

An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Impact Assessment Report for a Proposed Rail Station link through Carlow College, Carlow Town

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment for a proposed Rail Station link through Carlow College Grounds, Carlow town. This public realm works is one part of the Cultural Quarter Intervention detailed in Project Carlow 2040: A Vision for Regeneration. This study was undertaken for Carlow County Council by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.

The proposed development is located in the townlands of Carlow and Rathnapish, in the town of Carlow in County Carlow. The proposed development will consist of a pedestrian footpath through Carlow College Grounds to provide a link with Carlow railway station. It will involve the construction of a new pedestrian footpath which will run along the south-east edge of the sport's ground of St. Leo College, passing St Joseph's National School. In the future, the new footpath will be linked up to a new entrance to St. Joseph's road. The proposed development will include the creation of an opening between the sports ground and Carlow college, which will allow the new foot pathway to link up with an existing path through that runs into the Carlow College. The existing footpath will be upgraded as part of the proposed development.

The proposed development does not represent a significant change to the character of the development site, which already partially comprises a tree-lined walkway. The proposed development will have a direct effect on CH001-CH003: three unregistered cultural heritage receptors comprising the Carlow/Rathnapish townland boundary (CH001), and two distinct small buildings (CH002; CH003) marked on the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, and which have no surface expression, but where there is potential for subsurface archaeology to be present. The area defined as the limit of Historic core of Carlow Town (RMP CW007-018----) lies 90 m west and outside of the proposed development site but will not be directly or indirectly impacted.

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence targeting areas of archaeological potential (CH001-CH003).
- Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established. A strategy will be proposed to the National Monuments Service to preserve the site *in situ*, where possible. Subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service, where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation may be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
- The results of any archaeological testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.



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1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment for the proposed Rail Station link through Carlow College Grounds, Carlow. This public realm works is one part of the Cultural Quarter Intervention detailed in Project Carlow 2040: A Vision for Regeneration. This study was undertaken Carlow County Council by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.

1.1 Site Description and Location

The proposed development is located in the townlands of Carlow and Rathnapish, in the town of Carlow, in County Carlow. The proposed development is located in a green space to the east of the town centre with a number of schools and colleges. The proposed development will consist of a pedestrian footpath through Carlow College Grounds to provide a link with Carlow railway station. It will involve the construction of a new pedestrian footpath which will run along the south-east edge of the sport's ground of St. Leo College, passing St Joseph's National School. In the future, the new footpath will be linked up to a new entrance to St. Joseph's road. The proposed development will include the creation of an opening between the sports ground and Carlow college, which will allow the new foot pathway to link up with an existing path through that runs into the Carlow College. The existing footpath will be upgraded as part of the proposed development.

1.2 Study area


The study area for this assessment has been defined in respect of two factors:

- the ability of sites/information sources to provide information pertaining to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, and
- the potential physical effects, as well as effects on setting, that the proposed works may have on sites of cultural heritage significance.

Taking these factors into account the study area has been defined as follows (See Table 1):

Subject	Study area
National Monuments and Recorded archaeological monuments (RMPs)	Within 100m of the proposed development site.
Protected Structures and/or their curtilage	Within 100m of the proposed development site.
Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAS)	Within 100m of the proposed development site.
Structures recorded in the NIAH	Within 100m of the proposed development site.
Zones of Archaeological Potential	Within the proposed development footprint
Unregistered features of cultural heritage	Within the proposed development footprint
Areas of archaeological potential; Unregistered Cultural Heritage Receptors (UCH)	Within the proposed development footprint
Previous Excavations and National Museum Topographical Files	Within 100m of the proposed development site.

Table 1-1 Dimensions of the study area

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2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, evaluate potential effects that the proposed works will have on this environment, and provide mitigation measures in accordance with the policies of the National Monuments Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) and Carlow County Council, the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended, and best practice guidelines, to avoid, reduce or offset these effects.

Cultural heritage (CH) includes artefacts, monuments, groups of buildings, sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It includes industrial heritage and cave paintings (UNESCO 2009).

In order to provide a comprehensive assessment, an extensive desktop study in addition to a field inspection of the proposed development area was undertaken.

The scope and methodology for the baseline assessment has been devised with reference to the following guidelines:

- Environmental Protection Agency (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements'
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999) 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2003; Draft 2015) 'Advice notes on current practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage 2018)
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Environmental Protection Agency 2017)
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2011) 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities'
- National Roads Authority (2005) 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes'
- Eirgrid (2015) Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A stand approach to archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of high voltage transmission projects.

2.2 Desktop study methodology

The present assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the proposed development area is based on a desktop study of a number of documentary and cartographic sources. The desktop study was further augmented by an examination of aerial photography as well as a field survey. The main sources consulted in completing the desktop study are listed here:



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- List of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership & Guardianship
- Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Development Plan 2023-2029
- List of Preservation Orders and the Register of Historic Monuments
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- Files of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- Updated SMR available at www.archaeology.ie
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey
- County and Town Development Plans
- Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files
- Ordnance Survey first and subsequent editions, www.osi.ie
- National Folklore Collection
- Aerial photographs
- Excavations Bulletin (www.excavations.ie)
- www.loganim.ie (for townland names)

2.3 Methodology used for assessing baseline value of sites

In order to categorise the baseline environment in a systemised manner, ‘baseline values’ have been assigned to each identified site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within the study area. The baseline value of a site is determined with reference to the ‘importance’ and ‘sensitivity’ of the site.

The importance of a site is determined based on the following criteria: legal status, condition, historical associations, amenity value, ritual value, specimen value, group value and rarity.

The sensitivity of a site is determined based on the presence of extant remains and/or the potential for associated subsurface remains of the feature to be present *in situ*.

It should be noted that the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended does not differentiate between recorded archaeological sites on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity. In addition, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) does not differentiate between Protected Structures or Areas of Architectural Conservation on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity either. Consequently, professional judgement has been exercised to rate these features based on their perceived importance and sensitivity in relation to physical effects and effects on setting.

Taking the above factors into consideration, the criteria that have been defined are provided in Table 2 below.

Subject	Baseline Value
- Recorded Archaeological Monuments - Protected Structures - Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)	Very High
- Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural heritage features - Unrecorded features of archaeological potential	High
- Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition	Medium/High



Subject	Baseline Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains - Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains - Marshy/wetland areas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence - Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains 	Medium/Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence 	Low

Table 2-1 Baseline values of sites

Caution should be exercised when assessing the perceived significance of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site as such categorisation is open to subjectivity. In addition, the perceived levels of importance as identified in this report are liable to future revision in the instance where new information, through the undertaking of further archaeological investigations, is provided.

2.4 Type of effects

The following table lists the type of effects that a proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource (after Environmental Protection Agency, 2022):

Type of effects	Definition
Direct	Direct effects arise where an archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical effect zone, whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
Indirect	Indirect effects arise when an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature is not located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical effect zone, and thus is not effected directly. Such an effect could include effect on setting or effect on the zone of archaeological potential of site whereby the actual site itself is not physically affected.
Do-nothing effects	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
Worst-case Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
Cumulative	The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects
Indeterminable	Whereby the full consequence that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource is not known
Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
Residual	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
Synergistic Effects	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents

Table 2-2 Type of effects

2.5 Methodology used for assessing magnitude of effects

The methodology used to assess the magnitude of potential pre-mitigation effects, as well as residual effects, of the proposed development on the baseline environment is presented in Table 4 below.



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Effect magnitude	Criteria
Profound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, adverse effects only. These effects arise where an archaeology site is completely and irreversibly destroyed. An effect that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects.
Very Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently effected, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological feature/site. An effect that by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or the setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently effected leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigate is likely to reduce the effect. A beneficial or positive effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends. A medium effect arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible. A medium effect to a site/monument may also arise when a site is fully or partly excavated under license and all recovered data is preserved by record. An effect that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Effects are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the effect. A beneficial or positive effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.
Slight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as visual effect, which are not high or very high and do not directly effect or affect an archaeological feature or monument. An effect that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly effect the architectural structure or feature. Effects are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the effect. A beneficial or positive effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of an architectural heritage significance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable.



Effect magnitude	Criteria
Not-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Imperceptible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement but without significant consequences. An effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measure merit but without noticeable consequences. A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Table 2-3 Criteria used for rating magnitude of effects

Positive significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature may also be expressed.

- **Significant positive:** a beneficial effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage in a clearly noticeable manner;
- **Moderate positive:** a beneficial effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage and which is noticeable and consistent with existing and emerging trends;
- **Slight positive:** a beneficial effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of architectural heritage or local or regional importance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable; and
- **Imperceptible positive:** a beneficial effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

2.6 Assessing the duration and frequency of effect

‘Duration’ is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics. The EPA (2022) has issued the below guideline definitions when discussing duration in the context of environmental impact assessment.

Term	Criteria
Momentary Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
Brief Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting less than a day
Temporary Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting less than a year.
Short-term Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting one to seven years
Medium-term Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
Long-term Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
Permanent Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects lasting over sixty years.
Reversible Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or
Frequency of Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).

Table 2-4 Assessing the duration and frequency of effect

2.7 Methodology used for assessing significance level of effects

The significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature is assessed by combining the magnitude of the effect and baseline value of the feature. The matrix in Table 5 provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly



where the baseline value or effect magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The permanence of the effects is also taken into account, with irreversible effects being more significant while temporary or reversible changes are likely to be less significant.

Magnitude of Effect	Baseline Value				
	Very High	High	Medium/High	Medium/Low	Low
Profound	Very significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight
Very Significant	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight	Slight
Significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible
Slight	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible	Negligible
Not Significant	Slight	Slight	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible
Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

Table 2-5 Criteria for assessing significance level of effects

2.8 Assessing effects on setting

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.

The definition of setting follows the guidance set by Historic England as they have developed a range of comprehensive guidance on this subject specific to heritage assets (Historic England; 2008; 2017). Hence setting is not simply the visual envelope of the asset in question. Rather, it is those parts of the asset's surroundings that are relevant to the significance of the asset and the appreciation thereof, and in which a heritage asset is experienced.

In most instances setting will relate to the historical value of the asset, where an appreciable relationship between the asset and an element of its surroundings helps the visitor understand and appreciate the asset. This may be in terms of a physical relationship, such as between a castle and the natural rise that it occupies, or a more distant visual relationship, such as a designed vista or the view from, for example, one ringfort to another. The former is referred to as immediate setting and the latter as landscape setting. Many assets will only have an immediate setting. Some assets will have aesthetic value that relates to the surrounding landscape, such as in the case of a designed view incorporating a distant hill, or that relates to the contribution the asset makes to the local landscape, for example a church spire providing a focal point in a view down a valley.

Historic England has provided a list of factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting. These are broad factors and have been taken into consideration when assessing magnitude of effect and sensitivity. They are summarised in Table 13.5.

Factor	Discussion
Visual dominance	Where an historic feature (such as a hilltop monument or fortification, a church spire, or a plantation belonging to a designed landscape) is the most visually dominant feature in the surrounding landscape, adjacent construction of the proposed development may be inappropriate.
Scale	The extent of a proposed development and the number, density and disposition of its associated elements will also contribute to its visual effect.
Intervisibility	Certain archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from other historic sites. Construction of a proposed development should respect this intervisibility.



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Factor	Discussion
Vistas and sight-lines	Designed landscapes invariably involve key vistas, prospects, panoramas and sight-lines, or the use of topography to add drama. Location of a proposed development within key views, which may often extend beyond any designated area, should be avoided.
Movement, sound or light effects	The movement associated with a proposed development may be a significant issue in certain historic settings. Adequate distance should always be provided between important historic sites and proposed developments to avoid the site being overshadowed or affected by noise.
Unaltered settings	The setting of some historic sites may be little changed from the period when the site was first constructed, used or abandoned. Largely unaltered settings for certain types of sites, particularly more ancient sites, may be rare survivals and especially vulnerable to modern intrusions such as wind turbines. This may be a particular issue in certain upland areas.

Table 2-6 Factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting (after Historic England 2017)

The following are guides to the assessment of magnitude of effect on setting:


- Obstruction of or distraction from key views. Some assets have been sited or designed with specific views in mind, such as the view from a country house with designed vistas. The obstruction or cluttering of such views would reduce the extent to which the asset could be understood and appreciated by the visitor. Developments outside key views may distract from them and make them difficult to appreciate on account of their prominence and movement. In such instances the magnitude is likely to be greatest where views have a particular focus or a strong aesthetic character. Sympathetic development may improve key views by removing features that obstruct or distract from key views and hence preserve or enhance the importance of the asset.
- Changes in prominence. Some assets are deliberately placed in prominent locations in order to be prominent in the surrounding landscape, for example prehistoric cairns are often placed to be silhouetted against the sky and churches in some areas are deliberately placed on ridges in order to be highly visible. Developments can reduce such prominence and therefore reduce the extent to which such sites can be appreciated or the contribution that they make to the local landscape. Similarly, sympathetic development can enhance the setting of such sites by, for example, removing modern forestry that would otherwise compromise the setting of a cairn that had been placed on a skyline.
- Changes in landscape character. A particular land use regime may be essential to the appreciation of an asset's function, for instance the fields surrounding an Improvement period farmstead are inextricably linked to its appreciation. Changes in land use can leave the asset isolated and reduce its value. In some instances, assets will have aesthetic value or a sense of place that is tied to the surrounding landscape character. Conversely, sympathetic development may restore or preserve the relevant land use and hence preserve or enhance the relevant value of the asset.
- Duration of effect. Effects that are long term or permanent are generally of greater magnitude than those that are short term.

Readily reversible effects are generally of lesser magnitude than those that cannot be reversed. Effects upon the defined setting will be of greater magnitude than those that affect unrelated elements of the asset's surroundings or incidental views to or from an asset that are unrelated to the appreciation of its value. The magnitude of effects can be rated from Negligible to Major using a similar scale to that for physical effects.

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2.9 Limitations of this assessment.

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.

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3 BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Designated archaeological sites

3.1.1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs)

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1994 made provision the establishment and maintenance of a Record of Monuments & Places (RMP). Under this Act, each site recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

There is one RMPs located within the study area for the proposed scheme: CH004 represents the historic core of Carlow Town (CW007-018---). The limits of the defined area of the historic town lie 90 m west and outside of the proposed development site. The RMP records; ‘Sited at the confluence of the rivers Burren and Barrow. Earliest charter dates to c. 1223. Its main elements include the castle (CW007-018002-) founded by William Marshall and town defences (CW007-018006-), although no traces of the latter survive. (see CW007-018001- to CW007-018008-)’.

3.1.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are broken into two categories; National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local authority. Section 8 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954 provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months’ notice must be given to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are no National Monuments sites incorporated by the study area.


3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders

The National Monuments Act 1930-2014 as amended provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the National Monument Act 1930 (as amended) the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers’ opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with preservation orders incorporated by the study area.

3.1.4 Record of Protected Structures

The Carlow County Development Plan (2022-2028) was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the Local

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Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

If a structure is included in the RPS, the protection extends to:

- The interior of the structure
- The land in its curtilage. Curtilage means the land and outbuildings immediately surrounding a structure which is (or was) used for the purposes of the structure.
- Any other structures on that land and their interiors.
- All fixtures and features forming part of the interior and exterior of the protected structure or any structure on the grounds attached to it.

Inclusion of these structures in the RPS means that their importance is recognised, they are legally protected from harm and all future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process (for example, planning permission) or by issuing a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

There are no Protected Structures located within the study area.

3.2 Designated architectural heritage sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000, and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

3.2.1 Architectural Conservation Areas


The Carlow County Development Plan (2022-2028) was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas (hereinafter 'ACAs'). The stated objective of ACAs is to conserve and enhance the special character of the area, including traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, landscape and setting.

There are no ACAs within the study area;

3.2.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the 'NIAH') is a state initiative under the administration of the DoHLGH and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are no sites from the NIAH register located within the study area.

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3.3 Undesignated cultural heritage sites within the proposed development site

This section deals with sites that are considered to be of cultural heritage value, but which do not fall within the above categories as they are not registered. Such sites may include lime kilns, dwellings/outhouses, trackways or townland boundaries etc. identifiable on the First Edition 6/25-inch OS maps.

3.3.1 Sites identifiable on cartographic sources

The cartographic record for the study area was examined for the purposes of this report (Figures 4 and 5). The following maps consulted to identify undesignated cultural heritage sites that may be impacted on by the proposed scheme.

- The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet (1840)
- Griffith Valuation 1847-1864
- Ordnance Survey Town series (1873)
- First Edition 25-inch Survey (1908)
- First Edition 6-inch Cassini Survey (c.1940)

Thomas Larcom's pre-Ordnance Survey map of the Municipal Boundary change in Carlow Town (1820s).


Thomas Larcom's map shows that in the early 19th century, that the study area was at the edge of Carlow Town. The map shows no building or detail within the study area. However, it does show the nearby Roman Catholic College of St. Patrick's and the Roman Catholic chapel, which are located outside the study area.

First Edition 6-Inch Ordnance Survey sheet (1840)

The 6-Inch map shows the study area around twenty years after the previous map. Like the previous map, the study area was at the edge of Carlow Town. However, the 6-inch map suggests an increase in settlement within study area. It depicts land divisions at edge of town, and also the divided agricultural land located outside of the town. A number of facilities have also been marked on the map including an 'Infirmery for Young men' with a possible small associated building. This is located at the corner of two laneways, one running south, and other running southwest-northeast. There is an 'Infirmery for Boys' with a possible associated building marked further southwest along the second laneway. The map shows Roman Catholic College of St Patricks and its associated grounds.

Griffith Valuation 1847-1864

The Primary Valuation of Ireland, widely referred to as Griffith's Valuation, was a property tax survey carried out in the mid-19th century under the supervision of Richard Griffith. It was published on county by county basis between 1847 and 1864. The map shows a change to the study area with the construction of the railway, located to the east, and running north through the study area. The railway station is marked on the map to the north-east of the study area. A laneway is shown running along the townland boundary between Carlow town and Rathnapish, which was not shown on the previous map. The

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'Infirmary for Young men' is not marked on the map and the 'Infirmary for Boys' is now annotated 'Hospital'.

Map of Carlow town, Ordnance Survey Town plan series sheet 12 and sheet 13 (1873)

The Map of Carlow town, sheet 12 and sheet 13, show the study area towards the end of 19th century. Overall, the layout is the same as that presented on the Griffith valuation. On sheet 13, there is a building where the 'Infirmary for Young men' was located on the 6-inch map. The railway is named the Great Southern and Western Railway on sheet 13.

First Edition 25-inch Survey (1908) & the First Edition 6-inch Cassini Survey map (c.1940)

Insight into Carlow town in the 20th century is reflected in 25-Inch OS map and the Cassini Survey map (c.1940). Overall, there is little change to the layout of the study area in the 20th century although Carlow town appears to have extended during this period.

On examination of the maps, there are two undesignated cultural heritage sites which may be directly affected by the proposed development:

CH ID	ID No.	Short Description
CH002	UCH01	Ambiguously marked on the First Edition 6-inch OS map as 'Infirmary for Young Men, with a possible small roofed building associated. A building is more clearly marked on the later 25-inch OS. The building is shown with a path leading to it on the 1873 town plan. This path is shown to underly the proposed development site. No additional information is available at present.
CH003	UCH02	Marked on the First Edition 6-inch OS map - A small, roofed T-plan building to the north of the R.C. College. Possibly also associated with the 'Infirmary for Young Men'. It is absent from the subsequent 25-inch Edition OS. No additional information is available at present.

Table 3-13 Sites identifiable on cartographic sources

3.3.2 Townland Boundaries

A townland is the smallest official land unit in the country. Ireland is made up of approximately 60,000 townlands. As a result, townland boundaries are ubiquitous in the Irish countryside, and have been incorporated into the modern agricultural landscape. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. This suggests that many the boundaries of many of these territorial units preserve landscape divisions from the medieval period and perhaps earlier. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. Research into the name of these land units frequently provides information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use.

The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey was consulted in order to identify the location of townland boundaries that may be effected on by the proposed scheme. The proposed development site overlies one townland boundary between Rathnapish and Carlow. In this case, the townland boundary has already been removed and replaced with a modern fence running north-east to south west and a wall north to south



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CH ID	ID No.	Short Description	Townland
CH001	TB01	Townland Boundary	Rathnapish/Carlow

Table 3-2 Townland Boundaries

3.3.3 Sites identifiable on aerial photography and satellite imagery

Ortho-rectified aerial photography available from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland was inspected in order to identify possible features of cultural and heritage significance. Aerial photography from the 1995, 2000, and 2005 fly-overs was inspected, as well as the latest OSI images, LiDAR imagery (where available), Google Earth and Bing Maps satellite imagery.

No additional undesignated cultural heritage sites were identified on other aerial photography and satellite imagery within the proposed development site.

3.3.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of archaeological potential (AAPs) are additional areas or locations whose landscape characteristics suggest a higher potential for unknown archaeological features to be present e.g. riverine, estuarine or peatland environments. No additional Areas of Archaeological Potential were identified based on landscape characteristics.

3.4 Archaeological and historical background

The paragraphs below outline the archaeological and historical background for the proposed development site and the surrounding landscape.

3.4.1 Prehistoric Period

Currently, there is no recorded evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area. However, Carlow town is located at the confluence of the River Barrow and River Burren, and this may have provided a focal point of activity on a routeway during the prehistoric period (Sutton 2021, 9). There is evidence of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape. There is a Neolithic portal tomb (CW007-010) known as 'Brownshill', in the townland of Kernanstown, located 2.8km east of the study area. In the same townland, prehistoric burial remains were found in 1981 during the construction of Presentation College (*ibid.* 2021, 10). In Rathnapish townland, there is a cremation pit (CW007-146), located 1.8km from the study area, which indicates Bronze age activity. Other evidence of Bronze Age activity is known in the adjoining townland of Strawhall where there is flat cemetery (CW002-004) situated 1.5km from the study area.

3.4.2 Medieval period (AD400-1540)

During the early medieval period, Carlow Town was located in the district of Ui Feilmeada Tuaidh; a sub-district of the Hy Kinsellagh ruled by the MacMurrough sept (Clarke 2023, 2). There is evidence of an early medieval ecclesiastical site prior to Carlow town; in 6th century, St. Congal of Bangor founded a monastery in Carlow, on land which was granted to him by Cormac, son of Diarmuid MacMurrough, who relinquished his inherited title to lead a religious life (*ibid.* 2023, 2). Archaeological investigations by Judith Carroll & Company Ltd (2013) have shown that this ecclesiastical site was located on the high ground overlooking the River Barrow, known as Castle hill (Sutton 2021, 10).



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The 12th century witnessed the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, who utilised the strategic nature of the confluence of River Barrow with the River Burren. In the latter half of the 12th century, the Anglo-Normans built an earth and timber fortification on a small island of high ground at the confluence (*ibid.* 2023,10). Historical evidence suggests that this castle was built by Hugh de Lacy around 1180 on behalf of John de Clahull. (O’Conor 1997,15). Through archaeological excavation work carried out by K. O’Conor (1997, 14–15), he revealed that this initial fortification comprised a ringwork with a bailey attached to its north side.

In the first decade of the 13th century, William Marshall took control of Carlow castle as Lord of Leinster from John de Clahull. Between 1210 and 1215, work on a masonry castle (CW007-018002), replacing the previous castle. The masonry castle took several years to complete (O’Conor 1997, 15). To east of the masonry castle, the historic town of Carlow (CW0007-018) developed on an area of high ground, separated from the castle by an area of bog called the ‘Moneen’ (Sutton 2021, 11). A charter of around 1223 suggests that William Marshall set up the town before late 1210 (O’Conor 1997, 15). Carlow town formed part of a trading network along the River Barrow focused on port town of New Ross (Hession 2020, 6). During the 13th and 14th centuries, control of the town changed hands several times. At one stage, in 1361, Carlow was selected as the new seat of Government in Ireland by the Duke of Clarence. (Sutton 2021, 11).


The town defences (CW007-018006), consisting of a wall and number of town gates, were built in the latter half of the 14th century (*ibid.* 2021, 11). There are documentary and cartographic references to the town defences from the 14th and 16th centuries. The earliest documentary reference to the town defences is from the year 1361, when £500 was paid to wall Carlow (Feeley and Sheehan 2004, 16). One documentary reference includes a report in 1373-74 which records that the Irish had destroyed the countryside ‘right up to the city walls of Carlow’ (*ibid.* 2004, 16). There is a map of Leix/Offaly dating from 1563 which shows the defences at this time. By the 17th century, all upstanding remains of the town were gone, and to date, archaeological investigations have not found any subsurface remains of the defences (Sutton 2021, 11).

3.4.3 Post-medieval (AD 1540–1700) & early modern period (AD 1700–1850)

In 1613, Carlow was granted a charter of incorporation by King James, giving the town the right to send two members to parliament (Clarke 2023, 2). The town began to expand, with the River Barrow and the River Burren playing a major role in the prosperity and development of the town. The rivers were utilised for trade, and quays developed along the Burren where the town was unwalled (Feeley and Sheehan 2004).

The two rivers also played a major role in Carlow’s commercial growth in the 18th century, reflected in the construction of several mills in town (Sutton 2021, 13). During the 18th century, the town expanded outside of the walled area of the town. College street was laid out during this period, although it was known as Chappel Lane at the time (Feeley and Sheehan 2004, 16). It is depicted on Charles Colombine 1735 map of Carlow. In the late 18th century, St. Patrick’s College (RPS No. CT 73) was built to the east of Chappel Lane/College street. The building was constructed on leasehold land acquired by the Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in the late 18th century (Sutton 2021, 14).

The 19th century witnessed an expansion in settlement at the north-east edge of Carlow town, where the study area is located. The 6-Inch map show that separate infirmaries for young men and boys were built within the study area by the 1840s. One of the major changes to occur during the 19th century was

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the construction of the railway line. In the 1840s, the development of Great Southern and Western Railway began, and by 1846 trains began operating to Carlow (Mulligan 1983, 42-43).

3.5 Toponymy of townland/s

The Irish landscape is divided into approximately 60,000 townlands and the system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The original Irish names were eventually anglicised to varying degrees, depending in part upon the linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. A study of the townland names can provide information on aspects of cultural heritage including descriptions of the use of the landscape by man and the potential presence of archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features.

There are 2 townlands within the study area.

English Name	Irish Name	Glossary
Carlow	<i>Ceatharlach</i>	'Place of cattle, herds'
Rathnaphish	<i>Ráth na Pise</i>	'Little rath or earthen fort of the peas'


Table 3-3 Townland placename evidence (after Irish Placenames Committee 2013)

The translation of Carlow as the 'Place of cattle, herds' is the accepted meaning of the name *Ceathalach*. However, previous authors have suggested other translations for the name including 'city or fort on the lake or river' and the 'quadruple lake'.

3.6 Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission

Cultural Heritage is a broad term that includes Archaeological Heritage, Built Heritage, Portable Heritage, and other resources inherited from the past by contemporary society. It consists of the tangible and intangible traces of the interactions between people and places, people and nature and people and objects through time (TII 2022, 8). Folklore and local tradition are examples of intangible interactions between people and places where they live. In Ireland, work was done by the Irish Folklore Commission, and its successors, to collect and preserve Irish folklore. The Schools' Collection, for example, collected folklore and local traditions from pupils of 5,000 primary schools. (National Folklore Collection 2023).

Two schools in Carlow town were part of the School's collection; these are Bennekerry School and Presentation Convent. There are no particular references to the study area but both collections contain local knowledge of Carlow town and its environment. In particular, the collection from Presentation Convent contains a wide range of entries on local monuments, customs, placename lore and local people. The monuments mentioned in the entries included Carlow castle and burial ground (National Folklore 1934-1937). The entries are useful in that they provide insight into the cultural knowledge people had inherited about their environment, and about the monuments within it. Much of this knowledge would have been lost without the work of the School's collection.

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3.7 Recent excavations

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to 2024. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area. The database produced no results for previous archaeological excavations undertaken within the study area.

3.8 Topography and soils

According to the Geological Survey of Ireland (<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Bedrock.aspx#500k>), the geology of the landscape is Limestone and calcareous shale. The Teagasc Soil Information System (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/index.php>) has the main soil composition of the study area as Urban, which is likely related to the urban nature of Carlow town.



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4 IMPACT STATEMENT

4.1 Description of the development

The proposed development will consist of a pedestrian footpath through Carlow College Grounds to provide a link with Carlow railway station. It will involve the construction of a new pedestrian footpath, which in the future will be linked up to a new entrance to St. Joseph's road. This new pedestrian footpath will run north-north-east to south-south-west, to the north of St. Joseph's National school. It will link up with an existing path that runs to the north of St. Patrick's College Sports field, and provides access to the grounds of St. Patrick's college campus. The existing footpath will be upgraded as part of the proposed development.

4.2 Summary of the baseline environment

This archaeological assessment has identified 4 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas.


Site Type	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RMPs - SMRs - National Monuments - Sites with Preservation Orders - Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments 	One RMP is located withing the study area - CW007-018---- Historic Town
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected Structures 	There are no Protected Structures located within the study area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) 	There are no ACAs incorporated by the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites Listed in the NIAH 	There is no NIAH registrations within the study area,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites 	Three UCH sites were identified from these early cartographic sources (CH001-CH003).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas/features of archaeological potential 	There are no additional areas of archaeological potential located within the study area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous Archaeological excavation 	No previous excavation were found within the study area

Table 4-1 Summary of baseline environment

4.3 Impact assessment

This section assesses the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on the baseline/receiving environment, prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures. The methodology used in ascertaining the baseline value of sites, the type, magnitude and significance level of impacts is set out in Section 2 above.

Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset these impacts and the residual impact that the project will have on each site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential are provided in Sections 5 and 6 below.

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4.3.1 Direct Impacts

The intended upgrade works associated with the existing pedestrian pathway will have a permanent indirect impact on CH001-CH003, which are an areas of archaeological potential associated with:

- CH001 - The townland boundary between Rathnapish and Carlow. Marked as a field boundary on the First Edition 6-inch OS – Now comprising a modern fence.
- CH002 - an ambiguous depiction marked 'Infirmery for Young Men' marked on the 6-Inch OS map with a possible small associated building. The building is shown with a path leading to it on the 1873 town plan. This path is shown to underly the proposed development site, with the building likely abutting the proposed development area
- CH003 - Marked on the First Edition 6-inch OS map, a small, roofed T-plan building to the north of the R.C. College. Possibly also associated with the 'Infirmery for Young Men'. It is absent from the subsequent 25-inch Edition OS. No additional information is available at present.


4.3.2 Indirect Impacts

The proposed development does not represent a significant change to the character of the development site, which already partially comprises a tree-lined walkway. The area defined as the Historic core of Carlow Town (RMP CW007-018----) lies 90 m west of the proposed development site and will not be directly or indirectly impacted. The proposed rail station link will have no indirect impact on any archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage.



CH No.	Category	Summary	Baseline Value	Impact Type	Description of Impact	Impact Magnitude	Significance of Impact
CH001-CH003	UCH	The proposed development will have a direct effect on CH001-CH003: three unregistered cultural heritage receptors comprising the Carlow/Rathnapish townland boundary (CH001), and two small buildings marked on the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, and which have no surface expression, but where there is potential for subsurface archaeology to be present.	Medium/Low	Direct and permanent impact	Potential direct impact by groundworks required to facilitate the development	Significant	Moderate/Slight

Table 4-2-Summary of impacts and impact magnitude prior to mitigation

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4.4 Visual amenity


This section addresses the potential visual impact to the Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage only. CH001-CH003 have no upstanding remains. It is noted that above ground, the townland boundary, CH001, has already been removed and replaced with a modern fence running north-east to south west and a wall north to south. The area defined as the Historic core of Carlow Town (RMP CW007-018----) lies 90 m west of the proposed development site and will not be directly or indirectly impacted as the proposed development does not represent a significant change to the character of the development site, which already partially comprises a tree-lined walkway. The result of this is that the proposed development will have no visual impact on the any Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural heritage.

4.5 Cumulative effects

Cumulative effect is defined as ‘The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects’ (EPA 2022). Cumulative impacts encompass the combined effects of multiple developments or activities on a range of receptors. In this case the receptors are the archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

The proposed development does not represent a significant change to the character of the development site, which already partially comprises a tree-lined walkway. The proposed development is one part of the Cultural Quarter Intervention detailed in Project Carlow 2040: A Vision for Regeneration. It is intended to progress other parts of the design through the statutory planning procedures at different stages. The different parts of the Cultural Quarter Intervention could combine to create larger, more significant effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of Carlow town. However, the potential to gain new knowledge and data far outweighs the negative effects. In particular, given the subsurface nature of potential archaeology, the potential to investigate archaeological deposits prior to the construction phase will provide data to the archaeological community from the potential subsurface sites. Furthermore, the implementation of mitigation measures for the proposed development will ensure that the cumulative effect is neutral and not significant.

Subject to the implementation of the appropriate archaeological mitigation measures during the construction phase of the development, no residual cumulative effects on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage are predicted.

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5 MITIGATION STRATEGY

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority.

The current state policy is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then appropriate measures need to be adopted to ameliorate the impacts that the proposed development may have on features of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage within the study area during both the construction and operational phases of the works.

The below recommendations have been compiled with reference to the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) as well as the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency (2003) 'Advice notes on current practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)'
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999) 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2011) 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities'
- National Monuments Service Solar Farm Developments- Internal Guidance Document (2016).

The following mitigation measures are recommended:


- As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence targeting areas of archaeological potential (CH001-CH003).
- Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established. A strategy will be proposed to the National Monuments Service to preserve the site *in situ*, where possible. Subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service, where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation may be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
- The results of any archaeological testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.



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Ch. No	Phase	Effect Type	Mitigation Measures	Magnitude of Effect after implementation of mitigation measures	Significance of Effect after implementation of mitigation measures
CH001-CH003	Construction	Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence targeting areas of archaeological potential (CH001-CH003). Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established. A strategy will be proposed to the National Monuments Service to preserve the site in situ, where possible. Subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service, where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation may be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. The results of any archaeological testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland. 	Moderate	Slight

Table 5-1-Summary of impacts and impact magnitude after mitigation

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6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary of archaeological findings

This archaeological assessment of the proposed route has identified four sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study area. This includes one townland boundary (CH001), two no longer extant buildings marked on the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (CH002 and CH003), and one RMP (CW007-018---- Historic Town).


The proposed development does not represent a significant change to the character of the development site, which already partially comprises a tree-lined walkway. The proposed development will have a direct effect on CH001-CH003: three unregistered cultural heritage receptors comprising the Carlow/Rathnash townland boundary (CH001), and two distinct small buildings (CH002; CH003) marked on the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, and which have no surface expression, but where there is potential for subsurface archaeology to be present. The area defined as the limit of Historic core of Carlow Town (RMP CW007-018----) lies 90 m west and outside of the proposed development site but will not be directly or indirectly impacted.

6.2 Recommendations

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence targeting areas of archaeological potential (CH001-CH003).
- Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established. A strategy will be proposed to the National Monuments Service to preserve the site *in situ*, where possible. Subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service, where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation may be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
- The results of any archaeological testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.

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APPENDIX 1 – INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND/OR POTENTIAL WITHIN STUDY AREA

CH No.	Category	ID	Description	Summary	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH001	UCH	TB01	The townland boundary between Rathnapish and Carlow. Marked as a field boundary on the First Edition 6-inch OS.	Townland boundary	Rathnapish/ Carlow	Medium /High	672450	677001
CH002	UCH	UCH01	Ambiguously marked on the First Edition 6-inch OS map as 'Infirmery for Young Men, with a possible small roofed building associated. A building is more clearly marked on the later 25-inch OS. The building is shown with a path leading to it on the 1873 town plan. This path is shown to underly the proposed development site. No additional information is available at present.	Building	Carlow	High	672386	676961
CH003	UCH	UCH02	Marked on the First Edition 6-inch OS map - A small, roofed T-plan building to the north of the R.C. College. Possibly also associated with the 'Infirmery for Young Men'. It is absent from the subsequent 25-inch Edition OS. No additional information is available at present.	Building	Carlow	Medium Low	672304	676918
CH004	RMP	CW007-018----	Sited at the confluence of the rivers Burren and Barrow. Earliest charter dates to c. 1223. Its main elements include the castle (CW007-018002-) founded by William Marshall and town defences (CW007-018006-), although no traces of the latter survive. (see CW007-018001- to CW007-018008-)	Historic Town	Carlow	Very high	671932	676690

Note: The abbreviations that have been used for the 'Category' section are as follows:

RMP: Recorded archaeological monument
NIAH: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
PS: Protected Structure
TB: Townland Boundary

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APPENDIX 2 – LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

EIA Legislation

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects before planning permission can be granted. The EIA Amendment Regulations, SI 93 OF 1999 specifies in Section 2(b) of the Second Schedule, 'Information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement', that among other factors, information is to be provided on:

'Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage'

Each of these assets is addressed within this assessment report.

Cultural Heritage Legislation

Archaeological Monuments/Sites

Archaeological heritage is protected primarily under the edited. Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines the word 'monument' as including:

'any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes'.


Under the 1994 Act, provision was made for a Record of Monuments & Places (RMP). The RMP is a revised set of SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) maps, on which newly-discovered sites have been added and locations which proved not to be of antiquity have been de-listed by the National Monuments Service.

In effect, the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended provide a statutory basis for:

- Protection of sites and monuments (RMPs)
- Sites with Preservation Orders
- Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments
- Register of Historic Monuments (pre-dating AD 1700)
- Licensing of archaeological excavations
- Licensing of Detection Devices
- Protection of archaeological objects
- Protection of wrecks and underwater heritage (more than 100 years old)

In relation to proposed works at or in the vicinity of a recorded archaeological monument, Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states:

'When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded [in the Record of Monuments and Places] or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in

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writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.'

Archaeological artefacts

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act (amended) defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Section 9 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states that any such artefact recovered during archaeological investigations should be taken into possession by the licensed archaeological director and held on behalf of the state until such a time as they are deposited accordingly subsequent to consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Architectural Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage. The former Act has helped to provide for a forum for the strengthening of architectural heritage protection as it called for the creation of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which is used by local authorities for compiling the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in each respective county's Development Plan and provides statutory protection for these monuments.

Section 1 (1) of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 states:


'architectural heritage means all—

- (a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and
- (c) sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest"

The 1999 Act was replaced by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act. Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that:

'...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of –

- (a) the structure, or
- (b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'


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APPENDIX 3 – TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED

The following sets out the definitions of the terms which are used throughout the report:

- (i) The phrase ‘cultural heritage’ is a generic term used in reference to a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments. The term ‘cultural heritage’, in compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to be of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest.
- (ii) For the purpose of this assessment, each identified cultural heritage site is assigned a unique cultural heritage number with the prefix ‘CH’.
- (iii) A feature recorded in the ‘Record of Monuments and Places’ (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended. When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site (see below), this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.
- (iv) An ‘area of archaeological potential’ refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.
- (v) The term ‘proposed development site’ refers to the defined area of land within which the proposed development, including access tracks etc, may be constructed.
- (vi) In relation to the term ‘study area’ please see Section 1.3 above.
- (vii) The term ‘receiving environment’ refers to the broader landscape within which the study area is situated. Examination of the site’s receiving environment allows the study area to be analysed in its wider cultural context.
- (viii) The terms ‘baseline environment’ and ‘cultural heritage resource’ refer to the existing, identifiable environment against which potential effects of the proposed scheme may be measured.

Note: Information regarding archaeological site types and periods is provided in a glossary in Appendix 4.

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APPENDIX 4 – GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Bridge A structure of wood, stone, iron, brick or concrete, etc., built to span a river or ravine in order to facilitate the crossing of pedestrians or vehicles. These date from the medieval period (5th - 12th centuries AD) onwards.

Castle – motte An artificial, steep-sided, earthen mound on or in which is set the principal tower of a castle. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th and early 13th century AD.

Castle - tower house A fortified residence in the form of a tower, usually four or five storeys high, and for the most part slightly more rectangular than square in plan. They were constructed by a lord or landholder and were often partially or completely enclosed by a bawn. The majority date to the 15th and 16th centuries AD.

Cathedral The principal church of a diocese in which the cathedra or bishop's throne may be found. These date from the 12th to the 19th century AD.

Church A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from c. AD 500 onwards.

Cist A rectangular or polygonal structure used for burial purposes, constructed from stone slabs set on edge and covered by one or more horizontal slabs or capstones. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. They date to the Bronze/Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC – AD 400).

Coffin-resting stone A stone found on route to a graveyard on which the coffin is rested during transportation. These can date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 AD) onwards.


Burnt mound A circular or irregularly shaped mound of material consisting of burnt stones, ash and charcoal with no surface evidence of a trough or depression. Levelled examples can appear as a spread containing burnt stones. These can be of any date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) to the early medieval period (5th - 12th century AD). See also *Fulacht fia*.

Earthwork An anomalous earthen structure, usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, that on field inspection was found to possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Enclosure An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Field boundary A continuous linear or curving bank, wall or drain which defines the limits of a field. These date to any period from the Neolithic (c. 4000-2400 BC) onwards.

Fulacht fia A horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped mound consisting of fire-cracked stone and charcoal-enriched soil built up around a sunken trough located near or adjacent to a water supply, such as a stream or spring, or in wet marshy areas. The first recorded use of the Irish term '*fulacht fiadh/fia*'

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(cooking pit of the deer or of the wild) as relating to ancient cooking sites was in the 17th century. These are generally interpreted to have been associated with cooking and date primarily to the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC).

Furnace

A chamber in which minerals, metals, etc., are subjected to continuous intense heat. These can date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) to the 17th century AD.

Hearth A place where a fire is made but where there is insufficient evidence to indicate habitation. These may date to any period from prehistory (c. 8000 BC – AD 400) to the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD).

Hillfort A large area, from 3 to 22 hectares, located on and often following the natural contours of a hill, enclosed by an earth or stone bank/banks and fosse/fosses which can be internal or external. They may have been important ceremonial tribal centres and/or permanent or temporary settlements. They have been dated to the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000-500 BC) with examples of reoccupation in the later Iron Age (c. AD 100-400).

House – vernacular house A house which is non-formal, built of local materials using local skills and craftsmen within the parameters of their own local building tradition. In Ireland the majority are single storey, rectangular in plan and only one room deep, with the main hearth/kitchen forming the core of the house for domestic and social activities. These date from the AD 17th to the early 20th century.

Megalithic tomb - passage tomb A round mound, usually surrounded by a kerb of large stones, enclosing a burial chamber, usually with a corbelled roof, which is entered by a passage, usually lintelled. Many tombs have side and end recesses opening off a central chamber, resulting in a cruciform plan. Cremation was the predominant burial rite in passage tombs which primarily date from 3300 to 2900 BC though some simpler tombs in Carrowmore, Co. Sligo have produced radiocarbon dates suggesting use even earlier in the Neolithic, c. 4000 BC.


Metalworking site A place where metal is produced. These may date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) onwards.

Midden A refuse heap sometimes surviving as a layer or spread. These may be of any date from prehistory (c. 8000 BC – AD c. 400) up to the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD).

Pit A circular or sub-circular cropmark/maculae or soil-mark, usually identified from aerial photography, which appears to be the visible evidence of a filled-in excavated hole or cavity in the ground. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Ringfort – cashel A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by a stone wall or walls. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD. See Ringfort - rath for earthen equivalent.

Ringfort – rath A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

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Ringfort – unclassified A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse (see Ringfort - rath) or a stone wall (see Ringfort - cashel). The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.


Road - road/trackway A way, or section thereof, which has been deliberately constructed between places. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.

School An establishment in which people, usually children, are taught. These date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 to the 16th century AD) onwards.

Settlement deserted – medieval An abandoned medieval settlement dating from the 13th century to 1550 AD consisting of a group of houses in close proximity with associated land plots, associated with a parish church and/or castle or tower house, often evident as earthworks.

Souterrain An underground structure consisting of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages or creepways, usually constructed of drystone-walling with a lintelled roof over the passages and a corbelled roof over the chambers. Most souterrains appear to have been built in the early medieval period by ringfort inhabitants (c. 500 – 1000 AD) as a defensive feature and/or for storage.

Standing stone A stone which has been deliberately set upright in the ground, usually orientated on a north-east-south-west axis, although other orientations do occur, and varying in height from 0.5m up to 6m. They functioned as prehistoric burial markers, commemorative monuments, indicators of routeways or boundaries and date from the Bronze and Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC - AD 500), with some associated with early medieval ecclesiastical and burial contexts (c. 5th-12th centuries).

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APPENDIX 5 – CARLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2022-2028)

General: Built Heritage - Policies

It is the policy of the Council to:

BH. P1: Promote the conservation and reuse of early traditional structures, roofscapes of historic centres and the recognition of interrelationships between sites and landscape features in terms of the insertion of new buildings and managing their impact on the historic environment.

BH. P2: Promote the development of heritage-led regeneration, to plan for the reuse and conservation of core-built heritage and archaeological sites within urban centres as an integral part of the evolution of the historic place and its significance.

BH. P3: Promote best conservation practice and to lead by example through the management and safeguarding of historic sites and properties in the ownership of the Local Authority.

BH. P4: Support the development of sustainable infill in town back lands that is appropriate in scale and character to that of the historic centre, that transitions and accommodates surviving structures and retains the historic streetscape form particularly within sensitive areas of built and archaeological importance.

BH. P5: Co-ordinate significant infrastructural projects such as public realm works, flood relief works and new transport routes to the benefit of surviving historic sites in order to improve their enjoyment, presentation and enhanced accessibility.

BH. P6: Promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of the County's architectural and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.

10.12 Archaeological Heritage

It is the policy of the Council to:


AH. P1: Secure the preservation (either in situ or by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and their settings, and of all sites and features of significant archaeological or historical interest, including potential and previously unknown sites or features, in consultation with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

AH. P2: Protect and conserve underwater archaeological heritage in the inland waters of the County, including potential and previously unknown sites or features, in consultation with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

AH. P3: Protect, conserve and enhance the archaeological heritage of the County, and to manage development in a manner that avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant archaeological or historical interest, including areas and sites of archaeological potential. There will be a presumption in favour of the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological heritage in accordance with the 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAGHI 1999) or any superseding national policy document.

AH. P4: Ensure that any development proposal that may, by reason of location, scale, nature, layout or design, have potential implications for archaeological heritage (including areas and sites of archaeological potential), shall be subject to an archaeological assessment. The archaeological assessment will seek to ensure that the development proposal can be sited and designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage. Any archaeological excavation shall be carried out in accordance with best practice outlined by the NMS, the National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

AH. P5: Have regard to the Record of Monuments (RMP) and Places, the Urban Archaeology Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning

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applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.

AH. P6: Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (Zones of Archaeological Notification) located within both urban and rural areas as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

AH. P7: Protect and conserve historic burial grounds within the County, including through the avoidance of extensions to them that would have an inappropriate level of impact on sub-surface archaeological remains or on their setting and amenity, and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with best practice conservation principles, including 'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards' (The Heritage Council 2011) and 'Ireland's Historic Churches and Graveyards' (The Heritage Council), and in consultation with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

AH. P8: Promote public awareness of the archaeological heritage of the County, and encourage where appropriate and practicable, the provision of appropriately designed and located signage, interpretative material, and public access (including disabled access) for archaeological sites under the direct ownership, guardianship or control of the Council and/or the state.

AH. P9: Support community initiatives and projects regarding the preservation, presentation and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

AH. P10: Support the incorporation of recorded monuments into designated open spaces and public amenity spaces, provided this is done in a manner compatible with the protection and proper management and conservation of the monument in question. Accordingly, where such incorporation takes place an appropriate and enforceable permanent management and conservation plan will be required.


10.13 Architectural Heritage

The term architectural heritage can refer to structures, buildings (or groups of such), their settings, attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings, and sites, which are of a special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

The national commitment to the protection of architectural heritage can be traced to the 'Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe'. Commonly known as the Granada Convention, it was drawn up and signed by the Council of Europe in 1985 and ratified by Ireland in 1997. It was international initiatives such as the Granada Convention that led to the legislative basis for the protection and enhancement of architectural heritage at a national level in Ireland, as now contained in Part IV the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides two key statutory mechanisms for the protection of architectural heritage in the County, which consist of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Specific guidance on implementing and managing the RPS and ACAs is given in the 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011). The Department also issued a range of publications under its 'Advice Series', aimed at providing detailed guidance on the repair and maintenance of historic buildings e.g. in relation to improving access, iron, brickwork, roofs, thatch, ruins, windows and energy efficiency.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage also administer the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The role of the NIAH is to survey, record and evaluate post-1700 architectural heritage. The results of the surveys provide a basis for recommendations for the inclusion of particular structures in the Council's Record of Protected Structures (RPS). In 2002 the NIAH published 'An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Carlow', the purpose of which was

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to identify and highlight a representative selection of the extant architectural heritage of the County. The NIAH, including a map viewer, can be accessed at www.buildingsofireland.ie

In many cases in the historic built environment, architectural heritage and archaeological heritage are not mutually exclusive, and therefore certain buildings, structures or features can have both qualities. This is reflected in the policies contained in this chapter of the Plan.

10.14 Protected Structure

It is the policy of the Council to:

PS. P1: Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Carlow, through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, and the recognition of structures and features in the County that make a positive contribution to vernacular and industrial heritage.

PS. P2: Ensure the protection and conservation of the character, setting and special interest of all buildings, structures (or parts of structures) and sites, listed in the Record of Protected Structures, including their curtilage, attendant grounds, and fixtures and fittings.

PS. P3: Ensure that all development proposals that affect a protected structure or a proposed protected structure, including proposals for modifications, alterations, refurbishment or extensions, are sympathetic to and protect, conserve and retain the character, setting and special interest of the protected structure or proposed protected structure, in accordance with the 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011).

PS. P4: Require development proposals involving protected structures or proposed protected structures, to be subject to an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment as described in Appendix B of Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011).

PS. P5: Support and promote the use of expert conservation advice, best conservation practice, and the use of appropriately skilled and experienced contractors and specialists, for any works to protected structures, in accordance with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011) and their 'Advice Series' on how best to repair and maintain historic buildings.

PS. P6: Require that development proposals do not obscure views of the principal elevations of protected structures.

PS. P7: Prevent inappropriate alterations to protected structures, and to prohibit the demolition of any protected structure unless the Council is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. The demolition of a protected structure with the retention of its façade will likewise not generally be permitted.


PS.P 8: Promote the sympathetic maintenance, adaptation and appropriate use and reuse of protected structures, and to actively encourage uses that are compatible with the character of protected structures.

PS. P9: Retain where practicable a protected structure which has been damaged by fire, and to retain those elements of that structure that have survived (either in whole or in part) and that contribute to its special interest.

PS. P10: Promote the retention of any original or early building fabric including for example timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, ironwork, traditional mortars, render and decorative or weather finishes and slate and vernacular architectural details. Likewise, the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.

PS. P11: Favourably consider the change of use of any structure included on the Record of Protected Structures, provided such a change of use does not adversely impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

PS. P12: Ensure that in the event of a planning permission being granted for development within the curtilage of a protected structure, the proposed works to the protected structure should occur, where

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appropriate, in the first phase of the development to prevent endangerment, abandonment and dereliction of the structure.

PS. P13: Ensure that measures to up-grade the energy efficiency of protected structures and historic buildings are sensitive to traditional construction methods and materials and do not have a detrimental physical, aesthetic or visual impact on such structures or buildings, in line with the guidance provided in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Advice Series 'Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings' (2020).

Protected Structures - Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to:

PS. O1: Review and amend on an ongoing basis the Record of Protected Structures, and make additions, deletions or corrections as appropriate over the period of this Plan.

PS. O2: Prepare a Buildings at Risk Register to prevent the endangerment of protected structures, historic or vernacular buildings.

10.15 Architectural Conservation Areas

It is the policy of the Council to:

ACA. P1: Protect and enhance the historic character, heritage value and visual setting of Architectural Conservation Areas and to carefully consider any development proposals that would affect the special interest of such areas.

ACA. P2: Ensure that development proposals within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area respect the character of the area and contribute positively to it in terms of design, height, scale, setting and material finishes.

ACA. P3: Avoid the removal of structures and distinctive features which make a positive contribution to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas, including buildings, building features, shop fronts, boundary treatments, street furniture, landscaping and paving.

ACA. P4: Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an Architectural Conservation Area are designed, constructed and located in a manner that is complementary to the character of the area.

ACA. P5: Ensure that external colour schemes in Architectural Conservation Areas enhance the character and amenities of the area and reflect traditional colour schemes.

Architectural Conservation Areas - Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to:

ACA. O1: Investigate the designation of further Architectural Conservation Areas at appropriate locations throughout the County.

ACA. O2: Address dereliction and promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings, building features and sites within Architectural Conservation Areas.

10.16 Country Houses, Demesnes & Gardens

It is a policy of the Council to:

CH. P1: Encourage the protection, conservation, promotion and enhancement of Country Houses, Demesnes and Gardens in the County and support public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites where appropriate and in cooperation with owners and other interested parties, including Government Departments and state agencies.

CH. P2: Preserve and protect, where appropriate, historic gardens and designed landscapes identified in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

CH. P3: Discourage development that would lead to a loss of, or cause damage to, the character, the principal components of, or the setting of Country Houses, Demesnes and Gardens.



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CH. P4: Protect and promote heritage and traditional varieties of plants and trees within historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens, and to protect, preserve and enhance biodiversity within these places where appropriate.

CH. P5: Consider the “Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings” published by Cork County Council 2006, in the appraisal and description of the impacts of development proposals in County Carlow within or in close proximity to country houses and demesnes on historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens.

Country Houses, Demesnes and Gardens - Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to:

CH. O1: Assess the demesnes and historic designed garden landscapes and promote the protection and conservation of their special character, both built and natural, while facilitating reuse where appropriate.

10.17 Industrial and Transport Heritage

It is the policy of the Council to:

ITH. P1: Protect and conserve buildings, structures and features of industrial and transport heritage, such as historic mills, mill races, weirs, warehouses, bridges, canals and lock gates, railway structures, etc., and to promote their retention, sensitive maintenance, repair, and restoration.

ITH. P2: Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage buildings, provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic heritage character of the buildings and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

ITH. P3: Seek the retention and appropriate maintenance and repair of the historic bridges of the County, whether protected or not.

It is an objective of the Council to:

ITH. O1: Prepare a survey, inventory, and record of the County’s industrial and transport heritage during the lifetime of the Plan.

10.18 Vernacular Architecture

It is the policy of the Council to:


VA. P1: Promote the protection, retention, public awareness, and appropriate renewal and regeneration of the vernacular architecture of the County, including the heritage-led revitalisation of the historic built fabric of urban areas.

VA. P2: Protect and conserve vernacular architecture through the use of the RPS, ACAs, and in the normal course of development management, which contributes to the character of areas and/or where it consists of rare or special interest examples of a building or structure type.

VA. P3: Require development proposals affecting vernacular buildings to be accompanied by a detailed measured survey, photographic record and written report carried out by a professional with appropriate conservation expertise and, preferably, an understanding of vernacular buildings. Early consultation with the planning authority is strongly advised.

VA. P4: Facilitate appropriate, high-quality design solutions for adaptations of vernacular buildings that carefully consider their vernacular qualities in terms of design, scale, setting and finishes. While new design can be expressed in contemporary architectural language, consideration should be given to exploring the use of appropriate vernacular features, building techniques and materials.

VA. P5: Ensure proposed extensions to vernacular houses are sympathetic to the design, scale, footprint and materials of the existing building and its setting. Extensions should generally be located to the rear and not obscure the form or layout of the existing building, the substantial removal of walling is not generally recommended, and connecting the existing building and extension should minimize the number of new openings and ideally use existing openings.

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VA. P6: Resist and discourage the demolition of vernacular architecture, and promote the sympathetic renewal, maintenance, adaptation and re-use of historic building stock, and encourage the retention and repair of original fabric such as windows, doors, wall renders, roof coverings, shopfronts, pub fronts and other significant features, whether protected or not.

VA. P7: Preserve the character and setting of vernacular architecture (e.g. boundaries, fencing, gates, gate piers, courtyards etc.) where deemed appropriate by the Planning Authority.

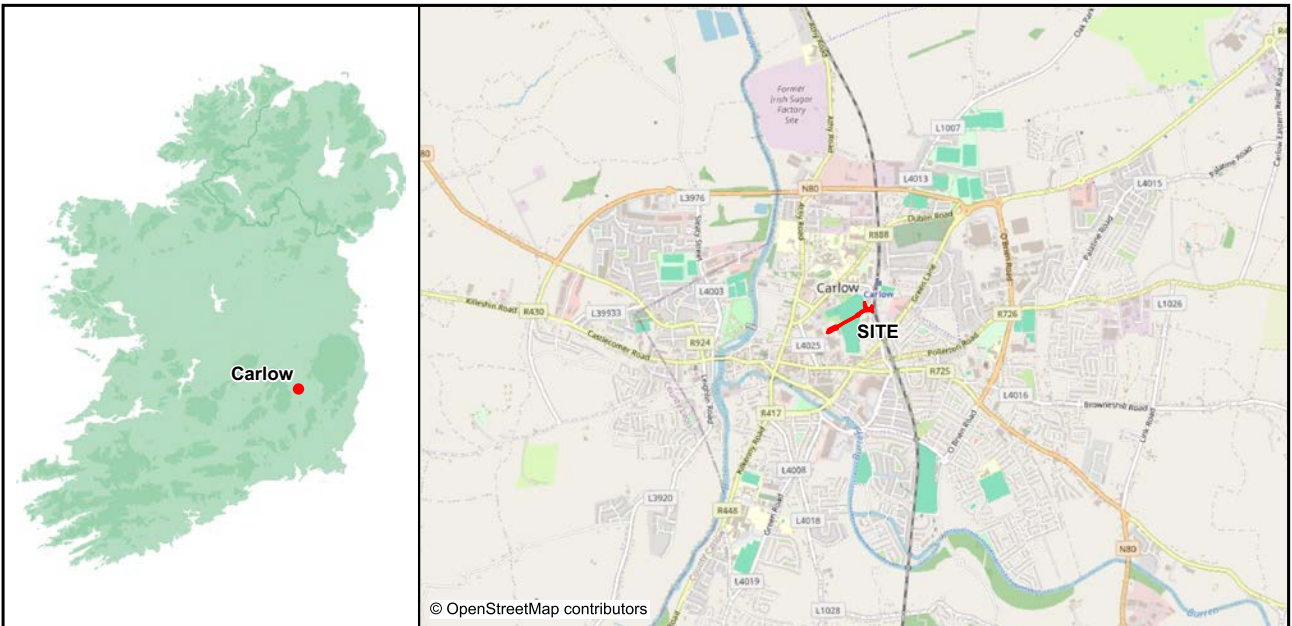
VA. P8: Consider the guidance in 'Reusing Farm Buildings, A Kildare Perspective', published by Kildare County Council in assessing planning applications in County Carlow relating to traditional farm buildings.

VA. P9: Support proposals to retain, repair and refurbish vernacular buildings or structures that are in a rundown or derelict condition, subject to the use of appropriate traditional building materials and methods and provided that proposals for extensions are of an appropriate design and do not detract from the character of the original building or structure.

Vernacular Architecture - Objective

It is an objective of the Council to:

VA. O1: Identify and retain good examples of vernacular architecture in the County, including historic street furniture (e.g. gateways, gate piers, cast iron post boxes, milestones, water pumps etc.) and other features of historic and architectural interest.



Key:
— Site Extent

0 50 100 150 200 250 m



Figure 1 - Location of the proposed development site.

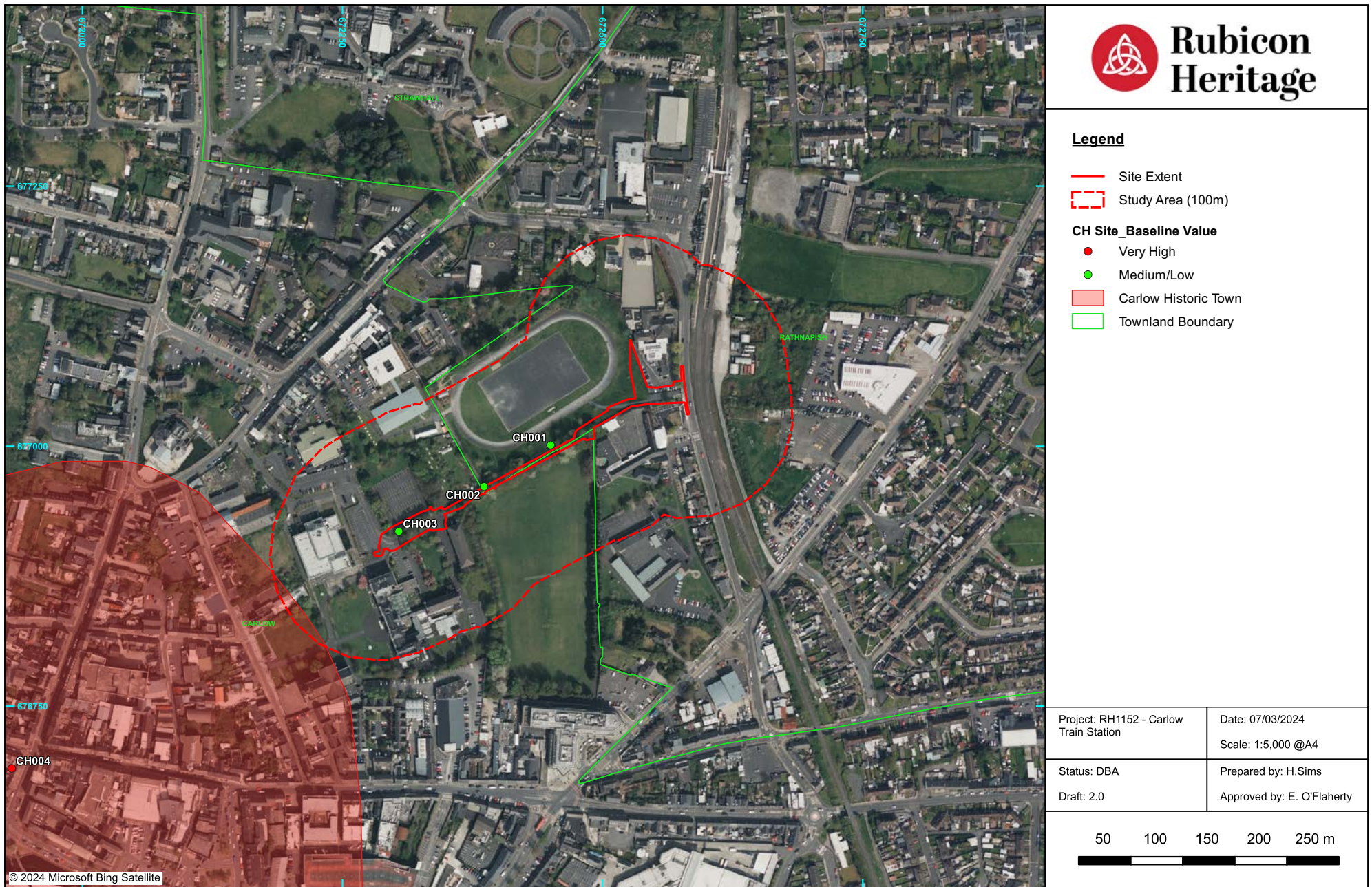


Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.

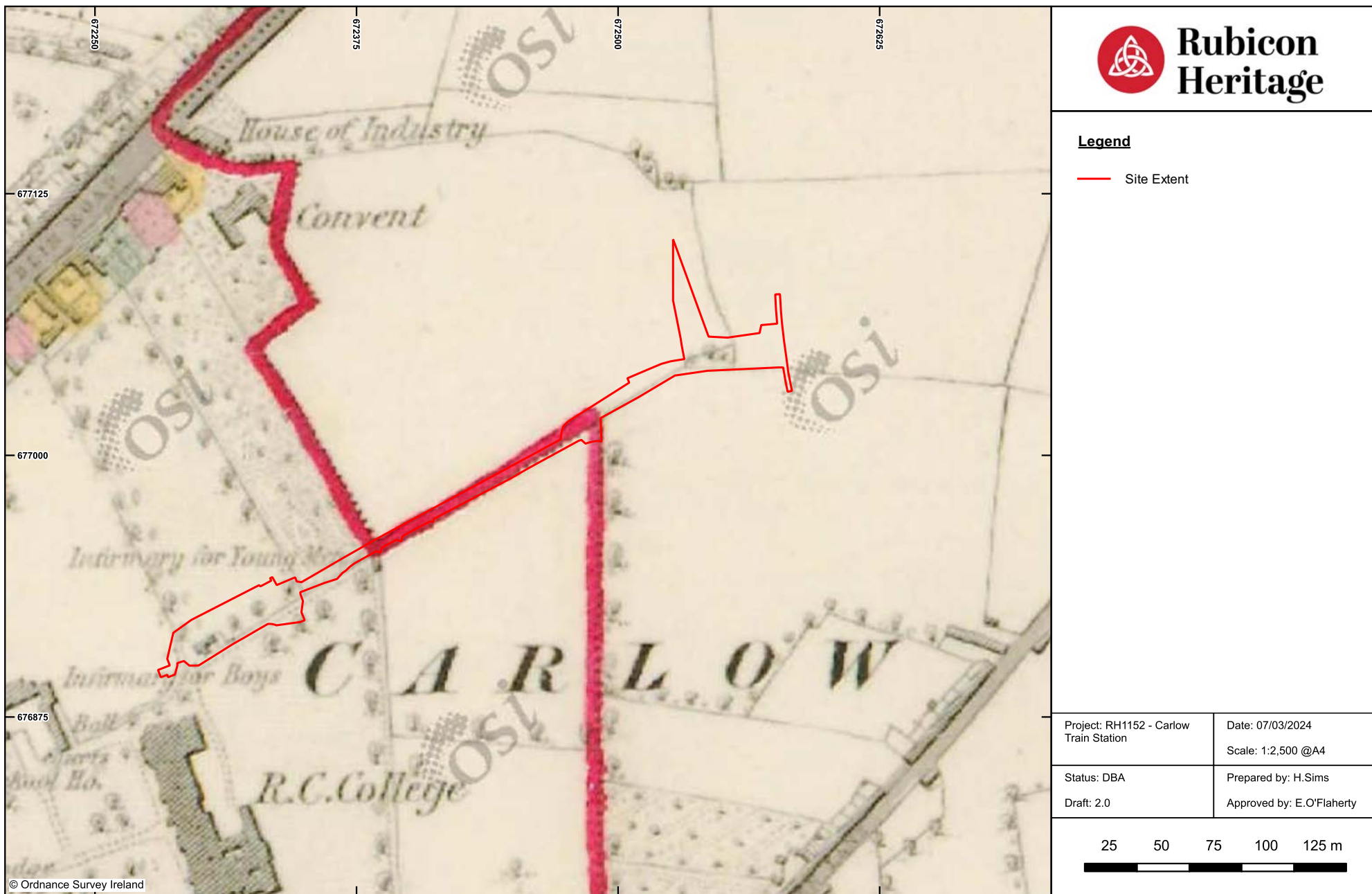


Figure 3 - First edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development site.

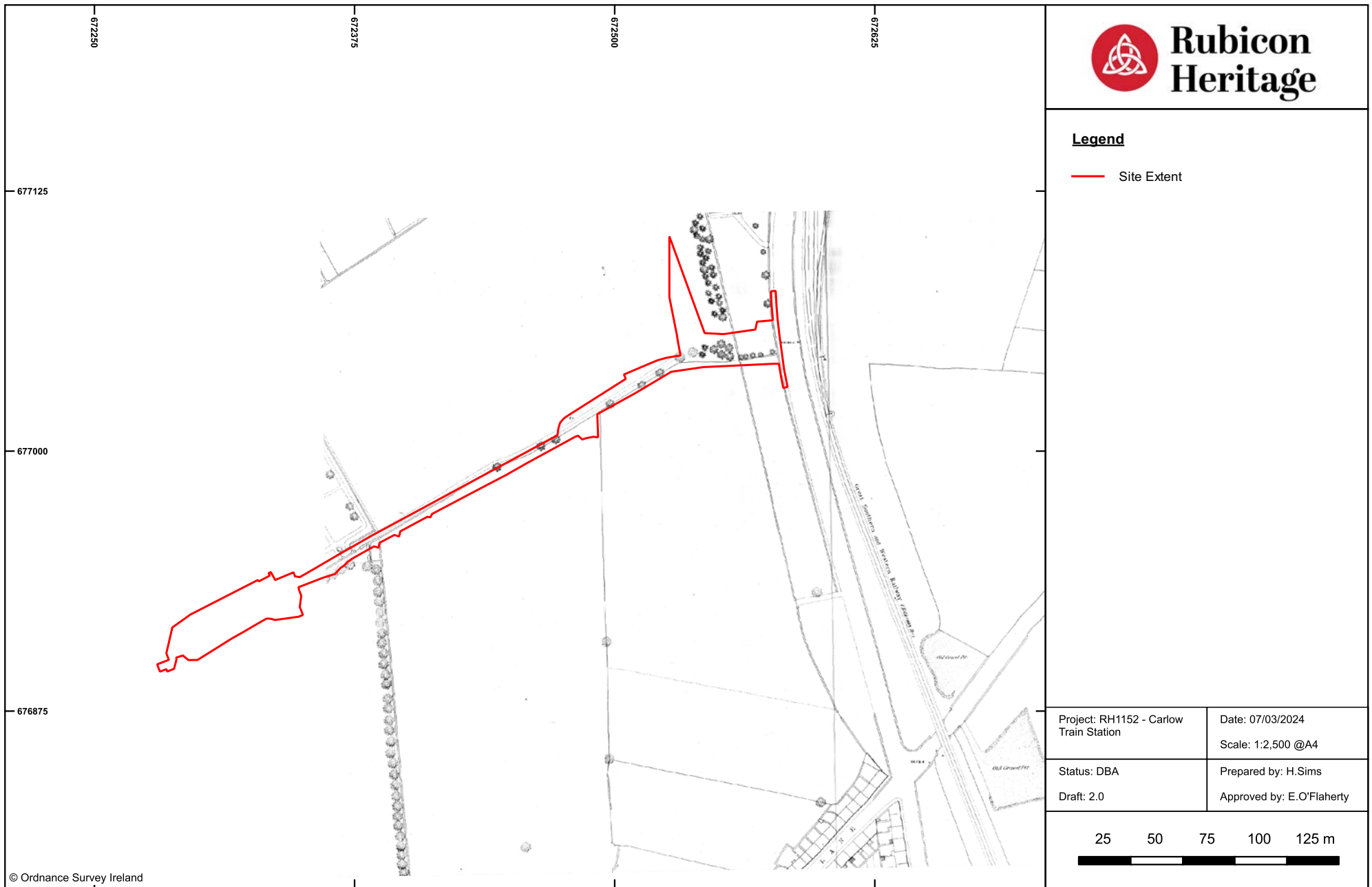


Figure 4 - Ordnance Survey Town Plan, Carlow Sheet 13.

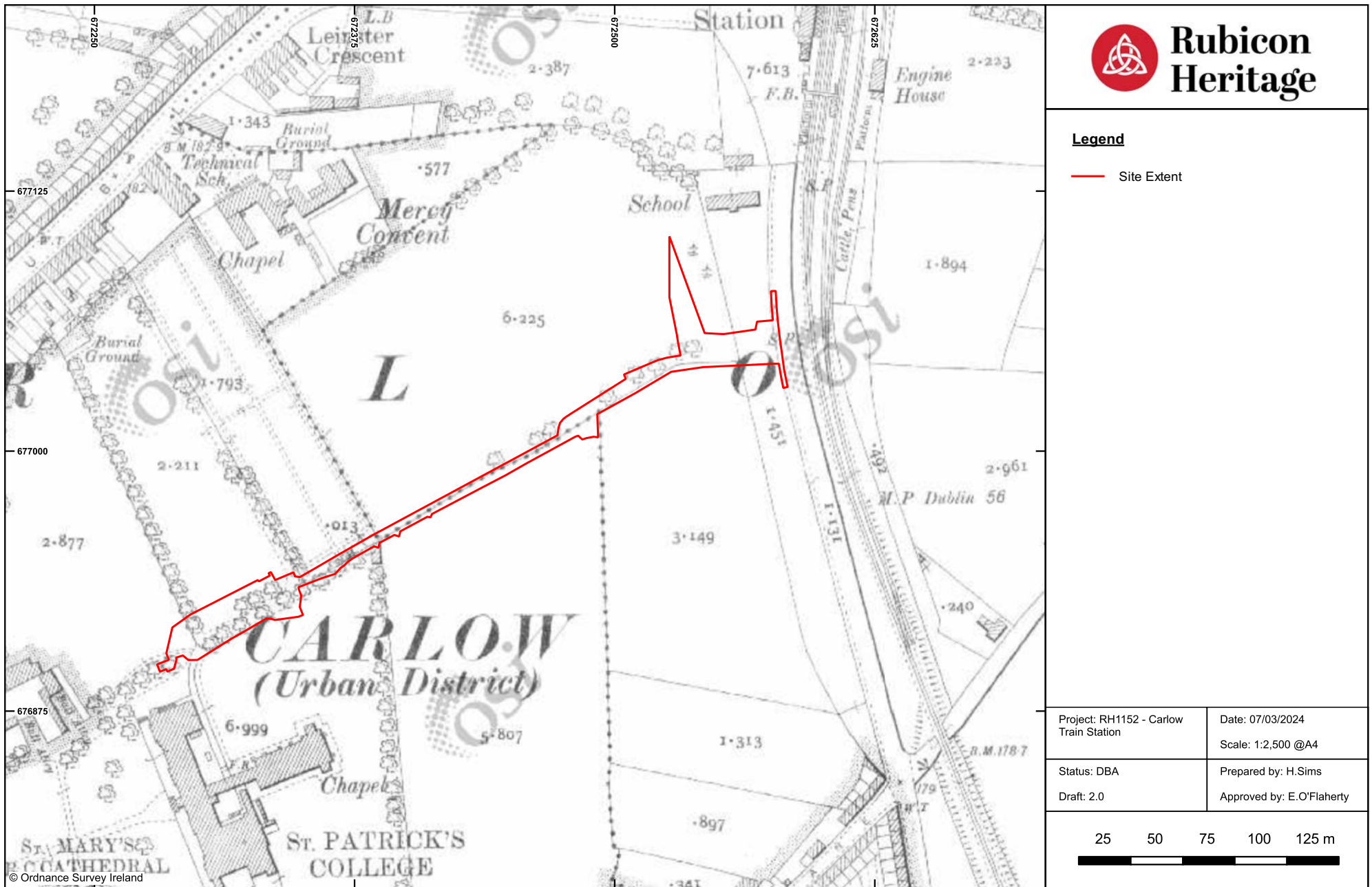


Figure 5 - First edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development site.

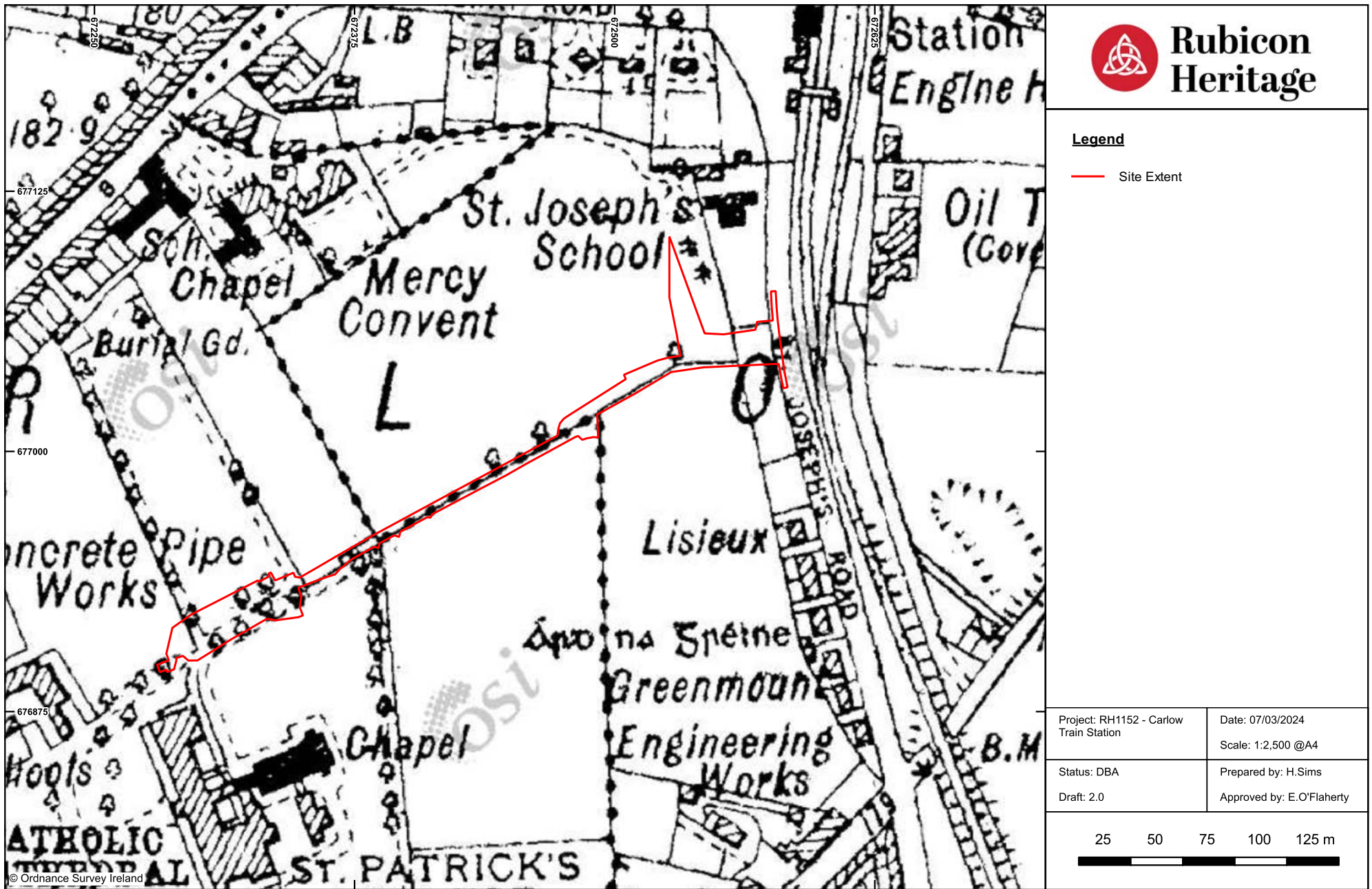


Figure 6 - Last edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Cassini map with the proposed development site.