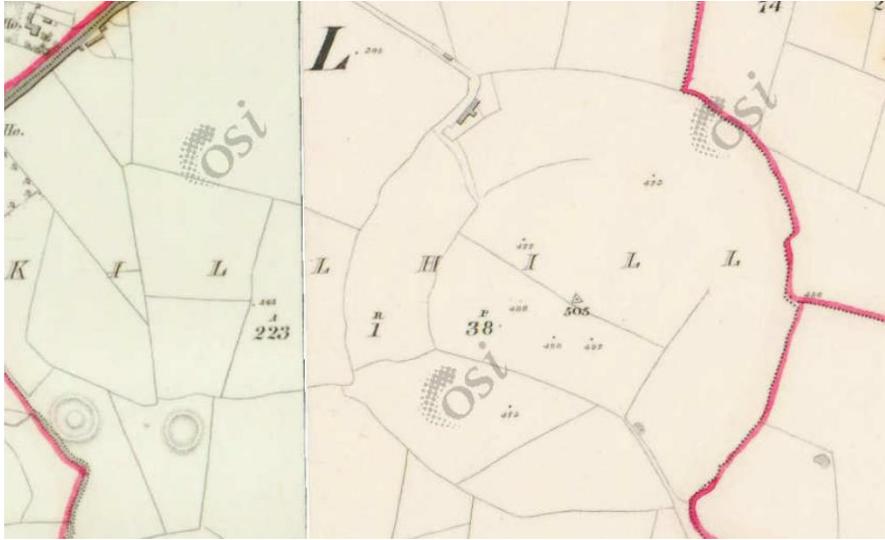


ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE REPORT
FOR
DEVELOPMENT SITE
AT
KILL HILL, KILL
COUNTY KILDARE



On Behalf of

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December, 2017

Abstract

This report contains the results of a revised pre-planning heritage report carried out on behalf of the architectural consultancy; JFOC Architects for a housing development in Kill, County Kildare. The proposed residential development plan was revised following consultation with Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanala. The development site lies outside the zone of archaeological potential of the historic village of Kill (SMR 19:8) and the Motte and Bailey (SMR 19:56) but close to the zone of archaeological potential of an enclosure site to the south (SMR 19:10).

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1 Introduction

This report contains the results of a revised pre-planning heritage report carried out on behalf of the architectural consultancy; JFOC Architects, c/o Mc Court Investments Ltd. The report was revised following a pre-application consultation meeting with Kildare County Council on the 26th September, 2017. The Kildare County Council Heritage Officer requested that the planning application include the following to ensure the protection of the archaeological integrity of Kill Hill;

1. Existing & proposed photomontage views of the proposal in relation to the visual impact on Kill Hill
2. A historic landscape impact report prepared by a suitably qualified Landscape Architect on the revised proposal.

The Kildare County Council Heritage Officer further noted that *'while the archaeological assessment report incorporates the findings of the test trenching carried out in respect of Ref. No. 0611091 and the recommendations are in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government recommendations at the time, there is however no reference made to recommendations contained in the Archaeological Impacts Assessment for Kill Village and Environs commissioned by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (Crowley, C. 2004, Archaeological Impacts Assessment, Kill Village and Environ, Department Of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, unpublished)*. The recommendations of this report have been included and considered in this revised report.

An Bord Pleanála subsequently reviewed the pre-planning application on the 26th October, 2017 and requested that the Construction Management Plan *'address, inter alia, the following; the protection of existing boundaries and landscape features during construction, protection of amenity of existing school and amenity of existing residential properties, measures to protect identified buffer zones to archaeological sites'*. This recommendation has been included and considered in this revised report.

This report aims to address the issues raised above by;

- a) Outlining the planning background to the development including the recommendations contained within the revised Kildare County Council Small Towns & Environs Plan 2017
- b) Revising the archaeological background to include the findings from the 2004 Archaeological Assessment Report for Kill Village and Environs
- c) Detailing the Preservation Order currently in place around Kill Hill
- d) Highlighting the changes made to the current development plan in respect of archaeology
- e) Including a photomontage of the development
- f) Updating the development impact and recommendations contained within the original archaeological assessment report

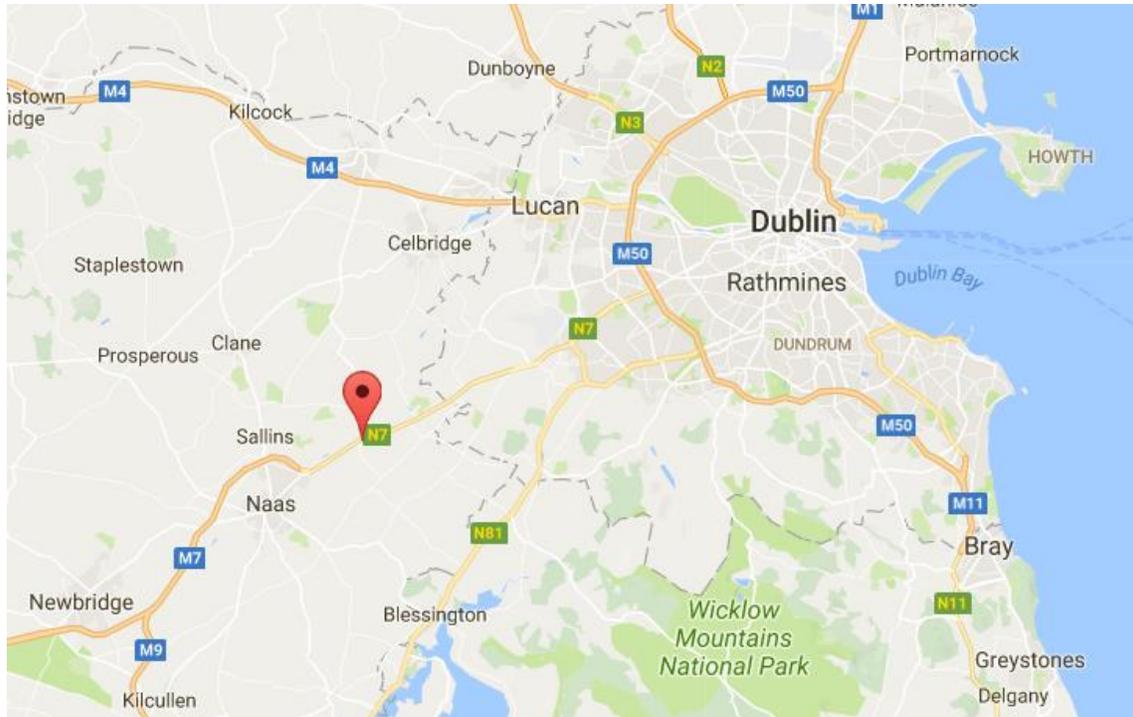


Figure 1 Area Location Map, Kill County Kildare



Figure 2 Site Location Map, Kill, County Kildare

2 Planning & Development Background

2002 Kill Development Plan

The majority of the original residential development of 121 residential units, with the exception of approximately 22 no. units, was located on unzoned lands outside the development boundary for Kill as defined in the Kill Development Plan, 2002. Permission was granted on 20/09/2007 subject to 77 no. conditions (see 2006 Planning Application below). Part of the zoned land was acquired by the department of education to provide for a large primary school.

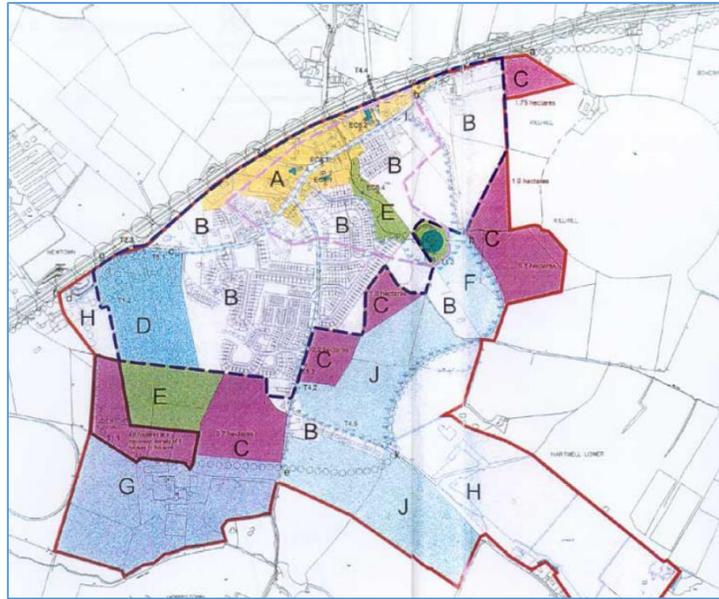


Figure 3. 2002 Development Plan, Kill, County Kildare

2004 Archaeological Assessment Report for Kill Village and Environs

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd prepared a report on behalf of the Heritage and Planning Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to assess the cumulative impact on the archaeological resource of proposed and existing residential developments at Kill, County Kildare (OS Sheet 19 & 20). A total of nine planning applications relevant to the study area had been lodged with the Planning Section of Kildare County Council.

The report recommended that in order to protect the integrity of the archaeological complex, which included five Recorded Monuments (KD020-001, KD019-008(04), KD019-010, KD019-056, KD019-057), and its visual setting and amenity, it was recommended that no development should be carried out within the present greenfield area to the east and southeast of Kill Hill. It was further recommended that a buffer zone measuring 150m be enacted around the monument of Kill Hill (KD020-001).

This report was unpublished and the subsequent recommendations not adopted by Kildare County Council.

2005 Archaeological Assessment

The original archaeological assessment was carried out in 2005 as part of a pre-planning investigation and consisted of a desk based survey and test excavation of the green field site located to the east of Kill village. The test excavation involved the excavation of 26 test trenches across the proposed development site (Licence No. 05E1220). The excavation uncovered the remains of disused field systems and several areas of potential prehistoric activity characterised by the presence of pits, stakeholes/postholes, deposits of scorched clay and charcoal spreads.

Five potential areas of prehistoric activity were uncovered during the course of the excavation. These areas are located around trenches 4, 8, 13, 15 & 16 and are characterised by the presence of pits, stakeholes/postholes, deposits of scorched clay and charcoal spreads. No diagnostic artefacts were recovered from any of these features but the proximity of the remains to prehistoric sites in the fields to the east, west and possibly to the south would suggest a similar date.

The report recommended the following;

- a) The proposed development will not impact on any known archaeological monuments. The motte and bailey (SMR 19:8) and enclosure (SMR 19:10) are outside the boundaries of the development site to the south and south west. The archaeological complex on Kill Hill to the east will also not be affected.
- b) The proposed development will not impact visually on any known archaeological monuments.
- c) It is recommended that a rescue excavation be carried out under licence prior to any development works to ensure preservation by record.
- d) The disused field systems should be planned and recorded following standard archaeological procedures. Sections should be excavated through these features to establish profile, content and period.
- e) The five areas of potential prehistoric activity should be cleaned manually, planned, photographed and recorded. Once the nature and extent of these remains is established, additional method statements should be submitted to the Dept. of The Environment and NMI to ensure best practice.

2006 Planning Application 06/1091

Permission was subsequently granted to McCourt Investments Ltd for a residential development and ancillary site works, including a reserved site of 3.14 acres for primary school, 4 no. 4-bed detached dormer bungalows 10 no. 4-bed detached houses 15 no 4-bed semi-detached houses 1no. 3-bed detached house 87no. 3-bed semi-detached houses etc.

Condition 76: The applicant shall employ a suitably qualified archaeologist, licensed under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930-2004 to carry out the following;

The archaeologist shall aid the applicant in establishing and maintaining a 10m buffer zone around the external perimeter of the Recorded Monument RMP No KD 020:001 Kill hill hilltop enclosure to the east of the development, and a minimum 20-21.6m buffer from the southern boundary of the site (adjacent to RMP No's KD 019:010 Enclosure site. 019 057 Enclosure/Possible ringfort site; 020:001 Hilltop Enclosure/Possible Hill fort and two other Monuments within the Zone of Archaeological Potential KD 019.008{01} - the medieval Motte and Bailey, and an associated burial mound/tumulus). The establishment of these buffer zones shall be confirmed with this department prior to works commencing at the site

The green area indicated on both the pre-planning submission G2006/480 and the planning application 0611091 to the south-east of the development site shall be maintained as proposed.

All archaeological deposits/features recorded during test excavation at the site in December 2005 shall be fully archaeologically planned, photographed and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist under Licence to this Department. All such archaeological features/deposits shall be excavated according to best practice and the archaeologist shall halt works on site where significant additional archaeological remains are discovered during the course of excavation at the site. In such circumstances extension by way of addenda to the existing archaeological method statement for excavation and/or preservation *in situ* may be required and agreed with this Department.

The archaeologist shall also monitor all removal of topsoil/groundworks associated with this development. Should archaeological material be found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist may have work on the site stopped pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology, (e.g. preservation in-situ, or excavation). This Department will advise on these matters.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in-situ* or by record) of places, caves sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

The residential development associated with the 2005 archaeological assessment did not commence due to constraints on the sewerage system. However, the school has now been completed and Irish Water have developed proposals to deal with this matter.

2006/2007 Preservation Order

The Archaeological Complex, in the Townland of Kill Hill, Kill, in the County of Kildare and comprising of Recorded Monuments KD 019:10, KD 019:56, KD 019:57, KD 020:001 and more particularly delineated and defined in red on the map titled Preservation Order, Archaeological Complex in the Townland of Kill Hill, Kill in the County of Kildare is a National Monument. Works at a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority, or to a monument protected by a Preservation Order, can only be carried out with the prior consent of the Minister.

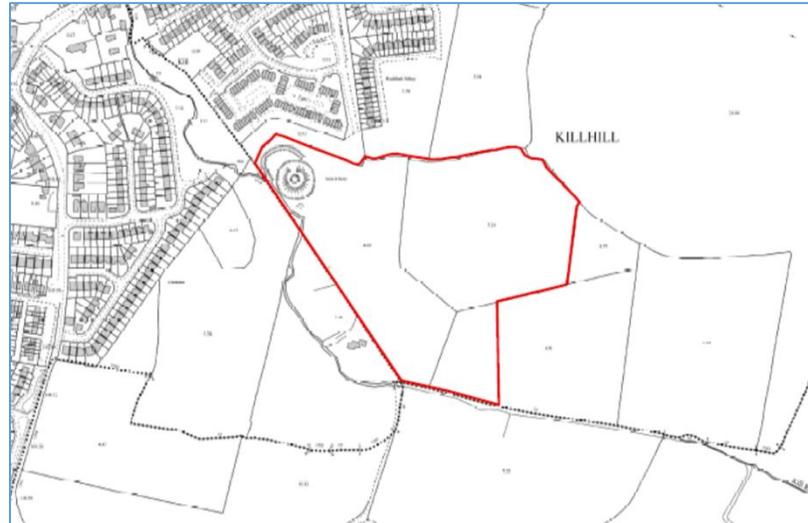


Figure 4. 2007 Preservation Order, Kill Hill

Kildare County Council Small Towns & Environs Plan 2017

Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 outlines the 'Small Town Plans and Environs Plans' for Kildare and includes the specific objectives in relation to the town of Kill. The 2017 Development Plan notes that an archaeological complex in the town/and of Kill Hill, comprising 4 recorded monuments, is the subject of a Preservation Order pursuant to the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Developers shall have regard to the recommendations and requirements of the DAHRRGA.

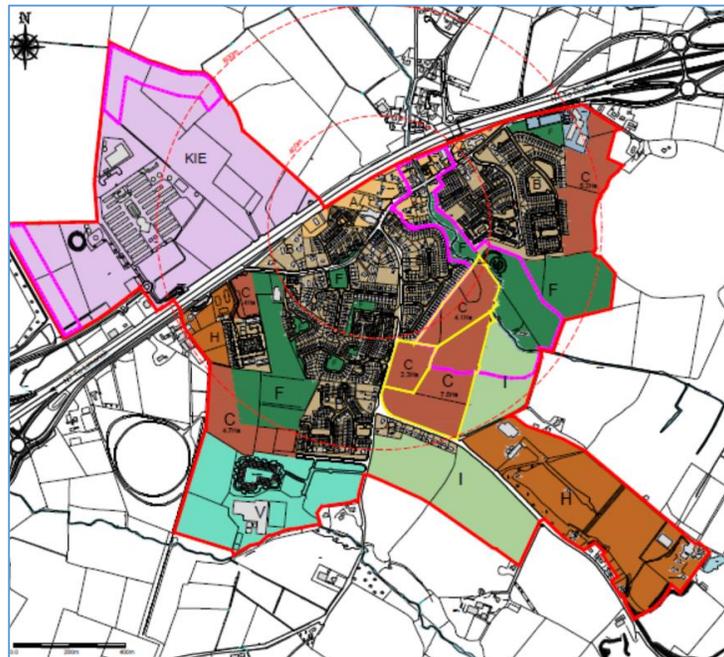


Figure 5. 2017 Kill Development Plan (area C zoned for new residential)

3 Historical Background

While there is only sporadic evidence for prehistoric activity in Kill, the town itself came into its own in the early Christian era. The name Kill is derived from *Cell*, 'a church' and the village derives its place name from what is believed to be an early medieval settlement centred on this church. The slight curve in the Main Street may indicate the line of this early ecclesiastical enclosure. Kill was the burial place of *Cearbhall*, the early tenth century King of Leinster, and also eight of his predecessors which is referred to as *Cill Nais* or *Cill Corbain*, which was at Naas itself.

The place name evidence suggests the presence of a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site of *Cill Brighde* or church of St. Brigid. The recorded dedication of the church to saints Mary and Brigid, in the early thirteenth century (Gilbert 1889, 80-1), together with the tradition recorded in the nineteenth century (O.S letters, Co. Kildare, I, 65; ii, 154) indicates that the Anglo-Normans took over the church of St. Brigid and added the dedication to St. Mary (Fitzgerald 1915-17). The church of Kill had been granted to St. Thomas' Abbey, Dublin, by 1202 when the papal legate, John of Salerno, confirmed the grant (Gilbert 1889, 224). The church was evidently one of some importance. A grant of early thirteenth century date was witnessed by Duliano and Walter, both chaplains of Kill (Gilbert 1889, 94), while another early thirteenth century grant noted that the chapel of the village of William de Hyrais belonged to the mother church of Kill (Gilbert 1889, 98). Even before they acquired the whole manor of Kill, St. Thomas' Abbey held extensive holdings there. A charter of 1215-23 refers to the court in which the grange was situated (Gilbert 1889, 80-1), while another charter of 1206-23 noted that the abbey held a grange, a croft, a garden and a haggard, and indicates that these were located in or near 'Balikaerdeval' (Kerdiffstown?) (Gilbert 1889, 298-9). Further reference to the grange of Kill occurs in 1293 when William de Vesci, lord of Kildare, prevented the abbot of St. Thomas' from ploughing and sowing his land, some of which he detained in the abbot's grange in the manor of Kill and more in gardens within Kill (Sweetman 1875-86, iv, no. 106).

Nothing is known of the history of this church in the Later Middle Ages, but it clearly remained inappropriate to St. Thomas' Abbey, and the vicarage was listed in the abbey's extent in 1540 (White 1943, 40). The church continued to function after the dissolution. In 1597 William Coe was presented to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Kill (Morrin 1862, 432), and John Lightbond was presented in 1629 (Morrin 1863, 441). Kill formed part of "the cantred of Offelan nearest to Dublin" which was granted by Strongbow to Adam de Hereford in the sub-infeudation of Leinster (Orpen 1911-20, I, 378-9). Adam granted it to his brother John, who was in turn succeeded by his son Thomas (Gilbert 1889, 102-4). Charters of this Thomas de Hereford provide some information on Kill in the early thirteenth century, in which he granted the church of Kill to St. Thomas' Abbey, Dublin.

In 1541 the manor was leased to Thomas Aten (7 RDKPRI, 56: no. 245); in 1546 it was granted to Robert St. Leger (7 RDKPI, 79; no. 465) and by him to a consortium who in turn granted it to Richard Aylmer in 1551 (Morrin 1861, 119, 122 164, 240; 8 RDKPRI, 106: no. 745). In 1581 it was noted that

“a great part of Kill” was saved from attack by the rebel Viscount Baltinglass by Mr. T. Lee (Hamilton 1867, 322). Kill was held by another consortium, including Thomas, Gerald, Richard and John Alymer, in 1609 (Ir Rec Comm 1826, Co. Kildare: Jac I, no. 41). The first evidence for the existence of a borough at Kill occurs in 1608 when the borough was included in a list of boroughs and towns in county Kildare (Russell and Prendergast 1874, 577), and Richard Dowlin was named as provost of the town of Kill (Brewer and Bullen 1873, 24). These references are somewhat enigmatic in view of the absence of any other evidence for the existence of a borough at Kill and it is not known when this borough was first established. On his death in 1629, Thomas Hamlin held a castle, six messuages and 120 acres in the village of Kill from the earl of Kildare (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1826, Co. Kildare, Car I: no. 78). The census of 1659 recorded a population of 92 at Kill (Pender 1939, 402).

While little is known of the size or extent of the medieval settlement it is likely that the present street pattern derives from the seventeenth century only and it is probable that archaeological evidence of the seventeenth century date will be more common than that relating to earlier periods. The present main street running from north-east to south-west however, almost certainly preserves the street plan of the seventeenth century borough.

4 Archaeological Background

4.1 Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) is a list of all archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service. The Record of Monuments & Places includes RMP maps based on OS 6" Sheets, which indicate the location of each recorded site. The RMP list is based on the Sites and Monument Record (SMR) files housed in the National Monuments Services offices. Buildings belonging to the 17th century and later are considered as archaeological sites today, though not all sites are represented in the SMR archive. A total of 6 RMP sites are located within 800m of the proposed development site.

RMP Ref Number	Townland	Site Type	Distance from Development
KD020-001	Kill Hill	Hilltop enclosure	250m east of development
KD020-002	Kill Hill	Enclosure	800m west of development
KD019-010	Kill Hill	Enclosure	250m west of development
KD019-057	Kill Hill	Enclosure	350m west of development
KD019-056	Kill Hill	Fulacht Fiadh	350m west of development
KD019-008004	Kill Hill	Motte & Bailey	350m west of development



Figure 6 Record of Monuments and Places Map, Kill, County Kildare

KD020-001 – Hilltop Enclosure

A low, domed hill (OD 120-153m) on the W-edge of rising ground which climbs gently E to the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, and overlooks lower tillage and pasture to the W. Two widely spaced (av. Wth c. 120m), concentric, hedged, earthen banks generally follow two contours to enclose the hill. The lower, outer enclosure is complete (est. diam. c. 570m). The inner enclosure (est. diam. c. 350m) survives WSW-NW-NNE, and while an aerial photograph (GSI N384) shows the crop marks of fosses completing the circuit NNE-S-WSW, no visible surface trace of these features was located in the heavy vegetation covering parts of the interior of the monument. The interior was subdivided by later field boundaries radiating between the two enclosing elements, some of which, at NW, have since been levelled. A small enclosure (KD020-002----) lies in the E sector, between the inner and outer enclosures.

KD020-002 - Enclosure

On an E-facing pasture slope in the E sector of a large hilltop enclosure (KD020-001----). Visible on a 2005 aerial photograph (OSi Orthophoto) as the crop mark of two possible concentric fosses enclosing a circular area (est. max diam. c. 40m).

KD019-010 - Enclosure

Shown on the latest ed. (1939) of the OS 6-inch map as an oval area (est. max diam. c. 70m NE-SW; c. 50m NW-SE) defined by a bank, standing c. 70m E of Kill motte-and-bailey (KD019-008004-). Described in 1955 as a sub rectangular enclosure, of which no visible surface traces survived in 1973 (SMR File).

KD019-057 - Enclosure

On a SW-facing pasture slope, c. 180m SE of a motte and bailey (KD019-008004-). Described in 1972 (SMR file) as a semi-circular rise (est. diam. c. 70m), only traceable with difficulty, and possibly the remains of the S portion (SE-S-WNW) of an enclosure.

KD019-056 – Fulacht Fiadh

No file is available in the archive for this site.

KD019-008004 – Motte & Bailey

This structure was believed to have been erected by the de Herefords in the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries but no contemporary references survive. In the extent of 1540 it is referred to as “a small mountain surrounded by a dry ditch, on which the capital messuage of the manor was situated, and where the court Baron is still held, when the turn for it comes” (White 1943, 39). The structure is situated SE of the village and although very overgrown, its basic structure remains very much intact. The site consists of a tree covered mound, enclosed by a ditch with slight counterscarp bank, and a bailey on the NW. The Kill River flows through the remains of the ditch on the SW perimeter. The motte is a round conical mound 12m high which affords extensive views on all sides except the East where it is overlooked by Kill hill. It tapers from its basal dimensions of 59m (N-S) by 45m (E-W) to the summit, which measures 21m (N-S) by 20m (E-W), and contains a deep depression. The external ditch is 8.5m wide and has a depth of 3m below the top of the counterscarp bank.

The sub-rectangular bailey measures 57m (E-W) by 20m (N-S), and is enclosed by a bank and a ditch. It declines in slope from E to W, and is enclosed by a bank on the NW, N and NE, which averages 1.5m in height and 2m in width. On the NW and N there is a drop of about 3m to a stream which runs into the river, while on the NE there is a drop of about 2m to a triangular platform. There is a small conical mound, 4.5m in diameter, immediately South of the motte.

4.2 Previous Excavations

In May 1997 a programme of archaeological testing was carried out close to the Motte and Bailey for which this report was prepared. A series of five trenches were mechanically opened, in all cases dug to reveal the underlying natural deposits. Two trenches were cut at the southern boundary of the site between the proposed development and the motte. Another trench was cut on the western boundary of the site, which is closest to the probable line of the ecclesiastical enclosure. A subsequent trench was cut in the northern part of the site, parallel to the main road, to investigate the possibility of traces of manorial settlement, while the final trench was cut in the central area of the site. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in the southern trenches closest to the motte, although there was some evidence for field drains. In the eastern trench, two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, while the northern trench also yielded sherds of medieval pottery.

From February to August 1998 archaeological monitoring was carried out at near the environs of an archaeological complex at the site of a housing development at Killhill, Kill, Co. Kildare. The development site lies just outside the zone of archaeological potential for Kill and is surrounded by several other archaeological sites. A large enclosure, SMR 20:1, encompasses the base of Killhill, which is situated a short distance to the east of the development site. Monitoring was conducted of topsoil-stripping within the housing area and of trench digging for the laying of service pipes from the housing development into the centre of Kill village. During monitoring of the pipeline no archaeological features or artefacts were noted. Topsoil was stripped just to the surface of the natural over an area of approximately twelve acres. No archaeological features were identified. Several fragments of burnt bone and a few tiny fragments of charcoal were found during the course of soil-stripping, but in no instance did any of these appear to be associated with structural features within the ground. Several of the bone fragments appeared to derive from a relatively localised area within the general site. On this basis, and as an added precaution, the reduction of levels into the natural for the creation of a roadway through this area was also monitored. This linear strip was treated as a test-trench, and its sides and base were inspected. No features of archaeological significance were noted within the trench. Another test-trench, inserted through an apparently disturbed area, also failed to reveal evidence of archaeological material. Several fragments of flint were also found during the course of soil-stripping. These mainly comprised unworked pieces, but two represented struck flakes and one appeared to represent a core from which flakes had been struck. A single sherd of medieval pottery was found.

In 1998 archaeological monitoring was carried out on the gas pipeline trench mechanically excavated along Main Street and the Glendara Estate. The Glendara Estate lies in the vicinity of a

motte and bailey. The trench, on average 1000mm deep and 40mm wide, was laid along the southern side of Main Street, with the exception of the site of the bridge over the Kill River, where the pipe trench was diverted to the northern side of the street. Throughout the course of monitoring, both in the Main Street and in the Glendara Estate, no archaeological features or artefacts came to light. However, it should be noted that in the Urban Archaeology Survey it is recorded that two sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery were picked up by Survey staff in a cutting opposite the Parochial House, i.e. on the south side of the street adjacent to the bridge over the Kill River.

In July 1999 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at a proposed development site at Main Street, Kill, Co. Kildare. The site is within the boundaries of the urban area of archaeological potential for Kill and to the immediate east of the site of the medieval parish church. Six trenches were mechanically excavated within the confines of the site. No features or structures of archaeological interest were uncovered. Two sherds of probable medieval pottery were recovered from the disturbed topsoil, and it was recommended that no further archaeological involvement at the site was required.

In 2003 at Site No. 1 at Kill Hill, Co. Kildare, was identified during centre-line testing for the N7 Naas Road Widening and Interchanges Scheme (No. 930 above, 03E1265) in August 2003. The site was fully excavated in November 2003. It was situated at the base of a slope to the north of Kill Hill, a Bronze Age enclosure. It was identified with three others in Kill Hill townland, two of which were also Bronze Age ritual sites, which with this one formed a line running roughly east–west.

The site was first identified as a series of pits arranged in arcs to form two broken concentric rings. The pits were charcoal-rich and contained fragments of burnt bone. An area measuring approximately 30m by 30m was stripped of topsoil around the features and a circular ditch enclosing the pits was evident.

The ditch enclosed an area of c. 8m in diameter and was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep on average. In the interior, seven pits were arranged in arcs to form two concentric broken circles with a maximum diameter of about 6.5m. The pits were shallow and contained burnt bone and charcoal and one contained a piece of misshapen glass, which, prior to specialist analysis, appears to be the result of some intensive burning. Burnt bone was also recovered from the ditch. At some stage the ditch was re-cut with a narrower ditch. Preliminary analysis suggests that this site was a Bronze Age burial site.

In 2003 at Site No. 2 at Kill Hill, Co. Kildare, was identified during centre-line testing for the N7 Naas Road Widening and Interchanges Scheme (No. 930 above, 03E1265) in August 2003. The site was fully excavated in November 2003. The site was situated at the base of a slope to the north of Kill Hill, a Bronze Age enclosure. It was identified with three others in Kill Hill townland, two of which were also Bronze Age ritual sites, which with this one formed a line running roughly east–west.

The site was first identified as a sub circular penannular ditch filled with striking whitish-grey silty clay. The cut of the ditch was narrow, 0.33–0.47m wide, enclosing an area of 7m in diameter with terminals to the east. The ditch cut splayed to its widest at both terminals and left an uncut width of c. 2m between the two.

An area measuring approximately 30m by 30m was stripped of topsoil around the feature and a post-medieval stone field drain was the only other feature revealed in the vicinity. The ditch fill contained no finds and was, on average, 0.2m deep. There were no features recorded within the circular ditch. On preliminary analysis, considered in relation to the other two features excavated in the vicinity, this feature appears to be a Bronze Age ritual site.

In 2003 at Site No. 3 at Kill Hill, Co. Kildare, was identified during centre-line testing for the N7 Naas Road Widening and Interchanges Scheme (No. 930 above, 03E1265) in August 2003. It was fully excavated in November 2003. The site was situated on a north-west-facing slope, north of Kill Hill, a Bronze Age enclosure. It was identified with three other sites in Kill Hill townland, all of which are, on preliminary analysis, of Bronze Age date.

The site was identified as a ribbon of burnt clay encircling an oval of redeposited natural subsoil with infrequent charcoal flecking. Excavation revealed that this was a shallow pit (0.2m deep by c. 1m long), roughly figure-of-eight in shape and oriented north-west/south-east. It was cut into natural subsoil. The more north-westerly of the ovals of the figure-of-eight was the larger, and it also had the more consistent concave base. The primary fill was a layer of red burnt clay 50–60mm thick. This deposit lined the cut on both base and sides, so that it appeared in pre-excavation plan as a ribbon encircling the redeposited natural.

The south-eastern oval had a depression at the base of the cut to the south-easternmost part of the feature. The depression was c. 0.35 in diameter and 0.15m in depth, and might have been the repository of a set of bellows. On preliminary analysis, the feature appears to be a form of kiln, of uncertain date.

In 2003 at Site No. 4 at Kill Hill, Co. Kildare, was identified during centre-line testing for the N7 Naas Road Widening and Interchanges Scheme (No. 930 above, 03E1265) in August 2003. It was fully excavated in November 2003. The site was situated at the base of a slope to the north of Kill Hill, a Bronze Age enclosure. It was identified with three others in Kill Hill townland, two of which were also Bronze Age ritual sites, which with this one formed a line running roughly east–west.

The site was first identified as an amorphous pit with a charcoal-rich fill. An area measuring 15m by 15m was stripped of topsoil by machine around the site and it was revealed to be a roughly circular ditch enclosing several pits. The circular ditch enclosed an area 6.3m in diameter in which six pits were recorded, five of which cut natural inside the ditch and one of which cut the ditch itself. Five of the pits contained burnt bone. The pits were sub circular and measured c. 0.5–0.8m in diameter. The central or primary pit had been disturbed by a secondary burial, which was represented by an undecorated cinerary urn lying on its side. There were some sherds of pottery from a different pot to the urn recovered from the fill of the secondary burial.

Two pits were recorded just inside the ditch, one of which contained the base of a pottery vessel. Token deposits of bone lined the edges of the cut of the ditch. The fifth pit, which contained burnt bone as well as an unburnt animal tooth, cut the ditch to the north and was the amorphous charcoal spread noted earlier. Finds of both burnt and unburnt bone were recovered from the ditch. Four post-holes were recorded in a roughly square configuration, cutting both the ditch and the natural subsoil in the interior. One of these contained a small deposit of burnt bone.

Preliminary analysis indicates that this feature was a Bronze Age burial site, possibly the truncated remains of a cemetery mound or of a small flat cemetery. Further information will be available for the site following specialist analysis and dating of the pottery and the cremated bone.

4.3 Cartographic Sources

The 1st Edition of the OS maps (c.1838) depicts the small townland of Kill Hill as comprising of 223 acres of patchwork fields dominated by the low circular hill. The hill is roughly 600m in diameter and is enclosed by a circular series of boundary ditches which survive today. A portion of a second inner enclosing ditch is also marked on the map. The motte and bailey and one enclosure site are clearly marked to the west of the hill. No other features of historical or archaeological interest are depicted. The 25" version records some additional detail with the bailey, one enclosure site marked and a portion of a second enclosure clearly marked. Some quarrying activity has taken place along the western flank of Kill Hill. No other features of historical or archaeological interest are depicted.

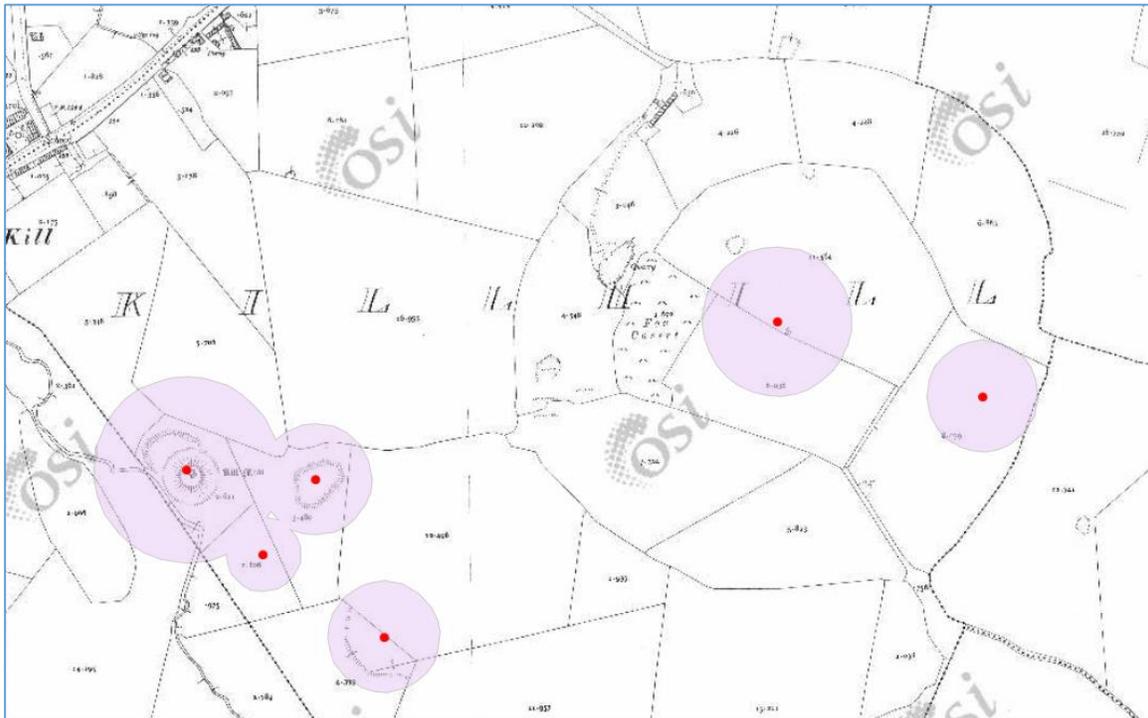


Figure 7 25" Ordnance Survey Map, Kill, County Kildare

5 Site Topography and Development

A site inspection was carried out on the 29th August to examine the current state of the development area and to ensure that no surface anomalies indicative of archaeological remains were present. The development area measures roughly 490m N/S by 145m E/W and has a gentle slope from E/W. It is divided into three fields under pasture and separated by mature hedgerows. The site is bounded to the west by a modern housing estate and to the east by the curving field boundary along the base of Kill Hill. A new school occupies the north end of the site with further fields to the south (Plates 1 – 3). During the field inspection no surface anomalies within the footprint of the proposed development were noted.

Kill Hill to the east of the development area consists of a low, domed hill (OD 120-153m) on the W-edge of rising ground which climbs gently E to the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, and overlooks lower tillage and pasture to the W. Two widely spaced (av. Wth c. 120m), concentric, hedged, earthen banks generally follow two contours to enclose the hill. The lower, outer enclosure is complete (est. diam. c. 570m). The inner enclosure (est. diam. c. 350m) survives WSW-NW-NNE, and while an aerial photograph (GSI N384) shows the crop marks of fosses completing the circuit NNE-S-WSW, no visible surface trace of these features was located in the heavy vegetation covering parts of the interior of the monument. The interior was subdivided by later field boundaries radiating between the two enclosing elements, some of which, at NW, have since been levelled.

Revised Residential Development Plan 2017

Following the pre-application consultation with Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanála in 2017, the development plan was amended to include the following changes;

- a) The proposed development will consist of 130 residential units
- b) The crèche has been removed from the proposed development
- c) A revised block and public open space structure to engage better with Kill Hill
- d) The recommended buffer zone of 10m has been maintained and the applicant has provided an additional 3m offset from this zone
- e) The typology of houses has been rationalized to provide a better range of dwellings; this includes complying with Kildare County Council's housing department requirements
- f) A tree survey and ecological report will be submitted as part of the application
- g) The revised proposal includes opinions on a landscape strategy that should differentiate between the area adjacent to Kill Hill which is envisioned as a somewhat 'wild' area, with a strategy that should include leaving the existing hedgerow and its integral ecology intact
- h) The revised proposal includes opinions on a landscape strategy for how Kill Hill and the area under Preservation Order can be developed as a heritage amenity for Kill village

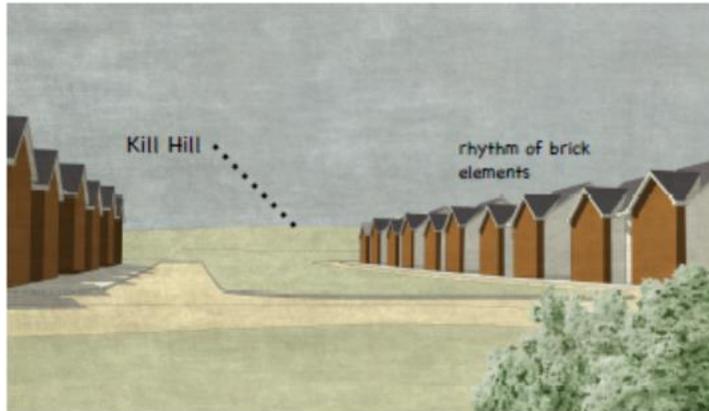
- i) A photomontage has been created and included in this report to illustrate the visual impact of the development with regard to Kill Hill (see section 7).



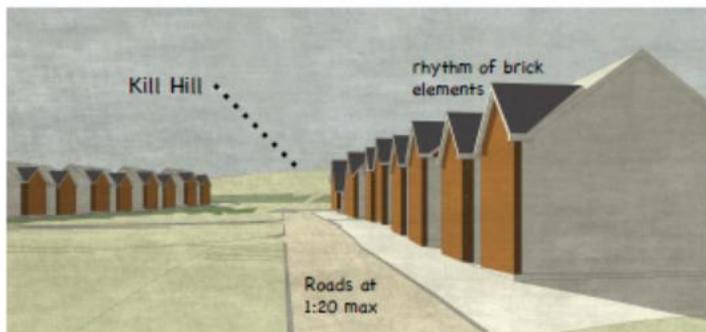
Figure 8. Revised Plan of Proposed Development, Kill, County Kildare

6 Development Montage

These three images show the three main public spaces. Each space is clearly addressed by the houses and yet they have a strong visual connection to Kill Hill. This gives the development a sense of place.



To North of the site, (traversed by pylons)



Centre of site



To the steep south end of site,

7 Discussion and Recommendations

7.1 Assessment Results

The revised assessment has highlighted the archaeological significance of the area to the immediate east of Kill village. The area is dominated by hilltop enclosures on Kill Hill, the motte and bailey to the west, several other enclosure sites and a *fulacht fiadh* close to the banks of the Kill River. Previous excavations in the immediate area have also uncovered domestic and funerary remains believed to date to the Bronze Age. These findings are further supported by the results of the 2005 test excavation which identified prehistoric remains close to the base of the hill similar to those found elsewhere; pits, stakeholes/postholes, deposits of scorched clay and charcoal spreads (Plates 4 & 5). The presence of considerable Bronze Age activity in the area would suggest that the enclosure site on Kill Hill may also date to this period.

7.2 Impact of Proposed Development

- The proposed development will not impact any upstanding archaeological monuments. The motte and bailey (SMR 19:8) and enclosure (SMR 19:10) are outside the boundaries of the development site to the south and south west. The archaeological complex on Kill Hill (KDO20-001) to the east will also not be directly impacted.
- The proposed development will consist of a medium scale housing estate and ancillary works which will involve significant ground works during the construction phase. The archaeological material uncovered during the 2005 test excavation will be directly impacted by the proposed development works.
- The recommended buffer zone of 10m has been maintained and the applicant has provided an additional 3m offset from this zone. A southern buffer zone of 20m has also been included in the development plan and has been provided by the applicant.
- The area to the south subject to a Preservation Order will not be affected by the proposed
- The development area has been zoned for residential housing under the 2017 Kildare County Council Small Town Development Plan. The recommendations contained within the unpublished 2004 Archaeological Assessment Report for Kill Village and Environs have not been incorporated into the 2017 Development Plan.
- The proposed development plan has been revised following pre-planning consultations with Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanála. The recommendations relating to archaeology have been included in this revised report.
- The visual impact on Kill Hill and Environs has been reduced by the redesign of the development including; extended public open spaces redistributed to open up vistas to Kill Hill and increased buffer zones to protect the archaeological integrity of the site complex. Additional reports on trees and ecology will be submitted as part of this application.
- Opinions regarding the development of Kill Hill and adjacent archaeological complex (subject to preservation order) as a local amenity will also be included as part of this submission.

7.3 Recommendations

- The Construction Management Plan should be reviewed and assessed by a suitably qualified archaeologist as per the recommendation by An Bord Pleanála
- The archaeologist shall aid the applicant in establishing and maintaining a buffer zone in excess of the recommended 10m buffer zone around the external perimeter of the Recorded Monument RMP No KD 020-001 Kill Hill hilltop enclosure to the east of the development, and a minimum 20m buffer from the southern boundary of the site (adjacent to RMP No's KD 019:010 Enclosure site. 019 057 Enclosure/Possible ringfort site; 020:001 Hilltop Enclosure/Possible Hill fort and two other Monuments within the Zone of Archaeological Potential KD 019.008{01} - the medieval Motte and Bailey, and an associated burial mound/tumulus).
- The establishment of these buffer zones shall be confirmed with the department prior to works commencing at the site
- All archaeological deposits/features recorded during test excavation at the site in December 2005 shall be fully archaeologically planned, photographed and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist under Licence to the Department. All such archaeological features/deposits shall be excavated according to best practice and the archaeologist shall halt works on site where significant additional archaeological remains are discovered during the course of excavation at the site. In such circumstances extension by way of addenda to the existing archaeological method statement for excavation and/or preservation in situ may be required and agreed with this Department.
- The archaeologist shall also monitor all removal of topsoil/groundworks associated with this development. Should archaeological material be found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist may have work on the site stopped pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology, (e.g. preservation in-situ, or excavation). The Department will advise on these matters.

The recommendations contained within this report are subject to the approval of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Local Authority who may issue additional or alternative recommendations.

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Plate 1. View of Development Field Adjacent to New School



Plate 2. View of North End of Development Area Looking South East