

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Architectural Conservation Areas and Historic Landscape Areas – Character Appraisal

Architectural Conservation Areas - Character Areas

Historic Town Centre

- **Main Street**

The Main Street of Celbridge underwent significant change in the eighteenth century when William Conolly acquired the Dongan estate. In an effort to improve the character of the town, Conolly granted new leases on lands in Celbridge on the condition that *'substantial stone houses with gable ends and two chimneys be built'*.

A number of fine houses were built in the area of Castletown Gate. Of note is the manner in which houses on the south side of the street, and Kildrought House in particular, respond to their setting on the banks of the River Liffey. These buildings were designed to address both the Main Street and their formal gardens, which slope down to the River Liffey. Their contribution to the landscape setting of the River Liffey is as important as their relationship with the main street. The former Town Hall, the Round House and Jasmine House contribute to the eighteenth century character of the north end of the Main Street whilst Christ Church reinforces its identity as the less commercial end of the street. Development is more densely concentrated on both sides of the street between St. Patrick's Church and Celbridge Mill. This end of the town historically comprised more commercial uses than the north end of the street and is more typical of nineteenth century Irish streetscapes.

- **Celbridge Mill and surrounds**

The Celbridge Mill, the adjoining road bridge and the buildings concentrated at the junction of the Dublin Road, Newtown Road and Primrose Hill define a gateway to the town centre focussed on the crossing of the River Liffey. The siting of the mill buildings on the River Liffey are of particular note, terminating views from the Dublin Road and signalling the entry point to the town centre.

- **English Row**

English Row, which is an extension of the Main Street, originally provided accommodation for the mill workers that arrived from Yorkshire in the early nineteenth century. These buildings have since been adapted to retail and commercial uses and now contribute to the commercial function of the town centre.

- **Tea Lane and Big Lane**

Tea Lane or Church Lane is of both archaeological and architectural interest. In early medieval times, this section of the road would have linked St. Mochua's monastic site to the ford crossing the River Liffey and St. Mochua's well. Like English Row, the north side of Tea Lane once comprised a terrace of houses built to accommodate the Celbridge Mill workers. The majority of these houses were cleared in the twentieth century to make way for local authority cottages. The character of Tea Lane is now defined by the following buildings and features:

- Tea Lane graveyard and St. Mochua's Church
- Demesne wall of Oakley Park
- Entrance gate and gate lodge associated with 'The Lodge' house
- Surviving nineteenth and twentieth century cottages and their front gardens
- Mature trees along the southern boundary of Oakley Park and the northern boundary of The Lodge.

- **Big Lane**

Big Lane comprises the section of the Maynooth Road that extends from Elm Park to the Celbridge workhouse. It has a character similar to Tea Lane that is defined by nine pairs of early twentieth century local authority cottages on its southern boundary and the set back and landscaped areas to the front of buildings along its northern boundary.

Temple Mills

This character area comprises the surviving buildings and features associated with Temple Mills, Temple Mills House and the terraced cottages at Temple Place. The weir, mill race and sluice also add to the industrial heritage of the River Liffey. Collectively, these buildings and features define a complex that is of social, technical and architectural value.

Historic Landscape Areas - Character Areas

Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper

In 2006, the first phase of a Historic Landscape Study of Castletown was undertaken by Dr. Finola O' Kane Crimmins and Dr. John Olley on behalf of Kildare County Council. This study identified the direct and indirect influence of the Conollys on the landscapes surrounding their demesne and the parklands of St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper in particular.

The siting of Castletown House was undoubtedly influenced by its elevated location overlooking the River Liffey and the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside including the Wicklow Mountains. Under the supervision of Katherine Conolly, the lands surrounding the house were landscaped in the Baroque style popular at the time. The designed landscape included extensive woodlands to the north of the house, open parkland to the south and east of the house and a number of formal and informal approaches from the Dublin Road, the Main Street of Celbridge, Leixlip (via Easton) and the Maynooth Road. Functional areas such as the kitchen gardens and enclosed fields were located to the west of the house and screened from view.

Visual connections between Castletown House and the wider landscape were established by developing vistas terminated by buildings and monuments. These vistas included views along defined axis between Castletown House and Conolly's Obelisk to the north-west and the Wonderful Barn to the north-east. The Collegiate College on the Clane Road, the construction of which was patronised by the Conollys, is located on a third undefined axis to the south west of the house. William Conolly also encouraged the redevelopment of Celbridge's Main Street which was laid out as an extension of the formal avenue that leads to the house from the south west. A view towards the house from the Dublin Road was established, as defined by the tree line that separates the Donaghcumper and St. Wolstan's demesnes.

When Lady Louisa Conolly took her place in Castletown in 1759, she focussed her attention on the parkland to the south of the house. A Gothic walk was developed along the banks of the River Liffey which was landscaped in the natural style that had become fashionable. Buildings and structures such as the gate lodge, a temple, a bath house, an ice house and a number of bridges were incorporated to add visual interest. Streams were manipulated and rapids created in the River Liffey to enhance the picturesque quality and atmosphere of the walk.

This style of landscaping was also applied to the parklands at St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper on the opposite side of the Liffey. Paths were laid on circuitous routes that incorporated tree lines, woodlands, streams and existing and new structures such as the ruins of St. Wolstan's Abbey and the walled gardens. As such, the success of the Gothic walk on the Castletown Estate relies heavily on the parklands and associated river walks on the adjoining demesnes of St. Wolstan's and Donaghcumper.

Oakley Park and Celbridge Abbey

These substantial houses and their associated pleasure grounds are clustered at the southern end of the town. Collectively, they form a character area defined by landmark buildings, heavily planted landscapes and the River Liffey. Their demesne walls, tree lines and tree groups are attractive features on the approaches to the town.

The grounds of Celbridge Abbey, which are located on both banks of the River Liffey, are of particular value given their historical associations as well as their contribution to the landscape setting of the river and the adjoining approach roads. The paths and associated foot bridges over the mill race and the River Liffey provide for attractive views up and down the river.