



Part 8 Proposed Redevelopment of The Wonderful Barn P82024.10

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Kildare County Council

May 2024

Quality information

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Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position

Distribution List

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Kildare County Council (the Client) to support the Part 8 planning application relating to the redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn (B11-15), Barnhall House, the ancillary buildings, walled gardens, car park and surrounding site/parkland at Leixlip in County Kildare (the 'Proposed Redevelopment') (Figure 1).
- 1.2 This stage follows on from Stage One which related to the production of design options for the reuse of the Proposed Redevelopment. These design options were presented to the Client with the current proposals chosen to be taken forward for planning approval.

2. The Proposed Redevelopment

- 2.1 The proposed Redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn comprises an area of c.19.8 hectares and incorporates the renowned protected structure of the Wonderful Barn and its ancillary buildings, all protected structures, including Barnhall House, two dovecotes, a walled garden and two ranges of adjacent courtyards containing former farm buildings and the public parklands enclosed by the M4 motorway to the South, Celbridge Road R404 to the East and suburban residential developments to the North and West (Figures 2a and 2b).
- 2.2 The proposed works will protect and enhance the rich architectural heritage and amenity of the Wonderful Barn and adjacent buildings and provide an integrated public amenity park and tourism destination at The Wonderful Barn and associated lands, informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.
- 2.3 Proposed works will comprise of the following:
 - Repair, restoration and minor interventions within and to the Wonderful Barn, Barnhall House, two dovecotes, a walled garden and two ranges of adjacent courtyards and former farm buildings to improve and accommodate existing tourist and community amenities and facilities.
 - Provision of a 115 square metres (sqm) extension to former farm buildings to provide a commercial kitchen and café with southern outlook into the historic walled working vegetable garden amenity.
 - Redevelopment of the current 55 no. allotments to realign the plots within the restored historical landscape axes and provide new and improved facilities for the local allotment users.
 - Provision of a new 174sqm building to the East of the existing building complex which will provide a storage facility to replace an existing container on site, new toilets, kitchenette and workshop facilities for the local allotment user group as well as short term workplace facilities for the KCC Parks Department.
 - Provision of water and power outlet market facilities adjacent to the new building to accommodate weekly / monthly local markets.
 - Improvements and upgrading of existing pedestrian footways and provision of new pedestrian footways and cycle pathways throughout the site.
 - Development of a new pedestrian and cycle link through the Wonderful Barn; a continuation of the pedestrian and cycle link (outside of the project boundary) from Celbridge/Backweston to Leixlip, via Castletown House, through Kildare Innovation Campus (former Hewlett Packard site), across the proposed M4 overpass to the Wonderful Barn and onto Leixlip Town Centre and Leixlip Louisa Bridge Station, in accordance with the requirements of TII publications.
 - Protection and reinstatement of the axial views between Castletown House and the Wonderful Barn and undergrounding of overhead cables as required to maintain uninterrupted views.
 - Protection and reinstatement of the integrity of the historic landscape including the Southern and South-Western formal tree lined avenues and forecourt to Barnhall House, formal planting of the

walled garden, formal planting of the historic orchard to the North West of the building complex and an historic treeline and hedgerow to the Northern boundary of the courtyards.

- Realignment and improvements to pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access to site.
- Provision of new carpark with 65 no. carparking spaces and 28 bike parking spaces and 4 bus parking / drop off spaces.
- Provision of new street furniture, seating and public lighting throughout the parkland.
- Provision of new wayfinding and signage throughout the parkland.
- Provision of all utilities, necessary services, drainage works and associated site works.

3. Scope

3.1 A comprehensive AIA (AECOM, 2022) was prepared at Stage 1 (Appendix 1). This AIA sought to:

- identify cultural heritage assets within the red line boundary of the Proposed Redevelopment site and associated study area which extends 1km from the boundaries of the Proposed Redevelopment site;
- assess the baseline information and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological assets within the Proposed Redevelopment site;
- assess the importance of the cultural heritage assets;
- assess the potential impact of the Proposed Redevelopment on cultural heritage assets within the site; and
- assess the potential impact of the Proposed Redevelopment on the settings of cultural heritage assets within the settings assessment study area which extends 1km from the site boundary.

3.2 The information gathered was then used to discuss the various Stage 1 design options. Stage 2 sees the presentation of a preferred design that will be taken forward for planning permission. The purpose of this current AIA will be to examine the potential impact of the preferred design upon cultural heritage assets within the Proposed Redevelopment site through reference to the Stage 1 AIA and recommend measures to mitigate any impacts.

3.3 It is noted that Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture are appointed to the project as Conservation Architects with responsibility for architectural heritage, including the Wonderful Barn within the Proposed Redevelopment which is recorded as a Protected Structure (B11-15) on the County Kildare Development Plan 2023-2029. While this structure and the adjacent Barn Hall and outbuildings will be discussed as part of this report, it is understood that assessment of impacts upon the Protected Structure and any proposed mitigation measures put forward for the Protected Structure and associated buildings are the remit of Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture.

4. Legislation Planning Policy and Guidance

Legislation, Policy and Guidance

4.1 This AIA has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines. The documents utilised in the preparation of this study include:

- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (amendment) Act 1994;
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 (and amendments);

- Heritage Act 1995; Architectural Heritage (national inventory);
- Historic Monuments (miscellaneous provisions) Act 1999;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999a);
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Architectural Heritage Guidelines 2004 (revised 2011);
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (KCC, 2023);
- Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (EPA, 2022);
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's (DEHLG) 'Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015' (DEHLG, 2009); and
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's (DAHG) 'Architectural Heritage Guidelines, Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DAHG, 2011).

National and Local Policy Framework

National Policy

- 4.2 Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill, which revised and replaced the existing National Monuments Act. This Bill replaced the previous registration systems and designations under the National Monuments Act, introducing a new single Register of Monuments, and the introduction of prescribed monuments, which aim to strengthen the legal protection afforded to archaeological sites, ensuring that archaeological sites are protected without the need for formal designation or registration. The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has specific responsibilities for the identification and protection of the archaeological heritage, which are outlined in 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (1999).
- 4.3 The importance of the built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000, which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest in the objectives of their Development Plans. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion in a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the structure's importance, provides protection from adverse impacts, and ensures that future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.
- 4.4 The Planning and Development Act provides that all Development Plans must include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

Local Policy (Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

- 4.5 Policies relating to Built Heritage are covered within Chapter 11 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.
- 4.6 Chapter 11 recognises that '*County Kildare has a rich and diverse heritage, which includes landscapes, countryside, archaeological sites (both terrestrial and underwater) and the built environment of towns and villages. Heritage is integral to the identity of any county. It provides the county with a strong sense of place, character and distinctiveness. Heritage protection is an integral part of sustainable development, it has environmental and quality of life benefits and also brings significant economic benefits.*'
- 4.7 The following policy is applicable to archaeological sites within the Proposed Redevelopment site:
- **AH P2-** Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and where appropriate and following detailed assessment, their setting, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and

Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or subsurface and underwater archaeological remains.

4.8 The following policy is applicable to any Features of Historical Interest within the Proposed Redevelopment site:

- **AH P5-** Secure the identification, protection and conservation of historic items and features of interest throughout the county including street furniture, surface finishes, roadside installations, items of industrial heritage, riverine heritage, and other stand-alone features of interest (items not listed on the RMP or RPS).

4.9 The following policy is applicable to any Protected Structures within the Proposed Redevelopment site:

- **AH P6-** Protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development in order to ensure its survival, protection and maintenance for future generations.

4.10 The following policy is applicable to any Built Vernacular Heritage within the Proposed Redevelopment site:

- **AH P9-** Promote the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the built vernacular heritage of the county.

Leixlip Local Area Plan

4.11 This Local Area Plan (LAP) was formally adopted to run from 2020 – 2023 in November 2017 and has since been extended to run to 2026. The following policies, in addition to those supplied in the County Development Plan, provide protection to the archaeology and built heritage within the area.

Built Heritage

4.12 It is recognised that the unique built heritage of the town must be protected, conserved and managed with sensitive development encouraged so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations. The policies and objectives of the LAP in relation to the built heritage of Leixlip have been carefully considered in order to protect, enhance and promote an appreciation of this important asset as well as safeguarding the continued sustainable use of this important building stock and associated features. Of particular note to this project, the estate farm complex of Barnhall House, The Wonderful Barn and the pigeon towers at Barnhall, built in 1743, are regarded as very important built heritage assets in Leixlip. The dramatic form and visual landmark of the barn and pigeon houses, in particular, offer significant potential for sensitive adaptive re-use as a key tourism/amenity destination. As such, the Wonderful Barn is directly referenced within the LAP.

4.13 Built heritage is covered by the following policies and objectives:

- **Policy BH1 – Protected Structures**
 - **BH1.** It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including their historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.

4.14 Objectives- It is an objective of the Council in regard to Protected Structures:

- **BH1.1** To ensure the protection of all structures, (or parts of structures) and the immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 the Record of Protected Structures (refer to Table 10.1 and Map No. 2 Leixlip Built Heritage and Archaeology).
- **BH1.2** To acknowledge and promote awareness of the origins, historical development and cultural heritage of the town, to support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to ensure that new development respects and is responsive to the cultural heritage of Leixlip.
- **BH1.3** To protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in Leixlip, including those identified in the Kildare County Development Plan. This will include,

inter alia, the following: a) the requirement of a Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character, value or sensitivity, including both urban and natural features, significant townscapes and historic buildings, as appropriate. b) prohibit development that will block or interfere with a significant focal point or a view. Where it is considered that a development may impact on focal points or views, proposals must have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated.

- **BH1.4** To support the implementation of the conservation plan for the restoration and management of Leixlip Spa in association with key stakeholders.
- **BH1.5** To complete a Conservation Study for The Wonderful Barn and its curtilage to inform potential feasibility studies and public consultation for appropriate use, and to support the implementation of the conservation study for the restoration and management of The Wonderful Barn and associated lands in association with key stakeholders.
- **BH1.6** To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism attraction including the restoration of the main features of the complex and its historical landscape:
 - (i) The re-arrangement of the existing access way.
 - (ii) The integration of car parking facilities,
 - (iii) The consolidation and eventual restoration of the historic buildings.
 - (iv) The reinstatement of the walled garden and rear courtyard;
 - (v) The insertion of complementary commercial uses to ensure a sustainable future for the project. The feasibility of a Discovery Park including play facilities and a picnic area shall be investigated.
- **BH1.7** To seek the protection of burial grounds within Leixlip in co-operation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) as appropriate.
- **BH1.8** To promote the restoration of the Boat House on the River Liffey where it meets the River Rye and to promote the area along the Liffey as a recreational amenity.
- **BH1.9** To address dereliction, vacancy and promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures.

Protected Views

- 4.15 The Kildare County Development Plan includes views to be protected between The Wonderful Barn and Castletown House which affect some lands within the LAP. The design and siting of new development shall have regard to protected views, in particular, any redevelopment of the Hewlett Packard site.

Archaeological Heritage

- 4.16 For the purposes of the LAP, Archaeological Heritage includes the following:

- National Monuments.
- Archaeological and Architectural monuments/sites in the Record of Monuments and Places.
- Monuments in the Register of Historic Monuments.
- Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns.
- Underwater Archaeological Heritage, including Historic Wrecks.
- Previously unknown and unrecorded archaeological sites.
- Potential sites located near large complexes of sites or monuments.
- Present or former wetlands, unenclosed land, rivers or lakes, or the inter-tidal zone.

4.17 It is the Council's intention that developments located within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and/or close to known archaeological monuments or sites, including site works that are extensive in terms of area (ground disturbance of 0.5ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more) and developments that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, will be required as part of the planning application process, or by condition of permission, to carry out archaeological assessment, monitoring, testing or excavation within the area either prior to the planning decision or prior to any development proceeding on site. The Council, as a condition on such developments, may consider the preservation of all or part of the archaeological remains in the area covered by that permission. The Council will consult with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other Statutory Consultees when considering applications for planning permission for development on or in the vicinity of archaeological sites and/or monuments.

4.18 Archaeological heritage is covered by the following policies and objectives:

- Policy BH3 – Archaeological Heritage
 - BH3 It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage of the LAP area and avoid impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.

4.19 Objectives - It is an objective of the Council:

- BH3.1 To prioritise the protection/preservation in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 10-2 and shown on Map No. 2 Leixlip Built Heritage and Archaeology from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.
- BH3.2 To protect the historic core of Leixlip town and retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.
- BH3.3 To ensure that development proposals contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with the River Liffey and associated features.

4.20 The following wider policies in the LAP directly apply to the Wonderful Barn:

- Policy EDT3 – Tourism
 - EDT3 It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate existing amenities and the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure, attractions, activities and facilities in Leixlip.

4.21 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- EDT3.9 To support the development of a heritage trail through the town, linking the town centre to The Wonderful Barn, Castletown House and other historical demesne lands within and around the town.
- EDT3.10 To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism and amenity destination with complementary commercial uses to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.
- EDT3.13 To support the preparation of an integrated tourism and amenity destination on The Wonderful Barn site, that accommodates a range of day and evening time uses.

- Policy MT1 – Walking and Cycling

- MT1 It is the policy of the Council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within the urban environment in order to improve access to the town centre, local schools, recreational facilities, shops, public transport services and other amenities. This includes providing improved connectivity across the River Rye, Royal Canal and railway line, and enhanced links with Maynooth, Celbridge and Dublin.

4.22 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- MT1.11 To support the delivery of a pedestrian and cycle overpass of the M4 to link The Wonderful Barn at Leixlip to Castletown Demesne in Celbridge in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
- Policy OS 1– Open Space
 - OS1 It is the policy of the Council to provide for a hierarchy of high quality multi-functional public open spaces within Leixlip, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.

4.23 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- OS1.5 To facilitate and promote the provision of a public park at The Wonderful Barn.

Key Development Areas

- 4.24 The LAP identifies 3 Key Development Areas (KDAs) within Leixlip which includes new residential/Open Space and Amenity lands at The Wonderful Barn.
- 4.25 The Vision for the Wonderful Barn KDA is the extension of the urban area of Leixlip through new residential development and open space and amenity, with a high quality permeable urban form, which provides links to and protects the cultural heritage of The Wonderful Barn.
- 4.26 Connectivity/ Movement within the KDA. Access to the development area will be via an improved access point on the Celbridge Road which will also provide vehicular, cycle and pedestrian links to The Wonderful Barn. Achieve pedestrian and cyclist permeability throughout including connectivity to adjoining established residential estates. Design all roads and streets in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). Planning applications for significant development on these lands shall be accompanied by a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA).
- 4.27 The Built Form of the KDA will create a legible development with a sense of place which understands the cultural heritage of the surrounding area and has regard to the residential amenity of the existing dwellings to the north, west and east of the development area. Provide for buildings generally 2-storey in height. This site will generally accommodate medium density residential development in the order of 35 units per hectare. Where the quality of the design and layout is particularly high and it is determined that it would not impact unduly on the setting of The Wonderful Barn or adjoining established residential areas, higher densities may be achievable. Apartment and flat roof houses would not be appropriate in this area. The design and layout of new development shall provide for a zone of protection around The Wonderful Barn. Public open space should reflect existing spaces in adjoining developments, enhancing the visual amenity, with the possibility of merging in the future.
- 4.28 Landscape and Spaces - Building layouts will have regard to the protection of key views within the site and appropriate landscaping should minimise the visual impact of any new residential development. Provide for a minimum of 15% quality open space within the residential lands. Retain natural heritage and existing green infrastructure features through incorporation into areas of open space and boundaries of residential development.

5. Methodology

Sources

- 5.1 This Stage 2 AIA is informed by the previous AIA produced for Stage 1 (AECOM, 2022). The preparation of the baseline for the Stage 1 AIA was informed by material gathered and collated from various sources, including:
- National Monuments Service (NMS) and Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI);
 - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH);
 - UCD Digital Library;

- National Library of Ireland;
- Heritage Maps.ie;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Record of Protected Structures;
- Howley Harrington Architects (2005) The Wonderful Barn and Barnhall House, County Kildare. Concept and Feasibility Report for The Irish Landmark Trust in association with Kildare County Council;
- O'Driscóil, C and Fitzgibbon, B (2017), Archaeological Excavations 2015-16 at the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip, County Kildare 15E0324: Final Report;
- O'Kane Crimmins, F (2011), 'The Wonderful Barn', Historic Landscape Assessment Report (unpublished report for Kildare County Council); and
- Regan, D. and Gimson, H., (2015), Investigations into the South Courtyard, Entrance Court and Formal Walled Garden, The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Detection Licence No. 15R0144. Earthsound Geophysics for Kilkenny Archaeology.

Asset Selection and Study Area

- 5.2 The Stage 1 AIA utilized a study area, which extended 1km from the Proposed Redevelopment site boundary and included all known and potential cultural heritage (archaeological, architectural heritage and designed landscapes) assets. The study area is illustrated on Figure 3 and has been utilised to produce a figure illustrating the surrounding cultural heritage assets. Heritage data from all sources has been identified within this study area. The size of this study area enabled a detailed examination of the heritage assets surrounding the site, in order to provide sufficient archaeological and historical contextual information and allow an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site to be made.

Assessment of Heritage Asset Importance

- 5.3 A Cultural Heritage asset is defined as a monument, building, group of buildings and sites which are the combined works of nature and man constituting the historic or built environment (World Heritage Convention, 1972). A heritage asset's value is not solely expressed through any designated status but can also be exhibited through a series of values or special interests. These include architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interests. There is the potential for non-designated heritage assets to display special interests equivalent to a designated heritage asset. Therefore a "designated" status does not necessarily confer a set level of importance on an asset, rather professional judgement and an assessment of the special interest displayed by that asset are examined and a level of importance is assigned.
- 5.4 Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines a 'national monument' as "*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto.*" National Monuments are considered nationally important and any works carried out at, or in close proximity to, an archaeological site designated as a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority may require a Ministerial Consent.
- 5.5 National Monuments and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites/Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) sites are not clearly differentiated in the National Monuments Act 1930 – 2004. However, not all RMP and RHM sites and associated constraint areas demonstrate the same level or degree of heritage special interest as can be found in National Monuments. Therefore, they can be of either national or regional importance and an assessment of the special interest of the asset and professional judgement is used to identify the appropriate level of importance.
- 5.6 Some archaeological and architectural heritage assets are also included on the RPS of each county or city development plan, under Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised). These protected structures are included in the RPS due to their special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical interest. Protected structures are considered to be of international, national or regional importance.
- 5.7 Architectural Conservation Areas are areas which are designated in a county development plan, under Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised), in order to "*preserve the character of*

a place, area, group of structures or townscape” that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value; or *“contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.”* Architectural Conservation Areas are considered to be of either national or regional importance.

- 5.8 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was established to assist councils in assessing whether structures should be added to their Record of Protected Structures. These architectural heritage assets are rated to be of either international, national, regional, local or ‘record only’ importance.
- 5.9 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage also contains a Garden Survey which includes designed landscapes such as parks, gardens and demesnes. These can be divided into those with substantially intact landscapes and features; and those where the landscape has been significantly eroded by later changes with only peripheral features intact. For the purposes of this assessment, the substantially intact landscapes are judged to be of international, national or regional importance while the denuded landscapes are judged to be of local importance.
- 5.10 Townlands are the lowest level, officially defined geographical area in Ireland and date to before the Anglo-Norman period (12th century). The boundaries of townlands are often visible in the landscape as walls, tree-lined ditches and embankments or natural features such as streams. They provide visible physical evidence of historical territory or political boundaries and are regarded as being of local importance as historic, cultural heritage features.

Table 1. Factors Determining the Importance of Cultural Heritage Assets

IMPORTANCE	CRITERIA
National/High	<p>National Monuments.</p> <p>Recorded Monuments deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Protected Structures deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a National Rating or deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH Garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly national importance.</p> <p>Undesignated archaeological remains which are rare or complex in nature, and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p>
Regional /Medium	<p>Recorded Monuments deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Protected Structures deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Regional Rating or deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly regional importance.</p> <p>Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Undesignated archaeological remains which are neither particularly common nor uncommon, and/or of moderate complexity, and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p>
Local/Low	<p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Local or Record Only Rating or deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with only peripheral features surviving, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Townland Boundary Features.</p>

IMPORTANCE

CRITERIA

Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.

Undesignated archaeological features which are particularly common or in poor condition, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.

Parks/Gardens/Demesnes recorded by the NIAH Garden Survey which have poor historic legibility.

Assessment Methodology

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

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2022, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- EPA, 2003, Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Architectural Heritage Guidelines;
- TII (2024), Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects (particularly Information Box 10: Describing Significance of Effect).

Setting Assessment Methodology

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

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

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

'Development Within the Attendant Grounds

13.7.1 It is essential to understand the character of a site before development proposals can be considered. Where attendant grounds of particular significance are proposed for development, a conservation plan could be prepared in advance of any planning application which would identify the significance of the site and locate areas within the designed landscape, if any,

which could accept change and development and those areas which could not without damaging the architectural heritage of the place.

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

a) Would the development affect the character of the protected structure?

b) Would the proposed works affect the relationship of the protected structure to its surroundings and attendant grounds?

c) Would the protected structure remain the focus of its setting? For example, a new building erected between a structure and a feature within the attendant grounds will alter the character of both;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13.8.3 The extent of the potential impact of proposals will depend on the location of the new works, the character and quality of the protected structure, its designed landscape and its setting, and the character and quality of the ACA. Large buildings, sometimes at a considerable distance, can alter views to or from the protected structure or ACA and thus affect their

character. Proposals should not have an adverse effect on the special interest of the protected structure or the character of an ACA.'

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

- Cork County Council Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings, 2006. This document was prepared by Cork County Council in response to increasing adaptation and redevelopment of planned landscapes within the county. It also has relevance to development within the other Irish counties beyond Cork County given the lack of other applicable guidance.

5.16 The guidance notes advise the following stepped approach to assessing potential impacts to setting of Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Estates:

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

Limitations and Assumptions

5.17 The assessment is based upon currently available online information at the time of writing. No archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken to inform this assessment apart from a rapid visual inspection during the Heritage Site Walkover

6. Heritage Baseline

Proposed Redevelopment Site Location and Geology

6.1 The Proposed Redevelopment site is located at Barnhall, to the west of Leixlip in County Kildare, and comprises The Wonderful Barn, ancillary buildings and surrounding parkland incorporating an area of 19.8 hectares (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north and west by the new residential development of Barnhall Meadows which is accessed by a new road leading west from the R404. The M4 is located immediately to the south of the Proposed Redevelopment site with the Kildare Innovation Campus to the south of this.

6.2 The underlying geology is calp dark grey to black limestone and shale beneath a glacial till that comprises an orange stony clay. The soil association is a fine loamy drift with limestones (www.gis.teagasc.ie).

General History of the Location of the Wonderful Barn

6.3 The history of the location of the Proposed Redevelopment site has been well documented in the previous reports produced comprising the conservation report and feasibility study (Howley Hayes, 2005), the Historic Landscape Assessment (O'Kane, 2011) and the report on the archaeological excavations of 2015-16 (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). All of these were used to inform the previous Stage 1 AIA which presents a detailed baseline (Appendix A). A synopsis of this baseline is presented below.

6.4 The current name of the surrounding townland is Barnhall which is named after Barn Hall house which adjoins the Wonderful Barn. This name has only been in use from 1759. Prior to this, the townland was known as Loughnamona which translates as 'moorland hollow' (www.logainm.ie). Prehistoric sites within the area comprise fulacht fiadh, a ring-ditch (KD011-042), an enclosure (KD011-042002) and a series of bowl furnaces (KD011-059) and evidence for habitation (KD011-043, 044, 048 and 058) in the form of pits, spreads and hearths show evidence of activity during the Bronze and Iron Ages (Figure 3).

6.5 The location of the Proposed Redevelopment was part of the estates of the White family of Leixlip Castle during the 17th century with the land in the townland of Loughnamona leased out (AECOM, 2022). In 1725, the Whites sold much of their estate including Leixlip Castle demesne (NIAH 1931) to Speaker

William Conolly, who had purchased the lands around Castletown where he remodelled the existing house into the largest Palladian country house in Ireland. The lands around the country house were also developed into an associated planned landscape (NIAH 1924).

Barnhall 1743-2005

- 6.6 Conolly's death in 1729 saw his estates in Kildare pass to his widow, Katherine Conolly while his nephew William moved into the estate at Leixlip Castle to assist with the management and administration of the estates. Katherine continued to live at Castletown developing the house and grounds, including the erection of the Conolly folly, a large obelisk in the grounds of Castletown House (NIAH 1924). The Wonderful Barn was erected in 1743 as proclaimed on the date stone above the west ground entrance. This date tallies with Katherine Conolly's time at Castletown and it was thought that she had the barn erected as a folly and grain store to command panoramic vistas back towards Castletown and the Conolly folly.
- 6.7 The context for construction was against the period of the Black Spring of 1741 when a series of severe winters brought famine to Ireland. Katherine Conolly documented the suffering of the poor at the time and was involved in relief efforts. It was thought that the Conollys were responsible for the erection of the Wonderful Barn as a famine relief scheme; however, this has been disputed by O'Kane (2011) and O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon (2017) who point out that there is a complete absence of mention of the barn in the Conolly papers while it was not surveyed by Rocque as part of the Conolly lands in 1760.
- 6.8 O'Kane (2011) and O'Drisceoil (2017) instead surmise that the Wonderful Barn was constructed by Joseph Cooper who was the tenant at the time rather than Katherine Conolly. A lease was drawn up in 1759 between Cooper and Thomas Conolly which confirmed his tenure of the grounds (now known as Barnhall) along with the adjacent houses, outhouses, barns, buildings, gardens and orchards.
- 6.9 The Wonderful Barn is described on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) as a *'Freestanding single-bay five-stage grain store, dated 1743, on a cruciform plan with series of four single-bay single-storey gabled projecting bays. Now disused. Flat roof behind parapet approached by flight of ninety-four cut-limestone steps. Part creeper- or ivy-covered slate hung (lower stages) or lime rendered (upper stages) battered walls with rough faced cut-limestone stringcourses including rough faced cut-limestone stringcourse supporting battlemented parapet having cut-limestone coping. Square-headed door opening (west) below cut-limestone date stone ("1743") with lintel framing timber boarded double doors. Triangular window openings (upper stages) with rough faced cut-limestone sill courses, and concealed dressings with monolithic hood mouldings framing fixed-pane fittings. Interior with limewashed red brick English bond dome vaulted chambers'*. It is recorded on the NIAH as 11901102 and as a Protected Structure B11-15 on the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029.
- 6.10 The Wonderful Barn (B11-15) is set beside Barn Hall which is believed to have been built as the seat of Joseph Cooper in 1743 (AECOM, 2022). Barn Hall is similar to a small number of early Georgian two-storeyed houses that were built by the minor gentry and well to do farmers during the late 1600s and early 1700s. It is attached to a cobbled courtyard farm which is enclosed by farm buildings to the southeast of the house. This layout is stylistically similar to a layout of continental origin.
- 6.11 The Coopers continued in residence at Barn Hall until 1831 when it passed to the Coley family. The layout of the buildings and grounds is clearly shown on the 1st edition OS map drawn in 1839 (Plate 1). The buildings are labelled Barn Hall with the Wonderful Barn easily discernible to the northwest. The composition of buildings at this time is given within the Griffiths Valuation. The Griffiths Valuation gives a detailed description of the property and shows that it consisted of the main house, The Wonderful Barn, stables, outbuildings, stores, barns and a forge. The majority of these were located within the ranges of buildings located along the southwest and southeast sides of the courtyard. Other structures mentioned appear to have been located within the yards. The courtyard includes a dovecote at the northeast and southeast corners of the yard. These were described as circular structures with the northern one used as a cow byre and the southern one as a store.

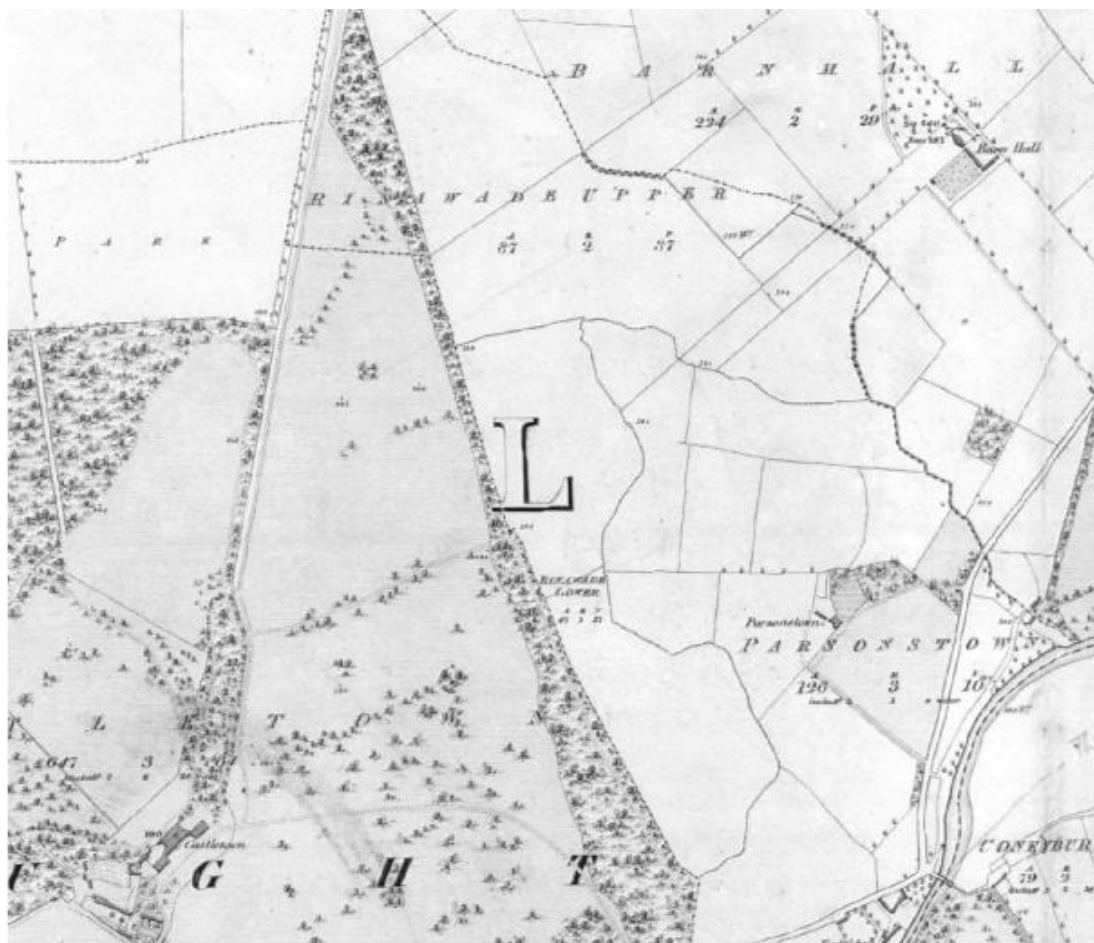


Plate 1 Barnhall and grounds on the 1st edition OS map of Kildare (1839). (After O'Kane, 2011).

- 6.12 A well, potato house, fowl store, porch to north courtyard, and privy are listed. Two geophysical surveys were carried out in 2015 (Regan and Gimson 2015). These identified the structural remains depicted on the historic Ordnance Survey maps in the north courtyard and several discrete linear and curvilinear anomalies that may represent pathways or drainage channels, and the edges of flower beds elsewhere around the buildings. These features were then targeted for archaeological invasive investigation (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).
- 6.13 The investigations comprised nine interventions which targeted anomalies recorded on the geophysical surveys. These, then, allowed a series of four phases of development to be put forward with archaeological evidence assigned against each. It should be noted that only one feature was uncovered during the investigations that appears to pre-date the construction of the Wonderful Barn. This is the south perimeter path (F60), which was a 2.2m wide path, comprised of crushed and powdered slate sitting directly over the natural boulder clay at the south side of the walled garden. It was covered by the primary gardening horizon and predates the construction of the walled garden. No datable artefacts were recovered with this feature but O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon (2017) state that it was likely associated with the activities that were taking place around the barn prior to the construction of Barn Hall.
- 6.14 The period of the Conolly occupation (1743-1831) was assigned Stage A in the archaeological investigation chronology with the following associated features - Walled Garden: primary garden layout; North courtyard: Structures 3, 4, 5, 6, cobbled path; South courtyard: Cobbled yard, privies; Entrance courtyard: Metallurgy, turning circle. These tie in with the construction and initial development of Barn Hall.
- 6.15 Structures 3, 4, 5 and 6 comprise two dovecotes, a fowl house and well respectively, matching the structures shown on the 1st edition OS mapping. The dovecotes (Structures 3 and 4) both had an external diameter of 3.75m and were constructed with rough rubble, bonded by a compact white lime mortar. Artefacts recovered from the interior of Structure 3 comprised a fragment of 18th century pipe bowl and manganese mottled ware pottery which dates between the 17th and 19th centuries. One interesting find was a horse mandible and scapula buried beneath the floor. These had been placed in a defleshed state and may be part of a folk tradition to bring luck to the property.

- 6.16 The fowl house (Structure 5) is located between Structures 3 and 4 and consists of a rectangular building which measured 9.2m x 3.8m. The majority of materials forming this building had been robbed out, although its original outline can be discerned. A cobbled path was also uncovered orientated northwest to southeast towards the dovecote in the northeast angle of the boundary wall. This path was truncated by the foundations for Structure 2.
- 6.17 A well (Structure 6) had a 3.5m x 2.8m rectangular plan, set slightly off a right-angle to the boundary wall. The walls were of random-coursed roughly hewn limestone bonded by compact white mortar. The well is capped with concrete and the steps down into the south side of the well had been backfilled with rubble. O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon (2017) note that the orientation of the well contrasts with the geometry of all the other courtyard buildings including Barn Hall which might suggest that it is of earlier date than the rest of the complex. Archaeological remains from this period within the south courtyard included privy's, a path and cobbled surface. The southeast extent of the south courtyard was found to be prone to flooding and the only remains noted were the possible remains of hitching posts for horses. The investigations found that layers of levelling material had been later deposited within the south courtyard to counteract the flooding. The majority of this material remains in situ and was not excavated.
- 6.18 The remains of metalled surfacing and a carriage turning circle were uncovered in the entrance courtyard to the west of the Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. The entrance court is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as an open space at the east end of an avenue orientated on Castletown House. O'Kane (2011) notes that the Conolly family sought to create a firm visual and axial connection between the house and the barn. A tree lined avenue was built across the Castletown demesne lands with the avenue following the line through the fields being leased by the Coley family in the townlands of Rinawade Upper, Rinawade Lower and Barnhall. The turning circle is not depicted on the 1st edition OS map (1839) leading O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon (2017) to surmise that it had gone out of use.
- 6.19 The date of construction for the walled garden is unknown but likely coincided with the construction of Barn Hall. It is a smallish walled garden, in keeping with the size of the property, located to the south of the main buildings in order to ensure no shadow fell over the plants (O'Kane, 2011). The investigations found evidence for the fruit and vegetables grown within it.
- 6.20 The surrounding grounds are shown on the 1st edition OS map as large rectangular fields laid out in geometric fashion which respects Barn Hall (O'Kane, 2011). These fields have straight boundaries with planting indicated along some. A wedge-shaped orchard is set to the immediate northwest of the Wonderful Barn while the origins of the avenue to Castletown House are clearly visible. This feature is not fully completed at this stage. Barn Hall is accessed by a lane running southeast to the Leixlip Road.
- 6.21 The 2nd edition OS map (1872) shows the layout of the Proposed Redevelopment site during the second half of the 19th century (Plate 2). By this date, the avenue from Castletown House had been formalised and was in use while the road from the Leixlip Road had been bounded with walls. The walled garden appeared less decorative while the orchard to the northwest was still visible. The surrounding fields were also unchanged.



Plate 2 2nd edition OS map (1872) (After O’Kane, 2011).

- 6.22 The Coley family were in residence at this time, at Barn Hall, which shows little change apart from the walled garden becoming more functional. This is reflected in paths uncovered by the archaeological investigations. Structure 2 was also added at this time, truncating the path leading northeast to the dovecote. This structure measured 7.7m x 2m, with foundations constructed of roughly hewn, angular stones bonded by compact white lime mortar with frequent small pebbles.
- 6.23 The 3rd edition OS map (1911) shows the layout of the Wonderful Barn at the start of the 20th century (Plate 3). The surrounding fields are unchanged with the orchard to the northwest and the access laneway leading to the southeast. The avenue to Castletown House is still discernible, although this has been truncated and is no longer in use.
- 6.24 The archaeological investigations uncovered little evidence for change within this period, with the structures in the courtyards still extant, although the walled garden appeared to have gone out of use. By this time, the house and surrounding grounds had been purchased by the Ronaldson Family and let out to a succession of tenants. The tenant was Thomas Plewsman at the time of the 3rd edition OS map. The house was sold to cattle dealers, Timothy and John O’Connor before 1939. This resulted in several changes including the demolition of the structures in the north courtyard and the import of levelling soils within the south courtyard. The layout at this time can be seen on the 4th edition OS map (1939) (Plate 4). The field layout remains unchanged, although the orchard is no longer indicated and the walled garden is marked as unused.

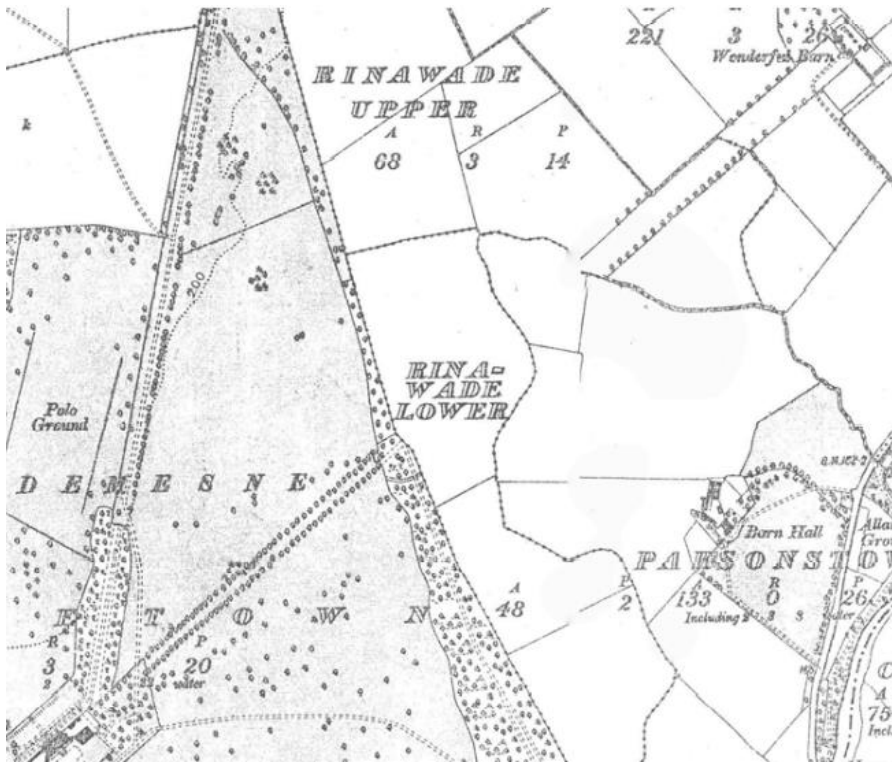


Plate 3 3rd edition OS map (1911) (After O’Kane, 2011).

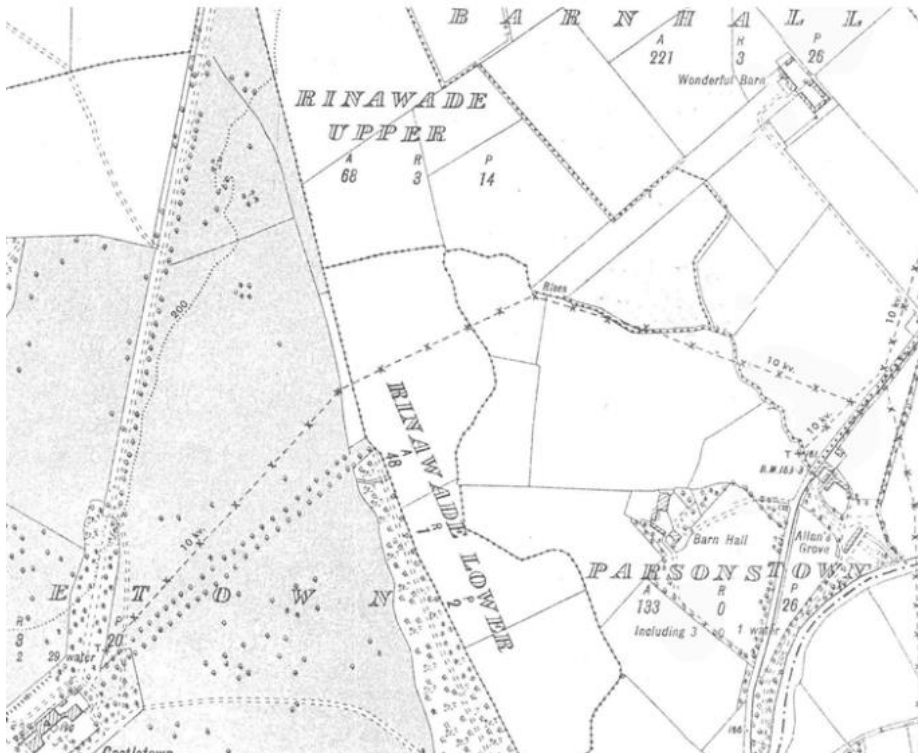


Plate 4 4th edition OS map (1939) (After O’Kane, 2011).

6.25 Barn Hall and The Wonderful Barn passed through several owners after 1946 before being taken over by the Irish Meat Packers Ltd., during the 1960s, who used it 'as a *hospitality centre for the company's clients and visitors*' (O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). This hospitality centre included an outdoor swimming pool inserted into the walled garden, a tennis court in the entrance court and a television aerial placed on the Wonderful Barn. In 1997 Barn Hall had become the 'Focus Point Education Centre' and in 2004 an 'Action Area Plan' for Barn Hall was published by Kildare County Council, who the following year acquired the barn and surrounding lands (O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

Current Layout

- 6.26 The overall recent layout of the Wonderful Barn is shown on aerial photographs with large-scale changes to the area apparent (Plate 8). The most noticeable changes concern the expansion of Leixlip with modern housing now within the immediate vicinity. This housing comprises Barnhall Meadows which bound the Proposed Redevelopment site to the north and west.



Plate 5 Aerial photograph showing the current layout (www.google.co.uk).

- 6.27 Other significant development comprises the M4 located to the immediate south. The motorway further truncates the former avenue which lead southwest to the Castletown demesne. The Proposed Redevelopment site now effectively consists of greenspace surrounded by modern development on all sides.
- 6.28 The surrounding grounds also show signs of disturbance. The original access lane to Barn Hall and the Wonderful Barn led southeast to the R404. This has been truncated by the motorway with access now provided from the new road to Barnhall Meadows. The new access road extends west across the Proposed Redevelopment site passing through a field boundary before crossing through the walled garden to join with the western extent of the original access road. Another new access road, Barnhall Meadows Boulevard, extends to the south of the Proposed Redevelopment site providing access to the new housing development under construction to the southwest.
- 6.29 The Boulevard further truncates the field layout to the south which have already been disrupted by the construction of the motorway. Similarly, the access road to Barnhall Meadows truncates the fields to the northeast and southeast. The field to the northeast is now semi-circular in shape, with its curving boundary to the northeast formed by a stand of mature trees, while new stands of mature trees are located within the middle and southwest of the Proposed Redevelopment site.
- 6.30 Other boundaries of mature trees are evident following the original field layout, including the western boundary of the triangular field where the orchard was formerly located. There are no visible signs of the former orchard. The lines of former field boundaries can also be seen within larger areas of greenspace which have been developed as a leisure facility with a network of paths created. Other new development comprises allotments which occupy a large sub-rectangular area to the south of the main access road.
- 6.31 Barn Hall and the Wonderful Barn are clearly evident with the range of outbuildings to the southeast. The yards to the northeast and walled garden to the southwest are all under grass showing no signs of the archaeological excavations which took place within them. In particular, there are no visible signs of the dove cotes, bird house and well which have been left in situ within the north courtyard. The location of the former swimming pool is visible within the walled garden, although it has been infilled with a tree planted upon it. The outline of the former tennis court can be seen in the entrance yard.
- 6.32 As mentioned, the areas around the buildings are former fields which have since been turned into a leisure facility. They are under grass which appears well maintained. There are no obvious signs of cropmarks which could indicate the presence of buried archaeological features.

Site Visit

- 6.33 The Proposed Redevelopment site has been visited on three separate occasions. The first two visits were associated with the Stage 1 assessment with the first taking place on the 14th July 2022 with the Client presenting the site to the Design Team. This visit included access to the interiors of the Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. The second visit took place on the 16th August 2022 and focussed on the surrounding grounds.
- 6.34 The third visit took place on the 24th May 2024 as part of Stage 2. The purpose of this visit was to recheck the onsite conditions and document any changes which may have occurred since the previous visits in 2022. The following description of the site will utilise photographs taken during all three visits.
- 6.35 The site is accessed via the road leading from Barnhall Meadows (Plate 6). This road is a modern addition to the site and is currently bounded by a new wooden fence. The area to the south of the access road is under grass but is disturbed with undulating terrain and mounded soil evident (Plate 7). The proposed new car park will be located within this area.



Plate 6 Modern access road within the east of the Proposed Redevelopment site.



Plate 7 Disturbed grass area to the south of the modern access road where the car park will be sited.

- 6.36 Similarly, the grassed area to the north of the road has also been disturbed with its central area excavated and showing evidence for drainage (Plate 8). This disturbance is likely associated with the construction of the adjacent housing development, while areas around the periphery of the Proposed Redevelopment site also show evidence of modern disturbance. These includes areas adjacent to the new housing access roads - Barnhall Meadows and Barnhall Meadows Boulevard. The Proposed Redevelopment site only incorporates a small triangular part of this area.



Plate 8 Disturbed area to the north of the access road.

- 6.37 Proceeding southwest, the grounds are formed by the semi-circular grassed area which is defined by the modern additions of the curving hedge formed by mature trees to the east (Plate 9) and the access road to the south. This area is level and has been modernised as leisure space with well-maintained pathways crossing it. Other evidence of modern disturbance comprises a buried 250mm cast-iron water pipe laid in

1993 and overhead power lines (Plate 10). The natural playground and skate park are proposed for this area.



Plate 9 Semi-circular grassed area bounded by mature tree hedging with former field boundary visible.



Plate 10 Line of cast-iron water pipe and overhead power lines.

6.38 This area was originally part of a field system and the line of a former field boundary can be seen crossing southwest to northeast (Plate 9) while the southwest boundary of the semi-circular area is formed by a hedge (Plate 11). This hedge is an original boundary marked on the 1st edition OS map of Kildare (1839) and currently comprises a bank surmounted by mature trees with a ditch immediately adjacent on the eastern side.



Plate 11 Hedge, bank and ditch forming the southwest boundary of the semi-circular area.

- 6.39 The area to the south of the modern access road is currently occupied by modern development in the form of allotment plots for growing plants and vegetables (Plate 12). The allotments are bounded to the east by the original field boundary noted above, to the south by Barnhall Meadows Boulevard, and to the west by the walled garden. An area directly to the north of the access road is under concrete and currently holds a shipping container used by the allotment owners (Plate 13). A new 174sqm building will be located on this area while a new courtyard will be created within a grassed area located between the concrete and the east wall of the farm complex (Plate 14).



Plate 12 The allotments to the east of the walled garden.



Plate 13 Concreted area to the north of the access road where the new 174sqm building will be located.



Plate 14 Grassed area to the west of the concreted surface where a courtyard will be created.

6.40 There appears to have been a laneway running adjacent to the east side of the walled garden. The remains of this laneway are still visible with a gatepost extant at the southwest corner of the walled garden (Plate 15). An overgrown structure is located directly to the southeast of the laneway opposite the gatepost (Plate 16). No buildings are marked at this location on the historic mapping suggesting that this feature may be the remains of a wall which ran parallel to the walled garden and defined the laneway.



Plate 15 Gatepost at the southwest corner of the walled garden.



Plate 16 Overgrown wall at the southeast of the laneway.

- 6.41 The area to the immediate west of the allotments comprises a triangular field which was formerly part of a larger rectangular field before being truncated by the motorway (Plate 17). Further truncation has occurred with the construction of Barnhall Meadows Boulevard. The ground within the field was overgrown at the time of the visit, although some features were visible. A track is present along the northern edge of the field and this is the remains of the original road which provided access to Barn Hall prior to it being truncated by the motorway. Evidence for modern services is present in the form of a manhole within the centre of the field (Plate 18).



Plate 17 Triangular field to the west of the allotments



Plate 18 Manhole within the triangular field.

6.42 The area to the immediate west of the triangular field still holds its original form, although, it too, has been truncated at its southwest extent by the motorway (Plate 19). It comprises a grassed area which is largely overgrown with mown pathways providing access for walkers. Its western boundary aligns with the former avenue to Castletown House which is visible to the south of the motorway. This boundary is formed by a bank surmounted by mature vegetation with a ditch adjacent (Plate 20).



Plate 19 Looking southwest towards the former avenue to Castletown House.



Plate 20 Bank and ditch forming boundary.

- 6.43 To the west of the area previously discussed is a grassed area which shows evidence for disturbance associated with the recent construction of the new housing development Barnhall Meadows. This disturbance comprises an attenuation area and a manhole for drainage which are very evident within the landscape (Plate 21).



Plate 20 Modern attenuation area and drainage installed during the last two years.

- 6.44 The south western extent of the Proposed Redevelopment site is bounded to the north by the new residential development (Plates 25 and 26). This area was previously used as a haul road and storage area as can be seen on Plate 5. It has since been reinstated and landscaped with mounded soil and pathways. This soil is likely spoil stripped during the construction of the adjacent housing development. A path will be located along the top of this landscaped mounded material under the development proposals.



Plate 25 Looking east from southwest extent of the Proposed Redevelopment site.



Plate 26 The southwest extent of the Proposed Redevelopment site with mounded earth and path.

6.45 The landscaped area is bounded to the south by mature tree plantations which are also accessible by the recent paths. The tree plantations are bounded to the south by a grassed area which forms the southwest extent of the Proposed Redevelopment site (Plate 27). No development is proposed for this area.



Plate 27 Grassed area within southwest extent of the Proposed Redevelopment site.

- 6.46 A modern plantation has been planted in the area to the north of the attenuation area. The ground to the north of this plantation is under long grass, again, with paths mown within it (Plate 28). This area is largely featureless, although a ditch is located along the northern boundary of the plantation (Plate 29). Other plantations have been created at the western and northern edges of this area. Despite this, this area largely holds its original form. Similarly, the area further to the north also holds its original form (Plate 30). This area is shown as an orchard on historic mapping, although there are no longer any signs of this.



Plate 28 Grassed area to the southwest of Barn Hall.



Plate 29 Ditch along the boundary with the modern planted area.



Plate 30 Former orchard to the northwest of Barn Hall.

- 6.47 The walled garden is still extant to the southwest of the Barn Hall Complex (Plate 31). It is currently under grass with the former swimming pool infilled and planted. The modern access lane extends across the walled garden through holes punched through the walls. There are no visible signs of the former planting or more recent archaeological investigations.



Plate 31 The walled garden showing former swimming pool and new access.

- 6.48 It is proposed to add an 115sqm extension to the exterior of the former farm buildings within the walled garden (Plate 32). This area was partially subject to archaeological testing in 2015-16 with a 2.2m wide path uncovered at the south side of the walled garden. The path was covered by the primary gardening horizon and predates the construction of the walled garden.



Plate 32 Proposed location of the 115sqm extension to former farm buildings within the walled garden.

6.49 The entrance courtyard is also under grass with few features visible (Plate 33). There are no signs of the turning circle or archaeological investigations, although the outline of the former tennis court is clearly visible. The northern courtyard is now under overgrown grass (Plate 34). There are no signs of the archaeological excavation with the features uncovered reburied. The courtyard is bounded by the Wonderful Barn and north western dovecote.



Plate 33 Entrance courtyard with former tennis court.



Plate 34 North courtyard with the Wonderful Barn and north western dovecote.

- 6.50 The southern courtyard is similarly under overgrown grass (Plate 35) and there are no signs of the archaeological excavation. The archaeological investigations here showed that this area was covered in a thick layer of imported fill material and was prone to flooding. The courtyard is bounded by the outbuildings and south eastern dovecote.



Plate 35 Southern courtyard with outbuildings and south-eastern dovecote.

7. Potential Impacts

- 7.1 The Proposed Redevelopment comprises works to the Wonderful Barn complex and the surrounding grounds. The potential impacts associated with each will be separated into these areas for ease of discussion.

The Wonderful Barn Complex

7.2 The Proposed Works to the Wonderful Barn complex comprise the following:

- Repair, restoration and minor interventions within and to the Wonderful Barn, Barnhall House, two dovecotes, a walled garden and two ranges of adjacent courtyards and former farm buildings to improve and accommodate existing tourist and community amenities and facilities. This will include the ground floors of the barn, the house and the two stable buildings being excavated and replaced with insulated floor build-ups. (It is understood that the barn, the house and the two stable buildings fall under the remit of Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture are appointed to the project as Conservation Architects with responsibility for proposing mitigation to any impacts to these structures).
- Provision of a 115sqm extension to former farm buildings to provide a commercial kitchen and café with southern outlook into the historic walled working vegetable garden amenity.
- Provision of all utilities, necessary services, drainage works and associated site works.
- Provision of a new 174sqm building to the East of the existing building complex which will provide a storage facility to replace an existing container on site, new toilets, kitchenette and workshop facilities for the local allotment user group as well as short term workplace facilities for the KCC Parks Department.
- Provision of water and power outlet market facilities adjacent to the new building to accommodate weekly / monthly local markets.

7.3 The Proposed Works outlined above will involve ground disturbance. In particular, the creation of the two ranges of courtyards (archaeological yard to the north and activity yard to the south), 115sqm extension to former farm buildings and provision of a new 174sqm storage facility building to the East of the existing building will involve deeper groundworks.

7.4 Previous archaeological works within the northern courtyard revealed recorded archaeology in the form of Structures 3, 4, 5 and 6 - two dovecotes, a fowl house and well. These structures have been archaeologically investigated and recorded but remain *in situ* buried under the existing ground surface. Under the current plans, the extant recorded archaeology in the northern courtyard will be re-exposed and presented in an archaeology yard thereby increasing knowledge of the past use of the site.

7.5 While this is beneficial, care must be taken that these features are not accidentally damaged when being exposed, or eroded or subject to damage by weather and use. The archaeological works within the northern courtyard did not incorporate the entire footprint of this area and there remains the possibility that groundworks associated with the construction of the archaeology yard could impact unrecorded archaeological features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of the yard. The archaeological works could uncover further evidence of how this part of the complex evolved and was used. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.

7.6 The southern courtyard was subject to limited archaeological investigation as it was found to be prone to flooding. Recorded archaeology uncovered within the northwest of the southern courtyard included privies, a path and cobbled surface while the possible remains of hitching posts for horses were uncovered within the southeast extent. These assets are still *in situ* as are the majority of the layers of later deposited levelling material which was not excavated. Again, groundworks associated with the construction of the activity yard could impact unrecorded archaeological features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of the yard.

7.7 The provision of a 115sqm extension to former farm buildings to provide a commercial kitchen and café with southern outlook into the historic walled working vegetable garden amenity. The walled garden was subject to limited archaeological investigations, which uncovered evidence for previous cultivation and a path that predated the construction of the walled garden. This path comprised scant remains and may extend to within the footprint of the lightweight extension. Groundworks associated with the construction of the extension could impact the remains of the path or other unrecorded archaeological features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of the yard. The archaeological works could uncover further evidence of how this part of the complex evolved and was used. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.

- 7.8 Similarly, the new 174sqm building, adjacent courtyard and provision of water and power outlet market facilities will be located to the east of the existing building complex. This area comprises greenspace and a concreted surface / access road. The concreted surface / access road are previous disturbance which will have impacted possible archaeological features which may have been present. It is unlikely that any unrecorded archaeological remains exist under the concreted surface / access road. It is possible that unrecorded archaeological remains exist within the grassed areas. Such remains would be considered of low significance. The construction of the building, adjacent courtyard and provision of water and power outlet market facilities will impact such remains, should they exist.
- 7.9 The 115sqm extension to former farm buildings is located directly abutting the exterior of these buildings looking directly into the walled garden while the new 174sqm building will be located to the southeast. These new buildings will not impede critical views of the Wonderful Barn or Barnhall House nor will it affect our ability to understand or appreciate them. The change to setting would be such that the special interests or qualities of the Wonderful Barn and Barnhall House are only slightly affected without a major change.

The Surrounding Grounds

7.10 The Proposed Works to the surrounding grounds comprise the following:

- Redevelopment of the current 55 no. allotments to realign the plots within the restored historical landscape axes and provide new and improved facilities for the local allotment users.
- Improvements and upgrading of existing pedestrian footways and provision of new pedestrian footways and cycle pathways throughout the site.
- Development of a new pedestrian and cycle link through the Wonderful Barn; a continuation of the pedestrian and cycle link (outside of the project boundary) from Celbridge/Backweston to Leixlip, via Castletown House, through Kildare Innovation Campus (former Hewlett Packard site), across the proposed M4 overpass to the Wonderful Barn and onto Leixlip Town Centre and Leixlip Louisa Bridge Station, in accordance with the requirements of TII publications.
- Protection and reinstatement the axial views between Castletown House and the Wonderful Barn and undergrounding of overhead cables as required to maintain uninterrupted views.
- Protection and reinstatement of the integrity of the historic landscape including the Southern and South-Western formal tree lined avenues and forecourt to Barnhall House, formal planting of the walled garden, formal planting of the historic orchard to the North West of the building complex and an historic treeline and hedgerow to the Northern boundary of the courtyards.
- Realignment and improvements to pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access to site.
- Provision of new carpark with 65 no. carparking spaces and 28 bike parking spaces and 4 bus parking / drop off spaces.
- Provision of new street furniture, seating and public lighting throughout the parkland.
- Provision of new wayfinding and signage throughout the parkland.
- Provision of all utilities, necessary services, drainage works and associated site works.

7.11 Many of these works are low impact features set within areas which have seen disturbance in the form of landscaping, planting, the laying of services, boundary removal and truncation from adjacent development. Examples of this are the proposed redevelopment of the current 55 no. allotments to realign the plots within the restored historical landscape axes, the development of a new pedestrian and cycle link which follows existing accesses and paths and the new access path across the landscaped mounds in the southwest of the Proposed Redevelopment site.

7.12 However, the surrounding grounds were formerly fields and an orchard laid out in a rectangular manner around The Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. Examination of historic mapping has shown that the basic layout of these has remained largely unchanged with historic field boundaries remaining. Archaeological investigations associated with the construction of the Celbridge Interchange in 2001 to the west revealed evidence of previous multi-period activity. It is possible that evidence of similar activity could be present within the parkland grounds and construction of the features requiring greater ground disturbance could impact such features, should they exist.

- 7.13 Similarly, the Walled Garden will retain elements of its former use, such as the remains of paths and horticultural beds, despite subsequent disturbance including the creation of the swimming pool during the 20th century while the proposed location of the community orchard is in an area which previously held an orchard. This ground has been previously disturbed by the planting and subsequent removal of the trees and landscaping which would have impacted any archaeological remains present. Despite this, sub-surface evidence for the layout of the historic orchard and other historic use of this area could be present. Ground disturbance associated within both areas would impact such remains.
- 7.14 The Proposed Redevelopment also includes provision of a new car park, skate park, natural playground, multi-use games area, outdoor gym and play areas. While these areas have undergone some previous disturbance, there is the possibility that previously unrecorded archaeological features could be present and groundworks would impact these.
- 7.15 The Proposed Redevelopment within the surrounding grounds will add new features to the vicinity of the Wonderful Barn and Barnhall house. The introduction of these features may have the potential to impact the settings of these buildings. However, the parkland grounds are currently used as a leisure area by local people and it is an aim of the Local Area Plan to further promote the grounds as such. The Proposed Redevelopment contains advantages to promote this and also providing additional features, such as the community orchard and urban farm that provide continuity with the original activities associated with The Wonderful Barn
- 7.16 Additionally, it is an aim of the Proposed Redevelopment to protect and reinstate the integrity of the historic landscape including the Southern and South-Western formal tree lined avenues and forecourt to Barnhall House, and an historic treeline and hedgerow to the Northern boundary of the courtyards. The axial views between Castletown House and the Wonderful Barn will also be protected and reinstated with overhead cables undergrounded to maintain uninterrupted views.
- 7.17 Given these conditions, critical views of the Wonderful Barn and Barnhall House will be protected and reinstated improving our ability to understand or appreciate these features. The change to setting would be such that the special interests or qualities of the Wonderful Barn and Barnhall House would be enhanced and beneficial. Given the conditions outlined above the following recommendations are made.

8. Recommendations

Pre-development Archaeological Testing

- 8.1 Should planning permission be obtained for the Proposed Redevelopment, the Client will appoint a suitably qualified archaeologist as the Project Archaeologist to oversee the construction phase activities. Archaeological testing will be carried out at the pre-development phase in areas, identified in the impacts section of above, where the Proposed Redevelopment has the potential to impact upon archaeological remains (new buildings, courtyards, orchard, planting of the walled garden, new car park, skate park, natural playground, multi-use games area, outdoor gym and play areas) (Figure 4).
- 8.2 This testing will take the form of mechanically excavated test trenches within the footprints of the large, more invasive developments. These test trenches will be excavated under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and licensed archaeological contractor who will be appointed to carry out the archaeological fieldwork. Relevant licenses will be acquired from the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH)/NMS and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) for all archaeological works. These will be carried out in accordance with an Overarching Method Statement for Archaeological Works prepared by the Project Archaeologist and agreed with the NMS. It is anticipated that all archaeological works will be completed prior to the commencement of construction activities.
- 8.3 The programme of pre-development archaeological testing will consist of the mechanical excavation of test trenches down to sterile glacial tills and bedrock, by means of a smooth toothless bucket. These will be undertaken at specified locations within the Proposed Redevelopment. The appointed archaeologist will undertake full-time monitoring of the excavation of the test trenches and where appropriate, carry out archaeological investigation.

- 8.4 Should archaeological material/features be encountered during the archaeological testing, the use of machinery shall cease, and further archaeological investigation (by hand) shall be carried out to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological remains. Archaeological deposits shall not be removed as part of the assessment process.
- 8.5 The testing will be undertaken in advance of construction to allow adequate time to evaluate, record and, where necessary, mitigate any archaeological features that may be revealed. In the event that any archaeological features are uncovered during construction, the appointed Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service will be consulted to determine the appropriate mitigation measures. These may include preservation in situ, preservation by record through systematic archaeological excavation, and/or archaeological monitoring of specific construction activities during the construction phase.
- 8.6 Archaeological issues will be resolved, where possible, at the pre-construction stage of the development. If unexpected archaeological remains or artefacts are discovered during construction work, work in that area will cease and the area will be protected. An unexpected finds procedure will be included in the Overarching Method Statement for Archaeological Works. The Project Archaeologist and NMS will be notified, and the unexpected finds procedure will be implemented.

Archaeological Watching Brief During Construction

- 8.7 There are works within the Proposed Redevelopment which comprise improvements and upgrading of existing pedestrian footways and provision of new pedestrian footways and cycle pathways throughout the site; the development of a new pedestrian and cycle link through the Wonderful Barn; the provision of new street furniture, seating and public lighting throughout the parkland and the provision of all utilities, necessary services, drainage works and associated site works.
- 8.8 The extended nature of these works precludes pre-development archaeological testing. Given this, the appointed archaeologist will undertake archaeological monitoring of works (Figure 4). During this watching brief, the archaeologist will be delegated authority by the Contractor's engineer to:
- Halt trenching work by the Contractor in a specified area where it is necessary to examine any potential archaeological material encountered;
 - Undertake any archaeological procedure necessary for the recording and removal of archaeological objects or features before work by the Contractor can resume within a specified area.
 - Instruct the Contractor as to the measures required to be taken to protect archaeological remains to be left in situ, should circumstance arise.
- 8.9 The Contractor will agree with the Engineer and the Archaeologist:
- A programme to ensure that excavation of deposits that are of archaeological interest, is carried out under the supervision of the Archaeologist;
 - A method statement describing how trenching will be excavated and what excavation machinery will be used in the stripping and removal of the topsoil and underlying deposits;
 - Arrangements to allow the Archaeologist sufficient time to examine, record and remove, if necessary, the revealed and discovered archaeological remains;
 - Arrangements to protect archaeological remains to be left *in-situ*.
- 8.10 Any recommendations contained in this Report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

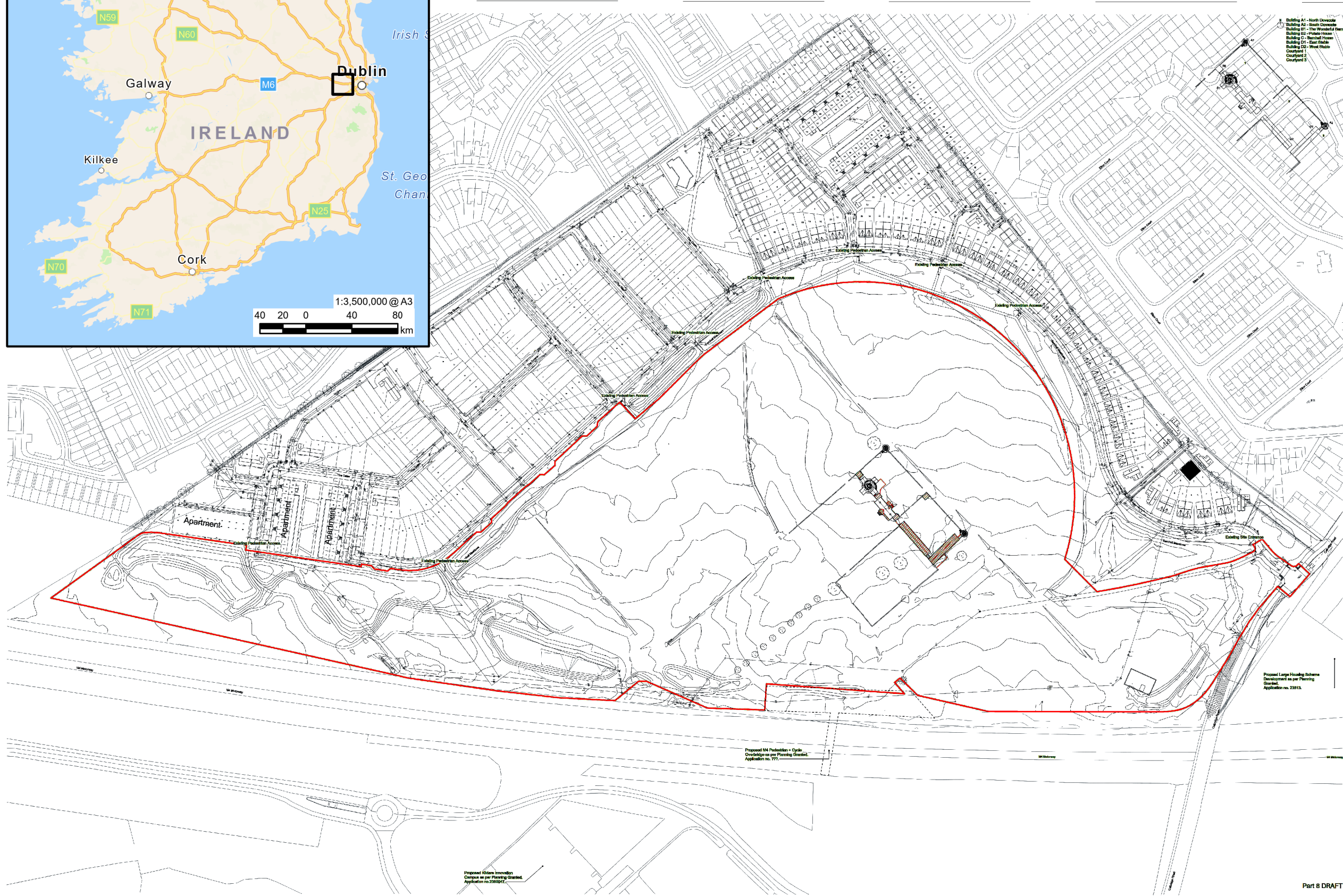
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(particularly Information Box 10: Describing Significance of Effect).

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10. Figures



NOTES

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FIGURE TITLE

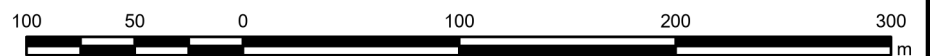
Site Location

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1

Part 8 DRAFT

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LEGEND

NOTES

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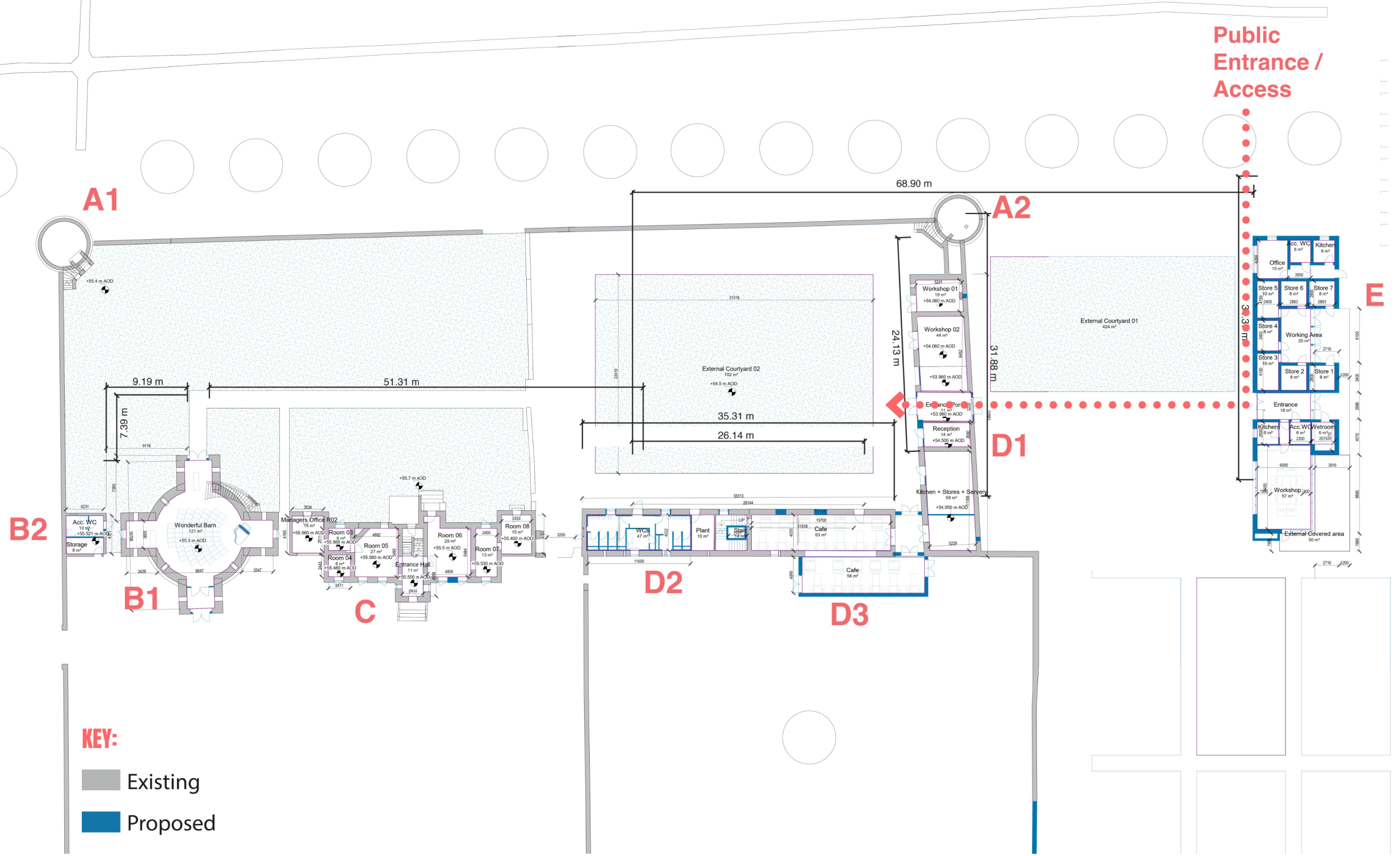
FIGURE TITLE

Proposed Works to the Wonderful Barn,
 Barn Hall and Farm Buildings

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 2a

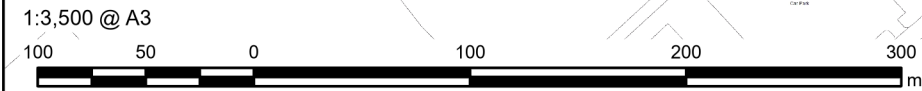
11.1 Ground Floor



KEY:

- Existing
- Proposed

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LEGEND

- 1. AMENITY COURTYARD
- 2. OPEN PARKLAND
- 3. ALLOTMENTS
- 4. PARKS DEPT
- 5. EXISTING SERVICE DEPOT
- 6. CAR PARK
- 7. PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST ROUTE
- 8. NATURAL PLAYGROUND
- 9. WALLED GARDEN
- 10. MANICURED LAWN
- 11. ARRIVAL SPACE
- 12. SHARED ACCESS ROUTE
- 13. SKATE PARK
- 14. MUGA
- 15. INFORMAL KICKABOUT AREA
- 16. MEADOW AREA
- 17. SHARED SURFACE PLAZA
- 18. DOG RUN
- 19. FRUIT TREE BORDER PLANTING
- 20. TREE PLANTING REFERRING TO HISTORIC LAYOUT
- 21. EXISTING MOUNDED LANDSCAPE
- 22. ADDITIONAL BUFFER PLANTING
- 23. EXISTING ATTENUATION AREA
- 24. M4 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTION
- 25. PRIMARY SITE ENTRANCE

NOTES

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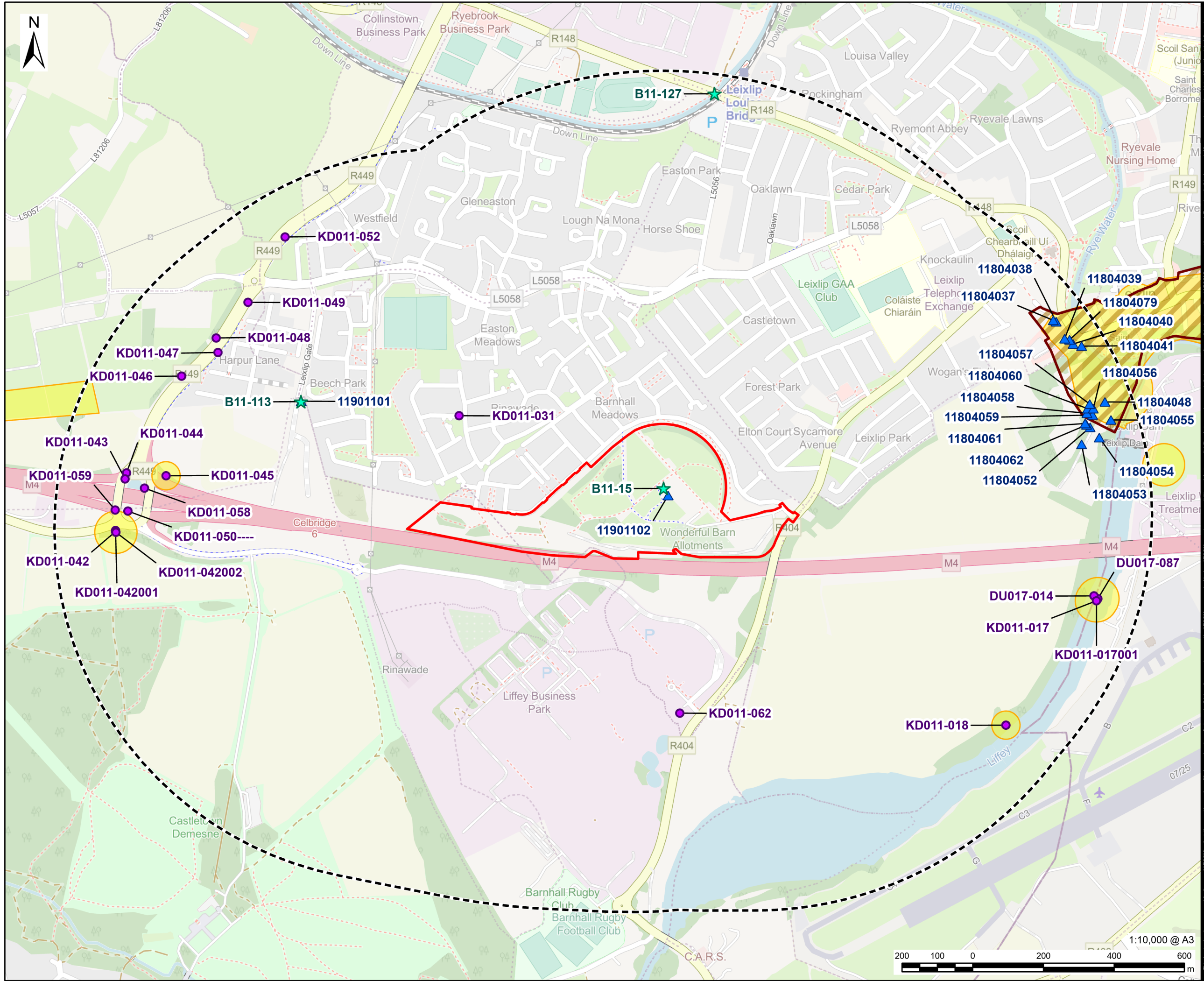
FIGURE TITLE

Proposed Works to the Surrounding
Grounds

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 2b

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Kildare C.C. Architectural Conservation Area - Leixlip
- SMR/RMP Zone of Notification (ZoN)
- Kildare C.C. Record of Protected Structures
- Sites & Monuments Record (SMR)/Recorded Monuments (RMP)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

NOTES
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FIGURE TITLE
 Heritage Assets

FIGURE NUMBER
 Figure 3



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23. EXISTING ATTENUATION AREA
24. M4 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTION
25. PRIMARY SITE ENTRANCE

NOTES

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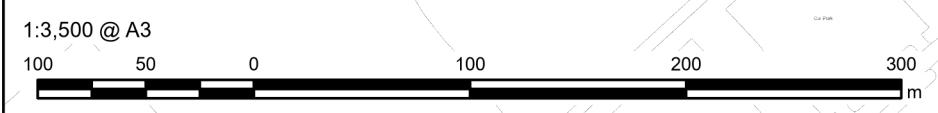
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FIGURE TITLE

Proposed Mitigation

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 4



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Appendix A

AECOM (2022) The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip, County Kildare Archaeological Impact Assessment.

The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip, County Kildare

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Kildare County Council

November 2022

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position

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Figure 1. Location of the Proposed Development

Figure 2. Heritage Assets within a 1km study area

Tables

Table 1. Factors Determining the Importance of Cultural Heritage Assets 11

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Kildare County Council (the Client) to support reuse of the Wonderful Barn (B11-15), Barnhall House, the ancillary buildings, walled gardens, car park and surrounding site/parkland (the 'Proposed Development'). Stage One relates to the production of design options for the reuse of the Proposed Development (Figure 1).

2. Scope

- 2.1 This assessment is concerned with the cultural heritage resource. This comprises archaeological assets, architectural heritage and designed landscapes such as gardens and demesnes. This baseline also considers the setting of these heritage assets, which can be described as the surroundings in which the heritage assets are experienced and appreciated.
- 2.2 The main objectives of this assessment are:
- to identify cultural heritage assets within the red line boundary of the Proposed Development site and associated study area which extends 1km from the boundaries of the Proposed Development site;
 - to assess the baseline information and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological assets within the Proposed Development site;
 - to assess the importance of the cultural heritage assets;
 - to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the Proposed Development site; and
 - to assess the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the settings of cultural heritage assets within the settings assessment study area which extends 1km from the site boundary.
- 2.3 It is noted that Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture are appointed to the project as Conservation Architects with responsibility for architectural heritage, including the Wonderful Barn within the Proposed Development which is recorded as a Protected Structure (B11-15) on the County Kildare Development Plan 2017-2023. While this structure and the adjacent Barn Hall and outbuildings will be discussed as part of this report, it is understood that assessment of impacts upon the Protected Structure and any proposed mitigation measures put forward for the Protected Structure are the remit of Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture.

3. Legislation Planning Policy and Guidance

- 3.1 This AIA has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines. The documents utilised in the preparation of this study include:
- National Monuments Acts (1930 – 2004);
 - The Heritage Act 2018;
 - National Heritage Plan (2002);
 - Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2016;
 - County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025; and
 - Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023.

Local and National Policy Framework

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

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

Leixlip Local Area Plan

3.3 This Local Area Plan (LAP) was formally adopted to run from 2020 – 2023 in November 2017 and has since been extended to run to 2026. The following policies, in addition to those supplied in the County Development Plan, provide protection to the archaeology and built heritage within the area.

Built Heritage

3.4 It is recognised that the unique built heritage of the town must be protected, conserved and managed with sensitive development encouraged so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations. The policies and objectives of the LAP in relation to the built heritage of Leixlip have been carefully considered in order to protect, enhance and promote an appreciation of this important asset as well as safeguarding the continued sustainable use of this important building stock and associated features. Of particular note to this project, the estate farm complex of Barnhall House, The Wonderful Barn and the pigeon towers at Barnhall, built in 1743, are regarded as very important built heritage assets in Leixlip. The dramatic form and visual landmark of the barn and pigeon houses, in particular, offer significant potential for sensitive adaptive re-use as a key tourism/amenity destination. As such, the Wonderful Barn is directly referenced within the LAP.

3.5 Built heritage is covered by the following policies and objectives:

- Policy BH1 – Protected Structures
 - BH1 It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including their historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.

3.6 Objectives- It is an objective of the Council in regard to Protected Structures:

- BH1.1 To ensure the protection of all structures, (or parts of structures) and the immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 the Record of Protected Structures (refer to Table 10.1 and Map No. 2 Leixlip Built Heritage and Archaeology).
- BH1.2 To acknowledge and promote awareness of the origins, historical development and cultural heritage of the town, to support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to ensure that new development respects and is responsive to the cultural heritage of Leixlip.
- BH1.3 To protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in Leixlip, including those identified in the Kildare County Development Plan. This will include,

inter alia, the following: a) the requirement of a Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character, value or sensitivity, including both urban and natural features, significant townscapes and historic buildings, as appropriate. b) prohibit development that will block or interfere with a significant focal point or a view. Where it is considered that a development may impact on focal points or views, proposals must have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated.

- BH1.4 To support the implementation of the conservation plan for the restoration and management of Leixlip Spa in association with key stakeholders.
- BH1.5 To complete a Conservation Study for The Wonderful Barn and its curtilage to inform potential feasibility studies and public consultation for appropriate use, and to support the implementation of the conservation study for the restoration and management of The Wonderful Barn and associated lands in association with key stakeholders.
- BH1.6 To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism attraction including the restoration of the main features of the complex and its historical landscape:
 - (i) The re-arrangement of the existing access way.
 - (ii) The integration of car parking facilities,
 - (iii) The consolidation and eventual restoration of the historic buildings.
 - (iv) The reinstatement of the walled garden and rear courtyard;
 - (v) The insertion of complementary commercial uses to ensure a sustainable future for the project. The feasibility of a Discovery Park including play facilities and a picnic area shall be investigated.
- BH1.7 To seek the protection of burial grounds within Leixlip in co-operation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) as appropriate.
- BH1.8 To promote the restoration of the Boat House on the River Liffey where it meets the River Rye and to promote the area along the Liffey as a recreational amenity.
- BH1.9 To address dereliction, vacancy and promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures.

Protected Views

- 3.7 The Kildare County Development Plan includes views to be protected between The Wonderful Barn and Castletown House which affect some lands within the LAP. The design and siting of new development shall have regard to protected views, in particular, any redevelopment of the Hewlett Packard site.

Archaeological Heritage

- 3.8 For the purposes of the LAP, Archaeological Heritage includes the following:

- National Monuments.
- Archaeological and Architectural monuments/sites in the Record of Monuments and Places.
- Monuments in the Register of Historic Monuments.
- Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns.
- Underwater Archaeological Heritage, including Historic Wrecks.
- Previously unknown and unrecorded archaeological sites.
- Potential sites located near large complexes of sites or monuments.
- Present or former wetlands, unenclosed land, rivers or lakes, or the inter-tidal zone.

3.9 It is the Council's intention that developments located within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and/or close to known archaeological monuments or sites, including site works that are extensive in terms of area (ground disturbance of 0.5ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more) and developments that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, will be required as part of the planning application process, or by condition of permission, to carry out archaeological assessment, monitoring, testing or excavation within the area either prior to the planning decision or prior to any development proceeding on site. The Council, as a condition on such developments, may consider the preservation of all or part of the archaeological remains in the area covered by that permission. The Council will consult with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other Statutory Consultees when considering applications for planning permission for development on or in the vicinity of archaeological sites and/or monuments.

3.5 Archaeological heritage is covered by the following policies and objectives:

- Policy BH3 – Archaeological Heritage
 - BH3 It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage of the LAP area and avoid impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.

3.10 Objectives - It is an objective of the Council:

- BH3.1 To prioritise the protection/preservation in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 10-2 and shown on Map No. 2 Leixlip Built Heritage and Archaeology from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.
- BH3.2 To protect the historic core of Leixlip town and retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.
- BH3.3 To ensure that development proposals contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with the River Liffey and associated features.

3.11 The following wider policies in the LAP directly apply to the Wonderful Barn:

- Policy EDT3 – Tourism
 - EDT3 It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate existing amenities and the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure, attractions, activities and facilities in Leixlip.

3.12 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- EDT3.9 To support the development of a heritage trail through the town, linking the town centre to The Wonderful Barn, Castletown House and other historical demesne lands within and around the town.
- EDT3.10 To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism and amenity destination with complementary commercial uses to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.
- EDT3.13 To support the preparation of an integrated tourism and amenity destination on The Wonderful Barn site, that accommodates a range of day and evening time uses.

- Policy MT1 – Walking and Cycling

- MT1 It is the policy of the Council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within the urban environment in order to improve access to the town centre, local schools, recreational facilities, shops, public transport services and other amenities. This includes providing improved connectivity across the River Rye, Royal Canal and railway line, and enhanced links with Maynooth, Celbridge and Dublin.

3.13 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- MT1.11 To support the delivery of a pedestrian and cycle overpass of the M4 to link The Wonderful Barn at Leixlip to Castletown Demesne in Celbridge in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
- Policy OS 1– Open Space
 - OS1 It is the policy of the Council to provide for a hierarchy of high quality multi-functional public open spaces within Leixlip, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.

3.14 Objectives - It shall be an objective of the Council:

- OS1.5 To facilitate and promote the provision of a public park at The Wonderful Barn.

Key Development Areas

- 3.15 The LAP identifies 3 Key Development Areas (KDAs) within Leixlip which includes new residential/Open Space and Amenity lands at The Wonderful Barn.
- 3.16 The Vision for the Wonderful Barn KDA is the extension of the urban area of Leixlip through new residential development and open space and amenity, with a high quality permeable urban form, which provides links to and protects the cultural heritage of The Wonderful Barn.
- 3.17 Connectivity/ Movement within the KDA. Access to the development area will be via an improved access point on the Celbridge Road which will also provide vehicular, cycle and pedestrian links to The Wonderful Barn. Achieve pedestrian and cyclist permeability throughout including connectivity to adjoining established residential estates. Design all roads and streets in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). Planning applications for significant development on these lands shall be accompanied by a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA).
- 3.18 The Built Form of the KDA will create a legible development with a sense of place which understands the cultural heritage of the surrounding area and has regard to the residential amenity of the existing dwellings to the north, west and east of the development area. Provide for buildings generally 2-storey in height. This site will generally accommodate medium density residential development in the order of 35 units per hectare. Where the quality of the design and layout is particularly high and it is determined that it would not impact unduly on the setting of The Wonderful Barn or adjoining established residential areas, higher densities may be achievable. Apartment and flat roof houses would not be appropriate in this area. The design and layout of new development shall provide for a zone of protection around The Wonderful Barn. Public open space should reflect existing spaces in adjoining developments, enhancing the visual amenity, with the possibility of merging in the future.
- 3.19 Landscape and Spaces - Building layouts will have regard to the protection of key views within the site and appropriate landscaping should minimise the visual impact of any new residential development. Provide for a minimum of 15% quality open space within the residential lands. Retain natural heritage and existing green infrastructure features through incorporation into areas of open space and boundaries of residential development.

4. Methodology

4.1 Sources

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

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

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

4.2 Asset Selection and Study Area

4.2.1 A study area, which extends 1km from the scheme boundary, has included all known and potential cultural heritage (archaeological, architectural heritage and designed landscapes) assets. The study area is illustrated on Figure 2 and has been utilised to produce a figure illustrating the surrounding cultural heritage assets. Heritage data from all sources has been identified within this study area. The size of this study area enabled a detailed examination of the heritage assets surrounding the site, in order to provide sufficient archaeological and historical contextual information and allow an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site to be made.

4.3 Assessment of Heritage Asset Importance

- 4.3.1 A Cultural Heritage asset is defined as a monument, building, group of buildings and sites which are the combined works of nature and man constituting the historic or built environment (World Heritage Convention, 1972). A heritage asset's value is not solely expressed through any designated status but can also be exhibited through a series of values or special interests. These include architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interests. There is the potential for non-designated heritage assets to display special interests equivalent to a designated heritage asset. Therefore a "designated" status does not necessarily confer a set level of importance on an asset, rather professional judgement and an assessment of the special interest displayed by that asset are examined and a level of importance is assigned.
- 4.3.2 Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines a 'national monument' as "*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto.*" National Monuments are considered nationally important and any works carried out at, or in close proximity to, an archaeological site designated as a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority may require a Ministerial Consent.
- 4.3.3 National Monuments and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites/Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) sites are not clearly differentiated in the National Monuments Act 1930 – 2004. However, not all RMP and RHM sites and associated constraint areas demonstrate the same level or degree of heritage special interest as can be found in National Monuments. Therefore, they can be of either national or regional importance and an assessment of the special interest of the asset and professional judgement is used to identify the appropriate level of importance.
- 4.3.4 Some archaeological and architectural heritage assets are also included on the RPS of each county or city development plan, under Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised). These protected structures are included in the RPS due to their special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical interest. Protected structures are considered to be of international, national or regional importance.
- 4.3.5 Architectural Conservation Areas are areas which are designated in a county development plan, under Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised), in order to "*preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape*" that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value; or "contributes to the appreciation of protected structures." Architectural Conservation Areas are considered to be of either national or regional importance.
- 4.3.6 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was established to assist councils in assessing whether structures should be added to their Record of Protected Structures. These architectural heritage assets are rated to be of either international, national, regional, local or 'record only' importance.
- 4.3.7 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage also contains a Garden Survey which includes designed landscapes such as parks, gardens and demesnes. These can be divided into those with substantially intact landscapes and features; and those where the landscape has been significantly eroded by later changes with only peripheral features intact. For the purposes of this assessment, the substantially intact

landscapes are judged to be of international, national or regional importance while the denuded landscapes are judged to be of local importance.

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

Table 2. Factors Determining the Importance of Cultural Heritage Assets

IMPORTANCE	CRITERIA
National/High	<p>National Monuments.</p> <p>Recorded Monuments deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Protected Structures deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a National Rating or deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH Garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly national importance.</p> <p>Undesignated archaeological remains which are rare or complex in nature, and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p>
Regional /Medium	<p>Recorded Monuments deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Protected Structures deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Regional Rating or deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly regional importance.</p> <p>Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Undesignated archaeological remains which are neither particularly common nor uncommon, and/or of moderate complexity, and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p>
Local/Low	<p>Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Local or Record Only Rating or deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with only peripheral features surviving, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Townland Boundary Features.</p> <p>Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Undesignated archaeological features which are particularly common or in poor condition, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NRA Significance Criteria and professional judgement.</p> <p>Parks/Gardens/Demesnes recorded by the NIAH Garden Survey which have poor historic legibility.</p>

4.4 Limitations and Assumptions

- 4.4.1 The assessment is based upon currently available online information at the time of writing. No archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken to inform this assessment.

4.5 Assessment Methodology

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

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- EPA, 2003, Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Architectural Heritage Guidelines;
- National Roads Authority (NRA), 2005, Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes; and
- NRA, 2005, Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes.

5. Heritage Baseline

5.1 Scheme Location and Geology

- 5.1.1 The scheme is located at Barnhall, to the west of Leixlip in County Kildare, and comprises The Wonderful Barn, ancillary buildings and surrounding parkland incorporating an area of 20.4 hectares (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north and west by the new residential development of Barnhall Meadows which is accessed by a new road leading west from the R404.
- 5.1.2 The scheme is also bounded to the south by a new road, Barnhall Meadows Boulevard, which will provide access to the southern extent of the residential development. The M4 is located immediately to the south of Barnhall Meadows Boulevard.
- 5.1.3 The underlying geology is calc dark grey to black limestone and shale beneath a glacial till that comprises an orange stony clay. The soil association is a fine loamy drift with limestones (www.gis.teagasc.ie).

5.2 General History of the Location to the Construction of the Wonderful Barn

- 5.2.1 The history of the location of the scheme has been well documented in the previous reports produced comprising the conservation report and feasibility study (Howley Hayes, 2005), the Historic Landscape Assessment (O’Kane, 2011) and the report on the archaeological excavations of 2015-16 (O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).
- 5.2.2 The current name of the surrounding townland is Barnhall which is named after Barn Hall house which adjoins the Wonderful Barn. This name has only been in use from 1759. Prior to this, the townland was known as Loughnamona which translates as ‘moorland hollow’ (www.logainm.ie). The River Liffey is located 640m to the southeast forming a major natural obstacle, although a fording point (KA011-036) was present at Leixlip.

Prehistoric (8000 BC - AD 400)

- 5.2.3 The presence of this ford (KD011-036) would have been conducive to activity in the past and this is reflected in recorded archaeological assets within the 1km study area. While no upstanding recorded prehistoric assets are noted within the boundaries of the scheme or surrounding 1km study area, archaeological monitoring of development works has uncovered evidence of activity in the area. A Fulacht fia (KD011-062) was uncovered 505m to the south of the scheme during the archaeological monitoring of soil stripping in advance of a large commercial development in 1995.

- 5.2.4 A Fulacht fia is a cooking place, generally dated to the Bronze Age, although examples can date to the Early Medieval period. They comprise mounds of burnt stone which were fire-heated before being deposited into water-filled troughs to raise the water temperature to boiling. The troughs were then generally used for cooking large slabs of meat, although some may have been used for industrial purposes. The Fulacht fia (KD011-062) comprised a spread of loose black silt and burnt stones overlying a small pit full of burnt stones. Three similar pits were also uncovered within the area (Gracie, 2005).
- 5.2.5 Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping on the Celbridge Interchange in 2001 to the west of the Proposed Development uncovered evidence for five further Fulacht fia (KD011-045-047, 049, 053). These assets were uncovered between 728m and 900m from the scheme with all comprising burnt stone associated with a pit or trough. More substantial remains were uncovered with KD011-045 and 053. Two large post-holes and a saddle quern were associated with the Fulacht fia (KD011-045) which suggest this site may have had an industrial purpose. This site continued to the north outside the limits of the road scheme so was not fully exposed.
- 5.2.6 Fulacht fia (KD011-053) had been damaged by a post-medieval boundary ditch and water pipe cut across it, but the remains of the burnt spread covered four rectangular troughs, two pits, five post-holes and 21 stake-holes. These features were mostly located on the southern edge of the site.
- 5.2.7 The evidence for activity during the Bronze Age also comprised funerary remains. A ring-ditch (KD011-042) was uncovered 858m to the southwest of the Proposed Development. This measured 9m in diameter with the fill of the ditch containing two separate pots dating to the Late Bronze Age, three small charcoal spreads, two cattle skulls and part of a human cranium. The ring-ditch (KD011-042) was located within an enclosure (KD011-042002) which was formed by three ditches which enclosed an area measuring 35m east to west by 25m. The full extent was not uncovered as this extended out of the road take. One ditch contained a large volume of animal bone with a high percentage of skulls while another ditch contained the complete skeleton of a small horse. A series of small pits and burnt hearth areas were uncovered within the interior of the enclosure.
- 5.2.8 A stone-built kiln (KD011-042001) was also set into one of the ditches of the enclosure (KD011-042002). This was interpreted as a corn drying kiln which was corroborated by the recovery of grain from the interior and part of a quernstone from the kiln structure. An iron knife and large pit were uncovered nearby suggesting that they and the kiln are contemporary and possibly date to the Early Medieval period.
- 5.2.9 A series of bowl furnaces (KD011-059) were also uncovered c.60m to the north of the enclosure (KD011-042002). Three furnaces were identified suggesting that both smithing and smelting may have been carried out on site. This site dated to the Iron Age. Evidence for habitation (KD011-043, 044, 048 and 058) was also uncovered within the line of the road scheme in the form of pits, spreads and hearths. These dated to the prehistoric period.
- 5.2.10 A mound (KD011-018) is located 876m to the southeast of the Proposed Development on the northern bank of the River Liffey at a location occupied by a narrow strip of old woodland. The mound is shown on an estate map dating to the late 18th century bounded to the north by a curving field boundary. The mound is not shown on subsequent OS map editions, although the curving field boundary is shown. A site visit noted a heavily overgrown circular earthen mound at the location. This asset remains undated but may be prehistoric in origin.
- 5.2.11 Another possible enclosure (KD011-031) has been noted 167m to the northwest of the Proposed Development. This appeared on aerial photography as the cropmark of a small circular enclosure. Archaeological investigation in 1997 revealed this as the site of a natural spring with an associated area of soil variation (Gowan, 1997). The location of the spring has now been developed with housing.

Early Medieval (AD 400 – 12th century)

- 5.2.12 No assets dating to the Early Medieval period are recorded on the RMP within the 1km study area. Barnhall fell within the territorial bounds of the Gaelic kingdom of Uí Fáeláin, whose preeminent dynasty were the Uí Dúnlainge (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). It is also noted that Leixlip derives from a Norse word 'Laxhlaup' or salmon leap which reinforces the area's connection with Viking Dublin to the east.

- 5.2.13 A further connection was the find of a fragmented skeleton and iron battle axe which were uncovered on the lands at Barnhall in 1788. O'Drisceoil (2017) speculates that the skeleton was uncovered somewhere within the surrounding estate at Barnhall rather than at the Wonderful Barn itself. The estate incorporated the townlands of Barnhall and Rinawade Upper and Lower meaning the findspot of the skeleton could be located in quite a large area.

Later Medieval (12th-16th centuries)

- 5.2.14 The kingdom of Uí Fáeláin was divided into three cantreds following the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland after 1170. Barnhall fell into the cantred of Offelan and the manor of Leixlip that was granted to Adam de Hereford (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). The manorial centre was at Leixlip where a castle and parish church were established. The location of the Proposed Development is over 1km from the castle and parish church with its original townland name of Loughnamona suggesting the location was quite wet.
- 5.2.15 Adam de Hereford was also granted the fishery (KD011-017001) on the Salmon Leap which comprised a weir or artificial obstruction located 947m to the southeast on the River Liffey. The river Liffey forms the county boundary between Kildare and Dublin so that this asset spans two counties. Given this, it is also recorded as DU017-014. The fishery was originally granted to Adam de Hereford by King John in 1207. The fishery was later granted to William Vernon in 1562 by Queen Elizabeth I.
- 5.2.16 A bridge (KD011-017) was located adjacent to the Salmon Leap. The date for this bridge is not known, although it predates 1646 when the majority of the structure was washed away in a flood. The arch of the bridge was extant until the early 20th century but has since been removed. This asset also spans two counties and is listed as DU017-087.

Post-Medieval (16th – 19th centuries)

- 5.2.17 The location of the Proposed Development was part of the estates of the White family of Leixlip Castle during the 17th century with the land in the townland of Loughnamona leased out. In 1712 these lands were leased to Patrick Roe for a period of 31 years (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). In 1725, the Whites sold much of their estate including Leixlip Castle demesne (NIAH 1931) to Speaker William Conolly, who had purchased the lands around Castletown. Conolly honoured the lease to Patrick Roe, who retained the lands until 1731.
- 5.2.18 Conolly originally came from humble beginnings in the northwest of Ireland, although he qualified as an attorney and entered parliament for Donegal in 1692, eventually becoming Speaker which he retained between 1715 and his death in 1729. He became very wealthy and married Katherine Conyngham, the daughter of the prominent Williamite General in 1694. They eventually settled in Castletown where Conolly remodelled the existing house into the largest Palladian country house in Ireland. The lands around the country house were also developed into an associated planned landscape (NIAH 1924).
- 5.2.19 Conolly's death in 1729 saw his estates in Kildare pass to his wife while his nephew William moved into the estate at Leixlip Castle to assist with the management and administration of the estates. Katherine Conolly continued to live at Castletown developing the house and grounds, including the erection of the Conolly folly, a large obelisk in the grounds of Castletown House (NIAH 1924). The Wonderful Barn was erected in 1743 as proclaimed on the date stone above the west ground entrance. This date tallies with Katherine Conolly's time at Castletown and it was thought that she had the barn erected as a folly and grain store to command panoramic vistas back towards Castletown and the Conolly folly.
- 5.2.20 The context for construction was against the period of the Black Spring of 1741 when a series of severe winters brought famine to Ireland. Katherine Conolly documented the suffering of the poor at the time and was involved in relief efforts. It was thought that the Conollys were responsible for the erection of the Wonderful Barn as a famine relief scheme; however, this has been disputed by O'Kane (2011) and O'Drisceoil (2017) who point out that there is a complete absence of mention of the barn in the Conolly papers while it was not surveyed by Rocque as part of the Connolly lands in 1760.
- 5.2.21 Additionally, the Wonderful Barn does not form part of views from Castletown House which has led O'Kane to comment that views of the Wonderful Barn were not considered significant (O'Kane, 2011). This has led O'Kane (2011) and O'Drisceoil (2017) to surmise that the Wonderful Barn was constructed by Joseph Cooper who was the tenant at the time. Cooper had leased the lands at Loughnamona after Patrick Roe's lease expired in 1731 and was credited for carrying out many improvements on the

grounds. He was also noted as a significant figure in the management of the Castletown estate. A lease was drawn up in 1759 between Cooper and Thomas Conolly which confirmed his tenure of the grounds (now known as Barnhall) along with all houses, outhouses, barns, buildings, gardens and orchards. The map accompanying the lease shows the townland with the Wonderful Barn clearly illustrated (Plate 1). No other buildings are shown at the location, although the houses and other features noted in the lease would have been extant.

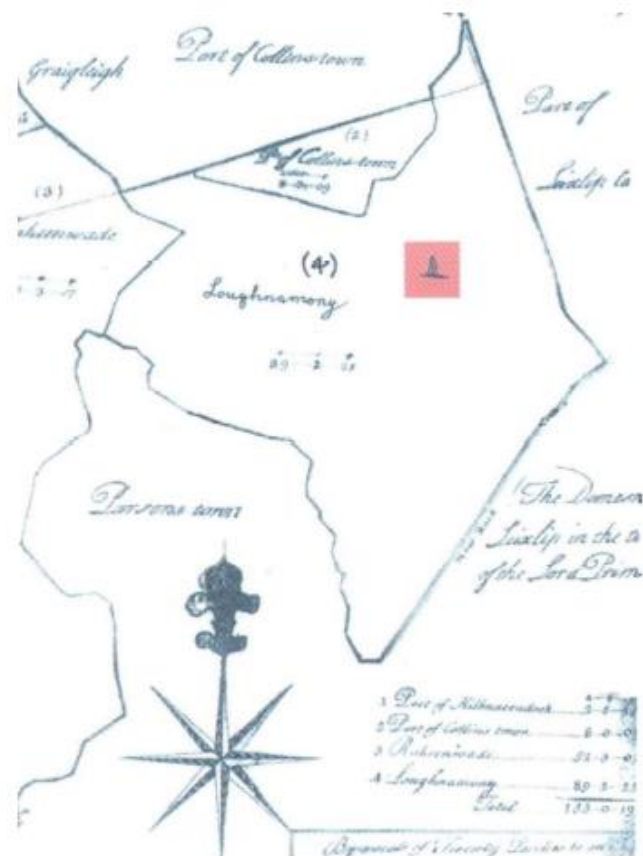


Plate 1 Map attached to lease between Thomas Conolly and Joseph Cooper 6/1/1759 only showing the Wonderful Barn (After O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

- 5.2.22 The Wonderful Barn is described on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) as a 'Freestanding single-bay five-stage grain store, dated 1743, on a cruciform plan with series of four single-bay single-storey gabled projecting bays. Now disused. Flat roof behind parapet approached by flight of ninety-four cut-limestone steps. Part creeper- or ivy-covered slate hung (lower stages) or lime rendered (upper stages) battered walls with rough faced cut-limestone stringcourses including rough faced cut-limestone stringcourse supporting battlemented parapet having cut-limestone coping. Square-headed door opening (west) below cut-limestone date stone ("1743") with lintel framing timber boarded double doors. Triangular window openings (upper stages) with rough faced cut-limestone sill courses, and concealed dressings with monolithic hood mouldings framing fixed-pane fittings. Interior with limewashed red brick English bond dome vaulted chambers'. It is recorded on the NIAH as 11901102 and as Protected Structure B11-15 on the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023.
- 5.2.23 The Wonderful Barn (B11-15) is set beside Barn Hall which is believed to have been built as the seat of Joseph Cooper in 1743 (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). Barn Hall is similar to a small number of early Georgian two-storeyed houses that were built by the minor gentry and well to do farmers during the late 1600s and early 1700s. It is attached to a cobbled courtyard farm which is enclosed by farm buildings to the southeast of the house. This layout is stylistically similar to a layout of continental origin (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).
- 5.2.24 Castletown House also continued development at this time and one associated feature within the 1km study area is the Leixlip Gate (NIAH 11901101) which is located 767m to the northwest. This gateway to the estate dates to the mid-18th century and is composed of a pair of piers and wrought iron gates set at

the end of an avenue. The gate is also recorded as a Protected Structure (B11-113) on the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023.

5.3 Barnhall 1743-2005

- 5.3.1 The development of Barnhall has been previously well researched by the Historic Landscape Assessment (O’Kane, 2011) and the report on the archaeological excavations of 2015-16 (O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon (2017) focus on the Wonderful Barn and associated structures while O’Kane (2011) focusses on the wider design of the landscape especially in relation to the adjacent Castletown House (NIAH 1924).
- 5.3.2 The adjacent buildings are not shown on the map accompanying the lease drawn up in 1759 between Cooper and Thomas Conolly. This leaves our knowledge vague on the early development of the site and the archaeological excavations of 2015-16 focussed on this. The Wonderful Barn quickly became a local landmark after its construction in 1743 and was included on mapping, such as the Taylor map of 1783 (Plate 2), and travel guides. These continued to focus on the barn, itself, with no details given on the surrounding structures.



Plate 2 The 'New Barn' depicted on the 1783 James Taylor 'Map of County Dublin' (After O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

- 5.3.3 The Coopers continued in residence at Barnhall until 1831 when it passed to the Coley family. The layout of the buildings and grounds is clearly shown on the 1st edition OS map drawn in 1839 (Plate 3). The buildings are labelled *Barn Hall* with the Wonderful Barn easily discernible to the northwest. The composition of buildings at this time is given within the Griffiths Valuation. This shows that Barn Hall was under the very odd situation with the property divided between the brother George and Edward Coley. The former’s property included the north courtyard and all the enclosed structures, the barn and the orchard. The property of Edward consisted of the south courtyard, the walled garden and the avenue. Both Coleys shared the main house, with exactly half assigned to each (O’Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

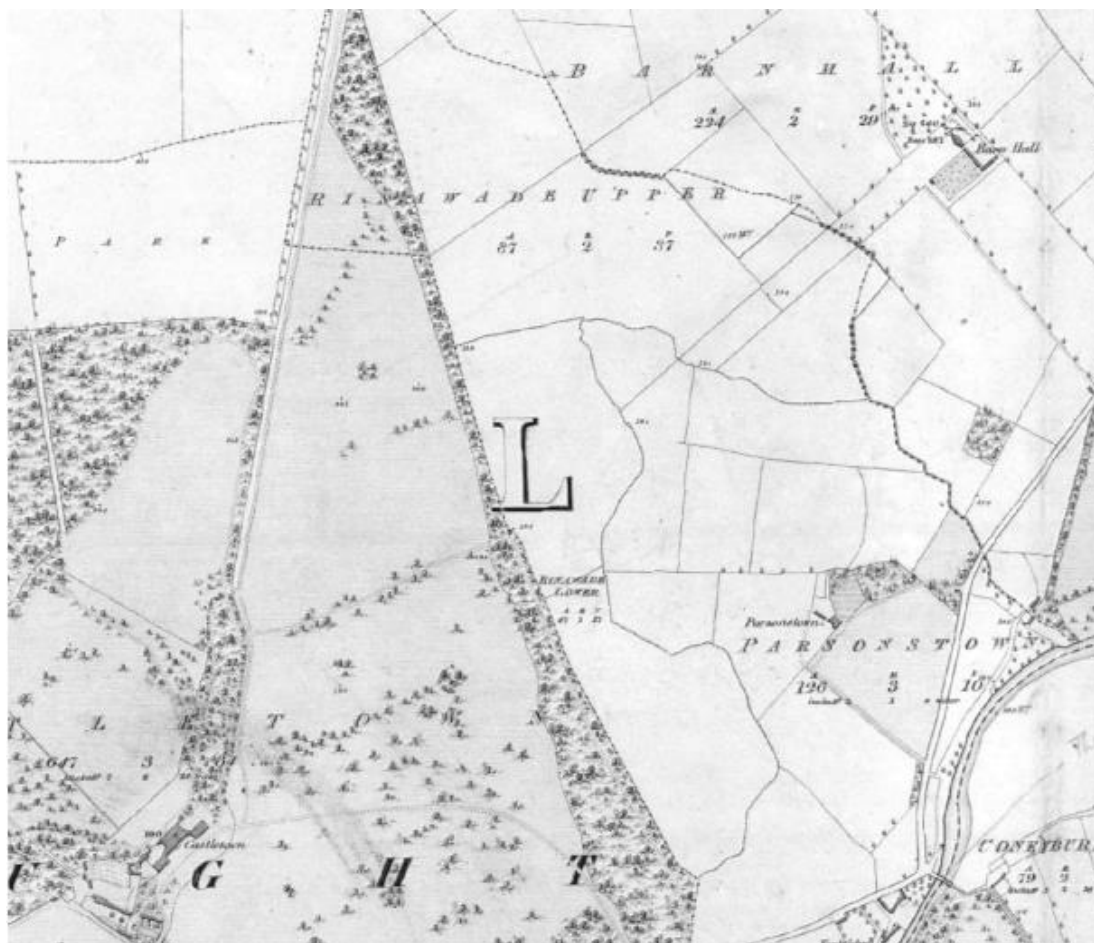


Plate 3 Barnhall and grounds on the 1st edition OS map of Kildare (1839). (After O’Kane, 2011).

- 5.3.4 The Griffiths Valuation gives a detailed description of the property and shows that it consisted of the main house, The Wonderful Barn, stables, outbuildings, stores, barns and a forge. The majority of these were located within the ranges of buildings located along the southwest and southeast sides of the courtyard. Other structures mentioned appear to have been located within the yards. The courtyard includes a dovecote at the northeast and southeast corners of the yard. These were described as circular structures with the northern one used as a cow byre and the southern one as a store.
- 5.3.5 A well, potato house, fowl store, porch to north courtyard, and privy are listed. The archaeological investigations were informed by two geophysical surveys carried out in 2015 (Regan and Gimson 2015). These identified the structural remains depicted on the historic Ordnance Survey maps in the north courtyard and several discrete linear and curvilinear anomalies that may represent pathways or drainage channels, and the edges of flower beds elsewhere around the buildings. These features were then targeted for archaeological invasive investigation.
- 5.3.6 The investigations comprised nine interventions which targeted anomalies recorded on the geophysical surveys. These, then, allowed a series of four phases of development to be put forward with archaeological evidence assigned against each. It should be noted that only one feature was uncovered during the investigations that appears to pre-date the construction of the Wonderful Barn. This is the south perimeter path (F60), which was a 2.2m wide path, which comprised of crushed and powdered slate sitting directly over the natural boulder clay at the south side of the walled garden. It was covered by the primary gardening horizon and predates the construction of the walled garden. No datable artefacts were recovered with this feature but O’Drisceoil (2017) states that it was likely associated with the activities that were taking place around the barn prior to the construction of Barn Hall.
- 5.3.7 The period of the Connolly occupation (1743-1831) was assigned Stage A in the archaeological investigation chronology with the following associated features - Walled Garden: primary garden layout; North courtyard: Structures 3, 4, 5, 6, cobbled path; South courtyard: Cobbled yard, privies; Entrance courtyard: Metalling, turning circle. These tie in with the construction and initial development of Barn Hall.

- 5.3.8 Structures 3, 4, 5 and 6 comprise two dovecotes, a fowl house and well respectively, matching the structures shown on the 1st edition OS mapping. The dovecotes (Structures 3 and 4) both had an external diameter and were constructed with rough rubble, bonded by a compact white lime mortar. Artefacts recovered from the interior of Structure 3 comprised a fragment of 18th century pipe bowl and manganese mottled ware pottery which dates between the 17th and 19th centuries. One interesting find was a horse mandible and scapula buried beneath the floor. These had been placed in a defleshed state and may be part of a folk tradition to bring luck to the property.
- 5.3.9 The fowl house (Structure 5) is located between Structures 3 and 4 and consists of a rectangular building which measured 9.2m x 3.8m. The majority of materials forming this building had been robbed out, although its original outline can be discerned. A cobbled path was also uncovered orientated northwest to southeast towards the dovecote in the northeast angle of the boundary wall. This path was truncated by the foundations for Structure 2.
- 5.3.10 A well (Structure 6) had a 3.5m x 2.8m rectangular plan, set slightly off a right-angle to the boundary wall. The walls were of random-coursed roughly hewn limestone bonded by compact white mortar. The well is capped with concrete and the steps down into the south side of the well had been backfilled with rubble. O'Drisceoil (2017) notes that the orientation of the well contrasts with the geometry of all the other courtyard buildings including Barn Hall which might suggest that it is of earlier date than the rest of the complex. Archaeological remains from this period within the south courtyard included privy's, a path and cobbled surface. The southeast extent of the south courtyard was found to be prone to flooding and the only remains noted were the possible remains of hitching posts for horses. The investigations found that layers of levelling material had been later deposited within the south courtyard to counteract the flooding. The majority of this material remains in situ and was not excavated.
- 5.3.11 The remains of metalled surfacing and a carriage turning circle were uncovered in the entrance courtyard to the west of the Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. The entrance court is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as an open space at the east end of an avenue orientated on Castletown House. O'Kane (2011) notes that the Conolly family sought to create a firm visual and axial connection between the house and the barn. A tree lined avenue was built across the Castletown demesne lands with the avenue following the line through the fields being leased by the Coley family in the townlands of Rinawade Upper, Rinawade Lower and Barnhall. The turning circle is not depicted on the 1st edition OS map (1839) leading O'Drisceoil (2017) to surmise that it had gone out of use.
- 5.3.12 The date of construction for the walled garden is unknown but likely coincided with the construction of Barn Hall. It is a smallish walled garden, in keeping with the size of the property, located to the south of the main buildings in order to ensure no shadow fell over the plants (O'Kane, 2011). The investigations found evidence for the fruit and vegetables grown within it and these, along with the general layout of the property, are depicted in Figure 5.
- 5.3.13 The surrounding grounds are shown on the 1st edition OS map as large rectangular fields laid out in geometric fashion which respects Barn Hall (O'Kane, 2011). These fields have straight boundaries with planting indicated along some. A wedge-shaped orchard is set to the immediate northwest of the Wonderful Barn while the origins of the avenue to Castletown House are clearly visible. This feature is not fully completed at this stage. Barn Hall is accessed by a lane running southeast to the Leixlip Road.
- 5.3.14 The 2nd edition OS map (1872) shows the layout of the Proposed Development during the second half of the 19th century (Plate 4). By this date, the avenue from Castletown House had been formalised and was in use while the road from the Leixlip Road had been bounded with walls. The walled garden appeared less decorative while the orchard to the northwest was still visible. The surrounding fields were also unchanged.
- 5.3.15 The Coley family were in residence at this time, at Barn Hall, which shows little change apart for the walled garden becoming more functional. This is reflected in paths uncovered by the archaeological investigations. Structure 2 was also added at this time, truncating the path leading northeast to the dovecote. This structure measured 7.7m x 2m, with foundations constructed of roughly hewn, angular stones bonded by compact white lime mortar with frequent small pebbles.

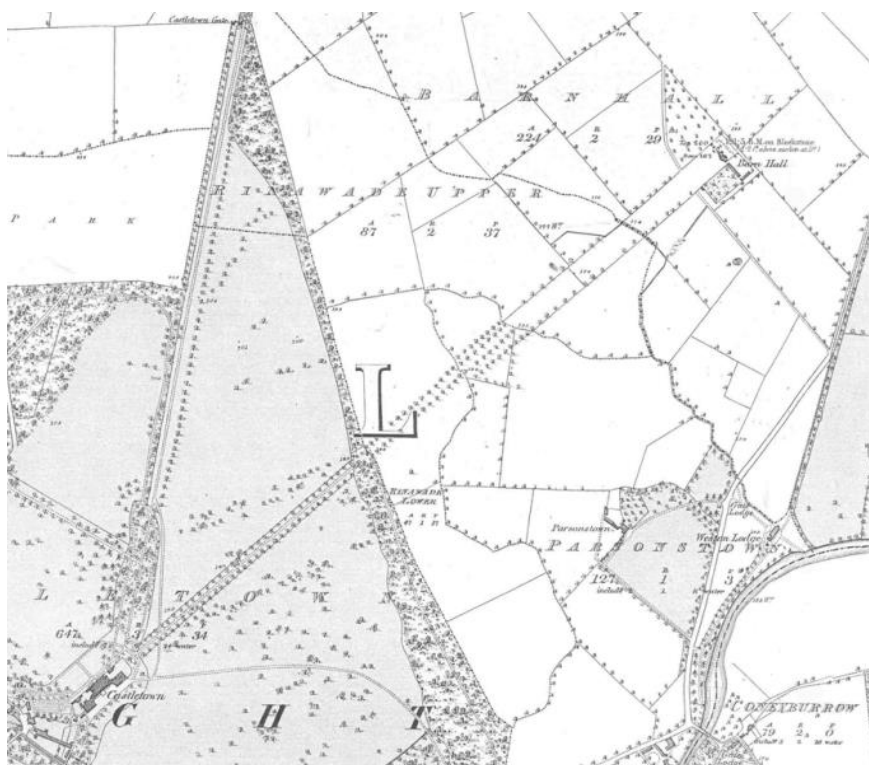


Plate 4 2nd edition OS map (1872) (After O'Kane, 2011).

- 5.3.16 The 3rd edition OS map (1911) shows the layout of the Wonderful Barn at the start of the 20th century (Plate 5). The surrounding fields are unchanged with the orchard to the northwest and the access laneway leading to the southeast. The avenue to Castletown House is still discernible, although this has been truncated and is no longer in use.
- 5.3.17 The archaeological investigations uncovered little evidence for change within this period, with the structures in the courtyards still extant, although the walled garden appeared to have gone out of use. By this time, the house and surrounding grounds had been purchased by the Ronaldson Family and let out to a succession of tenants. The tenant was Thomas Plewsman at the time of the 3rd edition OS map. The house was sold to cattle dealers, Timothy and John O'Connor before 1939. This resulted in several changes including the demolition of the structures in the north courtyard and the import of levelling soils within the south courtyard. The layout at this time can be seen on the 4th edition OS map (1939) (Plate 6). The field layout remains unchanged, although the orchard is no longer indicated and the walled garden is marked as unused.
- 5.3.18 Barn Hall and The Wonderful Barn passed through several owners after 1946 before being taken over by the Irish Meat Packers Ltd., during the 1960s, who used it 'as a hospitality centre for the company's clients and visitors' (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017). This hospitality centre included an outdoor swimming pool inserted into the walled garden, a tennis court in the entrance court and a television aerial placed on the Wonderful Barn. In 1997 Barn Hall had become the 'Focus Point Education Centre' and in 2004 an 'Action Area Plan' for Barn Hall was published by Kildare County Council, who the following year acquired the barn and surrounding lands (O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

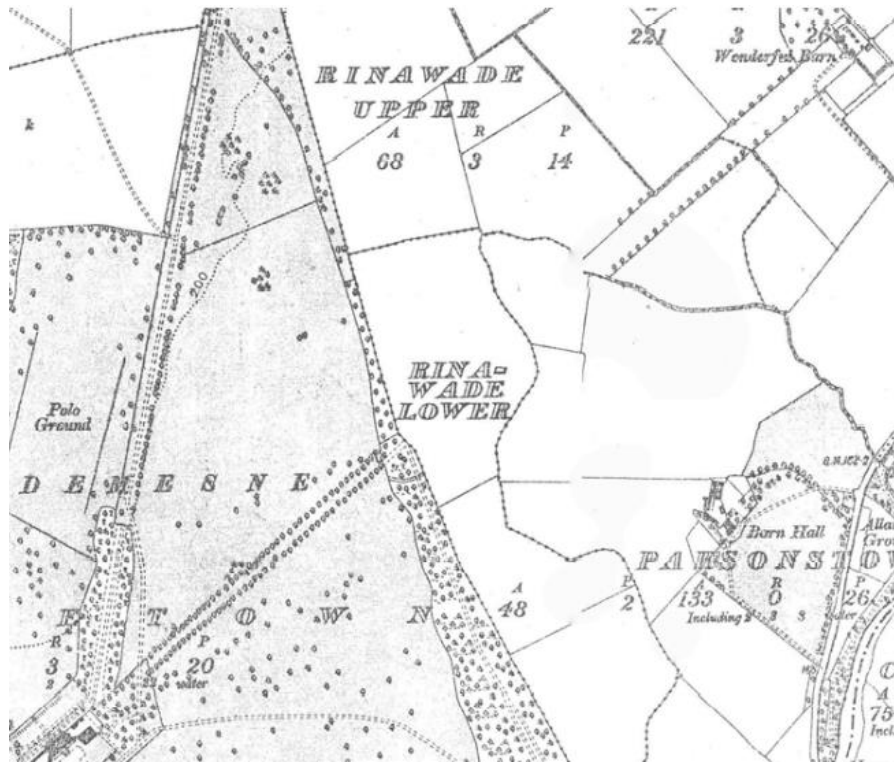


Plate 5 3rd edition OS map (1911) (After O'Kane, 2011)

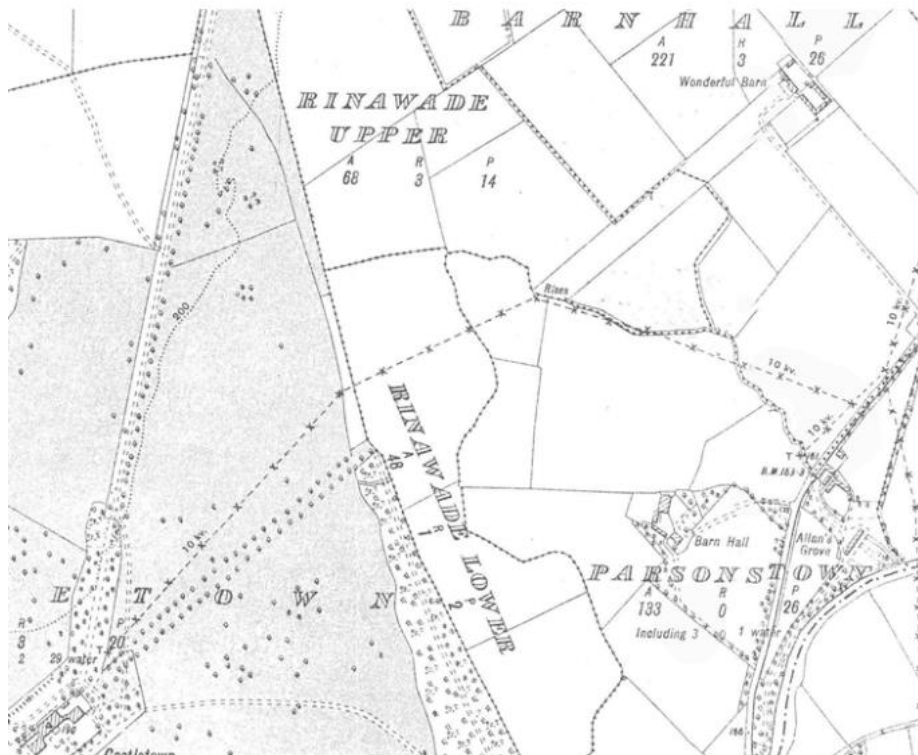


Plate 6 4th edition OS map (1939) (After O'Kane, 2011).



Plate 7 The swimming pool and tennis court inserted during the 1960s hospitality centre phase (After O'Drisceoil and Fitzgibbon, 2017).

5.4 Current Layout

5.4.1 The overall current layout of the Wonderful Barn is shown on aerial photographs with large-scale changes to the area apparent (Plate 8). The most noticeable changes concern the expansion of Leixlip with modern housing now within the immediate vicinity. This housing comprises Barnhall Meadows which bound the Proposed Development to the north and west.

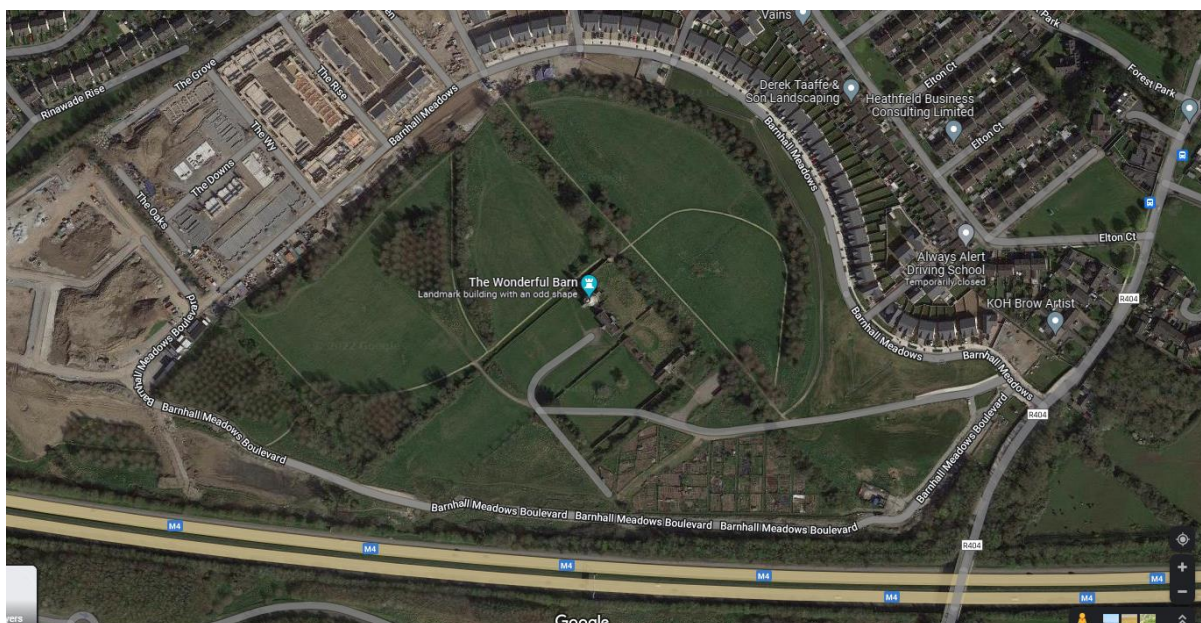


Plate 8 Aerial photograph showing the current layout (www.google.co.uk).

5.4.2 Other significant development comprises the M4 located to the immediate south. The motorway further truncates the former avenue which lead southwest to the Castletown demesne. The Proposed Development now effectively consists of greenspace surrounded by modern development on all sides.

- 5.4.3 The surrounding grounds also show signs of disturbance. The original access lane to Barn Hall and the Wonderful Barn led southeast to the R404. This has been truncated by the motorway with access now provided from the new road to Barnhall Meadows. The new access road extends west across the Proposed Development passing through a field boundary before crossing through the walled garden to join with the western extent of the original access road. Another new access road, Barnhall Meadows Boulevard, extends to the south of the Proposed Development providing access to the new housing development under construction to the southwest.
- 5.4.4 The Boulevard further truncates the field layout to the south which have already been disrupted by the construction of the motorway. Similarly, the access road to Barnhall Meadows truncates the fields to the northeast and southeast. The field to the northeast is now semi-circular in shape, with its curving boundary to the northeast formed by a stand of mature trees, while new stands of mature trees are located within the middle and southwest of the Proposed Development.
- 5.4.5 Other boundaries of mature trees are evident following the original field layout, including the western boundary of the triangular field where the orchard was formerly located. There are no visible signs of the former orchard. The lines of former field boundaries can also be seen within larger areas of greenspace which have been developed as a leisure facility with a network of paths created. Other new development comprises allotments which occupy a large sub-rectangular area to the south of the main access road.
- 5.4.6 Barn Hall and the Wonderful Barn are clearly evident with the range of outbuildings to the southeast. The yards to the northeast and walled garden to the southwest are all under grass showing no signs of the archaeological excavations which took place within them. In particular, there are no visible signs of the dove cotes, bird house and well which have been left in situ within the north courtyard. The location of the former swimming pool is visible within the walled garden, although it has been infilled with a tree planted upon it. The outline of the former tennis court can be seen in the entrance yard.
- 5.4.7 As mentioned, the areas around the buildings are former fields which have since been turned into a leisure facility. They are under grass which appears well maintained. There are no obvious signs of cropmarks which could indicate the presence of buried archaeological features.

Site Visit

- 5.4.8 The site was visited on two separate occasions. The first visit took place on the 14th July with the client presenting the site to the Design Team. This visit included access to the interiors of the Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. The second visit took place on the 16th August and focussed on the surrounding grounds.
- 5.4.9 The site is accessed via the road leading from Barnhall Meadows (Plate 9). This road is a modern addition to the site and is currently bounded by a new wooden fence. The area to the south of the access road is under grass but is disturbed with undulating terrain and mounded soil evident.



Plate 9 Modern access road with disturbed grassed area to the south

- 5.4.10 Similarly, the grassed area to the north of the road has also been disturbed with its central area excavated and showing evidence for drainage (Plate 10). This disturbance is likely associated with the construction of the adjacent housing development, while areas around the periphery of the Proposed Development also show evidence of modern disturbance. This includes adjacent to the new housing access roads - Barnhall Meadows and Barnhall Meadows Boulevard.



Plate 10 Disturbed area to the north of the access road.

- 5.4.11 Proceeding southwest, the grounds are formed by the semi-circular grassed area which is defined by the modern additions of the curving hedge formed by mature trees to the east (Plate 11) and the access road to the south. This area is level and has been modernised as leisure space with well-maintained pathways crossing it. Other evidence of modern disturbance comprises a buried 250mm cast-iron water pipe laid in 1993 and overhead power lines (Plate 12).



Plate 11 Semi-circular grassed area bounded by mature tree hedging with former field boundary visible.



Plate 12 Line of cast-iron water pipe and overhead power lines.

- 5.4.12 This area was originally part of a field system and the line of a former field boundary can be seen crossing southwest to northeast (Plate 11) while the southwest boundary of the semi-circular area is formed by a hedge (Plate 13). This hedge is an original boundary marked on the 1st edition OS map of Kildare (1839) and currently comprises a bank surmounted by mature trees with a ditch immediately adjacent on the eastern side.



Plate 13 Hedge, bank and ditch forming the southwest boundary of the semi-circular area.

- 5.4.13 The area to the south of the modern access road is currently occupied by modern development in the form of allotment plots for growing plants and vegetables (Plate 14). The allotments are bounded to the east by the original field boundary noted above, to the south by Barnhall Meadows Boulevard, and to the west by the walled garden. An area directly to the north of the access road is under concrete and currently holds a shipping container used by the allotment owners (Plate 15).



Plate 14 The allotments to the east of the walled garden.



Plate 15 Concreted area and shipping container to the north of the access road.

- 5.4.14 There appears to have been a laneway running adjacent to the east side of the walled garden. The remains of this laneway are still visible with a gatepost extant at the southwest corner of the walled garden (Plate 16). An overgrown structure is located directly to the southeast of the laneway opposite the gatepost (Plate 17). No buildings are marked at this location on the historic mapping suggesting that this feature may be the remains of a wall which ran parallel to the walled garden and defined the laneway.



Plate 16 Gatepost at the southwest corner of the walled garden.



Plate 17 Overgrown wall at the southeast of the laneway.

- 5.4.15 The area to the immediate west of the allotments comprises a triangular field which was formerly part of a larger rectangular field before being truncated by the motorway (Plate 18). Further truncation has occurred with the construction of Barnhall Meadows Boulevard. The ground within the field was overgrown at the time of the visit, although some features were visible. A track is present along the northern edge of the field and this is the remains of the original road which provided access to Barn Hall prior to it being truncated by the motorway. Evidence for modern services is present in the form of a manhole within the centre of the field (Plate 19).



Plate 18 Triangular field to the west of the allotments



Plate 19 Manhole within the triangular field.

- 5.4.16 The area to the immediate west of the triangular field still holds its original form, although, it too, has been truncated at its southwest extent by the motorway (Plate 20). It comprises a grassed area which is largely overgrown with mown pathways providing access for walkers. Its western boundary aligns with the former avenue to Castletown House which is visible to the south of the motorway. This boundary is formed by a bank surmounted by mature vegetation with a ditch adjacent (Plate 21).



Plate 20 Looking southwest towards the former avenue to Castletown House.



Plate 21 Bank and ditch forming boundary.

5.4.17 A modern plantation has been planted in the area to the west of the boundary. The ground to the north of this plantation is under long grass, again, with paths mown within it (Plate 22). This area is largely featureless, although a ditch is located along the northern boundary of the plantation (Plate 23). Other plantations have been created at the western and northern edges of this area. Despite this, this area largely holds its original form. Similarly, the area further to the north also holds its original form (Plate 24). This area is shown as an orchard on historic mapping, although there are no longer any signs of this.



Plate 22 Grassed area to the southwest of Barn Hall.



Plate 23 Ditch along the boundary with the modern planted area.



Plate 24 Former orchard to the northwest of Barn Hall.

5.4.18 The walled garden is still extant to the southwest of the Barn Hall Complex (Plate 25). It is currently under grass with the former swimming pool infilled and planted. The modern access lane extends across the walled garden through holes punched through the walls. There are no visible signs of the former planting or more recent archaeological investigations.



Plate 25 The walled garden showing former swimming pool and new access.



Plate 26 Entrance courtyard with former tennis court.

5.4.18 The entrance courtyard is also under grass with few features visible (Plate 26). There are no signs of the turning circle or archaeological investigations, although the outline of the former tennis court is clearly visible. The northern courtyard is now under overgrown grass (Plate 27). There are no signs of the archaeological excavation with the features uncovered reburied. The courtyard is bounded by the Wonderful Barn and north western dovecote.



Plate 27 North courtyard with the Wonderful Barn and north western dovecote.

5.4.19 The southern courtyard is similarly under overgrown grass (Plate 28) and there are no signs of the archaeological excavation. The archaeological investigations here showed that this area was covered in a thick layer of imported fill material and was prone to flooding. The courtyard is bounded by the outbuildings and south eastern dovecote.



Plate 28 Southern courtyard with outbuildings and south-eastern dovecote.

6. Options - Opportunities and Constraints

- 6.1.1 The purpose of Stage 1 is to formulate possible options for the development of the Wonderful Barn (B11-15), Barnhall House, the ancillary buildings, walled gardens, car park and surrounding site/parkland. These have been progressed in tandem with three options prepared relating to the main building and gardens and three options relating to the surrounding site/parkland.
- 6.1.2 For ease, the options are discussed as they have been presented in the Metropolitan Workshop Stage 1 options dealing with the main building and gardens and the AECOM Landscape Concept Report which deals with the surrounding site/parkland.

Main Building and Gardens Options

- 6.1.3 The Stage 1 Concept Design presents three options which differ in terms of the degrees of intervention to the Wonderful Barn (B11-15), Barnhall House, the ancillary buildings, walled gardens.

Option 01 – Minimal Intervention

- 6.1.4 This option represents minimal new build within the existing complex, with some internal dividing walls removed within the outbuildings, and blocked up entrances along the courtyard reopened (Plates 29 and 30). The southern courtyard will be turned into a flexible area for events. The interior of the Wonderful Barn (B11-15) will be adapted for use as a private and community event space while the potato house will be converted into toilets. The extant recorded archaeology in the northern courtyard will be re-exposed and presented in an archaeology yard.

Option 01 - Minimal Intervention

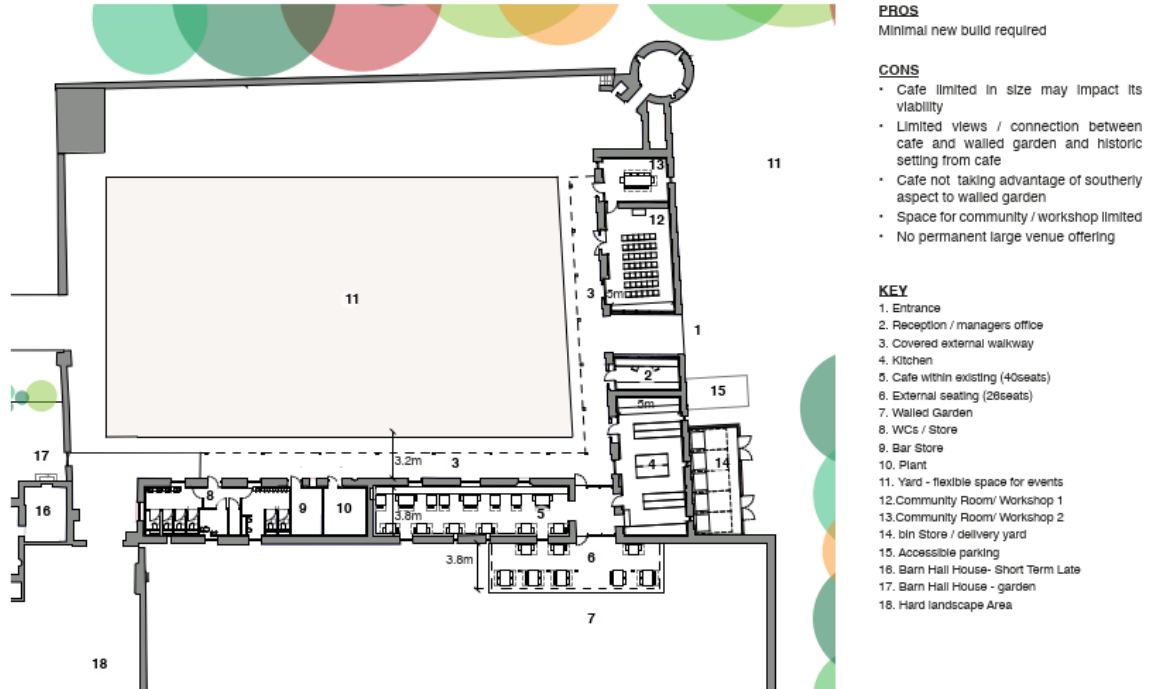


Plate 29 Option 01 – Minimal intervention to the southern courtyard (After Networks 2022).

- 6.1.5 This option will see minimal disturbance, although the creation of the yard (11) within the southern courtyard will involve ground disturbance. This area had limited archaeological testing as it was found to be prone to flooding. More extensive ground reduction could impact archaeological remains such as cobbling and other features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of the yard.
- 6.1.6 The archaeological works could uncover further evidence of how this part of the complex evolved and was used. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.

Option 01 - Minimal Intervention to Barn

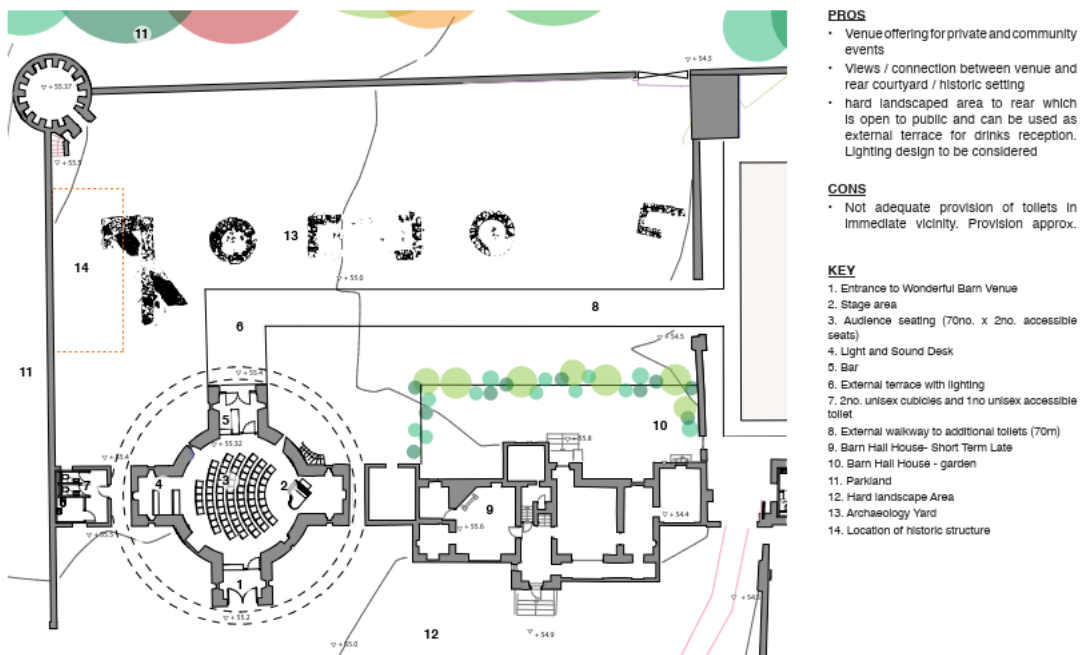


Plate 30 Option 01 – Minimal intervention to the Wonderful Barn (After Metropolitan Workshop 2022).

- 6.1.7 The repurposing of the Wonderful Barn (B11-15) will see the adaptation of the interior of the ground floor of this structure. The Wonderful Barn (B11-15) is considered of **national** importance and **high** significance. As a Protected Structure, it is subject to Policy BH1 of the Local Area Plan whereby any proposed development concerning the structure is subject to council scrutiny and approval. Balancing this, is Policy EDT3.10 which seeks to promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism and amenity destination with complementary commercial uses to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.
- 6.1.8 The proposals mooted for Option 01 will not affect the external appearance of the Wonderful Barn or our ability to appreciate or understand the structure. Indeed, the proposals will allow greater public interaction with the structure. The change to setting would be such that the special interests or qualities of the Wonderful Barn are only slightly affected without a noticeable change.
- 6.1.9 The potato house is possibly contemporary with the construction of Barn Hall which would date it to the mid-18th century. This building has been heavily adapted during its lifetime with only its ground floor remaining. Works to the interior of this building could remove original features.
- 6.1.10 The creation of the Archaeology Yard will bring the extant archaeological features into public view thereby increasing knowledge of the past use of the site. While this is beneficial, care must be taken that these features are not accidentally damaged when being exposed, or eroded or subject to damage by weather and use.

Option 02

- 6.1.11 Option 02 concerns the same items as outlined in Option 01 with the addition of a lightweight extension to the South Façade of the Stable Building Overlooking the Walled Garden and an additional extension to the potato house within the northern courtyard (Plates 31 and 32).

Option 02 - Lightweight Extension to South Façade of Stable Building Overlooking Walled Garden

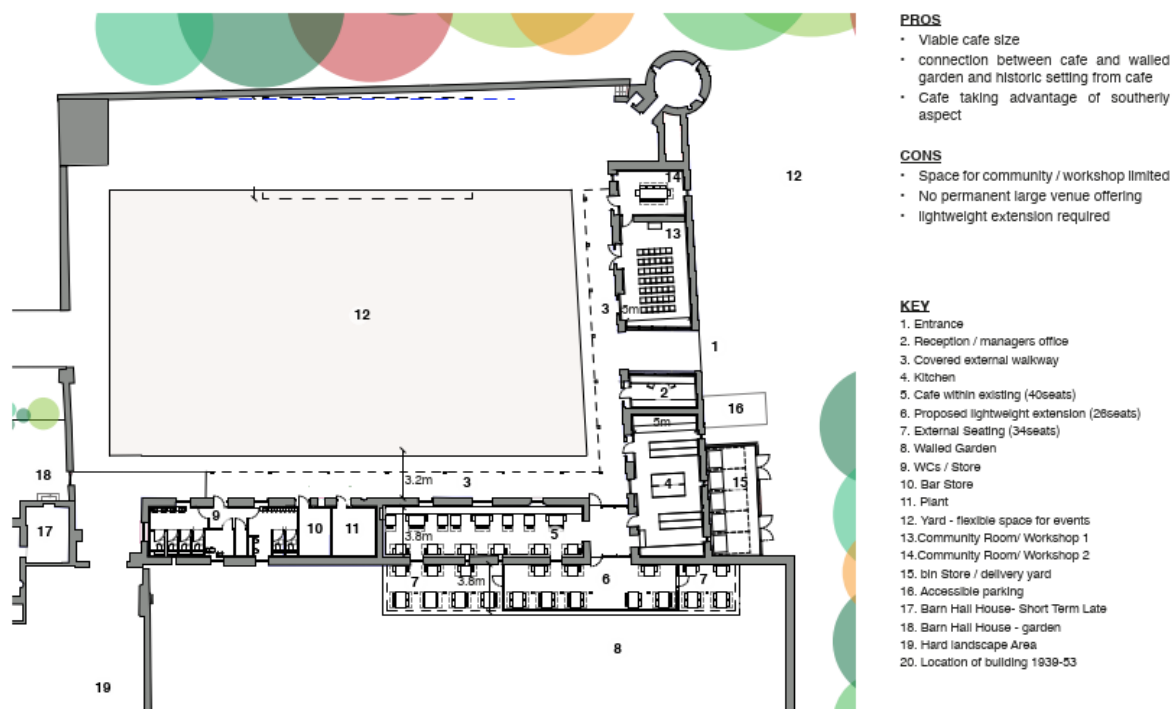


Plate 31 Option 02 - a lightweight extension to the South Façade of the Stable Building Overlooking the Walled Garden (After Metropolitan Workshop 2022).

- 6.1.12 In addition to the creation of the flexible space for events (12), within the southern courtyard, Option 02 allows for the creation of a lightweight extension to the south façade of the stable building. The stable building would be converted into a café with the extension providing extra seating within the walled garden. The walled garden was subject to limited archaeological investigations, which uncovered evidence for previous cultivation and a path that predated the construction of the walled garden.

- 6.1.13 This path comprised scant remains and may extend to within the footprint of the lightweight extension. Groundworks associated with the construction of the extension could impact the remains of the path or other unrecorded archaeological features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of the yard. The archaeological works could uncover further evidence of how this part of the complex evolved and was used. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.
- 6.1.14 The additional extension to the potato house will see the existing building extended to the north by 8.5m (Plate 32). The potato house has already been greatly altered during its lifetime and these works will cause further disturbance to its interior possibly removing original features. The footprint of the extension has not been subject to archaeological investigation, and it is possible that unrecorded features could exist within it.

Option 02 - Additional extension to potato house

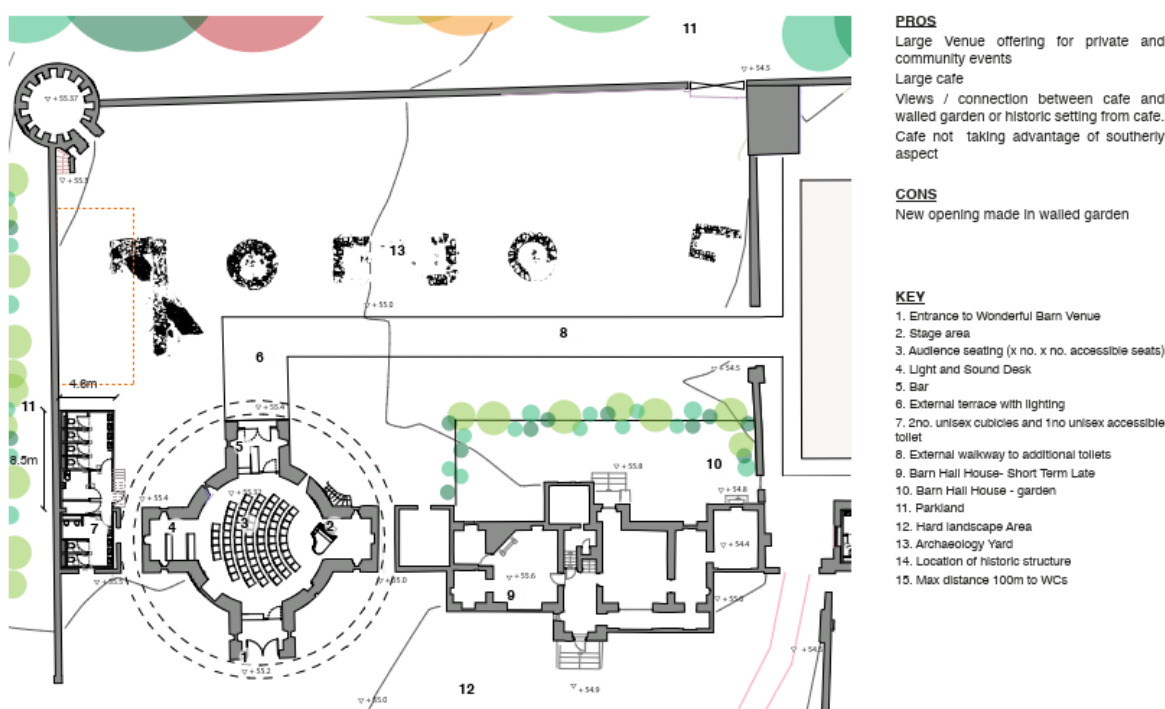


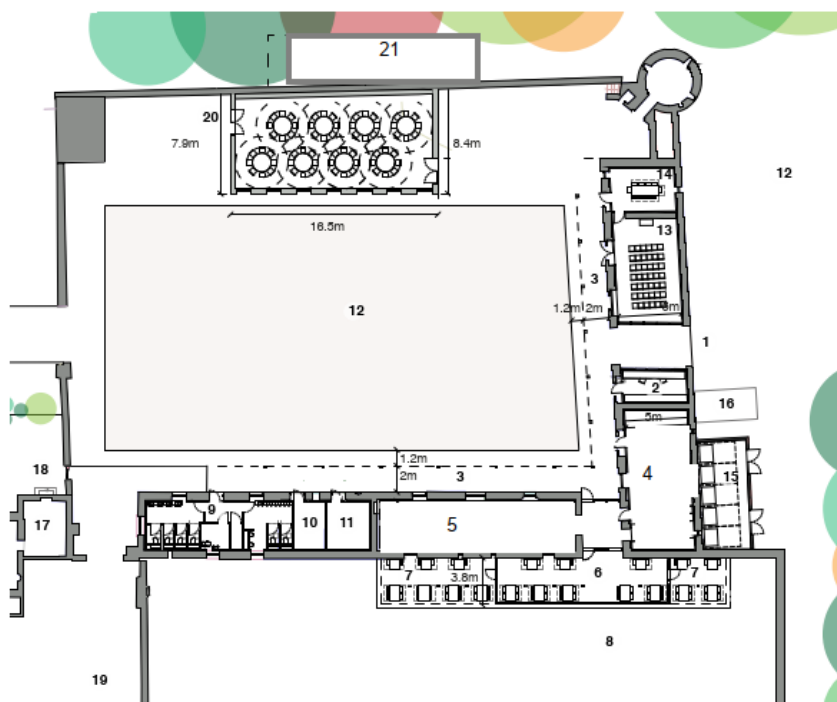
Plate 32 Option 02 – Additional extension to potato house (After Metropolitan Workshop 2022).

- 6.1.15 Groundworks associated with the construction of the extension could impact the remains of the path or other unrecorded archaeological features. Such remains would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required within the footprint. The archaeological works could uncover further evidence on how this part of the complex evolved and was used. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.
- 6.1.16 The potato house is located directly adjacent to the Wonderful Barn and the proposed extension will create a new structure which could affect the setting of the Protected Structure. The new structure will not impede critical views of the Wonderful Barn nor will it affect our ability to understand or appreciate it. The change to setting would be such that the special interests or qualities of the Wonderful Barn are only slightly affected without a noticeable change.

Option 03

- 6.1.17 Option 03 concerns the same items as outlined in Options 01 and 02, with the addition of a large venue in the southern courtyard, while a proposed kitchen and support spaces will be built on the exterior of the courtyard boundary wall (Plate 33).

Option 13 - Large Venue (60persons) within location of historic outbuilding



- PROS**
- Large Venue offering for private and community events
 - Viable cafe size
 - Potential views from cafe of Wonderful Barn, screened from M4 motorway noise
 - Kitchen outside walls- easy to access and service
 - Community Rooms independent of Cafe

- CONS**
- Cafe not overlooking walled garden
 - New build puts pressure on to find suitable/ viable uses for existing buildings

- KEY**
1. Entrance
 2. Reception / managers office
 3. Covered external walkway
 4. community room / venue
 5. community space / artists studios
 6. Proposed lightweight extension
 7. external seating / working area
 8. Walled Garden
 9. WCs / Store
 10. Bar Store
 11. Plant
 12. Yard - flexible space for events
 13. Community Room/ Workshop 1
 14. Community Room/ Workshop 2
 15. bin Store / delivery yard
 16. Accessible parking
 17. Barn Hall House- Short Term Late
 18. Barn Hall House - garden
 19. Hard landscape Area
 20. Proposed Cafe / Larger Venue space (60 people)
 - 21- Proposed Kitchen and Support Spaces for Cafe

Plate 33 Option 03 - large venue within location of historic outbuilding in southern courtyard (After Metropolitan Workshop 2022).

- 6.1.18 The large venue in the southern courtyard will be located on the former footprint of a building added during the first half of the 20th century and subsequently removed. The construction and removal of this building will have impacted possible archaeological features within the courtyard, although there is the possibility that some could survive within its former interior.
- 6.1.19 The proposed kitchen and support spaces structure will be located on the exterior of the boundary wall outside the southern courtyard. This area appears undeveloped on historic cartographic sources and there is the possibility that unrecorded archaeological remains could be present. Such remains, within and without the courtyard, would be considered of low significance. Further archaeological works would be required in relation to the creation of both buildings. The archaeological works could uncover further evidence of how this part of the complex evolved and was used while the works outside the wall could provide detail on activities pre-dating the construction of the Wonderful Barn. This would feed into the interpretation of the site as a visitor attraction.

Landscape Concept Options

- 6.1.20 The AECOM Landscape Concept Report presents three spacial concept options for the parkland grounds surrounding the buildings and gardens (Plates 34-36). These spacial concept options are largely identical in terms of content and only differ in where proposed features are situated. This content mainly comprises low impact features set within areas which have seen disturbance in the form of landscaping, planting, the laying of services, boundary removal and truncation from adjacent development.
- 6.1.21 Other features will entail greater ground disturbance. The surrounding grounds were formerly fields and an orchard laid out in a rectangular manner around The Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. Examination of historic mapping has shown that the basic layout of these has remained largely unchanged with historic field boundaries remaining. Archaeological investigations associated with the construction of the Celbridge Interchange in 2001 to the west revealed evidence of previous multi-period activity. It is possible that evidence of similar activity could be present within the parkland grounds and construction of the features requiring greater ground disturbance could impact such features, should they exist.

6.1.22 The parkland grounds are currently used as a leisure area by local people and it is an aim of the Local Area Plan to further promote the grounds as such. Each of the Spacial Concept Options contains advantages to promote this and also providing additional features, such as the community orchard and urban farm that provide continuity with the original activities associated with The Wonderful Barn. Given this, the assessment will only examine the possible constraints associated with each option. It is noted that the historic field boundaries will be retained in each option.

Spacial Concept Option 1

6.1.23 The proposals presented in Option 1 would see greater ground disturbance associated with the relocation of the allotments, an urban orchard, community facilities (skate park, outdoor gym, play areas), a community farm and a car park with 60 spaces (Plate 34).

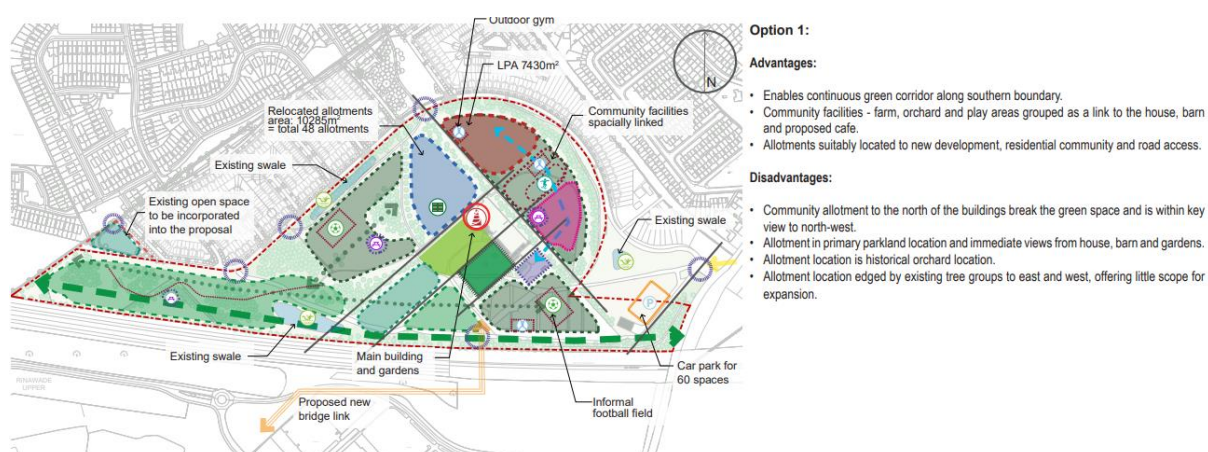


Plate 34 Spacial Concept Option 1 (After AECOM, 2022).

6.1.24 The relocated allotments are proposed in an area which previously held an orchard. This ground has been previously disturbed by the planting and subsequent removal of the trees and landscaping which would have impacted any archaeological remains present. Despite this, sub-surface evidence for the layout of the historic orchard and other historic use of this area could be present. Ground disturbance associated with the relocation of the allotments would impact these remains. Archaeological investigation of this area would be required prior to the relocation of the allotments.

6.1.25 The other aspects - community orchard, community facilities (skate park, outdoor gym, play areas), a community farm and car park are all located in greenspace to the east of the Wonderful Barn. This greenspace has undergone some disturbance from service laying and truncation from adjacent development. However, there is the possibility that previously unrecorded archaeological features could be present and groundworks would impact these. Archaeological investigation of these areas would be required prior to construction.

Spacial Concept Option 2

6.1.26 The proposals presented in Option 2 would see greater ground disturbance associated with the community facilities (skate park, outdoor gym, play areas), an urban farm and a car park with 60 spaces (Plate 35). These are located in greenspace to the east of the Wonderful Barn. This greenspace has undergone some disturbance from service laying and truncation from adjacent development. However, there is the possibility that previously unrecorded archaeological features could be present and groundworks would impact these. Archaeological investigation of these areas would be required prior to construction.

6.1.27 This option also includes the planting of a community orchard. However, the proposed location of this is in an area which previously held an orchard. This ground has been previously disturbed by the planting and subsequent removal of the trees and landscaping which would have impacted any archaeological remains present. Despite this, sub-surface evidence for the layout of the historic orchard and other historic use of this area could be present. Ground disturbance associated with the

planting of the community orchard would impact these remains. Archaeological investigation of this area would be required prior to this.

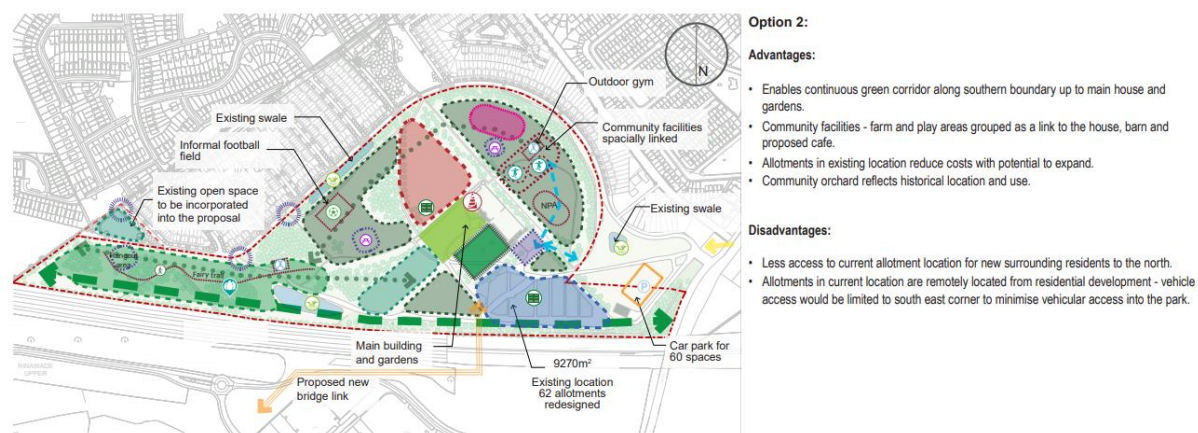


Plate 35 Spatial Concept Option 2 (After AECOM, 2022).

Spatial Concept Option 3

6.1.28 The proposals presented in Option 3 would see greater ground disturbance associated with the community facilities (skate park, outdoor gym, play areas) and a car park with 60 spaces (Plate 36). These are concentrated in the greenspace to the east of the Wonderful Barn. This greenspace has undergone some disturbance from service laying and truncation from adjacent development. However, there is the possibility that previously unrecorded archaeological features could be present and groundworks would impact these. Archaeological investigation of these areas would be required prior to construction.

6.1.29 The urban orchard will be situated within the former orchard location to the immediate northwest of The Wonderful Barn. Sub-surface evidence for the layout of the historic orchard and other historic use of this area could still be present despite the previous ground disturbance. Ground disturbance associated with the planting of the community orchard would impact these remains. Archaeological investigation of this area would be required prior to this.

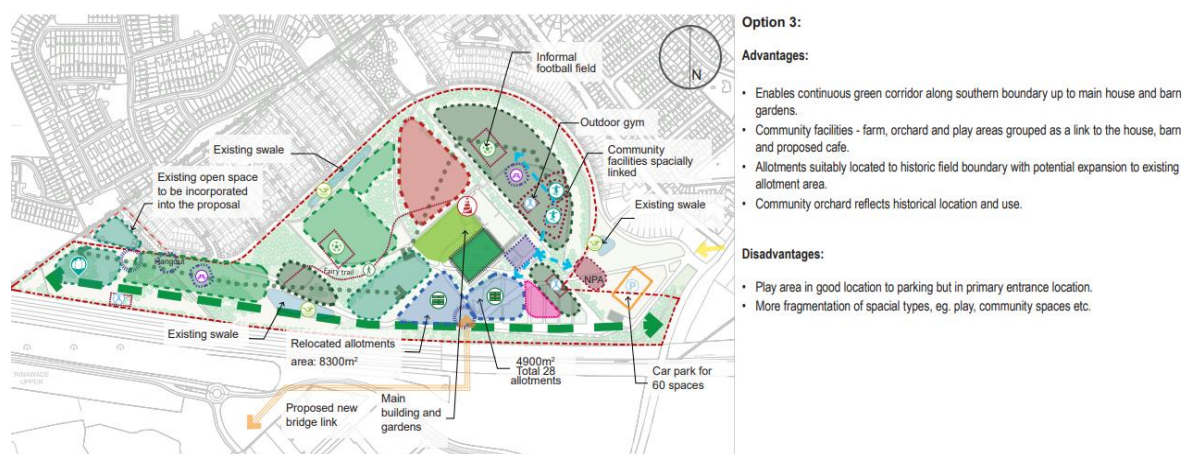


Plate 36 Spatial Concept Option 3 (After AECOM, 2022).

6.1.30 Allotments will be relocated to the triangular area immediately adjacent to the current location. This area is currently under grass and has the potential to contain previously unrecorded archaeological remains. The allotments have the potential to impact such archaeological remains. Archaeological investigation of these areas would be required prior to relocation.

7. Summary

- 7.1.1 There is one heritage asset within the boundary of the Proposed Development. This is The Wonderful Barn (B11-15) which is a Protected Structure which is also recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH 11901102). While these heritage designations relate to The Wonderful Barn, itself, and not the associated Barn Hall, outbuildings, courtyards and walled garden, it should be noted that they are regarded as very important built heritage assets in the Leixlip Local Area Plan.
- 7.1.2 The buildings and structures comprise the Wonderful Barn (B11-15), Barn Hall, associated outbuildings, the walled garden and courtyards. These date to the mid-18th century and have seen adaptation and development throughout their lifetime. Examination of historic mapping and previous archaeological investigations has shown that the basic layout of these has remained largely unchanged.
- 7.1.3 Proposals for the Proposed Development are at an early stage with various options being considered. These will require groundworks for services, drainage and new infrastructure both within the buildings and structures and also the wider surrounding grounds. Archaeological investigations have examined parts of the surrounding courtyard and the walled garden with the remnants of previous structures and planting uncovered. The remnants of former structures will be presented as features in the Archaeology Yard. However, groundworks in other areas could impact previously unrecorded archaeological features associated with the former building complex.
- 7.1.4 The surrounding grounds were formerly fields and an orchard laid out in a rectangular manner around The Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall. These have since been impacted by the construction of surrounding modern development including residential development and the motorway. These have truncated the former fields, although their original form can still be discerned. Further ground disturbance has been caused by landscaping, planting and the laying of services. Despite this, there is the potential for unrecorded archaeological features to be present within the surrounding grounds.
- 7.1.5 Given these conditions, it is recommended that archaeological testing should be conducted at Stage 2. This testing should take place in relation to the preferred Options taken forward for the buildings and surrounding grounds, targeting areas where ground disturbance during the construction of the Proposed Development has the potential to impact buried archaeological remains.
- 7.1.6 Consultation will be held with the KCC Heritage Officer in order to agree the archaeological evaluation at Stage 2 which would likely take the form of archaeological geophysical survey and/or trenching of the targeted areas. It is anticipated that the KCC Heritage Officer and the National Monuments Service (NMS) will require that a programme of archaeological evaluation to be undertaken as soon as the preferred options are chosen, to assess the potential presence for below-ground archaeological remains within the Proposed Development area, and to inform the development of the design of the Proposed Development and any subsequent mitigation proposals. Early consultation should be undertaken in order to determine the requirements for the archaeological evaluation.
- 7.1.7 Any archaeological evaluation and mitigation works should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under licence in accordance with an archaeological Programme of Works that sets out the scope of work and is approved in advance by the KCC Heritage Officer and the NMS.

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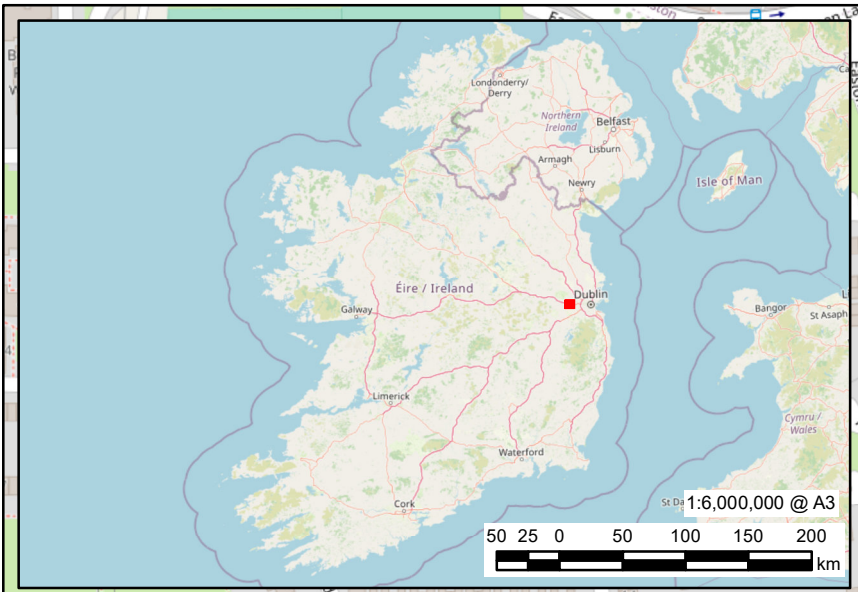
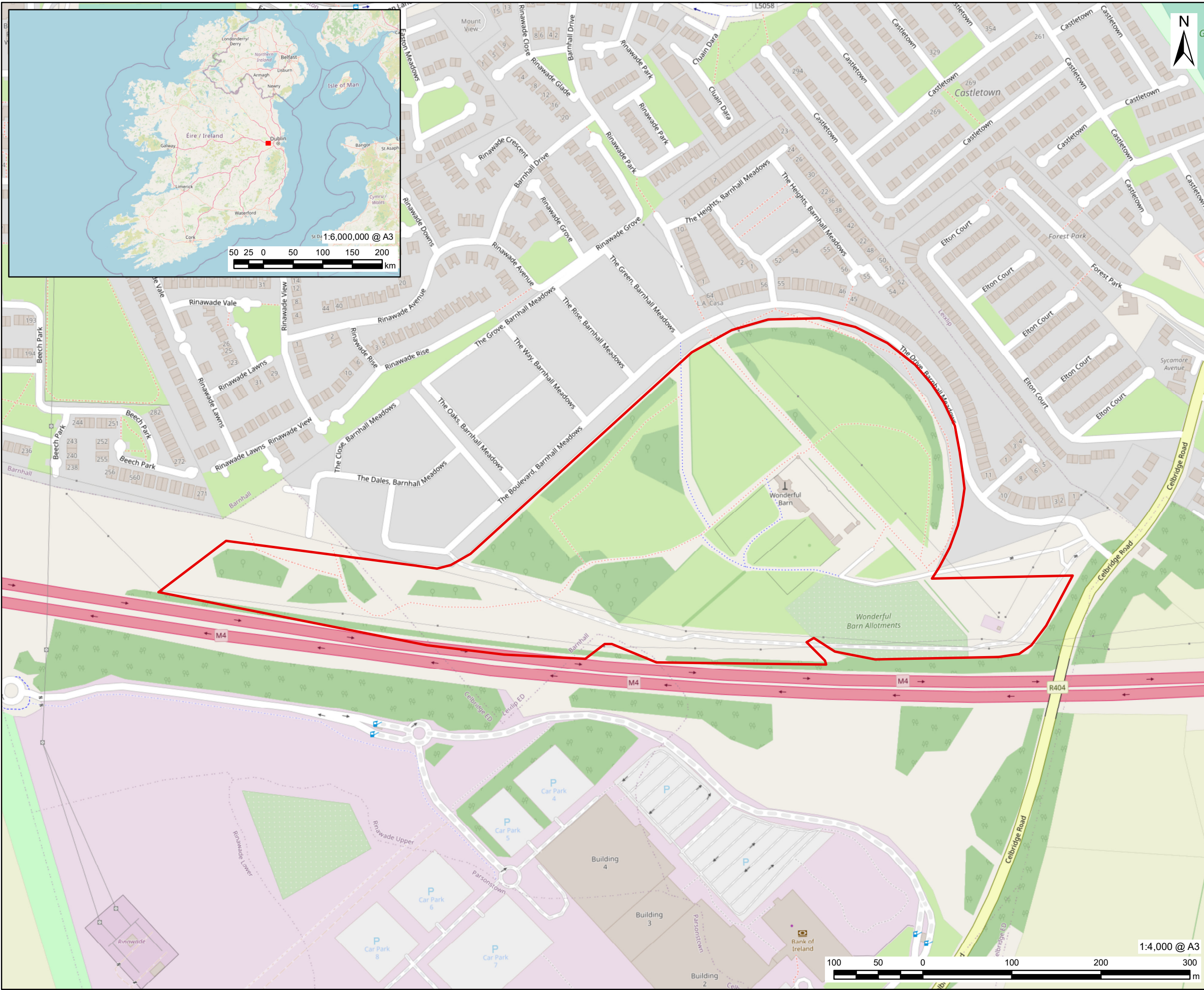
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9. Figures



PROJECT
Wonderful Barn

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4th Floor Adelphi Plaza
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LEGEND
[Red outline] Site Boundary

NOTES
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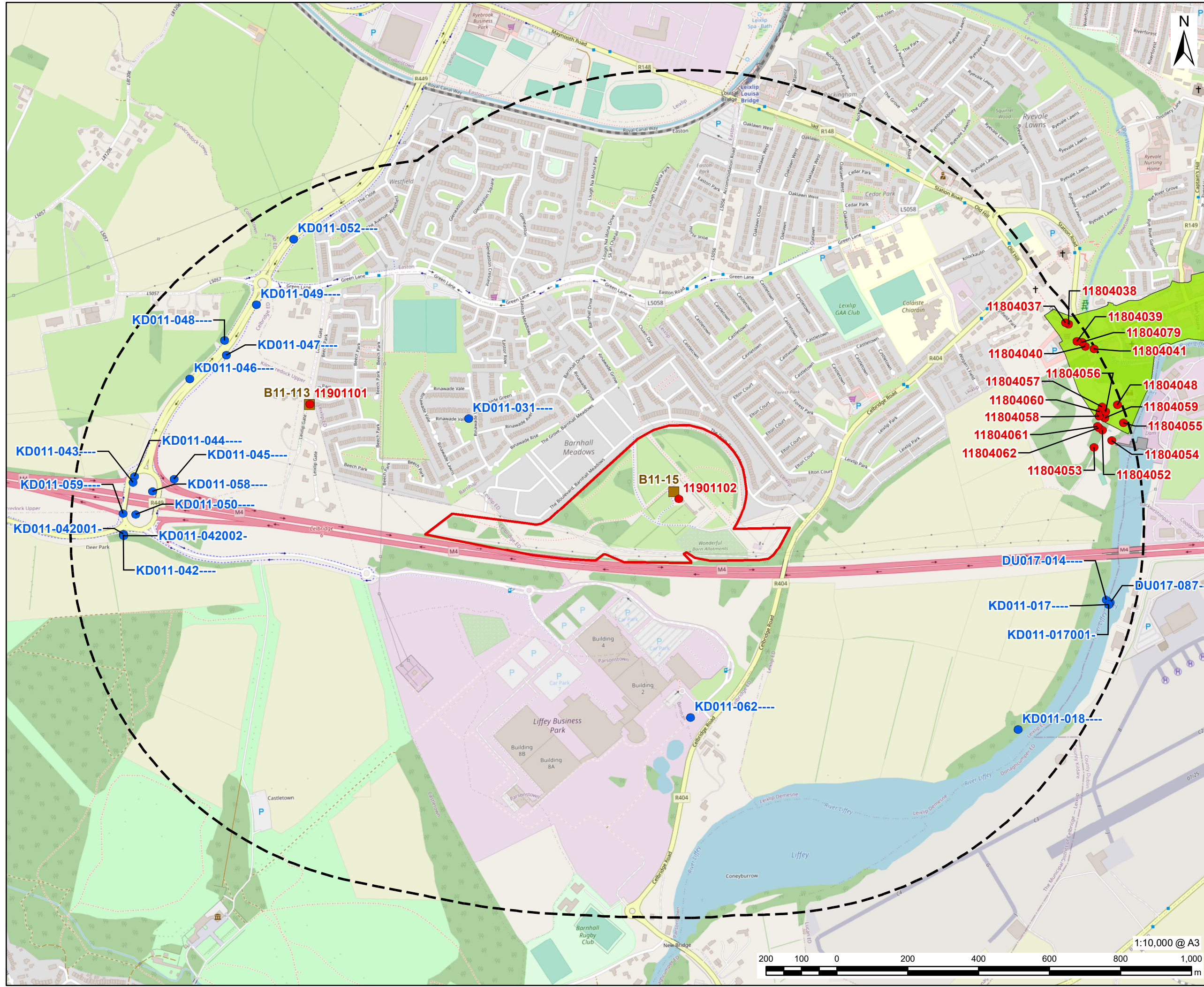
ISSUE PURPOSE
FINAL

PROJECT NUMBER
60689541

FIGURE TITLE
Site Location

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 1

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PROJECT
Wonderful Barn

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Kildare County Council

CONSULTANT
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4th Floor Adelphi Plaza
George's Street Upper
Dun Laoghaire, A96 T927,
Co. Dublin, Ireland

- LEGEND
- Site Boundary
 - 1km Buffer
 - Kildare Architectural Conservation Area
 - Sites, Monuments and Records
 - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
 - Protected Structure

NOTES

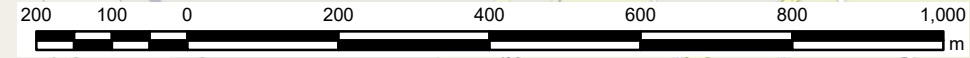
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FIGURE TITLE
Heritage Assets

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 2



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Appendix A Gazetteers

Recorded Heritage Sites within a 1km study area

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
DU017-014		Weir - fish	Medieval/Post-medieval	There was formerly a fishery on the Salmon Leap. This comprised an artificial obstruction across the course of the river. In 1207 King John granted Adam de Hereford 'all the salmon fishery of the salmon leap'; also in 1562 Elizabeth granted William Vernon 'two fishing places, called the Salmon Leap' (Went 1954, 55-56).	No remains
DU017-087		Bridge	Medieval	According to Sherlock (1909-11, 305) there was a ford (KA011-036----) at Leixlip and an ancient bridge at the Salmon Leap. This except for one arch which still stands was carried away by a great flood shortly before 1646. Fitzgerald (1896-99, 402) shows a photograph of this arch at the Salmon Leap.	Some remains
KD011-017		Bridge	Medieval	According to Sherlock (1909-11, 305), 'there was a ford (KA011-036----) at Leixlip and an ancient bridge at the Salmon Leap. This, except one arch which still stands, was carried away by a great flood shortly before 1646'. Fitzgerald (1896-99, 402), shows a photograph of this arch at the Salmon Leap. There was also a weir here (KD011-017001-).	Some remains
KD011-017001-		Weir - fish	Medieval/Post-medieval	There was formerly a fishery on the River Liffey at the Salmon Leap. This comprised an artificial obstruction across the course of the river. In 1207, King John granted Adam de Hereford 'all the salmon fishery of the salmon leap'; also, in 1562, Queen Elizabeth granted William Vernon 'two fishing places, called the Salmon Leap' (Went 1954, 55-56). The weir is designated DU017-014---- in Backwestonpark townland on the Co. Dublin side.	No remains
KD011-018		Mound	Uncertain	An undated (late-18th/19th C) Estate Map (Ms 21.F.37 (131-171) map 157) in the National Library of Ireland shows a mound, skirted along the N by a curving field boundary, near the W bank of the River Liffey. It is not shown on any ed. of the OS 6-inch map, but the curving boundary is recorded on both the 1st ed.(1838) and latest ed. (1939). In a narrow strip of old woodland bordering the river with level pasture to W and N. A very overgrown, low, almost circular earthen mound (basal diams. 22.9m N-S; 21.7m E-W; H 1.5m at N - 2m at S) has a level upper surface (diams. 8.9m N-S; 8.4m E-W).	Some remains
KD011-031		Redundant Record	N/A	Visible on a GSI aerial photograph (N 467-6) as the cropmark of a small circular enclosure and included on the RMP (1995) as 'Enclosure Possible Site'. Archaeological excavation (Licence no. 97E0175: www.excavation.ie) revealed the site to be a natural spring with an associated area of soil variation.	N/A
KD011-042		Ring-ditch	Late Bronze age	Found during archaeological monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange in 2001. Subsequent excavation (Licence no. 01E0669) uncovered the remains of a ring-ditch 'Site 4' (KD011-042----), an associated enclosure (KD011-042002-) and a later kiln (KD011-042001-). The ring-ditch measured 9m in diameter, with a ditch 1.5m wide and 0.9m deep. Contained within the ditch were a series of individual deposits. All were contained within the one layer of fill and were spaced throughout the ditch. The deposits consisted of two separate pots, three small charcoal spreads, two cattle skulls, and part of a human cranium. The pottery appears to be Late Bronze Age in date. (www.excavations.ie)	Excavated
KD011-042001		Kiln - corn-drying	Early Christian	Found during archaeological monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange in 2001. Subsequent excavation (Licence no. 01E0669) uncovered a stone-built kiln feature (KD011-042001-) set into one of the ditches of	Excavated

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				an enclosure (KD011-042002-) which also contained a ring ditch (KD011-042----). Soil samples from the interior yielded grain, suggesting that this was a corn-drying kiln. This is also supported by the discovery of part of a quernstone in the kiln structure. A large pit nearby containing burnt material and an iron knife blade may also be contemporary. An Early Christian date is being suggested for this phase of activity. (www.excavations.ie)	
KD011-042002-		Enclosure	Late Bronze age	Found during archaeological monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange in 2001. Subsequent archaeological excavation (Licence no. 01E0669) uncovered the remains of a ring-ditch (KD011-042----) within an associated enclosure (KD011-042002-), and a later kiln (KD011-042001-). Three ditches enclosed an area c. 35m east-west by c. 25m. The largest ditch ran north-south before curving and turning west. It followed and respected the curve of the ring-ditch at this point, suggesting the two were contemporary. As it turned from the ring-ditch it became more linear again. It had a total length of c. 35m, was 2m wide and 1.3m deep. Its northern terminus was not established as it went out under the road-take. It contained large amounts of animal bone with a high percentage of animal skulls. At its western end it was met by another ditch, also running east-west. This was 1-2m wide and 0.5-0.9m deep and ran west for 24m before terminating 1m short of a third ditch. Contained within the fill of this ditch was the entire skeleton of a small horse or pony. The third ditch ran north-south for 28m and was c. 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep. Also contained within this complex were a series of small pits and burnt hearth areas. Some of these contained cremated animal bone, but there was no evidence for any human bone. As with the ring-ditch and ditches, these are probably contemporary and Late Bronze Age in date. (www.excavations.ie)	Excavated
KD011-043		Habitation site		In 2001, eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during archaeological monitoring (Licence no. 01E0306) of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange. The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme ran through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown. The site (Site 6) measured 7m by 12m and was visible as seven possible post-holes and a linear feature at monitoring stage. These were identified by charcoal flecks and burnt stone. It was resolved under licence number 01E0596. (www.excavations.ie)	Excavated
KD011-044		Habitation site	Prehistoric	In 2001, eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during archaeological monitoring (Licence no. 01E0306) of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange. The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme ran through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown. This site (Site 8) measured 9m by 5m. At the monitoring stage it was visible as three pits and one trench or oval pit. Some charcoal and burnt bone were visible on the surface of the fills. A chunk of flint and two pieces of prehistoric pottery were also found. It was resolved under licence number 01E0596 ext. (www.excavations.ie)	Excavated
KD011-045		Burnt Mound	Prehistoric	Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no.	Excavated

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				<p>01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 9), visible in section as a 4m stretch of burnt stone and charcoal, was subsequently resolved under Licence no. 01E0998. The discovery of burnt mound-type material during monitoring suggested that this site was a fulacht fia. No trough or hearth was found in the excavated area but since the site continues to the north this interpretation cannot be discounted. Two large postholes in the west of the site had a structural appearance and may have been part of a larger structure incorporating an L-shaped feature in the east, or may have been a separate structure or fence line. Burnt mound material, a pit and a quernstone suggest that some kind of industrial activity took place on site. Specialist analysis of the soil samples, saddle quern and bone will give further insight into the function and date of this site. (www.excavations.ie).</p>	
KD011-046		Fulacht fia	Prehistoric	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 10), 13m by 20m, was identified as a possible fulacht fia. It consisted of a spread of burnt mound material, 17m by 8m, and a small pit to the south-west. It was resolved under licence number 01E0715. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated
KD011-047		Burnt Mound	Prehistoric	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 11) was 8m by 18m. It was identified as a spread of burnt sandstone, soil and charcoal. Post-medieval pottery was found in the topsoil above the feature. It was resolved under licence number 01E0855. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated
KD011-048		Habitation Site		<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 12) measured 15m by 8m. Four concentrations of charcoal, possibly post-holes, formed an arc in the south-east of the area. One other lay to the north-west. They varied in diameter from 0.2m to 0.5m. It was resolved under licence number 01E0856. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
KD011-049		Burnt Mound	Prehistoric	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 13) was 11m by 16m. Fourteen areas of burnt stone or ash with charcoal in pits were identified at the monitoring stage. No overall pattern could be discerned. It was resolved under licence number 01E0960. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated
KD011-050		Kiln - corn-drying		<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306; www.excavations.ie). Most were resolved through subsequent excavation. The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site ('Site 7' Excavation Licence No. 01E0547 www.excavations.ie) was a corn-drying kiln built in to an earlier ditch. The stone-lined kiln was L-shaped in plan (4.5m E-W; 3.8m N-S) and had a fire-bowl on its E side (diam. 0.95m). At the base of the flue on its W side was a circular pit (diam. 0.6m; D 0.3m), the lower fills of which were rich in charred cereal grains but contained no finds.</p>	Excavated
KD011-052		Habitation Site	Post-medieval	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>The site (Site 14), a pit, was first seen in section on the eastern side of the deeper, central area of the excavated carriageway, approximately 0.45m below present ground level. An oval, stepped cut, with slightly concave sides, 1.9m in total length and 1.25m wide, cut the natural and was truncated on its western side by the track machine. It was 0.2m deep at its eastern end and 0.33m at its western. The base was distinctly stepped. The cut was filled in the deeper, western end by a soft, mottled black and red charcoal deposit. This was sealed by a deposit with less charcoal but with fragments of animal bone. It covered the entire area of the cut but sloped downwards to the west. Over this was a friable dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and animal bone. It covered the entire cut and was the final fill. Post-medieval pottery sherds, a nail and a gold ring were found in the topsoil. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated
KD011-053		Fulacht fia	Prehistoric	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p>	Excavated

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				<p>This site (Site 15) prior to excavation consisted of a flat spread of heat-fractured stones measuring 14m by 4.5m. This spread was cut in two by a linear feature running north-east/south-west; this later proved to be a post-medieval boundary ditch. A modern water pipe was also found to be cutting across the site on its northern edge. The spread measured between 0.05m and 0.1m in thickness and sealed numerous features. Four rectangular troughs were uncovered, two pits, five post-holes and 21 stake-holes. Most of the latter were located on the southern edge of the site. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	
KD011-058		Habitation Site	Post-medieval	<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306). The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 3) was excavated under the monitoring licence. The site (dims. L 5.5m; Wth 4.5m) consisted of two pits, possibly rubbish-pits, with associated fills and a small, thin spread of material. These features were not associated with any structures or other evidence of habitation. No artefacts were found. (www.excavations.ie)</p>	Excavated
KD011-059		Metalworking site		<p>Eighteen potential archaeological sites were found during monitoring of topsoil-stripping on the Celbridge Interchange, from April to December 2001 (Licence no. 01E0306: www.excavations.ie). Most were resolved through subsequent excavation. The scheme was approximately 4km in length and ran from Celbridge to Leixlip through gently undulating land with a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland. The southern part of the scheme runs through an area heavily influenced by 18th-century landscape design, with avenues, woodland and tree-lined field boundaries centred on the early 18th-century house at Castletown.</p> <p>This site (Site 5) was excavated under the monitoring licence. It measured approximately 8m by 11m. Three bowl furnaces and two associated burnt deposits were found. The area was truncated by one of the boundary ditches dividing the deerpark of Castletown and separating Castletown townland from Kilmacredock Upper.</p> <p>Furnace 1 consisted of twelve contexts. It was 0.44m north of the townland boundary that truncated the site. The bowl of the furnace cut through the natural subsoil. It was flat-bottomed and circular with almost vertical sides, 0.47m wide on the surface and 0.39m at its base. It was 0.25m deep. The fills were rich in charcoal and slag. There was evidence that the bowl may have been recut. A 20mm-wide stream of metal was found to have flowed from the base of the furnace on the south-western side for 0.42m.</p> <p>Furnaces 2 and 3 were 9.5m to the south-west of Furnace 1. Furnace 2 joined Furnace 3 on its north-western side; both cut the natural subsoil. Eight contexts were associated with Furnace 2. The bowl was 0.39m in diameter with almost vertical sides and a concave base. Its fills were also rich in charcoal and slag. A possible plume was found in the third fill of the furnace.</p> <p>Nine contexts were associated with Furnace 3. The bowl was 0.4m in diameter on the surface and 0.32m at its base. It was 0.22-0.26m in depth. Its fills were rich in charcoal and slag. The third fill out of four was made up of packed burnt clay which might have been part of the furnace's superstructure.</p> <p>Three features were associated with the furnaces: a stake-hole, an area of burnt material and a shallow cut with burnt material, C37.</p>	Excavated

RMP Ref	RPS / NIAH ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				No completed artefacts or metalworking tools were found on site. More research will have to be carried out to determine whether the furnaces were for smithing or smelting. It might be suggested that they were for smelting since there was a possible plume in Furnace 2 and no crucibles or moulds were found. The pit C37 may have been used for roasting ore prior to smelting. Since there were three furnaces, both smithing and smelting may have been carried out on site.	
KD011-062		Fulacht fia	Prehistoric	Discovered during soil stripping in advance of a large commercial development and subsequently archaeologically excavated (Gracie 1995 Excavation Licence No. 95E0264). A small rectangular spread of loose black silt and firmer black, clayey silt (3m E-W; 2.5m N-S) contained burnt stones and occasional charcoal fragments. To the S, a second larger spread of black material occurred (12m N-S; 10m E-W) and overlay a small pit at W which contained deposits of burnt stone. Three similar pits were found in the vicinity.	Excavated
11901101 B11-113	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock Upper, Kildare	1740 - 1780	Leixlip Gate is a fine and attractive mid eighteenth-century gateway to the Castletown estate. Composed of a pair of piers, the quality of the masonry is of a high standard with sharp lines and narrow mortar joints to the ashlar stonework. The retention of early surviving wrought iron gates is also of note. The gateway, although of secondary importance to the primary entrance to the estate (located at the end of Main Street, Celbridge (11805063/KD-11-05-63)), is nevertheless of social and historic importance as an integral component of the Castletown estate. Attractively set at the end of an avenue, the gateway also forms a self-contained sub-group with the gate lodge to west.	Substantial remains	
11901102 B11-15	Wonderful Barn, Barnhall, Kildare	1743	A grain store 'EXECUT'D BY JOHN GLINN' representing an important component of the eighteenth-century built heritage of County Kildare with the architectural value of the composition, one allegedly erected by Katherine Conolly (née Conyngham) (1662-1752) as a relief scheme in response to the so-called "Black Spring" (1741), confirmed by such attributes as the cruciform footprint; the conical silhouette; the "loop"-like openings; and the parapeted summit doubling as a "crow's nest" or viewing platform commanding panoramic vistas back to Castletown and the Conolly Obelisk. A prolonged period of neglect notwithstanding, the form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior, including a partial slate hung surface finish: meanwhile, limewashed dome vaulted chambers pinpoint the engineering or technical dexterity of a grain store forming the centrepiece of a self-contained group alongside adjacent dovecotes (-- --) with the resulting ensemble making a picturesque visual statement in a rural street scene.	Substantial remains	
1924	Castletown	Castletown, North Salt, Kildrought, Castletown	Shown on all OS map editions from the 1 st edition onwards, this planned landscape comprised woodlands, formal garden, allees and natural water features. The site footprint is still visible on current mapping with the boundary defined. However, a section has been lost to housing and a major road has been constructed across the northern section.		
1931	Leixlip Castle, North Salt, Leixlip Demesne		Demesne associated with Leixlip Castle. Shown on the 1 st edition map and subsequent map editions, this site comprises the castle and other buildings set within woodland and parkland. The site footprint is still visible with a defined boundary although the location is undergone severe development with a major road now bisecting it.		

