

Desktop Archaeological Assessment
Lands at Thomastown, County Kilkenny

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December 2022

Document Control Sheet

Client	Kilkenny County Council				
Project Title	Lands at Thomastown, County Kilkenny				
Document Title	Desktop Archaeological Assessment				
Document No.	02				
Document Comprises	DCS	NTS	TOC	Pages	38
	Y	N	Y	Appendices	2

Rev	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed By	Approved By	Office of Origin	Issue Date
01	Draft	Caroline McGrath	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	01/12/2022
02	Draft	Caroline McGrath	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	06/12/2022

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by van Dijk Architects on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to undertake a Desktop Archaeological Assessment of a proposed development site located within the townland of Newtown, southwest of Thomastown, County Kilkenny (**Figure 1**). The subject site comprises a single landholding of land directly to the northeast of Thomastown Primary Care Centre.



Figure 1: General location of subject site within the wider landscape (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)

This report presents summary details on the locations of recorded elements of the archaeological and resource within the environs of the subject site and aims to identify any previously unknown archaeological constraints. The study area for this assessment comprised the internal area of the subject lands combined with the lands extending for approximately 500m from its boundary.

There are **34** archaeological sites recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) within the 500m radius study area surrounding the subject site – the closest being a holy well locally named Lady’s Well (KK028-039---), which is located *circa* 61m to the northeast. The study area also partially falls within the Zone of Notification (ZoN) of the historic town of Thomastown (KK028-040----).

2. Methodology

A desktop study assessment has been carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Between 1984 and 1992, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) issued a series of county SMRs which lists known archaeological sites and places and this record formed the basis for the statutory RMP established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Similar in format to the SMRs (comprising a list and set of maps), the RMPs were issued for each county in the State between 1995 and 1998. Archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

The ASI has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and has developed an online database and web viewer known as 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This has been developed to enhance the user's experience by facilitating access to the database of the National Monuments Service's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one stop point of access for both data resources (Source: www.archaeology.ie).

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded, or partially levelled, features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include, the first edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s), the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) and the Cassini 6-inch maps (*circa* 1940).
- *Aerial photography* - In parallel with the cartographic study, a review publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google and Bing Maps was undertaken.
- *Development Plans* - The local authority development plans relevant to the study area was consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied)* was consulted to review the planning authority's policies and objectives designed for the protection of the archaeological resource. The *Kilkenny City and County Draft Development Plan 2021-2027* was also consulted.
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1969 to present.
- *Irish Heritage Council: Heritage Map Viewer* - This online mapping source collates various cultural heritage datasets and includes extracts from the National Museum of Ireland's

records of artefact discovery locations as well as datasets provided by, among others, the National Monuments Service, local authorities, the Royal Academy of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. Current data was accessed via www.heritagemaps.ie

- *Literary Sources* - Publications consulted are listed in **Section 7** of this report.
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List* - UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites are included in a Tentative List (2022) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion.

3. Context

Location

The subject site comprises one land parcel located in the townland of Newtown, southwest of Thomastown, County Kilkenny (**Figure 2**). The site is bounded to the north by Grennan College, the southwest by Thomastown Primary Care Centre, to the south by agricultural land and to the northeast by R700 road. The soil profile of this area consists of fine loamy drift with limestones, while the underlying geology is composed of Carboniferous sandstone, shale & thin limestone of the Porter's Gate formation (Heritage Council Heritage Map).



Figure 2: Aerial image depicting the boundaries of the subject site (red outline)
(Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)

Legal & Policy Framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed none are located within the region of the country which contains the study area. The closest site is on the Tentative List, Royal Sites of Ireland: Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary, which is located *circa* 50km west of the subject site.

The national legal statutes and guidelines relevant to this assessment include:

- National Monuments Act (1930) (and amendments in 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004);
- Heritage Act (1995);
- National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);
- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

Archaeological Heritage

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. **There are no National Monuments located within the study area.** The closest National Monument is Thomastown Church (KK028-040001-; NM No. 191), which is located *circa* 198m southeast of the subject site.

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), provides county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months’ notice in advance of any work proposed at their locations. There are **no recorded archaeological sites** (*as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)*) located within the boundary of the subject site. However, there are **34** recorded sites located within 500m of the subject site, the nearest of which is a holy well (KK028-039---), which is located *circa* 61m to the northeast. These recorded archaeological sites are listed in **Table 1**, mapped in **Figure 3** and their published inventory descriptions are provided in **Appendix 1**.

The *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied)* includes the following relevant policies and objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

HER POL 1 *Protect archaeological sites and monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and in the Urban Archaeological*

Survey of County Kilkenny or newly discovered sub-surface and underwater archaeological remains.

Archaeological & historical background

There are **no recorded archaeological sites** (as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)) located within the boundary of the subject site. However, there are **34** archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 500m radius study area which surrounds the subject site (**Table 1** and **Figure 3**). The study area also falls partially within the Zone of Notification (ZoN) of the historic town of Thomastown (KK028-040----). There is also one redundant record (KK028-040017-) within the study area.

Table 1: List of recorded archaeological sites located within 500m of the proposed development site

Recorded Monument	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)	Distance (circa)
KK028-038001-	Church	Cloghabrody	658342, 642338	229m NE
KK028-038002-	Graveyard	Cloghabrody	658342, 642338	229m NE
KK028-038003-	Enclosure	Cloghabrody	658342, 642338	229m NE
KK028-038004-	Hospital	Cloghabrody	658342, 642338	229m NE
KK028-038005-	Architectural fragment	Cloghabrody	658332, 642332	202m NE
KK028-039----	Ritual site - holy well	Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed)	658219, 642223	61m NE
KK028-040001-	Church	Thomastown	658409, 641988	205n SE
KK028-040002-	Cross - High cross	Thomastown	658403, 641953	213m NE
KK028-040003-	Tomb - effigial	Thomastown	658403, 641966	207m SE
KK028-040005-	House - fortified house	Thomastown	658499, 641879	335m SE
KK028-040006-	Architectural fragment	Thomastown	658504, 641867	343m SE
KK028-040007-	Architectural fragment	Thomastown	658504, 641867	343m SE
KK028-040008-	Font	Thomastown	658504, 641867	343m SE
KK028-040009-	Cross	Thomastown	658504, 641867	343m SE
KK028-040010-	House - fortified house	Thomastown	658469, 641778	384m SE
KK028-040011-	Town defences	Thomastown	658307, 641933	157m SE
KK028-040012-	House - 16th/17th century	Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed)	658325, 642035	104m SE
KK028-040013-	Architectural fragment	Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed)	658305, 642068	78m ESE
KK028-040014-	Burial	Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed)	658321, 642038	104m SE
KK028-040015-	Road - road/trackway	Grenan, Thomastown	658426, 641823	322m SE
KK028-040016-	Bridge	Grenan, Thomastown	658505, 641791	402m SE
KK028-040017-	Redundant record	Thomastown	658447, 641897	282m SE
KK028-040018-	Cross - Market cross	Thomastown	658447, 641897	282m SE

Recorded Monument	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)	Distance (circa)
KK028-040019-	Armorial plaque (present location)	Thomastown	658428, 641907	263m SE
KK028-040021-	Graveyard	Thomastown	658403, 641966	207m SE
KK028-040023-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040024-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040025-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040026-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040027-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040028-	Graveslab	Thomastown	658400, 641989	194m SE
KK028-040----	Historic town	Burrellspark, Cloghabrody, Grenan, Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed), Thomastown	658447, 641897	282m SE
KK028-041001-	Burial ground	Cloghabrody	658618, 642109	387m E
KK028-041002-	Font	Cloghabrody	658646, 642119	419m E

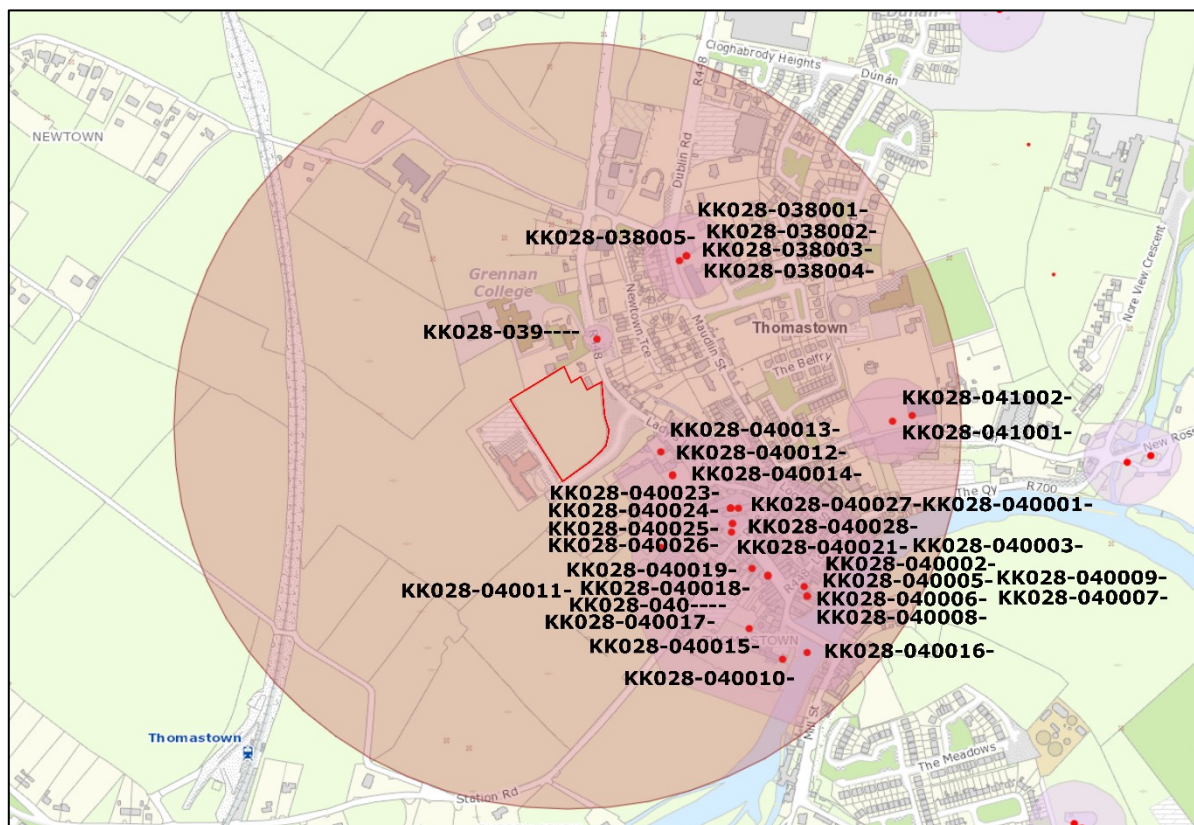


Figure 3: Recorded archaeological sites (as recorded by ASI) within 500m of the subject development site (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

The following presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record with references to the recorded archaeological sites located within the study area. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service (NMS).

Prehistoric

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island. However, recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in ‘Alice and Gwendoline’ Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden, 2016, 161). Similarly, re-examination of a reindeer bone fragment discovered in Castlepook Cave near Doneraile, County Cork in 1905 revealed human butchery marks on the bone which was radiocarbon dated to 31,000 BC (Carden, 2020), establishing human activity in Ireland more than 20,000 years earlier than previously thought. While these prehistoric settlers did not construct settlements or monuments that have left any above ground traces, their presence can often be identified by scatters of worked flint in ploughed fields. There are no recorded sites from the Mesolithic period within the study area.

The Neolithic period (*circa* 4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. There are no recorded sites from the Neolithic period within the study area.

The Irish Bronze Age (*circa* 2400–1k BC) commenced with the arrival of metal-working techniques to the island and this technological advance resulted in the introduction of a new artefactual assemblage into the Irish archaeological record. This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, barrows and *fulachta fia*. *Fulacht fia* translates as cooking places of the wild (or of deer), they are often interpreted as the remains of cooking sites and are the most numerous archaeological site type in Ireland, numbering some 7000 recorded examples. Radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (*circa* 2400-1kBC). A number of alternative interpretations have been forwarded as to the function of these archaeological sites, such as their potential uses as bathing, saunas, garment washing and dyeing, leather processing and brewing sites (Hawkes, 2016, 52f.). There are no recorded sites from the Bronze Age within the study area.

The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). This period has been traditionally associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’ but this view is no longer widely accepted as recent archaeological evidence points instead to a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe. Relatively little has been traditionally known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of Iron Age sites during schemes such as bog-cutting and road construction projects. There is a trackway (KK028-040015-) recorded within the study area. Through dendrochronological testing, the Corlea Trackway in Longford has been dated to 147-8 BC.

Medieval and post-medieval periods

The early medieval period began with the introduction of Christianity and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late twelfth century (*circa* 400–1169 AD). While the medieval period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the larger monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports, the dominant settlement pattern was still rural-based and centred around enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts (earth/timber built) and cashels (stone built). Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape, with some 45,000 recorded examples (Stout, 1997, 53). These sites comprise broadly circular enclosures delimited by one or more concentric banks and ditches in the case of ringforts and drystone walls in the case of cashels. They were formerly known by the names *ráth/lios/cathair/dún*, which still form some of the most common place-name elements within the Irish landscape. The majority of excavated examples have produced evidence for the remains of timber houses, outbuildings and stockades as well as a variety of agricultural and craft activities such as grain processing and metalworking. A number of ringforts and enclosures are located in the wider landscape surrounding the study area. An enclosure (KK028-038003-) is located within the subject site. These features are generally dated to the medieval period.

In the early medieval period, the subject site was part of the Gaelic kingdom of Osraige, ruled by the Dál Birn dynasty, which was temporarily overthrown by the Corcu Loígde in the early Christian period. However, the Dál Birn continued to rule until the arrival of the Anglo-Normans.

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in AD 1169 marks the advent of the late medieval period which continued until approx. AD 1550. This period saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns developed as local or regional market centres.

In the early 13th century, William Marshal, son in law of Strongbow, granted Thomas Fitz Anthony, seneschal of Leinster, lands in Kilkenny which included Grenagh or Grenan (from Irish Grianán ‘Place of the Sun’). This settlement was named Thomastown after its new owner. Its location on the River Nore made it a prime location for transport, trade and industry such as milling (like the nearby Jerpoint Abbey, there is a water mill (KK028-089002-) in Thomastown which may be medieval in origin. Fitz Anthony built his castle (KK028-046001-) to the southeast of the town in the townland of Grenan in the 1220s (O’Keeffe 2021, 104). Evidence of murage grants indicate the erection of a defensive wall in the mid thirteenth century, subsequently repaired in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The post-medieval period (1550+) saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish country. During this period any given settlement cluster is likely to have consisted primarily of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farmhouses became more common in the nineteenth century.

Cromwell’s soldiers captured Thomastown following their seizure of Inistioge in 1649. In the Down Survey of 1655-6 described the town of Thomastown as follows:

The manor and corporation of Thomastowne was holden of the manor of Graiman (sic) & Dangan. The lands are intermixt in small enclosures belonging to the respective burgers. The town is situated close upon the River Neor, over which there is a stone bridge therein. In the town a stone castle in repair, another castle with a house thereunto adjoining somewhat out of repair. There are also in the same town thirteen good stone houses in repair and the walls of six other houses, some whereof

are in part covered. The residue are cabins. There is on Drangan (sic) the walls of a stone house; on Graman (sic) one fair large castle in repair, with the walls of certain outhouses thereunto adjoining, also large orchards and gardens and there is likewise on the said town a parcel of good timber wood & lastly a water corn mill in good repair and one weir in the river and upon Brownsbarne the walls of a church and not anything else observable in this parish (NLI MS 720, cited in Manning 2008, 124).

Lewis (1837) described the town as follows:

By the Irish it was called Bally-MacAndon, signifying "Fitz-Anthony's town;" and from its situation at the head of the navigable channel of the Nore, it became at an early period a place of considerable trade and an important military station; it was surrounded with walls, and most of its buildings were castellated. The present town, in 1831, contained 527 houses, most of which are neatly built. Over the river Nore is a handsome stone bridge of five arches, built in 1792, at each end of which is an ancient square tower, formerly connected with the fortifications by which the town was surrounded. A very considerable trade was formerly carried on, and the town was the commercial depot for the county of Kilkenny; flat-bottomed boats of an aggregate burden of 11,000 tons were constantly employed in conveying goods from this town, besides many others which did not belong to it; but the river is now choked up with deposits of sand. Inistioge has become the head of the navigation of the Nore, and the boats employed on the river at this place do not exceed an aggregate burden of 150 tons; the goods are now conveyed on Scotch cars by land from Waterford to Kilkenny. The improvement of the navigation of the Nore would tend greatly to the revival and extension of the trade of the town, and to the development of the resources of the county, which is rich in marble, coal, culm, slate, and limestone, for which, in addition to its agricultural produce, it would afford facilities of conveyance to the neighbouring ports.

The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from the 1960s to present. The database gives access to over 27,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, license number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author.

There are **21** archaeological projects which have taken place within the study area. These include 07E0254 ext., the second part of a test-trenching programme which took place within the subject site prior to the construction of HSE offices. Agricultural features of probable post-medieval date, boundary ditches dating to the medieval period, in addition to two newly identified ring-ditches were also encountered.

Please consult **Appendix 2** for full Excavations Database summaries of the above investigation, as well as other relevant licensed archaeological investigations undertaken within the study area.

Cartographic and aerial review

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of

unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the first edition of the 6-inch OS maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (see **Figure 4** below), the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (see **Figure 5**) and the Cassini 6-inch maps (*circa* 1940) (**Figure 6**).

The first edition 6-inch OS, 25-inch and Cassini 6-inch maps depicts the subject site consisting largely of enclosed agricultural lands. The south and southeast extent of the subject site extends into the lands of nearby estate houses of Abbey View and Mill View. The 25-inch map and Cassini maps show that the Waterford & Maryborough Branch of the Great Southern and Western Railway line located *circa* 270m to the west of the subject site. Lady's Well is depicted to the north of the site.

No potential archaeological features are depicted within the subject site on any of the cartographic sources interrogated as part of this study.



Figure 4: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map with the boundary of the subject site outlined in red
(Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)



Figure 7: Extract from 2012 Ordnance Survey aerial photo with the boundary of the subject site outlined in red (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)



Figure 8: Google Earth 2021 image of site during construction of Thomastown Primary Care Centre (Source: Google Earth Pro)

4. Assessment of impact

There are **no recorded archaeological sites** (as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)) located within the boundary of the subject site. However, there are **34** recorded sites located within 500m of the subject site, the nearest of which is a holy well (KK028-039----), which is located *circa* 61m to the northeast.

Impact of proposed development on the archaeological sites within study area

There is predicted to be **no direct impact** on the recorded archaeological heritage resource recorded within the study area should the proposed development proceed.

Impact on unknown archaeology

Previous test-trenching (07E0254 ext.), took place within the subject site prior to the construction of HSE offices. Agricultural features of probable post-medieval date, boundary ditches dating to the medieval period, in addition to two newly identified ring-ditches were also encountered. It is unclear if these archaeological features had been fully excavated and recorded (preserved by record) prior to further development of the site, as no record of an excavation is available within the Excavations Database. However, as evidenced by recent aerial photographic images, the site has also been subject to heavy ground disturbance during the construction of the Thomastown Primary Care Centre. It is likely that ground reduction has removed or disturbed any potential subsurface archaeological deposits and therefore the site now possesses a **low archaeological potential**. Given the likely disturbed nature of the site, it is predicted that any proposed future development of the site will not result in a significant direct impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

This assessment has been compiled in order to examine the potential impacts which the proposed development may have on both the recorded and potential archaeological heritage resource of the study area centred on the subject lands in Newtown townland, Thomastown, County Kilkenny. The study area for this assessment comprised the lands within the boundary of the proposed development, along with those extending for 500m from its boundary. Following consultation of the available and relevant datasets, historic documentary and cartographic sources, this assessment has concluded that there will be no predicted direct impact on recorded archaeological monuments. Therefore, the subject site, due to previous disturbance can be considered to possess a low potential to contain significant archaeological deposits subsurface.

Recommendations

The site has been subject to heavy ground disturbance in recent years, which is likely to have lowered ground levels and in turn removed potential archaeological deposits, therefore greatly reducing the potential for significant archaeology to remain inviolate subsurface. However, given the fact that archaeological features were identified within the site in 2007 and that it is unclear if these features were fully excavated and recorded prior to further development with the site, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring be undertaken during site clearance at the earliest phase of construction works.

If archaeological features are revealed during the programme of archaeological monitoring, these features should be recorded in written, drawn, and photographic formats and remain *in situ* until consultations are undertaken with the National Monuments Service on the appropriate mitigation strategy. Should the proposed mitigation measures be followed as recommended, this shall provide for either the avoidance of any revealed archaeological remains or the proper and adequate recording of this resource.

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Appendix 1: Archaeological Inventory entries

KK028-038001-

Class: Church

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-038002-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-038003-

Class: Enclosure

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-038004-

Class: Hospital

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-038005-

Class: Architectural fragment

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-039----

Class: Ritual site - holy well

Townland: Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown ED)

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040001-

Class: Church

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040002-

Class: Cross - High cross

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040003-

Class: Tomb - effigial

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040005-

Class: House - fortified house

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040006-

Class: Architectural fragment

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040007-

Class: Architectural fragment

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040008-

Class: Font

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040009-

Class: Cross

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040010-

Class: House - fortified house

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040011-

Class: Town defences

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040012-**Class:** House - 16th/17th century**Townland:** Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown ED)**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040013-****Class:** Architectural fragment**Townland:** Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown ED)**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040014-****Class:** Burial**Townland:** Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown ED)**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040015-****Class:** Road - road/trackway**Townland:** Grenan, Thomastown**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040016-****Class:** Bridge**Townland:** Grenan, Thomastown**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040017-****Class:** Redundant record**Townland:** Thomastown**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** No**Description:** This record was listed as 'market\fair place site' in the RMP (1996). This is not an archaeological monument within the meaning of the National Monuments Act (1930-1945).**KK028-040018-****Class:** Cross - Market cross**Townland:** Thomastown**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** No description provided**KK028-040019-****Class:** Armorial plaque (present location)**Townland:** Thomastown**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** Described by Farrelly et al. (1993, vol. 1, 194) as 'Located in the Bank of Ireland on the west side of Market Street. This stone plaque originally formed the keystone of an arched

gateway in Marsh's Street [KK028-040022-]. It bears the armorial plaques of the Walsh and Brenan families on either side with the initials "J.W." and "C.B." inscribed in an elaborate central frame and a human head carved above this. The date "1645" is carved below with the names of "John Wailsh" and "Catrin Brenan". At some stage, the date "1794" was also incised onto the stone.'

KK028-040021-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-040023-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab commemorating Dens? and his wife Johanna Dobin. The slab is dated 1526. (Cockerham and Harris 2001, 179)

KK028-040024-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab with a Latin inscription in Black Letter commemorating Archdeacon, Richard, Esq., and his wife Catherine Shortall (d. 1609). (Cockerham 2009, 353)

KK028-040025-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab with a Latin inscription in Black Letter commemorating ?Gasper Roth and his wife Ellen Ragged. The slab is dated 1625. (Cockerham 2009, 356)

KK028-040026-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab with a Latin inscription in Roman capitals commemorating Robert Dobbin and wife Ellen Fitzgerald. The slab is dated 1651. (Cockerham 2009, 356)

KK028-040027-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab with an English inscription in Roman capitals commemorating Patrick Lincollen (d. 1666) and his wife Mary Dobbin (d. 1709). The slab is dated c. 1666. (Cockerham 2009, 361)

KK028-040028-

Class: Graveslab

Townland: Thomastown

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

Description: A floor slab with an English inscription in Roman capitals commemorating James Murphy (d. 1678) and his wife Honora Geraldine (d. 1686). The slab is dated c. 1686. (Cockerham 2009, 362)

KK028-040----

Class: Historic town

Townland: Burrellspark, Cloghabrody, Grenan, Newtown (Gowran By., Thomastown Ed), Thomastown

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-041001-

Class: Burial ground

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

KK028-041002-

Class: Font

Townland: Cloghabrody

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

Description: No description provided

Appendix 2: Excavations Database entries

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Chapel Lane, Thomastown	95E0233 Ben Murtagh	<p>On foot of a planning application, an archaeological test excavation was conducted in a disused garden on the south side of Chapel Lane during October 1995. This site was of interest as it was located at the north-east corner of the medieval borough, immediately outside of the line of the demolished town wall, according to the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (1840). The site is located on the steep slope of a hill which descends in a southerly direction into the town, towards the River Nore.</p> <p>The work involved the excavation of four linear trenches, averaging 1.3m in width. These were concentrated in the northern half of the site, where it was proposed to build three dwelling-houses. Three trenches (A, B and D) ran in a north-south direction parallel to each other. Trench C, which was dug in the eastern half of the site, ran east-west and linked Trench B with the southern end of Trench D.</p> <p>The investigation showed that the site was used as a garden over a long period of time. It is depicted as such on the 1840 map. The northern side of the property was scarped away from the slope of the hill. The footing of the modern stone wall, which formed the northern boundary of the site, overlay natural deposits. This contrasted with the southern part of the garden, where there had been a levelling-up of the ground by an accumulation of archaeological deposits.</p> <p>No evidence for the town wall was found in the excavation. On the 1840 OS map it is shown skirting the west and south of the garden. Since the proposed development was confined to the northern half of the site, the trial-cuttings were mainly confined to that area. Similarly, the western boundary of the site was not investigated since it was also outside the area of the proposed development. Cutting B showed that the southern boundary of the garden consists of a modern retaining wall, which descends down into the town. This encroached into the southern part of the site, and involved the removal of a lot of material, which appears to have included the remains of the town wall in that area. The southern part of Cutting B also revealed the remains of what may have been a shallow ditch. Further investigations would be required in order to determine whether this feature was part of the town defences.</p> <p>What the excavation did show was that during and after the Middle Ages the ground beneath the northern half of the site, which was located outside the town defences, was extensively disturbed by the digging of pits and trenches. Some of these cut deep into natural deposits. It is likely that these features were dug for the purposes of providing glacially deposited clay and sand for building within the town. Clay was used in the bonding of stone walls up to the 19th century. In excavations carried out at Dysart to the south of the town, a large stone-built house was found, dating from the 17th century, in which this material was used to bond the masonry (Excavations 1989, 33-4; 1991, 27-8).</p>

Location	Licence	Summary
		<p>The make-up of the deposits used in the backfilling of some of the above pits would suggest that they functioned as cesspits during the Middle Ages. They were filled with sherds of pottery, iron slag and organic material.</p> <p>A total of 89 registered finds were recovered from the excavation. Just under half (43) of these came from the topsoil. Most of the finds (76) consisted of sherds of pottery. In addition, a total of 12.5kg of iron slag was recovered from medieval levels. Fourteen of the pottery sherds dated from the 17th and 18th centuries. These included brownware, blackware and gravel-tempered ware vessels. A total of 51 medieval sherds were recovered. Most of these (48) came from medieval levels, mainly from the fills of the pits that were cut into natural deposits. Apart from one sherd of Saintonge ware, the rest consisted of local wares. These can be divided into two groups. The first consisted of thirteen sherds of unglazed Leinster cooking ware. The distinctive coarse fabric contained flecks of quartz and mica. The second group consisted of 37 sherds of glazed jugs. These vessels have a pink or pink/grey fabric, containing flecks of white calcite. Some of the sherds had a mottled green outer glaze. A noticeable feature of these jugs, which have been found on other medieval sites in County Kilkenny, are the wide strap-handles, bearing incised groove patterns.</p>
Chapel Lane, Thomastown	96E0033 Colin D. Gracie	<p>Thirteen trenches were dug in advance of the construction of three townhouses. The site was located within a designated area of archaeological potential. Previous work had been carried out by Ben Murtagh in October 1995 (Licence No. 95E233).</p> <p>The trenches were dug to the depth of the proposed house foundations. One possible pit was found at the western end of the site but otherwise no archaeological features were observed. Fifteen sherds of medieval pottery, including a locally produced strap-handle fragment, were recovered.</p>
Market Street, Thomastown	98E0080 Jo Moran	<p>Three trenches were excavated in the area of a proposed extension behind 5 Market Street, Thomastown.</p> <p>Trench 1 uncovered a late 17th/early 18th-century roughly paved surface, potentially associated with the early years of the building still standing. Trench 2 intercepted a wall likely to have been part of an early extension to the rear of the building (and replaced by the recently demolished kitchen). Floor level associated with the wall was 0.9m below present ground level. Trench 3 intercepted a length of the wall formerly running beside a lane between the two gables of the standing building beside Market Street.</p> <p>A box 1m² was excavated a further 0.4m by hand in Trench 1, through the paving at the west end of the trench, onto a 12th/13th-century occupation level. An earlier series of clay and midden layers was separated from the 12th/13th-century occupation deposits by a band of sand and gravel. A significant amount of Ham Green sherds, probably from a single vessel, were found pressed into the earlier occupation deposits. Early surfacing in Trench 2 is likely to be of similar date. The</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>flooring and midden deposits may belong to structures built against the north boundary wall.</p> <p>The standing building was probably in use by the late 17th century (dating from pottery recovered in the test-trenches). It is currently two-storeyed, but the slightly irregular arrangement of the first-floor windows and door suggests an original single-storeyed building. The credit union building immediately to the north has been dated to the 17th century in an architectural survey.</p>
The Bridge, Thomastown	03E0520 Patrick Neary	<p>The clients received permission to renovate and modify a standing structure at The Bridge, Thomastown, with a monitoring condition attached. Two shallow foundation trenches were dug to accommodate new walls; the service trench for sewerage pipes was also dug. No archaeological features were found in any of the trenches.</p> <p>It later transpired that the existing structure was demolished and replaced with a completely new building. No archaeological monitoring or testing took place, to my knowledge, in relation to the revised development.</p>
Low Street, Thomastown	03E0811 Sheila Lane	<p>Planning permission was granted for the development of a dwelling-house at Low Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, with a condition which required testing and a building survey. The development falls within the zone of archaeological potential for the town and is near the possible line of the town defences along the eastern perimeter of the site. The site comprises an existing structure facing onto a riverside path to the south, with a yard on the north side. This structure, located in the area of the proposed development, was inspected and photographed. The building had been much altered in the recent past and was in poor condition. However, the rear wall remained in fairly good condition and was to be retained. The lower part of this wall probably incorporated part of the earlier quay wall, with the upper portion being added at a later date. It is proposed to construct the dwelling-house some distance inside this wall. Two trenches were opened. They comprised a mid-brown fill of soil with loose rubble to a depth of c. 1m. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted in the trenches.</p>
Marshes Street, Thomastown	03E0878 Sheila Lane	<p>Planning permission was granted for the development of a ground-floor shop/office and a first-floor apartment at Marshes Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The site falls within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town. A condition of planning required that testing be carried out on-site and a survey of the walls along the boundaries of the site be undertaken. The site opens directly onto Marshes Street on the west side, is vacant and is bounded by random rubble walls of varying height on the other three sides. A survey of the walls found them to be of heavily repaired random rubble and of no specific date or interest.</p> <p>Four trenches were excavated on-site to reveal 19th-century fill to a depth of c. 1m. The surviving walls were cut through this fill. There was no evidence for earlier walls or levels in the trenches. The raising of</p>

Location	Licence	Summary
		ground level in Thomastown is the most usual method of flood relief. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted on-site.
Lady's Well Street, Thomastown	03E1411 Tony Cummins	<p>Testing was carried out at the site of a proposed apartment development at the former site of a 19th-century tannery complex, which contains a brick chimney and the ruined walls of a fire-damaged building. The northern boundary wall is of randomly coursed limestone and sandstone construction and measures c. 7m in height. This follows the probable line of the medieval town wall, but there is no visible trace of that feature. The proposed development will have no impact on any of these structures. At the commencement of excavations, the northern end of the yard was cleared of a large mound of building rubble, which will be incorporated into the apartment buildings. This rubble material was inspected and was found to consist of roughly cut limestone blocks; there were no identifiable architectural fragments present.</p> <p>Five test-trenches were opened. The modern overburden measured 0.2m deep and sealed a number of backfilled tannery steeping tanks. These were cut into the natural boulder clay and averaged 1.4m in length by 1m in depth. These were evenly spaced throughout the site, at an average distance of 0.2m apart, and their sides and bases were lined with thin planks. The fills of the tanks contained modern inclusions, such as wires and electrical fuses. The foundations of the northern boundary wall measured 1.6m in depth and were constructed with a mortar-bonded random rubble of limestone and sandstone. The boulder clay abutted these foundations and there was no trace of a foundation trench on the exposed southern side of the wall. A thin, dark-grey, sandy deposit was uncovered at the base of the wall, 1.6m below modern ground level, and a fragment of a clay-pipe stem was recovered from this deposit. There was no trace of the medieval town wall or any other archaeological features or finds.</p>
Logan Street, Thomastown	05E0253 Kevin Lohan	No material of archaeological significance was uncovered at this site.
Marsh's Street, Thomastown	05E0757 Cóilín Ó Drisceoil	<p>An impact assessment of a proposed playground development was requested. The site lies within the zone of archaeological constraint for the medieval town. It is positioned immediately inside the south-west line of the town wall. The Urban Archaeology Survey notes: 'Stretches of the town wall survive on the south-western side of the town from the river up to Mill View House. In places the wall is up to 1.15m wide and 1.45m high . . . the wall continues up to the high ground west of the town, to the front of Mill View House, but is not traceable beyond this point. Where it ends there is a small tower which seems to be a dovecote rather than a part of the town defences' (UAS 1993, 191). The western section of the proposed development area is bounded by a lime-mortar-bonded stone wall that may well be original town wall.</p> <p>Three test-trenches were excavated across the proposed development area. The two closest to Marsh's Street revealed a medieval 'garden soil' at a depth of c. 1m below present ground level. The layout and design of the playground was altered to avoid impacting on the</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		archaeological deposit and the development proceeded under archaeological supervision. No further archaeological materials were found.
Lady's Well, Thomastown	06E0243 Emma Devine	An impact assessment of a residential development at Lady's Well, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, was required prior to applying for planning permission for the proposed development. Testing failed to uncover anything of archaeological significance. A large amount of rubble and made-up ground was identified and was probably a result of the demolition of terraced houses depicted on the first-edition OS. Garden soil layers were more than likely a result of this period of occupation too, due to the types and dates of finds recovered from the deposits; although one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, all the other finds were of an overwhelmingly later, 19th–20th century, date, therefore the medieval sherd is thought to be residual.
Lady's Well, Thomastown	06E0576 Brenda O'Meara	A test assessment was carried out within the boundary of a proposed new development at Lady's Well, Thomastown. Work was carried out on 26 and 27 June 2006. Six test-trenches were excavated. Five of these were opened across the site, the sixth was opened around the site of a holy well recorded at the site. The Lady's Well was visible prior to assessment, forming a small opening at the base of the western boundary wall of the development site. Water from the well was seen to pass along a small water channel and empty into a partially stone-lined millstream that crossed the site from north to south. The millstream will be unaffected by the proposed construction works. It is intended that the stream should remain open and form a feature of the development. It is a requirement of the planning conditions that the area of the well and its associated buffer remain, in addition to the amenity area associated with the development. An area measuring 11.6m north–south by 5m was examined around the well. In order to avoid undue disturbance of the integrity of the small water channel, no sections were dug across the feature. The well outlet measured 0.44m in width and 0.42m in depth and was constructed from rough-hewn mortared masonry with a moderately rounded limestone lintel. Running for a length of 20.75m, a channel carries water from the well outlet to the millstream. The channel was filled with sub-angular and rounded stones and pebbles over much of its length, but it remained open for a length of 1.42m at the water outlet and appeared to be partially stone-lined with small angular stones set in hard, light-grey gritty mortar. The channel was 0.4–0.45m in width with vertical sides and an uneven base. A rough stone surround at the well outlet appeared to be modern in origin and was perhaps created as a result of removing stones from the water channel at this location. The stone within the water channel was introduced in the 1970s by the landowner. Local history suggests that the well was initially located in a field to the west of Lady's Well Street,

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		and that the water was subsequently piped to the roadside on the eastern side of the street.
Ladywell Street, Thomastown	07E0254 Grace Fegan	<p>Testing was undertaken, on behalf of The Office of Public Works, at Ladywell Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, in advance of the proposed construction of the decentralised Health and Safety Authority offices. The site was located on the edge of Thomastown (KK028-040), in two fields immediately west of Ladywell Street, named after a holy well (KK028-039) north-east of the site. The land slopes gradually down to the east, towards the town and Ladywell Street, from a low hill that has been exploited for gravel extraction. To the south lay outbuildings associated with the nearby post-medieval house Abbey View.</p> <p>Eight test-trenches were excavated across the site. Below the topsoil (c. 0.3m deep), overburden comprising orange-brown sandy silt was found to have been deposited across the entire site to a maximum depth of c. 1m, and was probably a result of soil erosion from the hill to the west. Subsoil varied across the site from light yellowish-brown sandy silt in the west to very stoney clayey sand in the east. At depth the subsoil was found to be loose, gravelly and stony and provided good drainage for the site.</p> <p>Beneath the overburden, several small linear field drains and cultivation furrows in addition to a shallow burnt pit were encountered. A large ditch (1.5m deep by up to 3.2m wide) which contained medieval pottery was also found. The ditch was U-shaped in profile and ran roughly east-west from beyond the western edge of the site, and in the centre of the site turned abruptly to the south towards the outbuildings associated with Abbey View. In this southern section the ditch ran partially beneath a parallel extant low bank of soil identical in composition to the overburden that covered the site generally. The ditch and bank were aligned with existing yard/property boundaries to the south and may represent successive changes to those properties. The right-angled ditch, of probable medieval date, may have been a corner of a rectangular enclosure or equally may have been a constituent part of a more extensive field system.</p> <p>The testing is proposed to be extended by further works in 2008 and, if impact on the archaeological remains cannot be avoided, full resolution will take place under an extension to the testing licence.</p>
Ladywell Street, Thomastown	07E0254 ext. Leigh W. Barker	<p>A second phase of testing was undertaken in February 2008 on behalf of the Office of Public Works at Ladywell Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, in advance of the proposed construction of the decentralised Health and Safety Authority offices. The site was located on the edge of Thomastown (KK028-040), in two fields immediately west of Ladywell Street.</p> <p>A first phase of testing was undertaken in June 2007 by Grace Fegan and comprised the excavation of eight test-trenches, which revealed a wide and deep right-angled ditch and a number of further linear features interpreted as cultivation furrows (Excavations 2007, No.</p>

Location	Licence	Summary
		<p>1025). Subsequent to the first phase of testing, a geophysical survey of the proposed development area was undertaken by Earthsound under licence 07R236 which confirmed the presence of the previously identified features and identified a number of further possible features. The second phase of testing comprised a further 21 trenches, which were designed to test a previously uninvestigated western extension to the site, as well as investigating the extents of the previously identified features and possible features identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The agricultural features of probable post-medieval date that were found in initial testing were confirmed to exist on a larger scale throughout the site. The previously identified large ditches were also confirmed to continue both south and west of the development site, and appear to be boundary ditches. Further finds of medieval pottery support a medieval date for the ditches.</p> <p>Two newly identified ring-ditches were also encountered. The first of these (F11) was fully exposed and found to have an internal diameter of c. 3m. The ditch measured 0.7m in maximum width and 0.33m in maximum depth and was filled with reddish-brown silty sand. A short distance to the north of the ring-ditch lay a deposit (F23) of unknown depth and in excess of 3.5m wide, which comprised soft mid-blackish-grey clayey silt that contained charcoal and burnt bone.</p> <p>The geophysical survey suggested the presence of a large circular feature, which was investigated with two trenches. These revealed the feature to be a second shallow ring-ditch (F17) which measured a minimum diameter of 16m.</p> <p>In addition to further examples of cultivation activity, two isolated and undated pits were found within the site.</p> <p>Finds were mostly recovered from topsoil and included both medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, a possible stone punch, five whetstones and possible whetstones, a farthing of James I and a large fragment of a possibly modern school bell (from the adjacent school?). Several sherds of medieval pottery as well as two of the whetstones were recovered from the larger boundary ditches.</p> <p>Plans for development at the site as part of the government's decentralisation programme were shelved and the site remains unexcavated at time of writing.</p>
Thomastown	C0243, E4145 Martin E. Byrne	<p>Monitoring of excavation works associated with the laying of replacement broadband ducting on sections of Logan Street, Low Street and The Quay, Thomastown, together with replacement ESB ducting along a section of Low Street, was undertaken on a phased basis from 20 June to 6 July 2011. The monitoring was commissioned by the South Eastern Regional Authority and formed part of the Fibre-Optic Broadband Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Project for the town.</p> <p>Original works associated with the MAN Project, including the excavation of trial pits and service trenches, the laying of ducting and construction of associated chambers, as well as the construction of</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>overground co-locational facilities, were undertaken in 2007 (Excavations 2007, no. 1024, E3602). All works within, and adjacent to, the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) established for Thomastown were monitored by Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd. In general, the trench excavations were 0.4–0.6m in depth and 0.7–1.3m in width, while excavations associated with the construction of chambers measured 1.8m x 1.2m and varied in depth owing to archaeological constraints.</p> <p>Within the Thomastown ZAP, the trenches and associated chambers were located through the existing carriageways, parking bays or pavements/footpaths in Market Street, Marsh Street, Pipe Street, Lady’s Well Street, Logan Street, Low Street and Quay Street. Some of these streets are subject to heavy traffic. Such traffic volumes, coupled with the shallow nature of the trenches and associated shallow fill/cover over the ducting, led to deterioration in the tarmac surfaces of the trenches, particularly in Logan Street, Low Street and Quay Street. The trenches were subsequently reopened down to the top of the ducting, steel plates were laid over the ducting and the trenches filled with concrete, reinforced with steel mesh and surfaced with tarmac. This engineering solution failed, however, particularly along the carriageway sections of Logan Street and Low Street. In addition, engineering testing indicated duct damage along a section of Quay Street, while a shallowly constructed chamber within the footpath on Lady’s Well Street is damaged and in the process of collapsing.</p> <p>Owing to the failure of the engineering strategy and the health and safety aspects of the deterioration of the street surfaces, largely caused by the shallowness of the original trench excavations, it was decided that the original trenches be re-excavated to the original widths and depths, the existing ducting removed and the bases of the trenches deepened to accommodate the re-laying of the ducting in a two-over-two manner. The first phase of such works was concentrated in Logan Street, Low Street and a short section of The Quay, and the bases of the existing trenches were deepened by 0.3–0.5m in order to achieve appropriate cover over the ducts. In addition, replacement ESB ducting was also laid within the original trench along Low Street.</p> <p>The spoil generated by the deepening of the trenches was laid out and raked through in order to facilitate the recovery of artefactual material. Likewise, it was subjected to scanning by metal-detector.</p> <p>In general, layers of clayey/stony fill were encountered beneath the road surface/road formation layers. Such fills were up to 0.6m in thickness and lay upon the ‘natural’ sterile subsoils. No features, structures or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered during the course of the works and no artefacts of interest were recovered.</p>
Marsh’s Street, Thomastown	E4423; C529 Mary Henry	Monitoring was undertaken of Site Investigation Works (SIW) along the proposed Water Mains Rehabilitation Work (Stage 3) as part of the County Kilkenny Conservation and Network Management Project. The

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>SIW were located at Thomastown, on its western outskirts and along Marsh's Street and extended for length of c. 2km.</p> <p>The purpose of the SIW was to determine the location of the existing mains, their state of repair, presence of other services and existing ground conditions. The SIW entailed the excavation of trial pits along the proposed pipeline routes and at junctions where the proposed pipeline connects into the existing network.</p> <p>The works were undertaken in two phases. During Phase 1 a total of 39 trial pits were excavated. These pits were located on Station Road, which is on the western outskirts of the town, set back from the archaeological zone for Thomastown. No archaeology was identified in any of the pits, though a concentration of larger boulders and stones was seen within two pits. It appeared that these stones represented a deliberate deposit most likely for the purpose of raising the level of road. This appeared probable as the fields on both sides of the carriageway were low lying and waterlogged on the south-eastern side due to the proximity of the river.</p> <p>The only other activity within the test pits from Phase 1 was in the form of the current water pipeline as well as other services such as sewerage and broadband. The water and sewerage pipes could be detected in most of the test pits along Station Road and Marsh's Street.</p> <p>Phase 2 openings commenced to the south-west of the medieval town wall and terminated at the Marsh's Street/Market Street junction. Although it was evident modern ground intrusions, in the form of services, had disturbed the underlying layers, four archaeological features were discovered during the monitoring of this phase of the SIW. Due to their dimensions and construction it was considered that two of the features had a similar provenance and date to the Victorian era with the initial road surface laid after the opening up of the western town wall probably to facilitate vehicular access to the new railway station further to the west. The other two features, however, pertained to an earlier surface, which was considered to date to the post-medieval period. The only other activity within the opened pits consisted of modern services, particularly water pipes.</p>
Brook House, Thomastown	14E0460 Tim Coughlan	<p>The proposed development area is located within the zone of archaeological potential for Thomastown (KK029-040). Testing took place to the rear of Brook House in January 2015. Seven trenches were excavated across the site. No remains of the medieval town wall, which was thought to cross the proposed development area, were identified. The trenches identified evidence of four possible post-medieval tanning pits. Three of these were of mortared stone wall construction and one was probably timber lined. A later cobbled yard to the immediate north of Brook House was also identified.</p> <p>It is probable that excavations associated with the construction of the proposed residential units will have a direct negative impact on the features identified as forming part of the post medieval century tanning complex. The probable remains of at least four tanning pits</p>

Location	Licence	Summary
		have been identified at the site, and further remains may exist outside the area of the test trenches.
Thomastown	E4423 Tim Coughlan	<p>Monitoring was undertaken of ground works associated with the Kilkenny Water Conservation Plan (WCP): Phase 3 Mains Rehabilitation in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The work was carried out under Ministerial Consent C529 and in response to recommendations given in a monitoring report undertaken during Phase 2 of the project. Monitoring was also carried out in Ullid and Tibberaghny townlands as part of this phase of works under licence ref. 14E040. These results are reported separately.</p> <p>Monitoring was undertaken between 9 and 14 April 2014. An additional inspection of ground disturbances associated with the project undertaken at Mill Street on the south of the town was carried out on 3 April 2014. The work was undertaken by Tim Coughlan and Brenda O'Meara of IAC Ltd in the townland of Thomastown.</p> <p>The main pipeline along the south side of Marsh's Street was laid by a process of pipe-bursting where the new pipe was drilled through a pre-existing service pipe/duct located beneath the existing road carriageway. This process ensured that there was no impact on previously undisturbed ground other than occasional pits, generally located within the earlier service trench. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the pipe-bursting process.</p> <p>The main monitoring works were focused on a series of "links" to the main pipeline that traversed Marsh's Street to provide supply to buildings on the north side of the street. These trenches were generally 0.6m below ground level. A large number of existing services were encountered beneath the present road surface. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during works related to the main pipeline links.</p> <p>At the western end of Marsh's Street the footing of a stone wall foundation was recorded at the southern edge of a widened trench at a link along the main pipeline. The alignment of the foundation wall corresponded to the alignment of the original street frontage. The wall was preserved in situ, and, apart from being partially exposed at the edge of the works trench, was not impacted upon. Nothing else of archaeological significance was identified during the monitoring works. Pipelaying was terminated east of the town wall at the west end of the street. The town wall was not impacted upon.</p>
Logan Street, Thomastown	15E0216 (Extension) Mary Henry	<p>Monitoring was undertaken at a partially completed small housing development site at Logan Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The works were associated with a housing development on Logan Street which was partially completed in 2005/2006 but abandoned due to financial constraints. A new developer took possession of the housing scheme and completed the laying of utilities which were monitored.</p> <p>There were two components to the work; the first stage within the site boundary, followed by excavating a trench along the south-eastern third of Logan Street. This trench at the end of Logan Street tied into an existing manhole.</p>

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		<p>Regarding the works within the site boundary, a trench for a storm water sewer was excavated from the front of the site at Logan Street and extended towards the rear of the site where an attenuation tank was sited. The upper 500-600mm (maximum depth of 650mm) of the site was covered with modern infill associated with construction works on the partially completed housing scheme. As part of these works a multitude of services were laid on the site and were revealed criss-crossing the monitored excavated trench.</p> <p>The trench for the storm water sewer had an average width of 500mm and did not exceed a depth of 1m. Beneath the modern infill, a mixed deposit, of post-medieval provenance at the very earliest, dominated the rear of the site, i.e. the location of the attenuation tank. Similarly, mixed deposits, and of similar provenance, occurred within the excavated trench which extended through much of the site. The two features – remains of a culvert and wall – uncovered were of relative modern date, probably associated with 18th/19th/20th-century activity on the site.</p> <p>The section of works on Logan Street extended from an existing manhole at the south-east end of the street and terminated at the entrance into the housing development site. It followed a route that was disturbed due to previous laying of services. Large sections of the eastern half of the trench were backfilled to the base or near it with Clause 804 hardcore. Where it occurred to near the base, the hardcore overlaid a layer of geo-textile membrane which sealed a mid to dark orange brown sandy gravelly clay infill with frequent disarticulated cobbles and small and medium stones. In the western part of the trench the modern hardcore, up to 500mm thick, and along some locations an underlying geo-textile membrane layer, overlaid a very mixed infill comprising sandy gravelly clay which contained disarticulated cobbles, occasional red brick and moderate amounts of stone inclusions and occasional larger stones. Traces of the naturally deposited soil were apparent near the base of the trench in places. No archaeological remains and/or features were uncovered in the trench sited along the south-east end of Logan Street.</p>
Thomastown	C631 Mary Henry	<p>A Village Renewal Scheme was undertaken in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The scheme entailed extensive ground works to accommodate footpath renewal, drainage works, the laying of overhead cables underground, the erection of new ESB poles, as well as new street furniture and tree planting. Works were located within the town centre: along Market Street; Pipe Street; the western part of Low Street; the southern extent of Lady Well Street, and at the very north-eastern end of Marsh's Street.</p> <p>It was apparent from the start that subsurface features and remains were still extant within the town at shallow depths. This was particularly the case with the almost ubiquitous presence of a cobbled surface [F.4] revealed in all streets affected by the works, and appears to have been the last phase of street development prior to the modern era. Based on both form and construction it is considered it dates from,</p>

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		<p>or around, the turn of the 19th/20th century. Occurring anywhere from 0.3-0.45m beneath the ground surface, it was constructed with small to medium rounded cobbles, predominantly well-laid and perfectly tamped; although at various locations there was evidence of repair and patching, as well as damage caused by modern works. However, it should be noted that it was in particularly good condition on the majority of the west side of Market Street, especially towards its southern end where a low-lying kerb was revealed. Other features considered to date to the earlier part of the 20th century were a culvert on Lady's Well Street, a red brick culvert near the north-eastern corner of Market Street and the remains of a red brick wall at the junction of Lady's Well Street and Pipe Street.</p> <p>Interestingly, on the east side of Market Street, the upper cobbled surface comprised far larger cobbles, with occasional smaller ones used to fill any gaps [F.22]. This surface was cut by a stone-built culvert. It was considered that the base of this culvert had been a medieval surface bonded with a lime-based mortar, whereas the culverts associated with the cobbled surface found elsewhere contained much red brick within their fabric and were bonded with Portland cement-based mortar. It is therefore suggested that at the time of laying [F.4], around the turn of the 20th century, the east side of Market Street, in the form of [F.22], was in such condition as not to require re-laying. With two different styles of road and paving present, the symmetry of the streetscape would have been thrown off kilter; however, it should be remembered that Market Street was in two distinct sections, east and west, separated by the stream flowing to the river from above Lady's Well Street. When this is taken into account, the optical aesthetics are not nearly as severe. Regarding the stream, where revealed during trenching for ducting it was culverted beneath the last house on the south side of Low Street on a north-east/south-west alignment, entering the river immediately to the east of the bridge. Based on the results from monitoring, in conjunction with the sparse pottery sherds found, it is suggested the surface [F.22] dates to the middle of the 19th century and associated with famine works, whilst, as stated above, the genesis of [F.4] is around the late 19th/early 20th century. The incorporation of medieval cobbled surfaces utilised as culvert bases had been previous identified in other towns. Other features identified as also pertaining to this period was a loose cobbled surface midway along Market Street and another surface in the south-eastern part of Market Street.</p> <p>A number of wall foundations found on Pipe Street, a wall on Market Street and one on Low Street are considered to date to the post-medieval period, although a late medieval provenance should not be ruled out for the wall foundation remains on Low Street. These features were preserved in situ.</p> <p>It is considered the earliest features uncovered, predating those described above, are at the cusp of the medieval/post-medieval period at their latest. These included a number of surfaces exposed on Market</p>

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		<p>Street and one on Low Street. A possible addition could be the base of the ESB pole opening on Logan Street, but must still be classed as unconfirmed at this stage. Of these, it is considered, three of them may in fact, be internal floor surfaces possibly associated with a shop/tradesman's premises. All were preserved in situ.</p> <p>It should also be noted that throughout this scheme the maximum amount of care was taken to ensure the minimum impact on the archaeological deposits, with all openings kept to as shallow a depth as possible and the natural deposition was not revealed in any of the ground works. Therefore it is considered, due to the relatively high number of surfaces deemed to be of the late medieval/early post-medieval period, as well as the shallowness of a number of recent ground-intrusive schemes within the town, that it is probable that a high percentage of medieval layers and deposits may still be preserved, by and large, in situ.</p>
Nenagh Town	16E0091; E004606 Mary Henry	<p>Monitoring was undertaken of ground works associated with the Nenagh Combined Scheme. This scheme entailed laying a watermain, the rehabilitation of a section of the wastewater network and laying a gas distribution line. An extensive scheme both within the town centre and its environs, the monitoring licence was obtained to cover the laying of the watermain and gas distribution line in areas outside the historic core of the town. All works within the historic core of the town were undertaken under Ministerial Consent (No. C000697). All of the works on the rehabilitation of a section of the wastewater network aspect of the scheme were located within the town centre. The areas monitored under licence in the environs of the town centre included a section of Summerhill, Sarsfield Street and Saint Flannan Street. These streets are within the archaeological zone for Nenagh town (TN020:037). In addition the scheme extended near two other monuments; a burial (TN020-131) and bridge possible site (TN020-031), both of which are on the outskirts of the town. Regarding the burial just off St Conlon's Road, two adult inhumations were found to the south of the carriageway as part of archaeological works on a housing development in 2000. Along the monitored locations one or two - watermain and the gas line - utilities were laid within the one trench. The trenches averaged 1m deep and up to 700mm wide. Within the locations monitored no archaeological remains were uncovered.</p>
Lady's Well Street, Pipe Street, Market Street, Low Street, Thomastown	C00879 E004992 Colm Flynn	<p>Monitoring of construction stage groundworks for the Thomastown Culvert Refurbishment Project took place between March and August 2019. The Thomastown Culvert is a late 18th- or early 19th-century water management system which brings water from Lady's Well Street southwards under the existing streetscape until it reaches the River Nore at Low Street.</p> <p>The project saw the opening of 5 access points or trenches over the existing culvert. At one of the trenches at Market Street some archaeological features were identified in the north-east corner of the trench. These features resembled the foundations of a stone building, and were identified at a depth of 0.55m below the existing tarmac</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>street level. The archaeological features were drawn, photographed and preserved in situ. The archaeology likely dates to the post-medieval period.</p> <p>No further archaeological features were identified.</p>
Lady's Well Street, Newtown, Thomastown	Unlicensed Monitoring Fiona Reilly	<p>Unlicensed archaeological monitoring was carried out on 21, 24 and 30 September 2021, in compliance with An Bord Pleanála Board Order ABP-307542-20 in Newtown townland, off Lady's Well Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.</p> <p>The monitored groundworks relate to the relocation of a c.72m long section of stone boundary wall to the north side of local road L8202, to provide a 6m wide road with a 2m wide public footpath. The boundary wall formed part of the curtilage of a protected structure, a former Church of Ireland 'Glebe House' (RPS reg. nos. C384 and C632; NIAH Reg. No. 12317086).</p> <p>Trees and briars were removed before topsoil stripping commenced. The drainage ditch noted on historic Ordnance Survey maps behind the boundary wall was open and visible at the west end of the works; it was not visible along a 32m lineal stretch at the eastern end, toward the junction with Lady's Well Street and the Kilkenny Road. The visible drain measured approximately 1.8m in width and was 0.9m deep from the foundation level of the wall.</p> <p>The excavated area to the rear of the boundary wall was narrower at its western end, where it measured 2.5m north to south, and widened towards the east to c.4.8m in width north-south. Topsoil stripping was carried out to a depth of 0.8m below the current ground level. A concrete structure was noted at the eastern end of the site, and was partially destroyed during the work; this structure was fed by a spring located in a grove of trees to the immediate north-west, and the water continues beneath the Kilkenny Road to the east.</p> <p>The topsoil layer was mid-brown, moderately compact, silty clay with a moderate amount of small sized, sub rounded stones. The underlying subsoil layer comprised compact, orange/brown silty clay with occasional to moderate amounts of small and medium sized, sub-rounded stones.</p> <p>A new drainage channel was excavated behind the foundation trench for the relocated wall; the channel measured 0.75m in width by 0.85m in depth.</p> <p>No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified during the monitoring.</p>