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Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project
Knocktopher, County Kilkenny

Sept 2019

Client: Roadplan CE Ltd / Kilkenny County Council

SUMMARY

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed development of a new footpath, between Knocktopher and Ballyhale, County Kilkenny.

The author of this report was commissioned by Roadplan Consulting Engineers Ltd on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to carry out an archaeological impact assessment in association with the proposed development of a footpath, between Knocktopher and Ballyhale, County Kilkenny, in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The proposed development of the new footpath, road junction, and underground services between Knocktopher and Ballyhale, County Kilkenny. The proposed construction works will involve the construction of a new footpath, road junction, fencing, and underground services for lighting along the existing R713 Regional Road, between Knocktopher and Ballyhale, County Kilkenny.

This report establishes the existing archaeological heritage of the **proposed development location, and its' environs. Particular reference** is given to the historic town of Knocktopher (Record of Monuments and Places No KK031-017), which is protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). The report assesses all likely impacts the proposed development is deemed to have on the existing archaeology, and categorises the significance of these impacts.

No known archaeological sites are impacted by this project. Proposed ground disturbance works for this project risk impacting on subterranean archaeology.

This report concludes that the proposed development of Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project, County Kilkenny, will have an uncertain impact on the existing archaeological heritage of Knocktopher and environs.

Mitigation in the form of construction stage archaeological monitoring of construction works is recommended to mitigate the risk of impacting on subterranean archaeology.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment associated with the proposed development of the Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project, County Kilkenny (653597E, 636535N, see Figure 1-4 & Plate 1). This report assesses the possible and likely impacts that the proposed development may have on the existing archaeology. Known archaeological sites included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and sites identified through archaeological investigations have been given the prefix (AH; denoting Archaeological Heritage), followed by an individual number, for the purposes of this report. Possible archaeological sites and features identified during the course of this assessment have been given the prefix (AP; denoting Archaeological Potential), followed by an individual number, for the purposes of this report.

The research that forms the basis of this report is influenced by the publications 'The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny' (Bradley, 1984), 'The Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny (Farrelly, 1993), and the Journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, formerly entitled 'The Old Kilkenny Review'. Recommendations are contained within this report to ameliorate any impact the proposed development of the new road may have on the archaeological heritage. This report was commissioned by Roadplan CE Ltd on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to fulfil Part 8 Planning Requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

2.0 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development of the new footpath, between Ballyhale and Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny will see the footpath installed on the northern side of the R713 regional road. The existing bridge at the southeast end of Knocktopher over the Little Arrigle river shall be utilised to accommodate the proposed footpath. Some narrowing of the regional road in the vicinity of this existing bridge will be required. The minimum roadway width shall be 5.5m and the footpath width 1.8m. A section of existing stone wall shall need to be set back, approximately 20m fronting the dwelling immediately to the east of the Glanbia Depot. This set back of the wall will require the construction of a retaining wall. Ducting to facilitate public lighting shall also be provided as part of the footway construction. Where kerbing is providing any existing drainage outfalls shall continue to be used. No additional drainage outfalls are proposed. A bituminous footpath is intended to the footpath surfacing course.

Works also intended to take place include the replacement of 150m of fencing where the existing boundaries or associated hedging on the N72 Road is affected by the provision of the footpath.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This report is an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project, Co. Kilkenny, that will see the construction of approximately 0.8km of footpath between Knocktopher in the north, and Ballyhale in the south (see Figure 2). The possible impacts that the development may have on the existing archaeology were assessed according to the following documents and guidelines:

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (formerly National Roads Authority) Environmental Assessment Guidelines
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA 2002, 2003, 2016)
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAHG, 1999).

Any impacts that the proposed development may have on the existing archaeology were assessed as direct or indirect, and positive or negative in nature. The significance of each impact was judged depending on whether the impact was to the entirety or a portion of an archaeological site, or archaeological feature. Each impact was classified according to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines (2016) as set out below:

- **Profound:** this applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove the adverse effects. These profound impacts arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- **Significant:** this applies when an impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the archaeological feature/site. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site.
- **Moderate:** this applies when a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- **Slight:** this applies when the proposed works will result in an impact which causes changes in the character of the archaeology which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.
- **Imperceptible:** this applies when the proposed development will have an impact on the archaeology capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

- Uncertain: this applies when the extent or nature of possible impacts on archaeological is unknown. This is particularly relevant where the extent of the known archaeology within the proposed development area has not been established.

Site Visit / Inspection

During the site visit / inspection the author assesses the extant ground conditions of the proposed new road and its environs, and establishes if any known archaeological sites will be impacted by the proposed new road. The site visit resulted in photographic records, notes and measurements being taken.

Record of Monuments & Places (RMP)

The RMP is a list of archaeological monuments, generally predating AD1700, known to the National Monuments Service (NMS). This list was in many cases based initially on cartographic, documentary and aerial photographic sources. By inclusion in the RMP an archaeological site is protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). Any works that may impact on an RMP site has to be approved by the NMS prior to the work commencing. Each entry in the RMP receives an individual identification number with a two letter prefix which denotes the county that the archaeological site is in Appendix 2 lists the known archaeological sites within proximity of the proposed development, and provides appropriate mitigation measures to ameliorate any impact the proposed development may have on the known archaeology. The RMP for County Kilkenny was consulted for this report. The historic town of Knocktopher is contained within the RMP (RMP No: KK031-017). The proposed works are situated to the south of the historic town of Knocktopher (RMP No: KK031-017). A list of RMP entries within the study is included in Appendix II at the end of this report.

Topographical Files

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted for this report. The topographical files identify recorded stray archaeological artefacts that have been donated to or purchased by the State in accordance with National Monuments legislation. The files are given individual numbers, and are identified by townland, and county, and in urban locations, by street number, street, and townland.

A list of all the Topographical Files for the townlands affected by the proposed development, is included as Appendix I at the end of this report.

Archaeological Excavations Database (www.excavations.ie)

The Archaeological Excavations Database was consulted for this report. This database lists all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland that were licensed under the National Monuments Acts. The Database is organised on a county by county basis, and allows for searches of individual addresses and street names in an urban context. Several previous archaeological excavations are known from Knocktopher Manor, and Barrettstown townlands. No previous archaeological excavations are known from Kiltorcan townland. These excavations are listed in Appendix III at the end of this report.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an ongoing survey commissioned by Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The NIAH aims to promote the appreciation of, and contribute to, the protection of the architectural heritage by systematically recording the built heritage on a nation-wide basis. No entries are contained within the NIAH from the proposed works area.

Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020

Kilkenny County Council have previously published the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020. This plan was consulted for this project. It contains a list of buildings called the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) which are protected by law under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The RPS contained in the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 does not contain any entries within the study area.

The stated objective of the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 is:

‘Endeavour to preserve in situ all archaeological monuments, whether on land or underwater, listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and any newly discovered archaeological sites, features, or objects by requiring that archaeological remains are identified and fully considered at the very earliest stages of the development process and that schemes are designed to avoid impacting on the archaeological heritage.

- **To require** archaeological assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance if a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological remains.’ (Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020, p114).

The Urban Archaeological Survey:

The Urban Archaeology Survey was established in 1982 to record known information relating to Irish towns and to present it to the public. One of the main objectives was to produce a zone of archaeological potential, based on the available evidence, which could be used for planning purposes. Historical sources of information were compiled and known archaeology of the towns was evaluated. The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny was prepared by John Bradley and was published in 1984 for the Office of Public Works, and was consulted for this report.

Literary Sources

Various literary and online sources were consulted, a full list of which is provided in the bibliography. The Journal of the Kilkenny Historical & Archaeological Society has been published since 1892 (formerly known as the Old Kilkenny Review), and was consulted for this report, and provided valuable information on the historical development of the study area.

Cartographic Sources

A wide range of maps were consulted, including the Down Survey (1650s), private surveyors maps from the 18th century, and Ordnance Survey maps dating from the mid-19th century onwards. A full list of consulted cartographic sources is provided in the bibliography.

The Down Survey maps of the Barony of Knocktopher depicts the parish of Knocktopher, and surrounding townlands, villages and placenames. The medieval burrough of Knocktopher was already over 300 years old when the Down Survey maps were created.



Figure 1: Extract from Down Survey Map (circa 1655) showing site location.

The medieval burrough of Knocktopher was already over 300 years old when the Down Survey maps were created. The medieval town of Knocktopher has been assigned the code (AH01) for the purposes of this report.

The first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (see below), dating to the 1830's, shows Knocktopher village as a small settlement situated along a roadway. Several buildings are depicted including Knocktopher House, and the R.C Chapel and Friary. A number of buildings are depicted to the south of the proposed works, south of Knocktopher. These buildings are identified as 'Old Flour Mills' on the first edition map, indicating that they may date to the seventeenth or eighteenth

century. Archaeological sites shown include Trinity Well, the Church Tower (in ruins), and the Garrison Castle (Site of). The proposed new footpath and associated works do not impact on any of these known archaeological sites.

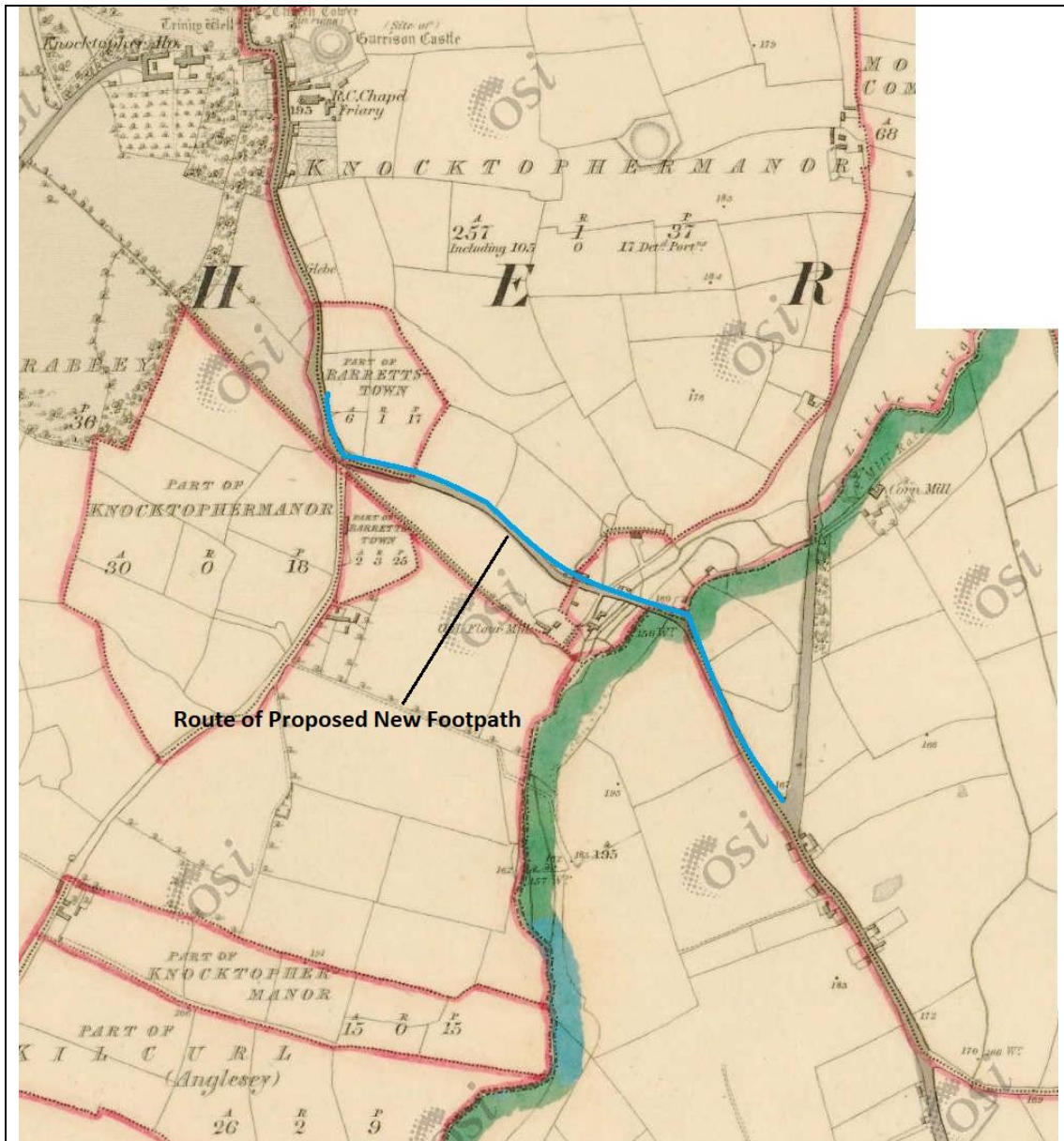


Figure 2: Extract from first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey Map (c. 1838) showing site location.

The first edition 25 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey Map of the area (see below), dating to the 1880's, shows a several buildings to the north and south of the proposed project area. One of these buildings is identified as a 'Corn Mill' (AH03). This building (AH03) is depicted on the first edition 6 inch to a mile map, and is identified as 'Old Flour Mill'. A possible millrace (AH04) is also depicted, travelling under the

bridge (AH07) in Moanroe Commons townland. A well (AH05) is depicted just to northwest of the possible millrace (AH04) and north of the corn mill (AH03). A second mill is depicted to the northeast of the proposed project area in Killtoran townland (AH06). The proposed project works will affect the well (AH05), bridge (AH07) and possible millrace (AH04) depicted on the first edition 25 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey Map of the area.

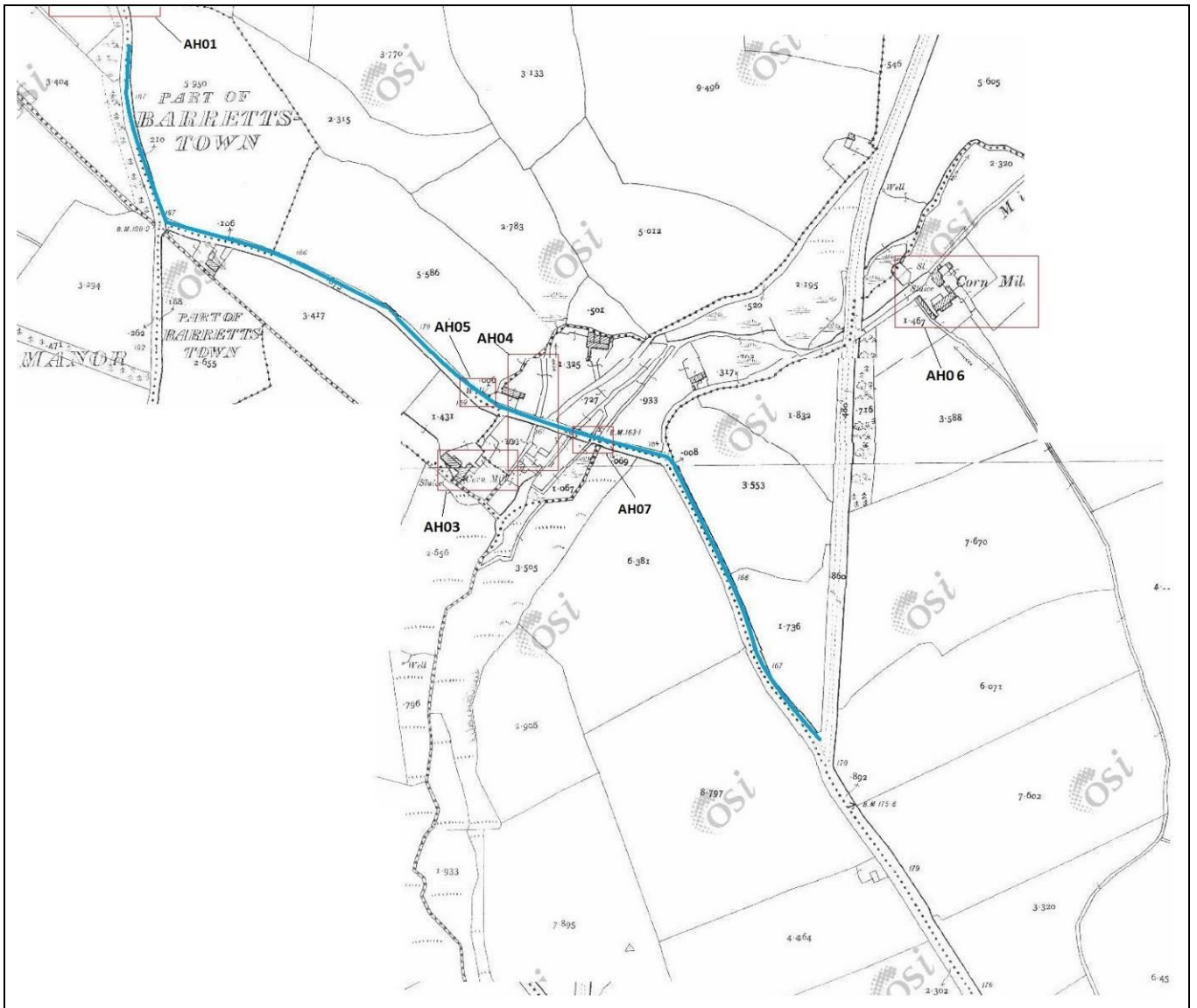


Figure 3: Extract from first edition 25 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey Map (c. 1880) showing site location and sites of Archaeological Heritage (AH).

4 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Location, Geology & Topography

The proposed Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project County Kilkenny (653597E, 636535N, see Figure 1-4 & Plate 1). The development area is situated in the parish of Knocktopher, and the Barony of Knocktopher, which is situated in County Kilkenny. The land here is good agricultural pasture and is drained by the Little Arrigle River and Ballyhale Stream. All of the land for the proposed new footpath is existing road and a road-bridge, hedgerows and earthen and stone banks. The underlying bedrock of the area consists of limestone and schist rock.

The name Knocktopher is an Anglicisation of the Gaelic ‘Cnoc an Tóchair’, which translates as the ‘Hill of the Causeway’. This name first appears in surviving written records from the late thirteenth century Ormond Deeds. The name Ballyhale is an Anglicisation of the Gaelic ‘Baile Héil’ which translates as ‘Hale’s town’. This name appears in the Calendar of Ormond Deeds in the early fifteenth century.

The proposed Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project County Kilkenny will commence to the south of Knocktopher village outside Scoil Aireagail, on the R699, in the townland of Part of Barrettstown, and continue southeast along the R699 through the townland of Knocktopher Manor, and through Moanroe Commons, and Ballyhale townland, finishing in Killtorcan townland, to the north of Ballyhale village.

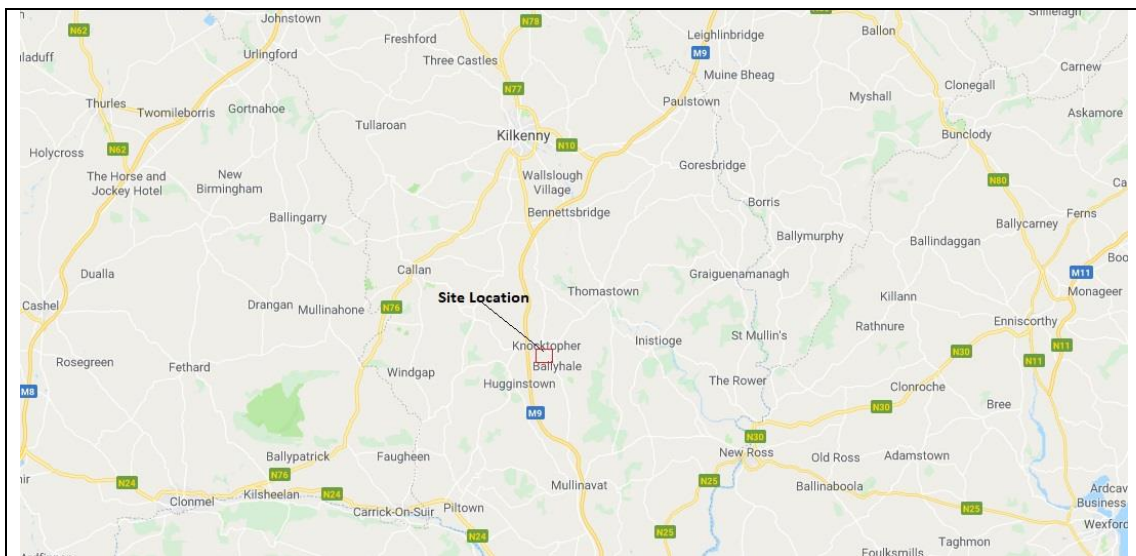


Fig 4 Showing site location on current mapping.

4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Prehistoric times (4000 BC – 500 AD)

Traces of human activity in the area around modern day Knocktopher and Ballyhale begin around 4000 BC, evidenced by the Neolithic activity identified at Baysrath townland (RMP No: KK031-075)

approximately 1.5kms to the northwest of the proposed development area. The records of the National Monuments Service show a large number of prehistoric monuments in south County Kilkenny, including Neolithic (dates from approximately 4000 - 2200 BC) and Bronze Age (dates from approximately 2200 – 600 BC) sites.

Settlement traces dating to the Bronze Age from the study area known, ranging from standing stones to fulachta fiadh / burnt spread. A fulacht fiadh / burnt spread (RMP No: KK031-074) is known in Sheepstown townland, approximately 1km east of the project area. Further to the northwest of the study area, in Baysrath townland is another fulacht fiadh / burnt spread (RMP No: KK031-93), approximately 1.5km from the proposed works. These fulachta fiadh are the most numerous archaeological site in Ireland, and approximately 200 examples are known in Co. Kilkenny. These sites functioned by heating stones in fire pits / hearths and placing the hot stones in water filled troughs that had been dug into the ground. The troughs are sometimes lined with wood or stones. The hot stones fracture in the water, and cause the water to heat up (and eventually boil). The waste from this activity appears as blackened soil with fractured stone that is often orange / red in colour, and often occurs in mounds, where repeated activity at the site has resulted in the piling of waste. Although burnt mounds / fulachta fiadh are often interpreted as cooking sites, other theories had been suggested for their use including, bathing, textile working, curing, and brewing.

As is generally the case in Ireland, the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD) has left few traces in the study area and surrounding landscape, although an Iron Age palisade enclosure (RMP KK031-076) and a metal working Iron Age site (RMP KK031-087) are known at Baysrath townland, approximately 1.5km northwest of the proposed project area. It is likely that at least some of the undated enclosures in the surrounding landscape of south County Kilkenny were in use during this period.

Early Medieval Period 500 – 1169 AD

The Gaelic society that existed in Ireland during the Early Medieval Period is characterised as a rural agrarian culture. The island of Ireland was divided into approximately 150 kingdoms (túath) of varying size, each ruled by a king of varying power, and influence. The ringfort or rath (Dún or Lios) is the most common surviving domestic settlement mode from the Early Medieval Period. These sites are believed to represent the farmsteads of an extended family. They consisted of an earth-cut ditch, often circular or sub-circular in plan, surrounding and enclosing a living space. The ditches were often several metres wide and up to 3m deep. The soil from the ditch was often cast up to the inner side of the enclosed living space to create a high protective bank. Some ringforts / raths have evidence of wooden palisade fences also enclosing the living space. Wooden, and less often, stone buildings housed the inhabitants in the enclosed space. There are approximately 45000 known ringforts or raths in Ireland and at least 1200 known examples in Co. Kilkenny. The remains of many more likely survive under the ground throughout the country. A ringfort (RMP No: KK031-018), is situated in Knocktopher Manor townland

approximately 0.3km to the east of the proposed project. Another ringfort (RMP No: KK031-022) is situated in Knocktopherabbey townland approximately 0.8kms to the west of the proposed works area.

Medieval Period 1169 – 1550 AD

At the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion this area of County Kilkenny was part of the Gaelic Kingdom of Usraige (Ossory) and was ruled by the MacGiollaphdraig (Fitzpatrick) Gaelic dynasty. The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169 AD accelerated the transfer of power and people from rural areas to urban centres. The Anglo-Normans established their society around shires, manors, villages, castles and churches. Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, the Gaelic kingdom of Ossory was subdivided into Baronies, and the study area became the Anglo-Norman barony of Knocktopher.

The historic town of Knocktopher (AH01) is listed as an area of archaeological potential in the Kilkenny County Archaeological Urban Survey as well as being included in the RMP (KK31-017). The upstanding archaeological remains include the friary, church, graveyard, tombs, grave-slabs and holy well.

Griffin FitzWilliam built a motte and castle here between 1180 and 1200 and was succeeded by his brother Raymond. In an extract of 1312 the castle is mentioned, together with a hall, a residence and a chapel. These were possibly located in a bailey, at the base of the motte, which is no longer identifiable.

When visited by O'Donovan c. 1839 the motte was 12m high, 46m wide at the base and 14.6m wide at the top. It was completely levelled in 1973. Up to then some masonry had survived on the top of the motte, on the NW side. During the levelling of the motte, some timbers, a burial and a medieval shoe were retrieved. In 1312 the Butlers came into possession of Knocktopher and made it one of their principal seats of residence. In 1365 the town was granted a weekly market and several fairs by Edward III.

Previous studies have examined medieval Knocktopher (AH01). Canon C.A. Empey, has outlined the possible development of medieval Knocktopher (Empey 1983, and Empey 1984). He has written that in the first two centuries of the Anglo-Norman conquest, Knocktopher, which already possessed an imposing motte, was the perfect location for a castle. In 1312 a complex of mainly wooden buildings and outhouses would have formed clustered around the motte. These typically would have included a castle (probably indicating an outer court of a bailey, as well as a palisade and bretache (a temporary wooden tower) which presumably crowned the motte), a hall, a chapel, a kitchen inside the outer gate, a bretache beyond the outer gate. Accounts that survive from the thirteenth and fourteenth century indicate that there was also a grange and byre made of wood, a stone hall, and various other houses in disrepair in the bailey. There also was a dovecote, three gardens, and two mills presumably adjacent to the bailey. Little is known about the layout of the medieval town of Knocktopher (AH01). It is likely that

the burgage allotments, which normally include narrow **'frontage'**, **extended back in long narrow strips at right angles** to the street.

The medieval town of Knocktopher (AH01), located in the centre of an **important 'baronial' manor**, presumably controlled a market economy for the barony. There is little doubt that Knocktopher conducted some form of market before the above mentioned grant of a weekly market by Edward III in 1365, when it is estimated by Canon C.A. Empey that the town had a total urban population of 300-400 in 1306. As part of the rural borough system, **the "Hundred Court" of Knocktopher** was the institutional means by which the burgesses ensured protection of their property and trade, and maintained their independence within manorial society. Overall, Knocktopher had a significant place in medieval Kilkenny society.

Post-Medieval Period 1550 – 1700 AD

Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII in 1536, the lands and holdings of the religious orders were handed over by the religious, to the relevant civil authority. The land was subsequently redistributed to lords loyal to the crown.

In 1649 Knocktopher castle was captured briefly by the Cromwellians, who then retreated but returned later in 1650 and this time destroyed the castle. In 1356 Knocktopher Abbey, a Carmelite Friary, was founded by James Butler, 1st Earl of Ormonde. At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540 the possessions of the friary included a church and belfry, with an adjacent chapel, two castles, a hall, a dormitory with a castle and two cellars, a kitchen and a bakehouse. These were handed over to Patrick Barnewall, who in turn granted them to Nicholas White. In 1645 the Friars petitioned to be reinstated in Knocktopher, but the friary had been converted into a brewery by a Catholic, Thomas White, descendant of Nicholas, and he continued to brew beer there until the arrival of the Cromwellian forces in 1649/50. The White family, however, retained the friary until 1677 and built two castles at Knocktopher. In 1651 Knocktopher became a Parliamentary Borough and was able to send two representatives to the Irish Parliament until the Act of Union 1801.

During the seventeenth century the English requirement for Irish timber and iron ore resulted in increased economic activity throughout Munster. Timber from forests in County Kilkenny was felled and exported to England for ship building via the ports of Waterford and Newross.

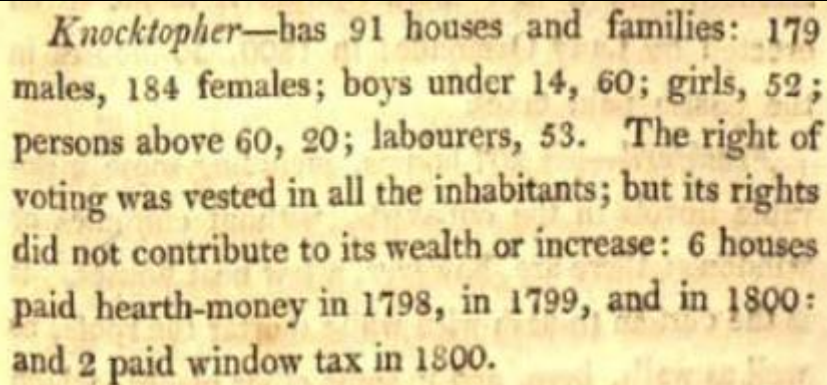
The Confederate Wars (1640s) and the Cromwellian Campaign (1649-51) saw huge upheaval in County Kilkenny with great loss of life and property. The Confederation of Kilkenny (Confederate Parliament) was the title given to the alliance between the native Irish nobility and the Catholic Anglo-Irish lords of the Pale in support of Charles I against the Parliamentarians. The Confederacy ended with the participants unable to come to an agreement, with one faction supporting the Papal Nuncios position of war and the other faction suing for peace. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Confederacy, much of Co. Cork began to decline in both economic and political powers. This process was further exacerbated

by Cromwell's campaign of 1650-1, when the county was ravaged by plague and war. Following Cromwell's Inquisitions much of the land held by Catholic's and Royalists was forfeited to the civil authorities, before being redistributed to sympathetic followers.

Early modern 1700 - 1900 AD

The economic depression after the end of the Napoleonic wars led to the virtual collapse of the provision trade, but with the development of steam power, the city of Kilkenny became more industrialised. The railways also benefited Kilkenny, with as connections to Dublin, and Waterford into and out of the city. A large number of infrastructural projects, and institutional and public buildings, as well as private enterprises were constructed in County Kilkenny in the nineteenth century. Mills were established near Knorcktopher (see AH03 and AH06). Improvements in transport capabilities resulted in new roads and bridges. A new road-bridge was constructed around 1800, at Ballyhale (NIAH No: 12322008) over the Ballyhale Stream.

Historical sources provide information about the population in the town of Knocktopher, in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. William Tighe's Statistical Observations Relative to the County of Kilkenny made in the years 1800 & 1801 (Tighe 1802) states that the population of the parish of Knocktopher was 614 in 1731, comprising 582 Catholics and 32 Protestants. By 1800 the parish of Knocktopher (including Kilneddy) comprised 167 families and totalled 1002 people.



Knocktopher—has 91 houses and families: 179 males, 184 females; boys under 14, 60; girls, 52; persons above 60, 20; labourers, 53. The right of voting was vested in all the inhabitants; but its rights did not contribute to its wealth or increase: 6 houses paid hearth-money in 1798, in 1799, and in 1800: and 2 paid window tax in 1800.

Extract from Tighe's Statistical Observations...(1802, p465)

5 SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection took place on Tues 20th August 2019 in bright sunny conditions. The proposed new footpath will commence on the R699 at Knocktopher Manor townland just south of the village of Knocktopher (AH01) and will travel south-eastwards through Moanroe Commons townland, and will finish in Killtorcan townland, just to the north of the village of Ballyhale (AH02). The proposed project will involve the construction of a new footpath and associated underground services works for lighting along the north-eastern side (left side of Plate 1) of the existing road. At this end of the proposed works



Plate 1 Existing R699 at Knocktopher Manor, outside Glanbia at northern end of project, facing southeast.

area the receiving environment presents as a modern tarmac roadway, concrete path, late twentieth century commercial building (Glanbia premises), and hedge and bank road verge (west side). No archaeological features were identified at this location during the site visit.

Situated to the south of the Glanbia premises along the eastern side of the existing R699 are several domestic cottages. These cottages are depicted on the first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (dating to 1838-9), and are at least early nineteenth century in date. The cottages and the R699 road are located in Moanroe Commons townland. These cottages are set back from the R699 road and will not be impacted by the proposed project works. A well (AH05) is situated in the front garden of one of these homes (see Plate 2). This well is situated



Plate 2: Showing historic cottages and well (AH05), facing south.

against the road wall and comprises mortar bonded quarried rough limestone. The well (AH05) is depicted on the first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area, and will be impacted by

the proposed new footpath. The extent of this impact will depend on the nature of the works in this location.

The R699 continues to the southeast beyond the cottages and well (AH05). A mortar-bonded limestone wall forms the boundary with the R699 road on its eastern extent. This wall will be directly impacted by the proposed works. A private dwelling that is set back behind a concrete rendered wall is situated on the western side of the road at this location. An agricultural and industrial premises (Highway Safety Developments Ltd) is situated to the south of the private dwelling. A corn mill (AH03) is depicted on the first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (dating 1838-9) at the location of the agricultural and industrial premises. The proposed works will not impact on these properties or the site of the historic corn mill (AH03).



Plate 3: Showing stone wall and entrance to premises on R699, southeast of Glanbia.

To the southeast of these buildings the route of the proposed new footpath follows the north-eastern side of the R699. The existing R699 road narrows at this location. A possible millrace (AH04) is depicted on the first edition 25 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (dating 1900). Where the road narrows it is bounded by well-established mature hedgerows. The R699 then crosses a nineteenth century stone bridge (AH07) over the Little Arrigle river that flows eastwards, eventually



Plate 4: Showing R699 as it narrows, approaching bridge (AH07) over Little Arrigle river, facing southeast.

The new footpath will be situated on the north-eastern side of the stone road-bridge (AH07).

This bridge (AH07) is not contained in the RPS for Kilkenny, or the NIAH. This bridge is depicted on the first edition 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (dating 1838-9) and the first edition 25 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map of the area (dating 1900s).



Plate 5: Showing Bridge (AH07), facing NE.

The bridge (AH07) is a limestone block mortar bonded twin arched span construction. The bridge (AH07) is at road height level and is orientated southeast-northwest. A narrow concrete path is situated on along the southern side of the R699 road. The south-western elevation of the bridge comprises coursed, squared and angular limestone blocks. The northeast elevation comprises coursed, squared and angular limestone blocks up to road height. Twentieth century concrete blocks form the upper section of the northeast elevation, above road height. An aluminium box-duct has been mounted on the northeast elevation, and traverses the bridge (AH07).



Plate 6: Showing southern arch and northeast elevation of bridge AH07, also showing concrete block upper section, facing south.

The proposed works for the new footpath will impact on the northeast elevation of the bridge (AH07). This part of the bridge has been altered in the twentieth century, as evidenced by the cement blocks used in the rebuilt. The extent of the impact of the proposed footpath on the bridge (AH07) will be informed by the final design depths.



Plate 7: Showing concrete block rebuilt section of northeast elevation of bridge (AH07), facing north.

To the south of the bridge (AH07) the R699 continues through Ballyhale townland (for approx. 40m) and after making a bend in the road, it enters Kiltorcan townland. At this location the road is bounded by mature hedgerows, trees, wooden fences, and low stone walls. Agricultural fields are situated to the east and west of the R699 here. The proposed footpath will be constructed on the north-eastern side of the existing R699 at this location, and will impact on the hedgerows and stone walls. No archaeological features were identified in this location.



Plate 8: Showing existing R699 in Kiltorcan townland, facing south.

The proposed project works will finish in Kiltorcan townland to the north of Ballyhale village (AH02). The project will not impact on the historic village of Ballyhale Village (AH02). The existing R699 continues mostly straight through Kiltorcan townland before entering Ballyhale townland, to the south of the end of the project area. The R699 is bounded by mature hedgerows and stone walls here. Much of the stone walls are not visible due to the overgrown hedgerows. The proposed new footpath will be situated on the eastern side of the R699 at this location. No archaeological features were identified at this location during the site visit.



Plate 9: Showing R699 at southern end of project area, facing south.

6 PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed development of a new footpath along the R699 between Knocktopher and Ballyhale will see ground disturbance works in the townlands of Part of Barrettstown, Knocktopher Manor, Moanroe Commons, Ballyhale, and Killtorcan, Co. Kilkenny. The works will involve the construction of a new footpath, excavation of trenches for new underground services, new walls, fencing, and associated signage and lighting. These works will impact on the existing ground, and the depth of these impacts varies according to the nature of the works.

No known archaeological sites or features included in the RMP or the RPS are impacted by the proposed project. All of the construction works that result in ground disturbance have the potential to impact on subterranean archaeology. However, the existing R699 has already impacted on the receiving environment, and will likely have impacted on any subterranean archaeology.

At Knocktopher Manor the proposed works will impact on the well (AH05) that is depicted on the nineteenth century maps of the area. The level of impact on this site is uncertain, and will be informed by the final project design.

At Moanroe Commons townland, the project works on the R699 road will impact on a stone road bridge (AH07) that crosses the Little Arrigle river. These works will be focused on the north-eastern side of the bridge, which has already been altered in the twentieth century (as evidenced by the concrete retaining wall). Consequently, the level of impact to the bridge (AH07) is moderate, as the works will not impact on the integrity of this feature, due to the previous alterations to the bridge.

A tabular summary of impacts on archaeology is contained in Appendix 2.

7 RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological Impact Assessment

- The proposed development of the Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project, Knocktopher County Kilkenny, will involve ground disturbance and construction works in a part of south County Kilkenny that has a high number of known archaeological sites. The proposed road scheme is situated in close proximity to historic town of Knocktopher (AH01), that has attracted human activity from the early medieval period onwards.
- The project works will not impact on any known archaeological sites contained in the RMP or RPS for Kilkenny.
- The project works will have an uncertain impact on the well (AH05) in Knocktopher Commons townland. The level of this impact depends on the final design of the project works.
- The project works will directly impact on bridge (AH07) in Moanroe Commons townland. The level of this impact is moderate.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS & MITIGATION MEASURES

It is stated policy of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to *preserve in situ* archaeological heritage, through avoidance of impacts on archaeological sites and features, where possible. Kilkenny County Council have stated that it is their objective to *preserve in situ* archaeological heritage. Consequently, the proposed Ballyhale to Knocktopher Footpath Project should be designed to minimise impact on the well site (AH05) and bridge (AH07).

Pre-construction Stage Mitigation Measures

- No pre-construction stage mitigation measures are recommended for this project.

Construction Stage Mitigation Measures

- Archaeological monitoring of construction stage ground disturbance works in the vicinity of the well (AH05) at Knocktopher Manor and bridge (AH07) at Moanroe Commons is recommended to mitigate the risk of construction works impacting on archaeology.
- Should alterations be made to the scope of works, further archaeological assessment and mitigation measures may be required.

PLEASE NOTE: This report and accompanying recommendations are based on the figures of the proposed development area, as supplied by Roadplan CE Ltd and Kilkenny County Council. Should any alterations take place, further assessment would be required to be carried out.

PLEASE NOTE: Recommendations are subject to approval by National Monuments Service of the Department of the Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht.

Cartographic Sources

1654-1656 Down Survey County & Barony maps, Kilkenny

1838 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, Sheet 31, Co. Kilkenny

Sites & Monuments Record map, Sheet 31, Co. Kilkenny

Literary Sources:

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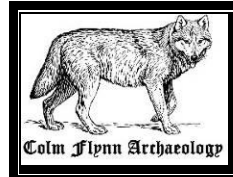
Topographical Files, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin

www.excavations.ie

www.logainm.ie

APPENDIX 1 - CATALOGUE OF FINDS FROM SURROUNDING AREA FROM NATIONAL MUSEUM
TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Topographical File Number	Townland	Parish	Description	Other Info
1973:26-28	Knocktopher Manor	Knocktopher	Sole of Leather Shoe, Two Boars Tusks And Other Miscellaneous Animal Bones, Sample Of Timbers, Sample Of Mortor	Collection of items from site of medieval motte levelled in 1973.



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APPENDIX 2 - CATALOGUE OF KNOWN & POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, RATINGS OR LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE, LEVEL OF IMPACT & PROPOSED MITIGATION

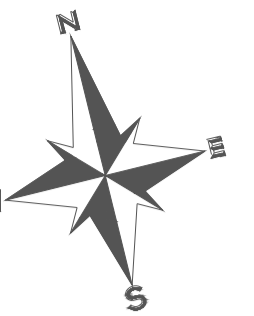
This catalogue details the archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development. It consists of the sites which are recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Urban Archaeological Survey (UAS), and the potential sites identified through research. Also listed is the rating or level of significance of these sites. This rating is arrived at depending on the nature, extent, type, rarity and significance of the archaeology. The catalogue entries provide locational information, a description, an outline of the potential impact of the development and recommendations towards the mitigation of this impact.

Site Designation for Assessment Report	Archaeological RMP Number / Excavation Number	Rating or Level of Significance	Location & Distance from Proposed Project Works	Description	Level of Impact	Proposed Mitigation Strategy
AH01	KK031-017	Local	Knocktopher Manor, 150m to the north of proposed project works.	Medieval Anglo-Norman burrough and town.	No impact	N/A
AH02	N/A	Local	Ballyhale townland, 150m south of proposed project works.	Post medieval village (Ballyhale). Later medieval tower house, church and graveyard.	No impact	N/A

Site Designation for Assessment Report	Archaeological RMP Number / Excavation Number	Rating or Level of Significance	Location & Distance from Proposed Project Works	Description	Level of Impact	Proposed Mitigation Strategy
AH03	N/A	Local	Knocktopher Manor; situated 40m to the southwest of project area.	Corn mill depicted on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey map of the area. Now part of Highway Safety Developments Ltd premises.	No impact	N/A
AH04	N/A	Local	Moanroe Commons; situated to the east and west of project area.	Possible millrace depicted on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey map of the area.	No impact	N/A
AH05	N/A	Local	Moanroe Commons; within project area.	Well depicted on early twentieth century Ordnance Survey map of the area.	Slight	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoidance where possible. 2. Archaeological Monitoring of Works.
AH06	N/A	Local	Kiltorcan townland; 200m to the east of project area.	Corn mill depicted on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey map of the area.	No impact	N/A
AH07	N/A	Local	Moanroe Commons; within project area.	Stone bridge depicted on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey map of the area.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoidance where possible. 2. Archaeological Monitoring of Works.



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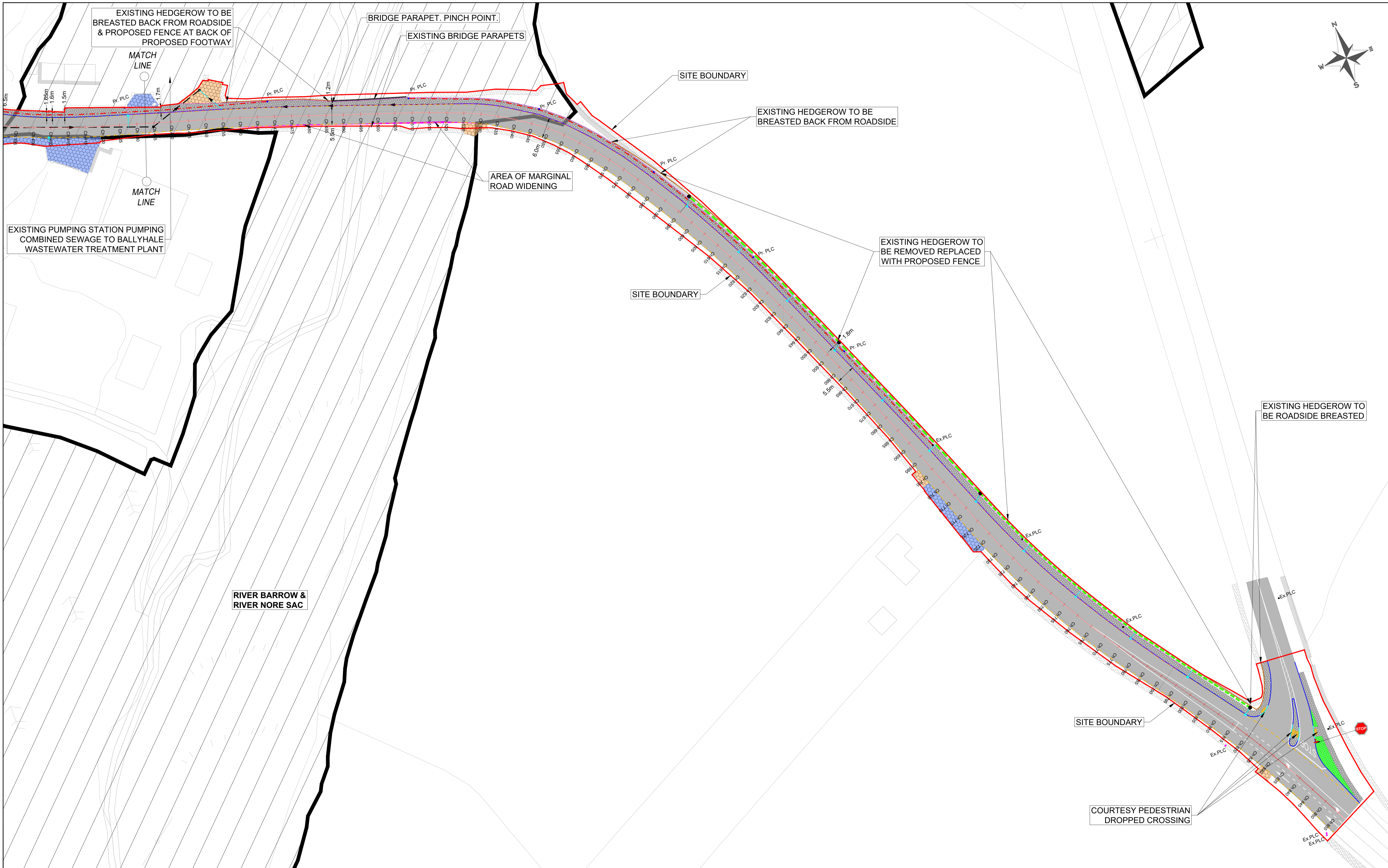


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LEGEND	
---	EXISTING COMBINED SEWER
- - -	COMBINED DRAINAGE KERB
▬	PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY
▬	PROPOSED BITUMINOUS FOOTWAY
▬	EXISTING FIELD ACCESS
▬	EXISTING PROPERTY ACCESS
▬	PROPOSED GRASS VERGE
▬	0.6-0.8m HIGH PEDESTRIAN GUARDRAIL
▬	125mm INSITU CONCRETE KERB TO TII CC-SCD-01102
▬	0-125mm INSITU CONCRETE KERB TO TII CC-SCD-01102 & 01103
●	Ex.PLC EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHTING COLUMN
●	Pr.PLC PROPOSED PUBLIC LIGHTING COLUMN
▬	1 x 100mm DIA. UPVC PUBLIC LIGHTING DUCT
▬	1.7m x 0.6m x 221m INFILTRATION TRENCH SOAKAWAY
▬	PRECAST CONCRETE GULLY TO TII CC-SCD-00510
▬	TIMBER POST & TENSION MESH FENCE TO TII CC-SCD-00320

DRAFT 3					
No.	Revision	Date	By	Chk'd	App'd
Designed:	BD	Checked:	MJW	Approved:	DD

Project Title: KNOCKTOPHER TO BALLYHALE FOOTPATH			
Drawing Title: PROPOSED LAYOUT (SHEET 1 OF 2)			
Drawn by: BD	Sheet Size: A1	Scale: 1:500	Date: Oct '19
Drawing Number: 19101-01-0002		Revision: -	




Tionscald Eireann
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2040


Kilkenny
 County Council


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 e-mail: info@roadplan.ie

LEGEND	
--- EXISTING COMBINED SEWER	125mm INSITU CONCRETE KERB TO TII CC-SCD-01102
--- COMBINED DRAINAGE KERB	0-125mm INSITU CONCRETE KERB TO TII CC-SCD-01102 & 01103
--- PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY	Ex.PLC EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHTING COLUMN
--- PROPOSED BITUMINOUS FOOTWAY	Pr. PLC PROPOSED PUBLIC LIGHTING COLUMN
--- EXISTING FIELD ACCESS	1 x 100mm DIA. UPVC PUBLIC LIGHTING DUCT
--- EXISTING PROPERTY ACCESS	1.7m x 0.6m x 221m INFILTRATION TRENCH SOAKAWAY
--- PROPOSED GRASS VERGE	PRECAST CONCRETE GULLY TO TII CC-SCD-00510
--- 0.6-0.8m HIGH PEDESTRIAN GUARDRAIL	TIMBER POST & TENSION MESH FENCE TO TII CC-SCD-00320

DRAFT 3					
No.	Revision	Date	By	Chk'd	App'd
Designed:	BD	Checked:	MJW	Approved:	DD

Project Title: KNOCKTOPHER TO BALLYHALE FOOTPATH			
Drawing Title: PROPOSED LAYOUT (SHEET 2 OF 2)			
Drawn by: BD	Sheet Size: A1	Scale: 1:500	Date: Oct '19
Drawing Number: 19101-01-0003		Revision: -	