

KILDARE TOWN

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

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On behalf of:
Kildare County Council and the Heritage Council

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1.0 Introduction

Sheridan Woods Architects + Urban Planners in collaboration with Eithne Verling Museum Consultant and Archaeologist were appointed by Kildare County Council in association with the Heritage Council to prepare the Kildare Town Historic Landscape Characterisation.

1.1 Objective of the Kildare Town Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) seeks to establish a greater understanding of the historic evolution of rural and urban landscapes. By undertaking this process, we are able to assess the historic significance and sensitivity of the natural and man made features that define the character of a place as we know it today.

The main objectives of the Kildare Town HLC are to:

- Identify the principal factors that influenced the evolution of the town and its hinterland,
- Establish a detailed record of the elements that contribute to the historic character of the town and its hinterland, and
- Make recommendations with respect to the protection and enhancement of the historic landscape of Kildare Town.

More specifically, the Kildare Town HLC is intended to inform the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2011-2017.

1.2 Study Area

In determining the study area for the Kildare Town HLC the following considerations were taken into account:

- The vulnerability of historic character areas within the development boundary of the town,
- The potential impact of future development on the historic character of areas surrounding the town, and
- The potential to extend the study area and / or integrate with other study areas in the future.

Having regard to these factors, the study area was extended one mile beyond the town boundary. This boundary was then adjusted to reflect the nearest townland boundaries, providing for the future extension of the study area on a townland by townland basis or integration with other study areas based on townland units [Map 01].

1.3 Methodology

The preparation of the Kildare Town HLC primarily involved the mapping of historic landscape character types as defined by the Heritage Council's Policy and Best Practice Guidance. These historic landscape character types reflect a combination of features of the natural and man made environment including land use, morphology of layout, period of origin, physical form and relict survival. Many of these features were mapped in the course of this project and these maps are included in the body of this report and as appendices.

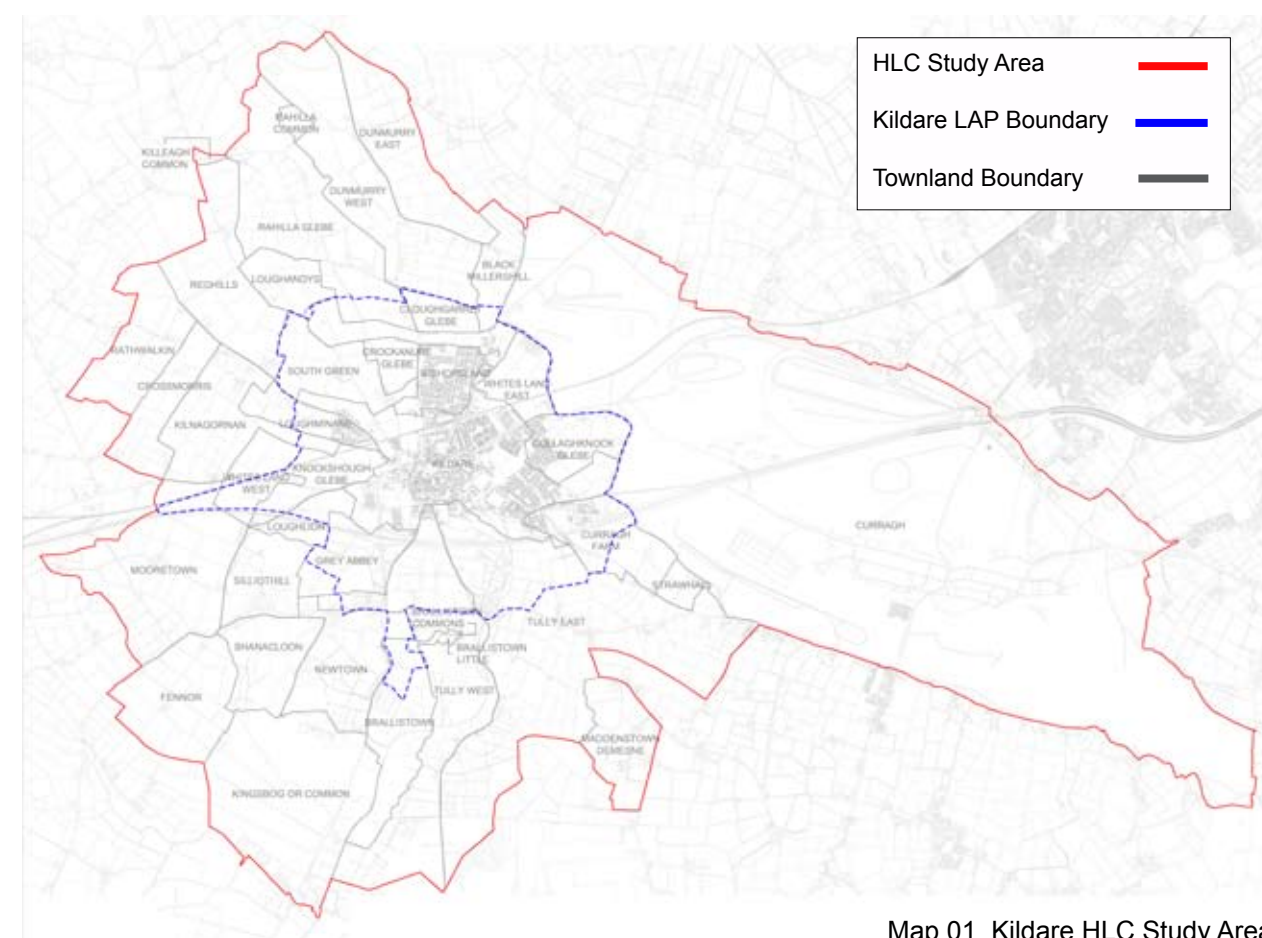
The mapping of historic landscape character types drew on a variety of sources and previous studies including:

- Historic and contemporary ordnance survey mapping
- Aerial photography
- The Record of Monuments and Places
- Archaeological surveys and excavations including the Kildare Urban Archaeological Survey and the Kildare Industrial Archaeological Heritage Survey
- Kildare Town Habitat Mapping
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Survey of County Kildare
- History publications including the Kildare Town Historic Atlas (Bradley, 1987) and Kildare History & Society (Nolan and McGrath, 2006)

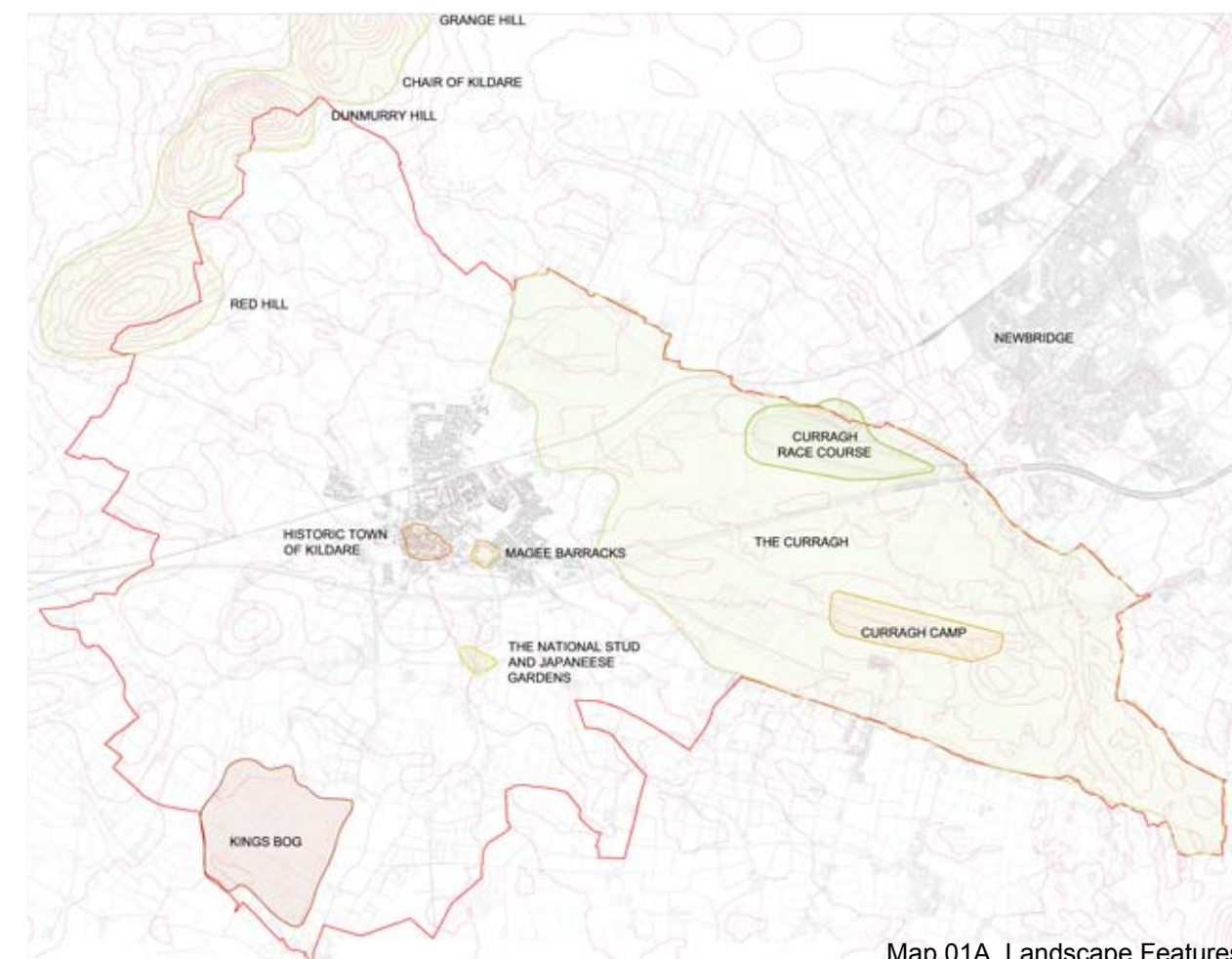
This data was augmented by a field survey concentrating primarily on the historic town centre of Kildare. A photographic record of the building elevations which define the town's principal streets and spaces was made and an urban analysis of the town's fabric undertaken. Buildings representative of various building typologies found outside the town centre have also been recorded as part of this field survey.

The historic landscape character types identified were subsequently analysed in terms of their historic significance, sensitivity and exposure to pressure. These types were also grouped into broader historic landscape character areas which were also assessed in terms of their historic significance, sensitivity and exposure to pressure.

Having regard to the planning and development context of the town, recommendations are made with respect to the development of Kildare Town's historic landscape and will inform the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2011-2017.



Map 01_Kildare HLC Study Area



Map 01A_Landscape Features

2.0 Historic Evolution

The landscape of Kildare is largely formed of fertile glacial drifts. The main soil type within the study area and indeed County Kildare as a whole is a grey-brown podzolic. This soil type has the widest land use range being suitable *'for all manner of Corne and Cattle'* as noted in the Civil Survey of 1655.

The availability of high quality soil in a large portion of the county made it a very productive location for agricultural activity and helps us to understand the archaeological evidence and the settlement patterns within the study area.

Evidence of the occupation of the landscape can be seen in the early emergence of a network of settlement nodes including the hillforts at Dunmurry and Dún Áilinne; the ringforts and enclosures in the Curragh and Fennor; the Fulachta Fiadh complexes in Cherryville, Loughlion and Greyabbey and most significantly, the prehistoric, sacred landscape of the Curragh and the monastic / ecclesiastical landscape in and around Kildare Town.

In terms of the social and cultural development of the landscape within the study area it can be seen that there were a number of significant periods of activity within the overall time-frame of development.

From an archaeological perspective, the most notable of these periods include the explosion of ritual sites on the Curragh in the Late Bronze Age; the period of monastic development in the 5th to 7th centuries and the urban and ecclesiastical period of settlement in the Anglo-Norman dominated 12th and 13th centuries.

With respect to the modern history of Kildare, the development of the town's market and military functions are equally important periods from which much of the present day settlement derives its character and historic significance.

The following sections give an overview of important historic periods, developments and events which have influenced the development of Kildare Town.

2.1 St. Brigid and the Christian Foundation

The settlement of Kildare dates back to the 5th century when St. Brigid founded her church at Druim Criaig - meaning ridge of clay - beside an ancient oak believed to have been a pagan shrine to the Celtic Goddess Brigid, from whom the saint takes her name.

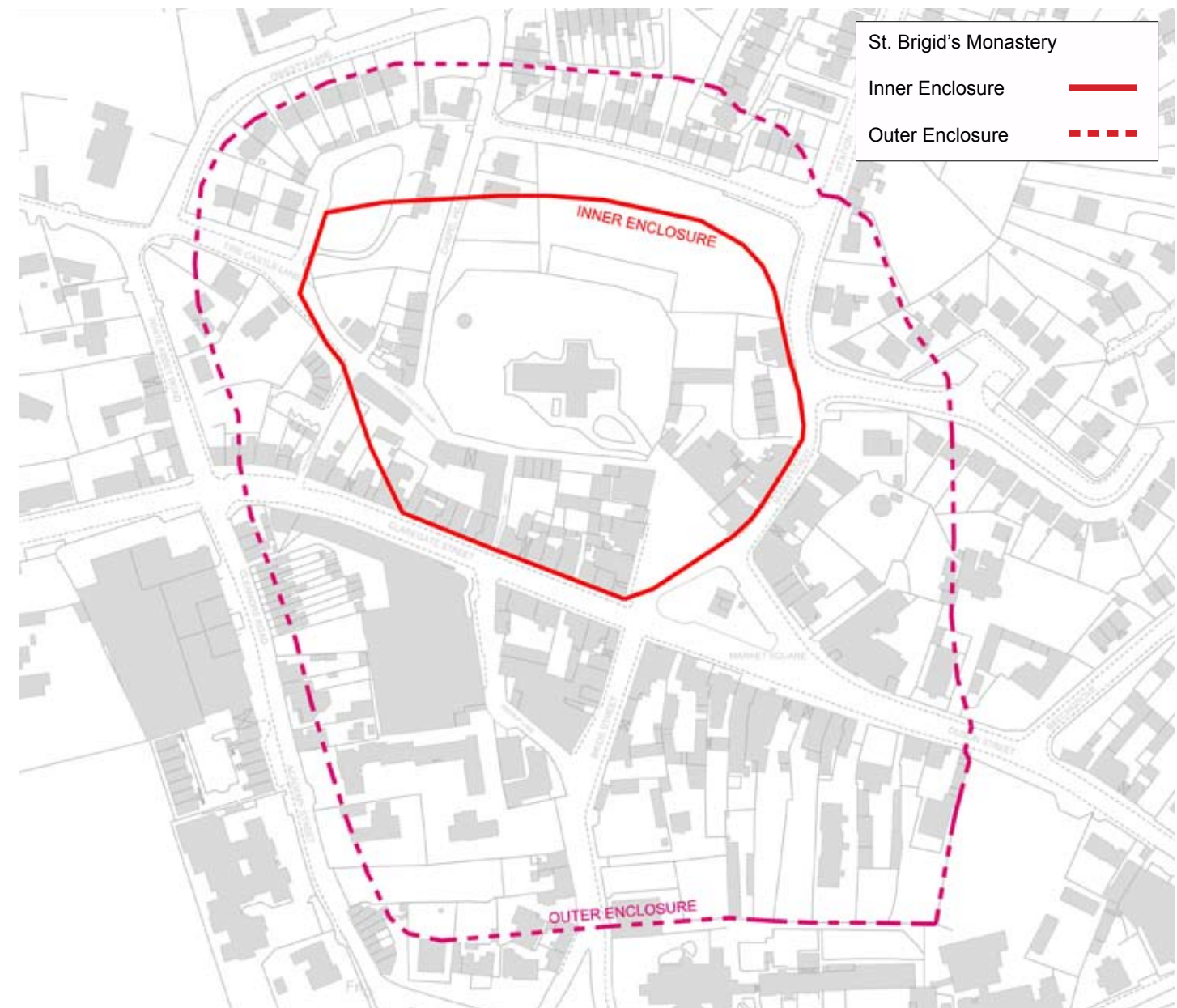
Subsequently renamed Cell Dara (church of the oak), a monastery of large proportions was established. A stone wall delineates the modern complex within which a church, round tower and high cross survive today. The site of a 'fire house' is also situated within the enclosure where it is believed a flame lit by St. Brigid was kept continuously burning until the early thirteenth century and was rekindled again thereafter.

The inner enclosure of St. Brigid's monastery would have occupied an area greater than the present day site as shown opposite. Approached from as many as twelve routes (although some of these routes may not be contemporary with the early Christian settlement), the elevated location of the monastery and its buildings must have made a strong impression on visitors travelling to this important ecclesiastical centre.

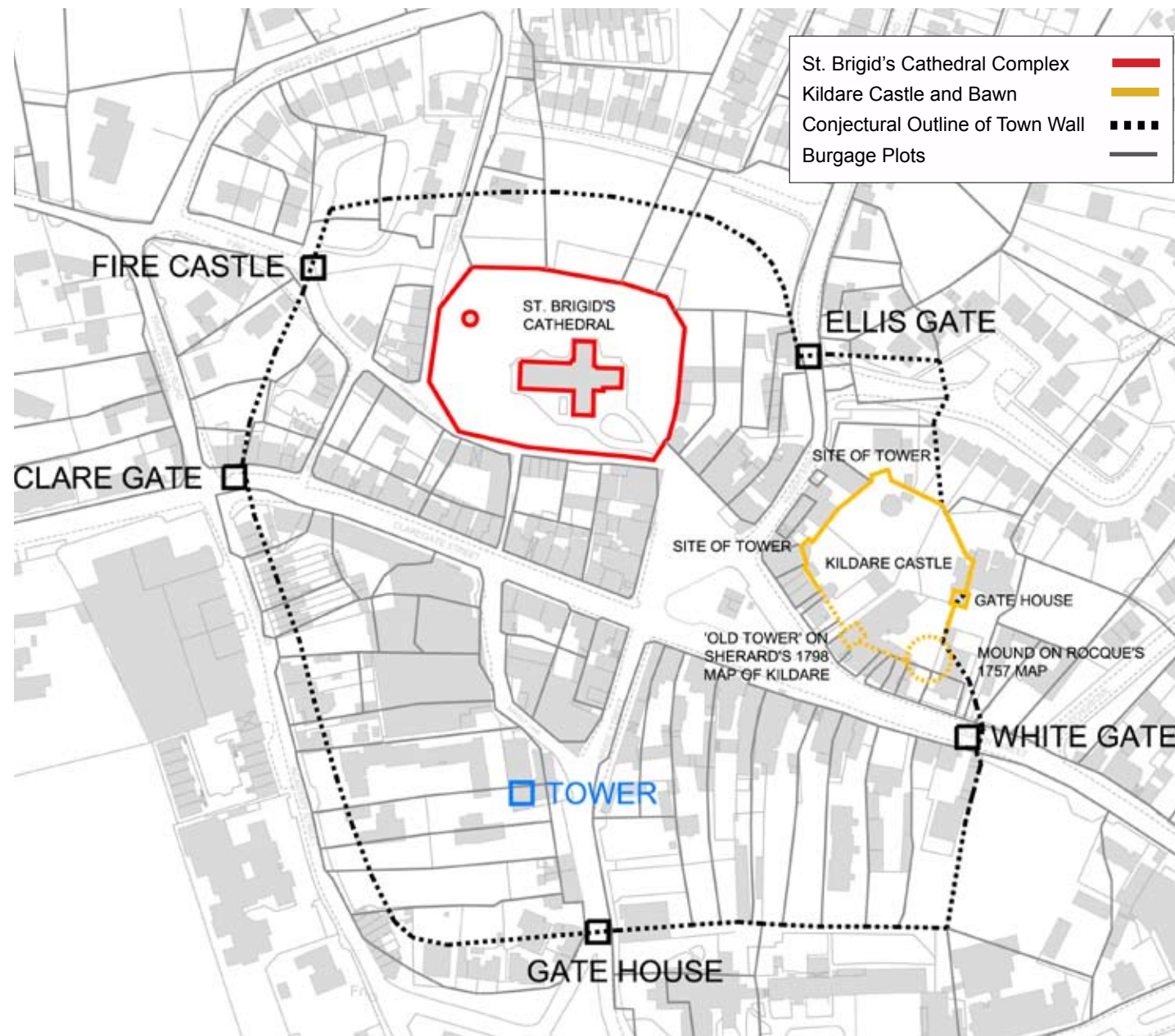
The monastic settlement at Kildare attracted a significant lay population including artisans, traders and scholars. Seventh century descriptions of 'a vast metropolitan centre' as well as tenth century references to a 'street of the stone steps' suggest a 'proto urban' settlement which would have comprised an ecclesiastical enclosure surrounded by the dwellings of both religious and lay communities, which may also have been enclosed by an outer ditch or bank.

Conjecture as to the location of both the inner and outer enclosures have been drawn from cartographic sources and from the curvilinear patterns of present day road and boundary alignments [Map 02].

At the Synod of Ráith Breassail in 1111, Kildare became the centre of a large diocese, a tribute to St. Brigid and her church as well as a reflection upon the status of the settlement, which had survived successive Viking raids and fires suffered during previous centuries. The number of references to the settlement in the annals of the early historic period point to it as a large and wealthy ecclesiastical foundation of great significance



Map 02_Conjectural outline of St. Brigid's monastic site (Kildare Urban Archaeological Survey)



Map 03_Medieval Borough



Fig. 01_Ruins of Grey Abbey, Grey Abbey Road



Fig. 02_Ruins of Black Abbey, Tully

2.2 The Medieval Borough and Abbeys of Kildare

Following the Norman invasion of 1169, the settlement at Kildare, owing to its strategic hilltop location and access to the rich plains of east central Ireland, became the centre of Strongbow's campaign to conquer Leinster. In developing his military base, Strongbow constructed a castle, which is likely to have comprised a motte and bailey located on a site to the east of Market Square and immediately north of Dublin Street, as suggested by a mound indicated on Rocque's Map of 1757.

A stone castle was built in the thirteenth century by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster, during which time Kildare established itself as both manor and borough. Marshall resided in Kildare for a brief period only, after which time the lordship of Kildare eventually passed to William De Vesci. The castle was subsequently conquered by Calvagh O' Connor and later retaken by the Normans.

The thirteenth century was a relatively peaceful time in Kildare, which saw the construction of St. Brigid's Cathedral, attributed to Ralph of Bristol (Bishop of Kildare 1223-32), as well as the establishment of three abbeys within close proximity of the town itself. These abbeys included the Franciscan Grey Abbey to the south [Fig. 01], the Carmelite White Abbey to the west and the Black Abbey at Tully [Fig. 02], a preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller of St. Jude. These abbeys take their names from the habits worn in medieval times by the monks associated with the foundations and are testimony to the peaceful times during which they were established.

In the early fourteenth century the earldom of Kildare was created by King Edward II and awarded to the FitzGerald family in recognition of their services during the Bruce Invasion. Although the FitzGerald's were to establish their seat of power in Maynooth, Kildare Town, for the greatest part, remained in their ownership right up until the early twentieth century. Kildare Castle, positioned on elevated lands to the east of St. Brigid's monastery, comprised four towers with various out-offices surrounded by a bawn [Map 03]. To the south of the castle an east west axis served tenements associated with long narrow 'burgage' plots located to the south of Dublin Street and both sides of Claregate Street.

Having regard to the burgage rents of the early fourteenth century, it is possible that the town of Kildare would have occupied a built up area as large as the eighteenth century town illustrated in

Rocque's map of 1757. The alignment of a town wall authorised in 1515 might have confirmed this conjecture had the wall survived. Whilst it is likely that the medieval defences of Kildare Castle and the churchyard walls of St. Brigid's Monastery formed part of this wall, the extrapolation of a possible alignment from boundaries and road alignments is purely speculative, particularly when more recent finds on a site on Bride Street (site of Credit Union building) are taken into consideration. These finds included a large linear ditch of possible early historic period date and the base of an Anglo-Norman tower in the south-west corner of the site [Map 03].

Outside the medieval town, the edges of plough strips of Anglo-Norman or possibly earlier origin might be construed from the gently curving boundaries still evident on modern maps, although again, these conjectures have yet to be supported by archaeological evidence.

2.3 The Market Town

Although once an important Christian centre and a prosperous medieval town, post medieval Kildare paints a bleak picture in the context of past glories. Following the reformation of the sixteenth century, the monastic houses of Kildare fell into decay. St. Brigid's Cathedral now catered for a small protestant community which formed a fraction of both the diocese and parish population. Post reformation bishops were all absentees, as were most of the other clergy attached to the cathedral. Equally, the earls of Kildare had removed themselves from the town, establishing their seat of power in Maynooth.

Having suffered badly during Queen Elizabeth's Wars, the town of Kildare was described as being 'altogether disinhabited' in 1600. The town was later garrisoned during the Confederate Wars, during which time the cathedral was totally ruined, reputedly bombed by Lord Castlehaven. Paradoxically, a settlement that had once been an important Christian centre and strategically positioned medieval borough now found itself being bypassed by travellers bound for the Munster plantations, who preferred to pass through Naas and Kilcullen, both of which were located within the Pale.

The administrative functions of shire town subsequently passed from Kildare to Naas but this in itself was not the sole reason for the town's demise. Being removed from a river, the town did not lend itself to industrial development, particularly in the context of the eighteenth century expansion of Ireland's milling industries.



Fig. 03_Rocque's 1757 Survey Map of Kildare



Fig. 04_St. Brigid's Cathedral, Round Tower and Market House

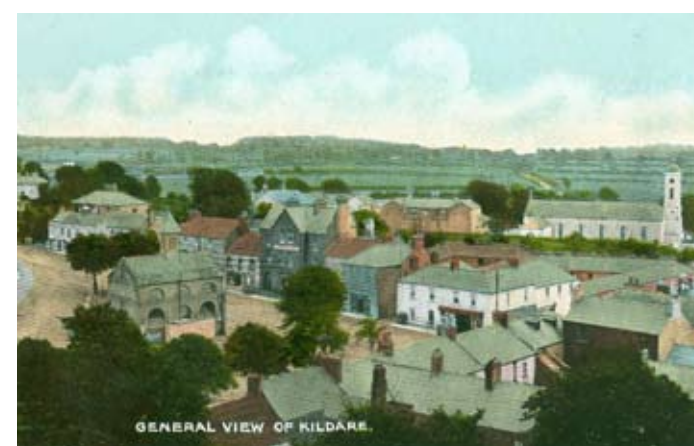


Fig. 05_Market Square and St. Brigid's R.C. Church

Rocques Map of 1757 [Fig. 03] gives us some insight into the extent of eighteenth century Kildare. The structure of the historic town centre is almost identical to that of the present day, the Market Square being its focus with buildings fronting onto all three sides as well as sections of Dublin Street and Claregate Street.

During this time, Kildare would have served as a small service centre. Many houses in the central area were rebuilt but these were of modest proportion and construction. On the outskirts of the town, old cabins occupied what was most likely common land to the north at Shraud and to the south at St. Brigid's Square, where a pound and fair green were situated.

The development of Kildare in the eighteenth century was relieved somewhat by the introduction of a toll on the road from Naas to Maryborough, placing the town on the main route between Dublin and the south-west. Toward the end of the century Kildare had established itself as a post town, benefiting from the passing trade generated by mail coaches and other traffic.

A notable change in the character of the town was brought about by the construction of private and public buildings in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Rocques map of 1757 indicates a large free standing house within the bawn of Kildare Castle, which later became the residence of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, leader of the United Irishmen. To the east and south of the castle, Beechgrove House and Lisle House, both attractive detached Georgian dwellings, added to the superior residential character of Dublin Street. Elsewhere, housing primarily comprised the modest townhouses on the principal streets of Kildare and inferior cabins located along its approach roads, and in particular those to the north of the town.

Notable public buildings of the eighteenth and nineteenth century included the restored Kildare Cathedral, the Market House and Court House, as well as new church buildings at St. Brigid's Square and White Abbey. Various convent and school buildings were also constructed during this period, as well as an infirmary and a hospital for 'unfortunate and fallen women' known at the Lock Hospital.

2.4 Great Southern and Western Railway

The Great Southern and Western Railway was one of the main railway operations in Ireland in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Dublin to Cork route opened in 1846-47, passing through the Curragh and calling at Kildare station, which was constructed within half a mile north of the town centre.

Although having little impact on the economy of Kildare Town, the railway line strengthened links with Dublin and subsequently induced a northward shift in the expansion of the settlement. Most notably, the fair green, which had previously been located at St. Brigid's Square, repositioned itself at a more strategic location north of the town, between Market Square and the railway station.

Apart from those buildings and structures directly associated with railway operations in Kildare Town, the most notable development to arise from the opening of the railway line was the construction of a large hotel at Shraud. Although no longer extant, this building would have been typical of buildings constructed in late nineteenth century Kildare, characterised by a Victorian style and red brick finish, a material which by then was being mass produced and readily available. Whilst the use of brick is most common in the construction of new houses and terraces outside the town centre, new commercial buildings on Market Square also reflected the availability of new materials.

2.5 The Curragh

The Curragh has been associated with the settlement of Kildare town since early Christian times when the King of Leinster reputedly granted to St. Brigid as much pasture land as her cloak would cover. Possibly the oldest and most extensive tract of semi-grassland in Europe, the Curragh consists of a gently undulating plain measuring 4,870 acres, within which a dense concentration of archaeological monuments are located. To the south east of the Curragh, Dún Áilinne, seat of the Kings of Leinster is located on the hilltop of Knockailline. The Hill of Allen, where it is believed Fionn Mac Cumhaill and the Fianna assembled, is located to the north of the plains.

The Curragh has long been the site of military activity, extending from the eight century battle of the Cuirreach right up to the present day. Having served as an encampment during the Confederate and Jacobite Wars and again during the Irish Rebellion of 1798, the Curragh subsequently became the site of Ireland's largest military training camp in the early nineteenth century in anticipation of a French invasion. However, this camp was temporary in nature and it was in fact on foot of the Crimean War that the first permanent camp was constructed in 1855. Laid out on an east west axis, the camp primarily comprised ten squares defined by timber huts. These squares were gradually redeveloped towards the end of the nineteenth century and in the beginning of the twentieth century [Fig. 06], during which time many fine buildings were constructed on the camp.

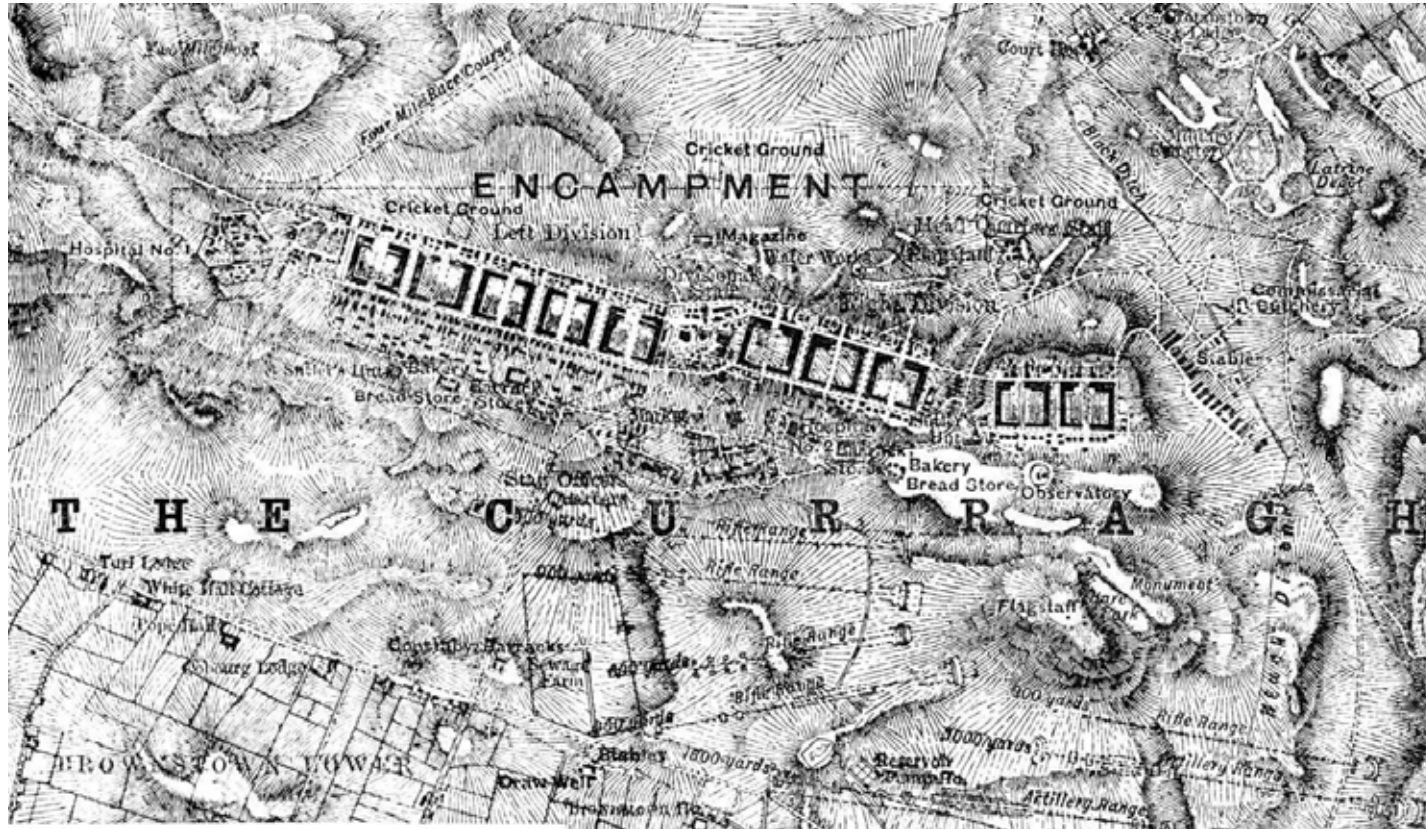


Fig. 06_The Curragh Camp 1906

The potential of the Curragh for organised horse racing was realised in the seventeenth century. As the industry grew over the eighteenth and nineteenth century stud farms and associated buildings were established throughout the county and are now a common feature of the local landscape. In 1759, the 'Curragh Coffee House' was constructed on the south side of Kildare's Dublin Street and provided facilities to visitors to the Curragh. The Turf Club, the regulatory body for thoroughbred racing in Ireland, had its headquarters here until 1903.

In 1868 the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland issued by-laws for the purposes of managing the Curragh more efficiently, recognising three zones relating to grazing, race-course and associated bloodstock activities and the military camp. These by-laws were followed by the 1870 Curragh of Kildare Act which specified that only sheep could graze on the Curragh and established the appointment of a ranger to oversee the property. This act was not amended or superceded by any legislation until the 1961 Curragh of Kildare Act which abolished the post of ranger and replaced it with direct management from the Department of Defence.

2.6 Magee Barracks

In 1900 a Royal Artillery barracks was constructed on the outskirts of Kildare Town, on the site of the Lock Hospital. Having been in operation for only twenty years, the barracks would have brought a period of prosperity to the town of Kildare, with as many as 800 men being stationed there. The barracks was handed over to the National Army in 1922 following the establishment of an Irish Free State.

Magee Artillery Barracks was constructed in the 1930's and was one of the first military barracks to be developed by the newly formed Irish Free State. The barracks, which is accessed off the Dublin Road, is largely structured on a central avenue. The bulk of the barrack buildings were located to the east of this avenue and comprised accommodation blocks, officers' mess, administration and training schools arranged around a parade ground. The barracks remained in operation up until 1998, when the complex was closed and its personnel moved to the Curragh.

Magee Barracks has since been used as a reception centre for Kosovar refugees, asylum seekers and more recently as traveller accommodation. Most of the original barracks buildings are now in a state of dereliction.

2.7 The National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens at Tully

The breeding of horses at Tully can be traced back to the fourteenth century when it is likely that war horses were bred here for the Knights of Malta. In the early twentieth century, one of the finest stud farms in Europe was developed at Tully, when Colonel William Hall-Walker, having bought lands here, turned his attention to the owning and breeding of race horses.

During the years 1906 to 1910, Colonel Hall-Walker commissioned the development of the Japanese Gardens at Tully which were laid out by a man by the name of Eida, and his son Minoru, both natives of Japan. The gardens, planned to symbolise the life of man, are acclaimed to be the finest Japanese gardens in Europe and are a major tourist attraction today.

In 1915, Colonel Hall-Walker presented the stud to the British Government in the interest of forming a National Stud. The Irish Government took over the land and buildings at Tully in 1943, and the Irish National Stud Company Ltd. formed in 1945.

The National Stud comprises a nucleus of historic buildings and sites including Black Abbey and St. John's well. This complex was once connected to the town of Kildare by a tree lined avenue demarcated by attractive wrought iron entrance gates on the Curragh Road. Today this avenue is severed by the M7 motorway which bypasses the town along its southern periphery.

Whilst the National Stud Farm at Tully is the most renowned stud farm in the country, there are several smaller stud farms and associated buildings located outside Kildare Town and surrounding the Curragh, all of which are testimony to the equestrian heritage of the county.

2.8 Kildare Town Today

Over the 20th century the town of Kildare has experienced limited expansion in comparison with other settlements in the county. The majority of this development has been residential in nature, occurring to the north and east of the historic town centre and comprising private and local authority housing estates. These estates reflect the emerging role of Kildare Town as a dormitory settlement arising from improved rail and road links to Dublin City.

Although the resurgence of Kildare's economy is primarily attributed to its military and equestrian associations, new industries to emerge in the mid twentieth century included a wall paper factory to the west of the town and a chilling factory, initially located at Bride Street and later on the Dublin Road, to the east of the town.

In the 1980's Kildare saw both the closure of the wallpaper factory and the arrival of Modus Media, also located on the Monasterevin Road. Another boost to the economy of the town came in the beginning of the twenty first century with the construction of the Kildare Village Outlet Centre, taking full advantage of the town's location on the M7 motorway. Within the town centre itself, the most significant change to occur in recent time was the redevelopment of the southern side of Claregate Street, extending from Bangup Lane almost as far as Cleamore Road, and comprising a single mixed use building.

Notwithstanding the expansion of the town itself, the construction of the M7 motorway is the most significant change to have occurred in the landscape surrounding Kildare Town since the turn of the century. Skirting its southern periphery, the bypass and associated junction is now the principal point of access to Kildare.

3.0 Survey & Analysis

3.1 Topography and Landscape

The town of Kildare and its surrounding hinterland derives much of its character from subtle variations in topography which provide for panoramic views across the study area and beyond. The landscape surrounding the town is equally varied and comprises the Curragh plains to the east, pastoral landscapes to the north, south and west and bogland further south again.

Kildare town is situated on a ridge approximately 10 to 15 metres higher than surrounding lowlands. As such, the settlement of Kildare and its associated landmarks have historically been a prominent feature in the landscape. These landmarks are primarily enjoyed from the principal approach roads to the town, and in particular from the elevated approach roads to the north [Map 06]. In the early stages of development, the settlement would have equally enjoyed panoramic outward views towards other landmarks such as the hillfort of Dún Áilinne and the Wicklow mountains.

Up until the twentieth century, the settlement of Kildare town was largely concentrated within a 400m radius of Market Square. During this time the town remained relatively compact, maintaining much of its historic street and road structure in the course of its evolution. With the exception of local authority housing estates constructed in the early to mid twentieth century, private housing estates developed during the late twentieth and early twenty first century represent the most intensive period of urban expansion in the history of the town [Fig. 07].

Outside the town of Kildare the topography is characterised by a group of small hills to the north comprising Redhills, Dunmurry Hill, Carrickanearla and Grange Hill, the Curragh plains to the east and the gently undulating farmland to the west, north west and south.

With the exception of commons such as the Curragh, the rural landscape surrounding Kildare is primarily defined by enclosed medium to large sized fields of

post medieval origin. These lands were farmed by tenants who developed small farmsteads comprising a modest dwelling and associated farm buildings. Many of these holdings now comprise stud farms, the most notable being the National Stud at Tully.

Distinctive field patterns can be found in the layout of planned ladder farms at Crossmorris and in the later subdivision of lands at Beech Park by the Land Commission. Modest labourer's cottages constructed in the early twentieth century are also characteristic of the area, frequently occurring in pairs or clusters on roadsides and at cross roads. However, in recent decades, urban generated one-off housing has become the most common form of development in the landscape, particularly to the south of the town.

Two significant changes to have occurred in the landscape surrounding Kildare town reflect the development of national transport networks. The first of these relates to the construction of the Great Southern and Western Railway line in the nineteenth century which forms a corridor through the landscape to the north of the town centre. The second of these networks relates to the development of the M7 motorway and the construction of the Kildare bypass in particular. The bypass passes to the south of the town, forming a new edge to the settlement.

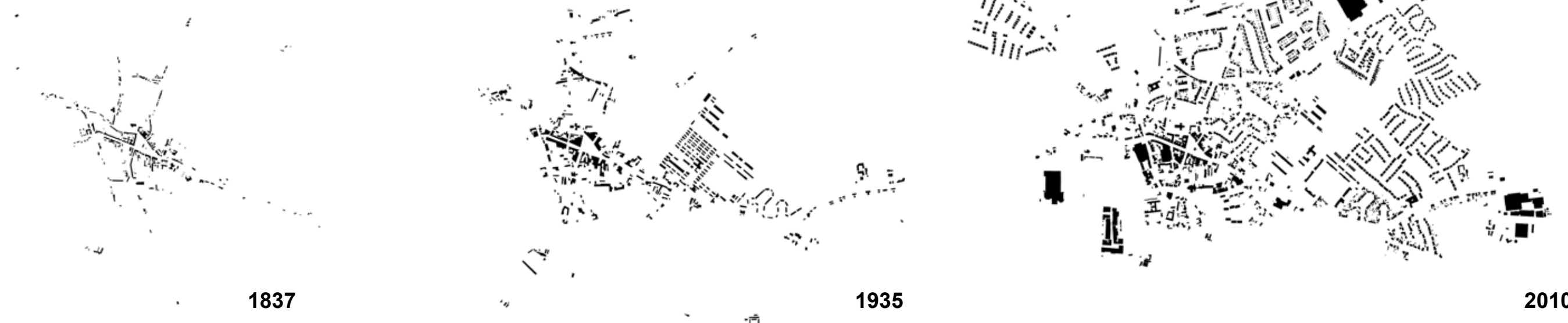
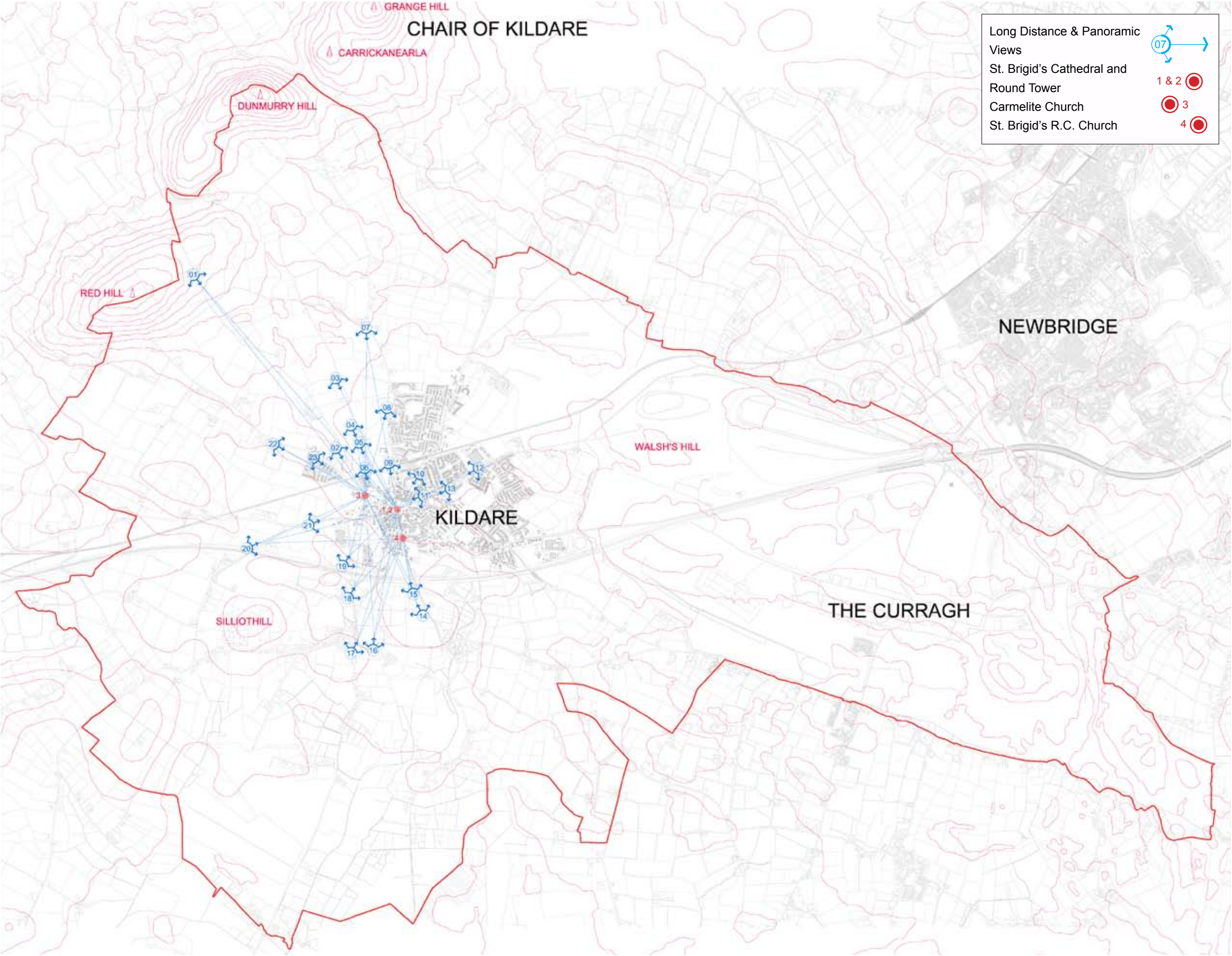
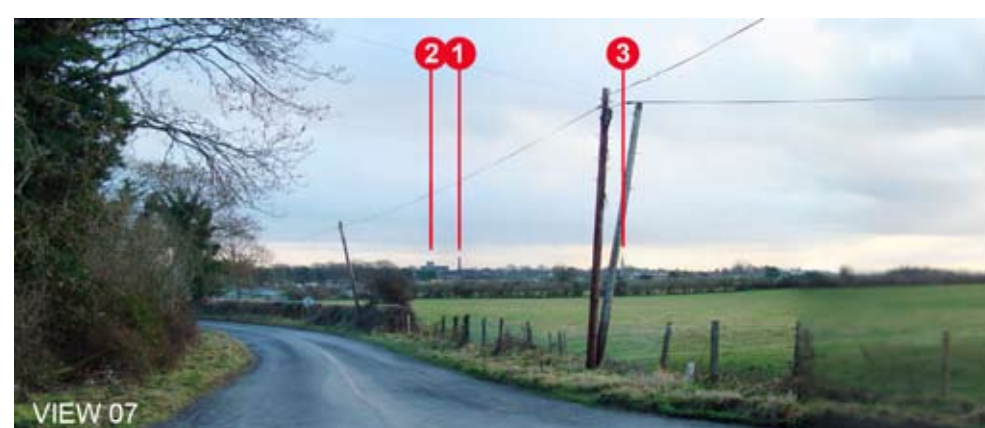
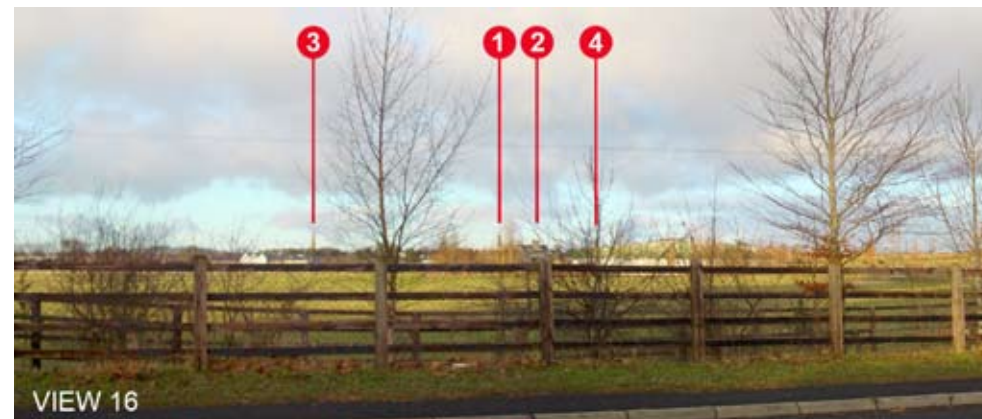
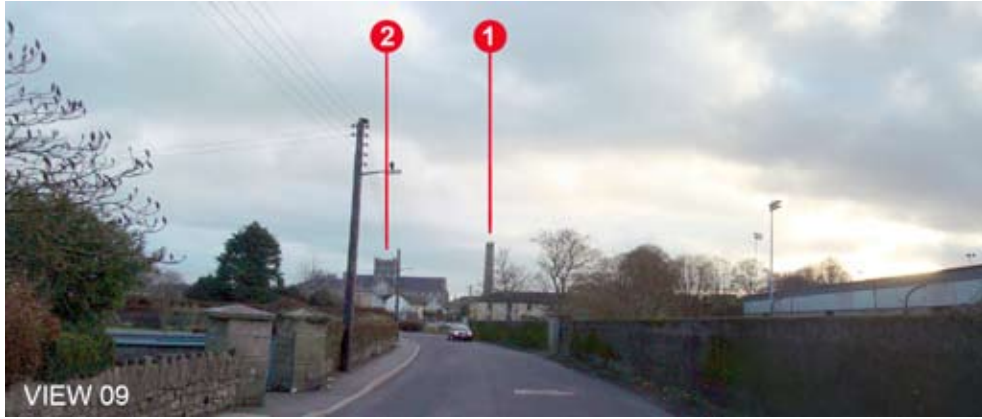


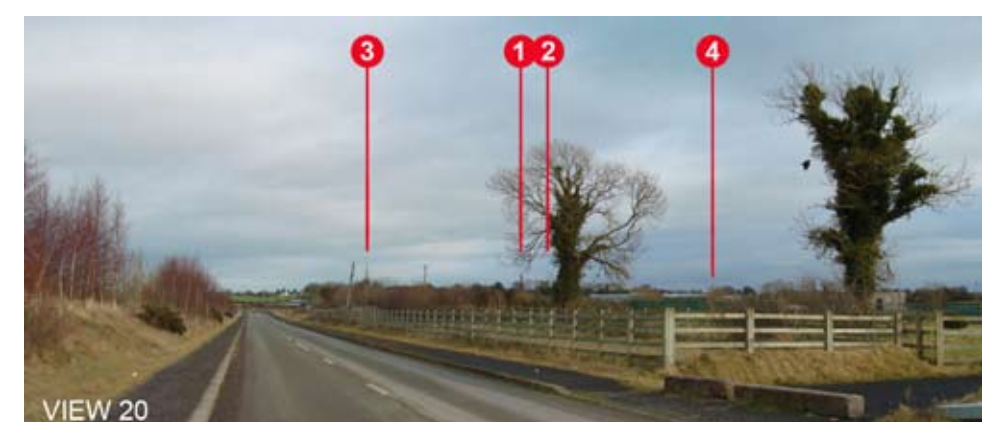
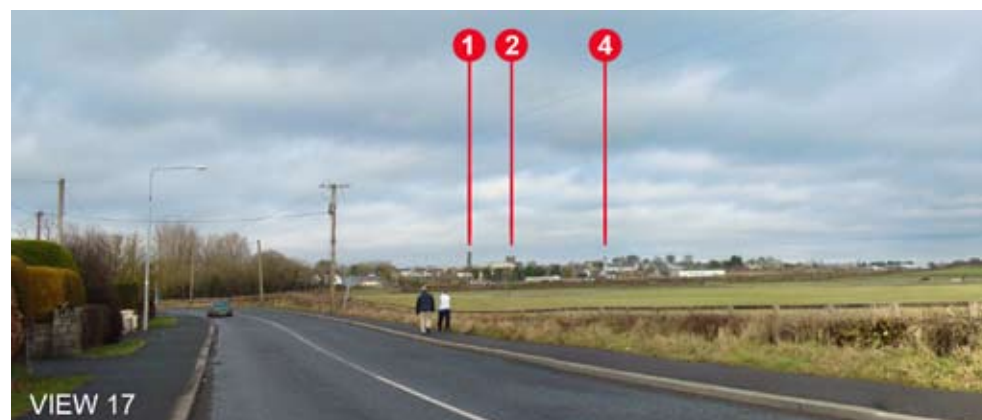
Fig. 07_Historic Evolution of Kildare Town



Map 06_Topography & Views







3.2 Archaeology

Kildare Town is an important historic site because of its early monastic settlement and its Anglo-Norman infrastructure. It is an excellent example of the progression of a settlement from perhaps a pre-historic habitation, into the 5th century and on up to the 13th century. *'This transition from monastic town to a chartered incorporated town is significant because Kildare is one of the few sites which possesses undisputed evidence for this process'* (Urban Arch. Survey).

The principal sites of archaeological interest within the study area are described in the following sections and illustrated in Map 07.

Early Monastic Enclosure

The street pattern of Kildare preserves a number of radial features which are almost certainly the relict remains of pre-Norman enclosures.

Inner Enclosure

The present cathedral and round tower are located within a sub-rectangular churchyard which may have formed the innermost enclosure of St. Brigid's foundation. The bulge in Station Road however is most likely to preserve an ancient boundary. The continuation of this curve on the north side of the cathedral can be seen as a cropmark in aerial photography of the site. Continuing the line of this curve it would have crossed Church Lane at the approximate location of Fire Castle. The south side of the enclosure would have been formed by Clare Street.

Conjecture as to the location of both the inner and outer enclosures have been drawn from cartographic sources and from the curvilinear patterns of present day road and boundary alignments. An archaeological excavation took place in 2007 in the vicinity of Clare Street and Bangup Lane as part of an extension to a 19th century building. The excavation revealed a double ditch c. 5 metres in width. There were no finds apart from animal bone and no other datable material. This site however ties in with a conjectural inner boundary for the ecclesiastical enclosure as identified by Leo Swan.

Outer Enclosure

The radial course of Priest's Lane, Academy Street, St. Brigid's Square and Convent Road was almost certainly influenced by the outline of this enclosure and it is likely that parts of it were incorporated into the defences of the Anglo-Norman town as at Kells, Co. Meath. To the north-west and west the ditch probably lay somewhat within Priest's Lane and Academy Street (Roque's Black

Ditch or Cleamore Street). In 2007 an excavation conducted on Cleamore Road in advance of a mixed-use development being constructed revealed a substantial double ditch with the larger of the two ditches measuring 4m in width and 2.5m in depth. The southern boundary of the outer enclosure, which would have been located north of St. Brigid's Square and Convent Road may be indicated by the position of the long property boundary running east from Bride Street. The eastern boundary of the enclosure is not immediately evident but it may be the same as that of the medieval defences.

Kildare Castle

The castle originally consisted of a polygonal structure with four towers and a motte. Enclosing an area of less than half a hectare, all that remains today are three sides of the curtain wall, the gatehouse and two courses of two of the towers.

The Gatehouse

Access to the castle was through a gatehouse on the eastern wall [Fig. 08]. This is a rectangular structure of four floors which has up until recently been in residential use and as a result undergone several modifications. The masonry consists of uncoursed rubble limestone. There is an external batter on the north, east and south walls. The internal floor level is 3m above the external ground level and as such access must have been by means of a timber gangway leading to the rounded entrance on the east wall. Below the ground floor is a basement. The stair to the first floor was lit by a round-arched window and a smaller splayed window now blocked. Part of the north wall has been broken out in order to link the gatehouse with a modern extension on the north. The entrance to the first floor is lit by a parallel-sided slit window with internal splay and flat rear arch. This floor consists of a rectangular chamber lit by windows in the east and west walls and a garderobe in the south-west angle, which is now blocked off. The south wall has a pointed recess, a modern fireplace in the centre of the wall and an L shaped garderobe in the south-west angle. The entrance to the stair leading to the second floor is in the north wall. The north wall of the chamber contains a long narrow chamber which runs the length of the wall. The rectangular chamber has a twin-light round-headed window with limestone jambs and missing its centre mullion, in the east wall. Access to the parapet is from a stair in the south wall of the second floor, lit by a twin-light rectangular window, now blocked. The presence of a narrow chamber now blocked off, in the south west angle is evidenced by an external window. The roof and parapet are of modern date.



Fig. 08_Kildare Castle Gatehouse

South-West Tower

Sherrard's map of Kildare in 1758 shows a rectangular structure labeled 'old tower' on the west side of the curtain wall but all trace above ground is now missing.

North-West Tower

The remains of this structure are incorporated into the rear of Graham's bakery on the corner of Market Square and Station Rd. It appears to have been rectangular and was possibly open-backed. The visible wall is 1.6m thick and the tower has maximum dimensions of 9.8m.x 4m.

The North-East Tower

This tower consists of the remains of an open-backed rectangular structure with a maximum length of 8.8m; its width cannot be calculated. Internal ground level is some 6m above the exterior at this point.

Curtain Wall

The battered wall built of uncoursed limestone survives on the north-west, north-east and parts of the south-east and south-west sides. Externally its height ranges between 5 and 6m but internally it is 1.5m high on average. The exterior of the western wall is inaccessible because it forms the back wall of several structures. The thickness of the wall where it can be measured at ground level is 1.6m.

Town Defences

There are no surviving traces of town defences and both their exact course and the area enclosed remains problematic. The earliest documentary evidence occurs in Henry VIII's charter of 1515 which authorized the burgesses to enclose the town with stone walls and fosses and granted them murage to pay for this. This document cannot be taken as proof that walls were erected at that date however, and the

first clear references to town defences do not occur until the late 17th century.

Clare Gate

First mentioned in 1674, it evidently stood near the west end of Claregate Street. Its precise location is now unknown but Roque's map shows an indentation of the street line which would suggest that this was the location of the gatehouse.

Fire Castle

This building stood to the west of the cathedral on the south side of Church Lane. It is first referred to as 'fire castle' in 1674 and two walls of it are shown on Roque's map of Kildare in 1757 where they project into Church Lane. This may be the castle belonging to the convent of St. Brigid de Fyrehouse which is referred to in the Dissolution documents of 1540 as 'a small castle or fortillage' and described as lying within the precincts of the nunnery.

Ellis Castle

First mentioned with the other gates in 1674 it appears to have been located on Station Road. Its position is now unknown but in common with gatehouses elsewhere, it was probably located at the crest of the ridge before Station Road drops towards the north.

White Gate

Also mentioned in 1674 for the first time, this was located at the eastern end of the town in Dublin Street but the precise position is unknown.

Tower at Bride Street

An interesting anomaly in the Anglo-Norman fabric is presented in the results of a 1999 excavation on Bride Street where works to the Credit Union site revealed a large linear ditch of possible Early Historic Period date and the base of an Anglo-Norman tower recorded in the south-west corner of the site. This site does not coincide with the conjectural outline of the town defences as proposed in the Historic Town Atlas or the Urban Archaeology Survey and may suggest that the alignment of the town wall was in fact much closer to Claregate Street than previously thought.

St. Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower

St. Brigid's Cathedral

The cathedral is the successor of the pre-Norman church of Kildare. Gwynn and Hadcock suggest that Kildare remained strongly monastic until the end of the 12th century. The first English Bishop Ralph of Bristol was appointed in 1223 and he rebuilt the ruinous cathedral.

The oldest parts of the cathedral extant today are thought to date back to Ralph of Bristol's tenure as bishop – these are the nave, the south transept and some other wall fragments. From this period until the nineteenth century the cathedral declined and returned a number of times especially in 1598 when the roof was pulled down during the altercation between O'Neill's and Bingham's forces. The north transept, much of the chancel, the west windows of the nave and most of the central towers' walls were entirely rebuilt in 1896. This reconstruction revealed a number of archaeological finds including two fragments of Early Historic Period cross-slabs, two burials found in the wall of the south transept and some floor tiles.

Round Tower

Situated north-west of the medieval cathedral, the masonry of this tower is of two types; the base and lower courses are of evenly coursed granite while above this the masonry consists of roughly coursed limestone [Fig.09]. Barrow noted a further break in the stonework at the sill of the third storey window. The tower is 32.6m high and 5.35m wide above the base. It has seven floors all of which are supported on corbels except for the third floor which is slightly off-set and has no corbels. The door of red sandstone is the most striking feature of the tower. It faces south-east and is set 4.67m above external ground level. It is a Romanesque door of four orders with a tangent gable above, and has in effect a double porch. The outer order (first) is modern; the second order has chevron decoration on the outer face of the moulding with low mouldings and a chevron on the soffit. The jambs are decorated with square foliated capitals and the soffit has chevron patterns forming lozenges which enclose rosettes. There are narrow pointed splayed windows in the second, third, fourth and fifth floors while the top floor has five windows. These are not as high as they were originally because the base of each has been blocked. The battlements were added in the 18th century. Old sketches show the gable of a building north of the cathedral but the only remains in this position today consist of a small rectangular hollow.

Cell - Fitzgerald Mortuary Chapel

A small barrel-vaulted underground room orientated north-south lies immediately east of the cathedral. The presence of a flat-lintelled window, with internal spay, in the south wall shows that it was originally overground. It is now entered from the west through a rectangular opening reached by steps from modern ground level. It measures 4.35m by 3.1m.



Fig. 09_Round Tower, Kildare

Stone-Roofed Chamber

At the east end of the cathedral and north of the 'cell' is a small stone roofed chamber measuring 1.4m by 1.5m. The roof of this structure is 0.7m above present ground level. It is probably part of a burial vault.

Leigh Mortuary Chapel

North-east of the cathedral are the footings of two walls which may have been the mortuary chapel for the Leigh family.

Architectural Fragments

There are a number of architectural fragments lying within the monastic grounds including an alter stone, a window spandrel, a window head and a piscine.

Monuments included in the cathedral, the chapter house and on the monastic site

A pre-1200 damaged, undecorated ringed High Cross made of granite; probable cross base - pre-1200; 10th century cross-slab; 11th-12th century cross-slab; 2 no. pre-1200 cross-slabs; effigy of a bishop – traditionally identified as John of Taunton, Bishop of Kildare who died in 1258; 14th century effigy of a bishop carved in high relief; 14th century cross slab; limestone table tomb of Walter Wellesley, bishop of Kildare who died in 1539; limestone slab tomb of Richard Fitzgerald of Lackagh who died in 1575; 5 no. 16th century tombs; 16th century cross-slab; 16th century Pardon Stone; Dragon Panel 16th century; heraldic plaque 16th century; collapsed mortuary chapel 17th century; 6 no. 17th century grave slabs; 17th century cross shaft; 17th century cross plaque.

Abbeys of Kildare

The abbeys included in the study area are the Black Abbey established at Tully in 1212 - a preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, the Franciscan Grey Abbey established in 1254 to the south, and the Carmelite White Abbey built circa 1290 to the

west. At the time of their foundation Kildare was a thriving settlement with a re-invigorated monastery at its centre. Undoubtedly, the combination of religious and economic interests must have influenced the decisions of the orders to settle here.

Black Abbey

The first order to arrive were the Knights of St. John later to become known as the Knights of Malta. They were an order of military monks established to help pilgrims travelling to and from the Holy Land. They had a presence in Tully until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. The ruins of their church or preceptory and graveyard now stand in the western side of the grounds of the National Stud. To the north east of the site is an associated holy well marked on the O.S. maps as St. John's Well. To the south-east of the site is another holy well marked on the same map as St. Brigid's Well. Also, to the south west, in the townland of Brallistown Little is a third holy well marked on the Record of Monuments and Places.

Grey Abbey

The Franciscans arrived mid-century, possibly encouraged by Maurice FitzGerald or William de Vesce (Corrigan:2009). The friary known as Grey Abbey has an interesting history which saw it surrender to Henry VIII in 1539 only to be burnt in 1540. It is recorded that the church was repaired in 1621 and was in use for some time after this. However it was never restored and now lies in a ruinous and overgrown condition. Gwyn and Hadcock (1970) describe the site as having comprised of a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a hall and three chambers, a kitchen and a cemetery when it surrendered in 1539. South west of the friary is a pond, close to a stream, named as Friar's Well on the Third Edition O.S. Map.

The history of Grey Abbey goes back further than the establishment of the friary. In 2005 an excavation was carried out on the site which showed it to be a multi-period site. The earliest evidence of settlement came from Bronze Age contexts which revealed a roasting pit from c. 1142 – 1310 BC. Evidence of an Iron Age kiln was found dating from 196 - 4BC. An investigation of what John Bradley refers to as the 'claustral remains' a rectangular enclosure close to the church, provided evidence of medieval occupation. Excavation of 3 no. parallel cuttings resulted in finds of animal bones, 12th/13th century tiles identical to those found at St. Brigid's Cathedral and 12th/13th century pottery. This particular site is referred to locally as a leper colony and is thought by the excavating archaeologist (Emer Dennehy for Margaret Gowan & Associates) to have possibly been a hospital.

White Abbey

The establishment of the Carmelite Priory is also credited to William de Vesce, Lord of Kildare. It was situated west of the cathedral. When it surrendered in 1539 it consisted of a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a hall and two chambers (Gwyn and Hadcock:1970). A drawing exists from the end of the 18th century, done by a man the name of Austin Cooper, which shows a roofless, single-aisled church. Rocque, in his map of 1757 shows the priory as standing south of the modern day Carmelite church. The Carmelites, like the Franciscans returned to the area and by the mid 1860's they had three priests and a school. The foundation stone for the new church was laid in 1885.

The Curragh

There are over 179 archaeological sites including 5 linear earthworks on the Curragh - of which 135 are barrows or burial monuments (Clancy:2006). The high concentration of sites indicates the significant role the Curragh played in the construction of social identity and ritual activity in this part of Leinster (Clancy:2008). The fact that so many of the sites are burial / ritual sites indicates that this unique part of Kildare was regarded by many pre-historic societies as a sacred landscape.

The earliest confirmed archaeological activity on the Curragh is Neolithic (New Stone Age) with material recorded from a number of sites including a tumulus and Dún Áilinne to the south east - outside the study area. There is evidence for Early Bronze Age cemeteries although they represent a continuance of the low level of economic status seen earlier in the Neolithic Period. In the Middle Bronze Age the building of banked ring-ditchestakes place and there are a number of metal and ceramic finds from this period.

It is during the Late Bronze Age when there is a dramatic increase in the number of sites with representation in this period of the full typology of barrows – ring-barrows, pond-barrows, embanked ring-ditches and multi-banked ring-barrows. The concentration of barrows in the Curragh makes it one of the highest concentrations of this monument type in the country and points to its importance as a ritual landscape. Further evidence of this can be found in the Iron Age when this area of Kildare becomes framed by the hillfort at Dunmurry, further barrow clusters in the Curragh and Dún Áilinne to the south-east. The large internally ditched henge-type monument found at Dún Áilinne is similar to the type of 'royal' monument found at Tara and Emain Macha (Navan Fort) in Armagh and possibly also at Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon.

An excavation that took place in Maddenstown, adjacent to the Curragh, during the construction of a 7 furlong all-weather gallop revealed a complex of 28 pit or cut features and spreads of burnt bone dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age. This site is thought to be a flat cemetery and therefore had no above ground features. In 2001 and 2002 a number of other excavations took place during the construction of the Kildare bypass managed by the National Roads Authority. These excavations, again in close proximity to the Curragh (in the Curragh and Tully East townlands respectively), revealed Bronze Age activity and associated finds.

Remaining Rural Landscape

Outside of the monastic landscape of Kildare Town and the ritual landscape of the Curragh and the additional sites mentioned in both of these contexts, the remaining archaeology within the study area is not remarkable except for the fact that there is a higher than normal occurrence of sites and these sites follow the general pattern of site representation as set down by two central landscape types described above. There are approximately 25 sites remaining, all recorded in the RMP, and spanning the full chronology of Irish archaeology beginning with a Neolithic retouched flint found in 2007 during monitoring for a waste treatment plant in Bishopsland townland. There are what are thought to be Bronze Age burials in a series of three barrows in Kingsbog Common and in earthworks in Tully East and on the border of Redhills and Watergrange and other burials, possibly from the same prehistoric period in the townlands of Loughlione (excavated sites), Knockshough Glebe, Collaghknock Glebe and Kilnagornan. Also, possibly from this period are the fulachta fiadh (ancient cooking sites) found in Grey Abbey and Maddenstown. The Iron Age, as previously discussed is represented in Dunmurry Hill and at Grey Abbey and the early historic period settlement sites are evidenced in the ringforts at Grey Abbey, Moorestown and Dunmurry East. Apart from the ecclesiastical sites already discussed there is a church, graveyard and burial ground at Dunmurry East. There are a number of other sites described in the RMP as enclosures or mounds, seen in Loughandys, Crossmorris and Dunmurry East – whose original purpose remains unclassified as yet.

3.3 Industrial Archaeology

A survey of the industrial archaeology of county Kildare was undertaken in 2007. The survey largely concerns itself with, although is not confined to the period 1750 - 1930 and draws primarily on cartographic sources such as ordnance survey mapping.

The survey identifies 55 no. sites of industrial archaeological heritage within the Kildare HLC study area [Map 08]. For the greatest part these sites comprise quarries for the extraction of sand and gravel. However, sites of significance include the Great Southern and Western Railway line and associated bridges, Kildare railway station and associated goods sheds and engine houses etc., the military camp at the Curragh, Magee Barracks and various utilities and manufacturing sites within and around Kildare Town.

Kildare railway station, various buildings and structures at the Curragh Camp and the market building and early 20th century factories located within Kildare Town are described in Section 3.4 Architectural Heritage. Other sites of interest include the water tower and water hydrants located in Kildare Town and the road bridges which traverse the railway line. A description of these sites is given here.

Kildare Water Tower

This freestanding cast-concrete water tower [Fig. 10] was constructed in the latter half of the twentieth century within the bawn of Kildare Castle. The tower has a polygonal plan comprising eight reinforced concrete piers with supporting ring supporting a cast-concrete panelled drum/basin supported on corbels with moulded plinth and coping.

This water tower reflects the challenges which have historically faced Kildare Town in terms of providing a water supply. It is of technical and engineering interest and adds to the streetscape of Nugent Street.



Fig. 10_Water Tower, Kildare Town

Water Hydrant, Chapel Hill

This water hydrant [Fig. 11] at Church Lane is one of 4 no. water hydrants which survive in Kildare Town today. Dating from the late nineteenth century, this hydrant comprises a fluted shaft with lion mask spout, moulded necking with handle and ball shaped finial, and a fluted ogee dome on top with an acorn finial.

Water hydrants such as this one are of historical and technical interest, reflecting a period when the mains water supply to the town was provided communally. The water hydrants found in Kildare survive in their original location and add to the streetscape of the town.



Fig. 11_Water Hydrant, Chapel Hill

Post Box, Kildare Railway Station

This wall-mounted cast-iron post box [Fig. 12] dating from the late nineteenth century is located at Kildare Railway Station and is testimony to the development of communication networks in Ireland at this time. The post box incorporates the raised "VR" royal cipher and crown motif.

This cast-iron post box, which is still in use and in very good condition is of artistic merit as well as testifying to a time when Ireland once formed part of the British Empire.



Fig. 12_Post Box, Kildare Town

Road Bridge, Southgreen Road

This single-arch cut-stone bridge [Fig. 13] is one of 3 no. road bridges spanning the railway line to the north of Kildare Town. Constructed in the late nineteenth century, this bridge comprises broken coursed squared rubble stone walls with rusticated stone voussoirs, a cut-stone stringcourse, and cut-stone coping to the parapet wall.

The construction of the elliptical arch that has retained its original shape is of technical and engineering merit. The bridge exhibits good quality stone masonry and fine, crisp joints. The bridge is of historical and social significance testifying to the development of the railway network in the late nineteenth century.



Fig. 13_Road Bridge, Southgreen Road

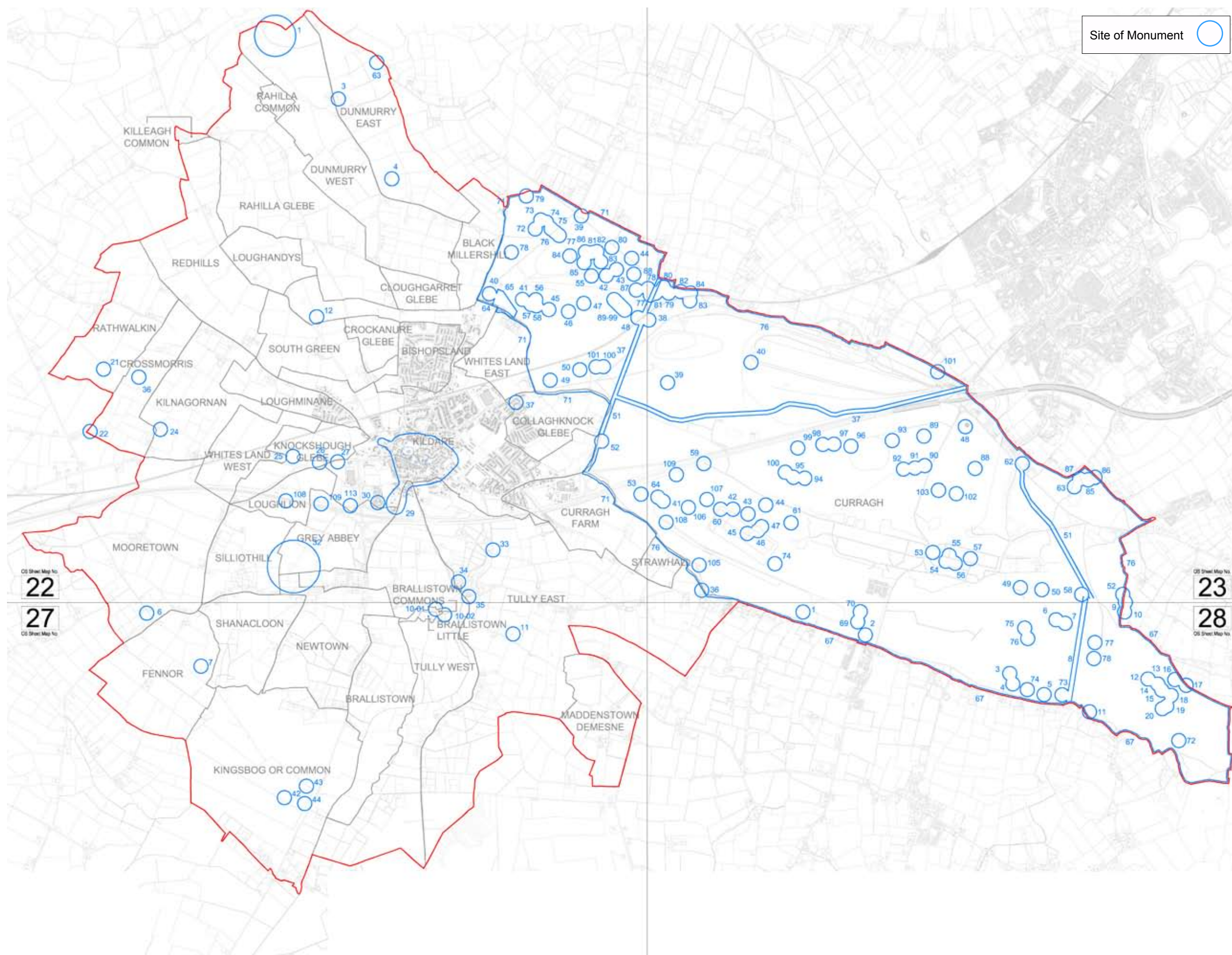
Cast-Iron Lamp Standards, Market Square

This group of 4 no. cast-iron lamp standards [Fig. 14] on Market Square were erected in the mid twentieth century and comprise fluted shafts on pedestals with moulded necking surmounted by a lamp with a decorative iron capping.

These lamp standards are of artistic merit having been designed as aesthetic as well as functional pieces of street furniture. These lamps also testify to the provision of public utilities in the town during the twentieth century.



Fig. 14_Cast-Iron Lamp Standard, Market Square



Map 07_Archaeology (Record of Monuments and Places Sites within the Study Area)

3.4 Architectural Heritage

Kildare Town has a rich and diverse architectural heritage reflecting various periods of development associated with the settlement [Map 09A & B]. Whilst the historic town core primarily comprises modest eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings typical of Irish market towns, Kildare Town is most memorable for its collection of ecclesiastical structures, and in particular its skyline of church spires and towers. The town provides good examples of defining eras in Irish architecture which is reflected in the design, use of materials and craftsmanship of individual buildings. A representative sample to various building typologies and architectural styles is described in the following sections.

Public and Civic Buildings

A range of public and civic buildings are located throughout the town of Kildare. These buildings include several ecclesiastical structures, the market and court house, various school buildings, the railway station, a former infirmary and an artillery barracks. Some of these building typologies also occur at the Curragh military barracks and where relevant are included in the descriptions below.

Ecclesiastical Buildings

Ecclesiastical buildings have historically formed an integral part of Kildare's evolving urban fabric. Many of these buildings have disappeared, been transformed or been completely replaced, resulting in a diversity of church architecture and styles.

St. Brigid's Cathedral

St. Brigid's Cathedral [Fig. 15] is a late nineteenth century church incorporating the fabric of an earlier thirteenth century church and constructed on the site of St. Brigid's monastery. Built in the style of the gothic revival, the cathedral has a cruciform plan comprising a double height nave, transepts and chancel and a three stage tower at their crossing. The cathedral is constructed of rubble stone with cut stone dressings demonstrating the high quality of stone masonry once practiced in the area. The interior of the cathedral contains a variety of attractive features including decorative floor tiles, stained glass windows and an ornate reredos to the chancel.

A rubble stone wall encompasses the church yard within which a twelfth century round tower and the site of a fire house are located. A pair of cut stone piers with cast iron gates demarcates the entrance to the church grounds from Market Square, from which impressive views of the church can be observed. Equally impressive views of the cathedral complex



Fig. 15_ St. Brigid's Cathedral

can also be observed from the town park, to the north of the site.

St. Mary's Carmelite Church

St. Mary's Carmelite Catholic Church [Fig. 16] was constructed between 1884 and 1889 to the designs of William Hague. The church is located to the west of the town centre, on the site of the no longer extant White Abbey. Constructed in the style of the gothic revival, this church has a cruciform plan with double height nave, transepts and chancel and a four stage tower with spire flanking its principal elevation. This tower signals the church on the Kildare skyline from some distance, and in particular from the north western approach roads to the town.

The church is constructed of squared limestone walls with intricate cut granite dressings throughout. The principal elevation of the church is characterised by a gable wall comprising a rose window over an entrance porch, and the tower to its side. The interior of the church includes an exposed timber roof structure and carved altar furniture designed in the gothic style.

St. Mary's Carmelite Church fronts onto a small forecourt which is accessed from the road. A priory adjoins the church and also faces the road. The setting of the church adds to its attractive character and includes mature trees and a roughcast boundary wall with iron railings.



Fig. 16_ St. Mary's Carmelite Church

St. Brigid's Catholic Church, Kildare

This church [Fig. 17] was constructed in 1833, soon after the Catholic Emancipation, and marks an important period of social change in Ireland. The church is unusual insofar as it has been constructed in a muted classical style when a form of gothic revival would have been the preferred choice of the Roman Catholic Church. The church originally had a T-shaped plan comprising double height transepts. The church was renovated in 1851 when a five stage square tower with entrance door and domed roof was added to the west elevation. The plan of the church was significantly modified in the 1970's following the Second Vatican Council to include a flat roofed transept to the south constructed in the modern style. Both the original church and later extensions are rendered, the former comprising cut stone quoins and string courses with limestone ashlar to the upper stages of the tower. The interior of the church was also significantly altered in the 1970's although some important features of the original church including decorative plaster work and stained glass panels survive.

St. Brigid's Catholic Church is located to the south of the town centre on a prominent corner site fronting onto St. Brigid's Square and Convent Road. The church tower signals the church on the Kildare skyline and is particularly prominent when approaching the town from the south. The church site is defined by a roughcast boundary wall with iron railings.



Fig. 17_ St. Brigid's Catholic Church

St. Brigid's Catholic Church, Curragh Camp

Providing for the religious requirements of service men stationed at the Curragh Camp, this church [Fig. 18] was constructed in 1958 on the site of an earlier nineteenth century church. The design is simple in form comprising a double height barn like structure with single storey polygonal chapels on its north and south elevations and a double height polygonal apse on its eastern gable. A free standing six stage tower with belfry over is located to the south east of the church.

The architecture of this church is dominated externally by the use of red brick Flemish bond wall construction with recessed entrance porch to its front elevation and limited use of openings. Internally, the church is lit by clerestory windows on its southern and northern elevations. The iron structure of the building is exposed internally, standing independent of the external walls. Tongue and groove panelling and timber pews provide some relief to the austere aesthetic of the structure.

This church is arguably the centrepiece of the Curragh Camp complex and is a good example of the innovative use of twentieth century construction technologies. The bell tower associated with the church is an important feature of the Curragh landscape as seen from the towns of Kildare and Newbridge.



Fig. 18_ St. Brigid's Catholic Church, Curragh Camp

Civic Buildings

Kildare Courthouse

Kildare courthouse [Fig. 19] was constructed in 1829 in the classical style to the design of John Hargrave. Positioned to the east of Market Square and fronting onto Dublin Street, the courthouse comprises a three bay, two-storey structure having a rectangular plan with a single storey flat roofed porch on its front elevation. The austere façade of the courthouse derives its character from its rough cast walls, symmetrical elevation and reserved decoration.

The courthouse is stepped back from the street forming a forecourt that is defined on its eastern and western sides by a rubble stone wall. Two cut stone piers form an entrance gate to this forecourt and are likely to have been flanked by walls on either side, demarcating the curtilage of the courthouse. Although no longer in use, this building is an important landmark on the streetscape, representing one of the earliest civic buildings in the locality.



Fig. 19_Kildare Courthouse

The Market House

Kildare Market House [Fig. 20] is the focal point of Market Square, being centrally positioned within the space and originally comprising a classically composed symmetrical block with an open round headed arcade at ground level and meeting / governor's room over. A louvered timber cupola with pyramidal roof and weather vane is centrally positioned on the ridge of the roof and is reflective of the building's agricultural associations.

Constructed in 1817, the Market House is likely to have replaced or possibly incorporated an earlier structure as indicated in Rocque's 1757 map of Kildare Town. Originally comprising lime rendered walls to the ground floor with squared rubble stone front and back walls and yellow brick gable walls to the first floor, cut stone arches and string courses, the fabric of the Market House was significantly altered circa 2000 when poorly executed renovation works were carried out.

Kildare Market House is an important landmark within the town, reflecting its historic role as an agricultural service centre. Attractive views of this structure include those from Dublin and Claregate Street as well as Station Road. Today, the Market House is also an important orientation point for visitors to the town.



Fig. 20_Kildare Market House

Kildare Railway Station

Kildare Railway Station [Fig. 21] was opened in 1846 and is typical of railway stations constructed in the county. Designed by Sir John MacNeill in the Tudor Revival style, the station is characterised by its stepped roof line, steeply pitched roofs, gabled dormers and slender chimney stacks. Set back from the road on its own grounds, the setting of the station is less attractive than the building itself, comprising a large area of surface car parking.

The station is constructed of rendered masonry walls (south elevation) and red brick Flemish bond walls (north elevation) with cut granite quoins, window and door surrounds and hood mouldings. An attractive glazed timber screen wall to the ticket office survives internally.

Removed some distance from the town centre, Kildare Railway Station is important as an entrance and departure point to and from the town. The station reflects significant investment in transport communications during the nineteenth century and the commercialisation and industrialisation of major urban centres that formed part of the railway network.



Fig. 21_Kildare Railway Station

Schools

Like the ecclesiastical buildings discussed earlier, school buildings have historically been located throughout Kildare Town. Some of these buildings have disappeared while others have been extended to meet demand. Today, a diversity of school architecture exists within the town which reflect prevalent styles during the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

Kildare Convent National School

This school [Fig. 22] was commissioned by the Catholic Church and fronts onto the grounds of the Presentation Convent, to the south of the town. Constructed in 1902, the school comprises a six-bay double height structure with a U-shaped plan and cast iron veranda spanning projecting gable ends.

Although no longer in use as a school, this building retains most of its original form and fabric which comprises rendered walls, timber sash windows, slate roof, cast iron rainwater goods and veranda.

Fronting onto a forecourt south of the Presentation Convent and gabling onto Convent Road, this building is an integral component of the convent complex as well as the streetscape.



Fig. 22_Kildare Convent National School

Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Bríd

This school [Fig. 23] building was constructed in 1937 and reflects the demand for education in Kildare Town in the early to mid twentieth century. Located immediately east of Kildare Convent National School, this building is aligned with Convent Road and comprises an unusually long six-bay double height elevation with timber sash windows. A rendered wall with iron railings demarcates a shallow strip between the school and Convent Road.

The restrained building form, elevations and detailing distinguishes this school from its predecessor and is typical of school architecture at this time.



Fig. 23_Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Bríd

De La Salle Brothers' School

This primary school [Fig. 24] provided alternative accommodation to an earlier school building located on St. Brigid's Square and is the oldest surviving school building in the town. Constructed in 1884, the original school building comprises a detached

five-bay, two storey building set some distance back from Bride Street. Its front elevation faces south and comprises a single-bay two storey breakfront with quoins and decorative hood over paired windows.

The fabric of this building has been modified in recent years and includes replacement uPVC windows and rainwater goods. A tarmac yard surrounds the school and further detracts from the character of the building. An attractive gateway comprising cut-stone piers and cast iron gates provide access to the site from Bride Street. Rubble stone walls and iron railings define the eastern boundary of the site.

Several new buildings were constructed to the rear of the original school building in the late twentieth century. These buildings include classrooms, a sports hall and staff offices. Access to these buildings is also provided from Academy Street.



Fig. 24_Kildare Convent National School

Commercial Buildings

Commercial buildings in Kildare Town include those constructed for a specific commercial use such as the Hibernian Bank and the former cinema, and those which are a combination of residential and commercial uses, the latter often being incorporated at a later date. Collectively, these buildings reflect the development of Kildare as a market town in the nineteenth century and make an important contribution to the character of the settlement.

Hibernian Bank

The present day Bank of Ireland [Fig. 25] on Market Square is the only purpose built bank building in the town of Kildare. Constructed in 1903 for the Hibernian Bank, the function of this building is reflected in its scale and construction, setting it apart from the modest architecture of neighbouring buildings.

Almost symmetrical in plan, the building form picks up the building line of adjoining buildings which is then projected forward by a three storey two-bay gable ended breakfront. Four-bays wide and three storeys in height, the most distinguishing features

of this building are its brick construction, decorative terracotta panels and round headed openings at ground level. Iron railings demarcate a shallow strip to the front of the building.

This building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and Market Square. Its scale and construction distinguishes it from other buildings on the Square which are generally older in origin and more modest in design.



Fig. 25_Bank of Ireland, Market Square

Public Houses and Shops

Kildare Town comprises a variety of public houses and shops which for the greatest part are nineteenth century in origin and comprise modest two storey buildings constructed in the Georgian and in some instances Victorian style.

Graces Bar and Lounge

This building [Fig. 26] originally comprised a three-bay three storey house constructed in the late eighteenth century. Having a largely symmetrical plan, this house is impressive in terms of its scale although modest in decoration. A flat roofed projecting porch to the centre gives the building a more formal appearance. Finishes include roughcast walls with rendered quoins, slate roof and cast iron rain water goods.

In the late twentieth century this building was modified to provide for a commercial use at ground level as reflected in the modifications to the elevation. Notwithstanding inappropriate signage and awnings to the front elevation, this building makes a positive contribution to the streetscape and Market Square.



Fig. 26_Graces Bar and Lounge, Dublin Street

Daniel Boland Public House

This building [Fig. 27] is an example of a purpose built residential and commercial premises constructed in the late nineteenth century. The design of this building responds to the newly formed corner position of the site which resulted from the widening of Bride Street.

Comprising a two storey four-bay building fronting onto Market Square, with two storey two-bay side elevation and two storey three bay return to rear and facing Bride Street, this building is characterised by its elegant proportions and restrained decorative plaster work including quoins and moulded window and door surrounds.

The public house use is located on the corner of the building, benefiting from frontage onto Market Square and Bride Street. Whilst a replacement timber pub front installed circa 2000 conflicts with the original aesthetic of the building, this building retains much of its character and makes an important contribution to the streetscape of the town.



Fig. 27_Daniel Boland's Public House, Market Square

Nolan's Public House

This public house [Fig. 28] is distinct from others in the town insofar as it is characterised by its brick construction and Victorian influences. Comprising a T-shaped plan, this two storey four-bay yellow brick building with gable ended bay marks a clear departure from the Georgian style of building which characterises Market Square.

A particularly attractive feature of this building is the timber pub front added in the early twentieth century. Other attractive features include decorative red brick courses and dressings and cut stone copings and mouldings. Replacement uPVC windows, artificial slate roof coverings and fascia board to Seeta restaurant detract from the original character of the building, which otherwise makes an attractive contribution to the streetscape of Market Square.



Fig. 28_Nolan's Public House, Market Square

Southwells

Southwells [Fig. 29] shop is likely to have originally comprised 2 no. two-storey houses constructed in the early nineteenth century. The conversion of the ground floor of these buildings to shop use in the mid nineteenth century reflects the commercialisation of Kildare Town that occurred during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Comprising an elegant Georgian composition and proportions, an attractive feature of this building is the timber shopfront which includes classical forms and detailing. This building would originally have comprised an integral carriage way providing access to the rear and typical of Irish market town houses.

This building retains much of its original fabric including timber sash windows and slate roof and as such makes a positive contribution to the character of Market Square.



Fig. 29_Southwells, Market Square

Shops on Claregate Street

The north side of Claregate Street is largely formed by a terrace of two storey three / four-bay houses of similar scale, construction and composition [Fig. 30]. The majority of these houses now comprise ground floor shop units of recent origin.

These houses were constructed in the late nineteenth / early twentieth century and although more modest in scale and decoration, represent a continuation of the building proportions and compositions seen on Market Square. Late twentieth century alterations and additions to the fabric and elevations of these buildings detract significantly from their character. Notwithstanding this, the maintenance of a continuous building, ridge and eaves line as well as a general uniformity in the composition of elevations reflects the historic character of this street.



Fig. 30_Shop, Claregate Street

Kildare Cinema

This cinema building [Fig. 31] was constructed in the mid twentieth century and is typical of rural cinema buildings constructed at the time. Comprising a double height barn type structure with a modernist elevation to the front, this building adds to the diversity of architecture that defines Market Square. A stepped parapet, concrete canopy and round headed brick panel are attractive features of this building. Now the Silken Thomas public house, inappropriate modifications to the front elevation include the

addition of a timber pub front which is not in keeping with the muted modern architecture of the original structure.



Fig. 31_The Silken Thomas, Market Square

Residential Buildings

Kildare Town has a diverse stock of residential buildings which reflect a variety of influences such as the availability of materials, local craftsmanship and prevalent architectural styles. This diversity in urban housing is also reflected in the various forms of rural housing that exist outside the built up area of the town. An example of these house types are described in the following sections.

Georgian Town Houses

There are several fine examples of Georgian town houses in Kildare, and more specifically to the east of Market Square. These houses include Beech Grove House, Lislee Grove House and Virginia Lodge and are a reminder of the prosperous merchant and professional classes that lived in the town.

Beech Grove House

Beech Grove House [Fig. 32] is a substantial two storey three-bay dwelling constructed in the mid eighteenth century and extended in the late nineteenth century. Constructed for a Richard Heatherington, one of the principal tenants of the Earl of Kildare, this house is a focal point on the north side of Dublin Street, onto which it gables. Originally comprising a symmetrical plan, the classical proportions, finishes and detailing that are characteristic of Georgian architecture are well represented here.

A reduction in the curtilage of the house which resulted from the provision of a new access road along its eastern boundary in the late twentieth century coupled with the construction of a replacement rendered boundary wall with rubble stone piers detracts from the setting of this house somewhat.



Fig. 32_Beech Grove House, Dublin Street

Lislee House

Lislee House [Fig. 33] is an attractive two storey over basement detached house located on the south side of the Dublin Road. Constructed in the late eighteenth century, the scale and detailing of the house suggests it was built for a patron of considerable status in the locality. Comprising a symmetrical plan and graceful Georgian proportions, this three bay house is characterised by an attractive door case with fanlight and pediment.

The house is set back from the road with a front garden demarcated by cast iron railings and rendered walls. Two semi-mature trees frame the house from the street, the character of which is significantly enhanced by its presence.



Fig. 33_Lislee House, Dublin Street

Virginia Lodge

This two storey, five-bay house [Fig. 34] located on the eastern side of Market Square was constructed in the early nineteenth century. Although the window to wall ratio of this house is less successful than that of Beechgrove and Lislee, the classical proportions and central doorway with fanlight and side lights form an attractive composition. However, replacement uPVC windows detract from the character of the house.



Fig. 34_Virginia Lodge, Market Square

Victorian Terraces

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Victorian terraces were constructed at various locations throughout the town and include those at Cleamore Terrace, Fairview Cottages and Magee Terrace. Several notable terraces are also located on the Curragh Camp. Victorian terraces reflect a departure from the traditional Georgian architecture of the town centre and the availability of mass produced building materials such as brick.

Cleamore Terrace

Cleamore Terrace [Fig. 35] comprises nine two storey two-bay houses constructed in the late nineteenth century. The terrace is constructed in yellow brick with red brick detailing to window and door jambs and head. Replacement uPVC and timber windows and doors of various compositions and the addition of glazed entrance porches with artificial slate hip roofs significantly detract from the character of this terrace. A roughcast rendered boundary wall demarcates a shallow strip to the front of the terrace.



Fig. 35_Cleamore Terrace, Cleamore Road

Fairview Cottages

Fairview cottages [Fig. 36] comprise a terrace of eleven single storey cottages of varying design but generally uniform decoration. The construction of these cottages is likely to be linked with the establishment of the Great Southern and Western railway line in the later half of the nineteenth century.

Employing yellow brick construction with red brick detailing to window surrounds and chimney stacks, timber sash windows, slate roofs and cast iron rain water goods, these design and detailing of these houses is typical of the Victorian period. An attractive feature of these cottages is the gable ended entrance porches and bays which break up the length of the terrace and enliven the streetscape of Shraud. A roughcast rendered boundary wall demarcates a shallow strip to the front of the terrace. Several of these cottages are in a poor state of repair.



Fig. 36_Fairview Cottages, Shraud

Magee Terrace

Magee Terrace [Fig. 37] comprises 20 no. two storey three-bay houses constructed in the early twentieth century, possibly to accommodate men stationed at Magee Barracks. The terrace faces south west onto a shared green. The elevation of these houses comprises a central porch at ground level flanked by windows on either side. Two windows at first floor level are aligned directly above those at ground floor. Two houses to the centre and at each end of the terrace include a gable ended bay with oculus at attic level. The front porch comprises an entrance door on its side elevation with clerestory lighting to the front elevation. The roof of the terrace is pitched with gable ends. Slight variations in the ridge line are provided for by raised red brick barges with cut stone copings at intermediate locations. The roof to the entrance porches is pitched and hipped.

These houses were originally constructed with a red brick finish to the ground floor and rendered walls to the first floor. Decoration is restrained to the gable ended bays that punctuate the terrace and comprises a moulded cornice over the first floor window and moulded surround to the oculus at attic level. An attractive feature of this terrace is the red brick chimney stacks that define its profile.

The fabric of many of these houses has been inappropriately modified to include replacement uPVC windows and doors of various compositions,

render to ground floor walls, replacement uPVC rain water goods and replacement artificial slate roof coverings. Notwithstanding these changes, the scale, form and composition of this terrace remains intact and is an attractive feature of the area.



Fig. 37_Magee Terrace

Palacefield Terrace

This terrace [Fig. 38] is typical of the labourers or artisan dwellings built by private landlords in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, most of which have since been demolished. Comprising seven three bay single storey cottages located off Station Road, this terrace is constructed of rubble stone walls with red brick jambs and head to windows and entrance door, yellow brick chimney stacks, slate roof and cast iron rain water goods.

Porches and replacement windows, doors, roof coverings and rain water goods have been added to the terrace in recent decades. Some elevations and chimney stacks have also been rendered resulting in the loss of subtle detailing such as stepped courses. Notwithstanding these modifications, this terrace retains much of its original character and charm and is reflective of local construction and craftsmanship at this time.



Fig. 38_Palacefield Terrace

Victorian Out of Town Dwellings

The expansion of Kildare Town in the late nineteenth century and the demand for out of town dwellings amongst the prosperous and professional classes is reflected in the number of Victorian houses located along the approach roads to the town. These houses include both detached and semi-detached buildings such as Valetta House, St. Jude's House, Ruanbeg House, Gordon and Bennett House and Simla and Lucknow House.

Valetta House

Valetta House [Fig. 39] is a detached single storey three-bay house with half-dormer attic constructed in the late nineteenth century. Set back from the western side of the Tully Road, this house is constructed on an irregular plan and with a front elevation characterised by a gable ended bay with two storey lean to entrance porch to the side. The fabric of the building includes rendered walls, red brick chimney stacks and gable ended slate roof. Decoration is limited to rendered quoins, timber barge boards and a pediment over the front door.

The house retains most of its original form and character despite replacement uPVC windows and doors and rain water goods. A tarmacadam forecourt and a timber post and rail fence detract from the setting of the house which is otherwise an attractive feature of the Tully Road.



Fig. 39_Valetta House, Tully Road

St. Jude's House

St. Jude's House [Fig. 40] is a detached two-bay two storey house constructed in the mid to late nineteenth century. Set back from the southern side of the Dublin Road, to which it presents a gable, this house comprises an irregular plan with a front elevation characterised by a gable ended bay and canted two storey bay window. An unusual feature of this house is the modest location of the main entrance door which originally formed part of a single storey flat roofed porch to the side of the main structure. The house is reserved in its decoration

comprising rendered walls with moulded string courses to first floor and gable.

Alterations to the house include a single storey flat roof extension to the side and rear and replacement uPVC windows. This building is now in use as a hospital / infirmary and its grounds have largely been converted to a surface car park. The original entrance gate to the house is overgrown by mature trees with access being provided from the rear of the house. Consequently, the rear of the house is exposed to the street and detracts from the streetscape.



Fig. 40_St. Jude's House, Dublin Road

Kildare Parochial House

This house [Fig. 41] was constructed in the mid to late nineteenth century as a residence for the Catholic clergy in the locality. Located on a corner site to the west of the town, this building is an attractive feature in the streetscape of the town, terminating views from Academy Street and Firecastle Lane. Originally comprising a symmetrical plan, the classical proportions of this building emulate those of eighteenth century estate houses. It is possible that a porch existed to the front of the house as indicated by a render surround to the existing entrance door. Decoration is restrained to cut stone corner piers.

Much of the fabric and character of this building has been lost due to replacement materials and twentieth century single storey additions. However, the integrity of the form of the main house is retained, particularly when viewed from the street, where a rubble stone wall screens the twentieth century buildings. This house is complemented by a contemporary range to the west which gables onto the street. The fabric of this range has also been altered but nevertheless retains much of its original character.



Fig. 41_Kildare Parochial House

Ruanbeg House

Ruanbeg House [Fig. 42] is a substantial two storey, three bay detached red brick house located on the north side of the Dublin Road. Comprising an irregular plan, this house is characterised by its red brick construction, gable ended bays with decorative terracotta tiles and two storey canted bay window. This house retains most of its original fabric including timber sash windows, slate roof and cast iron rain water goods.

A complex of outbuildings to the rear of the main house complement this estate which is almost undetectable from the Curragh Road but for a pair of red brick piers with cut stone caps and iron gates.



Fig. 42_Ruanbeg House, Dublin Road

Gordon House and Bennet House

This pair of two storey three-bay semi-detached houses [Fig. 43] was constructed in the late nineteenth / early twentieth century on the north side of the Curragh Road. Originally symmetrical in plan and elevation, these houses are characterised by a projecting gable ended bay with two-storey canted bay windows and slate hipped roof. The external finish of these houses comprises smooth rendered walls with red brick quoins, window heads and chimney stacks. The original fenestration has been replaced and alterations made to the entrance porches.

Attractive outhouses constructed in rubble stone with gable ended slate roofs are located to the rear of these properties. A rubble stone wall defines the front boundary of these houses which make a positive contribution to the streetscape of the Curragh Road.



Fig. 43_Gordon House and Bennett House, Dublin Road

Simla House and Lucknow House

This pair of attractive two storey three-bay houses [Fig. 44] was constructed in the late nineteenth / early twentieth century on the north side of the Dublin Road. These houses comprise an irregular shaped plan with projecting two storey gable ended bays and single storey canted bay windows. Primarily constructed in brick, a defining characteristic of these houses is the Tudor style gables with decorative timber barge boards and ornate ridge tiles. Both these houses retain their original fenestration, slate roofs and cast iron rain water goods.

Simla house was extended to the side in the late twentieth century, using building forms and materials which are generally sympathetic to the original structure. The front boundary to both these houses is defined by a smooth rendered plinth wall with cast iron railings and entrance gates. There is a pair of attached outhouses to the rear of the properties. Although surrounded by semi-mature landscaping, both these houses make a positive contribution to the character of the Dublin Road.



Fig. 44_Simla House and Lucknow House, Dublin Road

Lodges

There are several lodges to the east of Kildare Town which were constructed in the early twentieth century to accommodate military officers stationed at the barracks. These lodges comprise various designs characteristic of the English suburban style and are unusual in their timber frame construction. The picturesque qualities of these lodges and their gardens make a positive contribution to the streetscape and the distinct suburban character of the area.

The Nook

The Nook [Fig. 45] is an attractive single storey four-bay detached house fronting onto the Frenchfurze Road. The house is characterised by its projecting gable ended bays, canted bay windows, an attractive entrance porch and white rendered walls with contrasting black painted features such as barge boards and window surrounds.

Comprising a timber frame, this house retains most of its original fabric including timber casement windows and cast iron rain water goods. The roof of the house has been recovered with a replacement artificial slate in diamond pattern courses. A roughcast boundary wall demarcates the front of the site.



Fig. 45_The Nook, Frenchfurze Road

Mons Lodge

This detached one and a half storey three-bay house [Fig. 46] located on Leinster Walk is characterised by its simple form and symmetrical design. The centrally positioned front porch comprises a lean to slate roof with timber lattice supports, half dormer window and Tudor-style timber framed gables which are attractive features of this house. Features such as rain water goods, timber frames to the gables and window sills are highlighted in black and form an attractive contrast with the white rendered walls of the house.

This house retains most of its original fabric including timber sash and casement windows and cast iron rain water goods. Replacement artificial slate in diamond pattern courses has been applied to the roof of the building. A roughcast boundary wall demarcates the front of the site. Semi-mature trees to the front garden frame the front elevation and are an attractive feature of the streetscape.



Fig. 46_Mons Lodge, Leinster Walk

Munster Lodge

Munster Lodge [Fig. 47] is a detached single storey six-bay house located on a corner site defined by Leinster Walk and the Curragh Road. This house is characterised by three projecting gable ended bays, one of which comprises a bay window with hipped roof. An entrance porch comprising a triangular plan, timber lattice panels and a flat roof is located on the northern elevation of the house.

Also comprising timber frame walls with panelled cladding, this house retains most of its original fabric including timber sash and casement windows and cast iron rain water goods. The roof of the house has been recovered with a replacement artificial slate in diamond pattern courses. This house is set a considerable distance back from the road and surrounded by a large area of lawn.



Fig. 47_Munster Lodge, Leinster Walk

Ulster Lodge

This detached one and a half storey house [Fig. 48] comprises a three-bay gable elevation fronting onto Frenchfurze Road. This house is characterised by its steeply pitched roof and Tudor-style timber frame detailing to its gable.

The fabric of this property, primarily comprising timber framed walls with a render finish, has been compromised over the late twentieth century to include replacement uPVC windows. A tarmacadam forecourt further detracts from the character of the house. A roughcast boundary wall defines the front boundary of the property.



Fig. 48_Ulster Lodge, Frenchfurze Road

Kilgowan Lodge

Kilgowan Lodge [Fig. 49] is a two storey over part raised basement detached house constructed as a medical officers' house in 1886. Comprising a symmetrical plan, this three-bay house is characterised by a central porch of classical design and approached by a flight of steps.

This lodge is constructed of broken coursed squared rubble stone walls with rusticated cut stone quoins to corners, timber sash windows and timber panelled entrance doors. The original hipped slate roof was replaced with artificial slate towards the end of the twentieth century. The original fascia and eaves to the roof have also been replaced as have the cast iron rain water goods. The property was extended to the north in the mid twentieth century.

This lodge is a significant landmark building gabling onto the Convent Road. The front boundary of the house is defined by a rubble stone wall with sections of iron railing and entrance gates to a tarmacadam forecourt to the front of the house. This lodge has remained in residential use up until quiet recently but is now vacant and rapidly falling into a state of disrepair.



Fig. 49_Kilgowan Lodge, Convent Road

Farmhouses

Eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses of small and medium size are an attractive feature of the rural landscape that surrounds Kildare Town. There is a large concentration of stud farms and associated lodges in the area, and in particular on the periphery of the Curragh.

Hawk Hill Farm Complex

This farm house [Fig. 50] and associated farm buildings front onto the Monasterevin Road to the west of Kildare Town. The house is likely to date from the nineteenth century and comprises a symmetrical three-bay two storey house with central projecting entrance porch. A single storey canted bay window projects from the eastern gable of the house. The house is characterised by its regular plan, modest scale and form comprising gabled roof to the main house and flat roof to the entrance porch.

The fabric of the house comprises rough cast rendered walls with rendered string course at first floor level. Replacement artificial slate roof coverings and uPVC windows and entrance door detract from this otherwise attractive farmhouse building.

A number of attractive farm buildings form a yard to the west of the main house and retain much of their original fabric. A strong feature of this complex is its close relationship with the road onto which the farm buildings gable.



Fig. 50_Hawk Hill House, Monasterevin Road

Curragh View Farm Complex

This nineteenth century house [Fig. 51] and associated out buildings are located to the east of Kildare Town and front onto the north western periphery of the Curragh plains. The main house comprises a symmetrical two storey three-bay building with hipped slate roof and central entrance porch, probably of later origin. The scale of the main building form and the proportions of the openings reflect classical influences. Rough cast rendered walls are decorated by raised rendered quoins to the corners of the house. Two plain rendered chimney stacks with decorative courses and yellow chimney pots are an attractive feature of the house. However, replacement uPVC windows and a pitched roof to the entrance porch detract from the character of the property.

A farm yard to the south of the main house is defined by ancillary farm buildings formally arranged to comprise an open end with entrance gate onto the road. These two storey buildings are characterised by their long elevations, pitched gable ended roofs and brick chimney stacks with decorative courses and yellow chimney pots. Like the main house, replacement uPVC windows detract from the character of these buildings which are otherwise a good example of the farm buildings that surround the Curragh.



Fig. 51_Curragh View, The Curragh

Kilcumney House

Kilcumney House [Fig. 52] is located to the north west of Kildare Town adjacent the South Green Road. Constructed in the mid nineteenth century, this two storey house comprises a symmetrical plan with three bay front elevation centred on an attractive entrance door with segmental fan light and cut-stone door case. The scale, form and proportions of the house are of classical influence. Late twentieth century additions to the rear of the house comprise a single storey flat roof extension of unsympathetic design. With the exception of the entrance door surround, the fabric of the house is restrained in its decoration, comprising replacement render walls,

hipped slate roof, timber sash windows to ground floor and cast iron rain water goods. Replacement uPVC windows and louvered timber shutters detract from the original character of the house.

A single storey gable ended outbuilding is located to the north of the house. The house has a close relationship with the South Green Road to the east whilst also being accessible from a sinuous driveway from the west. This house is an attractive feature in the landscape as viewed from several locations.



Fig. 52_Kilcumney House, South Green Road

Cottages

A variety of cottages from the nineteenth and early twentieth century survive within and around Kildare Town and are representative of one of the principal forms of housing at this time. The earliest surviving examples of these cottages are generally located on the periphery of the historic town centre and are likely to have replaced earlier cabins, developing in an ad-hoc manner along the edge of the road and often forming part of a terrace or building group.

Cottages constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century include those constructed in pairs on half acre plots located on approach roads to the town. These cottages are likely to have been constructed on behalf of labourers and are generally uniform in design and layout.

Cottage, Tully Road

This single storey three-bay cottage [Fig. 53] is located at the junction of the Tully Road and Convent Road. This cottage is characterised by its modest scale and form, rubble stone walls and replacement timber sash windows and timber sheeted half door. The external walls of this cottage would probably have been lime rendered. The pitched gable ended roof of the cottage was recovered in artificial slate as part of refurbishment works toward the end of the twentieth century. However, the original cast iron rain water goods have been retained.

The close relationship between this house and the street is typical of nineteenth century terraced cottages that would have historically flanked approach roads to the town. This cottage is an attractive feature of the streetscape, retaining much of its original charm and character.



Fig. 53_Cottage, Tully Road

Cottage, Church Lane

This detached single storey three-bay cottage [Fig. 54] is located on the north side of Fire Castle Lane, terminating views from Malone's Lane. This cottage is characterised by its modest scale, form and use of materials typical of nineteenth century cottages.

An attractive feature of this cottage is its corrugated iron gable ended roof which is likely to have replaced an earlier thatched roof. Much of the remaining fabric of the cottage has been modified and includes timber casement windows, timber panelled door and uPVC rain water goods. The front boundary of this property is defined by a rubble stone wall with an iron pedestrian entrance gate.

This cottage retains much of its character and makes an interesting contribution to the streetscape of Fire Castle Lane.



Fig. 54_Cottage, Church Lane

Semi-Detached Cottage, Old Road

This house [Fig. 55] type is typical of cottages located along approach roads to the town and similar cottages can be found at Newtown Crossroads, Tinkers' Hill and Dunmurry Road. These cottages are likely to have been constructed as labourers' cottages towards the end of the nineteenth century / early twentieth century.

This semi-detached single storey three-bay cottage is located on a half acre plot on the Old Road to the north of Kildare Town. This cottage comprises a rectilinear plan with projecting lean-to porch to the front. A late twentieth century flat roof extension has been constructed to the side and rear. This cottage is characterised by its rendered walls, hipped slate roof and lean-to porch, and a substantial painted brick chimney stack with projecting string and coping courses. The proportions of the original door and window openings have been retained. However, the original timber sash windows have been replaced by timber casement windows. The front boundary of the site is defined by a rendered boundary wall and iron gates of later origin.

This building is a good example of a late nineteenth / early twentieth century labourers' cottage, being of a modest scale and construction with some decoration to the chimney stack. Retaining much of its original character, this cottage makes a positive contribution to its rural setting.



Fig. 55_Cottage, Old Road

Local Authority Cottages

For the greatest part of the early twentieth century residential development in Kildare took the form of Local Authority sponsored housing. This housing includes detached and semi-detached single and two-storey cottages along approach roads to the town, at Newtown Cross Roads and at Campion Crescent and reflects the evolution of traditional building forms, use of materials and construction techniques over the twentieth century.

Detached Cottage, Curragh Road

This cottage [Fig. 56] is one of several early twentieth century detached and semi-detached cottages constructed on half acre plots on the south side of the Curragh Road. Comprising a rectilinear plan, this single storey four-bay cottage retains much of its original fabric including roughcast walls, hipped pan tiled roof, timber sash windows and timber sheeted door.

The internal layout of the cottage is articulated by a tripartite timber sash window and entrance door to the main living accommodation and more modest sash windows to the bedrooms on either side. Two rendered chimney stacks balance the overall composition of the house.

The front boundary of this cottage is defined by a well maintained hedge and iron entrance gates. The modest scale and simple form of this cottage coupled with its well maintained grounds make an attractive contribution to the streetscape of the Curragh Road.



Fig. 56_Cottage, Curragh Road

Semi-Detached Cottage, Newtown Crossroads

The north western quadrant of the Newtown Crossroads comprises a variety of detached and semi-detached single and two-storey cottages constructed in the early twentieth century. These cottages include an unusual semi-detached two storey two-bay house [Fig. 57] type fronting onto Grey Abbey Road.

Rectilinear in plan, this gable ended cottage with lean to porch to the side is characterised by roughcast walls with staggered window openings to the front elevation reflecting the location of a half landing internally. Whilst much of the original fabric of this building has been retained, replacement uPVC windows detract from the original character of the property.

A rendered boundary wall to the front of this property is unlikely to be contemporaneous with the house. Significant alterations to the attached cottage detract from the original character of this property.



Fig. 57_Cottage, Newtown Crossroads

Semi-Detached Cottage, Campion Crescent

Campion Crescent comprises over sixty detached and semi-detached single storey cottages [Fig. 58] constructed to the north east of the town centre in the mid twentieth century. These cottages are similar in scale and form to those located on the approach roads to the town but are unique in terms of their concentration and layout. The majority of these cottages front onto a formal green area which is defined by linear access roads on its northern, eastern and southern sides and a crescent on its western side. Several cottages also front onto Melitta Road.

This single storey three-bay semi-detached cottage comprises an L-shaped plan which is articulated by a projecting gable ended bay. Externally, rendered walls and hipped pan tile roof are all that remain of the original fabric of the building.

These cottages are less traditional in character than earlier constructed local authority cottages on the approach roads to the town. This is partially due to the incorporation of a projecting gable ended bay. The uncoordinated replacement of windows and doors has invariably detracted from the original character of individual buildings in this estate and has somewhat undermined the overall harmony of the estate.



Fig. 58_Cottage, Campion Crescent

Mid 20th Century Houses

There are a number of detached and terraced mid twentieth century house types located outside Kildare Town centre which stylistically are reflective of English suburban housing and exhibit a level of design and craftsmanship which is worthy of attention. These houses include detached single storey and two storey houses on the north side of the Monasterevin Road, and terraced housing on the east side of Station Road.

Detached House, Monasterevin Road

This two storey detached house [Fig. 59] fronts onto the Monasterevin Road and is one of three houses at this location constructed in the English suburban style. Comprising three bays, the front elevation is centred on a recessed entrance porch with segmental archway. A two storey breakfront with hipped roof and canted bay window contributes to the attractive character of this property. The external walls are constructed of brick to the lower part of the ground floor with rough cast render above. An attractive feature of this property is the hipped roof with projecting eaves and slender chimney stacks with brick coping. Replacement uPVC windows are likely to retain the configuration of original windows. The original timber panelled and glazed entrance door with side lights and over light has been retained.

This house sits on its own grounds and is set back from the main road amongst semi-mature landscaping. A grey brick wall likely to be of later origin defines the front boundary of the property which as a whole makes an attractive contribution to the streetscape.



Fig. 59_Detached House, Monasterevin Road

Terraced Housing, Station Road

Arranged in two terraces, each comprising 4 no. two storey houses two-bay dwellings [Fig. 60] on the eastern side of Station Road are characterised by their recessed entrance porch, single storey bay window, hipped roof to terrace ends and chimney stacks. None of these houses retain their original

fenestration which detracts from the terrace's overall coherency. A continuous roughcast rendered wall with brick capping to piers defines the front garden of these properties. Original pedestrian and vehicular entrance gates have been retained by several properties.

These terraces dating from the 1930's reflect a stylistic departure from the Victorian red brick terraces described earlier and reflect the growing practice of speculative housing development in the town.



Fig. 60_Terrace Housing, Station Road

Housing Estates

Following the establishment of the Free State in the early twentieth century, the construction of a number of local authority housing estates brought about the expansion of Kildare Town at an unprecedented scale. This level of supply was not matched by the private housing market until the late twentieth / early twenty first century, during which time the footprint of the town almost doubled.

Of the housing estates constructed in Kildare Town, local authority sponsored housing varies most in terms of style and layout. Some examples of this housing is discussed here.

Rowanville

Rowanville [Fig. 61] is a compact housing estate of approximately eighty terraced and semi-detached houses located to the east of Kildare Town. Constructed in the 1930's, this estate is laid out in two parcels, possibly developed in phases, the first comprising a central green surrounded by housing and connected to the Curragh Road, the second comprising a cul de sac perpendicular to the Curragh Road. Three terraces also front onto the Curragh Road and signal the estate on the main road structure of the town.

The houses at Rowanville are typical of local authority sponsored housing constructed at this time.

Terraces generally comprise 4 no. two storey two-bay houses with rough cast render finish and clay pantile roof hipped at the terrace ends. Decoration is confined to a rendered string course at first floor level and rendered surround with moulded entablature to entrance door. Terraces fronting onto the Curragh Road also comprise an advanced bay which further enhances the elevation.

The majority of houses at Rowanville comprise replacement windows and doors of various materials and compositions which detract from the otherwise coherent character of the estate. Where original windows survive these comprise 1/1 timber sash windows to the first floor and tripartite 1/1 timber sash windows to the ground floor. The main entrance door is likely to have been timber panelled with glazing.

The terraces at Rowanville are set back from the road with a roughcast rendered wall defining the boundary to each property. The estate is an attractive feature of the Curragh Road and a good example of early twentieth century local authority housing.



Fig. 61_Rowanville, Curragh Road

Maryville

Maryville [Fig. 62] is a local authority sponsored housing estate located between Melitta Road and the railway line and constructed in the latter half of the twentieth century. The layout of this estate is of particular interest, employing the Radburn principle whereby pedestrian and vehicular access is separated. As such, terraces form blocks with vehicular access provided from the rear by means of a service road penetrating the block. The terraces front onto open space which incorporates pedestrian routes connecting blocks to one another and back to the overall road network. The Radburn layout is now generally accepted as having been unsuccessful, the separation of movement resulting in inactive and poorly supervised open spaces.

The terraces at Maryville generally comprise between 4 and 8 no. two storey two-bay houses

with roughcast rendered walls, pantile gable ended roof and recessed entrance porch. The scale and proportion of window openings depart from the balanced compositions achieved at Rowanville, reflecting a more modern / utilitarian design approach. The majority of houses at Maryville comprise replacement windows and doors which would have originally included timber casement windows and most likely timber panelled doors with glazed side light.



Fig. 62_Maryville, Melitta Road

Industrial Buildings

Two notable industrial buildings constructed in Kildare Town during the twentieth century include the former wallpaper factory on the Monasterevin Road and the Kildare Business Park on Melitta Road. Both these buildings exhibit a level of architectural design and construction that is not commonly seen in industrial buildings today.

Wallpaper Factory

This ten bay double height factory building [Fig. 63] constructed in 1936 is located to the west of the town on the Monasterevin Road. Constructed by Messrs. Sheridan Brothers of Newbridge, this building is characterised by an almost symmetrical front elevation of modernist language with stepped parapet, central projecting flat roof porch added in the 1950's and canted bay with entrance door to the left. The east elevation facing onto Cleamore Road is characterised by its sawtooth roof profile with oculus gable windows. Whilst some original iron casement windows survive, replacement uPVC windows detract from the original character of the building. A rendered wall with piers and cast iron railings in part define a forecourt accessed from the Monasterevin Road.

The Wallpaper Factory is of both historical and architectural interest having been a major employer in the town for the greatest part of the twentieth century. The building is a landmark on the Monasterevin Road and reflects the emergence of modern architecture in Ireland in the early twentieth century.



Fig. 63_Former Wallpaper Factory, Monasterevin Road

Kildare Business Park

Kildare Business Park [Fig. 64] comprises a substantial double height industrial / office building located on Melitta Road and constructed in the late twentieth century. Comprising a regular square plan defined by repeated bays and a single storey projecting office building to front, this building is characterised by its modernist design including the use of brick and concrete materials, clerestory and curtain wall glazing and flat roof construction. A cantilevered roof canopy signals the entrance to the building.

This building is set back from Melitta Road on its own grounds, with an entrance building and entrance gates located to the west where vehicular access is provided off Melitta Road. Recently constructed industrial buildings constructed to the west and north of the site detract from the integrity of the original building.

This building is impressive in terms of its scale, modern design and construction. It is of some historical interest, representing investment in the town during the late twentieth century. It is also a prominent landmark on Melitta Road.



Fig. 64_Kildare Business Park, Melitta Road

Kildare Chilling Company

This double height factory building [Fig. 65] located at the junction of Bangup Lane and Bride Street was constructed in the 1950's for the purposes of meat chilling. The building is austere in character comprising blank elevations relieved only by the use of rendered piers forming panels to the roughcast walls. The roof comprises a hipped corrugated asbestos covering. An attractive feature of this building is the raised lettering to the south east elevation which reads 'Kildare Chilling Co. Ltd'. A central arched opening on the centre of the south west elevation has been blocked up.

This factory is of historical and architectural interest, having been an important source of employment in the town as well as contributing the towns portfolio of modernist architecture.



Fig. 65_Former Chilling Factory, Bride Street

Military Buildings

Both the Curragh Camp and Magee Barracks comprise a number of buildings of varying function and architectural expression that are of both historic and architectural interest. These buildings are testimony to Kildare's long established military associations.

McDonagh Barracks

McDonagh Barracks [Fig. 66] is a group of four detached multiple bay two-storey red brick buildings located on the Curragh Camp and constructed in the late nineteenth century. The barracks represents one of the largest individual components of the Curragh Camp and has a strong presence on the main avenue within the camp.

The barrack buildings are characterised by their long elevations with open verandas, free standing two bay two-storey blocks to front and single bay two-storey stairway returns to the rear. Whilst the original hipped slate roof has been replaced with artificial slate, the buildings retain much of their original fabric including bipartite timber sash windows and timber panelled

doors and cast iron rain water goods. The barrack buildings are arranged in pairs around a courtyard which is finished in tarmacadam.

Built to accommodate soldiers of the Irish Battalion of the army of Great Britain, these buildings are an integral component of the Curragh Camp complex.



Fig. 66_McDonagh Barracks, Curragh Camp

Curragh Camp Military Hospital

This substantial and prominent hospital building [Fig. 67] located on the Curragh Camp is a fine example of a Victorian institutional building constructed in the late nineteenth century. Comprising a symmetrical plan, this nineteen bay two-storey building is characterised by its central pedimented entrance bay and projecting end bays. An unusual feature of this building are the perron steps leading to the entrance door located on the first floor. The fabric of the building comprises red brick dressed with decorative render or cut stone detailing, hipped slate roof, replacement uPVC windows and cast iron rain water goods.

The elaborate design and ornamentation of this building is unusual in the context of the more utilitarian buildings on the camp. Despite the replacement of the original windows, the hospital retains much of its original character and remains a major landmark on the Curragh Camp.



Fig. 67_Military Hospital, Curragh Camp

Curragh Camp Fire Station

This notable five storey two-bay building [Fig. 68] constructed in 1900 is possibly the oldest purpose built fire station in the country. Comprising a square plan, this building is characterised by its rusticated cut-granite walls to the ground floor, red brick upper floors with three rounded headed windows on the upper floor. A water turret to the north east of the tower projects beyond the parapet of the main structure. The fabric of the building has largely remained intact and includes original timber fenestration and rain water goods.

This building is a major landmark in the area being visible from some distance away.



Fig. 68_Fire Station, Curragh Camp

K-Lines

This building [Fig. 69] takes its name from the arrangement of buildings on the Curragh Camp which were laid out in lines and named alphabetically. The K-Lines is of particular interest, having been constructed during the Second World War as a detention centre. This building is one of only two of its kind that survive on the camp.

This five-bay single storey chalet comprising an irregular cruciform plan with single bay single-storey canted bay window is characterised by its corrugated iron cladding to walls and gable ended roof, timber framed sash and casement windows and cast iron rain water goods.



Fig. 69_K-Lines, Curragh Camp

Sited on its own grounds, the K-Lines has been well preserved, making an important contribution to the historical and architectural heritage of the Curragh Camp.

Water Tower, Curragh Camp

This structure [Fig. 70] constructed in 1894 on a square plan comprises a free standing single bay four-stage water tower with clock to upper stage. Given considerable architectural consideration, this tower is characterised by its elegant proportions, red brick construction, moulded cut-stone string courses, round headed window and door openings, projecting gangway and concave pyramidal roof with weather vane.

The water tower is set on its own grounds within close proximity of the camp church and fire station, adding to the diversity of the Curragh Camp skyline.



Fig. 70_Water Tower, Curragh Camp

3.5 Townscape

Kildare's townscape qualities are derived from a historic road structure which provides a framework for the distribution of land uses and the development of varying building typologies. These elements, having evolved over several centuries, combined with the natural topography of the town, are the principal features that contribute to the character of Kildare.

Urban Structure

Kildare's urban structure reflects its early development as a settlement of importance, comprising as many as twelve approach roads by the nineteenth century. Of these routes, the Dublin and Monasterevin roads are of particular importance, defining the main street through the town and forming part of the communications network between the city of Dublin and the south west.

Today, these radial routes largely serve to connect the hinterland and the suburbs of the town to its centre, which can be defined as the main street or thoroughfare generated by Claregate Street, Market Square and Dublin Street.

Market Square itself is defined on its southern side by the main street and is traversed by Station Road linking through to Bride Street. The eastern side of the square is defined by a street connecting the entrance to St. Brigid's Cathedral to Dublin Street and sets up attractive views to the cathedral and round tower.

To the west of the Market Square, a series of narrow lanes connect Claregate Street to Firecastle Lane, which skirts the southern boundary wall of St. Brigid's Cathedral. Collectively, this network of streets, lanes and market square as defined by compact building blocks retain the character of Kildare's medieval borough.

Outside the town centre, land parcels are defined by radial routes and connecting lanes of a suburban character, being defined by landscaped boundaries rather than the edges of buildings, which are generally set back from the road.

In the nineteenth century, the Great Southern and Western Railway line sliced through the landscape and the historic radial routes that approach the town from the north. The impact of this intervention on the form of Kildare Town is matched only by the recent construction of the M7 bypass to the south. Today, the respective railway stop and exit junction associated with these routes are the principal centres of gravity outside the town centre.

Land Uses

Although once an important ecclesiastical centre and later a market town, Kildare today is largely dominated by residential development, having taken on the role of a dormitory settlement towards the end of the twentieth century.

Notwithstanding the above, Kildare Town centre continues to provide important services to the population of the town, most of which are located on Market Square and Claregate Street, and to a lesser extent Station Road, Bride Street, Shraud and Cleamore Road.

Whilst the historic building stock of Kildare Town once catered for these uses, new building typologies such as shopping centres, show rooms and out of town supermarkets have emerged in recent decades. These new typologies threaten the role of the historic core as the commercial centre of the town, as demonstrated by the growing number of vacant premises on Claregate Street at present.

Religious and educational buildings occupy various locations throughout the town which are within walking distance of the town centre and often in close proximity of one another. The most notable of these buildings is St. Brigid's Cathedral, which occupies the site of St. Brigid's monastery, once the core of the settlement. St. Mary's Carmelite church and St. Brigid's R.C. church compensate for their less central locations by making their presence known on the skyline, a defining characteristic of Kildare Town.

The main employment industries in Kildare Town are primarily located on the approach roads and in particular on the Dublin and Monasterevin Roads. The most notable of these are Modus Media and the Kildare Outlet Village to the west and the Kildare Chilling Company to the east. To the north west of the town enterprise units are provided in a purpose built building located on Melitta Road.

Housing typologies in Kildare vary considerably and include Georgian and Victorian townhouses and terraces, local authority cottages along approach roads to the town, and local authority and private residential estates primarily located to the east and north of the town centre. Whilst some of the earlier local authority housing estates have an attractive character, later twentieth century and early twenty first century housing tends to be monotonous in layout, comprising large numbers of repeated house types punctuated only by residual green spaces. Beyond the built up area of Kildare Town, the principal land uses within the study area include

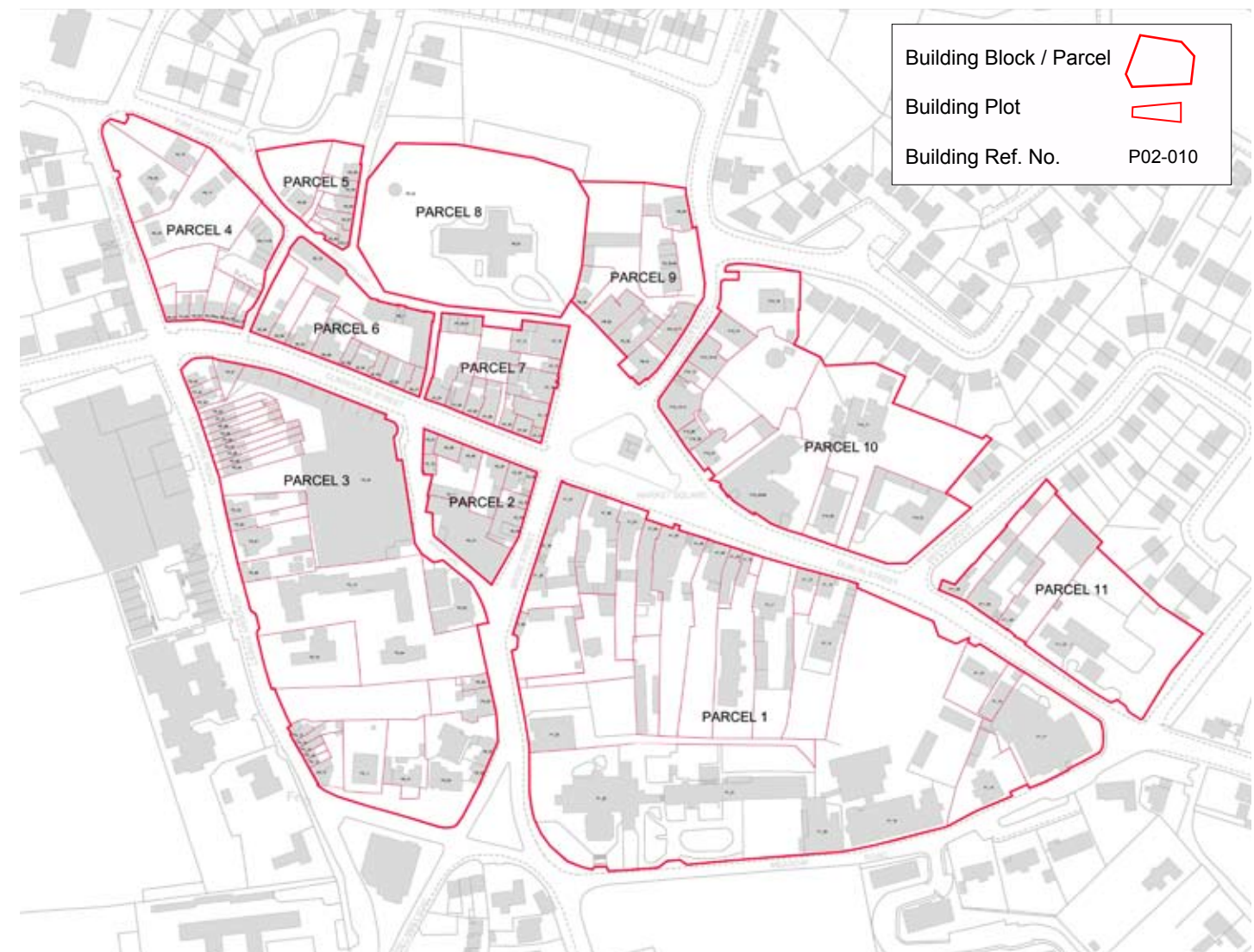


Fig. 71_Building Parcels

the military and equestrian functions of the Curragh and the many stud farms which make up the town's hinterland. This landscape also accommodates a growing rural population in the form of one-off rural housing.

Building Groups and Parcels

The historic core of Kildare Town is made up of urban blocks and land parcels [Fig. 71] which are characteristic of various periods of development associated with the town.

Urban blocks within the town centre generally reflect the configuration of the long narrow medieval burghage plots, now occupied by a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century two to three storey buildings with continuous frontage along Dublin Street, Market Square and Claregate Street. These blocks comprise a fine urban grain defined by a variety of individual buildings that have been retained for the greatest part, the notable exception being the mixed-use development on the south side of Claregate Street.

Immediately outside the town centre, land parcels are more loosely defined by approach roads and connecting lanes. In some instances these parcels retain eighteenth and nineteenth century roadside buildings, but are generally characterised by detached buildings set back from the road on their own grounds. Many of these parcels are defined by attractive stone boundaries and mature landscaping including hedgerows and trees, all of which contribute to the suburban character of these areas.

Beyond the immediate suburbs of the town, building groups comprise labourer's cottages constructed in clusters along approach roads and housing estates laid out in parcels of unconnected internal roads.

Eleven urban blocks / parcels which define the historic town centre have been identified. The buildings which occupy these blocks / parcels have been photographed and numbered as part of the survey of the town. These buildings are illustrated in the urban analysis sheets overleaf.

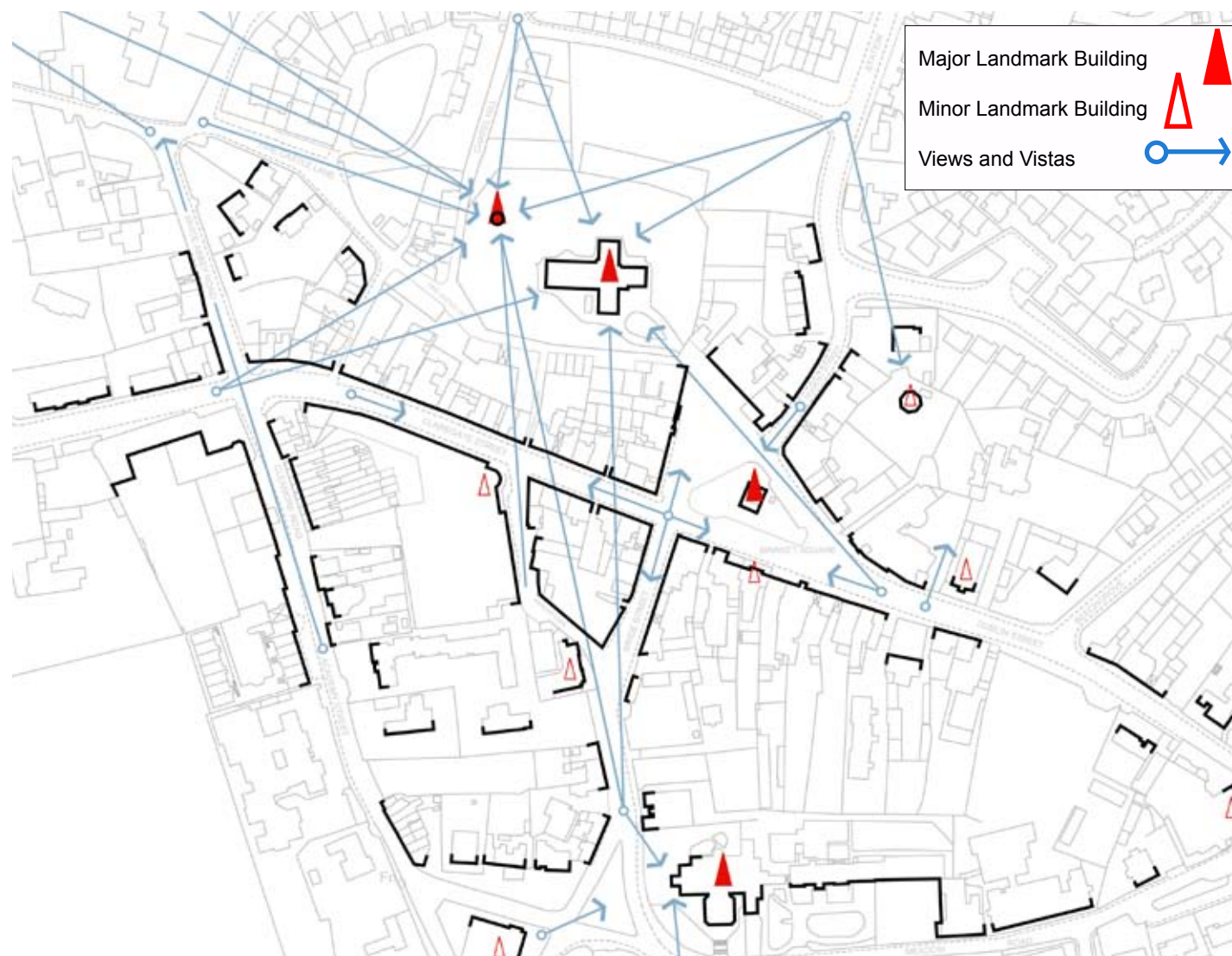


Fig. 72_Landmark Buildings and Views

Landmark Buildings and Views

Kildare Town comprises a collection of landmark buildings [Fig. 72] that are defining features of the settlement. The landmark value of these buildings vary considerably, some being visible within and well beyond the confines of the town, others making an important contribution to the streetscape.

The most notable landmarks in Kildare Town are St. Brigid's Cathedral and round tower, St. Mary's Carmelite Church and to a lesser extent Saint Brigid's R.C Church. Particularly memorable views of the cathedral and round tower can be obtained from the south eastern corner of Market Square, Station Road and Chapel Hill. Incidental views of these landmarks can also be obtained from various locations such as the Monasterevin Road, Bride Street and Firecastle Lane.

The spire of St. Mary's Carmelite Church is most visible on the skyline when viewed from outside the town. Short distance views from St. Brigid's

Cathedral, White Abbey Road and Southgreen Road also provide for strong visual connections between the church and its more immediate context.

From a distance, the spire of St. Brigid's R.C. Church is generally viewed against the backdrop of the historic town centre, and as such is not as impressive as the cathedral, round tower and Carmelite church. At a closer range however, the church can be seen in the context of the skyline and takes on a much more monumental presence, particularly when viewed from St. Brigid's Square.

Minor landmark structures in Kildare have less of a presence in the context of the overall settlement but are notable features on the streetscape. These include the Market House, the Hibernian Bank, the Courthouse, the water tower and the Derby House Hotel.

Urban Spaces

The principal urban spaces in Kildare Town are Market Square and St. Brigid's Square [Fig. 73]



Fig. 73_Urban Spaces and Nodes

as well as the main street itself which is defined by Claregate Street, Market Square and Dublin Street.

Market Square

Market Square is located to the south east of St. Brigid's Cathedral at what is now the centre of the town. Triangular in form, this space is well defined on all sides by a collection of mainly eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings of various retail and commercial uses.

A market house located to the centre of the square provides a focus for the space. Surrounding the market house, an ancient well, a memorial cross to local men killed during the War of Independence, a bronze bust of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and a stone statue of St. Brigid commemorating those having died at Gibbet Rath are testimony to the rich cultural heritage of the town.

The square, which continues to be the venue for outdoor markets, has been repaved in recent years. Mature trees and cast iron lamp standards are an attractive feature of the square.

St. Brigid's Square

This space is less defined than Market Square, comprising the intersection of Grey Abbey Road, Tully Road, Bride Street and Academy Street. The space is surrounded by loosely arranged buildings to its perimeter and a former electricity supply building to its centre, which now accommodates the St. Brigid's Catholic Young Men's Society.

Formerly a pound and fair green, St. Brigid's Square takes its name from the R.C. Church constructed on its eastern side in the nineteenth century. This space is largely used for surface car parking which has a negative impact on the visual amenity of the square.

Claregate Street and Dublin Street

These streets are important urban spaces as well as routes and are characterised by the close relationship between the buildings that define them. A detailed description of the principal street in Kildare is given in the analysis sheets overleaf.

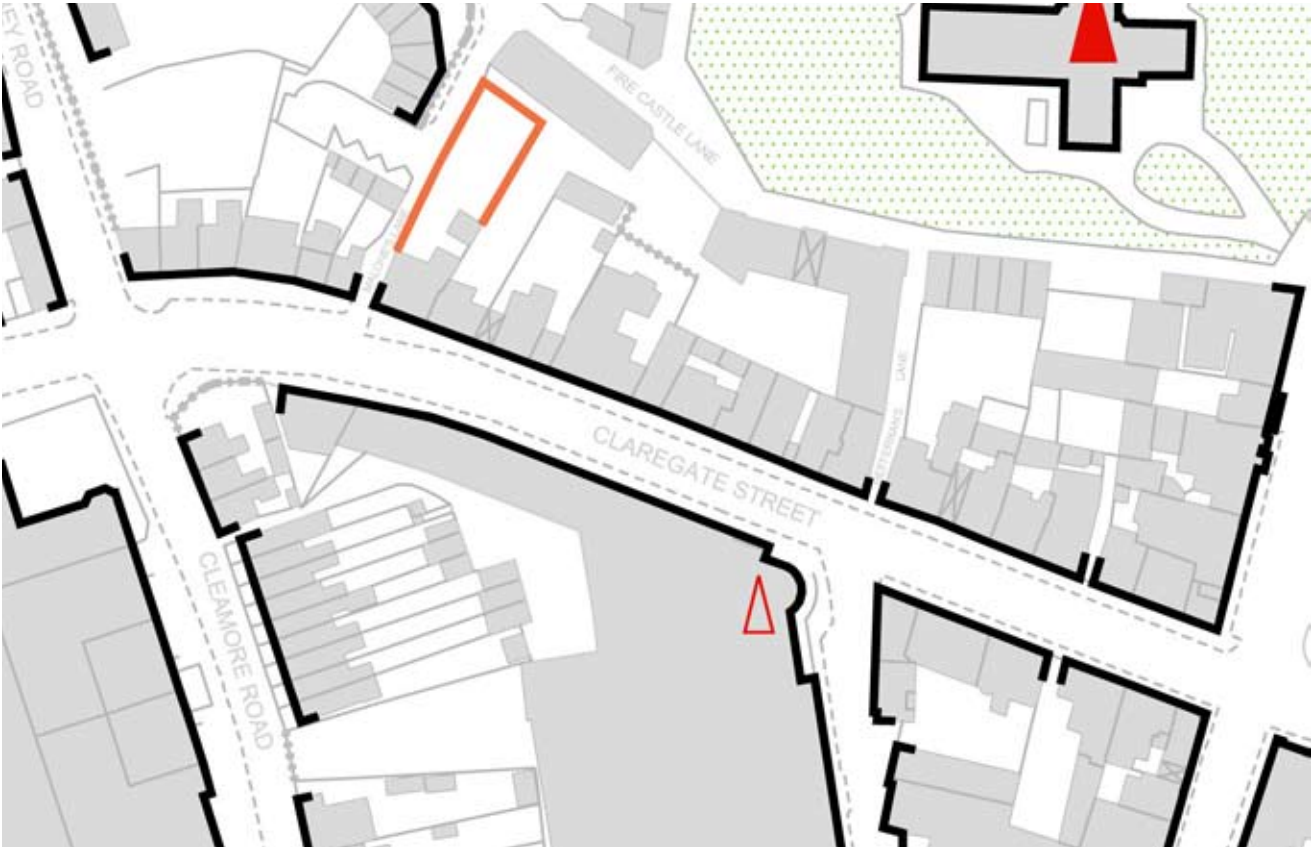
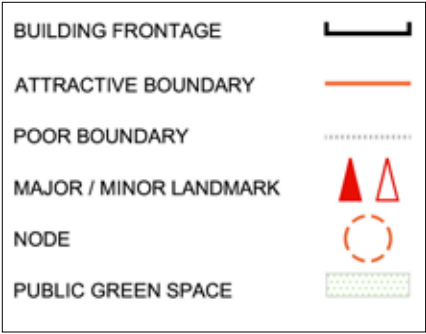
Claregate Street

Urban Analysis

Historic Landscape Character Type	Medieval Burgage Plots, In Town Shopping Centre and General Victorian Terraced Housing
Character	Main Street
Land Uses	Primarily retail and commercial uses with over the shop, apartment and terraced residential accommodation
Movement	Main Street / Thoroughfare
Car Parking	Parallel car parking on south side of street between Bride Street and Bangup Lane and on side of street between Heffernan's Lane and White Abbey Road
Typical Street Section	1:2.4 to 1:3.4
Plot Configuration	Generally narrow shallow plots with the exception of the large site associated with mixed use development on south side of the street
Urban Grain	Fine urban grain on north and south side of street
Building Line	Strong building on both sides of the street
Building Height	2-3 storeys
Building Typologies	Modest townhouses and substantial mixed use development
Scale and Form	Modest buildings of traditional form on north side of street and on eastern end of south side of street Large scale building / mixed use development on south side of street of contemporary form
Landmark Buildings	Corner entrance to mixed use development on south side of street
Noteworthy Buildings	The Five Jockeys Public House
Urban Spaces / Node	Not Applicable
Key Views	Short distance view to Market Square
Footpaths	1.7 - 5 metres in width Predominantly brick paving Areas of concrete to west end of Claregate Street (south side)
Boundaries	Unattractive boundary wall at junction of Cleamore Road and Claregate Street
Street Furniture	Concrete bollards to front of Boyles Sports and stainless steel bollards to front of mixed use development Damaged steel railings at juncton of Bangup Lane and Claregate Street Standard litter bin at various locations
Lighting	Projecting steel light on timber poles along north side of street
Wirescape	Cables suspended from lamp standards and crossing to south side of street at various locations
Trees	Not Applicable



Claregate Street North



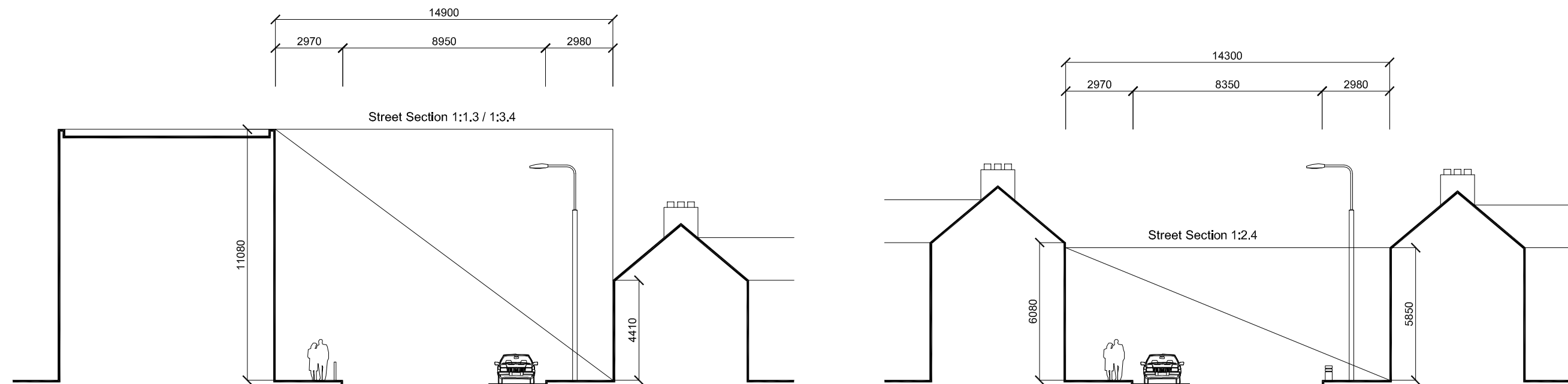
Townscape Analysis



Claregate Street South



Claregate Street North contd.



Typical Street Sections



Claregate Street South contd.

Market Square

Urban Analysis

Historic Landscape Character Type	Medieval Burgage Plots and Market Place
Character	Market Place
Land Uses	Primarily retail and commercial uses with over the shop residential accommodation
Movement	Main Street and Secondary Side Streets / Approach Roads
Car Parking	Parallel and skewed car parking on south side of Square, parallel car parking on east side of Square and off street surface car park on west side of Square
Typical Street Section	Varies
Plot Configuration	Narrow shallow plots to the west and east of the Square and narrow long plots to the south side of the Square
Urban Grain	Fine urban grain throughout
Building Line	Strong building line throughout
Building Height	2-3 storeys
Building Typologies	Traditional retail and commercial buildings with over the shop accommodation, townhouses and market building
Scale and Form	Modest buildings of traditional form generally. Former Hibernian Bank of civic scale and design.
Landmark Buildings	Market House, Former Hibernian Bank
Noteworthy Buildings	Virginia Lodge
Urban Spaces / Node	Market Square area surrounding Market House
Key Views	Short distance view to St. Brigid's Cathedral
Footpaths	2 - 5 metres in width Predominantly block paving Areas of cobblestone to the east of Market Square
Boundaries	Attractive cast iron boundaries to front of buildings on west and south side of square
Street Furniture	Steel bollards to south of Market House Various memorials, plaques, statues and tourist information surrounding Market House Bus shelter to south of Square Toilet kiosk to the east of Market House Various litter bins throughout
Lighting	Projecting steel light on timber poles to south of Square, cast iron lamp standards throughout the Square
Wirescape	No overground cables
Trees	Decidious trees located throughout



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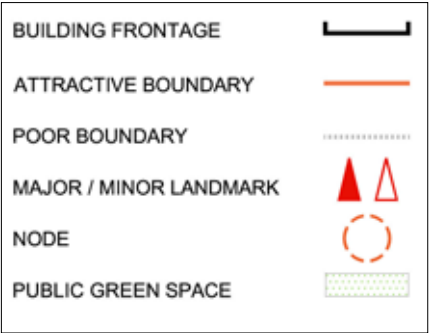
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Market Square West



Townscape Analysis



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Market Square South



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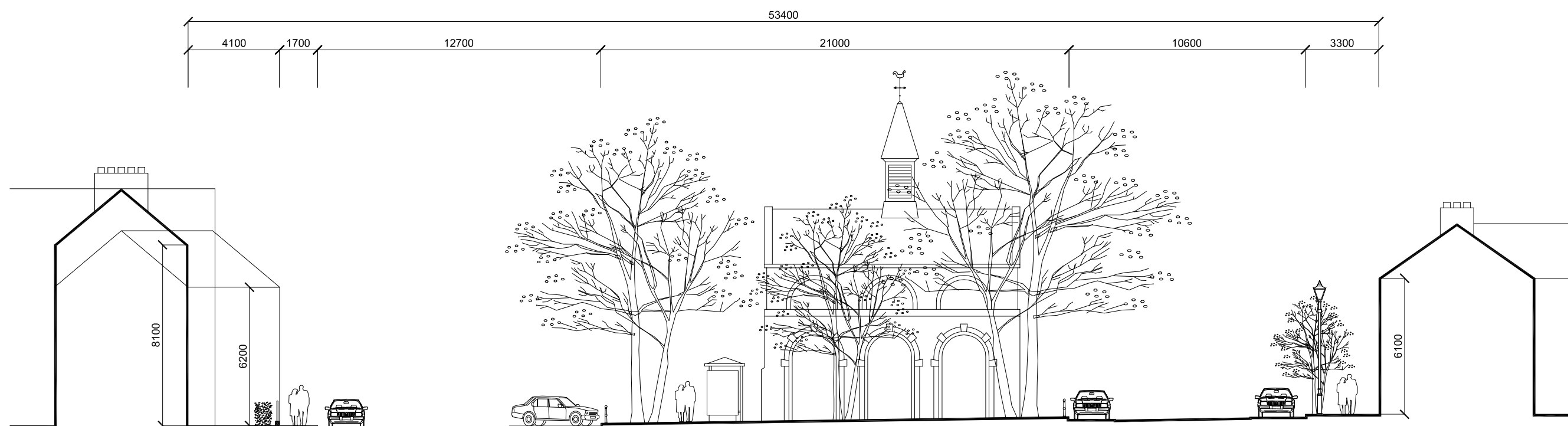
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Market Square North



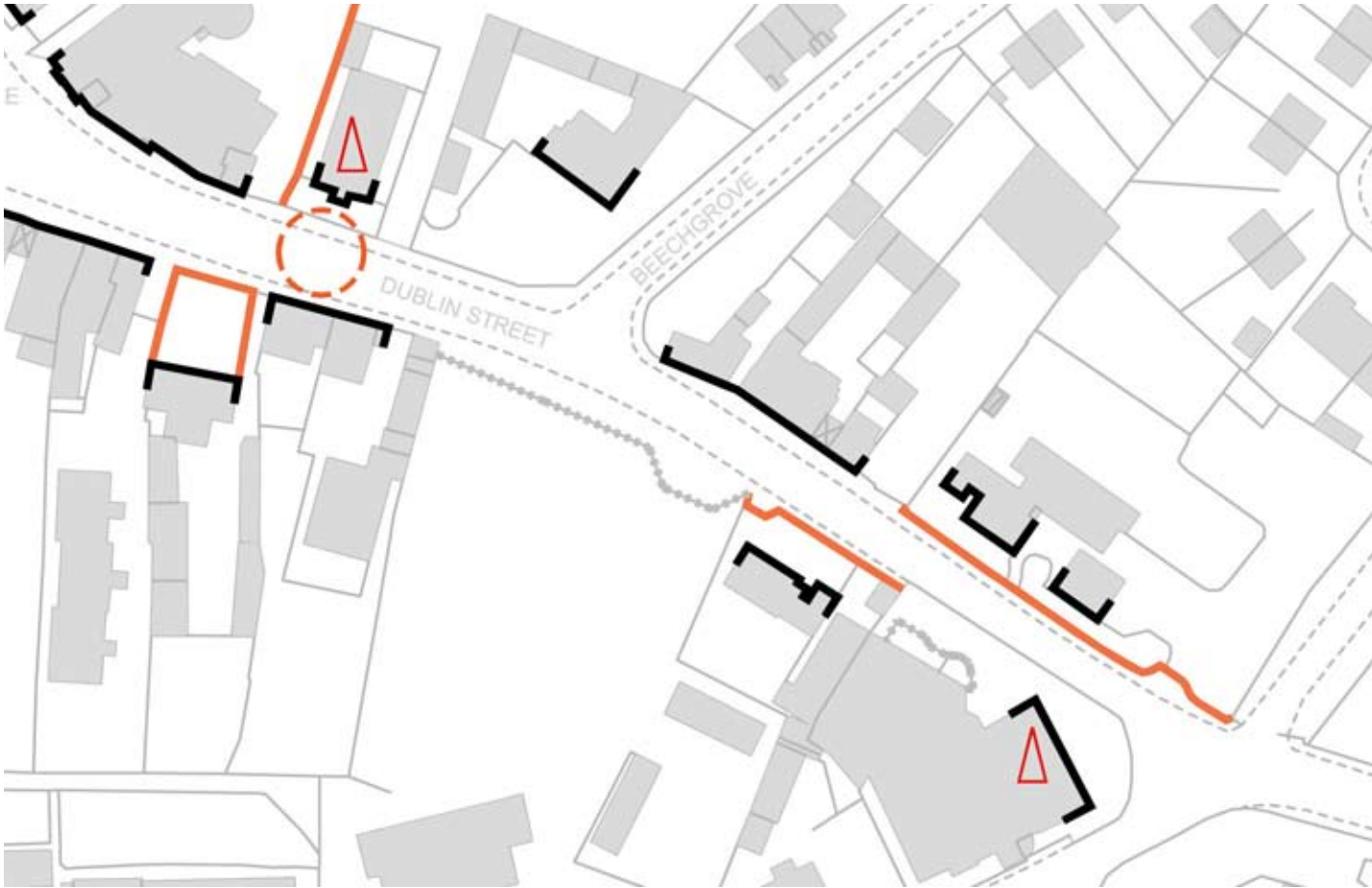
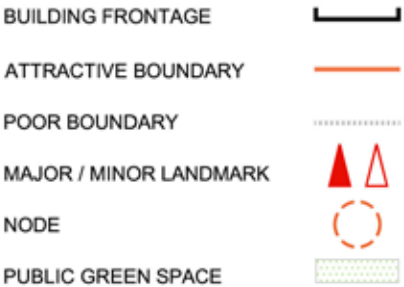
Section through Market Square

Dublin Street

Urban Analysis	
Historic Landscape Character Type	Medieval Burgage Plots, Victorian School, Planned Post Medieval Urban Expansion, Late 20th - 21st C. Villas
Character	Approach Road
Land Uses	Retail and commercial uses, over the shop and townhouse residential accommodation, former court house, school yard, hotel and garda station
Movement	Main Street / Thoroughfare
Car Parking	Parallel parking on south side of street Perpendicular car parking to front of Derby House Hotel
Typical Street Section	1:4
Plot Configuration	Variety of plot configurations including narrow long plots and large wide and deep plots
Urban Grain	Fine to coarse urban grain
Building Line	Generally weak building line
Building Height	1-3 storeys
Building Typologies	Traditional retail and commercial buildings with over the shop accommodation, historic and modern detached townhouses, courthouse, garda station and former county infirmary
Scale and Form	Modest buildings of traditional form. Former courthouse, county infirmary and cinema buildings of civic scale and design
Landmark Buildings	Former courthouse and Derby House Hotel
Noteworthy Buildings	Lislee House and former cinema building
Urban Spaces / Node	Forecourt to former courthouse and Derby House Hotel
Key Views	Short distance view to Market Square and Kildare Castle gate house
Footpaths	2 - 5.5 metres in width Block paving from Market Square to former courthouse and post office Tarmac surface from courthouse to garda station and former post office to Derby House Hotel
Boundaries	Attractive cast iron boundaries to front of Lislee House Attractive stone wall to front of Beech Grove House and houses west of Derby House Hotel Unattractive masonry wall to school yard
Street Furniture	Steel bollards to front of Beechgrove house and school yard entrance Standard litter bins at various locations
Lighting	Projecting steel light on timber poles to north side of street generally
Wirescape	Cables suspended from lamp standards and crossing street at various locations
Trees	Mature and semi-mature deciduous trees located to front of Lislee and Beechgrove Houses and garda station



Dublin Street North



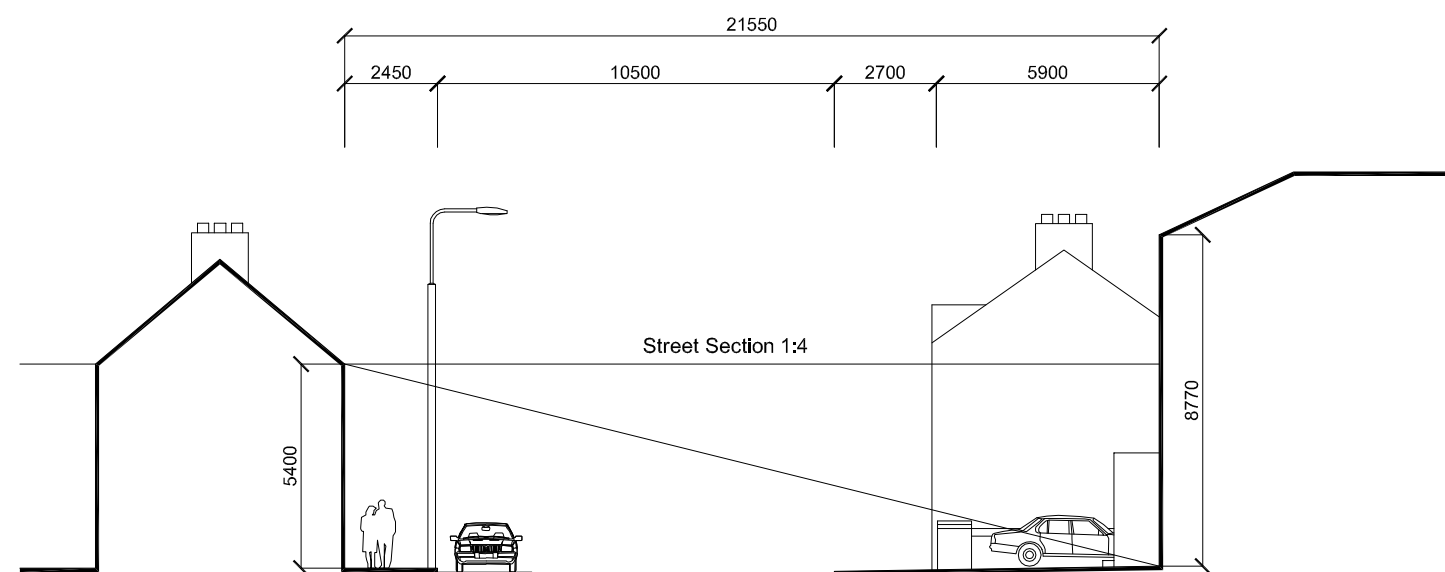
Townscape Analysis



Dublin Street South



Dublin Street North contd.



Typical Street Sections



Dublin Street South contd.

Bride Street

Urban Analysis

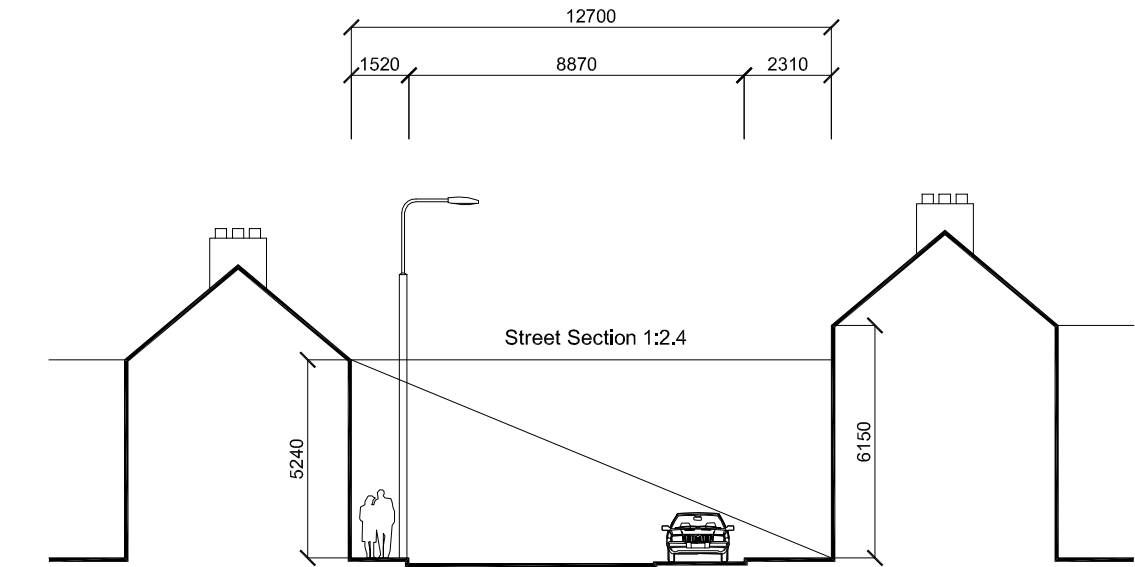
Historic Landscape Character Type	Medieval Burgage Plots, Inner Urban Workshops and Light Industry, Victorian School, Planned Post Medieval Urban Expansion and Late 20th - 21st C. Commercial
Character	Secondary Street / Approach Road
Land Uses	Retail and commercial uses, over the shop and terraced residential accommodation, primary school and
Movement	Approach Road
Car Parking	Parallel car parking on east side of street (Bride Street Upper) and west side of Street (Bride Street Lower) Perpendicular car parking to front of school
Street Section	1:2.4
Plot Configuration	Variety of regular and irregular plots
Urban Grain	Fine to coarse urban grain
Building Line	Strong to moderate building line
Building Height	Primarily 2 storeys
Building Typologies	Traditional retail and commercial buildings, over the shop and townhouse residential accommodation, modern industrial building, nineteenth century school buildings
Scale and Form	Modest buildings of traditional form generally Credit Union building of over elaborate form
Landmark Buildings	Kildare Credit Union
Noteworthy Buildings	Former Kildare Chilling Company
Urban Spaces / Node	Space to front of school
Key Views	Short distance view to St. Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower
Footpaths	1.5 - 3 metres in width Predominantly block paving Some areas of tarmac and concrete footpath
Boundaries	Attractive rubble stone boundary walls to east side of street Cast iron railings to school yard
Street Furniture	Steel bollards to front of Credit Union Steel railings to west of street (Bride Street Lower) Standard litter bins at various locations
Lighting	Projecting steel light on timber poles on both sides of the street
Wirescape	Cables suspended from lamp standards and crossing street at various locations
Trees	Deciduous trees located on east side of street



Bride Street West



Townscape Analysis



Typical Street Sections



Bride Street East

Nugent Street

Urban Analysis

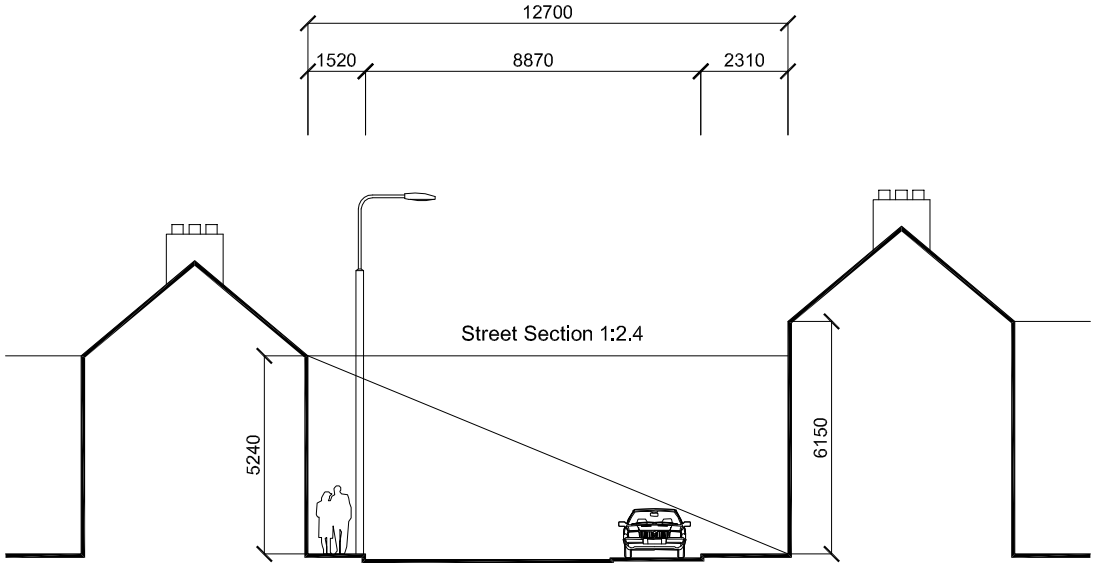
Historic Landscape Character Type	Medieval Burgage Plots, Late 20th - 21st C. Terraces, Late 20th - 21st C. Villas
Character	Secondary Street / Approach Road
Land Uses	Primarily retail and commercial uses
Movement	Approach Road
Car Parking	Perpendicular car parking to front of terrace of retail units on west side of street
Typical Street Section	1:2.4
Plot Configuration	Narrow shallow plots generally Large plot associated with private house on east side of street
Urban Grain	Fine urban grain generally
Building Line	Strong building line generally
Building Height	1-2 storeys
Building Typologies	Traditional and modern retail and commercial buildings with over the shop accommodation, suburban bungalow
Scale and Form	Modest buildings of traditional form generally New terraces emulate historic forms with varying levels of success Bungalow of modest scale and modern forms
Landmark Buildings	Not applicable
Noteworthy Buildings	Paddy Byren Butcher's and associated dwelling
Urban Spaces / Node	Forecourt to retail terrace on west side of street
Key Views	Short distance view to Market House and Water Tower
Footpaths	1.5 - 2.5 metres in width Predominantly block paving Areas of tarmac and brick paving to west side of street
Boundaries	Attractive stone boundary wall to side of Paddy Byrne's butchers and to front of detached house
Street Furniture	Not applicable
Lighting	Hertiage lamps fixed to side of retail terrace on west side of street Projecting steel light on timber poles to lower end of street
Wirescape	No overground cables to upper end of street Suspended cables attached to timber poles to lower end of street
Trees	Decidious trees located throughout



Nugent Street West



Townscape Analysis



Typical Street Sections



Nugent Street East

3.6 Natural Heritage

The natural landscape of Kildare is defined by physical characteristics such as geology, soils and topography. The geology of the Kildare HLC study area comprises a carboniferous limestone bedrock with an inlier of Ordovician rock to the north west. Subsoils within and surrounding the study area include limestone dominated till, limestone sands and gravel (The Curragh), sandstone dominated till and surface bedrock (The Chair of Kildare). The topography of the area is characterised by undulating lowlands to the south, the plains of the Curragh and the rising lands at and ridges at Dunmurry, Grange Hill and Redhill.

The Kildare HLC study area can be divided into three distinct zones of natural heritage. The first and most notable of these is the Curragh, which is possibly the oldest and most extensive tract of semi-grassland in Europe. The second of these zones comprises Kildare Town itself and includes gardens, trees, hedgerows, grasslands and associated ecology. The third zone of natural heritage relates to the remainder of the study area and generally comprises agricultural lands, hedgerows and treelines, bog and woodland.

Each of these zones comprise sites and features which are of both natural and historic significance. An overview of these zones is given in the following sections.

The Curragh

This site is of national and international importance being an extensive open plain area of ancient lowland acid grassland, succeeding to dry heath in places. The Curragh has been grazed but unfertilised for hundreds and perhaps even thousands of years which has enabled rare fungi to establish itself here.

The Curragh is also of ornithological importance supporting populations of wintering Golden Plover, Lapwing, Meadow Spit and Skylark. Irish Hare was plentiful on the Curragh in the 17th and 18th centuries and are still evident on the site today.

The Curragh is a proposed National Heritage Area [Map 12]. The National Parks and Wildlife Service recognises the Curragh as possessing ‘a unique and somewhat intangible landscape quality, albeit somewhat compromised by various developments such as the military camp, racecourse complex, railway, motorway and power lines. Despite these, the site is of considerable natural heritage significance, for the diversity of habitats, plants, fungi and animals that it supports’.

Kildare Town

A habitats survey which included Kildare Town was undertaken in 2007. This survey identified a number of important sites within the town including:

- Lands at Magee Barracks comprising plants, insects and birds of local importance
- Dry calcareous grassland on an esker ridge on lands to the north east of Magee Barracks
- An abandoned field to the north of the railway line comprising scrub dominated by native species
- Railway embankment with species rich grassland and blackthorn scrub
- The railway corridor which passes through the town and provides an important habitat for songbirds, insects and native plants

The habitat survey included the preparation of a composite map which comprehensively describes the landscape in terms of its habitats. Kildare Town is largely categorised as comprising buildings and artificial surfaces, houses with small to large sized gardens and amenity grassland. Treelines and hedgerows are identified both within and on the outskirts of the town.

Hinterland

The remainder of the study area is largely characterised by a pastoral landscape comprising improved agricultural grassland, hedgerows and treelines. Mixed broadleaf woodland (The National Stud), conifer plantations and areas of bogland are also located to the south of the study area [Map 12].

Sites of ecological interest within this area include:

- A vegetated pond in the townland of Loughandy
- An old hedgerow on a bank and defining the townland boundary between the Curragh and Curraghfarm
- Scrub on the ringfort at Grey Abbey
- Woodland at Silliothill comprising hazel, hawthorn scrub and mature ash and containing badger sets and foxes
- Wet grassland at Tully East comprising a rich diversity of wet grassland species

Adjoining the study area, the Chair of Kildare / Grange Hill is of geological interest, being located within what is known as the Kildare Inlier, an area of ordovician bedrock extending from Dunmurry Hill to the Hill of Allen.

Both Grange Hill and the Hill of Allen may once have been volcanic islands in an Ordovician sea, and if not, would have at least formed seamounts within the Iapetus Ocean around 450 million years ago.

The Chair of Kildare site is rich in fossils including a wide variety of brachiopods, trilobites, gastropods and other marine invertebrates. The Chair of Kildare is the most important part of the Kildare inlier, and is a proposed National Heritage Area for its diverse geology and palaeontology.

3.7 Cultural Heritage

Whilst much of Kildare’s cultural heritage has been described in the previous sections, less tangible elements of cultural heritage such as placenames, notable figures and historic events are important features of a more abstract map of the landscape.

Placenames

Placenames provide an invaluable insight into the historical geography of a place, often referring to physical features of the landscape. Irish placenames are mainly derived from the Irish language and in this regard Kildare is no exception.

Kildare Town

The Irish name Cell Dara (church of the oak tree) was recorded in an annalist’s entry for A.D. 520. This name may refer to both pagan and Christian periods, the church being that of St. Brigid and the oak possibly marking a pagan shrine.

The name Druim Criaig, meaning ridge of clay, had previously been given to the site and refers to one of the defining physical features of the town.

Townlands

The townland system is one of Gaelic origin representing the most basic subdivision of land in Ireland, originally comprising the holding of an extended family. “*Townland names, like the landscape to which they relate, are precious records of the history, legends and mythology of their communities*” (Loughrey:1986).

The Kildare HLC study area comprises 38 townlands [Map 01]. For the greatest part, the townland names are of Gaelic origin with Norman and English townland names less frequently represented. A number of these townland names have been interpreted by Hopkins (2006):

Gaelic Townland Names

The Curragh - *Place of Horse Racing*

Tully - *The Little Hill*

Shanacloon - *The Old Meadow*

Fennor - *White Field*

Knockshough - *Hawk Hill*

Loughminane - *Lake of New Milk*

Cloughgarret - *Stone (or stone castle) of Garret*

Collaghknock - *The land at the back of the hill*
 Dunmurry - *Fort of Murray*
 Silliot (Sillagh) - *The place of the sallys (willows)*
 Kilnagornan - *The wood of the black smiths (possibly)*
 Loughandys - *The lake of the swamp (possibly)*
 Loughlion - *The lake of the children (possibly)*
 Duneany - *The fort of the swamp (possibly)*
 Rathwalkin - *Fort of Walkin (possibly)*

In most instances Norman townland names comprise a family name followed by the word town. Norman townlands within the study area include Curragh Farm, Strawhall, Grey Abbey, Maddenstown, Brallistown, Mooretown and Whitesland.

English townlands within the study area primarily refer to landscape features and include Kingsbog, Southgreen, Redhills, Blackmillers Hill. Newtown, a name typically associated with plantation or post plantation towns also occurs within the study area although no plantation town exists here.

Notable Figures

St. Brigid is undoubtedly the most well known historic figure associated with the town of Kildare and this association manifests itself in many forms. These include the cathedral and churches that take her name, the ruins of the fire house and the holy well to the south of the town.

Less obvious are the mythological associations between St. Brigid and sites such as the Curragh and Loughminane. In the case of the former, the King of Leinster is believed to have granted St. Brigid as much pastureland as her cloak would cover, which miraculously spread across the whole of the Curragh. At Loughminane, it is believed that upon the visit of eighteen bishops to Kildare, Brigid, having ran out of milk, prayed for help. Her prayers were answered by an angel who told her to milk the cows again. Upon doing so, the milk spilled over the tops of the vessels and created a loch or lake. Forever after the place was known as Loch Leamnachta or ‘lake of the new milk.’

Kildare Town was also the home of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who resided at the Leinster Lodge, located within the bawn of Kildare Castle, toward the end of the eighteenth century. Leader in the United Irishmen, Lord Edward Fitzgerald is commemorated by a bust on Market Square and a plaque erected at the Leinster Lodge.

Other notable figures associated with Kildare Town include Fr. Benjamin Broughall, a pilgrim to Rome

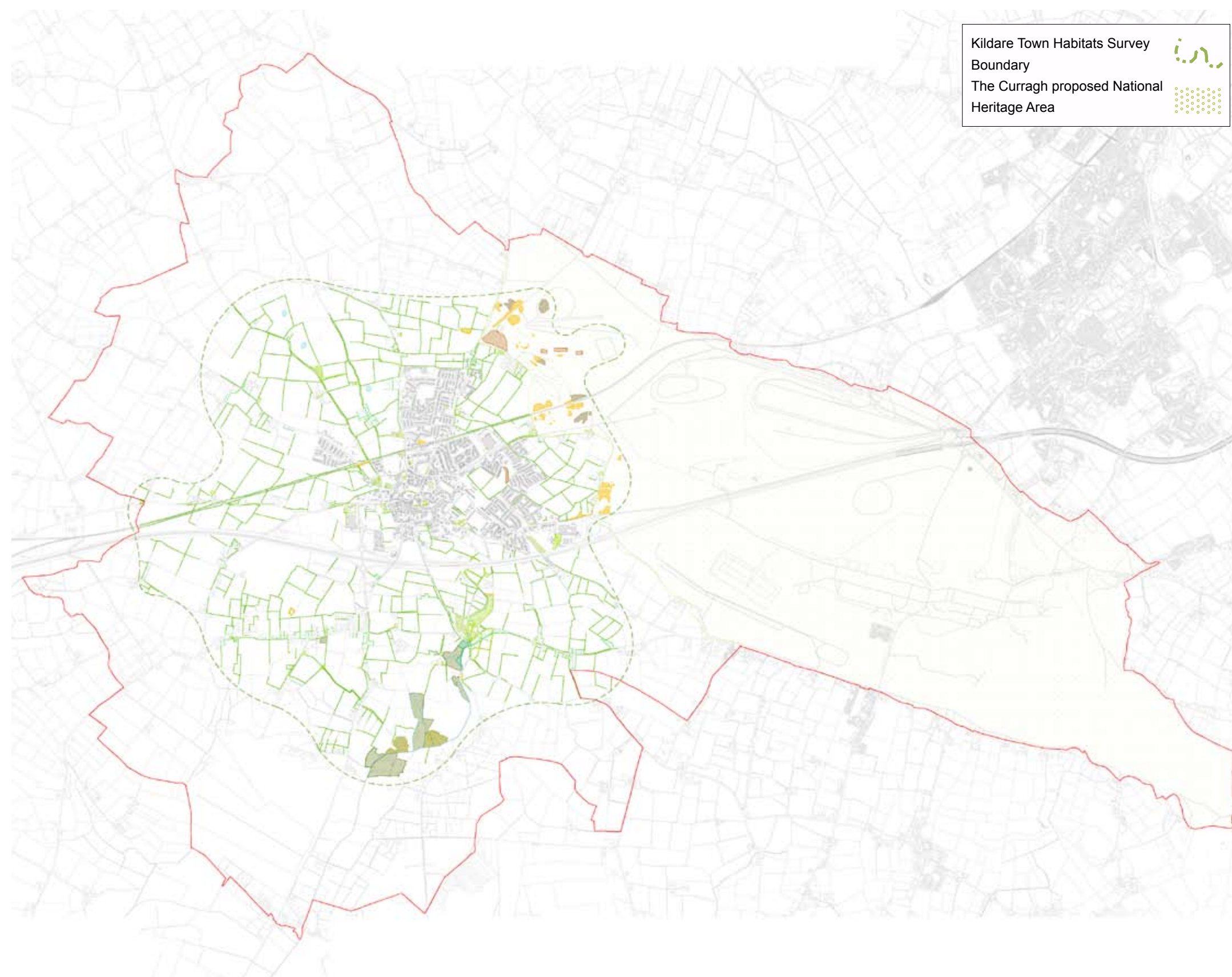
and the Holy Land who entered the monastery of Monte Casino in 1840. Fr. Broughall is believed to have been born on Bride Street where he is commemorated by a plaque today.

Historic Events

Historic events are often intangible in physical terms despite having a deep rooted association with the cultural landscape of a place.

This is the case of the Gibbet Rath Massacre which saw over 350 rebels slaughtered on the Curragh by British forces during the Irish Rebellion of 1798. The rebels, who had negotiated favourable surrender terms with a General Dundas, gave up their arms at Gibbet Rath only to be slaughtered under the orders of another general by the name of Duff. It is said that on one street of Kildare Town alone, 85 widows could be counted and that *'within a 10 mile radius of the Curragh, there was hardly a house or cottage that didn't have a father, brother or son killed'*. The victims of the massacre at Gibbet Rath are commemorated by a plaque on Market Square.

Another noted event of have taken place on the Curragh included a boxing fight between Daniel Donnelly and George Cooper, an English man, in the early nineteenth century. The fight took place in a natural hollow at the end of the Curragh, known at the time as Belcher's Hollow and frequently used for big prize fights. This fight is said to have lasted eleven rounds when Cooper was eventually defeated by Donnelly. The fight is commemorated by a monument at what is now known as Donnelly's Hollow and which reads *'Dan Donnelly beat Cooper on this spot 13th Dec. 1815'*.



Map 12_Natural Heritage

4.0 Historic Landscape Types

The identification of historic landscape types within the Kildare HLC study area is the principal output of this project. These landscape types are electronically recorded as a data base in a Geographic Information System which can be referenced against other data bases such as land use zoning objectives.

The historic landscape character types are largely defined by the Heritage Council HLC Guidance document with additional types being identified in the course of this project as necessary. These types reflect natural and man-made features of historic interest such as those discussed in the previous sections, as well as buildings or landscapes of less historic value. As such, a composite overview of the historic character of the entire study area is established.

4.1 Description and Assessment of Historic Landscape Character Types

In total 58 no. historic landscape types were identified within the study area [Maps 13A & 13B]. Each type has been assigned a unique ID e.g. UMEC. Each type has been assessed in terms of its historic significance and value and has been rated accordingly (Low, Moderate or High significance / value). The sensitivity of each character type to change has also been rated as either Vulnerable, Sensitive or Robust. Finally, each character type is assessed in terms of pressure to change which is also rated as being Low, Moderate or High.

Each historic character type, its historic value, sensitivity and pressure to change is described in the following sections. These findings are summarised in Table 1.

UMEC_Monastic / Early Christian Core

This character type is defined by the church wall of St. Brigid's Cathedral and is the probable location of St. Brigid's Early Christian foundation. Despite having undergone continuous development during the medieval and modern period, the site retains strong associations with its Early Christian origins.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value being the likely centre of the Early Christian foundation of St. Brigid.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the sensitivity of both existing and potential archaeology on the site.

This character type is currently under HIGH pressure to change. Whilst the current use of the site is

compatible with this character type, development outside this character type has the potential to detract from the townscape values and in particular views of the site which are a defining characteristic of the town.

UMMT_Motte and Bailey or Tower House Complex
This character type is defined by the remains of Kildare Castle and its associated defences, located to the east of Market Square.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, dating from Medieval times and having a rich Anglo Norman history.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change due to the ongoing development of surrounding sites and modifications to surviving features such as the gate house.

UMMP_Market Place

This character type is located to the south east of St. Brigid's Cathedral and is defined on all sides by buildings of post medieval origin. The square itself may once have been occupied by a block of medieval buildings. A market house is located to the centre of the square.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, being located within a zone of archaeological sensitivity, and having evolved during medieval and modern times as the principal market space in the town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, its boundaries and character being defined by surrounding historic buildings of architectural merit as well as being located within an area of archaeological sensitivity.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change. Whilst retaining its function as the commercial core of the town, the vitality of this character type is threatened by out of town developments. The historic fabric of this character type is also threatened by alterations to existing buildings and in particular those which are not protected structures.

UMBP_Medieval Burgage Plots

This character type fronts onto Claregate Street, Market Square and Dublin Street and although now defined by eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth

century buildings, largely retains the configuration of burgage plots established during the medieval period. These plots are particularly evident on the south side of Dublin Street and Market Square. This character type is also notable for its collection of post medieval market town buildings which are of architectural significance.

Where medieval plots have been significantly reconfigured they have not been included within this character type.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, being located within a zone of archaeological sensitivity and comprising an important characteristic of the medieval settlement. The buildings which occupy these plots are also of HIGH historic significance and value, testifying to the development of Kildare as a market town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change as the plots and associated boundaries are modified. The historic buildings associated with these plots are also SENSITIVE to change, being of architectural merit and collectively forming the historic streets and spaces of the town.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change. The amalgamation of plots and modifications to the boundaries associated with this character type threaten its historic value. The historic fabric of this character type is also threatened by alterations to existing buildings and in particular those which are not protected structures.

UPPL_Planned Post Medieval Urban Expansion

This character type occurs at Dublin Street, Bride Street, White Abbey Road and the Monasterevin Road. These areas are located outside the medieval core but generally consist of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings similar to those that characterise the town centre.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, testifying to the expansion of Kildare as a market town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of architectural merit and which contribute to the townscape of Kildare.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change arising from pressures to redevelop or modernise, particularly where buildings are not protected.

UPOP_Post Medieval Urban Open Space, Greens and Parks

This character type occurs at St. Brigid's Square which was the location of a pound and fair green in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The square is defined by the intersection of several routes including Grey Abbey Road and Tully Road. The edges of the square are defined by loosely arranged buildings including St. Brigid's R.C. Church.

This character type also occurs at the junction of Shraud and Station Road, where the fair green was located in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This area survives today in the form of a residential amenity area.

A third example of this character type occurs at St. Brigid's Park, to the north of the town. This space is likely to have been developed in the early twentieth century and now comprises playing fields and a spectators stand.

The town park and the green at Campion Crescent have also been included within this category.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, testifying to the agricultural associations and recreational requirements of the town.

This character type is ROBUST to change, comprising established appropriate uses which retain a sense of the historic function of these sites. Unlike Market Square, surrounding buildings are to a lesser extent a defining feature of these spaces and changes to these buildings would not necessarily detract from the historic value of this character type.

This character type is generally under LOW pressure to change, having limited development potential. Of the sites identified, St. Brigid's Square is under most pressure to change due to the more central location and development potential of surrounding sites.

DRCH_Church Complex

This character type is located at St. Mary's Carmelite Church, White Abbey and is located on the site of a former Carmelite Abbey known as White Abbey. A priory is situated to the south of the church, both of which are of architectural value. A cemetery is located to the south of the priory and church.

This character type is also located at St. Brigid's R.C. Church to the south of the town. This site comprises the church and convent buildings to the rear, both of which are of historic and architectural value.

A third example of this character type is located at the Curragh Camp in the form of St. Brigid's R.C. Church, a modern building constructed in 1958. This building is an integral component of the Curragh Camp complex.

This character type also occurs as St. Brigid's Cathedral which has been categorised as a Monastic / Early Christian Core due to its earlier associations.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, testifying to the religious communities of Kildare Town and the Curragh Camp.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change, comprising buildings of architectural value and in some instances sites of archaeological sensitivity. St. Mary's Carmelite Church is particularly vulnerable, being located on the site of an earlier medieval monastery.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, comprising long established uses which are consistent with the original function of associated buildings. However, the townscape value of St. Mary's Carmelite Church and to a lesser extent St. Brigid's Church are under High pressure to change arising from the development potential of surrounding sites.

DRMO_Monastic Establishment

This character type occurs at Grey Abbey on Grey Abbey Road to the south of the town and Black Abbey at Tully. Both of these sites are of historical and archaeological significance, comprising the remains of chapel and a cemetery.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance, comprising the remains of medieval abbeys established during the thirteenth century.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the archaeological sensitivity of associated sites.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, the historic and archaeological significance of these sites being recognised and surviving features preserved.

DRPS_Pilgrimage Site

This character type is located at St. Brigid's Well, Tully. This well is reputedly a 'healing well' and is still a popular place of pilgrimage where healing liturgies are often held. Various artworks including a statue of St. Brigid have been erected on the site.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, having long established cultural associations with St. Brigid.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising a natural well being of hydrogeological interest set in the rural landscape of Tully.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change due to its rural location and established use.

DCCR_Rural Cemetery (With or without former church)

This character type occurs on the Dunmurry Road and the Curragh. The cemetery on Dunmurry Road was developed in the twentieth century whilst the military cemetery at the Curragh was established in the later half of the nineteenth century and was last used in 1922. The remains of a mortuary chapel also survive here. A third cemetery is located to the north of the town adjoining Dunmurry House where a church had previously existed.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, comprising both modern and historic burial grounds.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to the physical nature and cultural importance of these sites.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, retaining its intended use. Both historic cemeteries are located in robust landscapes. The modern cemetery at Dunmurry is located within the town boundary and is likely to be enveloped in the course of future expansion.

UVTR_General Victorian Terraced Housing

This character type occurs on Claregate Street, Cleamore Road (Cleamore Terrace) and at Shraud (Fairview Cottages) as well as Magee Barracks (Magee Terrace) and the Curragh Camp (The Hill, Nurses' Homes and 3 no. unnamed terraces).

This character type generally comprises a linear terrace of houses constructed in brick and having the characteristics of the Victorian period.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, testifying to the ongoing development of Kildare Town and the Curragh Camp during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to the architectural value of associated buildings.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its historic use and character but often subject to modernisation and modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UVVL_Victorian and Edwardian Suburban Villas

This character type occurs most frequently along approach roads and includes out of town residences and associated curtilage constructed for the professional classes and military officers. Examples of these buildings include St. Jude's House, Valetta House and Abbey House and the lodges to the east of the town off the Curragh Road. These buildings are of architectural merit comprising a quality of design and craftsmanship typical of the period.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the housing preferences of the growing professional class in Kildare Town during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to the architectural value of associated buildings.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UVSC_Victorian Schools

This character type occurs at the Kildare Convent National School and the De La Salle Brother's School. These schools are designed as free standing buildings in the Victorian style and display a quality of architecture and craftsmanship.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of educational facilities within the town during the nineteenth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to the architectural value of associated buildings.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its historic use and character but often subject to modernisation and modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UVHP_Hospital

This character type occurs at the junction of Dublin Street and Meadow Road and comprises the former County Infirmary building which is now the Derby House Hotel.

This character type also occurs at the Curragh Camp complex and comprises an impressive Victorian hospital building of both architectural merit and historic significance.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of health facilities within Kildare Town and at the Curragh Camp.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, retaining its character generally although undergoing some modernisation.

UTTR_Mid 20th Century Terraced Housing

This character type occurs on Station Road and Leinster walk and comprises private terraced housing constructed in the early to mid 20th century. These terraces are designed as composite pieces and display many of the characteristics of early English suburban housing. These buildings are of some architectural interest.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting developments in the construction and style of houses in the early to mid twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings and building groups of architectural interest.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UTSB_Mid 20th Century Suburban Estate

This character type is located at Rowanville, off the Curragh Road, and comprises early to mid twentieth century local authority sponsored housing. This estate is of architectural merit comprising a well considered layout and a level of craftsmanship typical of local authority housing constructed at this time.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the early development of local authority estates on the outskirts of the town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UTVL_Mid 20th Century Villas

This character type is located on the north side of the Monasterevin Road and on Frenchfurze Road and comprises detached houses and associated curtilage constructed in the English suburban style. These houses are of some architectural merit displaying a quality of design and construction specific to the early / mid twentieth century.

This character type is of MODERATE historic value and significance, reflecting the development of private houses in the English suburban style during the early to mid twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UTSC_Mid 20th Century School

This character type occurs at Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Bríd on Convent Road. These school is utilitarian in design reflecting modern influences in architecture at the time.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the growing demand for educational facilities within the town during the early to mid twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to the architectural value of associated buildings.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its historic use and character but subjected to modernisation and modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

UTWS_Inner Urban Workshops and Light Industry

This character type is located at the junction of Bride Street and Bangup Lane and comprises the former Kildare Chilling Company building which is no longer in use.

This character type is of MODERATE historic interest representing an important industry associated with the town during the mid twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, being of some architectural interest.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change, comprising a town centre site with significant development potential.

URSB_Late 20th - 21st Century Estates

This character type primarily occurs to the north and east of Kildare Town centre and comprises a number of public and private housing estates including Lourdesville, Elm Park, Assumpta Villas, Woodside Park, Maryville, Melitta Park, The Plains, Coolaghknock, Ruanbeg, Curragh Finn, Rathbride, North Glebe, Loughminane Green, Bishopsland, Crockanure, Dunmurry Drive, Dunmurry Court and Dunmurry Rise.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, comprising recently constructed estates on the outskirts of the town of limited architectural value.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising late twentieth / early twenty first century housing of an established residential character and amenity.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, retaining its use and generally satisfying its intended function.

URVL_Late 20th - 21st Century Villas

This character type occurs most frequently along approach roads and back roads outside the town centre. These houses are characterised by individual designs set back from the road and surrounded by landscaped gardens. In certain locations these houses occur in continuous strips of more than half a kilometer in length, forming ribbon development.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, comprising late twentieth and early twenty first century private housing of limited architectural value.

This character type is ROBUST to change due to the individual design of associated buildings and their limited architectural value.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, retaining its use and satisfying its intended function.

URSC_School

This character type occurs at Academy Street, Grey Abbey Road and Priest's Lane. This character type is

defined by school buildings and associated curtilage constructed during the late 20th century.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, representing the development of school facilities during the late 20th century.

This character type is ROBUST to change, having limited architectural value.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, generally retaining its use and satisfying its intended function. The amalgamation of schools may result in increased pressure to change due to the central location of these sites.

URSH_In Town Shopping Centres

This character type occurs on the south side of Claregate Street and comprises a large mixed-use building with retail units fronting onto Claregate Street and apartments overhead. This centre was constructed in the late 20th century / early 21st century and has a strong visual presence on the skyline of the town.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, comprising a recently constructed mixed use development of limited architectural value.

This character type is ROBUST to change, having the capacity to accommodate various retail and commercial uses.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use.

URTR_Late 20th - 21st Century Terraces

This character type occurs on the Monasterevin Road, Cleamore Road, White Abbey Road, Firecastle Lane, Hospital Street, Nugent Street and at Shraud and comprises terraces of mixed use and residential use. These terraces are of varying design which generally attempt to emulate historic building forms.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, comprising late twentieth / early twenty first century terraces of limited architectural value.

This character type is generally ROBUST to change, having the capacity to accommodate various uses whilst retaining its existing form and character.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use.

URCO_Late 20th - 21st Century Commercial Premises

This character type occurs within the town centre and includes a funeral home on St. Brigid's Square, the Credit Union on Bride Street, Kelliher Opticians on Claregate Street and the Esso Station on Station Road. These buildings are generally of limited architectural value.

This character type is of LOW historic value, comprising commonplace commercial buildings of limited architectural value.

This character type ROBUST to change, having limited architectural value.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use.

URGS_Later 20th - 21st Century Garda Station

This character type occurs on Dublin Street on the site of a nineteenth century school (no longer extant). The station is a free standing building of modern design and construction with mature trees and an attractive stone wall to the front.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of community services within the town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of limited architectural value but making an important contribution to the streetscape.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use.

ILLT_Light Industry

This character type occurs in small parcels dispersed throughout the town and generally comprises a small industrial building and associated forecourt / yard fronting onto the road. These units can be found on the Curragh Road (Heffernan Tyres), Shraud (M&C Joinery), Pigeon Lane (InGraph Design) and the Monasterevin Road (Kennedy Car Sales).

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value generally comprising late twentieth century and early twenty first century structures of limited architectural value.

This character type is ROBUST to change, being of limited architectural and townscape value.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, existing buildings satisfying their intended function. In a more buoyant economy, this character

type is likely to come under HIGH pressure to change given the location and development potential of the associated sites.

ILWR_Warehousing and Distribution

This character type occurs at the Whitesland West Business Park on the Monasterevin Road and the former Wallpaper Factory, also located on the Monasterevin Road. The former comprises a group of double height industrial buildings with surface car park. Kildare Builder's Providers, Top Oil Depot, M.S. Tyres and Kildare Tool Hire are currently located at this park. The scale and form of buildings found here are negative features on the landscape, particularly when viewed from the road.

The Wallpaper Factory is now in use as a wholesalers although retaining the character of a factory building. This building is of architectural interest.

This character type is of LOW to MODERATE historic significance and value, comprising a recently developed business park and the wall paper factory. The latter, having accommodated an important local industry for the greatest part of the twentieth century is of some historical interest.

This character type ranges from ROBUST to SENSITIVE to change, the Wall Paper Factory being of architectural interest and less adaptable to alternative uses.

This character type is under LOW to MODERATE pressure to change. The Whitesland West Business Park comprises buildings capable of providing for a variety of uses in their current form. The wallpaper factory is less flexible in form and given its location is likely to come under development pressure in the medium to long term.

ILSH_Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks

This character type is located to the south west of Kildare Town off the M7 motorway and comprises the Kildare Village Outlet Centre and associated car parking. This development is visually prominent from the M7 and is characterised by low rise buildings surrounded by a large area of surface car parking.

This character type also occurs on Hospital Street, the Curragh Road, Grey Abbey Road and the Monasterevin Road in the form of supermarkets and car showrooms.

This character type is of LOW historic value and significance, having been constructed in the early twenty first century.

This character type is ROBUST to change, being of limited architectural and townscape value.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use and realising the commercial potential of associated sites.

ICFP_Food Processing

This character type is located on the Curragh Road and comprises a complex of industrial and office buildings associated with the Kildare Chilling Company. This complex is visually prominent on both the Curragh Road and the M7 although the siting of buildings and surrounding soft landscaping reduce the overall impact of the development.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, having been developed in the late twentieth and early twenty first century. This character type is ROBUST to change, being of limited architectural value.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use and realising the commercial potential of the site.

ILEN_Enterprise

This character type is located on Melitta Road and comprises a building of some architectural merit constructed in the latter half of the twentieth century.

This character type also occurs on the Monasterevin Road where Modus Link have developed a modern office building.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting investment in the local economy and job creation in the latter half of the twentieth century.

This character type is ROBUST to change, having the potential to accommodate a variety of uses in its current form.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, satisfying its intended use, being removed from the town centre and of relatively recent construction.

UEEL_Electricity Substations

This character type occurs on the South Green Road and comprises a single storey building of masonry construction with slate gable ended roof. The site is of some technical interest, testifying to the roll out of a national electricity grid in the twentieth century. This character type also occurs at St. Brigid's Square where an Electric Power House now accommodates

St. Brigid's C.Y.M.S. The power house became obsolete when Kildare Town was connected to the national grid.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance, comprising a building type and use of some technical interest. The Kildare Town Power House is of greater interest, constructed in the early twentieth century and testifying to the early electrification of the town.

This character type is ROBUST to change, having limited architectural value.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, either retaining its intended use or adapting to community use.

UTSW_Sewerage and Drainage Facilities

This character type is located to the south east of the town centre and to the north of the National Stud at Tully. The sewage plant is set back from the Tully Road and is screened by the surrounding landscape.

This character type is of MODERATE historic value, representing the development of the town's sewage treatment infrastructure in the early twentieth century and providing for the needs of the towns' growing population.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to its rural location and to a lesser extent its technical interest.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change arising from the demand for increased sewage treatment capacity.

UTFS_Fire Station

This character type occurs at the Curragh Camp complex. This building is an attractive landmark structure of architectural merit.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, reflecting the development of permanent military camp on the Curragh.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, being of architectural interest.

This character type is currently under LOW pressure to change, retaining and satisfying its intended use.

CLRD_Roads and Services

This character type relates to the road network within the study area. These roads vary in terms of historic value, comprising medieval approach roads, planned post medieval roads and the motorway.

This character type varies from LOW to MODERATE historic significance and value, comprising routes likely to have been established in medieval times and more recently developed road infrastructure. Both the M7 and historic radial routes are considered of moderate historic value having regard to their role in the development of the town.

This character type varies from ROBUST to SENSITIVE to change. Recently established routes such as the M7 are robust to change, having limited amenity qualities. Historic routes such as the Southgreen Road are sensitive to change as their character is derived from natural and man made features such as boundaries, hedgerows and trees as well as views across the landscape and towards the town of Kildare.

This character type is under LOW to HIGH pressure to change. Whilst recently constructed routes such as the M7 satisfy their intended use, older routes and in particular those to the north of the town where existing and future residential development is most likely to occur are under high pressure to change in terms of their defining characteristics.

CLRY_Railway and Associated Marshalling Yards Etc.

This character type comprises the Southern and Western Railway Line, Kildare Station and associated railway structures. This character type crosses the Curragh and passes through the northern fringes of modern day Kildare where the railway station is located.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, representing the development of the railway network during the nineteenth century.

This character type ranges from SENSITIVE to ROBUST to change, comprising buildings and structures of architectural value such as Kildare railway station and the less sensitive railway routes.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, satisfying its intended use. Kildare railway station may be subject some development pressures relating to improvements of the station services.

MSBM_Military Barracks (Modern Post WWI)

This character type occurs at Magee Barracks on the eastern outskirts of Kildare Town centre. Although established prior to WWI, the surviving barrack buildings are later in date and relate to a period when the barracks had been taken over by the Irish Free State. This barracks is of historical interest as well as comprising some buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, reflecting a period when the Irish Army and previously the Royal Forces were based in the town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising some buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change. Magee Barracks has been derelict for some time and has been the subject of several major redevelopment plans in the early twenty first century. Although these plans were never realised, the site continues to be the preferred location of future development within the town.

MSBV_Military Barracks (Victorian Pre WWI)
This character type occurs at the Curragh Camp and comprises a complex of barrack buildings including Plunkett, Connolly, Ceannt, Clarke, McDermott, McDonagh and Pearse Barracks. These buildings, named after leaders executed during the 1916 Rising, are of both architectural and historic interest.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, testifying to the presence of the Royal Forces on the Curragh during the nineteenth and twentieth century.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change, comprising buildings, building groups and structures of architectural value.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, surviving buildings continuing to perform military related uses. This character type is subject to some pressures to change the fabric associated with these buildings.

MSRR_Military Rifle Range
This character type is located to the south east of the military camp and comprises rifle ranges associated with the Curragh Camp.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value forming part of the Curragh Camp and having been established in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the archaeological sensitivity and unique natural landscape of the Curragh.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change arising from its status as a place of environmental and archaeological importance.

MSUD_Military Camp Undefined
This character type relates to military support facilities at the Curragh Camp that have not been surveyed in detail as part of this study. These facilities include a diversity of building types and styles which are of both historic and architectural interest, reflecting the development of the camp over the nineteenth and twentieth century.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, reflecting the development of a permanent camp on the Curragh since the latter half of the nineteenth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of cultural, technical and architectural significance.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, buildings generally being retaining their use but often subjected to modifications to their original fabric.

RSST_Sports Stadia
This character type occurs to the north of Kildare Town centre at St. Brigid's Park. The park comprises a playing pitch with a recently constructed stand to the east. A pavilion building dating from the early twentieth century is situated to the north east corner of the park which is identified on the 1935 Ordnance Survey of the town. The site is surrounded by mature hedgerows and trees.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, representing the development of sporting facilities in the town in the twentieth century.

This character type is ROBUST to change, being of limited architectural or landscape value.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, retaining and satisfying its intended use.

RSPF_Playing Fields
This character type occurs on the Rathbride Road and in the townland of Dunmurry East where the Kildare Football Club and the Cill Dara Rugby Football Club have their facilities respectively. This character type also occurs to the rear of second level schools on Academy Street.

The Kildare Football Club comprises a clubhouse with two full size pitches and two all weather 6-a-side pitches with floodlights. The Cill Dara Rugby Club comprises four full size rugby pitches, two of which

have floodlights. There is no significant infrastructure associated with the playing fields associated with the secondary level schools on Academy Street.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, having been established in the early twenty first century and being typical of sporting facilities developed in towns throughout the country.

This character type varies from SENSITIVE to ROBUST to change. The Cill Dara Rugby Club, being located in the hinterland of the town, is a component of the rural landscape and as such is sensitive to change. The Kildare Football Club is located on the periphery of Kildare Town and as such has the potential to absorb development more easily. The school playing fields are located close to the town centre with good potential to absorb urban expansion.

This character type is current under LOW to HIGH pressure to change. The playing fields at Dunmurry and Rathbride generally satisfy their intended use. The school playing fields are under high pressure to change due to their town centre zoning and strategic location.

RSRC_Race Course
This character type occurs on the northern periphery of the Curragh and comprises the Curragh Race Course. The first ever-Irish Derby took place in 1866 on the Curragh and since then the majority of the most prestigious flat races in the Irish racing calendar take place on the Curragh. The race course includes a stand and exercise tracks and occupies a significant area of the Curragh.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, having been established in the seventeenth century and being an important component of Kildare's equestrian and cultural heritage.

This character type is VULNERABLE to development, being located on the archaeological and environmentally sensitive Curragh plains.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change in order to meet the growing requirements of the horse racing industry.

RSGC_Golf Course
This character type occurs on the eastern side of the Curragh Camp where golf has been played since the mid nineteenth century. The course and associated club developed in 1883 have been

redeveloped several times in the course of its history. New clubhouses were built in 1912 and in 1942 and extensive renovations were carried out in 1963. In 1993 virtually the entire clubhouse was re-built on the existing site.

A second golf course known as Cill Dara golf club is located on the north western side of the Curragh. Founded in 1920, the club comprises a 9 hole golf course and modern club house.

This character type also occurs in the townland of Rahilla Glebe, on the Dunmurry Road. Situated on elevated lands, the Dunmurry Golf Course comprises an 18 hole golf course and club house with adjoining surface car parking developed in the early twenty first century.

This character type is of LOW to MODERATE historic significance and value. The golf club at the Curragh is of historic interest being the oldest golf club in Ireland. The Cill Dara golf course is of less historic significance and value, having been developed in the early twentieth century. The golf course at Dunmurry is of limited historic interest having been recently developed and being typical of golf courses throughout the country.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the sensitive location of all three courses. The Curragh and Cill Dara golf courses are located on the archaeological and environmentally sensitive Curragh plains. The Dunmurry golf course forms part of the rural landscape which has a pastoral character sensitive to change.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use. Some pressure may result from demand for improved facilities associated with these courses.

SFCH_Historic Farm Complex
This character type comprises farm houses and associated buildings of eighteenth and nineteenth century origin. These character types are loosely distributed on a townland basis, often comprising secondary modest farmsteads maintained by tenants or subtenants. Many of these farm complexes are now associated with stud farms.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, comprising houses and out buildings which reflect the vernacular architecture of the area.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings and building groups of architectural interest.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

SSCT_Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Cottages
This character type generally occurs on the approach roads to Kildare Town and comprises eighteenth and nineteenth century roadside cottages of modest scale and constructed of rubble stone.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance, comprising the most common form of dwelling constructed during the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, being of architectural interest and representative of vernacular architecture.

This character type is under MODERATE to HIGH pressure to change, often considered incapable of meeting modern living requirements.

SSLA_Local Authority Cottages
This character type relates to local authority cottages constructed on approach roads, Newtown cross roads, Fair Green Cottages and at Campion Crescent in the early to mid twentieth century. These cottages are of varying design but are generally consistent in their architectural treatment and construction. They are of some architectural interest, particularly where the original fabric has been retained. They are of social and historical interest reflecting the role of the State in the provision of housing in the early twentieth century.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, representing the role of the local authority in the provision of housing in the early twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings of architectural interest.

This character type is currently under MODERATE pressure to change, retaining its historic use and character but often subjected to modernisation and in particular modifications to the fabric of associated buildings.

SFCM_Modern Farm Complex
This character type comprises modern farm complexes which have developed on new sites or replaced older farm complexes. These complexes often comprise a residence and farm buildings

such as a hay barn. Many of the newly established complexes are equestrian related.

This character type is of LOW historic significance, having been established in the twentieth century.

This character type is ROBUST to change, comprising buildings of limited architectural value.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use and being located in rural areas under low development pressure.

FSMD_Medium Straight Bounded Fields
This character type does not occur often with the study area which is a reflection of historic land tenures as well as the practice of amalgamating enclosures. At Beech Park, in the townland of Dunmurry West, a concentration of this character type and labourers cottages is likely to reflect the redistribution of land and construction of dwellings by the Land Commission.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting post medieval agricultural practices and land divisions.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising agricultural lands and associated boundaries which contribute to the pastoral landscape that defines Kildare's hinterland.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change arising from the practice of amalgamating fields and removing associated boundaries.

FSLG_Large Straight Bounded Fields
This character type is a common feature of Kildare Towns' hinterland. These post medieval fields are likely to be several hundred years old and are an important part of Kildare's rural heritage. The greatest concentration of these field types can be found in the townlands of Fennor, Mooretown, Tully East, Southgreen and Dunmurry East.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting post medieval agricultural practices and land divisions.

This character type varies from VULNERABLE to SENSITIVE to change, comprising agricultural lands and associated boundaries which contribute to the pastoral landscape that defines Kildare's hinterland. Where these lands are located on the periphery of Kildare Town, they are less vulnerable to change,

having the potential to integrate with the urban footprint of the town.

This character type is under LOW to HIGH pressure to change. Pressure to change arises where lands have been zoned for development on the periphery of Kildare Town.

FMOD_Fields Resulting from 20th Century Reorganisation of Boundary Removal
This character type represents the majority of agricultural land within the study area. Whilst most of the post-medieval field boundaries are retained, the amalgamation of fields has resulted in the formation of significantly larger enclosures than those originally developed. Notwithstanding this, the surviving boundaries continue to be of historic and landscape value, retaining the overall character of post-medieval field systems and associated hedgerows, trees and tree groups.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance, retaining some post medieval boundaries.

This character type varies from VULNERABLE to SENSITIVE to change, comprising the remaining framework of post medieval boundaries which contribute to the pastoral landscape that defines Kildare's hinterland. Where these lands are located on the periphery of Kildare Town, they are less vulnerable to change, having the potential to integrate with the urban footprint of the town.

This character type is under LOW to HIGH pressure to change. Pressure to change arises where lands have been zoned for development on the periphery of Kildare Town.

FHLD_Ladder Farms - Strip Holdings with Regular Fields along Replanned Roads and Linear Farmsteads

This character type occurs in the townlands of Crossmorris, Mooretown and Kilnagornan and comprises rectilinear fields along planned roads. Whilst only a small number of the original field enclosures survive, the overall framework of boundaries associated with these ladder farms is still recognisable and contrasts with the less regular enclosures of surrounding areas.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting post medieval agricultural practices and land divisions.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change, comprising field enclosures of a distinct pattern, particularly where found in high concentrations.

This character type is under HIGH pressure to change due to the small nature of associated field enclosures which tend to be amalgamated.

FOSF_Horse Breeding Stud Farms and Paddocks
This character type occurs throughout the study area and includes historic stud farms as well as those established in modern times. For the purposes of this study stud farms have not been differentiated from farm complexes with the exception of the National Stud at Tully, which is of national significance. Furthermore, this character type does not include all lands within the ownership of the National Stud but rather the nucleus of the farm and adjoining paddocks, which are distinctive from historic enclosures.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of a National Stud in the early twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising buildings and gardens of architectural and landscape value.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended uses.

OCCO_Open Lowland Grazing Commons
This character types primarily occurs at the Curragh, which has been in use as commonage since early medieval times. The Curragh commons is of natural, cultural and archaeological significance.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value. This character type comprises high concentrations of archaeology, some of which dates from the Neolithic Period. This character type also has historic cultural associations with St. Brigid, Fionn MacCumhaill and the Fianna dating back to the early medieval period.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the archaeological sensitivity and unique natural landscape of the Curragh.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change arising from its status as a place of environmental and archaeological importance. However some activity on the Curragh has the potential to impact negatively on the site.

BREN_Lowland Raised Bog Enclosed / Drained
This character type occurs to the south of Kildare Town in the townland of Kingsbog or Common. Part of this bogland has been drained and planted with conifers in the course of the twentieth century.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, comprising bogland which was formed over several thousand years.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to its natural make up and archaeology and ecology located within its boundary.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, the value of bogland being recognised in the county development plan but having been planted with conifers in the past.

TPFO_Large Forestry Conifer Plantations (post mid 19th Century)

This character type occurs in the townlands of Kingsbog or Common and to the south of the townlands of Tully West and Tully East. This character type comprises conifer plantation developed in the mid twentieth century.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, being typical of afforestation practices during the mid to late twentieth century,

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, being characterised by tree plantations which support certain ecology.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change arising from the felling of trees and changes in afforestation practices.

TPSC_Small Forestry Conifer Plantations (post mid 19th Century)

This character type occurs to the south of the townlands of Brallistown, Tully West and Tully East. This character type comprises conifer plantation developed in the mid twentieth century.

This character type is of LOW historic significance and value, being typical of afforestation practices during the mid to late twentieth century,

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, being characterised by tree plantations which support certain ecology.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change arising from the felling of trees and changes in afforestation practices.

TPBM_Broadleaf and Mixed Plantation (Post 19th Century)

This character type occurs primarily at Sillothill and the National Stud Farm at Tully. The broadleaf woodland at Sillothill developed around abandoned

quarries in the nineteenth or possibly early twentieth century. The site is recorded as a fox covert on the second and third edition ordnance survey maps. The woodland at the National Stud is likely to have been developed in the early twentieth century when the lands were purchased by Colonel William Hall-Walker.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting developments in the natural landscape in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising trees and ecology of natural heritage.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change, being removed from the development pressures associated with the town and being recognised as being of value.

Table 1_Historic Landscape Character Types

Historic Landscape Character Type		Historic Significance and Value	Sensitivity to Change	Pressure to Change
UMEC	Monastic / Early Christian Core	HIGH	VULNERABLE	HIGH
UMMT	Motte and Bailey or Tower House Complex	HIGH	VULNERABLE	MODERATE
UMMP	Market Place	HIGH	SENSITIVE	HIGH
UMBP	Medieval Burgage Plots	HIGH	SENSITIVE	HIGH
UPPL	Planned Post Medieval Urban Expansion	HIGH	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UPOP	Post medieval Urban Open Space, Greens and Parks	MODERATE	ROBUST	LOW
DRCH	Church Complex	HIGH	VULNERABLE	LOW
DRMO	Monastic Establishment	HIGH	VULNERABLE	LOW
DRPS	Pilgrimage Site	HIGH	SENSITIVE	LOW
DCCR	Rural Cemetery (With or without former church)	HIGH	SENSITIVE	LOW
UVTR	General Victorian Terraced Housing	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UVVL	Victorian and Edwardian Suburban Villas	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UVSC	Victorian and Edwardian Schools	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UVHP	Victorian and Edwardian Hospitals	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UTTR	Mid 20th Century Terraced Housing	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UTSB	Mid 20th Century Suburban Estate	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UTVL	Mid 20th Century Villas	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UTSC	Mid 20th Century School	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
UTWS	Inner Urban Workshops and Light Industry	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	HIGH
URSB	Late 20th - 21st Century Suburban Estates	LOW	SENSITIVE	LOW
URVL	Late 20th - 21st Century Villas	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
URSC	School	MODERATE	ROBUST	MODERATE
URSH	In Town Shopping Centres	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
URTR	Late 20th - 21st Century Terraces	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
URCO	Late 20th - 21st Century Commercial Premises	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
URGS	Late 20th - 21st Century Garda Station	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW
ILLT	Light Industry	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
ILWR	Warehousing and Distribution	LOW to MODERATE	SENSITIVE to ROBUST	LOW to MODERATE
ILSH	Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks	LOW	ROBUST	LOW

Table 1 Contd._Historic Landscape Character Types				
Historic Landscape Character Type		Historic Significance and Value	Sensitivity to Change	Pressure to Change
ICFP	Food Processing	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
ILEN	Enterprise Units	MODERATE	ROBUST	LOW
UEEL	Electricity Substations	MODERATE	ROBUST	LOW
UTSW	Sewerage and Drainage Facilities	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	HIGH
UTFS	Fire Station	HIGH	SENSITIVE	LOW
CLRD	Roads and Services	LOW to MODERATE	ROBUST to SENSITIVE	LOW to HIGH
CLRY	Railway and Associated Marshalling Yards Etc.	HIGH	SENSITIVE to ROBUST	LOW
MSBV	Military Barracks (Victorian Pre WWI)	HIGH	VULNERABLE	MODERATE
MSBM	Military Barracks (Modern Post WWI)	HIGH	SENSITIVE	LOW to HIGH
MSRR	Military Rifle Range	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	LOW
MSUD	Military Camp Undefined	HIGH	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
RSST	Sports Stadia	MODERATE	ROBUST	LOW to HIGH
RSPF	Playing Fields	LOW	SENSITIVE	LOW
RSRC	Race Course	HIGH	VULNERABLE	MODERATE
RSGC	Golf Course	LOW to MODERATE	VULNERABLE	LOW
SFCH	Historic Farm Complex	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
SSCT	Nineteenth Century Cottages	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
SSLA	Local Authority Cottages	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
SFCM	Modern Farm Complex	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
FSMD	Medium Straight Bounded Fields	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
FSLG	Large Straight Bounded Fields	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	LOW to HIGH
FMOD	Fields Resulting from 20th Century Reorganisation of Boundary Removal	MODERATE	VULNERABLE to SENSITIVE	LOW to HIGH
FHLD	Ladder Farms - Strip Holdings with Regular Fields along Replanned Roads and Linear Farmsteads	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	HIGH
FOSF	Horse Breeding Stud Farms and Paddocks	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW
OCCO	Open Lowland Grazing Commons	HIGH	VULNERABLE	LOW
BBEN	Lowland Raised Bog Enclosed	HIGH	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
TPFO	Large Forestry Conifer Plantations (post mid nineteenth century)	LOW	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
TPSC	Small Forestry Conifer Plantations (post mid nineteenth century)	LOW	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
TPBM	Broadleaf and Mixed Plantation (Post 19th Century)	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW

4.2 Historic Landscape Character Areas

The historic landscape character types identified have been grouped into areas which reflect the overall historic landscape character of the study area in broader terms [Map 14]. These areas include:

- Historic Medieval and Market Town
- Magee Barracks
- Kildare Town Suburbs
- Town Centre Expansion
- Industry and Employment
- Agricultural Hinterland
- National Stud
- Kings Bog
- Curragh Plains
- Linear Settlements
- Great Southern and Western Railway Line
- M7 Motorway

Historic Medieval and Market Town

This character area is primarily defined by Medieval Burgage Plots historic landscape character type but also includes the Monastic / Early Christian Core, Motte and Bailey, Market Place and Planned Post Medieval Urban Expansion character types. In more general terms, this character area is characterised by historic buildings of generally 10th and 19th century origin.

This character area is of HIGH historic significance and value, comprising a high concentration of historic buildings on the site of an early Christian and medieval settlement.

This character area is VULNERABLE to change, being located within a zone of archaeological potential and comprising buildings of architectural merit.

This character area is under HIGH pressure to change, functioning as the commercial core of the town.

Magee Barracks

This character area comprises Magee Barracks and the undeveloped lands to the north of the barracks which are also in the ownership of the Department of Defence.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, reflecting a period when the Irish Army and previously the Royal Forces were based in the town.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change, comprising some buildings of architectural interest and natural habitats of interest.

This character area is under HIGH pressure to change being the preferred location of future development within the town.

Kildare Town Suburbs

This character area is primarily defined by the Late 20th - 21st Century Estates historic landscape character type but also includes the character types of historic value such as Church Complexes, Victorian and Edwardian Suburban Villas and Victorian Terraces.

This character area is largely of LOW historic significance and value with the exception of the Carmelite Church at White Abbey and to a lesser extent Victorian terraces and out of town dwellings.

This character area is SENSITIVE to change due to the established residential amenity of associated housing estates and the architectural merit of historic structures.

This character area is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended function.

Town Centre Expansion

This character area occurs to the south east and west of the town and includes Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks. These occur at the Kildare Outlet Village, Grey Abbey Road (Aldi Supermarket) and the Dublin Road (various car showrooms and Lidl Supermarket).

These character areas are of LOW historic significance, having being development in the early twenty first century.

This character area is ROBUST to change, being of limited architectural and townscape value.

This character area is currently under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use and realising the commercial potential of associated sites.

Industry and Employment

This character area includes the Kildare Business Park, Modus Link and the Kildare Chilling Company. This character area is defined by large scale industrial and office buildings located on the outskirts of the town.

This character area is of MODERATE historic significance, representing major sources of employment in Kildare town.

This character area is ROBUST to change, comprising buildings of limited architectural and townscape value.

This character area is under LOW pressure to change, generally satisfying its intended use.

Agricultural Hinterland

This character area is primarily defined by a pastoral landscape comprising post medieval field boundaries and associated hedgerows and treelines. This character area also includes historic farmsteads and cottages as well as 20th-21st century rural housing.

This character area is of MODERATE to HIGH historic significance and value, reflecting post medieval farming practices and land divisions but also comprising sites of archaeological and ecological significance.

This character area is SENSITIVE to change, being rural in nature and forming an integral part of panoramic views from the Chair of Kildare. Archaeological and ecological sites within this character are vulnerable to change. This character area is under LOW to HIGH pressure to change, having been identified in part as appropriate locations for development. This character area is also under pressure to accommodate rural housing.

National Stud Farm

This character area has been distinguished from the agricultural hinterland due to its significance nationally as a tourist destination. However, many characteristics of the agricultural hinterland including post medieval field enclosures and farm buildings also occur here.

This character type is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of a National Stud in the early twentieth century.

This character area is SENSITIVE to change, being rural in nature and forming an integral part of rural landscape. Archaeological and ecological sites within this character are vulnerable to change.

This character area is under LOW pressure to change, its landscape value being recognised by the current Kildare Town Local Area Plan. Residential / Commercial zoned lands on the Dublin Road may come under some pressure to change arising from this zoning objective.

Kings Bog

This character area comprises the greatest part of the townland of Kingsbog or Common, to the south of the study area. This character area includes reclaimed raised bog and a conifer plantation. This character area is distinctive from surrounding agricultural lands due to its defining natural features.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, comprising bogland which was formed over several thousand years.

This character type is SENSITIVE to change due to its natural make up and archaeology and ecology located within its boundary.

This character type is under MODERATE pressure to change, the value of bogland being recognised in the county development plan but having been planted with conifers in the past.

Curragh Plains

This character area comprises the overall Curragh site and includes the Curragh Racecourse, Military Camp and the Cill Dara and Curragh golf courses. This character area is for the greatest part characterised by the open landscape of the Curragh and the race course and military developments.

This character area is of HIGH historic significance and value, comprising ancient grass land, high concentrations of archaeology, important habitats and buildings of architectural merit. This character area also has mythological associations with St. Brigid, Fionn Mac Cumhaill and the Fianna as well as being the site of historic events such as the massacre at Gibbet Rath.

This character type is VULNERABLE to change due to the archaeological sensitivity and unique natural landscape of the Curragh.

This character type is under LOW pressure to change arising from its status as a place of environmental and archaeological importance. However military and equestrian related activity on the Curragh has the potential to impact negatively on the site.

Linear Settlements

This character area has been identified where high concentrations of 20th and 21st century rural housing occurs. These areas include Newtown crossroads extending toward Mooretown Crossroad and a section of Grey Abbey Road.

This character area is of LOW historic importance and significance, primarily comprising late 20th and 21st century rural housing. Some 19th century cottages and farm buildings occur within this character types and are of moderate historic significance and value.

This character area is ROBUST to change due to the individual design of associated buildings and their limited architectural value.

This character area is currently under LOW pressure to change, retaining its use and satisfying its intended function.

Great Southern and Western Railway Corridor
This character type comprises the Southern and Western Railway Line, Kildare Station and associated railway structures and is consistent with the character type CLRY_Railway and Associated Marshalling Yards Etc.. This character area crosses the Curragh and passes through the northern fringes of modern day Kildare where the railway station is located.

This character type is of HIGH historic significance and value, representing the development of the railway network during the nineteenth century.

This character area ranges from SENSITIVE to ROBUST to change, comprising buildings and structures of architectural value such as Kildare railway station and the less sensitive railway routes. This character area also forms an ecological corridor of regional importance.

This character area is under LOW pressure to change, satisfying its intended use. Kildare railway station may be subject some development pressures relating to improvements of the station services.

M7 Motorway

This character area comprises the M7 motorway / Kildare Bypass and has been identified due to its significance in terms of the development of the national road network but also in terms of physical character. This character area is an important corridor which now forms the main point of access to Kildare town.

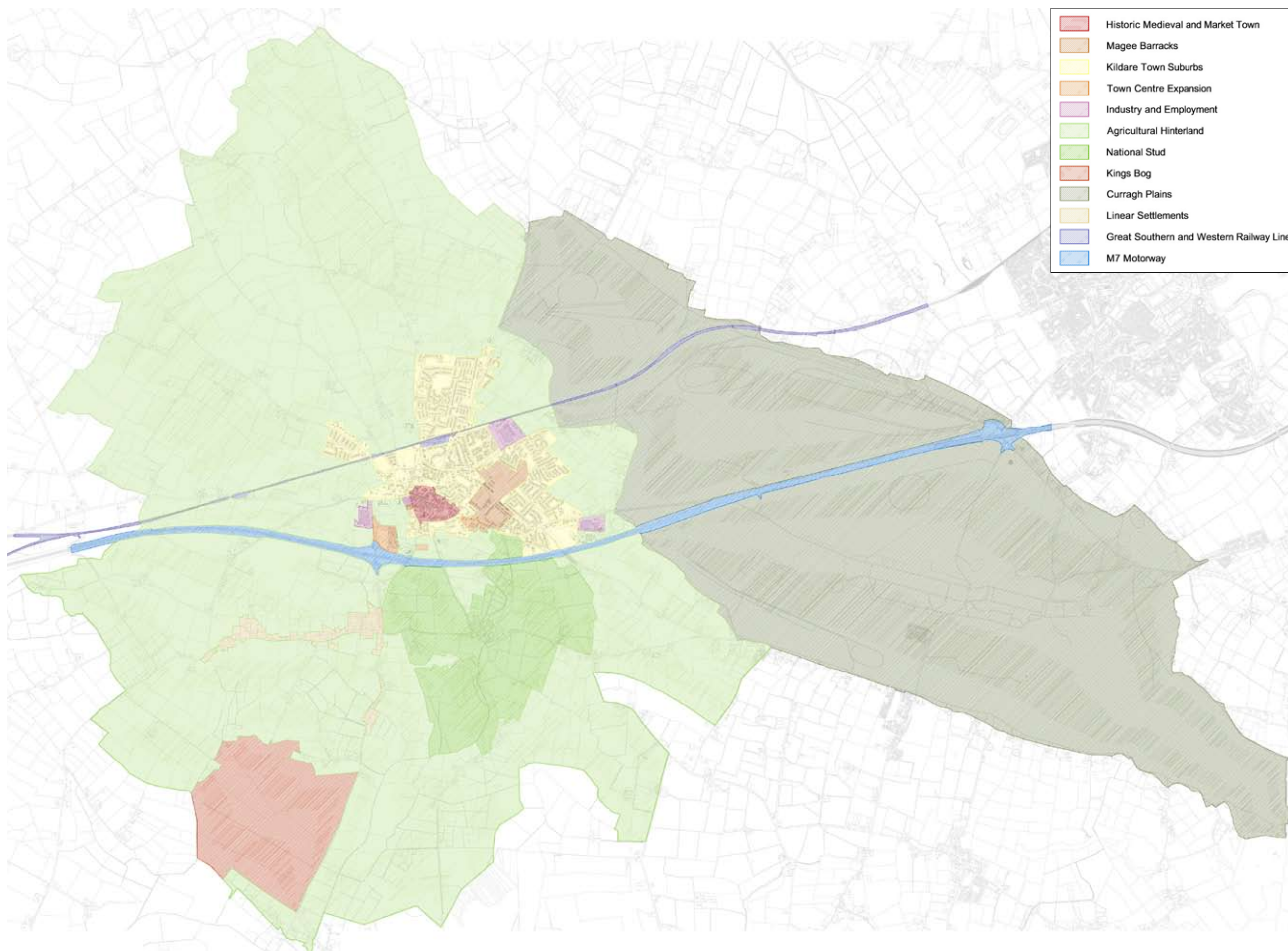
Despite its relatively recent construction, this character area is of MODERATE historic significance and value, reflecting the development of national motorways during the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

This character area is SENSITIVE to change, having a largely consistent character defined by grass verges and associated landscaping and panoramic views across the landscape in places.

This character area is under LOW pressure to change. The proposed National Heritage Area status of the Curragh and the Green Belt status of lands within the Kildare Town boundary protect the visual amenity of this character area. However, office and industry zoned lands to the west of the town have the potential to detract from this character area.

Table 2_Historic Landscape Character Areas

Historic Landscape Character Area		Historic Significance and Value	Sensitivity to Change	Pressure to Change
UM	Historic Medieval and Market Town	HIGH	VULNERABLE	HIGH
MS	Magee Barracks	HIGH	SENSITIVE	HIGH
UR	Kildare Town Suburbs	LOW	SENSITIVE	LOW
UE	Town Centre Expansion	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
IL	Industry and Employment	MODERATE	ROBUST	LOW
FM	Agricultural Hinterland	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW to HIGH
FO	National Stud	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW
BR	Kings Bog	HIGH	SENSITIVE	MODERATE
OC	Curragh Plains	HIGH	VULNERABLE	LOW
SS	Linear Settlements	LOW	ROBUST	LOW
CLRY	Great Southern and Western Railway Line	HIGH	SENSITIVE	LOW
CLRD	M7 Motorway	MODERATE	SENSITIVE	LOW



Map 14_Historic Landscape Character Areas

5.0 Planning and Development Context

5.1 Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017

The Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) is the principal planning policy document for the county. The CDP includes a settlement strategy for the county as well as policies and objectives on architectural and archaeological heritage, natural heritage and biodiversity and landscape management. The CDP also includes a Record of Monuments and Places, List of Protected Structures, Landscape Character Areas and Scenic Routes / Protected Views.

Relevant policies and objectives of the County Development Plan to the Kildare HLC are summarised in the following sections.

Settlement Strategy

Kildare Town is identified as a Moderate Growth Town within the Metropolitan Hinterland. It is envisaged that the town should develop in a self-sufficient manner, reducing commuting levels and ensuring sustainable levels of housing growth, providing a full range of local services adequate to meet local needs at district level and for surrounding rural areas.

It is recognised within the CDP that Kildare Town is currently overzoned and that zoned land should be phased for development. Prioritised phasing will be based on a clear sequential approach with the zoning extending outwards from the town core. It is also stated that there is a clear need to upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities in the town.

It is a policy of the CDP to implement the principles and guidance set out in the DoEHLG Guidelines 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' (May 2009) and accompanying 'Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide' (May 2009) in the preparation and review of town, village and settlement plans.

Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

It is the aim of the CDP to protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations.

The CDP sets out policies and objectives with respect to protected structures, vernacular architecture, architectural conservation areas and archaeological heritage.

There are 38 no. structures in Kildare Town included on the List of Protected Structures [Maps 09A & 09B]. There are 7 no. protected structures located on the Curragh Camp. It is an objective of the CDP to investigate the designation of an Architectural Conservation Area in Kildare Town.

There are 178 no. sites listed on the Record of Monuments and Places located within the study area [Map 07]. It is an objective of Kildare County Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally and to secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, and their settings.

A zone of archaeological potential has been identified for Kildare Town arising from the findings of an Urban Archaeological Survey conducted in 1986. This zone is included on the Record of Monument and Places.

Natural Heritage / Biodiversity

It is an aim of the CDP to protect, conserve and manage natural heritage designated at national and EU level and to secure conservation objectives in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

EU and National designated sites include Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and Nature Reserves.

Within the Kildare HLC study area, the Curragh is the only designated site [Map 12]. The Curragh is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (Site No. 00392). Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated to conserve species and habitats of national importance and sites of geological interest.

The Pollardstown Fen, which is proximate to the study area has been designated a Special Area of Conservation and may be impacted by activities within the study area. Most notably, the Curragh or Mid-Kildare Aquifer, a large gravel aquifer which extends below and beyond the Curragh Plains, is an important source of baseflow for rivers and streams, and influences the ecology of a number of interesting habitats as well as being the source of water for Pollardstown Fen.

The CDP recognises the value of trees, woodlands and hedgerows not just in terms of ecology and biodiversity but also in terms of their historic significance and landscape value and seeks to protect and manage these features accordingly.

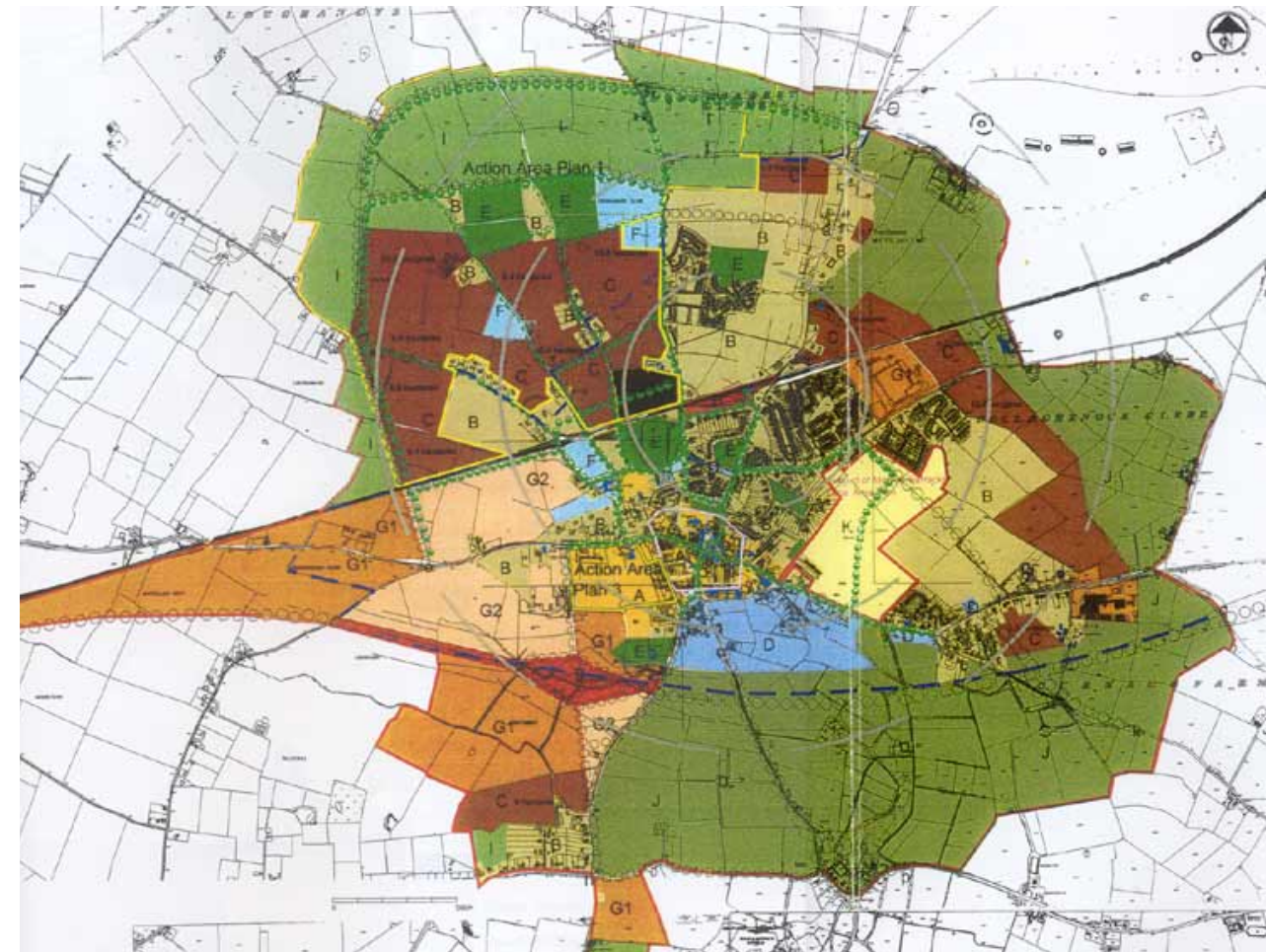


Fig. 74_Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2002

The CDP also recognises sites of geological importance which may be designated as Natural Heritage Areas in due course. These sites include Dunmurry Hill and the Chair of Kildare, both of which adjoin the study area.

Landscape

It is the aim of the CDP to provide for the protection, management and enhancement of the landscape of the county and to ensure that development does not disproportionately impact on landscape character areas, scenic routes, or protected views.

The 2004 Landscape Character Assessment of the County identifies four broad landscape character types which are made up of fifteen more specific character areas. The Kildare HLC study area spans part of the Central Undulating Lands, the Southern Lowlands and the Chair of Kildare and all of the Curragh landscape character area. These character types vary from low to high sensitivity.

Areas of High Amenity which are distinct from the landscape character areas have also been identified. The Curragh and Environs are included amongst these high amenity areas.

Scenic routes and view points have been identified within the Kildare Landscape Character Assessment. Within the Kildare HLC study area these views include:

No. 3	Views of Curragh Plains, from the M7 Interchange to St. Ledgers Bottoms
No. 4	Views of Curragh Plains including Little Curragh; County Road from Kildare Town Boundary to Military Ranges, R413 from Kildare Town Boundary to Motorway Interchange
No. 14	Views to and from Red Hill and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining Roads
No. 15	Views to and from Dunmurray and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining roads
No. 16	Views of Chair of Kildare and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R415 and adjoining roads
No. 36	Views of the Gibbet Rath and the Curragh from the N7 at St. Ledgers Bottoms

It is an objective of the CDP to protect identified views from inappropriate development. It is also an objective of the CDP to provide further detailed guidance in relations to views and prospects along scenic routes within Local Area Plan boundaries.

5.2 Kildare Local Area Plan 2002

The Kildare Local Area Plan sets out detailed policies and objectives for the town of Kildare. This Local Area Plan is currently being reviewed and the forthcoming LAP will be consistent with the County Development Plan 2011-2017.

The Kildare Local Area Plan includes policies on housing, industry and enterprise, education, cultural and community facilities, public utilities, transport, open space, recreation and amenity, town centre development, environment and conservation.

The Plan is supported by a land use zoning and specific objectives map [Fig. 74] which identifies permissible uses for lands within the development boundary of Kildare town, indicative routes for proposed roads, footpaths and cycle paths, a zone of archaeological potential, tree preservation objectives and protected structures objectives.

The Kildare Local Area Plan identifies 59 buildings worthy of preservation. Some of these have been included on the Record of Protection structures.

Areas are identified within the Local Area Plan for which a more detailed Local Area Plan or Action Area Plan have been prepared in order to provide further development guidance for these lands. These plans are described in the following sections.

5.3 Magee Barracks Local Area Plan 2005 and Framework Plan 2007

The Magee Barracks Local Area Plan was adopted in November 2005. The plan sets out the historic and development context for the barracks and identifies a vision which is supported by various land use objectives and design guidance.

The LAP proposed redeveloping the entire site, retaining the Officers Mess fronting onto Hospital Street only. The vision for the site is a vibrant quarter linked to the town centre and comprising a viable and sustainable community.

The proposed uses on the site included 600 social, affordable and private housing units, creche and childcare facilities, a neighbourhood centre, government offices for a decentralised department, a cultural/civic centre and educational uses.

An indicative map indicating distributor roads and the location of identified uses was prepared. Connections are proposed to Hospital Street, Melitta Road and the Curragh Road via a housing estate at Ruanbeg. A village green, park and civic plaza are proposed at various locations throughout the site.



Fig. 75_Magee Barracks Framework Plan 2007

The Magee Barracks Framework Plan was prepared in November 2007. The Framework Plan recognised contextual changes in both policy and the economic climate since the preparation of the Magee Barracks Local Area Plan as well as confirmation of the OPW's interest in relocating 400 jobs on the site as part of its decentralisation commitments.

The framework plan describes in brief the heritage and town context aspects of the site and sets out a vision and identity for Magee Barracks, as well as a framework for movement and access, residential, civic and commercial uses, parks and recreation and community facilities [Fig. 75].

The vision for the site is to achieve a sustainable town quarter with a distinct sense of place that reflects the history of the Barracks and strengthens the identity and future development of Kildare Town.

The framework plan proposes an increase in residential densities to provide for 1,000 new homes

in order to deliver 2,500 sqm of community facilities on the site.

Development proposals have not been advanced since the preparation of the Magee Barracks Framework Plan.

5.4 Southgreen Action Area Plan

This Action Area Plan [Fig. 76] was adopted in 2004 and outlines the characteristics of the AAP lands and identifies a development strategy, design considerations and development standards for the AAP area. The plan also reviews the availability of services and associated restrictions.

The Southgreen AAP identifies three phases of development which provide for the gradual release of zoned lands in parallel with necessary infrastructure and services. Guidance is provided with respect to density, building height, the location of services, vehicular, cycle and pedestrian movement and landscaping.

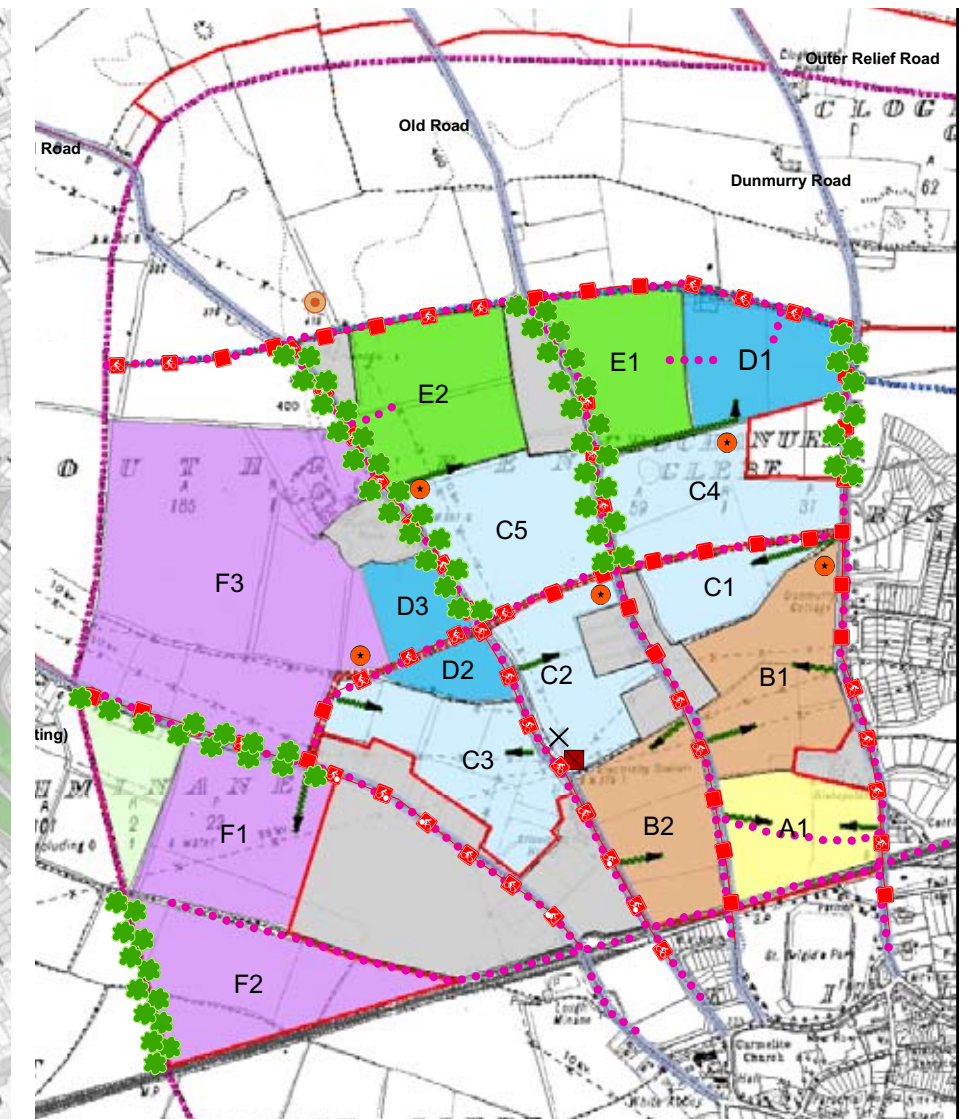


Fig. 76_Southgreen Action Area Plan

Limited development has occurred since the adoption of the Southgreen Action Area Plan. Planning permission has been granted for a residential development located on site C3.

A site has been purchased by the Kildare VEC on the east side of the Dunmurry Road (site D1) and a new school building is currently being constructed. This school will see the amalgamation of St. Joseph's Academy, the Presentation Convent and the Kildare Vocational School.

A second site, on the west of the Old Road has also been identified as the location for a primary school facility (site D2).

6.0 Recommendations and Guidelines

Kildare Town, its hinterland and the Curragh are historically significant for several reasons:

- The origins of Kildare Town can be traced back to early Christian times when St. Brigid established her foundation here.
- The settlement became an important medieval borough following the Norman invasion, comprising a castle and cathedral and abbeys at White Abbey, Grey Abbey and Tully.
- The town was walled during the late middle ages up until which time it held the administrative functions of shire town.
- The town developed as a service centre during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries benefiting from its location on the Dublin Road as well as the military and horse racing activities on the Curragh.
- Kildare became a garrison town in the early twentieth century during which time Magee Barracks was developed.
- The Curragh is possibly the oldest and most extensive tract of open plain grassland in Europe.
- The Curragh has been a venue for organised horse racing since the seventeenth century and is at the heart of the Irish bloodstock industry today.
- The Curragh has been the site of a permanent military camp since the mid nineteenth century and comprises many buildings and structures from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.
- Kildare's hinterland includes the National Stud Farm, a tourist attraction of national and international renown.

Recommendations and guidelines which seek to protect, preserve and enhance Kildare's historic heritage are outlined in the following sections.

6.1 Archaeology

The archaeological sites that occur in the landscape of the study area (and in the country as a whole) and the associated finds are the legacy of the many societies and individuals that inhabited the land from the Mesolithic period on. This amounts to over 9,000 years of settlement, industry, cultivation and ritual. It is vital for future generations that these sites and monuments are protected.

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monument Act of 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004. These acts are the principal statutes governing care of monuments in the Irish Republic. The Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

has a specific role in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage through the powers provided by the acts and by the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the DoEHLG and delivered through the National Monuments Service, the Planning and Heritage Sections in conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland (Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

National Monuments are taken to mean monuments under ownership or guardianship of the state; monuments subject to preservation orders; monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments and all monuments in the RMP.

The Heritage Council proposes policies and priorities for the identification, protection and enhancement of the national heritage including monuments, heritage objects and architectural heritage. The Council has published a number of useful guideline documents relating to the recording, preservation and conservation of monuments.

This study proposes that the zone of archaeological potential identified in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2002 is revised to reflect the zone of archaeological potential identified in the Kildare Urban Archaeological Survey [Map 15].

This study recommends that an archaeologist(s) working within a zone of archaeological potential (ZAP) or in close proximity to recorded monuments should prepare a comprehensive archaeological assessment for the management / development of that site. The assessment should form part of the planning application. In most cases the provision of such a document is a requirement for approval to be granted particularly in areas of archaeological sensitivity. In some cases it is requested as additional information following the lodgement of a planning application and prior to approval.

The concept of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is now also an accepted part of the planning process. EIA Regulations require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Study in developments they consider will have a significant impact on the environment. In areas of archaeological sensitivity it is up to the archaeologist to prepare these reports.

Kildare Town

There are a substantial number of significant sites and features within the precinct of Kildare Town and as such these sites and features must be



Map 15_Kildare Town Zone of Archaeological Potential

comprehensively protected. The only pre-1700 buildings still standing are the castle, the cathedral and the Franciscan Friary, the rest of the buildings from this period have been destroyed completely, mainly by the construction of houses on street frontages with accompanying cellars or basements.

Archaeological conservation and development are not mutually exclusive if the appropriate measures are taken to avoid unnecessary damage and destruction to sites. There is such a considerable body of documentary material and cartographic detail relating to the town that it would be difficult to imagine any development taking place without thorough research and knowledge. However, if the significance of the town archaeologically and historically is not adequately flagged to all potential developers through instruments such as the forthcoming Kildare Town Local Area Plan and through other measures which engage the public,

mistakes can happen and important contexts can be irrevocably destroyed.

All archaeological work necessitated by development is considered a legitimate part of development costs by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The statutory and administrative framework of development control in zones of archaeological potential or in proximity to recorded monuments has two main elements:

- Archaeological preservation and licensing under the National Monuments Acts (see above), and
- Development Plans and planning applications under the Planning Acts.

As a working rule it can be seen that pre-1700 A.D. buildings and monuments in Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) defined in the RMP are likely to be protected under the National Monuments Acts.

Procedures of assessment by the DoEHLG's relevant sections of sites beneath existing buildings and standing structures may be very different to cleared sites. Development in a present day urban area involving the removal of sub-surface archaeological deposits or features should only be carried out if it can be demonstrated that it can be done without unacceptable archaeological implications - however there will be cases where the laying of important services in the town's sub-structure will be unavoidable. In such cases it is recommended that:

- The surviving archaeological sites should be preserved and maintained and a planning exclusion zone should be considered for the Cathedral precinct.
- Elimination of avoidable damage to archaeological remains. This mostly involves using piled foundations and ensuring that all other substructures are kept above the level of archaeological deposits. Whether this is considered sufficient by The National Monuments Service and the National Museum will depend on the nature of the archaeological deposits.
- Minimising unavoidable damage to archaeological remains. The only damage caused to strata should be from penetration of piles. Every effort should be made to adopt the least destructive piling type and layout.
- Preservation of a full record of any archaeological material that is inevitably disturbed or damaged.
- Advice to developers about the impact of a proposed development should be based on professional archaeological advice, including an archaeological assessment.
- For orderly planning and development of the project, the range of potential costs should be estimated at an early stage in the process so that all parties are clear as to the funding required.
- All potential development should respect the pattern of the streets.

Rural Landscape

The archaeological sites that occur outside the Kildare Town Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) are, for the most part, to be found in rural contexts - namely on the Curragh or on farmland. These sites are or should be known to land-owners/managers and farmers and should be protected from damage. The Heritage Council published a useful guide to managing archaeology occurring on farmland (Farming and Archaeology: The Irish Historic Landscape). The following is a summary of their advice to farmers and land-owners:

Grassland

- Correct stock levels should be maintained to prevent poaching or erosion of ancient monuments
- Feeding troughs, land drainage works, and access tracks for livestock and machinery should be sited away from the monument
- Historic buildings such as castles and churches should not be used for livestock
- The growth of gorse, scrub or woody plants on a monument should be controlled and cut at the base to prevent re-growth. Trees should not be uprooted as this may cause disturbance
- Avoid removing field boundaries or historic farm buildings and gate posts

Cultivation

- Upstanding monuments should be left as islands of uncultivated ground within cultivated fields and should be protected by an unploughed margin of at least 7 metres around the edge of the monument
- Minimise plough depths where there are known levelled sites or cropmark sites in cultivated land
- Fields with levelled sites or crop marks should ideally be excluded from tillage and put into pasture if possible
- Where trees are being planted they should be kept well away from monuments

The Curragh

The Curragh, with its upwards of 180 archaeological sites, has been widely acknowledged as Ireland's finest example of ancient grassland and an area of unique cultural value. In the last year calls have been made by a number of Curragh specialists including Dr. John Feehan and Dr. Pádraig Clancy to have it listed as a Special Area of Conservation. The Department of Defence also confirmed that it will support these calls to change its legislative status in order to protect the area. According to the European Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation must be chosen from sites of community importance by the State members. An act of government designating the Curragh an SAC, although it would not cover monuments specifically, would add to the preservation and conservation of the plain as a whole.

A Heritage Council led Conservation Plan should also be considered as this instrument would consider all aspects of the protection required - ecological, archaeological, historical, and heritage value, and could set out the framework for a comprehensive management plan as part of the study.

It is understood that an appropriate management plan and structure is currently being considered by agencies such as Kildare County Council, the Department of Defence and the Department of the Environment. However, in the meantime a significant number of sites and monuments are left with little or no protection.

Archaeological Mapping

The archeology found within the study area is considerable. It is distinctive and diverse revealing a unique monastic landscape in Kildare Town and a unique pre-historic, ritual landscape in the Curragh.

While there are rich documentary and cartographic sources that record the archaeological contexts of the study area there remains an opportunity to create a more cohesive document or suite of documents that will present all of the material currently available. These sources are competently listed and commented on in the valuable 'Directory of archaeological sources relating to Co. Kildare' (2008).

Unfortunately, it was outside the scope of this study to merge all of the archaeological information available, especially the information available online through the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the data available in the databases of the National Museum.

In light of this, the preparation of a cartographic web-based record for Kildare, using a GIS model should be undertaken to include all the sites and monuments in the RMP; all the excavations that have taken place to date with exact locations given and the approximate find spots for all the artifacts recorded in the National Museum's collection and excavation databases and topographical files for Kildare. This would provide an invaluable tool for the local authority and in particular the planning and heritage departments.

6.2 Built Heritage

Kildare Town and the Curragh Camp comprise a high concentration of buildings of both historical interest and architectural merit. These buildings reflect the historic evolution of these sites and make a significant contribution to the character of these areas. The protection of these buildings and their setting should be provided for through statutory instruments as well as heritage initiatives.

Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Area

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Survey of County Kildare undertaken in 2003 identifies 101 no. structures in Kildare Town and 12 no. structures on the Curragh Camp as being of architectural value. Whilst this survey is only a representative sample of the architectural heritage of the county, it has been relatively comprehensive in respect of Kildare Town and the Curragh Camp.

The Kildare Town Local Area Plan (2002) identifies 59 no. structures within its boundary as being worthy of preservation, some of which had not been identified in the NIAH survey.

The Record of Protected Structures set out in the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 includes 40 no. structures within Kildare Town and a further 7 no. structures within the Curragh Camp.

In order to protect the built heritage and historic character of Kildare Town it is recommended that proposals for an Architectural Conservation Area are formalised and guidelines prepared which seek to protect the unique character of the historic settlement. This area would encompass many of the structures identified in the NIAH survey and the Kildare Town Local Area Plan (2002) that have not yet been included on the Record of Protected Structures and may provide adequate protection [Map 16]. Furthermore, ACA guidelines would provide for the protection of defining features such as the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths. A detailed survey and appraisal of the ACA area as well as development management policies should be identified in tandem with the preparation of the Kildare Local Area Plan 2011.

The inclusion of structures worthy of preservation outside the ACA boundary on the Record of Protected Structures should remain an objective of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan and progressed by means of Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act.

Magee Barracks

Magee Barracks comprises buildings and structures which may be of architectural merit. Both the Magee Barracks Local Area Plan and Framework Plan provide for the complete redevelopment of the site with only the Officers Mess on Hospital Street being retained. It is recommended that a detailed architectural survey and appraisal of the buildings and structures on the site is undertaken and that any future proposals for the site are cognisant of the architectural heritage of the barracks.

It is also recommended that proposals are cognisant of the historic layout of the barracks including the main avenue and parade grounds. Where feasible, structures of interest such as the water tower should be retained in-situ or relocated to an appropriate location within future public spaces.

The Curragh Camp

The Curragh Camp comprises several buildings and structures of architectural interest which collectively make a significant contribution to the historical and architectural value of the site. Several of these buildings and structures have been included on the Record of Protected Structures based on the recommendations of the NIAH survey. However, it is recommended that a detailed survey of the camp is undertaken and buildings, building groups and structures of architectural merit be made known to the Department of the Defence and actions to safeguard these buildings identified as appropriate.

Vernacular Buildings

Outside the town of Kildare eighteenth and nineteenth century farm houses and out buildings as well as labourers cottages reflect local construction practices and craftsmanship as well as testifying to the agricultural and equestrian heritage of the county. These buildings have been identified in the historic landscape character mapping and their value and sensitivity recognised by the publication *Reusing Farm Buildings: A Kildare Perspective*.

It is recommended that an inventory of these sites is prepared and an architectural appraisal of surviving buildings undertaken. This inventory should ultimately cover the county as a whole and examine various typologies such as stud farms and cottages. Where appropriate, buildings should be added to the Record of Protected Structures.

Local Authority Cottages

The role of the Local Authority in the provision of housing during the early twentieth century is very much evident within the study area. This housing largely takes the form of cottages which are distinct from earlier nineteenth century cottages in the use of materials whilst maintaining a certain level of craftsmanship in the form of timber sash windows, cast iron rain water goods etc.

Whilst not all of these cottages are worthy of protection, it is recommended that the preservation of these structures and their architectural integrity is provided for through maintenance and improvement guidelines for property owners. This guidance should identify the defining features of a typical cottage

and its curtilage and how the modernisation and extension of cottages might be undertaken in a sensitive manner.

6.3 Townscape

The protection and enhancement of Kildare's townscape qualities relies on the input of both the private and public sector. In this regard, a development strategy for the town has been identified to allow future development to occur in a manner that is sympathetic to the historic features of Kildare whilst allowing the town to develop as an economically self-sufficient settlement.

Development Strategy

The proposed development strategy seeks to rationalise the current land use zoning objectives for the town through the promotion of districts integrated [Fig. 77] within an overall urban structure [Fig. 78] and reinforced by a landscaping strategy [Fig. 79]. It is envisaged that this strategy would be delivered over a period greater (10-15 years) than that of the Kildare Town local area plan, ensuring development in the more immediate future is consistent with an overall vision for the town.

Districts and Quarters

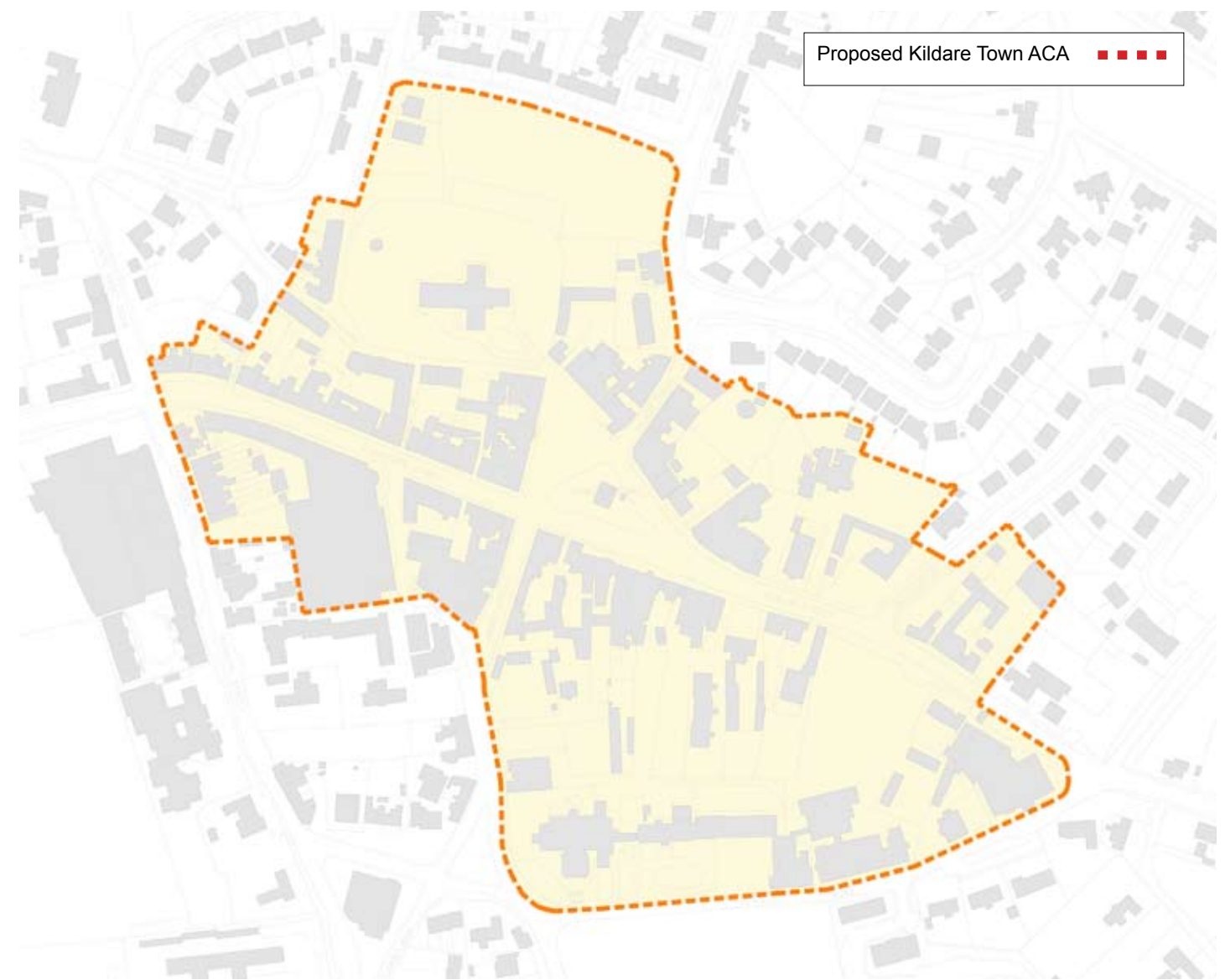
Tourism Nodes

Kildare Town has significant unrealised tourism potential including the historic town centre and Magee Barracks site. The National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens and the Kildare Village Outlet Stores have already established themselves as major attractions. Further afield, the Curragh Racecourse and various golf courses are also major attractions to Kildare. An opportunity exists to develop Kildare Town centre as a heritage site and Magee Barracks as a cultural quarter comprising an interpretive facility. These areas, with their own unique identities, could tap into existing attractions and collectively be marketed as a tourism destination, accessed and signalled from the motorway interchange. Lands to the south of the town, currently zoned for residential / commercial uses could include a specific objective to promote hospitality and leisure facilities.

Residential Neighbourhoods

To the east and north of the town it is recommended that three distinct neighbourhoods are developed with a strong sense of place and potential for the development of local services and amenities.

The first of these neighbourhood centres is proposed at Magee Barracks and would include within its catchment housing at Ruanbeg and Coolaghknock. It is envisaged that for the greatest part, Magee



Map 16_Proposed Kildare Town Architectural Conservation Area

Barracks would comprise new housing, educational facilities and open space amenity. It is proposed that a neighbourhood centre focused on a defined public space would occur to the north east of the site where connections to existing estates could be made.

A second neighbourhood is proposed at Bishopsland / Crockanure Glebe, with a neighbourhood centre on the Dunmurry Road. This neighbourhood would include within its catchment existing housing to the east of the Dunmurry Road. It is envisaged that this neighbourhood would be focussed on a neighbourhood park with potential for local services around its edge.

A third and final neighbourhood centre is recommended at Loughminane / South Green, with a neighbourhood centre on the Green Road. This neighbourhood would include within its catchment existing housing at Loughminane. It is envisaged that

this neighbourhood would be focussed on a village green or square with potential for local services around its edge.

Employment Zones

Two distinct employment zones are proposed which seek to provide for office and industry based clusters.

The first of these is an office park located to the west of the town centre on the Monasterevin Road. This park would be well positioned in terms of access to the motorway, Kildare railway station, the town centre and surrounding residential areas. Modus Media would be included within the catchment of this office park. It is recommended that this office park is developed as a campus with a strong emphasis on soft landscaping.

The second employment zone provides for industrial development to the south of the M7 interchange



Fig. 77_Proposed Districts and Nodes

where a large development of residential and industrial related uses have already been granted planning permission. Notwithstanding this planning permission, it is recommended that any subsequent proposals for development at this location would seek to consolidate the existing settlement at Newtown and provide for campus type industrial development also, once again placing a strong emphasis on soft landscaping.

It is recommended that industry and warehousing zoned land at Whitesland West, Knockshough Glebe and Newtown Cross Road, due to their remote location, are developed at a low density. Revisions to the Kildare Town Local Area Plan should differentiate between these sites and those located within the industrial park previously discussed, in terms of appropriate uses, building typologies and scale of development.

Routes and Connections

An urban structure is proposed which draws on existing roads, cycle track and footpath objectives contained within the current Kildare Town Local Area Plan whilst providing for the integration of the aforementioned districts into an overall urban structure of connected vehicular, cycle and pedestrian routes. The proposed urban structure for Kildare Town seeks to:

- Maintain the Monasterevin and Dublin Road as the principal spine route serving the town.
- Provide for an outer relief road connecting the Rathbride Road (R415) and the Rathangan Road (R401) to the Monasterevin Road.
- Develop the Green Road, Dunmurry Road, Rathbride Road and Melitta Road as radial routes (including cycle routes and continuous footpaths) connecting residential neighbourhoods to the

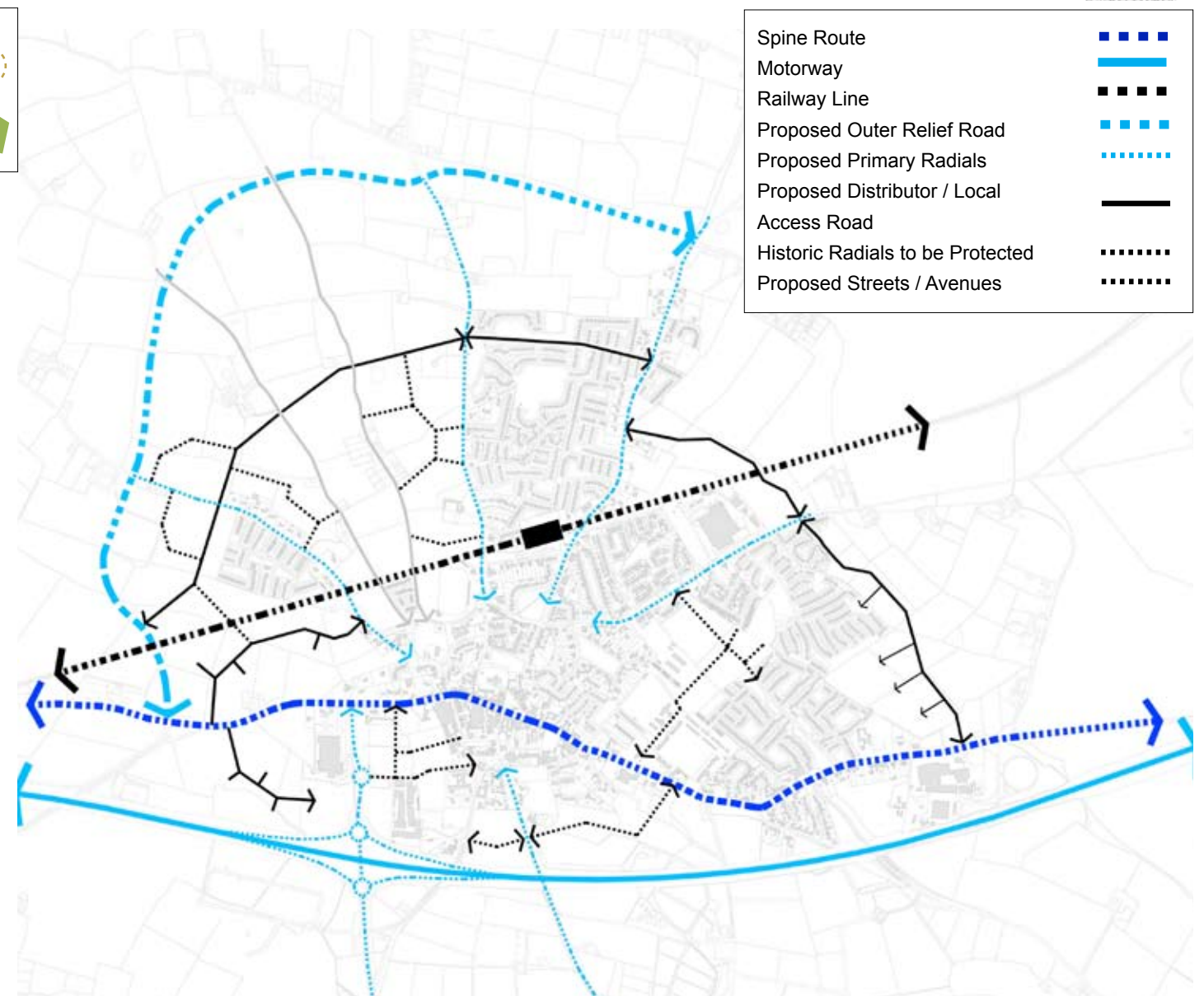


Fig. 78_Proposed Routes and Connections

- town centre.
- Provide for the protection of the character of the Old Road and South Green Road as historic approaches to the town.
- Develop distributor roads (including cycle routes and continuous footpaths) connecting proposed neighbourhoods to primary radial routes, proposed primary and post primary school sites and ultimately forming an orbital route connecting the Dublin Road and the Monasterevin Road.
- Develop a new street connection between the Dublin Road, the Tully Road and Grey Abbey Road.
- Establish new streets connecting the Kildare Village Outlet Stores to the Monasterevin Road and St. Brigid's Square.
- Develop an avenue at Magee Barracks connecting the proposed neighbourhood centre to the Dublin Road.
- Provide for connections between Magee Barracks

- and Melitta Road, Ruanbeg and Coolaghknock.
- Restrict the number of access points from proposed office and industrial parks onto the local road network.
- Investigate the potential of re-establishing the connection between the National Stud and the Dublin Road in consultation with the Irish National Stud and the National Roads Authority.

Landscaped Edges

The first impressions of Kildare Town and indeed any town are largely determined by the characteristics of the edge of the settlement. This context is particularly important in Kildare Town, as it establishes the foreground from which the towns landmarks are appreciated. Equally, since the construction of the bypass, it is now important to consider how the town presents itself to the motorway.

It is recommended that landscaping reinforcement



Fig. 79_Proposed Landscape Strategy

including tree lines occurs along the proposed distributor roads to the north and east of the town. These routes should develop as green ecological corridors as well as roads.

The proposed outer relief road should also develop as an active green artery, incorporating existing hedgerows, trees and identified habitats and reinforced with newly planted areas of woodland. Development along the Green Belt zoned lands to the east of the town should establish frontage onto the proposed distributor road with landscaped front gardens defining the edge of the settlement.

Equally, development along the proposed street connecting the Dublin Road to the Tully Road should comprise frontage along its northern side with tree planting to the south.

To the west of the town, the proposed office and industrial parks should be screened by trees from the

motorway. In these areas, more densely planted tree groups rather than tree lines should be considered. Existing developments such as the Curragh Farm Stud should also be encouraged to plant screening where they are visually prominent from the M7.

Landscaping along approach roads should be encouraged where adjoining lands are visually prominent. In particular, lands east of Hawk Hill which provide the foreground to views to the Carmelite Church at White Abbey as seen from the Monasterevin Road should be carefully considered. Proposals for the development of these lands should protect these views, screening new buildings as necessary.

To the north of the town it is recommended that an ecological corridor is maintained between the Southgreen Road and Old Road and between the proposed neighbourhoods described earlier. It is

proposed that development within this corridor could comprise low density eco housing informally arranged and providing for pedestrian / cycle connections between historic radial routes.

The M7 interchange for Kildare Town is an important node on a national corridor and has the potential to make the town's presence known to passing traffic. In another context a landmark building might be suggested, but given the sensitive profile of Kildare's skyline a more modest approach is recommended. Consideration should therefore be given to the use of a distinctive tree type such as pedunculate oak or silver birch along boundaries which define the interchange.

Opportunity Sites

There are two key sites within Kildare Town with the potential to stimulate the regeneration of both the local economy and the historic town centre. These sites include the Magee Barracks to the east of the town centre and the town centre expansion zoned lands to the north of the Kildare Village Outlet Stores. It should be an objective of the forthcoming Kildare Town Local Area Plan to develop detailed site briefs for these sites. Some guidance is provided in the following sections.

Magee Barracks

Magee Barracks [Fig. 80] has the potential to provide for a new urban neighbourhood and a cultural quarter within close proximity of Kildare Town Centre. The provision of a cultural quarter on this site has the added benefit of attracting visitors to Kildare to the eastern side of the town, via the historic settlement. As previously noted, the development of the site should be cognisant of the historic buildings, structures and layout of the barracks. In this regard it is recommended that:

- The existing avenue and associated entrance gates remain the main point of access and spine route through the site.
- Residential development should primarily be located on the western side of this spine route.
- A neighbourhood centre should be developed to the north of the site surrounding a village square and providing for local services.
- Road connections should be made to Melitta Road and Ruanbeg and a pedestrian / cycle connection to Coolaghknock.
- A park extending from the Coolaghknock housing estate to the proposed neighbourhood centre should seek to protect and incorporate the identified rare grassland to the north of the Magee Barracks site into this space.

- A school site should be reserved to the east side of the central avenue.
- The development of the barracks parade as a Civic Space surrounded by cultural and commercial buildings including a museum and public library should be investigated.
- The existing Officers Mess and potentially other existing barrack buildings of architectural merit should be retained.
- Habitats and sites of ecological importance should be retained and incorporated into an ecological corridor, possibly comprising tree lines along the main avenue.
- Structures of interest such as the water tower should be retained in-situ where feasible and otherwise relocated to an appropriate location on the site.
- Views and vistas to surrounding landmarks such as St. Brigid's Cathedral and round tower should be provided for within the public realm.

Relevant case studies for the development of a cultural quarter include the Sligo City Cultural Quarter, which proposes the clustering of the Model Gallery and a county museum as well as private commercial development on a site within close proximity of the city centre.

Town Centre Expansion Site (AAP3)

The Kildare Outlet Village to the west of the town has proved to be a major attraction since it opened in 2006. The village is managed by a parent company called Value Retail which operates nine outlet villages across Europe.

The first of these stores to be established is located outside the town of Bicester, Oxfordshire, which is approximately one hour from London on the M40 as well as being accessible by train. The town of Bicester has many parallels with Kildare including medieval origins, market town buildings and squares, military associations as well as extensive 20th century suburbs.

Whilst the town centre expansion zoned lands surrounding the Kildare Outlet Village [Fig. 81] present an opportunity to develop a Shopping Quarter capable of boosting the local economy, like Bicester, the development of these lands should be regulated so as not to undermine the retail and commercial functions of the historic town centre. A careful balance between retail, commercial and residential development must be achieved here. Accordingly, a town centre health check should be undertaken before any further development is proposed at this location. Town centre health checks seek to establish the vitality of a town centre and

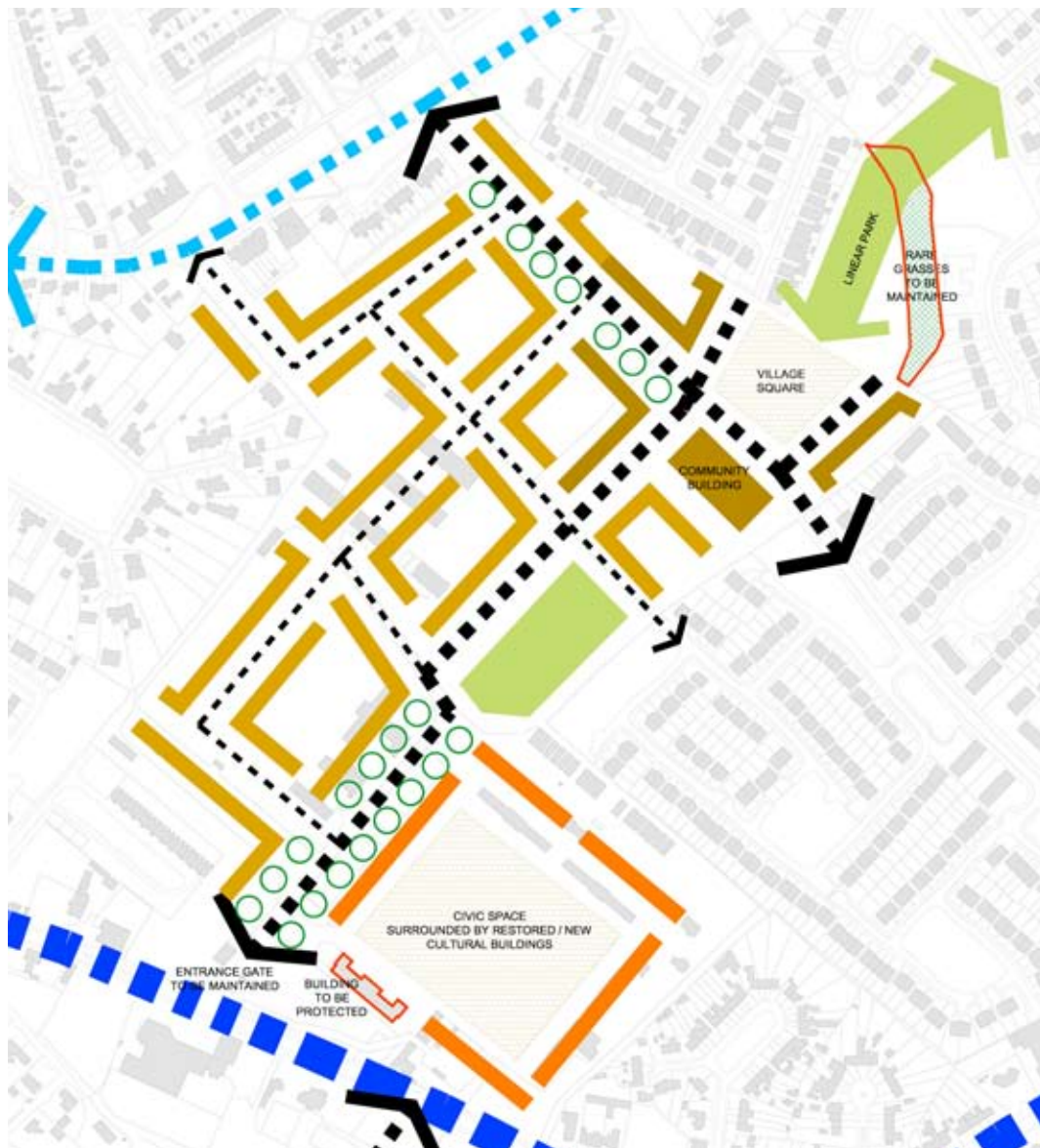


Fig. 80_Magee Barracks

include an analysis of indicators such as diversity of uses, retail representation, level of vacancies, capacity for expansion, environmental quality and public perception.

It is noted that a Tesco planning application for convenience and comparison shopping and surface car parking on lands fronting onto the Monasterevin road has been granted planning permission. It is also noted that planning permission for additional car parking associated with the Outlet Village has been granted on lands to the south of Grey Abbey. In the context of the proposed and existing surface car parking in this area, it is recommended that an urban square defined by surrounding buildings is developed in order to establish a clear identity for this part of the town.

This space should include:

- Road connections to the Monasterevin Road and the Nurney Road via the Kildare Village Outlet Stores access road.
- Street connections to Academy Street and St. Brigid's Square should the school sites on Academy Street be redeveloped.
- A landscaped urban square defined on its southern side by the Kildare Outlet Village and new buildings providing active uses and frontage along its eastern and western perimeters.
- Pedestrian connections to the existing Kildare Village Outlet Stores thoroughfare.
- Framed views of St. Mary's Carmelite Church and St. Brigid's Church

The proposed urban square should define the centre of Kildare's Shopping Quarter and comprise uses which are not already provided within the town centre. Uses which provide for the night time animation of this area and the recycling of car

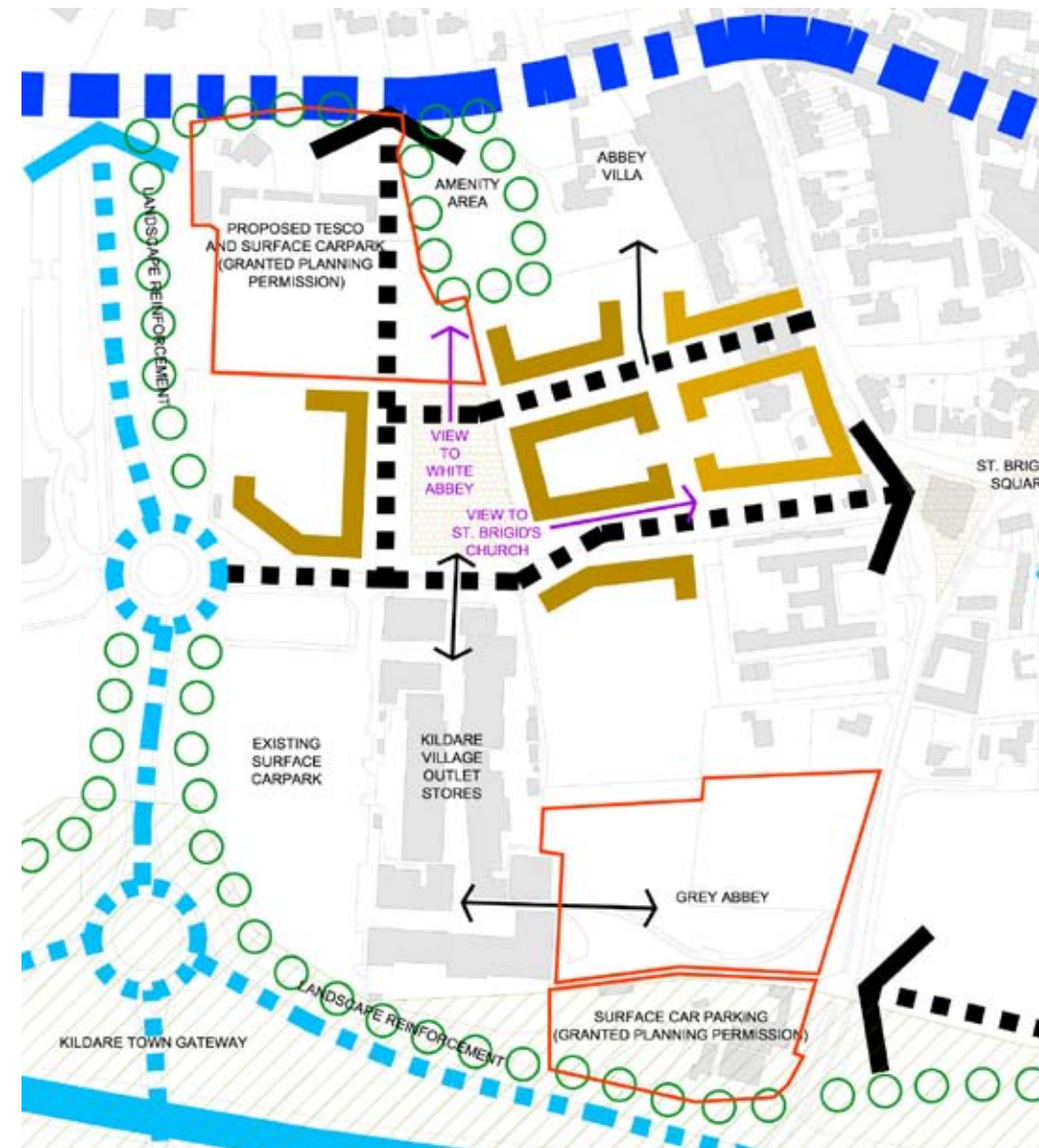


Fig. 81_Town Centre Expansion Site

parking spaces should be identified and encouraged and might include a cinema or hotel facilities.

With respect to the remainder of the site it is recommended that:

- Abbey Villa and its associated curtilage including tree lines is protected.
- Boundaries along the Nurney Road and Monasterevin Road are defined by landscaping rather than buildings in order to retain the green character of approach roads and screen any proposed surface car parking areas.
- The redevelopment of buildings on Academy Street provide for a continuous building line with the exception of linkages through to the proposed urban square.

Successful examples of town centre expansion include Ballincollig Town Centre, where new retail, commercial and residential development has been

developed as an identifiable urban quarter integrated with the historic town centre.

Environmental Improvements

Improvements to the public realm can significantly enhance the image and identity of a place [Fig. 82]. The regeneration of the historic core of Kildare Town should prioritise public realm improvements in order to provide a stimulus for private sector investment in the town centre. The principal areas which should be targeted are Market Square, Claregate Street and St. Brigid's Square.

Environmental improvement plans should provide for:

- High quality hard landscaping to footpaths, shared surfaces and parking bays which is appropriate to the heritage status of the town,
- Feature lighting of streets, spaces and buildings of interest.
- Coherent street furniture including seating, litter bins and signage,
- Undergrounding of over head cables,
- Soft landscaping including specimen trees and tree groups, and
- Public art.

Environmental improvement plans should have regard to the historic character of spaces without resorting to pastiche. In particular, the trading function of Market Square should be promoted through the provision of infrastructure such as stalls and storage. Improvements to the ground surface could make reference to the conjectural outline of the town wall and gate houses.



Fig. 82_Relandscaping of the Diamond, Donegal

6.4 Landscape and Natural Heritage

As previously noted, the landscape surrounding Kildare Town can be divided into the Curragh and the rural hinterland. The protection of the natural heritage of the Curragh will be provided for by the Natural Heritage Area status of the site. The County Kildare Development Plan contains policies for the protection of the natural heritage of the county. Outside the Curragh, the natural heritage of the study area includes agricultural lands, associated field boundaries, trees and hedgerows, identified habitats of importance, rivers, woodlands and bogland. Within Kildare Town, trees of both townscape and historic significance have also been identified (Kildare Tree Survey 2010). These elements are the defining features of the landscape amenity of Kildare's hinterland and should be protected accordingly.

Trees, hedgerows and habitats

A tree preservation order will provide for the protection of valuable trees, tree lines and tree groups identified in the tree survey and should be incorporated into the forthcoming Kildare Town Local Area Plan.

Equally, habitats identified in the Kildare Habitat Survey should be recognised and protected by the forthcoming local area plan. The removal of hedgerows identified in the habitats survey, many of which are of historic as well as ecological value, should be prohibited. In particular, applications for rural housing should be checked against identified indigenous hedgerows.

It is recommended that the natural heritage within the study area is integrated into an ecological framework, incorporating existing and new sites and corridors such as woodland at Sillothill, the railway line corridor, the avenue connecting the National Stud to the Dublin Road etc. This framework should extend into the town centre and provide for public access where possible.

Bogland

Bogland is an important feature of Kildare's natural heritage. Kingsbog or Commons to the south of Kildare Town should be protected from inappropriate uses such as conifer plantations. Consultations with landowners should be undertaken to provide for the appropriate management of this site.

Rural Housing

Whilst rural communities are an important part of our cultural heritage it is important that urban generated rural housing does not have a negative impact on the rural landscape.

Accordingly, it is recommended that appropriate locations for low density housing on large serviced sites are identified within the town boundary as a more appropriate alternative for those seeking to develop larger houses on more substantial sites than those provided in urban estates. These locations could include the green corridor suggested between the Dunmurry Road and the Old Road. Prototypes such as Cloughjordan in County Tipperary should be considered.

Ribbon development should be discouraged. Future applications for one off housing which provide for the extension of identified linear settlements should be discouraged. The planning authority should seek to consolidate these settlements through the identification of rural clusters with guidelines for intensification / backland development.

Views

The County Kildare Landscape Characterisation proposed the protection of views on routes through the Curragh and from the Chair of Kildare. These views have been included in the County Development Plan. These views relate to panoramic views across the landscape rather than long distance views to Kildare Town.

The profile of Kildare Town on the skyline and views to St. Brigid's Cathedral and round tower, St. Mary's Carmelite Church and St. Brigid's R.C. Church should be specifically protected by the forthcoming Local Area Plan. However, given the number and distribution of these views, it would be overly restrictive to prevent development within the catchment of vision cones. It is therefore recommended that the forthcoming Local Area Plan require that planning applications for large developments demonstrate that views to the identified landmarks are not negatively impacted by the proposed development. View points for the purpose of assessing visual impact should include but not necessarily be restricted to those identified in the course of this study as appropriate.

6.5 Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage of Kildare Town is rich and varied, representing major periods from Irish history. This culture should be celebrated and promoted in a coordinated manner which allows Kildare to realise its full potential as a heritage town and major tourism destination.

Heritage Interpretation

At present the heritage of Kildare Town is interpreted in the Market House where the Kildare Heritage

Centre and Bord Fáilte Tourist Office are housed. Whilst this facility is well placed in the town centre, it is restricted in terms of accommodation.

The Market House is well positioned as an orientation point for visitors to Kildare and should retain its tourist information function. It is an objective of the County Development Plan to seek the development of a centrally located museum in Kildare Town. It is recommended that the forthcoming Kildare Town Local Area Plan include an objective to develop a state of the art interpretative facility at Magee Barracks.

Heritage Sites and Signage

There are several buildings and sites in and around Kildare Town which are of historical interest. These include St. Brigid's Cathedral and round tower, Kildare Castle and the abbeys at White Abbey, Grey Abbey and Tully. Sites of interest include the no longer extant chapel on Chapel Hill, the site of the Turf Club and Lock Hospital.

Rather than designating a heritage walk that identifies a particular route or circuit through the town, an overall way finding strategy is recommended. This strategy should compliment the already established 'The Hundred Acres' heritage trail, which extends to the National Stud at Tully but also signal spaces and places of interest which do not coincide with the existing heritage trail. Finger signage [Fig. 83] to heritage sites should be provided, with explanatory signage located at individual sites. Signage maps should be specifically located at gateways such as Kildare Railway Station and the Kildare Village Outlet Stores as well as nodal spaces such as the Market Square, St. Brigid's Square and the proposed civic space at Magee Barracks.



Fig. 83_Way finding Signage, Dublin Docklands

