IAC Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL
& CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS STUDY
OF THE PROPOSED
N2 RATH ROUNDABOUT TO KILMOON ROAD SCHEME,
COUNTIES MEATH AND DUBLIN

ON BEHALF OF:
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report describes the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage constraints identified within the study area for N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Road Scheme, Counties Meath and Dublin (Figure 1). This assessment includes all recorded archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage sites and areas of archaeological potential within the constraints area. It was undertaken by Faith Bailey of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Meath County Council.

2   METHODOLOGY

This study has been carried out in accordance with a number of guidelines produced by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII, 2005a and 2005b; formerly the National Roads Authority). Research for this constraints study was undertaken as a desktop exercise. The following sources were consulted in order to identify archaeological, built heritage, and cultural heritage constraints:

- UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites;
- Record of Monuments and Places for County Meath and Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Meath and Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Historic maps relating to the study area;
- Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020–2026;
- Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019;
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2019); and
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites includes two sites in the Republic of Ireland: Brú na Bóinne (Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne, County Meath) and Skellig Michael in County Kerry. 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.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoCHG may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings)

may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the study area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Sources examined included the following:

- William Petty, Down Survey Maps of the Baronies of Duleek, Skreen, Ratoath and Balrothery (and associated parish maps where available) 1655–57;
- William Larkin, Map of County Meath, 1812;
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Meath, 1836 and 1907-09; and
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843 and 1906-09.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Draft Meath County Development Plan (2020–2026), Meath County Development Plan (2013-2019) and Fingal County Development Plan (2017-2023) were consulted to obtain information on protected structures, archaeological sites and cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the study area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2019.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a government-based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The architectural survey for County Meath was undertaken in 2004 and the Dublin (Fingal) survey was carried out from 2001 to 2002. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic

gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. This has also been completed for County Meath and was examined in relation to the surviving demesnes within the surrounding area of the proposed greenway.

All sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage interest have been mapped as part of the constraints study. Recorded archaeological sites are listed as Archaeological Heritage Sites (AH). Recorded built heritage sites are listed as Built Heritage sites (BH). Demesne landscapes are listed as Designed Landscapes (DL). Sites and structures of potential archaeological or built heritage interest are listed as Cultural Heritage sites (CH) or Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). Previous archaeological excavations within the area have also been mapped and are listed with an EX prefix.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 GENERAL

The constraints study area is located to the north of Ashbourne, County Meath and measures c. 7.71km north-northwest to south-southeast by c. 2.08km northeast to southwest. The existing N2 road runs centrally through the constraints area (Figure 1). There are 29 townlands within the constraints area that covers County Meath and a section of County Dublin. These are detailed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: Townlands within the Constraints Area

TOWNLAND	PARISH	BARONY	COUNTY
Allcollege	Kilmoon (formerly within Barony of Duleek)	Skreen	Meath
Coolfore			
Ballyhack			
Yellowshar			
Irishtown			
Cushinstown			
Kilmoon			
Primatestown			
Rathfeigh	Rathfeigh		
Cushinstown	Cushinstown		
Curraghtown			
Roadmain			
Painestown	Macetown		
Ballybin	Cookstown	Ratoath	
Rath			
Hammondtown			
Cookstown			
Kilbrew	Kilbrew		
Kilbrew			
Knavinstown	Crickstown		
Crickstown			
Sutherland			
Killegland	Killegland		
Dunreagh	Donaghmore		
Baltrasna	Ballymadun	Balrothery West	Dublin
Borranstown			
Ballymadun			
Glebe			
Newtown	Garristown		

3.2 ARCHAEOLOIGCAL AND HISTORIC BASELINE

3.2.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (c. 7000–4000 BC)

Although recent discoveries may push back the date of human activity by a number of millennia (Dowd and Carden 2016), the earliest widespread evidence suggests that Ireland

was first occupied in the Mesolithic period by communities that subsisted on hunting, fishing and foraging. The most common evidence found to show the presence of Mesolithic communities at a site is scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements. However, there are no known Mesolithic sites recorded in or within the vicinity of the constraints area.

Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied with major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory, which saw the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period.

There are four types of megalithic tombs; court cairn, portal tomb, passage tomb and wedge tomb. Evidence suggests that these were large communal burial monuments and such sites are common within County Meath. The early prehistory of the region is dominated by several important cores, including the Boyne Valley, Tara, Fourknocks, and Loughcrew. The most renowned of these centres are the large Neolithic complexes at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. These are protected as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, c. 12.25km to the north of the constraints area. There is a total of 52 passage tombs recorded in County Meath suggesting a large population of Neolithic people in the region. Despite the proliferation of megalithic tombs in Meath, and the uplands of Dublin, there are no recorded megalithic tombs in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Two henges are recorded to the immediate west of the constraints area, in the townlands of Kilbrew (AH 8) and Irishtown (AH 6). Henges are ceremonial enclosures dating to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age periods. The two henges are substantial sites located on Windmill Hill. Henge AH 6 is considerably denuded as a result of agricultural activity. However, it is possible to trace the extent of the banks, with the monument measuring c. 245m in diameter. The henge to the southwest of this (AH 8,) is in a far better state of preservation, with a diameter of 142m. Windmill Hill commands wide views of the surrounding landscape and, given the presence of the two henges, is considered to be of high archaeological potential (AAP 1). It also contains the site of a windmill that is marked on the 17th century Down Survey mapping and the later 19th century OS mapping (AAP 5).

Bronze Age Period (c. 2500–800BC)

The Bronze Age was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megalithic tombs were no longer constructed and the burial of the individual became typical. Cremated or inhumed bones were often placed in a cist, which is a small stone box set into the ground or a stone-lined grave. These were often accompanied by pottery. Burials were sometimes accompanied by barrows, (mounds of earth set over the burial) or stone cairns. Often these types of burials are found on high ground and may have acted as a marker for ritual or burial space to the surrounding populations.

Four barrow sites (AH 18–20, AH 22) are listed in the SMR for the townland of Rath in the southern extent of the constraints area. These sites were part of an extensive Bronze Age landscape excavated as part of the N2 Finglas-Ashbourne Road Scheme (Bennett 2004:1319, 2002:1506, Licence Refs.: 03E1214, 02E0638, EX 1). In addition to the barrows, cremation pits and two possible sweat lodges were identified. It is possible that archaeological monuments associated with this particular landscape extend beyond the area that was subject to excavation and as such should be considered as possessing archaeological potential (AAP 2).

Iron Age Period (c. 800BC – AD400)

Compared to the rest of Irish prehistory, there is very little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700 BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC.

A number of Iron Age sites were identified during works on the N2 Finglas-Ashbourne Road Scheme. An Iron Age double ring-ditch was excavated in the townland of Cookstown, at the southern end of the constraints area. The site had been heavily disturbed by agricultural activity but yielded a fragment of a brown glass bracelet and a cast bronze penannular ring. Small amounts of flint, prehistoric pottery and animal bone were also noted in the ditch fills. A radiocarbon date of 198+/- 47 BC and 242 +/- 40 BC was obtained for the site (Bennett 2004:1211, Licence Ref.: 03E1252 ext, EX 5).

Industrial Iron Age activity was also identified in the townland of Rath, at the southern end of the constraints area, where evidence of iron-working and corn-processing were recorded (EX 1). In addition, one of two waterholes identified on this site, yielded a spiral-headed pin of Iron Age date (Bennett 2004:1319, Licence Ref.: 03E1214 ext.). It is possible that remains associated with this landscape extend into the southern section of the study area and as such this area is considered as possessing archaeological potential (AAP 2).

3.2.2 Early Medieval Period (AD400-1100)

In the early medieval period Ireland was not a united country but rather a patchwork of minor monarchies all scrambling for dominance, with their borders ever changing as alliances were formed and battles fought. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were probably at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own túath. Modern County Meath was part of Míde and Brega, which together formed one of the five provinces of early medieval Ireland. It contained a large power centre that formed a political, ceremonial, cultural and social centre of both the territory and Ireland, which was located at Tara. Brega was controlled for most of the early medieval period by the Síl nÁeda Sláine, a dynasty of the southern Uí Néill (Byrne 1973, 88). They likely paid tribute and gave fealty to the King of Tara. Though their influence on a national level waned from the 8th century onwards, various branches of the dynasty controlled Brega down to the late 10th century.

The most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period is the ringfort. Ringforts (also known as rath, lios, caiseal, cathair and dún) are a type of defended farmstead comprising of a central site enclosed by a number of circular banks and ditches. The number

of ditches can vary from one (univallate) to two or three (bivallate or tri-vallate) and is thought to reflect the status and affluence of the inhabitants (Edwards 1996). Another morphological variation consists of the platform or raised ringfort – the former resulting from the construction of the ringfort on a naturally raised area. Ringforts are most commonly located at sites with commanding views of the surrounding environs which provided an element of security. While ringforts, for the most part, avoid the extreme low and uplands, they also show a preference for the most productive soils (Stout 1997, 107). Many sites recorded as enclosures may represent denuded ringforts or similar sites which do not conform to the criteria generally applied to ringforts.

There are three ringforts (AH 14, AH 24, AH 26) and four enclosures (AH 5, AH 16, AH 13 and AH 25) within the constraints area. Ringfort AH 24, at the very southern end of the constraints area, was partially excavated under licence 03E1252 (Bennett 2004:1211, EX 5). A ringed pin and a portion of a second ring pin were recovered from the fill of the enclosing ditch. A hearth was identified within the interior of the ditch, but there was no evidence of a structure.

Souterrains are underground chambers and passages. They are often found in association with ringforts and are believed to have been used as defensive features or for storage. A souterrain (AH 7) is recorded in the townland of Kilbrew within the constraints area. A cluster of pits was excavated in the townland of Rath within the constraints area, under licence 05E0481/05E0715 (Bennett 2005:1232, 2005:1233, EX 10). A fragment of a lignite bracelet was recovered from one of the pits suggesting an early medieval date for the features.

The early medieval period was also characterised by the foundation of a large number of ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland, in the centuries following the introduction of Christianity in the 5th century AD. These early churches tended to be constructed of wood or post-and-wattle (O'Sullivan et al 2014). Between the late 8th and 10th centuries, mortared stone churches gradually replaced the earlier structures. An early Christian cemetery (AH 2) was discovered during construction works within the constraints area in the townland of Cushinstown at the northern end of the constraints area (Bennett 2000:0749, Licence Ref.: 00E0163, EX 8). Although the site had been disturbed, a minimum of 14 individuals, including adults, juveniles and infants were represented by the remains uncovered.

3.2.3 Medieval Period (AD1100-1600)

The medieval period in Ireland is marked by the arrival of the Anglo-Normans and their conquest of the county after Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support Diarmáit MacMurchadha, the deposed king of Leinster, and assist him in his challenge for the kingship in May 1169. Between 1170 and 1350, the Anglo-Norman influence was stamped on the Irish landscape. Initially this involved the construction of defensive earthworks, such as mottes and earth and timber castles. More permanent fortifications were constructed once the Anglo-Normans had consolidated their power resulting in a great castle-building period between AD 1220 and AD 1310 (O'Keeffe 2000, 34). The 12th century also saw the arrival of the great religious orders in Ireland and the construction of large abbeys, as well as the development and consolidation of the parochial system in many areas. Between the 14th and the 16th centuries tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry.

A medieval parish church and associated graveyard (AH 1) lie within the constraints area in the townland of Kilmoon, at the northern end of the constraints area. The medieval church was noted as in ruins in 1622, and the present structure dates to 1816 (Lewis 1837).

The medieval church at Crickstown and associated graveyard (AH 11) are also located within the constraints area, at its south-western end. The church is not mentioned in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302–4 suggesting the church is of a later date (SMR file). A graveslab erected in memory of the Barnwell family within the graveyard no longer survives; however, a modern replacement has been erected in its place. A highly decorated font (AH 15), detailing the apostles, crucifixion and annunciation scenes and saints on the shaft has been relocated to St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church (present location recorded as AH 10, directly to the west of the constraints area).

A moated site (AH 4) with an entrance at the western side is recorded within the constraints area in the townland of Curraghtown at the northern end of the constraints area. Moated sites generally date to the 13th/14th centuries and represent the farmsteads of Anglo-Norman settlers. They are rectangular in shape and are often delineated by banks and fosses in the interest of defence.

Three medieval structures were excavated in the townland of Cookstown at the southern end of the constraints area (Bennett 2004:1211, Licence Ref.: 03E1252, EX 5). All three were wooden structures situated adjacent to a former medieval lane. Structure I comprised a forge with internal floor surface containing trampled charcoal, metallurgical waste and medieval pottery. Several postholes, stakeholes and a possible quenching trough were identified within the structure. Structure II was annexed to the western side of the forge structure. An arrangement of four postholes at the entrance suggested a possible windbreak. The third medieval structure was heavily truncated, however a square arrangement of stakeholes in the interior suggested a possible bench or pen. Extensive garden cultivation was also evident on the site.

A further possible medieval site is located within the townland of Primatestown and consists of the remains of a possible medieval village, which has been designated as AAP 3. The fossilised outline of property plots fronting onto a north-south aligned road through the village is present within the historic maps and the settlement is well serviced by a small watercourse. A mound site, which is annotated within the first edition OS map, but not included within the RMP/SMR, is marked c. 410m east of the village. This site appears to have been extant up until c. 2013 but is not present following that date. It has been included within this assessment as AAP 4.

The names Primatestown suggests a connection with a religious body and is recorded in 1566 as 'Prymotyscten' that is included in the Calendar of the Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery in Ireland (vol. 1-3) (logainm.ie). Griffiths Valuation (carried out between 1848 and 1864) recorded common land to the east of the village. Common land was an integral part of a medieval settlement, enabling tenants to graze their livestock in what was essentially a communal part of the village.

3.2.4   Post-Medieval Period (AD1600-1900)

The 18th century saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause and effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland. This was achieved at all scales, from a modest Rectory Glebe to demesne landscapes that covered thousands of acres.

There are a number of former demesne landscapes within the constraints area, Kilbrew House (DL 2), Meadesbrook (DL 1), Laurel Mount (DL 4) and Glebe (DL 3), in addition a small unnamed demesne (DL 5) in the south of the constraints area.

A water mill (AH 12) is recorded in the townlands of Ballymadun and Borranstown within the constraints area, at its south eastern end. The water mill at Ballymadun is first mentioned in the Civil Survey of 1654–6 and later in Rocque's map of 1756. A portion of stone-lined millrace is preserved within a townland boundary, extending from the River Hurley (SMR file).

Vernacular architecture is defined in James Steven Curl's Encyclopaedia of Architectural Terms as 'a term used to describe the local regional traditional building forms and types using indigenous materials, and without grand architectural pretensions', i.e. the homes and workplaces of the ordinary people built by local people using local materials. Building techniques include stone walling, sod-walling and cob-walling. The majority of vernacular buildings are domestic dwellings. Examples of other structures that may fall into this category include shops, outbuildings, mills, lime kilns, farmsteads, forges, gates and gate piers. There are a number of vernacular structures within the constraints area. This includes a cottage in the townland of Roadmain (BH 1), which is a Protected Structure. Kilmoon House (BH 3) is also a Protected Structure, but is no longer extant, having fully collapsed.

Saint Andrews Roman Catholic Church (BH 4) was built between 1895 and 1905 in the townland of Crickstown to the immediate west of the constraints area. It was designed by George Coppinger Ashlin and features an octagonal belfry. The church now houses the font from the medieval church of Crickstown (present location of the font is recorded as AH 10).

A former toll house, is located in the northern section of the constraints area, in the townland of Primatestown (BH 2). This was constructed at the beginning of the 19th century, as part of the construction of what is now the N2, as a Mail Coach Road (CH 18). In an 1805 Act of parliament, the Postmaster General was required to survey roads used by mail coaches and suggest improvements, including the widening of roads to a minimum width of 42 feet. From 1805 to 1811, over 3,200km of post roads were surveyed with various improvements to

existing roads made, along with the construction of new sections of road, such as the current N2. Tolls on roads were abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1854.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS

4.1 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The core area of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, is located c. 12.25km to the north of the constraints area. The outer buffer area of the World Heritage Site is located c. 11km to the north. There is no intervisibility between the World Heritage Site and the constraints study area.

It should be noted that the Royal Site of Tara is included with the tentative list of sites that may be nominated for inscription as a World Heritage Site in future years. This archaeological complex is located c. 9.25km west of the constraints study area. There is no intervisibility between the two areas.

4.2 NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND SITES WITH PRESERVATION ORDERS

None of the recorded archaeological sites within the constraints area are listed as National Monuments, or are protected with a Preservation Order.

4.3 RECORDED MONUMENTS AND PLACES

There are 19 individual or groups of recorded monuments within the constraints area and its immediate environs, that are included in the RMP or scheduled for future inclusion (Figures 2 and 3, Table 2). These sites are subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Act and the Planning and Development Act (through the Meath County Development Plan).

TABLE 2: RMP sites located within the Constraints Area

AH NO..	RMP NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	RMP STATUS
AH 1	ME038-006/001	Kilmoon	Church and graveyard	702103, 758861	Yes
AH 2	ME038-033	Cushinstown	Burial ground (EX 8)	702406, 758800	Yes
AH 3	ME039-001	Curraghtown	Moated site	703437, 758935	Yes
AH 4	ME039-002	Primatestown	Mound	703392, 758425	Yes
AH 5	ME039-003	Primatestown	Enclosure	703417, 758263	Yes
AH 6	ME038-011	Irishtown	Henge	702070, 757841	Yes
AH 7	ME038-032	Kilbrew	Souterrain	702041, 757641	Yes
AH 8	ME038-010/001	Kilbrew	Henge & 18th/19th century house	701912, 757599	Yes
AH 9	ME039-004	Crickstown	Field system	703252, 755700	Yes
AH 10	ME039-005	Crickstown	Font (present location)	703205, 755299	Yes
AH 11	ME039-008/001-3	Crickstown	Church, graveyard, font & graveslab	703574, 754820	Yes
AH 12	DU006-007	Ballymadun, Borranstown	Water mill - unclassified	705175, 755554	Yes

AH NO..	RMP NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	RMP STATUS
AH 13	DU006-008	Ballymadun	Enclosure	705450, 755052	Yes
AH 14	DU006-001002	Ballymadun	Ringfort - unclassified	705857, 754749	Yes
AH 15	DU006-001001	Ballymadun	Armorial plaque	705966, 754574	Yes
AH 16	ME039-016	Rath	Enclosure (EX 2)	705201, 754344	Yes
AH 24	ME039-009	Cookstown	Ringfort – rath (EX 5)	704774, 753036	Yes
AH 25	ME039-020	Knavinstown	Enclosure	703510, 755869	Yes
AH 26	ME039-021	Knavinstown	Ringfort - rath	703487, 755768	Yes

4.4   SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

There are seven individual sites included within the SMR within the constraints area and its immediate environs (Figure 3, Table 3). These sites are not proposed for inclusion at the next revision of the RMP as they represent the records of sites that have been subject to archaeological excavation.

TABLE 3: SMR sites located within the Constraints Area

AH NO..	SMR NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	EXCAVATION NO.
AH 17	ME039-011	Rath	Structure	704980, 754177	EX 1
AH 18	ME039-015	Rath	Barrow - ditch barrow	704950, 754162	
AH 19	ME039-014	Rath	Barrow - ditch barrow	704954, 754142	
AH 20	ME039-013	Rath	Barrow - ditch barrow	704974, 754116	
AH 21	ME039-017	Rath	Kiln	704796, 754091	EX 11
AH 22	ME039-012	Rath	Barrow - ditch barrow	704881, 753991	EX 1
AH 23	ME039-010	Rath	Structure	704892, 753943	

4.5   SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PREVIOUS FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavation Bulletin (1970–2019) revealed that there has been a number of previous archaeological investigations carried out to date within the constraints area and its immediate environs. These are detailed below in Table 4 and shown on Figures 4 and 5.

TABLE 4: Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Constraints Area

EX REF.	LICENCE REF.:	LOCATION	RESULTS	REFERENCE
EX 1	03E1214 ext.	Rath, County Meath	Excavations revealed extensive prehistoric activity, including two possible sweat lodges located adjacent to a stream bed (AH 23). Four ring-ditches and barrows were also identified (AH 18-20, AH 22), one ring-ditch yielded faience beads indicating a Bronze Age date. A small barrow contained several cremation deposits and a crouched inhumation, with which three copper alloy toe rings were found.	Bennett 2004:1319

EX REF.	LICENCE REF.:	LOCATION	RESULTS	REFERENCE
			Industrial activity was also indicated on site, in particular iron-working and corn processing (AH 17). Two large waterholes were identified with post and wattle lining and prehistoric pottery.	
EX 2	02E0638	Rath, County Meath	Four successive circular enclosures were identified with internal features including hearths, a cremation burial and several pits and spreads containing cremated bone. A total of 30 sherds of coarseware were retrieved from the cremation deposits and 190 sherds of coarseware and cordoned urn pottery were retrieved from the enclosure ditches. In addition, a small assemblage of lithic artefacts was recovered from the site. The site is believed to be of Bronze Age date. This site has been added to the RMP and is listed as AH 16 in this report.	Bennett 2002:1506
EX 3	05E0481/ 05E0715	Rath House, County Meath	Archaeological testing initially identified a number of features of archaeological potential. These features were later excavated and were revealed to be a cluster of pits, one of which yielded a fragment of a lignite bracelet suggesting an early medieval date for the site. A number of post-medieval linear features were also identified.	Bennett 2005:1232/ 2005:1233
EX 4	03E1218 ext.	Site 26 Cookstown, County Meath (along route of M2)	Archaeological testing failed to identify any features of archaeological significance.	Bennett 2004:1212
EX 5	03E1252 ext.	Sites 24 and 25, Cookstown, County Meath (along route of M2)	A total of 59 prehistoric features were excavated including pits containing burnt bone deposits and flint. A Bronze Age crouched inhumation was also identified. An Iron Age double ring-ditch and associated features were also present on the site. While this area of the site was heavily disturbed by agricultural activity, a fragment of a brown glass bracelet was recovered from the outer ditch and a cast bronze penannular ring was retrieved from the inner ditch. The ditches also yielded small amounts of flint and prehistoric pottery and animal bone.

An early medieval enclosure or possible ringfort was also identified on the site, | Bennett 2004:1211 |

EX REF.	LICENCE REF.:	LOCATION	RESULTS	REFERENCE
			though was partially preserved in situ as it extended outside the site boundary (AH 24). A hearth was located within the enclosure but there was no evidence of a structure. It appeared the enclosure ditch was infilled in the 13th/14th century. Three medieval structures were identified on site. All three were wooden built and were located alongside a medieval laneway. The remains of an 18th/19th century stone-walled single-roomed structure were also identified	
EX 6	03E1748/ 03E1715 (ext.)	Ashbourne Business Park, Rath, County Meath	The site of Ashbourne Business Park was archaeologically tested but failed to reveal any features of archaeological potential. However, subsequent monitoring revealed three small scale archaeological features, a pit containing cremated bone, a hearth and a pit filled with charcoal-rich material.	Bennett 2003:1348/ 2003:1349
EX 7	06E0238	Ashbourne Retail Park, Cookstown, County Meath	Archaeological monitoring failed to identify any features of archaeological significance.	Bennett 2006:1541
EX 8	00E0163	Cushinstown, County Meath	Construction works at a public house uncovered human remains and subsequent archaeological investigation identified the remains of 14 individuals in lintel graves, including adults, juveniles and infants. This site has been added to the RMP and is included as AH 2 in this report.	Bennett 2000:0749
EX 9	09E0175	Kilmoon, County Meath	Archaeological testing failed to identify anything of archaeological significance.	Bennett 2009:648
EX 10	12E0049	Kilbrew, County Meath	A programme of archaeological testing was carried out within the vicinity of souterrain (AH 7) and a recorded henge (AH 6) A possible pit and area of reddened clay were identified. A disused quarry and linear drains were also present on site.	Bennett 2012:462
EX 10	13E0443	Kilbrew, County Meath	Archaeological testing failed to identify any features of archaeological potential. A single piece of unworked flint was recovered from the topsoil.	Bennett 2013:426
EX 11	02E0194	Rath, County Meath	Monitoring of topsoil stripping as part of a gas pipeline project revealed the remains of a truncated kiln that was archaeologically excavated. The site has	Bennett 2002:0456

EX REF.	LICENCE REF.:	LOCATION	RESULTS		REFERENCE
			been added to the SMR and is included as AH 21 in this report.		

4.6   AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

In order to define AAPs within the constraints area, a number of sources have been utilised. These include historic mapping; aerial photographs (Ordnance Survey 1995-2013, Google Earth 2009–2019 and Bing Maps); available Lidar data (TII); previous archaeological excavations and (where apparent) the presence of topographic features such as streams, rivers, lakes, turloughs, high defendable ground and bog. AAPs are listed in the below Table 5 and shown on Figures 4 and 5. AAPs are not defined as areas subject to statutory protection, but has been identified in order to inform potential impacts as part of the design process.

Two new sites were identified during aerial photographic analysis as part of this study in January 2020. These have been added to the RMP by the National Monuments Service of the DoCHG and are included as AH 25 and AH 26 in this report.

TABLE 5: AAPs within the Constraints Area

AAP NO..	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	DESCRIPTION
AAP 1	Kilbrew, Ballyhack, Irishtown, Yellowshar	Windmill Hill	702048, 757836	Area of high ground within the landscape containing two recorded prehistoric henges (AH 8 and 6), a souterrain (AH 7) and the site of a post medieval house (within AH 8). The hill also contains the site of a windmill (AAP 5) marked within the historic maps.
AAP 2	Cookstown, Rath, Hammonds-town	Adjacent to significant excavated archaeological remains	704879, 754081	Greenfield area adjacent to a significant amount of archaeological remains excavated prior to construction of N2 and a gas pipeline (EX 1 and 11). These include Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval sites that are listed as AH 17-23.
AAP 3	Primatestown	Possible medieval settlement	703439, 758061	Possible medieval settlement marked within the historic mapping as containing probable fossilised medieval property boundaries fronting onto a north-south aligned road later bypassed by the existing N2. Serviced by a stream but no antiquities indicated in mapping, other than a mound annotated c. 410m to the east (AAP 4). Settlement indicated within the Down Survey map for the barony of Duleek (1655-57).
AAP 4	Primatestown	Mound	703917, 758246	Site of a mound marked in italics on the first edition OS map (1843). Not included in the RMP/SMR. Upstanding remains removed c. 2013.
AAP 5	Irishtown	Site of windmill	702094, 757841	Site of a windmill marked on the first edition OS map (1843) and also shown on the Down Survey map for the barony of Duleek (1655-57).

AAP NO..	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	DESCRIPTION
AAP 6	Multiple	County Boundary between Dublin and Meath	Runs through area in roughly N-S direction	County Boundary that separates Dublin and Meath. Made up of a combinations of field boundaries and watercourse, it is a significant boundary within the landscape.
AAP 7	Crickstown, Ballyadun, Navinstown	Marginal ground	704406, 755438	Covering c. 60ha, this area is marked as marginal, water-logged ground within the first edition OS map (1843) with the eastern section marked as 'liable to flood'. Today the western section of the area remains under scrubby vegetation and is water-logged in nature.
AAP 8	Primatestown	Possible field system	702923, 757734	Identified in TII Lidar coverage as an area containing irregular linear features that may represent former boundaries and tracks along with earthworks. Not marked within the historic mapping coverage of the landscape.
AAP 9	Crickstown	Possible enclosure	703525, 755202	Possible circular enclosure present within the 1995 OSi aerial photographic coverage. A faint outline of the site is visible, which has a diameter of c. 100m. It should be noted that later coverage does show what appear to be circular bike tracks in the surrounding area (from 2000 onwards).

4.7   RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

The Meath County Development Plan (2013–2019) and Fingal County Development Plan (2017–2023) both include a list of the Record of Protected Structures for their respective counties and these structures are subject to statutory protection under the Planning and Development Act. There are five protected structures within the constraints area although BH 3 is no longer extant due to a previous fire and subsequent collapse of the structure (Figures 2 and 3). These are detailed below in Table 6. Four of the structures are also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, including BH 3.

TABLE 6: Protected Structures within the Constraints Area

BH NO.	RPS NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM
BH 1	ME033-106*	Roadmain	House	703288, 759758
BH 2	ME039-100*	Cushinstown	Toll house	702755, 759101
BH 3**	ME039-101*	Primatestown	Kilmoon House	702784, 759048
BH 4	ME039-103*	Crickstown	Saint Andrew's Roman Catholic Church	703194, 755291
BH 5	ME039-102	Kilbrew	Kilbrew House	702982, 756468

*also listed in the NIAH
** No longer extant

4.8   ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREAS (ACAS)

An Architectural Conservation Area is defined as 'A place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve.' (Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011, 40). Chapter II of Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 states that that all development plans should include objectives for preserving the character of ACAs.

ACAs are subject to statutory protection and are a key architectural heritage constraint. There are no ACAs within the constraints area or the surrounding environs.

4.9   NIAH BUILT HERITAGE SURVEY

Four structures are listed in the NIAH within the constraints area and its immediate environs (Figure 2 and 3, Table 7). Whilst inclusion in the survey does not result in statutory protection, these structures are all listed as protected structures and so receive protection from that designation.

TABLE 7: NIAH Structures within the Constraints Area

BH NO	NIAH REF	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM
BH 1	14403304*	Roadmain	House	703288, 759758
BH 2	14403901*	Primatestown	Toll House	702755, 759101
BH 3**	14403902*	Primatestown	Kilmoon House	702784, 759048
BH 4	14403903*	Crickstown	Saint Andrew's Roman Catholic Church	703194, 755291

*listed as an RPS
** No longer extant

4.10   DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of Counties Meath and Dublin (1836 and 1843) shows the extent of demesne landscapes as shaded portions of land within the constraints area. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry. Later OS mapping (1907–9 and 1906–9) can also indicate demesne extent, although they are not shaded. Where a demesne exists in association with a protected structure (dependant on the preservation of the landscape), this may be considered to be part of the curtilage and as such falls within the remit of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The NIAH have carried out a survey of identifiable demesnes within Counties Dublin and Meath, although not all landscapes are captured in the survey. Two of the six demesne landscapes located within the constraints area are present within the NIAH survey (Figures 4 and 5, Table 8).

TABLE 8: Designed Landscapes within the Constraints Area

DL No.	NIAH GARDEN SURVEY ID	TOWNLAND	DEMENSE NAME	DESCRIPTION
DL 1	5118	Curraghtown	Meadesbrook ITM:	A small demesne, the access drive of which extends into the constraints area to the west although this has

DL No.	NIAH GARDEN SURVEY ID	TOWNLAND	DEMENSE NAME	DESCRIPTION
			703917, 759387	been affected by the realignment of the local road. Visible on the first edition OS mapping of 1836 and later OS maps of 1907-9. While development has occurred in the north of the demesne, the principal structure survives and many of the boundaries are extant.
DL 2	5088	Kilbrew	Kilbrew House ITM: 702129, 756142	A large demesne which extends into the constraints area from the west. Visible in the first edition OS mapping of 1836 with the principal building annotated as being in ruins at this time. The demesne, especially the southern section has seen extensive development and much of its character has been eroded. Fragments of boundaries and tree belts survive, but much of the wider demesne has been subsumed into an agricultural landscape.
DL 3	n/a	Kilmoon	Glebe House ITM: 701994, 758778	A small demesne that is labelled on the first edition OS map (1836) as Glebe. It contains St. Munna's Church (ME038-006) and graveyard (ME038-006001) and a rectory. The principal structure no longer survives and the small parkland has degraded slightly, although the mature boundaries remain present.
DL 4	n/a	Borranstown	Laurel Mount ITM: 705251, 756420	There is a small demesne visible on the first edition OS map of 1843, labelled as Laurel Mount to the immediate east of the constraints area. The principal building survives and landscape survives in a reasonable condition.
DL 5	n/a	Crickstown	n/a ITM: 704597, 754733	A small unnamed demesne is visible in the south of the constraints area, adjacent to the existing N2 roadway This is visible on the first edition OS mapping of 1836, and has remained largely unchanged since then. The principal buildings and outbuildings appear to survive along with the mature boundaries and planting.
DL 6	n/a	Kilbrew	Kilbrew House ITM: 702938, 756492	First marked on the first edition OS map of 1836 as what appears to be an unfinished Glebe, the 1907-09 map shows 'Kilbrew House' (BH 5)

DL No.	NIAH GARDEN SURVEY ID	TOWNLAND	DEMENSE NAME	DESCRIPTION
				within a small demesne with several outbuildings, boundary planting and a drive and gate lodge. Whilst the main house survives today, it has been extended and a large complex of buildings constructed to the south. Much of the mature boundary planting has been retained but the character of the landscape has become slightly denuded.

4.11   CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Cultural heritage assets can incorporate both archaeological and built heritage remains, which are not subject to statutory protection or have not been previously recorded as heritage assets in any known datasets (Figures 4 and 5, Table 9). A number of sources were reviewed in order to identify cultural heritage assets within the receiving environment. These included the historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping and aerial photographic coverage, including Google Street View where available. Whilst sites that are not subject to statutory protections are not considered to represent key constraints, the position of these heritage features within the constraints area requires consideration with regards to the development of future route options.

TABLE 9: CH sites within the Constraints Area

CH NO..	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	DESCRIPTION
CH 1	Primatestown	Vernacular building	703075, 758277	Small modified vernacular structure first marked on the first edition OS map of 1836. May represent the remains of a small cottage.
CH 2	Primatestown	Vernacular house and outbuilding	703338, 757612	Renovated vernacular house likely to date to later 19th century, but a structure is marked as present on the 1836 OS map. Modified outbuilding present immediately adjacent to existing N2.
CH 3	Borranstown	19th century house and farmyard	704716, 756732	Late 19th century house and farmyard present on the 1906-9 OS map. Survives today with the farmyard in particular retained in very good condition. An earlier single storey vernacular cottage (marked on the 1843 OS map) forms part of the complex.
CH 4	Yellowshar	Vernacular building	702040, 758367	Heavily modified single storey vernacular structure that may represent the remains of an outbuilding or cottage. Only remaining structure of a group of buildings marked here on the first edition OS map of 1836.
CH 5	Rath	Vernacular farmyard	705423, 754029	Later 19th century single storey house and a number of stone outbuildings, all of which are marked on the 1907-09

CH NO..	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	DESCRIPTION
				mapping and now in a poor condition.
CH 6	Crickstown	Vernacular house and outbuildings	702040, 758367	House and outbuildings, marked on the 1836 OS map and 1907-09 map. Shown within a small demesne (DL 5). Based on the aerial photographic coverage, the structures currently appear in good condition.
CH 7	Crickstown	Crickstown House	703710, 755304	Cricktown House and outbuildings, marked on the 1907-09 OS map and present today in good condition.
CH 8	Baltrasna	19th century house and farmyard	703879, 756224	Later 19th century house and range of outbuildings, marked on the 1906-09 map having replaced a scatter of buildings marked on the 1843 mapping. Structures appear to be in use and in good condition.
CH 9	Coolfore	Vernacular cottage, in ruins	703720, 756746	Ruins of a stone built vernacular cottage, first marked on the first edition OS map of 1836. The structure is roofless and heavily overgrown.
CH 10	Primatestown	Former Smithy	703283, 758358	Heavily modified and renovated smithy building, consisting of a small two storey house and single storey outbuilding. Marked on the 1907-09 OS map.
CH 11	Primatestown	Vernacular cottage	703435, 757966	Derelict single storey vernacular cottage, now very overgrown. Marked on the first edition OS map of 1836.
CH 12	Primatestown	Former Constabulary Barracks	702753, 759031	Former Constabulary Barracks, marked on the 1907-09 OS map. Now a modified and extended two-storey home with replacement windows and modern porch.
CH 13	Ballyhack	Vernacular house and outbuilding	702365, 757500	Renovated vernacular house marked on the 1907-09 OS map with one surviving single storey vernacular outbuilding. Buildings are in good condition and remain in use.
CH 14	Crickstown	Parochial House	703201, 755243	Late 19th century two storey parochial house established in association with church to the immediate north (BH 4). Marked on the 1907-09 OS map and survives in good condition with original gated entrance.
CH 15	Cricktown	Crickstown Cottage	703069, 755174	19th century single storey cottage with modifications. Retains two ranges of single storey stone outbuildings. In use and in good condition.
CH 16	Borranstown	Ruined vernacular complex	704438, 757011	Denuded ruins of a number of structures marked within the 1843 and 1906-09 OS maps. Very overgrown but the remains of the structures that survive are single storey and of stone construction.

CH NO..	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	ITM	DESCRIPTION
CH 17	Borranstown	Ruined vernacular structure	704209, 757188	Ruined single storey stone building that may represent the remains of a vernacular cottage marked on the 1843 OS map.
CH 18	Multiple	N2 – 19th century mail coach road	Travels through the whole constraints area	Mail Coach Road that was constructed at the beginning of the 19th century. Still in use as a national road. Kilmoon Toll house (BH 1) is directly associated with the road.

5   SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this constraints study is to provide an analysis of the key archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage constraints within the study area in order to inform the design of route options as part of infrastructure upgrades required as part of the N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Road Scheme.

There are no UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the constraints area. Similarly, none of the recorded archaeological sites are listed as National Monuments or are listed as sites with Preservation Orders.

There are 19 groups or individual recorded monuments located within the constraints area and its immediate surroundings. These sites are subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Act and should be considered to represent key archaeological constraints. A further seven archaeological sites listed in the SMR. These sites are not subject to statutory protection, as they represent archaeological sites that have been subject to preservation by record (archaeological excavation). The seven sites included within the constraints study were excavated in advance of the N2 Finglas-Ashbourne Road Scheme (EX 1) and a gas pipeline (EX 11). A total of 11 archaeological investigations have been carried out within the constraints study area.

Nine Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs) have been identified within the study area from desktop resources such as historic mapping and aerial photographic coverage. These include topographic features, such as Windmill Hill (AAP 1), areas that are adjacent to a significant amount of excavated archaeological remains (AAP 2) and specific sites of archaeological potential, such as the possible medieval settlement at Primatestown (AAP 3), the site of a mound (AAP 4) and a possible field system (AAP 8).

There are five protected structures located within the constraints area and its immediate environs. One of these structures (Kilmoon House, BH 3) is no longer extant due to its collapse and cannot be considered to represent a key constraint. Four of the structures (including BH 3) are also included within the NIAH survey. Protected structures should be considered as key cultural heritage constraints during the design of the upgraded infrastructure with direct impacts and impacts on settings avoided where possible. It should be noted that there are no Architectural Conservation Areas within the constraints area.

A further five vernacular structures have been identified from the Ordnance Survey maps that may possess architectural merit. These may be of local significance but are not subject to statutory protection.

Six designed landscapes were identified within the constraints area. None of the designed landscapes could be considered to be fully intact and have either lost their principal structure or elements of the original landscape design (or both). However, they retain cultural heritage interest and should be considered as a constraint during the design of the required infrastructure on a case by case basis.

A total of 18 sites of Cultural Heritage interest have been identified during the course of the study. These, for the most part, represent the remains of historic structures such as vernacular houses or cottages. These include a former Constabulary Barracks (CH 12), a parochial house (CH 14) and a former Smithy (CH 10). Some of these structures remain intact and inhabited (with modern modifications in some cases), whilst others are in ruins or derelict. The identified sites are not subject to statutory protection, but should be considered as constraints during the development of route options. CH 18 represents the current path of the N2 national route way, which was established at the start of the 19th century as a tolled mail coach route.

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