered (Excavations 2000, No. 486, 00E0332). The stratigraphy recorded during monitoring of excavations across the site was similar to that recorded in June 2000. A modern layer of redeposited soil, varying from 0.2 to 0.9m in thickness, overlay light-yellow/brown silty sand subsoil. Wall foundations and cellars associated with buildings demolished prior to development were encountered in the north-west part of the site and three pits were revealed during excavations in the east part. No finds were recovered from the pits and the fills were quite sterile. The pits appear to be relatively modern and may be associated with a garage and service station which operated on this part of the site in the mid-20th century. Some disarticulated human bones were found during monitoring along the northern edge of the site. The bones were contained within a short section of the foundation trench (c. 2m east-west) and lay near the cathedral boundary wall. They were found in a disturbed context and all associated finds were modern. Examination of the relevant trench section revealed a slight dip in the ground level, possibly a result of excavations for the basement cellar located immediately west of the findspot. There was no evidence of burials, burial cuts or any other archaeological material and it seems likely that the bone was imported onto the site as part of a fill.</p>
03E1627	2004:0830	Claregate Street (N side)	Testing to rear of two late 19th century houses. No trace of ditch associated with outer ecclesiastical enclosure, which is thought to have followed the line of Claregate St. Pits were uncovered in the trenches, one of which contained post-medieval pottery.
05E0777	2005:756	Firecastle Lane	The assessment included the excavation of two trenches across the footprint of the proposed development on Firecastle Lane. Testing across the site did not reveal anything of archaeological significance. A site inspection and a cartographic study, however, have highlighted the fact that the south-western boundary wall may be associated with the site of the Fire Castle, which formed part of the town defences.
07E0729	2007:822	Claregate Street / Bangup Lane	Testing to rear of a late 19th century building (exact location unrecorded) uncovered part of a ditch-like feature of possible medieval date (a sherd of French green-glazed medieval pottery and the sawn tip of an antler tine were recovered from the soils). Full extent & depth of deposits unknown. Monitoring identified nothing further.
C190, E2933 (Ministerial consent)	2007:823	Cleamore Road	The site is located on the eastern side of Cleamore Road at the rear of a modern terraced house. Three trenches were excavated in advance of a mixed-use development. The trenches varied from 13m to 34m in maximum length (east-west). A substantial double ditch feature, oriented north-south, was identified running along the conjectured line of the medieval defences of the town. The largest (i.e. western) ditch measured 4m maximum wide and was over 2.5m in depth. About 0.3m to the east of this was a second ditch, which measured 1.7m in maximum width.
08E0262	-	Within cathedral graveyard at Firecastle Lane (Heffernan's Lane) boundary	<p>Hand-excavation of a single trial pit within the graveyard and adjacent to the wall surrounding the St Brigid's Cathedral, c. 22m WNW of the proposed Market Square development boundary. The single cutting was located 7.1m from the SW-corner of the existing southern wall and was 3m square. The lower part of the ditch-like feature (F14) at the bottom of the trench had to remain unexcavated for safety reasons.</p> <p>The portion of the ditch excavated contained a number of fills, all of them with a high organic and stone content. The ditch had been cut through a layer of buried topsoil (F20) and into the undisturbed natural soil (F22). No artefacts were recovered from the fills of the ditch. Both the buried topsoil and the upper fills of the ditch were sealed by a layer of redeposited natural clay. This clay appears</p>

		<p>to be upcast from the digging of the ditch which would have then formed an internal bank. This bank deposit over the course of time spread out sealing both the topsoil and the ditch. The redeposited natural (F13) was present in all areas of the cutting. From the small area excavated it was not possible to ascertain if the ditch follows the line of the current boundary for the cathedral precinct. If the ditch was an early enclosing feature around the St. Brigid's ecclesiastical site it's likely the ditch followed the line of the current wall, with some variation, for the entirety of its length.</p> <p>The next phase of activity within the cutting consisted of a series three pits. These were cut through both the redeposited natural F13, the buried topsoil F20 and into the undisturbed natural F22. Of the three pits F11 directly to the north of the cartilage wall and F10 to its northwest are quite substantial, both being over a meter in diameter. The third pit (F9) is smaller and shallower and is connected to F10 to the east. Also associated with F10 is a post-hole (F12). This post hole is situated in the eastern portion of the pit just at the break of slope between the sides and base. All the pits including the post-hole were filled by the graveyard material which forms the layer directly above them leading to the conclusion that they filled naturally and not by deliberate backfilling with either waste or other material. No artefacts were recovered from the fill of the pits. Again the small scale of the excavation mitigated against A full interpretation of the function of these pits.</p> <p>Lying above the pits and also filling them was the layer F8. This layer consisted of a mixed graveyard soil containing large quantities of both animal bone and disarticulated human remains. Three burials were uncovered in this layer. F8 was also cut by the foundation trench for the curtilage wall (F6). The three burials uncovered in this layer were all children. Skeleton I was a newly born infant, Skeleton II was 5 year old child and Skeleton III was a 3 year old child. All three were well preserved and all three had been buried in coffins as evidenced by coffin plates and nails. No remnants of the wood survived.</p> <p>A quantity of disarticulated human bone was also recovered from the site. An analysis of this disarticulated bone shows a minimum number of individuals of 12, one infant, one young child, two older children, one adolescent and seven adults. These remains showed a range of pathologies including degenerative joint disease, fractures and oral pathology. This range of disarticulated bone is normal in a graveyard context where previous burials are disturbed by new internments. This is especially true of the St Brigid's site which has been in use for a millennium and a half.</p> <p>Sitting above the graveyard soil (F8) was another layer containing disarticulated bone as well as a high percentage of stone. No articulated skeletons were uncovered in this layer. It was cut by the foundation trench for the curtilage wall (F4). Fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from F7. The next phase of activity within the excavated area was the construction of the curtilage-wall. This was done by first digging a foundation trench (F4). The foundation trench had two fills, a burnt sandy clay (F21) at the base with the rest of the trench being filled by a light sandy, silty clay with gravel inclusions. The wall was built off the top of basal layer (F21). Sitting above the cut for the wall was a construction layer (F3). This layer consists of mortar rubble and coarse sand. This layer was the first deposited after the construction of the wall. The final phase of activity on the site was the build up of the two topmost layers after the construction of the wall, F2 which sits directly above both F3 and F7 and the topsoil F1. These layers were built up by the continuing burial of human remains in the precinct of the cathedral as well as natural processes.</p> <p>In conclusion it is clear even from such a limited excavation as this that the longevity of the site as a place of worship and settlement is strongly reflected in the archaeological record. The probable enclosing ditch, as well as the series of pits, show considerable activity in the vicinity of what was probably an original enclosure for the ecclesiastical site. The later burials and the building of the wall show this activity continued throughout the history of the site.</p>
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