

**Mitchelstown Public Realm Design,
Mitchelstown, Co. Cork
Archaeological Impact Assessment**

Client: Cork County Council

Licence No: n/a

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SUMMARY

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Mitchelstown, Co. Cork (Centre of site ITM 588268, 763710, Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Cork County Council. The desk-based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in April 2022 by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The assessment was completed in October 2022 with the addition of the final proposed development plan. The report aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The subject area comprises the Georgian Quarter of Mitchelstown; King's Square, George's Street, Kings street and New Market Square located on the western half of the town (c. 4.40Ha).
- There were no stray finds recorded in the database for these townlands.
- There are four RMPs which line the streets within the subject area; The houses which line the northern half of kings Square (CO019-105), The Market house (CO019-106), the Church of Ireland Church (CO019-028002) and its associated graveyard (CO019-028001)
- The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds the Historic town of Mitchelstown (CO019-149) covers the northern half of the subject area. The ZAP which surrounds the Market House (CO019-106) overlaps with the eastern quarter of New Market Square. The ZAP that surrounds Church (CO019-028002) overlaps the southernmost point of the subject area.
- No additional archaeological features were recorded within the subject site during analysis of Historical Mapping.
- Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the analysis of aerial photographs of the subject area.
- No previous archaeological excavation has taken place within the subject site.
- There are 60 structures along the proposed development route which are recorded on the Cork County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
- The entire subject area lies within the Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA ID: ACA42).
- No additional features of archaeological potential were noted in the development area.

These factors indicate that there is moderate-high potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed route of this urban development has previously been subject to heavy disturbance, as such, it is recommended that all ground works should be archaeologically monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence to the NMS.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

| Revision | Status | Date | Prepared by | Reviewed by | Approved by |
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1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Mitchelstown, Co. Cork (Centre of site ITM 588268, 763710, Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Cork County Council. The desk-based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in April 2022 by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

1.1 Proposed Development

Cork County Council wish to develop a public realm improvement to George's St. King's St., King's Square and New Market Square (Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter), in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. Mitchelstown is embarking on a significant renewal programme designed to transform its town core and the services it provides to its communities and visitors alike.

The vision for the Public Realm enhancement, prioritises Mitchelstown's rich architectural heritage and Georgian legacy and the needs of Mitchelstown's population. The proposed public realm enhancement, at the core of Mitchelstown presents an invaluable opportunity to build on the rich urban heritage and highlight the historic character of Mitchelstown.

Given the significance of the town's heritage, strategic location and local importance, it has been proposed to redevelop and enhance public realm to further activate the area, deliver an attractive pedestrian orientated town centre and increase the comfort of its residents.

The proposed public realm development will produce social, economic, and environmental / physical benefits with the potential to attract visitors, create a strong sense of place and facilitate enhanced pedestrian permeability, making Mitchelstown a more attractive place to work, live, visit and invest.

It is intended that these public realm works will catalyse further investment in the Town Centre. The urban design plan will be strategic in attracting further investment into the town's amenities and services. The public realm enhancement will strengthen Mitchelstown's potential for tourism, which has a strong potential for economic growth and potential to link in with other North Cork tourist attractions such as Doneraile Court.

New Market Square (Figure 9 & 10): New Market Square is a large square about 1.22ha adjoining Cork Street, the main shopping street of Mitchelstown. The Square is steeply sloped about 9% and has a central east-west axis that connects a vista from King's Street to the John Mandeville statue and Market House (currently used as a supermarket) to the Church spire on Church Hill.

To deliver the next phase, a detailed design has been developed to reflect the many suggestions and changes proposed during the public participation rounds. The parking area was moved closer to Cork Street, disability and age friendly parking was increased, parking areas were added near Clongibbon

house and the Community centre. More green was added to the west side of the Square and seating areas were added. Space for the market was increased along Upper Cork Street, the central axis and in the parking areas. Parking counts, taken in 2022 showed that parking was rarely at capacity in the Square and that on average only 50 to 70 % of capacity was used. Bus and coach parking was retained. A new efficient lighting scheme has been added with a place for a Christmas tree.

Many new features have been added including a play area, a pollinator garden, an attractive permanent canopy and a fitness area. Facilities for small performances and events and a new toilet have been added. Colourful planting areas have been added along Upper Cork Street. Safe crossings have been integrated into the Square and pedestrian pavements have been widened to be resurfaced with high quality stone finishes. Heritage objects have been relocated in the Square

King Street (Figure 11 & 12): King Street runs along an east west axis from New Market Square to George's Street. The street looks out to Market Square to the east, behind which is the Courthouse with the Spire of the church visible above. The hills behind this form a backdrop to this planned vista.

Reduction in the width of the carriageway is proposed to 5m. This would permit safe cycling in the street. (dmurs compliant) and create a cycle connection to New Market Square. Adequate space for parking is proposed and finished with pavement materials. Narrow beds of 0.5m wide could be created to allow for planting. Residents could be encouraged to refurbish their houses with funds to promote a consistent pallet of colour. It is proposed to add trees to one side of the street to the scale of the street and not block the historic vista. It is proposed to retain the historical parts of the pavement and reuse them in the design. Overhead wiring is to be undergrounded and new lighting poles fitting the scale of the street are to be proposed on one side of the street.

George Street (Figure 13 & 14): George's Street runs along a north south axis from the Chapel at King's Square to St George's Arts and Heritage Centre. Cycle lanes on other side of the street are proposed in combination with reduced traffic speeds to 30kph. Cycle lanes could be potentially detailed with protective features, however these would need to be balanced with the heritage quality of the street. A new and efficient lighting system is proposed for the street and will tie in with the overall lighting strategy for the Georgian Quarter.

Perpendicular and parallel parked cars are to be replaced with parallel parking. Approximately 20 additional offstreet parking spaces need to be facilitated or otherwise eliminated. Junctions could be added as raised crossing platforms to key viewing attractions (such as the Art's and heritage Centre) as well as offering a traffic calming measure to slow traffic to 30kph. The exact location and design of the junctions needs to be considered in conjunction with traffic models and designs.

Kings Square (Figure 15 & 16): King's Square and Kingston College (abbreviated to in this report to King's Square) form a single space, the highpoint of the Georgian Quarter. It is a large garden square about 98m x 151m (1,47ha) dissected with an east-west axis, lined with imposing lime trees known as the Mall or Castlefarm Road.

A detailed design was developed to reflect the many suggestions and changes proposed during the public participation rounds. This included, the removal of the diagonal road, the undergrounding of the electric wiring, a one way traffic system with recalibrated parking, new boundary treatments, an amenity path for walking inside the square, a new lighting scheme around the square, highlighting of the chapel and up lighting of the buildings, a lower maintenance regime with colourful bulbs around the edge, replanted trees, new wayfinding, safe crossing points, new seating. The design also supports the regeneration of new activities such as grass tennis courts and croquet areas. The development of the planning permission is predicated on a structural survey of the walls at Kingston College by a conservation engineer. The cost of these works is to be included as an integral part of the scheme.

1.2 Assessment Requirements

Archaeological Assessment

The Consultant shall undertake a desktop Archaeological Screening Assessment which must take account of best practice in this area and in consultation with the National Monuments Service. The archaeologist will investigate the potential archaeological implications of the site and their effect, if any, on the redevelopment proposals. The assessment will determine the potential impact of the works on the archaeological heritage of the area. The Consultant shall submit 1 no hard copy and 1 no electronic copy of the Archaeological Screening Assessment Report to Cork County Council for approval. Should a Ministerial consent under the National Monument Act 1930 (as amended) be required the consultant shall be responsible for getting approval from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through National Monuments Division, and any other statutory body deemed necessary. The costs of obtaining an Archaeological Screening Assessment will be the responsibility of the consultant and will be deemed to be included in their fee.

1.3 Contact with the National Monument Service

Contact with the NMS was initiated on the 25th of April 2022 in order to both inform them of the Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter development project and to request advice and recommendations on how best to proceed regarding any licensing requirements. The NMS required further information prior to advising.

Further contact was made with the NMS on the 5th October 2022 furnishing them with detailed development plans.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject area comprises the Georgian Quarter of Mitchelstown; King's Square, George's Street, Kings Street and New Market Square located on the western half of the town (c. 4.40Ha) and a green space to the north of Kings Square (c. 2.08 Ha) totalling approximately 6.49Ha. (Plate 1-16).

Mitchelstown is a planted town and was laid out and constructed in the 1770's by the King family. It is located in Northeast Cork, in the Municipal district of Fermoy near the border with counties Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. The town sits in a valley and was originally designed in such a way as to maximise the views of the Galtee Mountains to the north and the Kilworth Hills to the south.

Today it has a local population of 3,740 and is an important market town. It is a centre of employment to a large agricultural hinterland in northeast Cork, south Limerick and southwest Tipperary. The town has benefited from the construction of the M8 and N73 northern town bypass in the 2000s, removing the heavy traffic congestion and associated negative features which previously characterised much of the town centre.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record¹
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).
- Fermoy Municipal District Local Area Plan (2017)
- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028

¹ Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ,

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

The town of Mitchelstown is located in the south bank of the Gradogue River on the main Dublin to Cork road in north County Cork. The monastery of Brigown, founded in the 7th century, gives its name to the modern parish (Power 1996). A town grew up around the monastery to the south of the current town around the 7th century (O'Brien 1993). Mitchelstown was officially established in the 13th /14th Century and comprised an amalgamation of Brigown and a newly established Anglo-Norman settlement, located to the west of the current town, originally known as 'Villa Michel' (Power 2008). The area was first listed as a market town in 1299, however; there is evidence of habitation in this surrounding region prior to the establishment of this monastic town.

4.1.1 Mesolithic 7000 BC - 4000 BC

The earliest known human settlement in Ireland dates from the Mesolithic period (c. 7000 BC - 4000 BC). In Munster, the majority of the evidence for Mesolithic occupation is in the form of flint scatters from the Blackwater valley in Co. Cork (Woodman 1989). Flint scatters were recorded in the townlands of Ballynamona (CO018-099) and Wallstown (CO018- 100) on the northern and southern sides of the Awbeg river respectively c.20km to the west of Mitchelstown (Power et. al. 2000).

4.1.2 Neolithic 4000 BC -2500 BC

The Neolithic Period is characterised by the introduction of agriculture and the resulting clearance of the woodlands, alongside a larger and more settled population. Substantial Neolithic settlement sites have been recorded at Lough Gur, Co. Limerick and Cloghers, Co. Kerry. The material culture includes the manufacture of pottery, flint and stone arrowheads, scrapers, axes etc. The range of monuments types includes Megalithic tombs (court tombs, portal tombs, passage tombs and wedge tombs), single burial graves and stone circles (Waddell 1998).

There is very little evidence of Neolithic settlement sites in the south-west of Ireland, though recent archaeological investigations have discovered new sites from that period in County Cork. The nearest known Neolithic house was excavated on the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy in the townland of Gortore. The structure was dated to the Early Neolithic cal BC 3928-3655 (UB 6769). Further evidence of Neolithic activity was recorded at Fermoy and Curraghprevin, on the same road scheme (Cotter 2018).

4.1.3 Bronze Age 2000 BC -500 BC

The Bronze Age is characterised by the introduction of metalworking and its associated manufacturing and mining processes. The range of burial site types from this time includes, cist graves, pit and urn burials, cremation cemeteries, barrows, ring-ditches and wedge tombs. Stone circles and standing

stones also date to the Bronze Age. Both enclosed and unenclosed settlement sites are known (Waddell 1998).

The most common Bronze Age site type is the fulacht fiadh, of which over 2,000 examples have been recorded in County Cork alone. These monuments are often recorded as low mounds of charcoal rich black silt packed with heat-shattered stones and are generally situated close to a water source (Waddell 1998).

It is unclear what the primary use of a fulacht fiadh was but they are generally classified as 'cooking places', whereby stones were heated in a hearth and placed in a trough of water. The trough eventually filled with small stones, ash and charcoal that were removed periodically and formed the basis of the familiar mound. The absence of animal remains and associated hearths alongside these monuments has fuelled the debate in relation to the function of the sites. Other theories on their function include bathing, dyeing textiles, sauna and/or sweat houses and beer production (Kelly 1989, 225). Waddell (1998) suggests the semi-industrial purpose of using the boiling water for dipping hides as part of the preparation of the leather.

Fullacht Fiadh were uncovered in 5 excavations undertaken within a 5km radius of Mitchelstown (04E0890, 04E1071 (A012/003), A012/001, 04E1121 (A012/002), 03E1153). Metal working features associated with general pits, cremation pits and a fulacht Fiadh were uncovered in two excavations (E002429, 03E0972). Three clusters of Bronze Age houses and associated pits and postholes were also uncovered (E002429, E002430, 04E1072). Finally three excavations revealed Prehistoric cremations burials and pits (04E1120, E002428, E002427).

There are few wedge tombs or stone circles known from north or east Cork. Two of the exceptions are wedge tombs located at Labbacallee (CO027-086) and at Manning (CO027-091) both located c. 15 km south of Mitchelstown. Labbacallee is one of the largest wedge tombs in the country (Waddell 1998).

The Bronze Age cemetery of Mitchelstowndown West, located c. 20 km to the north of Mitchelstown, contains 53 small barrows (Daly et. al. 1992).

Until recently Bronze Age settlement sites were a rarity in North Cork, but recent excavations have altered the picture. A Bronze Age occupation site was recorded underlying the medieval ringfort Lisleagh I (CO027-158) c.10km to the SW of Mitchelstown (Power et. al. 2000). A house site was excavated at Killydonoghoe on the route of the N8 Glanmire/Watergrasshill Bypass (Sherlock, 2003). A large Bronze Age settlement site consisting of three enclosures and three circular houses was excavated in 2003 at Ballybrowney on the route of the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy (Cotter 2004).

4.1.4 Iron Age 500 BC – 400 AD

At present, there is little evidence of a significant Iron Age presence in the Cork region (Woodman, 2000). Linear earthworks, which are believed to have marked tribal boundaries, are one of the most visible monuments of the period. Three separate stretches of one such boundary, the Claidh Dubh,

have been recorded in County Cork. A c.24km stretch of the earthwork extends from the Nagle Mountains, across the Blackwater valley and into the Ballyhoura Hills. The Claidh Dubh crosses the N73 c. 15km west of Mitchelstown (Cotter 2018). Radiocarbon dating following excavation of a section of it revealed it dated to sometime before 100AD (Doody 1995).

Three of the five hillfort sites in Cork are located in North Cork (Power et al, 2000). Caherdrinny is located at the western end of the Kilworth Mountains, c. 10 km to the south of Mitchelstown and Corrin is located at the eastern end of the Nagle Mountains c. 20 km to the south of Mitchelstown.

A complex of monuments in Conva townland (c. 20 km to the southwest of Mitchelstown) was identified by aerial photography in the Blackwater Valley. Crop marks indicated three enclosures (CO034-7201, -7202, -7203) and a number of large pits (CO034-7204) possibly comprising a rectangular enclosure. The site was investigated in 1992 by Martin Doody of the Discovery Programme which indicated that the complex dated to the Iron Age/Early Medieval period (Doody, 2000).

4.1.5 Early Medieval 400 AD – 1000 AD

The characteristic monument type of the medieval period was the ringfort, with estimates of between 30 and 50,000 illustrated on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps of the 1840's (Barry, 1987). These monuments are generally ascribed a narrow date range between the 7th and 9th centuries AD, although some have evidence of earlier and later occupation. They often take the form of a simple earthen or stone enclosure and functioned as settlements for all classes of secular society (Stout, 1997). In the late 1980's and early 1990's a long-term research excavation of two ringforts (CO027-158, CO027-029) was undertaken at Lisleagh c. 7km south of Mitchelstown. Structural, domestic and industrial evidence was recorded at both sites. The Lisleagh I site was constructed in the early seventh century and was occupied into the ninth century AD (Monk 1995, 105-116).

The 'Balline Hoard' was a collection of Roman silver discovered by Mr James Flynn in 1940 c.20km NW of Mitchelstown. In a note to the National Museum of Ireland Flynn recorded his discovery

"I have an unusual find which I dug up from a gravel pit while raising gravel from there, it's real silver and I am sure a very old find. 7 pieces in all" (Lynch 2014)

The silver was found about 2 feet (0.6m) under the surface. The hoard comprised four large silver ingots and three sections of decorated silver plate, all of exceptional quality dating to the 4th Cent AD or early 5th Cent AD. The hallmark on one of the complete ingots reads *EX OFFI ISATIS* (from the workshop of Isatix) (ibid). This ingot displays the same official stamp as ingots from the Roman forge at Richborough and Reculver in south-east Britain with a similarity is so great it is certain all three ingots were impressed with the same stamp. This hoard represents significant contact between central Munster and Later Roman Empire (ibid).

The Early Medieval Period/Early Christian Period is characterized by the arrival of Christianity to Ireland. Early ecclesiastical sites in the vicinity of Mitchelstown are located at Brigown (CO019-030) to the immediate southeast, Kildrum (CO020-025) to the east, Aghacross (CO019-002) to the west, Labbamolagga (CO010-003) to the northwest and Killeenemer (CO19-092) to the southwest.

The ecclesiastical ruins of St Fuinnechans Monastery and round tower dated to the 7th Century are located in Brigown on the SE outskirts of modern day Mitchelstown lent its name to the modern parish (Power 1996, 3). As was the case surrounding many monasteries, a small monastic settlement developed nearby and was named after the townland; Brigown (from Irish: Brí Ghabhann, meaning 'slope / hillock of the smiths') (Power 1996). The monastery itself was named after Saint Fanahan (Fionnchú "White Hound"); a warrior monk famed in medieval times for his fiery temper (Holy Wells of Cork, 2017).

It is highly likely this round tower and ecclesiastical buildings are the same that are recorded in the *Acta Sanctorum* as having been attacked in 839 by the Danes (Moore 1889). It is believed the tower remained intact until 1720 when a violent storm damaged the greater portion of it leaving only a fragment 15 feet (4.5m) high (ibid).

4.1.6 Medieval 1000 AD – 1300 AD & Late Medieval 1300 AD -1500 AD

The medieval period in Ireland is characterized by the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, who established numerous manors, towns and settlements throughout Munster. The Brigown area was colonised by the St. Mitchel family who established the town which was eventually to bear their name (Nicholls 1993), and which was officially listed as a market town in 1299 (O'Brien 1993). The parish was originally known as 'Villa Michel' (Power 2008). Mitchelstown is believed to have originated in the 13th Century from a small village or cluster of homes gathered along the road leading to the Anglo-Norman Castle.

The Mitchelstown estate, passed into the hands of Kingston's ancestor, Maurice Fitzgibbon, dubbed the White Knight, early in the 14th Century. A new towerhouse was built by David, the second White Knight in 1357 to which a fortified manor was subsequently added by one of his successors (O'Dwyer 2002). Little is known of the earliest castle/ fortified manor; except that it was destroyed in the wars of 1641 however; ruins surviving in the eighteenth century were said to be those of the castle. That castle is believed to have been located on a limestone ridge on the southern bank of the Gradoge River, to the west of the modern town, and close to where the later castle was subsequently located (Smith 1750).

4.1.7 Post-Medieval 1500 AD – 1800 AD

The male line of the White Knight (FitzGibbon) died out in the 17th century and the castle was inherited by Margaret Neen Morris Gibbon who married Sir William Fenton in 1614. Little known of settlement here until early 17th century when it became a possession of Sir William Fenton, who obtained grant for

market in 1618 (Power 1996). Their fortified manor was subsequently ruined in the 1640's and a new residence constructed in 1660 (O'Dwyer 2002).

In the 1770's Lord Kingsborough, the 2nd earl of Kingston, embarked on an ambitious programme of expansion. He demolished the old medieval town and replaced it with a new Georgian town laid out in a grid pattern, with two squares, new churches and new commercial and industrial buildings. (Cotter 2018). Some of its streets are named after members of the King family, namely Robert, George, Edward, James, Thomas and King (the family name). The other streets of the Georgian town are Church Street, Baldwin Street, Alley Lane, Chapel Hill, Convent Hill, King Square, New Square and Mulberry Lane (O'Dwyer 2002).

The newly established town was described by Lewis in his 1837 Topographical dictionary as;

The total number of houses, in 1831, was 535, most of which are well built and of respectable appearance; the square and principal streets are paved, but the footpaths are not flagged.

The inhabitants are amply supplied with water raised by pumps in various parts of the town; of these, one in King-square, of superior construction, worked by machinery and enclosed with an iron railing, was erected by the Earl of Kingston in 1825. Great improvements have been made under the auspices of the Earl of Kingston, who is proprietor of the town; a new road to Lismore has been completed, and a continuation of the line to Limerick is about to be opened, which will give to an extensive, fertile, and improving district facilities of access to the market of Mitchelstown; the former line, by diminishing to within 14 miles the distance to the river Blackwater at Lismore, now affords the advantage of water conveyance for coal, culm, timber, and other articles at a moderate charge.

Kingston College, a handsome and extensive range of building, was partly erected during the lifetime of its founder, James, Lord Kingston, after the completion of the buildings, to the maintenance of a chaplain, 12 poor gentlemen, and 18 poor gentlewomen, with preference to such as have been tenants on the Kingston estates.

The mid-18th century developments also included a new Palladian style mansion near the site of the earlier castle, and an extensive demesne extending to some 1240 acres, enclosed by a demesne wall (O'Dwyer 2002). The wall was 'six-and-a-quarter-mile long...between eight and ten feet in height' All public roads that were located within the area of the demesne were closed and rerouted along the periphery of the wall. Entry to the demesne was gained through White Gate, Killacluig Gate and Limerick Gate, and the main entrance was at King Square in the town (Power 1996).

4.1.8 Early Modern and Modern (1800 AD- Present)

Between 1823 and 1825 the third earl of Kingston demolished the Georgian house and had a magnificent neo-Gothic castellated mansion built in its place. Mitchelstown castle was described by the Parliamentary Gazetteer in 1844 as the '*largest and the best modern castellated residence in Ireland*'. Its builder 'Big George' the 3rd Earl of Kingston (1770-1839) was in debt before building commenced in 1823. It was designed to impress a King who never visited. It established the reputations of its architects James and George Richard Pain but they remained unpaid for over 50 years (O'Dwyer 2002). The limestone buildings formed three sides of a courtyard and contained 80 stately rooms linked by a gallery 100 feet long, 22 feet wide and with a Gothic ceiling 33 feet high (Power 2000).

The interior of the castle was described in detail by Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary (1837):

'The entrance hall opens into a stately hall or gallery, 80 feet in length, with an elaborately groined roof, richly ornamented with fine tracery, and furnished with elegant stoves of bronze, and with figures of warriors armed cap-à-pie; at the further extremity is the grand staircase. Parallel with the gallery, and forming the south front and principal range, are the dining and drawing-rooms, both noble apartments superbly fitted up and opening into the library, which is between them: the whole pile has a character of stately baronial magnificence, and from its great extent and elevation forms a conspicuous feature in the surrounding scenery.'

In anticipation of the castles construction Kingston petitioned to have himself dubbed the White Knight in 1822-1823, but his request was denied by the home secretary, Sir Robert Peel (O'Dwyer 2002). Five years after the completion of the castle Kingston's life took a turn for the worst. His political absolutism was broken in 1830 when his tenants refused to vote for the candidate of his choice in the Limerick by-election. During a meeting with his tenants he had a breakdown shouting "*they have come to tear me to pieces*" (O'Dwyer 2002). The family was in severe debt from the construction work of both the estate and Mitchelstown itself by the mid-18th century and due to rampant poverty and famine they were unable to successfully collect rent from tenants. The 3rd Earl's brother, Lord Lorton, successfully took a court action against him to recover a hefty debt. Faced with having to pay a debt of over 49,000 pounds alongside the cost of the lawsuit, Kingston suffered a further breakdown and was pronounced insane. He spent at least two periods of time in an asylum before his death in 1839 (O'Dwyer 2002).

His son Edward Viscount Kingsborough was equally hapless. He co-authored on a ten-volume work titled '*The Antiques of Mexico*'. The volumes, which were financed by Edward himself began to be published in 1830. They were a huge drain on his resources and when the debt which he could not pay reached 30,000 pounds, he was jailed in Marshalsea Prison in Dublin where he contracted Typhus and died in 1837 (O'Dwyer 2002).

Almost from the beginning of the famine in the 1840's towns such as Mitchelstown, became the key sites in the battle for survival. Many families were evicted due to being unable to pay rent. The Mitchelstown workhouse was available for the starving and destitute but records show the fever began spreading in Mitchelstown workhouse in Nov 1846 (Crowley et. Al. 2012). Entrance to the workhouse was almost always a death sentence. In early 1846 a crowd of about 100 men, women and children blocked carts going to the Commissariat store in Mitchelstown and forcibly took almost two tons of meal (ibid).

In response to the evictions perpetrated by the landholding class during the early 19th century the Land League was established in 1879 with branches across Ireland. It advocated 'land for the people', demanding free sale, fixity of tenure and fair rents. One particular Land League protest comprising local civilians in Mitchelstown ended in disaster when the police fired into the crowd killing three people (Crowley et. Al. 2012).

Between 1879 and 1881, and again between 1886 and 1888, local tenants, led by John Mandeville and William O'Brien, organised a rent strike on the Mitchelstown Estate, then owned by Anna, Dowager Countess of Kingston and her second husband, William Downes Webber (Power 2000) .

On 9 September 1887, a protest was held in New Market Square outside the Market House where Mandeville and O'Brien were being tried. After the court ended, approximately 8,000 demonstrators paraded into New Square (Power 2000). The crowd grew dangerous with violent clashes between police and protesters. A single shot was fired into the air which created confusion amongst the police who had retreated inside the barracks. Several shots were fired into the crowd. Three men were killed and several more injured. The dead men were John Shinnick of Fermoy, John Casey of Kilbehenny and Michael Lonergan of Galbally, County Limerick. (ibid). The incident generated considerable international attention and became known as the "Mitchelstown Massacre".

By 1922 the castle was occupied by William Downes Webber, the second husband of Anna, who had inherited the land on the death of her 1st husband James Edward the 5th Earl in 1869. In June 1922 during the Civil War the castle was forcibly occupied by the Irish Republican Army who expelled the occupants (O'Dwyer 2002). Two months later Free State troops advanced on County Cork and the castle was systematically looted over two week period before being set on fire on the 12th of August 1922 on the orders of a local republican leader, PJ Luddy, whose father and grandfather had been middlemen on the Kingston estate (ibid). At the same time, the military barracks at Fermoy, Mallow, Mitchelstown and Kilworth were burned, as well as the military hospital in Fermoy, Mitchelstown workhouse, Mitchelstown RIC barracks and the railway viaduct in Mallow (ibid).

The ashlar limestone of the house stood as a ruin until about 1930 when it was bought by the monks of Mount Melleray Abbey who used it to build their new monastery in County Waterford. In the 1940s,

Mitchelstown Co-operative Agricultural Society built a milk processing factory on the site of the castle, which it had purchased together with some of the demesne lands that surrounded it. The site is now owned by Dairygold Co-op. The remainder of the demesne was divided into farms, the town park and a golf course (Cotter 2018).

4.2 Topographical files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928².

The topographical files were searched for Cloonlough, Brigown, Ballinwillin, Mitchelstown Castle Demesne and Stag Park Co. Cork.

There were no stray finds recorded in the database for these townlands.

4.3 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

The historic town of Mitchelstown has been given an RMP number (CO019-149). It is described in the RMP as -

On S bank of Gradoge River, on main Cork-Dublin road. Listed as a market town (called Brigon) in 1299 (O'Brien 1993, 94), but little known of settlement here until early 17th century when it became a possession of Sir William Fenton, who obtained grant for market in 1618 (Power 1996, 10). According to MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986, 169), 'the place thrived, for the depositions (1641) provide the names of thirty residents, the majority of which were artisans'. Location of this settlement probably in vicinity of King's Square (14788) and nearby church (14445) and castle (14317) (pers. comm. B. Power). In 1750 Mitchelstown had 'a pretty market-house, built of hewn stone, and some good houses' (Smith 1750, vol. 1, 346). By 1831 it contained 535 houses, 'most of which are well built and of respectable appearance' (Lewis 1837, vol. 2, 372).

² The NMI Topographical Files search was undertaken by the Irish Antiquities Division of the NMI on behalf of Archer Heritage and is gratefully acknowledged,

There are four RMPs which line the streets within the subject area. The houses which line the northern half of Kings Square have been given an RMP number (CO019-105). They are described as matching L-shaped 2-storey ranges, over basements, either side of C of I chapel. Each range is 20-bays long (E-W) with 10-bay return (N-S).

The second RMP along the streets within the subject area is the Market house (CO019-106) located on the east side of New Market Square. It was indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as rectangular structure (long axis N-S) with off-centre projection to rear, named 'Market & Court House'; enclosed yard to rear named 'Potato Shambles Market'.

Finally the Church of Ireland Church (CO019-028002) and associated graveyard (CO019-028001) are located at the southernmost point of the subject area. The church is located at the north end of the graveyard. The church was built in 1801 by Countess of Kingston, but rebuilt twice by 1805 (Cole 1903, 163). It was enlarged in 1830 and a spire was added. Extensive improvements were made in 1900s. The rectangular graveyard (c. 155m N-S; c. 50m E-W) to rear is enclosed by a stone wall.

There are two RMPs which are less than 100m away from the subject area. Mill (CO019-160) is located c. c.80m NE of Kings square. It is described as a substantial rectangular 4-storey building built in c.1800 and known locally as 'Manor Mill'. Church (CO019-159) is located c.100m east of George Street, just off Thomas Street. Indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as cruciform structure (long axis E-W) named 'Natl. School'. It was labelled on the 1905 map as 'Town Hall'. According to local information, area around church was used as burial ground during The Famine.

Finally there are 20 additional recorded monuments within a 1km radius of the subject site. The majority of which are ecclesiastical, medieval or early modern. For further details see Appendix 1.

4.3.1 Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)

In advance of any new development on a site of archaeological significance or within a ZAP there is a requirement for consultation with the Monument Service of the DHLGH. Developments that are normally exempt under planning law are not exempt if they fall within a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP).

The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds the Historic town of Mitchelstown (CO019-149) covers the northern half of the subject area. The ZAP which surrounds the Market House (CO019-106) overlaps with the eastern quarter of New Market Square. The ZAP that surrounds the Church (CO019-028002) overlaps the southernmost point of the subject area (Figure 2 & 3).

4.4 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance

Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded through the eighteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 1 below (Figure 4). **No additional archaeological features were recorded within the subject site during analysis of Historical Mapping.**

| Map | Date | Description |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| Down Survey | 1656 | Mitchelstown is marked on this map as ' <i>Michaellstown</i> '. There is no image depicted alongside this label. (Figure 4) |
| Taylor and Skinner Map | 1777 | (Map 124) Mitchelstown is marked on this map and labelled as ' <i>Mitchellstown</i> '. It is depicted as a single wide E/W aligned street with two square streets emerging off it to the north. A large house and chapel are depicted to the western side of the town. The house is labelled ' <i>Ld Kingsborough</i> ' perhaps indicating it depicts the castle which once stood to the west of the town (now the dairy gold factory) (Figure 4) |
| John Roque | 1790 | This is not a detailed map. Mitchelstown is recorded as a convergence of 5 roads marked with a small circle. It is labelled "Mitchell's T". The River Funshion which passes c. 2.5km west of Mitchelstown is labelled however the River Gradoge which passes c.100m north of the town is not recorded. |
| Historic 6inch | 1837 | The layout of the town and subject area is recognisable as that of the modern town. Kings college, Kings square and New Market Square appear much the same as today however town itself is less developed than today. Mitchelstown Castle, walled gardens and demesne are immediately adjacent to the west of the town with the avenue leading to the castle emerging from the western edge of Kings Square. The town comprises 2 main N/S aligned streets: Georges St and Cork St with Baldwin street at the north and Church Street at the south. There is little to the east of Cork Street save the Old Abbey, Mulberry Lane and Ballinwillin house. Mulberry Lane connects to the town via the E/W aligned Church road which leads to the R.C. Church on the western edge of New Market Square. The surrounding countryside is agricultural. (Figure 5) |
| Historic 25inch | 1874-76 | There is little change to the subject area. The town itself has become more developed with the addition of the athletic grounds to the north, Tennis lawns to the west and a ball alley to the south. There has also been the addition of the Great Southern Train line and the associated station and outbuildings to the south of the town and a new road 'Railway Road' linking the town to the tracks. A new convent, school, parochial house and burial grounds have been added to the lands south of the RC church. The workhouse and burial ground are located to the east of the town. (Figure 5) |
| Cassini | 1911-13 | Little change from the previous map. |

Table 1: Cartographic sources relating to the site

4.5 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google/Bing Maps 2020).

The subject area does not change in any significant manner across the aerial photographs. Mitchelstown can be seen to expand, particularly to the south and west with additional residential developments. The N73 outer relief road can be seen for the first time, unfinished, in the 2005 aerial photograph. The M8 motorway can be seen for the first time in the 2005-2012 aerial photograph. (Figure 7)

Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the analysis of aerial photographs of the subject area.

4.6 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 onwards. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section.

No previous archaeological excavation has taken place within the subject site. However, there were 16 recorded excavations within a 5km radius of the subject site. The majority of these were in advance of the development of the Mitchelstown bypass and relief road (N73 & R369) and the M8 Motorway. These excavations proved the presence of human habitation in the wider locality from the Bronze Age period. Fullact Fiadh were uncovered in 5 of the excavations (04E0890, 04E1071 (A012/003), A012/001, 04E1121 (A012/002), 03E1153). Metal working features associated with general pits, cremation pits and a Fullact Fiadh were uncovered in two excavations (E002429, 03E0972). Three clusters of Bronze Age houses and associated pits and postholes were also uncovered (E002429, E002430, 04E1072). Finally three excavations revealed Prehistoric cremations burials and pits (04E1120, E002428, E002427).

In addition to this there was also evidence of medieval habitation in the form of a corn drying kiln (04E1121 (A012/002)), a possible enclosure (03E1153), medieval iron and charcoal production area and associated pits (09E0202) and medieval agricultural activity (E002430). A 19th Century kiln was also discovered during the excavations (09E0202). For further information see Appendix 2.

4.7 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which

form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) 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. It is intended to provide a basis for recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Local Authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in Records of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are 60 structures along the proposed development route which are recorded on the Cork County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The majority of these (48) are clustered towards the north of the subject area within and surrounding Kings Square. These 48 protected structures include houses number 1 to 31 (RPS 00113 to 00143) on Kingston College to the north of the square, Kingston College Chapel (RPS 00144), the water fountain in the centre of the square (RPS 01353), the former Kingston Arms Hotel- now a house (RPS 01354) and Houses numbers 1 to 14 (RPS 00145 to 00158) which line the southern half of the square. All these structures were built at the same time around 1775 as part of the planned development of the town.

The subject area also includes the N/S running George Street which runs south from Kings Square. This street has four RPS along its length; the former prison (RPS 00098), the Former Kingston School (RPS 00097), RDC House (RPS 01330) and Saint George's Church (RPS 00105, RMP CO019-02802). The subject area is Tshaped with Kings St emerging from Georges Street at a right angle and leading to New Market Square. Kings St has 2 RPS along its route; the dwelling and shop front (RPS 01090) and the dwelling (RPS 01089). Kings St leads to New Market Square. There are six recorded structure within and lining the square; John Mandeville Memorial (RPS 01350), the old Courthouse-now SuperValu (RPS 00099), A shop front (RPS 01074), "Paul Roche" (Cycle Agents) shop (RPS 01087), AIB Bank (RPS 00094) and finally the former orphanage-now private house (RPS 01345). See Appendix 3 for further details.

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscapes that is of special interest and that has been afforded statutory protection by the planning authority in accordance with Section 81 of the Planning & Development Act.

The entire subject area lies within the Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA ID: ACA42). The ACA runs from north of Kings College to South of St George Church (RMP CO019-028002) and its associated graveyard and from c.100m east of George St to c.60m west of Cork St and New Market Square (Figure 1).

The *Register of Historic & Cultural Items for Mitchelstown Masterplan* was consulted regarding the Architecture and Post medieval archaeology (i.e., post 1700AD) of the subject area.

4.8 Site Visit

The site was visited by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd on 26th April 2022 on a warm sunny day. The subject area comprises the Georgian Quarter of Mitchelstown; King's Square, George's Street, Kings street and New Market Square located on the western half of the town (c. 4.40Ha) (Plate 1-14).

The town was noticeably sloped with a moderately steep hill running from south to north. The town itself was clean, well landscaped and litter free. The subject area in particular has been well manicured with grass and trees lining either side of George St. The town had been designed in such a way as to see the Galtee mountains framed in the street scape. This was very visible on Lower Cork St and George St (Plate 1 & 2).

Church of Ireland Church (CO019-028002) built in 1801 by the Countess of Kingston, located at the southernmost end of George St was undergoing restoration at the time of the visit (Plate 3). Opposite the church the demesne wall, measuring over 2m high was noted lining George St and continuing westward down Kildorrery Road. One of the original gateways and a pedestrian entrance (both disused) were noted in this area with dressed stone caps, pillars and surrounds (Plate 4).

The view down King Street from George St to the Market Square is closed on both end by the Market house to the east and the old Jail to the west (Plate 5). The Old Jail House (Plate 6) was converted into a private dwelling in the 19th Century and the decorative pillars currently on display were taken from the demesne boat house when it was demolished.

As George St. approaches Kings Square many of the original street features, such as cobbled drains and kerbs can be seen (Plate 7). Kings Square itself is a beautiful, large open area with substantial private dwellings on the southern side and smaller 'alms houses' on the northern side. Many of these houses are not in use and are in a bad state of repair (Plate 8-10).

The large main entranceway to the estate passes through Kings Square through large gothic gates (NIAH Reg. No. 20818006). The castle has since been removed and replaced with the Dairygold Creamery. The gate posts beautifully frame the factory which stands where the castle once stood (Plate 11)

The original water foundation still stands in the centre of Kings Square (NIAH Reg. No. 20818039). This would have provided clean drinking water for the inhabitants of the square and surrounding areas (Plate 12). There were many areas across the town where original features were built into the modern streetscape such as the original sign for Robert Street and footpath drains and street kerbing (Plate 13 & 14).

No additional features of archaeological potential were noted in the development area.

5. IMPACTS

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken at Mitchelstown, Co. Cork (Centre of site ITM 588268, 763710, Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Cork County Council. The desk-based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in April 2022 by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The assessment was completed in October 2022 with the addition of the final proposed development plan. The report aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The subject area comprises the Georgian Quarter of Mitchelstown; King's Square, George's Street, Kings street and New Market Square located on the western half of the town (c. 4.40Ha).
- There were no stray finds recorded in the database for these townlands.
- There are four RMPs which line the streets within the subject area; The houses which line the northern half of kings Square (CO019-105), The Market house (CO019-106), the Church of Ireland Church (CO019-028002) and its associated graveyard (CO019-028001)
- The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds the Historic town of Mitchelstown (CO019-149) covers the northern half of the subject area. The ZAP which surrounds the Market House (CO019-106) overlaps with the eastern quarter of New Market Square. The ZAP that surrounds Church (CO019-028002) overlaps the southernmost point of the subject area.
- No additional archaeological features were recorded within the subject site during analysis of Historical Mapping.
- Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the analysis of aerial photographs of the subject area.
- No previous archaeological excavation has taken place within the subject site.
- There are 60 structures along the proposed development route which are recorded on the Cork County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
- The entire subject area lies within the Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA ID: ACA42).
- No additional features of archaeological potential were noted in the development area.

These factors indicate that there is moderate-high potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed route of this urban development has previously been subject to heavy disturbance, as such, it is recommended that all ground works should be archaeologically monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence to the NMS

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

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- Information on St Fuinnechans Monastery "Fionnchú: The White Hound". Holy Wells of Cork. <https://holywellsforcork.com/2017/02/12/fionnchu-the-white-hound/> [Accessed 25th April 2022]
- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/cork-county-development-plan-2022-2028> [accessed 22nd April 2022]
- Fermoy Municipal District Local Area Plan (2017) [accessed 22nd April 2022]



Maeve McCormick MSc

22nd February 2023

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Table of RMP/SMR sites in vicinity of site

| SMR No | Class | Townland | ITM | Distance to site |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| CO010-065-- -- | House - Bronze Age | MITCHELSTOWN | 580824, 613692 | c.1km NW |
| This is one of three houses (CO010-065----, CO010-066----) which were excavated in 2004 in advance of the construction of the Mitchelstown inner relief road. This house (10.8m N-S; 9.6m E-W) had been truncated by the other two houses. It comprised a ring of eleven post-holes and, though there was no evidence of a slot-trench, it may have been destroyed during the construction of the other houses. A hearth, comprising a large pit filled with ashes, survived near the centre of the house. The entrance (With c. 1m) faced to the E. According to the excavator, a dense cluster of stake-holes, occurring in the area where the three houses overlapped, may have represented earlier transitory activity (Cotter 2007, 65). Radiocarbon dates of 1419-1253 cal. BC and 1240-1213 cal. BC (2-sigma) were returned from charcoal recovered from the fill of the hearth in this house (Cotter 2008, 15). (Cotter 2007, 65; 2008) | | | | |
| CO010-066-- -- | House - Bronze Age | MITCHELSTOWN | 580824, 613691 | c.1km NW |
| This is one of three house (CO010-065----, CO010-067----) which were excavated in 2004 in advance of the construction of the Mitchelstown inner relief road. This subcircular house (10.7m N-S; 10m E-W) comprised a slot-trench with an internal ring of nine post-holes. According to the excavator (Cotter 2007, 65), one of the post-holes had almost certainly been destroyed by a post-medieval boundary ditch that ran E-W across the S end of the monument. The entrance (With c. 1m) faced to the E. This house was located c. 1m to the S of one of the other houses (CO010-065----) and truncated the other (CO010-067----). According to Cotter (ibid.), a dense cluster of stake-holes, occurring in the area where the three houses overlapped, may have represented earlier transitory activity. Radiocarbon dates of 1431-1267 cal. BC (2-sigma) were returned from charcoal recovered from the fill of a structural slot-trench of this house (Cotter 2008, 15). (Cotter 2007, 65; 2008) | | | | |
| CO010-067-- -- | House - Bronze Age | MITCHELSTOWN | 580824, 613690 | c.1km NW |
| This is one of three houses (CO010-065----, CO010-066----) which were excavated in 2004 in advance of the construction of the Mitchelstown inner relief road. This house (10.8m N-S; 9.6m E-W) had been truncated by the other two houses. It comprised a ring of eleven post-holes and, though there was no evidence of a slot-trench, it may have been destroyed during the construction of the other houses. A hearth, comprising a large pit filled with ashes, survived near the centre of the house. The entrance (With c. 1m) faced to the E. According to the excavator, a dense cluster of stake-holes, occurring in the area where the three houses overlapped, may have represented earlier transitory activity (Cotter 2007, 65). Radiocarbon dates of 1419-1253 cal. BC and 1240-1213 cal. BC (2-sigma) were returned from charcoal recovered from the fill of the hearth in this house (Cotter 2008, 15). (Cotter 2007, 65; 2008) | | | | |
| CO019-024-- -- | Icehouse | MITCHELSTOWN | 579989 | 613158 |
| In pasture, built into gentle N-facing slope, c. 800m W of Mitchelstown Castle (14317). Indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map c. 200m W of lake. Circular brick-lined chamber (diam. c. 6-8m) covered by brick-domed roof (H c. 2m). Chamber sunken into ground (D c. 3.5m) with side walls tapering to base which is infilled with rubble. Curved brick vaulted passage (L c. 5m) at SW side, door ope at SW end. Circular chamber covered externally by grass-covered earthen mound (H c. 7m); buttress exposed on NW side; brickwork of dome exposed to WSW. Built probably around 1780 (B. Power, Avonduhu 22/1/98). | | | | |
| CO019-025-- -- | Ritual site - holy well | MITCHELSTOWN | 580521, 613259 | c.0.6km W |
| In demesne of Mitchelstown Castle (14317), on S side of disused millrace. Inaccessible owing to dense overgrowth. | | | | |
| CO019-026001- | Castle - unclassified | MITCHELSTOWN | 580793, 613214 | c.0.4km W |
| No visible surface trace of castle; area now occupied by Dairygold industrial complex. Castle of the Fitzgibbons, commonly known as the White Knights (Healy 1988, 422). Smith (1750, vol. 1, 346), in describing the later house (14918), noted nearby '...walls of a castle which belonged to the white knight and was a fine old building, but destroyed in the wars of 1641'. | | | | |
| CO019-026002- | Country house | MITCHELSTOWN | 580761, 613272 | c.0.4km W |
| On bluff overlooking Funshion River to N; on NW side of Mitchelstown. Site of a succession of houses built on or near site of castle (14317). Shown on 1842 OS 6-inch map as 'Mitchelstown Castle', with elaborate walled gardens and orchards; site of church and graveyard (14445, 14608) adjacent to S; ornamental ponds and fish ponds to N. Described by Smith (1750, vol. 1, 345) as a fine house and park, with 'large hall, round which, on top, runs a handsome corridor; the staircase is large and lightsome...Above the hall, is a gallery, 70 feet long, and 20 broad...on E side of house stands a handsome tower...and to N is a fine canal, lately formed, the sides of which being rising grounds, are adorned with pensile gardens'. New house built in 1776, around core of earlier castle, by Viscount Kingsborough, who also built 'new town' of Mitchelstown (see 14630). Demesne laid out by John Webb, covering 1,240 acres, enclosed by limestone walls 6.25 miles long, much of which survive (pers. comm. B. Power). House replaced in 1823 with one of largest Gothic Revival Castles in Ireland, designed by James and George Richard Pain: 'the building, of limestone ashlar, formed 3 sides of a court, the open side consisting of a number of towers linked by a terrace...south front was plain and massive, with many windows and a square tower in the middle.. east | | | | |

| SMR No | Class | Townland | ITM | Distance to site |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| front had a tall gate tower, in the Tudor manner, at its southern end; it was known as the White Knight's Tower and was the main entrance ... a hall led to a gallery 93 feet long, with a ceiling of plastered vaulting' (Bence-Jones 1978, 207). Three coat of arms (Kingston, Fenton and Fitzgerald/Fitzgibbon) were displayed in castle walls and were removed to Newcastle House, Co. Longford when house was being dismantled (1925-30); recently returned to Mitchelstown (B. Power, North Cork News, 4/7/1995). Much of estate sold in 1850s, remainder sold in 1907, castle burnt in 1922 and subsequently demolished; stones from house reused to build church at Mount Melleray Abbey, Co. Waterford. Dairygold industrial plant now occupies site of house. There are fragmentary remains atop bluff on N side of complex: three brick-vaulted rooms (c. 11m E-W; 5m N-S, walls stand to H c. 3m). On S side of complex are remains of a substantial walled garden, divided into three sections by two parallel walls; most northerly of these now occupied by pitch and put course; central area has stone-built residential house; small turreted gates in outside walls. Also surviving here is front wall of range of 2-storey farm buildings: deep central breakfront with pedimented; remainder of facade has arcade at ground-floor level. Farmyard, indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map c. 1.5km to NW on N bank of river, survives: fine stone-built ranges of farm buildings enclose three yards; 5-bay, 2-storey hipped residence and 3-bay, 2-storey hipped manager's house in one range. Many demesne features also survive, including castellated slim entrance piers, icehouse (14963), demesne walls and ornamental ponds. | | | | |
| CO019-027001- | Graveyard | MITCHELSTOWN | 580807, 613101 | c.0.4km W |
| In demesne of Mitchelstown Castle (14918), in grounds of Dairygold Co-operative plant. Roughly square graveyard (L c. 30m) enclosed by low brick wall erected c. 1900. Depicted on 1842 OS 6-inch map as oval graveyard (c. 50m NNW-SSE; c. 40m ENE-WSW), defined by broken line and surrounded by wooded area, with rectangular structure (c. 12m E-W; c. 7m N-S), also defined by broken line, and marked 'Church (Site of)' (14445) in NW corner. Graveyard no longer in use; interior in grass; number of headstones lying on ground near SE corner, including three which have been re-set close together. Burials continued until graveyard closed in 1876; church demolished prior to 1900; interior of graveyard bulldozed c. 1949-50; local tradition that headstones dumped into nearby lake; 18th-century burial vault of Ryder family damaged by earthmoving machinery in 1982 (pers. comm. B. Power). Possible 18th/early 19th century vaulted tomb uncovered during trench digging along southern perimeter wall of graveyard in April 1998 (Cleary 1998). | | | | |
| CO019-027002- | Church | MITCHELSTOWN | 580806, 613099 | c.0.4km W |
| n graveyard (14608). No visible surface remains of church; marked as rectangular structure (c. 12m E-W; c. 7m N-S), defined by broken line, on 1842 OS 6-inch map and named 'Church (Site of)'. Shown on Down Survey (1655-6) barony map as Kilcloghbane; locally known as Kilcoghlan (Power 1932, 73). Probably the church at Mitchelstown presented for repair in 1682 (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 68) and described as 'chapel-of-ease' in repair 1774 (ibid.); superseded when new C of I parish church at George Street (14703) opened in 1801. | | | | |
| CO019-028001- | Graveyard | BRIGOWN | 581264, 612518 | c. 20m S |
| No information | | | | |
| CO019-028002- | Church | BRIGOWN | 581264, 612564 | c.15m S |
| In Mitchelstown, at N end of graveyard, overlooking George Street to N. C of I parish church of Brigown. Built of random-rubble limestone with cut-stone detail; entrance front to N of coursed ashlar. Nave (long axis N-S) lit by four wide pointed window in side walls; slender buttress between each window on external face. Transepts at S end with corner buttresses; pinnacles atop gables; internally transepts used as storerooms/vestry. Gabled transept-like projections at N end of nave makes overall plan H-shaped. Chancel to S built of random-rubble with some reused ashlar. Entrance front (N) has central projecting 2-storey embattled tower with ribbed spire and corner pinnacles. Inscribed stone over pointed door in tower reads 'This Church was rebuilt A.D.1830/ By a grant from the Board of First Fruits and a gift of 500£ by the Earl of Kingston/Robt. Disney-Rector/ The Hon Rob King, John Arnold Church Wardens J & G. R. Pain Architects'. Church built in 1801 by Countess of Kingston, but rebuilt twice by 1805 (Cole 1903, 163). Enlarged in 1830 and spire added (Power 1996, 40). Extensive improvements made in 1900s (Cole, ibid.). Entrance facade enclosed by wall topped with iron railing, modern gateway. Rectangular graveyard (c. 155m N-S; c. 50m E-W) to rear enclosed by stone wall; headstones dated from 19th century to present day, with some chest tombs and vaults. | | | | |
| CO019-029-- | Redundant record | BRIGOWN | 581645, 611631 | c.1.2km SE |
| Redundant record | | | | |
| CO019-030001- | Ritual site - holy well | BRIGOWN | 581915, 612055 | c.0.6km SE |
| In pasture, c. 65m W of Brigown church (14400) and graveyard (14549), which lie within early ecclesiastical site (13877). Not marked on 1842 and 1905 OS 6-inch maps. Unenclosed spring well, adjacent to bush; no evidence of holy use. According to local tradition, a woman washed her clothes in this well one evening; next morning, monks found that well had gone dry, but that a new well (13946) had appeared c. 880m to NE in Ballynamona (Power 1980, 23). | | | | |
| CO019-030002- | Round tower | BRIGOWN | 581951, 611998 | c.0.6km SE |
| Within SW quadrant of graveyard (14549). No visible surface trace of tower 'which stood 30 yards from the S.W. angle of the church, and fell, in the memory of several people' (Smith 1750, vol. 1, 346). According to Moore (1889, 225), 'this tower appears to have remained intact until the year 1720, when a violent storm overthrew the greater portion of it, leaving only a | | | | |

| SMR No | Class | Townland | ITM | Distance to site |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| fragment 15 feet in height standing'. In 1807 base of tower, then reduced to ground level, removed to furnish stones for building of nearby glebe house (since demolished) (Brady 1863, 70). Tower seen to be resting on square foundation, at one corner of which was fragment of large stone, inscribed with three rows of letters: 'letters H, U, and O could be distinguished. A letter shaped like P was repeated more than once, as also C or G' (ibid.). Moore (1889, 225) suggests that stones from round tower were 'built into the south-west angle of the wall surrounding the ruin and burial-ground, and are placed very near the ancient site of the tower...judging both by their shape and colour...they are twelve in number'. External SW corner of graveyard (14549) is rounded, built of large squared well-coursed stones of sandstone. Brigown described as having an ecclesiastical tower and a church when attacked and plundered by Norsemen in the year 839 (ibid., 222). The Crichad an Chaoille (Power 1932, 31, 52) mentions that Brigown had its own 'aistre', a minor ecclesiastical officer responsible for bell-ringing. (Barrow 1979, 71) | | | | |
| CO019-030003- | Graveyard | BRIGOWN | 581986, 612041 | c.0.6km SE |
| To S of road, on E-facing slope, within early ecclesiastical site (13877). Roughly triangular graveyard (c. 70m E-W; c. 70m N-S) enclosed by stone wall to SE, W and NE; entrance to E; wall at E corner partially removed to give entry to large recent extension to SE. Ruin of parish church of Brigown (14400) in centre. Site of round tower (13906) near SW corner of graveyard. In occasional use; 18th- and 19th-century headstones to S and E of church, 19th-century headstones to W and a few recent burials to N. Earliest headstone noted inside church dated 1741; chest tomb of 1788 in nave; rectangular memorial stone, with date of 1629 (Moore 1892-4, 54), leaning against sill of E window in chancel; broken coffin-shaped memorial stone in nave, with date of 1630 (ibid.); Kingston memorial on N wall of chancel has Latin inscription and date of 1721 (Fitzgerald 1904-6a, 231-2; Anon. 1910-12, 499-500). Built into exterior S wall of nave is top portion of tapering graveslab with seven-armed segmental cross on shaft with fleur-de-lis terminals; probably of 16th-century date (pers. comm. D. Maher). Until recently a coffin-shaped stone slab (H 2ft; L 5ft) rested inside graveyard gate and according to tradition, was used for resting coffins on; possibly removed by County Council during restoration works (pers. comm. B. Power). | | | | |
| CO019-030004- | Church | BRIGOWN | 581983, 612039 | c.0.6km SE |
| In centre of graveyard (14549), within early ecclesiastical site (13877). Ruinous church consisting of nave (23.1m E-W; 10.1m N-S) and chancel (9.1m E-W; 8.2m N-S). West wall of nave entirely missing, otherwise walls stand to full height except top of E gable of chancel. Extensive repairs in late 19th century included 're-erection of a portion of the south wall at the junction of the nave and chancel; the building of a doorway in the south wall, and the refacing of the whole of the north wall of the nave' (Moore 1889, 225); more recently minor repairs carried out by Cork County Council. Original portion of S wall of nave built of rectangular blocks of sandstone in courses, terminating in anta at W end (Wth 0.9m). Slit window near E end of wall, and doorway near W end are both 19th-century constructions. Inserted over door lintel is perforated stone, possibly a cross base. Top portion of graveslab has been inserted into outer wall face just W of door: tapering slab incised with seven-armed segmental cross on shaft, with fleur-de-lis terminals, probably 16th century (pres. comm. D. Maher). North wall of nave appears to be largely rebuilt; it is noticeably thicker (Wth 1.35m) than S wall (Wth 0.9m); it has two slit windows. Chancel arch (H 3.1m; Wth 2.36m) is pointed arch of limestone, the central portion lower and carried on tapering terminals, edges chamfered; plain jambs to opening. Gable above stands to full height, though clearly reconstructed; limestone flashing for nave roof on W face. Chancel has central window: splayed and lintelled embrasure, with flat-headed light divided by two mullions (mullion to N is replacement), covered by hood moulding with stepped terminals. South wall has narrow blocked window towards E end, head of light round-arched with simple rebate externally; jamb stones, which don't match head, are moulded with two fillets; two similar jamb stones recently built into top of E gable. Towards W end of S wall is round-arched doorway with bowl-moulded jamb stones, outer roll filleted, moulding carried up around arch except two uppermost voussoirs which are not filleted; lower jamb stones missing. North wall featureless; memorial to Kingston family of Mitchelstown Castle (14918) built against inner face. Interior of church packed with burial plots. Earliest part of church probably S wall of nave with anta, which is Romanesque in character; jambs of window and door in S wall of chancel may be 13th century; chancel arch 15th/16th century in appearance but E window probably early 17th century. Ruin of parish church of Brigown. Listed in Papal Taxation of 1291; reported 'in repair' in 1615, and 'in pretty good repair' in 1694 although 'much abused, damnified by the Irish in the late war' (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 65-68). In ruins by 1774, when replaced by chapel-of-ease near Mitchelstown castle (14445) (ibid., 70). | | | | |
| CO019-030005- | Ecclesiastical enclosure | BRIGOWN | 581936, 612030 | c.0.6km SE |
| In pasture, to SW of road and c. 600m to SE of Mitchelstown. Remains comprise of church (14400), graveyard (14549), holy well (13951) and site of round tower (13906). Low earthworks visible in field to S and W of graveyard (pers. comm. J. Monk) may relate to early ecclesiastical enclosure. According to the "Life" of St Finnchu, 'preserved in the Book of Lismore... Finnchu, under the popular name of Fanachan...obtained a grant of land for a monastery at Fan Muilt...the present Brigown or Mitchelstown' (Power 1932, 24-5) and also that St Abban blessed Brigown and 'left an office of the church' there (ibid., 82). 'Colgan, in his Acta Sanctorum [compiled by John Colgan, 1645], says that Brigown was an Episcopal See, and that St. Finnchan was, in the sixth century, a bishop there' (Moore 1889, 221). | | | | |
| CO019-031-- | Ritual site - holy/saint's stone | BRIGOWN | 582413, 611822 | c.1.2km SE |

| SMR No | Class | Townland | ITM | Distance to site |
|---|-------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| In mid-stream, at S side of Ballynamona Bridge and c. 450m to ESE of Brigown early ecclesiastical site (13877). Large millstone, probably runner stone from a horizontal mill. Named after 'St. Fanahan, Patron Saint of Mitchelstown and surrounding parish of Brigown' (Power 1980, 7). Power (ibid., 10), recounts legend that the saint was taken prisoner in Clonmel, chained to two millstones, but was given the strength to roll the stones back to Brigown. One stone broke on the way, the second remained in the river after he was set free by a stranger on a white horse (ibid.). | | | | |
| CO019-032-- | Ritual site - holy well | BALLYNAMONA (Condons and Clongibbon By., Brigown Par.) | 582728, 612415 | c.1.2km E |
| On E side of stream, in wooded area, on mass-path connecting road to E with Mitchelstown to W. Open, U-shaped well lined with brick and backed by low brick wall; area of brick paving around edge. 'For nine days before and nine days after the feast of Saint Fanahan on November 25th, large numbers of people come to pray at the well and to do the "rounds"' (Power 1980, 23). Statue of St Fanahan behind well, housed in shrine; replaced in 1989 during repairs and renovations when cross slab also erected. According to local information, 'St Finnchu's' holy well (13951), c. 880m to SW in Brigown, abandoned in favour of this one. Single-arched foot-bridge to S crosses stream; stone head inserted into N face of S wall during repair works in 1989, said to have come from R.C. church in Thomas Street, Mitchelstown (14753) (pers. comm. B. Power). | | | | |
| CO019-105-- | Almshouse | BRIGOWN | 581329, 613177 | Along site |
| In Mitchelstown, enclosing N half of King's Square. Matching L-shaped 2-storey ranges, over basements, either side of C of I chapel. Each range 20-bays long (E-W) with 10-bay return (N-S). Random-rubble limestone construction with brick-dressed sash windows and round-headed door opes; ashlar limestone arches carry steps up to front doors. Units at end of each range project slightly forward and are slightly higher than remainder with hipped roof. Wide arch ope in centre of N ranges with ashlar limestone surround and pediment supported by large console brackets; archways blocked and converted into apartments in 1880s when complex subdivided to make 31 units (B. Power, Avondhu, 9th Jan. 1997). Numerous hipped, 2-storey projections on rear elevations. Range of one-storey outhouses and garden plots to rear. C of I chapel in centre has rectangular nave (N-S) with chancel added to N; 3-storey tower with gabled roof and pediment to S; originally a porch stood on S side with cupola, but removed in late 18th century and replaced with tower for bell and clock (ibid.). Complex built with funds made available in will of James, 4th Baron of Kingston (died 1764), to house poor elderly Protestants, mainly tenants from Mitchelstown estate (14918). Designed by John Morrison as terrace of 22 houses with chapel in centre; in 1770 project continued by Oliver Grace who added two additional end-houses; college opened 1777 (Power 1996, 21). South half of square formed by similar L-shaped 2-storey ranges, rendered and less ornate, with date stone inscribed 'Kings Square 1780'; the enclosed green was used as tennis courts (Bowen, 1942, 8); SE quadrant cut by later road from Baldwin Street to George's Street. Tree-lined avenue crosses centre of square and led to entrance into Mitchelstown Castle demesne (14918) on W side. Cast-iron water font in centre of square, to N of avenue, erected in 1825 (ibid.); it is stamped 'Hive Iron Foundry Maker, Cork'. | | | | |
| CO019-106-- | Market-house | BRIGOWN | 581595, 612748 | Along site |
| In Mitchelstown, centrally placed on E side of New Market Square. Indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as rectangular structure (long axis N-S) with off-centre projection to rear, named 'Market & Court House'; enclosed yard to rear named 'Potatoe Shambles Market'. Rectangular 2-storey structure, front elevation and part of N and S elevations are of coursed limestone ashlar construction, rear and side walls of random-rubble with dressed quoins. Hipped roof. Front elevation (W) of 3 bays with central slim 1-bay pedimented breakfront; 3-bay arcade with wide elliptical-headed arches on ground floor, infilled with door and windows; modern memorial plaque to Irish patriots adjacent to S arcade. String course divides ground and 1st floor, rectangular sash windows on 1st floor, limestone plaque with two crowns under central window. Inserted door on N elevation, set slightly higher than ground level, cuts into an earlier blocked window with stone surrounds. Ground floor of rear elevation masked by modern additions, three stone-lintelled windows at 1st-floor level with stop and start surrounds; slightly off-centre door between ground and 1st-floor level. Modern buildings extend from S elevation. Erected in 1823, at cost of £3,000, by the Earl of Kingston (Lewis 1837, vol. 2, 373). Purchased by Mitchelstown Co-op in 1940s, now part of Co-op shop. Part of open yard to rear survives. | | | | |
| CO019-112-- | Barracks | CLOONLOUGH | 581187, 612313 | c.300m S |
| On SW side of Mitchelstown; at W side of road. Shown on 1842 OS 6-inch map as 'Infantry Barracks' comprising of rectangular enclosure (c. 70m N-S; c. 50m E-W) with large U-shaped building and scattering of smaller structures, in S half. Enclosing random-rubble limestone walls survive on W, S and E sides, each with central angled projection (Wth c. 3m; D c. 3m) containing gun loops. Piered entrance (blocked) and door ope (blocked) in W wall, central piered entrance on N side. Internal buildings no longer survive; outline of buildings visible in plaster on internal W wall; corbels set into internal face of E wall. Described by Lewis (1837, vol. 2, 373) as 'a neat range of buildings adapted for 3 officers and 72 non-commissioned officers and privates'. Burnt in 1922 and buildings demolished c. 1940s (pers. comm. B. Power). | | | | |
| CO019-118-- | Church | BRIGOWN | 581790, 612729 | c.150m E |
| In Mitchelstown, on W-facing slope overlooking New Market Square. Church demolished in 1977/78 leaving W tower standing attached to modern church (Power 1996, 61). Tower of ashlar limestone construction. Central pointed door ope in W wall: original wooden doors and ornate iron hinges survive; date stone inscribed 'A.D. 1847' in wall overhead. Tower topped by embattled parapet wall with corner pinnacles, and by ribbed spire with ball and cross at tip. Church indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as T-shaped structure with slight chancel projection to E; first opened in 1834 (ibid.). When tower built a limestone | | | | |

| SMR No | Class | Townland | ITM | Distance to site |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| CO019-149-- -- | Historic town | BRIGOWN,MITCHELSTOWN | 581200, 613185 | Entire site |
| | | | | |
| CO019-157-- -- | Fever hospital | BRIGOWN | 581830, 612230 | c.600m SE |
| | | | | |
| CO019-159-- -- | Church | BRIGOWN | 581426, 612946 | c.100m E |
| | | | | |
| CO019-160-- -- | Mill - unclassified | BRIGOWN | 581486, 613189 | <100m NE |
| | | | | |

Appendix 2: Previous archaeological excavations

| Licence No | RMP | ITM | Ref No | Address | Author |
|---|-----|-------------------|-----------|--|---------------------|
| 04E0890 | n/a | 566530, 571749 | 2004:0312 | N8 MITCHELSTOWN RELIEF ROAD, Cork | Jacinta Kiely |
| <p>Testing was undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council on the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road, which involves the construction of 4.5km of the N8 from Cloonlough, south of Mitchelstown, to the junction of the R513 and the N8, north of Mitchelstown. The route passes through the Gradoge River Valley and traverses the ridge on the northern side of the river valley to the junction of the R513 and the N8. The northern half of the route traverses Mitchelstown Demesne, breaching the estate wall at the junction with the N73 and the R513.</p> <p>In addition, target test-trenches were excavated at three locations within the route under licences 04E0889 (No. 221 above), 04E0891 (nothing of archaeological significance) and 04E0892 (nothing of archaeological significance uncovered) and an assessment was undertaken on a section of the Gradoge River by Julianna O'Donoghue under licence 04R091 (No. 315 below).</p> <p>A number of archaeological sites were recorded in the testing and were subsequently excavated. A fulacht fiadh (04E1119/A012/001), a complex of pits (04E1120) and a corn-drying kiln (04E1121/A012/ 002) were recorded in Stagpark townland and excavated by Bruce Sutton (Nos 340-2 below). A fulacht fiadh excavated by Bruce Sutton (No. 317 below, 04E1071/A012/003) and a Bronze Age settlement site excavated by Eamonn Cotter (No. 316 below, 04E1072) were recorded in Mitchelstown townland within Mitchelstown Demesne.</p> | | | | | |
| 04R091 | n/a | 580114, 613336 | 2004:0315 | GRADOGE RIVER, N8 MITCHELSTOWN RELIEF ROAD, Cork | Julianna O'Donoghue |
| <p>Testing was undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council on the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road, which involves the construction of 4.5km of the N8 from Cloonlough, south of Mitchelstown, to the junction of the R513 and the N8, north of Mitchelstown.</p> <p>In addition to the programme of centre-line and offset testing by Jacinta Kiely (No. 312 above, 04E0890), an underwater survey of a section of the Gradoge River was undertaken. It encompassed an area of the river measuring 73m east-west by 6m at Chainage 2815. At this point in the river course, there is a very gentle flow and a depth of 0.1-0.4m. A visual examination of the banks revealed no evidence of archaeological activity. The banks are c. 1m high. The riverbed comprised gravel and small stones. Approximately twenty hits were received on the metal detector. Seventeen of these could be seen and were generally of domestic refuse.</p> <p>A fulacht fiadh was recorded c. 10m to the north of the river and was subsequently excavated by Bruce Sutton (No. 317 below, 04E1071/A012/003).</p> | | | | | |
| 04E1072 | n/a | 581573, 612694 | 2004:0316 | MITCHELSTOWN, Cork | Eamonn Cotter |
| <p>The site was discovered during test-trenching along the route of the Mitchelstown inner relief road and comprised a cluster of stake-holes and two areas of burnt clay. Excavation was carried out from 3 August to 24 September 2004.</p> <p>An area measuring 31m north-south by 26m was stripped of topsoil, revealing a dense cluster of features. The principal features were three houses, constructed in at least two phases. All three houses were of similar morphology, being subcircular in plan with entrances c. 1m wide, facing east.</p> <p>House A comprised a shallow slot-trench (c. 0.3m wide and c. 0.15m deep) enclosing an area 9.7m north-south by 8.5m, with an internal ring of nine post-holes. An internal slot-trench running north-south, with post-holes at each end, seemed to represent an internal dividing wall creating a space 8.5m north-south and 2m wide inside the entrance. A small patch of burnt clay in the larger, western compartment probably marked the location of the hearth.</p> <p>House B was located c. 1m south of House A. It measured 10.7m north-south by 10m and it too comprised a slot-trench and an internal ring of postholes, nine in this case, but one had almost certainly been destroyed by a post-medieval boundary ditch which ran east-west across the southern end of the site. There was no evidence of a hearth in this structure.</p> <p>Both of these houses had cut through House C. The latter was 10.8m north-south by 9.6m and comprised a ring of eleven post-holes. There was no evidence of a slot-trench, though this could have been destroyed during the construction of Houses A and B. A hearth survived near the centre of structure C, in the form of a large pit filled with ashes.</p> <p>A dense cluster of stake-holes occurred in the area where the three houses overlapped. These stake-holes did not seem to form any coherent pattern and appeared to pre-date the houses. They may represent earlier, transitory activity.</p> <p>By comparison with similar structures excavated elsewhere, it is assumed that the houses date to the Bronze Age.</p> | | | | | |
| 04E1071, A012/003 | n/a | 580140, 613333 | 2004:0317 | MITCHELSTOWN, Cork | Bruce Sutton |
| <p>Archaeological works were undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council along the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road. In the course of testing a fulacht fiadh was recorded in Mitchelstown. Licence 04E1071 was initially granted to excavate the site. However, with the introduction of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act in the summer of 2004, the remaining archaeological investigations took place under ministerial direction. The excavation of the fulacht fiadh was allocated the works number A012/003.</p> <p>The site was located in low-lying ground, adjacent to the Gradoge River. The burnt mound uncovered on this site had been heavily truncated by what appeared to be an old backfilled streambed. The mound remained as a thin strip of material measuring 9.5m by 0.25m. Two small pits were located under the mound material. No trough was recorded. A small pit, 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.3m deep, was excavated c. 12m to the north-west of the mound. Located within this pit were the remains of three prehistoric pottery vessels. The most substantial and intact of these was a small polypod bowl with three small feet and two</p> | | | | | |

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| side handles. This was placed between a small round-bottomed vessel to the north and half of what appeared to be a deliberately broken flat-bottomed vessel to the south. All three were placed upon two flat stones within the base of the cut. | | | | | |
| A012/001 | n/a | 580228, 611449 | 2004:0340 | STAGPARK, Cork | Bruce Sutton |
| <p>Archaeological works were undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council along the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road, which involves the construction of 4.5km of the N8 from Cloonlough, south of Mitchelstown, to the junction of the R513 and the N8, north of Mitchelstown. In the course of testing a fulacht fiadh was recorded in Mitchelstown. Licence 04E1119 was initially granted to excavate the site in Stagpark. However, with the introduction of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act in the summer of 2004, the remaining investigations took place under ministerial direction. The excavation of the fulacht fiadh was designated the works number A012/001.</p> <p>The site measured 35m by 30m and was located within a low-lying field. The underlying clay natural in the field resulted in poor drainage and high surface-water retention. The field was cut by hand-and machine-cut field drains. Two shallow burnt mounds were excavated, located 4.5m apart. The larger of the two was 19.2m by 15.4m. Located underneath the mound were two intercutting pits surrounded by a series of shallow stake-holes. A rectangular trough was present at the northern edge of the mound. This measured 2m by 1.4m by 0.65m deep and was filled with an organic peat layer. The peat had built up after the abandonment of the site, as it also partially covered the north-western corner of the mound. A series of driven stake- and postholes were located in the corners of the trough. No timbers had survived in the cuts. The smaller of the two mounds was located 4.5m to the north-west of the larger and measured 15.4m by 12.5m. Upon removal of the mound a number of pits and postholes were uncovered, but no discernible pattern was evident. An oval trough, 2.5m by 2.1m, was excavated at the eastern edge of the mound. Both troughs were large, which would suggest that the mounds were originally more substantial.</p> | | | | | |
| 04E1120 | n/a | 580009, 611956 | 2004:0341 | STAGPARK, Cork | Bruce Sutton |
| <p>Archaeological works were undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council along the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road, which involves the construction of 4.5km of the N8 from Cloonlough, south of Mitchelstown, to the junction of the R513 and the N8, north of Mitchelstown. In the course of testing a series of pits were recorded at Stagpark. Excavation was undertaken in three separate areas within a short distance of each other. The site was easily waterlogged due to an underlying clay natural.</p> <p>Area A was the most substantial of the three excavated areas, measuring 35m by 25m. One definite and two possible cremation burials were excavated. The cremation pit (C84) contained pieces of burnt bone. The other pits (C83 and C109) contained black, charcoal-rich silty fills, similar to the fill of C84, but no obvious traces of burnt bone were recovered. All three pits were similar in size and shape; they were roughly circular in plan, shallow and had a concave profile. In addition, almost 100 pits, post-holes and stake-holes were excavated across the site, although no discernible pattern was evident. One of the pits, C22, exhibited signs of in situ burning. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were discovered in an extremely shallow feature to the south of the pit. No further finds were recovered.</p> <p>Area B measured 15m by 10m and was c. 20m to the north of Area A. Two large pits, C1001 and C1014, were excavated in the area. The former measured 6.25m by 3.25m and was 2.18m deep. The basal fills were charcoal-rich and included evidence of heat alteration and in situ burning. Two groups of stake-holes cut the upper sides of the pit. One group comprised eleven stake-holes that ranged along the southern side of the pit. These were circular in plan, 0.02-0.06m in diameter and 0.06-0.1m deep. Six stake-holes cut the north side of the pit. These were more widely spaced and were larger in size. They measured 0.06-0.12m in diameter and 0.06-0.2m in depth. Pit C1014 measured 4.3m by 3.64m by 2.05m deep. It had been recut. No stake-holes were recorded on the sides of the pit. No artefacts were recovered from either pit.</p> <p>Area C was the smallest of the three areas, measuring 15m by 5m. Two possible cremation pits were excavated, which resemble the pits in Area A in terms of size and fills. Both contained a charcoal-rich silty fill but neither contained burnt bone. No artefacts were recovered.</p> | | | | | |
| 04E1121 A012/002 | n/a | 580018, 612167 | 2004:0342 | STAGPARK, Cork | Bruce Sutton |
| <p>Archaeological works were undertaken on behalf of Cork County Council along the route of the N8 Mitchelstown relief road, which involves the construction of 4.5km of the N8 from Cloonlough, south of Mitchelstown, to the junction of the R513 and the N8, north of Mitchelstown. In the course of testing, a fulacht fiadh and a corn-drying kiln were recorded in Stagpark. Licence 04E1121 was initially granted to excavate the site in Stagpark. However, with the introduction of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act in the summer of 2004, the remaining investigations took place under ministerial direction. The excavation of the fulacht fiadh was designated the works number A012/002. The excavation was undertaken in three separate areas.</p> <p>Area A was located on the northern slope of a shallow hill and measured 25m by 24m, with a number of modern furrows truncating it. A small burnt spread measuring 5.5m by 3m by 0.1m deep was located in the eastern half of the site, with a small number of shallow irregular features located in the west. Upon excavation of the burnt spread a rectangular trough was uncovered, measuring 2m by 1.3m by 0.55m deep. Post- and stake-holes were in the four corners of the trough and two pits of similar size and shape were located to either side. The size of the trough would indicate that the burnt spread was, at some time, much more substantial than at present and has since been disturbed, presumably by agricultural activity.</p> <p>Area B was in a low-lying area at the base of a shallow hill to the north of the fulacht fiadh. The area measured 11m by 8m. A field boundary ditch was recorded on the western edge of the area. A number of shallow features were excavated across the area, although none appeared to be of archaeological significance.</p> <p>Area C measured 40m by 35m and was situated in a low-lying undulating field with good drainage. A stone-lined corn-drying kiln measuring 3m by 1.6m was excavated. The main body of the kiln measured 1.6m by 1.8m; it was stone lined around the sides and cut in to the natural to a depth of 0.5m. A stone-lined flue extended 1.2m to the north-east, with a depth of 0.38m. Although many of the fourteen fills contained large amounts of charcoal, only the flue exhibited any substantial signs of in situ</p> | | | | | |

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| burning, with a 1m-wide area of heat-affected natural being located at the entrance. A wide shallow area, 2.5m by 1.3m, had been cut into the natural around the entrance to allow access to the kiln. The roof of the kiln had at some stage collapsed in upon itself, with the stones from this collapse lying within the infilled material. This suggests that the black, charcoal-rich materials, which comprised the initially discovered burnt spread, were originally overlying the kiln and had infilled with the collapse of the structure. The kiln itself was centred within a paddock; sub rectangular in plan. The entrance was located in the south side and was 2.5m wide. These ditches were agricultural in nature and were part of a larger field system. No artefacts were recovered from the area | | | | | |
| E002430 | n/a | 583045, 612442 | 2007:279 | Kilshanny 1, Cork | James Lyttleton, |
| <p>Phase 2 excavation works were undertaken along the route of the N8 Fermoy–Mitchelstown bypass on behalf of Cork County Council. The proposed bypass involves the construction of c. 16km of dual carriageway extending from Gortore, north of Fermoy, to Carrigane, north-east of Mitchelstown. A programme of advance testing (Phase 1) had been carried out in October 2005 (Excavations 2005).</p> <p>Kilshanny 1 was located on a large plain east of Mitchelstown. The site was split into six areas, Areas A–F, covering a distance of 440m north to south.</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>This area revealed three furrows, a field boundary and three pits. The three sets of furrows were orientated north-west to south-east, extending for a distance of c. 17m, where they were truncated by a field boundary. The field boundary was north-east to south-west-aligned and was 25m long. A piece of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this boundary ditch. The three pits were found to the west of these furrows and to the north of the field boundary. Two of the pits contained charcoal within their fills and one of the pits contained burnt stone. Animal bone was recovered from the fill of one of the pits.</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>This area revealed an extensive field system. Four furrows, five field boundaries, fifteen pits and ten natural features were found. Three of the four furrows were orientated north–south, while one furrow was orientated east–west. This indicates two phases of agricultural activity. Two of the five field boundaries were orientated north–south, while the remaining three were orientated east–west. An iron nail was recovered from the fill of an east–west-running boundary ditch. A total of fifteen pits were spread randomly across the area of excavation. Of these pits, three contained charcoal, with one possibly containing in situ burning. Post-medieval finds including glass, clay pipe and pottery were recovered from the fills of five pits. Ten natural features were scattered across the area.</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>One field boundary was observed in this area. It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 11.4m long, 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep. A shard of post-medieval glass was recovered from the fill of this boundary ditch.</p> <p>Area D</p> <p>No archaeological features were discovered within Area D.</p> <p>Area E</p> <p>This area revealed two field boundaries, four pits and a post-hole. The two field boundaries were parallel to one another and aligned north-west to south-east. A probable redeposited flint was recovered from the fill of one of these boundaries. Two of the four pits were truncated by one of the field boundaries. The other two pits lay to the north of the field boundaries and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of one of them. A single post-hole was truncated by one of these pits and was therefore also earlier in date.</p> <p>Area F</p> <p>A Bronze Age circular house, measuring c. 10m in diameter, was discovered at the north end of Area F. It was defined by a shallow trench, c. 0.14m deep, with an entrance gap, 1.8m wide, to the east. Six post-holes were identified in close proximity to the circular trench, four on the exterior of the house and two on the interior. Four internal pits and seven internal post-holes were excavated. This included a possible central post (later recut) as the main structural support for the house. A group of pits lay to the north and west of the circular house, possibly relating to its use. The expected date of this house is Bronze Age.</p> <p>A possible small rectangular structure lay to the east of the circular house, c. 4m from the entrance. It measured 1.5m north-east to south-west by 3.5m and was defined by four post-holes. It was probably associated with the occupation of the circular house. Several pits surround this possible structure.</p> <p>A group of pits with connecting gullies was identified to the north and south of the circular house. Both groups were linear in nature and were east–west-aligned. Twelve pits lay to the south of the circular house. A large amount of burnt material including charcoal, ash and burnt stone was present within the fills of these pits. Four post-holes associated with this line of pits possibly represent structural remains. Three large pits with a connecting gully lay to the north of the circular house. Multiple fills were noted within the cuts of these pits. One of the three pits was deep enough to hold standing water. Three possible post-holes to the west of these features suggest further structural remains. These features may be evidence of industrial activity or an enclosing element associated with the house.</p> <p>A possible structure lay to the south-west of the circular house. This was represented by a shallow linear gully containing two post-holes as well as two post-holes just to the south of the linear gully. A single pit lay to the north of the gully.</p> | | | | | |
| E002428 | n/a | 582567, 611513 | 2007: AD11 | Ballynamona 1, Cork | John Tierney, |
| Phase 2 excavation works were undertaken, on behalf of Cork County Council, along the route of the N8 Fermoy–Mitchelstown bypass. The proposed bypass involves the construction of c. 16km of dual carriageway extending from Gortore north of Fermoy to Carrigane north-east of Mitchelstown. A programme of advance testing (Phase 1) had been carried out in October 2005, the results of which appeared in Excavations 2005. | | | | | |

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| <p>The site at Ballynamona 1 was situated on a flat plain. The site is split into two areas covering a distance of 95m north-south. Area 1 measured 31m east-west by 25m and Area 2 measured 33m east-west by 22m. The northern extent lay c. 500m south of Ballynamona 2 (No. AD12 below, E2429), while the southern extent lay 650m north of Glenatlucky 1 (No. AD18 below, E2427).</p> <p>At Area 1 nine pits were found, all containing charcoal within their fills. One pit contained heat-affected stones, indicating possible in situ burning. Two post-holes were also found near the centre of the area and a modern north-west to south-east-aligned drainage ditch ran across the area.</p> <p>At Area 2 two possible cremation pits and an associated pit were discovered. One cremation contained 34 sherds of prehistoric pottery, nutshell fragments, burnt-bone fragments and charcoal. A pit, 1.67m to the north-east of this cremation, contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery as well as charcoal. Two pits with evidence of burning were located in close proximity to these two features.</p> <p>A second possible cremation pit was located 8.5m to the north-west of these features. It contained 22 sherds of prehistoric pottery and charcoal within its fill but no burnt-bone fragments. All of these features appear disturbed, possibly by later agricultural activities.</p> <p>A further seven pits were also found in this area. Charcoal inclusions were recovered from the fills of the majority of these pits as well as evidence of in situ burning. One pit appeared to have evidence of waterlogging within its primary fill.</p> <p>Two field boundaries were observed running parallel to one another across the area from north to south.</p> | | | | | |
| E002429 | n/a | 555719, 597477 | 2007: AD12 | Ballynamona 2, Cork | Linda Hegarty, |
| <p>Phase 2 excavation works were undertaken, on behalf of Cork County Council, along the route of the N8 Fermoy-Mitchelstown bypass. The proposed bypass involves the construction of c. 16km of dual carriageway extending from Gortore north of Fermoy to Carrigane north-east of Mitchelstown. A programme of advance testing (Phase 1) had been carried out in October 2005, the results of which appeared in Excavations 2005.</p> <p>The site at Ballynamona 2 was situated on level ground to the east of Brigown and Mitchelstown. This site included metalworking features, Bronze Age round houses, a cremation pit and a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh. The site was split into two areas of excavation (Area 1 and Area 2). In addition to material from excavated periods, several sherds of Early Neolithic carinated ware were discovered in the ploughzone during topsoil-stripping of this site.</p> <p>Area 1:</p> <p>Metalworking features, a possible cremation pit, a group of pits and a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh were excavated at Area 1. : Metalworking features</p> <p>There were two furnaces identified in Area 1. The furnaces were relatively small and the average dimensions were 0.73m in length, 0.66m in width and 0.37m in depth. The fills of both furnaces were rich in slag and charcoal. Two pits containing waste material and slag were located adjacent to the furnaces.</p> <p>The furnaces were associated with eleven pits which contained slag and charcoal fills. On average these pits measured 0.83m in length, 0.66m in width and 0.29m in depth. These pits were somehow associated with the metalworking activity at the site and their final fills contained large amounts of metalworking waste.</p> <p>A further eighteen pits were recorded in the metalworking area but did not contain any slag. Flint was recovered from the fill of pit C.38. Fourteen layers, twelve post-holes and three stake-holes were recorded in the area. Slag was recovered from one.</p> <p>A linear feature, ditch C.27, ran through the metalworking area. It truncated some of the features associated with pits containing pottery. The ditch contained fills that included slag and debris associated with the activity of the site. Therefore it appears that the ditch was open when metalworking was carried out at the site. The ditch may possibly have formed a boundary or enclosure.</p> <p>Pits with pottery and bone</p> <p>A group of pits was located to the south of the ditch, two of which have been recognised as cremation pits. They were subcircular-shaped with average dimensions of 0.4m by 0.35m and depth of 0.09m (C.106) and 0.21m (C.108). They both contained fills that were charcoal-rich and contained frequent flecks of burnt bone. Five further pits contained fills that included a small percentage of burnt bone. Five pits and a deposit included sherds of pottery. The pits were dispersed and did not appear to form any pattern.</p> <p>Features in southern part of the site</p> <p>A small group of six pits, two post-holes and one possible hearth deposit have been recorded in the southern part of the site. Features contained charcoal-rich fills with inclusions of burnt clay, burnt bones and heat-shattered stones. One of those pits contained slag and another flint flake.</p> <p>Burnt mound</p> <p>The burnt mound was irregular, c. 5m long by 3m wide and 0.3m deep. The deposits were rich in charcoal and heat-shattered stone.</p> <p>This deposit of burnt-mound material was associated with a trough, a possible trough and one pit. The sub rectangular trough was 4.7m long, 1.31m wide and 0.49m deep. A line of four large stones ran from north to south from the centre of the trough. The possible trough was subcircular in plan. It contained two fills, both of which were dark, charcoal-rich and contained frequent heat-shattered stones. Eight post-holes and four stake-holes underlay the mound.</p> <p>The mound covered a curvilinear ditch. This appeared to be a circular enclosure with a possible entrance on the north-west side. The ditch fills were similar to burnt-mound material (charcoal-rich and with heat-shattered stone).</p> <p>One pit cut into burnt-mound deposits.</p> <p>Area 2</p> <p>The archaeology in Area 2 included an isolated bowl furnace and two round houses and group of associated pits, post- and</p> | | | | | |

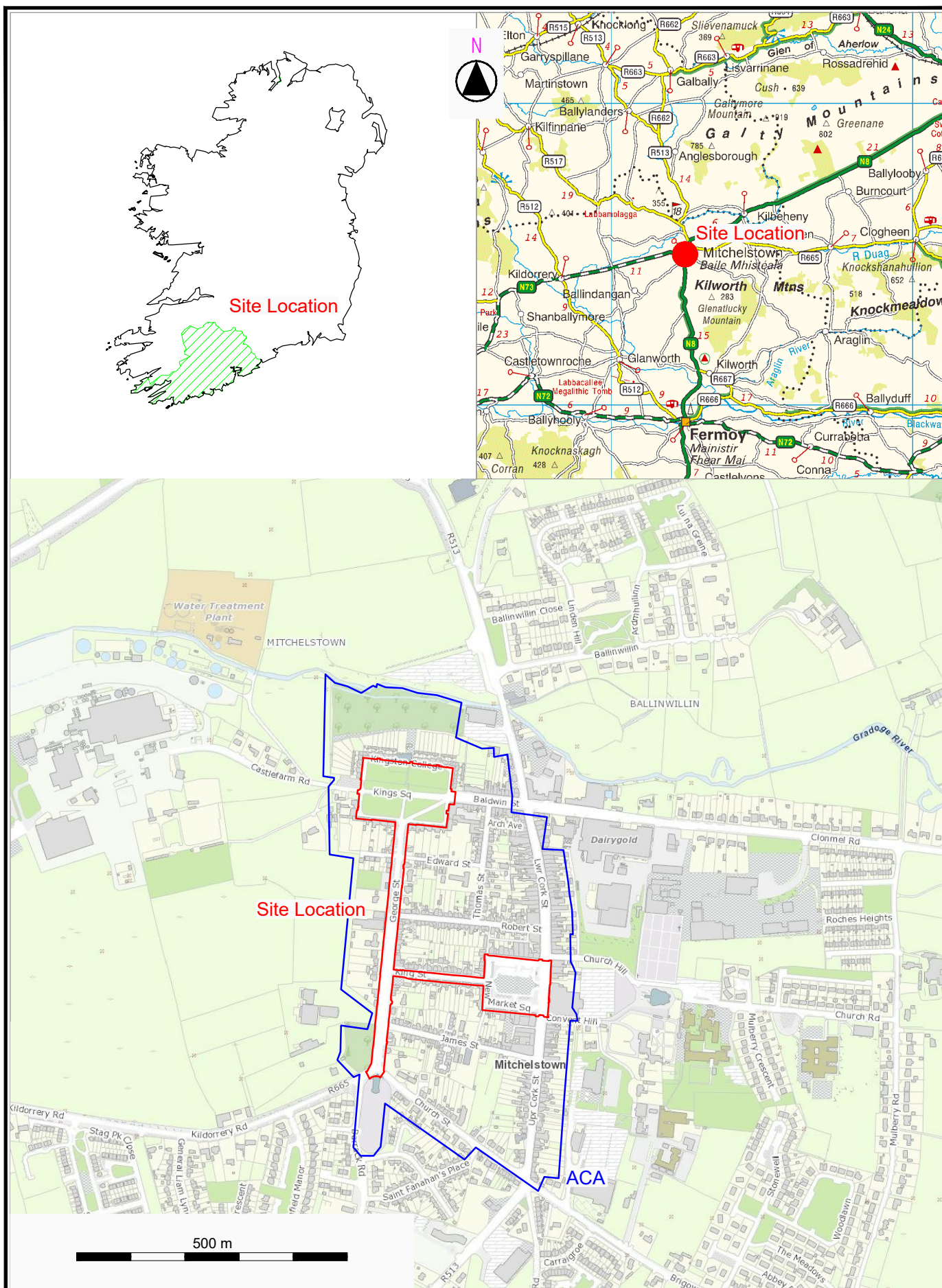
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| <p>stake-holes. One of the round houses was 90% excavated (part of the house lay outside the road-take) and the second house was exposed, recorded and then re-covered.</p> <p>Metalworking features</p> <p>An isolated furnace contained two fills, rich in slag and charcoal. It was circular in plan, 0.43m in diameter and 0.32m deep. There were no other metalworking features associated with this furnace.</p> <p>Round house (Structure 1)</p> <p>A narrow footing trench (C.472) outlined the perimeter of a circular building (Structure 1) which was 9.4m in diameter. Traces of the footprints of upright planks or panels of wattle and daub were visible at regular intervals (c. 1m in length) along the top of the trench. The slot-trench was 0.18m wide and between 0.12m and 0.18m deep. This was too insubstantial to form the foundation of the building and much of the support for the roof probably came from the deep post- and stake-holes associated with the structure. One end of the structure was truncated by later activity. There were pits and post-holes with grain-rich fills, saddle querns and rubbing stones found at this part of the building, indicating that it was used for grain storage and processing at one point during the Bronze Age. A hearth was recorded in the interior of the structure. A group of 40 stake-holes were recorded in the central area of the house. Fourteen of the stake-holes were surrounding the grain-rich pit C.504. A series of possible occupation layers were recorded in the area of the entrance.</p> <p>A series of seventeen pits, twelve post- and four stake-holes were recorded outside the perimeter of Structure 1.</p> <p>Unexcavated round house (Structure 2)</p> <p>The second structure was defined by a footing trench. This was a circular building, 9.7m in diameter. The footing trench was 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep. This remained unexcavated. The results indicate that, although Structure 2 appears slightly larger than Structure 1, the dimensions of both buildings are broadly similar.</p> <p>Agricultural features</p> <p>Several linear features traversed both areas of excavation. These included field drains, furrows, field boundaries and an anomalous linear feature. These represent post-medieval and modern agricultural features</p> | | | | | |
| E002427 | n/a | 582133, 610972 | 2007: AD18 | Glenatlucky 1, Cork | Linda Hegarty |
| <p>Phase 2 excavation works were undertaken, on behalf of Cork County Council, along the route of the N8 Fermoy–Mitchelstown bypass. The proposed bypass involves the construction of c. 16km of dual carriageway extending from Gortore north of Fermoy to Carrigane north-east of Mitchelstown. A programme of advance testing (Phase 1) had been carried out in October 2005, the results of which appeared in Excavations 2005.</p> <p>The site at Glenatlucky 1 is situated on relatively flat ground north of the Kilworth Hills. Four post-holes, a hearth, three pits including one cremation pit, one stake-hole and four linear features were excavated.</p> <p>One pit contained an encrusted urn and two flint pieces, a slug knife and a blade. There was a selection of cremated bone (probably an entire or almost entire adult) within the pit fill. The pottery suggests an Early Bronze Age date, c. 2000–1800 bc.</p> <p>A linear feature and a pit may have also been associated with the cremation burial. The linear feature was L-shaped and possibly served as a barrier into the area of the cremation. However, this feature was not very substantial. The pit resembled a cremation on the surface and it contained large quantities of charcoal; however, there was no evidence for burnt bone. The fill of this pit was cut by a stake-hole. The final pit contained pottery and flint finds as well as charcoal and heat-affected clay. It was interpreted as a hearth or a possible kiln.</p> <p>Four post-holes surrounded a deposit of hearth material. The post-holes probably represent hearth furniture. The hearth deposit was truncated. There is no evidence to connect this hearth to other features at the site such as the cremation deposit.</p> <p>Three post-medieval or modern linear features were excavated at the site. Two of the linear features were probably quite recent as they contained modern pottery. One ran from north to south and the other ran from east to west and they may represent modern drainage features. A third linear feature was also possibly associated with modern drainage of the site, although no modern pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.</p> | | | | | |
| 09E0202 | n/a | 581144, 613783 | 2009:163 | CAHIR CROSS, MITCHELSTOWN, Cork | Michael Tierney |
| <p>The Archaeology Company was engaged by Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd as archaeological consultants. A 19th-century kiln was recorded prior to being demolished and the topsoil-stripping phase of the development was monitored. A small area of early medieval iron production was found with a furnace, two charcoal-production areas and two associated pits with waste material. Dating and other analysis await funding from the client</p> | | | | | |
| 17E0122 | n/a | 582278, 612132 | 2017:127 | Brigown, Mitchelstown, Cork | David Murphy |
| <p>Testing was undertaken between 30 March and 3 April 2017 at the site of a proposed housing development in a greenfield area in Brigown townland on the south-east outskirts of Mitchelstown. Twelve 1.8m wide linear test trenches, totalling 1.25km, were excavated down to natural subsoil. This trenching comprised an area of 2,259m² out of a total development area (excluding the green area to the very east of the site) of approximately 18,700m², this resulted in approximately 12% of the lands proposed to be developed being tested. No artefacts, features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered during testing works.</p> <p>While the testing works did reveal evidence of a previous field layout in the form of generally west to east orientated linear features such as furrows, possible field drains and removed field boundaries, there was no indication that any of these features dated from antiquity. A number contained late 19th- and early 20th-century ceramic sherds, glass and red brick fragments. The partial remains of a wall foundation uncovered in Trench 1 was shown, through manual investigation and cartographic research, to date to the early to mid-19th century and was likely to have been demolished during the latter half of that century. Furthermore, the areas where a number of trenches (T.8, T.9, T.10, T.12) were opened in the eastern portion of the site proved</p> | | | | | |

| Licence No | RMP | ITM | Ref No | Address | Author |
|---|-----|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| to be heavily disturbed by modern construction-related debris and materials. | | | | | |
| 03E0972 | n/a | 582214, 611863m | 2003:0176 | Brigown, Cork | Niamh O'Callaghan |
| <p>Test-trenches were excavated before construction of 28 dwellings and a crèche at a greenfield site c. 1km south-east of Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. The southern corner of the proposed development is located within the zone of archaeological potential for St Finnchu's Stone (SMR 19:31). This is a large millstone located on the south side of Ballynamona Bridge and was found to be in no danger from the proposed development.</p> <p>A total of 29 trenches were excavated on the footprint of the foundations of the houses and their associated access roads. Archaeological material was recorded in three of these trenches.</p> <p>Trench 6 was situated along the route of the access road in the southern corner of the site and was 11m long, 1m wide and 0.7m deep. A thin layer of black silt with heat-shattered stones was recorded overlying the subsoil. The trench was extended south in order to establish the limits of the feature. The results showed a patchy layer of fulacht fiadh material c. 3m long and varying from 0.1 to 1m wide. All of the remaining topsoil was removed, but no further features were observed in this Phase 1 section.</p> <p>Trench 20 was located in the northern corner of the site and two features were recorded. The first was a charcoal-rich deposit with a fragment of metal slag. The layer extended under the north-west limit of the trench but was visible for 0.58m by 0.58m. The second area was located 6m to the north-east. It was composed of charcoal-rich, dark brown/black silt and included numerous fragments of iron slag. The feature was orientated north-south and extended under both sides of the trench.</p> <p>Trench 21 was situated on the proposed access road c. 20m south-east of Trench 20. A second possible ditch was recorded and its fill was composed of light-grey mottled sandy silt. It was c. 1m wide and only visible for 1m in length, as it extended under the limits of the trench.</p> <p>Mitigation included the full excavation and recording of the fulacht fiadh material in Trench 6 (see No. 177 below, 03E1153) together with monitored topsoil-stripping in the area of Trenches 18-21.</p> <p>Seventeen pits and seven linear features were revealed when the topsoil was removed. They were divided into two areas. Area 1 to the south-west had ten pits and four linear features. The pits were generally circular or oval in plan and in some cases were rich in charcoal and slag. They varied in size from 0.4 to 3m in diameter. The largest pit was associated with a linear feature that was also rich in charcoal and slag. Three smaller linear features were also recorded.</p> <p>In Area 2 to the north-east seven pits and three linear features were revealed. The features in this area show high concentrations of burning, with charcoal and slag evident and in two to three cases burning in situ was also recorded. The linear features in this area varied in shape and form. The narrowest was curved and visible for c. 4m and then extended into the main linear feature and under the baulk; it contained charcoal and slag. The second linear feature also had high concentrations of charcoal and slag, which were reduced as it extended southwards to its terminal. The northern end of this feature also extended into the third linear feature, the most extensive revealed, orientated north-east/south-west and extending beyond the limits of the excavation. It was visible for c. 10m and showed a terminal with less charcoal on the south-west side. The feature was over 1m deep, with one, and possibly a second, recut. It was full of black, charcoal-rich silt with redeposited natural and a large amount of metal slag. The cut and recut showed a wide U-shaped section.</p> <p>The majority of the features include large amounts of charcoal and slag and, together with in situ burning, indicate that the area was used as a metalworking site. No artefactual evidence was recorded that would indicate a period of use for the site.</p> | | | | | |
| 03E1153 | n/a | 582214, 611863 | 2003:177 | Brigown, Cork | Niamh O'Callaghan |
| <p>Following testing in advance of development, the remains of fulacht fiadh type material were revealed at a development site located c. 1km south-east of Mitchelstown, in the townland of Brigown.</p> <p>Four stake-holes and a layer of typical fulacht-type material (F2) were excavated. F2 was black, charcoal-rich silt with 50% heat-shattered stones, covered an area 3m by 2m and was 0.08m thick. Four stake-holes were recorded below this layer. They were similar in form and fill, and in general were circular with vertical sides and a rounded base. They all had one fill of mid-brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and their average dimensions were 70mm by 65mm by 140mm. No evidence for a mound, hearth or trough was recorded</p> | | | | | |
| 03E1153 | n/a | 582097, 612727 | 2003:0178 | Brigown, Cork | Miriam Carroll |
| <p>Several archaeological features were uncovered during earlier testing of a housing development at Brigown, Mitchelstown. An area measuring 35m (north-south) by 20m was subsequently excavated over a four-week period. A large curving ditch (C5 and C8) comprised the main feature on the site and is likely to represent the partial remains of an enclosure. It was exposed for a length of c. 34m and curved from the south-east to the north. It measured c. 2.3m in width and varied in depth from 0.5 to 1.5m. It extended outside the area of excavation in a north-north-east direction; however, a terminus to the ditch was located at the south-east end of the site. A possible palisade trench was located in the southern half of the site, immediately east of the enclosing ditch (C5). This trench followed the curve of the ditch and may be contemporary with the latter. A large quantity of metal slag was recovered from the ditch fills at the north end of the site. Several small pits and linear features, located both inside and outside the ditch at this end of the site, also contained slag and charcoal. This material may be indicative of some form of metalworking activity, either within or adjacent to the enclosure. No datable finds were recovered from the ditch or palisade trench which would suggest a period of use for the site.</p> <p>A large linear ditch (C48) extended across the centre of the site in an east-west direction, cutting through the enclosing ditch (C5 and C8). It was exposed for a length of c. 20m and measured 3.5m in width and 1.33m in depth. Although it is clear that this ditch post-dates the enclosure, no finds were recovered which would indicate its precise date.</p> | | | | | |

| Licence No | RMP | ITM | Ref No | Address | Author |
|---|-----|-----|--------|---------|--------|
| No evidence for a bank or levelled bank material was uncovered during the excavation. The first-edition OS map for the area, however, depicts a curving field boundary in the general location of the excavation. It is possible that the field boundary may represent the original bank of the enclosure and that the excavated ditch is the only remaining element of an enclosure which was levelled in the late 19th or early 20th century. | | | | | |

Appendix 3: Protected Structures in the surrounding area

| RMP No | CCC RPS No | NIAH Reg | Date | Coords | Address |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| CO019-105--- | 00113 to 00143 | 20818007 to 20818038 | alms-house | 1775 - 1780 | No.1 to 31 Kingston College |
| CO019-105--- | 00144 | 20818022 | alms-house | 1775 - 1780 | Kingston College chapel |
| | 01353 | 20818039 | Water Fountain | 1820 - 1830 | Kings square, Mitchelstown |
| | 01354 | 20818054 | Former Kingston Arms Hotel | 1790 - 1810 | Kings square, Mitchelstown |
| | 00145 to 00158 | 20818041 to 20818053 | House | 1775 - 1785 | No. 1 to No. 14 King's Square |
| | 00098 | 20818121 | Former prison | 1830 - 1840 | George St, Mitchelstown |
| | 00097 | n/a | Former Kingston School/Cool green | | George St, Mitchelstown |
| | 01330 | n/a | RDC House on Corner | c.1913 | James St, Mitchelstown |
| CO019-02802 | 00105 | 20818097 | Saint George's Church | 1825 - 1835 | Church of Ireland Church , George St, Mitchelstown |
| | 01090 | 20818083 | Dwelling & Shopfront | 1860 - 1880 | Number 6, King Street |
| | 01089 | 20818084 | Dwelling | 1790 - 1810 | corner of New Market Square & King St |
| | 01350 | 20818085 | John Mandeville Memorial (1906) | 1905 - 1910 | New Market Square |
| | 00099 | 20818089 | Courthouse (now SuperValu) | 1820 - 1825 | New Market Square |
| | 01074 | 20818090 | Shopfront | 1810 - 1830 | on corner of New Market Square & Upper Cork Street |
| | 01087 | 20818087 | "Paul Roche" (Cycle Agents) | 1870 - 1890 | New Market Square |
| | 00094 | 20818086 | AIB Bank | 1900 - 1920 | New Market Square |
| | 01345 | | Former Orphanage | | New Market Square |



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Mitchelstown, Co Cork

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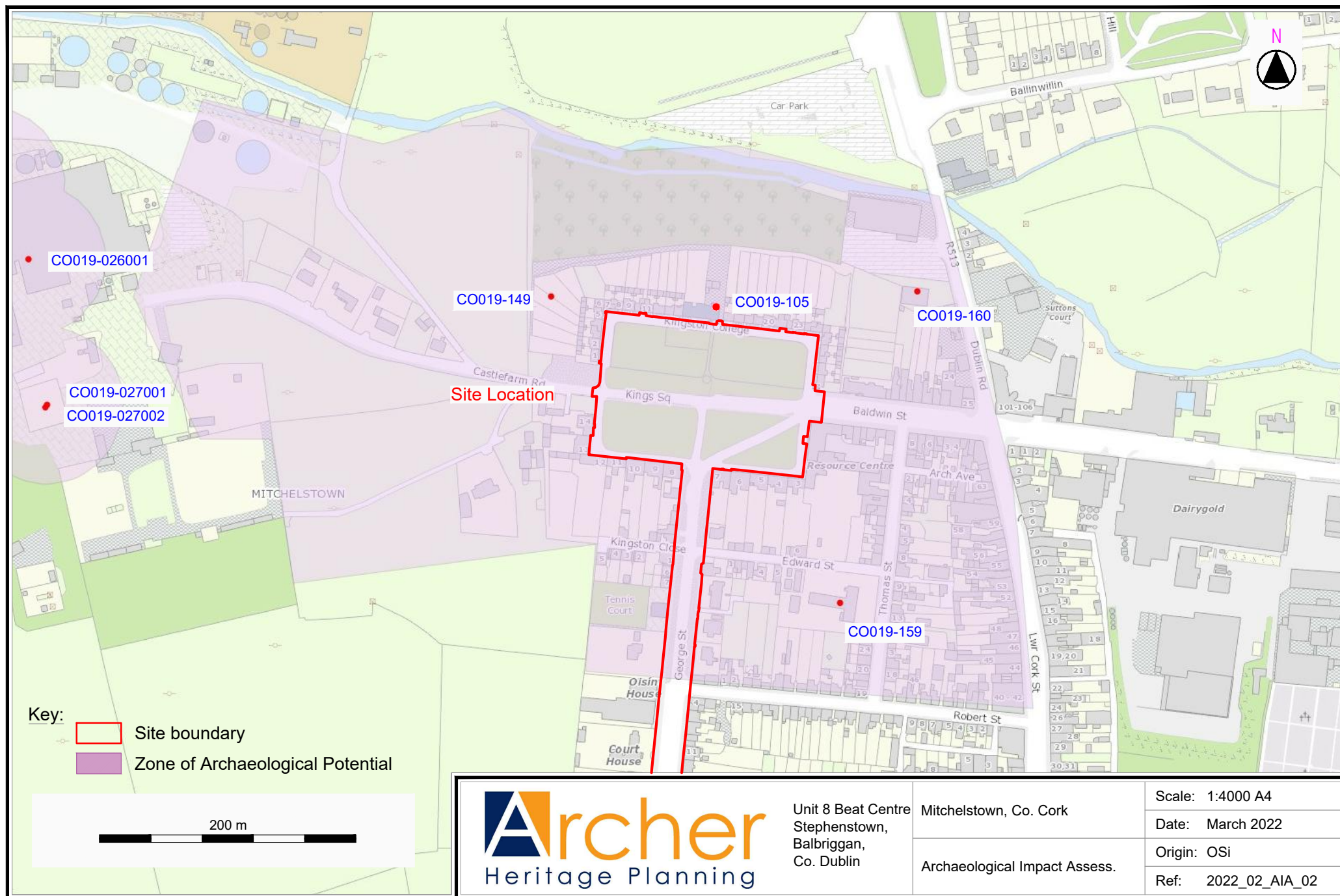
Scale: 1:10,000 A4

Date: Oct 2022

Origin: OSi

Ref: 2022_02_AIA_01

Figure 1: Site Location



| | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
|  | Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin | Mitchelstown, Co. Cork Archaeological Impact Assess. | Scale: 1:4000 A4 |
| | | | Date: March 2022 |
| | | | Origin: OSi Ref: 2022_02_AIA_02 |

Figure 2: Site Location with RMPs and ZAP (i)

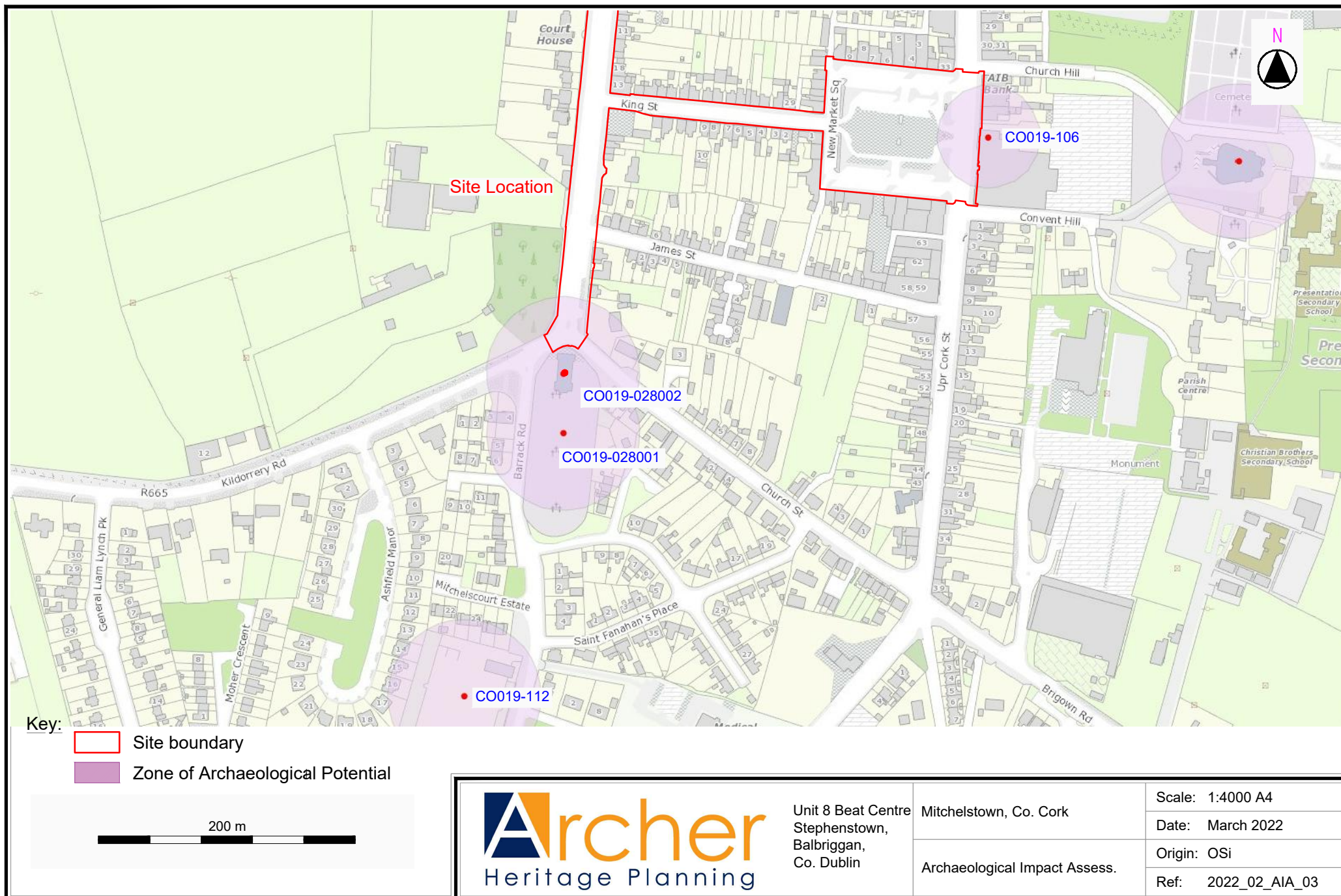


Figure 3: Location of Site with RMPs (ii)



(l) Down Survey (1656)

(r) Taylor and Skinner (1777)

Figure 4: Extracts of Early Historical Mapping

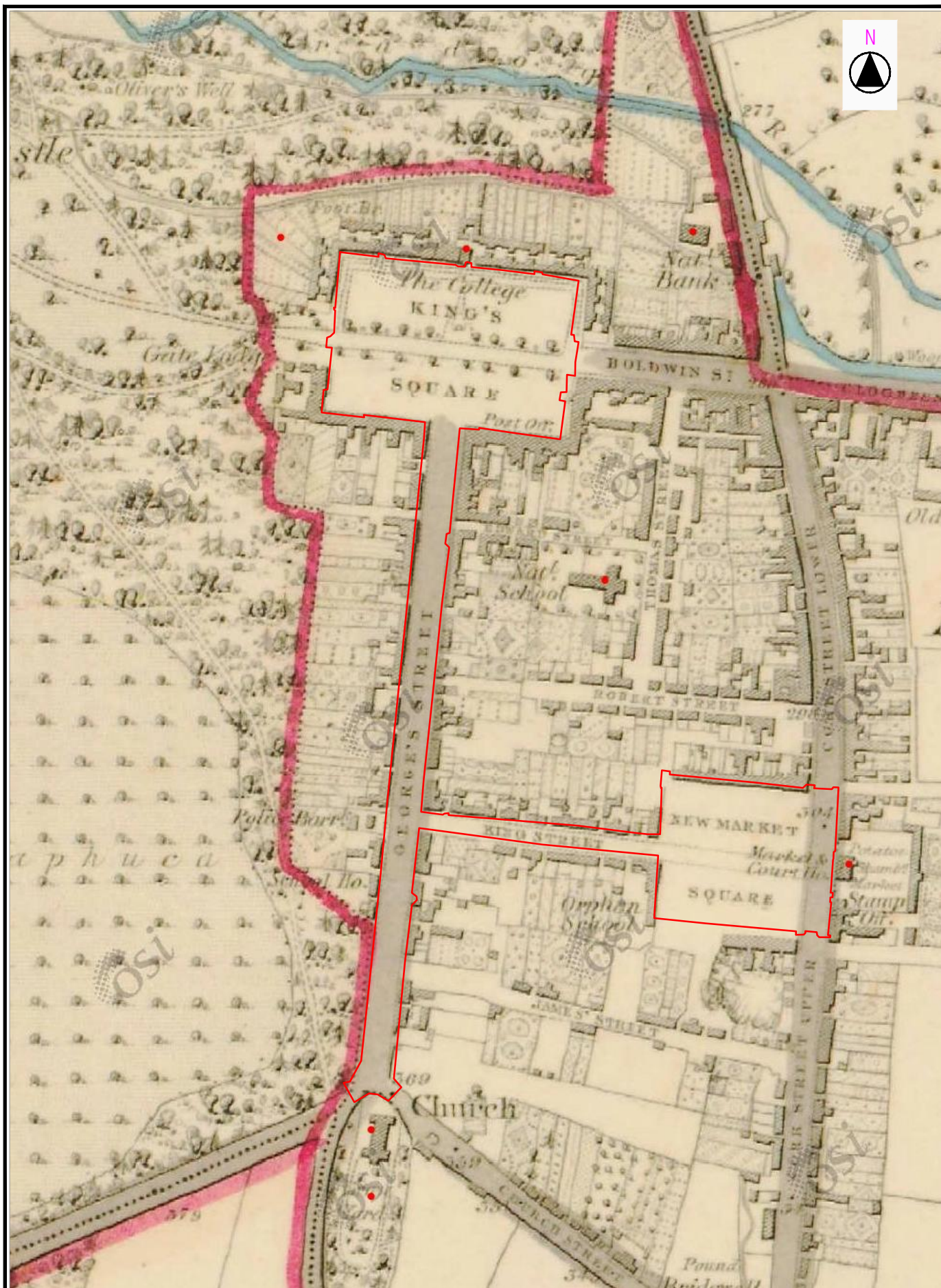


Figure 5: 1st Edition OS Map (1837)

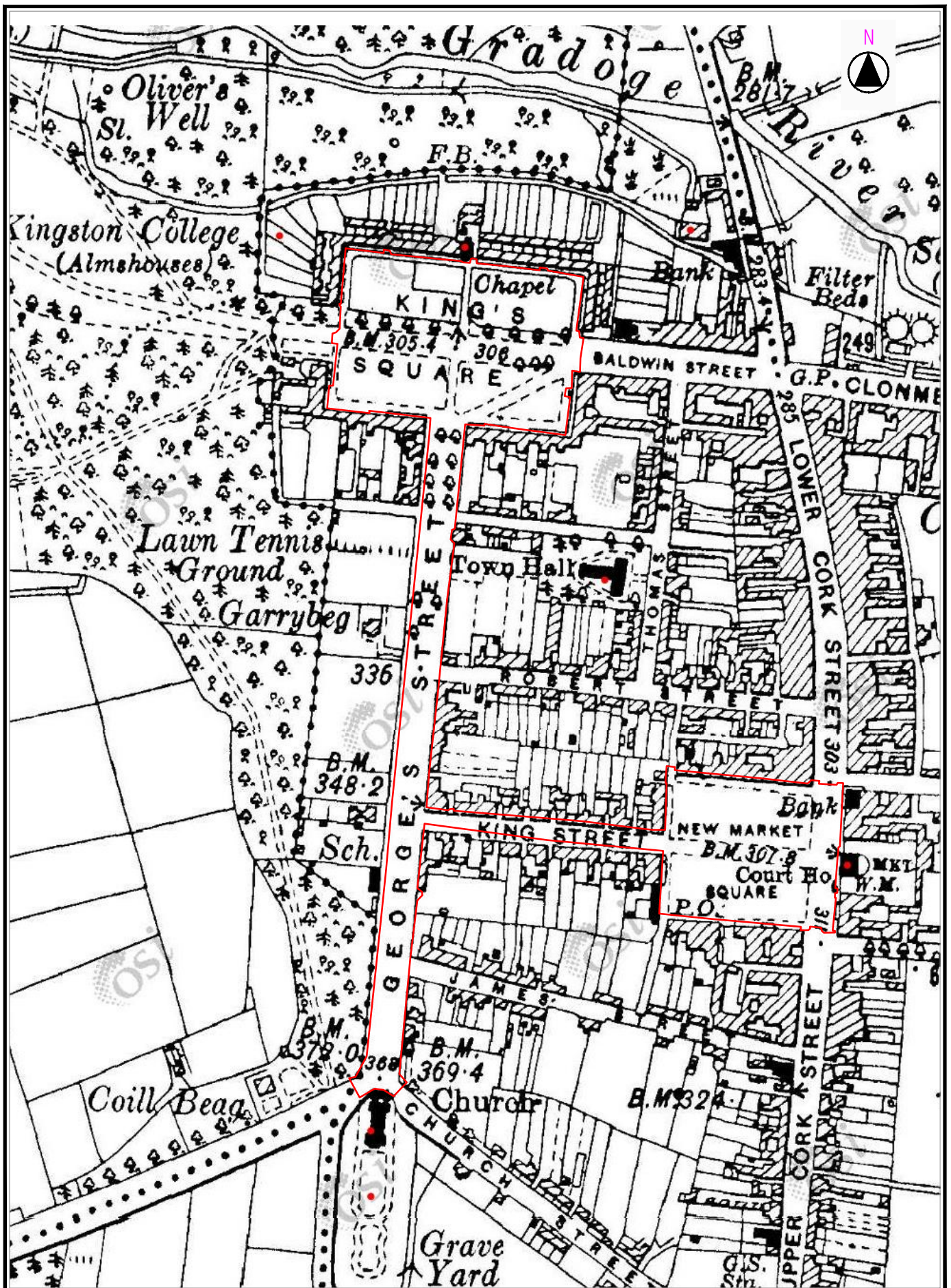
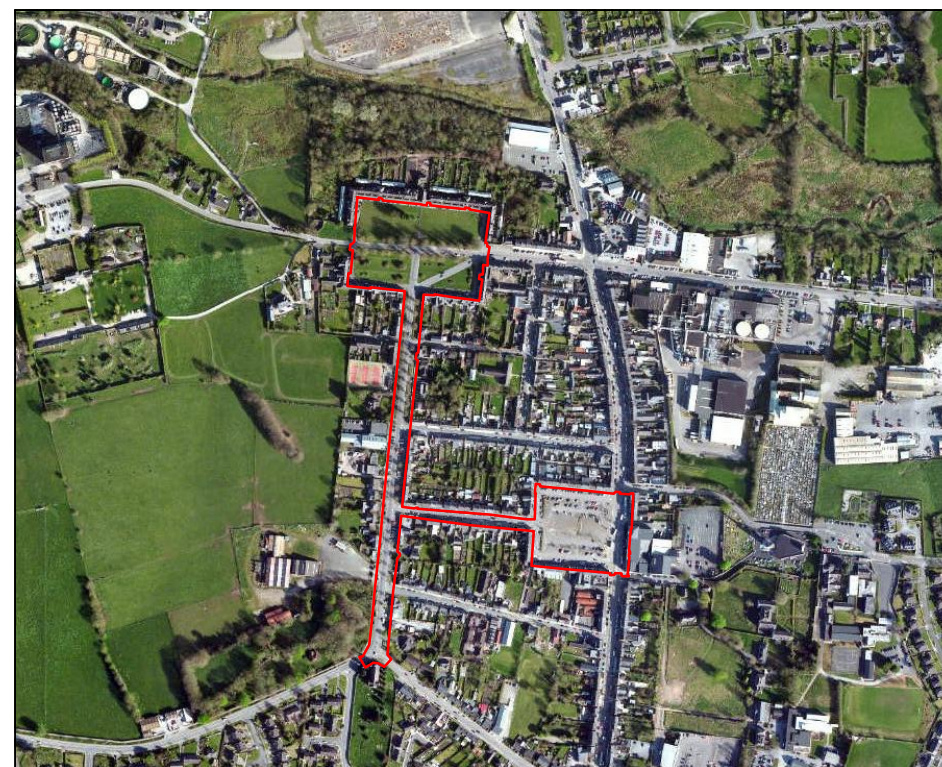


Figure 6: Cassini Map (1910-1930)



(l) OSi Aerial (2000)

(r) OSi Digital Globe (2013)



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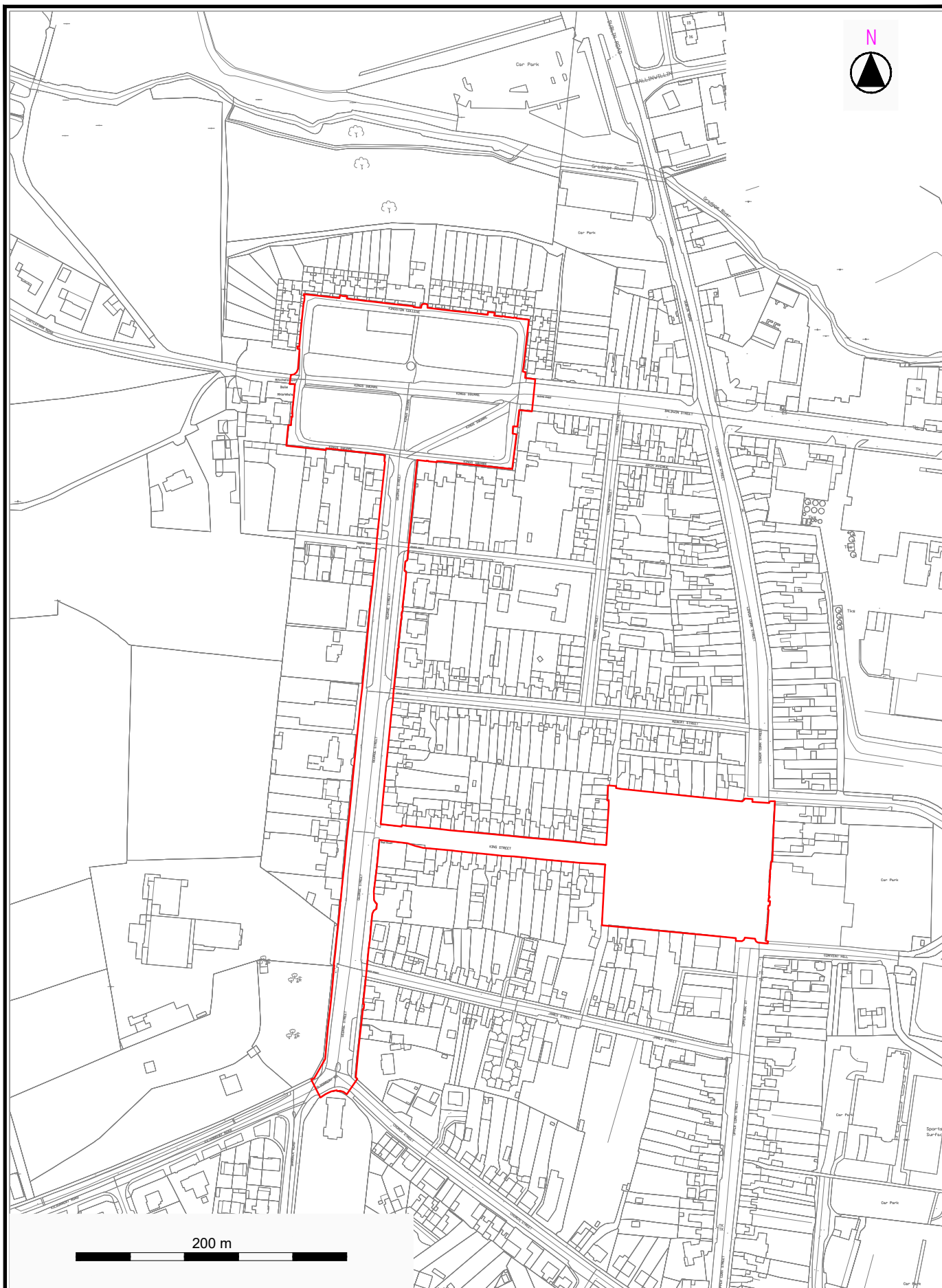
Scale: Not to scale

Date: March 2022

Origin: OSi

Ref: 2022_02_AIA_07

Figure 7: Extracts from Aerial Photography



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Scale: 1:4000 A4

Date: Oct 2022

Origin: Client

Ref: 2022_02_AIA_08

Figure 8: Current layout of development area



Figure 9: New Market Square Proposed Development Plan



Figure 10 New Market Square Proposed Development Sections

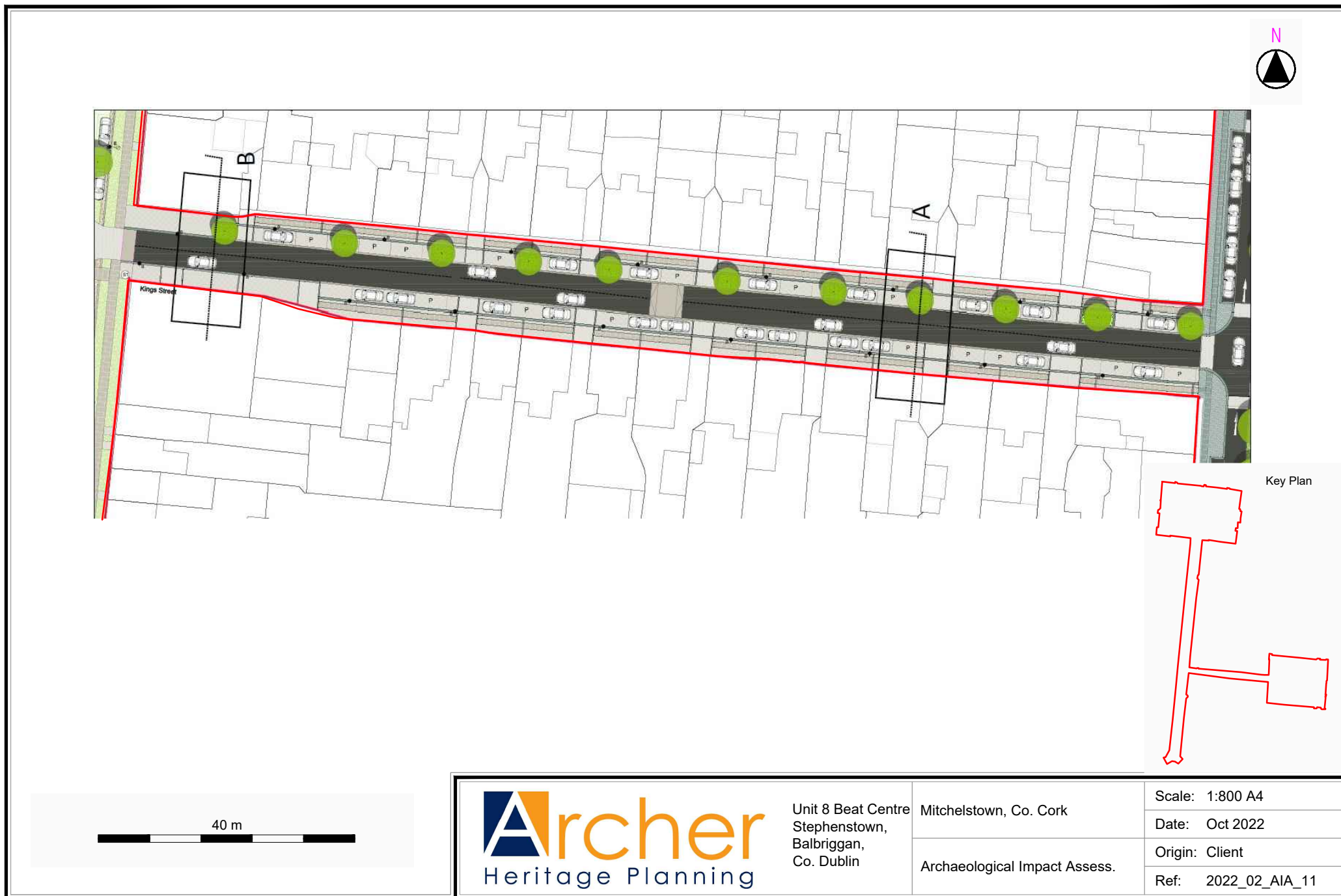
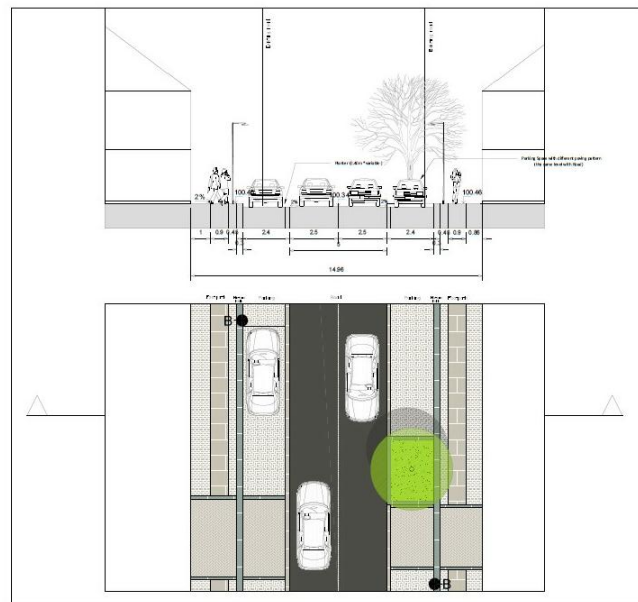


Figure 11: Kings Street Proposed Development Plan



NEW Section A kings Street



NEW Section B kings Street

| code | Specification | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Surface | | | |
| S1a | Existing in situ concrete paving with flagstone demarcation. | S8b | Asphalt. Grey for cycleway. |
| S1b | New in situ concrete paving with flagstone demarcation. | S9 | Artificial grass |
| S2 | New concrete paver flagstone path | S10 | Clay bonded gravel |
| S3a | Existing (lime)stone flagstone path. | Kerb/Edge | |
| S3b | New (lime)stone flagstone path. | K1a | Historic limestone road kerb |
| S4a | Reused concrete pavers. | K1b | New (lime)stone road kerb |
| S5a | New (lime)stone pavers (suitable for vehicles). | K2a | Concrete road kerb |
| S5b | New (lime)stone pavers (suitable for vehicles). | K2b | Concrete pavement kerb |
| S6a | New concrete pavers (various bonds). | K3a | Historic limestone demarcation |
| S7 | Concrete Grass Paver. | K3b | New limestone demarcation kerb |
| S8a | Asphalt. Standard grey/ black for carriageway. | K4 | Historic stone paving |
| | | K5 | New (lime)stone steps or seating |
| Play & fitness | | | |
| P1a | Net and rope play element, 3m high on tectonic surface | HR4 | Limestone wall plaque. (LBH). 450x 250 x 15mm. |
| P2a | Fitness area 1 | HR5 | Sundial |
| | | HR6 | Curved bench. |
| Parking | | | |
| M1a | Standard parking. | Planting Palette Mitchelstown | |
| M1b | Disability parking. | STRUCTURAL TREES MEDIUM | |
| M1c | Age friendly parking. | T0 | Existing trees |
| M1d | Bus parking. | T1 | Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' |
| | | T2 | Tilia tomentosa 'Varsaviensis' |
| | | T3 | Tilia cordata 'Van Pelt' |
| | | T4 | Tilia europaea |
| Heritage and objects | | | |
| HR1 | John Mandeville statue | | |
| HR2 | William Trevor monument. | | |
| HR3 | Memorial ground plaque | | |



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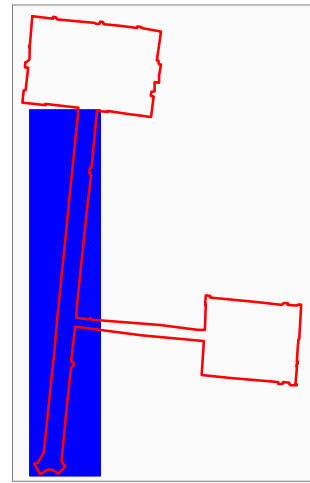
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Date: Oct 2022

Origin: Client

Ref: 2022_02_AIA_12

Figure 12: Kings Street Proposed Development Sections



100 m



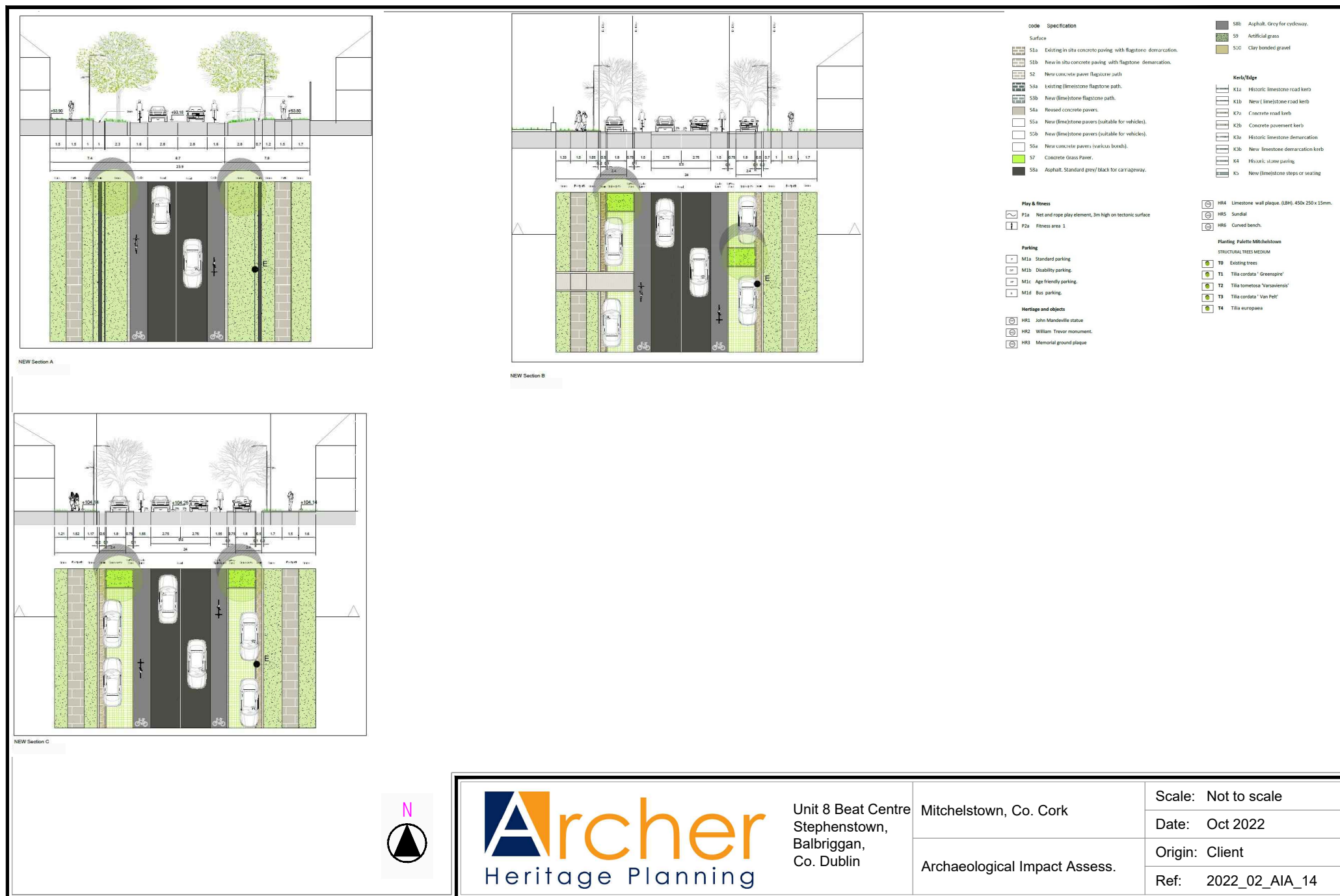
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| |
|---------------------|
| Scale: 1:2000 A4 |
| Date: Oct 2022 |
| Origin: Client |
| Ref: 2022_02_AIA_13 |

Figure 13: George St Proposed Development Plan



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Scale: Not to scale

Date: Oct 2022

Origin: Client

Ref: 2022_02_AIA_14

Figure 14: George Street Proposed Development Sections

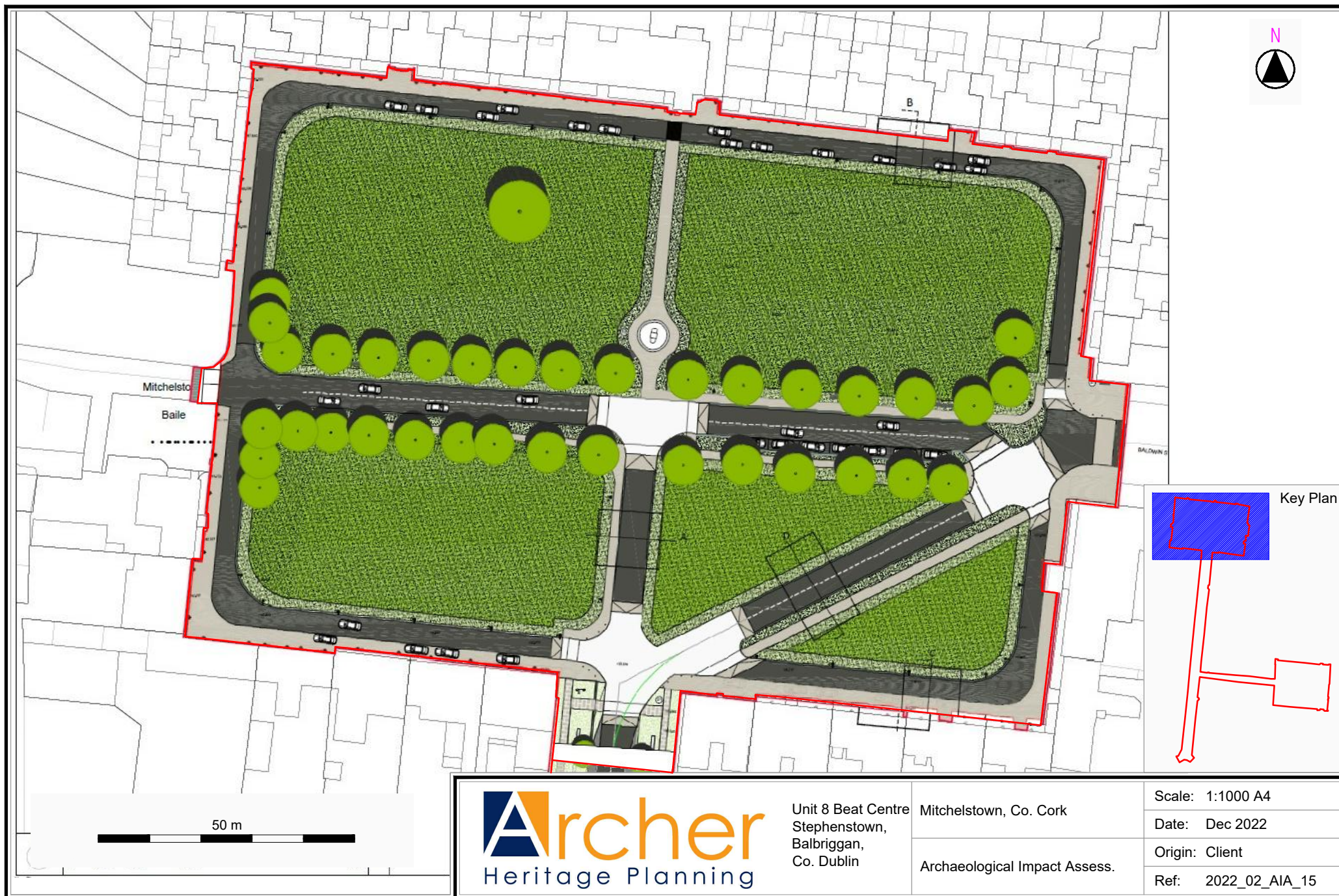


Figure 15: Kings Square Proposed Development Plan

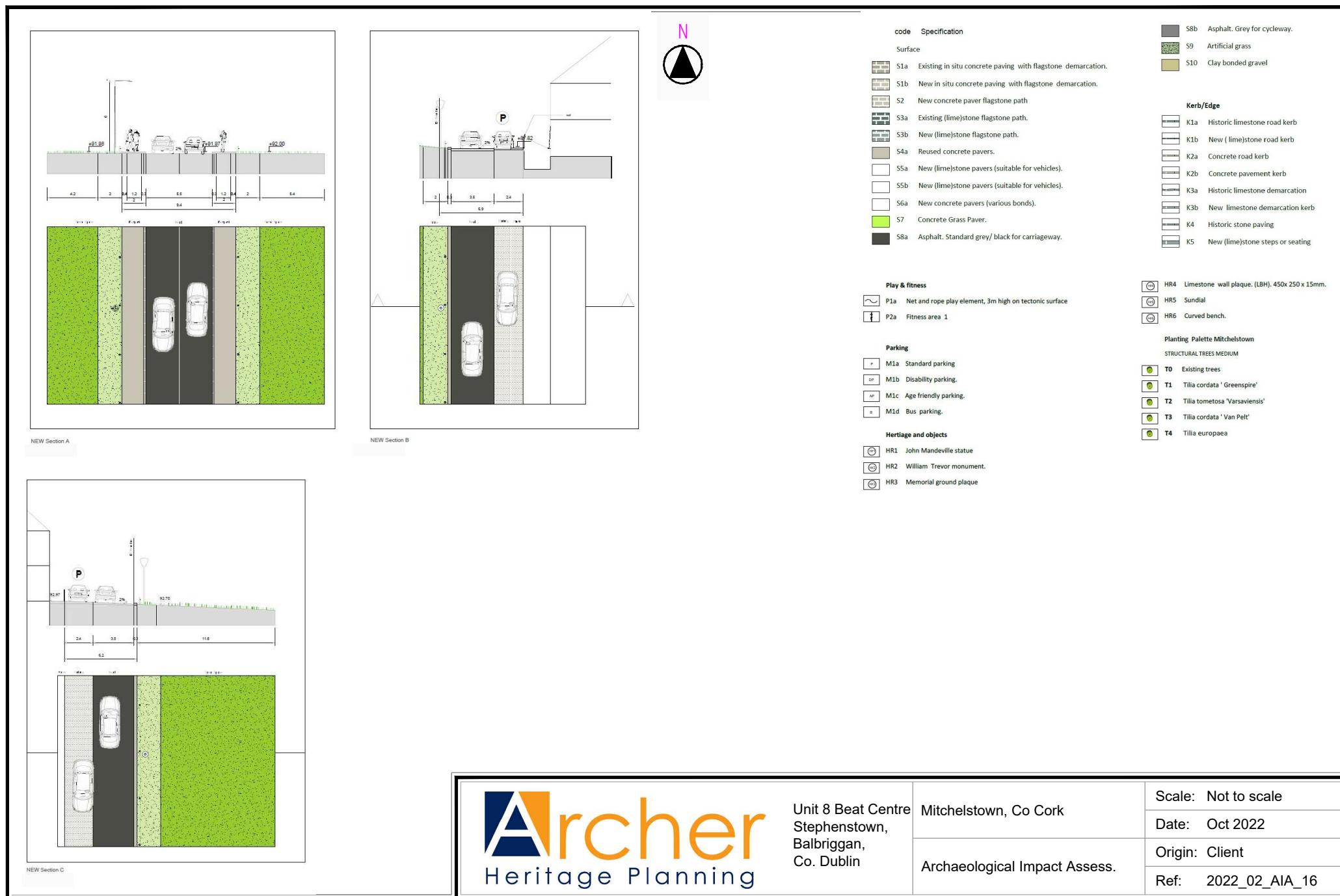


Figure 16: Kings Square Proposed Development Sections



Plate 1: Lower Cork St, facing North, Galtee Mountains framed by streetscape.



Plate 2: George St, Facing North, Galtee mountains framed by streetscape



Plate 3: Church of Ireland Church (CO019-028002) undergoing restoration



Plate 4: One of the original gateways into the demesne on Kildorrery Rd



Plate 5: View of King Street looking east, note Market House and Catholic Church framed by street



Plate 6: Old Jail House



Plate 7: Original Street features such as cobbled drain and kerbing



Plate 8: Kings Square, from south facing E



Plate 9: Kings Square from W facing SE



Plate 10: Kings College (North of Kings Square) from West facing East



Plate 11: Original gate posts and main entrance of the estate.



Plate 12: Original water fountain



Plate 13: Original sign for Robert Street.



Plate 14: Original path drains and path kerbing