

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILT HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE NAVAN GDA CYCLE NETWORK PLAN

ON BEHALF OF: AECOM

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MAY 2018

ABSTRACT

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has prepared this report on behalf of Aecom to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed Navan GDA Cycle Network Plan (OS Sheet 25). The assessment was undertaken by Faith Bailey of IAC Ltd.

There are four individual or groups of recorded monuments located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. This includes the zone of archaeological potential that surrounding Navan Town (ME025-044). The proposed scheme will pass through the eastern part of this zone. Athlumney Castle (ME025-032001/2) which is located to the immediate northeast of the proposed scheme is also listed as a National Monument (Ref.: 287).

There are 13 protected structures located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. Of these two are also listed as recorded monuments and all are included in the NIAH survey for County Meath.

The proposed scheme is low impact and for the most part involves a re-organisation of the existing road layouts in the form of new surfaces and road markings. As such no direct, negative impacts are predicted upon the archaeological resource as a result of the scheme going ahead.

Should the nature of the proposals change in anyway and involve excavations beyond the assumed road surface depth of 0.3m, advice should be sought from an archaeologist as to whether mitigation is required, such as archaeological monitoring. This is specifically in relation to works that may be carried out adjacent to the recorded church and graveyard (ME025-0031/001-3) and Athlumney Castle (ME025-0032001-2).

If archaeological monitoring of excavations is required this should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Full provision should be made for the resolution of any archaeological features/deposits that may be discovered, should that be deemed the most appropriate manner in which to proceed.

A section of Convent Road will require widening to facilitate the works. An 85m portion of the demesne wall associated with Violet Hill House (RPS NT025-138) will be removed and set back to form a new boundary. A 90m portion of wall along the northern side of the road (opposite the church and graveyard) will also be removed and set back. A 125m section of stone wall associated with the Convent demesne, to the west of the railway bridge, will be removed and set back from the existing road.

The above all represent direct and negative impacts on the built heritage resource.

The three sections of stone walling that will require relocation along Convent Road should be re-erected in consultation with Meath County Council Conservation Officer.

The walls should possess similar characteristics to those that currently exist and sample panels may be required for agreement with MCC and in order the define the appropriate specification.

Works along Railway Street may lead to the removal of the existing cast iron lamp stands, which are located on both sides of the street. It is recommended that all historic stands be retained as part of the proposed scheme. If this is not possible the items should be re-erected in close proximity to their original positions.

No direct, negative impacts are predicted upon the remaining architectural heritage resource, as a result of the proposed scheme going ahead. However, should the nature of the proposals change in anyway and involve the removal of structures or impacts on protected structures, advice should be sought from a historic buildings expert as to the nature and extent of any mitigation that may be required.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological and built heritage assessment undertaken in advance of the proposed Navan GDS Cycle Network Plan (Figure 1). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological, built heritage and historical resource that may exist within the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The assessment was undertaken by Faith Bailey of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Aecom.

The proposed scheme is located within Navan town and its hinterland (OS Sheet 25), (Figure 1). It extends from Trim Road to Convent Road via Railway Road, Circular Road, Kells Road (R147) and Summerville (Convent Road). It will travel through the townlands of Balreask Old, Limekiln Hill, Dillonsland, Town Parks and Athlumney.

The assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed scheme and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Meath, the County and Town Development Plan, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The scheme will provide for the upgrade of the existing road network to incorporate a cycle route. This will involve new road layouts within existing carriage ways, although some widening works are anticipated, especially along Convent Road. An indication of the scheme extents is shown in Figure 2.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised of a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Meath;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Meath;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Meath County Development Plan 2013–2019;
- Navan Development Plan 2009-2015;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2017)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoCHG may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

- Sir William Petty, Down Survey Map, 1654-56, Barony of Navan 1654-6
- Thomas William's Map of Navan, 1756
- William Larkin's Map of the County Meath, 1812
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Meath (1836, 1907)

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Meath County Development Plan (2013–2019) and Navan Development Plan (2009-2015) were consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any

area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2017.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a government based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The architectural survey for County Meath was completed during 2004. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. This has also been completed for County Meath. This was examined in relation to the surviving demesnes within the surrounding area of the proposed scheme.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological and architectural field walking inspection entailed:

- Walking the proposed scheme and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features or structures of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

3 RESULTS OF DESKTOP STUDY

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed scheme will see the construction of a cycle network traversing Navan town and providing access to the town's suburbs to the south and east. The proposed development area therefore comprises stretches within Navan town and within the town's hinterland.

3.1.2 Prehistoric Period (7000BC-AD400)

Mesolithic Period (c. 7000-4000BC)

The Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence found to show the presence of Mesolithic communities at a site consists of scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements. The current archaeological evidence suggests that the wider area was first inhabited towards the later part of the Mesolithic period. At Clowanstown, c. 15km to the southeast of the proposed scheme, excavations revealed a platform on a lake edge which was consolidated by a thick layer of burnt timber, a possible mooring site and a series of conical woven fish traps. These features returned dates of 5300–4720BC.

Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500BC)

The Neolithic period was revolutionary: for the first time, there is evidence for the emergence of farming societies in Ireland. There was profound change as people moved (both gradually and rapidly) from peripatetic lifestyle to one organised around animal husbandry and cereal cultivation. Understandably, the transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social transformation; communities expanded and moved further inland to create more permanent settlements. This afforded the further development of agriculture which altered the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time as well as a variety of other artefacts including polished stone axes, a variety of flint tools and saddle querns for grinding corn. People lived in rectangular houses that contained hearths as well as specially demarcated areas for activities such as food preparation. With the advent of the Neolithic period the emergence of the megalithic tomb occurred. There are four types of tomb; court cairn, portal, passage and wedge. It is likely that these were large communal ritual monuments.

Meath has experienced a long sequence of settlement, which appears to have been heavily focused on the Boyne River. The early prehistory of the region is dominated by several important cores, including the Boyne Valley, Tara, Fourknocks and, further to the west, Loughcrew. The most renowned of these centres are the large Neolithic complexes at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. These are protected as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of *Brú na Bóinne*. There are no recorded sites of this

date located within the vicinity of the proposed scheme. However, a Neolithic passage tomb is located on the Hill of Tara c. 8.5km to the southeast of Navan Town.

Bronze Age Period (c. 2500–800BC)

The Bronze Age heralded further change within society both in terms of material culture and social practises as well as the nature of the construction and use of sites and monuments. Megalithic tombs were no longer constructed and the burial of the individual became more typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, a small stone box set into the ground, or a stone lined grave. Burials were often made within cemeteries which were either unenclosed or else marked in the landscape with the construction of an earthen barrow. Barrows of this period often vary in form and can include the ring-ditch, the embanked ring-ditch, the ring barrow, the bowl barrow and the bowl barrow lacking an external bank. In general, ring-ditches date to the Bronze Age, with the earlier examples being simpler in form and later examples incorporating entrances and a wider range of burials practices. Ring ditches appear to have continued to be built and earlier monuments re-used, during the Iron Age and early medieval period.

A number of Bronze Age burial sites have been recorded within the wider environs of Navan, several of which appear to focus upon the valley of the River Boyne to the northeast of Navan Town.

The most common Bronze Age site within the archaeological record is the burnt mound or *fulacht fiadh*. Over 7000 *fulachta fiadh* have been recorded in the country and hundreds excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 1998, 174). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, those noted in close proximity to a trough are generally interpreted as Bronze Age cooking/industrial sites. *Fulachta fiadh* generally consist of a low mound of burnt stone, commonly in horseshoe shape, and are found in low lying marshy areas or close to streams. Often these sites have been ploughed out and survive as a spread of heat shattered stones in charcoal rich soil with no surface expression in close proximity to a trough. A *fulacht fiadh* (RMP ME025-044015) is located c. 500m northwest of the proposed scheme and multiple examples of these monuments have been excavated within the wider environs of Navan Town.

Iron Age Period (c. 800BC - AD400)

In comparison to the rest of Irish prehistory there is relatively little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700 BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC. This theory has been challenged in recent years by John Koch and Barry Cunliffe, amongst others. Cunliffe has put forward an opposing theory suggesting that the Insular Celtic Cultures originated in Western Europe (Koch and Cunliffe 2013). Although Iron Age activity has been recorded at the Tara complex to

the southeast, there are no definitively Iron Age sites within the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

3.1.3 Early Medieval Period (AD400–1100)

The early medieval period (AD400–1100) is portrayed in the surviving literary sources as entirely rural, characterised by the basic territorial unit known as a *túath*. Byrne (1973) estimates that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own *túath*. During this turbulent period, defensive enclosures known as ringforts, regarded as defended family homesteads, were constructed to protect farmsteads. The extant dating evidence suggests they were primarily built between the 7th and 9th centuries AD (Stout 1997, 22–31). These are the most frequently recorded archaeological site type and c. 50,000 examples are recorded in the Irish landscape.

The early medieval landscape also saw the construction of a large number of ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland in the centuries following the 5th century AD. These early churches tended to be constructed of wood or post-and-wattle (O'Sullivan et al 2014). Many of the sites, some of which were monastic foundations, may have originally been defined by an elliptical enclosing wall or bank similar to that found at the coeval secular sites mentioned above. This enclosing feature may have bounded a sacred area. An inner and outer enclosure can be seen at some important sites; the inner enclosure surrounding the sacred area of church and burial ground and the outer enclosure providing a boundary around living quarters and craft areas.

Navan is traditionally associated with *Nuacgangball*, where an early monastery was thought to have been established by Saint Fechin. However, there is no reference to the monastery within the Annals. The most significant archaeological discovery to be identified within the town from this period was a rich Viking burial, unearthed in 1843. Since burials can be an indication of settlement, its presence points to further discoveries of Viking activity here. This find was reportedly made in close proximity to the confluence of the Boyne and Blackwater rivers. The area is identified as *Dún Dubchomair*, where a Viking fleet was reputed to have landed (Clinton 2000).

Another site that may possess early medieval origins is the recorded church and graveyard site located to the immediate south of the proposed scheme and Convent Road (RMP ME025-031/001/ RPS NT025-136). The church is listed in records from the beginning of the 1300s. However, the graveyard is sub-circular, possibly suggesting the presence of an earlier enclosing feature that eventually became the boundary of the graveyard.

3.1.4 Medieval Period (AD1100–1600)

Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, in his bid to regain the Kingdom of Leinster. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited this kingdom through marriage to Diarmuid's daughter Aoife. By the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in overthrowing the previous ruling elites in much of the country. Large land grants given by the King to his

followers meaning that great swathes of land were parcelled out among the Norman elites in process known as sub-infuedation.

Navan was one of the first boroughs to be established by the Anglo-Normans and had become a walled town by the time Hugh de Lacy died in 1186 (RMP ME025-044). In 1539, a grant was made for 'building the walls of Navan' after it was described as 'not walled nor defensible' due to repeated attacks by the Irish. Several merchants were bonded for a thousand pounds on condition that 'they shall in ten years build a wall of lime and stone as the Lord Deputy and the Council shall appoint.' The line of the town wall is clear within the town (RMP ME025-044003), as it marks the urban core, despite the rapid expansion beyond the walls from the late 18th century (Thomas 1992, 170-3). The only visible section of the wall is located on the north side in the yard of the Urban District Council, at Barrack Lane. This consists of a section of wall measuring c. 15m in length. The remains of a semi-circular bastion are also visible within this short section. On the east side of the town a short section of the wall appears to be embedded within the walls a shop front. This tract is c. 1m in width and has two splayed openings that may have been arrow loops.

The area of the medieval town is characterised by a relatively intact burgage plot pattern. The medieval marketplace was located at the junction of the medieval streets in what was later known as Market Square. The market has a triangular form, which was typical of towns established under the Normans in both Britain and Ireland. The remnants of the market cross that once stood in the square (RMP ME025-044002), can be dated to c. 1585. These remains are now housed within the National Museum. The proposed scheme runs along Circular Road to the south of the medieval town extents. However, it will also follow Timmons Hill, which is a relatively modern road that runs through the very eastern extent of the medieval town, parallel to the River Boyne.

A second Anglo-Norman manor, at Skreen, extended to the eastern banks of the Boyne at Athlumney. This barony was granted to the de Pheypo family by Hugh de Lacy in 1172 and was in turn sub-divided into manors. In 1194, Athlumney was held by an Amaury de Pheypo. This lord is attributed with the construction of the motte castle (RMP ME025-033) located on the banks of the Boyne c. 75m southwest of the proposed scheme. The motte is strategically placed at a fording place on the Boyne. Traces of a possible bailey have been noted to the east of the motte. In the early 13th century Amaury de Pheypo also built a stone church in Athlumney for the tenants of his demesne. He described it as a chapel, which seems to imply its dependence on the mother church in Skryne. The stone is rough and primitive with very little mortar used (RMP ME025-031/ RPS NT025-136). It was dedicated to St. James.

The motte castle was replaced at Athlumney in the 15th century with the construction of a tower house 130m to the northeast (RMP ME025-032001/ RPS NT025-137) and 25m northeast of the proposed scheme. In the late 16th/early 17th century, a three-storey, four-bay house was constructed onto the southern side of the tower house (RMP ME025-032002). Known as Athlumney Castle, the building has

four sets of widely spaced mullioned windows, large corridors and a ground floor kitchen.

3.1.5 Post Medieval Period (AD1600-1900)

In 1628, Sir Roger Jones, was created Viscount Ranelagh. He was simultaneously created Baron Jones of Navan. The first Viscount was succeeded by his eldest son, Arthur, the second Viscount, who represented Weobly in the English Parliament. Arthur was succeeded by his son, Richard, the third Viscount, who was created Earl of Ranelagh in the Peerage of Ireland in 1677. On Richard's death in 1712 the earldom became extinct while the barony and viscounty became dormant.

These titles remained dormant until 1759 when Charles Wilkinson Jones successfully claimed the titles, and became the fourth Viscount. This was achieved with the assistance of Thomas Williams who drew up one of the earliest maps of the town in 1756. At this time, the estimated population of the town was in the region of 2,700. The titles became extinct on the seventh Viscount's death in 1885.

Navan town continued in importance throughout the post-medieval period and most of the extant buildings in the town centre date from the 18th and 19th centuries. The 19th century mapping shows Navan as a thriving market town with mill races, corn mills, a distillery, flax mills and canal channels.

Samuel Lewis, writing in 1837, describes Navan as:

'an incorporated market and post-town, and a parish, in the Barony of Lower Navan, county of Meath containing 5292 inhabitants and about 850 houses, many of which are well built; altogether it has a neat, cheerful, and thriving appearance. The Cavalry Barracks, on the site of the ancient abbey are adapted for 4 officers and 52 non-commissioned officers and privates, with stabling for 50 horses. The chief trade is in provisions, which is extensively carried on with Drogheda, and seems to have been consequent on the opening of the Boyne Navigation from that part to Navan [...]. There is also a considerable retail trade with the surrounding districts. In the immediate vicinity of the town, and closely connected with its trade, though locally within the limits of the adjoining parish of Athlumney, are flax-mills on the river Boyne, affording regular employment, on the average, to about 260 persons [...]. There are also some smaller mills in the town, chiefly for oatmeal and a paper-mill upon a small scale, chiefly for the coarser sorts of paper. The distillery belonging to Mr. James Morgan is capable of producing 30,000 gallons of whiskey annually.'

During this period the Boyne Canal was also established. The section of the proposed scheme that runs along Convent road is located to the east of the path of the canal. To the immediate north and south of the R153 the canal channel has been backfilled. However, much of the route to the north remains extant. The Boyne Navigation Company began work on the lower section of the navigation from the sea lock at Oldbridge to Slane in 1748. This was completed in the 1760s. The upper section,

which the proposed scheme will pass beneath, from Slane to Navan, was completed in 1800. The main cargo on the navigation was grain and flour between the mills on the river and the port of Drogheda, with coal travelling in the other direction. At four places along the route the towpath switches from one side of the river to the other. Where this happened the horse would step onto the barge while it was poled across to the other side.

In 1902 James McCann of Ardsallagh Navan took over the canal from the Boyne Navigation Company on a lease of seven years. A pleasure cruiser, the 'Ros na Ree', operated a passenger service in the summer months between Oldbridge and Navan during the years 1905-1914. Despite this the canal did not turn a profit and as such the Boyne Navigation Company went into liquidation in 1913. In 1915 the canal was bought by John Spicer and continued in operation until 1923 when it was abandoned. An Taisce bought the canal from John Spicer for £1 in 1969 (boyne.iwai.ie/thenavigation).

It was also during the post medieval period that a number of changes took place within the landscape, which related to the residences of the landed gentry. The 18th century saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses and associated park land demesnes. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be located nationwide. The initial formal avenues and geometric gardens designs in fashion during the 17th and early 18th centuries were replaced during the mid-18th century by the adoption of parkland landscapes — to be able to view a large house within a natural setting. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate.

The proposed scheme passes to the west of the former demesne associated with Greenmount House, within the townland of Dillonsland. However, this house is no longer extant and the demesne has been subject to residential development.

A portion of the eastern part of the proposed scheme travels to the immediate northeast of a demesne that is marked on the first edition OS map of 1836 as being associated with a house named as Violet Hill (RPS NT025-138). The house was located to the south of Athlumney Castle, which is marked as being adjacent to a walled garden. By the time of the later mapping Violet Hill has been extended to the east and was in use as a convent building.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2014) has revealed that several archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a sewer pipeline was carried out in 2004. This pipeline shadowed the route of the G.N.R. railway, which crosses the proposed scheme. Monitoring continued for the duration of the topsoil-strip and for selective portions of the pipe trenching. No features of archaeological importance were identified (Bennett 2004:1295, Licence Ref.: 04E0684).

Archaeological test trenching was carried out at St. Anne's Convent on Railway Street, c. 70m northwest of the proposed scheme. Despite the fact that the trenches traversed an area previously in use as a graveyard, there was no evidence to indicate the survival of archaeological features on the site and no artefacts were recovered. There was no indication that the town wall had crossed the site (Bennett 2011:491, Licence Ref.: 11E041).

Archaeological test trenching of a large greenfield area was undertaken c. 250m southeast of the proposed scheme in 2009 in Balreask Old. The site comprised five fields within a relatively flat open landscape. A geophysical survey of the development was carried out in advance of the testing phase by Target Archaeological Geophysics (licence 09R209). No features of note were identified during the survey. A total of 30 test-trenches were excavated throughout the site in order to confirm the results of the geophysical survey. No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified during the assessment (Bennett 2009:633; Licence Ref.: 09E0541 and Bennett 2009:634; Licence Ref.: 09E0566).

Monitoring was carried out during excavation for a Telecom Éireann service trench along the route of the proposed scheme between Athlumney Graveyard and Athlumney Castle, using a very narrow bucket to a depth of 1m (RMPs ME025-031 and ME025032001/2/ RPS NT025-136 and 137). At all times the machine excavated through made ground. At the eastern end, closest to the convent, the fill consisted of crushed stone, but going westwards it was formed by mixed layers of sand, gravel and clay. At the western end of the trench the level of the road rose substantially above the level of the fields on either side in order to bring it over the railway bridge. The layers of fill had presumably been laid down when the railway bridge and the road approaches on either side were being constructed (Bennett 1998:500).

Testing as part of an assessment was carried out in advance of construction of a medical centre immediately east of the proposed scheme in 2008. Five test-trenches were excavated to subsoil. No material of archaeological significance was disclosed by the trenches (Bennett 2008:93; Licence Ref.: 08E0567).

Test trenching in advance of the construction of the Athlumney Castle housing estate revealed no earthworks associated with the castle. These investigations were carried out c. 40m east of the proposed scheme (Bennett 1994:193; Licence Ref.: 94E0114).

Testing was carried out on a proposed development site c. 100m south of Athlumney Castle. Eight trenches, c. 30m long, were excavated on the site. No archaeological indicators were identified in the excavation (Bennett 2000:0765; Licence Ref.: 00E0902).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Down Survey Map of the Barony of Navan 1654-6

Navan Town is visible as a walled town on the banks of the River Boyne. The scale of this map does not allow for further detail to be gleaned from the mapping. A bridge over the Blackwater is visible at the location of Pollboy Bridge (RMP ME025-044008/RPS NT025-099) and a 'Cornmill' is depicted in the vicinity of the later corn mills on the eastern bank of the Boyne.

Thomas Williams Map of Navan, 1756

This map focuses on the centre of Navan Town and contains good detail of the town layout and principal elements. The circuit of the town walls is visible running along Church hill and Fair Green to the south and to the rear of properties fronting Trimgate Street to the north. Both Pollboy Bridge (RPS ME025-044008/ RPS NT025-099) and New Bridge (RPS NT025-115) are represented. A turnpike is shown at the fork in the road at Donaghmore Road and the Nobber Road.

William Larkin's Map of the County Meath 1812

Navan town is depicted as linear development along the route of Trimgate Street, Ludlow Street and Watergate Street. The urbanisation can also be seen to extend across the Blackwater along Pollboy Street. Blackcastle Demesne is depicted while a small cluster of structures at Athlumney is likely to represent Athlumney Castle and church (RMPs ME025-031 and ME025032001/2/ RPS NT025-136/137). The scale of this map however does not allow for detailed observation of the route of the proposed scheme.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1836, scale 1:10560

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the entire area containing the proposed scheme. From the south the proposed scheme follows a road that today forms the R161. It passes through a rural landscape within the townlands of Balreask Old, Limekilnhill and Dillonsland. Occasional structures are marked as fronting onto the road and the demesne associate with Greenmount House is shown to the east of the road.

The route then turns east and runs roughly along the boundary that separates Dillonstown to the south from Townparks to the north. A spa well is marked to the south of this boundary. Once the route reaches the river channel of the Boyne it turns in a roughly northerly direction along the channel. A mill race is marked along the western bank of the river, prior to New Bridge (RPS NT025-115).

The eastern section of the proposed scheme runs south along a road that is now Convent Road. Structures are marked as flanking this road before it turns southeast. Here the road and scheme is marked to the north of Boyne Cottage (RPS NT025-133) and also as forming the northern boundary to the demesne associated with Violet Hill (RPS NT025-138). The church and graveyard at Athlumney are marked to the south (RMP ME025-031/001, RPS NT025-136), whereas Athlumney Castle is marked to the

immediate northeast (RMP ME025-132001/2, RPS NT025-137). A walled garden is indicated to the east of the castle.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1907, scale 1:2500

By the time of this map a number of changes have occurred within the landscape surrounding the proposed scheme. In Dillonsland the demesne associated with Greenmount House has been expanded and a railway line runs in a northwest-southeast direction beneath the road and the proposed route to the south of the demesne. To the north of the demesne the route crosses another railway line. A level crossing is marked at this location and a railway station and associated structures are located to the immediate east of the proposed scheme.

The proposed scheme then turns east to follow the Circular Road, which has been constructed by this time. A number of building are marked as fronting onto the road, but it is not as developed as the centre of Navan Town marked to the north. The scheme crosses Bridge Street and as per the previous mapping reaches the channel of the River Boyne and turns in a northerly direction.

The eastern section travels along Convent Road and a new demesne containing a convent building has been established to the east and north. To the south of this landscape the road and the proposed scheme cross a railway via a bridge (RPS NT025-135). There are no other major changes to note within the mapping that relate to the proposed scheme in this area.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.4.1 Archaeology

The Meath County Development Plan (2013–2019) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2004). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage. The Navan Development Plan (2009-2015) re-iterates some of these policies and is also explicit with regards to the conditions of archaeological investigations in addition to the protection of areas of archaeological potential.

There are four individual or groups of recorded monuments located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. This includes the zone of archaeological potential that surrounding Navan Town (ME025-044). The proposed scheme will pass through the eastern part of this zone.

Athlumney Castle (ME025-032001/2) which is located to the immediate northeast of the proposed scheme is also listed as a National Monument (Ref.: 287).

Recorded monuments are described in detail in Appendix 1 and shown on Figure 2.

Table 1: Recorded Archaeological Sites (RMPs) within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM SCHEME
ME025-044	Abbeyland South, Townparks, Blackcastle Demesne	Historic town	0m
ME025-067	Dillonsland	Cross - Wayside cross (ex-situ)	c. 25m south
ME025-031/001-3*	Athlumney	Church, graveyard, graveslab & font	To the immediate southwest
ME025-032001-2*	Athlumney	Tower house & 16-17th century house	To the immediate northeast

^{*}Also listed as protected structures

3.4.2 Architecture

The Meath County Development Plan (2013–2019) and the Navan Development Plan (2009-2015) contain policies for the protection of architectural heritage. These plans contain a Register of Protected Structures, which are subject to statutory protection under the Planning and Development Act. Protection is also extended to areas of cohesive architectural value and these areas are designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Navan Town centre is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (Figure 2). The proposed scheme will not run through this area.

There are 13 protected structures located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme (Table 2). Of these two are also listed as recorded monuments and all are included in the NIAH survey for County Meath.

Protected structures are described in detail in Appendix 2 and shown on Figure 2.

Table 2: Protected Structures within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme

RPS NO.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NIAH?	DISTANCE FROM SCHEME
NT025-163	Dillonsland	Woodlands House, Detached three-bay two-storey house with dormer attic, built 1917.	Yes	c. 35m east
NT025-156	Dillonsland	Detached three-bay two-storey former station master's house, c.1885, with gabled half-dormer window. Singlestorey extension, garage and garden sheds added.	Yes	To the immediate east
NT025-155	Dillonsland	Meath Co. Co. Offices, built 1913, consisting of three bay central block flanked by projecting and gabled outer bays.	Yes	c. 30m east
NT025-085	Townparks (Railway	St. Joseph's Primary School Leighsbrook Gateway Cast-iron panelled gate piers	Yes	To the immediate

RPS NO.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NIAH?	DISTANCE FROM SCHEME
	Street)	each surmounted by a cross, c. 1910. Repositioned and gate replaced c. 1990.		west
NT025-141	Academy St	Boyne Villa. End-of-terrace three-bay three-storey house over basement, c.1840.	Yes	c. 9m southeast
NT025-115	Athlumney Road	New Bridge. Six arch road bridge over the River Boyne. Built 1752 with cutwaters and coursed rubble masonry walls.	Yes	To the immediate east
NT025-118	Athlumney Road	Detached two-bay two-storey over basement former gate lodge, c.1870.	Yes	c. 30m west
NT025-120	Athlumney Road	Spicer's Bakery. Detached six-bay four- storey former corn store, c.1860, with exposed rubble façade.	Yes	c. 10m north
NT025-133	Convent Road	Detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house, c.1830.	Yes	c. 5m south
NT025-135	Convent Road	Single arch road bridge over railway c. 1849 with finely executed rusticated limestone detail	Yes	0m
NT025-136*	Convent Road	Ruins of 15th century church with double bellcote.	Yes	c. 13m southwest
NT025-137*	Convent Road	Three-storey tower house, c.1500. Fourbay three-storey extension, c.1650.	Yes	To the immediate northeast
NT025- 138	Convent Road	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1790.	Yes	c. 15m southwest

3.5 NATIONAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

3.5.1 Architectural Survey

The architectural survey for County Meath was carried out in 2004. All of the protected structures listed within Table 2 are included within the survey. The relevant NIAH numbers are given in Appendix 2.

3.5.2 Garden Survey

A number of demesnes are located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. The NIAH garden survey contains desk based analysis of demesne landscapes that are marked on the first edition OS map of 1836.

Greenmount House Demesne (NIAH Ref.: ME-42-N-872673)

The demesne is marked on the first edition along with the main house, although the house is not named. By the time of the 1907 mapping, the demesne has been

extended and is located to the immediate east of the proposed scheme in Dillonsland. The NIAH records the demesne as having 'virtually no recognisable features'. This is due to the fact that the demesne is now covered in a housing estate and the main house has disappeared.

Violet Hill (NIAH Ref.: ME-42-N-877674)

This demesne is marked on the first edition to the immediate south of the proposed scheme. The NIAH survey records it as 'main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible'. By the time of the 1907 OS map the railway has been constructed through the northwest section of the demesne and Violet Hill house (RPS NT025-138) has been extended and is in use as a convent. Today the landscape has seen some development but for the most part remains as open fields. It retains its demesne planting along the boundary with the River Boyne.

Athlumney Convent

This landscape is not included within the NIAH survey as it is not present within the first edition OS map. A demesne style landscape is shown on the 1907 mapping in association with a convent building to the immediate east and north of the proposed route where it runs along Convent Road. Today the area is in use as a school and as such has seen some modern development. However, the principal structures remain, as does the majority of mature planting that surrounds the site.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the landscape containing the proposed scheme has been carried out. This includes photographs held by the Ordnance Survey (1995, 2000, 2005), Google Earth (2005-2013) and Bing Maps. No previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential were noted within the photographs.

4 RESULTS OF FIELD INSPECTION

4.1 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the proposed scheme, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. The proposed scheme and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected.

The southern section of the proposed scheme follows the R161 (New Road) from the junction with the Beechmount estate in a northerly direction. The landscape to the west is heavily developed, whereas open agricultural fields exist to the east. No structures of architectural heritage merit survive along the road.

Further north, the proposed route traverses the former line of a railway (now removed). A dressed limestone pillar and short section of low wall are located to the north of this, which appear to represent a part of a former boundary (Plate 1). However, the majority of this feature has been removed due to modern development. To the north of this the road and the proposed scheme travel along the western boundary of the former demesne landscape associated with Greenmount House. This landscape now contains the early 20th century Woodland House (RPS NT025-163), which is located c. 35m east of the proposed scheme (Plate 2). The original boundary to the demesne landscape has been replaced with either hedgerow or modern walling.

The proposed route continues along the R161 to the north and crosses the extant (but disused) railway line, where a level crossing is still present. The level crossing is formed by wooden barrier supported by wooden gate posts. Sections of limestone walling survive to the north and south of the crossing. A cast iron lamp post is located to the immediate northeast of the crossing, set back on the pavement. These are present on both sides of the road to the north. The scheme then passes to the immediate west of the former Station Master's House (RPS NT025-156) (Plate 3). The original limestone wall forms a boundary between the house and the road. To the immediate north the original entrance pillars into the station survive. On the western side of the road a small terrace of late 19th/early 20th century modified buildings front on to the road (Plate 4).

To the north of the level crossing, the R161 becomes Railway Street. This is lined on its western side by a long terrace of single storey worker's cottages, which are currently in use as individual business premises and have been subject to heavy modifications. The eastern side of the road is dominated by the early 20th century County Council buildings (Plate 5, RPS NT025-155). The original wrought iron fencing forms the boundary between the plot and the road and includes a pair of ashlar masonry gate pillars (Plate 6).

The proposed scheme turns east along Circular Road, which is a wide road flanked by some modern development. Several vernacular structures are located to the north of the road, set back behind a modern boundary wall. No historic street furniture was

noted along this section of the proposed scheme. The scheme turns north at the junction with the R147 (Timmons Hill). This is a modern road constructed upon reclaimed ground from the channel of the River Boyne, which is located to the immediate east. Development along the western side of the road is modern in nature. No structures of architectural heritage significance are present.

The eastern section of the proposed scheme commences at the northern end of Convent Road, to the east of New Bridge (RPS NT025-115, Plate 7) and several other protected structures. The road is an older carriageway that is narrow in places. It passes several recently built houses on the western side of the road and the recently constructed Bedford medical centre on the eastern side of the road. Sections of masonry walling survive along the road boundary, although the section that passes the medical centre has been rebuilt.

Further south, the proposed scheme passes to the northeast Boyne Cottage (RPS NT025-133) and a stone built boundary wall. From this point the northern side of the road is bordered by a stone built wall originally constructed to bound the demesne landscape established as part of construction of a convent to the north (now in use as a school). The scheme then follows the road over a bridge (RPS NT025-135) that crosses the railway line (Plate 8).

To the southwest of railway bridge the scheme and the road pass to the immediate northeast of Athlumney Church and graveyard (RMP ME025-031/001/ RPS NT025-136). The graveyard is bounded by a stone wall and is accessed via a pair of dressed limestone gate pillars (Plate 9). Immediately adjacent to the southern extent of the graveyard, the original recessed entranceway into the Violet Hill demesne fronts onto the road (Plate 10). This retains wrought iron gates but the walls to each side of the gates have been pebble dashed. The northern side of the road is bordered by a stone built wall that runs in an uninterrupted line from the railway bridge to Athlumney Castle.

The proposed scheme and route passes to the immediate south of the southern gable end of Athlumney Castle (RMP ME025-032001/2/ RPS NT025-137, Plate 11). It is the 16th century part of the castle is located adjacent to the road. A high enclosing wall, which encloses an area immediately east of the castle, bounds the road to the north (Plate 12), whilst the stone demesne wall associated with Violet Hill house bounds the road to the south (Plate 13). This will is of roughly coursed limestone and stands to a height of c. 2m.

To the southwest of the castle, stands the former Violet Hill house (RPS NT025-138, Plate 14). The later convent buildings that formerly occupied this site have been removed recently and whilst the original house is present, it is not in use.

No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were identified during the field inspection. However, the landscape contains a general potential when considering the presence of the River Blackwater.

Whilst there are a number of protected structures located in close vicinity to the proposed scheme, the landscape that it will pass through is generally characterised by modern development. The exception is along the section of Convent Road that passes the church and graveyard and Athlumney Castle and features demesne walls associated with a property now in use as a school and Violet Hill House.

4.2 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed scheme will see the construction of a cycle route that traverses the outer environs of Navan town and provides access to the town's suburbs to the south and east. The entirety of the proposed scheme follows the route of existing roads.

There are four individual or groups of recorded monuments located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. This includes the zone of archaeological potential that surrounding Navan Town (ME025-044). The proposed scheme will pass through the eastern part of this zone. Athlumney Castle (ME025-032001/2), which is located to the immediate northeast of the proposed scheme is also listed as a National Monument (Ref.: 287).

There are 13 protected structures located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme and all are included in the NIAH survey for County Meath.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2016) has shown that some archaeological remains have been identified within the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The majority of excavations have yielded very little beyond 19th century activity. This is particularly true of investigations within the Zone of Archaeological Potential surrounding the historic town of Navan. Archaeological monitoring within the zone of notification surrounding Athlumney Castle (ME025-032001/2) and Church (ME025-031) did not reveal any archaeology despite excavation to a depth of 1m.

Analysis of the aerial photography datasets and historic mapping did not result in the identification of any previously unknown areas of archaeological potential in the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The cartographic sources illustrate that a number of structures surrounding the scheme have been lost due to modern development.

A field inspection has been carried out as part of this assessment. No previously unrecorded features of archaeological potential were noted within the scheme or its immediate environs. The landscape, in general, is characterised by modern development. The exception is along the section of Convent Road that passes the church and graveyard and Athlumney Castle. This road is also bounded by a number of stones walls associated with former demesne landscapes.

Very little in the way of street furniture survives along the path of the proposed scheme. No historic curbing or stone flags were noted along the various roads. A number of cast iron lamp stands are present along Railway Street.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation.

5.1.1 Archaeology

 The proposed scheme is low impact and for the most part involves a reorganisation of the existing road layouts in the form of new surfaces and road markings. As such no direct, negative impacts are predicted upon the archaeological resource as a result of the scheme going ahead.

Should the nature of the proposals change in anyway and involve excavations beyond the assumed road surface depth of 0.3m, advice should be sought from an archaeologist as to whether mitigation is required, such as archaeological monitoring. This is specifically in relation to works that may be carried out adjacent to the recorded church and graveyard (ME025-0031/001-3) and Athlumney Castle (ME025-0032001-2).

5.1.2 Architecture

- The proposed scheme is low impact and for the most part involves a reorganisation of the existing road layouts in the form of new surfaces and road markings. However, a section of Convent Road will require widening to facilitate the works. This will result in the following:
 - ➤ An 85m portion of the demesne wall associated with Violet Hill House (RPS NT025-138) will be removed and set back to form a new boundary.
 - A 90m portion of wall along the northern side of the road (opposite the church and graveyard) will also be removed and set back.
 - ➤ An 125m section of stone wall associated with the Convent demesne, to the west of the railway bridge, will be removed and set back from the existing road.

The above all represent direct and negative impacts on the built heritage resource.

• Works along Railway Street may lead to the removal of the existing cast iron lamp stands, which flank the streets.

• No direct, negative impacts are predicted upon the remaining architectural heritage resource, as a result of the proposed scheme going ahead.

Should the nature of the proposals change in anyway and involve the removal of structures or impacts on protected structures, advice should be sought from a historic buildings expert as to the nature and extent of any mitigation that may be required.

5.2 MITIGATION

We recommend the following actions in mitigation of the impacts above.

5.2.1 Archaeology

 As outlined in section 5.1.1, further advice may be required from an archaeologist if proposals for the scheme change. Archaeological monitoring of excavations may be required. If this is the case, monitoring should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Full provision should be made for the resolution of any archaeological features/deposits that may be discovered, should that be deemed the most appropriate manner in which to proceed.

5.2.2 Architecture

- Three sections of stone walling that will require relocation along Convent Road should be re-erected in consultation with Meath County Council Conservation Officer. The walls should possess similar characteristics to those that currently exist and sample panels may be required for agreement with MCC and in order the define the appropriate specification.
- It is recommended that all historic street lamp stands be retained as part of the proposed scheme. If this is not possible the items should be re-erected in close proximity to their original positions.
- Further mitigation measures may be required with regards to the architectural heritage resource should proposals relating to the proposed scheme be subject to change.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Down Survey Map of the Barony of Navan, 1654-6

Thomas Williams Map of Navan, 1756

William Larkin's Map of the County Meath, 1812

Ordnance Survey Maps 1836 and 1907

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970-2016

www.archaeology.ie – DoCHG website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995, 2000 & 2005 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.googleearth.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area

www.bingmaps.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area

www.buildingsofireland.ie – Website containing the NIAH building and garden survey for Co. Meath

www.navanhistory.ie – Navan & District Historical Society

www.boyne.iwai.ie/the-navigation - History of the Boyne Navigation

APPENDIX 1 RECORDED MONUMENTS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.	ME025-044
TOWNLAND	Abbeyland South, Townparks, Blackcastle Demesne
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	Historic Town
DIST. FROM SCHEME	0m
DESCRIPTION	Historic town of Navan.
REFERENCE	SMR file

-	
SMR NO.	ME025-067
TOWNLAND	Dillonsland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	Wayside cross (ex-situ)
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 25m south
DESCRIPTION	Some dressed stones from St Mary's Abbey (ME025-024) are now in a rockery at St Mary's Roman Catholic church in Navan. The limestone spandrel (dims 0.57m x 0.36m; T 0.2m) of a double ogee-headed window is decorated with three triskels in relief on one side and star shapes in relief on the other. A triangular piece of limestone (dims 0.64m x 0.37m; T 0.21m) with a raised circle divided into six may be the apex of a wall monument. Some smaller stones carry fragments of an inscription.
REFERENCE	SMR file

SMR NO.	ME025-031/001-3
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Screen
CLASSIFICATION	Church, graveyard, graveslab & font
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate southwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on level ground with the top of a SW-facing slope overlooking a SSE-NNW section of the River Boyne c. 100m to the SW, and with the river c. 50m further to the SW. A church at Athlumney is listed in the ecclesiastical taxation (1302-06) of Pope Nicholas IV (Cal. doc. Ire, 6, 355). According to Ussher's Visitation (1622) the church and chancel were ruinous (Elrington 1864, 1, lxxvii), and according to Dopping's Visitation (1682-5) the church was out of repair since 1641 and the graveyard was not fenced (Ellison 1972, 6). The parish church of Athlumney is within a D-

the N side. The graveslab (ME025-031002-) is in the nave of the church.		shaped graveyard (max. dims c. 63m NW-SE; c. 50m NE-SW) that is curtailed by a WNW-ESE road on the N side. This is an undivided nave and chancel (int. dims 20.9m E-W; 5.75m N-S) structure, but most of the S wall is removed and the other walls are featureless. A rectangular tower (ext. dims 8m N-S; 3.2m E-W) with double-splayed lights in the S, W and N walls is attached to the W end of the nave and entered from the nave by a lintelled doorway. Its floors were wooden and it survives partly to the first floor, with an ivy covered double belfry on its W wall. Another structure, reduced to the foundations (ext. dims 4.3m E-W; 2.8m N-S) is attached to the E end of the N wall. Around 1749 Issac Butler recorded the Latin inscription on the graveslab of William Gough and his mother Ann Cheevers, dated 1692 (1892, 24). It is also described by FitzGerald (1909-10). A rectangular limestone graveslab (dims 2.05m x 1.09m; T 0.12m) in the nave has a raised heater-shaped shield at the centre that is divided by a line of chevrons. At least one goat taken from the Cheevers crest can be distinguished below the chevrons and the items above it could be boars' heads from the Gough crest. There is a skull and cross-bones at the foot, but no inscription is discernible. Cogan (1862-70, 2, 238-9) describes a broken font as 'octagonal and unornamented, and measured in diameter about one foot eight inches (c. 0.45m). The pedestal (base) is a circular stone two feet one inch in diameter (c. 0.64m), the aperture of which measures in diameter eight inches (c. 0.2m).' This is no longer present. Athlumney motte (ME025-033) is c. 90m to the S and Athlumney tower house (ME024-32001-) is c. 85m to the E. Navan town is across the river c. 500m to the NW. The D-shaped graveyard (max. dims c. 63m NW-SE; c. 50m NE-SW) is defined by masonry walls that is curtailed slightly by a WNW-ESE road on the N side. The graveslab (ME025-031002-) is in the nave of the church.
REFERENCE SMR file	REFERENCE	SMR file

SMR NO.	ME025-032001-2
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Screen
CLASSIFICATION	Tower House and 16/17th century house
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate northeast
DESCRIPTION	This is a National Monument consisting of a tower house with a 16th or 17th century stone house (ME025-032002-) off-set to the NW and SW. There is a small wing between them that may have served as kitchens and servants quarters for the later house. The buildings are situated on a level landscape now within Navan town, with a SE-NW section of the River Boyne c. 200m to the SW. According to the Civil Survey (1654-6) Lawrence Dowdall owned 200 acres at Athlumney in 1640, and the property included 'A castle and a large stone howse, a water mill and a tuck mill, two fishing weares, and a church and two open quarries' (Simington 1940, 62). He also owned almost 180 acres at Allistonread (Alexander Reid) and 40 at Bellis (Bailis) in Athlumney parish (ibid. 62-4).

Traditionally, the last occupant was Sir Launcelot Dowdall, who burnt it in despair when he heard the outcome of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 (Wilde 1850, 11-12), although Isaac Butler writing in the 1740s, attributed the burning to one of the Maguire family in order to prevent Cromwell from utilising it (1892, 24). The parish church of Athlumney (ME025-031---) is c. 80m to the W and the motte (ME025-033----) is c. 140m to the SW.

The tower-house (ext. dims 10.2m NE-SW; 7.2m NW-SE) has three storeys and an attic with projecting rectangular corner towers. A plain round-headed doorway, now blocked, in the N tower leads directly to a newel stairs that has a cross-loop as a light and rises to a mezzanine level, which has chambers in the NE and NW walls. These are at the level of the NE-SW barrel-vault over the main chamber at the ground floor, but there is no access to the barrel-vault and no evidence that the vault had a loft floor. The original access to the ground floor chamber is by a passage through the W tower that communicates now with a passage in the later house, although a modern doorway in the SW wall leads directly to the ground floor chamber from outside.

The four bay three storey structure (int. dims c. 23m NE-SW; 6.45m NE-SW) with a stairs return at the S end of the NW wall, which is lit by small rectangular windows with square hood-mouldings. A flat-arched doorway with a round-headed niche above it is in the middle of the SE wall, with two large plain and consolidated window openings on each side. The ground floor is divided by a cross-wall with one pointed doorway through it placed just S of the main entrance. The N chamber (int. dims 13.5m NE-SW; 6.45m NE-SW) may well include an entrance passage from the main doorway. It has a large fireplace that projects on the outside of the wall and two blocked windows on the NW wall, and a passage (int. dims 6.45m NW-SE; 3.15m NE-SW) N of this chamber leads to the ground floor of the tower house and may have housed another stairs. The S chamber also has an externally-projecting fireplace and two blocked windows on the NW wall but it also has a large fireplace with an oven on either side on the SW wall as well as access to the stairs return. The long walls are rebated to support the first floor but the joists appear to have been inserted into the NW and SW walls.

At the first floor the SE wall has four large mullion and transom windows, each with six panels (3 over 3) and a square hood-moulding. The NW wall has four destroyed and consolidated windows and two fireplaces, while the SW wall has a magnificent mullion and transom oriel window of eight panels (4 over 4) with a fireplace beside it. The long walls are recessed for the second floor but the joists are set directly into the NE and SW walls. The second floor repeats the lay-out of the first except that the oriel window does not survive, and the large windows in the SE wall are partly within dormer gables that rise over them. In the narrow NE 'passage' there was an oriel window in the NE wall at this level but only the supporting machicolation survives.

Abutting the house to the NE and between it and the tower house was a structure (int. dims 15.8m NE-SW; 4.9m NW-SE) of which only the NW and NE walls survive at the ground floor. There is a blocked doorway and three windows in the NW wall, an oven at the N angle and there may

	have been a fireplace in the NE wall. It had at least two storeys and may have served as a kitchen and servants quarters for the stone house.
REFERENCE	SMR file

APPENDIX 2 RPS/NIAH STRUCTURES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

RPS NO.	NT025-163
NIAH NO	14012067
TOWNLAND	Dillonsland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	Woodlands House
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 35m east
DESCRIPTION	Detached three-bay two-storey house with dormer attic, built 1917, with projecting porch. Extended at rear and converted into nursing home c. 1990. Detached former coach house to site. Double-pitched and hipped roof, natural slates, tall chimney stacks, wide overhanging eaves with brackets, flat roofed dormer window. Pebble dash rendered walls with nap rendered margins and quoins. Stone cills, moulded architraves to window opes, six over six pane deal sash windows, glazed door.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-156
NIAH NO	14012078
TOWNLAND	Dillonsland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	Station Master's House
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate east
DESCRIPTION	Detached three-bay two-storey former station master's house, c.1885, with gabled half-dormer window. Single-storey extension, garage and garden sheds added. Double-pitched roof, natural slates, decorative deal barge boards, brick chimney stacks with decorative brick courses. Rough dash rendered walls. Exposed header course brick segment arches to window opes and surround to door ope, heavy timber casement windows, possibly original.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-155
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NIAH NO	14009060
TOWNLAND	Dillonsland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	County Council Offices
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 30m east
DESCRIPTION	County Council Offices, built 1913, consisting of a three-bay central block flanked by projecting and gabled outer bays. Ashlar and banded rusticated limestone facades and curved pedimented doorcase. Porch added c.2000. Double pitched roof and hipped, natural slates, cast-iron ogee gutters, small louvred dormer housing. Banded rusticated and ashlar limestone, plain quoins, carved stone eaves cornice, nap render to side elevations, channelled to ground floor. Entablatures and pediments above first floor openings, uPVC casement windows, large segmental pedimented doorcase, stained glass window over inner entrance door. Wrought-iron railings with ashlar piers, rubble stone boundary wall to north.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural, social, artistic
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-085
NIAH NO	14009086
TOWNLAND	Townparks
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan
CLASSIFICATION	Gates/ railings
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate west
DESCRIPTION	Cast-iron panelled gate piers each surmounted by a cross, c.1910. Providing access to St. Joseph's Primary School. Repositioned and gate replaced c.1990. Set in boundary wall of steel railings on split concrete block plinth wall, c.1990.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Artistic
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-141
NIAH NO	14010013
TOWNLAND	Townparks
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Navan

CLASSIFICATION	Boyne Villa
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 9m south
DESCRIPTION	End-of-terrace three-bay three-storey house over basement, c.1840. Openings refitted. Cast-iron railings to site. Double-pitched roof, artificial slates, projecting eaves course, uPVC gutters, chimney stack removed. Rendered ruled and lined walls with iron enamelled name plaque. Stone cills, uPVC casement windows, round-headed stone doorcase with carved archivolt, keystone impost - lintel, architrave, leaded fanlight, hardwood door. Cast-iron railings to basement area - partly replaced.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-115
NIAH NO	14010086
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	New Bridge
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate east
DESCRIPTION	Six arch road bridge over river, built 1752, with cutwaters and coursed rubble masonry parapet walls. Ashlar and rubble stone walls. Semi-circular and segmental arches with dressed ashlar voussoirs.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural, social
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-118
NIAH NO	14010097
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Gate lodge
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 30m west
DESCRIPTION	Detached two-bay two-storey over basement former gate lodge, c.1870, with exposed rubble façade. Arched gateway attached with single and pair of wrought-iron gates, c.1870. Refurbished as offices, c.1995. Double-pitched roof, artificial slates, projecting eaves course, Velux roof lights. Exposed rubble limestone walls. Stone cills and rough-dressed stone flat arches, uPVC casement windows, timber door, iron security grill to

	basement window. Jostle stone, remnants of rubble stone quay wall to south adjoining former canal.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-120
NIAH NO	14010089
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Former corn store
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 10m north
DESCRIPTION	Detached six-bay four-storey former corn store, c.1860, with exposed rubble façade. Now in use as bakery. Double-pitched and hipped roof, natural slates. Coursed rubble, whitewashed walls. Sash and casement windows, flush brick surrounds to openings, segmental arches to reveals internally.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

IT025 122
NT025-133
14010106
Athlumney
Athlumney
Skreen
Boyne Cottage
c. 5m south
Detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house, c.1830. Refurbished and borch added c.1985. Rubble stone wall with arch at ground level to river bank at rear. Double-pitched roof, artificial slates, cedar barge and fascia boards, rendered chimney stacks. Rough dash rendered walls. Stone, timber and concrete cills, timber sash windows, uPVC casement windows, porch with screen of concrete columns, c.1985, external window shutters. High wall to front boundary, deep circular well shaft - stone lined and with tron grill. Rubble stone wall with arch at ground level to river bank.
Architectural
Regional
Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-135
NIAH NO	14010112
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Railway Bridge
DIST. FROM SCHEME	0m
DESCRIPTION	Single arch road bridge over railway, c.1849, with finely executed rusticated limestone detail. Squared rubble stone with cambered string course at roadway level. Elliptical arch with ashlar voussoirs.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Architectural, social, technical
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-136
NIAH NO	14010041
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Medieval church ruins
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 13m south
DESCRIPTION	Ruins of fifteenth-century church with double bellcote. Enclosed church yard with many tombstones dating from 1709. Double-pitched roof. Rubble stone walls.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Archaeological, social
RATING	National
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-137
NIAH NO	14010042
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Athlumney Castle
DIST. FROM SCHEME	To the immediate northeast
DESCRIPTION	Three-stage tower house, c.1500. Four-bay three-storey extension, c.1650, with mullioned windows and gables. Burnt in 1649. Now in ruins.

	Double-pitched roof with tall chimney stacks to extension. Rubble stone walls. National Monument in state care.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Archaeological, architectural, historical
RATING	National
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

RPS NO.	NT025-138
NIAH NO	14010044
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
CLASSIFICATION	Violet Hill House
DIST. FROM SCHEME	c. 15m southwest
DESCRIPTION	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1790, with round-headed stone doorcase and curved bow at rear. Two-bay two-storey side extension, c.1820. Various single and two-storey additions, including school buildings, c.1980. Entrance gateway with octagonal stone piers, c.1840. Double-pitched roof, natural slates, iron gutters. Rendered ruled and lined walls -1900's, rough dash rendered - rear. Stone cills, uPVC casement windows, unusual stone doorcase consisting of quarter columns, carved inpost -lintel and archivolt. Sheet glass fanlight. Glazed aluminium doors and hardwood inner door. Gateway consisting of octagonal stone piers with caps, pair of cast-iron gates and rendered curved walls, c.1840, low boundary wall with wrought-iron railings and pair of gates, c.1950.
CATEGORY OF INTEREST	Archaeological, architectural
RATING	Regional
REFERENCE	Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, NIAH Survey Co. Meath

APPENDIX 3 STRAY FINDS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Meath has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

MUSEUM NO	1977:7
TOWNLAND	Abbeyland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Lower Navan
FIND	Font
FIND PLACE	In possession of local family for many years
DESCRIPTION	Medieval stone font
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	RIA1921:6
TOWNLAND	Abbeyland
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Lower Navan
FIND	Vessel
FIND PLACE	Abbeyland
DESCRIPTION	Eleven sherds of pottery, fine red fabric with lustrous black lead glaze. Possibly a Jackfield or Staffordshire ware type.
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1977:6
TOWNLAND	Abbeylands South
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Lower Navan
FIND	Vessel
FIND PLACE	In trench cutting on side of medieval abbey.
DESCRIPTION	Large fragment of post-medieval tile. Reddish brown colour throughout. Portions of two contiguous sides together. Sides and main surface have a greyish sandy coating.
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1977:11
TOWNLAND	Abbeylands South
PARISH	Navan
BARONY	Lower Navan
FIND	Human bones

FIND PLACE	In trench cutting on side of medieval abbey.
DESCRIPTION	Human skeletal remains
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	2004:170
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Axehead
FIND PLACE	Garden
DESCRIPTION	Axe, flaked, pecked and ground. The left side is straight in plan, right side more curved. Both sides rounded in section. The junction between the side and the edge is present on both sides, the junction of the edge with the left side is more acute than on the right side. The junction of the sides to the butt is present. The edge is gently curved asymmetrical in plan, it is relatively sharp with minor chips in the left portion, slightly blunted from post-depositional wear. Straight in section. The blade area of both faces is more finely ground than the remaining faces. The upper portion of face 1 has evidence for pecking and some weathering. There is a flake scar close to the butt. There is evidence of weathering to the axe's surface. Face 2 is less weathered and the surface is more smoothly finished over the entire face. There is a flake scar in the upper portion of face 2, close to the butt. The butt is slightly oblique, unground and unpolished.
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1977:10
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Convent school
DESCRIPTION	Blackware potsherd
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1977:9
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Athlumney
DESCRIPTION	Blackware pottery
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1977:8
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Convent school
DESCRIPTION	Rimsherd
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1976:624
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Object
FIND PLACE	Spoil from sewer trench
DESCRIPTION	Vitreous material
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1976:623
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Spoil from a sewer
DESCRIPTION	Rimsherd of North Devon gravel tempered ware.
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1976:622
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Spoil from a sewer
DESCRIPTION	Blackware pottery
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1976:622
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen

FIND	Pottery
FIND PLACE	Spoil from a sewer
DESCRIPTION	Blackware rimsherd
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

MUSEUM NO	1000:387
TOWNLAND	Athlumney
PARISH	Athlumney
BARONY	Skreen
FIND	Sample
FIND PLACE	Sewage drain cutting scheme by Meath County Council near Athlumney Motte. Recovered also with vitreous material and blackware pottery sherds.
DESCRIPTION	Bone and shell sample
REFERENCE	Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland

APPENDIX 4 LEGISLATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTING

THE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site

illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice'.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning

and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 contains the following Policies and Objectives with relation to the archaeological resource:

Policies: It is an objective of Meath County Council:

CH POL 6 To promote awareness of, and access to, the archaeological inheritance of County Meath.

CH POL 7 To ensure that development in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument is sensitively sited and designed so that it does not significantly detract from the monument. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.

CH POL 8 To retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the villages and towns of Meath, where practicable, and in the course of development to record evidence of ancient boundaries, layouts, etc.

CH POL 9 To inform and seek guidance from the National Museum of Ireland if an unrecorded archaeological object is discovered, or the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the case of the discovery of an unrecorded archaeological site, in accordance with National Monuments legislation.

Objectives: It is an objective of Meath County Council:

CH OBJ 7 To protect archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.

CH OBJ 8 To seek to protect important archaeological landscapes from inappropriate development.

CH OBJ 9 To make the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) available to the public in the Planning Office and maintain a link on the Meath website to the on-line edition at www.archaeology.ie.

CH OBJ 10 To establish in-house training programmes for Council staff carrying out repair and maintenance works to historic structures, subject to the availability of resources.

CH OBJ 11 To encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, 3 in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

CH OBJ 12 To consider the establishment of a National Monuments Advisory Committee for Meath, subject to available resources.

Navan Town Plan 2009-2015

In terms of archaeological heritage, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

HER POL 10 (a) To protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places (including those newly discovered).

- (b) To seek to protect, where practicable, the setting of and access to sites. In securing such protection the planning authorities will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- (c) To require that all applications for development within the zone of archaeological potential are accompanied by a professional archaeological impact assessment.
- (d) Where remnants of burgage plots do remain intact, development proposals on such plots should reflect this character within the design and layout of proposals. In order to promote the renewal of such areas, design guidance will be provided, if necessary, for such sites at pre-planning stage.

Objective

In terms of archaeological heritage, it is an objective of Meath County Council & Navan Town Council:

HER OBJ 5 When considering development in the vicinity of archaeological monuments, the planning authorities shall aim to achieve a satisfactory buffer area between the development and the monument in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the monument. This shall be achieved in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Buffer areas shall not be included within the required open space area of any development but should be in addition to such requirements.

APPENDIX 5 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

The main laws protecting the built heritage are the *Architectural Heritage* (*National Inventory*) and *National Monuments* (*Miscellaneous Provisions*) *Act 1999* and the *Local Government* (*Planning and Development*) *Acts 1963–1999*, which has now been superseded by the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The background to this legislation derives from Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention). This states that:

For the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each member state will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established in 1990 to fulfil Ireland's obligation under the Granada Convention, through the establishment and maintenance of a central record, documenting and evaluating the architecture of Ireland (NIAH Handbook 2005:2). As inclusion in the inventory does not provide statutory protection, the survey information is used in conjunction with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities to advise local authorities on compilation of a Record of Protected Structures as required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

PROTECTION UNDER THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Structures of architectural, cultural, social, scientific, historical, technical or archaeological interest can be protected under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of the architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the act. This act superseded the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, and came into force on 1st January 2000.

The act provides for the inclusion of Protected Structures into the planning authorities' development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures. Under new legislation, no distinction is made between buildings formerly classified under development plans as List 1 and List 2. Such buildings are now all regarded as 'Protected Structures' and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the act the entire structure is protected, including a structure's interior, exterior, attendant grounds and also any structures within the attendant grounds.

The act defines a Protected Structure as (a) a structure, or (b) a specified part of a structure which is included in a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), and, where that record so indicates, includes any specified feature which is in the attendant grounds of the structure and which would not otherwise be included in this definition.

Protection of the structure, or part thereof, includes conservation, preservation, and improvement compatible with maintaining its character and interest. Part IV of the act deals with architectural heritage, and Section 57 deals specifically with works affecting the character of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures and states that no works should materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure that contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The act does not provide specific criteria for assigning a special interest to a structure. However, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) offers guidelines to its field workers as to how to designate a building with a special interest, which are not mutually exclusive. This offers guidance by example rather than by definition:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

It is to be noted that the NIAH is biased towards post-1700 structures. Structures that have archaeological features may be recorded, providing the archaeological features are incorporated within post-1700 elements. Industrial fabric is considered to have technical significance, and should only be attributed archaeological significance if the structure has pre-1700 features.

ARCHITECTURAL

A structure may be considered of special architectural interest under the following criteria:

- Good quality or well executed architectural design
- The work of a known and distinguished architect, engineer, designer, craftsman
- A structure that makes a positive contribution to a setting, such as a streetscape or rural setting
- Modest or vernacular structures may be considered to be of architectural interest, as they are part of the history of the built heritage of Ireland.
- Well designed decorative features, externally and/or internally

HISTORICAL

A structure may be considered of special historical interest under the following criteria:

- A significant historical event associated with the structure
- An association with a significant historical figure
- Has a known interesting and/or unusual change of use, e.g. a former workhouse now in use as a hotel
- A memorial to a historical event.

TECHNICAL

A structure may be considered of special technical interest under the following criteria:

- Incorporates building materials of particular interest, i.e. the materials or the technology used for construction
- It is the work of a known or distinguished engineer
- Incorporates innovative engineering design, e.g. bridges, canals or mill weirs

- A structure which has an architectural interest may also merit a technical interest due to the structural techniques used in its construction, e.g. a curvilinear glasshouse, early use of concrete, cast-iron prefabrication.
- Mechanical fixtures relating to a structure may be considered of technical significance.

CULTURAL

A structure may be considered of special cultural interest under the following criteria:

- An association with a known fictitious character or event, e.g. Sandycove Martello Tower, which featured in Ulysses.
- Other structure that illustrate the development of society, such as early schoolhouses, swimming baths or printworks.

SCIENTIFIC

A structure may be considered of special scientific interest under the following criteria:

 A structure or place which is considered to be an extraordinary or pioneering scientific or technical achievement in the Irish context, e.g. Mizen Head Bridge, Birr Telescope.

SOCIAL

A structure may be considered of special social interest under the following criteria:

- A focal point of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a group of people, e.g. a place of worship, a meeting point, assembly rooms.
- Developed or constructed by a community or organisation, e.g. the construction of the railways or the building of a church through the patronage of the local community
- Illustrates a particular lifestyle, philosophy, or social condition of the past, e.g. the hierarchical accommodation in a country house, philanthropic housing, vernacular structures.

ARTISTIC

A structure may be considered of special artistic interest under the following criteria:

- Work of a skilled craftsman or artist, e.g. plasterwork, wrought-iron work, carved elements or details, stained glass, stations of the cross.
- Well designed mass produced structures or elements may also be considered of artistic interest.

(From the NIAH Handbook 2003 & 2005 pages 15–20)

The Local Authority has the power to order conservation and restoration works to be undertaken by the owner of the protected structure if it considers the building to be in need of repair. Similarly, an owner or developer must make a written request to the Local Authority to carry out any works on a protected structure and its environs, which will be reviewed within three months of application. Failure to do so may result in prosecution.

Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (pgs 219-221)

Under the planning system, many minor works to structures do not normally require planning permission. These works are known as exempted development. However, for a Protected Structure, such works can be carried out without planning permission only if the works would not affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure that contributes to its special interest. An owner or occupier may seek a declaration from Meath County Council as to the types of works which would or would not materially affect the character of the structure, and would or would not require planning permission. This does not preclude redevelopment or alterations from taking place subject to appropriate planning control.

Meath County Council acknowledges that the continued well-being of a Protected Structure may involve its adaptation for a new use. However, Meath County Council will require the maintenance of its architectural character, and its setting. Developments in proximity to Protected Structures, which would seriously detract from their character, will not normally be permitted. Further guidance is provided in this regard in Section 2.9.5.

In the interest of sustainability, it is considered that the re-use and adaptation of existing buildings is preferable to their demolition. Action 22 of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 asks all public authorities to specifically address the re-use of the existing building stock, regardless of protected status or otherwise.

It is the policy of Meath County Council:

CH POL 10 To conserve and protect the architectural heritage of Meath.

CH POL 11 To require that all planning applications relating to Protected Structures contain the appropriate accompanying documentation in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable the proper assessment of the proposed works.

CH POL 12 To encourage the retention, sympathetic reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure.

CH POL 13 To encourage the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features of historic buildings.

CH POL 14 To continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness , understanding, and appreciation of the architectural heritage of Meath.

CH POL 15 To encourage, where appropriate, the adaptive re-use of existing buildings and sites in a manner compatible with their character and significance.

Meath County Council Objectives

CH OBJ 13 To protect all structures (or, where appropriate, parts of structures) within the county which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and which are included in the Record of Protected Structures (See Appendix 8).

CH OBJ 14 To review and update the Record of Protected Structures when new information becomes available and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.

CH OBJ 15 To identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture e.g. castiron post boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting and kerbing.

CH OBJ 16 To make available and distribute detailed guidance notes and provide advice on architectural heritage to the public, developers, public bodies, groups and associations.

Navan Town Plan 2009-2015

Policies

In terms of architectural heritage, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

HER POL 5 To support and encourage the re-use of suitable redundant or obsolete buildings within the ACA.

HER POL 6 To encourage the retention and protection of all structures which contribute in a positive manner to the character of the ACA.

HER POL 7 Within the Architectural Conservation Area to have regard to:

- The impact of proposed development on the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area in terms of the height and massing of built forms, and the compatibility of design, materials, colour and finishes.
- The impact of proposed development on the character and integrity of the area and the approaches thereto, and will promote compatible uses within compatible forms of infill development.
- The need to retain architectural and townscape elements such as shop fronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork, etc. that contribute to the character and appearance of the ACA.

HER POL 8 To encourage the retention of all architectural and townscape elements which contribute to the character of the ACA.

Objective

In terms of Architectural Conservation Areas it is an objective of Meath County Council & Navan Town Council:

HER OBJ 3 It is the intention of the planning authorities by the designation of the Navan Historic Core Architectural Conservation Area:

• To protect and enhance the architectural heritage of Navan for future generations.

- To preserve the historic street pattern within the core of the town.
- To require that all new developments shall observe the existing scale of the town.
- To protect the character of the existing streetscape by giving consideration to the suitability of style, construction materials, colour and decoration to be used in any proposals for development taking place within this area.
- To encourage appropriate new uses for empty and under-utilised buildings.
- To avoid the destruction of minor historic elements whose

APPENDIX 6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as 'the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development' (Environmental Protection Agency 2003: 31). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 7 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as 'a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 2014a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (IFA 2014b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (IFA 2014c).

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

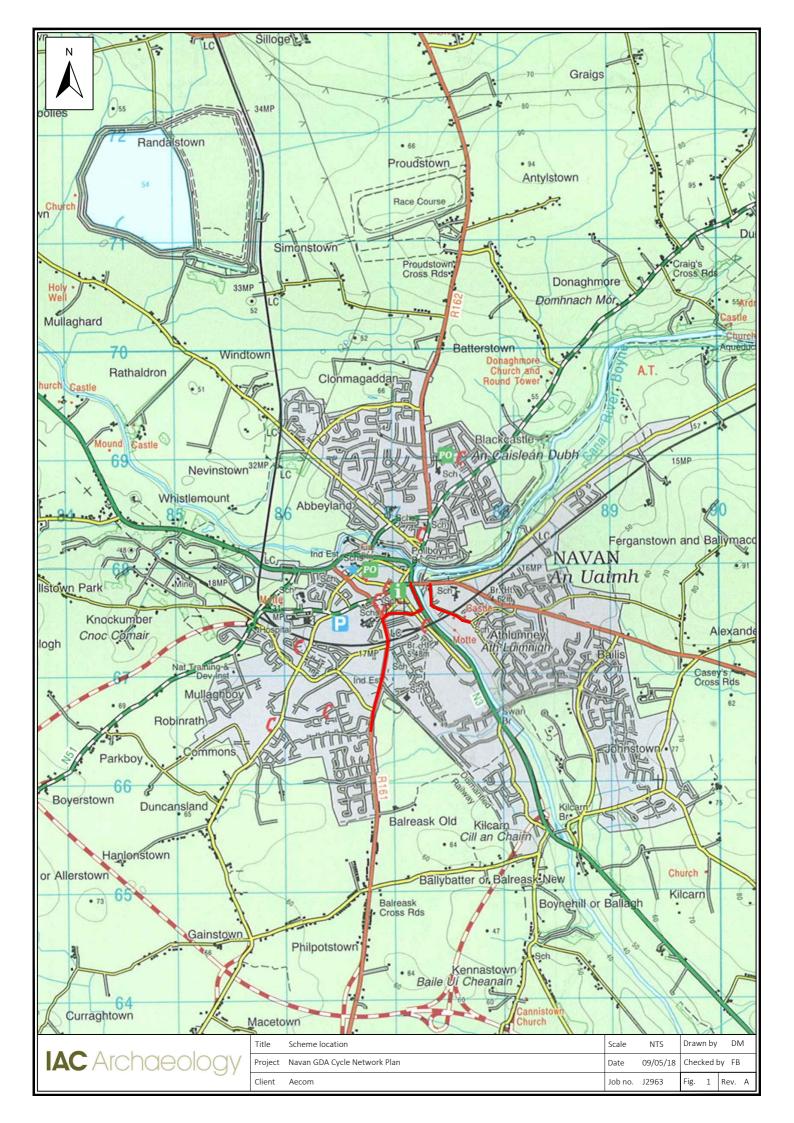
The architectural resource is generally subject to a greater degree of change than archaeological sites, as structures may survive for many years but their usage may change continually. This can be reflected in the fabric of the building, with the addition and removal of doors, windows and extensions. Due to their often more visible presence within the landscape than archaeological sites, the removal of such structures can sometimes leave a discernable 'gap' with the cultural identity of a population. However, a number of mitigation measures are available to ensure a record is made of any structure that is deemed to be of special interest, which may be removed or altered as part of a proposed development.

Conservation Assessment consists of a detailed study of the history of a building and can include the surveying of elevations to define the exact condition of the structure. These assessments are carried out by Conservation Architects and would commonly be carried out in association with proposed alterations or renovations on a Recorded Structure.

Building Survey may involve making an accurate record of elevations (internal and external), internal floor plans and external sections. This is carried out using a EDM (Electronic Distance Measurer) and GPS technology to create scaled drawings that provide a full record of the appearance of a building at the time of the survey.

Historic Building Assessment is generally specific to one building, which may have historic significance, but is not a Protected Structure or listed within the NIAH. A full historical background for the structure is researched and the site is visited to assess the standing remains and make a record of any architectural features of special interest. These assessments can also be carried out in conjunction with a building survey.

Written and Photographic record provides a basic record of features such as stone walls, which may have a small amount of cultural heritage importance and are recorded for prosperity. Dimensions of the feature are recorded with a written description and photographs as well as some cartographic reference, which may help to date a feature.



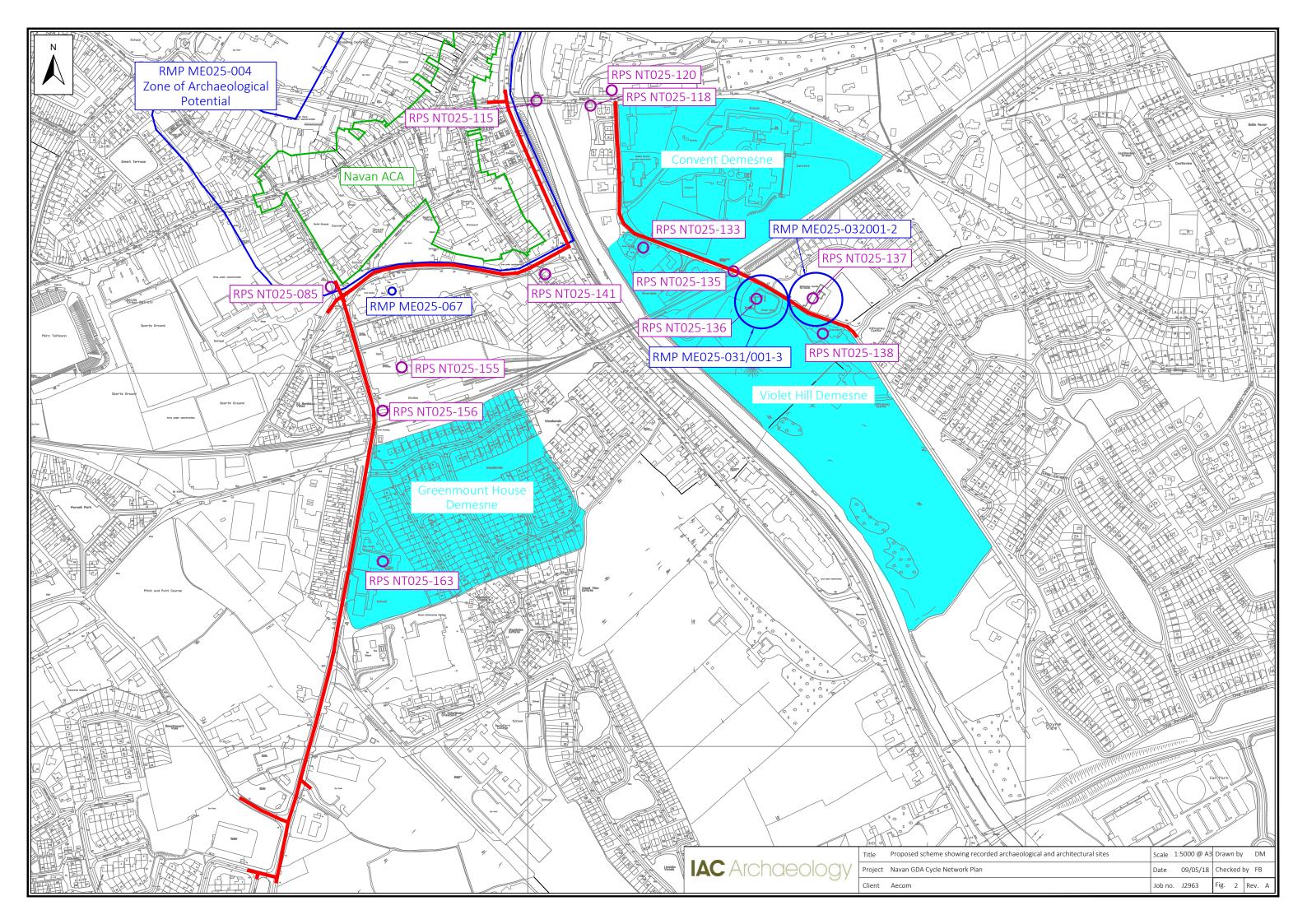




Plate 1: Dressed limestone pillar and wall adjacent to the scheme, facing northeast



Plate 2: Woodland House (RPS NT025-163), facing northeast



Plate 3: Station Master's House (RPS NT025-156), facing northeast



Plate 4: Terrace of late 19th/early 20th century buildings on Railway Street, facing southwest



Plate 6: Boundary associated with RPS NT025-155, facing east



Plate 5: County Council building (RPS NT025-155), facing east



Plate 7: New Bridge (RPS NT025-115), facing southeast



Plate 8: View southeast over railway bridge (RPS NT025-135)



Plate 10: Entrance into the former Violet Hill demesne, facing west



Plate 9: Church and graveyard (ME025-031/001), facing northwest



Plate 11: Athlumney Castle (RMP ME025-032001/2/ RPS NT025-137), facing northeast



Plate 12: Wall to the east of the castle, facing north-northwest



Plate 13: Athlumney Castle and Violet Hill demesne wall (to the right), facing southeast



Plate 14: Violet Hill house (RPS NT025-138) facing southwest