



APPENDIX 4

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



**FINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
REPORT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE
TRIOGUE WAY, BORRIS LITTLE AND MARYBOROUGH
TOWNLANDS, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS**

Authors: Colm Flynn and Marcin Sawicki

Client: Laois County Council

Archaeological Licence: N/A

Date: December 2023

ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment for the Triogue Way Project, Portlaoise.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	4
2.0 The proposed development.....	6
3.0 Location	10
4.0 Archaeological and historical background.....	10
4.1 Record of Monuments and Places	16
4.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Protected Structures.....	17
4.3 Excavations.....	18
4.4 Townlands Names	19
4.5 Topographic Files	19
4.6 County Development Plan.....	20
5.0 Site inspection	21
6.0 Archaeological impact assessment results	24
7.0 Conclusion and recommendations	25
Bibliography	26

List of Figures

Figure 1 Showing location of proposed Triogue Way (purple), and the archaeological zone of notification for the Historic Town of Portlaoise LA013-041 (red) (source <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/>).

Figure 2 Showing May layout No 1 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

Figure 3 Showing May layout No 2 of proposed Triogue Way Project

Figure 4 Showing Map layout No 3 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

Figure 5 Showing Map layout No 4 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

Figure 6 Showing Map layout No 5 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

Figure 7 Showing Map layout No 6 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

Figure 8 Showing location of proposed Triogue Way, after Laois Co Co.

Figure 9 Extract of map of Fort Protector (LA013-041001) (dating to circa 1560).

Figure 10 Annotated extract from 1st edition 6" to a mile scale Ordnance Survey map of the study area. Proposed development in purple.

Figure 11 Annotated extract from 1st edition 25" to a mile scale OS map of Portlaoise.

Figure 12 Showing typical section through Triogue Way Project, Portlaoise (after Laois Co Co).

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

List of tables

Table 1 RMP sites within study area.

Table 2 NIAH sites and Protected Structures within study area

Table 3. Excavation exercises within study area.

Table 4 List of known stray fids from the proposed development area.

List of Plates

Plate 1 The People's Park entrance.

Plate 2 Bridge Street Entrance.

Plate 3 Rankin's Wood Entrance.

Plate 4 Millbrook Entrance.

Plate 5 Existing pathway.

Plate 6 Greenmill Entrance.

Plate 7 Existing bicycle rack and path in People's Park.

Plate 8 Existing park bridge crossing Triogue River.

Plate 9 Park bridge crossing Triogue River.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

1.0 Introduction

This Archaeological Impact Assessment Report has been completed by Colm Flynn and Marcin Sawicki of Horizon Archaeology Ltd in relation to a proposed new Triogue Way Project, Portlaoise Co. Laois.

This report examines the construction effects of the proposed new Triogue Way Project, based on desktop research (non-invasive methods). The report assesses the existing archaeological and historical background of the receiving environment, and examines the proposed development, and establishes if this activity will likely result in any impact on known or unknown (subterranean) archaeology.

The archaeological work outlined in this report has been completed in advance of a planning publication by Laois County Council regarding this project.

This report has been prepared according to the following documents:

- Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAHG, 1999).
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA 2002, 2003, 2017, 2022).

Any impacts that the proposed development of the Triogue Way Project may have on the existing archaeology were assessed as direct or indirect, and positive or negative in nature. The significance of any impact was judged depending on whether the impact was to the entirety or a portion of an archaeological site, or archaeological feature. Each impact was classified according to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines (2022) as set out below:

- **Profound:** this applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove the adverse effects. These profound impacts arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- **Significant:** this applies when an impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the archaeological feature/site. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site.
- **Moderate:** this applies when a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- **Slight:** this applies when the proposed works will result in an impact which causes changes in the character of the archaeology which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.
- **Imperceptible:** this applies when the proposed development will have an impact on the archaeology capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
- **Uncertain:** this applies when the extent or nature of possible impacts on archaeological is unknown. This is particularly relevant where the extent of the known archaeology within the proposed development area has not been established.

The research that forms the basis of this report is influenced by the publications and the files of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Urban Archaeological Survey of Laois (Bradley et al 1984), and the Archaeological Inventory of County

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

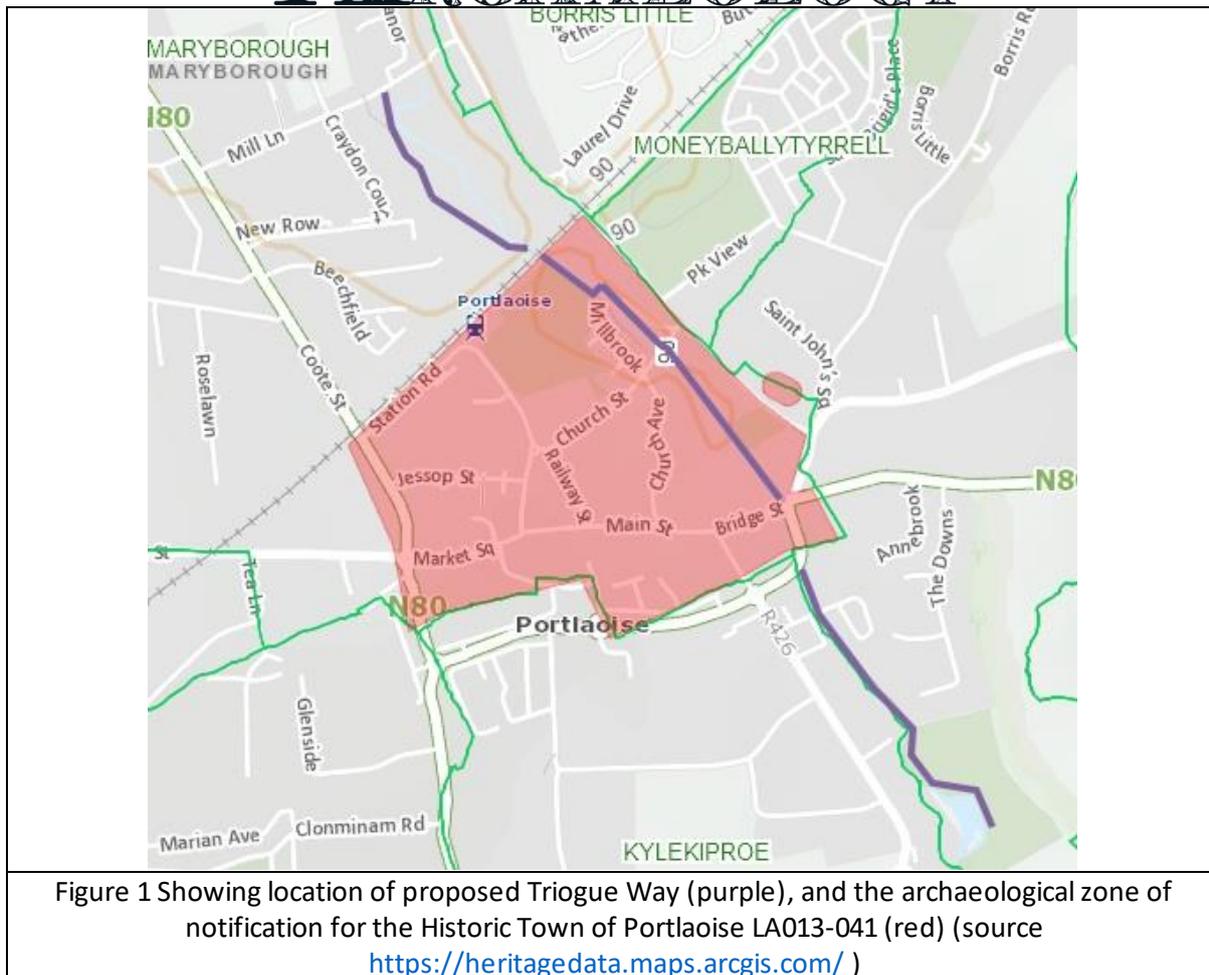
Laois (Sweetman et al 1995). Recommendations are contained within this report to ameliorate any impact the proposed development of the new development may have on the archaeological heritage.

The archaeological assessment concludes that the proposed development does not directly impact on any known archaeology. The development is partly situated within the archaeological zone of notification (shown on Figure 1) for a known archaeological site that is contained in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and are therefore protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2014). This known archaeological site is the Historic Town of Portlaoise RMP No LA013-041. There are a number of other known archaeological sites in the wider vicinity of the proposed development.

Much of the development site and its environs have been subject to previous ground disturbance activities, related to the construction of existing 20th century buildings and infrastructure. No buildings are located within the development area. The extant structures within the development area comprise walls and paths and are modern, and are not of archaeological heritage value. The project will see some localised ground disturbance activities for widening of paths. It is possible that the development area contains subterranean (unknown) archaeological features and artefacts. Therefore, the following archaeological mitigation measures are recommended.

- Archaeological monitoring of any groundworks for the Triogue Way which are within the zone of notification for the Historic Town of Portlaoise (LA013-041), is recommended. This archaeological monitoring should take place following correspondence with the NMS, and under archaeological licence issued by the NMS.
- Should archaeological material be identified as a result of the works, further archaeological mitigation measures may be required.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



2.0 The proposed development

The proposed development of the Triogue Way Project will see the improvement works and upgrading of pedestrian and cycle facilities for a new linear park, situated along the banks of Triogue river, Portlaoise, County Laois. The development area constitutes both greenfield parklands, and brownfield lands that comprise existing 20th century buildings and infrastructure. The proposed development is linear in plan and measures circa 1355m, comprising of 3m wide cycle/pedestrian paths with associated infrastructure. The development, inter alia, will consist of the following construction elements:

- Widening of the existing foot paths.
- Removal of existing trees and hedgerow.
- Instalment of public lighting.
- Instalment of new gates.
- Relocation of existing utility poles.
- Breaking openings in existing boundary walls.
- Instalments of bicycle racks.
- Instalment of railing.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

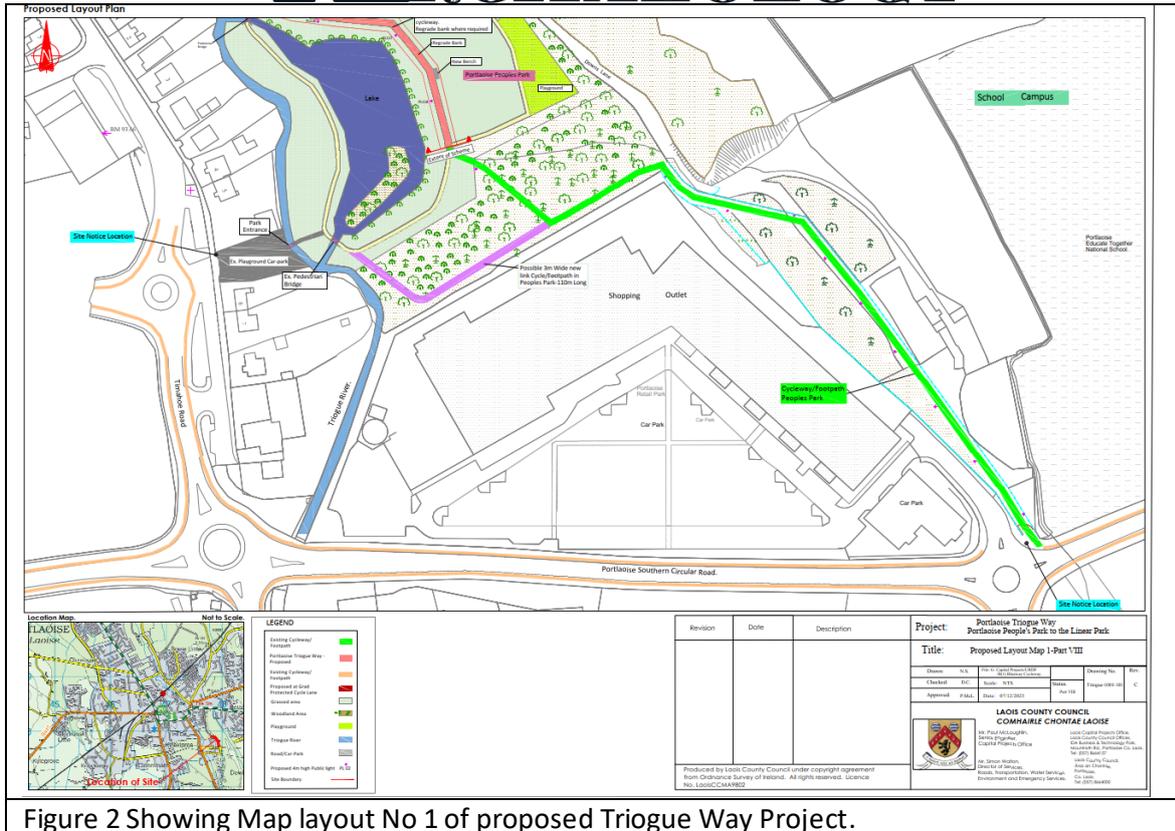


Figure 2 Showing Map layout No 1 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

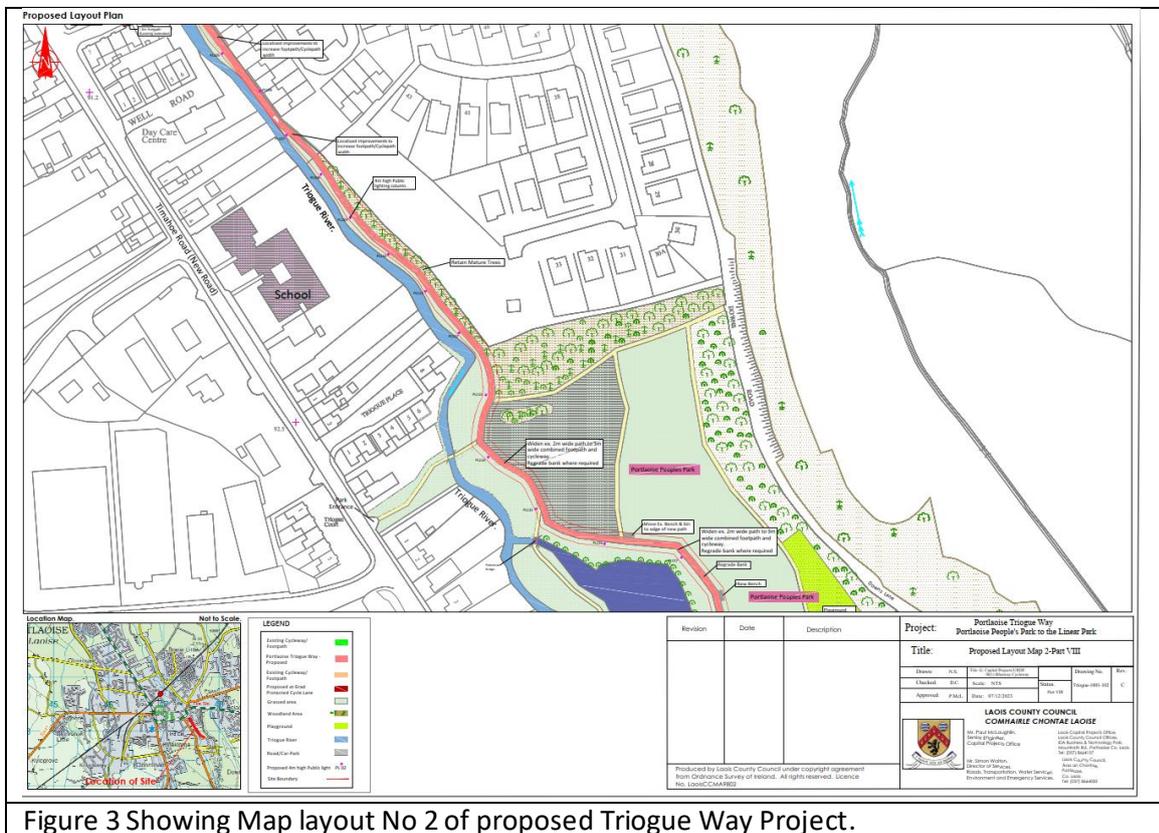


Figure 3 Showing Map layout No 2 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

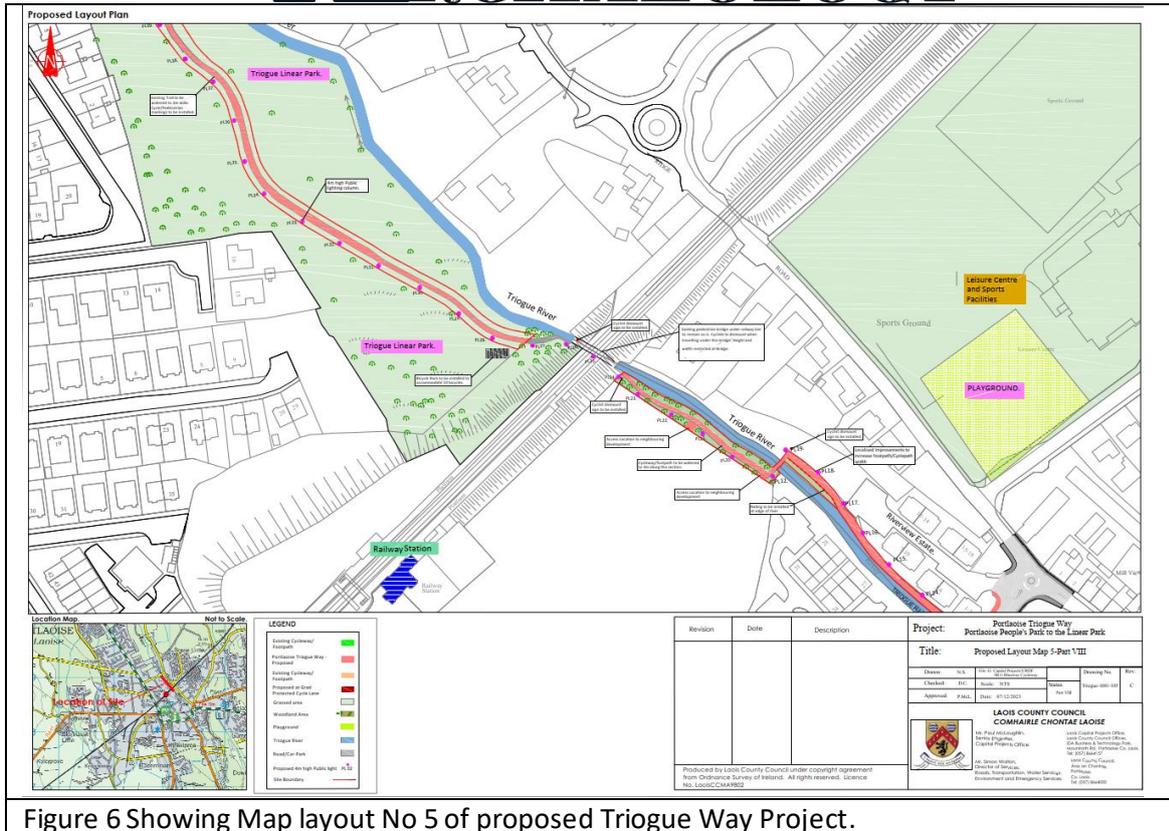


Figure 6 Showing Map layout No 5 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

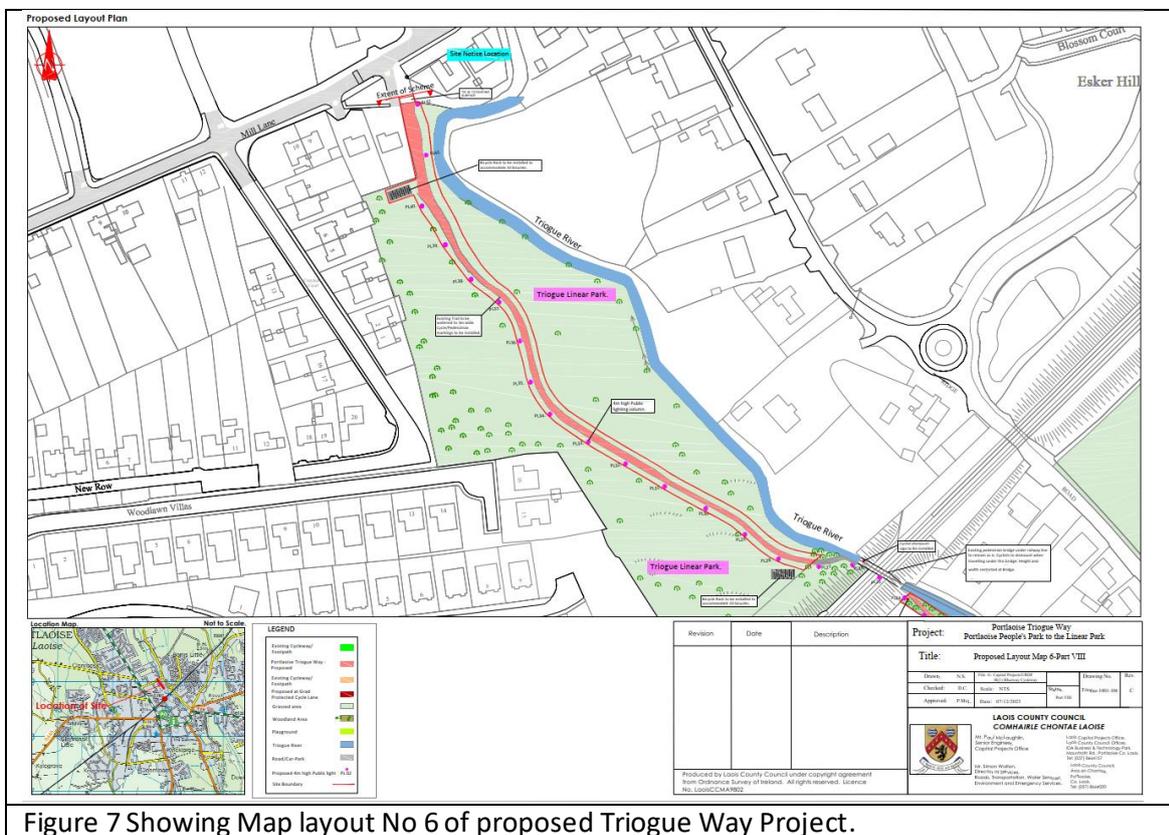


Figure 7 Showing Map layout No 6 of proposed Triogue Way Project.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

January 1967 in a shallow pit in a gravel ridge called Knocknashee. The hoard consisted of a wide range of objects that included tools and personal decorative items. It is a highly significant archaeological find as it shows that there were direct contacts between Ireland and Denmark during the Later Bronze Age. The hoard itself can be dated to the Dowris Phase of the Later Irish Bronze Age between 800 and 700BC. There are a considerable number of archaeological remains in County Laois from later prehistory such as early Bronze Age cists and urn burials, standing stones and tumuli of probable Bronze Age date. Ringbarrows/ring ditches from the Bronze/Iron Age are also recorded near Portlaoise. There is a concentration of ring-barrows on the Heath, and an important Iron Age ring-ditch complex was excavated in 1995 at Ballydavis to the northeast of Portlaoise.

Early medieval (500-1169 AD)

The early medieval period in Ireland is depicted in the surviving sources as entirely rural characterised by the basic territorial unit known as túath. Walsh (2000, 30) estimates that there were at least 100, and perhaps as many as 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own túath. The most common and widely distributed monument type found during the early medieval period in Ireland (c. 400-c. 1100AD) is the ringfort. An average ringfort consists of a circular, oval, D-shaped or sub-circular area enclosed by one or more banks of earth, stones, drystone walls or a combination of earth and stones. They are generally regarded as enclosed homesteads that afforded their inhabitants and their livestock protection from cattle-raiders and wild animals. Several enclosures and ringforts / raths are known from the surrounding area of the proposed project along the banks of Triogue River. An enclosure (LA013-042) is situated 500m to the north of the proposed works in Borris Little townland. An enclosure (LA013-044) is situated 700m to the east of the proposed works in Ballyroan townland. A ringfort (LA013-045) is situated 500m to the east of the proposed works in Belaad townland.

Medieval (1169-1550 AD)

The arrival of Anglo-Normans in Ireland towards the end of the 12th century caused great changes during the following century. Large numbers of colonists arrived from England and Wales and established towns and villages. They brought with them new methods of agriculture which facilitated an intensification of production. Surplus foods were exported to markets all along Atlantic Europe which created great wealth and economic growth. Results of this wealth can be seen in the landscape in the form of stone castles, churches and monasteries. A possible medieval church site (LA013-102) and graveyard site (LA013-102001) are situated in Maryborough townland 100m to the northeast of the proposed Triogue Way.

A possible tower house castle (LA013-041005) is incorporated into the fabric of Presentation Convent, Church Avenue, Portlaoise, approximately 65m to the west of the proposed Triogue Way. The tower house castle is possibly the earliest surviving archaeological masonry structure in Portlaoise.

Post medieval (1550-1700)

Before the Tudors came to the throne the kings of England, the various lords who ruled in Ireland were largely left to themselves. The Tudor conquest however brought a much greater interest in the affairs of Ireland. They wanted to put a stop to the raids of the Gaelic Irish on areas under English rule. To do this, they ruthlessly put down any rebellions and even quashed inter-tribal feuds. English settlers were then brought in to settle their lands. The first of these plantations occurred in the mid-16th century in

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

what is now Laois and Offaly. It was during this 16th century plantation of Laois that Fort Protector was constructed. The fort, initially referred to as 'campa' and then Fort Protector or the Fort of Maryborough, was constructed to cement English control of the passage from Munster, through Laois, to Dublin. However, it is unclear why the exact location of Portlaoise was chosen to establish the new fort and town by the English. The siting of the new fort on the edge of a high gravel ridge (Escair Riada) with good agricultural land and a water source (Triogue River) would have been significant factors in consideration. The location of the fort almost equidistant between the Slieve Blooms to the northwest, and the Killone Hills and Castlecomer Plateau to the south, may also have been important, thus affording the inhabitants of the fort control over passage from Ossory and Ormond to the south, towards Dublin to the northeast. However, the near absence of pre-existing Gaelic or Anglo-Irish (Old English) sites in the vicinity is curious, as it questions the strategic significance of the location prior to the establishment of the fort.

The fort was erected as part of an attempt by the English to subdue the native Irish territories of the O'Connors and the O' Mores during the reign of Edward VI. According to the Annals of The Four Masters, in 1548 both O'Connor and O' More were taken to England and their lands were subsequently granted to the Marshall of Ireland, Francis Bryan. Bryan built a large 'campa' at Portlaoise. This 'campa', known to the English as 'the Fort of Leix' or 'Fort Protector', was renamed Maryborough in 1556 in honour of Queen Mary. A map of the fort dating to c. 1560 shows that it had attracted settlers and a small walled town had been built up around it (see Figure 4). However, it is unclear if the town as depicted on the map was built, or if this was a plan for future works. This map depicts a millrace along the eastern side of Fort Protector. It does not depict the Triogue river in its current location. A town wall is depicted roughly in the location of the Triogue.

In 1592 the right to collect murage was granted to the town and the burgomaster was granted permission to 'erect, build and fortify the borough with ditches and stone walls' (Thomas 1992). This indicates that the walls may not have been completed as shown on the 1560 map.

The 1556 Plantation of Laois under Queen Mary ordered that a church be built in every town within three years of the towns forming (O'Hanlon and O'Leary, p. 436). Maryborough was granted a market in 1567, borough status in 1569 and was incorporated by charter in 1570 by Elizabeth I. The population of the town increased during this time as is evidenced by the Fiants record which show a high number of property grants in Maryborough between 1569 and 1571. It is not clear why Portlaoise was chosen as the principal town of the new shire in 1556. It is possible that it was built on the site of the Newtown of Leys and that some sort of hamlet might have lingered into the sixteenth century. This would help to explain the name of the parish, which is Borris, and is almost certainly derived from a medieval borough (Bradley, p 49). A reference in 1598 to the vicar of Maryborough named David Good, is the earliest historical reference to the existence of a church at Maryborough (ibid, p 53). The medieval town consisted of a walled town (LA013-041006) that enclosed a large settlement, with a plantation castle (Fort Protector, LA013-041001) in the centre, and a tower house castle (LA013-041003), St. Peters Church (LA013-041002) and graveyard (LA013-041004), and a mill (LA013-041005).

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

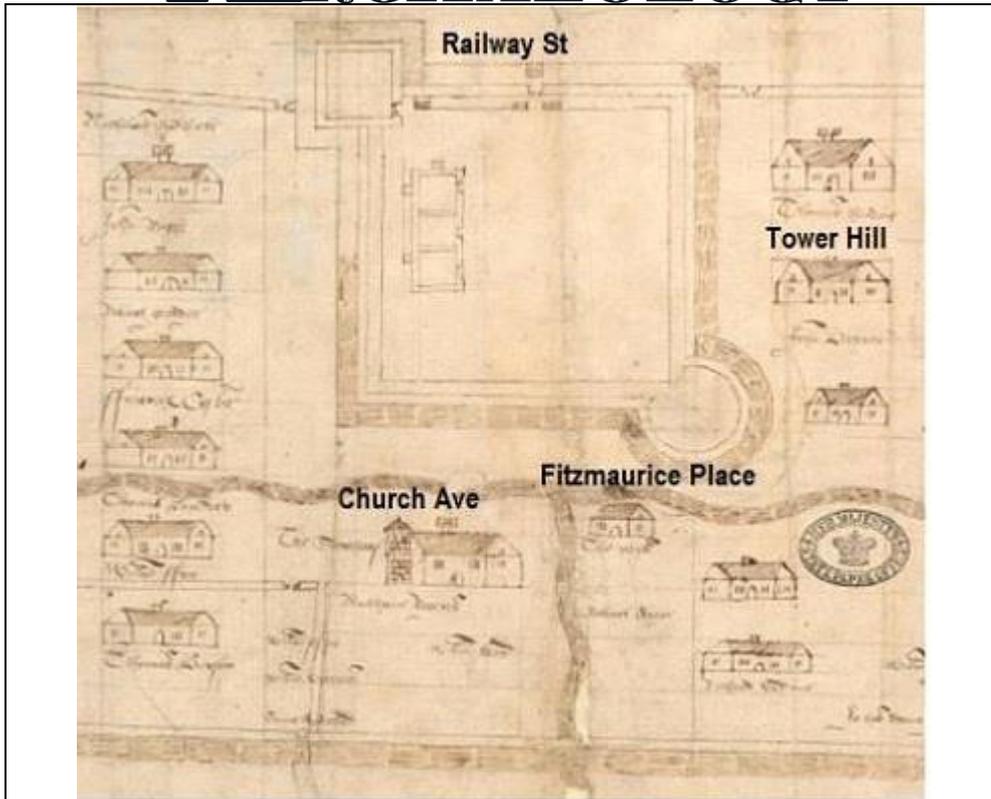


Figure 9 Extract of map of Fort Protector (LA013-041001) (dating to circa 1560).

In 1635 Charles I granted the corporation of Maryborough the right to hold two fairs where produce from across the county could be sold and traded. The destruction of the Fort by Cromwellian forces in 1650 signalled a major change, and from then onwards the town functioned primarily as the administrative centre of the county, and as a garrison and market centre (Parsons, p 3; Feehan, p 395). Anecdotal evidence indicates that an external ditch partly filled with water was situated outside at least some of the town's wall. Recent excavations by the author (archaeological licence 18E0339) along Church Street and at Fitzmaurice Place, have identified this backfilled ditch. This ditch was backfilled when its defensive function became obsolete in the 18th century (Bradley et al., p 52). Substantial parts of the Fort's defences are intact including the north, east and south walls, a section of the north end of the west wall and the circular tower at the northeast corner survive (ibid).

The Civil Survey of Ireland (1655-59) is a survey of the towns and villages of Ireland, conducted following the religious wars of the 1640's. The gentry recorded for the 'Towne and liberties of Maryborrough' in the Civil Survey and Pender Census are John Partridge, Edward Bolton, Edward Wattkins, William Baker, Edward Nickolls, Bryan Byrne, and John Roades. The population of Maryborough is listed as 1869 people, comprising 231 English and 1638 Irish (Simington, 1939 pxvii). The principal Irish names and their numbers are listed as Byrne, 13; Bergin, 23; McBryan, 3; Bryan, 4; Brenan, 10; Burke, 4; Bryne, 5; Brohy, 8; Bredan, 11; Carroll, 13; Conner, 4; Conrahy, 13; Cashin, 8; Costigin, 10; Carrolan, 6; Cody, 5; Crooke, 6; Divoy, 14; McDaniell, 4; Daniell, 4; Dullany, 46; Dullyne, 8; Dun, 25; Dooling, 8; Dowling, 7; Dowley, 5; Dowgan, 5; McEvoy, 40; Felan, 29; Fyinn, 7; Fitzgerrold, 5; McGilfoyle, 4; Higgin, 4; Keygin, 5; Kelly, 29; Kynyn, 11; Kenedy, 4; Lawler, 57; Larissy, 5; Moore, 11; Mulchaell, 6; Neale, 5; O Neale, 2; Piggott, 5; Fitzpatrick, 12; Roe, 5; McShane, 4; Tynan, 6; Tehan, 4; Tobin, 4; and Wailsh, 15 (Pender, Irish Manuscripts Commission).

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Early Modern (1700-1900)

Queen Anne ascended the throne in 1702 and continued the policy of consolidating the 'Protestant interest' in Ireland through the Penal Laws. Her Act of 1704 established a requirement for the registration of 'Popish Clergy'. In 1713 an order was passed in the Irish House of Commons that the 'the Sergeant-at-Arms should take into custody all Papists that come into the galleries'. In 1719 a Bill was enacted that prevented anyone married to a Catholic wife from holding any Government Office. Notwithstanding the Penal Laws, following the tumultuous and violent events of the seventeenth century in Ireland, the relative stability of the early eighteenth century allowed for a period of growth in Portlaoise and an increase in economic activity. Portlaoise remained a focal point of trade and commerce for the county, with agricultural produce and cotton forming the drivers of this economic growth. The Cromwellian policy of seizing land from Confederate supporters and the subsequent redistribution of land at the Court of Claims in the early 1700's saw the arrival of new landed families in Laois. The diminishing risk of rebellion encouraged both public and private investment and improvement projects. The new landed families invested in industry and cotton and corn mills were established in Portlaoise. The first edition Ordnance Survey maps of Portlaoise (1830's) depict a 'flour mill' at Church Ave. The third edition Ordnance Survey maps of Portlaoise (circa 1900) depict a 'corn mill' at Church Ave. The civil administration invested in civic buildings and road and rail construction throughout Ireland, thus encouraging trade and commerce. An RIC barracks was constructed within the interior of Fort Protector (off Tower Hill) circa 1700. The new courthouse was constructed on Main St, circa 1805. The county gaol was built in Portlaoise (Church St) in 1750. A new county gaol and house of correction was built on the Dublin Rd circa 1830. A military barracks (Portlaoise Garda Station, Abbeyleix Rd) was constructed circa 1800. The county infirmary was built in Portlaoise (Dublin Rd) circa 1808. The 'District Lunatic Asylum' (St. Fintan's Hospital, Dublin Rd) was built circa 1800. This facility catered for the population of Laois, Offaly, Westmeath and Longford. The Dublin to Portlaoise rail line was completed in 1847.

Catholic Emancipation in 1827 allowed for construction of new Catholic churches and schools. The Presentation Sisters Convent, Church Ave, was constructed circa 1830. St. Mary's Christian Brother School (primary), Church St, was constructed in 1847. The Sacred Hearth Primary School, Church Ave, was constructed circa 1850. Many of the three-storey town houses on Church St, Main St and Railway St were constructed by the merchant class of Portlaoise in the first half of the nineteenth century, evidence of the economic confidence of the decades prior to the famine years. St. Mary's CBS (secondary), Church St was built circa 1900. Scoil Mhuire, which is the site of the proposed development, was constructed in the 1960's.

The first edition 6" to a mile scale Ordnance Survey map of the area depicts a growing Portlaoise town (see Figure 5). The economic growth of the early nineteenth century in Portlaoise was greatly affected by event of international significance in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. A cholera epidemic in 1832-3 resulted in 25,000 deaths in Ireland (O'Gráda, 1995 p50). The Famine Years (1841-1851) caused loss of life and population change in Ireland. Following a report by Sir George Nichols (1781-1865) British Poor Law Commissioner, into poor relief in Ireland, and the conditions of the poor in Ireland, an Irish Poor Law Act was passed by parliament in 1838. This Act established the workhouse principle in Ireland to provide relief for the poor, destitute, and children, and followed the model previously implemented throughout England.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



Figure 10 Annotated extract from 1st edition 6" to a mile scale Ordnance Survey map of the study area. Proposed development in purple.

During the Famine Years, Ireland was divided into 130 districts for the purposes of providing relief. These districts were called Poor Law Unions. Each union was administered by a Board of Guardians. Queens County (Laos) was divided into two unions, a northern union centred in Mountmellick and a southern union at Abbeyleix. The Great Famine (1847) disproportionately affected rural inhabitants, who loss of food source due to the potato blight resulted in a loss of ability to pay rent.

The population of Portlaoise (Maryborough) is recorded by Lewis in 1837 as numbering 5306, of which 3223 lived in town, in 508 houses (Lewis 1837). The Great Famine and subsequent depopulation resulted in a decline in rural counties in Ireland in the second half of the nineteenth century, with more people leaving rural areas and villages for larger towns and cities, or emigration. In the 1901 census the population of Maryborough is recorded as 4228.

The first edition 25" to a mile scale Ordnance Survey map of Portlaoise (then called Maryborough) depicts ongoing urbanization (see Figure 11). In the northwestern corner rail line with rail bridge is visible. The proposed development location is slightly on the eastern outskirts of visible build up area.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

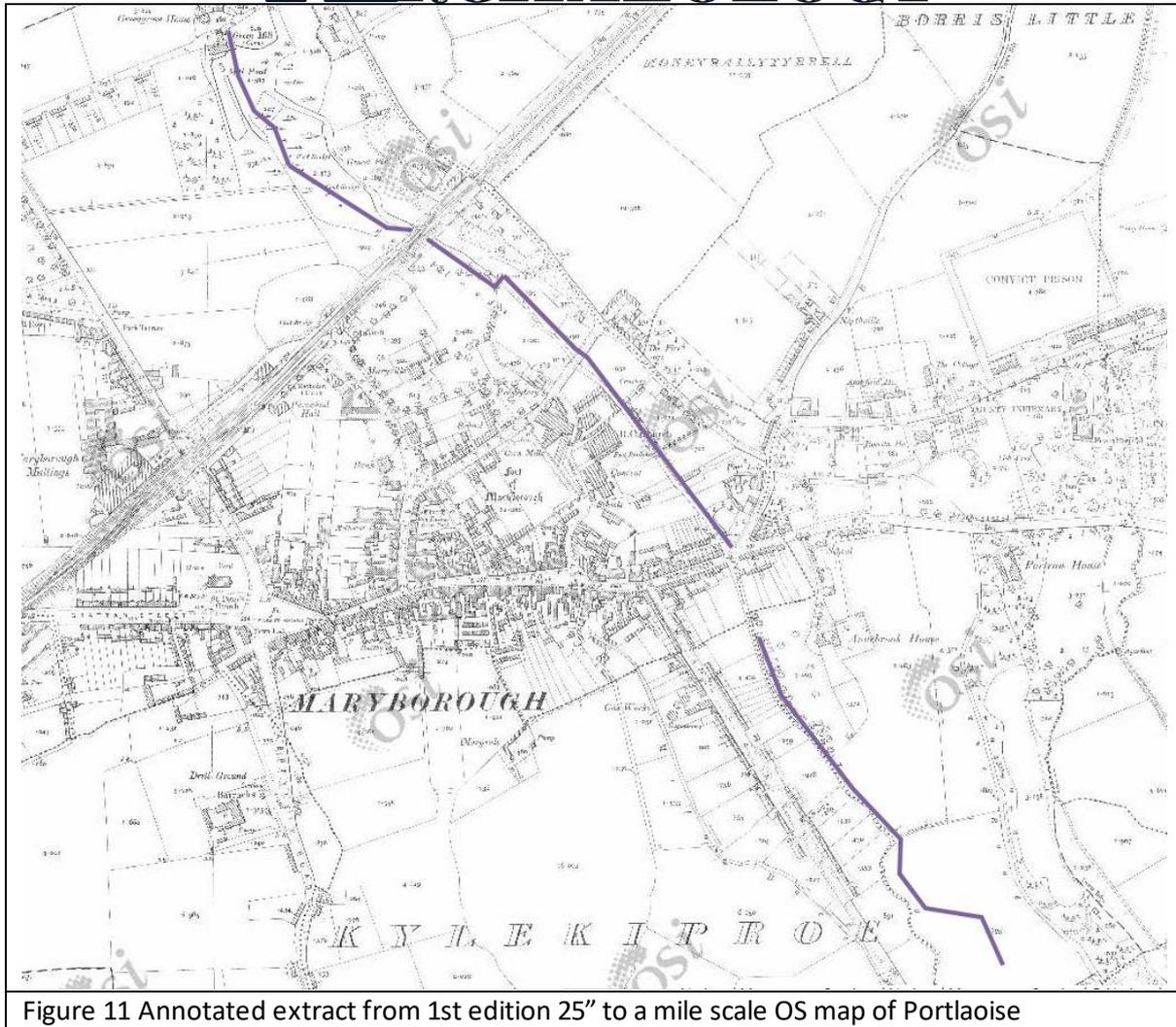


Figure 11 Annotated extract from 1st edition 25" to a mile scale OS map of Portlaoise

4.1 Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. It can be consulted in county libraries and main local authority offices and an electronic copy may be accessed on archaeology.ie website. The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will advise on the protection applying to any particular monument or place under the National Monuments Acts by reason of it being entered in the Record of Monuments and Places and should be consulted if there is any doubt as to the status of the site.

There are six RMP sites within study area (Table 1)

RMP no	Townland	Type	Distance to development
LA013-041006	Maryborough	Town defences	N/A
LA013-041003	Maryborough	Castle – tower house	65m WSW
LA013-102001	Maryborough, Borris Little	Graveyard	100m ENE

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

RMP no	Townland	Type	Distance to development
LA013-102	Maryborough, Borris Little	Church	100m ENE
LA013-041005	Maryborough	Mill - unclassified	80m SW
LA013-041	Borris Little, Clonminam, Kylekiproe, Maryborough, Moneyballytyrrell	Historic Town	N/A
LA013-041001	Maryborough	Castle - unclassified	170m SW

Table 1 RMP sites within study area.

4.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Protected Structures

Appendix 1 of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 contains the Record of Protected Structures for County Laois. There are thirteen Protected Structures recorded in the Laois County Development Plan within the study area (Table 2)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are eighteen structures recorded in NIAH of which thirteen are included in RPS.

NIAH no	Type	Description	Location	Distance to development	RPS no
12507082	house	Domestic House	3 Well Road	85m WSW	924
12507080	house	Domestic House	Well Road	85m WSW	923
12507035	house	Annebrook House	Stradbally Road	80m E	944
12507040	cinema	Former Cinema	Well Road	80m WSW	945
12507025	house	Domestic House	Stradbally Road	30m E	N/A
12507026	house	Domestic House	Stradbally Road	40m E	N/A
12507027	house	Domestic House	Stradbally Road	45m E	N/A

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

NIAH no	Type	Description	Location	Distance to development	RPS no
12507028	house	Domestic House	Stradbally Road	55m E	N/A
12507029	house	Domestic House	Stradbally Road	60m E	N/A
12505147	outbuilding	Outbuilding to Portleix House	Dublin Road	75m E	897
12505149	outbuilding	Outbuilding to Portleix House	Dublin Road	55m E	898
12505150	house	Portleix House	Dublin Road	70m E	178
12505167	school	Scoil An Clocar	Church Avenue	90m W	901
12505166	school	Scoil An Clocar	Church Avenue	90m W	899
12505168	school	Scoil An Clocar	Church Avenue	90m W	900
12505169	Convent / nunnery	Presentation Convent	Church Street	80m W	475
12504200	fortification	Fort of Maryborough	Tower Hill	100m SW	468
12504171	monument	4th Battalion Leinster Regiment Memorial	Millview Memorial Park, Ridge Road	35m NE	954

Table 2 NIAH sites and Protected Structures within study area

4.3 Excavations

Reference to Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland revealed that thirteen fieldwork exercises have been carried out in Maryborough and Borris Little townlands (www.excavations.ie). They are listed in Table 3.

License no	Author	Site type	Site name	Location
02E1743	Miriam Carroll	No archaeological significance	Old County Infirmary, Portlaoise	E 647033m N 698245m
07E0517	Martin Doody	Urban	Bull Lane, Portlaoise	E 646914m N 698338m
03E1304	Martin Doody	No archaeological significance	43-44 Main Street, Portlaoise	E 646913m N 698381m
96E0365	Thaddeus C. Breen	Eighteenth-century building adjoining old graveyard	Old Gaol, Church Street, Portlaoise	E 646940m N 698434m
96E0365 ext	Fiona O Reilly	17-18th century cobbled area	Portlaoise Gaol and Courthouse	
07E0031	John Purcell	No archaeological significance	Church Street, Portlaoise	E 646946m N 698464m

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

License no	Author	Site type	Site name	Location
01E0104	Paul Stevens, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd	Urban	Main Street/Railway Street, Portlaoise	E 646968m N 698508m
07E0108	John Purcell	Urban	Bank Place, Portlaoise	E 646956m N 698548m
96E0277	Dominic Delany	Urban	Pepper's Lane, Portlaoise	E 647040m N 698434m
11E442	Franc Myles	Urban post- medieval	Scoil Croist Rí, Presentation Convent, Church Avenue, Portlaoise	E 647191m N 698484m
09E0227	John Purcell	No archaeological significance	Mountrath Road, Portlaoise	E 647245m N 698506m
18E0339	Colm Flynn	Urban, post medieval mill and millrace.	Church Street and Fitzmaurice Place	
03E0395	Dominic Delany	Urban, monitoring	Tower Hill, Portlaoise	

Table 3. Excavation exercises within study area.

4.4 Townlands Names

Maryborough is a reference to Queen Mary, after whom the town was named in the 16th century. Borris Little is anglicized version of An Bhuiríos Bheag which means little borough/ little burgage land (www.logainm.ie).

4.5 Topographic Files

Information on artefact finds and excavations from County Laois is recorded by the National Museum of Ireland. Location information relating to such finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

The following table includes the archaeological artefacts that are known to the National Museum of Ireland for the development area. In many instances the exact findspot is not known.

Topographical File Number	Description	Townland	Find Place	Component
1937:2600	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Stone
1937:2601	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Stone
1937:2602	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Stone
1937:2603	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Bronze

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Topographical File Number	Description	Townland	Find Place	Component
1937:2604	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Bronze
1937:2605	Axehead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Bronze
1937:2606	Spearhead	Port Laoise (Nr.)	Near Maryborough	Bronze
7813:W294	Weight	Maryborough	N/A	Lead
R4000	Weight	Maryborough	N/A	Lead
R649	Token	N/A	Maryborough	Copper
R650	Token	N/A	Maryborough	Copper
R651	Token	N/A	Maryborough	Copper
2010:89	Human Remains	Borris Little	N/A	Bone

Table 4 List of known stray finds from the proposed development area.

4.6 County Development Plan

The Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 was adopted on 25th January 2022 and came into effect 8th March 2022. Chapter 12.4 of volume 1 contains strategies and policies regarding archaeological heritage.

It is policy of the Council:

- *AH 1 Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the integrity and character of archaeological heritage of the county which avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, settings, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secure the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. (The Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027, vol. 1, 12.4)*

It is policy of the Council:

- *AH2 Support the preservation or conservation of historically significant street patterns, building lines and plot widths in its towns and villages as well as the preservation of features such as town walls, historic revetments, and public realm features such as granite kerbing, historic drinking fountains, cobbles, vent pipes whether or not they benefit from protection in their own right. (ibid.)*

It is policy of the Council:

- *AH 3 Protect the intrinsic value, character, integrity and settings of monuments and places in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs) and any forthcoming statutory register and protect Zones of Archaeological Potential against inappropriate development. (ibid.)*

It is policy of the Council:

- *In areas of archaeological potential, where groundworks are proposed, ensure that all works are undertaken to the highest standard and the resultant information made publicly available. Developers will be required to have regard to Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for*

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Good Practice for Developers (ICOMOS, 2000) in planning and executing development in sensitive areas. The Council favours the preservation in-situ of archaeological remains, where areas of archaeological potential are located in town centres or villages, preservation of archaeological remains by record will be considered. (ibid.)

It is also policy of the Council:

- *AH 10 Protect where appropriate industrial heritage structures or elements of significance identified in the Laois Industrial Archaeology Survey by adding them to the Record of Protected Structures during the lifetime of the Development Plan. (ibid.)*

This Archaeological Impact Assessment Report of the Proposed Triogue Way Project has been and its proposed mitigation measures have been compiled in accordance with policy and objectives of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.

5.0 Site inspection

A site inspection was carried out at the proposed Triogue Way Project by the authors on 27th November 2023 in dry bright and crispy conditions. The development is accessed via an entrance in the People's Park, New Road, Borris Little, Portlaoise (Plate 1). Secondary entrances are located at Rankin's Wood (Plate 3), Bridge Street (Plate 2), Millbrook (Plate 4) and Greenmill Lane (Plate 6).

The proposed development site includes existing tarmac and concrete paths, and grasslands and hedges and trees that form the boundaries with private gardens. Much of the proposed development site is comprised of lands which are depicted as gardens or agricultural land on historic mapping of the area (see Figures 10 and 11).

The development is partly situated within the archaeological zone of notification (Figure 1) for one known archaeological site that are contained in the Record of Monuments and Places and are therefore protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2014). There are a number of known archaeological sites in the wider vicinity of the proposed development and it is possible that related masonry or otherwise archaeological features remain subterranean within the development site.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



Plate 1 The People's Park entrance.

Ewr



Plate 2 Bridge Street Entrance.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



Plate 3 Rankin's Wood Entrance.



Plate 4 Millbrook Entrance.



Plate 5 Existing pathway.



Plate 6. Greenmill Entrance.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY



Plate 7 Existing bicycle rack and path in People's Park.



Plate 8 Existing park bridge crossing Triogue River.

6.0 Archaeological impact assessment results

The proposed Triogue Way Project will take place in a brownfield and greenfield works area that is partially within the historic town (LA013-041) of Portlaoise, County Laois. The closest known archaeological site to the development is the site of Castle – tower house (LA013-041003) which is located 60m to the southwest. Furthermore, the proposed Triogue Way Project is situated near the conjectural route of the 16th century town defences (LA013-041006). There are five more known archaeological sites within study area of 100m (see Table 1). The development works will be localised in nature, and will result in the widening of existing paths, creating new openings in existing walls and construction of underground services and associated infrastructure of a linear pedestrian and cycle route (see Figure 1).

Historic mapping indicates that the proposed development area comprised dwellings, gardens and agricultural land in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The site inspection identified that the proposed development site includes existing linear park and hedgerows of back gardens of 20th century houses. Much of the proposed development site is comprised of lands which are depicted as gardens or agricultural land on historic mapping of the area (see Figures 10 and 11).

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

The proposed development will not impact on any known archaeological sites or features. However, any of the ground works, risk impacting on any unknown subterranean archaeology. This risk of impact is adjudged to be low.

Consequently, the proposed development of the Triogue Way Project, Portlaoise presents an imperceptible risk of impact on the archaeological heritage of the area.

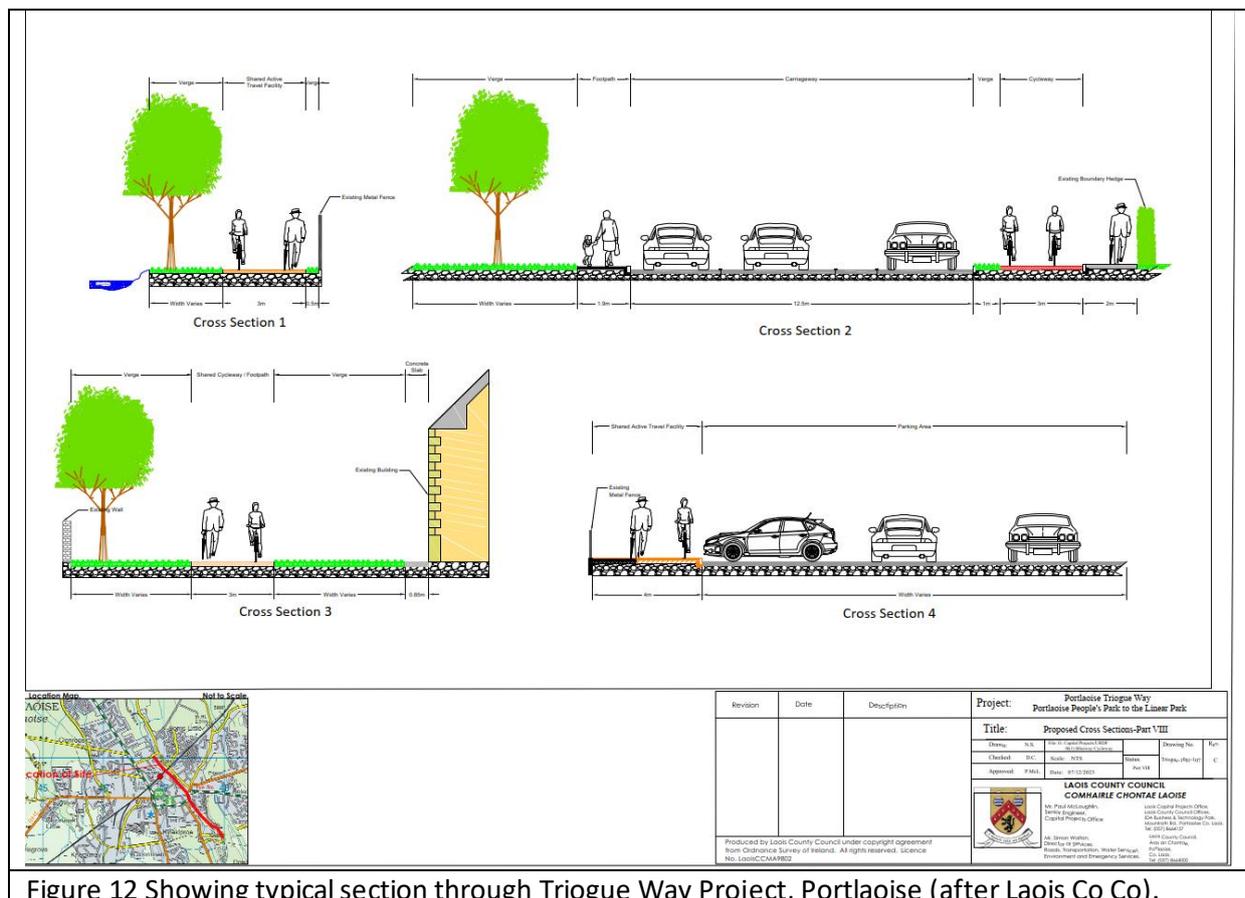


Figure 12 Showing typical section through Triogue Way Project, Portlaoise (after Laois Co Co).

7.0 Conclusion and recommendations

Conclusions

The proposed Triogue Way Project will take place to the east of the historic town of Portlaoise. Although the presence of medieval archaeology within the development is suggested in the form of the tower house (LA013-041003), the historic town of Portlaoise is dates to the 16th century, and is therefore largely post medieval in date (Bradley et al. 1986, 49).

The proposed development will see construction works including the removal of topsoil and excavation of underlying deposits, for the widening of the cycle/pedestrian path. These works pose a low-level risk of causing localised impacts on any subterranean archaeology present. The following archaeological mitigation measure is recommended to ameliorate the risk of impacting on archaeology:

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Recommendations

- Archaeological monitoring of any groundworks for the Triogue Way which are within the zone of notification for the Historic Town of Portlaoise (LA013-041), is recommended. This archaeological monitoring should take place following correspondence with the NMS, and under archaeological licence issued by the NMS.
- Should archaeological material be identified as a result of the works, further archaeological mitigation measures may be required.

HORIZON ARCHAEOLOGY

Bibliography

Bradley, J., Halpin, A. and King, H.A. 1986 Urban Archaeological Survey – Co. Laois, Office of Public Works, Dublin.

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. (DAHGI). 1999a. Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. Dublin.

DAHGI. 1999b. Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation. Dublin.

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Unpublished. Record of Monuments and Places, County Laois.

Edwards, N. 2006. The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland, Oxford.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements. Dublin.

EPA. 2003. Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements). Dublin.

Feehan, J. 1983 Laois: An Environmental History, Stradbally.

Joyce, P.W. 1996. Irish Local Names Explained. Facsimile of 1923 edition. Dublin.

Laois County Heritage Plan 2021-2027, 2021, Portlaoise, County Laois.

Lewis, S. 1837 A topographical dictionary of Ireland, Vol. I. London, Lewis & Co.

O'Byrne, D. 1856 The history of the Queen's county. John O'Daly, Dublin.

O'Hanlon, Rev. J. and O'Leary, Rev. E. 1907 (Reprint 1981) History of the Queen's county, vol. 1, Roberts Books Ltd., Kilkenny.

O'Hanlon, Rev. J, O'Leary, Rev. E. and Lalor, Rev. M. 1914 (Reprint 1981) History of the Queen's county, vol. 2, Roberts Books Ltd., Kilkenny. 45

Parsons, M. 1982 Portlaoise: A Historical Account Laois Heritage: Bulletin of the Laois Heritage Society,

Sweetman, D., Alcock, O. and Moran, B. 1995 Archaeological Inventory of County Laois, The Stationery Office, Dublin.

Simington, R. 1945. The Civil Survey A.D. 1654-1656. County of Laois. Vol. VII. Dublin.

Thomas, A. 1992 The walled towns of Ireland, Irish Academic Press, Dublin.

Other Sources

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com>).

Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie)

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage