

Emerging Preferred Option Consultation Day

## Environmental Constraints

### Protections & Processes:

#### Archaeology

All Sites & Monuments listed on the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) are protected under the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. Each RMP site is assigned a Zone of Archaeological Potential/Notification as Appropriate. The Statutory and administrative framework of development control within zones of archaeological potential or in proximity to recorded monuments has two main elements: (a) Archaeological preservation and licensing under the National Monuments Acts; and (b) Development plans and planning applications under the Planning Acts. Where works are proposed in the vicinity of a site/monument listed in the RMP, notification must be submitted to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Such works may be subject to archaeological interventions including preservation in-situ (avoidance by design), preservation by record (Excavation), advance testing and/or monitoring during construction. These are carried out under licence or Ministerial Consent (in the case of National Monuments). The Project Team has been liaising with the National Monument Service (NMS), whom on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, is the state body with responsibility for the protection and preservation of archaeological heritage in Ireland and its territorial waters. Flood Relief Schemes can pose adverse effects on archaeological heritage, both terrestrial and underwater.

The role of the NMS Underwater Archaeology Unit (UAU) is to manage and ensure the protection of underwater archaeological heritage. Where watercourses are being impacted or where the potential exists for underwater archaeological remains to be affected it is essential that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and/or Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) is carried out for all FRS projects. Where FRS projects are concerned applications and consultations, which can include FRS pre-design scoping, various archaeological assessment reports, EIAs and EIARs are received by the UAU through the Development Applications Unit (DAU).

Emerging preferred options around the East Bridge involve Direct flood defenses and Conveyance improvements where a buried Arch is proposed to be reopened and as well as lowering of ground levels to the north and south of the bridge. The area of proposed ground reduction is within the constraint zones of several recorded monuments within the immediate environs including East Bridge (GA088-047) and Anglo-Norman Castle (GA088-040), House - 18th/19th century (GA088-040001), ; Bawn (GA088-040002), Inscribed stone (GA088-040003). Given surrounding archaeological and historical context it is considered an area of high archaeological potential a program of advanced test excavations will be conducted to clarify details and mitigation measures required for any proposed engineering design around any sensitive area of archaeological potential.

#### Built Heritage

The Planning and Development Acts 2000 affords protection to building and groups of building, including streetscapes and townscapes, of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest. Protecting architectural heritage is a function of the planning authority through its Development Plan and the Primary Means of achieving this is to include a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for the functional area within the plan. A planning authority is obliged to consider for inclusion in its Record of Protected Structures any Buildings rates as being of Regional, National or International importance by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and give consideration to structures of local importance. The project team are fully aware of the importance Built Heritage and have appointed a RIAI Grade 1 Conservation Architect to advise on project design, conservation and mitigation.

