Appendix D: Preliminary Archaeological & Architectural Assessment

*Valerie J. Keeley Ltd Archaeological Consultancy November 2005* 

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### **SUMMARY**

This report comprises a preliminary archaeological and architectural assessment for the proposed Loughmacask Local Area Plan, as commissioned by Malone O' Regan Environmental Services Ltd.

The purpose of this report is to highlight any potential or recorded archaeological or architectural remains and thereby identify the cultural heritage constraints within the study area.

Nine archaeological sites are included in this report. Of these, eight are recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Four of these sites are within the study area. One potential archaeological site was identified during field inspection. Two areas of archaeological potential were identified.

Thirteen sites of architectural heritage are included in this assessment, two of these are recorded in the Register of Protected Structures.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report was commissioned as a preliminary assessment on the proposed Loughmacask LAP area by Malone O'Regan on behalf of Kilkenny County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide an overall assessment of the study area, evaluating all sites of significance within and bordering the receiving environment and offering recommendations as to how to merge any future development sustainably with archaeological or architectural heritage sites.

Known sites, potential sites and areas of archaeological potential are highlighted on the accompanying maps (Figures 1-3). The report provides information on three categories of sites/areas of potential: 1) recorded archaeological monuments within the study area 2) principal sites of architectural interest contained within the study area; 3) and areas of archaeological potential based on landscape type in general terms.

## THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Kilkenny Council are setting out a LAP for the Loughmacask area covering future development and associated infrastructure.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

This assessment was divided into two phases. Firstly, a paper survey identifying all recorded sites within and in close proximity to the study area of Loughmacask was carried out. Information from the paper survey included in this report is drawn from the Record of Monuments and Places, the Sites and Monuments Record and a series of relevant literary sources. This was followed by field inspection of the entire study area.

## Paper Survey

This is a document search utilising the following sources:

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service with accompanying RMP maps, based on OS 6" Sheets, which indicate the location of each recorded site. The RMP list is based on the Sites and Monuments Record files housed in the National Monuments Service offices. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, formerly known as Duchas, has focused on monuments that predate 1700A.D. Buildings belonging to the 17th century and later are not well represented in their archive, though they will be included as updating takes place.

The County Development Plan for County Kilkenny (2002) was compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts (1963-2000) and is an important source for identifying protected structures. It sets out the Council's policy for the conservation and enhancement of the county's natural and built environment and lists items of special environmental or archaeological/ artistic interest. It contains lists of recorded archaeological sites, historic buildings, country houses, vernacular structures, bridges and other items for preservation as compiled for the County Council by expert bodies.

A number of published secondary literary sources were consulted. These are a valuable means of completing the written archaeological and architectural record of an area and gaining insight into the history of the area of the proposed development. The principal sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Co. Kilkenny has not yet been published.

#### **Field Survey**

The field inspection of the area proposed for development at Loughmacask was conducted on 8th November 2005 and 13th December by Tom Joyce on behalf of Valerie J. Keeley Ltd. Weather conditions were wet and overcast in November and bright, cold and dry in December. Field inspection is essential in determining the nature and extent of the surviving above-ground evidence and in highlighting any archaeological, architectural or industrial archaeological features that have not been noted in the paper survey. Field walking offers the opportunity of observations on the topography, which often leads to the discovery of hitherto unrecorded sites.

## THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### General

Kilkenny, the principal town of County Kilkenny, is situated on the confluence of the Bregagh and Nore rivers. This location has been of paramount importance to the development of the town, which has been a chartered city since the early seventeenth-century. Two separate derivations have been suggested for the name of the city, the Church of St. Canice, "or the wooded head or hill near the river." The origins of Kilkenny date back to the late 6th /early 7th centuries when St. Canice founded a monastery there. In subsequent years a town developed around the monastery. Remains of this monastic period may be identified in the presence of the round tower and the evidence of a previous Romanesque Cathedral.

After the Norman invasion of 1169, Strongbow established a camp outside the precincts of the Monastery, on the southern bank of the River Bregagh. This fortification was later to form the nucleus for the development of the city of Kilkenny. In 1173, Donald O'Brien forced Strongbow to retreat to Waterford. This was only a temporary setback for the Normans. In 1189, William Marshall came into possession of Strongbow's Leinster lands by marrying Strongbow's daughter. William Marshall was subsequently appointed to the Chief Governorship of Ireland. Through this appointment, Kilkenny was to become one of the most important political towns in Ireland in the medieval period. Marshall began building a castle in Kilkenny in 1195. This became the focal point for Kilkenny Hightown. The original town around the Monastery became known as Irishtown. Both areas had different municipal authorities. Irishtown was governed by the Bishops of Ossory, while Kilkenny Hightown was controlled by Marshall. In 1207, Kilkenny received its first charter, which protected its trading rights. During the early part of the thirteenth century, the town grew dramatically; three monasteries including the Black Abbey were built, as were the Cathedral and a parish church.

Throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries Kilkenny was one of the major centres of political power, with at least three great councils of nobility assembling there and seven parliaments. Lord Roger Mortimer convened the council of 1317 to decide the most appropriate response to the Bruce Invasions. The parliament of 1367 decided to enact laws prohibiting intermarriage between the Anglo-Norman population and the Gaelic population. These laws were to become known as the Statutes of Kilkenny.

Kilkenny prospered as a result of its political involvement. The Burgages were granted the powers to construct and repair the city walls through letters of patent in 1375 and 1384, although Thomas has suggested that construction of the town walls had commenced at an earlier date. In 1391, James Butler, the third Earl of Ormond bought the Castle and it became the principal seat of the Butlers of Kilkenny. The Butlers were an old Anglo-Norman family who had many links to the King and his family. In 1399, Richard II stayed at the castle for two weeks. This link between the Butlers and the King was to prove beneficial to Kilkenny. In 1419, they received a grant of tolls for murage. The commanage, i.e. the land held in common by the burgesses of the town, stretched for two miles outside the town walls. Its use was strictly controlled. Digging was prohibited and tenants were required to keep the land 'playne and grene' so that it could be used for shooting and archery by the townspeople (Bradley 2000, 18). Grain-growing and flour-milling constituted an important part of the medieval economy of Kilkenny and its hinterland. During the sixteenth century, Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and granted Blackfriars to the Corporation of Kilkenny, on condition that they provide accommodation to the Chief Governor. Towards the end of the sixteenth-century, both municipalities in Kilkenny, Kilkenny Hightown and Irishtown, became a single municipal entity. Subsequently in 1690, James I made Kilkenny a free city.

The Confederation of Kilkenny was the title given to the alliance between the native Irish nobility and the Catholic Anglo-Irish lords of the Pale in support of Charles I against the Parliamentarians. The years of the Confederacy were to give Kilkenny enormous prosperity and wealth and it ended unable to come to an agreement, with one faction supporting the Papal Nuncios position of war and the other faction suing for peace. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Confederacy, Kilkenny began to decline in both economic and political powers. This process was further exacerbated by Cromwell's siege of 1650, when the city was ravaged by plague and was only able to put up a limited resistance. Due to the city's involvement with the Confederacy, much of the property was confiscated. On the restoration of Charles II in 1660, some of the property was returned to the citizens.

The late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries had proven to be a time of relative prosperity with an accompanying phase of building. Several of the surviving merchant houses of Kilkenny, such as Rothe House, were built during this period. Economic development during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was based on Kilkenny's rich agricultural hinterland, and principally upon cattle and grain production. Industrial use of the rivers Nore and Bregagh intensified with the construction of several new mills and the development of a brewing industry. Concerted efforts to introduce the linen industry were ultimately unsuccessful given the lack of incentive to grow flax on land where corn flourished.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Kilkenny remained a large provincial town but did not expand to a large extent. Kilkenny was never to regain the prestige or power that it had experienced during the medieval and later medieval periods.

# Study Area

The Loughmacask study area is located to the north western side of the city, within the Crannagh barony. This is interpreted as a place abundant with trees. Townland names are a valuable source of information on cultural elements of a landscape, including its history, archaeology and folklore. They may also reflect the topography of the environment, land use and ownership. The seven townlands, which are part of, or within the study area, are all of St. Canice's parish. The name honours the 6th century patron saint of Kilkenny city. Most of the townland names also refer to past residents and infer ownership of surrounding land in some form – Ayersfield or Ayer's bawns; Bishops Demesne, Palmerstown or Palmer's homestead or pilgrim's homestead; Loughmacask or Lake of MacCask; Talbotsinch or Talbot's holm (O'Kelly, 20-24). While Kilcreen can be interpreted as a withered wood 'coill chrion', it has been suggested it translate as an old church although no extant remains of a church exist. Lousybush has been recorded as a meeting place of beggars (O'Kelly, 23). It's literal translation from 'sceach na miol' means white thorn of the lice. Talbotsinch was a planned village, built by Lady Desart in 1904 for the workers in her local woollen and woodwork factories. The village was designed by Prof. William A. Scot and the houses show a Swiss influence through the contemporary Arts and Crafts movement.

# Archaeological Heritage

This report comprises nine archaeological sites in all, eight of which are archaeological sites recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places. These archaeological features consist of a ringfort, two enclosures, two linear ditches, three ring ditches, a possible turlough, a pathway of antiquity, a country house and its environs on the bank of the River Bregagh and the city of Kilkenny.

One ringfort is included in this report (A9). These are one of the most numerous and widely distributed monuments on the Irish landscape. A typical ringfort consists of a circular area with D-shaped or sub-circular examples also occurring. They are usually 20-50m in diameter and enclosed by one or more banks of earth, a combination of earth and stone or a drystone wall. These monuments served as enclosed homesteads, protecting houses, their inhabitants and livestock. Some of the more elaborate ringforts may have served as venues for social gatherings. Research and excavation have dated the majority of ringforts to between c. 500 --c. 1200 AD (Mitchell & Ryan 1997, 254-261; Edwards 1990, 6-33; Ó Ríordáin 1979, 29-59). Many of these sites as discussed above have been destroyed above ground and are now evidenced only by cartographic record and/or aerial photography. Local sources have highlighted a possible ancient pathway or bohereen leading from Loughmacask northwest to the ringfort site. Ireland's system of roadways have gradually evolved since the movement of Stone Age hunter-gatherer society. This route system is highly significant as it was shaped by geographical, topographical and social obstacles that may not now be immediately apparent to us and could, therefore, offer insights into

and social obstacles that may not now be immediately apparent to us and could, therefore, offer insights into past archaeological activity. The paths and roads of antiquity differ to the planned routes of modern times. They tend to be windy, undulating and take sharp turns for reasons such as - river, lake, bog crossings; avoidance of once-extant archaeological sites; the skirting of a chief/ landlord's land; connection to economic centres. In between the major routes a system of smaller paths developed to connect field systems and settlements. These were known as toghers, bohers and bohereens. The Gaelic for road, bothair, translates as 'cow path'. Cattle and the agricultural community around them were the back bone of the Irish economy from the Iron Age to the 20th century. They determined the need and location of bohers and bohereens and have had a huge impact on modern Irish infrastructure.

Two enclosures, in Lousybush and Talbotsinch, are numbered as A5 and A6 respectively. Frequently these sites are partially destroyed through time, rendering it difficult to determine their exact nature. The term 'enclosure' is generally used to describe an enclosed area, with a rectilinear or circular morphology. The circular enclosures may represent destroyed or partially damaged ringforts. This site type has a wide span with examples dating from the Late Bronze Age to historic times. Earthworks, like enclosures, are classed based on morphology, and therefore their date and function cannot be easily defined.

Ring ditches are also not tied to a specific time period but can range from the Bronze age to early historic era. They are circular or almost circular ditches, sometimes discovered as cropmarks. They may be the remains of round barrows, or round houses. Research of ring ditches in Kilkenny has found most instances of ring ditches in the county dotted to the north along the valley of the River Nore. 23 ring ditches and eleven ring ditch clusters were found (Nolan &Whelan, 11). A ring ditch cluster, comprising three ring ditches, is recorded at Kilcreen (A3)

Linear ditches, such as the two at Kilcreen (A3) and Bishops Demesne (A1) are the building block of many archaeological features and are elusive when trying to establish date or typology. These features do indicate archaeological activity.

Holy wells are frequently associated with ecclesiastical remains. Any church in the immediate vicinity of St. Canice's Well (A7) is not now extant. This site type may consist of any water source, which is used as a focal point for devotion, divination or cure. They range from small natural springs or small hollows in bedrock to mortared stone well chambers with steps, canopies or wall niches. Most holy wells are associated with a particular person, mainly saints. Often found with holy wells are leachtanna (sl. leacht, small flat-topped stone altar), small cairns, bullaun stones, cross-slabs and architectural fragments of an ecclesiastical nature. The date and origin of the dedication of some wells is known from documentary evidence and many are still used for pilgrimage to this day. Consequently local interest in and awareness of such sites can often be very high.

Kilcreen Lodge (A4) is a recorded archaeological site – RMP KK-109-102. There is an impressive chimneypiece in the billiard room which was originally in Kilcreen House. It has been placed within a timeframe from late 17th to early 18th century (Bence-Jones, 166).

# Areas Of Archaeological Potential

Through the combination of terrain potential assessment and an examination of the type, density and distribution of the archaeological sites within that landscape, very general areas of high archaeological potential can be been identified within the study area. Within the study area two areas of archaeological potential (AP1, AP2) have been highlighted. They were selected because the possibility of archaeological activity and recorded archaeological activity occurs within the two sections of the preliminary assessment areas.

The importance of rivers in archaeology was given added recognition in 1998 with the issuing of a memorandum from Dúchas The Heritage Service, requiring the inclusion of water bodies and associated features in archaeological assessments. This was due to the fact "that linear developments particularly roads often cross rivers and impact on mills, fords, old bridges and findspots of archaeological material. Other sites such as castles and longphort (Viking settlements) are also found beside rivers" (Memo from Dúchas re. River Crossings and Bridges, 23/04/98). Ponds, lakes, rivers and other water bodies in the past have attracted human activity for a variety of reasons, from their obvious use as a source of water to their use as a means of transport, as a source of energy and for their spiritual, religious or ritual associations. Additionally, the former flood plains of large waterways provided a fertile, well-irrigated and relatively flat landscape suitable for agricultural practices from the earliest times of Irish farming (c.4000 BC).

Loughmacask was almost dry when first inspected. The paper survey shows that the extents of the lake have been larger. The lake is located in an area in which was noted a previously unrecorded possible enclosure (A2). These factors point to the area as being one if considerable archaeological potential (AP1).

Area AP2 is an area in which five recorded RMP sites occur (A1 and A3, which is an archaeological complex of 4 recorded features). Also within this area is the northern bank of the River Bregagh, an area which should be considered to be of high archaeological potential.

### Architectural Heritage

Thirteen sites of architectural significance are identified in this report, seven of which are within the study area. These were identified through the consultation of cartographic sources and field inspection. Two of these structures are included in the Kilkenny County Development Plan. One (AH13) is of regional importance. For the most part, these architectural sites are upgraded cottages or farm buildings (AH4, AH5, AH7, AH9), which have probably been improved over generations. Attached to most of the sites are agricultural outhouses. They have most likely been built in the Irish vernacular tradition. A style that has adapted by simplifying the formal architectural styles and built using local building methods and materials. With the exception of Talbotsinch Village (AH12) and Kilcreen Lodge (AH13), most of the sites concerned with this study were not architecturally designed in a formal style. Site AH2 and AH6 are examples of small vernacular dwellings, whereas sites AH8 and AH11 are larger and of a relatively more complex layout. The form and function of these sites illustrates the various stratas of status within the county of a rich agricultural society. The 'ringmarks' of economic prosperity are also evident in the buildings. Site AH3, is an example of dilapidation of this vernacular tradition. AH10 possibly belongs to the larger class of argricultural farmhouses and outbuildings from the late 18th or early 19th century. It was identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. However, further assessment is necessary as access to the property was not possible on the day of field inspection.

While farmhouses may belong to any period, in terms of architectural heritage they can be taken as postdating 1700. They are generally built of stone and there are many variations in the design, size and structure of farmhouses and their associated outbuildings. Stone cottages were traditionally built from random rubble covered with lime mortar or coats of whitewash, and roofed with locally quarried slate, thatch or corrugated iron. They were often grouped around the farmyard, forming a central courtyard. Smallholdings had a singlestoried house, occasionally with a second storey extended from the original. Agricultural outbuildings are mostly single storey, again on a rectangular floor plan. They are generally built from roughly coursed rubble, with either thatched or slated roof coverings. In recent years, the erection of large metal haysheds with barrel roofs has been widespread. This has led to widespread dereliction of original farm buildings. It is therefore important to fully document the building materials, techniques and uses of any existing structures before this important part of our architectural heritage is completely obliterated.

According to Tighe's 1802 survey of the county, 'farm houses are generally built of stone, but oftener cemented with clay, than with mortar; some inferior ones are of mud, or of sods, and some few have the foundation or the lower part of the walls of stone, the upper of sods. Some of the best farmhouses are slated, and this improvement has increased latterly; some may be comfortable, but few are neat or cleanly. A decent house let to a common farmer, becomes in a year little better than a pig-stye. The houses of rich farmers are generally inferior to their means, and are such as exempt them from window tax, and often from hearth money' (Tighe 1802, 411-12).

There were always single storey dwellings in urban settings, although confined to the poorer quarters. Their origins come from the rural cottage-type. As the urban areas began to expand, state owned property was built for the poorer classes. These dwelling types are illustrative of the encroachment of urbanization on the agricultural classes in an increasingly industrial age. Terraces of small single storey houses were built on the outskirts of the towns and cities and are models of the earliest publicly funded housing. The Butts (AH1) is a typical example of such late 19th, early 20th century council housing. However, the workers' cottages at Talbotsinch (AH12) are examples of privately funded housing by enterprising landowners. Lady Desart provided accommodation for employees at her woodwork and woollen factories. It was common for the new middle-class industrialists to build housing on their land. It enabled financial stability and employee loyalty.

The famous brewing family of Kilkenny, Smithwicks, built Kilcreen Lodge c. 1860 (AH13). It is a product of the profits of the Industrial Revolution and is built in the contemporary Victorian style.

# **STATUS OF MONUMENTS**

### National Monuments

The term 'National Monument' as defined by the 1930 National Monuments Act is, 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (The National Monuments Act 1930, Part 1, Preliminary and General, Section 2). This definition does not restrict inclusion based on dating and includes land adjacent to a national monument, which is required to preserve the amenities of the monument. It is possible that should the relevant authority feel a site or monument is sufficiently endangered it can be assigned this level of protection. None of the sites included in this report are National Monuments currently in state ownership.

## Preservation Orders, Registered Sites & Sites Listed in County Development Plans

In certain circumstances that threaten an existing monument The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DoEHLG) has, by order, undertaken the preservation of the monument. The effect of these Preservation Orders makes it unlawful to interfere with the monument in any way without the written consent of (DoEHLG). The 'Register of Historic Monuments' was established by Dúchas, The Heritage Service, following the introduction of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act of 1987. As a result of this Act it is unlawful to carry out work on a Registered Monument, except in a case of urgent necessity and with the consent of (DoEHLG). The number of inclusions in the Register is growing steadily as it is to include all recorded sites (RMPs), which are known to (DoEHLG). The majority of these sites are generally listed in the County Development Plans as being protected. In certain circumstances the County Councils highlight certain archaeological sites in their respective areas for protection from development under the provisions of the National Monuments (Amended) Acts. However, these methods of protection can be applied at any stage should the relevant authorities feel a site or monument is in sufficient danger. None of the archaeological sites included in this report is protected by Preservation Order or are included in the Register of Sites for Co. Kilkenny.

# Record of Monuments & Places

Eight of the archaeological sites listed this report are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs), established under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act. Under the terms of this act, the Minister is required to establish and maintain a record of the monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments. This record gives protection to the monuments without having to establish a monument is in danger of falling into decay. The term 'monument' as used in this Act encompasses all artificial structures, regardless of date, whether or not they are of archaeological or architectural interest, but excludes buildings used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments, whether or not they are in state ownership or care, or be designated or subject to any legal protection, could potentially be classed as ' National Monuments'. A 'Historic Monument' includes 'a prehistoric monument and any monument associated with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, religious or social history of the place where it is situated or of the country'. Any monument dating prior to A.D.1700 is automatically a historic monument, but monuments post-dating A.D.1700 may also be included. Seven of the sites included in this report are recorded monuments.

# Architectural Heritage

Thirteen sites of architectural significance are included in this report. These were identified through the consultation of cartographic sources and field inspection. Two of the sites (AH12 and AH13) identified within the study area are referred to in the Kilkenny Development Plan. The 2000 Planning Act introduced a range of new measures for the protection of architectural heritage, including the provision for a Record of Protected Structures. This record will replace the system of listing buildings, which was in operation prior to 2000. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was set up to assist the local authorities in the compilation of the Record of Protected Structures. It is the policy of each County Council to seek the preservation of items listed in the Record of Protected Structures. No building or structure listed in this record may be demolished or materially altered without grant of permission under the Planning Acts. These sites include country houses, vernacular houses, churches, mills, bridges and other buildings of note. The NIAH for Kilkenny has not been conducted to date. However, the Kilkenny Development Plan includes a list of structures which rates protected sites in terms of their international, national, regional or local significance.

# Historic Towns

Kilkenny City has been identified as an Historic Town and appears in the Record of Monuments and Places. Historic towns have been identified by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and the Islands for general protection. The guideline boundaries for historic towns are illustrated within the Record of Monuments and Places as zones of Archaeological potential and are areas where intense archaeology is present.

A zone of archaeological potential for Kilkenny City was identified in the Kilkenny County Archaeological Urban Survey. A portion of this zone of archaeological potential known as "the Butts" (A8) is located within the proposed development area.

# CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to highlight any sites of archaeological, industrial archaeological or architectural heritage significance. Four archaeological sites, seven architectural heritage sites and two areas of archaeological potential lie within the confines of the Lough Macask LAP study area. Five archaeological sites and six architectural heritage sites bordering the study area were also included as they may be affected indirectly by any future development.

It is recommended that all of the potential archaeological sites and areas and buildings of architectural merit and their environs, as highlighted in this report, be avoided and protected from any impact in the proposed development of Lough Macask LAP. If impact on sites cannot be avoided by the proposed development of this area, specific recommendations and mitigatory measures should be undertaken. All of the archaeological sites identified and catalogued within the study area at this stage are protected either under the National Monuments Act and its subsequent Amendment or by listing or Preservation Orders.

Detailed, development specific archaeological and architectural assessments should be undertaken in advance of any future development. These should include the results of or recommend the undertaking of non-intrusive surveys such as topographical, geophysical and architectural survey and intrusive investigations such as archaeological test trenching. Pre-construction archaeological monitoring of all ground works is also recommended for all areas within the Lough Macask LAP study area.

These recommendations will be subject to the approval of the statutory authorities.

# CATALOGUE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

This catalogue details the archaeological sites within the study area. It consists of nine sites, eight of which are recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and one site of archaeological potential newly identified from field inspection. The catalogue entries provide locational and reference information, along with a brief description and recommended mitigatory measures. This preliminary assessment has used the methods of paper survey and field inspection to highlight known and potential archaeological sites. The known locations of all of the sites are indicated on Figure 1, 2 and 3.

A1	Figure 1 – Plates 2 & 3
TOWNLAND	Bishops Demesne
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/03/04
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24962 15651
IDENTIFICATION	Field Survey, RMP
SITE TYPE	Linear Ditch (site of)
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-023
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This site is located on the south side of the Bonnettstown road in a field of rolling pasture within Bishops Demesne. The site is recorded as that of a linear ditch, however no above ground remains were apparent during the field inspection.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

A2	Figure 1 – Plates 4 & 5
TOWNLAND	Loughmacask
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Survey
SITE TYPE	Possible Enclosure
R.M.P. NO.	
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This possible site is located to the south of a narrow boreen that runs southeast to northwest through Loughmacask townland. During the initial field inspection what appeared to be a ring of trees with an associated bank was observed in a field to the south of Lough Macask. On closer inspection it was apparent that the trees were arranged in a linear fashion on a low bank that ran northwest to southeast joining with an embanked and walled field boundary that runs southwest from the boreen. The enclosed area corresponds to the field division depicted on the 1st ed. OS map (1837), is slightly raised and contains a number of undulations.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

A3	Figure 1
TOWNLAND	Kilcreen (Crannagh Barony)
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/07/04
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24934 15626
IDENTIFICATION	Cartographic, RMP
SITE TYPE	Archaeological Complex - Ring Ditch (site of) 24937 15627 - Ring Ditch (site of) 24931 15623 - Ring Ditch (site of) 24936 15623 - Linear Ditch (site of) 24933 15625
R.M.P. NO.	KK019-02201 (ring ditch), /02 (ring ditch), /03 (ring ditch), /04 (linear ditch)
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This site is located at the towland boundary between Bishops Demesne and Kilcreen. The RMP records the presence of an archaeological complex that includes 3 ring ditches and a possible associated linear ditch, evidence for one ring ditch appearing on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. During the field inspection a number of mounds and undulations were observed in this area but none of them could be identified with the recorded features with any certainty.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

A4	Figure 1
TOWNLAND	Kilcreen
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/07/04
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24940 15607
IDENTIFICATION	RMP
SITE TYPE	Dwelling - Kilcreen Lodge
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-102
REFERENCES	Glin, Griffin, Robinson (1988), O'Kelly (1969).
PROXIMITY	On the Border of the study area
DESCRIPTION	This is a private property, outside the area to the south. It was once the seat of the Smithwick family. It retains some impressive chimneypieces from the not demolished late 17th century Kilcreene House. It is also an Architectural Heritage site (AH13) and a protected structure.
RECOMMENDATIONS	No specific recommendations.

A5	Figure 1 - Plates 6 & 7
TOWNLAND	Louseybush
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/03/04
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24937 15735
IDENTIFICATION	RMP, Field Survey
SITE TYPE	Enclosure (site of)
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-07
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This site is located to the south of architectural site AH5. It is recorded in the RMP as an enclosure (site of). No above-ground remains of the site are obvious, however a slightly raised area was observed close to the recorded location of this during the field inspection (see Plate 7). This is a site most likely identified from cropmarks.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

A6	Figure 1
TOWNLAND	Talbotsinch
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/03/4
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24985 15763
IDENTIFICATION	RMP, Field Survey
SITE TYPE	Enclosure
R.M.P. NO.	KK019-08
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	On the Border of the study area
DESCRIPTION	This site is located to the east of the area at Talbotsinch on the west bank of the River Nore as it bends from a northwest to north direction in the townland. The RMP notes an enclosure at this location.
RECOMMENDATIONS	No specific recommendations

A7	Figure 1
TOWNLAND	Gardens (St. Canice's Parish)
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/07/04
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24996 15596
IDENTIFICATION	RMP, Cartographic, Field Survey
SITE TYPE	Holy Well
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-24
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	Outside the border of the study area
DESCRIPTION	This is known as St. Canice's Holy Well and is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1837).
RECOMMENDATIONS	No specific recommendations

A8	Figure 1 - Plate 1
TOWNLAND	Kilkenny
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/07/05
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	25050 15603
IDENTIFICATION	RMP, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	City
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-026
REFERENCES	O'Kelly (1969), Herity (2003), Nolan & Whelan (1990), Bradley (2000)
PROXIMITY	Bordering the study area
DESCRIPTION	Kilkenny city was identified as an area of archaeological potential by the Urban Archaeological Survey. This zone of archaeological potential borders the study area at the neighborhood known as "the Butts".
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

A9	Figure 1 – Plates 33, 7, 34
TOWNLAND	Raheennagun.
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/02/06
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24876 15766
IDENTIFICATION	RMP, Cartographic, Local Tradition
SITE TYPE	Ringfort & Pathway
R.M.P. NO.	КК019-006
REFERENCES	
PROXIMITY	C.450m from the border of the study area
DESCRIPTION	Raheennagun ringfort is situated to the northwest of Loughmacask, on the southern side of the lane from Loughmacask. There is an opening on the south eastern section of the ringfort. This is a recorded monument and noted on the 1st edition ordnance survey map (1837). Also evident on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is a pathway. There is no existing evidence of this route (see Plate 33 & 34). The pathway ran from the immediate right of the ringfort south-east to Loughmacask. There are intermittent extant walls along the northern limits of the road in AP1 which continue the line of this pathway towards Kilkenny.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

# CATALOGUE OF AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The two entries in this catalogue contain a riverine bank, a water source, five recorded RMP sites and one previously unrecorded site. Together these factors highlight potential for archaeological activity until further investigation has eliminated these specific areas. The catalogue and plates illustrate both and known and possible archaeological activity in the area. Each catalogue entry provides locational and reference information, along with a brief description and recommended mitigatory measures. The location of the sites is shown on Figure 2.

AP1	Figure 2 – Plates 8, 9, 10, 11,12, 38, 39
TOWNLAND	Loughmacask area & to south
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Survey
SITE TYPE	Area of archaeological potential
R.M.P. NO.	
REFERENCES	1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1837).
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This area extends along the Bonnetstown Road to the south, to the border of the study area in the west and above Loughmacask to the north. Loughmacask would have been a main water source for any surrounding settlement (see Plate 38). Cartographic sources show it previously had larger extents. Among local residents, Loughmacask is thought to be a meeting place for 1798 insurgents. Local sources also highlight old buildings with unspecified locations and ruins from the 17th/ 18th centuries in the assessment area. Intermittent stone walls to the north, running along the road follow the line of the pathway connected to Raheennagun ringfort (A9). The stone wall field boundaries and raised earthen banks throughout this area correspond to those depicted on the 1st ed. OS map (1837) and indicate a possible early field system (see Plate 39). A previously unrecorded possible archaeological site was also found in this area (Site A2).
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this area cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of controlled archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

AP2	Figure 2 – Plates 35 & 36
TOWNLAND	Bishops Demesne Area & to South
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	24934 15626
IDENTIFICATION	Field Survey, RMP
SITE TYPE	Area of archaeological potential
R.M.P. NO.	
REFERENCES	1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1837).
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This area includes Bishops Demesne (north) to the Butts (east and to Kilcreen (south). It is the location of Site A3 (RMP 019-022-Archaeological Complex) and Site A1 (RMP KK019-023 Linear Ditch). The land is undulating and elevated in parts (see Plate 35). It contains significant stone field boundaries of varying heights and lengths, some of which are extant demesne walls (see Plate 36) evident on the 1st edition Ordnance survey map (1837). Local sources highlight old buildings with unspecified locations and ruins from the 17th/ 18th centuries in the assessment area. The area also borders on the northern bank of the River Bregagh, a potential river crossing or settlement area.
RECOMMENDATIONS	If this area cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake a non-intrusive survey so as to inform the location of controlled archaeological test trenching, in advance of any construction. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

# CATALOGUE OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

This catalogue details sites of architectural heritage (AH) significance within the preliminary assessment area. Thirteen sites were identified within the study area; eleven were from field inspection and two from cartographic sources. Two are recorded in the County Kilkenny Development Plan as Protected Structures. This study has used the methods of paper survey and field inspection to highlight known and potential architectural sites. The catalogue entries provide locational and reference information, along with a brief description of the sites and recommended mitigatory measures. The locations of all of the sites are indicated on Figures 3.

SITE AH1	Figure 3 – Plate 13
TOWNLAND	Ayresfield
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Terraced cottages
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	A cluster of structures is marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3). However, the current one-storey, three bay terrace with brick chimneys shows evidence of being built in the early 20th century.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

SITE AH2	Figure 3 – Plate 14
TOWNLAND	Ayresfield
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Vernacular Dwelling
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This site consists of two two-storey, three bay houses with limestone facades of rough coursing, rendered gables, brick window surrounds and brick chimney stacks. Structures are depicted at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

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SITE AH3	Figure 3 – Plates 15,16 & 17
TOWNLAND	Loughmacask
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Architectural remains
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	Structures are marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Extant remains at this site comprise an L-shaped length of limestone wall up to 2m high built to random courses. The ground within the L-shaped structure is a level rectangular surface and is revetted. Local oral sources suggest this may once have been an old fort.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

SITE AH4	Figure 3 – Plates 18 & 19
TOWNLAND	Loughmacask
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Farm Complex
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Bordering the study area
DESCRIPTION	There are two one-storey, four bay structures with large attics on this site. A complex of farm buildings is shown at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

SITE AH5	Figure 3 – Plate 20
TOWNLAND	Lousybush
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Vernacular Dwelling
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This is a two-storey dwelling and outbuilding. Three small structures are marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

SITE AH6	Figure 3 – Plates 21 & 22
TOWNLAND	Ayresfield
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Vernacular Dwelling
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	A structure is marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as Mr. Purcell's Farm Ho. There is a two-storey dwelling there now (Pl.10). There is a long rectangular one-storey building to the north of the house built of limestone blocks to random coursing. A brick archway to the west (rear) of the building has been interrupted by a modern extension.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

SITE AH7	Figure 3 – Plates 23 & 24
TOWNLAND	Ayresfield
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Farm Complex
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	On the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map there is a short tree-lined avenue leading to 'Ayersfield Cottage'. A complex of farm buildings now surrounds the main house. This house was possibly quite a smaller structure and upgraded over generations, in the vernacular tradition.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

SITE AH8	Figure 3 – Plate 25
TOWNLAND	The Butts
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Vernacular Dwelling
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	There is a structure marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. This is a large detached two-storey house with brick chimney stacks built in the vernacular style of the early 19th century.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction.

SITE AH9	Figure 3 – Plates 26 & 27, 29, 37
TOWNLAND	Bishops Demesne
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Architectural complex & Demesne
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	The boundaries of this site extend along the Bonnetstown Road to the north, the Butts to the east, along the northern bank of the Bregagh to the south east and skirt the Kilcreen football pitches to the south-west. Contained within is an early 19th century vernacular farmhouse. There is a semi-circular entrance to the avenue leading to the house. The house is depicted on the on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, as are the stone outbuildings associated with the main structure. Bordering the west, south-west, south-east and east are intermittent stone walls of varying heights and lengths (see Plate 26, 27 & 37). These walls also cross the Demense from the south-west to the east wall. There is a revetted pond (see Plate 29) located on the southern boundaries of this site, which faces outbuildings within the curtilage of Kilcreen Lodge on the opposite side of the wall (AH13). The road leading to the Palmerstown Demesne cuts through the western section of the curtilage.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction. If this site cannot be avoided it is recommended to undertake an architectural survey in advance of any construction. Other non-intrusive surveys are recommended in order to inform the location of site specific archaeological test trenching. Monitoring of all ground works within the area is also recommended.

SITE AH10	Figure 3
TOWNLAND	Palmerstown
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Possible architectural complex
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	On the border of the study area
DESCRIPTION	A complex of buildings is shown at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

SITE AH11	Figure 3 – Plate 28
TOWNLAND	Palmerstown
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Vernacular Dwelling
STATUS	
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
PROXIMITY	Within the study area
DESCRIPTION	This is a large vernacular house, with associated outbuildings. The avenue to the house is accessed through a stone walled entrance gate. A structure is marked at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

SITE AH12	Figure 3
TOWNLAND	Talbotsinch
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Field Inspection, Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Village
STATUS	RPS KK-C217
REFERENCES	3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, County Kilkenny Development Plan (2002)
PROXIMITY	Bordering the study area
DESCRIPTION	This village is marked on the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map. It is a designated Conservation Area in the County Kilkenny Development Plan, 2002 due to its unique aspects of residential planning. It was designed by Prof. William A. Scot for Lady Desart in 1904. The houses are influenced by the Arts & Crafts movement of the time and are distinctive.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

SITE AH13	Figure 3 – Plates 29, 30, 31 and 32
TOWNLAND	Kilcreen
COUNTY	Kilkenny
O.S. 6" SHEET/PLAN/TRACE	19/-/-
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	
IDENTIFICATION	Cartographic
SITE TYPE	Country House
STATUS	RPS KK-C353, Regional Importance
REFERENCES	1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, Bence-Jones (1988), County Kilkenny Development Plan (2002)
PROXIMITY	Bordering the study area
DESCRIPTION	A structure is shown at this location on the 1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Bence-Jones (1988, 166) described this as "a pleasant two storey stucco- faced Victorian house built c. 1860 by J.W. Smithwick, incorporating an older, smaller house. Four bay front with triangular pediments on console brackets over ground floor windows, and gabled wing at one end. Roof of main block on bracket cornice. Irregular adjoining garden front, with single-storey curved and balustraded bow; decorative ironwork cresting on ridge of roof. Ornate overdoors in the hall and drawing room, the latter being a large and handsome room in Louis Quinze style. Good late 17th or early 18th century chimneypiece brought from Kilcreene House in billiard room. Attractive garden with lake spanned by bridge. It is also a recorded archaeological site (A4, RMP KK019- 102). The curtilage of the site includes a curved avenue, and outbuildings.
RECOMMENDATIONS	This site should be avoided and protected during construction

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# **APPENDIX D: PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT**







APPENDIX D: PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT



**Plate 2.** Location of **Site A1**, RMP 019-023- Linear Ditch (site) (NGR24962/15651) in field of pasture within Bishops Demesne, looking southwest, no above ground remains apparent.





Plate 4. Possible Site A2 looking west

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field of tillage, looking southeast, no above ground remains apparent.


**Plate 7.** Field to north of previous, possible location of **Site A5** (Plates 4 & 5) RMP 019-07-Enclosure (site)- (NGR 24937/15735) looking north. Raised area (foreground)



Plate 8. AP1- Loughmacask and area to south



Plate 10. AP1- Loughmacask and area to south





**Plate 13.** Terrace of one storey houses at the Butts, houses present at this location on 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Current cottages 1910-1930 (**AH1**)



**Plate 14.** Two- story houses, facade of limestone to rough courses, gables rendered, brick window surrounds, brick chimney stacks. (**AH2**).



Plate 16. Looking west at AH3



Plate 18. Looking northwest at AH4



Plate 20. Looking north at AH5



Plate 22. Looking south at AH6



Plate 24. Looking east at AH7 (rear)



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Plate 28. Looking west towards AH11.



Plate 30. Outbuilding, taken from the west (AH13).



Plate 32. Plaque on face of outbuilding (AH13).







