



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-STUDY
ASSESSMENT:
RIVER BARROW ACTIVITY CENTRE,
CARLOW TOWN PARK (GRAIGUE TD.),
CARLOW**



CLIENT:
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
c/o ANGLESEA HOUSE
ANGLESEA STREET
RAHEEN
CLONMEL
CO. TIPPERARY,

AUTHOR:
CÓILÍN Ó DRISCEOIL MA MIAI

19.7.2021



Kilkenny Archaeology
12 Parliament Street
Kilkenny City



P. 056 7752200
E. info@kilkennyarchaeology.ie
W. www.kilkennyarchaeology.ie

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Client | Carlow County Council, c/o Kenneth Hennessy Architects Ltd., Anglesea House, Anglesea St, Raheen, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary |
| Document title | Archaeological Assessment: River Barrow Activity Centre, Carlow Town Park (Graigue td.), Carlow |
| Issue number/date | FINAL; 19.7.2021 |
| ITM | 671599 676853 |
| Planning reference | Pre-planning submission |
| Archive location | Kilkenny Archaeology, 12 Parliament street, Kilkenny |
| Report author | Cóilín Ó Drisceoil MA MIAI |

Disclaimer:

All recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the planning authority. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Kilkenny Archaeology being obtained. Kilkenny Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Kilkenny Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Kilkenny Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Kilkenny Archaeology/ the client 2021

Cóilín Ó Drisceoil

CÓILÍN Ó DRISCEOIL MA MIAI

19.7.2021

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| FIGURES | i |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY | 1 |
| 2.1 Methods | 1 |
| 2.3 Assessment Components | 2 |
| 3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND STATUTORY HERITAGE PROTECTIONS | 2 |
| 3.1 Description of proposed development | 2 |
| 3.2 Statutory Heritage Protections | 4 |
| 4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND | 5 |
| 5. ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE | 14 |
| 6. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES | 15 |
| 7. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS | 15 |
| 8. SITE INSPECTION | 16 |
| 9. GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS | 19 |
| 10. PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 20 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 22 |

FIGURES

| | |
|---|----|
| FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE AND SURROUNDING RECORDED MONUMENTS (AREAS OF NOTIFICATION SHADED). | 1 |
| FIGURE 2: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT PLAN (GROUND FLOOR PROPOSED) (KENNETH HENNESSY ARCHITECTS). | 3 |
| FIGURE 3: NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST TOWERS AND CURTAIN WALL OF CARLOW CASTLE (2019), FROM SOUTH-WEST. | 6 |
| FIGURE 4: GROUND PLAN OF CARLOW CASTLE BY LEASK (1941). | 7 |
| FIGURE 5: APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION ON DOWN SURVEY 1656 MAP OF THE BARONY OF SLEWMARGY, LAOIS. | 8 |
| FIGURE 6: APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION ON DOWN SURVEY MAP 1656 BARONY OF CATHERLOGH | 9 |
| FIGURE 7: APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION ON DOWN SURVEY MAP 1656, PARISH OF CAHERLOGH. | 9 |
| FIGURE 8: APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON 1703 SURVEY OF CARLOW BY THOMAS MOLAND (HORNER 1978). | 10 |
| FIGURE 9: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON 1839 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1:10560 (SIX INCHES TO ONE STATUTE MILE) (EXTRACT). | 10 |
| FIGURE 10: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON 1871 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1:1056 (FIVE FEET TO ONE STATUTE MILE) (EXTRACT). | 11 |
| FIGURE 11: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON 1907 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1:1056 (FIVE FEET TO ONE STATUTE MILE, EXTRACT). | 11 |
| FIGURE 12: BARROW NAVIGATION STORES (ON LEFT) PHOTOGRAPH C. 1900 (HTTP://WWW.IGP-WEB.COM/CARLOW/THE_BARROW_CANAL_02.HTM). | 12 |
| FIGURE 13: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON 2015 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF CARLOW (FROM ARCHAEOLOGY.IE). | 12 |
| FIGURE 14: GRAIGUECULLEN BRIDGE FROM WEST. | 13 |
| FIGURE 15: VIEW OF CARLOW TOWN PARK AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA FROM NORTH. | 17 |
| FIGURE 16: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA FROM SOUTH. | 17 |
| FIGURE 17: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA FROM SOUTH. | 18 |
| FIGURE 18: REAR, EAST, WALL OF FORMER COURTHOUSE BUILDING MARKED ON FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, FORMING WEST BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA, FROM SOUTH-EAST. | 18 |
| FIGURE 19: GEOTECHNICAL BOREHOLE AND TRIAL PIT LOCATIONS ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT (DRA CONSULTING ENGINEERS). | 19 |
| FIGURE 20: SECTION A-A ON FIG. 19 SHOWING PROPOSED PILING AND 'MADE GROUND' AND 'VIRGIN GRAVELS AND CLAYS' INDICATED FROM GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS (DRA CONSULTING ENGINEERS). | 19 |

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-top assessment of the proposed development by Carlow County Council of the River Barrow Activity Centre, Town Park (Graigue townland), Carlow (ITM 671599 676853; Figure 1). The report was prepared in response to a request from the client and is intended to accompany a planning submission to An Bord Pleanála. The development site is located partially within the area of archaeological notification, as defined in section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument), for RMP CW007-018 Historic Town (Figure 1). This report begins by detailing the methodology that was employed in its compilation and this is followed by documentation of the historical and archaeological background to the development area and its environs. Finally, an Archaeological Impact Statement with mitigation measures to address any potentially adverse affects is outlined.

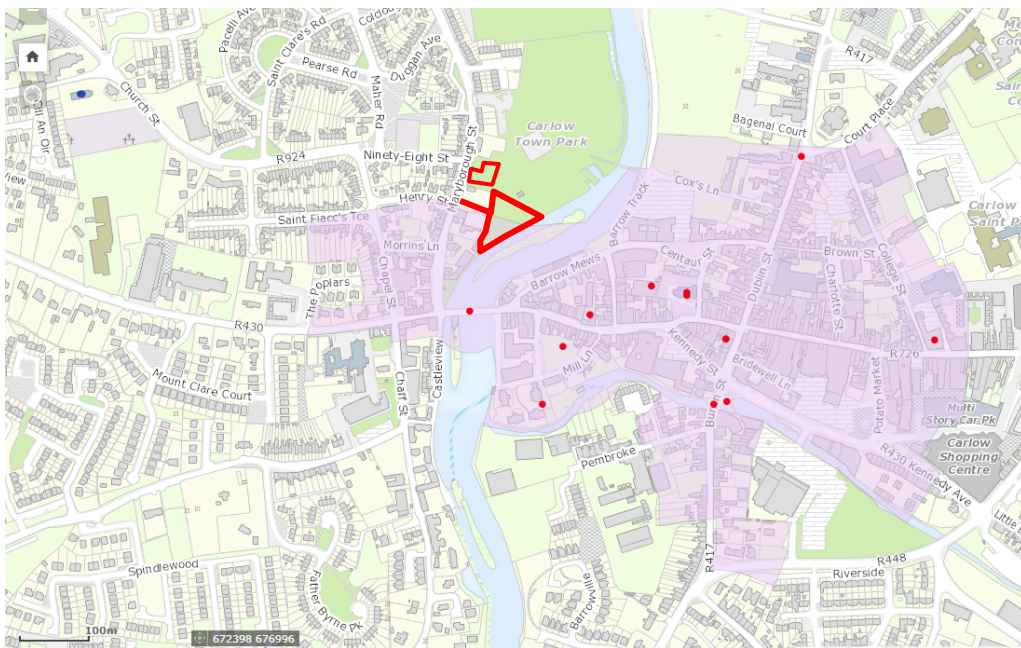


Figure 1: Location of proposed development site and surrounding Recorded Monuments (areas of notification shaded).

2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methods

The assessment methods respond to the client's brief and comply with the assessment methodologies recommended in 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' issued by the Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

(1999). It is also in conformance with the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-21 (currently being reviewed), section 9.2 of which includes the objective that:

The Local Authority recognises the importance of preserving and protecting the archaeological heritage throughout County Carlow, while fostering a greater public appreciation of the archaeological heritage within the Plan area.

The methodology also conforms with the archaeological objectives in the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 - 2018 Incorporating the Carlow Town Development Plan 2021-2018 (as extended). The content of the report is also in compliance with the legislative frameworks of the *National Monuments Acts 1930-2004*, the *Heritage Act 2000* and the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ratified by Ireland 1997)*.

2.3 Assessment Components

This assessment comprised a desk-based study and site visit and photographic survey of the application area and its environs. The desk study aims to present, through a review of primary and secondary documentary sources (see bibliography), the archaeological and historical background to the proposed development area and to comprehensively describe the archaeological monuments that are present in the site's environs.

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND STATUTORY HERITAGE PROTECTIONS

3.1 Description of proposed development

Planning permission is being sought by Carlow County Council from An Bord Pleanála for construction of a new mixed use development comprising the following (Figure 2):

- a) 1.5 storey café building with mono-pitch roof & outdoor terrace facing south. Building comprises seating area, kitchen, storage, toilets and plant.
- b) 2 storey facilities building with mono-pitch roof containing changing rooms & ancillary facilities, storage area, drying room, showers, plant room, universally accessible facilities and 2 rental units on ground floor with community space, training room and associated storage on first floor.
- c) Canopy spanning between facilities building and café, part covering outdoor seating area

- d) New public access from activity centre to Bachelors Walk comprising steps and seating area
- e) Single storey boat storage building with part flat, part raked roof to contain 3 separate storage zones with a rental space and associated plant room
- f) Alterations to existing vehicular access from Barrow Street with turnaround/loading & unloading area
- g) Associated car and bicycle parking split between 2 sites; A and B
- h) Public lighting to all pedestrian areas and associated car-parking
- i) Hard landscaped central space with boat wash-down area and associated surface water UV filtration system
- j) Site drainage works including connection to existing public foul & storm systems
- k) Removal of existing public toilet and storage containers adjacent the site and removal of existing trees on site to facilitate the works
- l) Site boundary and all associated site development works.

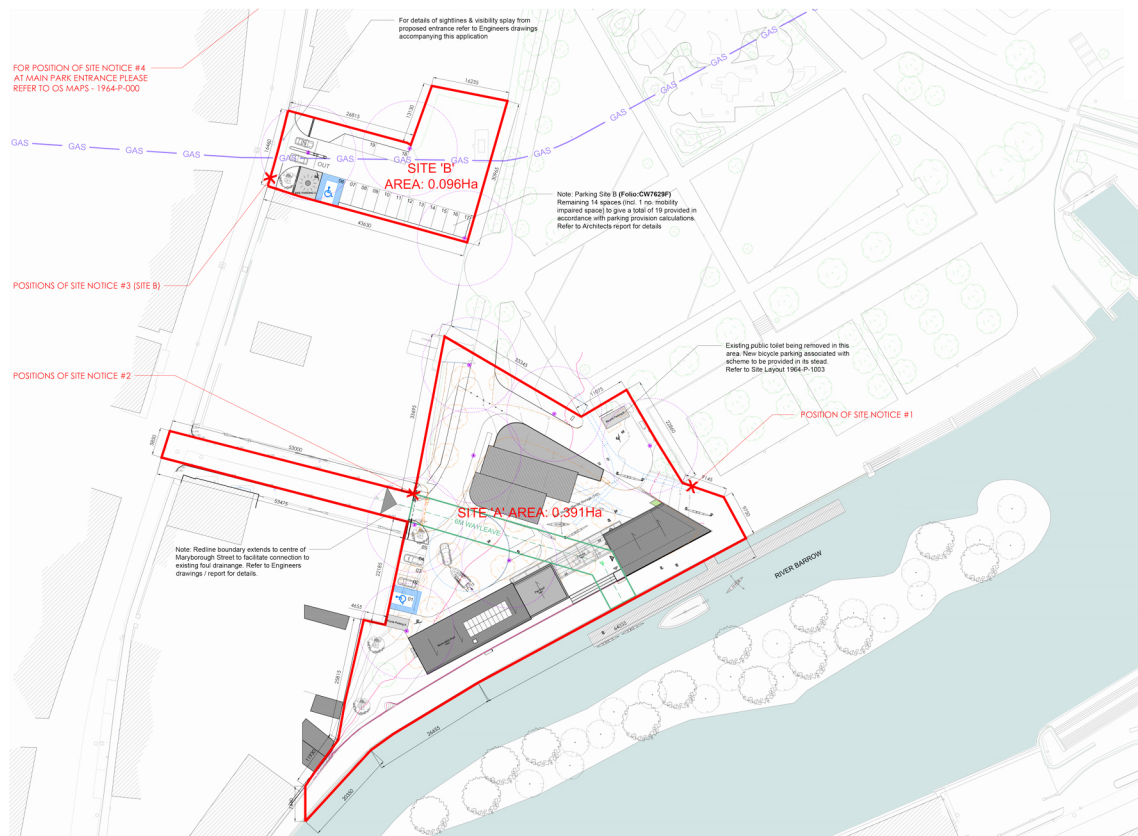


Figure 2: Proposed development layout plan (Ground Floor proposed) (Kenneth Hennessey Architects).

3.2 Statutory Heritage Protections

The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) provides the national policy framework for archaeological heritage which underpins the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The National Monuments Act 1930 - 2004 provides for the protection of the archaeological heritage. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and structures, features, objects or sites listed in this Record are known as Recorded Monuments and are shown on an accompanying set of maps. A level of universal protection is afforded to all monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). As well as extending protection to all known sites, now identified as Recorded Monuments, the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 extends protection to all previously unknown archaeological items and sites that are uncovered through ground disturbance or the accidental discovery of sites located underwater.

Where necessary, the Minister will issue preservation orders to ensure protection is afforded to sites believed to be under threat. Under the Act there are different levels of monument protection. While all known monuments are included on the RMP, a lesser number are accorded a higher level of protection. Some are entered on the Register of Historic Monuments established under Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987. The highest level of protection is accorded to National Monuments, i.e. monuments deemed to be of national significance. Carlow Castle is a National Monument.

The proposed development site is located partially within the area of archaeological notification, as defined in section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument), for RMP CW007-018 Historic Town and the area of archaeological potential identified in the Urban Archaeological Survey of Carlow (Bradley 1989) (Figure 1). The site also lies in close proximity to RMP CW007-018003- bridge (Figure 1). 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 Monument or a Registered Monument they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister 2 months before commencing that work. This is to allow the National Monuments Service time consider the proposed works and how best to proceed to further the protection of the monument.

Section 9.2 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-21 includes the objective to:

Require archaeological assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance, if a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits.

| RMP | Class | Townland | Description (from archaeology.ie) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---|
| CW007-018---- | Historic town | Carlow | 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-). |
| CW007-018003- | Bridge | Carlow | Down Survey (1655-6) map shows stone bridge over Barrow and timber bridge over Burren, both of which appear to have been built before sixteenth century. Present bridges are modern but may be located close to or on sites of original bridges (Bradley 1989, 5). |
| CW007-018002- | Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle | Carlow | Large rectangular three-story limestone keep, of early thirteenth-century date, with circular towers at each angle. Present remains consist of W wall with circular end towers. Built on rising ground with large crenellated stone wall enclosing castle. Main entrance in W wall at first-floor level, now broken out. Similar ground plan to Ferns, Co. Wexford, and Lea, Co. Laois. (Leask 1936, 168-70; AJ 1973, 47-49; Bradley 1989, 8) |

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in environs of the proposed development area.

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located on the west bank of the River Barrow in the Graiguecullen suburb of Carlow town (Figure 1). Whilst there is no direct evidence for prehistoric settlement within the area of the suburb a ring-ditch LA037-018---- 1.1 km to the south and a series of burnt spreads to the north and west, perhaps remains of fulachta fiadh, attest to settlement in the area during this period of time. Three and a half

kilometres east of the development site is a Neolithic portal tomb, known as the Brownhill Dolmen, which is reputedly the largest of its kind in Ireland. In the nineteenth century this was part of a trio of such tombs in the area. Further evidence for a rich Neolithic funerary landscape in the region is provided by a Neolithic cist burial 5.7 km to the south-east of the development site, in the townland of Linkardstown, where excavations yielded human remains that have been radiocarbon dated to between 3632-3376 BC. While this particular form of monument type is relatively rare across the country, another example can be found *c.* 7 km to the east of the development. The Barrow basin has also produced a significant number of stray stone axe finds. The later prehistoric period is represented by a number of *fulachta fiadh* and burnt mound sites, many of which were excavated during the construction of the M9 to the east of the subject site. The River Barrow corridor also contains a fine collection of Bronze Age funerary monuments in the form of cists and barrows. Activity in the environs of the proposed development area in the early medieval period is indicated by ringforts at Crossneen LA037-003---- and Derrymoyle LA032-053---- and the recent discovery of an early medieval cemetery near Carlow Castle.¹ The important ecclesiastical settlement at Killeslin (National Monument), which originated in the fifth century, is located 4km to the west.



Figure 3: North-west and south-west towers and curtain wall of Carlow castle (2019), from south-west.

¹ <https://excavations.ie/report/2010/Carlow/0021285/>

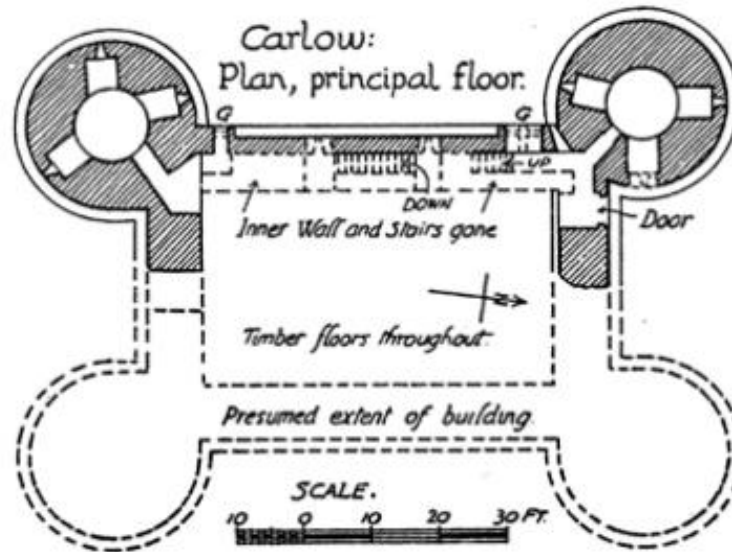


Figure 4: Ground plan of Carlow castle by Leask (1941).

Following the Anglo-Norman conquest an earth-and-timber castle, probably a motte and bailey, was built on what was effectively an island at the confluence of the Rivers Barrow and Burren by Hugh de Lacy for John de Clahull who had been granted by Strongbow, Lord of Leinster, all the land 'between Oboy and Leighlin'. Features relating to this original castle have been excavated beneath its thirteenth century masonry successor at Carlow (O'Connor 1997). The stone castle was built by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster in the early thirteenth century and was constructed as Western French-style a 'four-towered keep', a rectangular-plan form with cylindrical drum-towers at the corners (Murphy 2014). The castle controlled the strategically important River barrow waterway, which was navigable between Carlow and the Marshal's port-town at New Ross, and it acted as a fortified seigneurial *caput* and defence for the borough of Carlow which developed around it from the early thirteenth century. The castle was refortified in the second half of the fourteenth century, probably as a result of it acting between 1360-94 as the Crown's exchequer in Ireland. In the late thirteenth-century the castle and town of Carlow came into the possession of the Bigod Earls of Norfolk and documents from this time refer to re-roofing of the building, an 'old hall' a kitchen, a 'great hall' and an 'exchequer house' (Mills 1892). Due to constant attacks from the Gaelic Irish on Carlow the exchequer moved back to Dublin in 1394, which precipitated a period a decline for the town. The castle remained in the hands of the crown until the end of the fifteenth century. Carlow Castle sheltered English planters during the 1641 Irish Rebellion and in 1647 it was taken by the Irish Confederates, who

eventually surrendered to Cromwell's forces in 1650. In the early nineteenth century the keep was severely damaged when its east wing and much of its north and south wings were destroyed by explosives. The castle is presently a National Monument (ref. 306) in state care.

The chartered borough area of Carlow was concentrated in the drier ground to the east of the castle and by at least 1373-4, when the 'Irish enemies' were attacking the surrounding countryside and 'were right up to the city walls', it had been surrounded by a stone town wall (Thomas 1992 Vol. 2, 24-7). None of the town wall is known to survive above ground today. The parish church of the borough, unusually the only religious foundation in the town, was dedicated to St Mary and was situated to the north-east of the castle. The medieval church was pulled down in 1726 and replaced with a building which was itself largely replaced in 1832 by the present Church of Ireland church. The precise date at which the first bridge-crossing over the River Barrow was constructed is unknown and there was certainly no bridge in place in 1286 and 1288 when the town was fined for not having a bridge (Mills 1892, 54). The 1656 Down Survey parish map of Carlow includes a depiction of a stone bridge and a timber bridge crossing on the River Burren (Figure 7). The present Graiguecullen Bridge, formerly known as the 'Wellington Bridge' was constructed in 1815 and may incorporate elements of the earlier bridge. In the medieval period a tower known as the 'White Castle' guarded the west side of the bridge crossing (Murphy 2014, 2). During those periods when a bridge was not in place the crossing over the Barrow was probably achieved with ferries.

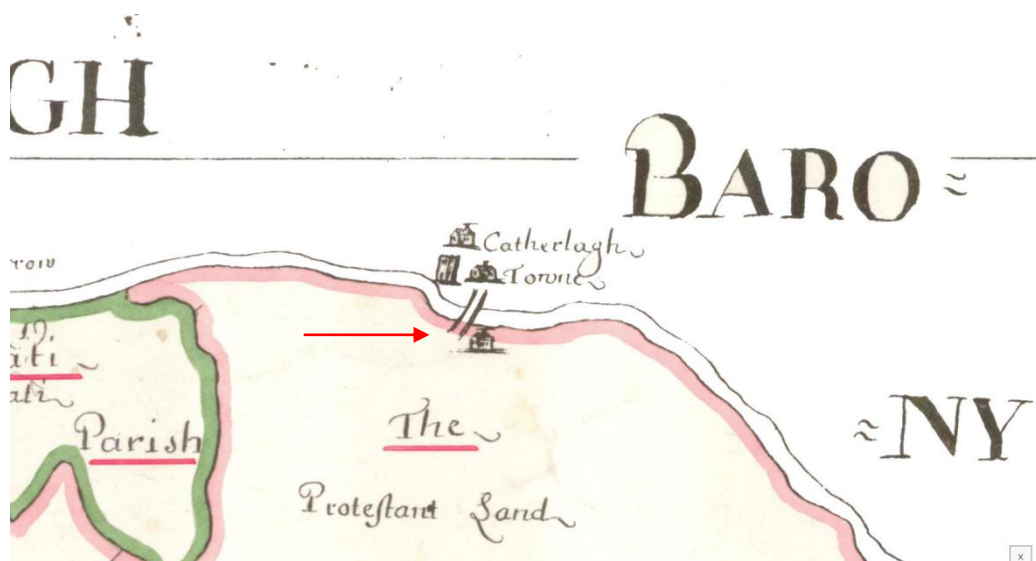


Figure 5: Approximate site location on Down Survey 1656 map of the barony of Slewmary, Laois.

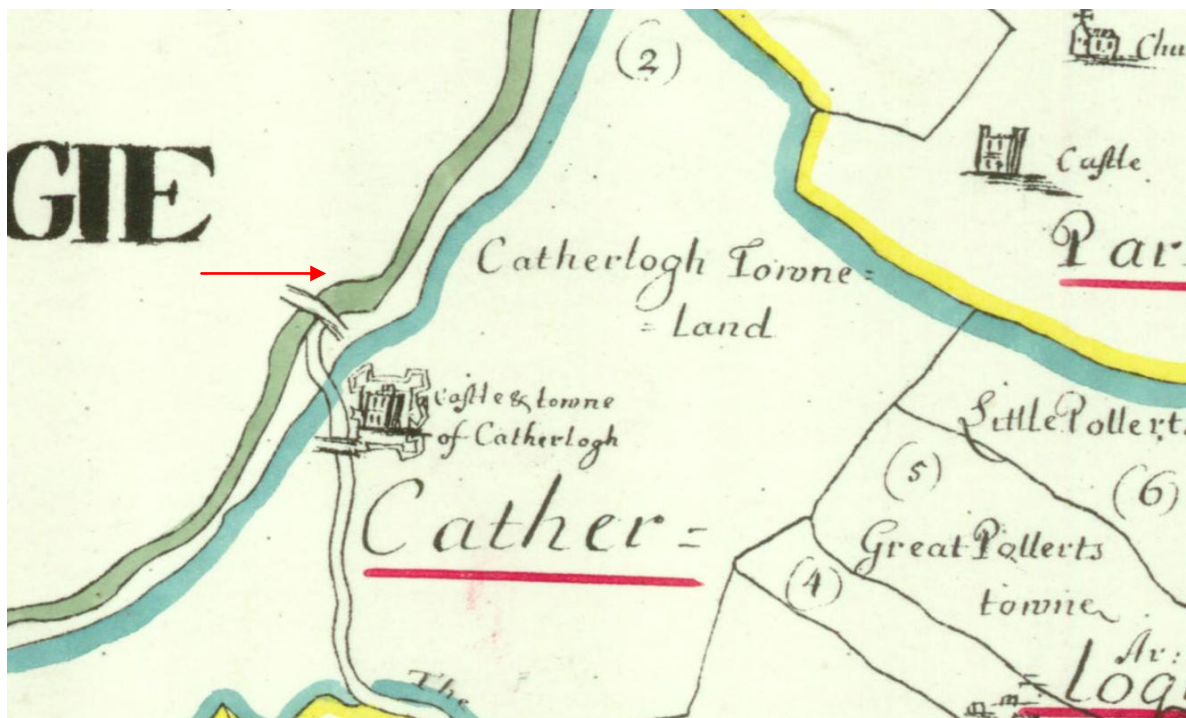


Figure 6: Approximate site location on Down Survey map 1656 Barony of Catherlogh

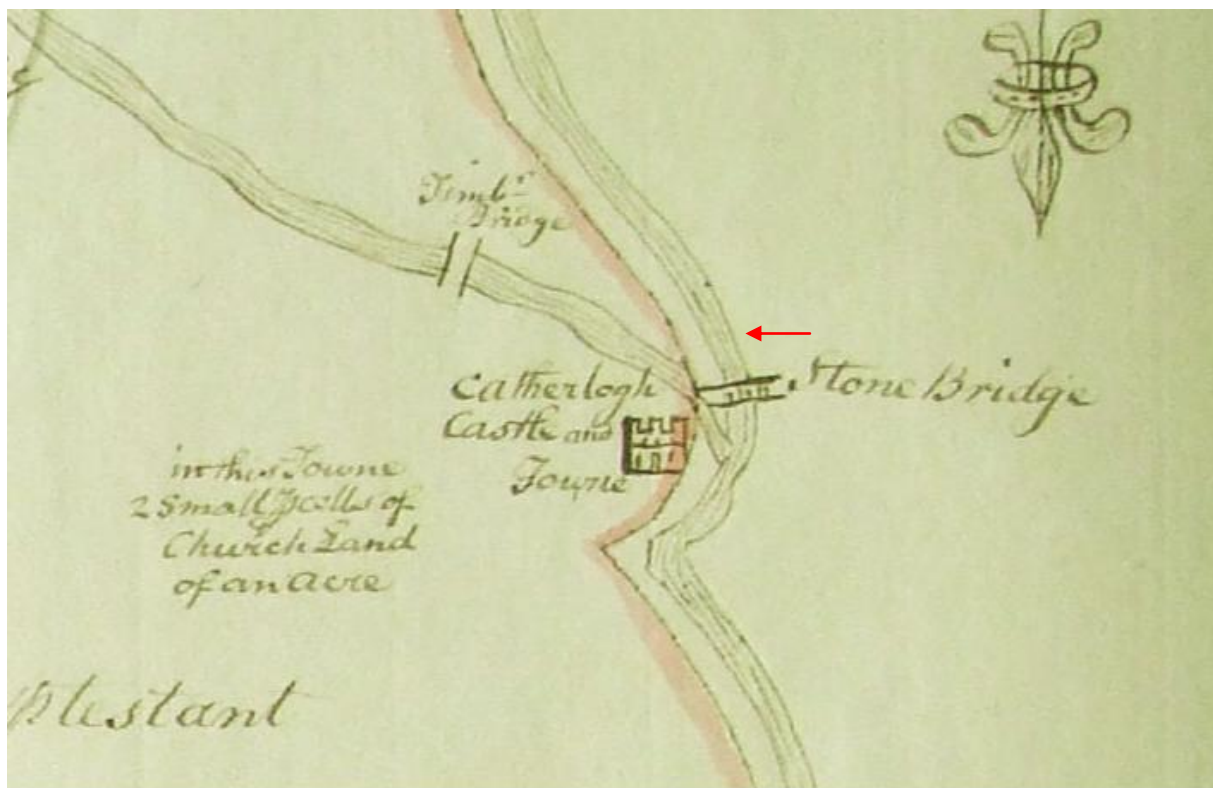


Figure 7: Approximate site location on Down Survey map 1656, parish of Caberlogh.



Figure 8: Approximate location of proposed development area on 1703 survey of Carlow by Thomas Moland (Horner 1978).

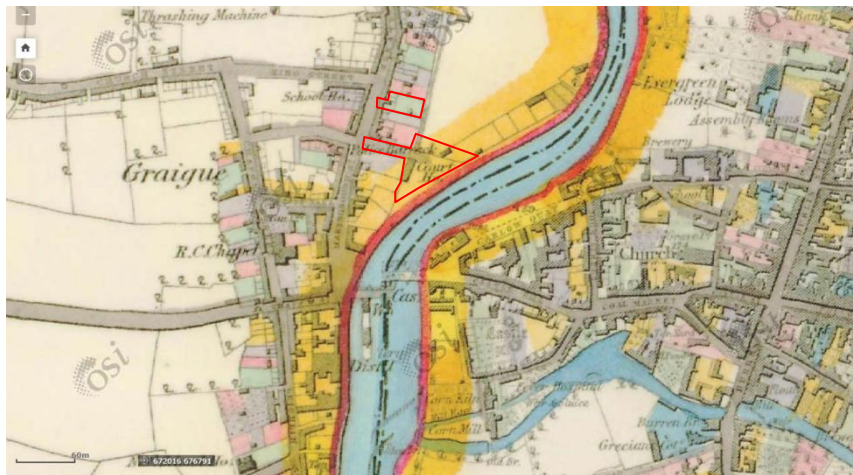


Figure 9: Proposed development area on 1839 Ordnance Survey map 1:10560 (six inches to one statute mile) (extract).

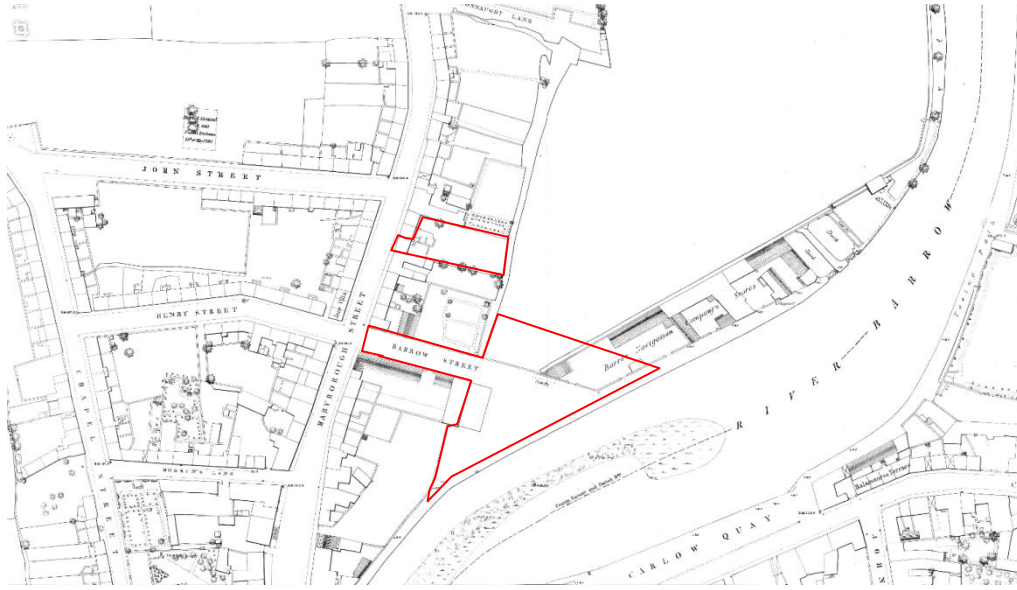


Figure 10: Proposed development area on 1871 Ordnance Survey map 1:1056 (Five feet to one statute mile) (extract).

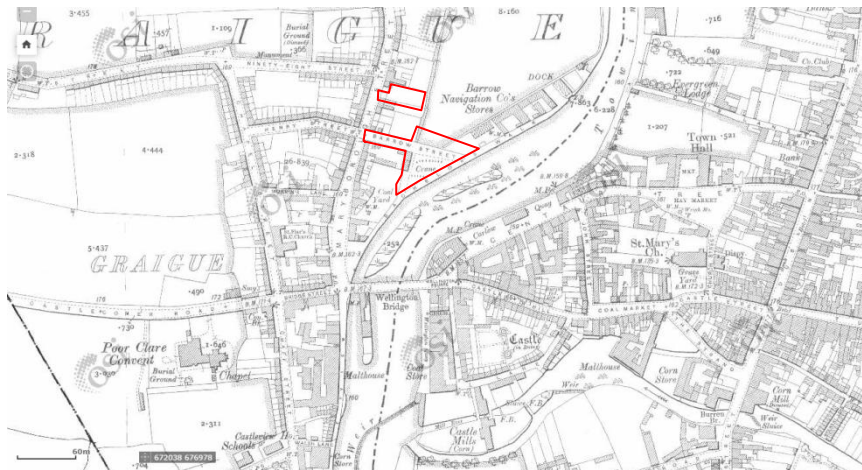


Figure 11: Proposed development area on 1907 Ordnance Survey map 1:1056 (Five feet to one statute mile, Extract).

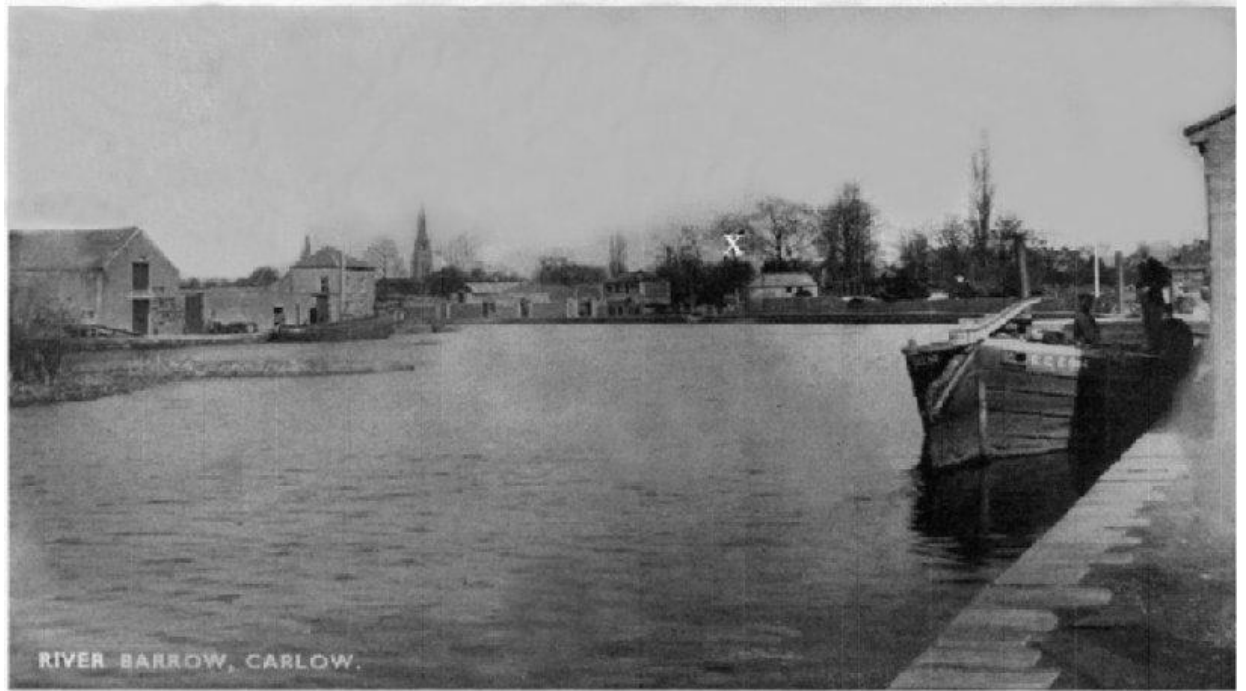


Figure 12: Barrow Navigation Stores (on left) photograph c. 1900 (http://www.igp-web.com/Carlow/the_barrow_Canal_02.htm).

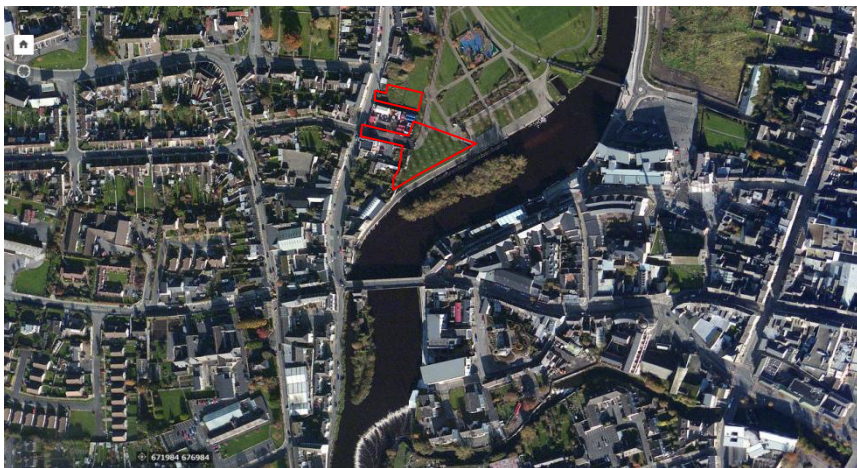


Figure 13: Proposed development area on 2015 aerial photograph of Carlow (from archaeology.ie).



Figure 14: Graiguecullen bridge from west.

The suburb of Graiguecullen, on the west side of the Barrow and in which the development site is located, originated, like Rosbercon in New Ross and St John's in Kilkenny, as a suburb of the medieval town. Little is known about the topography of the suburb in the Middle Ages other than that a castle, possibly an urban tower house known as the 'White Castle', was situated at the west side of the bridge (Bradley and King 1990, 10). There is no indication that the suburb was walled. The Down Survey barony map shows a large house, possibly the White Castle in the area of the suburb (Figure 5). As an important inland port and market-centre both banks of the River Barrow would have been intensively used for warehousing and for jetties during the medieval period. The small number of previous excavations that have been undertaken within the suburb (see below) have failed to uncover anything of medieval date but this should not be taken as an indication that sub-surface archaeology of this date is not present. Rather, as is the case with most inland riverine medieval towns and suburbs much of the urban area and waterfront was probably built on ground reclaimed from the former river floodplain. The riverine silts have been recorded in most investigations within the suburb (see below) but the precise location of the medieval waterfront is unknown. It may have been further

inland than the present water frontage. The 1703 Moland map shows no structures in the proposed development area and instead the suburban development is set back from the river (Figure 8).

By the time of the first edition (1836) Ordnance Survey map the area stretching along the western river bank was divided into a series of lots, probably representing stores for the Barrow Navigation Company, which had been incorporated in 1792 (Hayden 1953; Murphy 2009) (Figure 9). The company effectively canalised much of the river between Athy and St Mullins, making it navigable for boats carrying up to 40 tons, and Carlow and Graiguecullen acted as a key loading and unloading points on the Navigation, as well the company's headquarters. The Barrow Navigation Company's Stores and dry docks for repairing boats stretched along the western river bank to the north of Barrow street and promenade, known as 'Bachelor's Walk' was constructed running along the river edge in-front of the stores before 1907 (Figures 10-12). A crane was sited in 1907 on the south side of Barrow Street, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of that date (Figure 11). No trace of the crane survives above ground level. A courthouse, which serviced the Graiguecullen suburb, was situated at the south-east side of Barrow Street and is depicted on the first edition map (Figure 9). The building that housed the courthouse appears to have gone out of use by the time it was depicted on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 10). It is still standing on the west side of the development area. The Barrow Navigation stores were demolished and cleared in 1990 and the Carlow Town Park was completed in the area in 2003, in the process raising the ground level.

5. ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

As per Appendix 4, Section 1, of the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 - 2018²:

"A protected structure is a structure that a local authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view."

Objective HERO07 of the Joint Spatial Plan (pg. 143) seeks to:

"Ensure the protection of the special interest or character of all structures on the

² <http://www.carlow.ie/wp-content/documents/uploads/Appendix-4-Protected-Structures-Revised-Nov-15.pdf>

Record of Protected Structures within the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area."

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) details one protected structure in proximity to the proposed development area, the Graiguecullen Bridge.

| RPS Number | Description (from RPS) |
|------------|---|
| CT113 | The bridge across the Barrow is of five arches and of unusual design as it links the island in the middle of the river. Plaques commemorate the building of the bridge. |

Table 2: Architectural heritage sites in proximity of proposed development site on Carlow Record of Protected Structures.

6. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

While a large number of finds are recorded for Carlow townland in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, no find spot is provenanced to the proposed development area or its immediate surrounds. A number of iron spears and polished-stone axeheads have been recorded as having been found from the River Barrow in Carlow.

7. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological monitoring by Eoin Halpin in 1996 (96E0299) of dredging of the River barrow in Carlow town for the River Barrow Navigation Scheme brought to light worked timbers in the areas immediately north and south of the Graiguecullen Bridge (formerly Wellington Bridge) in Carlow town.³ An 18th century flint-lock pistol was also recovered from the river. Archaeological test excavations and subsequent monitoring by Brian

³ <https://excavations.ie/report/1996/Carlow/0002151/>

Halpin (07E1046) at Maryborough Street, Graiguecullen, 100m north-west of the proposed development site did not uncover anything of archaeological significance (Halpin 2007).⁴ Monitoring (03E0723) of the development of a small site 85m west of the development area at the corner of Maryborough Street and Morrins Lane revealed the riverine silts of the pre-reclamation Barrow floodplain beneath modern and nineteenth century demolition make-up layers.⁵ Another series of test trenches were excavated by Leigh Barker in 2007 at the junction of Maryborough Street and Barrow Street, c. 50m west of the proposed development site.⁶ Thick alluvial deposits of grey riverine sands associated with the River Barrow were encountered beyond an average depth of c. 1m and below rubble and modern debris. On the opposite (east) bank of the River Barrow a number of excavations have been conducted in and around Carlow Castle CW007-018002-, the most significant of which was at Kennedy Street, immediately to the north of the castle and 300m east of the proposed development area. This produced part of an early medieval graveyard that predates the establishment of the Anglo-Norman borough was made by Judith Carroll (10E175).⁷ Three in situ articulated burials were identified, as well as disarticulated remains.

8. SITE INSPECTION

An inspection of the proposed development area was conducted by the author 15th June 2021 (Figures 13-18). The area is entirely landscaped for the Carlow Town Park and is raised c. 1m above the level of a walkway that extends along the river bank (Figure 16). The former courthouse building as depicted on the 1836 Ordnance Survey map is situated adjoining the west side of the development site (Figures 9, 18). Nothing of archaeological interest was noted in the site inspection.

⁴ <https://excavations.ie/report/2007/Carlow/0017055/>

⁵ <https://excavations.ie/report/2003/Carlow/0009354/>

⁶ <https://excavations.ie/report/2007/Carlow/0017063/>

⁷ <https://excavations.ie/report/2010/Carlow/0021285/>



Figure 15: View of Carlow Town Park and proposed development area from north.



Figure 16: Proposed development area from south.



Figure 17: Proposed development area from south.



Figure 18: Rear, east, wall of former courthouse building marked on first edition Ordnance Survey map, forming west boundary of the proposed development area, from south-east.

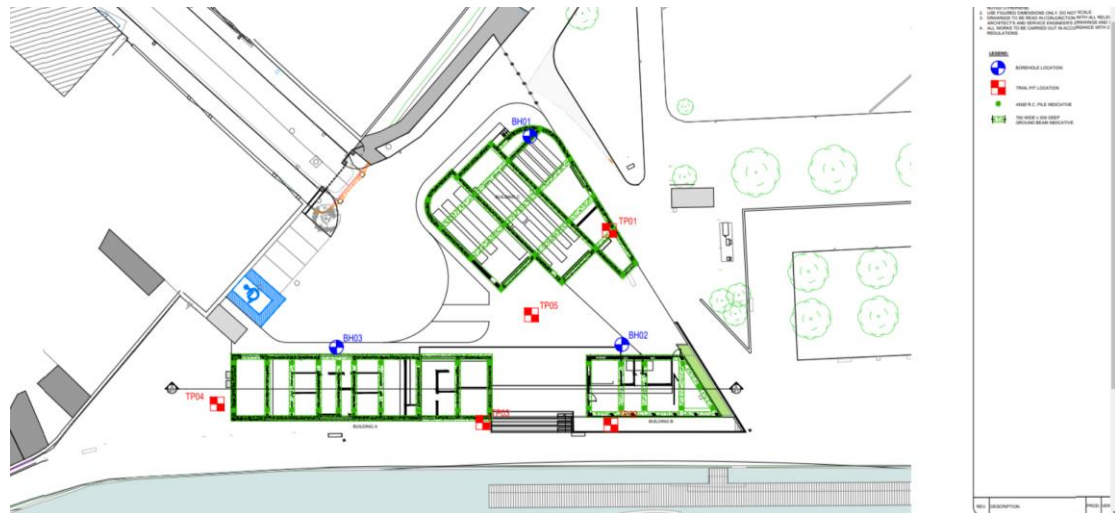


Figure 19: Geotechnical borehole and trial pit locations on proposed development layout (DRA Consulting Engineers).

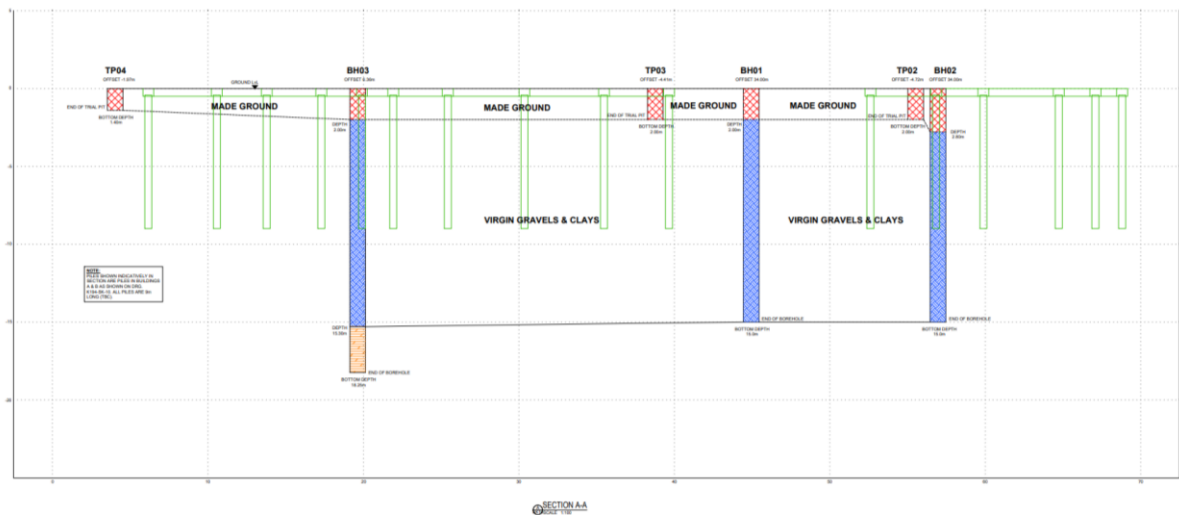


Figure 20: Section A-A on Fig. 19 showing proposed piling and 'made ground' and 'virgin gravels and clays' indicated from geotechnical investigations (DRA Consulting Engineers).

9. GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Geotechnical trial pits and boreholes undertaken within the proposed development area consistently showed 'made ground' containing modern debris and demolition waste below the surface to depths of between 1.3m and 2.8m above alluvial sandy silt and peat deposits which extended to depths of 4m - 4.8 m (IGSL 2021) (Figures 19, 20). The silt and peat deposits were underlain by dense sandy glacial gravel with occasional cobbles extending to a depth of 7.1m - 7.4m. The results of the geotechnical investigations, although not monitored by an archaeologist, would appear to support the observation

that the present ground level is the result of massive infilling and raising of the levels in the area for the creation of the town park c. 2003.

10. PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The development site is located partially within the area of archaeological notification, as defined in section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument), for RMP CW007-018 Historic Town (Figure 1). Historical research and the results of prior archaeological investigations in the area indicate that the proposed development area probably occupies ground reclaimed during the medieval period for the development of the suburb of Graiguecullen. A tower house known as the 'White Castle', which is no longer extant, is thought to have been located c. 150m to the south at the west end of the medieval bridge CW007-018003- (Figure 5). In the nineteenth century the west bank of the River Barrow at Graiguecullen was intensively developed for infrastructure connected with the Barrow Navigation Company (Figure 9-12). Part of this infrastructure included a crane, which was positioned within the area of the proposed development site (Figure 11). Raising of the ground level, by c. 1.3m - 2.8m as suggested by geotechnical investigations, for the construction of the Carlow Town Park in 2003 probably covered the demolished remains of features and structures associated with the former Barrow Navigation, and perhaps earlier archaeological materials (Figure 20).

The concentration of previously recorded archaeology within the environs of the development area and the industrial heritage within and close to the proposed development area indicates that the proposed development has the potential to impact on archaeological materials, features, structures, deposits or objects. It should be noted that it is the stated policy of the National Monuments Service that *'there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage. Preservation in-situ must always be the first option to be considered rather the preservation by record in order to allow development to proceed, and preservation in-situ must also be presumed to be the preferred option...When considering requests for authorisation or approval to undertake development which would involve the*

removal of archaeological sites and monuments (or portions of such), or before proposing to carry out such development, relevant bodies and authorities should satisfy themselves that the development i. cannot be re-located, ii. Cannot be re-designed to avoid removal of the site or monument (or portions of such), iii. Is really necessary...? (Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999, 24).

The results of geotechnical investigations within the proposed development area have indicated that the ground conditions within the area are not suitable for standard foundations and it is therefore proposed that the piles will be employed as foundations for the new building (IGSL 2021). Detailed engineering designs will be completed post planning permission.

In accordance with the National Monuments Act, the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage and the objectives relating to archaeology in the Carlow County Development plan it is thus recommended that the following archaeological mitigation measures are undertaken:

1. An archaeologist shall undertake licensed archaeological monitoring of all sub-surface works associated with the development including the breaking and removal of any surfaces, levelling of ground, site investigations. The archaeologist shall consult with and forward their Method Statement in advance of commencement to the National Monuments Service. In the event of potential archaeological materials being located in the course of the monitoring all works in the specifically affected area shall cease and the developer shall facilitate the archaeologist in fully assessing and recording such features, including if necessary the archaeological excavation of such features and/or redesign to allow for preservation in situ. In the event of archaeological materials occurring on site, the archaeologist retained by the developer shall immediately contact the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The National Monuments Service shall determine the further archaeological resolution of the site. The site contractor will be aware of this requirement and the monitoring archaeologist will be provided with a programme of works. No sub surface work shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his/her consent. Following the completion of works a written report and a digital report containing the results of the archaeological monitoring shall be forwarded on completion to the Planning Authority

and National Monuments Service, Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

2. Consideration shall be given to providing as part of the new River Barrow Activity Centre information signage on the former use of the area by the Barrow Navigation Company, which can be considered an important aspect of Carlow's industrial heritage and social history.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, J., and King, H. A., 1990. Urban Archaeological Survey. Part X: Co. Carlow. Office of Public Works (unpublished).

Brindley, A. and Kilfeather, A., 1993. Archaeological Inventory of County Carlow. Wordwell.

Hayden, T.P. 1953 The Barrow navigation, *Carloviana*, 17-21.

Horner, A. 1978 'Two eighteenth-century maps of Carlow Town', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* Vol. 78 (1978), 115-126.

IGSL 2021 *Report on a Site Investigation For Carlow Water Activity Centre On behalf of Carlow County Council*, IGSL.

Leask, H. 1941 *Irish Castles and Castellated Houses*, Dundalk.

Mills, James 1892 'Accounts of the earl of Norfolk's estates in Ireland, 1279-94' *JRSAI*, 22, 50-62.

Murphy, J. 2009 The Barrow Navigation Company, *Carloviana*, 17-21.

Murphy, M.M. 2014 *Carlow Castle, Medieval Stronghold on the Barrow*, Carlow County Council.

<https://carlowcountymuseumblog.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/carlowcastlebrochure.pdf>

O'Connor, K.D. 1997 'The origins of Carlow Castle' in *Archaeology Ireland* 11(3), 13-16.

Thomas, A. 1992 *The Walled Towns of Ireland*, 2 Vols., Dublin.