



**Ratoath pedestrian and cycle scheme  
Ratoath,  
Co. Meath**

Ratoath and Jamestown townlands

ITM: 702108 / 751786 (centre)

**Record of Monuments and Places: ME044-034: Historic Town,  
ME044-034001: Castle – motte and bailey (vicinity of)  
ME044-034008 Market Cross (previous location)**

**Record of Protected Structures: None**

**Architectural Conservation Area: None**

**Desk Based Review and Assessment**

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**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

## **Non-Technical Summary**

Meath County Council is proposing to upgrade the existing cycle and walking routes in Ratoath. These routes mostly lie along current roads and footpaths, as well as an already-laid walking route alongside the Broad Meadow River through the middle of the present town. There are some short sections where a walking route and a proposed boardwalk will require start-from-scratch construction but it is not predicted that the impact of any of these works will be significant on any archaeological heritage. However, the excavation of service trenches, either from upgrading or in new locations for public lighting, to the upgrading and widening of the footpath alongside the Broad Meadow River has the fairly low potential to reveal archaeological objects. The area of the river to the south of Motte ME044-034001 has the most archaeological potential.

Also alongside the Broad Meadow River from Meadowbank Hill near to the R155 junction, the present riverside walk has been built in what looks very much like a disused mill race. This mill race may be a tail race to the old mills that were once located under the nearby Tesco Express development on the R155, but this race could also relate to an earlier mill. The 1913 OS shows the River and mill race channel but also notes an adjacent footpath. This mill race ends at a location where there is a modern concrete bridge over the Broad Meadow River, which replaces some 'Stepping Stones' on the 1837 OS and a subsequent bridge (Bridge 1) built by the time of the 1913 OS.

A short distance to the east of this bridge, the Broad Meadow River was realigned in the 19<sup>th</sup> century into its present channel until the location of the present bridge marked with a plaque 'James Corbellis Esq Bridge, 1814' (Bridge 2). James Corbellis (usually spelled Corballis) was the owner of the Ratoath Manor House (now the Silver Springs Nursing Home).

Eastwards from Bridge 2 the proposed cycleway runs through a grassed area to the north of the Broad Meadow River which was previously the gardens to the Ratoath Manor House. This area seems to have been altered with soil embanking from the construction of the nearby 'Village Green' housing estate. To the south of the Broad Meadow River along this section there is an old beech woodland where there was previously a lime kiln and some quarrying. East of this woodland the cycleway runs along an existing footpath as part of the Jamestown Park housing estate. Previously the road dropped down to the Broad Meadow River at this point and crossed it via a ford. This ford was erased with the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century single arched masonry Bridge 3 that previously connected Jamestown House (demolished) with the R125: with the ford perhaps being moved c. 60m to the west. To the east of Bridge 3 the cycleway runs through the modern Jamestown Park housing estate landscaped areas adjacent to the Broad Meadow River.

Other areas involve works at junctions and the construction of crossing points across Ratoath. These limited works have a low potential for uncovering archaeological remains. Works at the Marian Grotto Protected Structure MH044-306 junction are for uncontrolled crossings, so views of the grotto should be unaffected. The proposed works would require general archaeological monitoring.

# 1 Introduction

## General site description, Figs 1-4

Meath County Council is proposing to upgrade the existing cycle and walking routes in Ratoath. These routes mostly lie along current roads and footpaths, as well as along already-laid walking route alongside the Broad Meadow River through the middle of the town. There are some short sections where a walking route and a proposed boardwalk will require start-from-scratch construction but it is not predicted that the impact of any of these works will be significant on any archaeological heritage. However, the excavation of service trenches, either from upgrading or in new locations for public lighting, to the upgrading and widening of the footpath alongside the Broad Meadow River has the fairly low potential to reveal archaeological objects. The area of the river to the south of Motte ME044-034001 has the most archaeological potential.

The works are on:

- R125 Dunshaughlin Road
- R125 Main Road
- R125 Main Street
- Sean Eiffe Road
- R155 Fairyhouse Road
- R155 Well Road
- R155 Curragha Road
- The Broad Meadow River Footpath
- Existing footpaths through the Jamestown Park housing estate

In general, the works comprise existing roadside footpaths and verges, organising controlled and uncontrolled road crossing points and upgrading several road junctions to allow for the cycleway. Existing public lighting along the Broad Meadow River footpath will also be upgraded and new lighting put in.

Ratoath is a medieval town (including ME044-034000 to ME044-034016) and the Excavations Bulletin has 43 entries for archaeological works at Ratoath until 2010. Of these works 31 revealed nothing of archaeological significance and 12 revealed archaeological results. The results focus on three areas:

1. Evidence of the medieval town in the vicinity of the medieval Motte on Main Street and stretching north along the Skryne Road (laid out c. 1795) past the Church of Ireland
2. Evidence of agriculture in the area of the old Manor House (now the nursing Home) on the R125 to the east of the town
3. Bronze Age settlement and burial and early medieval settlement and burial on the Steeplechase estate to the north-west of the town

There are 16 records on the Sites and Monuments record of Monuments and Places for Ratoath (Fig 4). These include six records connected with the archaeological works results above, but since the RMP files require updating, not the others. The RMP records focus on the medieval town, the medieval motte and items in and around the Church of Ireland church and cemetery on the Skryne Road.

There are 12 buildings or structures recorded on the National inventory of Architectural Heritage for Ratoath (Fig 5). These consist of the two churches, eight buildings, a hand pump and the 1950s Marian grotto. Of these, 10 are listed on the Meath Record of Protected Structures (Fox Lodge and the hand pump are not on the Meath RPS) (Fig 6).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Topography, Fig 7

Ratoath is located on the major east to west routeway of the R125 that follows the Broad Meadow River inland from its estuary at Swords, through Ratoath and on to Dunshaughlin. From Dunshaughlin the R125 joins the R154 and continues to major medieval town of Trim.

Ratoath is also at the junction of a north to south routeway, the R150 between Duleek, Rathfeigh and Dublin-Maynooth. Communications junctions are classic locations for medieval motte and bailey castles and a very large medieval motte is located in the centre of Ratoath. The motte is located on the highest point of a local high above the 100m contour and can survey a great area. The motte also overlooks the Broad Meadow River (named *An Gabhair* in Irish and ‘Gore Water’ on the 17<sup>th</sup> century Down Survey). At Ratoath, the Broad Meadow River is in a relatively steep sided valley and has some wide meanders in it. To the south-west of Ratoath the Down survey shows a small lake or large mill pond on the R15 Fairyhouse Road. This lake or pond is drained in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but is still shown connected to a series of mills on the 1837 OS (now demolished beneath the R155 Tesco Express complex).

### 2.1 Ratoath: General history and map regression

#### General

There are several interpretations for the origin of the name ‘Ratoath’, from Rath Tó to Rath Túath. The former could relate to a ‘Danish King’ and a túath was essentially the local community or a type of civil Parish, with its hereditary taisigh (‘leader’) family.

Ratoath became the manorial caput for the medieval Barony of Ratoath, so it could well have been a pre-Anglo-Norman invasion túath capital.

The following is an extract from the Wikipedia page on Ratoath Barony, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratoath\\_barony\\_Meath](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratoath_barony_Meath)

‘Ratoath is a barony in County Meath. It comprises ten parishes and portion of two others viz Rathbeggan, Dunshaughlin, Kilbrew, Crickstown, Killelland, Cookstown, Donaghmore, Ratoath, and portions of Ballymaglasson and Trevit.

### 2.2 Record of Monuments and Places (Figs 4, 8)

ME044-034001-

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Castle - motte and bailey

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Ratoath was retained as a seigniorial manor by Hugh de Lacy and it was inherited by his son Hugh, later the first Earl of Ulster. The grant, which was as extensive as the barony, was confirmed in AD 1198. The castle (i.e. motte) of Ratour is referenced throughout the thirteenth century. The manor was forfeit in 1210 but returned to Water de Lacy, brother of the Earl, in 1215. The lands and castles in Walter's charge, including Ratoath, were returned to Hugh de Lacy in 1227, when the right to hold a fair lasting thirteen days at Ratoath was also granted. David FitzWilliam, the baron of Naas, had an interest in Ratoath in 1244 through his wife, Matilda, a daughter of Hugh de Lacy. In 1283 Sir Roger de Clifford, a Welsh baron, sold the manor to Queen Eleanor, the wife of Edward I. Ratoath had probably been granted to Roger by King Edward, and Eleanor almost immediately granted the manor to Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, known as the Red Earl.

An inquisition in 1333 found William de Burgh, a grandson of Richard, possessed of the manor of Ratoath at his death, and he had held it in capite from the King. The manor had no buildings, but its site is described as surrounded by a square ditch, and this suggests that the motte and bailey was abandoned at this time. The burgesses of Ratoath paid over £6 in yearly rent, indicating that the settlement had over a hundred heads of households. About 360 acres was held in demesne, as well as 160 acres at Betaghsland, meaning the native Irish settlement, which could be Baytown in Kilbride parish. About thirty five free tenants are named, amongst whom the names Cruys, Tuyt, Cusack, de Bathe, and FitzLeon recur, but the most common name is Bereford. Many of the townlands in the barony can be identified by name. (Orpen 1921)

Situated on top of a broad hill and on the grounds of the Roman Catholic church at the centre of Ratoath village. The motte is a flat-topped, subcircular earthen mound (dims of top 21.5m NNE-SSW' 17m WNW-ESE; diam. of base c. 52m; H 11m) planted with deciduous trees and defined by the remains of a fosse, best preserved N-E. There is a raised rectangular bailey (dims c. 30m E-W; c. 18m N-S), which is also planted in trees and defined by scarps (max. H 3m at S), just to the SE. The site of the medieval parish church (ME034003-) is c. 150m to the NNE.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Compiled by: Michael Moore

Date of revision: 21 July 2016.

**References:**

- 1. Orpen, H. G. 1920 The Earldom of Ulster: Part V – Inquisition touching Ratoath, in Co. Meath. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 51, 68-76.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034002-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Font

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** The following description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Date of upload/revision: 10 July 2007

Octagonal font (diam. 0.44m, H 0.2m) with biconical stem outside RC church and close to motte (ME044-007001-).

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034003-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Church

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Located on top of a broad, low hill, with the motte and bailey (ME044-034001-) c. 150m to the SSW. At the time of the Anglo-Norman settlement Ratoath became a seigniorial manor, and Hugh de Lacy may have built the motte in the 1170s (Graham 1974, 42). A parish church would follow soon afterwards, and the church at Ratoath became the head of a deanery. A church is listed at Rathouth in the ecclesiastical taxation (1302-06) of Pope Nicholas IV (Cal. doc. Ire., 5, 254). There was a chantry attached and the names of some of the clergy from the 15th and 16th centuries are known (Cogan 1862-70, 1, 259-60). The church of Ratoath was amongst the possessions of St Thomas' Augustinian abbey in Dublin (DU018-020051-) at its suppression in 1540 (White 1943, 35). Ussher (1622) describes the church and chancel as indifferently repaired (Erlington 1847-64, 1, lxix). According to the Dopping (1682-5) and Royal (1693) visitations the church of the Holy Trinity was in good repair but only the walls of the chancel were standing. At that time the roof was slated and the windows glazed, but the floor was clay. The church had a bell and a font, but the graveyard was not enclosed (Ellison 1971, 35-6). A Church of Ireland church was built in 1818 (Lewis 1837, 2, 509), but this is now reduced to a cairn and the base of the walls (H 1-2m), although the church tower at its W end survives complete. No trace of the medieval church structure is extant within a rectangular graveyard (dims c. 70m NNE-SSW; c. 65m WNW-ESE) defined by masonry walls, apart from some dressed pieces from windows, which suggest a 16th century date. The W wall of the old graveyard has been removed and the graveyard now extends off to the NW (dims c. 130m NW-SE; c. 80m NE-SW). Headstones in the old graveyard date mostly from c. 1750 to 1990. A graveslab of a knight (dims 1.68m x 0.37-0.62m) has been set into the church tower on the S side. The mailed figure has no helmet and his head rests on a

pillow. A sword is fastened at the belt, but the legs do not survive below the knee. A worn inscription in Lombardic letters around the edge is now largely obscured, but the slab can be dated to the late 13th or early 14th century (Hunt 1974, 213).

A fragment of an ornate cross (H 0.8m; Wth 0.26-0.33m) decorated with six apostles carved in high relief that is now at St Patrick's church in Trim (ME036-048067-) is thought to have come from Ratoath (Roe 1966, Pl. 23). It may be a surviving fragment of the cross described as 'the Market Cross' (ME044-034008-) on the 1836 and 1909 editions of the OS 6-inch map and which was located c. 300m to the SW. However, this cross was reduced to the base according to John O'Donovan writing in the 1836 (Herity 2001, 112), and even this remnant was destroyed in 1922 (Bradley and King 1985, 126). A late medieval latin cross (H 1.49m; span 0.44m) on a rectangular base (dims 0.65m x 0.62m; H 0.2m) is inside the old graveyard wall at SW. It has a rectangular cross-section (dims 0.22m x 0.19m) at the base, but is octagonal above pyramid stops. The arms are also octagonal in cross-section (H 0.25m; Wth 0.2m) and there is a mortice at the top, but there is no inscription on the cross.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Compiled by: Michael Moore

Date of revision: 7 April, 2015

#### References:

- 1. Bradley, J. and King, H.A. 1985 Urban archaeological survey - county Meath. Unpublished report commissioned by the Office of Public Works, Dublin.
- 2. Cal. doc. Ire. - Calendar of documents relating to Ireland 1171-1307, ed. H.S. Sweetman (5 vols., London, 1875-86).
- 3. Ellison, Rev. C. C. 1971-5 Bishop Dopping's Visitation Book 1682-5, *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 5, 1, 28-39; 5, 2, 3-13; 5, 3, 3-11; 5, 4, 98-103; 6, 1, 3-13.
- 4. Erlington, C. R. (ed.) 1847-64 The whole works of the most Reverend James Ussher. 17 vols. Hodges and Smith, Dublin
- 5. Graham, B. 1974 Medieval settlement in County Meath. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 5, No. 4, 40-59.
- 6. Herity, M. (ed.) 2001 Ordnance Survey Letters: Meath. Dublin. Four Masters Press
- 7. Hunt, J. 1974 Irish medieval figure sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish University Press.
- 8. Lewis, S. 1837 A topographical dictionary of Ireland, 2 vols. London. Lewis and Co.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034004-**  
[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Architectural fragment

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes



**Description:** No trace of the medieval church of Ratoath (ME044-034003-) is extant within a rectangular graveyard (ME044-034017-), apart from some dressed pieces from windows, which suggest a 16th century date.

Compiled by: Michael Moore

Date of upload: 7 April, 2015  
[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034005-**  
[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Tomb - effigial

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Recorded by Hunt (1974, i, 213) as follows: 'Just to the south of the church-tower in the old graveyard in Ratoath is the effigy of a knight with his head upon a tasseled cushion, with remains of foliate decoration in relief upon the edge of the slab at this position. He is armed in mail over which can be seen a surcoat to the knee, belted at the waist and having a round neck. The coif was apparently thrown back from the head which has a basin-cut chevelure. The cushion is represented as if it had folds radiating from the head. The hands lie one upon the sword-grip and the other on the sword below. The sword has a large pommel and a short cross. Some object, perhaps part of the strap of the sword-mounting appears below the belt and descends down beside the sword. The legs are missing from below the knee. On the south side of the tapered slab is a badly worked inscription in Lombardic characters of which the following letters can be read [some of which are doubtful]: 'ORATE / PANIUM (?) . . . ALME(?) FILI FABRI . . . ' As far as can be seen despite the worn condition of the stone, the date must be late thirteenth or early fourteenth century.'

See attached image.

Date of upload: 20 December 2011

**References:**

- 1. Hunt, J. 1974 Irish medieval figure sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish University Press.

**141127\_Ratoath\_004.jpg**



[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034006-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Cross - Churchyard cross

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** A late medieval latin cross (H 1.49m; span 0.44m) on a rectangular base (dims 0.65m x 0.62m; H 0.2m) is inside the wall of the old graveyard attached to the site of the medieval church of Ratoath (ME044-034003-) at SW. It has a rectangular cross-section (dims 0.22m x 0.19m) at the base, but is octagonal above pyramid stops. The arms are also octagonal in cross-section (H 0.25m; Wth 0.2m) and there is a mortice at the top, but there is no inscription on the cross.

See attached image.

Compiled by: Michael Moore

Date of upload: 7 April, 2015

**141127\_Ratoath\_006.jpg**



[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034007-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Architectural fragment

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034008-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Cross - Market cross

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** The following description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Date of upload/revision: 10 July 2007

Market cross damaged in 1922; in 1932 cross commemorating eucharistic congress was erected on site, which was removed c. 1972.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034009-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034010-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034011-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Cistern

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034012-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034013-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034014-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034015-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Cultivation ridges

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034016-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** We regret that we are unable to supply descriptive details for this record at present.

[Zoom to](#)

**ME044-034017-**

[Scope note](#)

**Class:** Graveyard

**Townland:** RATOATH

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Located on top of a broad, low hill, with the motte and bailey (ME044-034001-) c. 150m to the SSW. No trace of the medieval church structure (ME044-034003-) is extant within a rectangular graveyard (dims c. 70m NNE-SSW; c. 65m WNW-ESE) defined by masonry walls, apart from some dressed pieces from windows. The W wall of the old graveyard has been removed and the graveyard now extends off to the NW (dims c. 130m NW-SE; c. 80m NE-SW). Headstones in the old graveyard date mostly from c. 1750 to 1990. A graveslab of a knight (ME044-034005-) has been set into the church tower of the 19th century church on the S side. The graveyard cross (ME044-034006-) is in the graveyard.

Compiled by: Michael Moore

Date of upload: 8 April, 2015  
[Zoom to](#)

### **2.3 Details of the Excavations.ie entries, See Figs 9, 10**

The Ratoath archaeological excavations fall into three general categories / areas (see Figs 9-10):

1. The medieval town
2. Medieval agriculture to the south-east
3. Bronze Age settlement and burial and early medieval settlement and burial on the Steeplechase estate to the north-west of the town

The medieval town has had very many archaeological works in recent years and those that can be located easily are grouped and summarised on Fig 9. However, it is notable that several large estates did not have any archaeological works done on them, in particular Woodside which was built over several large buildings or structures marked on the Down Survey. For other excavations, the summaries do not always supply addresses or accurate NGR references. As such the 'No Archaeological Significance' sites have not always been mapped.

The summaries are numbered in numerical order and full texts are given in the Appendix. However, to analyse the remains they have been ordered and abridged below. For Licence numbers on maps see Fig 10.

#### **AREA 1: THE MEDIEVAL TOWN (Fig 9)**

Ratoath was an unwallled medieval town. Nevertheless the boundary to the town would have been marked – probably with a bank and ditch boundary. Current thinking places the town boundaries in a broad west-to east band flanking the Dunshaughlin

Road and Main Street. The medieval town probably consisted of wooden houses along the street frontages, each one often set with the gable end facing the street and the long side aligned with a long garden. Any building remains would be disturbed by subsequent rebuilds along the road frontage, although rubbish pits, soakaways and cesspits often survive. The garden was generally used for growing vegetables, keeping animals and sheds could be used for small-scale industries. The garden area forms a 'dark earth' or 'garden soil' that is usually extremely mixed through re-digging and homogenous. The boundaries to these properties and gardens tend to remain roughly fixed over many centuries. Occasionally property boundaries and buildings are made of stone or have stone foundations and yard surfaces tend to be a thin skim of gravel. Well-used roads, stable yard or slaughterhouse areas tend to have proper laid surfaces and drains.

The focus for the medieval town was the motte and this was set within its outer bailey. From assessing the Ratoath street pattern, the bailey appears to be roughly square. The motte mound would have a large, defensive ditch encircling its base and the bailey would also have a surrounding ditch. It is possible that the bailey formed a nodal point to the local Ratoath road network.

The typical layout for a medieval town at a motte would be to have a church site at some distance from the Motte (see also Carlanstown–Kilbeg, Co Meath or Moatquarter Co Offaly). The distance was required because the church was connected to a graveyard and burial grounds were typically outside medieval urban areas. It was also to ensure no defendable buildings were within close proximity to the military motte. A medieval church was located in the area of the present Church of Ireland church (as seen by a medieval stone effigy) and such a church site would typically be surrounded by a precinct wall. It could also have associated buildings such as a gatehouse. The Church of Ireland site could also be the location of the Abbey to St Mary Magdalene referred to by Lewis.

## **8 2001:1042**

### **Service trenches on the Kentstown Road from Curragha Road junction to Main Street**

#### **01E1173**

Drift geology consisted of a dark, wet, grey natural clay. This was overlain by a dark brown natural clay: probably the upper surface of a weathered 'natural' post-glacial deposit. Along the length of the service trench along Kentstown Road, which was laid out c. 1795, this brown clay was cut by:

- Ditch 1 was oriented east-west, 0.60m deep by 1.5m wide. A gravel deposit, perhaps road make-up, had slumped into the fill. No Finds were recovered, but the layer above contained 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese-pattern pottery and some broken tile/brick material.' The ditch is interpreted as the 'Town Boundary Ditch' that defined the northern end of the medieval borough along the Kentstown Road. The blue clay fill implies a probable waterlian deposit and therefore Ditch 1 may be a drainage ditch doubling as a boundary.
- Ditch 2 was a 0.4m deep (max.) and 1.3m wide. It was filled with a dark grey/blue compact clay layer. Finds from the fill consisted of post-medieval

pottery and butchered animal bone. The blue clay implies a probable waterlian deposit and therefore Ditch 2 may be a drainage ditch doubling as a boundary

- Ditch 3 was a large ditch up to 3.4m wide and oriented north to south. It ran across the road and continued towards the church and cemetery. Probably a property boundary.

Above the brown clay and the ditches was a lens of gravel 1.5m long and up to 0.2m deep in the area of Ditch 1. This was perhaps consolidation for slumping or a precursor for the 1795 Kentstown (Rathfeigh) road. Also in the area of Ditch 1 was an additional refuse layer of a dark grey deposit 0.2–0.25m thick, that contained stones, organic material, animal bone, twigs and post-medieval pottery. This could represent refuse dumped in the area of the town boundary. This layer and the brown ‘weathered’ natural was in general sealed by a grey soil layer containing post-medieval to late 18<sup>th</sup> century finds. This could be a typical ‘dark earth’ or ‘garden soil’ and is probably directly associated with buildings, digging / agriculture, animal activity, dumping and various other town/garden activities all churned together. A similar layer of similar date occurs in Athboy. This layer (in both Ratoath and Athboy) is overlain by the present road formation material.

Located in the Kentstown Road were the remains of a stone-built cellar or cistern, probably of 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date. Three courses of stone were identified in the service trench, forming a corner to a structure of unknown dimensions. There was a well-laid lime mortar floor and the walls were sealed with clay. The lower fills appeared to be waterlain, but a mortar floor would normally imply it was intended to be dry. The stated interpretation is, however, a possible cistern. The structure was sealed by the upper ‘dark earth’ c.18<sup>th</sup> century garden layer and then the 1795 Kentstown Road. The structure possibly represents a late medieval cellar (which could be any size or shape), and, because it lay close to the medieval church and could even represent the cellar to a gatehouse to the church precinct.

Near to the junction between the Kentstown Road and Main Street some cobbled surfaces showed open areas with nearby slate-roofed houses. This represents 17<sup>th</sup> century Ratoath as seen on the Down Survey mapping.

- Road 1 was uncovered c. 1m down. It was oriented east to west with an open, roadside drain. The laneway was set firmly into the brown natural clay. The drain consisted of large uncut stones placed in a single line to a height of three courses and bonded in clay. The drain was 0.3m deep at the western end, draining to the east. The laneway surface produced late medieval pottery and a metal knife blade.
- Road 2 was an area of rough cobbling uncovered 0.9m below the modern surface and partially overlying Road 1. The cobbles ran for approximately 4m and appeared to be set directly into the brown natural clay underneath. Broken slate fragments were found worked into the surface, as were animal bones. The pottery recovered appears to give a 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. This seems to be a repair to the Road 1 above and shows continued use of the open area or Roadway. The laneway seen by Road 1 and Road 2 may have been in use for several centuries until the 17<sup>th</sup> century or so.

- Wall 1 was an 18th/19th-century wall foundation. It was a clay-bonded wall foundation that ran beside the modern graveyard wall. It is likely that the wall was constructed in association with the 1795 Kentstown Road.

The majority of the finds from these works date to the late 18th century and come from the mixed garden soil or dark earth deposit that preceded the present Kentstown Road. The pottery assemblage is largely composed of 18th-century wares, mostly English imports. But there were also several residual sherds dating to the medieval period, including Leinster ware and a sherd from Chester. A considerable quantity of butchered animal bone was recovered, along with some clay tobacco pipe fragments, glass and modern floor tiles. All this is typical for 'back plot' garden activities and the various ditches show property boundaries and drainage of the heavy clay soils.

## **16 2002:1516**

### **Service trenches on Main Street and Kentstown Road**

#### **02E1563**

Service trenches were excavated to 0.4–1.2m below the modern ground level. Work extended north along Main Street and along the Kentstown Road on either side of the junction. Work also took place along a pathway close to the river and to the rear (east) of the motte.

Extensive modern disturbance was evident in most trenches, including earlier services, pits and gullies, and rubble spreads. The construction of the modern road surface on Main Street appeared to have largely removed evidence of earlier activity. Nonetheless, several cut features of medieval date were exposed.

A cesspit revealed on Main Street was excavated to a depth of 2m, at which point a sherd of Leinster cooking ware was recovered and the pit became waterlogged. A cesspit or rubbish pit would have been in association with a building and therefore forms part of medieval Ratoath town on the eastern side of the motte.

Two further medieval features were exposed beside the northern boundary wall of the Roman Catholic Church. The first was a U-shaped gully or shallow pit, 1.15m wide and 0.19m deep, which contained a single sherd of medieval green-glazed local ware. The second feature was a spread of clay or possible ditch fill, 4.4m wide that contained two sherds of Leinster cooking ware. This layer/fill was exposed in plan only, as groundworks did not extend beyond that depth.

## **20 2002:1520**

### **Medieval ditch on the western side of the motte**

#### **02E1101**

On the western side of the medieval motte, to the south of Main Street, a ditch at least 6m wide had a base c. 2m below present ground level. The bottom fill was gritty, dark grey clay. This was overlain by a soft, grey, silty material that varied in depth from 1m (in Trench 1) to 0.6m (in Trench 2). Some medieval pottery was recovered from the ditch fills. Three sections of this ditch were exposed and this ditch presumably represents the outer bailey for the adjacent motte. The motte on mapping shows an inner ring and an outer bailey, which the RMP records as rectangular in shape and



visible to the south-east of the motte. The present Main Street probably reflects the outer bailey ditch.

A smaller medieval ditch lay at right angles to the large ditch and was overlain by grey garden soil 0.7–1m deep. This ditch was narrower and shallower, but it also produced a small number of medieval pottery sherds.

## **12 2001:1046**

### **Medieval ditches on Main Street**

#### **01E0248**

Test trenching revealed a series of possible medieval ditches and two 19th-century buildings. The ditches were preserved in situ in all but one area—the foundation trench for the proposed development. Excavation of the ditch showed that it had been severely truncated by the construction of the 19th-century buildings as it only survived to a depth of c. 0.3m. The location of these ditches is within the presumed medieval town and they may represent property boundaries or agricultural activity.

## **AREA 2: MEDIEVAL TO POST-MEDIEVAL AGRICULTURE ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF RATHOATH (Fig 9)**

Works in the area of the old Manor House, now the Nursing Home, revealed evidence for medieval to Post-medieval agriculture. The boundary ditches and furrows could either represent gardens associated with properties along Main Street or they could represent tilled strip-fields covered in urban rubbish. This dumping was a practice called manuring, when middens and manure were emptied over the fields to increase fertility.

## **7 2001:1041**

### **Bronze Age activity and medieval to Post-medieval agriculture**

#### **01E0359**

The first phase was a series of burnt spreads, probably truncated burnt mounds and pits. These probably date to the Bronze Age and reflect activity in the vicinity of the Broad Meadow River.

The second phase consisted of shallow boundary ditches that divided the site into strips between 12m and by 3m-wide. These appear to represent boundary ditches or large furrows connected with strip fields of medieval or late medieval date. The third phase was a series of furrows that probably dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval pottery was recovered from the boundary ditches (large furrows) and from topsoil. The final phase showed modern land drains.

## **15 2002:1515**

### **Medieval to Post-medieval agriculture**

#### **02E1454 (follow on from 01E0359)**

Testing to the rear of the Manor House (now the Nursing Home) showed topsoil of a fine, grey/brown, silty clay 0.35–0.45m deep. Towards the Broad Meadow River to

the south, the subsoil dipped dramatically and topsoil depth increased to c. 0.7m. Topsoil overlay a series of ditch-like furrows running generally north-west/south-east. Some of these contained medieval pottery. There were also modern field drains. Numerous fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery were collected across the site. Underlying subsoil was an orange-brown, compact, sandy clay.

### **AREA 3 SETTLEMENT AND BURIAL ON THE NORTH-WESTERN SIDE OF RATOATH (Fig 9)**

Works connected with the Steeplechase Estate revealed a considerable cluster of archaeological remains. These date to the Bronze Age and Early Medieval periods and are not connected with medieval Ratoath.

#### **22 2003:1452**

##### **Steeplechase Estate: General**

##### **03E1300**

Prior to development, the area was used as pasture and was subdivided into fourteen fields. Apart from existing farm buildings and the areas to be retained as open spaces, the entire area of the development was stripped of topsoil.

The general stratigraphy consisted of a mid-brown silty clay topsoil 0.20-0.25m deep with moderate amounts of small stones. This overlay an interface topsoil layer 0.20-0.30m deep of orange/brown sandy clay with moderate to frequent amounts of small to medium stones. The natural subsoil consisted of a mid-orange/brown sandy clay with frequent small to medium stones, decayed limestone and sandstone. 18th or 19th century ridge and furrow was visible below topsoil all across the site. The discovered remains were recorded under separate Areas and Licences (below).

#### **24 2003:1454**

##### **Steeplechase Estate Area 1: Burnt spread**

##### **03E1632**

The spread had been truncated by a modern field boundary, and the remaining spread measured c. 5m east-west by c. 10m. This area is quite marshy and is within a natural depression in the landscape. The spread of burnt stone and charcoal was 10mm-0.20m thick. A small fragment of flint debitage was recovered from the main burnt spread. Three small post-holes underlay the main spread. Four drains had cut through the spread and associated features. A possible trough was identified 4.25m west of the main spread. Some very small shell fragments were recovered from its base. This pit had been cut by three later drains

A thin, isolated spread with charcoal and burnt stone was excavated c. 10m east of the main spread. It was within a natural marshy, peaty hollow in the landscape.

Topsoil finds included sherds of Black Ware, a lead shot or musket ball and a single small piece of burnt bone.

**25 2003:1455**

**Steeplechase Estate Area 2: Two ring-ditches, burnt pits, kilns, possible field system**

**03E1781**

Along the ridge of an east-west crest just north of the R125 Dunshauglin Road was a concentration of archaeology. Probable Late Bronze Age burials were seen by two ring ditches. Ring-ditch 1 was circular, c. 15m in internal diameter. Within the ditch, the fragmentary remains of one cremation were identified. Ring-ditch 2 was located 5.5m north of Ring-Ditch 1, Ring-ditch 2 had an internal diameter of c. 6m and no cremations were identified. No finds were recovered from either ring-ditch.

Ring-ditch 1 was cut by a curving ditch, forming an arc-shape. The terminals of this curving ditch were filled with a substantial amount of medium-sized angular rocks, as well as a large quantity of animal bone, including two boar tusks, two pieces of worked flint and some iron fragments.

**29 2004:1324**

**Steeplechase Estate Area 3: Early medieval ringfort and cemetery**

**03E1781**

Close to the R125 Dunshauglin Road was the western part of a circular, early medieval ringfort-enclosure containing a cemetery. Externally there was a metalworking area.

*Ringfort enclosure*

The enclosure ditch contained several fills and animal bone and two bone pin fragments were recovered. The enclosure had been damaged by a modern foundation trench and field boundaries.

Within the western area of the enclosure, several linear and curvilinear gullies or building slot-trenches, along with pits and spreads were examined. Many of the finds were concentrated along the surface fill of the enclosing ditch and included complete and fragmented bone tools, many associated with weaving, a spindle whorl, fragments of lignite bracelets, a blue glass bead, a fragment of an amber bead, two bone comb fragments, rubbing stones, a penannular brooch and many miscellaneous scraps of metal.

*Burials*

In total, 56 burials were excavated in the south-eastern quadrant of the enclosure. The skeletal remains were in various states of preservation and most were orientated roughly west-east with the head to the west. There were no clearly defined grave-cuts and no evidence for slab-lined graves or coffin nails. There were 46 burials excavated from the surface layer, nine from a second layer and one burial came from a third layer. There were no actual clearly defined layers; it was simply the case in certain areas where one burial was overlying another.

Some unusual burial rites were noted.

- Burial 12 was an adult crouched inhumation, lay on its left side.

- Burial 34 was of an adult in the supine position with the legs tightly flexed on top of the stomach area; a piece of slag was found in the sacrum area.
- Burial 35 was an extended supine adult inhumation with grave goods of a small rectangular metal bar and a small rectangular copper-alloy fragment.
- Burial 38 was an extended supine inhumation with a copper-alloy neck-ring; Burial 38 was radiocarbon dated to AD 580-680 (2 sigma calibration). The neck-ring is a unique artefact in an Irish early medieval context. There are some similarities to arm-rings and neck-rings in Anglo-Saxon burial contexts in England, but none with the ring-and-dot motif and simple interlocking clasp. The closest parallels for this artefact may lie in northern Europe.
- Burial 46 was an extended adult supine inhumation with evidence of ante-mortem injuries to the skull and grave goods of a metal knife blade and a small sub-spherical metal fragment.
- Burial 48 was an extended supine inhumation of a juvenile with associated grave finds of a metal needle and two pieces of slag.

*Areas in the immediate vicinity of the enclosure*

Immediately to the west of the Ringfort enclosure were features that probably formed part of a metalworking area, as a lead ingot and crucible sherd were found. The previous disturbance in this area hampered interpretation.

A large east-west boundary ditch extended out from the enclosure ditch on the south-east side and a substantial amount of 'smithing' slag and a portion of a lignite bracelet were recovered from the fill. South of this boundary and the Ringfort enclosure there was an annexe or enclosed area. Within this area a large charcoal spread, a small keyhole-shaped kiln and an internal ditch were excavated. A large volume of slag was also recovered from this area.

Immediately north of the Ringfort enclosure were several curvilinear features. A large volume of 'smithing' slag was recovered from the fills of two L-shaped ditches in this area.

**32 2004:1327**

**Steeplechase Estate Area 4: Activity**

**04E0218**

Topsoil was 0.2m to 0.9m thick, often including much modern rubbish and four fragments of early modern pottery were recovered. Topsoil overlay a linear band of natural yellow clay, a circular area of burnt clay, a large linear ditch and a circular area of burning. The remaining area showed three post-hole-type features. Subsoil consisted of bands of bright yellow silty clay and some areas within the natural had a higher stone content

**33 2004:1328**

**Steeplechase Estate Area 5: Prehistoric Enclosure Ditch and early medieval field system**

**04E0218**

The large, circular Prehistoric Enclosure Ditch had a diameter of 37m and, on

average, was 1m wide. The cut of this ditch was U-shaped and contained at least seventeen fills. The upper fill contained charcoal and the other fills were predominantly sterile silts (natural weathering fill). An animal skull (horse or cow) was found in the upper fill. Artefacts recovered from the feature include prehistoric pottery (probably Bronze Age) and a stone spindle whorl. Surface finds included worked flint and chert concentrated on the western side of the feature. Inside this large ditch a second, much smaller, circular feature was recorded and this probably represented a circular building. The Prehistoric Enclosure Ditch and associated deposits were excavated during 2005 under licence 05E0017 **Note:** No Summary for this Licence number available

Adjacent to the ring-ditch was an irregular, keyhole-shaped pit (2.2m north-south by 0.45-0.85m by 0.06m). The southern portion of this pit contained a disturbed, probably stone-lined, circular cut (0.4m by 0.45m by 0.15m). Finds included prehistoric pottery (including ?grooved ware), worked flint, bone and fragments of burnt bone. The pottery and bone formed separate groups within the fill, giving the possibility of deliberate deposition.

Other features included pits, keyhole-shaped kilns (probably early medieval in date), scorched (or fire-reddened) deposits and a large ditch. The large ditch (visible for 28.4m) was located 14m west of the Ringfort enclosure (Area 3, 03E1781). This probable field boundary ditch follows the same curvature as the Ringfort enclosure ditch and was probably associated with it. The ditch cut was U-shaped (3.4m wide by 1.4m deep) and it contained four silty clay fills and some slag. Between this feature and the Ringfort was a large, shallow U-shaped pit that contained some animal bone.

## 2.4 NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE EXCAVATIONS

Twenty summaries give limited archaeological information

### 2 1992:154

**Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

Mixed soil from 0.9m to 2.5m to subsoil.

### 3 1997:433

**Curragha Road (r155), Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**97E0365**

Topsoil lay immediately over mottled, stiff clay with a lot of decayed stone. In Trench 2 there was evidence for a lot of modern dumping

### 4 1997:432

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**97E0293**

Boulder clay was visible very close to the surface and rises to the north of the site.

The finds were of modern date.

**5 1998:521**

**Curragha Road, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**98E0360**

Trench 1 exposed a layer of yellow clay within natural boulder clay at its west end; there were no inclusions within the yellow clay to suggest that it had been redeposited. The three other trenches showed drains cut into the natural, dark grey-brown clay with much broken stone.

**6 1998:522**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**98E0296**

The frontage on Main Street was sealed by a concrete slab as a floor for horse stables. Contamination was caused here by a leakage of diesel oil, which mixed with ground water to produce a viscous sludge. This was present in Trenches 1-3; Trench 4 showed natural, brown clay underneath the slab and stone filling. The other trenches further to the north showed evidence of dumping of modern rubbish and of redeposition of boulder clay in Trench 8.

**9 2001:1043**

**Dunshaughlin Road, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**01E0174**

To the north, some 19th-century house demolition rubble was mixed with the loose black clay topsoil. Modern Drains bottomed at approximately 0.5m below the present ground level. Natural subsoil was a mixed grey and yellow boulder clay, sandy in places and with gravel varying in consistency.

**11 2001:1045**

**Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**01E0721**

The area had been extensively disturbed by earlier developments and through use as a garden.

**13 2001:1047**

**Auld Stand Public House, Main Street, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**01E0248 ext.**

Black silty clay was exposed in both trenches to a depth of 0.6–0.7m. The underlying natural subsoil was soft grey sandy boulder clay.

**14 2002:1514**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**02E0316**

The land is currently used for pasture and is very waterlogged with bad drainage. One dark area was tested but was not archaeological.

**17 2002:1517**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**02E1626**

The sod and topsoil were 0.23–1m deep and lay above a layer of mid-brown garden soil containing stone and brick fragments. Although a quantity of modern ceramics, glass and rubbish was identified in some of the trenches, the only find of archaeological significance was a body sherd of North Leinster cooking ware of early medieval date, decorated with two impressed seashells.

**18 2002:1518**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**02E1854**

The sod and topsoil had an average depth of 0.33m and lay directly above the natural clays and gravels. Some post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were recovered from the sod and topsoil.

**21 2002:1521**

**Ratoath Nursing Home, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**02E0722**

Some sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

**23 2003:1453**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**03E1416**

Topsoil consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt c. 0.3-0.45m in depth overlying a yellow/brown stony subsoil of silty clay.

**28 2003:1458**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**03E1851**

Trench 1 had disturbance by drainage trenches and soak holes.

The test-pit showed that the (demolished) 19th-20th C house was built directly on natural clay. Trench 3 showed that the house extensions were constructed immediately on top of natural subsoil.

**30 2004:1325**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**04E0172**

Significant amounts of topsoil and rubbish had been dumped from the adjoining building sites. The topsoil / redeposited topsoil overlay layers of dark silty material,

varying in depth, colour and stoniness.

**34 2004:1329**

**Fox Lodge Manor, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**04E1231**

Modern pottery fragments occurred in the topsoil, but also a flint flake, a broken flint blade and a body sherd of local glazed medieval pottery.

**35 2004:1330**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**02E1101 ext.**

Topsoil varied 0.3m - 0.5m. It overlay natural brown boulder clay that contained loose stones. In the area of Block B, the topsoil was dark-grey and silty 0.6-0.8m deep. The natural subsoil was stiff grey/brown boulder clay with loose stones. Excavation of the Block B footings produced evidence for poor drainage in this part of the site. Deposits of grey silt were present throughout, but they were amorphous and could not be interpreted as ditches.

**36 2004:1331**

**Main Street , Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**Unlicensed monitoring**

The foundation trenches were cut through subsoil of a sticky brown clay that contained loose and decayed stone.

**38 2005:1237**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**05E0460.**

One sherd of 13th-century green-glazed pottery was recovered.

**42 2007:1382**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

**07E0173**

A huge quantity of building rubble had been dumped on the site creating a very steep slope, up to 5m deep. The rubble derived from the demolished Moatlands development, built in the mid-1990s. It was not possible to bottom the five test-trenches.

**Eleven Summaries give no useful archaeological or works information**

**1 1991:108**

**Ratoath**

**No archaeological significance**

No Licence number

**6a 2000:0776: SAME AS 2001:1040**

**Ratoath**



No archaeological significance  
00E0923

**6b 2001:1040**

**Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
00E0923

**10 2001:1044**

**Dunshaughlin Road, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
01E0275

**19 2002:1519**

**Dunshaughlin Road, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
02E1446

**26 2003:1456**

**Dunshaughlin Road, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
03E1898

**27 2003:1457**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
03E0773

**31 2004:1326**

**Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
04E0181

**37 2004:1332**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
03E1851

**39 2005:1238**

**Curragha Road, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
04E1077

**40 2006:1629**

**Main Street, Ratoath**

No archaeological significance  
05E1368

**41 2007:1381**

**RATOATH**

No archaeological significance

06E0915.

## 2.4 Map regression

The Down Survey mapping for Ratoath Parish, Ratoath Barony and County Meath (Figs 10-15) give a very good impression of the town in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Ratoath town lay mainly on the east-to-west R125 road with the town laid out in regular ‘shots’ or property boundaries to the east of the motte. The motte is noted as ‘A Mount’ with a tree on it on the Parish Map (Fig 12). The Church (now Church of Ireland) is marked a significant distance north of the motte. As the Down Survey is typically accurate regarding building locations, the 17<sup>th</sup> century or medieval church may lie slightly north of the present church. A sketch of Ratoath for the Down Survey shows the town, church and motte (Fig 11 inset).

On the western side of Ratoath the Down Survey Barony (Fig 12) and Parish (Fig 13) maps both show a walled enclosure containing buildings and a large house. Walled enclosures such as this occur on other Down Survey maps and they usually contain an labelled Church. Three symbols on the Ratoath Parish map could show multiple buildings or even a building and a cemetery (perhaps seen by headstones). This could potentially be the remains of the St Mary Magdalene Abbey mentioned by Lewis. The area where this is marked on the Down Survey is overlooking the Mill marked on the Broad Meadow River and there could be a connection between the two sites. The walled enclosure could also be a medieval moated manor house. The large house marked to the east of the walled enclosure is a normal symbol for a tower house or chief house for a townland. When the Woodlands housing estate was constructed in this area between 1995 and 2000 there does not appear to have been any archaeological involvement and no archaeological remains were identified.

The Down Survey mapping also shows several roads running to Ratoath. These are the roads west to Dunshaughlin, south to Dunboyne, east to Swords (as seen by Moulden Bridge) and the road north-east to Skryne are all indicated. A further road to Curragha, a precursor of the present R155, could have run north past the church of Ireland church. An overlay of all the Down Survey features on the 1837 OS shows their potential locations, Figs 13B-C.

The 1777-85 Taylor & Skinner Map 44 detail (Fig 14) shows Ratoath before the present Skryne and Curragha Roads were built. Originally the Curragha Road passed up Glebe Lane and to the east of the church. The Skryne Road may have been some sort of trackway along present Well Road. The map also shows a road heading to the south in the area directly east of the Ratoath Motte. This could be a road that crossed the Broad Meadow River at or near to present Bridge 3.

The 1817 Larkin Map (Fig 15) shows Ratoath with a similar layout to the 1837 OS. The Broad Meadow River crossing at or near to Bridge 3 is shown.

The 1837 Ordnance Survey shows Ratoath centring on the motte (Fig 16). The town is divided into two parts: that to the east is on one grid of property boundaries, and the

part to the west is on a slightly different grid. The eastern half was probably the medieval town as illustrated on the Down survey and the western probably represents 18<sup>th</sup> century expansion. The Down survey marks a large house to the north-west of the motte and this could represent a tavern or inn near the R155-R125 junction.

The 1837 OS also shows a track leading south from the Motte, across the Broad Meadow River via some stepping stones. In this location is the previous Roman Catholic chapel. It is possible to perhaps trace the outline of the bailey that once surrounded the medieval motte in the street pattern and maybe connect in the associated roads. The Police Barracks and the School mentioned by Lewis (above), and the Corn Mill, are marked on the Fairyhouse Road.

The 1837 OS shows a Cross located at the R150-R125 junction, in the middle of a triangular open area that probably was a market place. The 1913 and present maps and aerial image (Figs 17-19) initially show Ratoath as little changed, but this was all to change. In the 1996 census the population was 1,061; in the 2006 census, it was 7,249 and by 2011 the population had reached 9,043.

It is quite noticeable that there is still much green space in the centre of Ratoath and along the Broad Meadow River, which is in a fairly steep, wooded valley. Buildings are heavily concentrated along the street frontages. This is a feature of the town going back to the medieval period and repeated building in the same locations and the associated disturbances helps explain the relative lack of archaeological remains that have been found in the town. Where archaeological remains have been found they have been located in the present street area or on previously undeveloped land.

## **2.5 Detail discussion of the areas of the proposed works through map regression**

Figs 20-23: These show the area of the R125-R155 junction and the motte in the centre of Ratoath. Please see figures for discussion points.

Fig 24: This shows the 1837 OS to the W of Ratoath in the lowland – wetland area that was a Lough and or mill pond on the 1650s Down Survey.

Figs 25-28: These show the Broad Meadow River valley to the east of the R155 and the area of the present Meadowbank Estate

Figs 29-32: These show the Broad Meadow River valley to the south of Ratoath Motte in the middle of the town.

Figs 33-36: These show the Broad Meadow River valley to the east of Ratoath.

### 3 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

There are 12 Buildings or structures recorded on the National inventory of Architectural Heritage for Ratoath (Fig 5). These consist of the two churches, eight buildings, a hand pump and the Marian grotto. Of these, 10 are listed on the Meath Record of Protected Structures (Fox Lodge and the partly demolished building on Fairyhouse Road are not on the Meath RPS), Fig 6.

#### **Fox Lodge, Ratoath, County Meath**

14336001



Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1800. Hipped artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Roughcast rendered walls. Tooled limestone block-and-start surrounds and sills to window openings.

Meath RPS number: NONE

#### **The Manor House (former), Ratoath, County Meath**

14336002



Detached seven-bay two-storey former house, built c.1780, with two-bay full-height bow to rear elevation. Now in use as a nursing home. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods.

Meath RPS number: MH044:310

#### **Ratoath, County Meath**

14336003



Cast-iron water pump, c.1870, with foundry mark, banded shaft, fluted neck, cap and spout, and curved pumping handle.

Meath RPS number: MH044:308

#### **Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Ratoath, County Meath**

14336006



Detached church, commenced c.1820, remodelled and rebuilt c.1868 and c.1874. Comprising five-bay side elevations to the nave, with gabled entrance front c.1868 to the east, single-bay chancel to the west and vestry to the south, c.1874.

Meath RPS number: MH044:305

**Holy Trinity Parochial House, Ratoath, County Meath** 14336007



Detached three-bay two-storey parochial house, built c.1869. Hipped slate roof with ridge cresting and red brick chimneystacks. Roughcast rendered walls with red brick string courses.

Meath RPS number: MH044:303

**Holy Trinity Parochial House, Ratoath, County Meath** 14336008



Detached six-bay two-storey outbuilding, built c.1870. Hipped slate roof. Squared stone walls. Timber sash windows with yellow brick dressings and granite sills. Timber battened doors with yellow brick dressings.

Meath RPS number: MH044:304

**Ratoath, County Meath** 14336009



Freestanding Marian grotto, built c.1955. Comprising of niche with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with canopy above, set against mosaic screen wall, set on mosaic platform and steps, bounded by wrought-iron railings.

Meath RPS number: MH044:306

**Ratoath Glebe House, Ratoath, County Meath** 14336010



Detached five-bay two-storey over basement former rectory, built c.1813, with flat-roofed central porch, now in use as a private house. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Roughcast rendered walls with a limestone plinth course.

Meath RPS number: MH044:309

**Ratoath, County Meath** 14336011



Detached square-profile three-stage castellated and pinnacled Church of Ireland church tower, built c.1817, with the ruins of the church walls to the east. Rubble stone walls with ashlar limestone pinnacles, cappings to castellations and string courses

Meath RPS number: MH044:307

### Ratoath, County Meath

14336012



Detached three-bay two-storey Tudor style house, built c.1890, with gabled breakfront bay to north-west. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Roughcast rendered walls. Ashlar limestone dressing and label mouldings to window openings.

Meath RPS number: MH044:302

### Park House, Ratoath, County Meath

14336013



Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1900, with flat-roofed central porch. Hipped slate roof with red brick chimneystacks. Roughcast rendered walls with a red brick eaves course. Segmental-arched window openings with granite sills.

Meath RPS number: MH044:301

### Ratoath, County Meath

14336014



Detached five-bay single-storey house, built c.1800, with gabled central porch. Hipped corrugated fibre cement roof with a red brick chimneystack. Roughcast rendered walls, rendered to porch.

Meath RPS number: None: partly demolished by 2011 (see below)



Google Image April 2011

#### **4 SITE VISIT**

The site was visited on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The photos are a ,mix of walkover and Google Street View.

The photos are discussed in association with the Discussion Areas in Section 6.1

## 5 Proposed Works (Figs 37-46)

The works drawings are annotated with details. These have been numbered by Drawing number and then a sub-number. These have then been drawn together into discussion areas A, B, C etc.

Reference	DISCUSSION	Comment	Within or adjacent to Notification Zone	Potential archaeological impact
802.1	802A	Existing kerb retained	No	No significant impact
802.2	802A	Existing verge retained	No	No significant impact
802.3	802A	Existing footpath retained	No	No significant impact
802.4	802A	Tie into existing footpath	No	No significant impact
802.5	802A	Upgrade existing bus stop	No	No significant impact
802.6	802A	Proposed raised crossing	No	No significant impact
802.7	802A	Remove existing verge and replace with raised cycle track	No	No significant impact
802.8	802B	Tie into existing footpath	Yes	No significant impact
802.9	802B	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
803.1	803A	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
803.2	803A	Reduce existing junction	Yes	No significant impact
803.3	803A	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
803.4	803A	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
804.1	804A	Proposed pelican crossing	Yes	Potential to reveal market area
804.2	804A	Existing bus bays retained	Yes	No significant impact
804.3	804A	New 2m wide footpath	Yes	Potential to reveal market area
804.4	804B	Upgrade existing bus stop	Yes	Potential to reveal market area
804.5	804B	Upgrade existing junction	Yes	Potential to reveal market area
804.6	804B	Proposed pelican crossing	Yes	Potential to reveal market area



Reference	DISCUSSION	Comment	Within or adjacent to Notification Zone	Potential archaeological impact
804.7	804A	Upgrade existing junction	Yes	Potential to reveal market area
804.8	804F	Replace existing crossing	Yes	No significant impact
804.9	804F	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
804.10	804C	Upgrade existing junction and add raised crossing	Yes	Potential to reveal old roads
804.11	804E	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
804.12	804D	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
805.1	805A	Upgrade existing crossing and add raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
805.2	805B	Upgrade existing junction	No	No significant impact
805.3	805B	Proposed raised crossing	No	No significant impact
805.4	805B	Upgrade existing cycleway	No	No significant impact
805.5	805B	Proposed raised crossing	No	No significant impact
805.6	805B	Upgrade existing junction	No	No significant impact
808.1	808A	Upgrade existing culvert	No	No significant impact
808.2	808A	Upgrade existing junction and add raised crossing	No	No significant impact
808.3	808A	Proposed 2m wide footpath	No	No significant impact
808.4	808A	Narrow existing road	No	No significant impact
808.5	808B	Upgrade existing crossing	Yes	No significant impact
808.6	808B	Upgrade existing junction	Yes	Potential to reveal old roads
808.7	808B	Redesignate existing footpath	Yes	No significant impact
810.1	810A	Proposed raised crossing	Yes	No significant impact
811.1	811A	Proposed crossing	Yes	No significant impact

Reference	DISCUSSION	Comment	Within or adjacent to Notification Zone	Potential archaeological impact
811.2	811A	Proposed shared cycleway + footpath	Yes	No significant impact
811.3	811A	Proposed shared cycleway + footpath	No	No significant impact
811.4	811A	Narrow existing road	No	No significant impact
811.5	811A	retain existing railings	No	No significant impact
811.6	811A	Widen footpath	No	No significant impact
811.7	811A	Retain existing crossing	No	No significant impact
811.8	811A	Proposed raised crossing	No	No significant impact
811.9	811A	Proposed raised crossing	No	No significant impact
811.10	811A	Proposed raised crossing, retain existing bus stop, reduce carriageway width	No	No significant impact
811.11	811A	Amend kerb line, raised crossing	No	No significant impact
813.1a	813A	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Current footpath is 2.25m wide asphalt and kerbed in wood. This is on the line of an old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.1b	813B	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Current footpath is 2.25m wide asphalt and kerbed in wood. This is on the line of an old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.2	813B	Upgrade existing public lighting	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.3	813D	Existing bridge crossing	Yes	Modern concrete bridge
813.4	813C	Proposed stepped access with handrails	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.5	813F	Upgrade existing public lighting	Yes	Area below medieval motte. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.6	813F	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Area below medieval motte. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
813.7	813E	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts

Reference	DISCUSSION	Comment	Within or adjacent to Notification Zone	Potential archaeological impact
813.8	813E	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.1	814A	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.2	814A	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.3	814B	Proposed stepped access with handrails	Yes	Old Mill Race / Footpath. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.4	814C	Existing bridge crossing	Yes	Bridge is dated with a plaque of <i>James Corballis Esq. 1814</i> . Has been strengthened in the past. Presumably associated with Ratoath Manor House. Bridge may need upgrading in character. Plaque needs to be retained. James Corballis <a href="https://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees2/corballis.php">https://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees2/corballis.php</a> . Corballis family name used in <i>Ratoath Corballis Shopping Centre</i>
814.5	814D	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.6	814E	Footpath-cycle link to housing estate	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.7	814E	Proposed 3m wide greenway path	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.8	814E	Footpath-cycle link to housing estate	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.9	814F	Proposed boardwalk structure	Yes	If this is to be piled then there is very little potential for revealing archaeological remains or artefacts. This is a small patch of old beech woodland that is probably estate planting
814.10	814F	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
814.11	814F	Proposed stepped access with handrails	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
815.1	815A	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts
815.2	815A	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Adjacent to river. Potential to reveal medieval artefacts

Reference	DISCUSSION	Comment	Within or adjacent to Notification Zone	Potential archaeological impact
815.3	815B	Existing bridge crossing	Yes	This is a three centre arch and skew bridge leading to now demolished Jamestown House. No bridge is marked here on the 1837 OS so there may previously have been a ford. The skew bridge would be a more 1850s design and this bridge also includes very well cut voussoirs. Bridge currently has very low parapets that are raised by abutting wooden paling fence. May need upgrade in character.
815.4	815C	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Grassed area associated with modern housing estate. No archaeological potential
815.5	815D	Proposed public lighting	Yes	Grassed area associated with modern housing estate. No archaeological potential
815.6	815D	Existing path to be widened (min 2.8m) at pinchpoints and resurfaced where necessary	Yes	Grassed area associated with modern housing estate. No archaeological potential

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 6.1 General discussion (Figs 37-46)

#### **Discussion 802A (Fig 37, Photo 1)**

This road, Sean Eiffe Park, is a modern alignment on a previously green field site. No archaeological impact is predicted.

#### **Discussion 802B (Fig 37, Photo 2)**

This road, Sean Eiffe Park, is a modern alignment on a previously green field site. However, this end of the road is within the Ratoath Historic Town ME044-034 Notification Zone. No archaeological impact is predicted.

#### **Discussion 803A (Fig 38, Photo 3)**

This road is a modern alignment on the general line of the old Ratoath to Dunshaughlin medieval road within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. No archaeological impact is predicted.

#### **Discussion 804A-F (Fig 39)**

All the Discussion areas 804A-F are within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone.

#### **Discussion 804A (Fig 39, Photos 4, 5, 6)**

The east to west Main Street is a modern alignment on the general line of the old Ratoath to Dunshaughlin medieval road. Well Road seems to be a link to the Curragha Road and Skryne Road junction, both of which date to around 1800 and connect to the R155 Fairyhouse Road at this junction. However, this junction has been subject to extensive refurbishment in the recent past.

#### **Discussion 804B (Fig 39, Photos 4, 5, 6)**

The east to west Main Street is a modern alignment on the general line of the old Ratoath to Dunshaughlin medieval road. The 1837 OS shows the 'Market Cross' ME044-034008 in the middle of the junction. This cross was reduced to its base only in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and this base was damaged and removed in the 1920s. The implication is that this R125-R155 junction was a market area in the past. This junction has been subject to extensive refurbishment in the recent past.

The footpath at the R125 junction West side has a 'Replica of the Congressional Cross erected by the people of Ratoath 1993' surrounded by six bollards.

#### **Discussion 804C (Fig 39, Photos 7, 8, 9)**

Main Street here is a medieval junction near to the motte ME044-034001. The road may well be curving around an earlier rampart enclosure defining the medieval settlement. This junction is overlooked by the Protected Structure Marian Grotto ME044-306, which was itself built on the site of a previous 'Weighing Machine', which implies this junction was also a market place in the past. Nearby archaeological monitoring / excavations on the Skryne Road shows considerable archaeological survival in the area. The present Skryne Road was laid out around 1800 (it is not on the 1777-85 Taylor & Skinner *Roads of Ireland*) and the previous 'Drogheda' / Curragha road passed to the east of Ratoath Church down Glebe Lane.

**Discussion 804D (Fig 39, Photos 10, 11)**

The present footpath and lighting is on the line of a track on the 1837 OS. This track curves around the outer boundary that itself encircles the medieval motte ME044-034001 and previously led down to a Roman Catholic Chapel and a crossing point of the Broad Meadow River to the south-west. This might reflect a medieval road and river crossing point.

**Discussion 804E (Fig 39, Photo 13)**

Well Road R155 seems to be a link from the R125 to the Curragha Road and Skryne Road junction, both of which date to around 1800 and connect to the R155 Fairyhouse Road to the south.

**Discussion 804F (Fig 39, Photo 14)**

Main Street here is roughly on the line of a medieval road near to the motte ME044-034001. The road may well be curving around an earlier rampart enclosure defining the medieval settlement.

**Discussion 805A (Fig 40, Photo 15)**

Discussion area 805A is within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone.

The R125 to the east of Ratoath is roughly on the line of a medieval road that is marked on the 1650s Down Survey. It most probably originally passed straight in front of the Ratoath Manor House, now the Silver Springs Nursing Home, but was realigned to curve around to the north sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

**Discussion 805B (Fig 40, Photo 16)**

The R125 to the east of Ratoath is roughly on the line of a medieval road that is marked on the 1650s Down Survey.

**Discussion 808A (Fig 41, Photo 17)**

The R155 Curragha Road in this area was probably laid out around 1800 (at the same time as the Skryne Road).

**Discussion 808B (Fig 41, Photos 18, 19)**

Discussion area 808B is within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone.

The R155 Curragha Road and the Skryne Road in this area were probably laid out around 1800.

**Discussion 810A (Fig 42, Photo 20)**

This section of the R155 Fairyhouse Road shows a distinct curve as the road descends to the south to cross the Broad Meadow River. Whether or not this curve reflects the outer boundary to a large circular enclosure is not known. There is a Smithy marked on the 1913 OS map and this seems to be a retained, but disused building on the road.

**Discussion 811A (Fig 43, Photos 21, 22)**

The very northern end of this section lies within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. The R155 Fairyhouse Road in this location is roughly on the line of an earlier road heading to the south towards Dublin as shown on the 1650s Down Survey. The present road is outside medieval Ratoath and is not indicated on the 1777-85 Taylor & Skinner Map 44 – but that does not mean it was not there. The

R155 is shown on the 1837 OS and adjacent is a school (now rebuilt as Ratoath Junior National School), a Police Station (demolished) and 'The Mill Tree' (demolished) which is probably a coaching inn / public house.

#### **Discussion 813A (Fig 44, Photos 23, 24, 25)**

The very eastern end of this section lies within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. The proposed cycleway is along an existing footpath with existing public lighting: widening the footpath from around 2.20m to 2.80m and upgrading the public lighting. A footpath is marked in this area on the 1913 OS. The footpath in Discussion 813A has a distinct dip and ridge running north to south and this could relate to a previous mill pond lip.

#### **Discussion 813B (Fig 44, Photo 26, 27, 28, 29)**

The existing footpath along this section seems to have been built entirely within an old mill race (Mill Race 1). This might be a tail race falling away from the mills shown on the OS mapping in the area of Tesco's, but it could also relate to an earlier mill. Whatever mill race this relates to, it is earlier than the 1837 OS and the race rejoined the Broad Meadow River a little to the east of the 1837 OS 'Stepping Stones' (see Discussion 813D). Mill Race 1 survives as the southern side of the present footpath only. Here it is formed of an almost vertical terrace cut-bank around 1-1.5m high that supports very old trees, with their roots helping to revet the bank. The northern side of Mill Race 1 does not survive, but the 1913 OS shows a second, separate mill race Mill Race 2 in this area that lies between Mill Race 1 – now occupied by the footpath - and the Broad Meadow River. Mill Race 2 on the 1913 OS rejoins the Broad Meadow River around 80m west of the present Bridge 1 crossing (Discussion 813D) – with the riverside footpath continuing along the older, longer mill race. Mill Race 2 shown on the 1913 OS has since been filled in to rejoin the Broad Meadow River around 60m east of the R155, and the area of the previous mill race is now a vegetated verge zone alongside the Broad Meadow River. Any widening of the present footpath through this area should not interfere with the Mill Race 1 terrace cut-bank on the southern side of the footpath.

#### **Discussion 813C (Fig 44, Photo 30)**

There is a path implied here on the 1837 OS and shown in this general area on the 1913 OS. The present unmade slippy path has eroded any surfacing it once had but probably survives in a roughly similar condition to the original layout. The path and stepping stones seem to cut through the Mill Race 1 tail race but these elements might all be contemporary. In any case the path forms part of an old crossing point of the Broad Meadow River.

#### **Discussion 813D (Fig 44, Photo 30)**

This is an ancient crossing point of the Broad Meadow River. It is approached by two old routeways from the south and two from the north. The crossing point lies directly below Ratoath Motte ME044-034001 and as a crossing point, may well pre-date the motte. Medieval river crossing points usually focus on broad, shallow parts of a river and it is clear that the Broad Meadow River has here been embanked on both sides. The 1837 OS shows a 'Stepping Stones' crossing at this location and by the 1913 OS these have been replaced by a bridge. The present crossing bridge here is a modern concrete replacement to the 1913 OS bridge.

**Discussion 813E (Fig 44, Photo 31)**

The existing footpath here has been constructed alongside the southern side of the Broad Meadow River, at the base of a fairly sharp, wooded slope up to the Meadowbank Hill housing estate. No footpath is marked on previous OS mapping, but some sort of unmade riverside path is likely. The existing footpath is created on an artificial riverside terrace that perhaps encroaches on the previous river bed area.

**Discussion 813F (Fig 44, Photo 12) – See Also Discussion 804D**

The existing footpath here lies on the line of an older path that is shown on the 1837 OS and is probably much older. There were occasional buildings on the southern side of this path in the past and the northern side is defined by the curving outer boundary to the Ratoath Motte. This boundary is not the boundary to the motte itself, but to an area of now wooded, south-facing hillslope between the motte and the River floodplain zone. It is likely this was a boundary to the medieval Ratoath settlement and the present footpath is a routeway running around that settlement. There is considerable security fencing along this boundary today. On the southern side of the present footpath the land seems to show a fine, gently sloping zone adjacent to the river, but also landfill and unmaintained grass and weeds.

**Discussion 814A (Fig 45, Photo 31, 32)**

The existing footpath lies alongside the western side of the current channel of the Broad Meadow River. This section of the Broad Meadow River was realigned to the east in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and both sides were steeply embanked, as seen from OS mapping.

**Discussion 814B (Fig 45, Photo 32)**

The 1913 OS shows a footpath leading to a bridge crossing point (Discussion 814C) in this rough location. There is nothing marked on the 1837 OS. At present there is an unmade, unofficial slippery access through the trees and down the slope from the south, but the area is restricted by several runs of security fencing.

**Discussion 814C (Fig 45, Photo 33, 34)**

This section partly lies within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. There is a single arched masonry bridge ‘Bridge 2’ at this location. The bridge has a plaque stating ‘James Corbellis Esq. Bridge 1814’. The bridge was connected to the grounds of Ratoath Manor House on the eastern side of the Broad Meadow River. The bridge is not shown on the 1837 OS, but it might have been missed. The bridge arch western abutment has been strengthened with concrete and the river approaches have a form of rock armouring on the 1.5m high riverbank – western side. This armouring seems to imply there was a riverside road on this western side of the Broad Meadow River at that time. The parapets are 0.8-1.0m high with a cow-and-calf coping. The parapets show numerous, extensive repairs and variations in form and have probably been almost-completely rebuilt fairly recently.

**Discussion 814D (Fig 45, Photos 34, 35, 36)**

This section lies within the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. There is only a narrow, grassed, unmade casual walking path along this area. The 1837 OS shows this area as the formal gardens to Ratoath Manor. These gardens are not marked in this area on the 1913 OS. Today the area is rank grass, weeds and occasional trees. The ground surface appears to be rutted as if run over by machines during nearby housing



estate construction. There could even have been dumping of spare soils in this area at that time as well.

**Discussion 814E (Fig 45, Photo 37)**

This section lies outside the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. There is only a narrow, grassed, unmade casual walking path along this area. The 1837 and 1913 OS shows this area as part of the demesne estate to Ratoath Manor. There is some formal landscape planting but this has all since been cleared along the River. The new housing estate of 'The Village Green' showed evidence for cultivation ridges during its construction, confirming this as an area of fields. The ground surface appears to be rutted as if run over by machines during nearby housing estate construction. There could even have been dumping of spare soils in this area at that time as well.

**Discussion 814F (Fig 45, Photo 35, 36, 37, 38, 42)**

This area of old beech woodland has no formal path through it at present, but there is a casual, unmade walking route. This is probably along the line of an earlier trackway. This area is shown as woodland on the 1837 and 1913 OS mapping. At the south-eastern end a Lime Kiln is marked on the 1837 OS and there seems to be a hollow that might be a quarry in this area as well. Roughly in the middle of this area there is a 'stepping stones' crossing of the Broad Meadow River (some of the stones appear to be very large), but how old this is, is not known.

**Discussion 815A (Fig 46, Photo 39)**

This section lies outside the Ratoath Historic Town Notification Zone. There is only a narrow, grassed, unmade casual walking path along this area. The 1837 and 1913 OS shows this area as part of the demesne estate to Ratoath Manor. There is some formal landscape planting but this has all since been cleared along the River. The new housing estate of 'The Village Green' showed evidence for cultivation ridges during its construction, confirming this as an area of fields. The ground surface appears to be rutted as if run over by machines during nearby housing estate construction. There could even have been dumping of spare soils in this area at that time as well.

**Discussion 815B (Fig 46, Photos 40, 41)**

The main element here is a single arched, masonry bridge over the Broad Meadow River. The bridge (Bridge 3) appears to have a three-centre arch (similar to the bridges over the Boyne Navigation) with well cut voussoirs and rusticated abutment quoins. The bridge is slightly skewed NE-SW and has very low parapets with a cow-and-calf soldier course. A modern wooden paling fence on iron supports has been built to raise the parapet heights and there is a concrete bollard at the northern end to prevent vehicle traffic crossing. There is no bridge shown here on the 1837 OS but one is shown on the 1913 OS, leading to Jamestown House (demolished) to the south. The 1913 OS shows a previous fording point on the Broad Meadow River approximately 60m to the east and there may well have been a previous ford in the area of the present Bridge 3. The crossing point is shown as a townland boundary on the 1837 OS, but this boundary is moved eastwards when the Bridge 3 was built (or the 1837 is slightly inaccurate at this point). The present riverbanks have clearly been raised and formalised since the 1913 OS, but there is perhaps some rock armouring of the southern bank of the river channel that is probably older. The southern river bank is a quasi-vertical 'build' that perhaps reflects the location of a riverside road here.

**Discussion 815C (Fig 46, Photos 42, 43)**

The proposed cycleway-footpath is due to run along an existing paved footpath associated with the Jamestown Park housing estate landscaping alongside the Broad Meadow River. This landscaped area seems to be built up on modern soils and is separated from the river by a large hedge. Previously, an old road lead down to the River and a fording point on the 1913 OS and possibly this area is a much earlier fording point.

**Discussion 815D (Fig 46, Photo 44)**

The proposed cycleway-footpath is due to run along an existing paved footpath associated with the Jamestown Park housing estate landscaping alongside the Broad Meadow River. This landscaped area seems to be built up on modern soils and is separated from the river by a large hedge.

**6.1 Impacts**

Many locations in this project are within the Ratoath Historic Town ME044-034 archaeological Zone of Notification and as such will require Notification to the National Monuments Service at least two month in advance of any works so that they can give an opinion on any required or proposed archaeological response. In general the proposed works will be limited to the present street / footpath surfaces and landscaping so there is only a small potential for uncovering archaeological deposits, features or stray finds. However, if there is associated drainage, cable ducting and digging out of soft spots, the works may descend into archaeological levels more connected with medieval Ratoath. Should such works occur, the results are likely to be more connected with old street surfaces, market areas and their previous drainage arrangements than buildings / settlements or graveyards. The two Bridges, Bridge 2 and Bridge 3 should be treated sympathetically regarding any upgrading for use as a cycleway/formal footpath and the Corbellis plaque on Bridge 2 should be retained and cleaned.

**Discussion 802A**

No archaeological impact is predicted.

**Discussion 802B**

No archaeological impact is predicted.

**Discussion 803A**

No archaeological impact is predicted.

**Discussion 804A**

No archaeological impact is predicted.

**Discussion 804B**

The footpath at the R125 junction West side has a 'Replica of the Congressional Cross erected by the people of Ratoath 1993' surrounded by six bollards. This arrangement needs to be retained or removed and reset. Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items

associated with medieval Ratoath: particularly the now-removed market Cross ME044-034008.

**Discussion 804C**

Any additional street furniture in front of the Protected Structure Grotto should be kept to a minimum and designed so as not to detract from the setting. Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 804D**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 804E**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 804F**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 805A**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 805B**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 808A**

No archaeological impact is predicted.

**Discussion 808B**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 810A**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 811A**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is mostly concerned with the very northern end.

**Discussion 813A**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous mill races.

**Discussion 813B**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous mill races. The present vertical bank of the riverside footpath is probably part of a mill race that pre-dates the 1837 OS and should be retained. The trees associated with this mill race bank may require crown trimming in the future, but the trees should not be felled without thought as to how their root systems are holding the mill race bank together. This mill race is an historic feature of the town of Ratoath and could be promoted with additional information.

**Discussion 813C**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 813D**

The present modern bridge here (Bridge 1) has very low parapets and may require upgrading. If the bridge is due to be completely replaced then any associated groundworks have the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous mill races or River crossing points.

**Discussion 813E**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous road surfaces.

**Discussion 813F – See Also Discussion 804D**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This path is quite close to medieval motte ME044-034001 and perhaps a boundary to the medieval settlement of Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous mill races.

**Discussion 814A**

The present river along this section is in a channel dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present footpath is on the line of the original infilled channel. Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous road surfaces.

**Discussion 814B**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath.

**Discussion 814C**

This crossing is the location of Bridge 2, a plaque-dated bridge referring to local man James Corbellis (Corballis) of Ratoath Manor (now the Silver Springs nursing home). Any upgrading of this bridge should be done sympathetically.

**Discussion 814D**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River. However, the area has perhaps been affected by nearby housing construction.

**Discussion 814E**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River. However, the area has perhaps been affected by nearby housing construction.

**Discussion 814F**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River and may also show evidence for previous road surfaces, quarrying and perhaps lime kilns.

**Discussion 815A**

Depending on any associated groundworks, this area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains or items associated with medieval Ratoath. This is an area of riverside that may contain dumped, dredged material from the River. However, the area has perhaps been affected by nearby housing construction.

**Discussion 815B**

This crossing is the location of Bridge 3, a well built, perhaps mid-19<sup>th</sup> century skew bridge probably associated with demolished Jamestown House. Any upgrading of this bridge should be done sympathetically.

**Discussion 815C**

This area of landscaped housing estate has very little potential for revealing any archaeological remains.

**Discussion 815D**

This area of landscaped housing estate has very little potential for revealing any archaeological remains.

**6.2 Conclusions**

The construction works should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring and metal detecting of spoil. These works should be followed by a full archaeological report submitted to the National Monuments Service.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Patrick Shore, Executive Engineer, Meath County Council

## 8 REFERENCES

### Electronic Sources

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2009.

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – National Monuments Service website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs.

[www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie) – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs (1995, 2000 & 2005) and historic OS mapping (first edition 6” and 25”). <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>

<http://www.logainm.ie/> - Placename index

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/> -National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

<http://countydevelopmentplan.meath.ie/adoptedplan/> - Meath County Council 2013, Meath County Council County Development Plan 2013-2019

Environment Protection Agency website

<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php> Down Survey mapping

[http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS\\_ID=LCN14679989\\_001](http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=LCN14679989_001)  
Taylor & Skinner 1777-85 Maps of the Roads of Ireland

Google Maps

Bing Maps

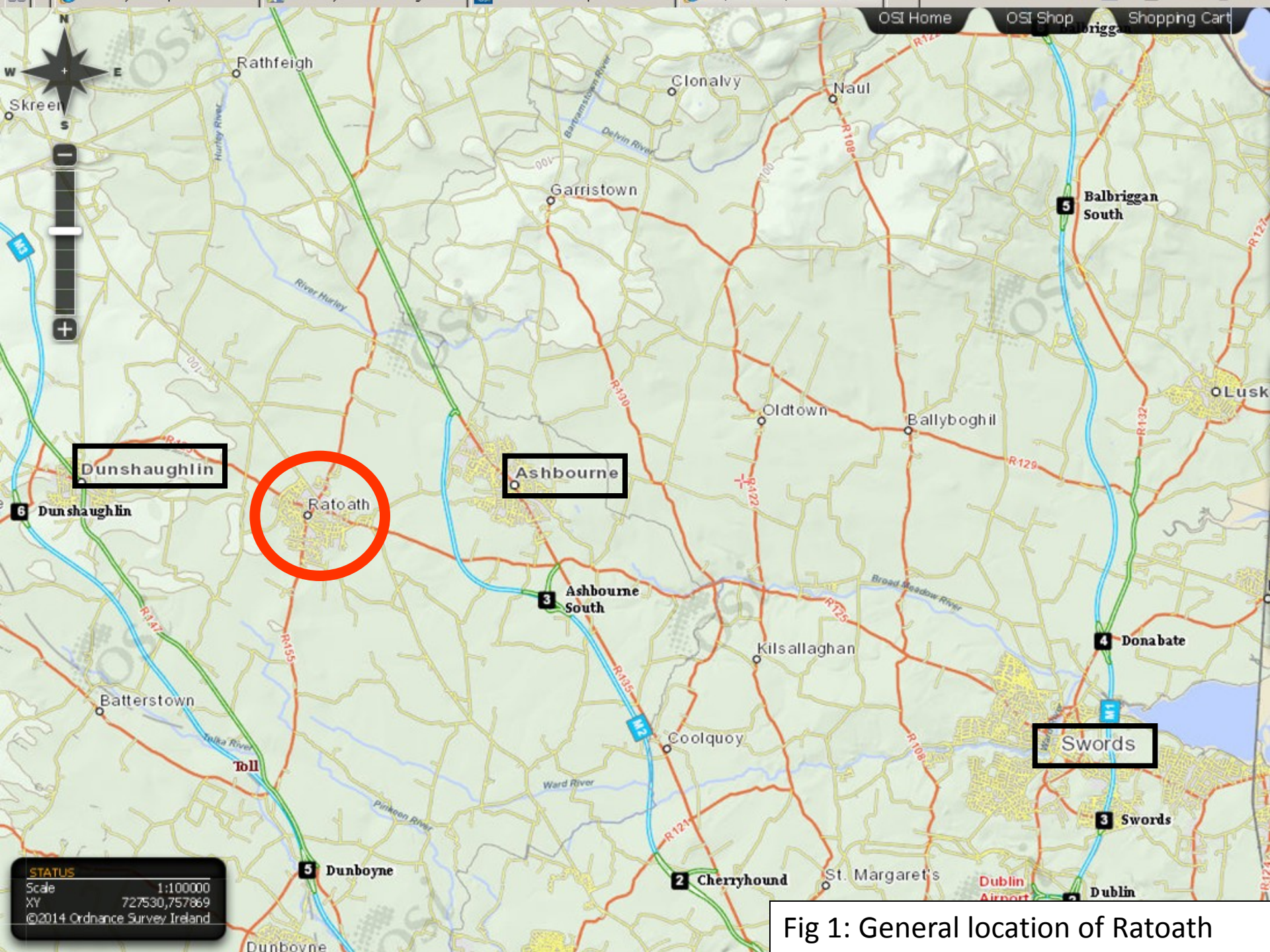


Fig 1: General location of Ratoath



Fig 2: Layout of Ratoath and road network





Fig 3: General location of potential central Ratoath works

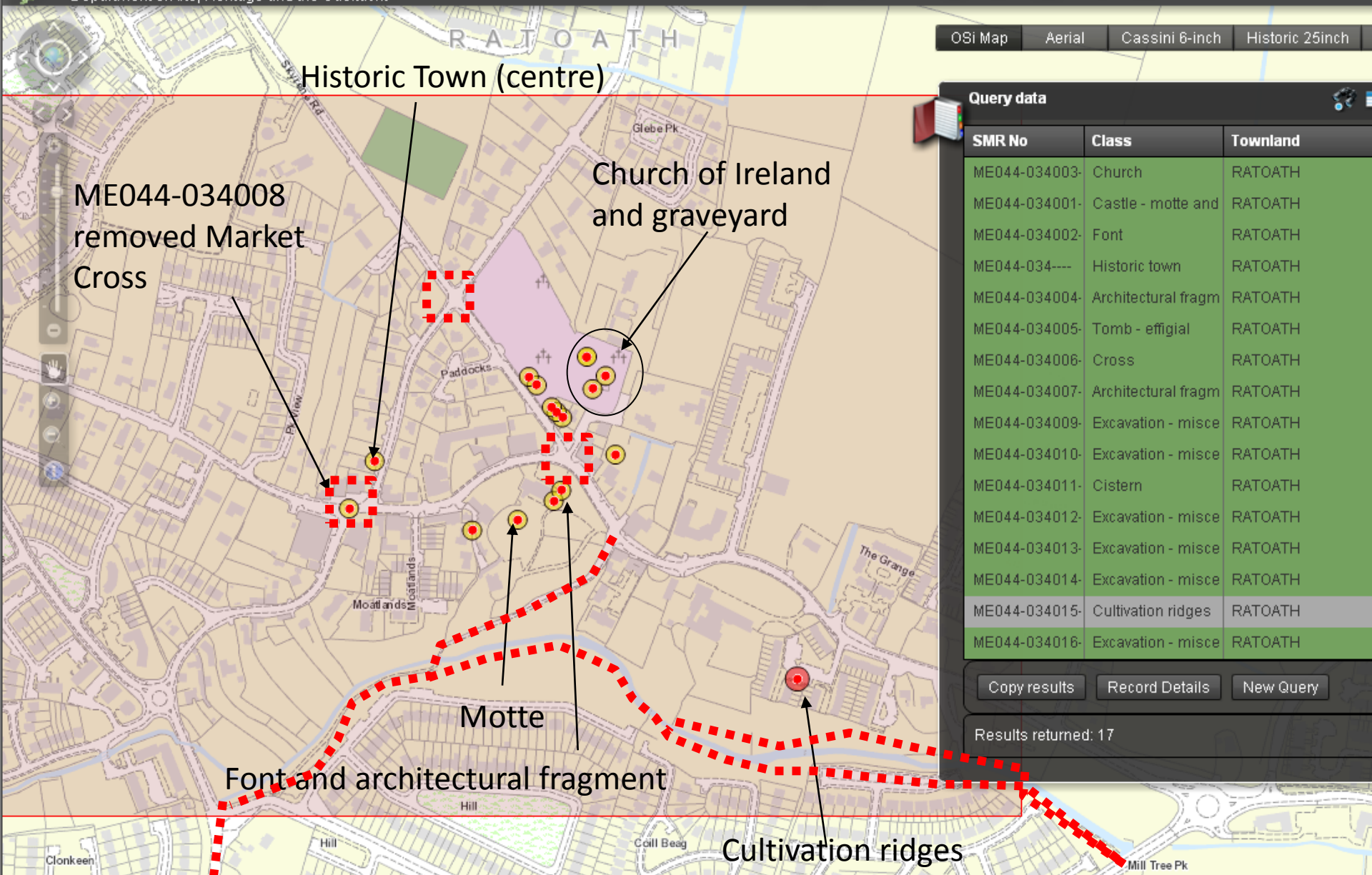
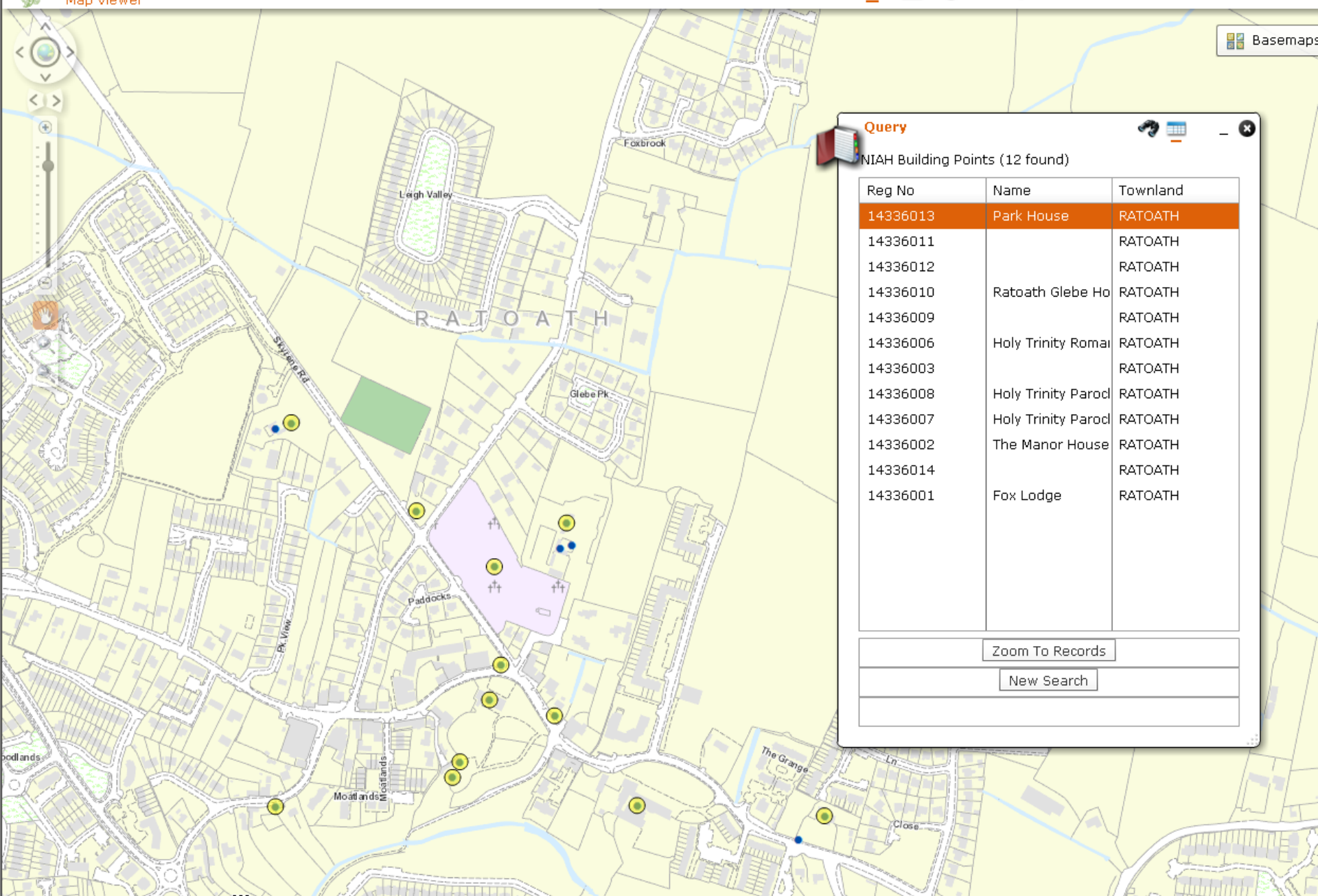


Fig 4: Summary of recorded sites in Ratoath in relation to proposed works (dotted line)



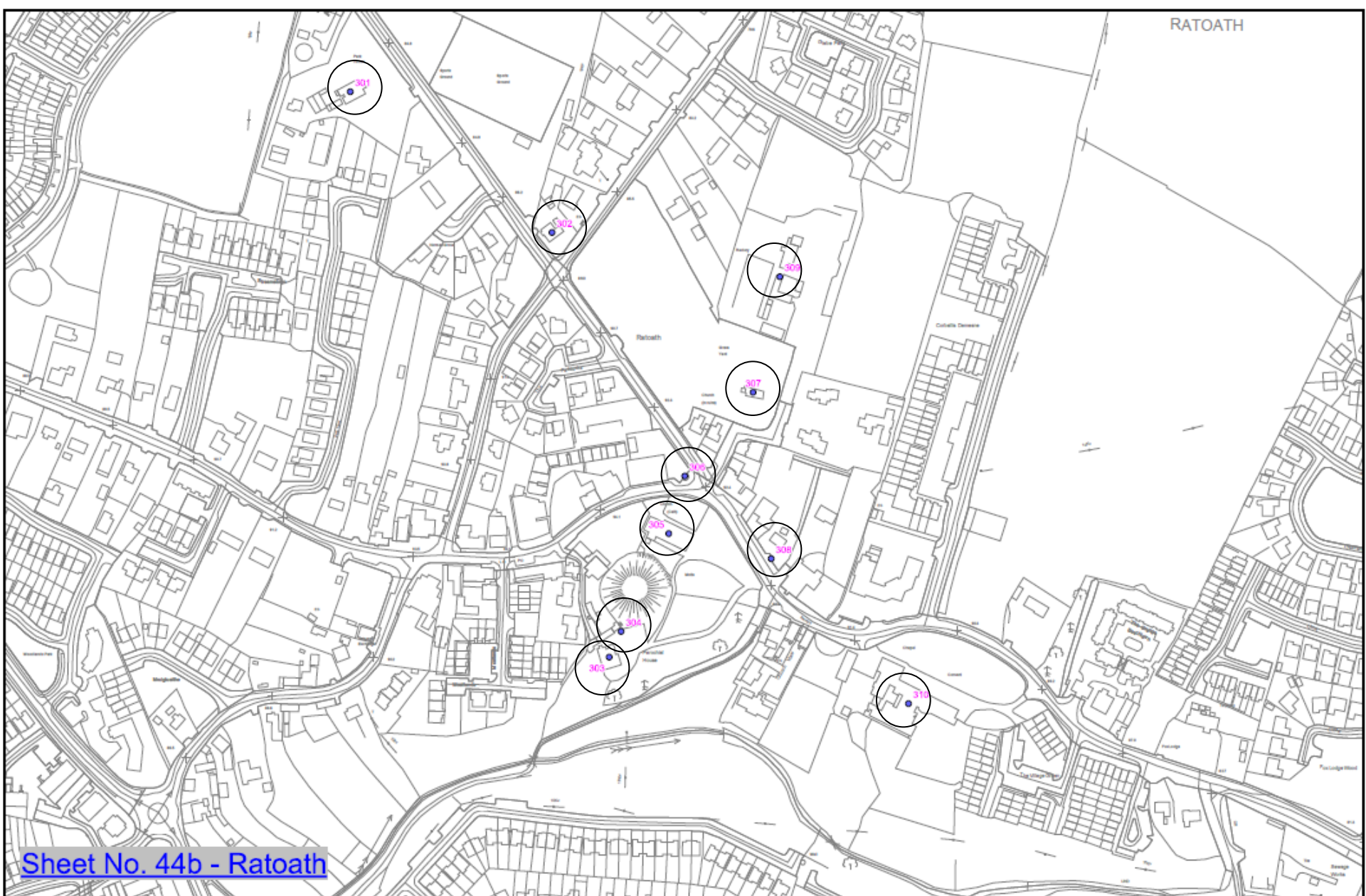
**Query** NIAH Building Points (12 found)

Reg No	Name	Townland
14336013	Park House	RATOATH
14336011		RATOATH
14336012		RATOATH
14336010	Ratoath Glebe Ho	RATOATH
14336009		RATOATH
14336006	Holy Trinity Roma	RATOATH
14336003		RATOATH
14336008	Holy Trinity Parod	RATOATH
14336007	Holy Trinity Parod	RATOATH
14336002	The Manor House	RATOATH
14336014		RATOATH
14336001	Fox Lodge	RATOATH

Zoom To Records

New Search

Fig 5: NIAH summary for Ratoath



Sheet No. 44b - Ratoath



 <p>comhairle chontae na mí meath county council Planning Department, Meath County Council, Abbey Mall, Abbey Road, Navan, County Meath.</p>	<p><small>Note: Details shown on this map is for information purposes only. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Meath County Council. This map has been produced by Meath County Council with available Local Authority and Ordnance Survey base data.</small></p> <p>© Ordnance Survey (reland) &amp; Government of Ireland, Meath 30/05/2018 NOTE: UNAUTHORISED REPRODUCTION OF THIS MAP IS PROHIBITED AND IS ILLEGAL.</p>	 <p><b>No. 44b</b></p>	<p><b>MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL</b> MAPPING O.S. Sheet No. 44b Record of Protected Structures</p>	<p><small>Mapinfo File: C:\meath\meath\County Plan 2013\Mapinfo RPS Sheet 44b.mxd</small></p> <p><b>Scale - N.T.S.</b> Drawn By: S.K. GIS Technician</p>	<p><b>COUNTY PLAN 2013 - 2019</b> Record of Protected Structures ● Protected Structures</p>	<p><b>ADOPTED</b></p> <p>Date: 17th Dec 2012</p>	<p>Tel: (046) 9087000 Fax: (046) 9087001 e-mail: forwardplanning@meathcoco.ie web: http://countydevelopmentplan.meath.ie</p>
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

Fig 6: Meath RPS Map sheet 44b for Ratoath

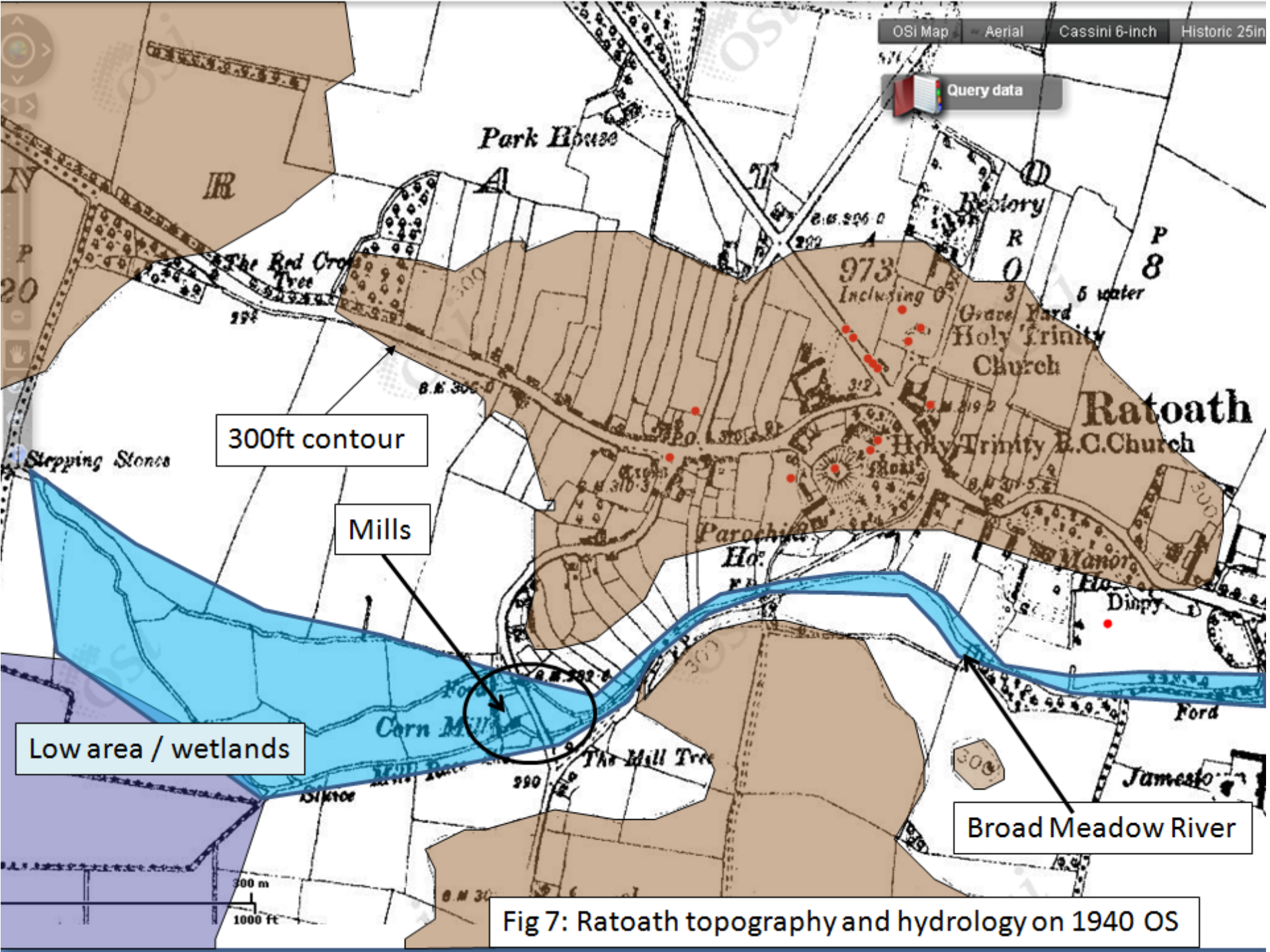
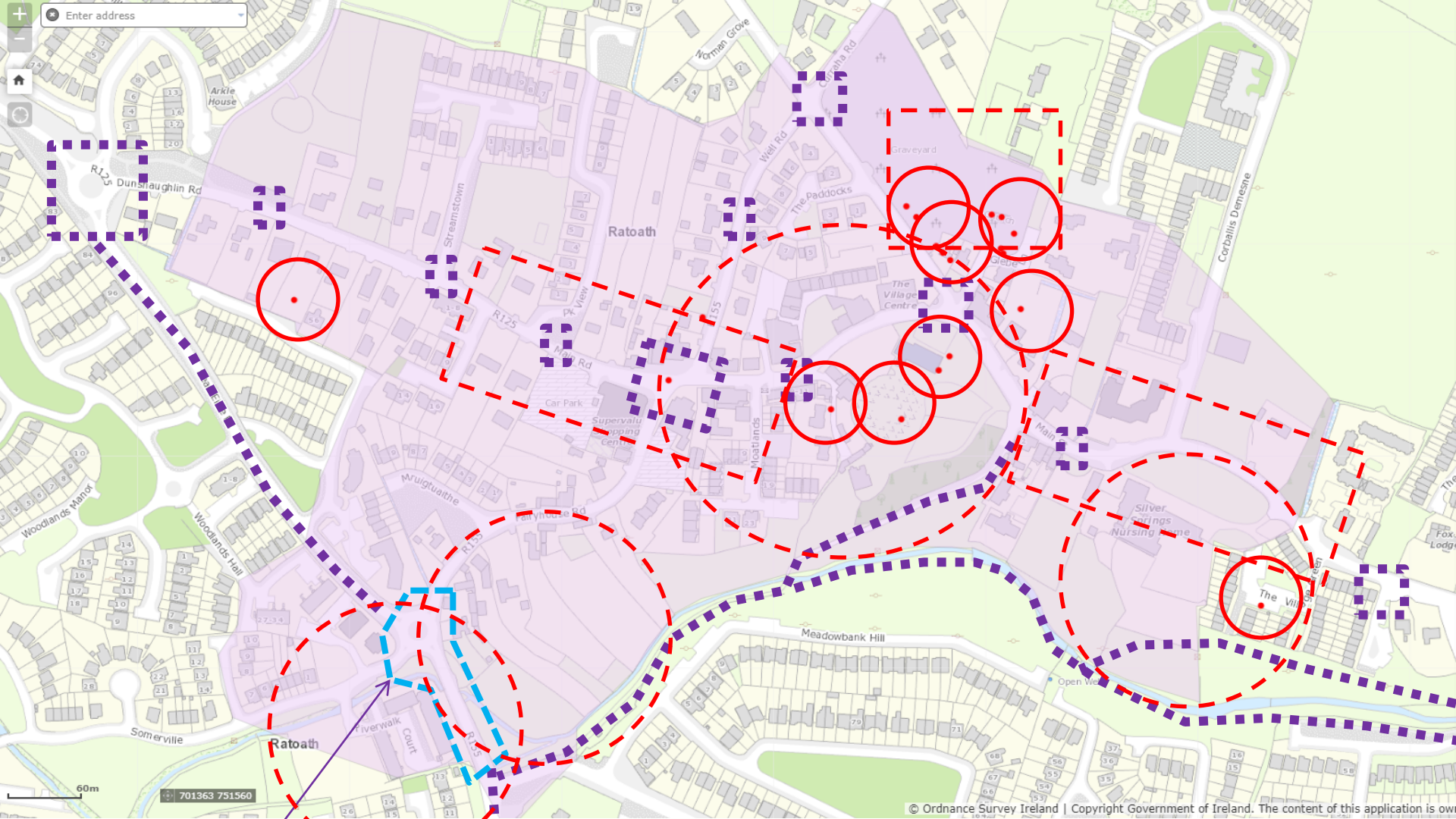


Fig 7: Ratoath topography and hydrology on 1940 OS



Separate Scheme

Fig 8: Summary of proposed works that are within or adjacent to ME044-034: Ratoath Historic Town. Red dots = recorded monuments or excavations. Red circles / squares = key areas of the oldtown. Purple dashed lines = proposed areas of works

AREA 3: BRONZE AGE AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

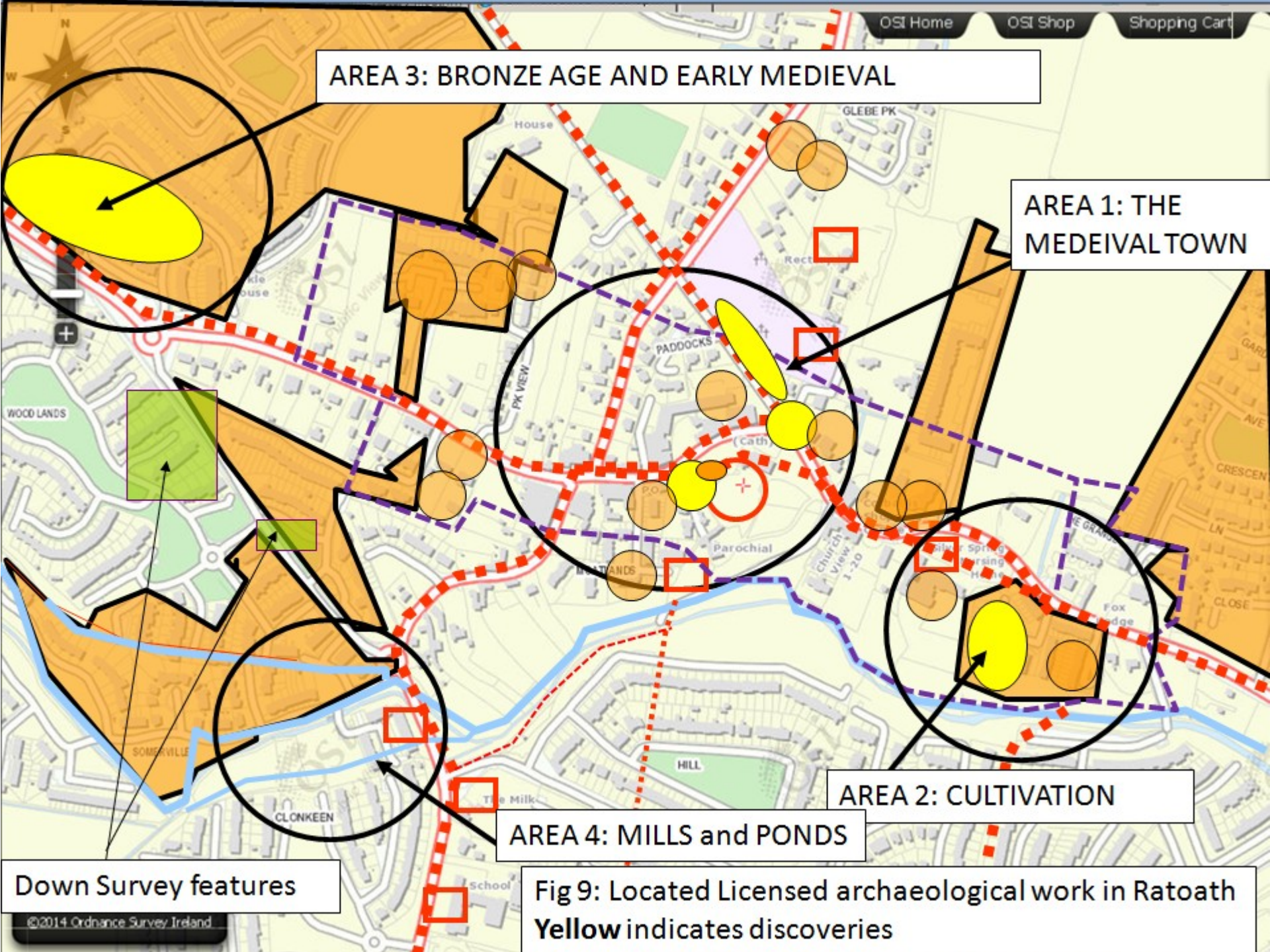
AREA 1: THE MEDIEVAL TOWN

AREA 2: CULTIVATION

AREA 4: MILLS and PONDS

Down Survey features

Fig 9: Located Licensed archaeological work in Ratoath  
**Yellow** indicates discoveries



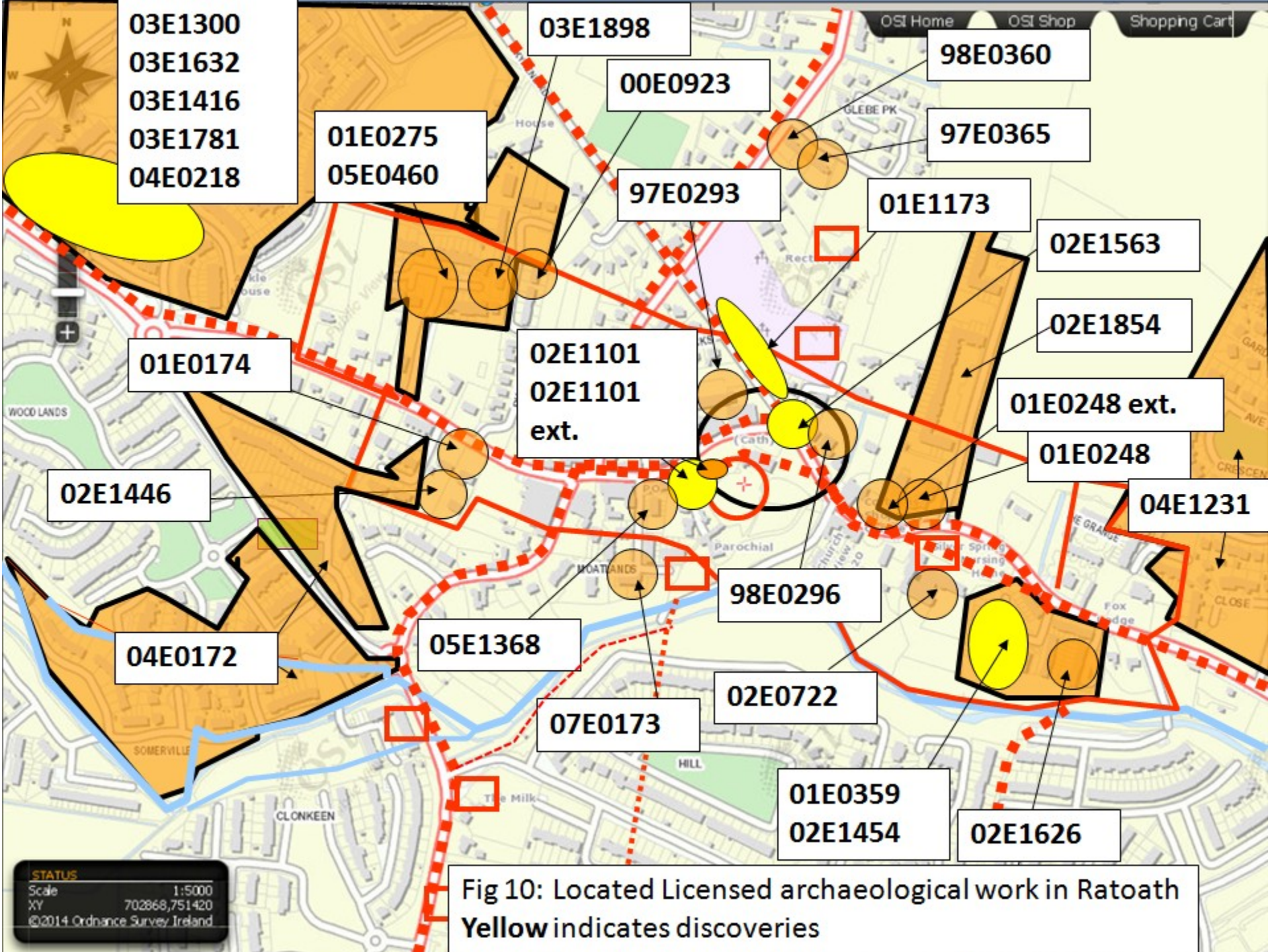


Fig 10: Located Licensed archaeological work in Ratoath  
**Yellow** indicates discoveries





Castle /  
Big House

Church

Town

Moulden Bridge

Pond/lough/marsh



1659 Sketch of Ratoath facing  
West; church on right

Fig 11: Down Survey County Meath Map

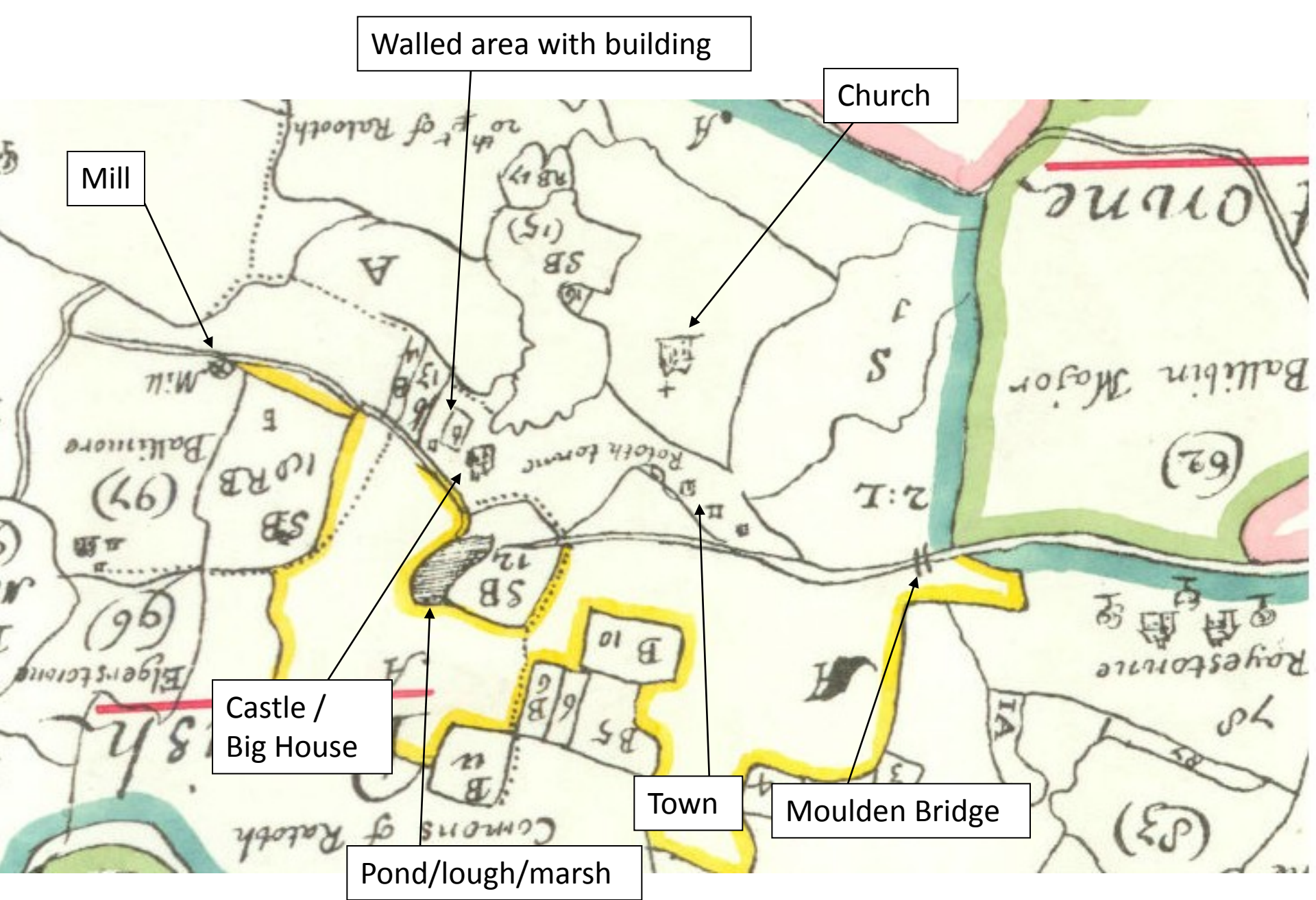


Fig 12: Ratoath Barony Map (oriented to North)

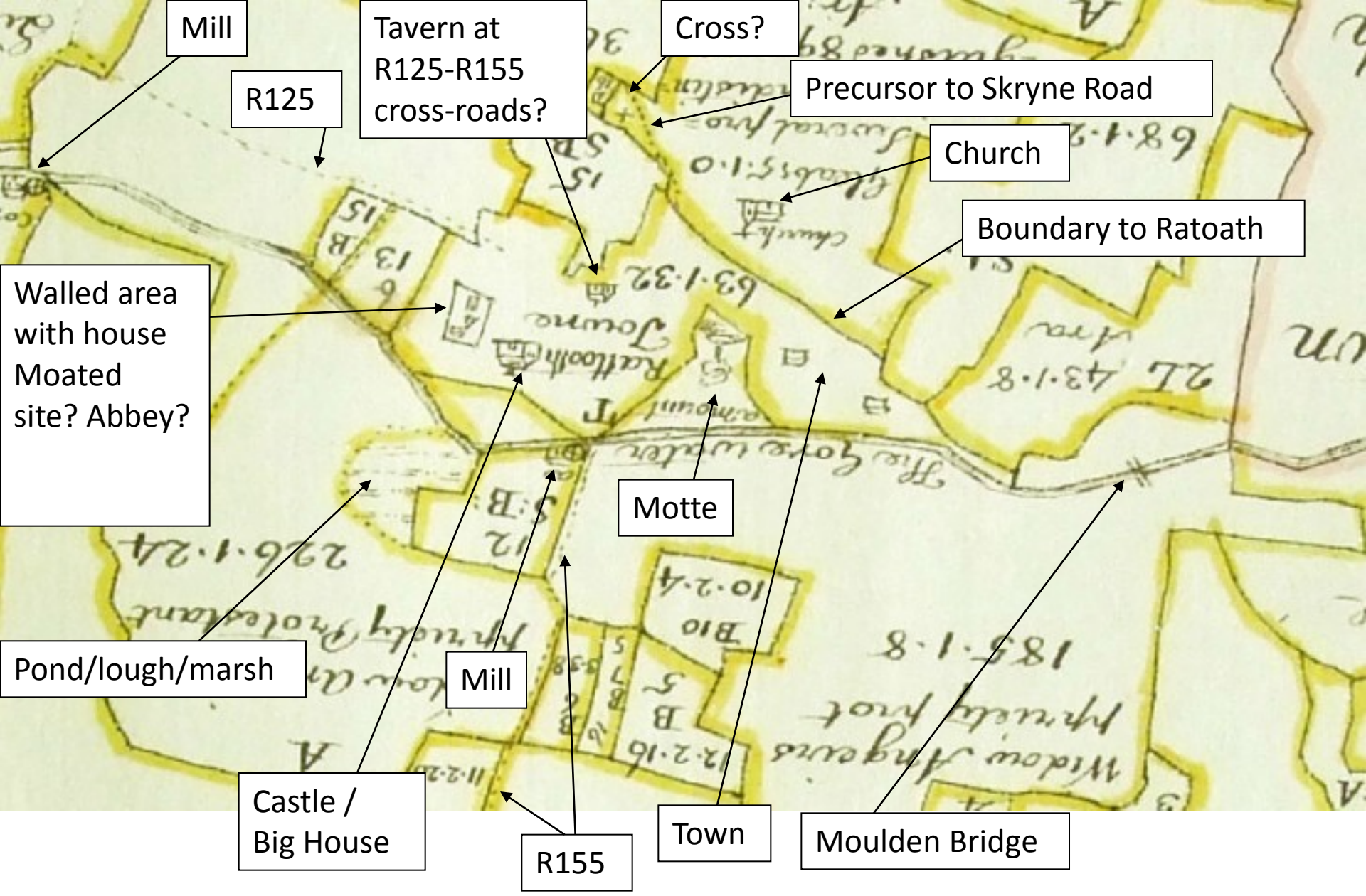


Fig 13A: Ratoath Parish Map (oriented to North)

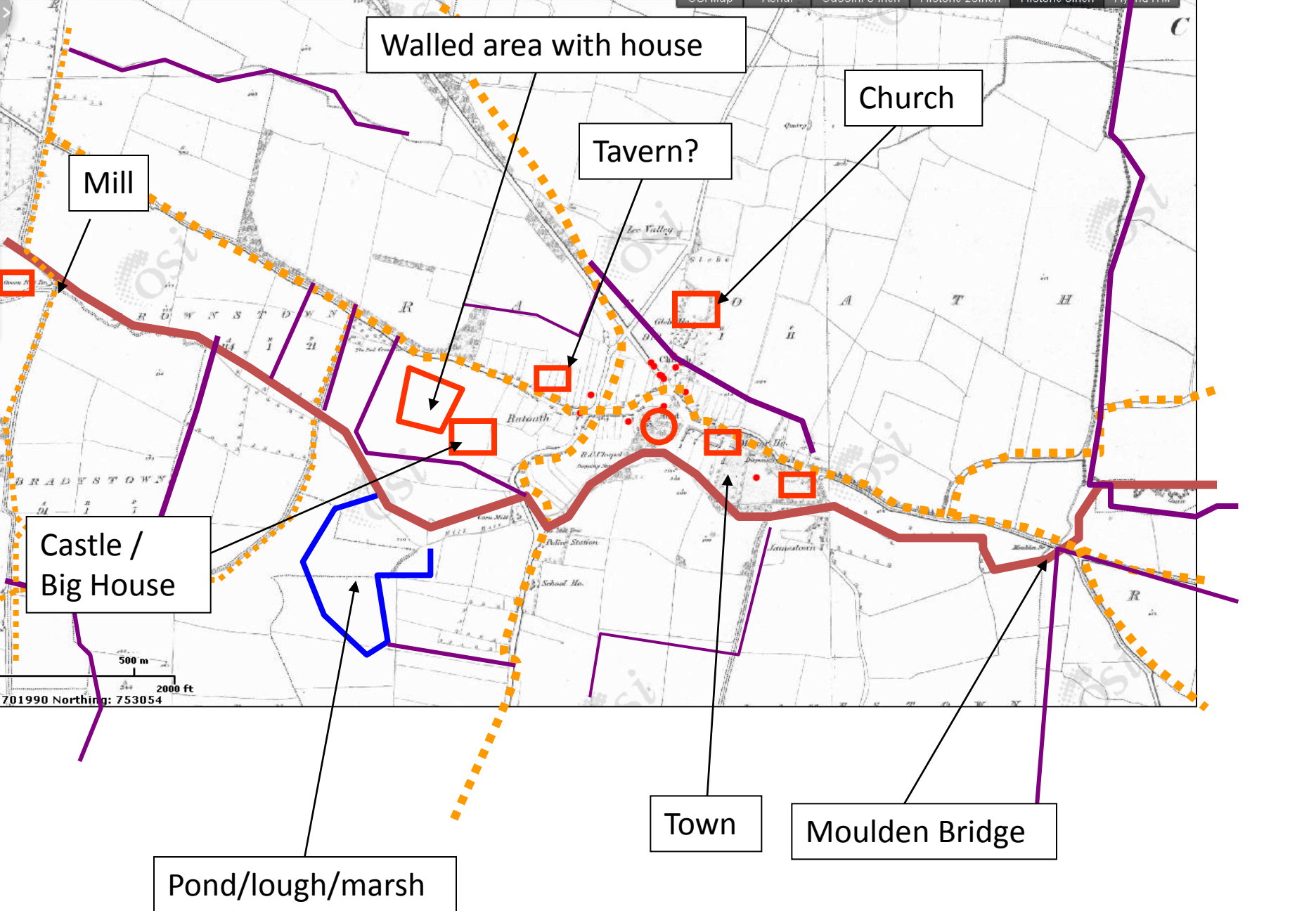


Fig 13B: 17<sup>th</sup> century Ratoath Parish on 1837 OS

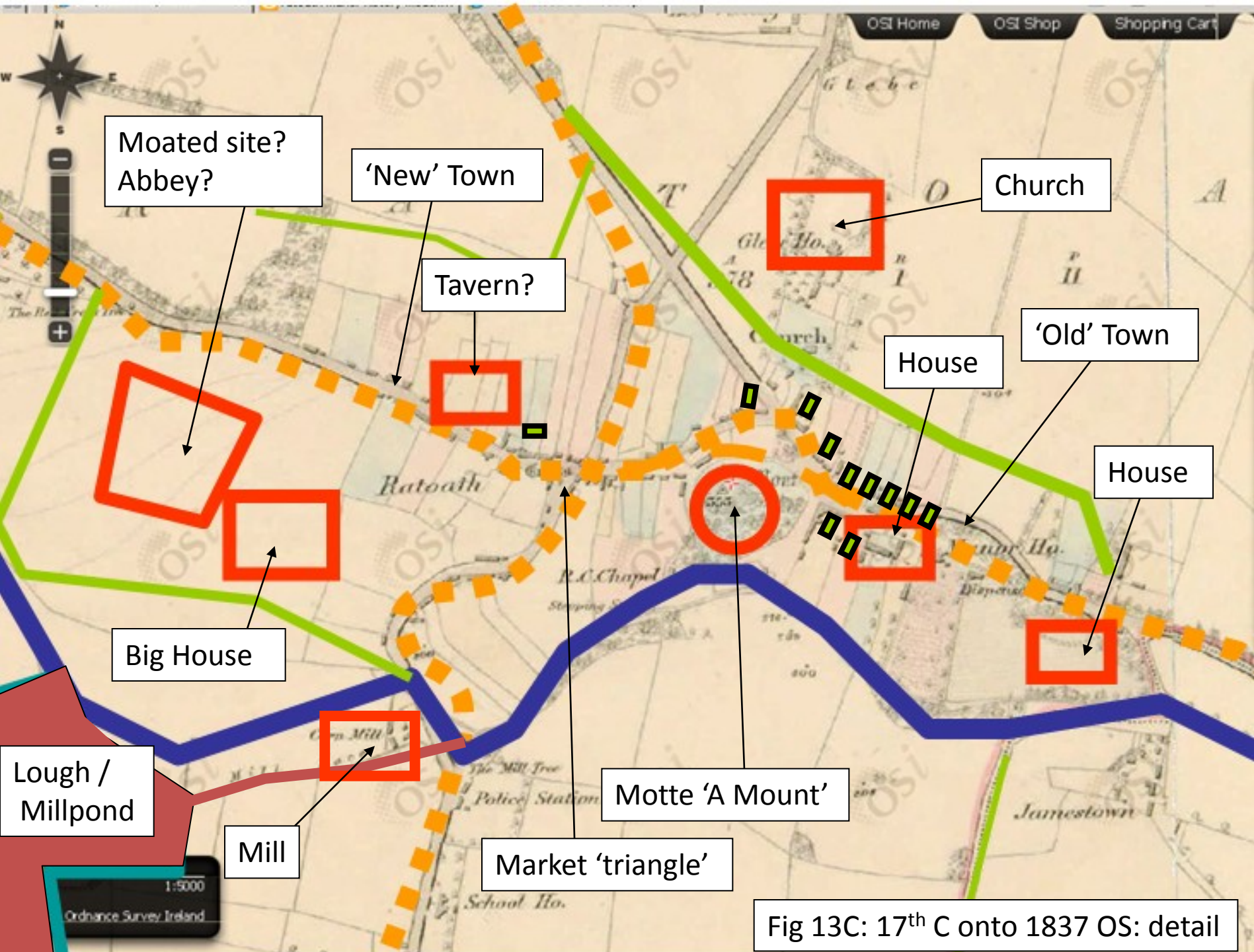


Fig 13C: 17<sup>th</sup> C onto 1837 OS: detail

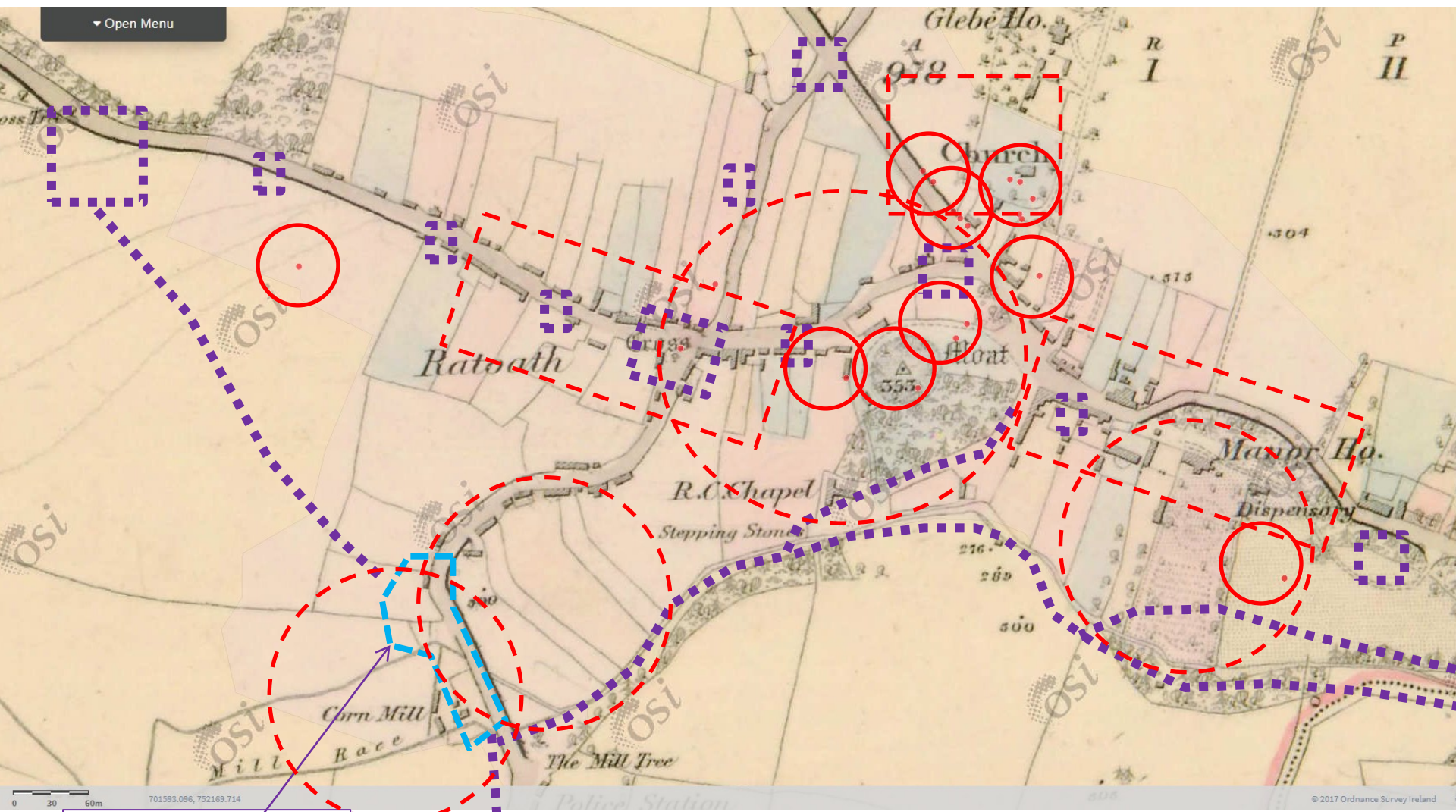


Fig 14: 1777-85 Taylor & Skinner Map 44 Detail showing Ratoath . Note the position of the Church to the previous Curraghera Road (present Glebe Lane)



Bridge 3 area crossing

Fig 15:1817 Larkin Map

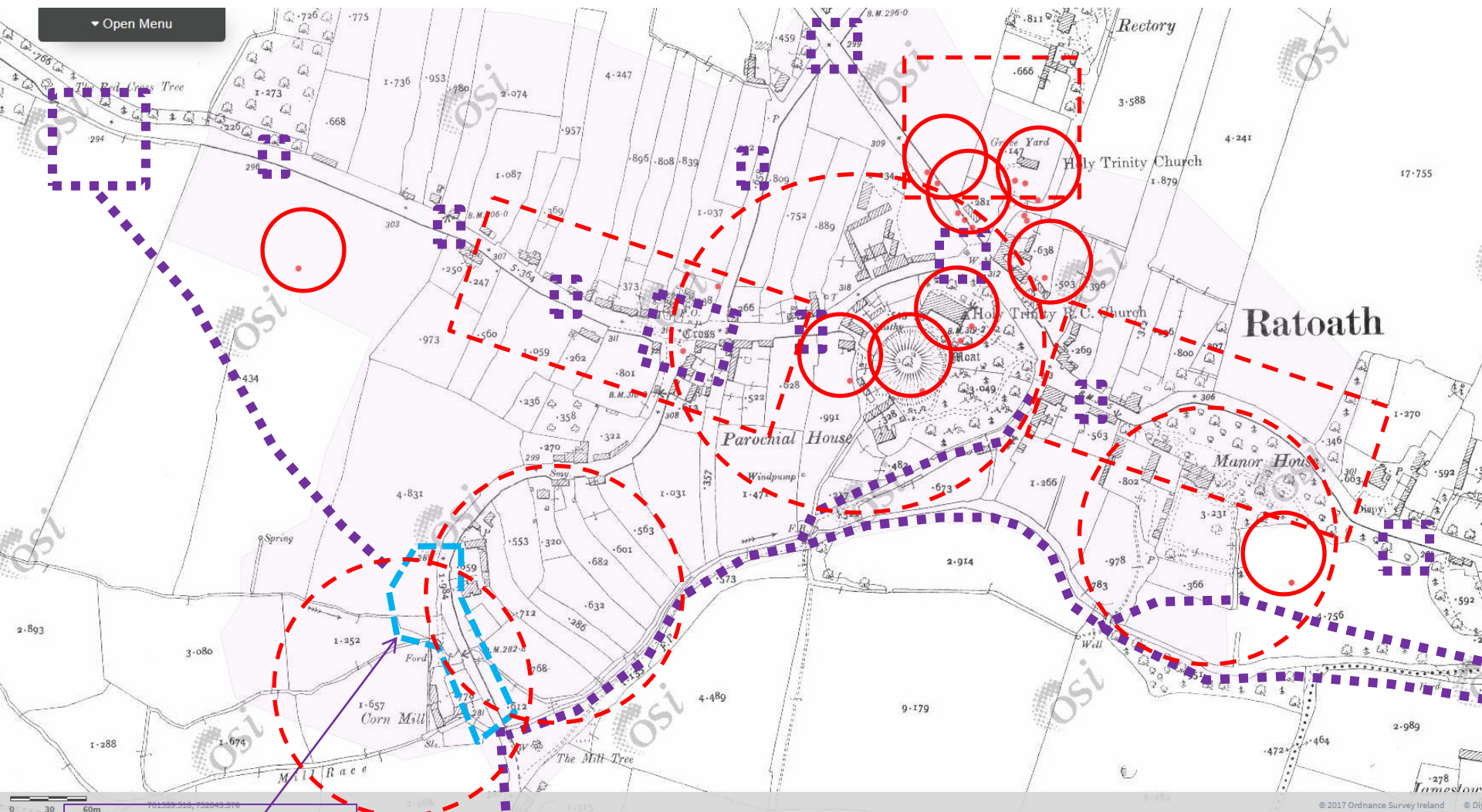


Open Menu

Separate Scheme

Fig 16: 1837 OS with proposed areas of works in purple dash





▼ Open Menu

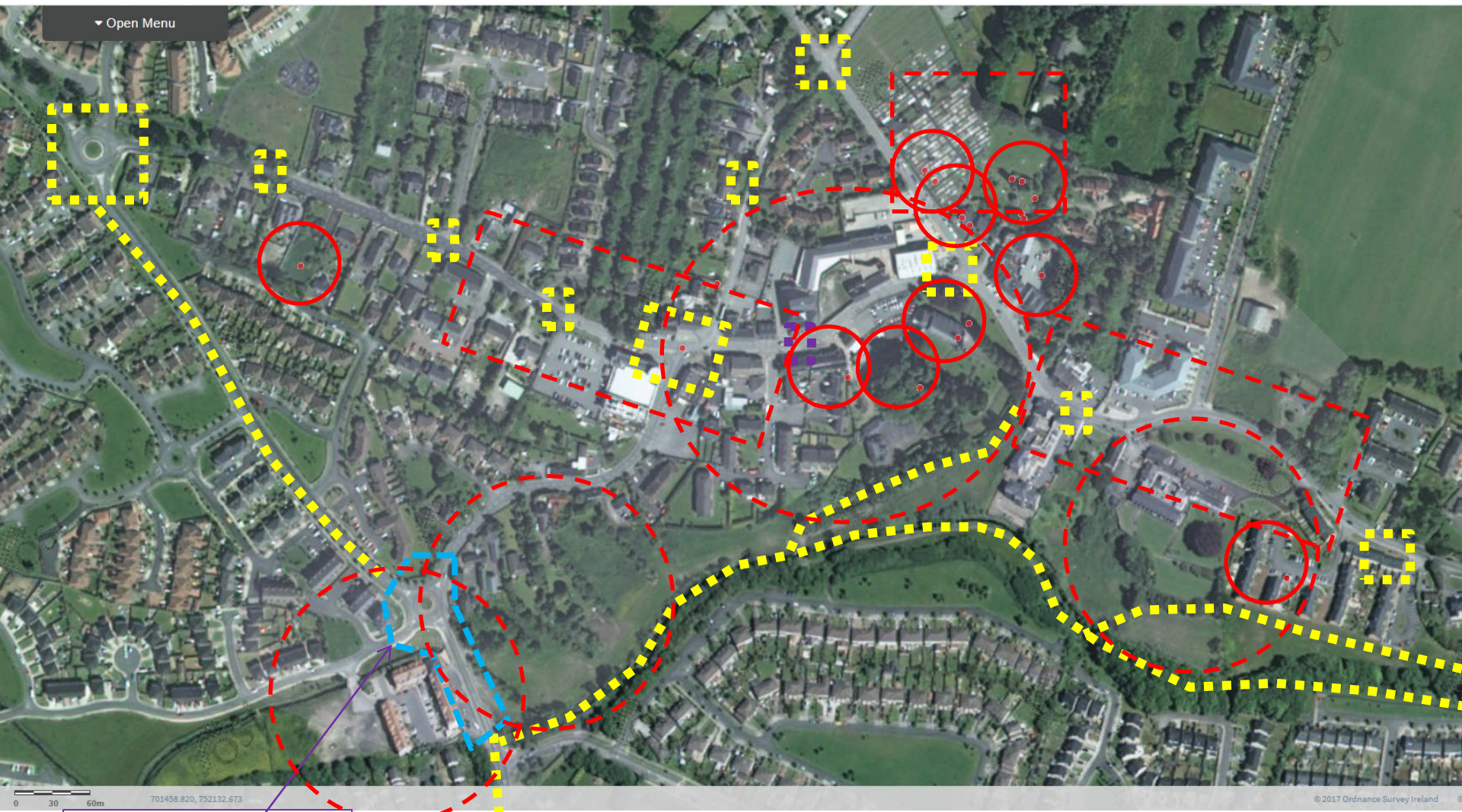
Separate Scheme

Fig 17: 1913 OS with proposed areas of works in purple dash



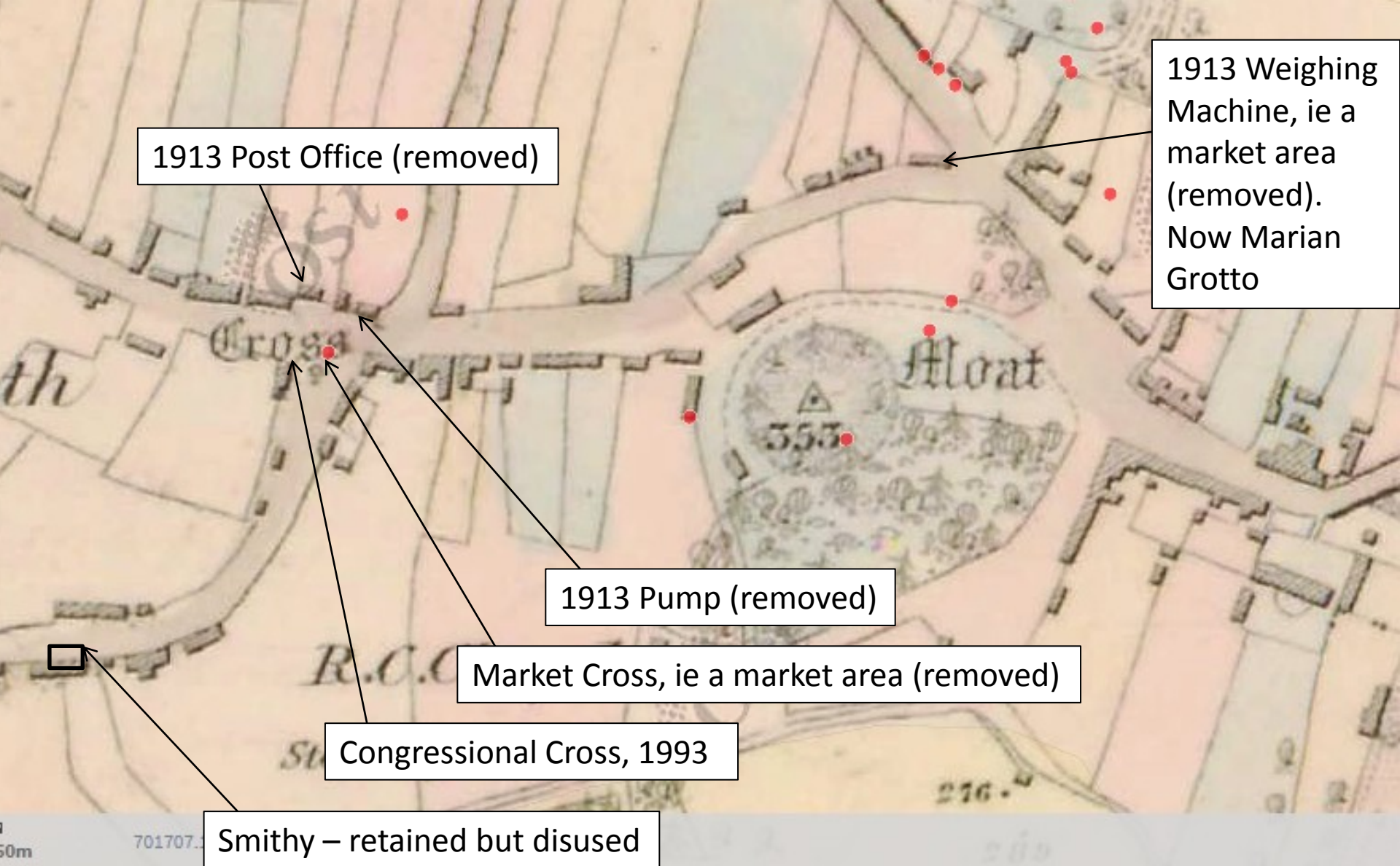
Separate Scheme

Fig 18: 1837 OS with proposed areas of works in purple dash



Separate Scheme

Fig 19: 1837 OS with proposed areas of works in purple dash



1913 Post Office (removed)

1913 Weighing Machine, ie a market area (removed).  
Now Marian Grotto

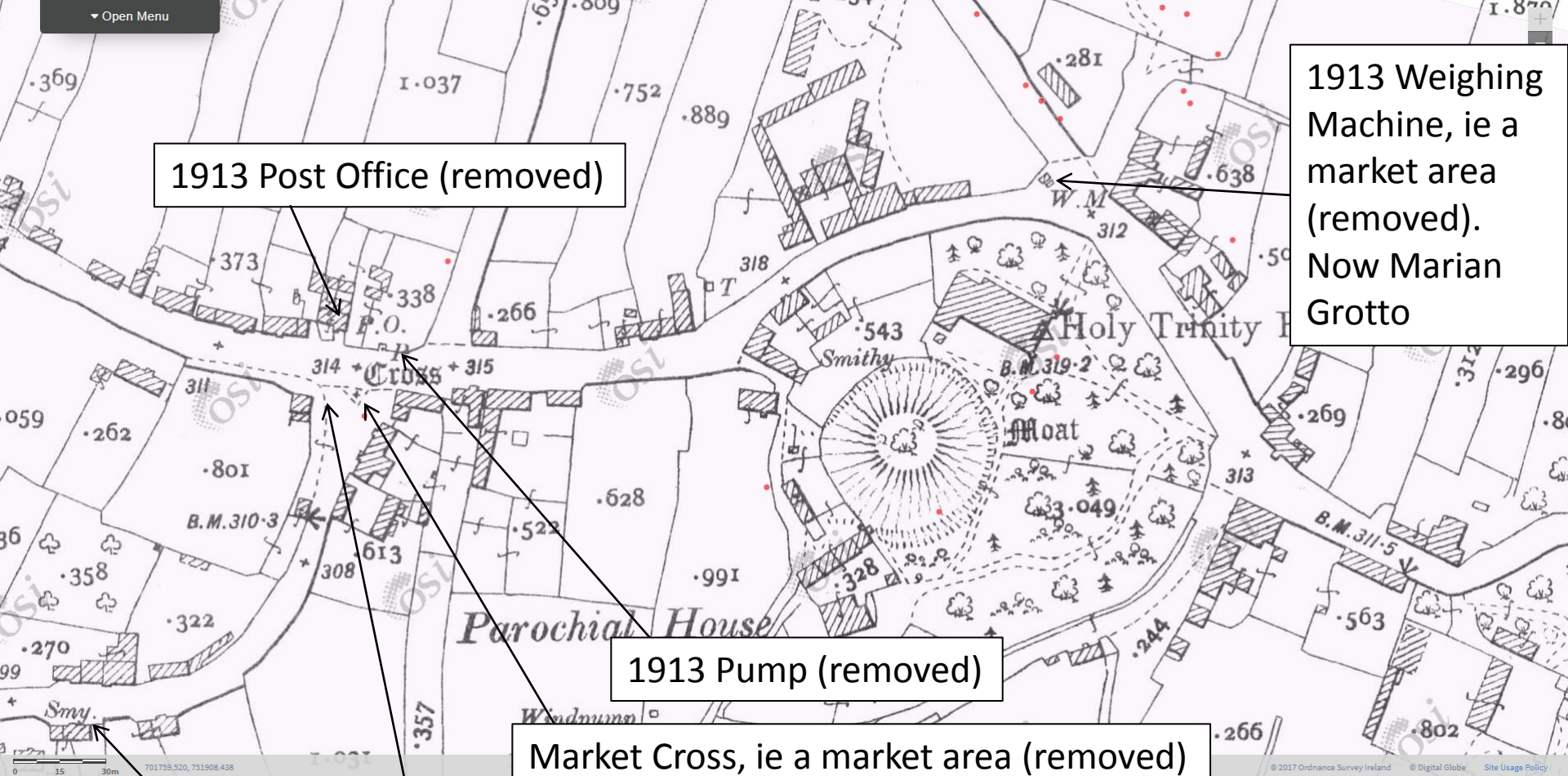
1913 Pump (removed)

Market Cross, ie a market area (removed)

Congressional Cross, 1993

Smithy - retained but disused

Fig 20: 1837 OS detail with discussion elements



1913 Post Office (removed)

1913 Weighing Machine, ie a market area (removed).  
Now Marian Grotto

1913 Pump (removed)

Market Cross, ie a market area (removed)

Congressional Cross, 1993

Smithy – retained but disused

Fig 21: 1913 OS detail with discussion elements

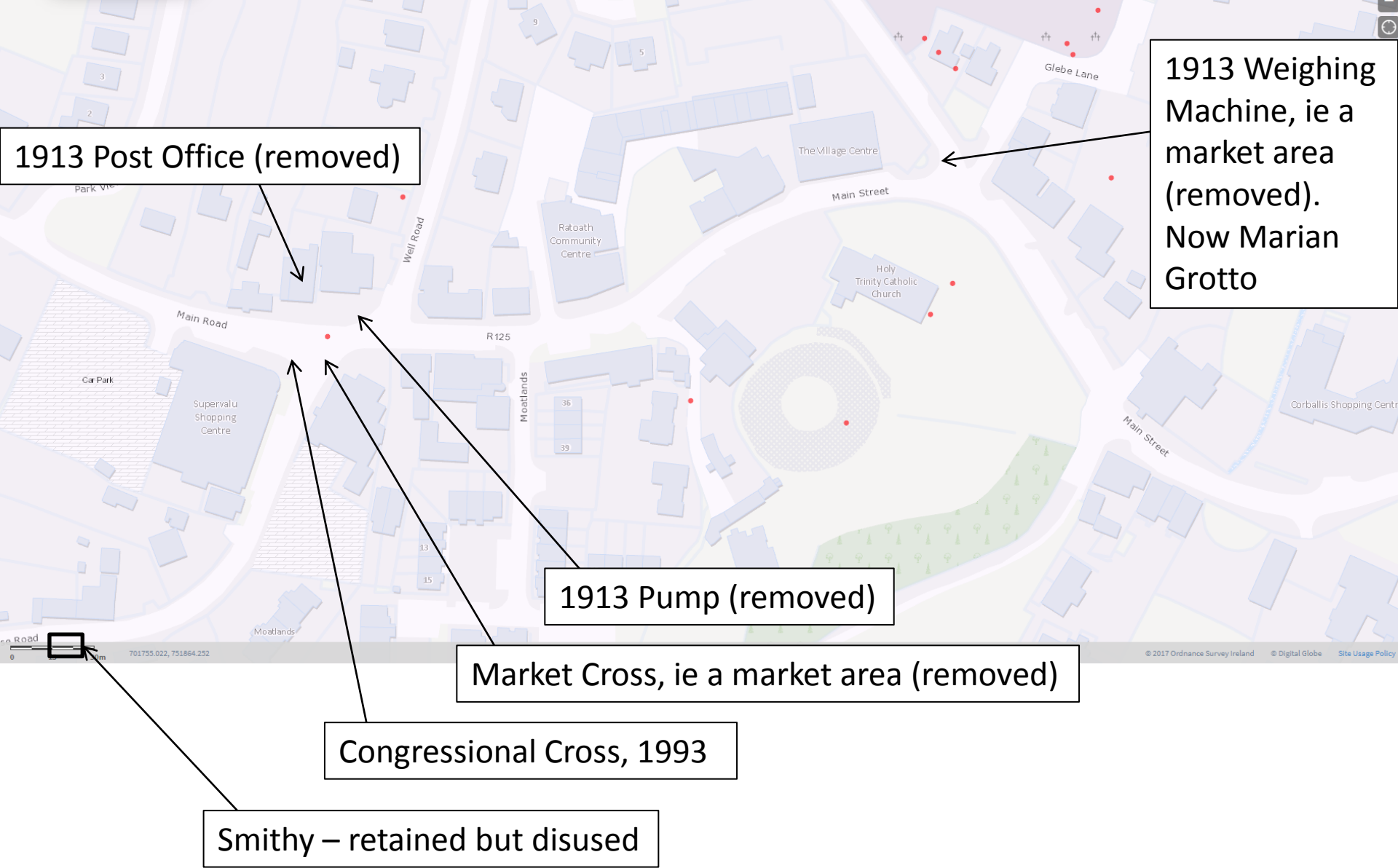


Fig 22: Present OS detail with discussion elements



1913 Post Office (removed)

1913 Weighing Machine, ie a market area (removed).  
Now Marian Grotto

1913 Pump (removed)

Market Cross, ie a market area (removed)

Congressional Cross, 1993

Smithy – retained but disused

Fig 23: Present aerial detail with discussion elements

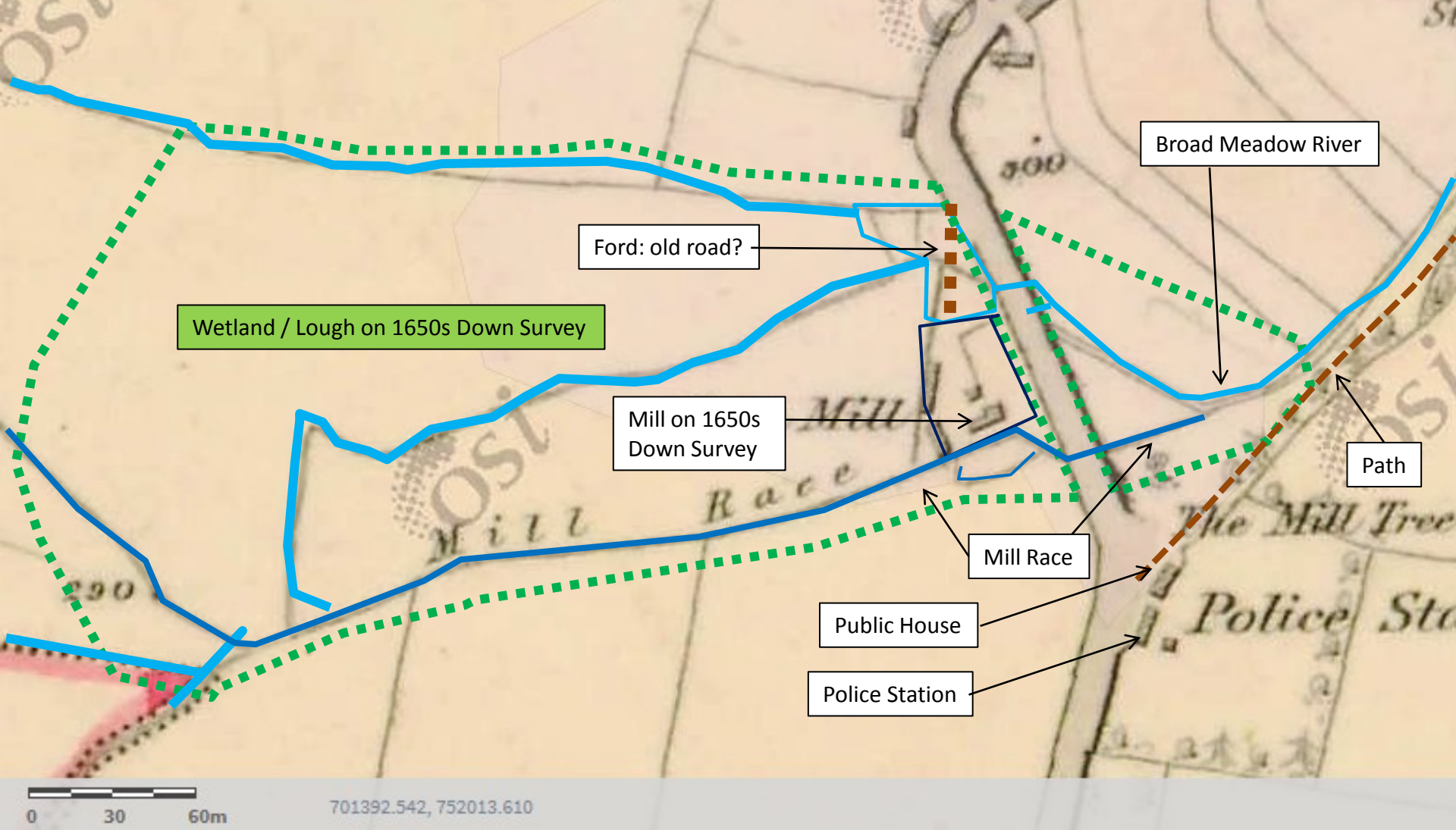


Fig 24: 1837 of area to west of Ratoath that was a lough or mill pond on the 1650s Down Survey



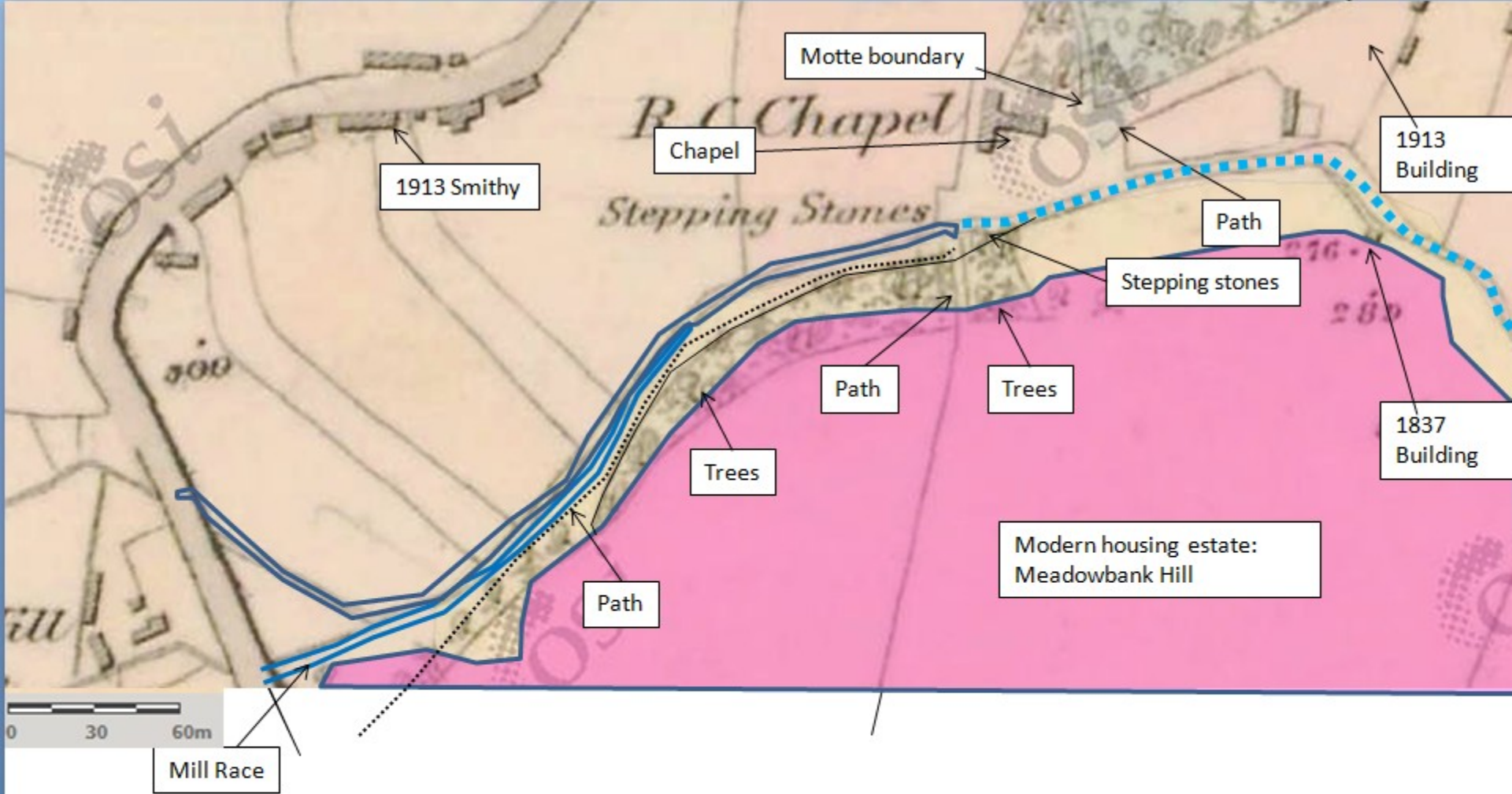


Fig 25: 1837 OS detail with discussion elements

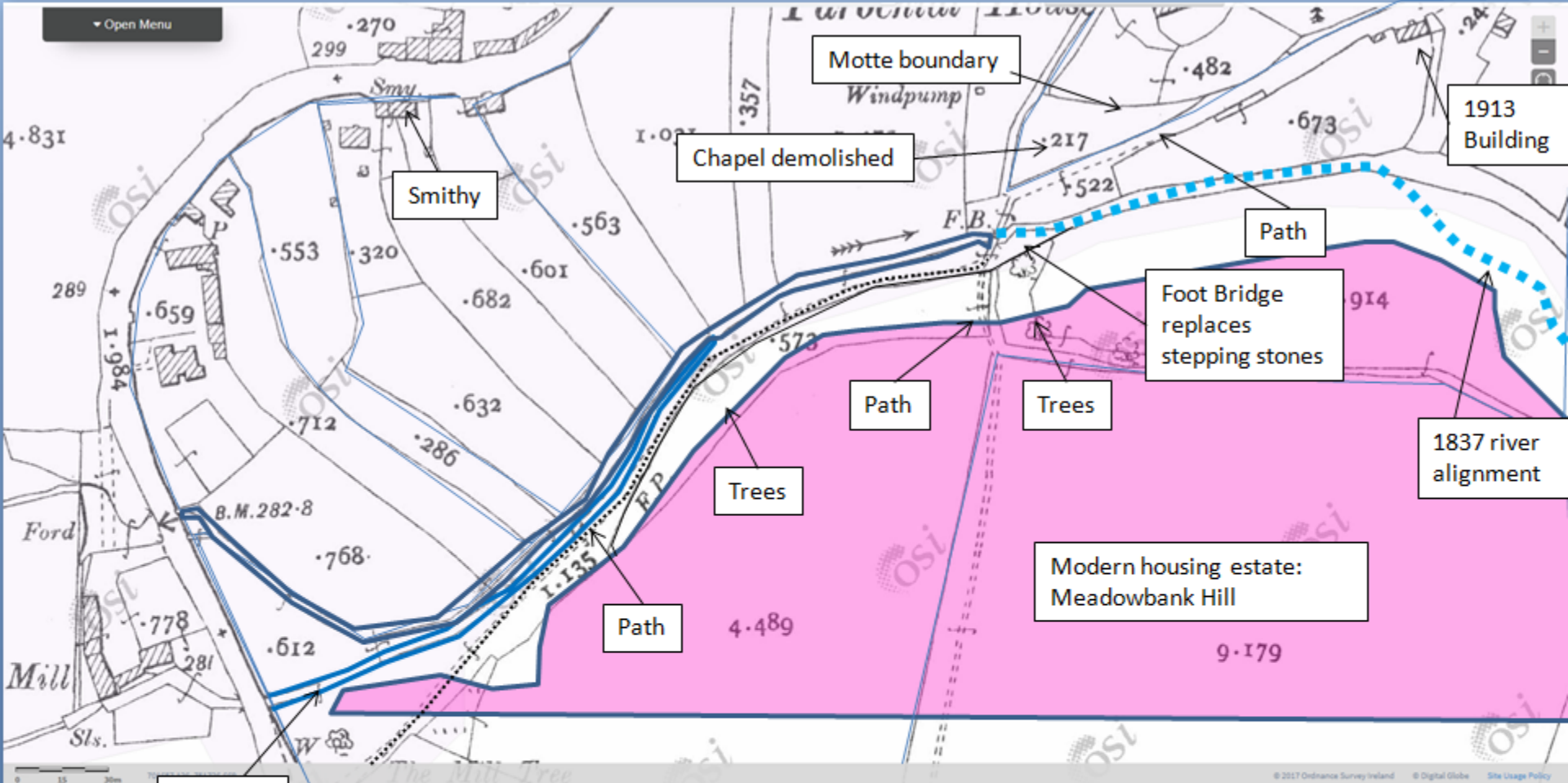


Fig 26: 1913 OS detail with discussion elements

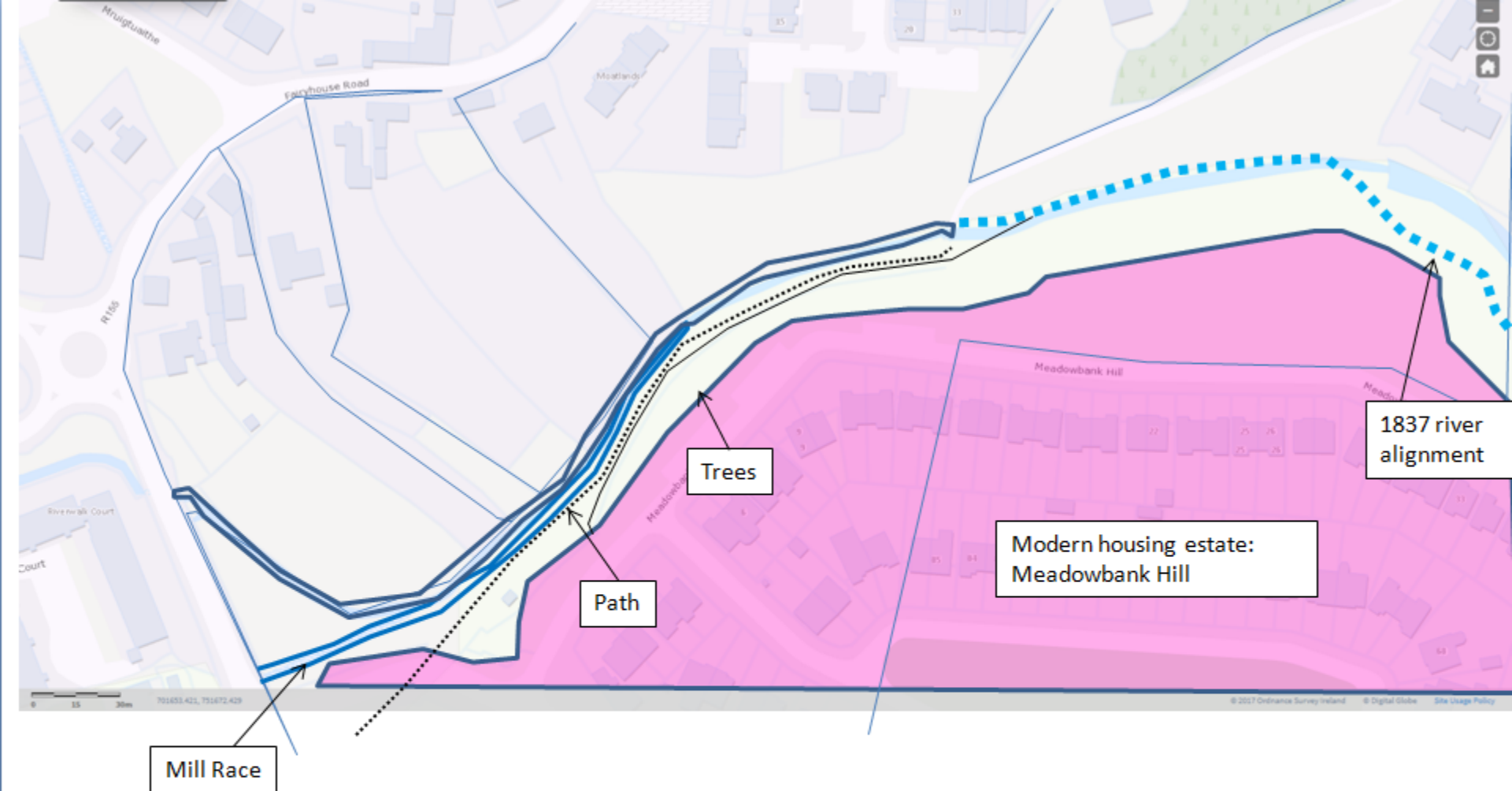


Fig 27: Present OS detail with discussion elements



Fig. 22. B... ..

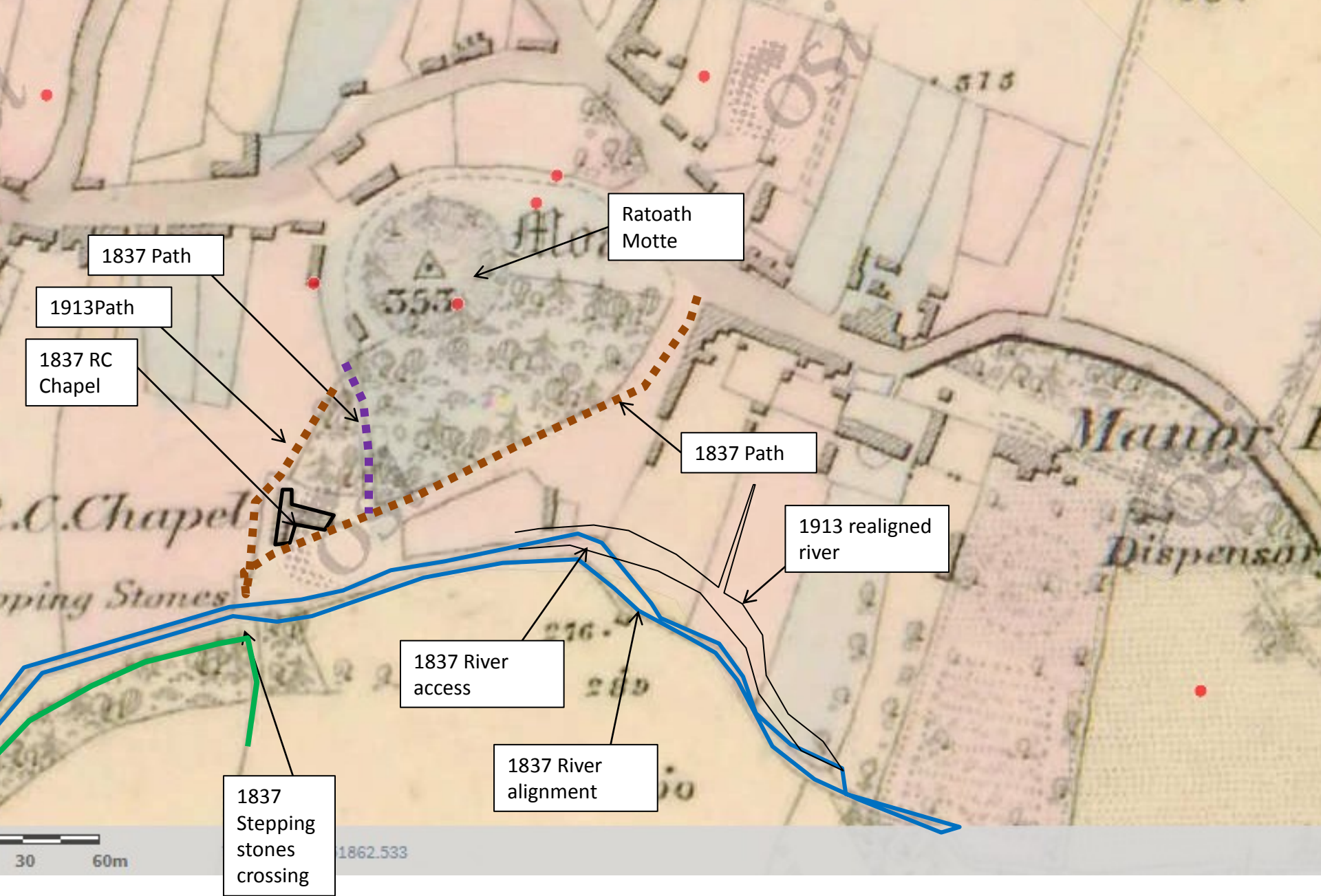


Fig 29: 1837 OS detail with discussion elements

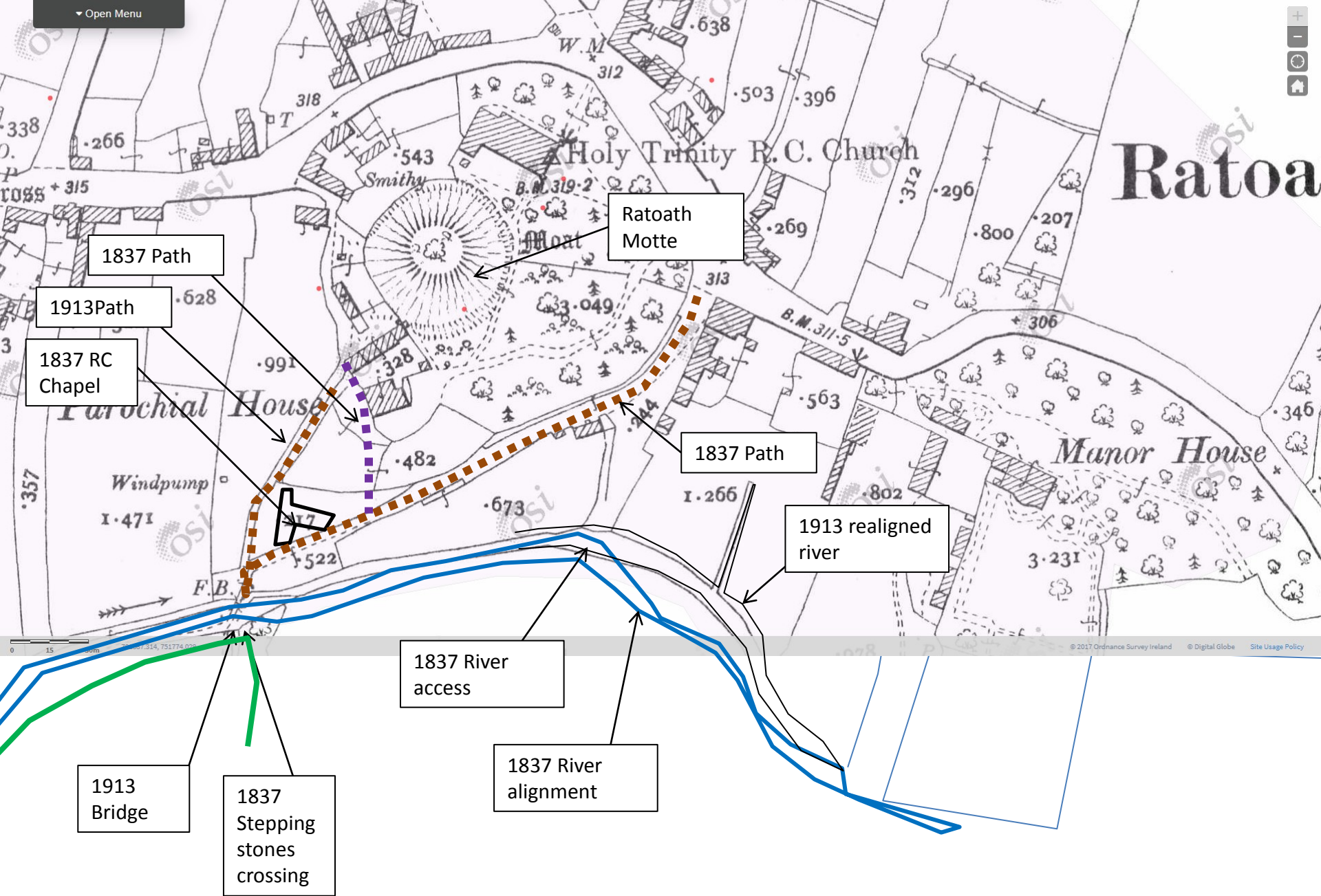


Fig 30: 1913 OS detail with discussion elements

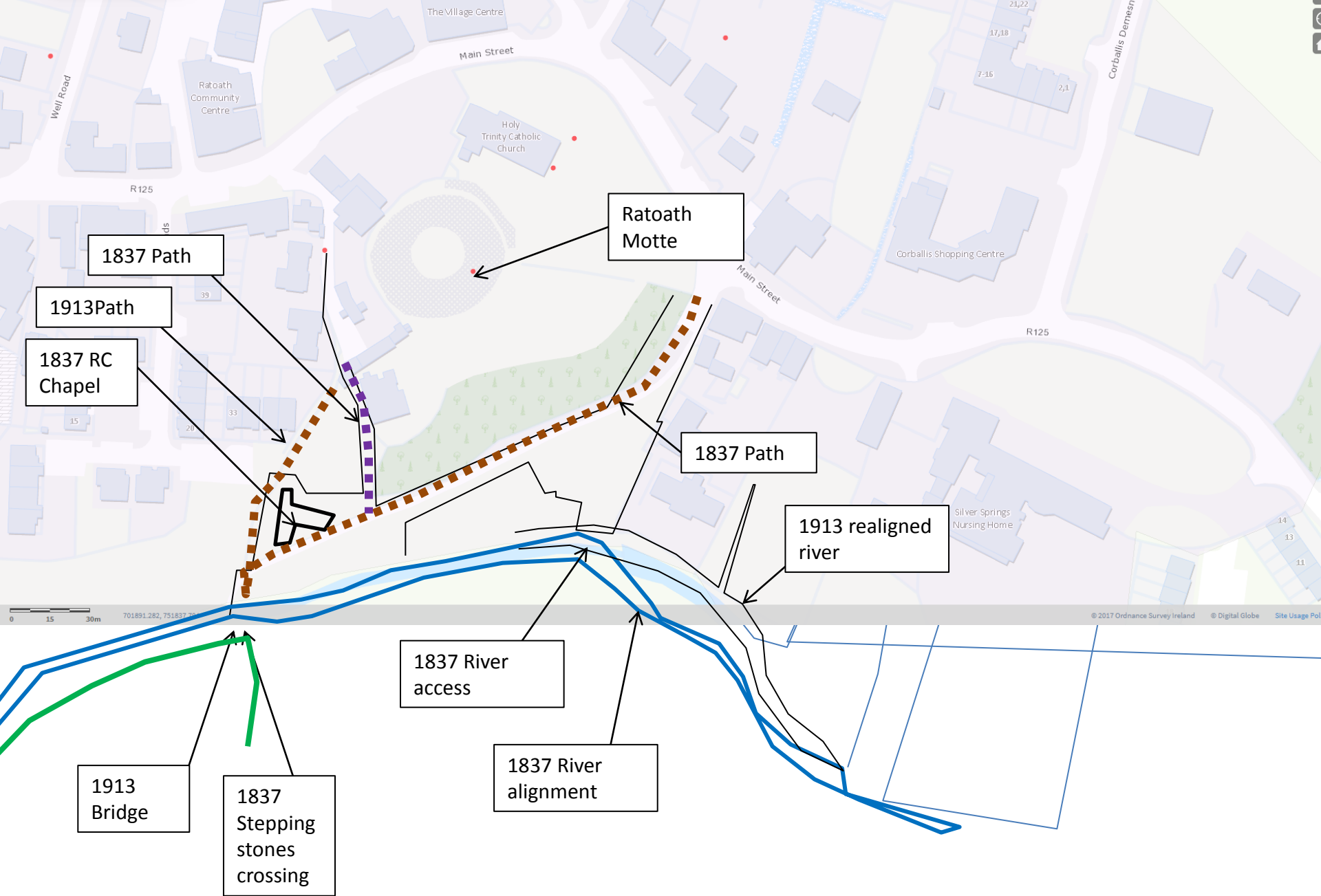


Fig 31: Present OS detail with discussion elements

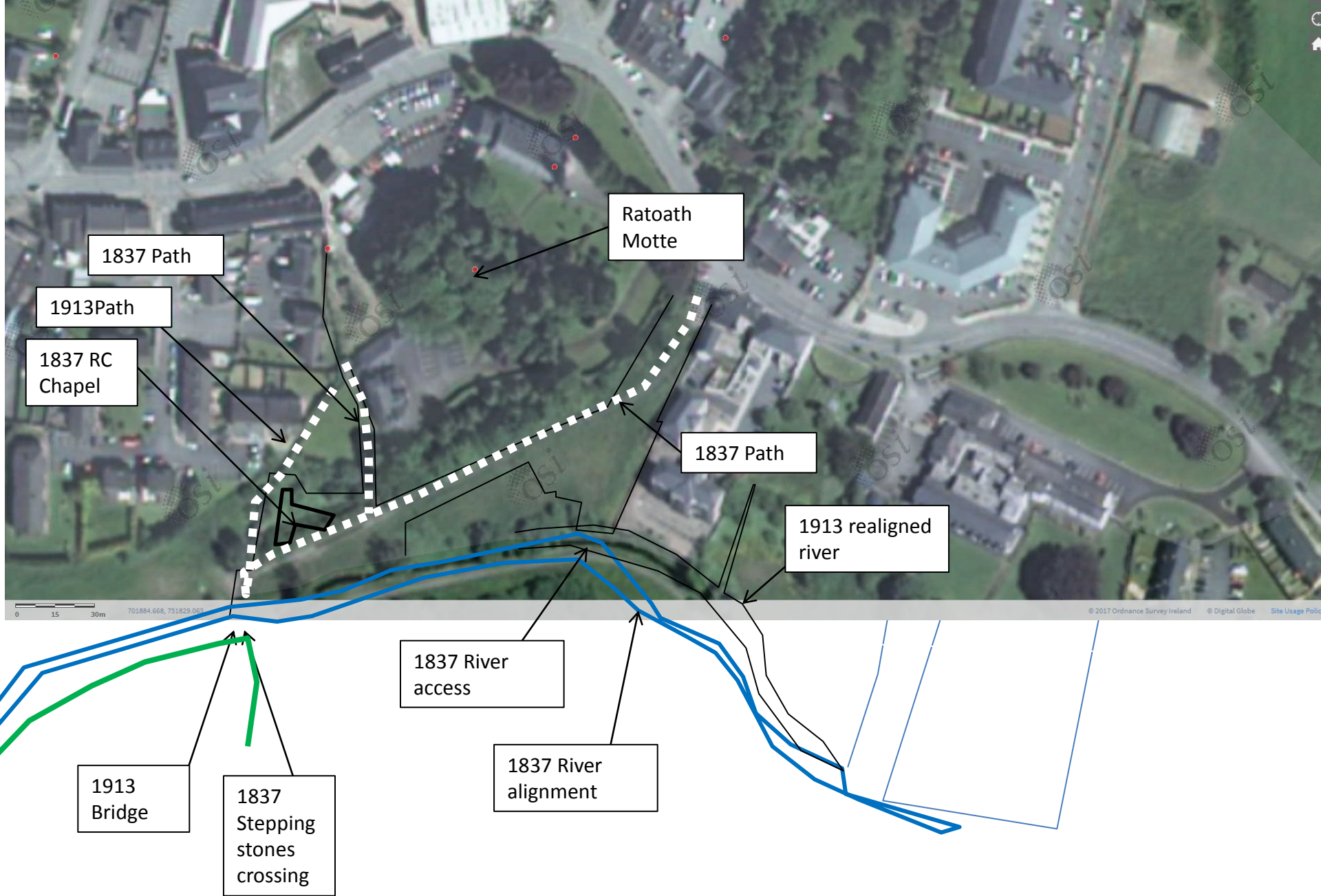


Fig 32: Present aerial detail with discussion elements



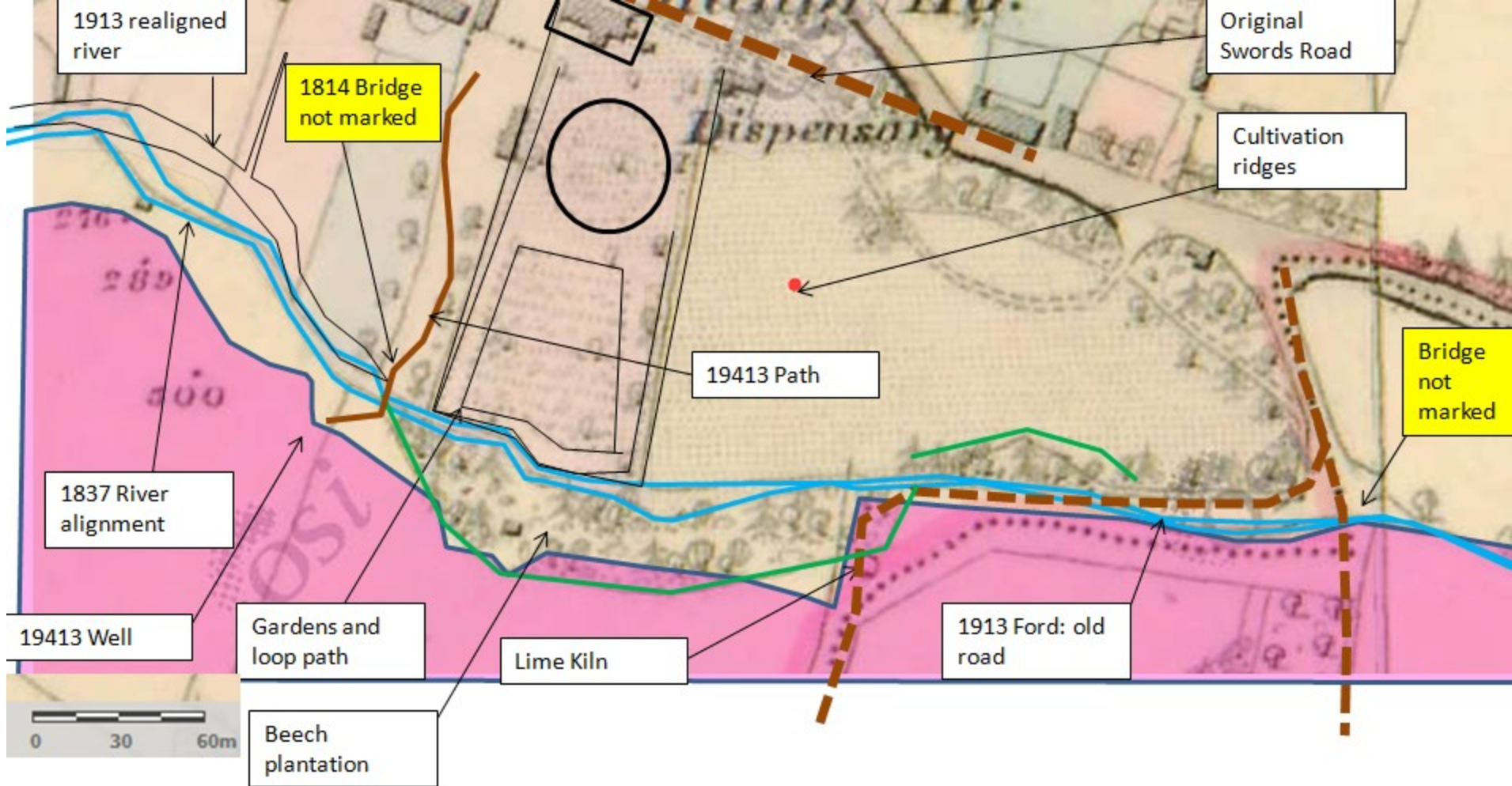


Fig 33: 1837 OS detail with discussion elements

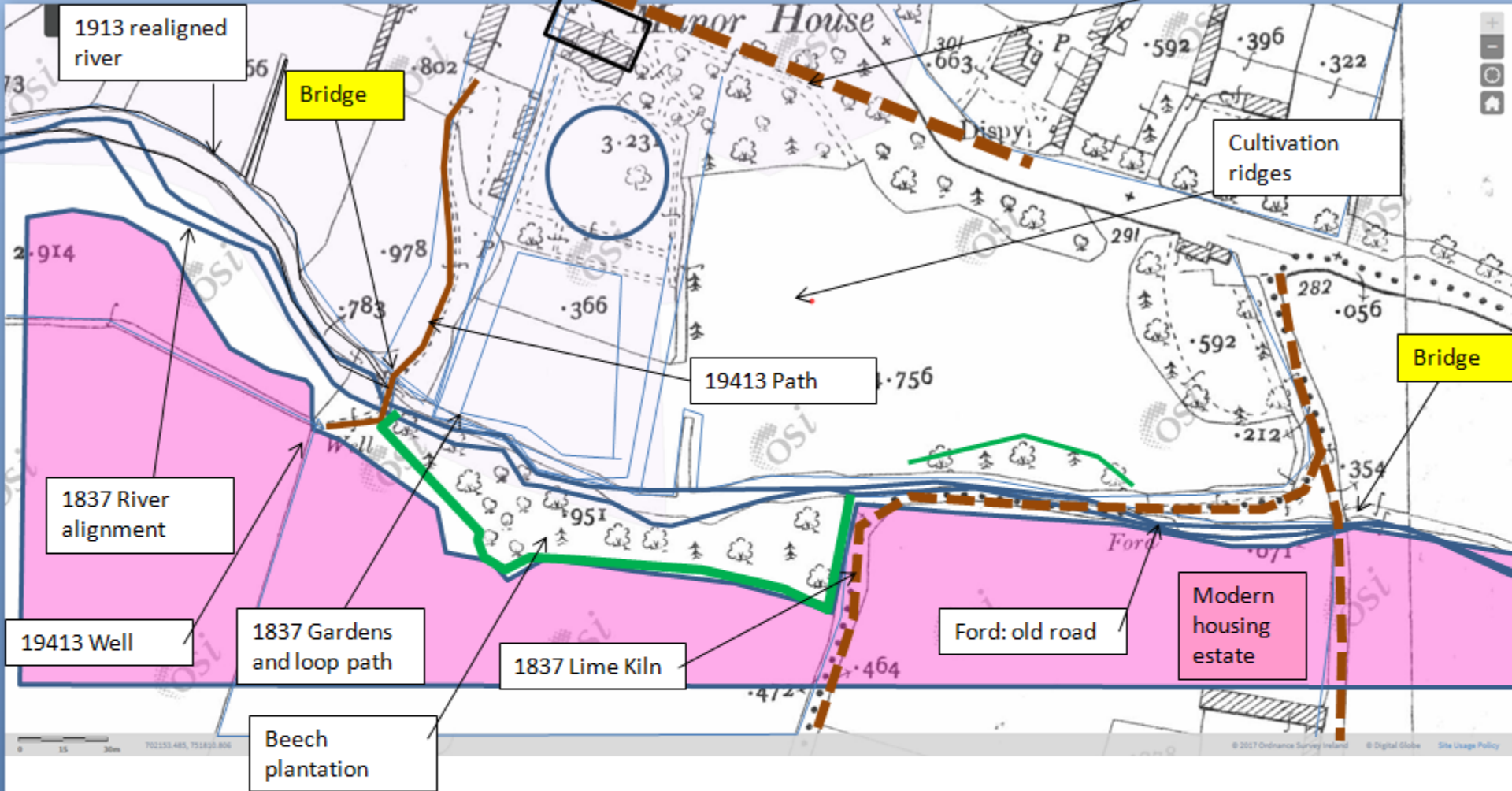


Fig 34: 1913 OS detail with discussion elements

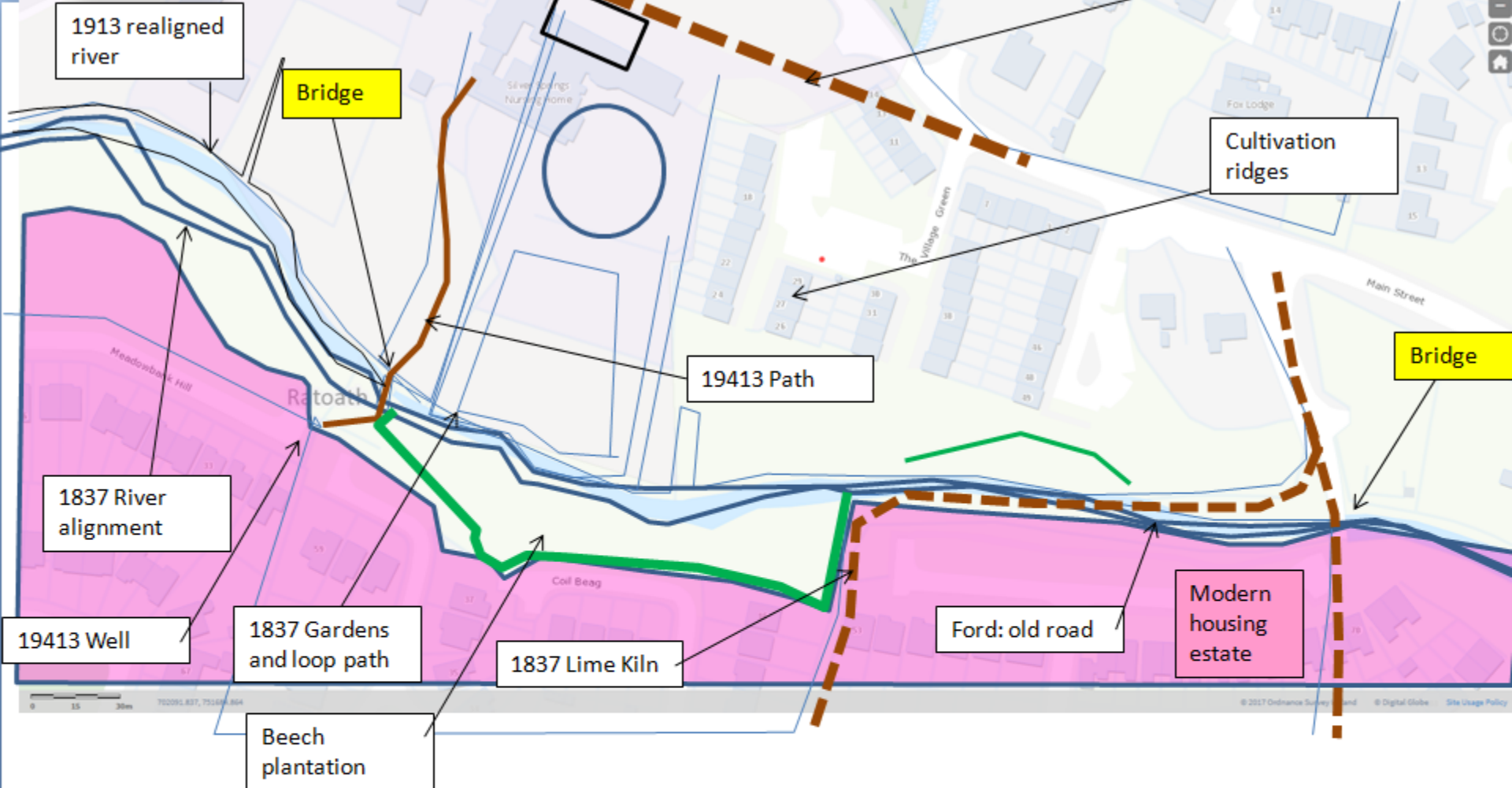


Fig 35: Present OS detail with discussion elements



Fig 36: Present aerial detail with discussion elements

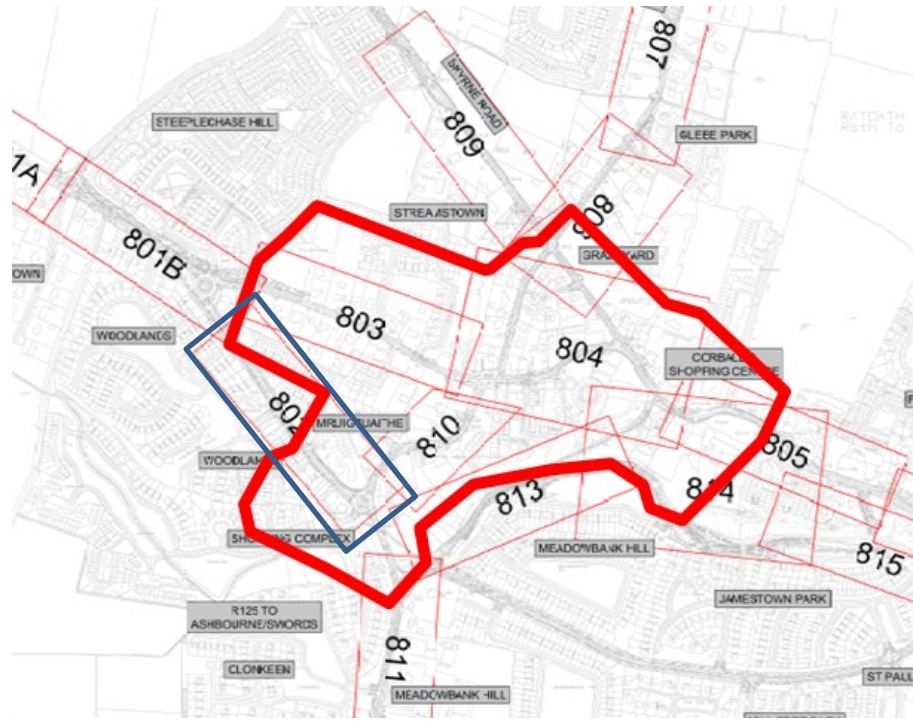
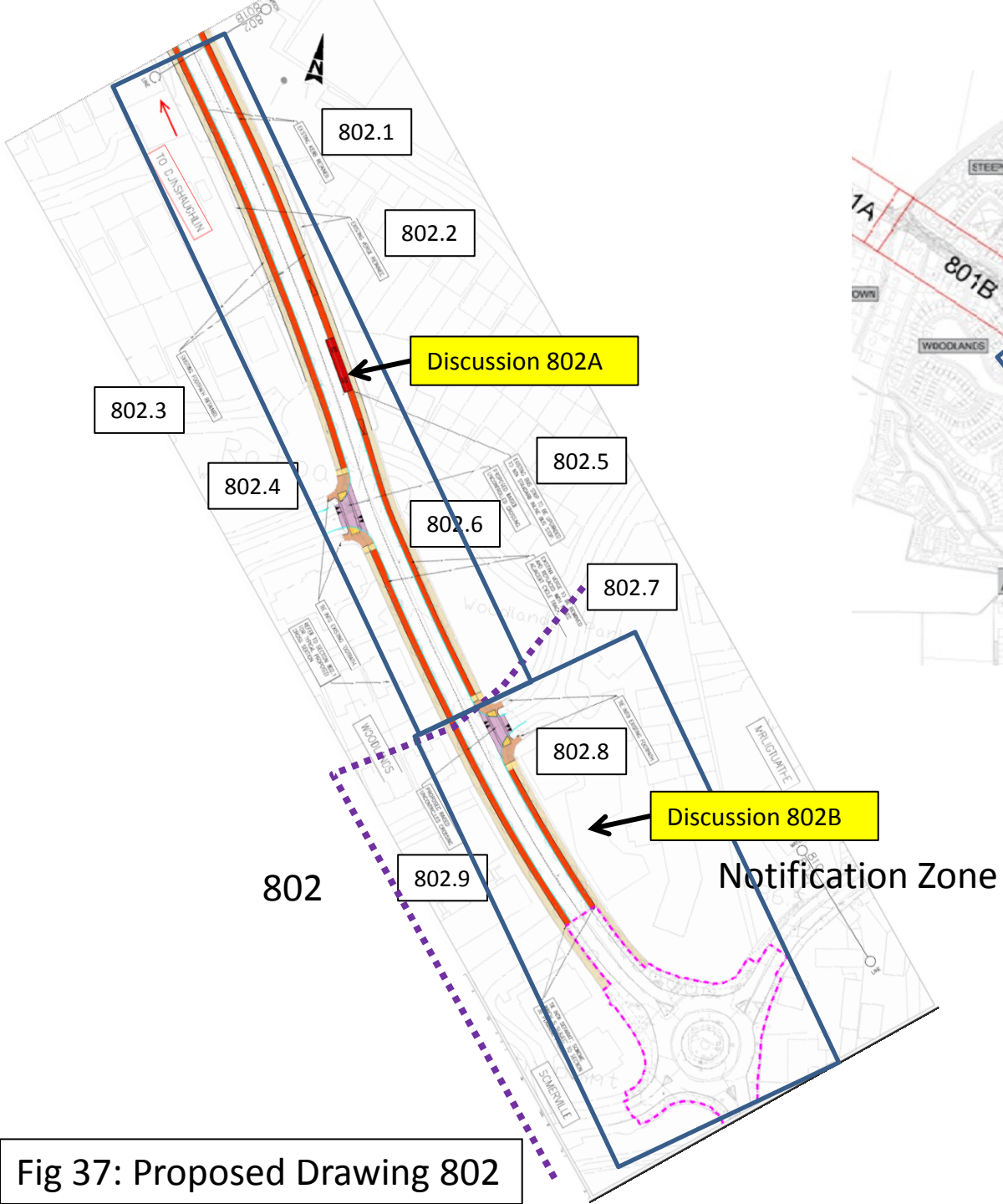
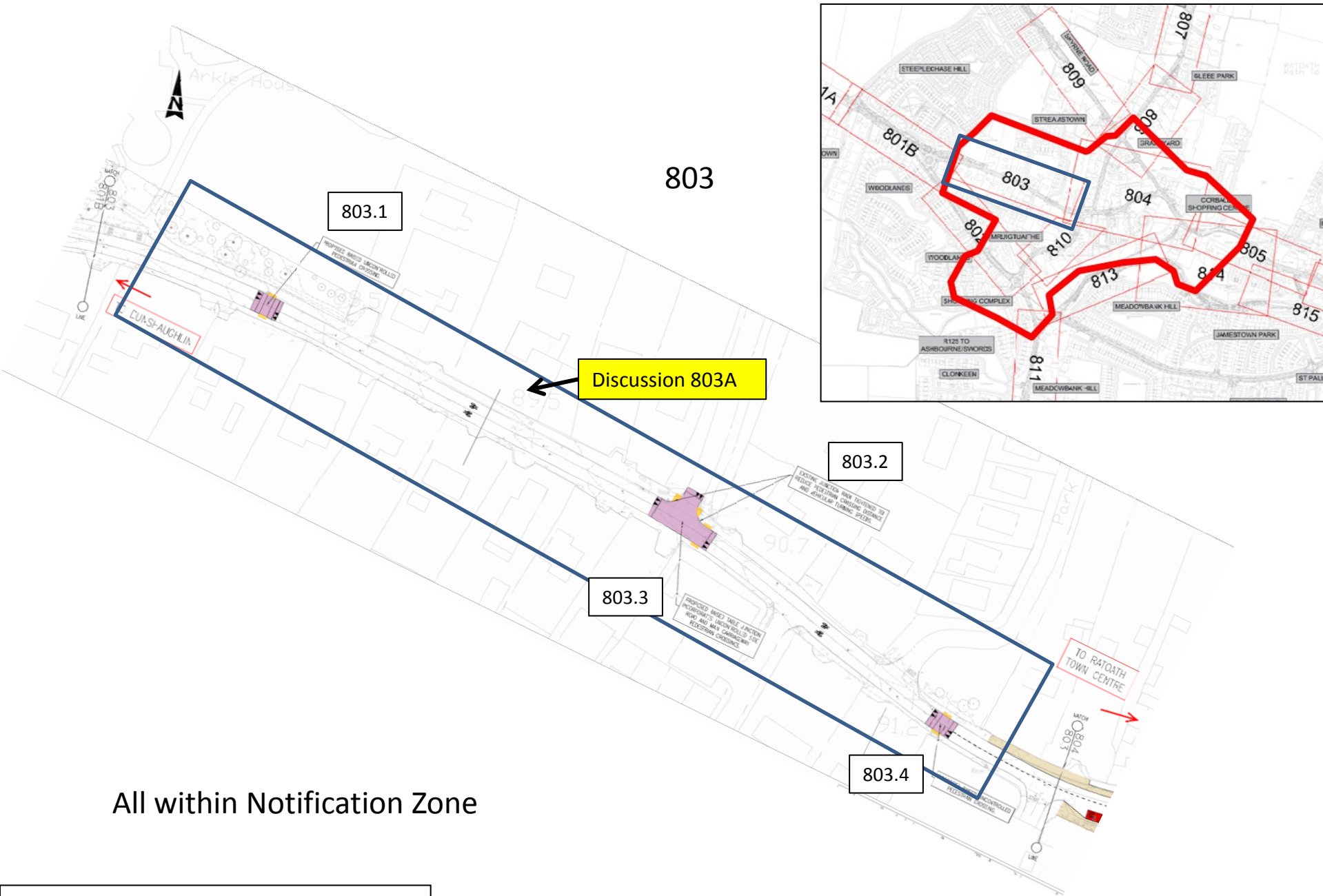
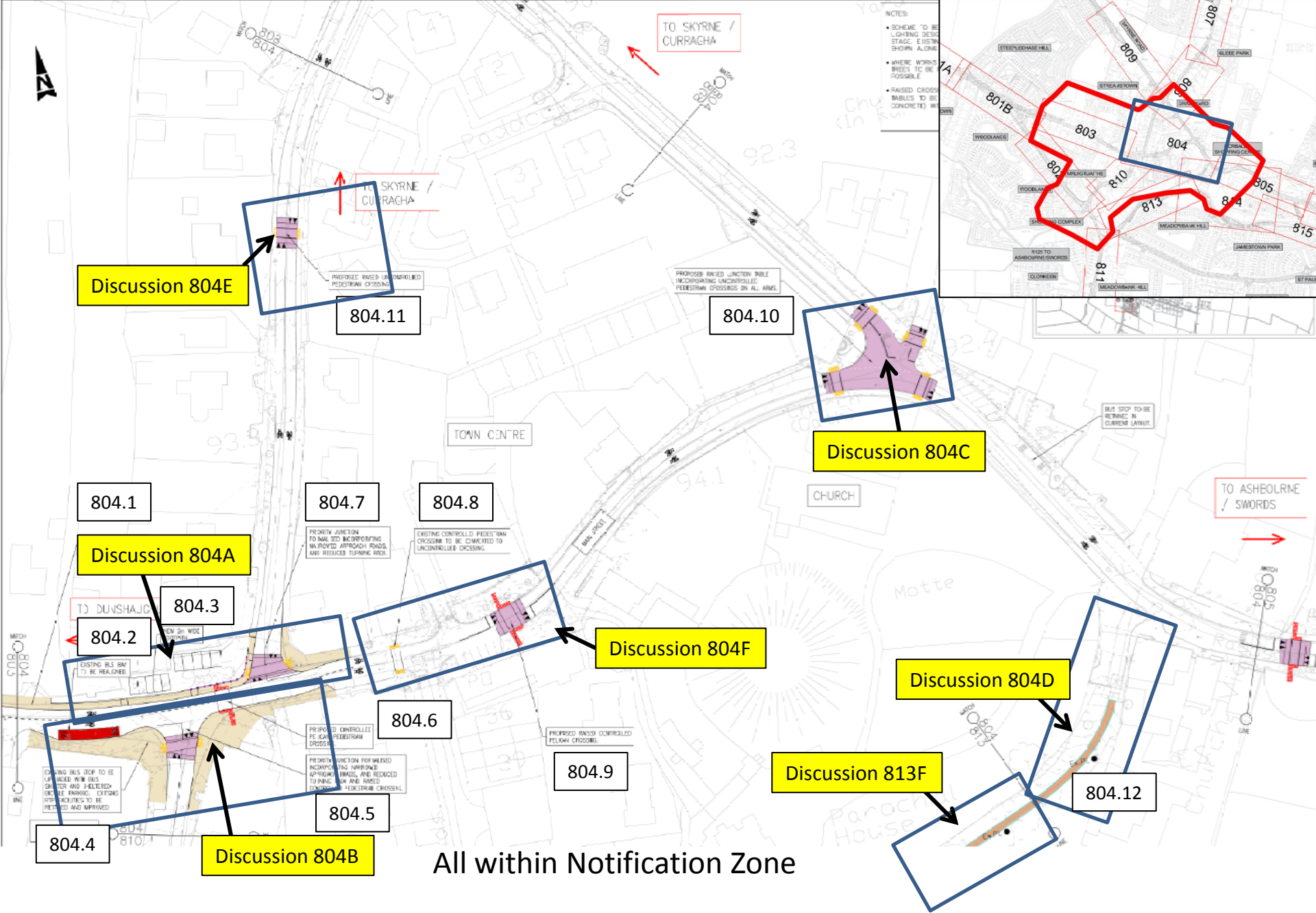


Fig 37: Proposed Drawing 802



All within Notification Zone

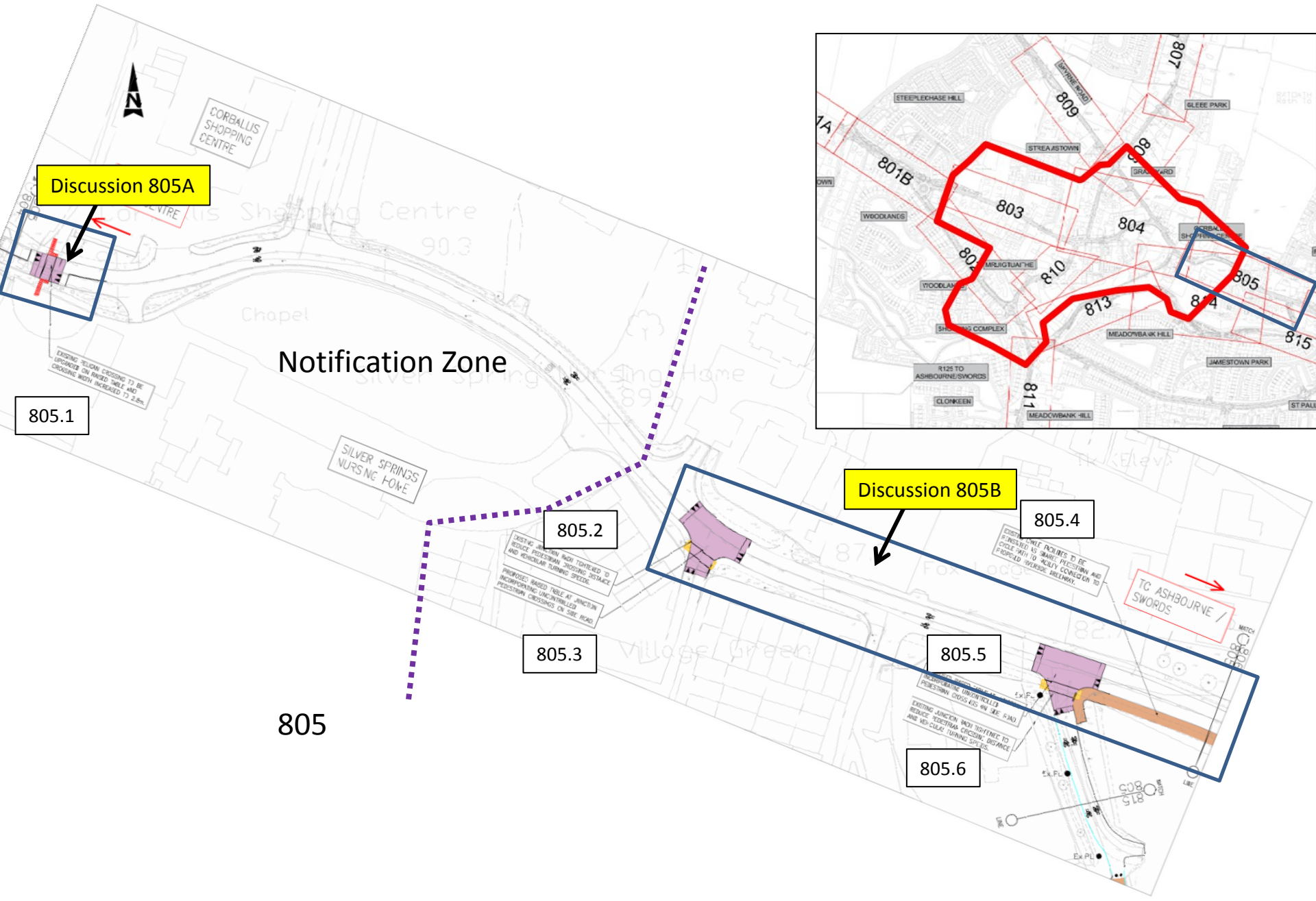
Fig 38: Proposed Drawing 803



All within Notification Zone

804

Fig 39: Proposed Drawing 804



Discussion 805A

805.1

Notification Zone

SILVER SPRINGS NURSING HOME

805.2

EXISTING DESIGN CROSSING TO BE UPGRADED ON BASED WIDE AND GRADING WIDTH INCREASED TO 2.5M

805.3

EXISTING DESIGN CROSSING TO BE UPGRADED ON BASED WIDE AND GRADING WIDTH INCREASED TO 2.5M

805

Discussion 805B

805.4

EXISTING DESIGN CROSSING TO BE UPGRADED ON BASED WIDE AND GRADING WIDTH INCREASED TO 2.5M

805.5

EXISTING DESIGN CROSSING TO BE UPGRADED ON BASED WIDE AND GRADING WIDTH INCREASED TO 2.5M

TO ASHBORNE / SWORDS

805.6

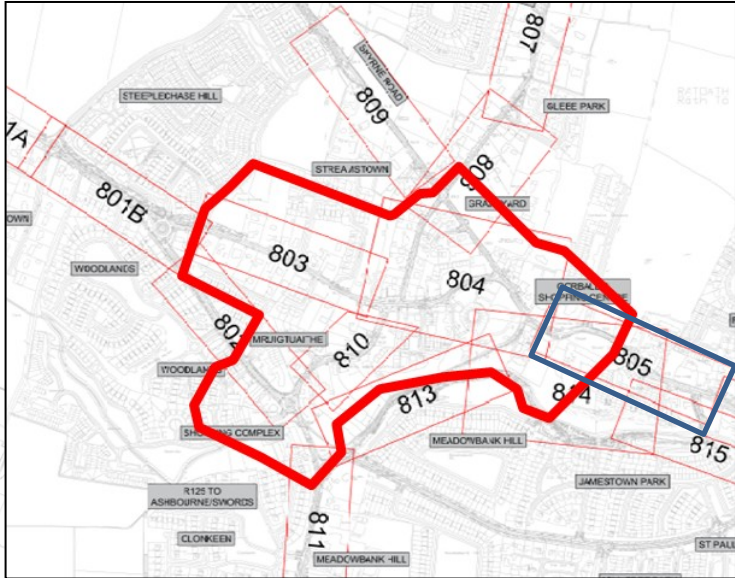
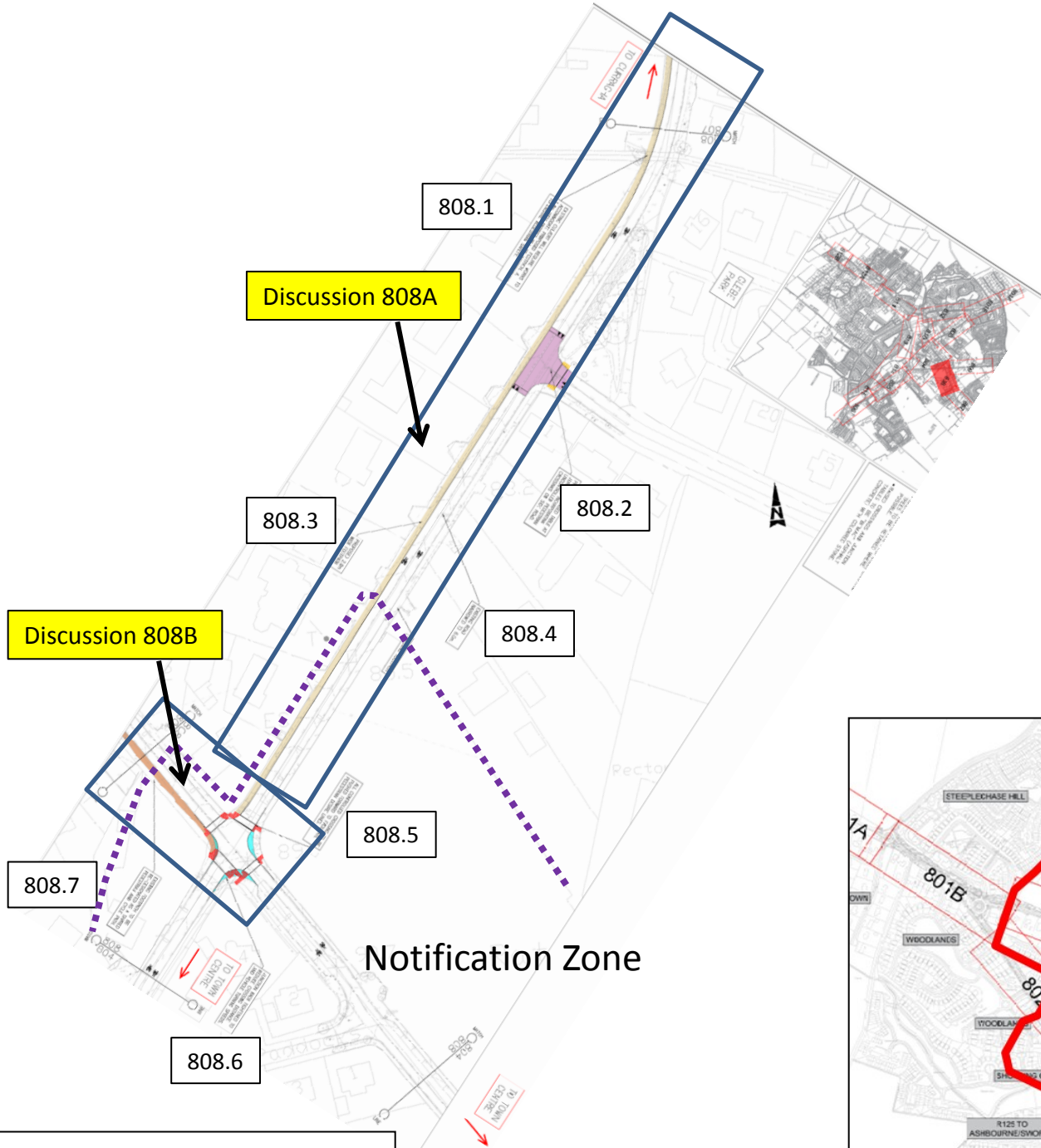


Fig 40: Proposed Drawing 805





808

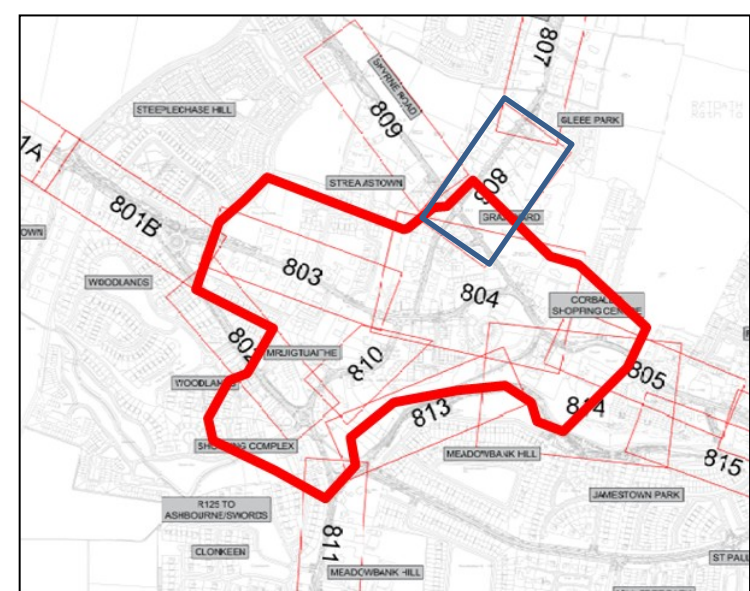
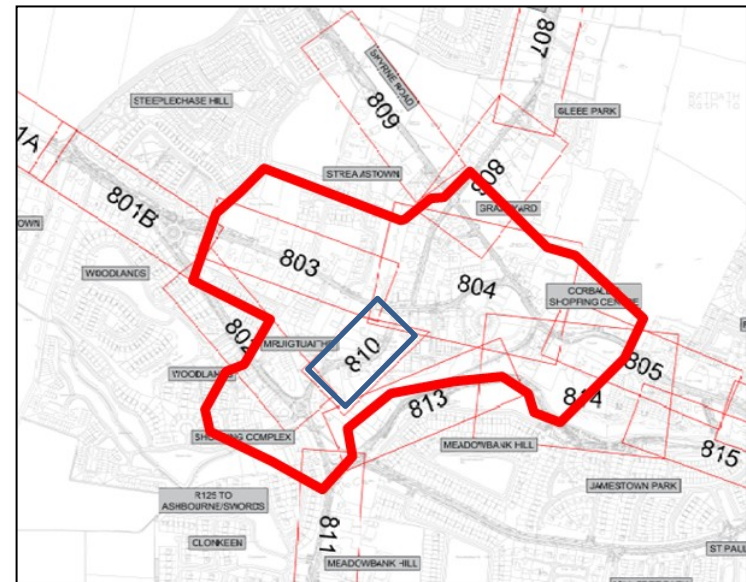
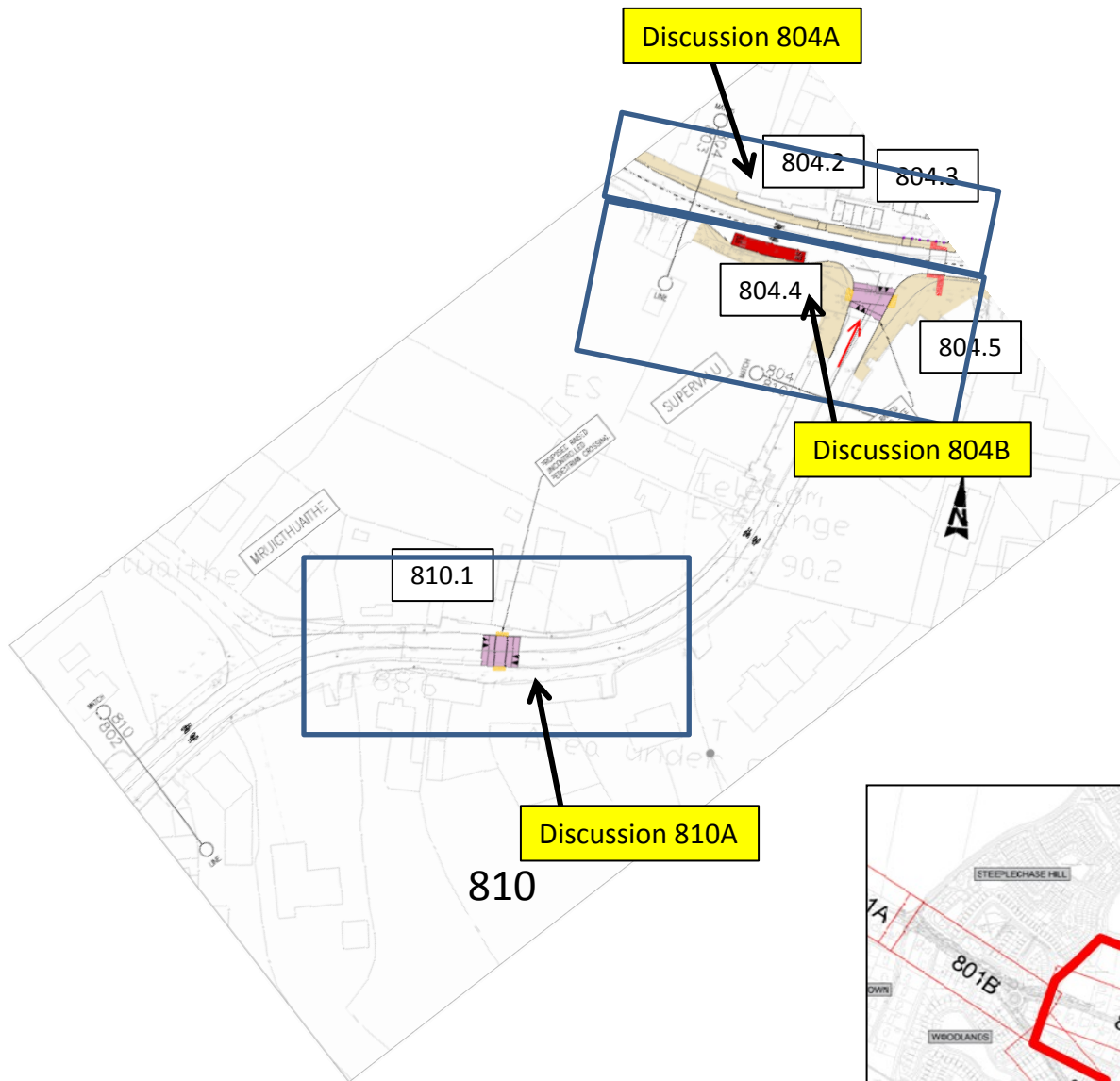


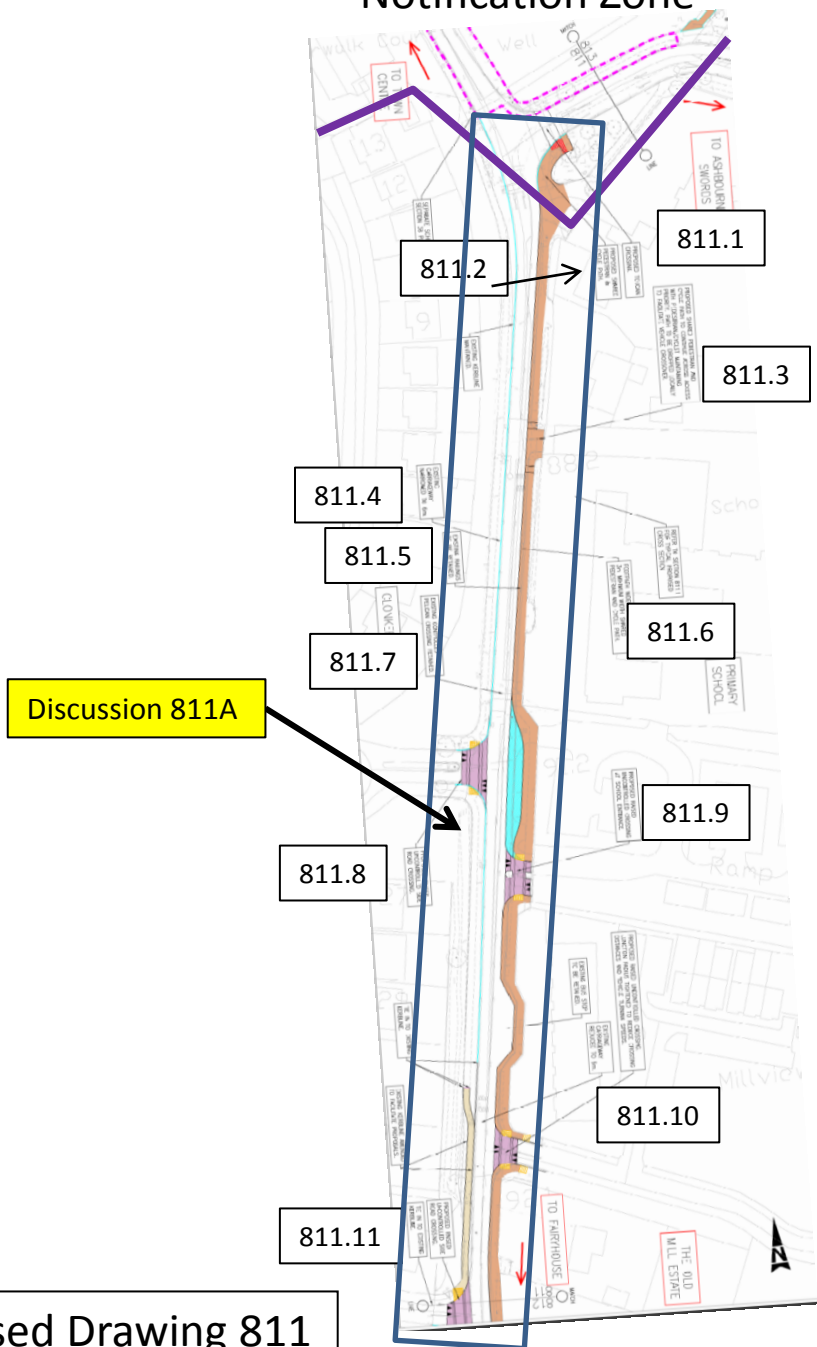
Fig 41: Proposed Drawing 808



All within Notification Zone

Fig 42: Proposed Drawing 810

### Notification Zone



811

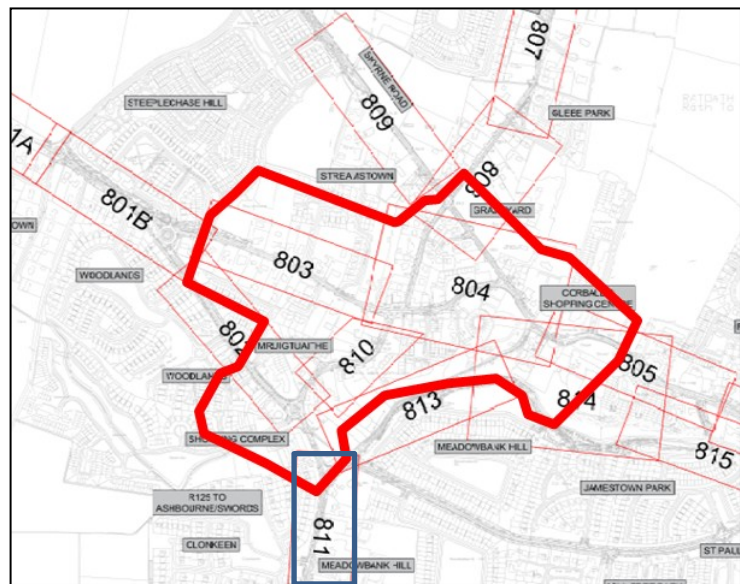


Fig 43: Proposed Drawing 811

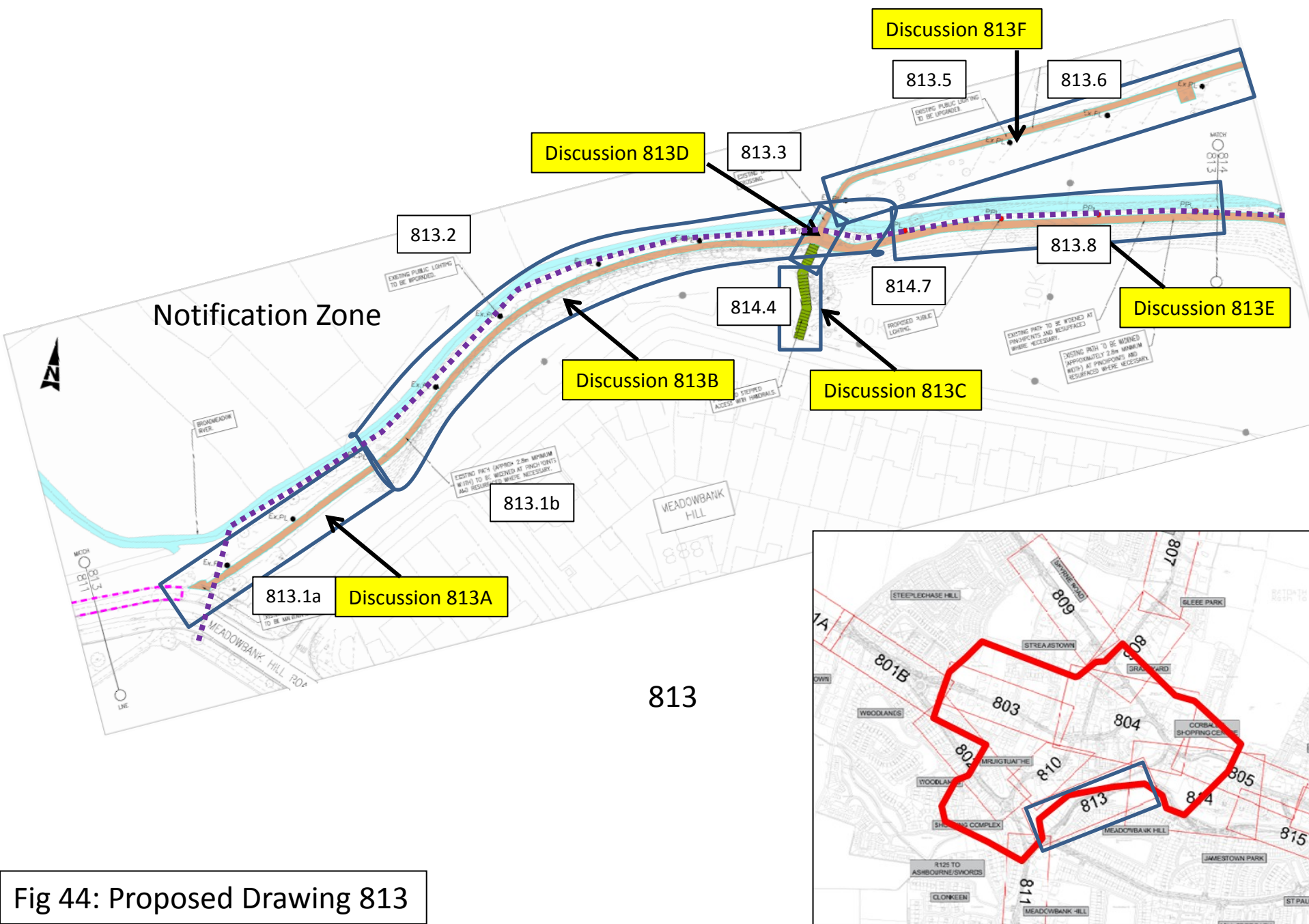
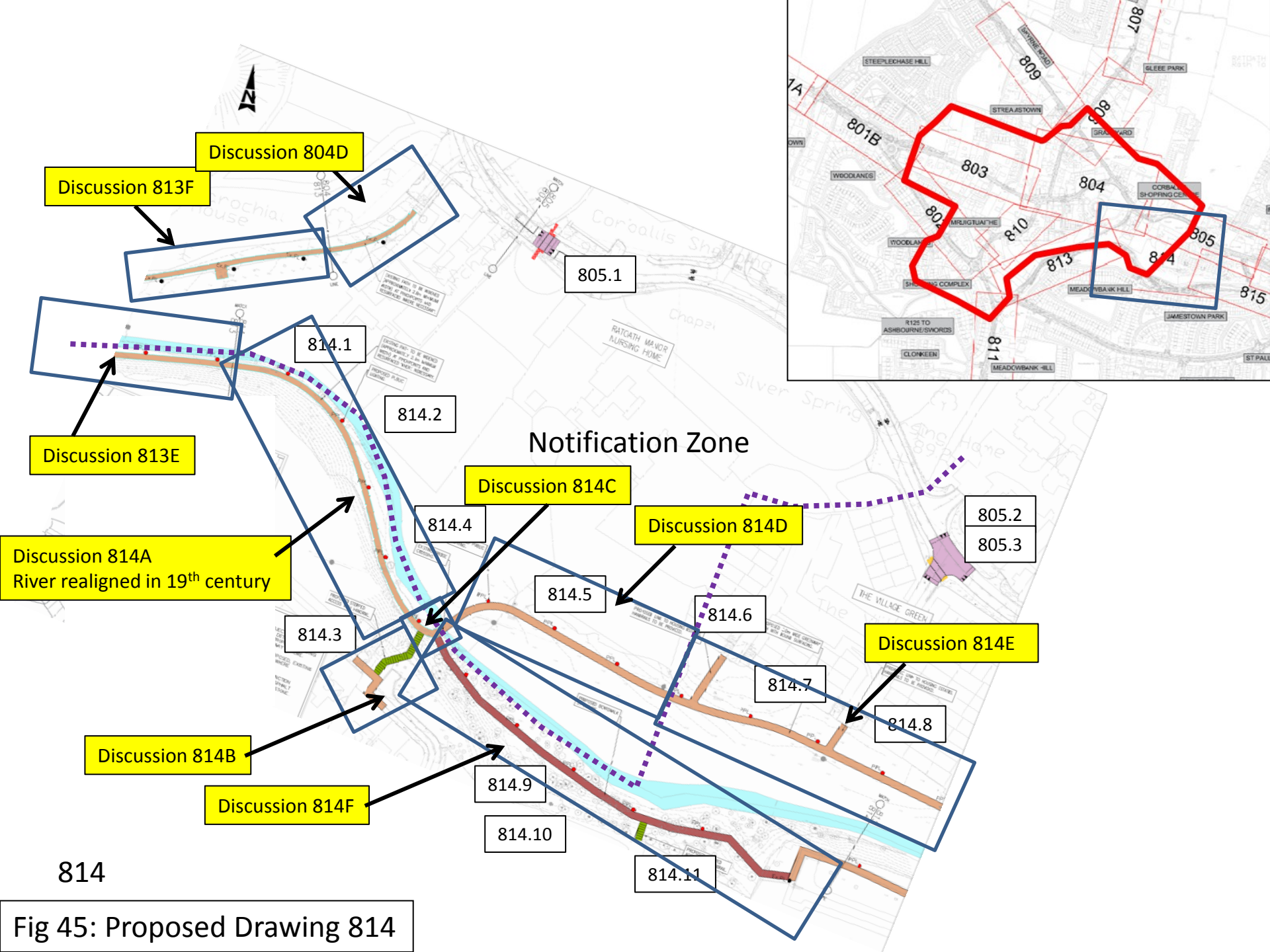


Fig 44: Proposed Drawing 813



814

Notification Zone

Fig 45: Proposed Drawing 814

Discussion 813F

Discussion 804D

Discussion 813E

Discussion 814A  
River realigned in 19<sup>th</sup> century

Discussion 814B

Discussion 814F

Discussion 814C

Discussion 814D

Discussion 814E

814.1

814.2

814.3

814.4

814.5

814.6

814.7

814.8

814.9

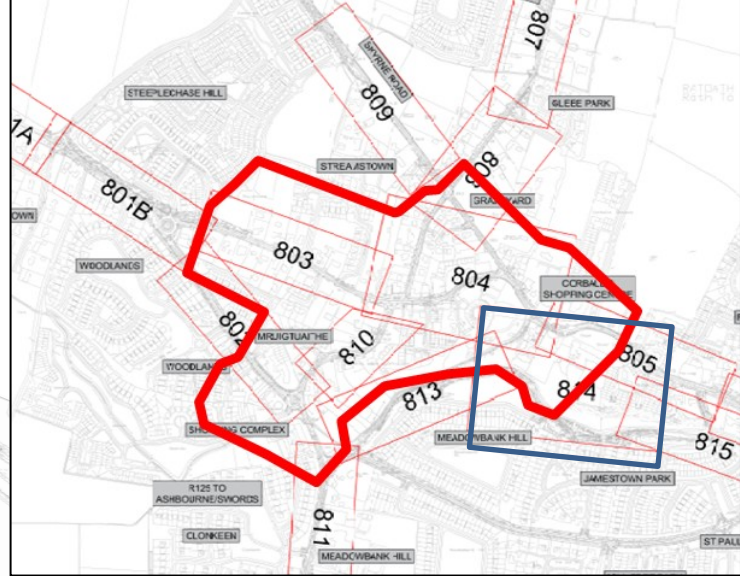
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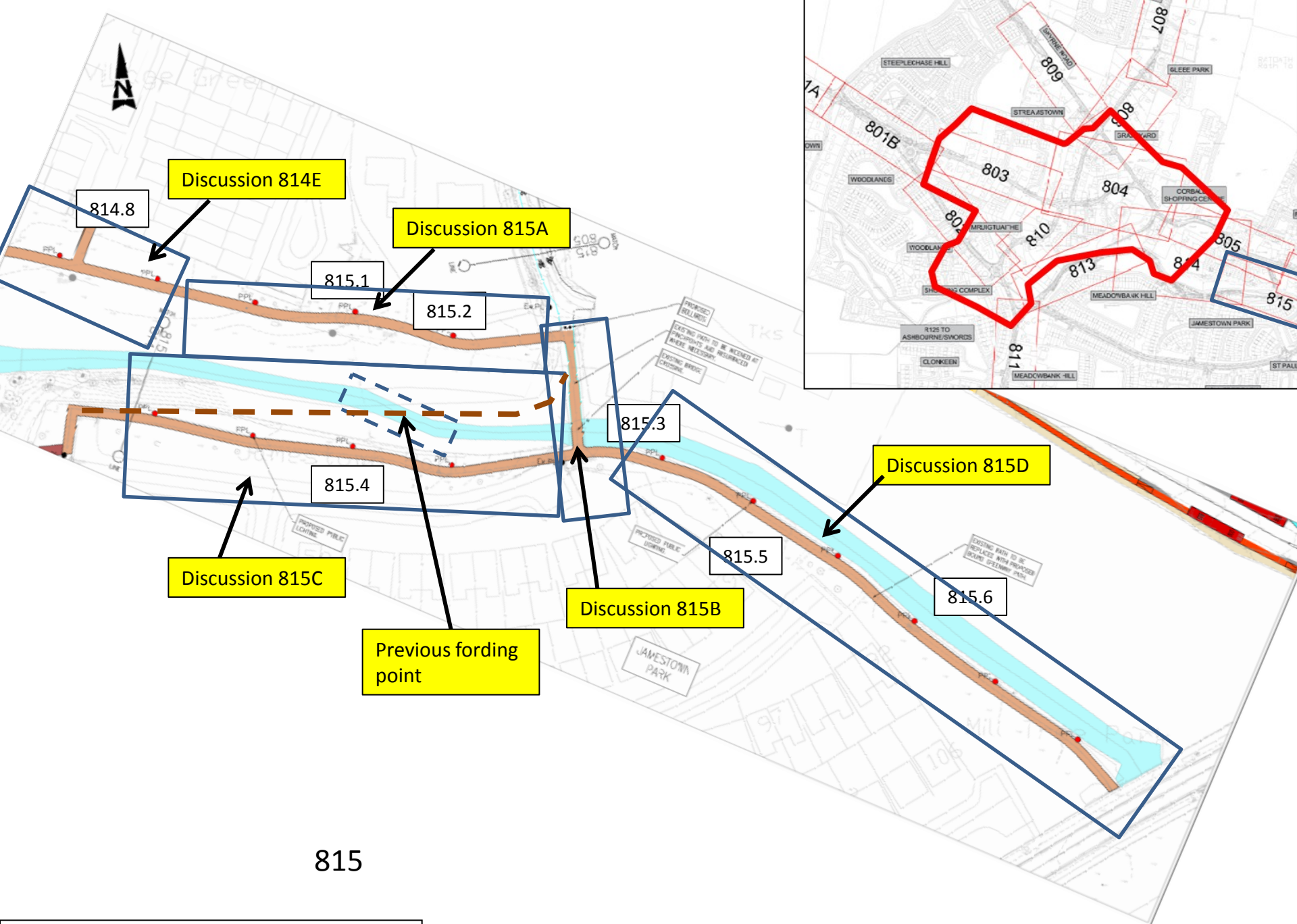
814.11

805.1

805.2

805.3





815

Fig 46: Proposed Drawing 815

PHOTO 1



Discussion 802A

Typical view facing NW on Sean Eiffe Road showing condition as a housing estate (2009)

# PHOTO 2



## Discussion 802B

Typical view facing NW on Sean Eiffe Road showing condition as a housing estate (2009)



# PHOTO 3



## Discussion 803A

Typical view facing E on R125 showing built up condition (2018). Turning north to Streamstown estate on left

PHOTO 4



Discussion 804A + 804B

Typical view facing E on R125 –R155 junction showing built up condition (2018).

PHOTO 5



804B. Facing W. P1200485



804A. Facing W. P1200486



804B. Facing W. P1200487



804B. Facing W. P1200484

PHOTO 6



804B. Facing N. P1200489



804B. Facing W. P1200490



804B. Facing E. P1200491



804A+B. Facing W. P1200492

PHOTO 7



Discussion 804C

Typical view facing E on R125 Main Street Skryne Road (left) junction showing built up condition (2018). Facing E

PHOTO 8



804C with grotto. Facing N with Skryne Road to right. P1200471



804C with grotto. Facing W. Ratoath Church on left. P1200472



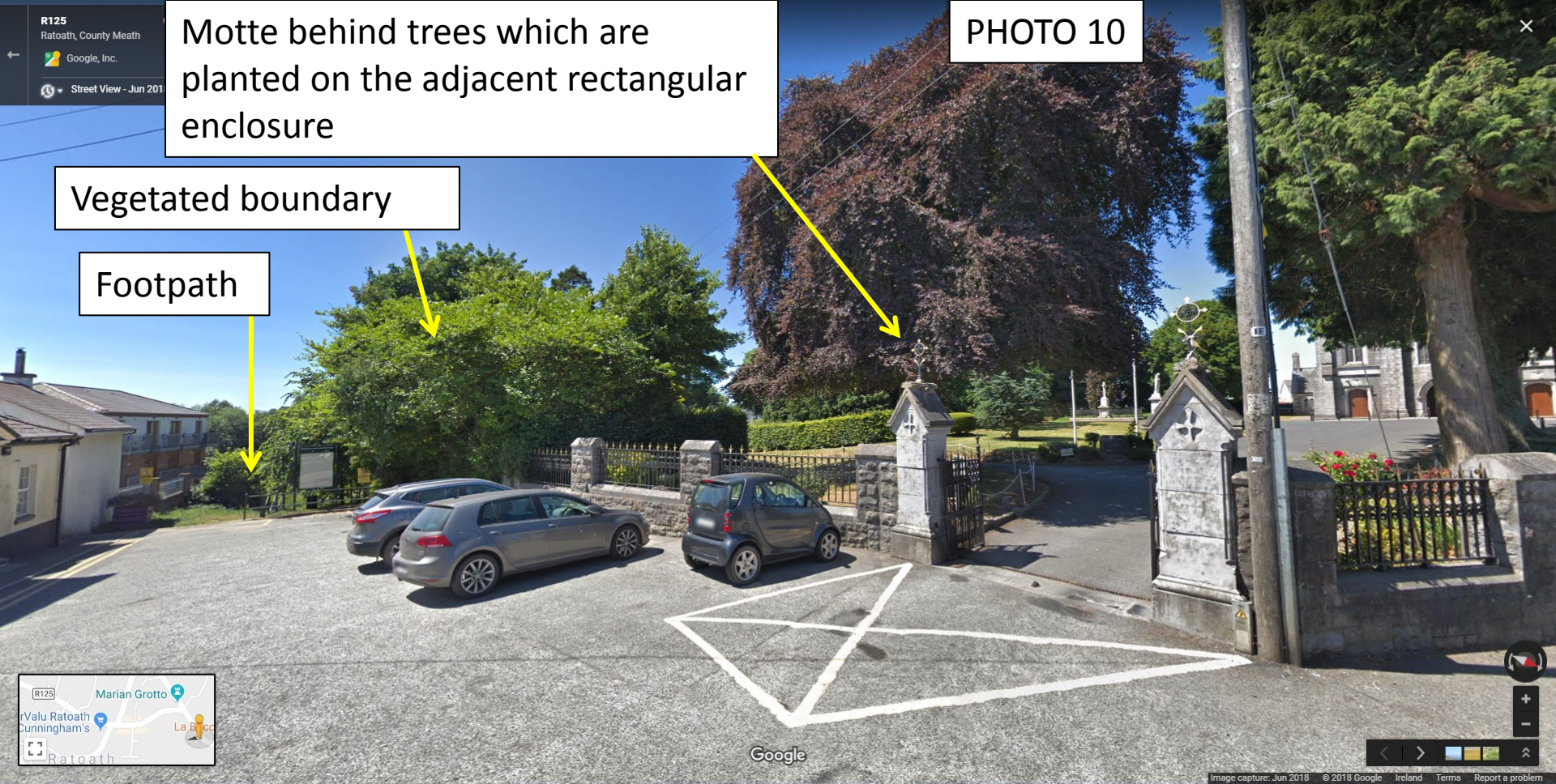
804CRatoath Church and gate from Glebe Lane. Facing SW. P1200473

PHOTO 9



P1200468

Ratoath Motte. Facing SW



Discussion 804D

Typical view from R125 Main Street with entrance to Ratoath Church on left and footpath to right (2018). Facing S



PHOTO 11



804D. Church end. Facing N. P1200464



804D. Church end. Facing N. P1200462



804D. Facing N. P1200461



804D. Facing S. P1200463

PHOTO 12



813F near to Bridge 1. Facing  
NE. P1200459



813F facing NE. P1200460

PHOTO 13



Discussion 804E

Typical view on R155 Well Road, Facing N (2018).

PHOTO 14



Discussion 804F

Typical view on R125 Main Street. Facing E (2018).

PHOTO 15



Discussion 805A

Typical view on R125 Main Street. Facing E (2018).

PHOTO 16



Discussion 805B

Typical view on R125 on E side of Ratoath. Facing E (2018).

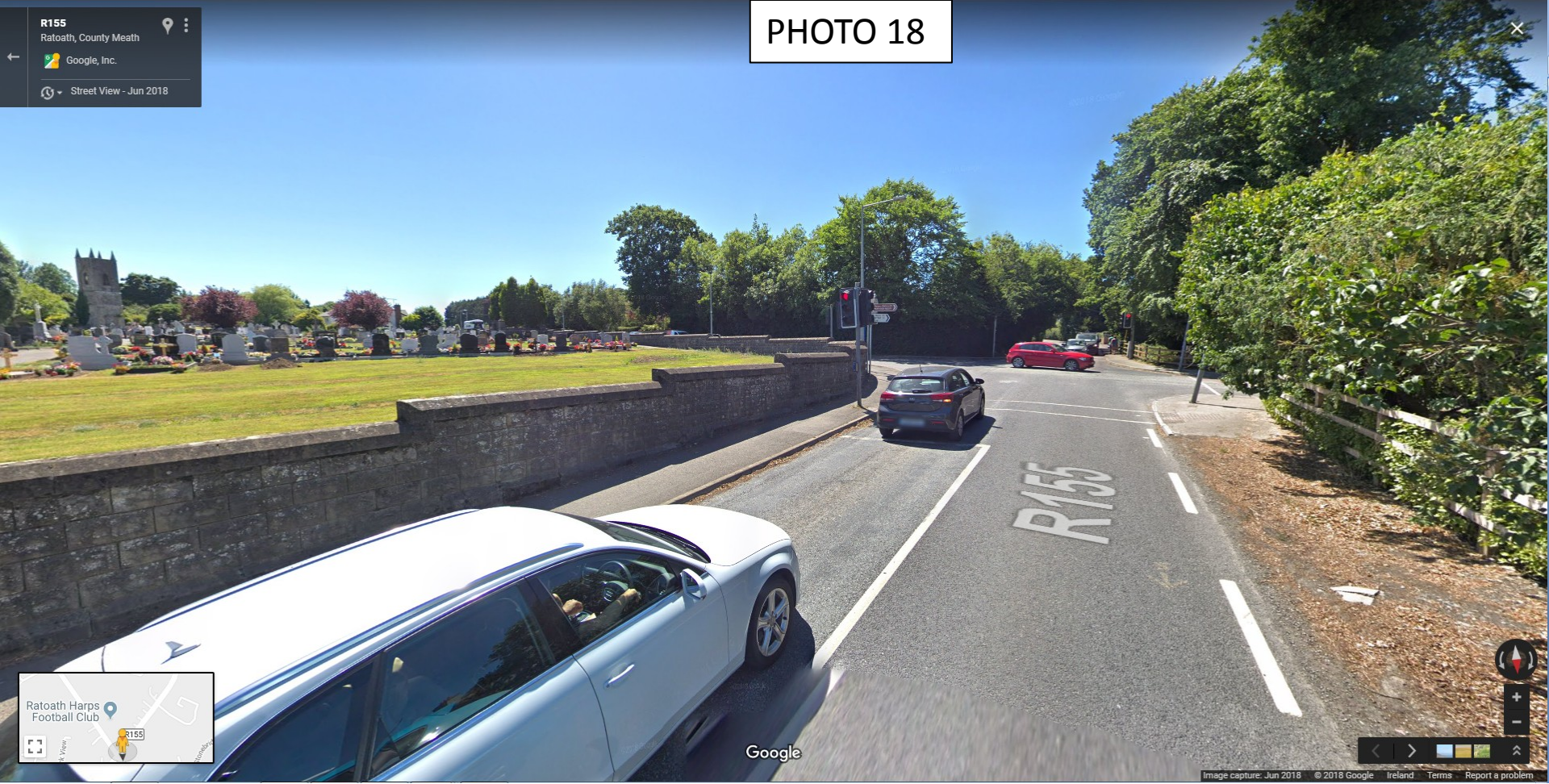
# PHOTO 17



## Discussion 808A

Typical view on R155 Curragha Road on NE side of Ratoath. Facing SW (2018).

# PHOTO 18



## Discussion 808B

Typical view on R155 Curragea Road on NE side of Ratoath. Ratoath Church tower and graveyard on left on Skryne Road. Facing SW (2018).



PHOTO 19



808B. Skryne Road with graveyard wall on right. Facing N. P1200482



808B. R155 Well Road facing NE to junction with Skryne Road. P1200483



Discussion 810A

Typical view on R155 Fairyhouse Road on SW side of Ratoath. Facing SW (2018). Previous smithy (arrowed)

PHOTO 21



Discussion 811A

Typical view from northern end of 808A, R155 Fairyhouse Road on SW side of Ratoath. Facing S (2018).

PHOTO 22



Discussion 811A

Typical view of R155 Fairyhouse Road outside Ratoath National School. Facing S (2018).



Typical view of R155 Fairyhouse Road with the modern development including Tesco on the site of the Ratoath Mills that dated back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century at least. Masonry wall to right is for the present Broad Meadow River culvert.

PHOTO 24



Broad Meadow River to W of R155. Facing W. P1200500



Broad Meadow River to E of R155. Facing NE. P1200502

PHOTO 25



813A. W end (start) of riverside walkway.  
Facing E. P1200503



813A. W end (start) of riverside walkway.  
Facing E. P1200504



813A. W end (start) of riverside walkway.  
Facing W. P1200521



813A. W end (start) of riverside walkway. Facing  
E. P1200522

PHOTO 26



813B. Facing E. P1200505



813B. Facing E. P1200506



813B. Facing E. P1200507



813B. Facing E. P1200508

Verge to left of footpath is area of previous mill race



PHOTO 27



813B. Facing E. P1200509



813B. Facing W. P1200510



813B. Facing E. P1200511



813B. Facing E. P1200512

Bank to right of footpath in E facing photos is the side of a previous mill race

PHOTO 28



813B. Facing E. P1200513



813B. Facing E. P1200514



813B. Facing E. P1200515



813B. Facing E. P1200516

Bank to right of footpath is the side of a previous mill race

PHOTO 29



813B. Facing E. P1200517



813B and 813D. Facing E. P1200518



813B. Facing E. P1200519



813B. Facing W. P1200520

Bank to right of footpath in E facing photos is the side of a previous mill race

PHOTO 30



813D. Facing NW. P1200453



813D. Facing SE. P1200454



813C (to rear) and 813D (bridge). Facing S.  
P1200455



813C (to rear) and 813D  
(bridge). Facing S. P1200457

PHOTO 31



813E. Facing W. P1200452



814A. Facing W P1200451



814A. Facing W. P1200450



814A. Facing W P1200449

PHOTO 32



814A from 814C facing W. P1200447



814A. Facing E to 814C. P1200448



814B behind fencing, Facing S. P1200445



814B behind fencing and 814C. Facing S.  
P1200439



814C. Facing SW. P1200440



814C. Plaque on E parapet. P1200442



814C. Facing E. P1200441



814C. Facing E. P1200443

PHOTO 34



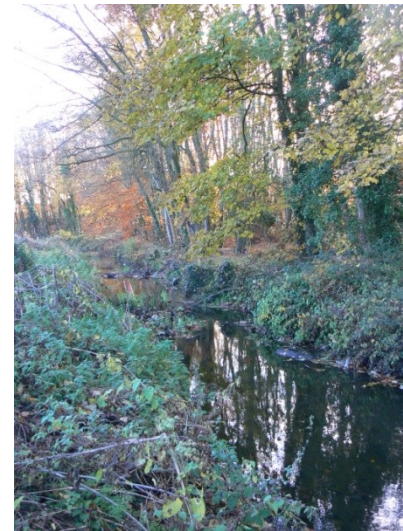
814C facing E to 814F. P1200444



814C facing NE to 814D. P1200446



814D. W end. Facing W. P1200437



814D. W End. Facing E with  
814F on right. P1200438



PHOTO 35



814D facing E to 814C with 814F to left.  
P1200436



814D. W End. Facing E with 814F on right.  
P1200435



814D W end facing E. P1200434



814D W end facing NE. P1200433

PHOTO 36



814D. E End. Facing E with 814F on right.  
P1200429



814D. E End. Facing E with 814F with culvert  
to rear. P1200430



814D. E End. Facing W with 814F on left.  
P1200431



814D. E End. Facing S with stepping stones to  
814F. P1200432

PHOTO 37



814E. E end. Facing E with 814F on right  
P1200427



814E. E End. Facing SW with 814F to rear.  
P1200428



814E. Middle. Facing W. P1200425



814E. Middle . Facing W. P1200426

PHOTO 38



815A. Facing E. P1200423



815A. Middle . Facing S to 817F E end.  
P1200424



815A. W end. Facing W. P1200422



815A. W end. Facing W. P1200421

PHOTO 39



815A. E end. Facing W. P1200419



815A. E end. Facing E. P1200420



815A. E end. Facing W. P1200417



815A. E end. Facing SW. P1200418

PHOTO 40



815B. Bridge E face. Facing W. P1200409



815B. Facing W from 815D. P1200410



815D. Facing E from 814C. P1200411



815D. Facing S from 815A. P1200412

PHOTO 41



815B. Soffit under arch. P1200413



815B. Bridge W face. Facing E. P1200414



815C River to old fording point. Facing W.  
P1200415



815B. Bridge W face. Facing SE. P1200416

PHOTO 42



Discussion 814F to 815C

Transition zone from 814F (trees to middle-left) to 815C (landscaped housing estate with river in trees to middle-right). Facing W. (2009)



PHOTO 43



Discussion 815C

Typical view of landscaped area alongside River (to left) at Jamestown Park. Facing E (2009).

PHOTO 44



815D; Gates to The Avenue. Facing N.  
P1200405



815D; Gates to The Avenue. Facing SW.  
P1200406



815D. Existing landscaped footpath. Facing  
NW. P1200407



815D. Existing landscaped footpath. Facing NW.  
P1200408