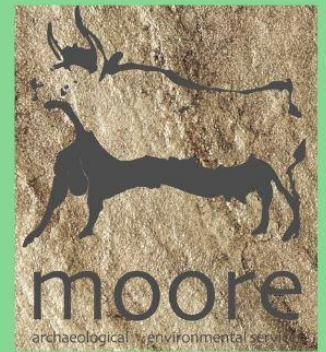


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Prepared for  
**Tobin Consulting Engineers**

Presented on  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



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# **CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Prepared by  
**Declan Moore**

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Our Reference    **23087**

Your Reference    **NA**

## **PROPOSED      ACTIVE      TRAVEL SCHEME, NEWTOWN, TRIM CO. MEATH**

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## Revision History

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Report prepared by: **Declan Moore**  
**Archaeological Consultant**

## Purpose

This report describes the results of a cultural heritage assessment of a proposed works associated with the Newtown Active Travel Scheme at Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath. The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data has been collated, the author and Moore Group accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available after the reports completion. Moore Group accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

**Filename: 23087 Trim CHA RevB**

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## Abbreviations

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
ACA	Architectural Conservation Areas
ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DLHG	Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMS	National Monuments Service
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
KKAP	Kilkenny Archaeological Project
ZAP	Zones of Archaeological Potential
ZoN	Zone of Notification

## Coordinate System

All GPS coordinates given in this report are in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

# 1 Introduction

Moore Group was commissioned to complete a cultural heritage impact assessment of the potential impact of proposed works associated with the Newtown Active Travel Scheme at Trim, Co. Meath. The proposed works are located to the north of and adjacent to the complex associated with the Newtown Cathedral National Monument. The works area is also partially located within the overall ZoN for the Historic Town of Trim (ME036-048----).

## 1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological and cultural heritage environment (hereafter referred to as cultural heritage environment or cultural heritage resource), to evaluate the potential or likely impacts that the proposed development will have on this environment and, where appropriate, to suggest mitigation measures to ameliorate potential impacts, in accordance with the policies of:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The National Monuments Acts (1930-2005).
- Meath County Development Plan (2021-2027).
- Best practice guidelines.

Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on the baseline environment is identified and evaluated.

## 1.2 Terms and Definitions

### Cultural Heritage

The phrase ‘cultural heritage’ is a generic term used to identify a multitude of cultural, archaeological, and architectural sites and monuments. The term ‘cultural heritage’, in Environmental Impact Statement compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to have historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social, or technical significance/merit. 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”:

- Tangible cultural heritage.
- movable cultural heritage (artefacts).
- immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, etc).
- underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and
- Intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

### World Heritage Sites

Although not formally recognised in Irish legislation, impacts on World Heritage Sites will nonetheless be a material consideration for developments in their wider vicinity. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having

cultural, historical, scientific, or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity".

### **National Monuments**

On a national level, the highest degree of protection granted to archaeological monuments are those afforded National Monument status, which are protected under the National Monuments Act of 1930 and its various amendments. These are the pre-eminent archaeological sites in Ireland and fall into several categories including:

- Sites that are in the ownership or guardianship of the state.
- Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders.
- Monuments in the ownership of a local authority; and
- Walled towns.

Generally National Monuments in state care are numbered amongst the best preserved and most impressive monuments in the country.

### **Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database**

The legislation that affords protection to the archaeology of Ireland has seen several amendments since the first National Monuments Act of 1930 and there is a legacy of several different registers and associated terminology.

A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The RMP is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places (resulting from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland [ASI]) and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. The information contained within the RMP is derived from the earlier non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). However, some entries were not transferred to the statutory record as they refer to features that on inspection by the Archaeological Survey were found not to merit inclusion in that record or could not be located with sufficient accuracy to be included. Such sites however remain part of the SMR. The record is a dynamic one and is updated to take account of on-going research.

The most up-to-date record of archaeological monuments, the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD), is available for viewing and download on the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website. This record is continually revised and indicates several additional sites that do not feature in the RMP. The National Monuments Service also makes available SMR Zones of Notification on the website.

### **Sites and Monuments Record**

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is an inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. There are more than 150,800 records in the database and over 138,800 of these relate to archaeological monuments.

An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.

### **Register of Historic Monuments**

Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act states that the Minister is required to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded

statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded in the Register without the permission of the Minister is illegal, and two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. This list was largely replaced by the Record of Monuments and Places following the 1994 Amendment Act. No registered Historic Monuments were identified.

### **Architectural Conservation Areas**

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides that all Development Plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures.

In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

### **Record of Protected Structures/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The importance of our built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part II, Section 10) which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include in their Development Plans objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the importance of a structure, protection from adverse impacts and potential access to grant aid for conservation works. The record of Protected Structures is an ongoing process and can be reviewed and added to. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

### **Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates**

The Architectural Section of the DHLGH is in the process of a multi-phase study looking at Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens that appear as shaded areas on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps, circa. 1830.

'The objective of this survey is to begin a process of understanding of the extent of Ireland's historic gardens and designed landscape. Sites were identified using the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. These were compared with current aerial photography to assess the level of survival and change.'

## **1.3 Methodology**

### **1.3.1 Introduction**

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is broadly based on guidance provided in the National Roads Authority's (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005a), and Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005b) (the 'NRA Guidelines'), the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and other relevant guidelines.

This impact assessment addresses Cultural Heritage under the two headings of archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

### 1.3.2 Desktop Assessment

All known cultural heritage sites were reviewed on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping. Sites mapped included the following:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the tentative list of candidate sites.
- National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders.
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

All townlands located within 1 km of the proposed development site were listed and crossed referenced with:

- National Monuments, a list for County Meath available from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the National Monuments Service, and
- Lists contained in the Report of the Commissioners or 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. These sites which have the potential to be in the ownership of the Local Authorities were highlighted as potential National Monuments.

The Meath County Development Plan (2021-2027) and relevant Local Area Plans were reviewed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural heritage of the area. The development plans contain lists of cultural heritage sites including national monuments, recorded monuments, architectural conservation areas, protected structures, and protected views as well as baseline assessments of the landscape character of the county.

The plans also outline the county's heritage policies and objectives that aim to protect and promote the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the region. This evaluation was carried out with due regard to these policies and other relevant information contained within the plans.

To assess the potential impact of the proposed works the following sources were also consulted or reviewed:

- Excavations Bulletin. The Excavation Bulletin is both a published directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2012. The database gives access to over 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author.
- 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.
- Cartographic Sources. 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. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork.

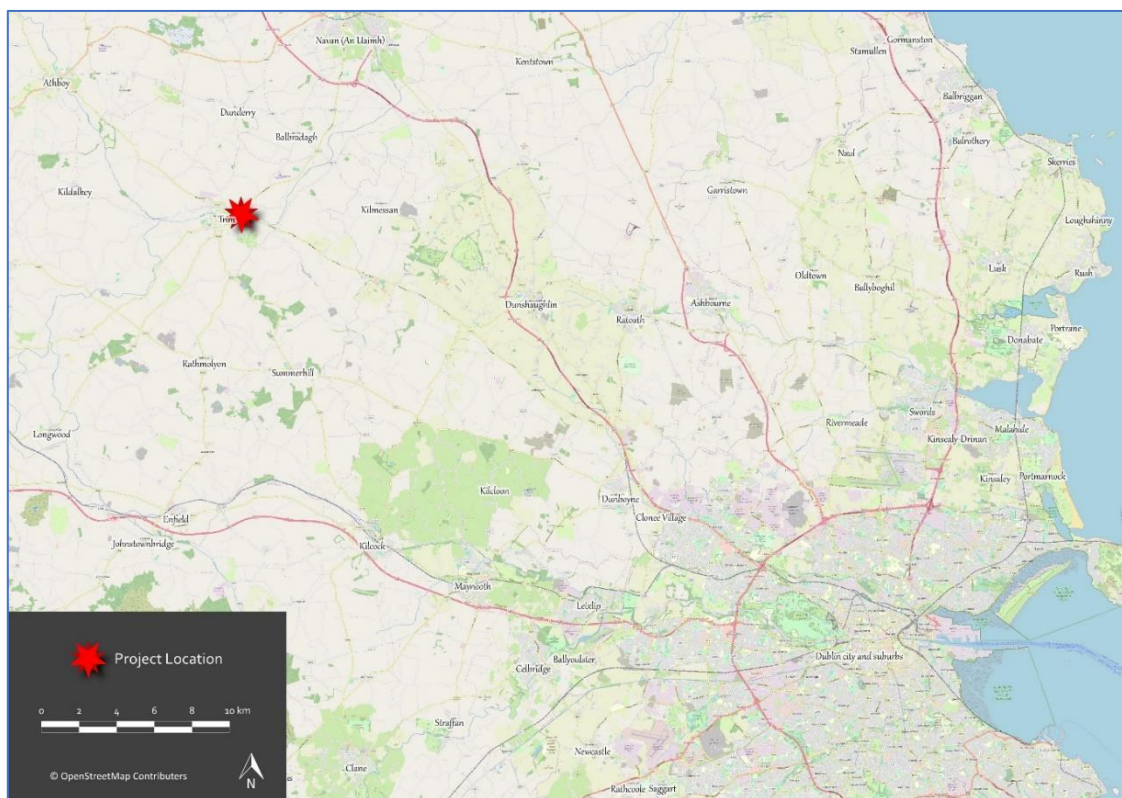


- Toponyms. Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology, and folklore of an area. The placename can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. In compiling the following data, several resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).
- Aerial photographs. 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.
- Published archaeological inventories; and
- Documentary Sources: several literary references were consulted.

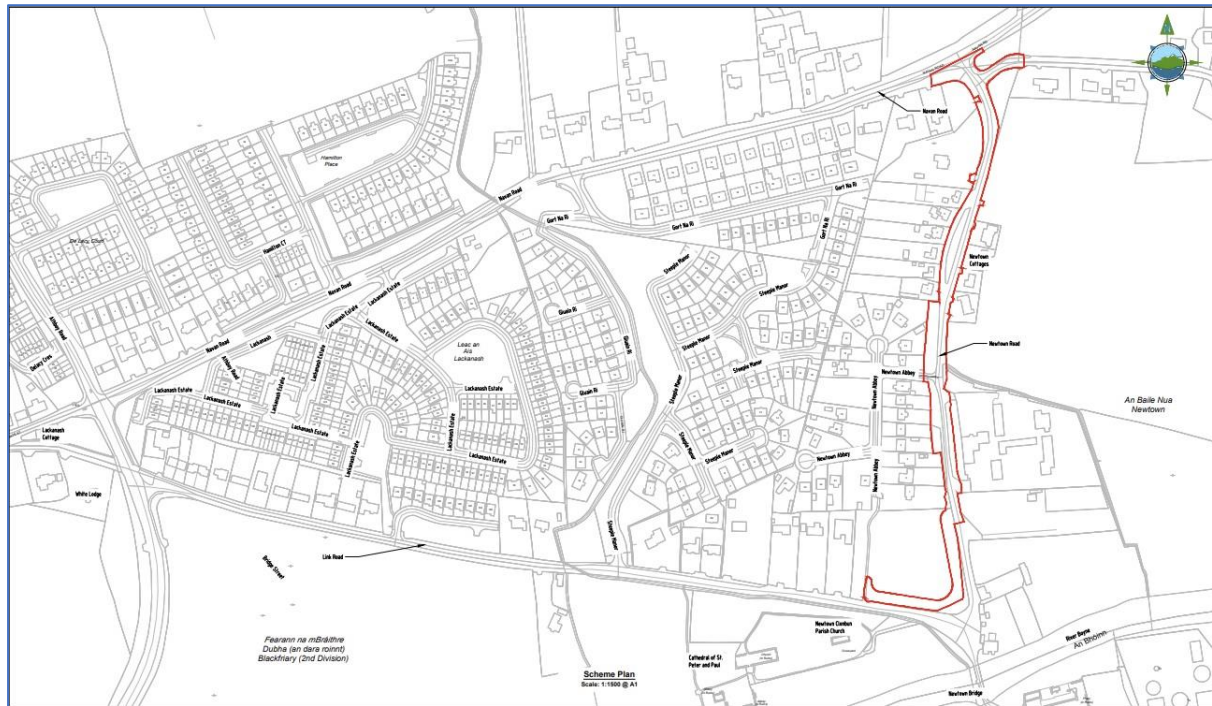
## 1.4 Description of Project

The proposed development comprises upgrades to the green area adjacent to the Old Lackanash Road (L8016) (from Marcie Regans Pub to roughly 110m to the west). This part of the works will include an offline footway through the green area, lighting and landscaping and tying into the existing connection to the Old Lackanash Road.

Along the Newtown Road (Newtown Abbey to R161) excavation of the existing footway will be carried out. Excavation of the east side of landscaped grass area at Newtown Cottages will be carried out to facilitate construction of new footway. Grass verge clearance will be carried out along the western boundary.



**Figure 1 Showing location of Proposed Development Area (PDA) © OpenStreetMap Contributors**



**Figure 2**                      **Proposed works Plan.**

## 2 Existing Environment

## 2.1 Location Details

The proposed development is located at Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath.

### Table 1 Location details

County and town	Meath, Trim.
Barony	Navan Upper.
Parish	Newtownclonbun.
Street	Trim Old Lackanash Road (L8016) and Newtown Abbey Road (L8017).
Townland	Newtown, Lackanash.
Archaeological Monuments within 200m	See Sections 2.2.2.2. and 2.2.2.3. and Appendices 2 and 3
Architectural Sites within 50m	See Section 2.2.2.3.
ITM	Centred on 681509/757205

## 2.2 Archaeological Baseline Data

### 2.2.1 General Archaeological and Historical Background

The name 'Trim' comes from the Irish '*Baile Atha Troim*', which translates as 'the town of the ford of the alder trees'. The origin of the town dates to before the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D when St Lommán, a nephew of St Patrick founded a monastery here in 432. The Book of Armagh records much about the establishment of this church, its location and character. It also recorded that a significant settlement existed in the area prior to the foundation of the church. *Áth Truimm* was recorded as the location of the áros of Fedelmí, son of Lóeguire, king of the territory of *Cenél Lóeguire Breg*.

#### 2.2.1.1 Trim Castle

Three years after the Norman invasion of Ireland, a Norman, Hugh de Lacy, founded Trim Castle in 1173 by building a motte with a timber tower as the first step towards the conquest of County Meath. It was the principal urban centre in Meath during Norman times. De Lacy, who had been granted all of Meath by King Henry II, placed Hugh Tyrell in charge. Roderic (Rory) O'Connor, King of Connaught said to have been the last high king of Ireland, believed he was threatened by its presence and equipped an army to destroy it. Hugh Tyrell, set fire to the wooden castle which he then deserted before the Irish King reached it. Shortly afterwards Tyrell replaced it with a stone castle. De Lacy's plan was to install himself as King of Meath and in 1185 had a crown made for himself, but he was killed the following year and was succeeded by his son Walter as Lord of Meath.

King John visited Trim in 1210 to bring the de Lacy family into line, giving the castle its alternative name of King John's Castle. King John never actually slept in the castle because on the eve of his arrival Walter de Lacy locked it up and left town, forcing the king to camp in the nearby meadow. By the time that King John visited Trim in 1210 it had begun to take on its present formidable appearance as the first and largest stone castle in Ireland. Its current formidable appearance dates from this time. The present three-story tower, with walls eleven feet thick was started a couple of years later and completed in 1220 by William Peppard. Trim Castle passed out of hands of De Lacy family when Hugh's daughter married into the Mortimer family, the Earls of March. Geoffrey de Geneville, De Lacy's grandson-in-law, was responsible for the second stage of the castle's construction in the mid to late 13th century. De Geneville was a crusader who later became a monk at the Dominican abbey, which he founded in 1263, just outside the northern wall of the town near the Athboy Gate. In the 14th and 15th centuries Trim Castle was at various times the residence of the Lord Lieutenant, the King of England's representative in Ireland. In 1399, another royal visitor came calling and Richard II left behind two boys as wards. Prince Hal later became Henry V while the other royal occupant Humphrey of Gloucester in later years became known as the 'Good Duke'. The guests were housed in the gate-tower at the drawbridge. Henry of Lancaster, later Henry IV, was once imprisoned in the Dublin Gate at the southern part of the outer wall. The town walls were erected in 1359 by Roger Mortimer, Earl of Ulster and what remains of Sheep Gate are all that's left of the original fortification. While the castle was used as a base for the Lord Lieutenant and the Lords of Meath, no family was continually in residence there from the middle of the 14th century. Repairs were ordered in 1541 but by the end of the century the castle was in ruins. Trim was conquered by Silken Thomas in 1536. In 1610 Sir James Carroll was granted lands in the area on the condition that he rebuild the castle before March 3, 1611, and to erect a jail within its walls. When the Confederate Rebellion broke out in 1641, the castle was taken by the rebel forces only to be recaptured by Sir Charles Coote, the elder, the following year. In 1643, four of the King's Commissioners met at Trim to hear the complaints of the Confederate Catholics. However, the complaints were ignored. In 1649, the castle was taken over by Cromwellian

forces, but it is unlikely that Cromwell himself ever visited Trim. After this the castle was no longer used for military purposes. Apart from being the main town in County Meath Trim was also one of the principal administrative centres of the English Pale in medieval time. Its importance is underlined by the fact that the Irish Parliament sat here on several occasions, notably in 1465 when it passed a law authorizing the beheading of all robbers or those under suspicion of robbery such was the lawlessness that prevailed at the time. Excavations on the castle grounds in 1971 near a depression south of the keep revealed the remains of 10 headless men, most likely criminals executed under this law.

### 2.2.1.2 Trim Town

St Loman's successors combined the roles of Bishop of Trim with that of Abbot of St Mary's Abbey, which was under the charge of the Canons Regular of St Augustine. As a result of a decision taken at the Synod of Kells in 1152, the small Diocese of Trim was absorbed, along with several others of its kind, into the new Diocese of Meath. The tall tower known as 'Yellow Steeple' is all that remains of St Mary's Abbey.

Close to the town on the banks of the Boyne lie the ruins of Newtown Abbey. Bishop Simon de Rochfort made this the centre of the diocese of Meath. He also founded a priory for the Augustinian Canons of the order of St Victor to serve as his cathedral. De Rochfort also built a hospital nearby which he dedicated to St John the Baptist and entrusted to the care of the Crouched (crossed) Friars. Talbot Castle was built on part of the site of St Mary's Abbey when in the 15th century, Sir John Talbot, the viceroy of Ireland transformed part of the abbey into a fortified manor house. St Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral dates by to the early 19th century and incorporates a 23-metre-tall tower from a medieval church. It is believed to be on the site of the original church built by St Loman almost a millennium and a half earlier. In 1955, Trim was chosen as the main centre of the Church of Ireland diocese of Meath. At the southern end of the town is the monument to the Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. Standing 23 metres (about 75 feet) tall it was built in 1817 just two years after the Battle of Waterloo.

A Church of Ireland diocesan school was located at Talbot's Castle. The Duke of Wellington received his early education here as did the famous mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton, later appointed Astronomer Royal of Ireland. The bicentenary of the latter's birth occurs in 2005. Up until the Act of Union, Trim was a parliamentary borough. In 1831 the population was 3,282 and was down to 2,269 a decade later. In the 19th century Trim assumed a new importance in legal terms. A courthouse was built in a prominent position at the top of Market Street while on the site of the Convent of Mercy a jail was constructed in 1834. No trace of the three-storey building remains. Around this time there was a proposal to extend the Drogheda-Navan canal to Trim, but the idea fell through due to lack of finance. The railway arrived in Trim in 1864 and closed almost 90 years later in 1953. No trace of the local station remains. In his late-nineteenth century publication, "A ramble around Trim, amongst its ruins and antiquities with short notices of its celebrated characters", Eugene Conwell notes that the place was "at present a town of no great magnitude and very dimly reflects the important person it occupied in the affairs of Ireland a few centuries ago".

## 2.2.2 Archaeological Heritage

### 2.2.2.1 World Heritage Sites

There are no World Heritage Site or potential World Heritage Site contained in the Tentative List of Candidate Sites within 5km of the study area.

### 2.2.2.2 National Monuments in State Care, Guardianship or under Protection Order

Newtown Cathedral located directly to the south of the proposed development is a National Monument under the ownership of the State. St. John's Priory in Saint John's townland to the southeast is also a National Monument under the ownership of the State. Descriptions of these monuments are presented in Appendix 2 herein.

### 2.2.2.3 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database/Register of Historic Monuments

The following sections contain information relative to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD). Archaeological monuments are general registered by the National Monuments Service using a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number.

The proposed works are located to the north of and adjacent to the complex associated with the Newtown Cathedral National Monument described in section 2.2.2.2 above. The subject site is located within the overall ZoN for the Historic Town of Trim (ME036-048----

Additional archaeological monuments listed in the ASD that are in the vicinity of the proposed development (200m) are presented in Table 2 and depicted in Figures 3 and 4. Descriptions of each site are presented in Appendix 3 herein.

**Table 2 Relevant monuments in the vicinity of the subject site.**

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM E	ITM N
ME036-049----	Settlement deserted - medieval	IFFERNOCK, NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.), SAINTJOHNS	681463	756932
ME036-049001-	Bridge	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.), SAINTJOHNS	681549	756866
ME036-049002-	Cathedral	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681320	756890
ME036-049003-	Religious house - Augustinian canons	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681309	756844
ME036-049004-	Tomb - effigial	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681332	756897
ME036-049005-	Church	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681406	756909
ME036-049006-	Stone sculpture	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681404	756906
ME036-049007-	Tomb - effigial	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681411	756911
ME036-049008-	Font	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681400	756907
ME036-049009-	Holed stone	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681347	756916

ME036-049010-	Graveslab	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681407	756902
ME036-049011-	Religious house - Fratres Cruciferi	SAINTJOHNS	681637	756851
ME036-049012-	Castle - tower house	SAINTJOHNS	681593	756836
ME036-049013-	Castle - tower house	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681283	756850
ME036-049014-	Graveyard	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681367	756902
ME036-049015-	Castle - tower house	SAINTJOHNS	681623	756858
ME036-049016-	Graveslab	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681355	756887
ME036-068----	Cross-slab (present location)	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681585	757108
ME036-069----	Cross-slab (present location)	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681584	757108
ME036-076----	Cross - High cross (present location)	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681586	757108
ME036-079----	Cross - High cross (present location)	NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)	681581	757108





**Figure 3** Showing the site location and nearest monuments.



**Figure 4** Detail showing monuments at Newtown Cathedral.

#### 2.2.2.4 Map Regression

Primary cartographic sources consulted consisted of the Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps. Manuscript map sources included the Down Survey map (1654-56) and Larkins Map of 1812.

The Down Survey map of 1654-56 shows little detail. The road from the Navan Gate of Trim to Newtown Trim is probably of medieval origin and is represented on Larkin's map of 1812 as following its present line from the Navan Gate as far as Lackanash Bridge, which crosses a small N-S stream. From this point Larkin depicts the road looping N and E before turning S to Newtown Bridge. This loop is represented by a field bank extending NE from the bridge on the 1836 edition of the OS 6-inch map. The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" Maps depicts the subject area in pre-famine times. The Second edition map surveyed in 1882 and the later 25" map show a little-changed landscape. A section of a probable mid-19th century wall c.85m long is depicted along the Old Lackanash Road (L8016) to Newtown section. This appears to have realigned after the 1837 OS. A well, now no longer extant, is also depicted at the entrance to the Newtown Abbey housing estate.

#### 2.2.2.5 Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photographs from 1995 to more recent satellite imagery was undertaken to identify any previously unrecorded anomalies of historical potential. No additional sites or features were noted.

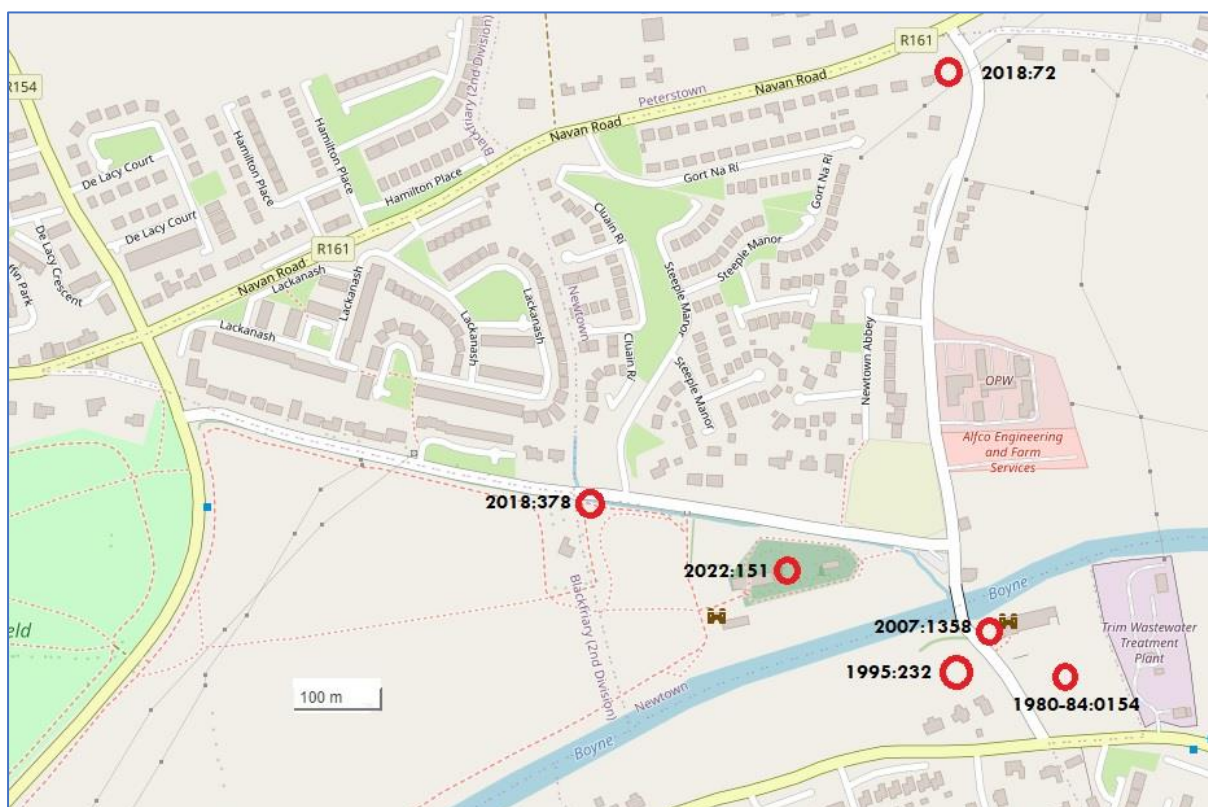
#### 2.2.2.6 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A review of the online resource [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) was completed. No finds are recorded in the vicinity of the subject site. Due to current company policy regardless indoor spaces and COVID 19 the topographical files in the NMI were not inspected. It should be noted that not all recorded finds in the Topographical Files are included in [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie). The review of [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) indicates that there are no relevant files in the vicinity.



### 2.2.2.7 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in the vicinity

Limited excavations took place at St. Johns Abbey carried out by P.D. Sweetman in 1981 and 1984 (unlicensed) to facilitate conservation work revealed the building sequence and the remains of a rood screen. Thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pottery as well as some post-medieval wares were recovered. A late 13th-century key and an iron two-pronged instrument were recovered from the drain. A programme of archaeological monitoring of emergency sewage works in 2007 (Seaver, 2007, E002932) at Newtown Trim demonstrated the existence of archaeological deposits on both sides of the medieval bridge at Newtown (ME036–049001-) at considerable depths. These deposits are largely confined to the original flood-plain of the river Boyne as delimited by bedrock. Monitoring on the south side of the bridge revealed deposits of clay and gravel 1.3m in depth overlying a rough stone surface. Seven metres south of the bridge at a depth of 1.6m these deposits overlay a spread of pungent blue/grey clay containing charcoal and animal bone. Excavation ceased at this point and these deposits were covered in terram. Six metres north of the bridge a small pit was uncovered under 0.9m of roadfill. It had a charcoal- and shell-rich fill and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. At a point 8m north of the bridge an east–west wall foundation was uncovered 0.6m below modern roadfill. It was clay bonded and survived to two courses. Both features were preserved in situ. Excavations by Ian Russell (18E0631) carried out in advance of the construction of a proposed single dwelling at Newtown produced no evidence of any features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified. At Peterstown, located to the west and north of the R161 drainage works exposed human remains (Murphy, 97E0389). Summaries of these excavations and additional excavations recorded within and in the vicinity of the proposed works are presented in Appendix 4.



**Figure 5 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in the vicinity**

### 2.2.2.8 Toponym Analysis

#### Table 3 Toponyms

Townland Name/ Name	Irish Version	Translation
Newtown	English Genitive	New townland, town, homestead.
Lackanash	<i>Leac an Ais</i>	<p>'The flagstone of the shoe, slipper; the flagstone of the milk?'</p> <p>Cf. A Dictionary of the Irish Language s.vv. 1. as, 'milk' agus 2. as, 'shoe; slipper; hose'; cf. 'Loch in Ais .i. Loch Leamhnachta', Lives of Saints from the Book of Lismore</p>

## 2.2.3 Architectural Heritage

### 2.2.3.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)

There is no ACA in the vicinity.

### 2.2.3.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)/Industrial/Vernacular Heritage

The following sites are listed in the inventories in the vicinity of the proposed works.

**Table 4 RPS and NIAH sites in the vicinity**

RPS No NIAH no	Date/ Status	Description and remarks
RPS No. 91315		Newtown Abbey. Part of the 13th century abbey-complex that contained the Cathedral of St.'s Peter and Paul that lay to the north. Plan conforms to a traditional layout
RPS No. 91316	c. 1542	Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. A single aisled building of evenly coursed limestone with fragments of the Abbey buildings to the south. The Abbey complex was begun by Simon de Rochfort c. 1200. The cathedral was originally longer but was reduced in size c.1542.
RPS No. 91317 NIAH Reg. 14330001	c.1870	Cast-iron water pump, set on concrete base with banded shaft and fluted neck and spout. The fluted cap is surmounted by a decorative finial.
RPS No. 91318		St. Peter's Bridge. Five arched medieval bridge with breakwaters on west side. Wicker centering on second arch.

RPS No. 91320		Hospital Friary of St. John the Baptist, founded in the early 13th Century by Simon de Rochfort. Not a usual layout for priory with the church built on the south side of the complex.
RPS No. 91310  NIAH Reg. 14328071	c. 1870	Lackanash Cottage. Detached four-bay two-storey house with canted bay to front. Decorative chimneypots. Stone boundary wall and piers
NIAH Reg. 14328072	Built c.1955	White Lodge. Detached irregular-plan roughcast rendered house, comprising a single-storey range to front, and two-storey range to rear with a tower to the east. Flat roofs with timber eaves dentils and rendered chimneystack. Square-headed openings with concrete sills and timber casement windows. Square-headed opening with glazed door and concrete steps.

### 2.2.3.3 *Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates*

The subject site is not located within or in the vicinity of a designed landscape demesne, historic garden, or country estate.



**Figure 6 Showing built heritage features in the vicinity.**

## 2.3 Fieldwork

A site inspection was originally carried out in April 2023 in dry and bright conditions. The area of the proposed works is located at the crest of a SW-facing slope down to a section of the river Boyne and north of this on gradually rising ground towards the R161 road. The Old Lackanash Road (L8016) section of the works area proceeds east towards the car park north of St. Peter's Bridge and north from here towards the R161. For the most part the Old Lackanash Road (L8016) is bordered by hedgerow to the south and by footpath and relatively recent housing to the north. A mid-19<sup>th</sup> century wall borders the Old Lackanash Road (L8016) to the north. The proposed works are separated from the Boyne River by a ridgeline here which is dominated by Newtown Cathedral and associated features. At the eastern end the works lie directly north of St. Peter's Bridge. Heading north towards the R161, the area of the proposed works is bordered by hedgerow, modern development, some elements of stone wall and fencing. Nothing of additional archaeological significance was noted during the site inspection.





**Plate 1 Looking southeast at Newtown Cathedral (ME036-049002-) and associated sites.**



**Plate 2 Looking east towards Newtown Cathedral.**



**Plate 3 Looking southeast towards St. Peter's Bridge (ME036-049001-), St. Johns Castle (ME036-049012-) in background.**

## 2.4 Potential Effects

### 2.4.1 Potential Direct Effects

Direct negative effects may occur where sites of archaeological and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical effects on the archaeological and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological or cultural heritage site, structure, monument, or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.

- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical impact will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

If these effects cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

#### *2.4.1.1 Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments*

The proposed works are located to the north of and adjacent to the complex associated with the Newtown Cathedral National Monument. The works area is also located within the overall ZoN for the Historic Town of Trim (ME036-048----). The proposed development will have no direct physical effect on the nearby archaeological sites and monuments.

#### *2.4.1.2 Potential Direct Effects on Unrecorded Archaeological Monuments or Features*

The proposed works involve limited groundworks on the northern side of the Old Lackanash Road (L8016) and the western side of the Newtown Road to the R161 road. There is potential for unrecorded sub-surface deposits surviving below ground.

#### *2.4.1.3 Potential direct Impacts Architectural Sites*

There will be no anticipated direct effects onto the fabric of the nearby historic structures or features.

### **2.4.2 'Do Nothing Scenario'**

If the proposed works were not to proceed, there would be no effect upon the archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage resource.

### **2.4.3 'Worst case' Effect**

Under a worst-case scenario, the works would disturb previously unrecorded deposits, features or objects without proper excavation and recording being undertaken.

## **2.5 Potential Effects on the Setting**

Effects on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the proposed works upon the setting of a site within the wider landscape. Impacts on Setting can be reduced with sensitive site development and screening. The impact of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to and from the extant recorded monuments and features.

### **2.5.1 Archaeological Sites**

Post construction the scheme will have no surface expression and will not affect the visual amenity of any known monuments.

### 2.5.2 Architectural Sites

Post construction the scheme will have no surface expression and will not affect the visual amenity of these sites/features.

## 2.6 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the completion of this assessment.

## 3 Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects

The mitigation strategies outlined in this section detail the measures to be adopted to ameliorate the effects that the proposed works may have on features of archaeological or cultural heritage within the study area during both the construction and operational phases of the scheme. The residual effects that will remain once these mitigation measures have been implemented are also identified.

It is recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed development be carried out. 'Archaeological monitoring involves an archaeologist being present during the carrying out of development works (which may include conservation works), to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects which may be uncovered or otherwise affected by the works' (DAHGI 1999, 28). It is recommended that features listed in the RPS and NIAH in the vicinity of the works be brought to the attention of the works crews and strategies put in place to ensure that these features are not disturbed or impacted upon. Any excavations at the location of the no longer extant well depicted on historic mapping should be carried out with due care and under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.

A suitably qualified archaeologist should be appointed to advise the design team on archaeological matters, liaise with the relevant authorities, prepare archaeological licence application and method statement, and complete the archaeological monitoring work. Archaeological monitoring should be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH. The application for such a licence requires a detailed method statement, outlining the procedures to be adopted to monitor, record, and recover material of archaeological interest during such work. At the time of writing the NMS is currently advising that 5-6 working weeks are required to process licence applications. The time scale for the project should be made available to the archaeologist, with information on where and when the various elements and ground disturbances will take place. It is essential for the developer to give sufficient notice to the archaeologist/s in advance of works commencing. This will allow for prompt arrival on site to undertake additional surveys and to monitor ground disturbances.

Should archaeological material be uncovered at any location, all excavation operations shall cease until the feature has been summarily investigated to determine the form, age, nature, and extent of the feature. The feature will be planned, photographed, and recorded to best professional standards. Based on this information and in consultation with the NMI and the NMS, further investigation may be required. In the case of unexpected extensive or complex archaeology, the archaeologist will demarcate the area so that it can be avoided by site traffic, inform the Project Engineer along with the relevant authorities. Should excavation or resolution of a site be required a registration number will be sought.

Adequate funds to cover excavation, post-excavation analysis, and any testing or conservation work required should be made available if required. Upon completion of the works dissemination of the results will take the form of a stratigraphic report and full report to publishable standard lodged with the licensing section (NMS) and the

Planning Section (NMS) and the National Museum of Ireland. A summary of the report will also be submitted to the Excavations Bulletin within six weeks of the end of fieldwork. Should results warrant it, wider dissemination in the form of a full publication may be recommended.

**The above recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH and other relevant authorities.**

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The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers. The Heritage Council of Ireland Series, Kilkenny.

The National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing. Sites and Monuments Record, County Dublin.

National Monuments Acts 1930-1994.

### Electronic Sources



<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

<http://www.excavations.ie/>

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

<http://www.logainm.ie/>

<http://www.museum.ie/>

<https://www.townlands.ie/>

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/>

<http://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/>

## Appendix 2 National Monuments in the vicinity

The following descriptions are derived from the ASD ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie), reviewed 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023).

### **National Monument Number: 110.**

RMP Number: ME036-049002-

Class: Cathedral

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Situated at the S edge of a level landscape, and at the crest of a SW-facing slope down to a WSW-ENE section of the river Boyne. In 1206 Bishop Simon de Rochford founded the Augustinian priory of SS Peter and Paul at Newtown by Trim within the protective ambit afforded by the castle (ME036-048004-) at Trim. In 1216 a synod was held there, and Simon was buried in it in 1224 (Conwell 1872-4, 383). Since Clonard, which had been the diocesan centre, was burned in 1200, the church at Newtown began to fulfil that function. Although a licence to build a cathedral was granted in 1255 to Bishop Hugh de Tachmon, one was never constructed, and the church of the canons assumed the place. An attempt to replace the canons with a dean and chapter of secular clergy in 1397 failed. The priory was of the congregation of St Victor, who maintained a stricter rule, and the names of many of the priors are known (Cogan 1862-70, 1, 312-15). Bishop Edward Stapples, who was appointed in 1529, supported the policy of suppressing the monasteries, but he was replaced by William Walsh under Queen Mary in 1554, to be replaced by Hugh Brady under Elizabeth in 1563. By then the priory was dissolved and the church in ruins. (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 97-8; 190)

According to an extent made in 1540 materials from 'the cross church' had been used to repair Portlester Castle (ME035-020----) or sold, and what was left was only fit to repair the nearby church of Newtown by Trym (ME036-049005-). The demesne contained over 170 acres, largely in Kiltome (104) and Clonboynagh (33) and had a mill on the Boyne. There was a total of over 300 acres in Moyvally, Co. Kildare, Enneskoe (Enniscoffey, Co. Westmeath), and the unknown Ballyhake and Keynghan. The income from the churches of Newtown Clonbun, Kilbeg with Robertstown, Enneskoe, Churchtown, Rathayn (Rataine), Athse (Assey), Rathregan, and others not identified belonged to the priory. (White 1943, 292-8)

The church was one of the most impressive structures in the country when it was built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it has been described (O'Keeffe 2018) as the largest non-Cistercian gothic church in the country. It is a nave and chancel structure (ext. dims 45.9m E-W; 12.9m N-S) with putlog-holes in the walls, and it is aligned ENE-WSW,

parallel with the river. There was a transept to the N (int. dim. 8.1m E-W; ext. dim. 10.75m E-W) of unknown length, and a S transept (int. dim. 11.5m N-S; ext. dim. 13.25m N-S) whose W wall is incorporated into the graveyard wall, but the E wall is not visible. The S wall of the S transept is visible as a foundation and there was a newel stair at the SE angle. Each transept has a single chapel on the E wall. A dwarf wall E of the crux separates the chancel (int. dims 23.7m E-W; 9.25m N-S) from the nave. The chancel was vaulted over three very high lancet windows in both the N and S walls where the scars of the vaults are visible. Originally the E wall probably had three lancets, one of which can still be seen blocked up at its S end, but these were replaced with a large, decorated window (Wth c. 2.75m) that has led to the collapse of most of the wall. The W end of the chancel walls do not survive but there may have been a rood loft and screen at this point (*ibid.*). There is a stringcourse beneath the windows internally and a large arched tomb recess (Wth 2.2m; H 1.9m; D 0.85m) and blocked round-headed doorway (Wth 1.05m; H 1.8m) are in the N wall. There is a double round-headed sedilia in the S wall. A dwarf wall 3m inside the E wall indicates that the altar was raised on a dais.

The nave probably had similar windows to the chancel and there are inter-mural passages at two levels in the long walls. The original church was shortened at the W end when Bishop William Sherwood (died 1482) caused a new W wall with a decorated pointed doorway (Wth 1.7m) to be put in with a large rectangular window of some form overhead that is now removed. Traces of fan-vaulting survive in the nave, probably dating from this second phase of development. There are north and south doorways just W of the junction with the transepts, but there is no evidence that this National Monument had aisles (Harbison 1970, 198-9).

The S transept led directly to the E range of the priory that has completely disappeared apart from its W wall which incorporates the base of the original doorway (Wth 1.7m) to the chapterhouse decorated with three orders, and a large garderobe chute that would have served the dormitory overhead. Only the S and W walls of the S range (ext. dims 29m E-W; 14.6m N-S) survive consisting of the vaulted undercroft that is now destroyed and what would have been the refectory on the ground floor. A two-storey structure (ext. dims 13.85m E-W; 9.15m N-S) on the W side of the cloister garth has an E-W barrel-vault, now destroyed, and a newel stair the NE angle. It could be a tower house. (Conwell 1872-3, 386-7)

The Cathedral is at the W edge of a large triangular graveyard (max. dims c. 140m ENE-WSW; c. 65m NNW-SSE) defined by masonry walls with the apex at E. It shares the graveyard with the parish church of Newtown (ME036-049005-), which is c. 55m to the ENE. Major conservation was undertaken on the Cathedral in 1891-2 and it is maintained as a National Monument since then. The effigy of a bishop that is missing the head and was once displayed in the parish church (ME036-049005-) (Anon 1906, 449; Ellison 1964, 137) is now in the chancel of the Cathedral. It is thought to represent Bishop Rochfort and dates from the early 13th century (Hunt 1974, 1, 211, No. 197).

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White, N.B., 1943. Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540-1541. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

**National Monument Number: 553**

RMP Number: ME036-049011

Townland: SAINTJOHNS

Description: This church complex is situated on the S bank of the river Boyne, between a WSW-ENE section of the river c. 10-25m to the N and a low ridge c. 120m to the S. The priory of the Crutched Friars, known as St. John the Baptist's of Newtown Trim, was possibly founded by Bishop Simon de Rochford, who died in 1224. It was certainly extant by 1281, and the names of some of the priors are known (Cogan 1862-70, 1, 319-21; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 215). The priory was suppressed in 1539 when the church and buildings had already been sold and dismantled, but there remained two towers, a hall, a buttery with a kitchen, a brewhouse, two granaries, a dovecote and an empty building with a yard called the Haggard Yard (White 1943, 299). Many of these descriptions can be identified with features on the site.

After the Suppression it became the property of the Dillon and later the Ashe families (Conwell 1872-3, 363-7). The demesne consisted of 20 acres on the S bank and 82 on the N bank of the Boyne. Forty-eight acres at Saintjohns was leased to Nicholas Lynam, and 48 acres at Little Moieton (Moat Town?) was leased to Nicholas Wafer. Further afield, 140 acres at Clonguffyn were held by four tenants for labour services, there was 100 acres at Longewoode alias Modarvy, 40 acres at Balreren, 20 acres at Huntland in Trym, and 120 acres at the unknown Downekenny. There were many smaller holdings, and the total was over 600 acres. They also held the rectories of Tullaghanoge and Fennor. (White 1943, 300-302)

The original church, of which only the E wall with three lancet windows survives together with the footings (Wth 0.8-0.9m; H 0.6m) of the S and W walls, was an undivided structure (int. dims 23.2m E-W; 7m N-S), with an entrance (Wth 1.8m) at W. The long walls are aligned ENE-WSW, parallel with the river. The base of an altar (dims 3m x 1.05m) is at the E end. Archaeological excavation in 1984 (E000226) and architectural analysis has elucidated the structural development of the complex, but no evidence of a graveyard or of burial was recovered (Sweetman 1990-1). The N wall of the church was rebuilt in the 15th century with a cross-wall (Wth 0.6m), which separated the chancel (int. dim. 12.2m E-W) from the nave (int. dim. 10.4m E-W). These were now connected by a narrow chancel arch (Wth 0.9m). Attached pillars on the W side of the chancel arch wall, combined with the bases of pilasters placed c. 2m to the W are the only remains of a rood loft.

Associated with this secondary phase is a sacristy (int. dims 6.4m E-W; 2.55m N-S) with a groin-vaulted roof in three bays on the N side of the chancel. A doorway (Wth 0.95m) towards the W end of the S wall leads to the church, superseding an earlier one (Wth 1.7m), and a round-headed doorway (Wth 0.63m; H 1.7m) towards the E end of the N wall leads through a porch to the outside and a newel stair to upper levels that do not survive. There are two lights in the N wall and one double-splay light in the E. A N aisle may have been added to the church with the sacristy, although no physical evidence of one was found. A building (int. dims 13.4m E-W; 5.45m N-S) with a W doorway (Wth 1.3m), represented by wall-footings, was added W of the church in a third phase, but a building E of the sacristy (int. dims 8.15m E-W; 3.95m) pre-dated the construction of the sacristy.

The church is at the centre of a confined precinct or bawn (dims c. 60-65m ENE-WSW; c. 45m NNW-SSE) defined by masonry walls that partly survive. There is a circular tower (ext. diam. c. 3.1m) at the SW angle. A lintelled doorway gives access to the ground floor only, while access to the first floor was from the S wall-walk. A newel

stairs accesses the second floor which has lights at S and W and a corbelled roof. There are domestic buildings at the W end of the N boundary. Here a rectangular building (ext. dims 18m E-W; 7.9m N-S) has an arcade of two blind arches (Wth 2.55m; D 0.55m) on the outer face of the W wall, reflecting the original round-headed entrance gate (Wth 1.55m; H 2.6m) with a long draw-bar socket in the N jamb that is just S of the W end of the building. There are three vaulted chambers on the ground floor, which may have served as storehouses, and a W-E drain ran under the floors of the W and central chambers. The vaults may be inserted since the dividing walls partly block embrasures on the N external wall. The central chamber has a stair rising to the refectory or dormitories above that do not survive. A structure or stable (int. dims 11.1m E-W; 4.2m N-S), just to the E and represented by the bases of the walls, has a wide entrance (Wth 2.4m) at the W end of the S wall and two window embrasures in the E wall.

These windows became incorporated into the W wall of a tower house (ext. dims 7.5m E-W; 6.35m N-S) that is vaulted over the ground floor, and which was built just to the E when the stable was probably defunct. Access to the tower house is through a pointed doorway of rough-cut stone to a newel stair in an attached tower (ext. dims 2.8m N-S; 2.45m E-W) at the N end of the E wall. A lintelled doorway leads to the first floor that has a window on the N wall and a fireplace on the E wall, but the S and W walls are entirely missing. Only part of the N wall with a window embrasure survives on the second floor. From the newel stairs between the ground and first floors a doorway led to the wall-walk of the bawn, which does not survive.

South of the entrance gateway in the W wall of the bawn is a second tower house of three storeys (ext. dims 8.1m N-S; 7.55m E-W) that is vaulted over the ground floor. It is entered through a pointed doorway in a tower (ext. dims 2.8m E-W; 2.4m N-S) that projects N from the E end of the N wall. At the ground floor (int. dims 5.7m N-S; 5.1m E-W) there are windows in the N and W walls under a N-S barrel vault and inserted doorways in the centre of the E and S walls, probably obliterating earlier lights. A newel stair in the NE tower leads through a lintelled doorway to the first floor that has windows on every wall except the S, now reduced to blank rectangles, and a fireplace at the N end of the W wall. There is a destroyed garderobe in a tower (ext. dims 2.2m E-W; 0.85m N-S) projecting S from the W end of the S wall, and there are corbels in the N and S walls to support the ceiling. A lintelled doorway from the stairs leads to the second floor that has windows in all walls except the W, which has a fireplace at its S end, and there is a lintelled doorway to the garderobe tower. The stairs continue to the battlements that are destroyed, apart from a rebuilt turret at the SW angle, and the housing over the stairs.

Archaeological testing (92E0144) c. 100m to the E produced no related material (Carroll 1992).

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

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6. Conwell, E. A. 1873 A ramble round Trim. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. 12, 361 - 430

### Appendix 3 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database

The following descriptions are derived from the ASD ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie), reviewed 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023).

#### **ME036-053----**

Class: Bridge

Townland: LACKANASH

Description: The road from the Navan Gate of Trim to Newtown Trim is probably of medieval origin and is represented on Larkin's map of 1812 as following its present line from the Navan Gate as far as Lackanash Bridge, which crosses a small N-S stream. From this point Larkin depicts the road looping N and E before turning S to Newtown Bridge. This loop is represented by a field bank extending NE from the bridge on the 1836 edition of the OS 6-inch map. The small stream ran under the present road at an acute and obtuse angle, and on the S side the stream runs ESE as a drain on the S side of the road to Newtown Trim. A partial collapse of the bridge arch in 2003 and a proposed new culvert required an archaeological assessment.

Archaeological testing (03E1704) N of the bridge revealed similar profiles of riverine deposits of marl (D 1.3m plus) but a solid geological subsoil was not reached. Excavation at the bridge revealed the foundations (D 2m) of the expanded structure and an organic layer (T 0.2m) was recorded at 1.5m depth overlain by soft sand introduced to raise ground level. The organic layer is interpreted as the original surface at the time the bridge was widened in the early 1800's (O'Carroll 2004, 10). A cut across the road, just E of the bridge recorded an earthen bank (Wth 1.5m; H c. 0.5m) on the S side and a line of quarried stones extending E from this is interpreted as kerbing for the original road (ibid. 10-11). An architectural examination of the bridge arch reveals that the bridge had been widened by the addition of new sections at N and S (ibid. 12). A definitive date for the original road and bridge was not established but they were probably medieval.

O'Carroll, F. 2004 Archaeological Assessment for the proposed development site at Lackanash Bridge. Licence No. 03E1704. Unpublished report, CRDS

#### **ME036-049013-**

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Situated on a level landscape c. 50m from a WSW-ENE section of the river Boyne, and on the W side of the cloister garth of Newtown Abbey (ME036-049003-). It is at least a two-storey structure (ext. dims 13.85m E-W; 9.15m N-S) that has an E-W barrel-vault, now destroyed, over the ground floor. There is a newel stair in a projecting tower at the NE angle, and there is a fireplace in the S wall at the first floor. Archaeological supervision (E005341) of the laying of a path from the Abbey at Newtown through the Porch field (ME036-048056-) to Trim by N. Roycroft during 2021 (excavations.ie 2021:547) identified cobbled and paved surfaces in the area N of

the tower house. These are from a post-medieval farmstead that seems to have been centred on this area that utilised and probably created the rectangular fields further W that are visible as low earthen banks.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances, the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

#### **ME036-049003-**

Class: Religious house - Augustinian canons

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Situated at the S edge of a level landscape, and at the crest of a SW-facing slope down to a WSW-ENE section of the river Boyne. In 1206 Bishop Simon de Rochford founded the Augustinian priory of SS Peter and Paul at Newtown by Trim within the protective ambit afforded by the castle (ME036-048004-) at Trim. In 1216 a synod was held there, and Simon was buried in it in 1224 (Conwell 1872-4, 383). Since Clonard, which had been the diocesan centre, was burned in 1200, the church of the canons at Newtown (ME036-049002-) began to fulfill that function. Although a licence to build a cathedral was granted in 1255 to Bishop Hugh de Tachmon, one was never constructed, and the church at Newtown assumed that place. An attempt to replace the canons with a dean and chapter of secular clergy in 1397 failed. The priory was of the congregation of St Victor, who maintained a stricter rule, and the names of many of the priors are known (Cogan 1862-70, 1, 312-15). Bishop Edward Stapples, who was appointed in 1529, supported the policy of suppressing the monasteries, but he was replaced by William Walsh under Queen Mary in 1554, to be replaced by Hugh Brady under Elizabeth in 1563. By then the priory was dissolved and the church in ruins. (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 97-8; 190)

According to an extent made in 1540 materials from 'the cross church' had been used to repair Portlester Castle (ME035-020----) or sold, and what was left was only fit to repair the nearby church of Newtown by Trym (ME036-049005-). The demesne contained over 170 acres, largely in Kiltoomo (104) and Clonboynagh (33) and had a mill on the Boyne. There was a total of over 300 acres in Moyvally, Co. Kildare, Enneskoe (Enniscoffey, Co. Westmeath), and the unknown Ballyhake and Keynghan. The income from the churches of Newtown Clonbun, Kilbeg with Robertstown, Enneskoe, Churchtown, Rathayn (Rataine), Athse (Assey), Rathregan, and others not identified belonged to the priory. (White 1943, 292-8)

The S transept of the Cathedral (ME036-049002-) led directly to the E range of the priory that has completely disappeared apart from its W wall which incorporates the base of the original doorway (Wth 1.7m) to the chapterhouse decorated with three orders, and a large garderobe chute that would have served the dormitory overhead. Only the S and W walls of the S range (ext. dims 29m E-W; 14.6m N-S) survive consisting of the vaulted undercroft that is now destroyed and what would have been the refectory on the ground floor (Conwell 1872-3, 385-7). A two-storey structure (ext. dims 13.85m E-W; 9.15m N-S) on the W side has an E-W barrel-vault, now destroyed, and a newel stair at the NE angle could have been a tower house. Major conservation was undertaken with the Cathedral in 1891-2 and it is maintained as a National Monument since then (Harbison 1970, 198-9).

#### References:

Cogan, Rev. A. 1862-70 Ecclesiastical history of the diocese of Meath: ancient and modern. (3 vols) Dublin: John Fowler, Joseph Dollard

Conwell, E. A. 1873 A ramble round Trim. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. 12, 361-430.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970 (Reprint 1988) Medieval religious houses of Ireland. Dublin. Irish Academic Press.

Harbison, P. 1970 Guide to the national monuments in the Republic of Ireland. Dublin. Gill and Macmillan.

White, N.B. 1943 Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540-1541. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

#### **ME036-049002-**

Class: Cathedral

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: For detailed description see section 2.2.2.2. above.

#### **ME036-049004-**

Class: Tomb - effigial

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: The effigy of a bishop that is missing the head and was once displayed in the parish church (ME036-049005-) of Newtown Clonbun (Anon 1906, 449; Ellison 1964, 137) is now in the chancel of the Cathedral (ME036-049002-). It is thought to represent Bishop Rochfort and dates from the early 13th century. It has been described by Hunt (1974, 1, 211, No. 197) as:

Newtown Trim. Effigy of an ecclesiastic (? Simon de Rochfort died 1224) Early 13th century.

In the nave of the great cathedral founded by Simon de Rochfort at Newtown Trim in 1206, there is a niche which now houses a sandstone slab of tapering form bearing the effigy of an ecclesiastic. The head which rested on a cushion, is now missing. There is foliage on the edge of the slab all around, lapping onto the upper surface. There are small bunches of grapes (?) and leaves above. There are marigolds or roses on the field of the slab beside the neck. There has been some object beside the shoulder on the sinister side. The figure, which is of unusually good quality, wears a chasuble and held a crozier across the body. It may represent the founder, Simon de Rochfort, who died in 1224.

#### References:

1. Anon. 1906 Excursion, Wednesday, October 3rd, 1906. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 36, 448-50.
2. Ellison, Rev. C.C. 1964 Richard Butler, historian of Trim. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 3, 2, 132-140.
3. Hunt, J. 1974 Irish medieval figure sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish University Press.

#### **ME036-049009-**

Class: Holed stone

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: There is a holed stone in the graveyard (ME036-049014-) associated with the parish church of Newtown Clonbun (ME036-049005-) and the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul (ME036-049002-). It is aligned N-S and has a subrectangular cross-section (dims 0.36-0.42m x 0.1-0.18m; H 0.53m) with a hole (diam. 5cm) at the top. (Crawford 1915)

## References:

1. Crawford, H. S. 1915 Miscellanea: Holed stone at Newtown, near Trim. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 45, 156.

**ME036-049016-**

Class: Graveslab

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No

Description: Located in the graveyard (ME036-049014-) attached to the Cathedral and the parish church of Newtown, c. 12m E of the SE corner of the Cathedral. A coffin-shaped sandstone headstone (H 0.9m; Wth 0.42-0.48m; T 0.11m) is set upright but with no inscription. It has a moulded edge and a badly worn floriated cross incised on its E face, the stem of which (Wth 0.07m) can be distinguished.

**ME036-049014-**

Class: Graveyard

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Situated on a slight W-E spur with a SW-NE section of the river Boyne c. 60m to the S and a small WNW-ESE stream in a fold c. 25m to the N. The parish church of Newtown Clonbun (ME036-049005-) is towards the E end of a large triangular graveyard (max. dims c. 140m ENE-WSW; c. 65m NNW-SSE) defined by masonry walls with the apex at E, which it shares with the Cathedral (ME036-049002-), which is c. 55m to the WSW of the church. The holed stone (ME036-049009-) and graveslabs (ME036-049010-; ME036-049016-) are in the graveyard, which has headstones dating from c. 1750 to the present. Relaying the path in the graveyard on the original line during 2022 was monitored (E005432) by N. Roycroft but no new ground was broken and there were no archaeological implications (excavations.ie 2022:151).

**ME036-049008-**

Class: Font

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Inside the W end of the parish church of Newtown Clonbun (ME036-049005-) is the rectangular base of a font (dims 0.53m x 0.50m; H 0.26m) with a chamfered upper surface where the scar of an octagonal shaft (dim. 0.3m) can be seen. Part of the shaft (H 0.34m) is also present.

**ME036-049006-**

Class: Stone sculpture

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Outside the S doorway of the parish church of Clonbun (ME036-049005-) the ornate arch (Wth 1.66m; H 0.83m; D 0.26m) of a tomb recess with a carved representation of the crowning of the Virgin at the apex is set high in the wall, probably as a result of conservation works. It has been described by Hunt (1974, 1, 211) as:

No. 198 Newtown Trim. Niche-head with the Crowning of the Virgin. Late 15th century



On the outer face of the south wall of the small medieval church to the east of the Cathedral is a round-headed niche built into its present position in 1842. It is not clear whether it was part of a doorway or a canopied tomb of Western type. The arch is decorated with foliate crockets and from the centre springs the commencement of a pinnacle, containing within its spandrels a finely carved group of the Coronation of the Virgin. On the sinister side is God the Father placing a crown upon the head of the Virgin who sits upon his right with her hands raised in prayer. On either side below their knees are angels with re-curved wings and flowing drapery, swinging censers. Below this, on the surface of the moulding of the face of the arch, is a female head, the hair parted and hanging in two tresses at the sides of the face. This is flanked by two figures of birds, their heads turned inwards and with their wings half-opened. This and the group above are highly competent and quite masterly pieces of carving in the full European idiom of the late fifteenth century.

#### References:

1. Hunt, J. 1974 Irish medieval figure sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish University Press.

#### **ME036-049005-**

Class: Church

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Situated on a slight W-E spur with a WSW-ENE section of the River Boyne c. 60m to the S and a small WNW-ESE stream in a fold c. 25m to the N. A church at Newtown is listed in the ecclesiastical taxation (1302-06) of Pope Nicholas IV (Cal. doc. Ire., 5, 257). Ussher (1622) describes the church and chancel of Newtown by Trym as repaired (Erlington 1847-64, 1, lxxxiv). According to Dopping (1682-5) the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary at (Newtown) Trim, was ruined before 1641 and the graveyard was not enclosed (Ellison 1972, 12). The church is known as Newtown Clonbun (Conwell 1872-3, 367-9) and was conserved in 1842 by Richard Butler, the antiquarian, who was the vicar of St Patrick's church in Trim (ME036-048012-) from 1818 to 1863 (Conwell 1872-3, 382, 411-30; Ellison 1964).

The church is towards the E end of a large triangular graveyard (max. dims c. 140m ENE-WSW; c. 65m NNW-SSE) defined by masonry walls with the apex at E, which it shares with the Cathedral (ME036-049002-), which is c. 55m to the WSW. The holed stone (ME036-049009-) is in the graveyard. This is aligned N-S and has a subrectangular cross-section (dims 0.36-0.42m x 0.1-0.18m; H 0.53m) with a hole (diam. 5cm) at the top (Crawford 1915).

This is an undivided nave and chancel structure (int. dims 17.75m E-W; 5.28m N-S; ext. dims 19.5m E-W; 7.05m N-S) aligned ENE-WSW, parallel with the river. It has opposing doorways towards the W end of the N (Wth 0.76m) and S (Wth 1.3m) walls, which are rebuilt. Much of the long walls are reduced to the foundations, with an aumbry at the E end of the S wall and evidence of one embrasure in the same wall. Only the E and W walls survive to any height, the former with a large pointed window embrasure with no remains of tracery and an aumbry, the latter with a small round-headed window but no evidence of a belfry.

Outside the S doorway the ornate arch (Wth 1.66m; H 0.83m; D 0.26m) of a tomb recess with a carved representation of the crowning of the Virgin at the apex (Hunt 1974, 1, 211) is set high in the wall, probably as a result of the conservation works. Inside the W end of the church is the rectangular base of a font (dims 0.53m x 0.5m; H 0.26m) with a chamfered upper surface where the scar of an octagonal shaft (dim. 0.3m) can be seen. Part of the shaft (H 0.34m) is also present. Just outside the S doorway is the graveslab (dims 1.82m x 0.77m; T

0.2m) of Henry Brown who died in 1581. The Latin inscription is carved in false relief in roman letters, and it has a shield surmounted by three crosses (Conwell 1872-3, 380).

The tomb of Sir Lucas Dillon of Moymet (ME030-023----), who was Baron of the Irish Exchequer from 1572 and who died in 1595, and his wife, Lady Jane (nee Bath) of Athcarne (ME033-004----), who died before 1581 (ibid. 371-2) are towards the E end of the church. The table (dims 2.05m x 1.22m; H off ground 0.98m) has the effigy of a lady and her knight carved in relief. The side-panels have three shields each, representing the Bathe, Dillon, and Barnwall families and their connections. The W end has a relief of a kneeling man and woman with three children on either side beneath a sunburst wherein is carved 'DIEV, GOD'. The E stone has a raised panel for an inscription that was never applied.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances, the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

#### References:

1. Cal. doc. Ire. - Calendar of documents relating to Ireland 1171-1307, ed. H.S. Sweetman (5 vols., London, 1875-86).
2. Conwell, E. A. 1873 A ramble round Trim. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, vol. 12, 361-430.
3. Crawford, H. S. 1915 Miscellanea: Holed-stone at Newtown, near Trim. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 45, 156.
4. Ellison, Rev. C.C. 1964 Richard Butler, historian of Trim. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 3, 2, 132-140.
5. Ellison, Rev. C. C. 1971-5 Bishop Dopping's Visitation Book 1682-5, *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 5, 1, 28-39; 5, 2, 3-13; 5, 3, 3-11; 5, 4, 98-103; 6, 1, 3-13.
6. Erlington, C. R. (ed.) 1847-64 The whole works of the most Reverend James Ussher. 17 vols. Hodges and Smith, Dublin
7. FitzGerald, Lord W. 1919-20 Newtown Priory, near Trim. *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland* 10, 3, 368-70.
8. Hunt, J. 1974 Irish medieval figure sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish University Press.

#### **ME036-049010-**

Class: Graveslab

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: Just outside the S doorway of the parish church of Newtown Conbun is the graveslab (dims 1.82m x 0.77m; T 0.2m) of Henry Brown who died in 1581. The Latin inscription is carved in false relief in roman letters and a shield is surmounted by three crosses. The inscription has been read by Conwell (1872-3, 380) as: [Hic ja]cet: Henricus: Browne: qui: obit: undecimo: die: Maii: Anno: Domini: 1581. cujus. animae. propicietur. Deus.

#### **ME036-049007-**

Class: Tomb - effigial

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: The tomb of Sir Lucas Dillon of Moymet (ME030-023----), who was Baron of the Irish Exchequer from 1572 and who died in 1595, and his wife, Lady Jane (nee Bath) of Athcarne (ME033-004----), who died before 1581 (Conwell 1872-3, 371-2) is towards the E end of the parish church of Newtown Conbun (ME036-049005-). The table (dims 2.05m x 1.22m; H off ground 0.98m) has the effigies of a lady and her knight carved in relief. The side-panels have three shields each, representing the Bathe, Dillon, and Barnwall families and their connections. The W end has a relief of a kneeling man and woman with three children on either side beneath a sunburst wherein is carved 'DIEV, GOD'. The E stone has a raised panel for an inscription that was never applied. (ibid. 368-9; FitzGerald 1919-20)

It is described by FitzGerald (1919-20) as: At the east end of the church ruins stands an altar-tomb bearing the effigies of a knight and his wife; they represent Sir Lucas Dillon, Knt., and his wife Joan, daughter of James Bathe, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, of Athcarne, Co. Meath, by whom he had seven sons and five daughters, the eldest son being James Dillon, created Earl of Roscommon in 1622.

Sir Lucas Dillon was the eldest son of Sir Robert Dillon, Knt., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of Newtown, by his wife Janet, daughter of Edward Barnwell, of Crickstown, Co. Meath. Sir Lucas was also of Moymet, in the Co. Meath, where he had erected a mansion, the ruins of which still exist; he was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and died about the year 1594; the Peerages (Burke's "Extinct," and Archdall's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. IV) do not give a date of Sir Lucas' death, nor do they give his second marriage, which appears on the Barnwall of Turvy tomb at Lusk as follow:

"This monument is made for the right worshipful Sr. Christopher Bernewall of Turvy, Knight, by the right worshipfull Sir Lukeas Dillon of Moymett, Knight, and Daem Marion Sharl his wife, who married herr 3 years after the death of the said Ser Christopher, her first and lowing hoosbande, who had issue 5 sonnes and 15 dachters by hem. "(sic)

The date of the erection of this (Lusk) tomb was 1589. Sir Christopher Barnewall died in August, 1575.

The Newtown tomb bears no inscription. The east-side end is unsculptured; the west end has kneeling figures, facing one another on either side of a "Prie-Dieu," the father with three sons behind him, and the mother with an equal number of daughters behind her. Overhead is a wreath-like cloud, in the middle of which are the words, incised, DEVS and GOD. Over each group is a shield bearing a coat of arms; that on the dexter side the Dillon coat, viz:

Argent, a lion rampant between three crescents and three estoiles gules; over all a bar azure.

On the sinister side the Bathe arms: Gules, a cross between four lions rampant, argent.

The long sides are divided into panels containing various Arms of families related to Sir Lucas by marriage.'

The tomb has no inscription, unless it was painted on the E panel, and Lodge (1779 vol. 4, 156) has supplied the inscription: MILITIS HIC LUCAE DILLONIS OSSA QUIESCUNT / CONCILIIS REGNI SUMMUS BAROQUE SUPREMUS / MENSE FEBRUARII DECIMUS CUM SEPTIMUS INSTAT / TEMPORA LUSTRALI PROFUSUS FLUMINE CLAUSIT / TERRENOS LINQUENS COELESSES SUMPSIT HONORES.

An extra line between the second and third is supplied by Isaac Butler from a manuscript of 1740 (1892) but the original source is not known: CUM SEXAGINTA CUM LECAT [?] QUATUOR ANNOS.

The whole inscription can be translated as: Here rest the bones of Sir Lucas Dillon / member of the Privy Council and Chief Baron / Who, having reached the age of sixty four years, / ended his days on the seventeenth of February. / He received the last rites of the Church and / Leaving earthly, he gained heavenly honours.

References:

1. Conwell, E. A. 1873 A ramble round Trim. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, vol. 12, 361-430.
2. FitzGerald, Lord W. 1919-20 Newtown Priory, near Trim. *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland* 10, 3, 368-70.
3. Butler, I. 1892 County Meath. *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland*, vol. 2, 165-83.
4. Jocyn, J. 1970 The Renaissance tombs at Lusk and Newtown Trim. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 103, 153-66.

#### **ME036-049----**

Class: Settlement deserted - medieval

Townland: IFFERNOCK, NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.), SAINTJOHNS

Description: In 1202 when Bishop Simon de Rochford moved the diocesan centre of Meath from St Finnian's old monastery at Clonard (ME047-007----) he established it at a new location about a kilometre east of Trim town that became known as Newtown Trim. He moved it here so that it could take advantage of the protection afforded by the de Lacy castle (ME036-048004-), and to provide an alternative site for an urban settlement. The Cathedral (ME036-049002-) and St Peter's Augustinian abbey (ME036-049003-) would become a node around which economic activity developed as the name Newtown Trim illustrates. A weekly market was held from 1217 (Hillaby 1992-3, 29) and an eight-day fair to be held on 21-28 July was instituted in 1279, but the burgesses are only referred to directly in 1275 (Bradley 1988-89, 45) and again in 1319 (Kelly 2005, 31-3). The settlement was not fortified, and even its extent is not fully known, although it is suggested on the N side by the road (ME036-053---) from the Navan gate of Trim looping N east of Lackanash Bridge before turning S with the present road to cross Newtown Bridge. The priory of the Crutched friars dedicated to St John the Baptist (ME036-049011-) could have been founded by Simon de Rochford before he died in 1224, but it was certainly extant by 1281 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 215), testifying to the importance of the settlement in the thirteenth century. In the demesne of St Peter's there were four named tenants and 22 cottiers at the Suppression in 1540 (White 1943, 293), while four messuages or plots were associated with the demesne of St John the Baptist's demesne at that time (ibid. 299). Archaeological testing (04E0825) over an extensive area (dims c. 150m E-W; c. 70-100m N-S) NE of the bridge produced medieval pottery in almost all trenches, although from disturbed contexts mixed with post-medieval material (Duffy 2004, 2007). Archaeological deposits have also been identified closer to the bridge (ME036-049001-) (Seaver 2010).

#### References:

1. Bradley, J. 1988-9 The Medieval Towns of County Meath. *Ríocht na Míde*, vol. 8, No. 2, 30-49.
2. Duffy, C. 2004 Archaeological Assessment Including Test Trenching of a Site at Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath. Licence: 04E0825. Unpublished report, Author
3. Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970 (Reprint 1988) *Medieval religious houses of Ireland*. Dublin. Irish Academic Press.
4. Kelly, D. 2005 The Porchfield of Trim – a medieval 'open-field'. *Irish Geography*, vol. 38 (1), 23-43.

5. Seaver, M. 2010 Blackfriary (2nd Division), Trim. Urban. In I. Bennett (ed.) Excavations 2007: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland, 386, No. 1402. Dublin, Wordwell
6. White, N.B. 1943 Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540-1541. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.
7. Hillaby, J. 1992-93 Colonisation, crisis-management, and debt: Walter de Lacy and the lordship of Meath, 1189-1241. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, vol. 8, No. 4, 1-50.

**ME036-049011-**

Class: Religious house - Fratres Cruciferi

Description: See Appendix 2.

**ME036-049015-**

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: SAINTJOHNS

Description: This is part of the church complex of the Crutched friars, which was dedicated to St John the Baptist. It is situated on the S bank of the River Boyne, between a WSW-ENE section of the river c. 20m to the N and a low ridge c. 120m to the S. This is probably one of the two towers recorded at the site in an extent made at the Suppression in 1540 (White 1943, 299).

Located about half way along the N wall of the bawn is this tower house, the W wall of which is built partly over the E wall of a building or stable on its W side. Widows from the earlier structure became incorporated into the W wall of the tower house (ext. dims 7.5m E-W; 6.35m N-S) that is vaulted over the ground floor and which was built when the stable was probably defunct. Access to the tower house is through a pointed doorway of rough-cut stone to a newel stair in an attached tower (ext. dims 2.8m N-S; 2.45m E-W) at the N end of the E wall. A lintelled doorway leads to the first floor that has a window on the N wall and a fireplace on the E wall, but the S and W walls are entirely missing. Only part of the N wall with a window embrasure survives on the second floor. From the newel stairs between the ground and first floors a doorway led to the wall-walk of the bawn, which does not survive.

References:

1. White, N.B. 1943 Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540-1541. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

**ME036-049012-**

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: SAINTJOHNS

Description: This is part of the church complex of the Crutched friars, which was dedicated to St John the Baptist. It is situated on the S bank of the River Boyne, between a WSW-ENE section of the river c. 25m to the N and a low ridge c. 120m to the S. This is probably one of the two towers recorded at the site in an extent at the Suppression in 1540 (White 1943, 299).

South of the entrance gateway in the W wall of the bawn is a tower house of three storeys (ext. dims 8.1m N-S; 7.55m E-W) that is vaulted over the ground floor. It is entered through a pointed doorway in a tower (ext. dims 2.8m E-W; 2.4m N-S) that projects N from the E end of the N wall. At the ground floor (int. dims 5.7m N-S; 5.1m E-W) there are windows in the N and W walls under a N-S barrel vault and inserted doorways in the centre of

the E and S walls, probably obliterating earlier lights. A newel stairs in the NE tower leads through a lintelled doorway to the first floor that has windows on every wall except the S, now reduced to blank rectangles, and a fireplace at the N end of the W wall. There is a destroyed garderobe in a tower (ext. dims 2.2m E-W; 0.85m N-S) projecting S from the W end of the S wall, and there are corbels in the N and S walls to support the ceiling. A lintelled doorway from the stairs leads to the second floor that has windows in all walls except the W, which has a fireplace at its S end, and there is a lintelled doorway to the garderobe tower. The stairs continue to the battlements that are destroyed, apart from a rebuilt turret at the SW angle, and the housing over the stairs.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

#### References:

1. White, N.B. 1943 Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540-1541. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

### **ME036-049001-**

Class: Bridge

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.), SAINTJOHNS

Description: Crossing a WSW-ENE section of the River Boyne. It connects the Augustinian Abbey of Newtown (ME036-049003-) on the N bank with the church of the Crutched friars (ME036-049011-) on the S bank. Since both were founded in the thirteenth century it is possible that the bridge could date from then. The bridge was certainly extant in 1544 when it is described as St Peter's Bridge in a grant to Sir William St. Leger of two watermills with the weirs and fishing on the Boyne formerly owned by St Mary's abbey (pers. comm. Conchubhar Ó Cruaíaoich 22/02/2021). It is depicted on the Down Survey (1657-8) county, barony (Johnstown or Newtown Bridge) and parish maps. The bridge (Wth 4.9m) has five segmental arches with cut-waters only on the W or upstream side. Only the cut-water of the second pier from the N is carried to the parapet creating a refuge for pedestrians. There are three corbels from both sides of each pier at the springing of the arches but there is no evidence of any original centring. Archaeological monitoring (E002932) during 2007 of a sewer pipe on the S side of the bridge revealed a rough stone surface (D 1.3m) overlying a blue/grey clay with animal bones and charcoal, while a small pit and an E-W wall were encountered just N of the bridge (Seaver 2010).

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Meath' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

#### References:

1. Seaver, M. 2010 Newtown Trim/St John's: Medieval borough. in I. Bennett (ed.) Excavations 2007: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland, 370, No. 1358. Dublin, Wordwell.

### **ME036-079----**

Class: Cross - High cross (present location)

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: The head of a high cross was formerly built into the roadside wall in the NE corner of the graveyard at Girley (ME023-022----) but was removed between the 1960s (Harbison 1990-1, 134-8) and 1984 (Moore 1987, 136, No. 1408). A small sketch of this was published by Crawford (1926, 9-10). (Harbison 1992, 94)

The cross head has been recovered (O'Reilly 2012) and is now kept in the OPW National Monuments depot at Trim (ME036). It is a ringed cross but the top of the ring and shaft are missing (H c. 0.44m; span c. 0.4m), and it only has interlace decoration on every face, except what might be called the back, which has a moulding at the edge and a hollow (diam. c. 5cm) at the centre with a smaller hollow at the end of one arm, both of which might be secondary. The panels on the other sides consists mostly of interlace knots (dims of shaft c. 0.21m x c. 0.16m). Two other stones described (ibid.) as '13 inches high, 10.5 inches wide and 6.5 inches deep (H c. 0.33m; 0.27m x 0.16m) and 14 inches high, 8.25 inches wide and 6.5 inches deep (H c. 0.36m; 0.21m x 0.16m)' with double mouldings and interlace knots in panels are probably from the same cross, although the latter stone is badly damaged with decoration only on one face.

#### References:

1. Crawford, H.S. 1926 The early crosses of east and west Meath. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 56, 1-10.
2. Harbison, P. 1990-91 Meath high-cross fragments - lost and found. *Ríocht na Mídhe* 8, No. 3, 134-4.
3. Harbison, P. 1992 The high crosses of Ireland: an iconographical and photographic survey, 3 vols. Dublin. Royal Irish Academy. Bonn. Dr. Rudolf Habelt GMBH.
4. Moore, M. 1987 Archaeological inventory of county Meath. Dublin. Stationery Office.

#### **ME036-069----**

Class: Cross-slab (present location)

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: This is the present locaiton for a Rathdown-type slab from Tully church, Laughanstown (DU026-023011-). In 1870 it was recorded as standing half-buried to the south of the nave of the church. It bears a Latin ringed cross in slight relief (L 1.05m, Wth 0.55m, T 0.13m) with a small cupmark on each arm and one at the intersection. There is a semi-spherical boss under each arm and herringbone design at the base. (Ó hÉailidhe 1973, 56-57). The slab was taken into storage by the OPW in 1989 (Swords 2009, 135).

#### References:

1. Ó hÉailidhe, P. 1973 Early Christian graveslabs in the Dublin region. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 103, 51-64.
2. Swords, K. (ed.) 2009 Pre-Norman grave-slabs and cross-inscribed stones in the Dublin region. 2009 edition of an NUIG MA thesis prepared in 1985. Tallaght, Dublin. Local Studies Section, South Dublin Library.

#### **ME036-076----**

Class: Cross - High cross (present location)

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No

Description: Harbison (1997, 171-6) identified a fragment of a High cross (ME019-111----) built into the stonework of St Patrick's church (ME019-060002-) on the Hill of Slane, and it was moved to the OPW depot at Newtown Trim in 1994. The interlace panel has been compared with that on crosses at Clonmacnoise and Kells suggesting a date of c. 950-1000 (Seaver and Brady 2011).

## References:

1. Seaver, M. and Brady, C. 2011 Hill of Slane Archaeology Ireland, Heritage Guide No. 55
2. Harbison, P. 1997 A shaft-fragment from Slane, Co. Meath, and other high cross discoveries. In C. Manning (ed.), Dublin and beyond the Pale: essays in honour of Paddy Healy, 171-6. Bray, Wordwell

**ME036-068----**

Class: Cross-slab (present location)

Townland: NEWTOWN (Navan Upper By.)

Description: This is the present location for a Rathdown-type slab from Tully church, Laughanstown (DU026-023010-). It was found lying south-west of the chancel. It is a tapered granite slab with two vestigial arms protruding from the edges (H 1.51m, Wth 0.41-0.27m, T 0.08m). It bears three groups of concentric circles on a centre band with herringbone pattern on each side (Ó hÉalidhe 1973, 56, 57, B 13; ). The slab was taken into storage by the OPW in 1989. (Swords 2009, 93-4).

## References:

1. Swords, K. (ed.) 2009 Pre-Norman grave-slabs and cross-inscribed stones in the Dublin region. 2009 edition of an NUIG MA thesis prepared in 1985. Tallaght, Dublin. Local Studies Section, South Dublin Library.

## Appendix 3 Excavations Summaries

**2018:721 - Newtown, Trim, Meath**

County: Meath Site name: Newtown, Trim

Sites and Monuments Record No.: ME036-054

Licence number: 18E0631

Author: Ian Russell, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU)

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 681518m, N 757465m

Archaeological assessment (test trenching) was carried out in advance of the construction of a proposed single dwelling at Newtown, Trim, Co. Meath. Testing was carried out on 26 October 2018 in compliance with a request for further information issued by Meath County Council (TA/180814). The site is located adjacent to ME036-054, burials, identified and excavated by Deirdre Murphy in 1997 and 1998 (97E0389).

A total of four test trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. No evidence of any features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified.

**1980-84:0154 - NEWTOWN TRIM (Saint John's td), Meath**

County: Meath Site name: NEWTOWN TRIM (Saint John's td)

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: —

Author: P.D. Sweetman, OPW



Site type: Religious house - Fratres Cruciferi

Period/Dating: Late Medieval (AD 1100-AD 1599)

ITM: E 681633m, N 756822m

This priory of the Fratres Cruciferi was founded by Bishop Simon de Rochford shortly after 1202. Buildings on the site consist basically of a nave, chancel, domestic range, tower house and enclosing walls with two angle towers. Limited excavations took place here in 1981 and 1984 to facilitate conservation work.

The domestic range at the north side of the priory was cleared out and a drain which served to give a water supply from the river Boyne was excavated. The nave and chancel were excavated to the level of the wall footings revealing the building sequence and the remains of a rood screen. Finds were located mainly in a disturbed context and were fragmentary. Thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pottery as well as some post-medieval wares were recovered. A late 13th-century key and an iron two-pronged instrument were recovered from the drain.

### **2018:378 - Newtown, Meath**

County: Meath Site name: Newtown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: ME036 049 Licence number: 17E0495

Author: John Purcell

Site type: Monitoring

ITM: E 681160m, N 756978m

Monitoring was required as part of a water mains rehabilitation scheme on Lackanash Road, Trim, Co. Meath. Trenchless technology was used to minimise the area excavated. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the works.

### **2022:151 - NEWTOWN TRIM GRAVEYARD FOOTPATH MONITORING: ZONE 4 ADDENDUM to 2021 works, Meath**

County: Meath Site name: NEWTOWN TRIM GRAVEYARD FOOTPATH MONITORING: ZONE 4 ADDENDUM to 2021 works

Sites and Monuments Record No.: ME036-049, ME036-049002 to ME036-049014 Licence number: C670: E005341

Author: Niall Roycroft

Site type: Graveyard footpath monitoring

ITM: E 681363m, N 756908m

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of the Porch Field Footpath and Wild Flower areas upgrade project of 2021 general ITM 680858, 756597 that was EXTENDED in 2022 to cover a new footpath installation in Newtown Trim Graveyard ME036-049 (including ME036-049002 Cathedral National Monument 110 and ME036-049003 to ME036-049014 focusing on ITM 681363, 756908. Monitoring works were completed on 15-22 March 2022 on behalf of Meath County Council.

The works in 2021 targeted three interpretative zones. These were Zone 1: Newtown Trim (in proximity to the standing ruins), Zone 2: Porch Field agricultural area and Zone 3: Dredging dumps alongside the River Boyne. For the purposes of the present report, the 2022 works have been termed Zone 4: Newtown Trim Graveyard.

The 2022 Zone 4 works comprised the excavation of the top 40mm and encroaching soils and grass from the looped graveyard footpath. The footpath measures approximately 328m and the area excavated was around 372sq m. The works showed that the earlier or original graveyard footpath (shown on 1888-1913 25-inch Mapping and refurbished by OPW during 20th-century restoration works) was larger than the present excavations and so there was no disturbance to the graveyard in 2022.

Test-holes showed the original path is generally between 0.2-0.25m deep constructed of pea gravels and occasional limestone demolition fragments mixed with brown, silty soils. The original path had been fairly recently capped with a mortar-based/lean mix type surface beneath the loose gravel. This was perhaps done during OPW restoration works, but this surface had eroded away over much of the path on the southern side. The shallow nature of the 2022 excavations, as well as the compact and modern nature of the footpath, meant that no geotextile was required. No kerbing was laid and drainage will be by grading the footpath surface.

The footpath was metal detected before and after excavation works and 75 items were collected. In general, the encroaching grass contained 'graveyard' material such as very modern coins from 1963 to post-2000 (coins from Ireland, UK, and Lithuania), an Irish Defence Forces 1920-1940 cap badge ('Other Ranks' with pin broken), modern steel nails and a screw (5 items found), electric and wire fencing (4 items found) and an ornate coffin lid screw. The original 'footpath' material contains items associated with 19th-century farm and/or agricultural use – particularly with horseshoe and other nails (32 items found) and items that are probably hoof-frog cleaners (two table knives and two spoons). Three horseshoes (one complete and two fragments) and some well-broken up 'manuring type' pottery was also recovered. A large 'kitchen-style' knife with a 0.15m long blade from the footpath make-up layer may be a redeposited agricultural loss but also might have been buried here. Whether the agricultural finds derive from activities undertaken in the graveyard or were in soils used to mix the gravel for the footpath, that was brought from nearby, is not known.

A walkover looking at the various worked stones in the graveyard was also completed. Several pieces of the Cathedral rib vault are being used as headstones.

#### **2007:1358 - NEWTOWN TRIM/ST JOHN'S, Meath**

County: Meath Site name: NEWTOWN TRIM/ST JOHN'S

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: E002932

Author: Matthew Seaver, CRDS Ltd, Unit 4A, Dundrum Business Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Medieval borough

ITM: E 681557m, N 756864m

Monitoring of emergency sewage works was undertaken at Newtown Trim, Co. Meath. These works involved replacing an existing sewage line with a new larger pipe within a new pipe corridor from an existing pumping station north of the Boyne. The development ran through the main part of the village of Newtown Trim (ME036–049), mainly based along the road crossing the River Boyne at the site of the medieval bridge (ME036–049(01)). The development included replacing the old pipe attached to the medieval bridge with a new pipe. The pipeline

continued in proximity to St John's Friary (ME036–049(11, 12)), a national monument, to connect with an existing manhole.

Monitoring on the south side of the bridge revealed deposits of clay and gravel 1.3m in depth overlying a rough stone surface. Seven metres south of the bridge at a depth of 1.6m these deposits overlay a spread of pungent blue/grey clay containing charcoal and animal bone. Excavation ceased at this point and these deposits were covered in terram. Natural ground rose steadily, 40.5m further south, to a point where bedrock was located immediately under 0.6m of roadfill. Six metres north of the bridge a small pit was uncovered under 0.9m of roadfill. It had a charcoal- and shell-rich fill and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. At a point 8m north of the bridge an east–west wall foundation was uncovered 0.6m below modern roadfill. It was clay bonded and survived to two courses. It was heavily truncated by a modern sewer pipe. Both of these features were preserved in situ.

The monitoring at Newtown Trim has demonstrated the existence of archaeological deposits on both sides of the bridge at considerable depths. These deposits are largely confined to the original flood-plain of the River Boyne as delimited by bedrock.

#### **1995:232 - ST. JOHN'S, Newtown Trim, Meath**

No Image Available

County: Meath Site name: ST. JOHN'S, Newtown Trim

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 95E0276

Author: Rosanne Meenan

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 681533m, N 756822m

Nothing of archaeological significance was found during testing of this site prior to building of a dwelling house. The site is located south-west of the medieval bridge at Newtown Trim.

## **Appendix 4 Conventions, Directives and Legislation**

### **Conventions**

Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage. This section summarises Ireland's obligations as a signatory to several International and European conventions relating to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites. Also included is a synopsis of existing national legislation governing the care and protection of our cultural heritage resources.

#### **ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration, 2005**

Ireland is a signatory to an international declaration sponsored by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005, that endeavours to ensure the safeguard and conservation of the World's cultural heritage as part of its sustainable and human development.

#### **EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.**

To assist planning and other consent authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIS thresholds, the DHLGH published a Guidance document in August 2003.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Granada Convention, 1997**

Under the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), 1997, the Republic of Ireland is obliged to maintain inventories of architectural heritage, to protect the architectural heritage and adopt conservation policies as integrated planning objectives.

### **UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972**

This 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.

## **Legislation**

### **The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006**

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 EIAR including information on material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage.

### **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 Ireland. They provide for the protection of national monuments using preservation orders. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the DHLGH and delivered through the Planning and Heritage Section of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts in several ways:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority.
- National Monuments, which are subject to a preservation order.
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; and

- Monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

**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).

**The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999**

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage which forms the basis for recommendation from the Minister to local authorities of sites for inclusion in the local authorities Record of Protected Structures