

Blessington eGreenway

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Wicklow County Council

Project number: PR-447455

Quality information

Prepared by

David Kilner
Senior Archaeological
Consultant

Checked by

Orlando Prestidge
Senior Archaeological
Consultant

Verified by

Leonora O'Brien
Associate Director -
Heritage

Approved by

Eoin O'Mahony
Regional Director
Transportation

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Prepared for:
Wicklow County Council

Prepared by:
AECOM Limited
9th Floor, The Clarence West Building
2 Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP
United Kingdom

T: +44 28 9060 7200
aecom.com

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1. Introduction

This Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Wicklow County Council (the Client) to support the application for a proposed looped greenway along the shores of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and towns, villages and local amenities (referred to as the 'scheme' (Figure 1; Appendix A)). The scheme will also involve the refurbishment of existing car parks adjacent to the scheme, while some temporary accesses and compounds will be required during construction.

2. Scheme Overview

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2009-2013, as part of its objectives, called for the exploration of the potential for new trails in West Wicklow and specifically for the development and promotion of walking and cycling trails. The 2010 Feasibility Study on Recreation Opportunities at Poulaphouca Reservoir identified a potential "Flagship Project". It recommended the provision of a surfaced multipurpose walking and cycling trail circling the main Reservoir adjacent to the shoreline. It also identified a proposed first phase from Blessington to Russborough. This phase has been completed though will also be upgraded under the current proposals.

The scheme will be a 3m wide shared use path (width varies along the path) which will be used by both pedestrians and cyclists. The path will be largely segregated from traffic where the greenway is adjacent to the public road. The Proposed Development will have a total length of c.33km.

The greenway route will follow the predominantly planted conifer plantation around the lakeshore and for some sections there is an existing trail. Macadam will be used as a surface treatment. This will be laid on a 40 mm to 55 mm base course on 150 mm Clause 804 subbase on a geotextile layer as required. Construction works will require shallow excavation (maximum depth of 200 mm – 300 mm), tree trunk removal, placement of culverts, single span bridges over larger streams, fencing and minor landscaping.

The Proposed Development includes public car parks that will undergo refurbishments, that will include the provision of bike parking stands, information boards, waste collection, seating areas, drinking water stations and electric vehicle charging points (note: the level of refurbishment differs at each car park). In addition, the car parks at Knockieran and Russellstown will be extended with provision for 50 additional car parking spaces at each location and three off-site areas of tree planting will be added at Knockieran Car Park, The Burgage Area and The Avon Area to replace trees removed to facilitate construction of the scheme.

3. Scope

The assessment will be concerned with the cultural heritage resource. This comprises archaeological assets, architectural heritage and designed landscapes such as gardens and demesnes. This baseline also considers the setting of these heritage assets, which can be described as the surroundings in which the heritage assets are experienced and appreciated.

The main objectives of the AIA are:

- to identify cultural heritage assets within the footprint of the scheme and associated study area which extends 100 m from the boundaries of the scheme;
- to assess the baseline information and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological assets within the scheme;
- to assess the importance of the cultural heritage assets;
- to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the scheme; and
- to assess the potential impact of the scheme on the settings of cultural heritage assets within the settings assessment study area which extends 100 m from the scheme centre-line.

4. Methodology

4.1 Sources

The preparation of the baseline was informed by material gathered and collated from various sources, including:

- National Monuments Service (NMS) and Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH); and
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022, Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Additionally, the current scheme was previously subject to a Cultural Heritage report prepared in 2015 by the Moore Group - archaeological and environmental services. This report was prepared on behalf of the Blessington Community Forum and sought to determine the archaeological potential of the area, how this archaeological potential would be affected by the scheme and propose appropriate further action (Moore Group, 2015). The previous report has been used to inform the baseline of this assessment and is included as Appendix B.

In addition to the gathering of comprehensive baseline information, a site visit was undertaken on the 6th and 7th August 2020, in order to identify any previously unidentified cultural heritage assets that might exist within the scheme, and to assess the current condition of heritage assets identified in the Moore Group report of 2015. The visit also assessed the potential impact of the scheme on the setting of selected cultural heritage assets in the settings area which extends 100 m from the scheme boundary.

4.2 Asset Selection and Study Area

A study area which extends 100m from the scheme boundary has included all known and potential cultural heritage (archaeological, architectural heritage and designed landscapes) assets. The extent of the study area follows that determined in the Moore Group report of 2015. The study area is illustrated on Figures 2.1 and 2.2 (Appendix A) and has been utilised to produce a figure illustrating the surrounding cultural heritage assets. Heritage data from all sources has been identified within this buffer. The size of this study area enabled a detailed examination of the heritage assets surrounding the site, in order to provide sufficient archaeological and historical contextual information and allow an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site to be made.

Additionally, an assessment of setting was utilised for designated heritage assets (Protected Structures, National Monuments, Recorded Monuments and sites on the Register of Historic Monuments, and Architectural Conservation Areas) within, and just beyond, the study area.

4.3 Assessment of Heritage Asset Importance

A Cultural Heritage asset is defined as a monument, building, group of buildings and sites which are the combined works of nature and man constituting the historic or built environment (World Heritage Convention, 1972). A heritage asset's value is not solely expressed through any designated status but can also be exhibited through a series of values or special interests. These include architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interests. There is the potential for non-designated assets to display special interests equivalent to a designated asset. Therefore a "designated" status does not necessarily confer a set level of importance on an asset, rather professional judgement and an assessment of the special interest displayed by that asset are examined and a level of importance is assigned.

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines a 'national monument' as "a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto." National Monuments are considered nationally important and any works carried out at, or in close proximity to, an archaeological site designated as a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority may require a Ministerial Consent.

National Monuments and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites/Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) sites are not clearly differentiated in the National Monuments Act 1930 – 2004. However, not all RMP and RHM sites and associated constraint areas demonstrate the same level or degree of heritage special interest as can be found in National Monuments. Therefore, they can be considered to be of either of national or regional importance and an assessment of the special interest of the asset and professional judgement is used to identify the appropriate level of importance.

Some archaeological and architectural heritage assets are also included on the RPS of each county or city development plan, under Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised). These protected structures are included in the RPS due to their special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical interest. Protected structures are considered to be of international, national or regional importance.

Architectural Conservation Areas are areas which are designated in a county development plan, under Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Revised), in order to “preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape” that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value; or “contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.” Architectural Conservation Areas are considered to be of either national or regional importance.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was established to assist councils in assessing whether structures should be added to their Record of Protected Structures. These architectural heritage assets are rated to be of either international, national, regional, local or ‘record only’ importance.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage also contains a Garden Survey which includes designed landscapes such as parks, gardens and demesnes. These can be divided into those with substantially intact landscapes and features; and those where the landscape has been significantly eroded by later changes with only peripheral features intact. For the purposes of this assessment, the substantially intact landscapes are judged to be of international, national or regional importance while the denuded landscapes are judged to be of local importance.

Townlands are the lowest level, officially defined geographical area in Ireland and date to before the Anglo-Norman period (12th century). The boundaries of townlands boundaries are often visible in the landscape as walls, tree-lined ditches and embankments or natural features such as streams. They provide visible physical evidence of historical territory or political boundaries and are regarded as being of local importance as historic, cultural heritage features.

4.4 Assessment Methodology

The assessment of baseline conditions was carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports;
- EPA, 2003, Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2005a, Architectural Heritage Guidelines;
- National Roads Authority (NRA), 2005, Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes; and
- NRA, 2005, Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes.

4.5 Setting Assessment Methodology

This assessment has been guided by Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3 (Second Edition) – The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE, 2017). The Setting of Heritage Assets provides guidance on setting and development management, including assessing the implications of development proposals, a counterpart to which has not yet been produced in the Republic of Ireland.

A staged approach is recommended for settings assessments, the first step of which is to identify the cultural heritage assets affected and their settings. The second step is to assess whether, how and to what degree these settings make a positive contribution to the importance of the heritage asset(s), i.e. “what matters and why”. This includes a description of the key attributes of the cultural heritage asset itself, and then considers the physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets; the way the cultural heritage asset is appreciated; and the asset's associations and patterns of use. The third step (where appropriate) is to assess the effect of the proposed development on the significance of assets through the consideration of the key attributes

of the proposed development in terms of its location and siting; form and appearance; additional effects; and permanence.

The assessment methodology has also been guided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities which was published in 2004 and revised in 2011. This contains the relevant guidance which is detailed below. It is important to note that paragraph 13.8.1 of the guidance states that proposed development outside the curtilage or grounds of a protected structure or ACA should be given similar consideration as for proposed development within the attendant grounds. This methodology has been combined with the Historic England methodology, in order to conduct a similar and more robust assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on recorded archaeological monuments, in addition to architectural heritage. This guidance wording is detailed below:

Development Within the Attendant Grounds

13.7.1 It is essential to understand the character of a site before development proposals can be considered. Where attendant grounds of particular significance are proposed for development, a conservation plan could be prepared in advance of any planning application which would identify the significance of the site and locate areas within the designed landscape, if any, which could accept change and development and those areas which could not without damaging the architectural heritage of the place.

13.7.2 When dealing with applications for works within the attendant grounds of a protected structure, a visit to the site should be considered an essential part of the assessment. The planning authority should consider:

a) Would the development affect the character of the protected structure?

b) Would the proposed works affect the relationship of the protected structure to its surroundings and attendant grounds?

c) Would the protected structure remain the focus of its setting? For example, a new building erected between a structure and a feature within the attendant grounds will alter the character of both;

d) Do the proposed works require an alteration of the profile of the landscape, for example, the creation of a golf course? How would this affect the character of the protected structure and its attendant grounds?

e) Do the proposals respect important woodland and parkland? Do they conserve significant built features and landscape features?

f) Are there important views of or from the structure that could be damaged by the proposed development? Would important vistas be obstructed by new development?

g) Would distant views of important architectural or natural landmarks be blocked or changed? Would a significant skyline be altered?

h) Even where the proposed development is at a distance from the protected structure, could it still have an impact? This could include tall or bulky buildings interrupting views of or from the protected structure and other features of the designed landscape;

i) Where the new works would not be directly visible from the protected structure, would they be visible from the approaches to the structure or from other important sites or features within the attendant grounds? If so, would this be acceptable?

j) What effect would the scale, height, massing, alignment or materials of a proposed construction have on the protected structure and its attendant grounds?

Other Development Affecting the Setting of a Protected Structure or an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

13.8.1 When dealing with applications for works outside the curtilage and attendant grounds of a protected structure or outside an ACA which have the potential to impact upon their character, similar consideration

should be given as for proposed development within the attendant grounds. A visit to the site should be considered an essential part of the assessment.

13.8.2 New development both adjacent to, and at a distance from, a protected structure can affect its character and special interest and impact on it in a variety of ways. The proposed development may directly abut the protected structure, as with buildings in a terrace. Alternatively, it may take the form of a new structure within the attendant grounds of the protected structure. A new development could also have an impact even when it is detached from the protected structure outside the curtilage and attendant grounds but is visible in an important view of or from the protected structure.

13.8.3 The extent of the potential impact of proposals will depend on the location of the new works, the character and quality of the protected structure, its designed landscape and its setting, and the character and quality of the ACA. Large buildings, sometimes at a considerable distance, can alter views to or from the protected structure or ACA and thus affect their character. Proposals should not have an adverse effect on the special interest of the protected structure or the character of an ACA.

5. Legislation Planning Policy and Guidance

This assessment has been informed by legislation relating to cultural heritage including:

- National Monuments Acts (1930 – 2004);
- Heritage Council Acts 1995 and 2018;
- National Heritage Plan (2002);
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2016;
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and 2002 Planning Policy;
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022; and
- Blessington Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019.

Local planning policy within the study area is contained within the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 and the Blessington Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019. These outline objectives in relation to the protection of the heritage resource within the County and Blessington. Those objectives applicable to this project are outlined in Appendix C.

6. Heritage Baseline

6.1 Scheme Location

The scheme is located around the Poulaphouca Reservoir (known locally as the Blessington Lakes) in County Wicklow. The proposed track will link with an existing track between the town of Blessington and Burgage More to the southwest passing through The Avon leisure complex. Car parks along the scheme will also be refurbished.

The subject area is on the western side of the Wicklow Mountains with elevations between 180 m and 250 m OD. The terrain is defined by the Poulaphouca Reservoir. An overview of the background and history of the Reservoir is outlined in the Moore Group report of 2015 and is reproduced below:

'The Poulaphouca Reservoir was created as part of the larger River Liffey Scheme. Following the success of the Shannon Scheme a decision was taken in 1936 to harness the Liffey to supply water to Dublin city and provide additional electricity supply to the national grid. With the construction of a dam at Poulaphouca, a large reservoir was created within the upper stretches of the River Liffey in Co. Wicklow. Construction began in 1937 and within the proposed inundated area 76 houses were demolished, and the bridges at Humphreystown, Baltyboys and Burgage were blown up. In advance of the flooding of the valley the Irish Folklore commission sent research workers to document the area and prepare an archive. This work was undertaken under the directorship of a District Judge Mr. Liam Price. The completed survey provides a unique snapshot of the social conditions of Ireland in 1939. Complete with photographs, house plans and land surveys the report formed the basis for a more recent book entitled 'Beneath the Poulaphouca Reservoir' edited by Christiaan Corlett (2008). At the time of particular local importance was concern over Burgage Graveyard formerly known as Domhnach Emlagh. The graveyard also contained an early medieval high cross named for St. Mark and a residential tower probably dating to the 15th Century referred to on the 1st edition map as a 'castle'. Following negotiations with the local clergy the ESB acquired permission from the Wicklow Board of Health and Public Assistance to exhume the remains and reinter them in a new cemetery to the east of Blessington village.

The removal of the human remains was carried out by Pioneer Road Construction Company under the observation by Michael O'Connor representing the National Monuments Advisory Council. The excavations resulted in the removal of 1030 remains, two high crosses, numerous and grave slabs. Notes on the excavation also reveal the discovery of a kiln, worked bones, quern stones, a holy water font and two Elizabethan coins. All the finds were sent to the National Museum.

Following the removal of the cemetery water levels in the reservoir gradually rose in 1940 submerging over 5000 acres of farmland and bog.

Occasionally, as in 1978, the waters of the reservoir fell far enough that the walls of the houses, the piers of the bridges and the track of the old bohreens become visible once again. The first power from the scheme was available by 1943' (Moore Group, 2015).

6.2 Scheme Description

The scheme is proposed to provide a predominately off-road shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists. The scheme will cover approximately 33km and involve the provision and upgrading of a greenway mostly through forest and woodlands adjacent to the shoreline of the Blessington Lake/Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA.

Traffic lights are proposed at three existing bridge crossings (Knockiernan Bridge, Baltyboys Bridge and Vallemount Bridge) to manage a new shuttle system for vehicular traffic. This will create space within the existing bridge cross section for the provision of a shared use path to accommodate users of the eGreenway.

The greenway surface construction is proposed to consist of a machine laid, bound pavement. A 20mm surface course is proposed to be laid on a 40 mm to 55 mm base course on 150mm Clause 804 subbase on a geotextile layer as required. Construction works will require shallow excavation (maximum depth of 200 mm - 300 mm), tree removal and replacement, placement of culverts, single span bridges over larger streams, fencing and minor landscaping.

The project description involves the following:

1. Blessington – The Blessington section of the Proposed Development extends from the Wicklow County Council boundary at Russellstown to Blessington. The section comprises 9.2km in length. This section is proposed to consist of new greenway and the upgrade of existing sections along the route with a connection to Russborough House via an existing underpass of the N81. It is proposed to extend the capacity of the Russellstown car park with an additional 50 car spaces. Works to both the Russellstown Car Park and the Blessington eGreenway Hub and Car Park will provide electric vehicle charging points, bicycle parking, bins, seating areas, drinking water stations and CCTV. There is 1 no. new watercourse crossing included in this section while several existing crossings are to be retained.
2. Baltyboys – The Baltyboys section of the Proposed Development extends from the Blessington section to the Vallemount section. This section comprises 5.3km in length. Works to the Vallemount West Car Park and Baltyboys car park will provide electric vehicle charging points, bike parking, bins, seating, drinking water stations and CCTV. Precast box culverts and gabion retaining walls will be required within this section to construct the Proposed Development. There are approximately 5 no. small watercourses/ditches crossings along this section.
3. Tulfarris – The Tulfarris section of the Proposed Development connects the Baltyboys section to Tulfarris via the R758. This section comprises 3.7km in length. This section is proposed to consist of new greenway and share the existing road to connect with the Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort. There are approximately 2 no. new small watercourse/ditch crossings along its length.
4. Vallemount – The Vallemount section of the Proposed Development extends from Baltyboys to Ballyknockan. This section comprises 5.2km in length commencing at the Vallemount carpark, which is located adjacent to Vallemount GAA Club. Works to the two carparks in Vallemount East and West will provide electric vehicle charging points, bicycle parking, bins, seating areas, drinking water stations, and CCTV. Precast box culverts and gabion retaining walls will be required within this section. There are approximately 3 no. small watercourses/ditches crossed by the Proposed Development in this section as well as a crossing of the Annacarney Stream.
5. Ballyknockan – The Ballyknockan section of the Proposed Development extends from Ballyknockan to Lacken. This section comprises 4.3km in length. Gabion retaining walls will be required within this section. Due to the high ground to the east there are a few small tributaries on this section with approximately 13 no. small watercourses/ditches requiring to be accommodated by the Proposed Development.
6. Lacken – The Lacken section of the Proposed Development extends from Lacken to Knockiernan Bridge. This section comprises 5.6km in length. The section involves new greenway construction. Precast box culverts, concrete underpasses, and gabion retaining walls will be required within this section. It is proposed to extend the capacity of the Knockiernan car park with an additional 50 car spaces. Works to both Knockiernan and Lacken car park will provide electric vehicle charging points, bicycle parking, bins, seating areas, drinking water stations, and CCTV. The eastern side of the lake has many small tributaries which will require the Proposed Development to accommodate approximately 7 no. small watercourses/ditches.

Signage will incorporate visitor information, way-finding information, heritage information and advisory/regulatory information in proximity to road/agricultural crossings. All signage will be subject to full specification at detailed design in project in accordance with national technical standards and guidance.

6.3 National Monuments

There is one National Monument located within the study area. This comprises a High Cross (NM 280) which was formerly located within the graveyard (WI005-070005) which was part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the Bishops of Glendalough in the 12th century. Known previously as St Baoithin Cross, it was moved to the new Blessington Town Cemetery following the flooding of the Poulaphuca Reservoir.

The cross is made of blue-grey granite and stands 4.3 m (14 ft) high. It has an unpierced ring and unusually long arms. There is a decorative boss in the centre of both faces and a weathered inscription at the base of the cross. The High Cross is now known as St. Mark's Cross and is recorded on the RMP as WI005-047002 located 119m to the southwest of the scheme at the entrance to The Avon complex. The original location of the High Cross is recorded on the RMP as WI005-070007 and is now marked by a wooden cross.

6.4 Record of Monuments and Places

A review of the RMP dataset identified 45 sites within, or just outside, 100m of the proposed scheme. Of these sites four are now submerged under the reservoir. These include the Neolithic house (WI010-058) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper, the Ringfort (WI010-018) and enclosure (WI010-019) at Ballyknockan, and the Mill (WI005-078) at Burgage More (east side of lake).

Of the remaining sites, 18 are located at Burgage More. These comprise two redundant records (WI005-049 & 50), a ringwork (WI005-048) while 15 that are related to the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More (WI010-007001-WI010-007015) are in excess of 100 m to the southeast. Six assets (WI005-047001-006) are located in Blessington Graveyard and comprise assets which were originally located Burgage More but were moved before the area was flooded. The remaining assets consist of five located at Templeboodin Church and graveyard at Lackan (WI010-011001 - WI010-011005) in excess of 80 m from the track. One is a cross inscribed stone along an existing trackway at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper (WI010-048). A children's burial ground (WI010-024) at Ballyknockan located 60m from the trackway and a Moated site at Carrig (WI005-078) located immediately adjacent to the scheme. Eight headstones dating to the 17th century are located 92m from the scheme in the graveyard of Saint Mary's Church in Blessington.

These assets consist of sites dating from the prehistoric to the modern periods and representing a range of activities. General descriptions of these periods with reference to applicable recorded assets are provided in the Moore Group report of 2015 (Appendix 3). The 45 recorded assets within, or just outside of, 100 m of the scheme are listed in Table 6-1 and included in Appendix D: Gazetteers of Recorded Heritage Assets.

Table 6-1 Recorded Archaeological Sites within, or just outside of 100 m of the Scheme

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
WI005-026	59m	Holy Well	Early Medieval	Now covered by Blessington Reservoir. The name refers to a trout (Tobar an Bhric) which was said to live in the well. According to the OS Name Books invalids drank from the well and left rags on the surrounding bushes.	In reservoir
WI005-047001 (National Monument No. 280)	108m	Cross - High cross (present location)	Medieval	National Monument in state ownership No. 280. Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- & WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28).	Substantial remains
WI005-047002	96m	Cross - High cross (present location)	Medieval	Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- and WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28)	Substantial remains
WI005-047003	40m	Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	Originally (WI005-070008-) from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. A recumbent granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carries an incised Maltese	Substantial remains

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross.	
WI005-047004	54m	Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	Probably originally located (WI005-070009-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. An earthfast granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carries a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief.	Substantial remains
WI005-047005	41m	Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	The present location of a slab, set in concrete at the head of a grave, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, where its original location has been designated WI005-070015-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.	Substantial remains
WI005-047006	73m	Font (current position)	Medieval	Originally from the ancient church site at Burgage (see WI005-070016- for original location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole (diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.	Substantial remains
WI005-070048	Immediately adjacent	Ringwork	Medieval	Situated on a gentle S/SW-facing slope, on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir which has encroached on the site from S-SE. Circular area (diam. 52m; max. ext. diam. 85m) defined by a bank (Wth 6m; int. H 1-1.5m), an external fosse (everywhere except at the S where it has been washed away) (Wth 9m; D 0.5-1.6m) and an outer counterscarp bank (Wth 9m; H 1-1.8m) from W-NNE. No indication of an entrance or internal features. Limited excavation revealed two hearths and a simple stone lined drainage gully (Macalister 1943, 147-9).	Substantial remains
WI005-069	6m	Redundant record	Not applicable	This record was formerly classed as a ringfort and included in the Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 52) based on the coordinates supplied by Macalister in his excavation report (Macalister 1943, 145). However, this appears to be an error and the monument excavated by Macalister was in fact WI005-048--- which is c. 200m to the NW (pers. comm. Chris Corlett).	Not applicable
WI005-07001	Over 100m to southeast	Church	Medieval	Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains	Some remains

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m)) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N (WI005-04700--). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.	
WI005-07002	Over 100m to southeast	High Cross	Medieval	The original location of 'St Mark's Cross' - see WI005-047001- for its present location.	Removed to another location
WI005-07003	Over 100m to southeast	Holy Well	Medieval	Situated to the W of Burgage More castle (WI005-070004-). Described in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as a spring well at the foot of St Mark's Cross (WI005-047001-) dedicated to St Mark or St Baoithin. It could not be located and is probably near the edge of, or covered by, Blessington Reservoir.	No visible remains
WI005-07004	Over 100m to southeast	Tower House	Medieval	Situated within the graveyard (WI005-070005-), on the edge of Blessington Reservoir and being undermined by periodic rises in the water level. A four-storey tower house of uncoursed rubble with dressed granite quoins (int. dims. 4.65m E-W x 5.05m N-S; max. H 8m), of which only the N and W walls survive. Wooden floors were supported on granite corbels. There is a two-centred arch over the doorway in the W wall, lintelled windows at first- and third-floor level, and a round-arched window at second-floor level. Described in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as being in ruins. Fitzgerald (1913-16, 395-6) noted stairs in the SE corner. Part of the medieval borough of Burgage More (WI005-070----).	Some remains
WI005-07005	Over 100m to southeast	Graveyard	Medieval	Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m)) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another (WI005-047001 and WI005-047002-) were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N. In 1939 a quantity of animal bone and artefacts were brought to the NMI, and human bone was reburied in the cemetery at Blessington (Cahill and	Barely visible

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				Sikora 2011, Vol. 2, 526). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.	
WI005-07006	Over 100m to southeast	Architectural fragment	Medieval	Listed as a 'font' in the (1986). It is not listed in the RMP (1995). The SMR file contains a reference sheet to the 'Preliminary Report on the Monuments of Archaeological Interest in Co. Wicklow' compiled by M. Reynolds for An Foras Forbartha Teoranta (1973, 67). It describes this as a 'Holy water font'. It is evident that this is a stoup and not a font as scoped by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.	Some remains
WI005-07007	Over 100m to southeast	High Cross	Medieval	The original location of this high cross - see WI005-047002- for its present location	Removed to another location
WI005-07008	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	The original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a recumbent granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carrying an incised Maltese cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047003-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.	Removed to another location
WI005-07009	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	The probable original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carrying a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047004-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.	Removed to another location
WI005-07010	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	In the rubble of the church tower ruins (WI005-070001-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage. A granite fragment (dims. L 0.43m; Wth 0.35m; T 0.25m) bears portion of an incised cross. (Corlett 2003, 90-91 Slab 3)	Some remains
WI005-07011	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070011-: two fragments of a complete, tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.35m; Wth 0.59-0.70m; T 0.11m) bearing a Latin cross in low relief with a double outline. It had been reused as a doorway lintel in the church tower. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 108 Slab 4)	Uncertain
WI005-07012	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, the late Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070012-: a very slightly tapering granite slab (dims. L 1m; Wth 0.41-0.43m; T 0.16m) bearing a ringed cross carved in relief. It had been reused as a window lintel in the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 107 Slab 5)	Location unknown

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
WI005-07013	Over 100m to southeast	Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070013-: fragment of a gently tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.25m; Wth 0.40-0.60m; T 0.15m) bearing traces of a cross-shaft and arms carved in relief. It had been reused in the construction of the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92-93, 108 Slab 6)	No visible remains
WI005-07014	Over 100m to southeast	Architectural Fragment	Medieval	A piece of Romanesque moulding recorded by Paddy Healy in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, and presumably associated with the ruined church there (WI005-070001-) (SMR file). Its present location is not known	No visible remains
WI005-070015	Over 100m to southeast	Font	Medieval	The original location of a slab, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, to the new graveyard and set in concrete at the head of a grave, where its present location has been designated WI005-047005-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.	Removed to another location
WI005-070016	Over 100m to southeast	Font	Medieval	Now in the new graveyard at Burgage (see WI005-047006- for present location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole (diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.	Removed to another location
WI005-071	40m	Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI N 332/333 (1973)). On a level to very gently SE-facing slope on the NW of the edge of the Blessington reservoir. A drainage feature around a small field.	Some remains
WI005-049	Within scheme	Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On marshy ground on a gentle S-facing slope to the N of the Blessington Reservoir. A field visit in 1989 determined that it was not of archaeological significance.	Some remains
WI005-050	Within scheme	Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On a level to gently S-facing slope overlooking the Liffey Valley to the S. Now in marshy wooded terrain on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir NE of a forestry plantation.	Some remains

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				There is an irregular quadrangular pool (c. 20m x 20m) at this location but it is not of archaeological significance.	
WI005-106-	92m	Headstone	17th century	The graveyard of the Church of Ireland in Blessington contains eight 17th-century headstones. These include granite stones erected to Darby Burke (ob. 1690), Richard Benell (ob. 1686), Ann Hiall (ob. 1687), Thomes Lear (ob. 1688), William Beates (ob. 1685) and William Bluomey (ob. 1683), a fragment of the stone erected to Richard Provei (ob. 168-), and a bevelled stone executed in sandstone erected to David Murphy (ob. 1699). The headstone of William Bluomey states that he was the first to be buried in the graveyard. The headstones have recently been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard. The present church is of early 19th-century date.	Substantial remains
WI005-106001-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); William Bluomey (ob. 1683). The headstone of William Bluomey states he was the first to be buried in the graveyard.	Substantial remains
WI005-106002-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); William ---tes (ob. 1685).	Substantial remains
WI005-106003-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); Richard Benell (ob. 1686).	Substantial remains
WI005-106004-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); Ann Hiall (ob. 1687).	Substantial remains
WI005-106005-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); Homes Lear (ob. 1688).	Substantial remains
WI005-106006-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); Richard Provei (ob. 168-).	Substantial remains
WI005-106007-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----); Darby Burke (ob. 1690).	Substantial remains
WI005-106008-	92m	Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106----);	Substantial remains
WI010-011001-	84m	Church	Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. The church is represented by a sub rectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) in a small rectangular graveyard (WI010-011003-)	Some remains
WI010-011002	84m	Ecclesiastical Enclosure	Early Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. Part of the N graveyard wall (WI010-011003-) stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) outside which there is a fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m); this may have continued to the W to the bank	Some remains

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				of the small stream and may be part of an earlier enclosure.	
WI010-011003	84m	Graveyard	Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. A roughly rectangular area (c. 32m N-S; 57m E-W) enclosed by a stone wall. A church (WI010-011001-) represented by a sub-rectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) is to SW of centre. Part of the N graveyard wall which stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) with an external fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m) may be part of an earlier enclosure (WI010-011002-).	Substantial remains
WI010-011004	84m	Bullaun Stone	Early Medieval	Large boulder (c. 1.70m by 1.50m) in a stream bed immediately W of a church site (WI010-011001-). There is a single basin (diam. 0.33m; D. 0.16m) in the upper surface.	Some remains
WI010-011005	84m	Graveslab	Medieval	In the S quadrant of Templeboodin graveyard (WI010-011003-). A granite slab (L 1.45m; Wth 0.58m) tapering towards the W end (Wth 0.36m) which contains a single latin cross in low relief (L 0.54m; Wth 0.47m) formed by a raised band (Wth 0.1m; H 0.003m). At the E end is a Greek cross (34 x 34cm) also in low relief formed by a raised band (Wth 0.09m; H 0.002m). The slab is broken at this point and the break extends diagonally across the intersection of the arms of the cross.	Some remains
WI010-011006	84m	Redundant record	N/A	This record was created in error - see WI010-015001- for correct location and details	N/A
WI010-018	6m	Ringfort	Early Medieval	Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking marshy terrain. Bivallate circular ringfort (diam. 23m; max. ext. diam. 41.5m) excavated prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir. The site was defined by an earthen bank (Wth 1.5m; H 0.6m) and a fosse (Wth 2.4m; D 1m) with an outer bank (Wth 2.7m; H 0.6m) from SSW-NW-NE. The fosse was separated from the inner bank by a berm (Wth 3-6m) and was partly separated from the outer bank by a second berm (max. Wth 3.4m). There were two narrow gaps (Wth 1m) in the inner bank at the NE and WSW with a more substantial example (Wth 1.5m) at the SSE opposite a causeway in the fosse. A second causeway formed by large stones occurred at the NE but may not have been an original feature. At the S, an L-shaped bank ran from the inner bank outwards across the fosse and then continued eastwards as far as the SSE entrance. Little, other than an arc of irregular paving in the N sector of the interior, was revealed during excavation. (Macalister 1943)	In reservoir
WI010-019	6m	Enclosure	Uncertain	Description: Situated on gently NW-facing ground, at the edge of Blessington Reservoir. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 20m) shown on the 1838 OS 6-inch map. Although the site is occasionally exposed in dry summers there is no visible trace at ground level.	In reservoir

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
WI010-024	56m	Cillin / Children's Burial Ground	Uncertain	A slight mound (diam. 20m) excavated in 1938 prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir beside which it now stands. Two small graveslabs, one in the form of a cross, came from the site, but the excavator surmised the acidic soil had destroyed any bones. Not visible at ground level; the site is still known as the 'Reilig'. (Raftery 1943).	Excavated
WI010-048	3m	Cross Inscribed Stone	Uncertain	Situated on the N side of the road between Ballyknockan and Valley mount. Granite boulder with a small double-line incised Latin cross (L c. 0.4m). (Information A. O'Sullivan)	Substantial remains
WI010-058	31m	House	Neolithic	Discovered in February 2006 on the W shore of Poulaphouca Reservoir when the water level dropped. On a gentle slope in former agricultural land overlooking the King's River. An almost square structure (int. dims. L 6.6m N-S; Wth 6.2m E-W) is defined by the burnt clays and charcoal-rich fill of the slot-trench of the building's foundation. Subsequent intermittent investigation (Excavation Licence No. 07E1127), when the water level allowed, revealed a significant amount of Neolithic pottery, a flint axe and a possibly ritually deposited Bann flake. (Corlett 2009, 26-30)	Excavated / in reservoir
WI010-062	Within scheme	Wedge Tomb	Bronze Age	Unrecorded wedge tomb identified by Christopher J. Darby in 2010 which was followed up by a rescue excavation carried out by Chris Corlett under licence no. 10E0131. The site, at Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, is situated on the edge of the shoreline of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and would therefore only be inundated when the water levels are at their highest. However, this is the area that is most prone to long-term and consistent erosion by the reservoir. The sand that has partially sealed the site and thereby preserved it over the last number of years is now itself being actively eroded by the reservoir, and the high water levels recorded in 2009 may have significantly contributed to the removal of sand and the resulting exposure of the site. Prior to excavation the site appeared to consist of a burial chamber (0.45m wide and 1m long, open at the south-west) placed off-centre within a U-shaped kerb setting (2.1m north-west/south-east x 2.5m) retaining cairn material. Excavation suggests that there were two main phases of use. The chamber was built off-centre within the cairn and retaining kerb and measured 1.2m long and 0.45m wide. The chamber was formed by two large slabs on the southern side, three on the opposite side, and two end stones. The kerb was best preserved at the south and rear. While there was a large amount of stone on the northern side, only one was clearly set. Several others may originally have formed part of the kerb but may have become dislodged by the reservoir at this side. The kerbstones and cairn material lay on a light-brown clay which appears to represent the old sod. This was not present within the burial chamber, where instead a grey silt was present at the lowest levels. No dating evidence was	Excavated

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				forthcoming for the construction of the tomb, but evidence for this may be preserved beneath the cairn material and surrounding kerb, which was not excavated. There was no evidence for a primary burial within the tomb, but this may be due to later disturbance of the tomb during the early Iron Age. Whatever about the date of the initial construction of the tomb, it is clear that it was reconfigured and probably reused during the early Iron Age. This phase was represented by a layer of charcoal that was placed within the main chamber and beyond the tomb. This dense charcoal layer (50mm thick) was identified by Ellen O'Carroll as consisting of hazel and oak. Hazel samples from this layer were sent for 14C dating and returned a date of 760–414 BC. There was no evidence for primary burials sealed beneath this charcoal layer, so perhaps the interior was cleaned out prior to the placement of this material within the chamber. There was no evidence for in situ burning of the clay beneath the charcoal layer, clearly indicating that it was deliberately placed here. The charcoal layer did not appear to be randomly dumped, but instead was apparently carefully placed within the chamber. The charcoal also extended north and east of the tomb, but notably was not present beneath the kerbstones of cairn material. The charcoal layer also occurred throughout a void between the chamber and the large kerbstone at the north. It is not clear if this void represents an original chamber or if it was created during this reuse of the site. Within the rear of the main chamber three stones were found sitting on the charcoal, and the evidence indicated that the chamber was deliberately reduced in size after the charcoal had been placed within. This certainly implies that the intention was to reuse the main chamber for the purpose of burial – perhaps this was also the purpose of what appears to be the new chamber adjacent to it. However, if this was the case, any trace of burial was removed by the reservoir' (www.excavations.ie. No. 836; Corlett 2013, 266-7).	
WI010-078	Adjacent to scheme	Moated site	Medieval	Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking the Liffey valley; area now under Blessington Reservoir. Enclosure (dims. c. 25m N-S x 20m E-W defined by bank and external fosse, visible as cropmark on aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 332-3).	Substantial remains
WI010-121	17m	Mill	Uncertain	Timbers and a millstone were discovered on the exposed shoreline when the lake levels dropped in January 2006. On relatively flat ground at the base of a fairly steep slope that forms the foothills of Lugnagun, and formerly a shelf overlooking the floodplains of the River Liffey. Two large, squared, timber beams (max. dims. L 0.9m; Wth 0.18m; T 0.09m) protruding above the ground surface appear to represent the sides of the wheel pit of a mill and are associated with a series of small upright timber stakes (max. dims. L 0.10m; Wth 0.1m; H 0.26m) which may have acted as supports to the timbers facing the wheel pit or the tail race. A	In reservoir

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Date	Description	Condition
				low, linear ridge extending to the E of the site may represent a mill race, but it was not investigated.	

6.5 Designated Architectural Heritage Sites

6.5.1 Architectural Conservation Areas

One proposed Architectural Conservation Area is partially located within the scheme. This is associated with the historic core of the town of Blessington as proposed within the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. An overview of the origins of the town is outlined in the Moore Group report of 2015 and is reproduced below:

'The name Blessington comes from the Irish 'Baile Coimin' (townland of Coimin) in early times there were three churches in this area – Kilmalum, Three Castles and Burgage. The district was first called Burgage in 1547 and continued to be known by that name until the erection of the village and a church in 1683.

The Manor of Blessington was granted to the Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Boyle, in the late 1660's, by King Charles II. Boyle was a member of one of the most successful new English planter families — his father's cousin was Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, who arrived in Ireland around the time of the Munster Plantation which followed the Desmond Rebellion. After the restoration of Charles II Boyle obtained a charter from Charles II to build a new town, which he called Blessington.

The town was built on a green field site and, like Hillsborough in County Down, it was given borough status, a corporation and the right to return two members to Parliament. At the core of the town Boyle built a brick mansion which was enclosed by a walled demesne and deerpark, amounting to some 600 acres. When Blessington House was completed, Boyle laid out one street and built the Church of Ireland parish church in 1662. The single street was the beginning of this town, which was originally constructed as an estate village – to reflect the significance of Blessington House and Demesne and to house the workers and tenants.

The demesne comprised 410 acres, including a large deer park, and was surrounded by a brick wall. The wall was destroyed by fire in 1760, followed by the House, which burned down in 1798 and was never rebuilt. Following Boyles death the estate passed to Wills Hill, a great-grandson of Archbishop Boyle's daughter Eleanor who had married William Hill of Hillsborough. This began the Downshire association with the Blessington estate which continued until 1908 when the tenants bought out their holdings under the Wyndham Land Act. The estate stretched from the Kildare boundary to the uplands of the Wicklow Mountains and encompassed 36 townlands, 31 of which are in county Wicklow and five in Kildare' (Moore Group, 2015).

The Blessington Local Area Plan notes the town's post-medieval origins with the majority of the buildings dating to the mid-19th century. Much of the Main Street was developed as an architecturally coherent unit. This gives Blessington a harmony and character that is unlike many other Irish towns, whose development would be more organic and therefore lack the type of homogeneity that makes the town interesting and attractive (Moore Group, 2015). The large house and associated Demesne that generated the impetus for the development of this town, as well as its original focal point, was demolished over two centuries ago. However, the town itself has clearly become a focal point for the surrounding countryside as its spiritual, civic, commercial, social and cultural focal point. This is evident in the surviving 19th century fabric with many of the buildings noted as Protected Structures and NIAH assets including the Church of Ireland church (RPS ref 05-06), the Ulster Bank building (RPS ref 05-03), the Market House (RPS ref 05-05), the former hotel of the Downshire Arms (RPS ref 05-04) and the features in the town's square including the stone obelisk structure (NIAH 16303004).

6.5.2 Protected Structures / National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

All the Protected Structures and NIAH assets located within, or just outside, 100 m of the proposed project outside the Blessington Architectural Area were compiled. There are five in total with three located close to the town of Blessington. These are Blessington Bridge (NIAH 16303027) providing access over the Poulaphouca Reservoir, The Rectory (RPS ref 05-02), a Protected Structure located on the Kilbride Road and Saint Joseph's Hall (NIAH 16303028) located on Troopersfield. The two remaining Protected Structures are Biddy Mulvey's ruined house

(RPS ref 10-05) at Ballyknockan and the tower house (RPS ref 05-09) located at Burgage More to the southeast of the scheme. This asset is also recorded on the RMP as WI005-07004.

The assets within, or just outside of, 100m of the scheme are listed in Table 6-2 and included in Appendix D: Gazetteers of Recorded Heritage Assets.

Table 6-2 Recorded Architectural Sites within, or just outside, 100m of the Scheme

RPS Ref. No	NIAH / RMP Ref	Building Address	Structure	Description
05-02		Blessington The Rectory	House	A circa 1870, L-plan house of three bays and two storeys. Facing the garden is a gabled breakfront. The house has cement-rendered walls, string-course and moulded architrave to windows, timber porch and round-headed doorcase
05-09	WI005-07004	Burgage More	Tower House	Ruined tower house now overlooking the lake.
10-05		Ballyknockan Ruin	Biddy Mulvey's ruined House	Gable end of a ruined house. Built of coursed-rubble granite. Land League Cottage with plaque stating 'The Emergency Land Grabber Defeated here 1888, God Save Ireland'
	16303027	Knockieran/Haylands	Bridge	Six 'arch' concrete road bridge of c.1935 spanning the Poulaphouca Reservoir. The bridge is supported on concrete piers (seven to each side) and has a low parapet topped with tubular metal railings. Crash barriers have been installed to each side of the road.
	16303028	Saint Joseph's Hall, Blessington	Hall	Detached multiple-bay single-storey hall, built c.1935. The building is rectangular with a full-width entrance porch to the front gable, the latter with projecting bays flanking the entrance. Good example of a mid-20th century hall, with mild art deco influences. The building is generally well preserved though the windows have been largely boarded up.

6.5.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey

Examination of the NIAH Garden Survey revealed eight planned landscapes partially within the scheme or the adjacent 100 m study area. Those partially within the scheme include Burgage Moyle Cottage (NIAH 4261), Knockieran House (NIAH 4266), Baltyboys (NIAH 4265), Russborough House (NIAH 4256) and Russellstown (NIAH 4258). Those immediately adjacent to the scheme or within the study area are Tulfarris House (NIAH 4257), Willmount House (NIAH 4259) and Stormont House (NIAH 4262).

The majority of these are described as greatly reduced due to the creation of the reservoir with the result that they are now largely unrecognisable as planned landscapes. Willmount House (NIAH 4259) and Stormont House (NIAH 4262), can still be traced with their peripheral features visible. However, both houses have been demolished removing the focal points of the planned landscapes. The eight planned landscapes are listed in Table 6-3 and included in Appendix D: Gazetteers of Recorded Heritage Assets.

Table 6-3 Planned Landscapes within 100m of the Scheme

NIAH Ref	Distance to scheme	Demesne Name and Address	Comments	Site Status
4256	Partially Within scheme	Russborough House	The formal pool shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map at 295627, 211299 is in a degraded condition	Main features substantially present - some loss of

NIAH Ref	Distance to scheme	Demesne Name and Address	Comments	Site Status
				Integrity
4258	Partially Within scheme	Russellstown	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir.	Virtually no recognisable features
4265	Partially Within scheme	Baltyboys House, Boystown or Baltyboys Lower	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable
4266	Partially Within scheme	Knockieran Cottage	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
4261	Partially Within scheme	Burgage Moyle Cottage	Area partly flooded by Poulaphouca Reservoir, golf course indicated in remainder of area	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
4259	Immediately adjacent	Willmount House	Building indicated, not named. The site of the principal building is now a quarry.	Peripheral features visible - significant development
4262	Immediately adjacent	Stormount	Nothing indicated	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
4257	105m	Tulfarris House, Tulfarris	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir. On what remains of the site a golf course has been constructed. Virtually no features of the designed landscape shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map have survived	Virtually no recognisable features

6.6 Previous Archaeological Investigations

Previous archaeological investigation has taken place in relation to several of the assets listed within the RMP within the study area. This includes excavation of monuments between 1938 and 1943 prior to the inundation caused by the creation of the reservoir. These sites include the graveyard (WI005-07005), the ringfort (WI010-018) and the cillín (WI010-024).

Periodic lowering of water levels has subsequently revealed other archaeological sites including the Neolithic house (WI010-058) and the wedge tomb (WI010-062). These assets have been archaeologically investigated before rising water levels could further damage them. Descriptions of the investigations of all of the assets within the study area are contained in Section 6.4.

Examination of *Excavations.ie*, the database of Irish excavations reports, reveals five further archaeological investigations which have taken place within the study area. The most pertinent of these took place in 2013 at Burgage More and was in relation to the creation of the extant Blessington to Russborough section of the Greenway (Quinn, 2013). The deserted medieval settlement (WI005-070) and ringwork (WI005-048) were regarded as areas of archaeological potential although an existing path was located adjacent to the deserted settlement and the works only required minimal upgrade. A boardwalk was created to the north of the ringwork and construction of this was archaeologically monitored under licence 13E0025. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during this work or during other parts of the watching brief associated with the scheme.

Other archaeological work within the study area included the excavation of a Neolithic house at Humphrystown in 2011 (Corlett, 2011). This site was exposed during a prolonged dry spell when water levels within the reservoir

were lower than usual. The Neolithic house is located approximately 500 m to the south of another Neolithic house (WI010-058) recorded at Baltyboys. The house at Humphrystown had been exposed by erosion caused by the reservoir waters which had stripped the topsoil from over it. It was decided to excavate the house before it was submerged once more and subject to further damage.

The house was excavated under licence 11E0204 with the main structure defined by a slot trench on three sides. It measured 6.2 m east-north-east/west-south-west x 4.3 m across with a possible entrance of 0.52 m in the south wall. The fills of the slot trench contained large amount of charcoal and the radiocarbon dating of these returned dates of 3700–3630 and 3580–3530 cal. BC. Cremated bone, lithics and sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill material. A pit was noted within the interior of the house with two further pits located outside the structure. One pit located 4m to the east-north-east of the house measured 1.09 m long, 0.76 m wide and 0.17 m deep. Its edges and sides were straight, indicating that it was carefully dug and was interpreted as a trough for holding water. The site produced an assemblage of 30 sherds of pottery relating to an estimated six Early Neolithic carinated bowls while other artefacts recovered included a flint hollow scraper, two flint scrapers and a Bann flake. A stone axe was a surface find 20 m south of the house and is likely also to be related to the habitation of the house.

The greenspace around the Downshire Hotel (RPS 05-04) was archaeologically investigated by means of 11 trenches in 2019 under licence 19E0044 (SHANARC Archaeology Ltd, 2019). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered although one sherd of 13th century pottery was recovered from the interface between topsoil and subsoil in Trench 3.

Archaeological monitoring took place between 13th and 15th May 2013 of site investigation works carried out in advance of a watermain rehabilitation project including Valleymount (Whitty, 2013). The works involved the excavation of ten slit trenches along the route of the rehabilitation works, four of which were monitored and recorded. No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed in any of the trenches.

Groundworks as part of Wicklow Water Conservation Programme, Stage 3, Contract 2 were carried out between February 2015 and January 2016 (Quinn, 2016). A significant portion of the works employed directional drilling and upsizing (pipe bursting) to install the new pipework, this involved excavating launch and receptor pits at 100m intervals. Only in limited instances was open cut trenching used including at Lackan and Valleymount, Rathdrum and Shilleagh. The use of trenchless techniques reduced the time frequency of monitoring visits and reduced the overall impact along the road verge. No finds, features or materials of archaeological potential were identified during the course of the works.

6.7 Cartographic Research

Cartographic research was previously conducted in 2015 for the purposes of the Moore Group assessment of the scheme at that time. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" Maps circa 1830; and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" Maps circa 1900 were examined for unrecorded features of archaeological potential (Moore Group, 2015).

The examination of available historic mapping for the subject area shows the land in Pre-Famine times and before it was later inundated by the development of the reservoir. It found that much of the area occupied by the reservoir was originally characterized by poorly drained featureless fields that were part of the Liffey and Kings River flood plain. The planned landscapes with their big houses in the area were at Russborough, Russelstown, Baltyboys and Tulfarris and to a lesser extent Knockieran Cottage. No significant features were noted within the route of the Greenway (Moore Group, 2015).

The routes of the new alignments at Baltyboys and Valleymount were examined as these had not been assessed in 2015. These cross areas denoted as agricultural fields on cartographic evidence with no significant features present. The marginal ground of the Killough Bog is apparent to the immediate east of Valleymount.

6.7 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the route of the Greenway was examined in the 2015 assessment with available aerial photography on the OSI, Google earth and Bing websites scrutinised. This did not identify any previously unrecorded archaeological sites (Moore Group, 2015).

The routes of the new alignments at Baltyboys and Valleymount were examined on aerial photography as these had not been assessed in 2015. These areas are shown as heavily vegetated strips along the shorelines of the reservoir. No features of interest are apparent.

6.8 Site Visit

The route of the Greenway was subject to a site visit in 2015 as part of the previous assessment. The purpose of this visit was to make a photographic and written record of all the notable sites, monuments and cultural heritage features. The previous site visit noted that the proposed route tracks through a margin of ground in the ownership of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) that is largely forested with conifers skirting the shoreline of Blessington Lake. It was noted that majority of the recorded archaeological sites within the 100m study area had no visible remains, having been either excavated or located within the reservoir. No previously unrecorded archaeological sites were noted during the 2015 site visit.

The margin of ground has since become quite overgrown and difficult to traverse while there are also numerous streams and wet areas. A site visit was carried out as part of this current assessment over two days in August 2020 although this visit focused-on areas not examined in 2015 while the recorded archaeological sites within the study area were visited if accessible. It should be noted that many of the laneways providing access to the lough shore are marked as private property warning the public to keep out.

As such, access was not possible to some of the locations of the recorded archaeological sites such as the moated site (WI005-078) at Carrig. Similarly, the lane between Valleymount and the shore was formerly part of the Bog Road which linked Valleymount to Ballyknockan to the east but is now mostly under the reservoir. This lane has been gated off at both ends at some time after the 2015 site visit with the result that the cross-inscribed stone (WI010-048) is visible but not accessible (Photograph 1). It is the large sub-rectangular stone directly behind the sealed pedestrian gate.



Photograph 1 Gated lane with the cross-inscribed stone (WI010-048)

6.8.1 Valleymount

The site visit commenced at the Valleymount which comprises a proposed trackway through forestry along the shoreline of the townland. The shoreline is accessible via a public car park (Valleymount East) located at the northeast corner of the Valleymount peninsula. The shoreline is bounded to west by the forestry and elements of the former agricultural terrain are visible in the form of dry-stone walls which cross the shoreline from the treeline and into the reservoir. A path has been created by walkers through the forestry and it is this which will be formalised by the scheme.

Features of note within the forestry include former landscape features consisting of a path and steps flanked by low stone walls (Photograph 2). These appear to predate the creation of the reservoir. A more recent feature is a plaque attached to a tree which forms a memorial to Rachel Amy Doran who died in February 2018 (Photograph 3).



Photograph 2 Valleymount section of path, steps and walls in forestry



Photograph 3 Valleymount memorial erected post February 2018

6.8.2 Valleymount to Ballyknockan

The Valleymount to Ballyknockan section consists of forestry land along the shoreline. Recorded archaeological assets along this route include the wedge tomb (WI010-062), the children's burial ground (WI010-024) at Lackan, two submerged sites, a ringfort WI010-018 and an enclosure WI010-019 at Ballyknockan. The wedge tomb (WI010-062) is the only one of these with visible remains.

The protected structure known as 'Biddy Mulvey's Cottage' (RPS 10-5) is located at the end of a lane known locally as 'the Bog Road' that leads to the shore from Ballyknockan and originally formed a link to Valleymount (Photograph 4).



Photograph 4 Ballyknockan protected structure known as ' Biddy Mulvey's Cottage' (RPS ref 10-5) and the Bog Road

6.8.3 Ballyknockan to Lacken

From Ballystockan continuing north along the edge of the lake the proposed route bypasses 80m to the south of Templeboodin consisting of five recorded monuments classified as a church, ecclesiastical enclosure, graveyard, bullaun stone and grave slab (WI010-011001-011005) (Photograph 5). Along the shoreline this section of the lake has seen considerable erosion with rock armouring added for stability.



Photograph 5 Graveyard at Templeboodin

6.8.4 Lacken to Blessington

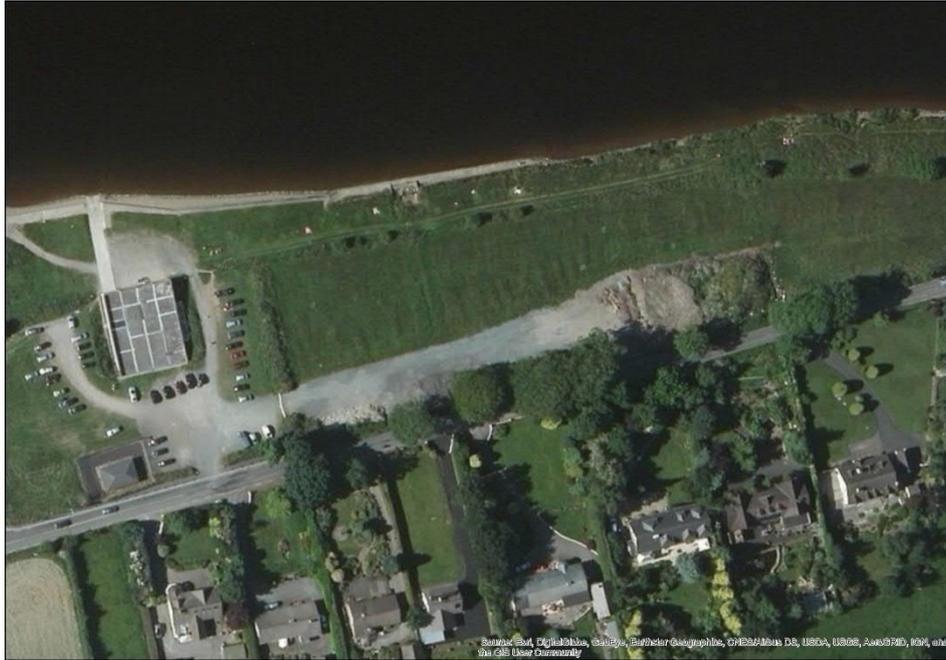
The section from Lacken towards Blessington Bridge passes along the forested margin that skirts the shoreline through the townlands of Sroughan, Carrig, Burgage More and Knockieran Lower, and there are two archaeological sites in close proximity to the trackway. The first is a moated site (WI005-078) in Carrig, which is described in the archaeological inventory as being now under the Blessington Reservoir. However, the field survey in 2015 noted the presence of a 'D' shaped enclosure defined by a low bank 900mm high and 2.7m wide to the south and west and by a scarp to the north, the west of the site has been eroded by the reservoir (Moore Group, 2015). This site is covered by forestry but is extant. The area was not accessible during the recent site visit to check its current condition.

To the north in Burgage More a Mill site (WI005-121) was partially exposed when the lake levels dropped in January 2006. The site has since been submerged again and there are no visible traces. Further to the north the route passes through the western portion of Knockieran Cottage Demesne (NIAH ref 4266). Much of this planned landscape has been permanently flooded by the reservoir and what remains is unrecognisable (Photograph 6).



Photograph 6 Shoreline where Knockieran Cottage Demesne (NIAH ref 4266) is located

The Lacken section of the scheme finishes at Blessington Bridge (NIAH 16303027) with an underpass planned through the south embankment allowing access to Knockieran car park (Photograph 7). The existing car park is used by the public to access the shoreline and also by numerous groups who utilise the reservoir for leisure purposes such as rowing. This car park will be refurbished and also extended to incorporate 50 new car parking spaces. The area of the extension incorporates parts of the existing car park including gravel surfaces as well as adjacent grassed areas. Tree planting is also intended within the eastern extent of this area.



Photograph 7 Overview of the Proposed location of the extension to Knockieran Car Park.

Blessington Bridge (NIAH 16303027) carries the road over the reservoir to the Kilbride Road which leads into Blessington. The trail turns south to run along the west side of the reservoir through the terrain between the Kilbride Road and the reservoir (Photograph 8). This terrain slopes steeply down from the road to the water requiring retaining structures to be constructed to support the path. The location of the Holy Well (WI005-026) is adjacent of this section of the path submerged in the reservoir.



Photograph 8 Looking southwest along shoreline leading towards Blessington.

The scheme extends to the northwest linking into the existing road network and passing through Blessington. The town centre of Blessington has been proposed as an Architectural Conservation Area, and contains numerous structures listed on the RPS and NIAH assets on the main street (Photograph 9). The scheme continues southwest along the existing roads before reaching The Avon leisure and holiday accommodation complex.



Photograph 9 Proposed Blessington Architectural Conservation Area

6.8.5 The Avon to Russborough

The existing Blessington Greenway commences at The Avon leisure and holiday accommodation complex extending south through Burgage More. The Greenway extends south before passing to the northwest of the medieval settlement at Burgage More (W1005-070). This site was excavated before the reservoir was created with the graves slabs and high crosses removed. The ruins of the tower house (RPS ref 05-09) are still apparent and the former location of the High cross (W1005-070007), which is now in Blessington graveyard, has had its location marked with a wooden cross (Photograph 10). The Greenway passes to the north of the archaeological sites and no works will take place adjacent to it. Archaeological monitoring works were conducted during the construction of the Greenway with nothing of archaeological significance uncovered.



Photograph 10 Tower house (RPS ref 05-09) and former location of the High cross (W1005-070007)

Similarly, the ringwork (WI005-048) is passed by a section of boardwalk which was constructed under archaeological supervision with nothing of note observed in 2013 (Photograph 11). This section of the scheme immediately adjacent to the monument will not be changed under the current proposals.



Photograph 11 Boardwalk adjacent to the ringwork (WI005-048)

The Greenway continues south to the former Planned Landscape associated with Burgage Moyle Cottage (NIAH 4261). This is described on the NIAH as unrecognisable in its main features. It is heavily wooded and there are no signs of the former cottage. Similarly, Russborough (NIAH 4258) is now described as virtually unrecognisable with its house gone and grounds largely inundated by the reservoir (Photograph 12). In contrast, the planned landscape of Baltyboys House (NIAH 4265) is still extant and clearly visible on the opposite shoreline to the northeast (Photograph 13). The scheme will follow the route of the existing Greenway which is inland extending through Russellstown Wood.



Photograph 12 The shoreline within the former Russborough (NIAH ref 4258) planned landscape



Photograph 13 Looking northeast at Baltyboys with its surrounding planned landscape (NIAH 4265)

The scheme passes the existing Russborough car park which is situated just off the N81. It is intended that this car park will be extended with provision for 50 additional car parking spaces added. These will be located within the grassed areas either side of the Greenway which continues as a road past the car park (Photograph 14). The Greenway continues southeast providing access to a slipway with a small adjacent car park before turning south and reverting to a trail as it re-enters the forest.



Photograph 14 Overview of the Proposed location of the extension to Russellstown Car Park.

The remainder of the route south largely hugs the shoreline with the adjacent terrain rising steeply to the west. A prominent headland is part of the planned landscape of Russborough House (NIAH ref 4256) although it has been greatly denuded (Photograph 15). The main part of the planned landscape Russborough House (NIAH ref 4256) is located to the north of the N81. It is largely extant with its house intact. It is now open to the public and the scheme will include a connection to Russborough House via an existing tunnel which will be converted.



Photograph 15 Part of Russborough House (NIAH 4256) planned landscape.

6.8.6 Baltyboys to Tulfarris/Boystown

The proposed path leads south along the east shoreline of Baltyboys. At the northern extent, it passes through the former planned landscape (NIAH 4265) of Baltyboys House. The north extent has been greatly denuded by the creation of the reservoir and a public car park has been created allowing access to the shoreline.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the study area along the section from Baltyboys to Boystown until close to the bridge leading to Valleymount, where the Neolithic house (WI010-058) is located, submerged just off the shoreline (Photograph 16).



Photograph 16 Shoreline at Boystown where the submerged Neolithic House (WI010-058) is located

The Tulfarris Loop follows the existing road network northwest to the Tulfarris Golf resort. This is located within the former planned landscape (NIAH 4257) associated with Tulfarris House (Photograph 17). The planned landscape has been greatly denuded by the creation of the reservoir and golf course with the result that it is now barely recognisable.



Photograph 17 Tulfarris Golf resort within former planned landscape (NIAH 4257)

7. Potential Impacts

7.1 Direct Impacts during Construction Phase

The majority of the scheme is located in a margin of forestry between the shore of the lake and adjoining farmland. The forested section has seen some disturbance from planting, harvesting and drainage works while there has been erosion along the eastern shore of the lake.

The previous assessment prepared in 2015 noted that the study area was originally a marshy river valley with low gravel ridges showing evidence of a rich, multi period archaeological past ranging from the prehistoric through to the 18th century (Moore Group, 2015). It determined that the potential impacts on the local archaeological resource (consisting of recorded and yet previously undiscovered archaeological sites and features) would be relatively slight and would consist of:

- destruction of sites, features or deposits during construction including tree planting;
- impacts upon sites, features or deposits to gain site access (construction access and works compounds).

The 2015 assessment concluded that standard mitigation could be undertaken to further reduce these impacts. It noted that along the length of the proposal there are a number of areas of high archaeological potential and predicted direct impacts associated with each. The current assessment has examined the known baseline and finds the previously 2015 assessment still valid regarding these areas of high archaeological potential. It also examines the potential impacts to the areas of high archaeological potential along the proposed improvements to the existing Blessington Greenway. The following table provides information on the predicted impacts on the known archaeological resource:

Table 7-1 Predicted Impacts to Assets within, or just outside, 100m of the Scheme

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Predicted Impact
WI005-026	59m	Holy Well	No impact. This site is 59m away from the Greenway and is submerged by the reservoir.
WI005-070048	Within scheme	Ringwork	The existing Blessington Greenway passes this feature on a boardwalk. No works are proposed to the boardwalk so there is no potential for impact to this asset.
WI005-07001-016	Over 100m to southeast	Various assets associated with the medieval borough of Burgage More	The majority of the recorded assets associated with this record were excavated or removed prior to the creation of the reservoir with the only asset remaining being Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-). The existing Greenway passes to the north of the tower house and former graveyard and will not impact upon them. There is the potential that grounds associated with the scheme could impact upon previously unrecorded remains. Groundworks that take place here may potential negatively impact these. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
WI005-047001-006	No less than 40m	Various assets within Blessington Graveyard	No impact. These six assets were formerly associated with the medieval borough of Burgage More before being moved to Blessington Graveyard in advance of the creation of the reservoir. The curtilage is partially screened with mature tree growth which obscure views into the graveyard towards the assets.
WI005-106	92m	Headstones	No impact. Eight 17th century headstones re-erected against the north wall of the Church of Ireland graveyard. The graveyard will not be impacted by the scheme and views are blocked by intervening buildings.
WI010-01101-05	73m	Ecclesiastical Site	No impacts, Templeboodin Church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 73m from the proposed trackway
WI010-018	6m	Ringfort	No impact. This site is 6m away from proposed trackway and is submerged by the reservoir

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Predicted Impact
WI010-019	6m	Enclosure	No impact. This site is 6m away from proposed trackway and is submerged by the reservoir
WI010-024	56m	Cillin / Children's Burial Ground	No impact. This site has previously been excavated and is 56m from the trackway.
WI010-048	3m	Cross Inscribed Stone	No impact. This site is on an existing lane, with no works proposed for the immediate area. If this area however is to be used for any machine access the boulder should be demarcated to prevent any inadvertent impacts.
WI010-058	31m	Neolithic House	No impact. This asset has been excavated and its location is within the reservoir.
WI010-062	Within scheme	Wedge Tomb	This asset has been excavated although there are some physical remains. Groundworks that take place here may potential negatively impact the monument. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
WI010-078	In scheme	Moated site	The trackway will pass within the zone of notification for this monument (extant) and there is the potential that groundworks may have a slight negative direct impact on associated material. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
WI010-121	17m	Mill	This site is mostly submerged and has no above ground expression, notwithstanding this the trackway passes to the east of the edge of the 'zone of notification'. Groundworks that take place here may potential negatively impact the monument. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
RPS ref 10-5	Within 100m	Ballyknockan Ruin	The remains of Bidy Mulvey's cottage located adjacent to the Bog Road. The Bog Road may be utilised as a construction access with plant and machinery passing directly adjacent to the Protected Structure. Care should be taken to prevent any inadvertent impacts.
4256	Partially Within scheme	Russborough House	The portion of the planned landscape within the scheme has been greatly denuded by the creation of the reservoir. Groundworks that take place here will not impact the planned landscape. A tunnel associated with the planned landscape will be converted to provide access to the house and this conversion may negatively impact this feature. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
4258	Partially Within scheme	Russellstown	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir while the remainder is now forested with the existing Blessington Greenway crossing through it. Groundworks that take place here will not impact the planned landscape.
4265	Partially Within scheme	Baltyboys House, Boystown or Baltyboys Lower	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake. Groundworks that take place here will not impact the planned landscape.
4266	Partially Within scheme	Knockieran Cottage	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake. Groundworks that take place here will not impact the planned landscape.
4261	Partially Within scheme	Burgage Moyle Cottage	Area partly flooded by Poulaphouca Reservoir with the existing Blessington Greenway crossing through it. Groundworks that take place here will not impact the planned landscape.

NMS Ref	Distance to scheme	Type / Name	Predicted Impact
N/A	Within scheme	Valleymount	Existing paths, steps and stone walls located within the forested area which predate the construction of the reservoir. Parts of these may be incorporated into the scheme but those sections not incorporated may be negatively impacted by groundworks associated with the scheme. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
N/A	Within scheme	Valleymount	Memorial erected post February 2018. This memorial is not strictly Heritage but does represent attachment to the area. The memorial may be negatively impacted by groundworks associated with the scheme. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.

7.2 Impacts to Setting during Construction Phase

There are a number of Protected Structures and assets recorded on the NIAH located along the existing roads and lanes within the Scheme. These loops are located along the existing roads and laneways. The only proposed works will be the addition of signage relating to the Scheme while some modification will be made to the existing road layouts. The modification of the road layouts will not alter the setting of the area as the infrastructure is already in place. The siting of this signage could impact upon the settings of the Protected Structures and assets recorded on the NIAH. The Scheme design takes this into account and signage will not be placed adjacent to these assets.

The construction of the Scheme will also introduce additional traffic and noise to the areas of the Protected Structures and assets recorded on the NIAH located along the adjacent roads and lanes. While these have the potential to impact upon the settings of these assets, this will be a temporary impact limited to the construction phase and will not extend to the operational phase once the scheme is in use.

7.3 Impacts during Operation Phase

All predicted impacts associated with the scheme will occur during the Construction phase and there will be no impacts during the Operation Phase.

8. Mitigation

The previous assessment in 2015 recommended that, given the limited impacts required for the track and the previous ground disturbance within the forested margin, archaeological monitoring rather than testing should take place. This archaeological monitoring should take place at the number of areas of high archaeological potential due to the significance of the archaeology and the potential for further finds. These areas of high archaeological potential relate to the recorded archaeological assets within the immediate proximity of the scheme.

The current assessment concurs with these recommendations and proposes that mitigation should take the form of constant archaeological monitoring within the vicinities of the following recorded archaeological assets (Figures 2.1 and 2.2):

- assets associated with the medieval borough of Burgage More (WI005-07001-016);
- wedge tomb (WI010-062) at Carrigacurra;
- enclosure (WI010-019) at Ballyknockan;
- ringfort (WI010-018) at Ballyknockan;
- moated site (WI005-078) at Carrig;
- mill site (WI005-078) at Burgage More; and
- Neolithic house (WI010-058) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper.

It is further recommended that the following mitigation take place at the sections of the Scheme at Valleymount and the car parks at Knockieran and Russborough:

- The existing stone walls, steps and paths should be subject to record by photograph and written description prior to construction works within this area;
- The tunnel to Russborough House (4256) should be subject to record by photograph and written description prior to conversion to an access as part of the scheme;
- Archaeological testing take place within the Knockieran car park area proposed for tree planting prior to construction works within this area;
- Archaeological testing take place within the Burgage Area proposed for tree planting prior to construction works within this area;
- Archaeological testing take place within the Avon Area proposed for tree planting prior to construction works within this area;
- The Cross Inscribed stone (WI010-048) and Ballyknockan Ruin / Biddy Mulvey's Cottage (RPS ref 10-5) should be noted to all contractor staff. Care should be taken to avoid accidental impact during adjacent works. The Cross Inscribed stone (WI010-048) should be demarcated with barrier tape if practical.
- The memorial erected post February 2018 should remain in situ with care taken to ensure no accidental impact during the works;
- Groundworks associated with construction accesses and works compounds within Greenfield be subject to constant archaeological monitoring;
- Groundworks associated with the extension of Knockieran car park be subject to constant archaeological monitoring; and
- Groundworks associated with the extension of Russborough car park be subject to constant archaeological monitoring.

It is recommended that the mitigation be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under licence to the NMS. The construction of the paths should be performed by mechanical excavation using a smooth toothless bucket down to sterile glacial tills / scheme formation level at the specified locations. The appointed archaeologist will undertake full-time monitoring of the excavations and where appropriate, carry out archaeological investigation.

During this watching brief/testing, the archaeologist will be delegated authority by the Contractor's engineer to:

- Halt construction work by the Contractor in a specified area where it is necessary to examine any potential archaeological material encountered;
- Undertake any archaeological procedure necessary for the recording and removal of archaeological objects or features before work by the Contractor can resume within a specified area; and
- Instruct the Contractor as to the measures required to be taken to protect archaeological remains to be left *in situ*, should circumstance arise.

The Contractor will agree with AECOM and the Archaeologist:

- A programme to ensure that excavation of deposits that are of archaeological interest, is carried out under the supervision of the Archaeologist;
- A method statement describing how the paths and car park extensions will be excavated and what excavation machinery will be used in the stripping and removal of the topsoil and underlying deposits;
- Arrangements to allow the Archaeologist sufficient time to examine, record and remove, if necessary, the revealed and discovered archaeological remains; and
- Arrangements to protect archaeological remains to be left *in situ*.

In the event that significant or complex archaeological features are uncovered during monitoring, consultation may include a visit to the site by the NMS and AECOM to inspect the remains and agree an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The appointed archaeologist shall comply with the requirements of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as to the appropriate mitigation in the event of the discovery of archaeological material during monitoring.

Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Section, Department of the Culture, Heritage and The Gaeltacht.

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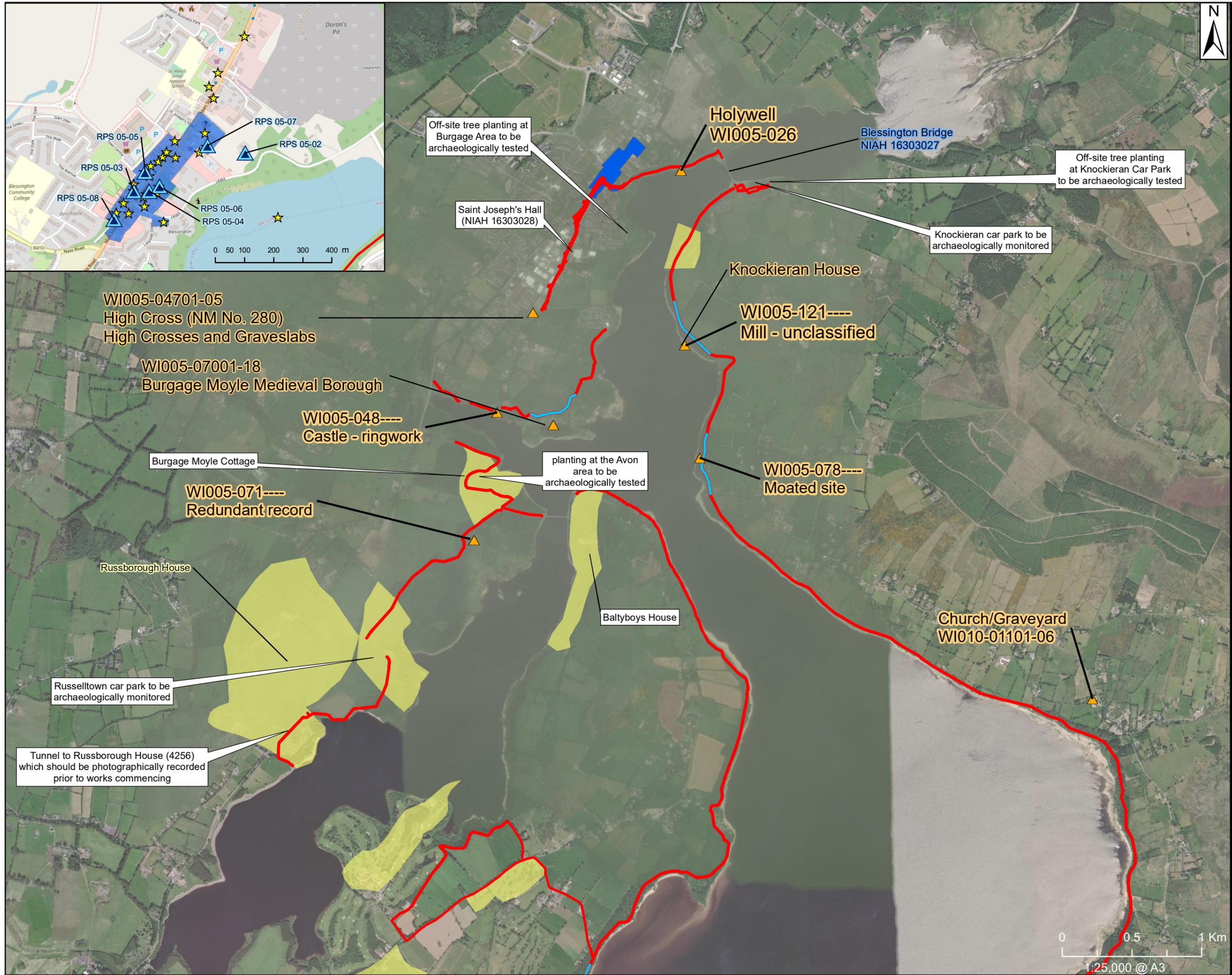
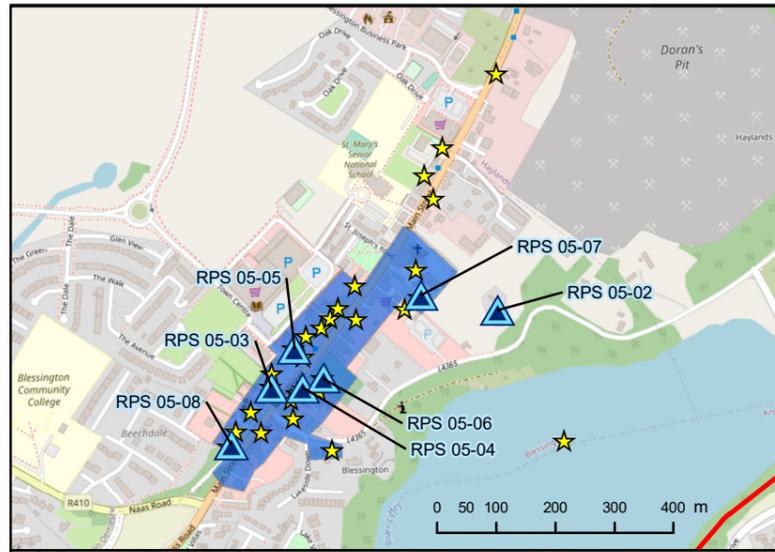
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Appendix A Figures



AECOM Limited
6th Floor, Cleaver House
1-3 Donegall Square North
Belfast, BT1 5YE, United Kingdom
T +44-289-060-7200
aecom.com

- ▲ Heritage Assets
- ★ National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Sites
- ▲ Wicklow County Protected Structures
- Greenway Route
- Planned Landscapes
- Wicklow Architectural Conservation Areas
- Greenway Route 100m Buffer
- Areas where archaeological monitoring should take place
- Archaeological monitoring should also take place in greenfield where construction access is proposed

NOTES

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BLESSINGTON GREENWAY HERITAGE ASSETS
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Figure 2.1



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LEGEND

- Heritage Assets
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Sites
- Planned Landscapes
- Greenway Route
- Area where walls and steps should be recorded and memorial should be retained
- Areas where archaeological monitoring should take place

NOTES

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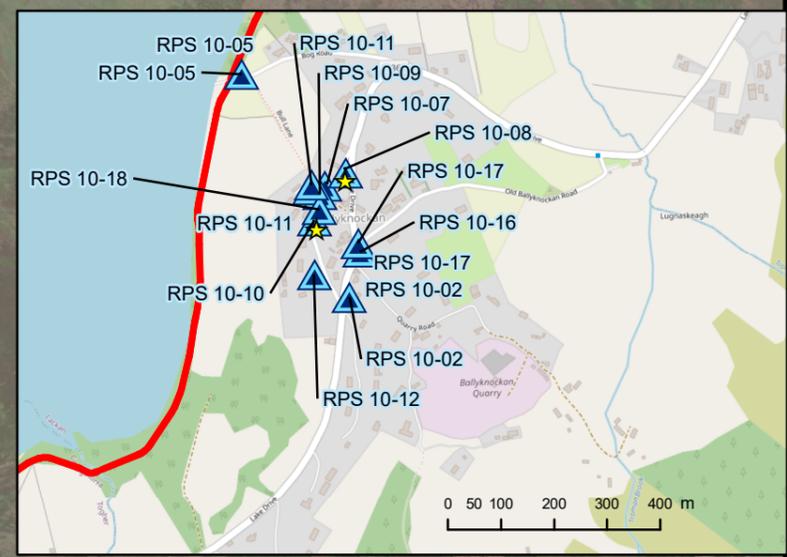
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Figure 2.2



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**Appendix B Moore Group – archaeological and environmental services (2015)
Blessington Greenway Cultural Heritage Report County Wicklow.**

*Blessington Greenway
Cultural Heritage Report
Co. Wicklow*

Prepared by:

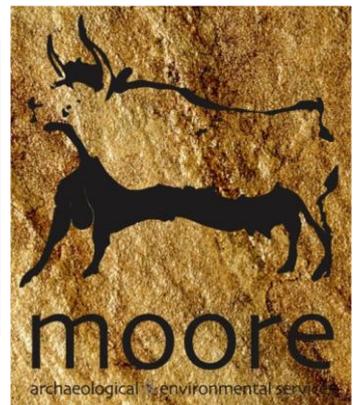
Billy Quinn

Issued to:

Blessington Community Forum

Date:

October 2015



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Abbreviations

ACA	Architectural Conservation Areas
DoAHG	Department of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographical Information System (mapping software)
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
DLHG	Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens

Non Technical Summary

This report describes the results of cultural heritage assessment carried for Phase II of the Blessington Greenway, Co. Wicklow. The work was undertaken by the author for Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Ltd. (Moore Group) on behalf of Blessington Community Forum.

The proposed project involves the construction of pedestrian looped walk around Blessington Lakes utilising existing trails and roads and developing new access ways. The trail passes through a mix of mature woodland, forestry plantation and scrub land and provides access to lakeside views with a number of points of interest including a number of archaeological monuments including a ringfort, a moated site, cross inscribed stones and sections of an old demesnes.

The work was commissioned in order to :

- Determine the archaeological potential of the area.

- Determine how the archaeological resource would be affected by the proposed development.

- Recommend further action.

Many of the archaeological monuments along the route do not survive above ground having either been inundated by the reservoir, excavated or surviving only as cropmarks. Notwithstanding this a number of areas with recorded including archaeology or archaeological potential were identified including two enclosures and a Neolithic House (RMP's WI010-003005, WI010-003006 & WI010-058)) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper, a ringfort (RMP WI010-020) at Ballynastockan, a moated site (RMP WI005-078) at Carrig and a Mill site at Burgage More (WI005-078).

It is recommended that in these areas archaeological monitoring of any groundworks take place and that elsewhere intermittent monitoring be undertaken.

1 Introduction

MOORE GROUP was commissioned by Blessington Community Forum to carry out a cultural heritage assessment on the potential impact of a proposed looped pedestrian and cycleway along the shores of the Poulaphouca Reservoir with spurs at Russborough, Tulfarris, Ballyknockan and Lackan. The proposed 2.5m wide track will link with an existing track between Blessington and Burgage More passing through the Avon Ri complex. The project involves the construction of new track with stone finish and associated drains continuing from Burgage Moyle, south along the N81, continuing through Burgage Moyle and skirting the reservoir through the townlands of Boystown/Baltyboys Lower, Humphrystown, Vallemount, Annacarney, Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, Ballynastockan, Lackan, Sroghan, Carrig, Knockieran Upper and Lower, Haylands and Blessington. In addition it is proposed to incorporate a loops at Russborough, Ballyknockan village, Lackan and a spur linking Burgage Bridge to Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort.

Much of the new route will pass through mature forestry along the shores of Poulaphouca Reservoir or as it is known locally Blessington Lakes.

Mitigation measures are proposed and an indication of the likely potential residual impacts upon the cultural heritage of the area are indicated.

Moore Group is a multi-disciplinary environmental, planning and heritage resource management consultancy. Our work includes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIS), surveys of terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments (in conjunction with Moore Marine), conservation management planning, ecological landscape design, built heritage and archaeological consultancy and fieldwork including archaeological excavation and other specialist services.

For the purposes of this report the definition of "cultural heritage" is taken broadly from the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which considers the following to be "cultural heritage":

- Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- Groups of Buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

1.1 Description of Project

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2009-2013, as part of its objectives, called for the exploration of the potential for new trails in West Wicklow and specifically for the development and promotion of walking and cycling trails. The 2010 Feasibility Study on Recreation Opportunities at

Poulaphouca Reservoir identified a potential "Flagship Project". It recommended the provision of a surfaced multipurpose walking and cycling trail circling the main Reservoir adjacent to the shoreline. It also identified a proposed first phase from Blessington to Russborough. This phase has been completed. Phase II completes the loop from Burgage Moyle to Blessington (See Figures 1, 10-18)

The purpose of this study is to appraise the existing landscape settings of the scheme and to assess the likely impacts arising from the proposed developments and describe the proposed mitigation measures.

It is proposed to lay a crushed limestone track in order to create a walking and cycling trail or greenway around much of Blessington Lake. The greenway follows the lakeshore edge predominantly in the planted conifer plantation around the lakeshore and for large parts there is an existing rough trail where walkers have worn a path through forestry. The proposed greenway will comprise the upgrading of these tracks. The upgrading will involve widening and laying of Terram geotextile with a layer of crushed gravel to form a surface similar to that of the existing greenway at Blessington. Construction works will also involve shallow excavation (maximum depth of 200mm -300mm), tree trunk removal, placement of culvers, PVC bridges over larger streams, fencing and minor landscaping.

A small section of trail will extend from Russelstown near the entrance to Russborough House and the end of the existing Blessington Greenway extending to meet an existing track at the county border referred to as the Russborough Spur.

The greenway will be extended in loops extending from Burgage Moyle to Baltyboys including a loop to Tulfarris Gold Club, referred to as the Tulfarris Spur, then back to the Sailing Club near Baltyboys, crossing the lake to Vallemount.

There will be a loop around Vallemount which will include the main road. From Vallemount the trail will lead south to Annacarney Bridge before leading north to Ballyknockan and Lackan. Both Ballyknockan and Lackan will be serviced by smaller loops predominantly on main roads.

From Lackan, the trail will lead north following the line of the lake shore to Blessington Bridge where it will be completed along the existing road leading into Blessington and completing the lake loop.



Figure 1 Site location map with cultural heritage sites noted.

2 Proposed Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The principle aim of the Cultural Heritage Assessment is to anticipate and avoid impacts on the cultural heritage resource. Detailed constraints mapping in GIS forms the basis of this work, followed by further analysis of sites that will potentially be impacted upon and field surveys to ground truth the results of the desk based assessment work and ascertain the significance of any potential impacts.

2.2 Conventions and Legislation

Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage. Outlined herein are pertinent summaries of relevant conventions and legislation.

2.2.1 Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006-2009

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 ensures the protection of the archaeological heritage resource by requiring that all applications under this Act are accompanied by an EIS including information on material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage.

2.2.2 The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monuments Acts 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004. These acts are the principal statutes governing the care of monuments in the Irish Republic. They provide for the protection of national monuments through the use of preservation orders. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has a specific role in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage through powers provided by these acts and the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and delivered through the Planning and Heritage Section of the DoAHG and the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts in a number of ways:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority. A National Monument is a monument under preservation by the State, as a result of its being considered to be of national importance. The legal basis for this status is the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004. The original national monuments Act was enacted in 1930 updating an original inventory of monuments comprised of those to which the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1882 applied. The most recent amendment in 2004 includes provisions for the partial or complete destruction of National Monuments by the Government. Only a small section of our monuments are in state ownership. The remainder are protected by the state under the National Monuments Acts but the care and preservation of these features depends largely on the interests and respect of individuals.
- National Monuments, which are subject to a preservation order; where it appears to the Minister that a monument, considered to be a national monument, is in danger or is actually being destroyed or falling into decay the Minister may, by preservation order or temporary preservation order, undertake the preservation of the monument. A temporary preservation order will remain in force for six months and then expire.
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; contains a list of all historic monuments known to the Minister. Owners or occupiers must not,

other than with consent, alter, deface, demolish or in any manner interfere with a historic monument entered in the register (National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987)

- Monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). All known sites and monuments are identified and listed for protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, a statutory inventory of sites protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. Monuments entered into it are referred to as Recorded Monuments. Owners or occupiers of Recorded Monuments are required to give two month's notice to the Minister and obtain consent before carrying out any works in relation to the monument. This is to allow the National Monuments Service time to consider the proposed works and how best to proceed to further the protection of the monument. For national monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or which are subject to a preservation order, the prior written consent of the Minister is required for any works at or in proximity to the monument. The RMP consists of a set of 6" maps of the different counties with an accompanying index which shows all the sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential, recorded to date and protected in the county. The inventory concentrates on pre 1700 AD sites.

2.2.3 The European Landscape Convention 2000

In 2002 Ireland ratified the European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, which promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape. The Convention came into force on 1 March 2004 and is part of the Council of Europe's work on natural and cultural heritage, spatial planning and the environment. It applies to the entire territory of the ratified parties and relates to natural, urban and suburban areas, whether on land, water or sea. It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes but also ordinary everyday landscapes. The European Landscape Convention introduces the concept of "landscape quality objectives" into the protection, management and planning of geographical areas.

2.2.4 The Planning and Development Act 2000

Under arrangements which came into operation on 1 January 2000 (The Planning and Development Act 2000), the system of listing buildings was replaced with strengthened procedures for the preservation of protected structures and structures in architectural conservation areas (ACA).

A protected structure is a structure that a local authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. Details of protected structures are entered by the authority in its Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which is part of the development plan. Each owner and occupier of a protected structure is legally obliged to ensure that the structure is preserved.

The legislation obligates planning authorities to preserve the character of places and townscapes which are of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or

technical interest or that contribute to the appreciation of protected structures, by designating them ACA in their development plan. The Act also provides comprehensive protection for landscapes including views, prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest under a local authority's development plan. A development plan is required to include objectives for the preservation of the character of the landscape including the preservation of views and prospects. A planning authority may also designate, for the purposes of preservation, landscape conservation areas.

2.2.5 The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999

The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Properties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, was promulgated in 1999 as a direct response to the Granada Convention (see below). The Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and for related matters and to provide for the obligations of local sanitary authorities in respect of registered historic monuments. Although this Act provides no direct protection for architectural sites, it is used by local authorities to inform the compilation of their Record of Protected Structures which, under the Planning and Development Act 2000, does afford legal protection.

2.2.6 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), 1997

In 1997 the Republic of Ireland ratified the Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the 'Valletta Convention'). Obligations under the Convention include: provision for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas; the authorisation and supervision of excavations and other archaeological activities; providing for the conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage (preferably in situ) and providing appropriate storage places for remains removed from their original locations; providing for consultation between archaeologists and planners in relation to the drawing up of Development Plans and development schemes so as to ensure that full consideration is given to archaeological requirement, making or updating surveys, inventories and maps of archaeological sites and taking practical measures to ensure the drafting, following archaeological operations, of a publishable scientific record before the publication of comprehensive studies and preventing the illicit circulation of elements of the archaeological heritage, including co-operation with other states party to the convention.

2.2.7 European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), 1997

Also in 1997 the Republic of Ireland ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (the 'Granada Convention'). Obligations under this convention include maintenance of inventories of architectural heritage, provision of statutory measures to protect the architectural heritage, the adoption of integrated conservation policies, which include the protection of the architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective, developing public awareness of the value of conserving architectural heritage etc.

2.2.8 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972

In an international context Ireland is a ratified member of The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972. The Convention provides for the identification, conservation and preservation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value for inclusion in a world heritage list. The World Heritage status is a non-statutory designation and no additional statutory controls result from this designation. However the impact of proposed development upon a World Heritage Site will be a key material consideration in determining planning applications.

2.2.9 County and Local Area Development Plans

Both the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 and the Blessington Local Area Plan 2013-2019 are the relevant strategic documents guiding Wicklow County Councils overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of their administrative area. Both plans were prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2006 and with the requirements for Local Area Plans contained within the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2002. The purpose of the Plans are to inform the general public, the statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and broad land use proposals that will be used to guide development throughout the administrative area. The Blessington area plan (as part of the draft County Development Plan 2010-2016) also proposes to designate the town centre as an Architectural Conservation Area.

2.3 Assessment of Potential Impacts – Methodology

The assessment of impacts upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage is based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, followed by a field survey and consultation with statutory stakeholders. In light of the legislative protection afforded to the cultural heritage resource (see above) this report assesses the archaeological, architectural, cultural and historical importance of the subject area and examines both the direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the receiving environment as well as potential impacts and recommends mitigation measures.

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Table 1 Tables of Impacts

Type of Impact	Direct	Indirect
Profound	<p>Cultural Heritage site is within a development area. An impact where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects.</p> <p>Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage site is within a development area. Construction works will entail the destruction of the visual context of the site or isolate it from associated groups or features.</p>
Significant	<p>Cultural Heritage site is adjacent to a development area. An impact like this would be where a part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage site is adjacent to a development area. Construction works will greatly injure the visual context of the site or isolate it from associated groups or features.</p>
Moderate	<p>A moderate direct impact arises where a change to a site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible.</p>	<p>Development works will noticeably affect the context of a cultural heritage site.</p>
Slight	<p>An impact which causes a slight change in the setting of a site but does not directly impact or affect the feature.</p>	<p>Development works will slightly affect the context of a cultural heritage site</p>
Imperceptible	<p>An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.</p>	<p>The development will have no predicted impact.</p>

2.3.1 Desk Based Study

World Heritage Sites and Candidate World Heritage Sites were reviewed to see if any are located within the vicinity of the proposed development.

All known cultural heritage sites were mapped in GIS along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) First Edition Mapping (Circa 1830). Sites mapped included the following:

- National Monuments, a now out of date data set previously available from www.heritagedata.ie;
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) from www.archaeology.ie
- Records of Protected Structures (RPS) from Wicklow County Council
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Wicklow from www.buildingsofireland.ie; and
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

All townlands located within 2km of the proposed development site were listed and cross referenced with:

- National Monuments, a list for County Wicklow available from www.archaeology.ie;
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the DoEHLG; and
- Lists contained in the Appendices 6 and 7 to the Report of the Commissioners of Church Temporalities of Ireland (1879) which contain lists of Churches, School Houses and Graveyards that were vested in the Representative Church Body and the Burial Boards under The Irish Church Act, 1869.

The draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 was reviewed and several other documentary and literary sources were reviewed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural heritage of the region.

Based upon all the information reviewed, all sites were mapped in GIS and significant sites / regions / landscapes were highlighted for further analysis during the field survey.

In order to assess the potential impact of the proposal the following sources were also consulted or reviewed:

- Wicklow County Development Plans and the Blessington Local Area Plan;
- Excavations Bulletin;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic Sources;
- Toponym analysis;
- Aerial photographs;
- Published archaeological inventories; and
- Documentary Sources: a number of literary references were consulted

Table 2 Proposed minimum catchment distances for inclusion in the assessment of impacts on setting.

Designation	Distance (km) to be considered
<u>Archaeological Sites</u>	
World Heritage Sites	10
Sites on the Tentative List	10
National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State	5
National Monuments in the ownership of the Local Authority	1
Sites subject to Preservation Orders	1
Sites & Monuments Record / Record of Monuments & Places	100m
<u>Architectural Sites</u>	
Architectural Conservation Areas	5
Record of Protected Structures	100m
National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	100m
Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens	100m

It is noted that much of the proposed work consists of the construction of low impact trails, which is unlikely to impact on the setting of cultural heritage sites.

2.3.2 Field Survey

Following a detailed desk study of the subject area a field survey was undertaken between the 29th of September and the 2nd of October 2015 to further assess the potential impacts that the proposed development would have on local cultural heritage resource.

3 Existing Environment

3.1 Locational Details

The proposed project will provide a scenic looped walk located between the N81 Blessington to Russelstown Road and the western shore of the Poulaphouca Reservoir incorporating the townlands of Burgage More, Burgage Moyle and Russelstown. The area is characterized by forestry plantation. The new tracks will be finished with a mix of both stone and tarmac. Ancillary work will also involve the installation of new drains.

Table 3 Location details

County	Wicklow
Area	Vicinity of Poulaphouca Reservoir / Blessington Lakes
Barony	Talbotstown Lower
Parish's	Blessington, Boystown
Townland (s)	Boystown/Baltyboys Lower, Humphrystown, Valleymount, Annacarney, Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, Ballynastockan, Lackan, Sroghan, Carrig Knockieran Upper and Lower, Haylands and Blessington
OS Sheet number (s)	WI005, 10
ITM	Centred on 697379 / 712039

3.2 Geology and Natural Heritage

The subject area is on the western side of the Wicklow Mountains with elevations between 180 m and 250 m OD. The topography of the region reflects the glacial overburden rather than any change in predominant limestone bedrocks. Surface drainage is south eastwards into the Poulaphouca Reservoir and then northeast and west via the River Liffey.

The Poulaphouca Reservoir is designated as a Special Protection Area and proposed Natural Heritage Area. The greenway is also in close proximity to the Wicklow Mountains SAC/SPA. There is one group of trees considered for preservation in the area - Broadleaf trees at Burgage Mor. A number of views and prospects in and around Blessington are identified as providing special amenity value. These include the Lake Drive around the Poulaphouca Reservoir.

3.3 Archaeological, Architectural and Historical Background

The iterative process of impact assessment takes into account the interactions between folklore, folklife, linguistics, music, local tradition, human beings and material assets. Research was undertaken in two phases. It comprised of a paper study of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources and a site walkover.

3.3.1 Mesolithic Period

The Mesolithic (middle stone age) people were the first inhabitants of Ireland, arriving about 9000 years ago. They were a mobile society relying on wild resources for food, which was hunted and gathered using stone tools as well as boats, nets and traps. Settlement was in temporary and semi-permanent groups of huts constructed of wood slung with hide, which may have operated as seasonal or hunting camps. Mesolithic activity to date shows a marked concentration in the north-east of Ireland. Evidence for Mesolithic activity in Wicklow is scarce. No references were found in relation to the Mesolithic in

Wicklow in general texts; however there are references to late Mesolithic sites in Wicklow consisting of short term and or small-scale occupations of aquatically orientated environments (i.e. coastal/ravine) (Kimbell, 1998, 21). A certain amount of Mesolithic material has been identified in Wicklow by fieldwalking these include a significant number of 'Larnian' cores, large blades and flake-like blades found near Ardair, Magheramore and Dunbur Head.

More recently a drop in water levels around the Poulaphouca Reservoir led to the discovery of a number of stone artefacts from tracts of land that would usually be submerged in water. These finds include Bann Flakes and saddle querns, and a cup and a ring decorated pebble. The Bann Flakes are particularly interesting because very little evidence has been found in the Wicklow Mountains for Mesolithic occupation.

3.3.2 Neolithic Period

Farming was first adopted in the Middle East but spread gradually across Europe in succeeding centuries, arriving in Ireland about 4000 BC. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements were built. The megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments of the Neolithic people built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes, are relatively common in the landscape. New methods were adopted for shaping stone tools and the first long distance trade networks were established.

Neolithic activity is more apparent in the archaeological record of Wicklow due to the presence of a number of known megalithic monuments. These are most commonly found on the summits of the western peaks of the Wicklow Mountains, for example on the top of Seefin near Manor Kilbride

The earliest clearly dated settlement in Wicklow occurred in the Neolithic period and is indicated by a small number of burial monuments constructed of stone (Megalithic Tombs). Passage tombs are found mainly on the hill and mountaintops in the north and west of the county such as at 'Scurlocksleap Seefin' on the Roundwood/Blessington road and the passage tomb at Pinnacle, 'Baltinglass Hill' in the heritage town of Baltinglass. Towards the end of the Neolithic, wedge tombs constructed in several places probably continued to be used as places of burial and ceremony well into the Bronze Age.

Fieldwalking in the vicinity of Balthyboys Upper following a drop in water levels in the last three years exposed a Neolithic house, numerous saddle querns, an arrow head, a cup, a ring decorated pebble, and a hollowed out scraper. There has also been an Iron Age beehive quern and a rim of Bronze Age pottery found nearby.

3.3.3 The Bronze Age

As stone tools were replaced by the use of copper, later combined with tin to make bronze, the structure of society also changed over centuries. While some communal megalithic monuments, particularly wedge tombs continued to be used, the Bronze Age is characterised by a movement towards single burial and the production of prestige items and weapons, suggesting that society was increasingly stratified and warlike.

During the earlier part of this period individual burials were deposited in small stone lined graves (cists) and unlined pits. Burials were often accompanied by distinctive pottery vessels (food vessels) and other grave goods occasionally of copper and bronze. These burial sites are often represented by a single grave without any above ground marker. Some were placed in mounds or barrows and these sites may have developed into larger cemeteries. The majority of the burials from this period occur along the western and especially north-western side of County Wicklow and form part of a dense distribution of Early Bronze Age activity, which extends into Counties Kildare and Dublin.

An Early Bronze Age cemetery was excavated by Barra O'Donnabháin in Ballinagore, although the site had been disturbed in the past a portion of a low mound with three ring ditches to the west were found. Collared urns, stone lined cists; stone battle-axe and a flint knife were among the artefacts recovered. Sherds of Neolithic pottery were also recovered suggesting continuity of use on the site.

A cairn is a mound of loose stones used to cover burials although occasionally used as boundary markers or commemorative monuments. Within Wicklow there are a variety of examples situated on high ground and mountain tops.

County Wicklow contains a number of impressive hilltop enclosures or hillforts, especially in the north of the county where they form an important cluster indicating powerful local communities from the Bronze Age era.

3.3.4 Early Historic Period

In the Early Historic period large numbers of enclosed domestic habitations 'ringforts or raths' were built and occupied and these represent the most numerous of Wicklow's archaeological sites. A number of enclosures are marked on the Record of Monuments and Places, which are located near the proposed new trail. These include two sites in Burgage More (RMP's No. WI 05-048 & 69) and an enclosure at Burgage Moyle (RMP No. WI 05-072). Many enclosures represent the ploughed out remains of former ringforts.

Souterrains are subterranean passages and are usually associated with ringforts and cashels but sometimes in association with ecclesiastical sites. Generally dating to the early Christian period most souterrains are of drystone construction, though in some parts of the country where stone was less plentiful they were tunnelled through earth or rock (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 100-151).

The impact of Christianity in County Wicklow is indicated by a number of important early church foundations. In addition to the great monastic complex at Glendalough established by St. Kevin in the 6th century, there are several small ecclesiastical sites. In addition to the small churches associated with these sites there are some stone crosses, grave slabs and especially 'bullauns' or blocks of uncut natural stone into which circular or oval basins have been carved to form a font. There is one foundation known as St. Marks Church with an associated High Cross located in the vicinity of the proposed trail (RMP No. WI 05-07001 & 2)

In the initial decades after the Norman invasion a distinctive type of earth and timber fortification, the motte and bailey was dotted the Lenister landscape, these initial strong points were replaced by stone castles in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Moated sites are generally square or sub-rectangular and are defined by a bank with an external ditch and raised interior. These monuments would have been defensive homesteads. The interior was often raised and would have contained buildings. This monument type dates to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and would have been constructed by the Anglo Normans to protect their manor houses. There is one recorded moated site located on the opposite bank of the reservoir in Carrig townland (RMP No. WI 05-078)

Anglo-Norman settlement is typified by the construction of permanent structures during the 12th and 13th centuries and in Wicklow this is illustrated through stone fortresses and castles. A typical example is the castle (RMP No. WI 05-070004) found near St. Marks Church in Burgage More. This ruined castle is now situated on the edge of Poulaphouca Reservoir and has been damaged by periodic rises in water levels.

3.3.5 Later historic Period

Less elaborate tower houses, the fortified residences of the aristocracy (both Norman and Gaelic) were erected in the 15th to 17th centuries. There are a number of examples in County Wicklow none of which are found within the survey area of the proposed development.

3.3.6 Blessington and environs local History

The name Blessington comes from the Irish 'Baile Coimin' (townland of Coimin) In early times there were three churches in this area – Kilmalum, Three Castles and Burgage. The district was first called Burgage in 1547, and continued to be known by that name until the erection of the village and a church in 1683.

The Manor of Blessington was granted to the Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Boyle, in the late 1660's, by King Charles II. Boyle was a member of one of the most successful new English planter families — his father's cousin was Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, who arrived in Ireland around the time of the Munster Plantation which followed the Desmond Rebellion. After the restoration of Charles II Boyle obtained a charter from Charles II to build a new town, which he called Blessington. The town was built on a green field site and, like Hillsborough in County Down, it was given borough status, a corporation and the right to return two members to Parliament. At the core of the town he built a brick mansion which was enclosed by a walled demesne and deerpark, amounting to some 600 acres.

When Blessington House was completed, Boyle laid out one street and built the Church of Ireland parish church in 1662. The single street was the beginning of this town, which was originally constructed as an estate village – to reflect the significance of Blessington House and Demesne and to house the workers and tenants. The demesne comprised 410 acres, including a large deer park, and was surrounded by a brick wall. The wall was destroyed by fire in 1760, followed by the House, which burned down in 1798 and was never rebuilt.

Following Boyles death the estate passed to Wills Hill, a great-grandson of Archbishop Boyle's daughter Eleanor who had married William Hill of Hillsborough. This began the Downshire association with the Blessington estate which continued until 1908 when the tenants bought out their holdings under the

Wyndham Land Act. The estate stretched from the Kildare boundary to the uplands of the Wicklow Mountains and encompassed 36 townlands, 31 of which are in county Wicklow and five in Kildare

Today, the principal reminders of their reign in Blessington are St Mary's Church, the agent's house (until recently, the Downshire Hotel), the Market House (now Credit Union House), the Inn (now the Ulster Bank) and the monument in the square commemorating the coming of age in 1865 of the Earl of Hillsborough, later the fifth Marquis of Downshire.

3.4 Poulaphouca Reservoir

The Poulaphouca Reservoir was created as part of the larger River Liffey Scheme. Following the success of the Shannon Scheme a decision was taken in 1936 to harness the Liffey to supply water to Dublin city and provide additional electricity supply to the national grid. With the construction of a dam at Poulaphouca, a large reservoir was created within the upper stretches of the River Liffey in Co. Wicklow. Construction began in 1937 and within the proposed inundated area 76 houses were demolished, and the bridges at Humphreystown, Baltyboys and Burgage were blown up.

In advance of the flooding of the valley the Irish Folklore commission sent research workers to document the area and prepare an archive. This work was undertaken under the directorship of a District Judge Mr. Liam Price. The completed survey provides a unique snapshot of the social conditions of Ireland in 1939. Complete with photographs, house plans and land surveys the report formed the basis for a more recent book entitled 'Beneath the 'Poulaphouca Reservoir' edited by Christiaan Corlett (2008). At the time of particular local importance was concern over Burgage Graveyard formerly known as Domhnach Emlagh. The graveyard also contained an early medieval high cross named for St. Mark and a residential tower probably dating to the 15th Century referred to on the 1st edition map as a 'castle'. Following negotiations with the local clergy the ESB acquired permission from the Wisklow Board of Health and Public Assistance to exhume the remains and reinter them in a new cemetery to the east of Blessington village.

The removal of the human remains was carried out by Pioneer Road Construction Company under the observation by Michael O'Connor representing the National Monuments Advisory Council. The excavations resulted in the removal of 1030 remains, two high crosses, numerous and grave slabs. Notes on the excavation also reveal the discovery of a kiln, worked bones, quern stones, a holy water font and two Elizabethan coins. All the finds were sent to the National Museum.

Following the removal of the cemetery water levels in the reservoir gradually rose in 1940 submerging over 5000 acres of farmland and bog.

Occasionally, as in 1978, the waters of the reservoir fell far enough that the walls of the houses, the piers of the bridges and the track of the old bohreens become visible once again The first power from the scheme was available be 1943.

3.5 Archaeological Heritage

3.5.1 World Heritage Sites

Although offered no specific protection in Irish legislation, impacts upon World Heritage Sites or sites which are contained within the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites will likely form a material consideration in relation to planning applications for development in their environs. There are no World Heritage sites within 20km of the wider subject area. The nearest site for the candidate list of World Heritage Sites is the monastic complex at Glendalough, Co. Wicklow located in excess of 15km to the south east of Valleymount.

3.5.2 National Monuments

Under the National Monuments Act (1930) and its various amendments archaeological sites in the ownership or guardianship of the state or a local authority and sites under preservation orders are designated as National Monuments and offered the highest level of protection under Irish Legislation. In order to ensure that all potential National Monuments were recorded the following methodology was employed in assessing potential impacts. All National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state or a local authority or sites under Preservation Orders within 2km of the proposed development were reviewed in GIS to ascertain whether there was any potential for direct impacts (physical or on their setting) or indirect impacts. There is one National Monuments in the wider vicinity of the proposed project located in Blessington cemetery. The monument is St. Marks Cross originally located in Burgage More but relocated to its present location following the flooding of the Poulaphouca Reservoir. The cross was originally known as St Boithin's cross.



Plate 1 St. Marks cross relocated from Burgage More to its present location in Blessington Town Cemetery.



Plate 2 High Cross in its original location at Burgage More re-erected in Blessington town cemetery.

3.5.2.1 Sites in the Ownership or Guardianship of the State

The dataset from www.archaeology.ie indicates that there are no National Monuments within 2Km of the proposed development works other than St. Marks Cross as previously stated.

3.5.2.2 Sites Protected by Preservation Orders

All townlands within 2km of the proposed development site were cross referenced with the list of sites under Preservation Orders available from the DoEHLG and two sites with this protective status were located in Carrig townland, Blessington. Both sites lie on the opposite or eastern shore of the Poulaphouca Reservoir. The details of the site area as follows:-

No of P.O.	Classification	Townland Name	OS map Ref.	Effective date of order	Distance from proposed track
1/2004	Enclosure	Carrig	299756E 212267W	05/011/2004	770m
TPO 1/04	Burial Mound	Carrig	W1005:81	02/11/2004	964m

3.5.2.3 Sites in the Ownership or Guardianship of a Local Authority

There is only one religious site within 200m of the study area, Templeboodin church and graveyard at Lackan.

SMR No	Classification	Townland Name	ITM Reference E,	ITM Reference N	Distance from proposed track
WI010-011001-5	Templeboodin Church, graveyard, Bullaun Stone and Ecclesiastical enclosure	Lackan	701681,	710433	83m

3.5.3 Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) / Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

A review of the Record of Monument and Places (RMP) dataset identified 17 sites found within 100m of the proposed scheme. Of these sites seven are submerged under the reservoir. These include the burial ground (WI010—001) at Russborough, the enclosure sites (WI010-003006 & WI010-003005) and the Neolithic house (WI010-058) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper, the Ringfort and enclosure at Ballyknockan (WI010-018 & WI010-019) and the Mill (WI005-078) at Burgage More (east side of lake). In addition two enclosure sites (WI010-003005 & WI010-003006) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper were identified by aerial photography and had no above visible above ground trace.

Of the remaining ten sites, five are located at Templeboodin church and graveyard at Lackan (WI010-011001 - WI010-011005) in excess of 80m from the track. Two are cross inscribed stones along existing trackways at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper and Ballyknockan (WI010-048 & WI010-052). The final three sites include a Childrens' burial ground (WI010-024) at Ballyknockan located 66m from the trackway and a Moated site at Carrig (WI005-078) and Ringfort at Ballynastockan both of which are in the immediate proposed vicinity of the track (within zone of notification).

Table 4 ASI inventory of SMR's

SMR No	Classification	Townland Name	ITM Reference (E,N)	ITM Reference (E,N)	Distance from proposed track
WI010--001	Burial ground	RUSSBOROUGH	695958, 710153	296028, 210121	100m
WI010-058---	House - Neolithic	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER	698011, 708568	298082, 208536	68m
WI010-048---	Cross-inscribed stone	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER	698989, 707361	299060, 207329	0m
WI010-003006	Enclosure	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER	697455, 710074	297526, 210042	40m

WI010-003005	Enclosure	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER	697435, 709965	297506, 209933	5m
WI010-018----	Ringfort - rath	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)	700655, 707836	300726, 207804	64m
WI010-019----	Enclosure	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)	700779, 707904	300850, 207872	70m
WI010-024----	Children's burial ground	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)	700286, 707232	300357, 207200	66m
WI010-052----	Cross-inscribed stone	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By)	700679, 707292	300750, 207260	1m
WI010-020----	Ringfort - rath	BALLYNASTOCKAN	701318, 708021	301389, 207989	2m
WI010-011005-	Graveslab	LACKAN	701694, 710432	301766, 210400	95m
WI010-011001-	Church	LACKAN	701681, 710433	301753, 210401	91m
WI010-011002-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	LACKAN	701694, 710432	301766, 210400	83m
WI010-011003-	Graveyard	LACKAN	701694, 710432	301766, 210400	83m
WI010-011004-	Bullaun stone	LACKAN	701653, 710437	301725, 210405	86m
WI005-078----	Moated site	CARRIG	698764, 712325	298835, 212294	25m
WI005-078----	Mill - unclassified	BURGAGE MORE	698656, 713134	298727, 213103	70m

Table 5 Inventory of sites in the vicinity of the proposed new trail.

SMR No: WI005-067

Classification: Designed landscape feature

Townland: RUSSBOROUGH

ITM Ref: 696197, 711019

Description Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on cartographic evidence. A large oval-shaped enclosure (c. 80m N-S;60m E-W) surrounded by a water filled fosse/channel (Wth c. 7m). This is a designed landscape feature on Russborough House demesne.

SMR No: WI010-058

Classification: House - Neolithic

Townland: BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER

ITM Ref: 698011, 708568

Description: Discovered in February 2006 on the W shore of Poulaphuca Reservoir when the water level dropped. On a gentle slope in former agricultural land overlooking the King's River. An almost square structure (int. dims. L 6.6m N-S; Wth 6.2m E-W) is defined by the burnt clays and charcoal-rich fill of the slot-trench of the building's foundation. Subsequent intermittent investigation (Excavation Licence No. 07E1127), when the water level allowed, revealed a significant amount of Neolithic pottery, a flint axe and a possibly ritually deposited Bann flake. (Corlett 2009, 26-30)

SMR No: WI010-003006

Classification: Enclosure

Townland: BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER

ITM Ref: 697455, 710074

Description This record was created for a possible circular enclosure visible on an aerial photograph (GSI N 332/333/356 (1973)). On level marshy ground. No visible surface trace.

SMR No: WI010-003005

Classification: Enclosure

Townland: BOYSTOWN OR BALTYBOYS UPPER

ITM Ref: 697435, 709965

Description This record was created for a circular cropmark enclosure visible on an aerial photograph (GSI N 332/333/356 (1973)). On level marshy ground. No visible surface trace.

Compiled by: Matt Kelleher

SMR No: WI010-048

Classification: Cross-inscribed stone

Townland: BOYSTOWN OR BALTBOYS UPPER

ITM Ref: 698989, 707361

Description: Situated on the N side of the road between Ballyknockan and Valley mount. Granite boulder with a small double-line incised Latin cross (L c. 0.4m). (Information A. O'Sullivan

SMR No: WI010-018

Classification: Ringfort - rath

Townland: BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)

ITM Ref: 700655, 707836

Description: Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking marshy terrain. Bivallate circular ringfort (diam. 23m; max. ext. diam. 41.5m) excavated prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir. The site was defined by an earthen bank (Wth 1.5m; H 0.6m) and a fosse (Wth 2.4m; D 1m) with an outer bank (Wth 2.7m; H 0.6m) from SSW-NW-NE. The fosse was separated from the inner bank by a berm (Wth 3-6m) and was partly separated from the outer bank by a second berm (max. Wth 3.4m). There were two narrow gaps (Wth 1m) in the inner bank at the NE and WSW with a more substantial example (Wth 1.5m) at the SSE opposite a causeway in the fosse. A second causeway formed by large stones occurred at the NE but may not have been an original feature. At the S, an L-shaped bank ran from the inner bank outwards across the fosse and then continued eastwards as far as the SSE entrance. Little, other than an arc of irregular paving in the N sector of the interior, was revealed during excavation. (Macalister 1943)

SMR No: WI010-019

Classification: Enclosure

Townland: BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)

ITM Ref: 700779, 707904

Description: Situated on gently NW-facing ground, at the edge of Blessington Reservoir. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 20m) shown on the 1838 OS 6-inch map. Although the site is occasionally exposed in dry summers there is no visible trace at ground level.

SMR No: WI010-024

Classification: Children's burial ground

Townland: BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)

ITM Ref: 700286, 707232

Description: A slight mound (diam. 20m) excavated in 1938 prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir beside which it now stands. Two small graveslabs, one in the form of a cross, came from the site, but the excavator surmised the acidic soil had destroyed any bones. Not visible at ground level; the site is still known as the 'Reilig'. (Rafferty 1943).

SMR No: WI010-052

Classification: Cross-inscribed stone

Townland: BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By)

ITM Ref: 700679, 707292

Description: Situated at the edge of a roadway. A boulder (dims. 1.45m x 1m) inscribed on the front face with 'IHS' and a cross above the 'H'. Other incised marks occur on the flat upper surface. (O'Reilly 1995)

SMR No: WI010-020

Classification: Ringfort - rath

Townland: BALLYNASTOCKAN

ITM Ref: 701318, 708021

Description: Situated on a gentle NW-facing slope. D-shaped area (dims. 25.5m NW-SE; 23m NE-SW) defined by an earth and stone bank (Wth 1.9-2.5m; int. H 0.6-1m; ext. H 1-1.4m) with a discontinuous revetment of boulders. There are two gaps in the bank; that at the NNE (Wth 1.5m) may be the entrance while the other, at the SW, is probably a modern feature. No visible indication of a fosse or internal features other than some large earthfast boulders.

SMR No: WI010-011005

Classification: Graveslab

Townland: LACKAN

ITM Ref: 701694, 710432

Description: In the S quadrant of Templeboodin graveyard (WI010-011003-). A granite slab (L 1.45m; Wth 0.58m) tapering towards the W end (Wth 0.36m) which contains a single latin cross in low relief (L 0.54m; Wth 0.47m) formed by a raised band (Wth 0.1m; H 0.003m). At the E end is a Greek cross (34 x 34cm) also in low relief formed by a raised band (Wth 0.09m; H 0.002m). The slab is broken at this point and the break extends diagonally across the intersection of the arms of the cross.

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy and Matt Kelleher

SMR No: WI010-011001

Classification: Church

Townland: LACKAN

ITM Ref: 701681, 710433

Description: Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. The church is represented by a sub rectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) in a small rectangular graveyard (WI010-011003-)

SMR No: WI010-011002-

Classification: Ecclesiastical enclosure

Townland: LACKAN

ITM Ref: 701694, 710432

Description: Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. Part of the N graveyard wall (WI010-011003-) stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) outside which there is a fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m); this may have continued to the W to the bank of the small stream and may be part of an earlier enclosure.

Compiled by: Matt Kelleher

SMR No: WI010-011003

Classification: Graveyard

Townland: LACKAN

ITM Ref: 701694, 710432

Description: Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. A roughly rectangular area (c. 32m N-S; 57m E-W) enclosed by a stone wall. A church (WI010-011001-) represented by a subrectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) is to SW of centre. Part of the N graveyard wall which stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) with an external fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m) may be part of an earlier enclosure (WI010-011002-).

Compiled by: Matt Kelleher

SMR No: WI010-011004

Classification: Bullaun stone

Townland: LACKAN

ITM Ref: 701653, 710437

Description: Large boulder (c. 1.70m by 1.50m) in a stream bed immediately W of a church site (WI010-011001-). There is a single basin (diam. 0.33m; D. 0.16m) in the upper surface.

Compiled by: Matt Kelleher

SMR No: WI005-078

Classification: Moated site

Townland: CARRIG

ITM Ref: 698764, 712325

Description: Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking the Liffey valley; area now under Blessington Reservoir. Enclosure (dims. c. 25m N-S x 20m E-W defined by bank and external fosse, visible as cropmark on aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 332-3).

SMR No: WI005-121

Classification: Mill - unclassified

Townland: BURGAGE MORE

ITM Ref: 698656, 713134

Description: Timbers and a millstone were discovered on the exposed shoreline when the lake levels dropped in January 2006. On relatively flat ground at the base of a fairly steep slope that forms the foothills of Lugnagun, and formerly a shelf overlooking the floodplains of the River Liffey. Two large, squared, timber beams (max. dims. L 0.9m; Wth 0.18m; T 0.09m) protruding above the ground surface appear to represent the sides of the wheel pit of a mill and are associated with a series of small upright timber stakes (max. dims. L 0.10m; Wth 0.1m; H 0.26m) which may have acted as supports to the timbers facing the wheel pit or the tail race. A low, linear ridge extending to the E of the site may represent a mill race, but it was not investigated.

3.5.4 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

The Excavations Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an on-line database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland – North and South – from 1970 to 2005 (currently the latest edition). The number of excavations carried out annually in Ireland has increased enormously during this period. To illustrate, Excavations 1970 has 41 reports, while Excavations 2005 contains over 1700. The database gives access to summary descriptions of almost 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author. The online database (<http://excavations.ie>)

covers the years from 1970 to 2000, with the years 2001 and 2008 published in book form. The following lists the results for the townlands of the subject area:-

County and Townland	Wicklow, Boystown or Baltyboys Upper
Excavations.ie No. & Licence No.	2007:2004, 07E1127
Author	Chris Corlett, National Monuments Service, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2.
Site Type	Neolithic house
ITM	E 698012m, N 708568m
Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):	53.118647, 6.535805
<p>The Neolithic house was first identified by the writer in February 2006 while walking the shoreline of the Poulaphuca Reservoir. The reservoir was created in 1940, and resulted in the flooding of some 5000 acres of former agricultural land and bogland. The location where the Neolithic house was discovered, at OD 184m, was formerly agricultural land on a gentle slope overlooking the King's River.</p> <p>When first identified, the site was evident as a rectangular outline, where the slot-trench forming the outline was presented in relief. This was due to the differential erosion of the surrounding clays and the fill of the slot-trench, which consisted of compacted burnt clay and charcoal. Internally, there were three areas of compacted charcoal which were also presented in relief above the surrounding clay. On this occasion a flint scraper and a flint blade were found on the surface, which supported the suggestion that this was a Neolithic house. Also on that occasion a flint core was found on the surface some 5m east of the house. However, following a night of very heavy rain the structure became inundated with water and prevented any further investigation on that occasion. Indeed, such was the waterlogging it was decided not to plan the site on that occasion for fear of damaging the visible features.</p> <p>The site remained submerged until the weekend of 10 November 2007. Following a prolonged drought during October and early November the reservoir level had dropped dramatically, thereby revealing the Neolithic house again. Given the forecast of imminent rain it was decided to inspect the site, with a view to planning the features visible. When completed, it was decided to carry out a small-scale excavation of a number of the features. This consisted of the excavation of a small cutting across the eastern section of the presumed slot-trench (F1) of the house, and the half-sectioning of one of the internal features, which had the appearance of a hearth or pit (F2).</p> <p>While not directly associated with the house described below, a granite saddle quern was found some 30m west-south-west of the house. This was simply found on the surface of the shoreline of the reservoir and, given its proximity to the house, it is tempting to suggest that it is contemporary.</p> <p>House structure</p> <p>F1 consists of the slot-trench defining the perimeter of a rectangular-shaped house measuring 6.6m north-south by 6.2m internally. At the north-west, north, east and south-east the slot-trench presented itself as a raised ridge, 0.2-0.5m wide and standing some 0.05m high. This appears to be a result of differential erosion of the surrounding sandy clay and</p>	

the compacted soils within the slot-trench. At the surface the soils forming the ridge (i.e. the fill of the slot-trench) showed up as a clear area of burning, with charcoal-rich soils as well as burnt red clay in places. A small cutting was excavated along the southern portion of the eastern wall. The cutting revealed a U-shaped slot-trench (0.3m wide and 0.1m deep). The fill consisted of grey/black charcoal-rich soil with some light-brown clay. A number of finds of flint and Early Neolithic pottery were found within the cutting across the slot-trench and elsewhere on the surface of the slot-trench. Soil samples were also taken, with a few retained for further analysis, including 14C dating.

The slot-trench did not take this form along the west and south-west perimeter. Indeed, it was difficult to identify any tangible evidence for the cut of a slot-trench here, except that a few stones set in the soil did appear to indicate the presence of a slot-trench along this section. It is presumed that the fill of the slot-trench in this area is similar to the surrounding clay, and there was no reason to believe that the slot-trench had been eroded away in this area.

In plan the slot-trench notably bulges out at the north-west, north-east and south-east corners of the structure. This may indicate the presence of post-holes that would provide support for the roof structure; however, this could not be confirmed. Alternatively, the slot-trench may have been enlarged or recut at these corners.

There was no clear evidence for an entrance to the structure.

Internal features

Internally a number of features could be identified. These included three possible stake-holes in the north-west angle of the structure. These features were not investigated, and their nature could not be confirmed.

Within the northern half of the structure are three areas of burnt soil (F2, F3 and F4). At the surface these three features had the same appearance – a circular area of charcoal-rich soil. All three were also raised above the surface, similar to the appearance of the slot-trench, and no doubt this was similarly due to the compacted nature of their respective fills and the differential erosion of the surrounding clays.

One of these features, F2, was half-sectioned. This confirmed that the feature was a shallow circular pit, measuring 0.6m across and 0.12m deep. The fill consisted of charcoal-rich sandy clay, featuring occasional fragments of cremated bone, as well as several sherds of pottery, flint and a worked piece of quartz. It is not yet clear if this represents a token cremation deposit, or simply a refuse deposit. Soil samples were also taken, with a few to further analyses, including 14C dating.

It is suggested that the other two features (F3 and F4) are similar pits to F2.

In the western area of the structure were two linear spreads of small stones, which measured roughly 1.8m long and 0.4–0.5m wide. These had the appearance of a possible metallised surface, except that they were simply sitting on the surface. It is not clear, therefore, if this is a direct result of erosion of the soils in which they were originally set, or if they were fortuitously deposited here by the erosion processes that removed the overlying top soil and exposed the structure.

Conclusion

A Neolithic house first identified in February 2006, but subsequently inundated by the Poulaphuca Reservoir, was exposed again in November 2007 following a prolonged period of drought that resulted in a drop of the reservoir's levels. It was decided that the opportunity presented itself to investigate the structure, including the planning of the exposed features, and the limited investigation of a number of features. Two features were selected for investigation: the slot-trench forming the outline of a rectangular house structure, and an internal pit. Finds included pottery and lithics. It is proposed to have these analysed. Soil samples from both excavated features were also retrieved, and it is proposed to have these analysed for 14C dating, wood identification of charcoal, and pollen or other plant remains.

Within two days of the investigations described here the structure was again inundated by

rising levels of the reservoir, following persistent rain. The structure is reasonably well protected from further erosion while it remains below water. However, in the long term the structure is very susceptible to erosion by fluctuating water levels of the reservoir.

Charcoal from the slot-trench and internal pits has been identified by Ellen O'Carroll as oak. Two samples have been 14C dated. Oak charcoal from the slot-trench returned a date of 3946–3791 cal. bc. Oak charcoal from a large post-pit that cut the primary slot-trench returned a date of 3786–3666 cal. bc. Allowing for the old wood effect, it seems most likely that the house can be dated to 3700–3600 b

.Finds from the pits consisted primarily of pottery. Helen Roche has examined the pottery and found evidence for up to sixteen early Neolithic carinated bowls and an unshouldered bowl or cup. Among the lithics were a flint axe and a polished stone axe. Surface finds from the surrounding area include a saddle quern and a rubber stone.

County and Townland	Wicklow, Humphrystown
Excavations.ie No. & Licence No..	2011:639, 11E0204
Author	Chris Corlett
Site Type	Neolithic house
ITM	: E 696802m, N 707645m
Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):	53.110576, -6.554148

The site was first identified by local man Martin Byrne in April 2011, while walking the shoreline of the Poulaphuca Reservoir after a prolonged dry spell had resulted in a reduction of the water levels. The reservoir was created in 1940, and resulted in the flooding of some 5,000 acres of former agricultural land and bogland. The area where the Neolithic house was discovered (OD 184m) was formerly agricultural land on a gentle slope overlooking the King's River. The shoreline is normally inundated by the water and only becomes exposed when the water levels drop after a prolonged dry spell. This new site at Humphrystown is only the second example of a Neolithic house found to date in County Wicklow. A Neolithic house in Ballyboys Upper was located some 500m to the north of the house described here, also on the shoreline of the reservoir (Excavations 2010, no. 834, 07E1127 ext.) This is a testimony to the unusual context that has led to the discovery of both Neolithic houses at the reservoir, combined with the richness of early prehistoric remains in this area.

To the east of the house are the remains of plough furrows (aligned west-north-west/east-south-east), but there is no trace of these across the house itself. It appears, therefore, that, apart from the removal of topsoil, erosion by the reservoir has also removed a significant amount of subsoil, and in the area of the house the subsoil has been removed to a level below the base of the plough furrows. This would suggest that the site has been severely truncated and it seems likely that only the lowest levels of the cut features survive at the site. This erosion appears to have resulted in the scattering of a number of artefacts that may have been directly associated with the house itself, or at least associated with activity contemporary with the habitation of the house. These objects included a flint hollow scraper, two flint scrapers and a Bann flake. A stone axe was a surface find 20m south of the house and is likely also to be related to the habitation of the house.

The rectangular house is defined by a slot-trench on three sides and measures c. 6.2m east-north-east/west-south-west x 4.3m across. The slot-trench is missing along the west. It was initially thought that this end of the house might have been eroded away. The western ends of the north and south long walls survived to a reasonable depth where they terminated, however, so it seems unlikely that the absence of the slot-trench here was a question of survival. It may, of course, mean that the building was unfinished or open at this end. Alternatively, perhaps the construction was different at this end of the building and did not require a foundation trench. If so, such a deliberate change in construction technique must surely have been deliberate and therefore must imply a specific reason.

There was a gap, 0.52m wide, midway along the slot-trench of the southern long wall, possibly representing an entrance. The fill of the slot-trench differed slightly to the east and west of this gap. On the western side the slot-trench was somewhat V-shaped (0.38m wide and 0.32m deep) and featured a significant quantity of charcoal (oak and hazel) in the fill (and thus was generally more similar to the fill of the slot-trench along the northern side). A sample of hazel charcoal (1.2g) was selected for AMS dating and returned a 2-sigma date of 3700–3630 and 3580–3530 cal. BC. There were no artefacts in this section of the ditch, although a small amount of cremated bone was found in the fill immediately west of the possible entrance gap. East of the possible entrance gap the slot-trench was wider (0.34–0.4m) and slightly deeper (0.36–0.38m), with a more distinctive U-shaped profile. The fill generally consisted of redeposited clay and contained less charcoal and a lot more burnt red clay. The burnt clay was redeposited and not the result of in situ burning. At the eastern end of the southern wall, near the meeting with the eastern end wall, some sherds of carinated bowl pottery were found in the fill, but there were no other finds along this section of the southern wall.

The slot-trench was uninterrupted along the north. It was generally narrow (0.14–0.25m wide and 0.2–0.35m deep). Apart from a small area near the mid-section of the wall, the fill contained a significant amount of charcoal, hazel and burnt red clay. Two lithics and three sherds of carinated bowl pottery were also recovered. Cremated bone and two hazelnuts were found in the fill near the western terminal of the wall.

The slot-trench continued uninterrupted along the eastern end wall. Here the upper fill featured a lot of charcoal, whereas this was less of a feature in the lower layers. Several finds were recovered from the fill of the eastern end wall, including two lithics and several sherds of carinated bowl pottery. Three post-holes cut into the fill of the slot-trench: F13 (0.16m x 0.12m, 0.2m deep), F14 (0.14m x 0.1m, 0.12m deep) and F13 (0.3m across, 0.3m deep). Just outside the slot-trench, towards the northern end of the eastern wall, was a well-defined oval pit, which measured 0.32m x 0.49m across and 0.34m deep. The fill of this pit consisted of a dark brown soil, with significant amounts of charcoal as well as some cremated bone and six sherds of carinated bowl pottery. The charcoal was identified as consisting of alder, oak and hazel. A sample of hazel charcoal (3g) was selected for AMS dating and returned a 2-sigma date of 3650–3520 and 3390–3390 cal. BC.

Within the footprint of the house were two features. In the south-east corner there was a shallow, irregular pit, 0.28m x 0.4m across and 40mm deep. The fill consisted of a compact clay that represented redeposited subsoil but which contained some charcoal flecks. There was no in situ burning.

Just south of the centre of the structure was a small D-shaped pit, 0.28m x 0.4m across and 0.25m deep. Once again the fill largely consisted of redeposited subsoil and contained some charcoal (oak) and burnt clay, but there was no in situ burning. A single piece of carinated bowl pottery was present in the upper fill. A relatively large stone (0.3m x 0.2m x 0.12m) occupied the eastern half of the pit and may represent a packing stone. If so, the remaining part of the pit could only have accommodated a relatively small timber post, perhaps not much more than 0.1m across.

About 4m to the east-north-east of the house is a well-defined pit that measured 1.09m

long, 0.76m wide and 0.17m deep. Its edges and sides were straight, indicating that it was carefully dug. It appeared to represent a trough feature, and it is worth noting that the marly subsoil here is capable of holding water without any need for a lining. The single fill consisted of grey-brown sticky clay that was sterile and did not even contain a pebble or a stone. There was no material present that allowed for dating of this feature.

The site produced an assemblage of 30 sherds of pottery; these have been examined by Helen Roche, who has estimated the presence of an estimated six Early Neolithic carinated bowls.

County and Townland	Wicklow, Carrigacurra
Excavations.ie No. & Licence No.	2010:836, 10E0131
Author	Christiaan Corlett, National Monuments Service, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.
Site Type	Wedge tomb
ITM	E 699784m, N 705429m
Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):	53.090114, -6.510309

The site, at Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, is situated on the edge of the shoreline of the Poulaphuca Reservoir and was first identified by Christopher J. Darby in March 2010. The site is located on the edge of the normal reservoir levels, and would therefore only be inundated when the water levels are at their highest. However, this is the area that is most prone to long-term and consistent erosion by the reservoir. The sand that has partially sealed the site and thereby preserved it over the last number of years is now itself being actively eroded by the reservoir, and the high water levels recorded in 2009 may have significantly contributed to the removal of sand and the resulting exposure of the site (which may explain why it has gone unnoticed until now). This recent erosion had compromised the stability of the site and made it more prone to erosion by the reservoir on the western and southern sides.

Prior to excavation the site appeared to consist of a burial chamber (0.45m wide and 1m long, open at the south-west) placed off-centre within a U-shaped kerb setting (2.1m north-west/south-east x 2.5m) retaining cairn material. Excavation suggests that there were two main phases of use. The initial phase consisted of the construction of the chamber, surrounding cairn and retaining kerb. The chamber was built off-centre within the cairn and retaining kerb and measured 1.2m long and 0.45m wide. The chamber was formed by two large slabs on the southern side, three on the opposite side, and two end stones. The kerb was best preserved at the south and rear. While there was a large amount of stone on the northern side, only one was clearly set. Several others may originally have formed part of the kerb but may have become dislodged by the reservoir at this side. The kerbstones and cairn material lay on a light-brown clay which appears to represent the old sod. This was not present within the burial chamber, where instead a grey silt was present at the lowest levels. The structure can be best compared with wedge tombs of the early Bronze Age (another wedge tomb in the general area is situated at Sroughan, c. 5.5km to the north). No dating evidence was forthcoming for the construction of the tomb, but evidence for this may be preserved beneath the cairn material and surrounding kerb, which was not

excavated. There was no evidence for a primary burial within the tomb, but this may be due to later disturbance of the tomb during the early Iron Age.

Whatever about the date of the initial construction of the tomb, it is clear that it was reconfigured and probably reused during the early Iron Age. This phase was represented by a layer of charcoal that was placed within the main chamber and beyond the tomb. This dense charcoal layer (50mm thick) was identified by Ellen O'Carroll as consisting of hazel and oak. Hazel samples from this layer were sent for 14C dating and returned a date of 760–414 bc. There was no evidence for primary burials sealed beneath this charcoal layer, so perhaps the interior was cleaned out prior to the placement of this material within the chamber. There was no evidence for in situ burning of the clay beneath the charcoal layer, clearly indicating that it was deliberately placed here. The charcoal layer did not appear to be randomly dumped, but instead was apparently carefully placed within the chamber. The charcoal also extended north and east of the tomb, but notably was not present beneath the kerbstones of cairn material. The charcoal layer also occurred throughout a void between the chamber and the large kerbstone at the north. It is not clear if this void represents an original chamber or if it was created during this reuse of the site.

Within the rear of the main chamber three stones were found sitting on the charcoal, and the evidence indicated that the chamber was deliberately reduced in size after the charcoal had been placed within. This certainly implies that the intention was to reuse the main chamber for the purpose of burial – perhaps this was also the purpose of what appears to be the new chamber adjacent to it. However, if this was the case, any trace of burial was removed by the reservoir.

3.5.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the NMI identify all recorded finds held in the NMI archive that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. The files sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early 20th century. Valuable information that can be gleaned might include the exact location, ground type, depth below ground level and condition when found, of each find. However, the amount and the usefulness of the information available on each find can vary considerably. The topographical files are listed by county and townland and/or street name. A review of the files produced the following results.

Table 6 Topographical files inventory (NMI)

National Museum of Ireland NMI Ref.	Townland	Description/comments
2011:250	Burgage More	Irregular stone object with hollow, possible fragment of a millstone, surface find from field (ID 245501)
IA/54/1996	Burgage Moyle	Axehead made from mudstone pebble, found on shore of reservoir at NGR 689373/714057,
1990:1	Baltyboys	Honey coloured flint convex end scraper with cortex intact
1990:15	Blessington	Stone saddle quern, wedge shaped block of coarse granite, wider end rounded, narrow end straight, work surface is round shallow depression with smooth surface max. L 46.5cm, W 37cm.
1988:16	Tulfarris	Recovered from a mound, SMR WI009-024 remains of two individuals – Adult and Juvenile. Adult-Unknown age and sex, 4 Vertabrae, 3 Metacarpals, 4

		phalanges, 6 skull fragments and pieces of ribs. Juvenile- aged 5-10, skull fragments, both Clavicles, Left scapula, Left Humerus, unsided portion of Radius, 8 Vertebrae and 8 ribs
1988.9.1	Burgage More	Local Medieval pottery, grey core with oxidised orange exterior, crushed quartz and mica temper, worn olive green glaze (piece 1)
1988.9.2	Burgage More	Local Medieval pottery, grey core with oxidised orange exterior, crushed (Piece 2)
1984:224	Carrig	Cremated human remains found in Cist
1980:2	Sroughan	Bronze spearhead, damaged and very reduced, fragment of wood in socket, found in a field wall
1975:237	Valleymount	Copper Alloy axe shaped ingot
1971:1049	Lackan	Flanged bronze axehead, resembles Harbison type Derryniggan, surface decorated.
1967:186	Lackan	Palstave, Bronze found in bog at a depth of 3ft.
1959:521	Blessington	Macehead, stone ground at both ends, pitted surface on body, acquired from a Dublin dealer.
1953:49	Carrig	Stone rotary quern, possibly the lower stone of a beehive quern
1946:423	Blessington	Ceramic brick fragment
1946:422	Blessington	Macehead, stone fragment, quite eroded
1945: 187-258	Blessington	Recovered from a mound (location outstanding) Miscellaneous finds including ceramic, copper, bead, glass and flint artefacts.
1944: 165-173	Burgage More	165-169 Pottery, North Devon gravel tempered ware 170 Iron slag 171 Flint Flake 172 Iron suspension hook 173 Iron rod
1943:241	Humphrystown	Iron fork
1942:241	Blessington	Silver crucifix donated by Rev. C. Healy from Clontarf Dublin
1939:231	Humphrystown	Pottery Leinster cooking ware
1939:232	Humphrystown	Glazed red earthenware
1939:233	Humphrystown	Flint flake
1939:234	Humphrystown	Slag
1939:235	Humphrystown	Fragments of cremated animal bone-mostly teeth
1939:236.1 & 2	Humphrystown	Unburnt animal bone and charcoal
E92:388	Valleymount	Socketed Bronze axehead, rectangular mouth, 2 ridges enclose neck with rim providing the third broader ridge, cutting edge splayed on one side and curved inwards on other
1000:628	Burgage More	Iron pick
1000:629	Burgage More	Iron tool
1000:630	Burgage More	Iron tool
1000:631	Burgage More	Iron bracket

1000:632	Burgage More	Stone line sinker
1000:633	Burgage More	Conical stone object
1932:6578:1	Haylands	The following were recovered from a tumulus 6578:1-2 Human remains 6578:3-4 Animal remains 6578:5-8 Human remains 6578:9-10 Pottery
1932:6578:2	Haylands	Human remains
1932:6577:1	Haylands	Ceramic bowl with ribbed decoration recovered from disturbed Cist
1934:5647:1-11	Burgage More	1 Urn 2 Vase 3 & 4 Scraper flint 5 Flake 6 human remains 7-11 Cist Stones

3.5.6 Toponymy Analysis

Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology and folklore of an area. The placename can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. Townlands are the smallest administrative land divisions used in Ireland and are in fact the only surviving administrative structure with a continuous history of development going back to medieval times if not earlier. Irish townlands generally relate not to settlements, but land units and as such they acquired legal title at an early date. The basic divisions of the countryside and they were carefully recorded in the maps and books that accompanied the great land transfers of the seventeenth century. The names feature on the Ordnance Survey maps, the first edition of which was completed for the whole country circa 1842. In the compilation of the Ordnance Survey scholars such as Eugene O'Curry and John O'Donovan were commissioned to provide the Survey with the anglicised forms of the Irish place-names, and it is these anglicised forms that have been in general use ever since. In compiling the following data a number of resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland www.logainm.ie and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).

Table 7 Toponymy Information

Townland Name	Irish Version	Translation
Burgage More	Burgháiste Mor	Burgage meaning Borough originally meant rentable land owned by a King or a Lord – The Big Borough
Burgage Moyle	na Buiríse Maoile	'flat burgage'
Russborough	No translation	After Russelstown

Russellstown	No translation	Russells town
Ballymore Eustace East	No translation	Big Town
Boystown/Baltyboys Lower	Bhailte Bhúí Íochtarach	Bhui Refers to Séamas Buí (James Boyce), a retainer of the Earl of Kildare and constable of Maynooth in the 16th century
Rathballylong	Rath baile an langaigh	'rath of Ballylong or Long's town'
Tulfarris	Thulach Fhearghais	'Pierce's hill'
Humphrystown	Bhaile Mhic Unfraidh	Humphry's Town
Valleymount	No Irish translation	Valleymount
Annacarney	Áth na Cearneach	'ford of the Kearneys
Carrigacurra	Carraig a Churraigh	'rock of the moor'
Ballyknockan	Bhuaile an Chnocáin	'town of the hillock'
Ballynastockan	Buaile an stacáin	"town of the standing stones or stacks"
Lackan	Leacain	hillside'
Sroughan	an tSrutháin	'a brook'
Carrig	Carrai	Rock
Knockieran Upper and Lower	Cnoc caorthainn	'hill of the rowan trees, or wild mountain ash'
Haylands	Surname	"There is a hill in the middle of this townland near the Dublin Road called 'Gallow's Hill' but why it is so called is not known to any of the inhabitants except by tradition. It is of a round domical surface & flat in the crown." [Desc. Rem.]

3.5.7 Aerial Photography

The usefulness of aerial photography is that it allows for a different perspective, 'the distant view'. Archaeological sites may show up on the ground surface, depending on their state of preservation, by light and shadow contrasts (shadow marks), tonal differences in the soil (soil marks) or differences in height and colour of the cultivated cereal (crop marks). It is also a useful aid in pinpointing existing features and can assist in ascertaining their extent and degree of preservation.

A review of available aerial photography on the OSI, Google earth and Bing websites did not identify any additional sites.

3.5.8 Cartographic Research

Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered or removed over a period of time. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork. For this study the following historic maps were consulted:

- First edition Ordnance Survey 6" Maps circa 1830; and
- Second edition Ordnance Survey 25" Maps circa 1900.

An examination of available historic mapping for the subject area shows the land in Pre-Famine times and before it was later inundated by the development of the reservoir. Much of the area occupied by the reservoir was originally characterized by poorly drained featureless fields that were part of the Liffey and Kings River flood plain. The big houses in the area were at Russborough, Russelstown, Baltyboys and Tulfarris and to a lesser extent Knockieran Cottage. Overlaying the proposed track on historic mapping the route does not impact on any significant features including vernacular dwellings or named

3.6 Architecture Heritage

3.6.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)

Within the Wicklow County Development Plan there is a proposal to designate an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) in Blessington. The Blessington Local Area Plan notes the town's post-Medieval origins with the majority of the buildings dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Due to the historical origins of the town much of the Main Street was developed as an architecturally coherent unit. This gives Blessington a harmony and character that is unlike many other Irish towns, whose development would be more organic and therefore lack the type of homogeneity that makes the town interesting and attractive. The large house and associated Demesne that generated the impetus for the development of this town, as well as its original focal point, was demolished over two centuries ago. However, the town itself has clearly become a focal point for the surrounding countryside as its spiritual, civic, commercial, social and cultural focal point. This is evident in the surviving nineteenth century fabric, including the Church of Ireland church, the Ulster Bank building, the Market House, the Downshire Arms (former hotel) and the features in the town's square including the stone obelisk structure. The proposed ACA boundary embraces the town's historic core in which the majority of buildings are located. Most of the buildings were constructed in a simple vernacular style, along the Main Street. The impact of the proposed project was considered on the defined ACA to ascertain if there was any potential direct or indirect impacts on the architectural resource of the town. The following map outlines the boundary for the proposed ACA. Elsewhere along the length of the proposed track there are no ACA's.

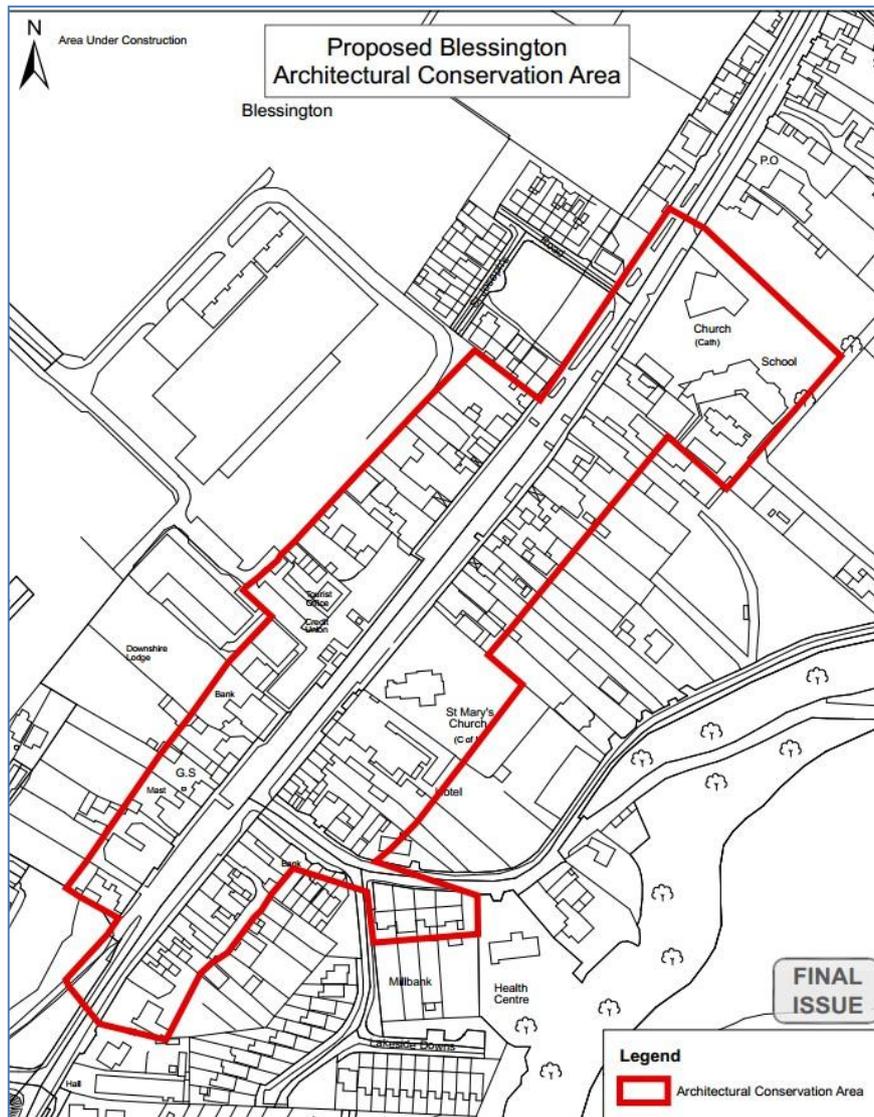


Figure 2 Proposed Blessington Architectural Conservation Area

3.6.1.1 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) / National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

Using GIS a list of all the protected structures located within 100m of the proposed project was compiled. There are 13 protected structures listed in total, all of these structures are located along existing roads or tracks and none of the structures will be directly impacted by the proposed works.

Table 8 Record of Protected Structures

RPS Ref. No	NIAH Ref	OS Map Ref	Building Address	Structure	Description
05-01		05	Baltyboys House, Ballinahown Td	Country House	A large, early-19th Century house of five bays and two storeys with a pedimented breakfront, squareheaded doorcase, Wyatt window above, smooth rendered and painted walls, cornice and hipped roof.
09-07	16401004	09	Tulfarris House, Tulfarris Td	Country House	Five-bay, two-storey country house of circa 1830 with a single-bay breakfront, rough-cast walls, a deep plaster band on first-floor sill level, cornice and blocking-course, windows with late-19th Century glazing, hipped roof with natural slates and stacks set parallel to the front. The arched porch is a mid- 19th Century addition
09-08	16400503	09	Russborough Russborough Td	Country House	One of the most important houses in Ireland, designed by Richard Castle for the Earl of Milltown. Complex Palladian composition and superb craftsmanship.
09-09	16400504	09	Russborough, Russborough Td	Entrance Arch	Triumphal arch flanked by pedimented, side gate
10-01	10	10	Annacarney Valleymount	Sweat House	Grass covered sweat house.
10-20	10		Humphrystown	Country House	Early-19th Century, three-bay, three-storey house altered in the mid-19th Century and possibly later. Painted and rendered walls with sash windows, ground-floor windows inset in blank arches, dormers and balustrade. Enclosed porch and wings added

10-21		10	Valleymount Catholic Church	Church	T-plan church of 1803 with a highly decorative, granite carved façade. The façade is a screen with four pilasters, cornice, pinnacles and bellcote with a later porch of granite ashlar in front. The front wall of the churchyard has pinnacles and a cross in the centre.
10-22		10	Valleymount	Parochial House	Three-bay, two-storey house of circa 1820 with rendered walls, raised granite copings, Doric granite porch, tripartite windows on the ground floor and Georgian glazing, hipped roof with natural slates.
10-23		10	Valleymount	House	Three-bay, two-storey, gable-ended house with rendered walls, granite window dressings and two, granite doorcases. A plaque records the date 'Est. 1882
10-05		10	Ballyknockan Ruin	Biddy Mulvey's ruined House	Gable end of a ruined house. Built of coursed-rubble granite. Land League Cottage with plaque stating 'The Emergency Land Grabber Defeated here 1888, God Save Ireland'
10-15		10	Ballyknockan Cottage	Cottagee	Four-bay, single-storey cottage with a single-bay addition, rendered walls, natural slates and granite coping and stacks.
10-16		10	Ballyknockan Farm buildings	Farm buildings	In front of the cottage (No 8) is a two-storey farm building of coursed-rubble granite with a smaller granite building at the south end. Both have corrugated iron roofs.
	16303027		Blessington Bridge, Knockieran/Haylands		Six 'arch' concrete road bridge of c.1935 spanning the Poulaphouca Reservoir. The bridge is supported on concrete piers (seven to each side) and has a low parapet topped with tubular metal

					railings. Crash barriers have been installed to each side of the road.
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3.6.2 Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens (DLHG)

There are five demesne landscapes listed within 200m of the subject area. The NIAH garden survey describes the demesnes as follows:-

Table 9 NIAH Garden Survey

NIAH Ref No	Demesne Name and Address	Comments	Site Status
WI-56-N-959108	Russborough House	The formal pool shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map at 295627, 211299 is in a degraded condition	Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity
WI-56-N-964111	Russelstown	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir.	Virtually no recognisable features
WI-56-N-980116	Baltyboys House, Boystown or Baltyboys Lower	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable
WI-56-N-964092	Tulfarris House, Tulfarris	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir. On what remains of the site a golf course has been constructed. Virtually no features of the designed landscape shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map have survived	Virtually no recognisable features
WI-56-N-987136	Knockieran Cottage	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible

3.7 Fieldwork

Archaeological fieldwork was carried out over four days from 29th of September to 2nd of October 2015 in dry and bright weather conditions. The survey involved walking the full length of the proposed Phase II route and taking a photographic and written record of all the notable sites, monuments and cultural heritage features. Generally the proposed route tracks through a margin of land in the ownership of the ESB that is largely forested with conifers skirting the shoreline of Blessington Lake. From a review of the Archaeology Survey of Ireland the route will pass in close proximity to seventeen recorded monuments,

3.7.1 Russborough spur

This proposed section extends east from the N81 at Russelstown along an existing track known locally as Featherbed Lane (Figure 3). This track originally marked the southern boundary of the no longer extant Russelstown House, the demesne of which was partially inundated by the creation of the reservoir (NIAH Garden Survey Ref. WI-56-N-964111). At the entrance to the track is a wall plaque, a memorial to Father Patrick Jones who died at the spot in 1897 (CHS 2).

Russelstown demesne is described in the garden survey as having virtually no recognisable features. It is proposed to route the track along the edge of forestry and pastureland with views towards Russborough house, looping back to a bridge over the Poulaphouca Stream. This single arched bridge (CHS 1) is not a protected structure nor is it featured on the NIAH building survey, it is however marked on the first edition map. The walls leading to the bridge are in poor condition. From the bridge the track will continue parallel to the roadside terminating at a hard standing area overlooking a grassed over former quarry site. It is notable that the Blessington and Poulaphuca Steam Tramway operated along the N18 from 1895 to 1927. The tramway connected Blessington with Teranure in Dublin linking in with horse drawn trams in the city.

There is a burial ground noted on the 25" OS map in excess of 100m from the termination of the spur on the lake shore WI010-001. This site is now submerged with no features visible at ground level.

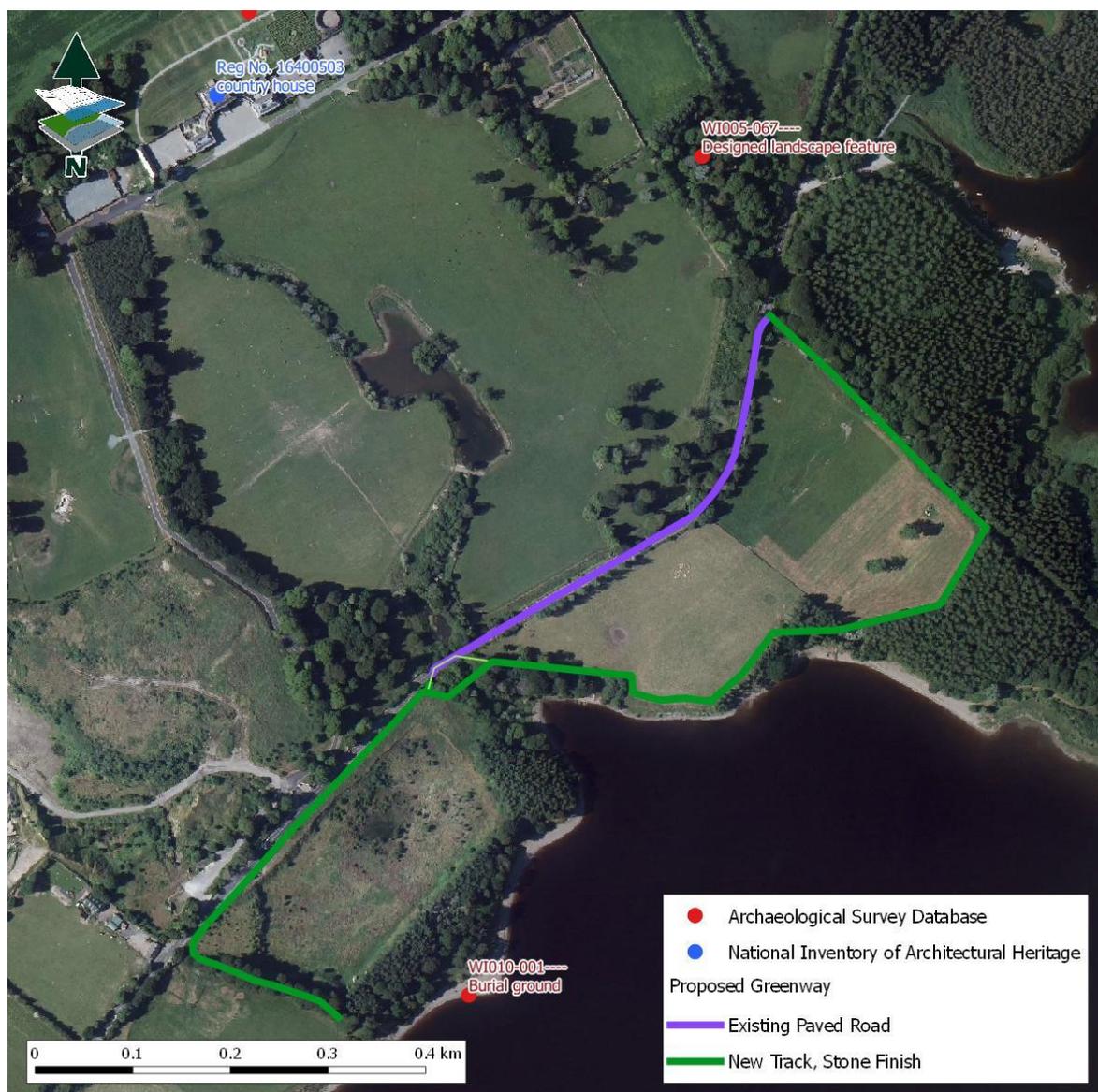


Figure 3 Aerial image showing Russborough Spur



Plate 3 Wall Plaque near entrance to Featherbed Lane, Russelstown.

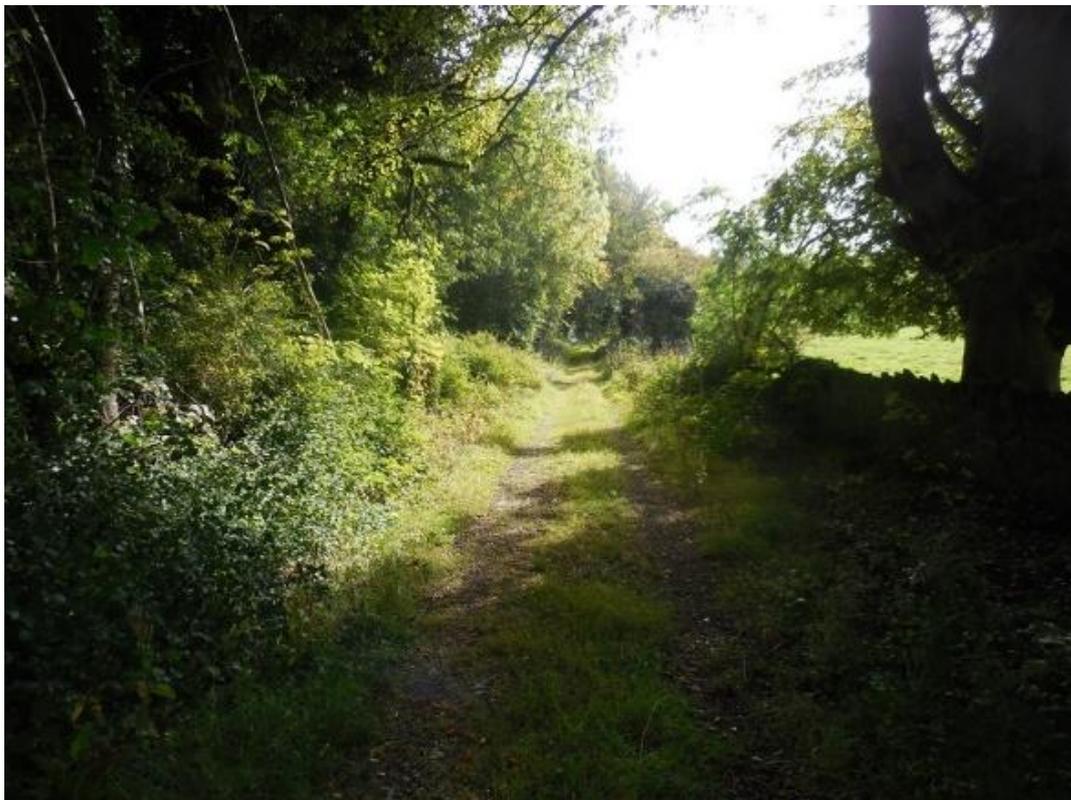


Plate 4 Looking south east along Featherbed Lane, edge of Russelstown demesne.



Plate 5 Looking north to unnamed bridge Russborough.

3.7.2 Tulfarris Spur, Burgage Bridge to Tulfarris Golf Club via Boystown

This section extends from Burgage Bridge south along the shore of the reservoir to the west of Boystown or Baltyboys Lower to Tulfarris Golf Club (Figure 4). As throughout the project the track will largely follow a margin of land along the shoreline of the reservoir in the ownership of the ESB. For the most part this margin is under forestry. The significant cultural heritage sites in this area from north to south are Baltyboys House and two enclosures located to the east of the margin (RMP No's WI010-003005 & 003006).

The spur will pass 50m to the west of Baltyboys House and demesne (NIAH 16400505 & RPS 05-01). This house is a large, early-19th Century house of five bays and two storeys with a pedimented breakfront and square headed doorcase. The surrounding demesne has its main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable.

To the south of Boystown/Baltyboys Upper there are two enclosure sites to the immediate east of the forested margin in marshy ground at the base of a hill (figure 5). The proposed track will pass within the 'Zones of Notification' for these sites. These enclosures were originally identified from circular cropmarks visible on an aerial photograph (GSI N 332/333/356 (1973)). The sites are located at the base of a hill in marshy ground. Field working in this area found no visible trace of either site above ground.

South of these enclosures the proposed track passes a cul de sac that was formerly a road over the Liffey linking Stormount house in the south east to Russborough House in the north west. From the road it

is proposed to cross an area of woodland and continue the track 400m to the east of Tulfarris House, now operating as a Hotel and Golf Resort. Tulfarris house is a five-bay, two-storey country house circa 1830. The house is a protected structure (RPS 09-07) and the demesne is described as having its main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable. From Tulfarris the route can utilise the existing road network to turn eastwards to Blessington Sailing Club.

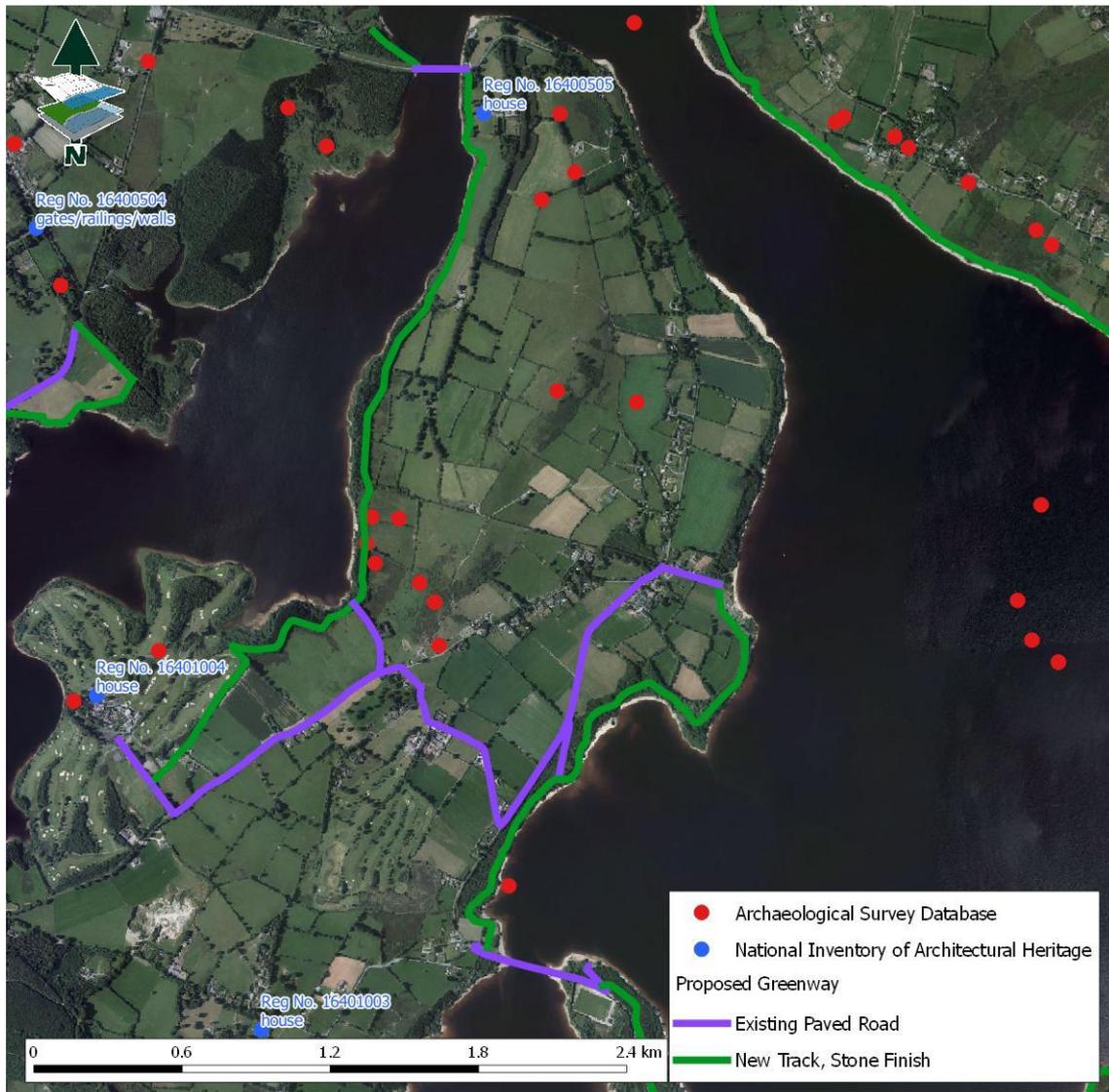


Figure 4 Aerial Image showing Tulfarris Spur and the Tulfarris to Blessington Sailing Club route.



Plate 6 Looking north to Ballyboys House from the shoreline.



Figure 5 Enclosure sites at Boystown, there was no above ground trace of either site identified from aerial imagery.

3.7.3 Tulfarris to Blessington Sailing Club, along existing roadway (purple route)

From the entrance to Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort it is proposed that a section of the route follows along the existing road to the north east, diverting west past the entrance to Blessington Lakes Golf Club and then north along the R758 to Blessington Sailing Club (figure 4-purple route). This section will utilise existing carriageways with no recorded monuments or protected structures along the way. The road does pass to the west of Stormount House Demesne (NIAH Garden Ref: WI-56-N-975092) described as having its main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible. The roadside boundary for this demesne is made up off a low stone wall and hedgerow. It is not proposed to carry out any works along this route.

3.7.4 Blessington Sailing Club to Valleymount Bridge

It is proposed that this section from Blessington Sailing Club will run along the eastern shoreline of Boystown or Baltyboys Upper towards Valleymount Bridge through existing forestry (figure 6). There is one RMP along the shoreline classified as a Neolithic House (WI010-058). This site was identified in 2006 when the level of the reservoir was low. The prehistoric house comprised an almost square structure defined by the burnt clays and charcoal-rich fill of the slot-trench of the building's foundation (int. dims. L 6.6m N-S; Wth 6.2m E-W). Significantly subsequent intermittent investigations (Excavation Licence No. 07E1127) revealed a significant amount of Neolithic pottery, a flint axe and a possibly ritually deposited Bann flake (Corlett 2009, 26-30). The house site is located 65m east of the proposed trackway. Given the significant nature of the material discovered this area has to be considered to be of high archaeological potential.



Figure 6 Location of Neolithic House relative to proposed trackway.

3.7.5 Valleymount Loop

The Valleymount Loop comprises two sections, one follows the R758 roadway south through Valleymount towards Annacarney, the other is a proposed trackway through forestry along the eastern shoreline of the townland (figure 7). Along the road section in Valleymount there are a number of Protected Structures including St. Joseph's R.C. Church, the Parochial House and Valleymount House (RPS Ref 10-21, 10-22 and 10-23 respectively). A lane linking the loop from the roadway to the track on the shoreline will pass RMP WI010-048 classified as a cross inscribed stone. This granite boulder located on the north side of a lane that originally linked Valleymount to Ballyknockan comprises a small double-line incised Latin cross (L c. 0.4m. that probably dates to the late 18th century.



Figure 7 Vallemount Loop showing recorded sites.



Plate 7 Cross inscribed stone RMP WI010-048 along laneway at Vallemount.

3.7.6 Annacarney to Ballyknockan including Ballyknockan Loop

This section involves two elements, the first involves the construction of new trackway along the shoreline and through fields passing through the townlands of Annacarney, Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan and Ballystockan (Figure 8). The second element proposed to utilize existing routes around Ballyknockan looping into the new trackway.

The new trackway from the south west to the north east passes a number of recorded monuments. These include a childrens burial ground (WI010-024) at Lackan, two submerged sites, a ringfort WI010-018 and an enclosure WI010-019 at Ballyknockan and a ringfort at Ballystockan WI010-020.

The Children's burial ground (WI010-024) is located 63m east of forested margin through which the proposed trackway will be routed. The site was excavated in 1938 in advance of the flooding for the reservoir. It originally consisted of a small mound 20m in diameter containing two small graveslabs but no human remains. The site is no longer visible above ground.

The ringfort in Ballyknockan (WI010-018) was similarly excavated in advance of flooding. This site, a bivallate fort appears as a circular enclosure on historic mapping. The ringfort was bivallate and little, other than an arc of irregular paving in the N sector of the interior, was revealed during excavation. This site is now located 64m north of the trackway.

North of this site is another submerged enclosure (WI010-019) that was also featured on the 1838 OS 6-inch map. This site is occasionally exposed in dry summer and is 70m from the track.

In Ballynastockan townland it is proposed to develop a spur from the shoreline that will cross through fields to the east and connect with a farm lane and thence Lake Drive road. The farm lane skirts the edge of a 'D' shaped ringfort partially revetted with boulders (WI010-020). There is no evidence of a fosse and internally the site has no features other than a number of natural boulders.

Along the existing route (purple route) there are a number of notable features including a protected structure known as 'Biddy Mulvey's Cottage' (RPS 10-5). This site is located at the end of a lane known locally as 'the Bog Road' that leads to the shore (ITM 700306 E/ 707514 N). It survives as a coursed-rubble granite gable with an inset plaque that reads 'The Emergency Land Grabber Defeated here 1888, God Save Ireland'. The story of the plaque relates to the forcible eviction and levelling of the cottage in 1888 by a local landowner. The local Land League halted the process by twice rebuilding the house and winning a court case to ensure her tenure. Within Ballyknockan there are also number of protected structures mostly vernacular dwellings and sheds (RPS 10-16 & 15). East of the village the route follows a lane that bypasses a cross inscribed boulder along a stone wall WI010-052. The boulder (dims. 1.45m x 1m) is inscribed on the front face with 'IHS' and a simple cross. Other incised marks occur on the flat upper surface. There are no proposed works along the purple route.

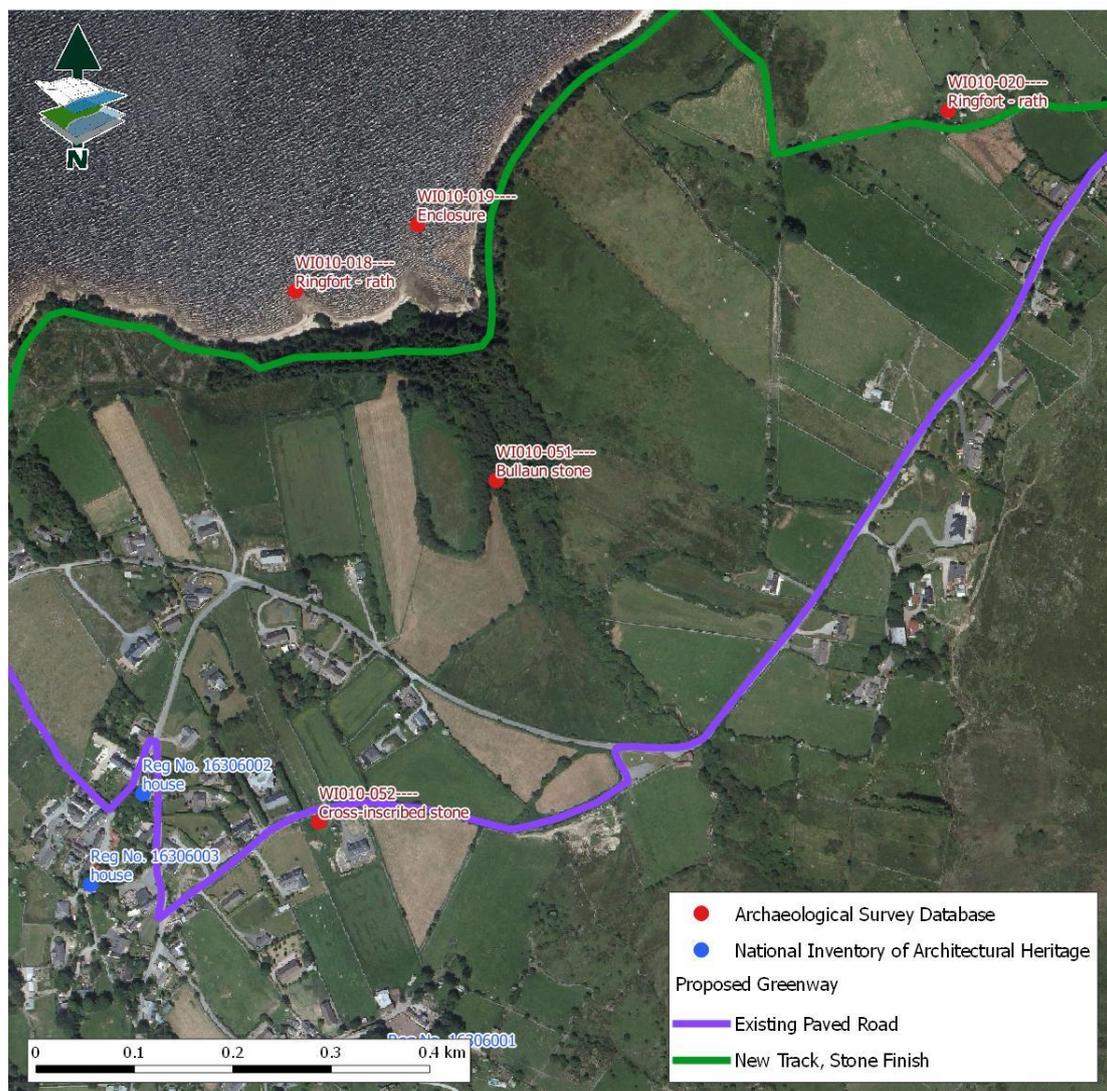


Figure 8 Location of recorded sites at Ballyknockan/Ballynastockan.



Plate 8 Looking west towards Biddy Mulvey's Cottage in Middleground.



Plate 9 The old bog road opposite Biddy Mulvey's Cottage



Plate 10 **Looking west to Ringfort at Ballynastockan WI010-020**



Plate 11 **Lane skirting edge of Ringfort at Ballynastockan WI010-020.**

3.7.7 Ballyknockan to Lackan including the Lackan Loop

From Ballystockan continuing north along the edge of the lake the proposed route bypasses 80m to the south of Templeboodin as featured on the first edition map. This roughly rectangular site is well maintained and screened all round by vegetation, it contains five recorded monuments classified as a church, ecclesiastical enclosure, graveyard, bullaun stone and graveslab (WI010-011001-011005 respectively). Along the shoreline this section of the lake has seen considerable erosion and the forested margin is much reduced. There were no additional sites noted along the route.

Along the purple route at Lackan (figure 9) it is proposed to utilize existing roads and trackways that run down to the shore either side of the new Lackan national School site. There are no recorded sites or protected structures along this section.

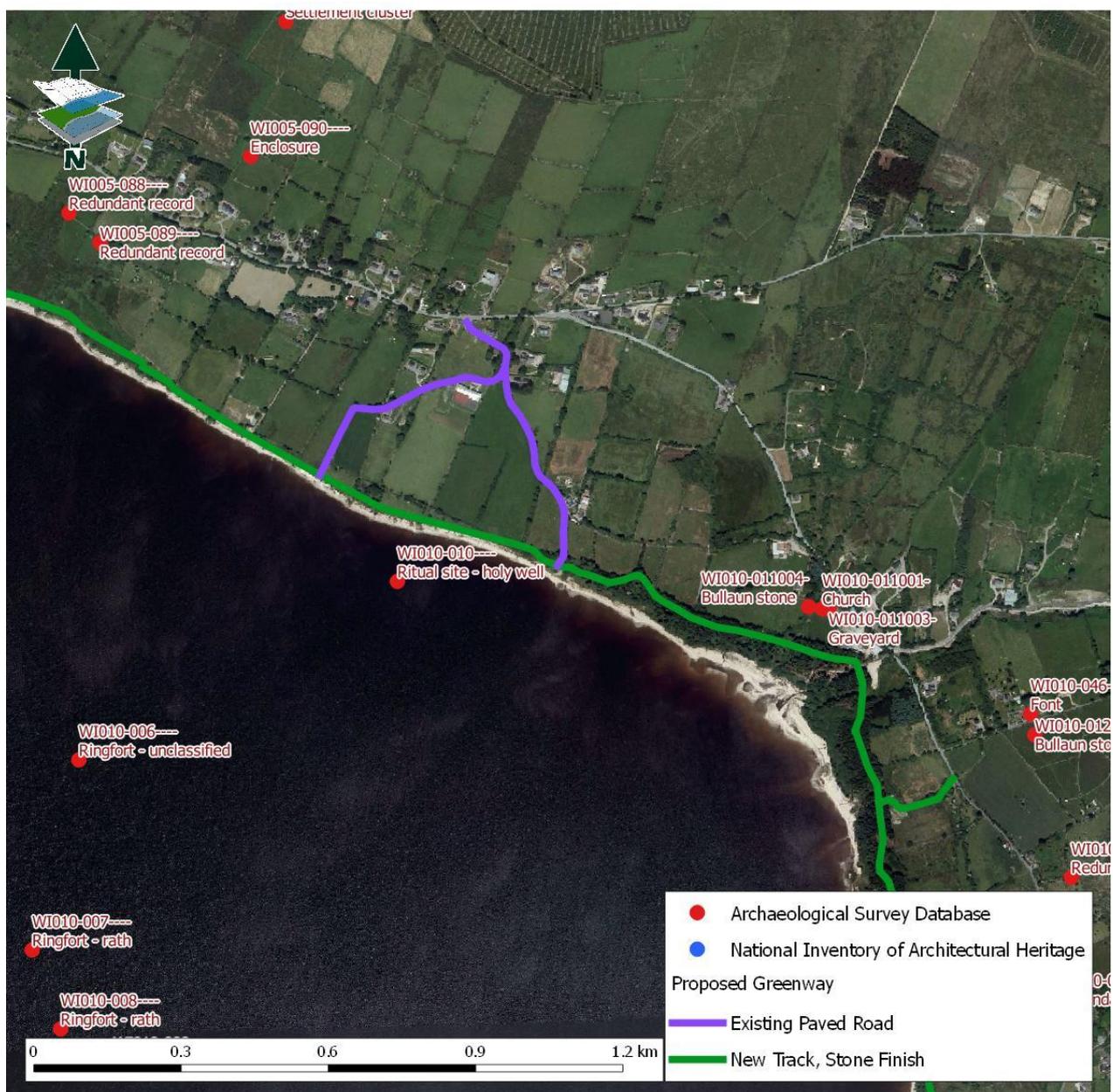


Figure 9 Lackan Loop showing Relative distance to Templeboodin graveyard.

3.7.8 Lackan to Blessington Bridge

From Lackan towards Blessington Bridge the proposed trackway passes along the forested margin that skirts the shoreline through the townlands of Sroughan, Carrig, Burgage More and Knockieran Lower. South to north there are two sites in close proximity to the trackway (figure 10). Site one is a moated site WI005-078 in Carrig. It is described in the archaeological inventory as being now under the Blessington Reservoir. The enclosure measured 25m N-S x 20m E-W defined by bank and external fosse, and was visible as a cropmark on an aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 332-3). The field survey of this area noted the presence of a 'D' shaped enclosure defined by a low bank 900mm high and 2.7m wide to the south and west and by a scarp to the north, the west of the site has been eroded by the reservoir, This site is covered by forestry but is extant. The proposed trackway would run along the edge of the forestry 20m from the western limit of this feature.

Further north in Burgage More WI005-121 a Mill site was partially exposed when the lake levels dropped in January 2006. The site consisted of two large, squared, timber beams (max. dims. L 0.9m; Wth 0.18m; T 0.09m) protruding above the ground surface appearing to represent the sides of a wheel pit. These timbers were found in association with a series of small upright stakes (max. dims. L 0.10m; Wth 0.1m; H 0.26m) that may have acted as supports to the wheel pit or the tail race. There was no above ground evidence for this site. Further north the route passes through the western portion of Knockieran Cottage Demesne (NIAH ref WI-56-N-987136). Much of the original site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake what remains is describe as having its 'main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible'.

Crossing Blessington Bridge the route will follow existing paths and roadways, there are no proposed works along this section.



Figure 10 Image showing Mill site at Burgage More and Moated site at Carrig.



Plate 12 Looking north to bank of moated site W1005-078, Carrig Townland.



Plate 13 Looking east along the bank of moated site



Plate 14 Looking south at scarp edge off Moated site.

3.7.9 Cultural Heritage sites noted along proposed route.

The following list details the unrecorded cultural heritage sites found along the proposed route of the trackway.

Table 10 CHS sites

CHS No	Townland	ITM Co-Ords	Description
CHS1	Unnamed bridge	695934/71054	Unnamed bridge at Russborough
CHS 2	Russelstown	696277/710845	Memorial plaque on wall of featherbed lane to Father Patrick Jones dated 1897

4 Potential Impacts

Phase II of the Blessington Greenway Project consists of the further development of an amenity track surfaced with both stone and tarmac linking in with existing tracks to provide a looped walk along a portion of the lake extending from Blessington, through Burgage More, Boystown/Baltyboys Uppr, Vallemount, Annacarney, Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, Ballynastockan Lackan, Sroughan, Carrig,

Knockieran Upper and returning to Blessington with spurs at Russlestown/ Russborough and Tulfarris. For the most part the track will be laid in a margin of forestry between the shore of the lake and adjoining pastureland in private ownership. Within the forested section the ground has seen some disturbance from planting, harvesting and drainage works. Along the eastern shore of the lake, particularly in Sroughan townland, there has been considerable erosion.

From a review of the available inventories and mapping this area, originally a marshy river valley with low gravel ridges has a rich, multi period archaeological past ranging from a Neolithic occupation site, Bronze Age find spots, early medieval settlements, Christian sites, Anglo Norman forts, medieval field scapes and Ascendancy era big houses all framed by the foothills of the Wicklow mountains. This archaeological legacy combined with the relatively recent reservoir has resulted in the creation of a particularly scenic area with significant potential for the development of public amenities.

Due to the nature of the development the potential impacts on the local archaeological and cultural heritage resource will be relatively slight and standard mitigations can be undertaken to further reduce these. Regionally the development of the greenway would have a positive impact on the locality in terms of tourism, hospitality, local business, health and providing the public access to an underutilized natural resource.

4.1 Direct Impacts

Where an architectural or cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within an area where works take place and the work entails the removal of part, or all of the site or feature, a direct impact will occur. There is also potential for direct impacts on as yet undiscovered sites and features. Potential impacts from this type of development include:

- destruction of sites, features or deposits during excavation;
- impacts upon sites, features or deposits to gain site access

4.2 Predicted direct Impacts- Construction Phase

According to the construction specifications provided the proposed new track and associated groundworks for drainage will be kept to a minimum and will require minimal excavation. It is anticipated that for the new tracks the ground will be typically cleared to a depth of 200mm not exceeding 300mm. A number of drainage ditches will be dug to accommodate pipes. Work along existing tracks will involve simply scraping back verges to improve access.

Along the length of the proposal there are a number of areas of high archaeological potential, the predicted direct impacts are detailed in the following table.

4.2.1 Impacts on Archaeological Sites

The following table provides information on the predicted impacts on the known archaeological resource.

Ref	Classification	Townland	Predicted Impact
WI010-001	Burial ground	RUSSBOROUGH	No impact, this site is 100m away from proposed trackway and is submerged by the reservoir
WI010-058---	House – Neolithic	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYSBOYS UPPER	No impact this site is 68m away from proposed trackway and is submerged by the reservoir.
WI010-048---	Cross-inscribed stone	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYSBOYS UPPER	No impact, this site is on an existing lane, with no works proposed for the immediate area. If this area however is to be used for any machine access the boulder should be demarcated to prevent any inadvertent impacts.
WI010-003006	Enclosure	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYSBOYS UPPER	The proposed trackway will pass through the zone of notification for this enclosure. The site has no above ground expression and was identified by aerial imagery. Negative imperceptible impact. Groundworks may impact on sub surface archaeological features or deposits associated with the site.
WI010-003005	Enclosure	BOYSTOWN OR BALTYSBOYS UPPER	The proposed trackway will pass through the zone of notification for this enclosure. The site has no above ground expression and was identified by aerial imagery. Negative imperceptible impact. Groundworks may impact on sub surface archaeological features or deposits associated with the site
WI010-018---	Ringfort – rath	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)	No impact, the site is submerged by the reservoir and is 64m from the trackway.
WI010-	Enclosure	BALLYKNOCKAN	No impact, the site is submerged by the

019----		(Talbotstown Lower By.)	reservoir and is 70m from the trackway.
WI010-024----	Children's burial ground	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By.)	No impact, this site has previously been excavated and is 66m from the trackway
WI010-052----	Cross-inscribed stone	BALLYKNOCKAN (Talbotstown Lower By)	No impact, this site is on an existing road, with no works proposed for the immediate area
WI010-020----	Ringfort – rath	BALLYNASTOCKAN	This ringfort is extant and has an existing track that skirts the edge of its bank, any works that take place here may potential negatively impact the monument. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
WI010-011005-	Graveslab	LACKAN	No impacts, Templeboodin church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 80m from the proposed trackway
WI010-011001-	Church	LACKAN	No impacts, Templeboodin church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 80m from the proposed trackway
WI010-011002-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	LACKAN	No impacts, Templeboodin church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 80m from the proposed trackway
WI010-011003-	Graveyard	LACKAN	No impacts, Templeboodin church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 80m from the proposed trackway
WI010-011004-	Bullaun stone	LACKAN	No impacts, Templeboodin church and graveyard a site with a well-defined and screened curtilage in excess of 80m from the proposed trackway

WI005-078----	Moated site	CARRIG	The trackway will pass within the zone of notification for this monument (extant) and there is the potential that groundworks may have a slight negative direct impact on associated material. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
WI005-078----	Mill – unclassified	BURGAGE MORE	This site is mostly submerged and has no above ground expression, notwithstanding this the trackway passes 20m to the east of the edge of the 'zone of notification'. Groundworks that take place here may potential negatively impact the monument. The significance of this impact can be reduced with appropriate mitigation.
CHS 1	Bridge	Russborough	This site is not a recorded Monument or Protected structure, however it does feature on the 1st Ed. Map. If access is required to the road and a wall needs to be breached, then remediation work should replace like with like and dress ope sympathetically.
CHS 2	Wall plaque	Russellstown	No Impact

4.2.2 Impacts on Architectural Sites or Cultural Heritage sites- Construction phase

There are no Protected Structures or NIAH structures along the length of the proposed new trackway. There are a number of structures along sections of the route that are on existing paved roads, there are no proposed works for these area. There will be no direct impacts on these structures.

Regarding demesnes the proposed trackway will pass along the outer edge of Russborough, Russelstown, Baltyboys and Knockieran Cottage. All but Russborough house have lost land to the reservoir. The proposed trackway will not impact on any significant designed features nor will it impact significantly on the setting of these sites.

4.3 Indirect Impacts on Setting

Indirect impacts can take the form of impacts on the settings of architectural or cultural heritage features – impacts on setting are primarily visual and look at the effect of the development upon the

setting of a site within the wider landscape. Given the nature of the project and its positive effect on the general amenity of the local area the level of indirect impacts on the setting of the local archaeological resource are negligible.

4.4 'Do Nothing Scenario'

If the proposed development were not to proceed there would be no direct or indirect impacts.

4.5 'Worse Case' Scenario

In the absence of an archaeologist if none of the mitigation measures were implemented the worst case scenario would result in damage to monuments or loss of artefacts.

4.6 Residual Impacts

Following mitigation there will be no direct physical impacts on the upstanding remains of any known archaeological monuments during the construction phase of the proposed development. There is the potential that archaeological deposits in the vicinity of known archaeological monuments or in areas of high archaeological potential may be encountered during groundworks. In these areas archaeological monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that if archaeological deposits are encountered that the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland is notified and that subject to consultation with the relevant authorities they are excavated in accordance with professional best practice.

5 Mitigation Measures

In accordance with the relevant legislation and DoAHG policy, the main mitigation measures would involve preservation in-situ, by avoiding any direct impacts on known sites. This objective has largely been achieved at the design stage. Nonetheless the proposed route will pass within close proximity to a number of recorded monuments including two enclosures (RMP's WI010-003005 & WI010-003006) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper, a ringfort (RMP WI010-020) at Ballynastockan, a moated site (RMP WI005-078) at Carrig and a Mill site at Burgage More (WI005-078). Of the above only the ringfort and the moated site have above ground expression. The ringfort has an existing lane along its edge and any works here will be discreet and will not involve groundworks. At the moated site the track will pass 20m from the banks thus avoiding any direct impacts, it is recommended that during the construction stage the site be demarcated and that monitoring take place in the area.

Given the limited impacts required for the track and the previous ground disturbance within the forested margin it is recommended that archaeological monitoring rather than testing take place in the vicinity of the enclosures at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper, the moated site at Carrig and the Mill site at Burgage More. It is further recommended that monitoring take place in the vicinity of the Neolithic house (RMP WI010-058) at Boystown/Baltyboys Upper. This is due to the significance of the archaeology and the potential for further finds.

Elsewhere along the extent of the proposed trackway it is generally recommended that intermittent monitoring take place along the route particularly in grassland areas.

Regarding demesne's the route will traverse the edges of Russelstown, Russborough and pass through Baltyboys and Knockieran Cottage. Many of these sites have lost land to the reservoir and have been degraded. The route will not impact on any designed features.

No protected structures or NIAH sites will be impacted by the works

In the event that archaeological deposits are discovered during the course of monitoring works all work in the vicinity must cease and contact be made with the National Monuments Section of the DoAHG on how best to proceed with full provision being made for the resolution of any archaeological features, should that be deemed the most appropriate way to proceed.

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7 Appendix Maps

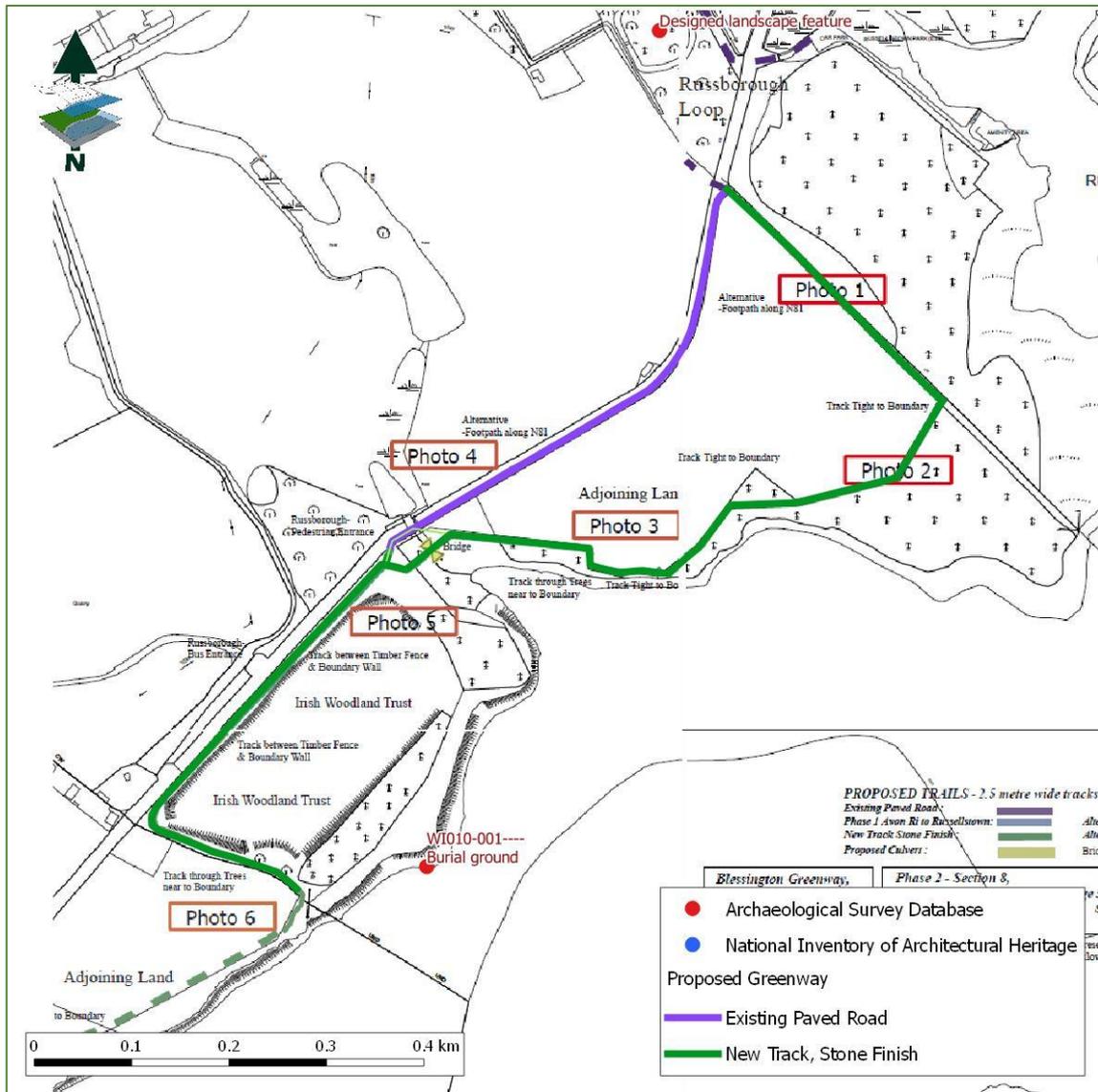


Figure 11 Russborough Loop

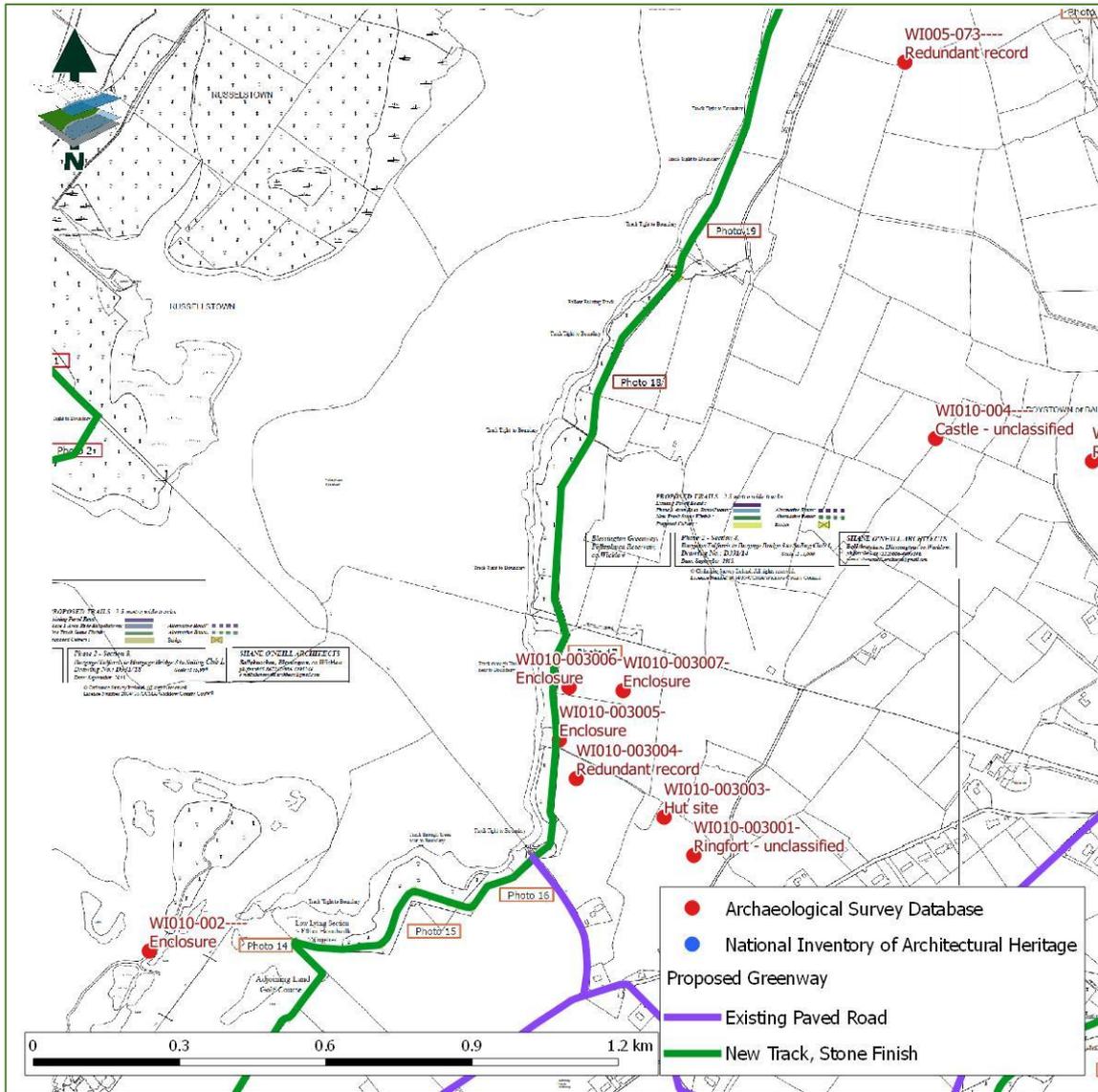


Figure 12 Tulfarris Spur

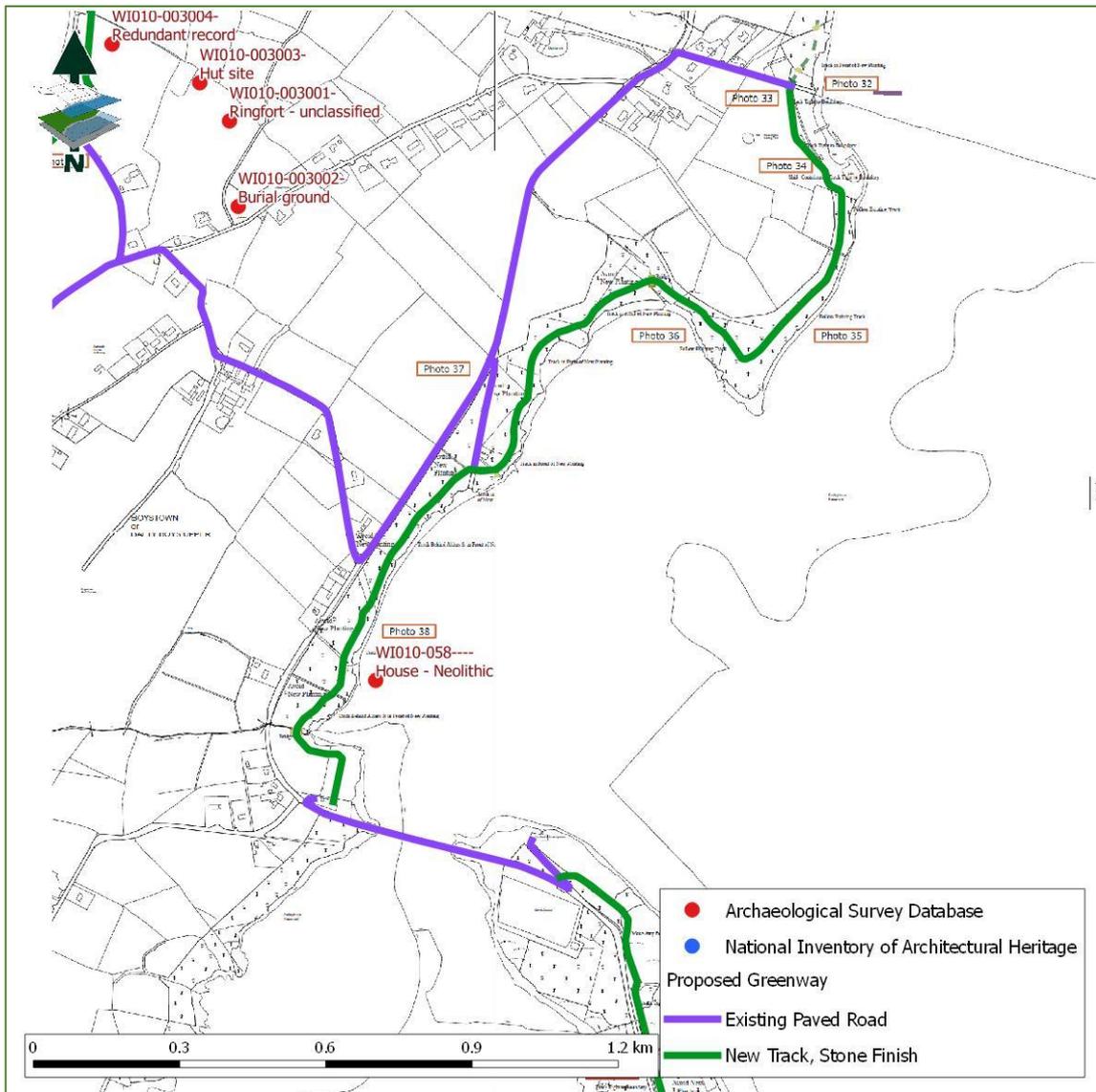


Figure 13 Ballyboys to Vallemount Bridge

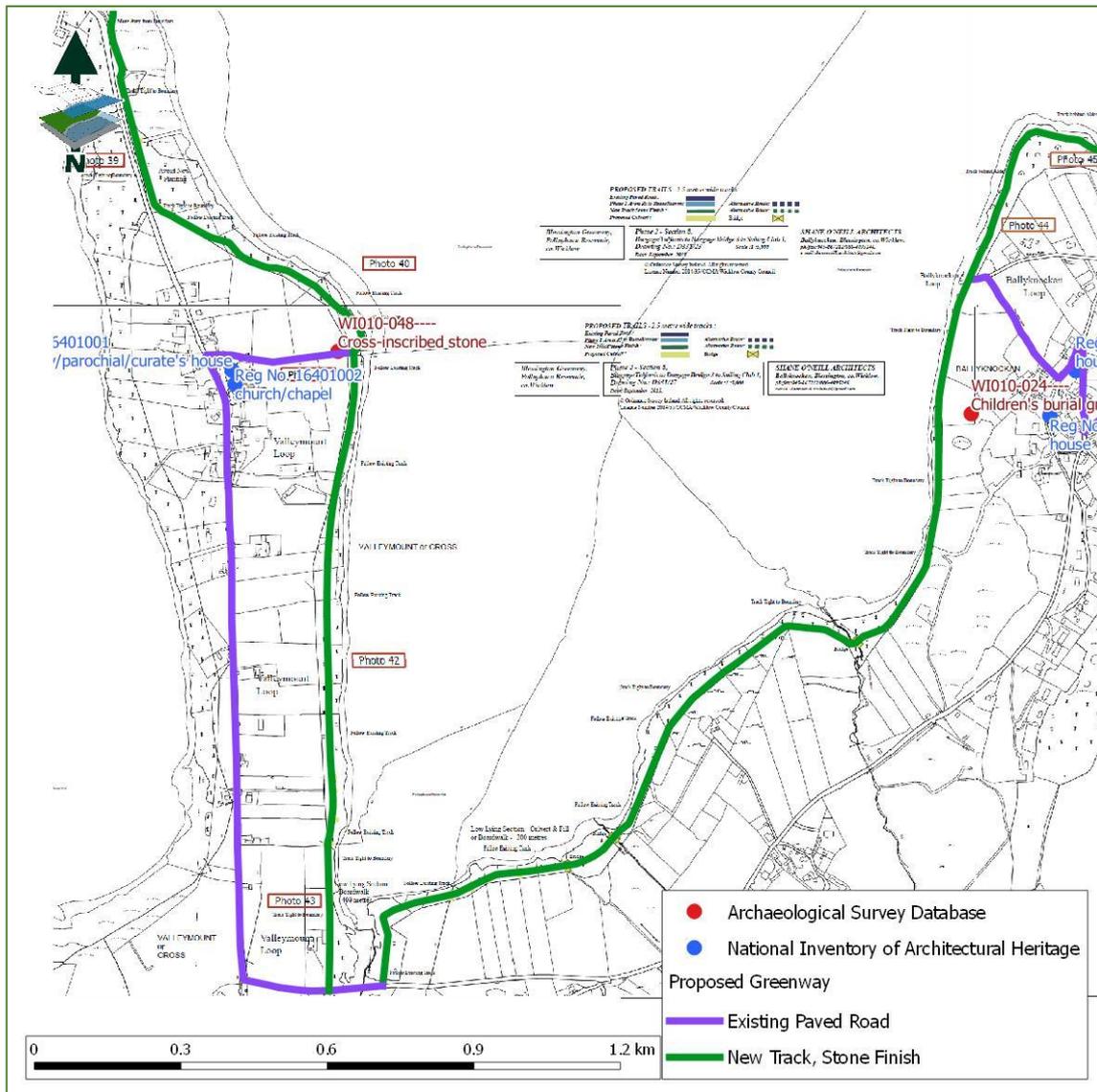


Figure 14 Valleymount Loop

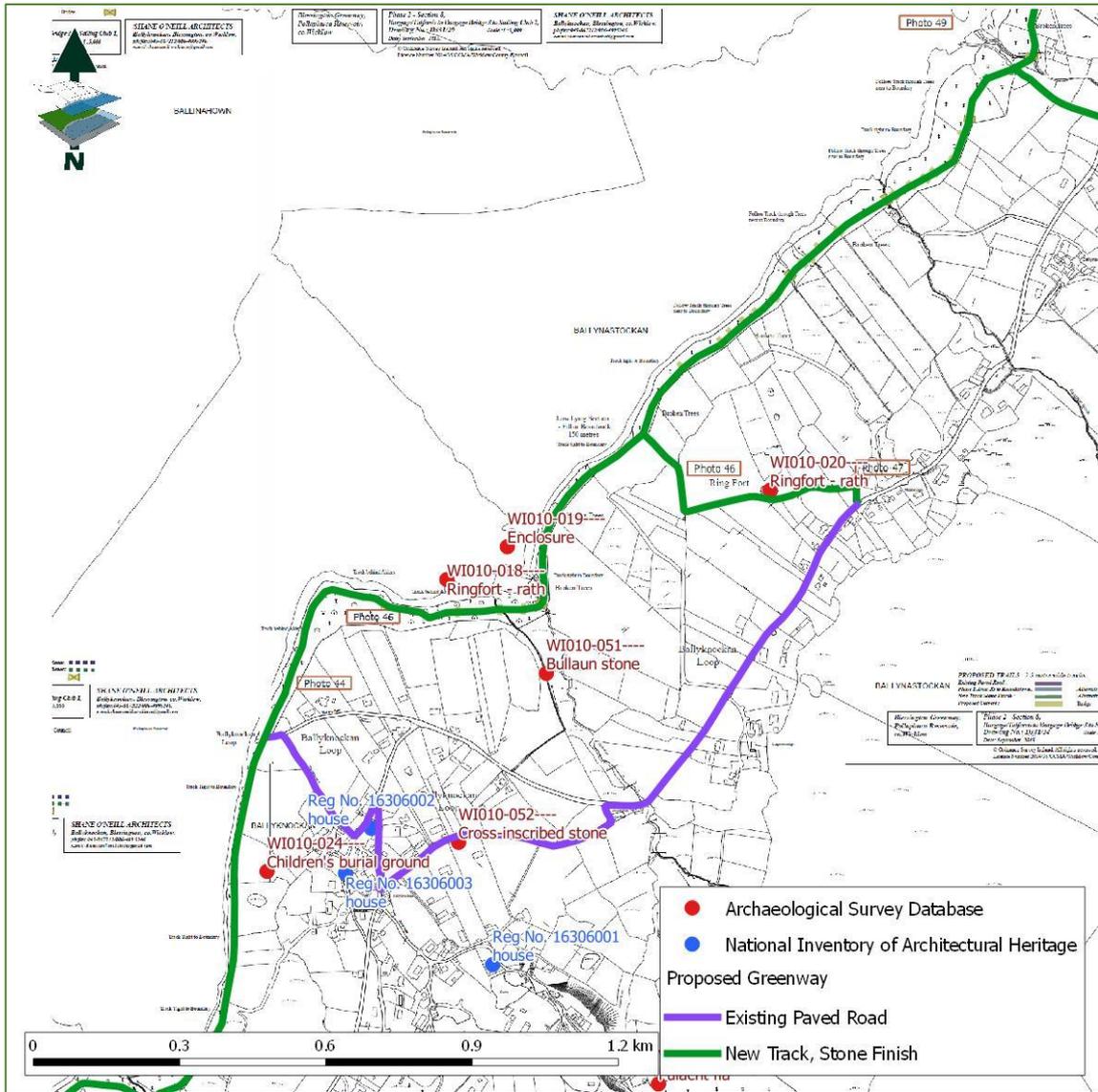


Figure 15 Ballyknockan Loop

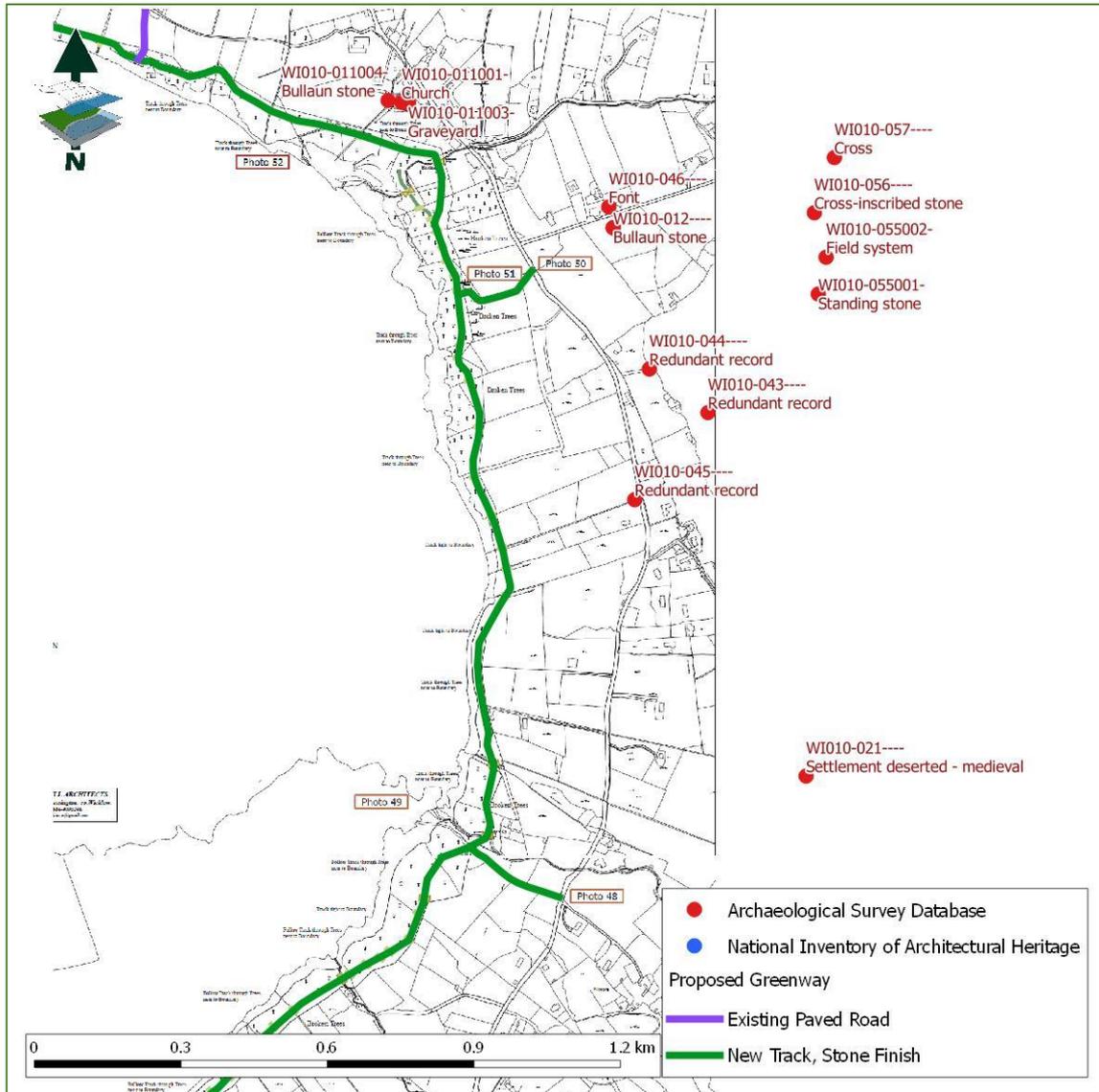


Figure 16 Ballynastockan to Lackan

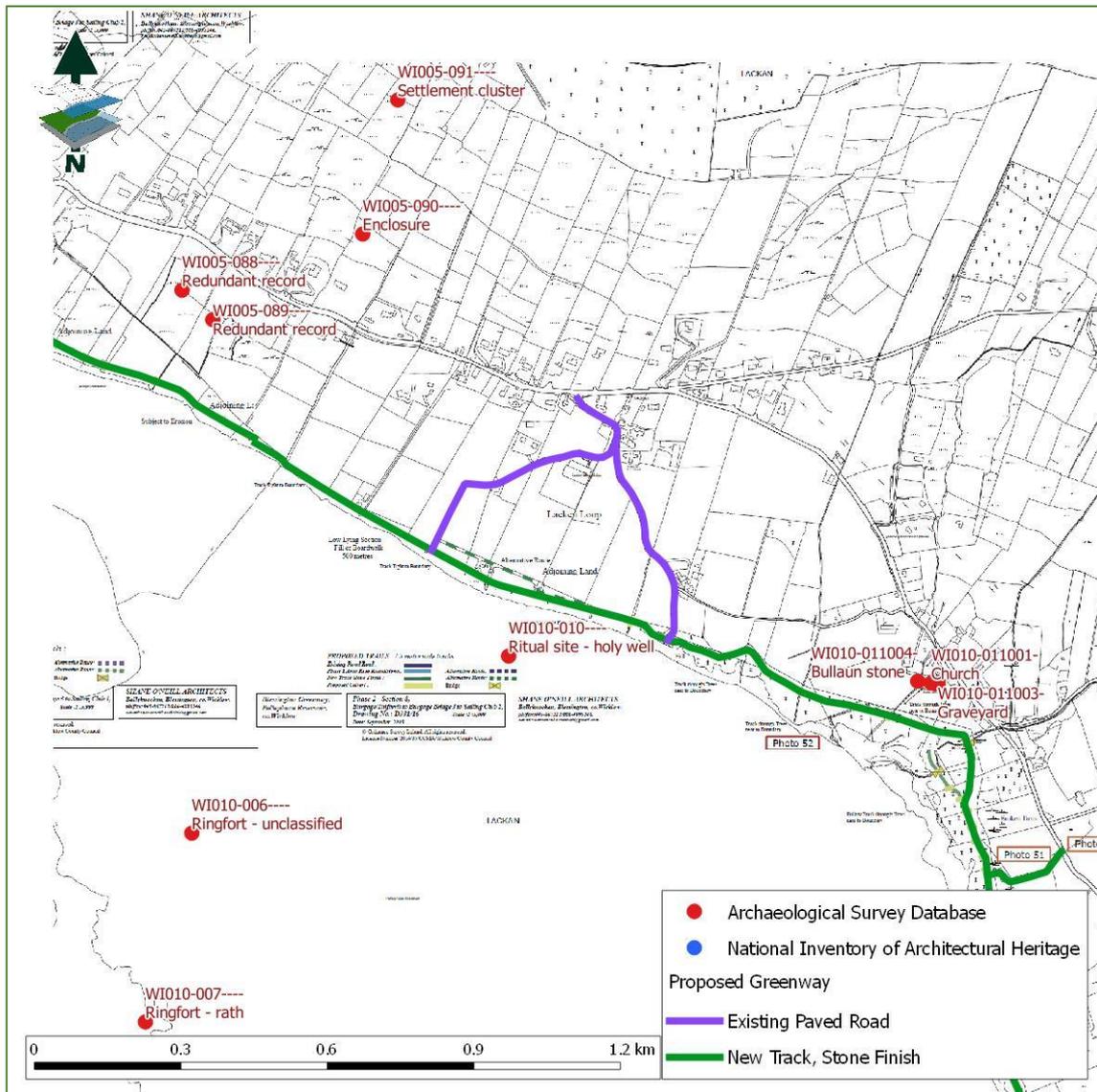


Figure 17 Lackan Loop

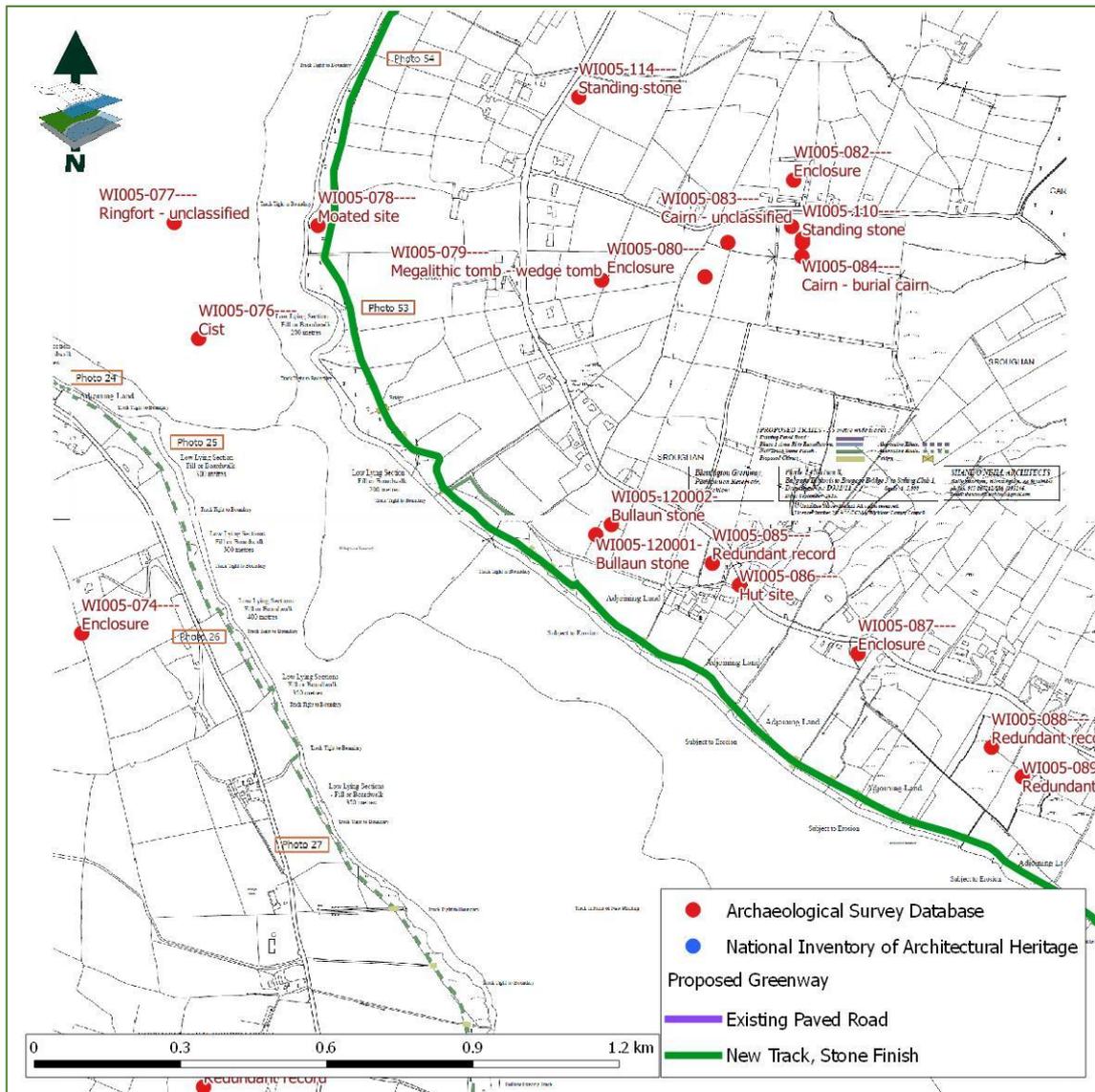


Figure 18 Lackan to Carrig

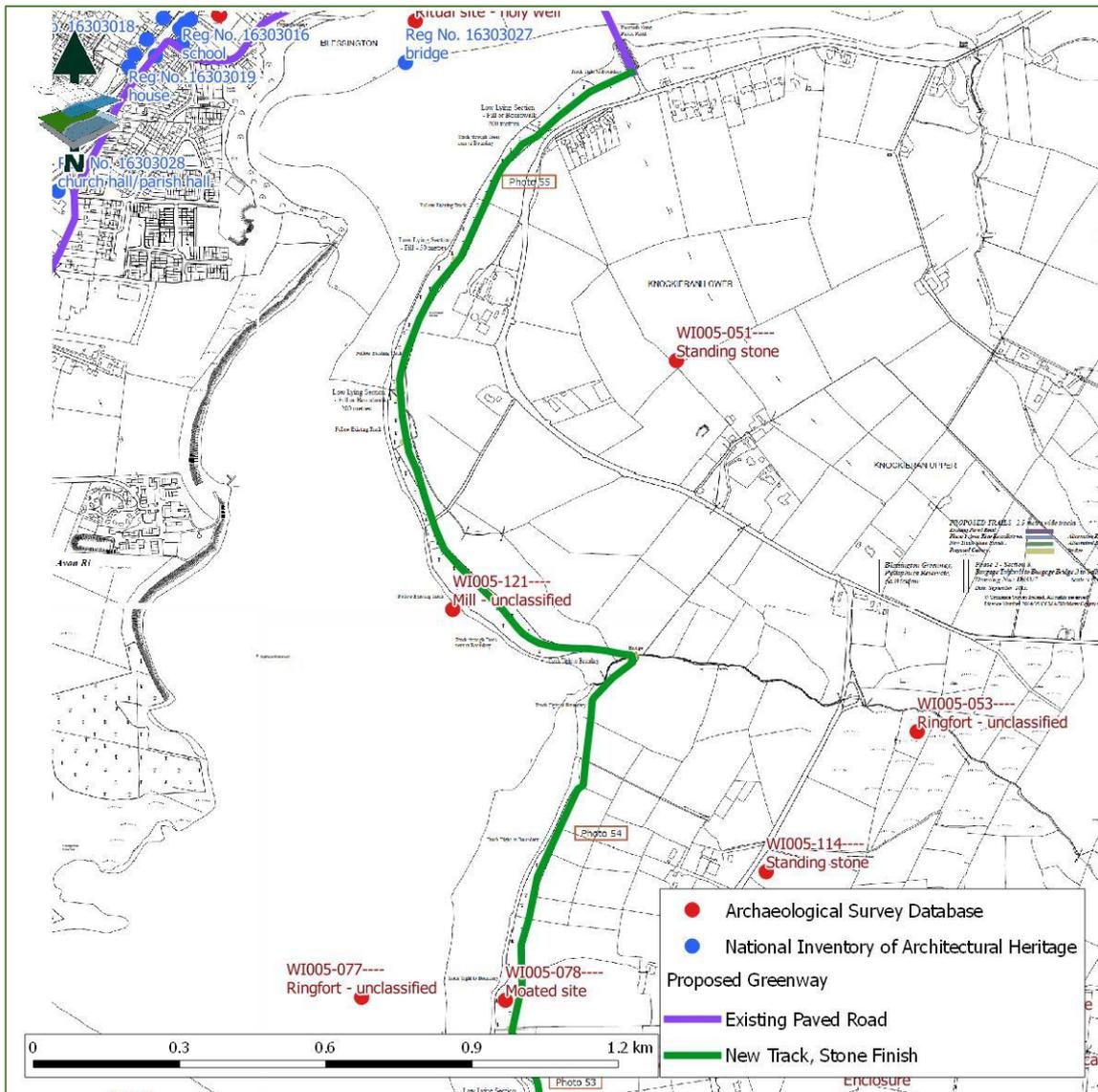


Figure 19 Carrig to Blessington

Appendix C Wicklow County Development Plan and Blessington Local Area Plan

Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 – 2022.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 was published in 2016 and aims to establish a framework for the sustainable development of County Wicklow. As part of this framework, specific sections and policies governing development in relation to Cultural Assets were produced and included.

Built Heritage Strategy

- To ensure that the protection and conservation of the built heritage of Wicklow is an integral part of the sustainable development of the county and safeguard this valuable, and in many instances, non-renewable resource through proper management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development;
- to safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings above and below ground and water listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains,
- to identify archaeologically sensitive historic landscapes;
- to ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of Wicklow through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the County; and
- to support the actions in the County Wicklow Heritage Plan, in order to enhance the understanding, appreciation and protection of Wicklow's built heritage.

In consideration of the archaeological heritage of County Wicklow, the council have established a number of policies to govern proposed developments in the area and to further promote the archaeological heritage. These policies are:

Archaeology Objectives

BH1 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.

BH2 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedule 10.01 & 10.02 and Map 10.01 & 10.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment. When dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features, there will be presumption in favour of the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with Government policy. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the Planning Authority will require the developer to have the site works supervised by a competent archaeologist.

BH3 To protect previously unknown archaeological sites and features, including underwater sites, where they are discovered during development works.

BH4 To facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, as identified in Schedule 10.02 and Map 10.02 of this plan.

BH5 To protect the Hillforts in west Wicklow and to engage with the relevant central Government department to seek to undertake a detailed study of their importance.

BH6 To facilitate the designation of the Glendalough Monastic Settlement as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The architectural heritage, or historic built environment, is considered in a series of policies designed to preserve those structures identified by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The policies state:

Architectural Heritage Objectives

BH7 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.

BH8 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.

Similarly, Protected Structures, as identified on the Wicklow Record of Protected Structures as afforded protection under the following policies and objectives:

9.1.1.1 Record of Protected Structures Objectives

BH9 To ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) contained in the Record of Protected Structures.

BH10 To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to consultation with suitably qualified Conservation Architects and / or other relevant experts, suitable design, materials and construction methods.

BH11 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.

BH12 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.

BH13 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures, unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. In cases where demolition or partial demolition is permitted or where permission is given for the removal of feature(s), the proper recording of the building / feature will be required before works are undertaken and where possible the reuse of such features should be considered in any replacement buildings.

BH14 The Planning Authority shall consider the change of use of Protected Structures, provided that it can be shown that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected or where it can be shown it is necessary to have an economic use to enable its upkeep.

Blessington Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019.

The purpose of the Blessington Local Area Plan is to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of Blessington. The aim of the Plan is to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations.

The Plan was adopted in 2013 and identifies the special characteristics of Blessington and develop objectives for the future sustainable development of the town in addition to the policies and objectives set out in the County Development Plan 2016 –2022. Heritage is covered in Section 8 of the Plan which notes that:

'The protection and enhancement of heritage assets through the plan will help to safeguard the local character and distinctiveness of the town of Blessington and its surroundings, providing local economic, social and environmental benefits. Blessington has a rich and diverse natural and built heritage. The Council has a role to play in helping to ensure the conservation of these resources for current and future generations. Of importance are designated wildlife habitats and species (e.g. NHAs, SPAs), non-designated habitats for wildlife such as the areas identified in the Blessington Local Biodiversity Study such as trees, hedgerows and streams and areas of archaeological and architectural interest.'

The historic core of Blessington is designated an 'Architectural Conservation Area' and the 'Blessington Architectural Conservation Appraisal' study details the features that contribute to this area and are worthy of protection. The study is included in Appendix C of the Local Area Plan.

Section 8 of the Plan notes the following objectives which directly relate to this project:

- BD1 To protect the natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the town, in accordance with the objectives and development standards set out in Chapters 16 and 17 of the County Development Plan as are applicable to Blessington and its environs.
- BD5 To facilitate the use of natural areas for active outdoor pursuits, subject to the highest standards of habitat protection and management and all other normal planning controls.
- BD6 The Council shall seek to promote access to amenity areas of the plan for the benefit of all, on the basis of co-operation with landowners, recreational users and other relevant stakeholder groups to promote “agreed access” on public and privately owned land in the plan area on the basis of sustainability, consultation and consensus.
- BD7 To protect those features that have been identified in the Architectural Conservation Area Appraisal as contributing to the town centre’s overall appearance and heritage value and to ensure that new development contributes positively to the designated Architectural Conservation Area.

Appendix D Gazetteers of Recorded Heritage Assets

Recorded Monuments within, or just outside, 100m of the scheme

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
WI005-026		Holy Well	Early Medieval	Now covered by Blessington Reservoir. The name refers to a trout (Tobar an Bhric) which was said to live in the well. According to the OS Name Books invalids drank from the well and left rags on the surrounding bushes.	In reservoir
WI005-047001	(National Monument No. 280)	Cross - High cross (present location)	Medieval	National Monument in state ownership No. 280. Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- & WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28) The above description is derived from the published	Substantial remains
WI005-047002		Cross - High cross (present location)	Medieval	Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- and WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28)	Substantial remains
WI005-047003		Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	Originally (WI005-070008-) from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. A recumbent granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carries an incised Maltese cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross.	Substantial remains
WI005-047004		Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	Probably originally located (WI005-070009-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. An earthfast granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carries a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief.	Substantial remains
WI005-047005		Graveslab (current position)	Medieval	The present location of a slab, set in concrete at the head of a grave, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, where its original location has been designated WI005-070015-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.	Substantial remains
WI005-047006		Font (current position)	Medieval	Originally from the ancient church site at Burgage (see WI005-070016- for original location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole	Substantial remains

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				(diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.	
WI005-070048		Ringwork	Medieval	Situated on a gentle S/SW-facing slope, on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir which has encroached on the site from S-SE. Circular area (diam. 52m; max. ext. diam. 85m) defined by a bank (Wth 6m; int. H 1-1.5m), an external fosse (everywhere except at the S where it has been washed away) (Wth 9m; D 0.5-1.6m) and an outer counterscarp bank (Wth 9m; H 1-1.8m) from W-NNE. No indication of an entrance or internal features. Limited excavation revealed two hearths and a simple stone lined drainage gully (Macalister 1943, 147-9).	Substantial remains
WI005-069		Redundant record	Not applicable	This record was formerly classed as a ringfort and included in the Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 52) based on the coordinates supplied by Macalister in his excavation report (Macalister 1943, 145). However, this appears to be an error and the monument excavated by Macalister was in fact WI005-048---- which is c. 200m to the NW (pers. comm. Chris Corlett).	Not applicable
WI005-07001		Church	Medieval	Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N (WI005-04700--). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.	Some remains
WI005-07002		High Cross	Medieval	The original location of 'St Mark's Cross' - see WI005-047001- for its present location.	Removed to another location
WI005-07003		Holy Well	Medieval	Situated to the W of Burgage More castle (WI005-070004-). Described in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as a spring well at the foot of St Mark's Cross (WI005-047001-) dedicated to St Mark or St Baoithin. It could not be located and is probably near the edge of, or covered by, Blessington Reservoir.	No visible remains
WI005-07004	05-09	Tower House	Medieval	Situated within the graveyard (WI005-070005-), on the edge of Blessington Reservoir and being undermined by periodic rises in the water level. A four-storey tower house of uncoursed rubble with dressed granite quoins (int. dims. 4.65m E-W x 5.05m N-S; max. H 8m), of which only the N and W walls survive. Wooden floors were supported on granite corbels. There is a two-centred arch over the doorway in the W wall, lintelled windows at first- and third-floor level, and a round-arched window at second-floor level. Described in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as being in ruins. Fitzgerald (1913-16, 395-6) noted stairs in the SE corner. Part of the medieval borough of Burgage More (WI005-070----).	Some remains

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
WI005-07005		Graveyard	Medieval	Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another (WI005-047001 and WI005-047002-) were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N. In 1939 a quantity of animal bone and artefacts were brought to the NMI, and human bone was reburied in the cemetery at Blessington (Cahill and Sikora 2011, Vol. 2, 526). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.	Barely visible
WI005-07006		Architectural fragment	Medieval	Listed as a 'font' in the (1986). It is not listed in the RMP (1995). The SMR file contains a reference sheet to the 'Preliminary Report on the Monuments of Archaeological Interest in Co. Wicklow' compiled by M. Reynolds for An Foras Forbartha Teoranta (1973, 67). It describes this as a 'Holy water font'. It is evident that this is a stoup and not a font as scoped by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.	Some remains
WI005-07007		High Cross	Medieval	The original location of this high cross - see WI005-047002- for its present location	Removed to another location
WI005-07008		Grave slab	Medieval	The original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a recumbent granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carrying an incised Maltese cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047003-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.	Removed to another location
WI005-07009		Grave slab	Medieval	The probable original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carrying a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047004-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.	Removed to another location
WI005-07010		Grave slab	Medieval	In the rubble of the church tower ruins (WI005-070001-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage. A granite fragment (dims. L 0.43m; Wth 0.35m; T 0.25m) bears portion of an incised cross. (Corlett 2003, 90-91 Slab 3)	Some remains
WI005-07011		Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070011-: two fragments of a complete, tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.35m; Wth 0.59-0.70m; T 0.11m) bearing a Latin cross in low relief with a double outline. It had been reused as a doorway lintel in the church tower. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 108 Slab 4)	Uncertain

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
WI005-07012		Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, the late Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070012-: a very slightly tapering granite slab (dims. L 1m; Wth 0.41-0.43m; T 0.16m) bearing a ringed cross carved in relief. It had been reused as a window lintel in the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 107 Slab 5)	Location unknown
WI005-07013		Grave slab	Medieval	In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070013-: fragment of a gently tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.25m; Wth 0.40-0.60m; T 0.15m) bearing traces of a cross-shaft and arms carved in relief. It had been reused in the construction of the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92-93, 108 Slab 6)	No visible remains
WI005-07014		Architectural Fragment	Medieval	A piece of Romanesque moulding recorded by Paddy Healy in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, and presumably associated with the ruined church there (WI005-070001-) (SMR file). Its present location is not known	No visible remains
WI005-070015		Font	Medieval	The original location of a slab, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, to the new graveyard and set in concrete at the head of a grave, where its present location has been designated WI005-047005-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.	Removed to another location
WI005-070016		Font	Medieval	Now in the new graveyard at Burgage (see WI005-047006- for present location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole (diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.	Removed to another location
WI005-071		Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI N 332/333 (1973)). On a level to very gently SE-facing slope on the NW of the edge of the Blessington reservoir. A drainage feature around a small field.	Some remains
WI005-106-		Headstone	17th century	The graveyard of the Church of Ireland in Blessington contains eight 17th-century headstones. These include granite stones erected to Darby Burke (ob. 1690), Richard Benell (ob. 1686), Ann Hiall (ob. 1687), Thomes Lear (ob. 1688), William Beates (ob. 1685) and William Bluomey (ob. 1683), a fragment of the stone erected to Richard Provei (ob. 168-), and a bevelled stone executed in sandstone erected to David Murphy (ob. 1699). The headstone of William Bluomey states that he was the first to be buried in the graveyard. The headstones have recently been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard. The present church is of early 19th-century date.	Substantial remains

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
WI005-106001-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); William Bluomey (ob. 1683). The headstone of William Bluomey states he was the first to be buried in the graveyard.	Substantial remains
WI005-106002-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); William ---tes (ob. 1685).	Substantial remains
WI005-106003-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); Richard Benell (ob. 1686).	Substantial remains
WI005-106004-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); Ann Hiall (ob. 1687).	Substantial remains
WI005-106005-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); Homes Lear (ob. 1688).	Substantial remains
WI005-106006-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); Richard Provei (ob. 168-).	Substantial remains
WI005-106007-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---); Darby Burke (ob. 1690).	Substantial remains
WI005-106008-		Headstone	17th century	One of eight seventeenth century headstones which have been re-erected against the N wall of the graveyard (WI005-106---);	Substantial remains
WI005-049		Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On marshy ground on a gentle S-facing slope to the N of the Blessington Reservoir. A field visit in 1989 determined that it was not of archaeological significance.	Some remains
WI005-050		Redundant record	N/A	Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On a level to gently S-facing slope overlooking the Liffey Valley to the S. Now in marshy wooded terrain on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir NE of a forestry plantation. There is an irregular quadrangular pool (c. 20m x 20m) at this location but it is not of archaeological significance.	Some remains
WI010-001		Burial ground	Unknown	Situated on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir. A small circular enclosure (diam c. 15m) indicated on the current OS 6-inch map, which consists of a roughly circular level area. No other features visible at ground level and no evidence of grave-markers.	In reservoir
WI010-01101		Church	Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. The church is represented by a sub rectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) in a small rectangular graveyard (WI010-011003-)	Some remains
WI010-01102		Ecclesiastical Enclosure	Early Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. Part of the N graveyard wall (WI010-011003-) stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) outside which there is a fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m); this may have continued to the W to the bank of the small stream and may be part of an earlier enclosure.	Some remains

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
WI010-01103		Graveyard	Medieval	Situated on a gentle SW-facing slope beside a stream. A roughly rectangular area (c. 32m N-S; 57m E-W) enclosed by a stone wall. A church (WI010-011001-) represented by a sub-rectangular raised area (dims. c. 20m x 15m) is to SW of centre. Part of the N graveyard wall which stands on an earth and stone bank (Wth 2m; H 1m) with an external fosse (Wth 1.8m; D 1m) may be part of an earlier enclosure (WI010-011002-).	Substantial remains
WI010-01104		Bullaun Stone	Early Medieval	Large boulder (c. 1.70m by 1.50m) in a stream bed immediately W of a church site (WI010-011001-). There is a single basin (diam. 0.33m; D. 0.16m) in the upper surface.	Some remains
WI010-01105		Graveslab	Medieval	In the S quadrant of Templeboodin graveyard (WI010-011003-). A granite slab (L 1.45m; Wth 0.58m) tapering towards the W end (Wth 0.36m) which contains a single latin cross in low relief (L 0.54m; Wth 0.47m) formed by a raised band (Wth 0.1m; H 0.003m). At the E end is a Greek cross (34 x 34cm) also in low relief formed by a raised band (Wth 0.09m; H 0.002m). The slab is broken at this point and the break extends diagonally across the intersection of the arms of the cross.	Some remains
WI010-01106		Redundant record	N/A	This record was created in error - see WI010-015001- for correct location and details	N/A
WI010-018		Ringfort	Early Medieval	Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking marshy terrain. Bivallate circular ringfort (diam. 23m; max. ext. diam. 41.5m) excavated prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir. The site was defined by an earthen bank (Wth 1.5m; H 0.6m) and a fosse (Wth 2.4m; D 1m) with an outer bank (Wth 2.7m; H 0.6m) from SSW-NW-NE. The fosse was separated from the inner bank by a berm (Wth 3-6m) and was partly separated from the outer bank by a second berm (max. Wth 3.4m). There were two narrow gaps (Wth 1m) in the inner bank at the NE and WSW with a more substantial example (Wth 1.5m) at the SSE opposite a causeway in the fosse. A second causeway formed by large stones occurred at the NE but may not have been an original feature. At the S, an L-shaped bank ran from the inner bank outwards across the fosse and then continued eastwards as far as the SSE entrance. Little, other than an arc of irregular paving in the N sector of the interior, was revealed during excavation. (Macalister 1943)	In reservoir
WI010-019		Enclosure	Uncertain	Description: Situated on gently NW-facing ground, at the edge of Blessington Reservoir. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 20m) shown on the 1838 OS 6-inch map. Although the site is occasionally exposed in dry summers there is no visible trace at ground level.	In reservoir
WI010-024		Cillin Children's Burial Ground	/ Uncertain	A slight mound (diam. 20m) excavated in 1938 prior to the construction of the Blessington Reservoir beside which it now stands. Two small graveslabs, one in the form of a cross, came from the site, but the excavator surmised the acidic soil had destroyed any bones. Not visible at ground level; the site is still known as the 'Reilig'. (Raftery 1943).	Excavated
WI010-048		Cross Inscribed Stone	Uncertain	Situated on the N side of the road between Ballyknockan and Valley mount. Granite boulder with a small double-line incised Latin cross (L c. 0.4m). (Information A. O'Sullivan)	Substantial remains
WI010-058		House	Neolithic	Discovered in February 2006 on the W shore of Poulaphouca Reservoir when the water level dropped. On a gentle slope in former agricultural land overlooking the King's River. An	Excavated / in reservoir

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				almost square structure (int. dims. L 6.6m N-S; Wth 6.2m E-W) is defined by the burnt clays and charcoal-rich fill of the slot-trench of the building's foundation. Subsequent intermittent investigation (Excavation Licence No. 07E1127), when the water level allowed, revealed a significant amount of Neolithic pottery, a flint axe and a possibly ritually deposited Bann flake. (Corlett 2009, 26-30)	
WI010-062		Wedge Tomb	Bronze Age	Unrecorded wedge tomb identified by Christopher J. Darby in 2010 which was followed up by a rescue excavation carried out by Chris Corlett under licence no. 10E0131. The results of this excavation were summarised as following; 'The site, at Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, is situated on the edge of the shoreline of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and was first identified by Christopher J. Darby in March 2010. The site is located on the edge of the normal reservoir levels and would therefore only be inundated when the water levels are at their highest. However, this is the area that is most prone to long-term and consistent erosion by the reservoir. The sand that has partially sealed the site and thereby preserved it over the last number of years is now itself being actively eroded by the reservoir, and the high water levels recorded in 2009 may have significantly contributed to the removal of sand and the resulting exposure of the site (which may explain why it has gone unnoticed until now). This recent erosion had compromised the stability of the site and made it more prone to erosion by the reservoir on the western and southern sides. Prior to excavation the site appeared to consist of a burial chamber (0.45m wide and 1m long, open at the south-west) placed off-centre within a U-shaped kerb setting (2.1m north-west/south-east x 2.5m) retaining cairn material. Excavation suggests that there were two main phases of use. The initial phase consisted of the construction of the chamber, surrounding cairn and retaining kerb. The chamber was built off-centre within the cairn and retaining kerb and measured 1.2m long and 0.45m wide. The chamber was formed by two large slabs on the southern side, three on the opposite side, and two end stones. The kerb was best preserved at the south and rear. While there was a large amount of stone on the northern side, only one was clearly set. Several others may originally have formed part of the kerb but may have become dislodged by the reservoir at this side. The kerbstones and cairn material lay on a light-brown clay which appears to represent the old sod. This was not present within the burial chamber, where instead a grey silt was present at the lowest levels. The structure can be best compared with wedge tombs of the early Bronze Age (another wedge tomb in the general area is situated at Sroughan, c. 5.5km to the north). No dating evidence was forthcoming for the construction of the tomb, but evidence for this may be preserved beneath the cairn material and surrounding kerb, which was not excavated. There was no evidence for a primary burial within the tomb, but this may be due to later disturbance of the tomb during the early Iron Age. Whatever about the date of the initial construction of the tomb, it is clear that it was reconfigured and probably reused during the early Iron Age. This phase was represented by a layer of charcoal that was placed within the main chamber and beyond the tomb. This dense charcoal layer (50mm thick) was identified by Ellen O'Carroll as consisting of hazel and oak. Hazel samples from this layer were sent for 14C dating and returned a date of 760–414 bc. There was no evidence for primary burials sealed beneath this charcoal	Excavated

RMP Ref	RMP ref	Type	Period	Description	Condition
				layer, so perhaps the interior was cleaned out prior to the placement of this material within the chamber. There was no evidence for in situ burning of the clay beneath the charcoal layer, clearly indicating that it was deliberately placed here. The charcoal layer did not appear to be randomly dumped, but instead was apparently carefully placed within the chamber. The charcoal also extended north and east of the tomb, but notably was not present beneath the kerbstones of cairn material. The charcoal layer also occurred throughout a void between the chamber and the large kerbstone at the north. It is not clear if this void represents an original chamber or if it was created during this reuse of the site. Within the rear of the main chamber three stones were found sitting on the charcoal, and the evidence indicated that the chamber was deliberately reduced in size after the charcoal had been placed within. This certainly implies that the intention was to reuse the main chamber for the purpose of burial – perhaps this was also the purpose of what appears to be the new chamber adjacent to it. However, if this was the case, any trace of burial was removed by the reservoir' (www.excavations.ie. No. 836; Corlett 2013, 266-7).	
WI010-078		Moated site	Medieval	Situated on a gentle W-facing slope overlooking the Liffey valley; area now under Blessington Reservoir. Enclosure (dims. c. 25m N-S x 20m E-W defined by bank and external fosse, visible as cropmark on aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 332-3).	Substantial remains
WI010-121		Mill	Uncertain	Timbers and a millstone were discovered on the exposed shoreline when the lake levels dropped in January 2006. On relatively flat ground at the base of a fairly steep slope that forms the foothills of Lugnagun, and formerly a shelf overlooking the floodplains of the River Liffey. Two large, squared, timber beams (max. dims. L 0.9m; Wth 0.18m; T 0.09m) protruding above the ground surface appear to represent the sides of the wheel pit of a mill and are associated with a series of small upright timber stakes (max. dims. L 0.10m; Wth 0.1m; H 0.26m) which may have acted as supports to the timbers facing the wheel pit or the tail race. A low, linear ridge extending to the E of the site may represent a mill race, but it was not investigated.	In reservoir

Architectural Heritage within 100m of the Scheme

RPS Ref	NIAH Ref/NMS Ref	Name	Description
05- 02		Blessington The Rectory	A circa 1870, L-plan house of three bays and two storeys. Facing the garden is a gabled breakfront. The house has cement-rendered walls, string-course and moulded architrave to windows, timber porch and round-headed doorcase
05- 03	16303001	Blessington Street Ulster Bank	Main Large, early-19th Century, five-bay, two-storey house over a basement with a round-headed doorcase and radial fanlight, ground-floor windows in blank arches linked by a granite string-course and with a hipped roof.
05- 04	16303013	Blessington Street Downshire Hotel	Main Early-19th century, seven-bay, two-storey building over a basement, with granite porch, painted, rough-cast walls, Georgian panes in sash windows and a low-pitched roof.
05- 05	16303003	Blessington Street	Main A handsome market house, dating from circa 1830, of granite ashlar with a three-bay, two-storey facade with a pedimented

RPS Ref	NIAH Ref/NMS Ref	Name	Description
		Credit Union House	breakfront, arched ground floor (two arches open on the ground floor) heavy cornice, coat of arms and hipped roof.
05- 06	16303006	Blessington Main Street Church of Ireland	Mid-19th century, gothic-revival church of opus incertum with pointed windows and a steep-pitched roof. The tall, three-stage tower, probably late 17th century, has a distinct batter, rendered walls and simple pinnacles.
05- 07	16303022	Blessington Main Street Former Catholic church	An early-19th century, five-bay, single-cell of coursed-rubble stone with a gabled porch and a bellcote. The windows are square-headed and the roof slated.
05- 08	16303019	Blessington Main Street 'Dempsey'	A tall, three-bay, three-storey, gable-ended house with a distinct batter to the rendered walls, natural slates and end stacks. The windows have Georgian glazing bars and the round-headed doorcase is architraved. (The ground-floor fenestration has been altered).
10- 05		Biddy Mulvey's ruined House, Ballyknockan	Gable end of a ruined house. Built of coursed-rubble granite. Land League Cottage with plaque stating 'The Emergency Land Grabber Defeated here 1888, God Save Ireland'
	16303002	House, Main Street Blessington	Detached five-bay two-storey house, built c.1830. The building is finished in roughcast render. The door has a radial fanlight over and is set within a semi-circular headed opening; it has a block and start stone surround. Window openings are flat-headed with six over six replacement uPVC frames. The pitched roof has natural slate and cast-iron rainwater goods. Chimneystacks are rendered with plain caps and clay pots. The building is slightly set back behind recent wrought-iron railings.
	16303004	Boyle Monument, Main Street Blessington	Freestanding monument, built 1865. It is inscribed 'The Water supplied at the cost of a kind and generous Landlord for the benefit of his Attached and Loyal Tenants'. The monument comprises of a large square plinth with a tall decorative pinnacle. There is a small water trough to the south east side. The monument is set within the market square directly in front of the market house.
	16303005	House, Main Street Blessington	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1830. The building is finished in roughcast render. The door has a plain fanlight over and is set within a semi-circular headed opening. Window openings are flat-headed with two over two timber sash frames. The pitched roof has natural slate and cast-iron rainwater goods. Chimneystacks are very broad and are rendered with plain caps and clay pots. The building is road fronted
	16303007	West Wicklow House, Main Street Blessington	End-of-terrace six-bay two-storey former pair of houses, built c.1830. The houses were converted to a hotel in the later 19th century and later converted to use as a public house. The replacement front door is set within a flat-headed opening. Window openings are also flat-headed and have replacement timber frames. The pitched roof is double piled and has cast-iron rainwater goods. Chimneystacks are rendered with plain caps and clay pots. The building has a road frontage.
	16303008	Ace Flooring Main Street Blessington	Terraced five-bay two-storey former house, built c.1790, now in use as a house and shop. The building is finished in render with stone dressings. The replacement panelled door has a radial fanlight and a semi-circular headed stone dressing with keystone. To the south-west side there is a plain door and shop window with a painted timber signboard over. Windows are flat-headed with two over two timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with natural slate with cast-iron rainwater

RPS Ref	NIAH Ref/NMS Ref	Name	Description
			goods. The wide chimneystacks have plain caps and clay pots. The building is road fronted.
16303009		Harvest Fare/Hair Creations, Main Street Blessington	Terraced three-bay two-storey former house, built c.1840, now in use as a pair of shops. The building is finished in render. The panelled door is set within a flat-headed opening. To either side there is a plain shopfront with a painted timber signboard over. Windows are flat-headed with two over two timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with natural slate with cast-iron rainwater goods. The wide chimneystacks have plain caps and clay pots. The building is road fronted
16303010		House, Main Street, Blessington	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1840. The house is finished in render. The replacement panelled front door is set within a flat headed opening. Window openings are also flat headed with two over two timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with natural slate with cast-iron rainwater goods. The chimneystacks have corbelled caps and clay pots. The building has a road frontage.
16303011		Church of Our Lady of the Most Holy Sacrament Main Street, Blessington	Detached Catholic church built in 1981. Building approximately L-plan with two large mono-pitched wings set almost at right angles to each other. Door set within flat-headed opening within small lean-to porch. Window openings generally flat-headed, although some have sloping heads. Exposed portion of rear wall of one wing is entirely glazed. Frames are metal and fixed and glazing is plain. Single-pitched roof finished with natural slate, with cast metal rainwater goods. Freestanding recent crucifix stands close to road. Church set back from road within own grounds.
16303012		Former house, Main Street, Blessington	Terraced four-bay two-storey former house, built c.1830, now in use as a house and shop. The building is finished in roughcast render. The entrance consists of a panelled timber door with semi-circular fanlight with spiders' web tracery. To south-west side there is a metal roller shutter with a painted timber signboard over. Windows are flat-headed with six over six timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with natural slate with cast-iron rainwater goods. The wide chimneystacks have corbelled caps and clay pots. The building has a road frontage.
16303014		House, Main Street Blessington	End-of-terrace four-bay two-storey house, built c.1830. The building is finished in roughcast render. The panelled front door has a radial fanlight over and is set within a semi-circular arched opening; this has a stone surround with a pronounced key stone. To the south-west side there is a canted flat-roofed single-storey bay; this has replacement metal framed windows
16303015		M. Balfe, Main Street Blessington	End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey former house, built c.1840. The building is finished in render with block and start quoins. To the south-west side there is a modern tiled shopfront with an internally illuminated plastic signboard. The replacement panelled front door is set within a flat-headed opening. Window openings are flat-headed with two over two timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with artificial slate with cast-iron rainwater goods. The chimneystacks have corbelled caps and clay pots. The building is road fronted
16303016		The Old School House, Blessington	Semi-detached three-bay two-storey former school, built c.1830, now in use as a restaurant. The building is finished in render with block and start quoins and dressings. The replacement front door sits within a flat-headed opening and this is set within a projecting gabled single-storey porch

RPS Ref	NIAH Ref/NMS Ref	Name	Description
	16303017	Blessington Garda Síochána Station, Main Street	End-of-terrace five-bay two-storey former house, built c.1830 now in use as Garda station. The building is finished in render. The replacement front door is set within a flat-headed opening. Over the door is a projecting flat roofed portico with Tuscan order columns. Window openings are flat-headed with one over one timber sash frames. The pitched roof is finished with natural slate and cast-iron rainwater goods. Chimneystacks are rendered with slightly corbelled bands and caps and clay pots. The building has a street frontage
	16303018	House, Blessington	End-of-terrace four-bay single-storey former pair of houses, built c.1820, now amalgamated as one house. To the eastern side there is a lean-to addition with a castellated parapet. This is one of a line of four houses; it is finished in render
	16303020	Arch, Main Street Blessington	Terraced single-bay single-storey gateway, built 1852. The open gateway is constructed in the shape of a horseshoe with dressed stone surround. The keystone is inscribed with the date 1852. The gate announced the presence of a blacksmiths shop which was set to the rear of the adjoining building. The structure fronts onto the pavement
	16303021	Blessington National School	Detached multiple-bay single-storey school house, built in 1936. To the north and south are slightly lower entrance wings. The walls are finished in painted roughcast with a smooth render base course. The overhanging hipped roof of the main section is slated and has tall brick chimneystacks, whilst the roofs of the entrance wings are obscured by parapets; the wing to the south has a tall roughcast rendered chimneystack (this wing appears to incorporate a boiler house). The entrances to both wings consist of replacement partly glazed timber doors surrounded by smooth render with a simple moulding. The uniform windows to the main section are flat-headed and have replacement uPVC frames; the wings have a variety of smaller windows, also with replacement uPVC frames. Cast-iron rainwater goods. The building is set back from the roadside behind a large forecourt / yard, enclosed by a roughcast rendered wall with 'geometric'
	16303027	Blessington Bridge spanning Knockieran/Haylands	Six 'arch' concrete road bridge of c.1935 spanning the Poulaphouca Reservoir. The bridge is supported on concrete piers (seven to each side) and has a low parapet topped with tubular metal railings. Crash barriers have been installed to each side of the road.
	16303028	Saint Joseph's Hall, Blessington	Detached multiple-bay single-storey hall, built c.1935. The building is rectangular with a full-width entrance porch to the front gable, the latter with projecting bays flanking the entrance. Good example of a mid 20th-century hall, with mild Art Deco influences. The building is generally well preserved though the windows have been largely boarded up.

Planned Landscapes within 100m of the Scheme

NIAH Ref	Name	Description
4256	Russborough House	The formal pool shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map at 295627, 211299 is in a degraded condition Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity
4258	Russellstown	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir. Virtually no recognisable features

NIAH Ref	Name	Description
4265	Baltyboys House, Boystown or Baltyboys Lower	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake. Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable
4266	Knockieran Cottage	Part of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a lake. Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
4261	Burgage Moyle Cottage	Area partly flooded by Poulaphouca Reservoir, golf course indicated in remainder of area. Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible.
4259	Willmount House	Building indicated, not named. The site of the principal building is now a quarry. Peripheral features visible- significant development.
4262	Stormount	Nothing indicated. Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
4257	Tulfarris House, Tulfarris	Much of this site has been permanently flooded by the creation of a reservoir. On what remains of the site a golf course has been constructed. Virtually no features of the designed landscape shown on the 1836 - 1846 OS map have survived. Virtually no recognisable features