

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
BOREEN BRADACH, KINNEGAD,
CO. WESTMEATH**

ON BEHALF OF: JH KINNIE LTD

ITM: 659760, 745600

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ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of JH Kinnie Ltd, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of a proposed Large-scale Residential Development at Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath (ITM 659760, 745600). It was carried out by Maeve Tobin of IAC Archaeology.

The site is situated in Kinnegad townland and comprises three large fields of rough pasture bordered by tree-lined low earthen banks. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development area, however two are located within the wider study area. A castle (WM027-071) may lie c. 75m to the southeast, but an exact location is not known. Significantly, a large previously unrecorded early medieval enclosed settlement and burial area has been identified in the field to the immediate north of the proposed development area and preserved *in situ* within a green space in *Bun Daire* residential estate. The ruins of an early 19th century church are situated to the immediate south; however, no burial is evident associated with this building. On visual inspection no previously unrecorded archaeological features or structures were evident within the proposed development area. A geophysical survey was not feasible due to the ground conditions.

While this assessment has not identified any features of archaeological potential within the proposed development area, an early medieval enclosed settlement and burial ground was previously identified c. 30m to the north and preserved *in situ*. It is possible that archaeological features associated with this settlement may extend within the proposed development, surviving as sub-surface remains. If present, groundworks associated with the proposed development may have a direct negative effect on any such surviving remains that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level. This will be caused by ground disturbances, such as topsoil stripping and excavation for formation level, associated with the proposed development.

It is recommended that a programme of test trenching be carried by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service to investigate the potential for previously unidentified sub-surface archaeological remains. If any such remains are identified further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service.

It is also recommended that all ground disturbances associated with the proposed development, including further site investigations and enabling works, be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) at Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath (Figure 1; ITM 659760, 745600). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. It was undertaken by Maeve Tobin of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of JH Kinnie Ltd.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Westmeath, 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.

It was intended that a geophysical survey would inform this assessment, however on inspection of the ground conditions in January 2025 by the geophysicist (Ger Dowling) it was determined to be unfeasible (see Appendix 1).

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The development will comprise a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on a site at Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath (figure 2). The proposed development will comprise 129 no. houses (1 bed, 2 beds, 3 beds and 4 beds) and the provision of a crèche facility. Provision of car, cycle and motorbike parking. Provision of a new vehicular access and additional pedestrian/cyclist access from L-5014 (Boreen Bradach Road) and associated upgrades to the local road. All associated site development works and services provision, bin stores, residential private open space, public open space, substation, boundary treatments, landscaping and all associated site development works.

A programme of site investigations were conducted to inform design, and the resulting report (Letch 2024) has been reviewed to inform the baseline assessment.

2 METHODOLOGY

A study area, defined as 500m from the boundary of the proposed development area, was assessed to inform this report. Research was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Westmeath;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Westmeath;
- 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;
- Westmeath County Development Plan 2021–2027;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025).

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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – 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 DoHLGH 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.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are 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.

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 Westmeath County Development Plan (2021–2027) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

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 1970–2025.

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 field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located in Kinnegad townland, within the parish of Killucan and barony of Farbill. The site comprises three large fields of rough pasture bordered by tree-lined earthen banks. The surrounding landscape is characterised by the town to the south, and residential estates to the east and north, with open fields to the northwest. The townland name derives from *Cionn Átha Gad*, translated as meaning ‘the head of the ford of withes’. A withe is a strong, flexible branch of willow used for binding objects together, and the placename appears to reflect an artificial crossing point of the nearby river at some point in the past. Tradition also claims that the village got its name by the hanging of a man with a ‘gad’ or ‘halter’ at the ford over the Kinnegad River at the east of the village.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development area, however two are located within the wider study area. The nearest recorded monument comprises a castle (WM027-071) which may lie c. 75m to the southeast but an exact location is not known. Archaeological excavations to the immediate north of the proposed development area, carried out in advance of the *Bun Daire* residential development, revealed a large previously unrecorded early medieval enclosed settlement and burial area.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

While a number of prehistoric sites have been identified within the landscape surrounding the proposed development area, the earliest dateable activity in the vicinity is Bronze Age (c. 2500–800BC). This period was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. Indeed, several stray finds of Bronze Age spear heads have been recovered from water courses surrounding Kinnegad, suggesting the presence of a transient population within the landscape (NMI 1936:1973, 8092:W17, 1187:WK048).

Several probable Bronze Age sites were excavated in 2002 prior to the construction of the Kinnegad-Enfield-Kilcock Motorway (M4) to the south of Kinnegad and the proposed development area (Carlin et al. 2008). Evidence for Bronze Age metal working and habitation was identified at Kinnegad 2 over 300m to the south of the proposed development area (Bennett 2002:1878, Licence No. 02E0926) and prehistoric settlement activity, potentially Bronze Age in date, was also identified at Rossan 3 and 4 over 1km to the southeast (Bennett 2002:1525, 1526; Licences 02E1065 and 02E1066).

An Iron Age (c. 800BC-AD400) smelting site was identified and excavated in Hardwood, c. 850m east-southeast of the proposed development area (SMR ME04-026). Further evidence for Iron Age metalworking was identified at Rossan (SMR ME046-024) c. 940m south of the proposed development area in advance of the N4.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the *túath*, or petty kingdom, with Byrne (1973) estimating that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

Construction works associated with the first phase of the Bun Daire residential development to the immediate north of the proposed development area disturbed and truncated the remains of a previously unrecorded early medieval enclosed settlement and burial ground (likely mid-6th century AD). Archaeological test investigations and limited rescue excavation recorded the remains of an extended inhumation cemetery enclosed by at least two ditches and charcoal rich-layers indicative of metalworking (Walsh 2006, Figure 3). A total of 17 grave cuts were identified, of which the most exposed (Sk 12 and 14) were subject to excavation at this time, and a substantial quantity of disturbed human bone was also collected and analysed (Coughlan 2006). It was agreed in consultation with the statutory authorities to preserve the remains in situ, and as such the site was reinstated under archaeological supervision, being covered by c. 0.5m of imported soils (Walsh 2008). A metal detection survey undertaken of the disturbed soils revealed a quantity of slag and metal objects (ibid.). Subsequent redesign of the development required additional testing in 2019 which identified the western extent of the outer enclosure which contained animal bone (Taylor 2019).

Two slightly isolated small-scale features were also identified during testing programme to the southeast of the enclosure, which may be related (Whitty 2006, Figure 3). Excavation revealed that at least one of these was the remains of metal working activity (McLoughlin 2006). Early medieval metalworking evidence was also identified at multiple sites in the wider environs, excavated in advance of the N4 road scheme at Rossan (SMR ME046-023) and at Hardwood (SMR ME046-026) c. 930m–1.2km south and southeast of the proposed development area (Carlin et al. 2008).

The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period (Stout 1997). One of the most recent studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O’Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts,

where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant.

There is one ringfort recorded within the immediate landscape surrounding the proposed development area, although they are commonly found in Westmeath and neighbouring Meath. The recorded site at Kinnegad (WM027-070) is located c. 660m to the southwest and was subject to archaeological testing and excavation in 2007 (Crumlish 2007). The denuded remains of a ringfort were recorded during the excavation, although it was found to have been subject to post-medieval disturbance.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. Their presence was strongest in the East of the Country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the newly arrived lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle (motte and bailey), a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive surrounding acreage. During the 14th to 16th centuries, tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry and are a common feature in the Irish landscape.

It is possible that Kinnegad was located on the *Slighé Mhor*, one of the five great route ways across Ireland that are reputed to have been established during the early medieval period. The route way followed the lines of eskers across the midlands, which are long gravel ridges formed during the last ice age and ran from Dublin to Galway. As noted above the town and townland takes its name from the ford over the River Kinnegad, potentially located c. 250m southeast of the proposed development area. It is possible that a castle guarded this fording point (WM027-071), which was established during the medieval period. The site is listed within the SMR, but the exact location is unknown and therefore remains unmapped. The castle of ‘Kinigad’ is depicted standing close to the bridge on Sir William Petty’s map of Ireland dating from 1685 (Figure 4). The terrier (written description) of the 1654 Down Survey map of Farbill Barony records that in Kinnegad there is ‘a castle in good repaire where is at present some horse quartered’ (Simington 1961, 41).

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

The earliest record of Kinnegad is that it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Luke Fitzgerald in 1559, who was the owner of Tircroghan Castle c. 4km southeast of the village. Kinnegad is marked on the Down Survey map of Farbill Barony and spelt ‘Kenagad’ (Figure 4). The Civil Survey of 1655–59 records that in 1640 a Sir Luke Fitzgerald held 8,560 acres in Farbill, including Tircroghan and Kinnegad but most of his land passed to his son George after the war as George had fought for Cromwell (Anonymous 1982).

The bridge at Kinnegad (WM028-003/ ME046-019) is shown on the Down Survey map (Figure 4). In 1731 an act was passed for the repair of the road from Dublin to

Kinnegad. There are three arches and three upstream cutwaters surviving from the 17th century bridge. The river was diverted to a new deeper cut immediately northwest of the surviving arches of the old bridge in the 1840s and a reinforced concrete bridge was erected in 1936 (O’Keeffe and Simington 1991).

By the early 19th century, Kinnegad was a well-established post town and district parish containing 2,812 inhabitants with 670 living in the town (Figure 5, Lewis 1837). The town itself comprised 115 houses with a market house in the centre at the time of the ordnance survey. The town is described by Lewis (ibid) as having a Roman Catholic Chapel, which is visible on the first edition OS map to the immediate south of the proposed development, although no further information is given. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage note that it was likely built in c. 1820, latterly replaced by the current St. Marys Church in the first decade of the 20th century.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024) has revealed that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area (Figure 1).

Archaeological testing was carried out to the immediate north of the proposed development area by Fintan Walsh for IAC in May 2006 (Walsh 2006, Licence No. 06E0448, Figure 3) to investigate the extent of a newly identified early medieval enclosure and burial ground exposed during ground works for a social housing development. This site lies to the immediate north of the proposed development area and is currently preserved *in situ* as a green space within the residential estate. Further testing in the vicinity of this enclosure area was undertaken by Yvonne Whitty for IAC in October 2006 (Whitty 2006, Licence No. 06E0448ext.), who identified the two possible areas of archaeological potential. These latter features were subsequently excavated by Gill McLoughlin for IAC in December 2006, of which one was found to be archaeological (McLoughlin 2007, Licence No. 06E0448ext.). This sub-circular pit was identified as a smelting pit associated with metalworking.

Further testing at this site was required to investigate the footprint of the redesigned development in 2019 (Taylor 2019, Licence No. 19E0425). Testing revealed the western portion of the outer enclosure ditch associated with the early medieval burial ground. A small amount of animal bone recovered from the ditch would be typical of early medieval domestic food waste. The ditch lies within an area earmarked for green space as part of the housing development and will be preserved *in situ*.

Archaeological testing was carried out in advance of a commercial development c. 160m south in 2018 (Ní Cheallacháin and Waters 2019, Licence No. 18E0406). A series of agricultural furrows were identified crossing the site running north-east/south-west, however no archaeology was identified in any of the excavated test trenches.

Further to the south pre-development testing was carried out in 2007 600m away to investigate the vicinity of a recorded ringfort site, WM027-070 (Crumlish 2007, Licence No. 07E0665). A ditch feature was uncovered in trenches crossing the north

and west quadrants of the monument and possible scarps were found to the east and south. The enclosed an area measured 29.5m in diameter north–south by 29m. This site appears to have been subject to subsequent excavation prior to development.

Recent pre-development testing carried out c. 750m to the northwest did not reveal any archaeological remains (Kiely 2022, Licence No. 22E0970).

In 1998 archaeological monitoring was carried out along the N4 road corridor. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified (Nelis 1998 and 1999, Licence No. 98E0481). In 1994 an 18th century overbridge was identified during excavations c. 150m to the south of the proposed development area (Neary 1994, Licence No. 94E0169).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty, Down Survey: Parish of Farbill, c. 1655

A tower house (WM027-071) is marked adjacent to the bridge (WM028-003/ ME046-019) on this map (Figure 4) to the southeast of the proposed development area, adjacent to the 'The Bridge of Kenegad'. The bridge crosses the 'Kenagadd River' which forms the County and Barony boundary. The precise location of the castle is unknown today but it is recorded in the RMP as WM027-071. The bridge is recorded as WM028-003/ ME046-019.

Taylor & Skinner Road Map, 1778

While this map (Figure 4) primarily shows the road network, it provides a high-level illustration of the settlement at Kinnegad. The level of detail does not allow for individual field identification; however, the area of proposed development is shown as a large open space. The river to the south forms the County boundary between Westmeath and Meath. A turnpike is annotated to the southeast near the bridge crossing the river. Bogland is illustrated in the wider vicinity. Griffinstown House and demesne are shown to the northwest.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1837, scale 1:10,560

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development. The site is shown as being located within three sub-rectangular tree-lined fields to the immediate north of the settlement at Kinnegad (Figure 5). There are no features or areas of archaeological potential marked within the proposed development area or immediate environs. The southern perimeter of the application site forms the rear boundary of numerous property plots that front onto Main Street. A Roman Catholic Chapel is shown to the immediate south of this boundary, at the northern end of a property plot. The southeast perimeter of the proposed development area is bound by a laneway which turns sharply eastwards. Approximately 200m to the north the line of a 'formerly intended canal' extends on a northwest-southeast axis.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1912, scale 1:2,500

By the time of this map, the largest field within the proposed development area has been reorganized with a more evenly spaced field division established (Figure 6). No structures or features of archaeological potential are shown within the site. To the south a new Catholic Church (St Marys) has been built fronting onto the Main Street, leaving the older building defunct. The former canal feature is largely backfilled to the north.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area, with two archaeological sites within the wider study area (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix 2). These consist of the uncertain location of a tower house (WM027-071) illustrated near the bridge (WM028-003/ ME046-019) situated 250m to the southeast. Neither of these sites is a National Monument, or under a Conservation Order.

The Westmeath Development Plan (2021–2027) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 4).

TABLE 1: Recorded archaeological sites in proximity to the study area

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE *
WM027-071	Kinnegad (Uncertain)	Tower House	c. 75m to the southeast?
WM028-003/ ME046-019	Kinnegad	Bridge	250m southeast

*Note: distance is to the nearest boundary of the proposed development area

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Westmeath 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 (Appendix 3).

A number of objects have been retrieved from the River Clonard near Kinnegad, including bronze spearheads (NMI Reg. 8092:W17, 1187:WK048). Other items have been recovered from the Kinnegad River, including a wooden bucket (NMI Reg. 7679:W160), a wooden bucket with bronze bands and amber settings (NMI Reg. 3275:Wk411), and a wooden stoup (NMI Reg. R2977). A socketed bronze axehead (NMI Reg. 1936:1873) was also uncovered in Kinnegad at an unknown find place.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013) and Google Earth (2020–2024) did not reveal any features of archaeological potential within the proposed development area.

3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation, carried out by the author in dry bright conditions on Thursday 21 November 2024, the proposed development area and its surrounding environs were visually inspected (Figure 1).

The site is located to the north of Kinnegad town, bordered to the east by Boreen Bradach and a recently constructed social housing development (Plate 1 and 2). A portion of the existing road network and green verge is included within the redline boundary for the development (Plate 3). To the north of the proposed development area an early medieval enclosure and burial ground has been preserved within a central green space (Plate 4). The archaeologically sensitive area is protected by a low post and wire fence, from the active construction of social housing in the Bundarra estate. The remains are evident as a slight rise in the ground level (albeit overgrown at present) and the outer ditch is mimicked by a new pathway on the surface. The southern boundary of the proposed development area is partially comprised of an early 19th century wall (with modern interventions), hedge row and treeline (Plates 5 and 6). The ruins of an early 19th century Roman Catholic Church (built c. 1820) are situated to the immediate south of the wall. The grounds of the former church are located in a garden at the rear of the current church (built c. 1904) and parochial house, accessed with permission of the owner for the purpose of this assessment (Plates 7 and 8). There is no evidence for burials in the vicinity of the church. The structure itself is in some disrepair with modern interventions (concrete blocking) evident in the window apertures.

The proposed development area was access via a farm gate in the southeast corner of the plot (Plate 2). The application site comprises three large tree-lined sub-rectangular level fields of rough pasture (Plates 9–12). The boundary between the middle and western fields, shown on the first edition OS map, consists of a low earthen bank overgrown with trees and hedgerow (Plate 11). The second field division is a later construct (later 19th century) and largely comprises trees and hedgerow.

There is no above-ground evidence for any continuation of an outer ditch element associated with the preserved site to the north extending within the application site. Furthermore, no evidence for previously unrecorded archaeological features was identified during the course of the field inspection within the proposed development area.

A geophysical survey had been proposed earlier in the Autumn, however the ground cover at the time was not suited for the methods. The site was grazed with a view to enable a survey however on attending site the geophysicist determined that the ground conditions were not suited to the survey techniques (see Appendix 1).

4 CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological desktop assessment was undertaken to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development. It is located in the townland of Kinnegad, parish of Killucan and barony of Farbill in County Westmeath. The proposed development area comprises three large fields of rough pasture bordered by tree-lined low earthen banks. The surrounding landscape is characterised by the town to the south, and residential estates to the east and north, with open fields to the northwest. The townland name derives from *Cionn Átha Gad* possibly relates to a former crossing point of the Kinnegad River.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development area, however two are in the vicinity. The nearest recorded monument comprises a castle (WM027-071) which may lie c. 150m to the south, but an exact location is not known. Archaeological excavations to the immediate north of the proposed development area, carried out in advance of the *Bun Daire* residential development, revealed a large previously unrecorded early medieval enclosed settlement and burial area. Excavations along the route of the N4 to the south have also identified scattered evidence for prehistoric and medieval occupation in the wider area.

Cartographic analysis has shown the area comprising open agricultural land, with a bridge (WM028-003/ ME046-019) crossing the river by at least the mid-17th century. A tower house (WM027-071) is illustrated near the bridge on the Down Survey maps however this building was no longer present by the time of the Ordnance Survey, and as such an exact location is not known. The 19th century mapping shows the proposed development area as two or three large agricultural fields.

A field inspection was conducted which confirmed the findings of the desk-based assessment. No previously unrecorded archaeological features or structures were evident within the proposed development area. To investigate the potential for sub-surface archaeology a geophysical survey had been proposed, however it was determined to be unfeasible based on ground conditions.

Notwithstanding the findings of the field inspection, the presence of a large early medieval multi-ditched enclosure and burial ground within the field to the immediate north means that there is potential for outlying archaeological remains associated with this settlement to extend within the proposed development area. Test trenching carried out to the south of the enclosure within the second phase of *Bun Daire* in the field to the north, did not identify any ditch elements extending southwards within the current site. It cannot be ruled out that other features, such as metalworking kilns, or outlying burials exist as sub-surface remains within the proposed development area.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

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. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- While this assessment has not identified any features of archaeological potential within the proposed development area, an early medieval enclosed settlement and burial ground was previously identified c. 30m to the north and preserved *in situ*. It is possible that archaeological features associated with this settlement may extend within the proposed development, surviving as sub-surface remains. If present, groundworks associated with the proposed development may have a direct negative effect on any such surviving remains that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level. This will be caused by ground disturbances, such as topsoil stripping and excavation for formation level, associated with the proposed development.

5.2 MITIGATION

- It is recommended that a programme of test trenching be carried by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service to investigate the potential for previously unidentified sub-surface archaeological remains. If any such remains are identified further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service.
- It is also recommended that all ground disturbances associated with the proposed development, including further site investigations and enabling works, be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service.

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY FEASIBILITY

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31st January 2025

With regard to a proposed archaeogeophysical survey of a c.6.7-hectare site at Kinnegad townland, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath (Figure 1), I am writing to inform you that I inspected the subject lands on Thursday, 30 January 2025. From this, it is clear that the site does not offer favourable conditions for a geophysical survey.

The proposed survey – to be conducted as part of a pre-planning archaeological assessment under Detection Licence 24R0428 – was originally due to be undertaken in November 2024. However, owing to dense high grasses and scrub vegetation, the survey was postponed and cattle were brought onto the site to graze down the ground cover. Unfortunately, however, over the intervening winter months, cattle combined with poor weather and soft soils has led to large areas of heavily poached terrain (Plates 1–3). Moreover, parts of the site, particularly along access routes between fields and at the only site entrance off the ‘Boreen Bradach’ road, are also excessively disturbed by agricultural vehicles (Plates 4 & 5). Taken together, these ground conditions will impede successful data capture and may result in damage to survey equipment.

In light of this, I would suggest test trenching as a preferable method of archaeological site investigation in this instance.

Kind regards,

Ger Dowling

Ger Dowling Ltd, Company No.: 747550



Figure 1. Proposed survey area outlined in red.



Plate 1. Western portion of site, showing disturbed terrain, looking north.



Plate 2. Central northern field, looking north.



Plate 3. Second field from north, looking northwest.



Plate 4. Disturbed terrain, looking northwest.



Plate 5. Site entrance, viewed from the east.

APPENDIX 2 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

SMR NO.	WM027-071
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
I.T.M.	Unknown
CLASSIFICATION	Castle
DIST. TO DEVELOPMENT	Unknown (possibly c. 75m to the southeast)
DESCRIPTION	In 1557 during the Reign of King Philip and Queen Mary, the crown certified a land grant to the Earl of Kildare and Mabell, his wife which included 'a castle called Kenegad, in the county of Westmeath' (Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Chas I, 193). No surface remains visible of any castle in area marked on the Record of Monuments and Places Map [RMP] of County Westmeath. Modern housing estate located in area marked on the RMP map. No castle site or castle location is depicted on any edition of the OS 6-inch maps. The exact location of Kinnegad Castle has not been identified. The location on the RMP map is based on the 1654 Down Survey map of Farbill barony. On this map Kinnegad Castle is depicted as a tower house type fortification standing close to the west bank of the Kinnegad River (NLI p.7384). The castle is depicted standing a short distance to the northwest of Kinnegad Bridge (WM028-003). The castle of 'Kinigad' is depicted standing close to the bridge on Sir William Petty's map of Ireland dating from 1685. The terrier of the 1654 Down Survey map of Farbill barony records that in Kinnegad there is 'a castle in good repaire where is at present some horse quartered' (Simington 1961, 41; NLI p.7384). The 1654 Down Survey records that in 1640 the lands of Kinnegad consisting of 609 Irish plantation acres (986 statute acres) belonged to Sir Luke FitzGerald of Ticroghan, Clonard, Co. Meath (NLI p.7384). In 1668 the forfeited lands of Kinnegad belonging to Sir Luke FitzGerald were granted to John Clotworthy, 1st Viscount Massereene. The castle was located close to the bridge and fording point over the Kinnegad River in the fields to the W of the river.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie; Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Chas I, 193; Simington 1961, 41; NLI p.7384

SMR NO.	WM046-019/WM028-003
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
I.T.M.	660071, 745148
CLASSIFICATION	Bridge
DIST. TO DEVELOPMENT	c. 250m southeast
DESCRIPTION	Three arches survive of a seven or nine arch 17th-century road bridge over the Kinnegad River which connected Galway to Dublin (N6) via the village of Kinnegad. The village of Kinnegad is located 90m to the northwest. The 17th-century bridge has been replaced by the present concrete bridge that was constructed in 1936. A bridge over the Kinnegad River at this location is depicted on the 1654 Down Survey map of Farbill barony where it is annotated as 'The Bridge of Kenegad' and shown standing to the southeast of Kinnegad Castle (WM027-071) (NLI p.7384). In

	1661 this medieval bridge was replaced by a new bridge mentioned in the House of Commons Journal under the entry for the 22nd of March where it states that 'the bridge of Kinnegad is much out of repaire and that great damage and loss hath happened to travellers and cattle in their passing over same and have ordered that two letters be written from the Speaker of the House, one to the Judges of Assize for the Co. of Meath and another to the Justices of Peace for the Co. of Westmeath to take care that according to Law a substantial bridge can be made over the said river Kinnegad' (O'Keeffe and Simington 1991, 219). Described in 1991 as 'three arches of the 1660s' bridge and three upstream cutwaters have survived. The river has been diverted into a new and deeper cut immediately northwest of the surviving arches of the old bridge. The bridge erected across the new channel in 1840s was replaced by the present reinforced concrete bridge in 1936. The span of the surviving arches is 9ft (2.7m) with a rise of 3ft. 6in. (1.04m), a 105° degree arc segment. The piers are 10ft (3m) thick. The ring stone are wedge-shaped, 7in. on extrados and 4.5in. (0.11m) on the intrados averaging 18in. (0.28m) in depth on the head. They are well bonded into the barrel. The stones are not ashlar. The joints are not truly radial, especially in the haunches. The masonry in the cutwaters is coursed random rubble. The points of the upriver cutwaters are well cut stones and well bonded. The masonry in the cutwaters is coursed rubble, but the spandrels are of random rubble. The width of the roadway between parapets was 16ft. (4.87m)' (ibid., 219–20).
REFERENCE:	www.archaeology.ie/SMR file; O'Keeffe, P.J. and Simington, T. 1991 <i>Irish Stone Bridges: History and heritage</i> . Dublin. Irish Academic Press.

SMR NO.	WM027-070
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
I.T.M.	659282, 745053
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort
DIST. TO DEVELOPMENT	660m southwest
DESCRIPTION	On a low natural rise of ground or small hillock located 200m N of the Kinnegad River. A roughly oval-shaped area (dims. 28m WSW–ENE; 23m NNW–SSE) defined by a poorly preserved low earth and stone bank (Wth 1.5m; int. H 0.05m; ext. H 0.2m) only visible from W-N, elsewhere reduced to a scarp with faint traces of a shallow external fosse (top Wth 5.4m) only visible at south and northwest. No entrance feature visible. Monument is not visible on 2005 OSI aerial photograph (www.osi.ie). Excavated in 2007.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie; www.osi.ie

APPENDIX 3 STRAY FINDS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Information on artefact finds from the study area in Westmeath 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	8092:W17
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Spearhead
FIND PLACE	River Clonard near Kinnegad
DESCRIPTION	Bronze spearhead.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1187:WK048
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Spearhead
FIND PLACE	River Clonard near Kinnegad
DESCRIPTION	Bronze spearhead.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	7679:W160
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Bucket
FIND PLACE	Kinnegad River
DESCRIPTION	Wooden bucket.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	3275:Wk411
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Bucket
FIND PLACE	Kinnegad River
DESCRIPTION	Wooden bucket with bronze bands and amber settings. 14cm high. Carved from a single block of yew. A separate disc of yew forms the base. Thin bronze bands decorate the body. Ornamented with simple interlace and spiral designs executed in openwork. Handle secured at either end with decorated plate or escutcheon of cast bronze which has been tinned. Escutcheon is bird-shaped with engraved triple spirals and triquetra

	knots and are provided with settings for studs of amber, most of which are now missing.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files; O Floinn, R. 1983 A link with the past. Kinnegad Parish '83, 3, 24; Wilde, W. 1849 Beauties of the Boyne. Dublin. James McGlashan.

MUSEUM NO	R2977
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Bucket
FIND PLACE	Kinnegad River, near the cathedral of Clonard
DESCRIPTION	Wooden stoup or bucket.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1936:1873
TOWNLAND	Kinnegad
PARISH	Killucan
BARONY	Farbill
FIND	Axehead
FIND PLACE	Unknown
DESCRIPTION	Socketed bronze axehead. Hollow at socketed end. Wide curving blade end. Loop on side.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

APPENDIX 4 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage) 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 case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after 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.

Westmeath County Development Plan (2021–2027)

Relevant Objectives and Policies

CPO 14.1 Improve accessibility to our cultural heritage and maximise its potential as a learning resource.

CPO 14.2 Promote the understanding of cultural heritage in terms of its inherent and unique character and to recognise what elements should be preserved, conserved or enhanced.

CPO 14.3 Support the implementation of objectives and actions of the Westmeath County Heritage Plan 2018-2023 and update during the lifetime of the Plan.

CPO 14.4 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, festivals and infrastructure in a sustainable manner.

CPO 14.5 Seek to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, and in this regard applications will be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for comment.

CPO 14.6 Seek to ensure the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings and archaeological objects that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.

CPO 14.7 Ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site, or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site will not be permitted.

CPO 14.8 Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.

CPO 14.9 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

CPO 14.10 Ensure that extensions to archaeologically significant burial grounds will only be permitted, in the event the extension would not constitute a proven risk to archaeological heritage, by means of a direct impact on archaeological features.

CPO 14.11 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.

CPO 14.12 Ensure that archaeological excavation is carried out according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, The National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

CPO 14.13 Prepare conservation plans for the management of archaeological sites and monuments in Council ownership.

CPO 14.14 Encourage increased awareness of and public access to monuments within Council ownership.

CPO 14.15 Ensure that all proposed development affecting disturbance to peatlands is subject to archaeological monitoring, in consultation with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Authority.

APPENDIX 5 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 2022). 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 6 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.

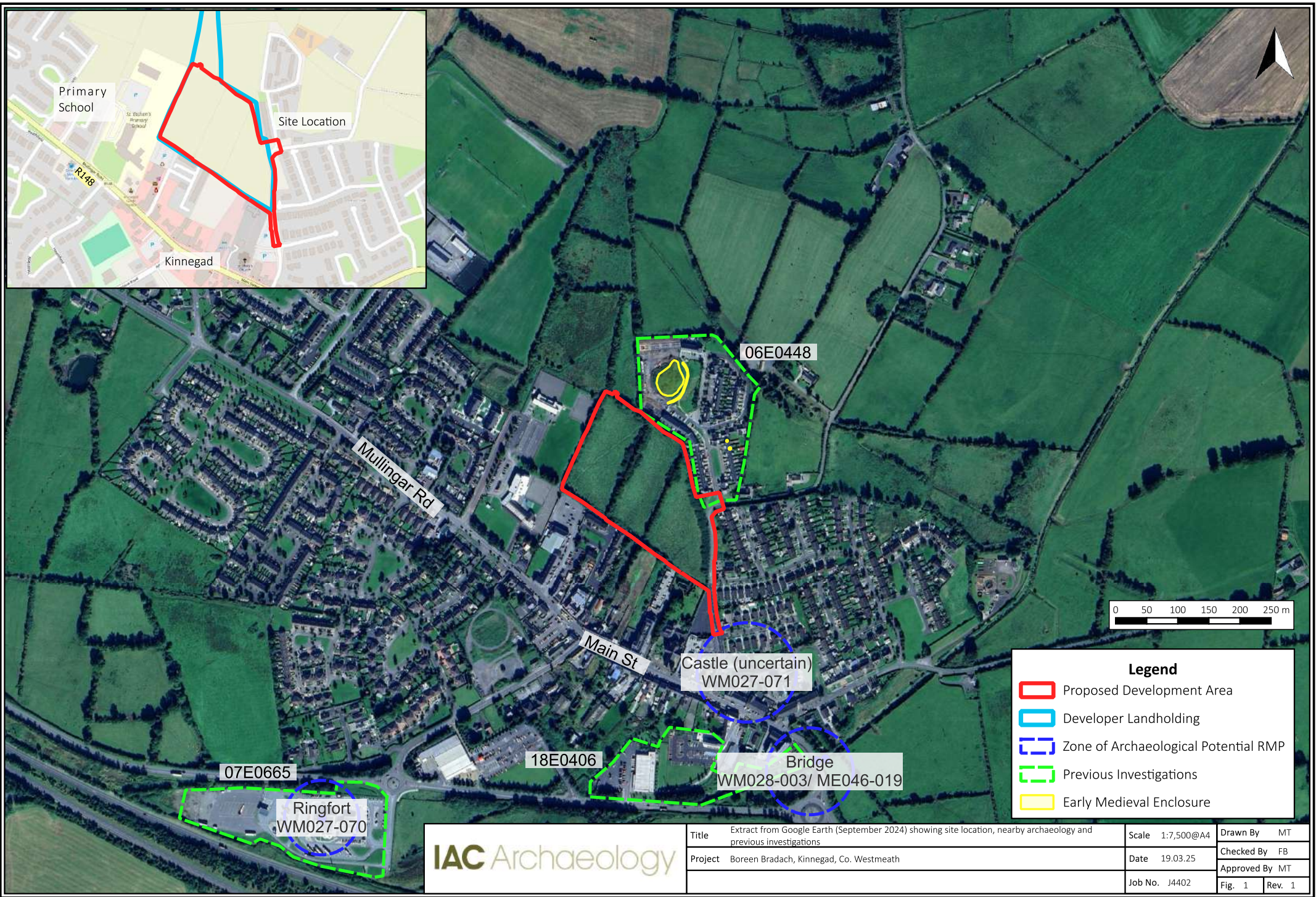
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological 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’ (ClfA 2020a).

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, inter-tidal 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’ (ClfA 2020b).

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 (ClfA 2020c).

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.



GENERAL NOTES

DO NOT SCALE FROM CHANGES WORK TO FOLDED DIMENSIONS
ONLY ARCHITECT TO REINTERPRET OF ANY DISCREPANCIES
THE DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
ARCHITECT'S CHARGING SPECIFICATION AND CONTRACT
DESIGN TEAM'S EXHIBITS AND SPECIFICATIONS

BOUNDARY OF THIS PLANNING APPLICATION

EXISTING HEDGEROW TO BE RETAINED

POSSIBLE FUTURE PEDESTRIAN LINK TO SCHOOL

Car Park

CELL 5 23 UNITS

CELL 4 20 UNITS

CELL 3 11 UNITS

CELL 2 14 UNITS

CELL 7 21 UNITS

CELL 6 19 UNITS

CELL 8 15 UNITS

CELL 1 04 UNITS

POS 1 3499sqm

POS 2 789 sqm

POS 3 622 sqm

PEDESTRIAN LINK TO NEIGHBORING ESTATE

3M FOOTPATH FOR INCREASED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

PEDESTRIAN LINK TO SHOPS & SCHOOLS

FUTURE ACCESS ROAD TO SERVE LANDS TO THE SOUTH

Hotel

Site Entrance

GENERAL NOTES

THE DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
ARCHITECT'S CHARGING SPECIFICATION AND CONTRACT
DESIGN TEAM'S EXHIBITS AND SPECIFICATIONS

APPLICATION SITE BOUNDARY OUTLINED IN RED
4.279ha - 4279sqm2

Map Series | Map Sheets

1:2,500 | 2379-B
1:2,500 | 2379-D
1:2,500 | 2380-A
1:2,500 | 2380-C

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Schedule of Accommodation

Creche

Houses
19 x 4 bed - two storey
97 x 3 bed - two storey
11 x 2 bed - two storey
2 x 1 bed - single storey

129 x total houses

Percentage breakdown:

19 x 4 bed = 14.72%
97 x 3 bed = 75.21%
11 x 2 bed = 8.52%
2 x 1 bed = 1.55%

Net site area = 3.774 ha = 37,743m²

Open Space

Total Public Open Space = 4010m² (13.2% of overall site area)
[Public Open Space 1] = 3499m²
[Public Open Space 2] = 789m²
[Public Open Space 3] = 622m²

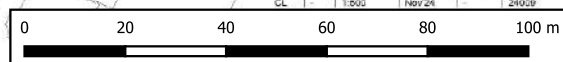
DRAFT 14.03.2025

J.H. Kinnear Ltd

KINNEGAD

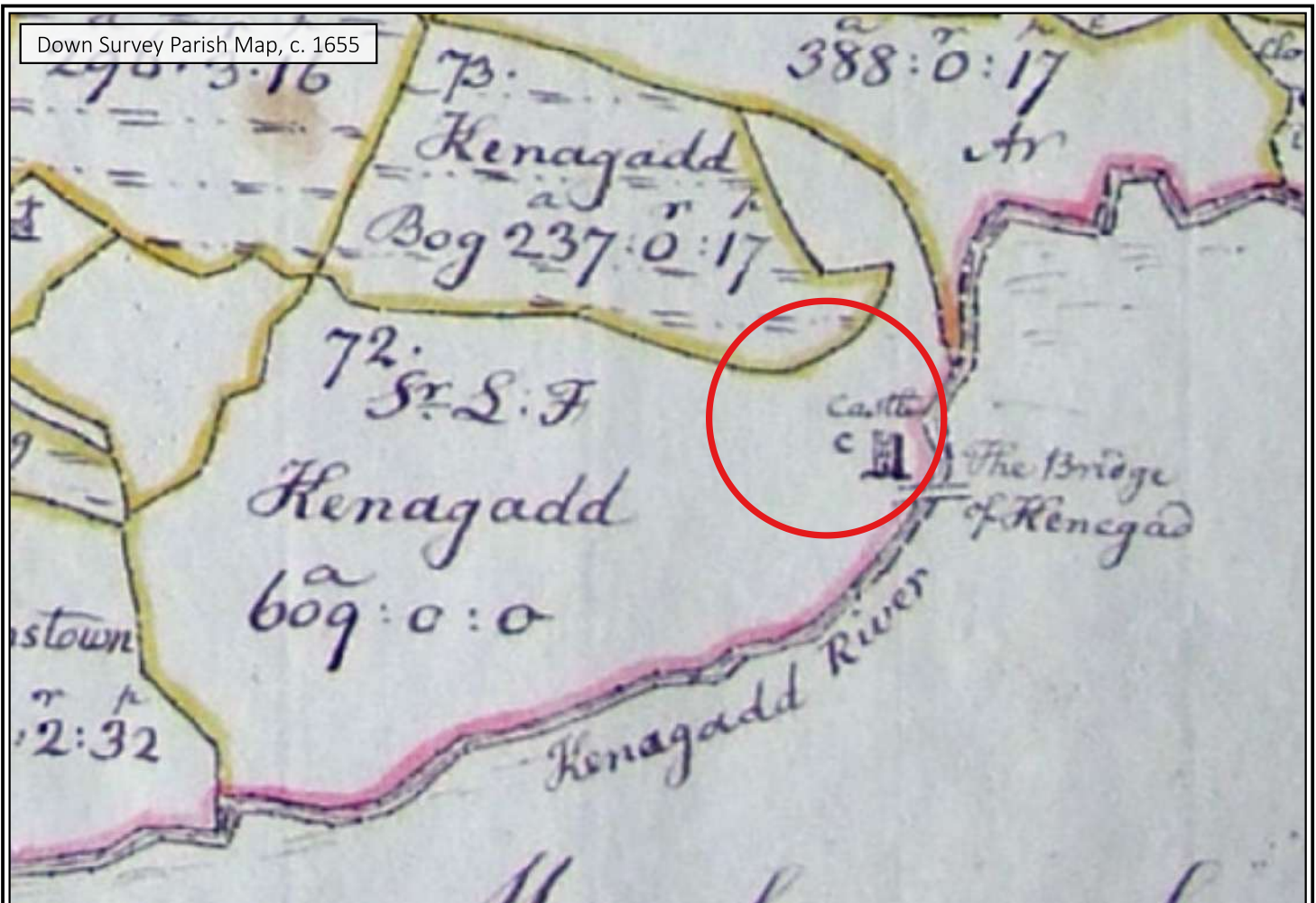
SITE LAYOUT PLAN

CL 1:500 Nov 21 2009



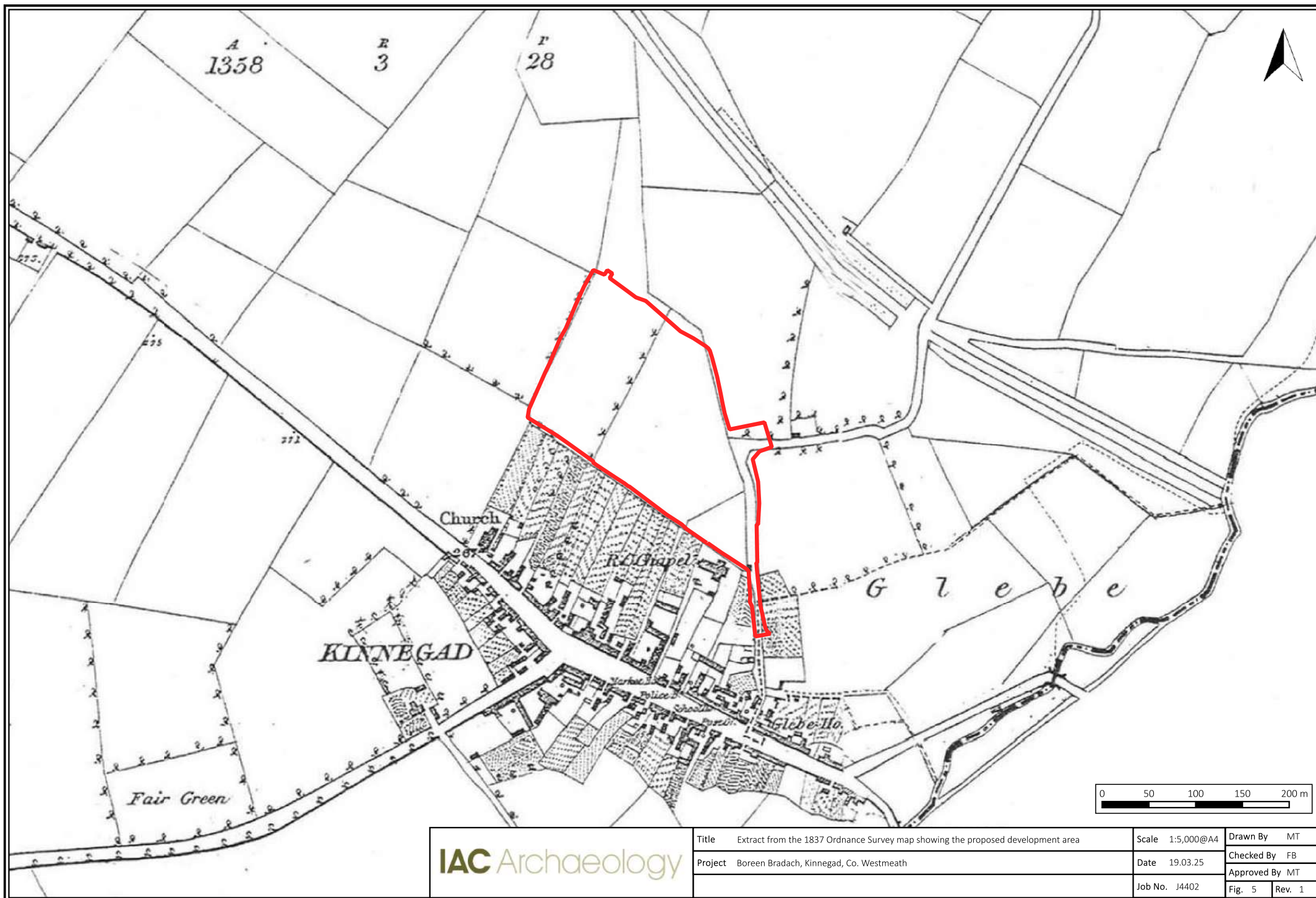


Down Survey Parish Map, c. 1655



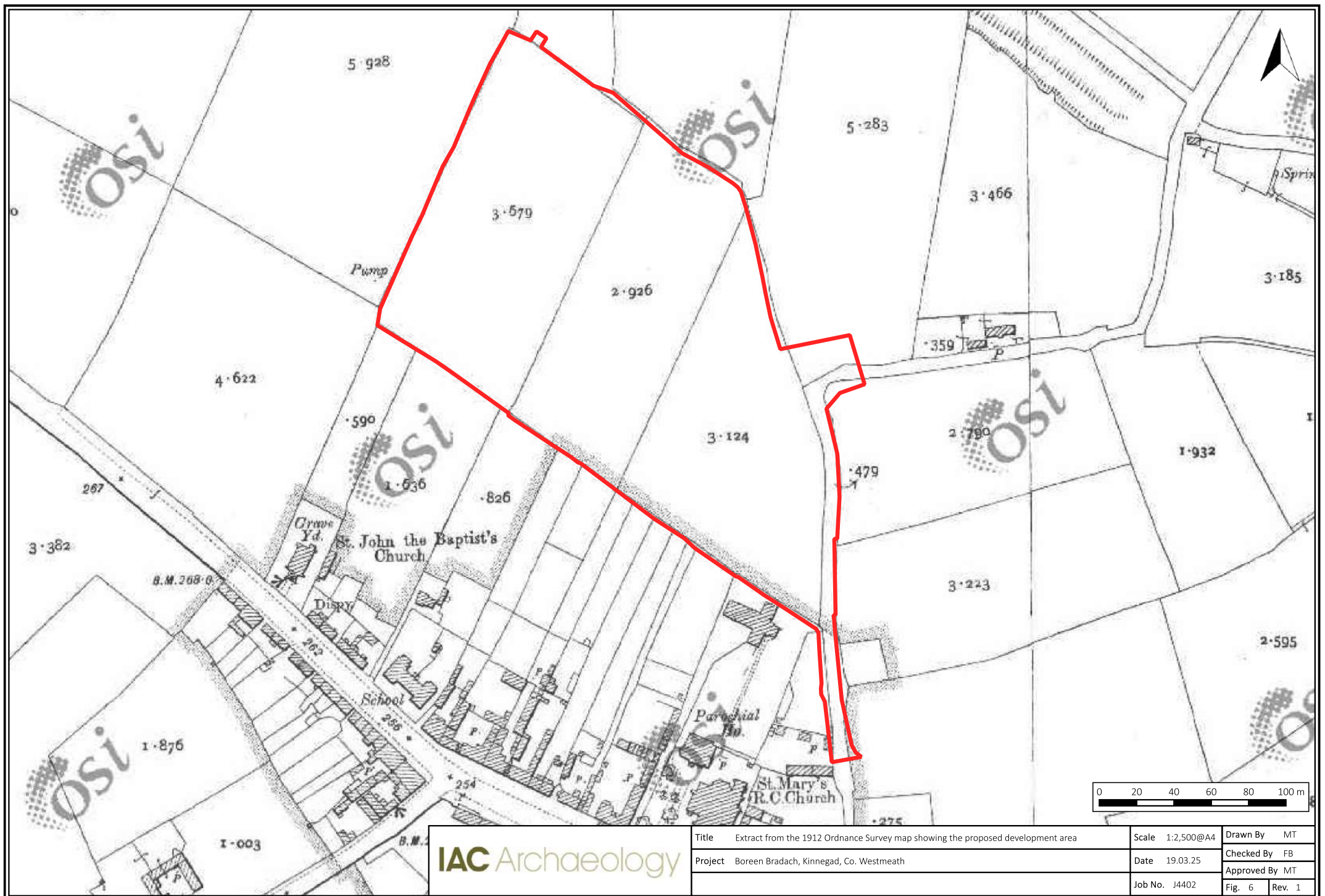
Taylor and Skinner, 1778





IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from the 1837 Ordnance Survey map showing the proposed development area	Scale	1:5,000@A4	Drawn By	MT
Project	Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath	Date	19.03.25	Checked By	FB
		Job No.	J4402	Approved By	MT
				Fig. 5	Rev. 1



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from the 1912 Ordnance Survey map showing the proposed development area	Scale	1:2,500@A4	Drawn By	MT
Project	Boreen Bradach, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath	Date	19.03.25	Checked By	FB
		Job No.	J4402	Approved By	MT
				Fig. 6	Rev. 1



Plate 1: Boreen Bradach, facing north



Plate 2: Eastern perimeter of proposed development area, facing northwest



Plate 3: Boreen Bradach with site to the right, facing south



Plate 4: Early medieval enclosure preserved *in situ*, facing south



Plate 5: Ruins of early 19th century RC Church bordering site, facing south



Plate 6: Partially disturbed early 19th century boundary wall, facing south



Plate 7: Ruins of early 19th century RC Church, facing north



Plate 8: Ruins of early 19th century RC Church, facing east (note: proposed development area to the left)



Plate 9: Eastern field, facing north



Plate 10: Middle field, facing north



Plate 11: Field boundary between western and middle fields, facing north



Plate 12: Western field, facing northwest