Appendix 9

Architectural Conservation Areas

Ardbraccan Demesne Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Ardbraccan House and demesne occupy an historically important site which was the seat of the Bishops of Meath since the fourteenth century. The house is set in mature pasture land with formal and walled gardens.
The construction of the house commenced c. 1734 to the designs of Richard Castle and was completed in the 1770's to the designs of James Wyatt, Thomas Cooley and the Rev. Daniel Beaufort.

Built Form

The domestic and agricultural outbuildings associated with Ardbraccan House display an exceptionally high level of architectural design. These include piggeries, granary, dovecotes, bell tower, bullock sheds, carriage house, fowl yards, laundry yard, pump yard, slaughter house, vaulted stables, and clock tower. The Demesne structures include the gate lodges, entrance gates and walls, ha-ha, eel pond, ice house, vineries, grotto, and water pump.

The detached two-storey four-bay house, possibly the farm manager's house, was built c.1820, of randomly coursed limestone with roughcast render and raised rendered quoins. The particular interest of this building is in its relationship with the single-storey cottages to the immediate north.

Within the demesne are other structures – St Ultan's Church and graveyard, Infant school, dated 1856, and holy well.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development respect the setting and special qualities of the demesne.
2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

Athboy Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

The town of Athboy was one of the four centres (with Navan, Ratoath and Trim) set up by the Anglo-Normans to function as important towns in County Meath. In 1694, the town's 'lands and commons' and several other denominations of land were erected into a manor and granted to Thomas Bligh, MP for Athboy, who had earlier purchased almost 12 km² (3000 acres) in the area of Athboy. His son, John, was created "Earl of Darnley" in 1725 and the Blighs (Earls of Darnley) were landlords of all but six of the 27 townlands in the parish of Athboy throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Layout

The layout of the historic core of Athboy has evolved over centuries, the principle influencing factors being the medieval town walls and associated burgage plot arrangement. This has dictated the tight urban grain visible to this day in the town. The river and the associated former corn and flour, now timber, mills dictated the eastern boundary of the town walls.
The approaches and exits to and from the town are key elements to the special character of Athboy and the peripheries are largely defined by rubble stone walls, a classic feature of many eighteenth-century Irish villages, and one which penetrates the urban fabric of Athboy in its public and private laneways.

Built form

The built fabric of Athboy's streets is typical of the austere architectural style of smaller Irish towns and is well defined by a hierarchy of building typologies, forming an eclectic mix of uniform terraces, houses with varied plot widths and detached landmark buildings in residential, commercial and ecclesiastical use. One of the most significant landmarks in the town is the ecclesiastical site of St James's Church of Ireland and its attendant grounds which retain a medieval church tower. The remnants of vernacular buildings on the approach roads and streets into Athboy, and the quality of public buildings, demonstrate the layering of architectural styles and add to the special character of the town. The retention of rubble-stone boundary walls and outbuildings to the rear of the streetscape, often hidden from the public realm, heightens the special interest and architectural character of the ACA.

Materials

A palette of materials particular to the area, namely local limestone, some red and yellow brick, purple slate, painted timber and ironwork provides unity of character. Although the buildings are relatively unadorned, fortunately some retain original features such as fanlights, timber sash windows, slate roofs, railings and other boundary treatments which make up the attractive streetscapes. It is the combination of all of these elements that contribute to the special character of the ACA of Athboy.

Summary of Special character

The special character of Athboy derives from its extraordinarily rich settlement history and the resulting archaeological and architectural

set-pieces, from its homogenous streetscape permutated with buildings from many periods and the use of traditional building materials in its architecture. Furthermore its historical and social associations with the Darnley family, adds to its special interest.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the town and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, design and materials of any proposed development within and adjoining the historic core of the town should complement its character and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.

2. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables or inappropriate signage.

3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

A detailed statement of character and planning guidance is available to download from the website –
http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/
Heritage/ArchitecturalHeritage/
ArchitecturalConservationAreas/

Dunboyne Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development and Layout

Dunboyne was established as one of the secondary Anglo-Normal settlements in Meath and was a market centre for the barony. The morphology of the town is quite complex. Initially a manorial village with a substantial medieval church, both located to the north of the castle demesne, in the course of the nineteenth century it developed attributes both of a chapel village and that of an estate village.

Summary of Special Character

The special character of Dunboyne is derived from an overlapping of features derived from its long historical development. Its manorial origin is reinforced by the presence of Dunboyne Castle to the south and the medieval church tower, tucked away to the west and away from later developments. This western axis of church and castle is one important aspect of the character of Dunboyne. Another major element is the rectangular green, east of the medieval core, and carved out of the demesne in the early nineteenth-century. Within this area the tree-lined triangular green space provides a haven of tranquillity from busy routes through the town. The mature trees are important in that they give a sense of scale and unity to the space.

Another characteristic of Dunboyne is the predominance of early twentieth-century buildings – Brady's (Dunboyne House), the former National School, terraced two storey houses on the Green and Navan Road reflect early twentieth-century re-ordering of a more vernacular landscape of low thatched houses seen in older photographs. Slightly earlier and more formal architecture was represented by Dunboyne Cottage, the Parochial House, and the T-Plan church of c.1800, the initial focus of the green which was demolished in 1993, while its replacement had been built nearly forty years earlier.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, and design of any proposed development within the village core and adjoining area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables or inappropriate signage.
3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Dunsany Castle Demesne Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Dunsany Castle is located outside the village of Dunsany, County Meath. Dunsany is one of the oldest surviving country houses in Ireland and probably the oldest one in Ireland associated with a single family. The castle was built around 1181 by Hugh de Lacy and owned by the Plunkett family. Through successive generations, Dunsany was modified and remodelled. Some of the most significant changes took place in the 1840's under the architect, James Shiel. Because Dunsany has survived for over 800 years and because it has been reshaped down through the ages, it provides a microcosmic insight to the changing tastes and fashions of country house owners from the beginning of such houses right down to the present day.

Built Form

The castle, gates and gate lodges form part of a group of demesne structures with stables, outbuildings, church, estate cottages, demesne walls and a bridge. A wayside cross is located outside the Gothic gate.

The open view from the front of the castle included a ha-ha to protect the front lawn from cattle. The demesne includes a walled garden, icehouse, and extensive parkland.

The estate contains three mottes, the one to the east is likely to have been the site of the original Normal Stronghold. A manorial church, in ruins, is situated by the motte.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development respect the setting and special qualities of the demesne.

2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

Headfort Demesne Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

In 1660, 7,443 acres of land at Kells was purchased by Thomas Taylor of Ringmere in Sussex, who had come to Ireland in 1653, as chief surveyor to Sir William Petty, the author and originator of the *Down Survey*, the earliest accurate map of the country. The earliest plans for Headfort House were prepared by Richard Castle in 1750. The final design was a combination of Castle's originals and revisions thought to be by George Semple.

Summary of Character:

The historic demesne of Headfort House is a highly complex landscape site of enormous cultural significance. The site encompasses a major country house of international architectural and artistic value containing hugely important Robert Adam interiors, the only work of this influential 18th century architect to survive in this country. The house is set within an expertly conceived and well-preserved designed landscape of harmoniously overlaid layers, and is a one of the most notable examples of the picturesque English Landscape Garden in Ireland. The designed landscape is punctuated with ornamental and functional structures of artistic and social significance, including the strikingly elegant 18th century bridge by Thomas Cooley, the atmospheric and intricately detailed Gothic-Revival Mausoleum, the Gothic viewing grotto, outbuildings of fine architectural quality and a rare example of an underground ice house. The planting is of great botanical significance and includes features of great interest and rarity, such as the Yew

Avenue, the American Garden and the early 20th century Pinetum. A special feature of the demesne is the sense that the outside world is not cut-off. The demesne enjoys a direct visual relationship to the historic town of Kells, with which it is historically and culturally linked. The steeple of the medieval church tower, built by the 1st Earl of Bective in 1783, reinforces the link between town and demesne, as does the spectacular view of the Lloyd Tower beyond. The house and town lie set in an unspoilt rural landscape of great beauty and together form a historic cultural landscape of great richness.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features, by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development, both within the demesne and in the surrounding area, should not have an adverse affect on the special qualities of the demesne.
2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

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Julianstown Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Julianstown is a small village situated on the banks of the Nanny water in a scenic valley of sloping fields and woodland.

Given its location on the main Dublin to Belfast road, the village had an inn from early times. The original Black Horse Inn was a mail coach inn and sited at the top of the hill where the Julianstown Inn now stands. There were few houses in the village until six estate houses were erected by the Peppers of Ballygarth Castle in 1897.

Built Form and materials

The estate cottages are a row of picturesque two-storey houses with dormer windows, exposed rafters, and red-tiled overhanging porches. Across the street is a small dispensary, originally the court house, in similar style, and a large castellated constabulary barracks, erected in 1903. The industrial character of the area is seen in the mill, quarries, now disused, and limekiln. A characteristic of the village is the boundary feature of low walls with stone bollards and chains.

Summary of Character

Much of Julianstown's charm derives from its largely unspoilt landscape setting, its collection of historic mill buildings and association with the river Nanny, its collection of former public service buildings that underline its importance to the area at large and its distinctive picturesque architecture and boundary detailing. All these elements contribute to an appreciation of the special character of Julianstown ACA from near and afar.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, and design of any proposed development within the village and in the surrounding area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To protect the natural landscape setting of the village.
3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Kilmessan Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Kilmessan is located on the River Skane, a tributary of the Boyne and in a landscape of high visual quality between the Boyne and Tara Hill. Kilmessan is a predominantly linear village, which grew up around the former Navan-Dublin (Clonsilla) railway line. Although most of its buildings are relatively modest, it is the topography and setting which make the most contribution to its special character.

Built Form

The focal point of the ACA is at the junction of roads at the southern end of the village and is characterised by the Market House, which forms an important visual feature. Other buildings, which add significantly to the character of the village, include the former church and the Rectory and their grounds. The attractive stone walls and backdrop of mature trees are a pleasant backdrop to the village while the area is enlivened by traditional water pumps, wrought iron gates to the Church of Ireland and Glebe and railings within the grounds.

Summary of Special Character

The special character of Kilmessan ACA results from the relationship of features derived from its historical development. These are the relationship of the historic village to the church and grounds and in turn the church to the glebe house and its grounds. The axis of

the village is terminated spatially by a modest building in keeping with the village architectural expression. This building acts as a pivotal marker on approaching and traversing the village. Behind this the police station is part of a collection of public functions located along the main street and its official status has an appropriate architectural expression.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, and design of any proposed development within the village and in the surrounding area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To protect the natural landscape setting.
3. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables or inappropriate signage.
4. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Netterville and Victoria Terrace Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Victoria and Netterville Terrace are large terraces which dominate the coastline of Laytown. These sea-facing terraces became popular during the late nineteenth century, when the arrival of the railway made the coast more accessible. There are a number of these terraces along the strand at Bettystown and Laytown.

Summary of Special character

The special character of this ACA is a result of the combination of its built fabric, coastal setting and historical development. Their orientation towards the sea and back to front relationship with the road is a reminder of the development of the area. While the houses are of modest design, Netterville Terrace was evidently built as a single designed terrace in the late 19th century, in a vernacular late Georgian style, while Victoria Terrace displays distinctive features of the early 20th century – in particular, the canted bay windows, which are a feature of other houses of the period in

Bettystown/Laytown. The materials used in their construction – which are evidenced in the surviving original boundary walls, display the use of locally available materials and craftsmanship and strengthen the relationship between the buildings and their setting.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the terraces.
2. To protect the open nature of the relationship between the buildings and the seafront.
3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Longwood Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Longwood is recorded as a possession of the Hospital of Crutched Friars of St. John the Baptist, at Newtown Trim, at the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540. A fair was granted by James 1st in 1611. By 1884 the main street has become more formal with the addition of the Constabulary Barracks and the school house.

Built Form and materials

The village has a very wide main street with the attractive Garda Station framing its western end. Beyond this lies the impressive tree lined fair green. The village green is located at the junction of Bog Road and Dock Road. The Main Street has wide and generous proportions with its two-storey buildings which give an air of importance that is well balanced with its rural village function.

The prevailing building materials are rendered and painted facades with hipped and pitched slate roofs. Timber was originally used for windows and doors and as such forms standard elements of the archetypal shop-fronts. Some buildings within the ACA retain these, which adds to the visual richness of the area.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, and design of any proposed development within the village and in the surrounding area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Moynalty Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

The Civil Survey of 1654 recorded that the village of Moynalty contained a castle, a ruined church, two ruined mills and a fishing weir. Larkin's map of 1812 recorded houses, on fairly informal plots on both sides of the road, north-west of the church and parallel to the river. The 1820s and 1830s saw the transformation of Moynalty, with the rebuilding of the Church of Ireland church and the building of a new Catholic one. The village was laid out and built during the 1820s by an improving landlord, John Farrell.

Summary of Character

The main street follows the contour of the ground and is roughly parallel to the path of the river. At all the entrances the roads bend, providing a sense of enclosure. The architectural form consists of two-storey estate houses with dormer windows and gables, while the design of certain properties on the northern side of the main street is based on Swiss architectural styles. These were built on the north side of the street in order to maintain the views of the Moynalty River and its associated valley. The attractive stone walls and backdrop of mature trees add to the pleasantness of the scene while the streetscape is enlivened by traditional water pumps, gates, and milestones. A six arch stone bridge crosses the Borora River and makes a distinctive entrance to the village. The survival of the stone weir complete with its sluice gates, mill race and machinery make it an interesting contributor to the architectural and industrial history of Moynalty.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, design and materials of any proposed development within the village and in the surrounding area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To protect the landscape setting and the views to and from the village.
3. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables or inappropriate signage.
4. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Oldbridge Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Overlooking the site of the Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge House is located on a bend in the Boyne which allows it to enjoy two views of the river. It is located very close to the remains of the obelisk built at Oldbridge as a memorial to the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which was fought in the locality around the house. Consequently the site is of significant historical interest and National importance. Its location in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site of Bru na Boinne gives it additional status.

The lands at Oldbridge were held by the Moore family (later Earls and Marquesses of Drogheda) in the 17th Century. The Coddington family were established in North County Dublin since the 17th Century. In 1729 John Coddington purchased the Oldbridge Estate from the 5th Earl of Drogheda and the family made their home there until a series of raids on the house in the 1970's forced them to leave. The house has not been lived in since, and the house and estate have been sold to the State who have restored the house in association with the site of the Battle of the Boyne.

Built Form

Although quite plain in exterior appearance, the architectural quality, design and symmetry of this house are apparent. Oldbridge House is reputed to have been designed by George Darley. The 1832 alterations were carried out by Frederick Darley, a relative of the original builder. The layout of the estate's farmyards and labourer's houses is of a high standard and the house forms an interesting group with the related outbuildings, entrance gates, lodge, and the octagonal garden.

The Boyne canal and tow path encircle the estate on the north and west and feature a number of canal related structures, including locks and fish wiers. During the emergency of the 1940's a number of fortifications – blockhouses and machine gun pits were built along the Boyne, the highest density being within the Oldbridge estate.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development respect the setting and special qualities of the demesne.
2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

Oldcastle Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Oldcastle is a small market town in north County Meath just west of the great hill of Loughcrew, famous for its megalithic monuments. The town and its surrounding land was the stronghold of the Plunkett family until the mid seventeenth century, with St. Oliver Plunkett being the most notable family member, as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland. The town developed during the C 18 as the largest yarn market in the country. The lands were then the property of the Naper family, whose improvements contributed much to its present appearance.

Layout

The central square, of an irregular triangular form, is on an elevated site, particularly evident from the southern and eastern approach roads. The town's streetscape extends along four of the five roads that radiate from the market square, with the southern approach road from Castlepollard giving the most dramatic view of its centre.

Built form and materials

The architectural character the town is predominantly late Georgian, with two- and three-storey houses, some with stuccoed Victorian commercial facades.

The buildings in Oldcastle ACA are characterised by a broad range of traditional materials with a number of quality shopfronts including 'Creans', 'Next Door Express' and 'Mullens' and formal buildings such as the former courthouse, markethouse and banks.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the town and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, design and materials of any proposed development within and adjoining the historic core of the town should complement its character and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables or inappropriate signage.
3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Slane Castle Demesne Architectural Conservation Area



Historical Development

In the late C17 the lands at Slane became the property of the Conyngham family, originally of Mount Charles in Donegal. Henry Conyngham, a General in the service of William III, built Conyngham Hall between 1703 and 1709 on the foundations of a Castle of the Flemings, who forfeited their estates in 1641. William Conyngham spent large sums on agricultural improvements and in mid 1770's commissioned Capability Brown to create designs for the estate, of which only the stable block was built. The woods were laid out to designs of the Irish gardener John Sutherland. The Gothic Revival Castle which survives was commenced on the site by Francis Burton, the second Baron, c.1785, to designs of James Wyatt (1785 –6) Later revisions and additions are by Francis Johnston (1795) including the East entrance gate. The Third Baron and first Marquess of Slane completed the house with interiors by Francis Johnston c. 1800.

Built form

The Boyne Valley at Slane is an excellent marriage of natural and designed landscape. The castle is one of the earliest picturesque houses to be built in the country in a neo-medieval style. Seen from the river, it is a dramatic four-storey block with battlements
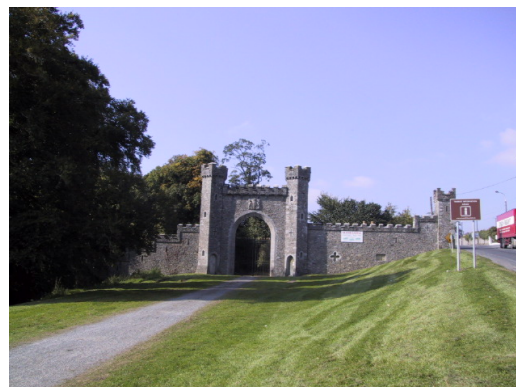
and turrets. The demesne lies along both banks of the river and has survived largely intact from the early 19thC, with mature woodlands and parklands, stableyard, kitchen and walled gardens, entrance gates, lodges, and demesne walls. Also within the demesne area is the archaeological site of the Hill of Slane.

Objectives:

1. To ensure that the built features and designed landscape which may be considered to lie outside the curtilage of the protected structure of Slane Castle are given statutory protection.

2. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features, by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development, both within the demesne and in the surrounding area, should not have an adverse affect on the special qualities of the demesne.

3. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

Slane Mill Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Slane Flour Mill was built by William Burton Conyngham, Blayney Balfour (Burton Conyngham's neighbour at Townley Hall) and David Jebb a local miller and engineer. The mill, a very large but well proportioned building in the style of a country mansion, and the miller's house, rather like a grand glebe house, were both completed by 1766.

By the mid-nineteenth century the mill ceased to function as a mill and was used as a general store instead. No longer attractive or profitable as a corn mill, the building was adopted for cotton manufacture in the early 20th century. The mill-house ceased to be used as accommodation for the managers and operated as the Boyneville Hotel, catering for tourists who enjoyed the pleasure trips operated along the canal.

Summary of Special Character

The Slane Mill Complex ACA forms an integral group of industrial buildings, waterworks, engineering works and terraced residences, all located in an unrivalled setting of natural beauty. The mill building and its associated waterworks

are a focal point within the ACA. An exceptional example of an intact purpose-built industrial building dating from the beginning of the rural industrial revolution in Ireland, the mill and its site is of national importance.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the area, its natural and designed landscape and built features by prohibiting any development which would have an adverse affect on the buildings or their setting.
2. To protect the landscape setting and the views to and from the complex.
3. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the area shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

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Slane Village Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

According to tradition, St. Patrick began his conversion of Ireland by lighting a fire on the hill of Slane in defiance of Druidic law. The early settlement of the village was destroyed in 1156 and 1161, and again in 1172 by Dermot McMurrough and his ally Strongbow. In the seventeenth century The Civil Survey for Meath recorded one large stone house, two chapels, a friary, an old castle and twenty-five tenements in the village. By the mid-eighteenth century a new residential square was laid out on the old market place at the crossroads. At the end of the eighteenth century the Conynghams granted a site for the Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick's at the top of Chapel Street completing the building of ecclesiastical structures at Slane.

Summary of Character

Much of Slane's charm derives from its geographical setting, its iconic formal setpiece of the octagon, the use of stone in its architecture and its association with adjoining ACAs such as the Slane Castle Demesne and Slane Mill, to which it belongs historically and socially. Furthermore the historical associations to the Conyngham family and the architects and builders employed by them, adds to its special archaeological and architectural significance. Its location provides dramatic views through the village towards the natural landscape of the beautiful Boyne Valley and towards the plantations of the adjacent demesne. The approaches and exits to and from the village are largely defined by rubble stone walls

framed by mature trees, a classic feature of eighteenth-century Irish villages and it must be emphasised that these features are just as important as the building fabric within the village. The built fabric of Slane's streets and enclosed private grounds is typically austere and well defined by an eclectic mix of uniform terraces, houses with varied plot widths and detached landmark buildings in both residential and ecclesiastical use

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village and its setting by requiring that the height, scale, design and materials of any proposed development within the village and in the surrounding area should complement the character of the village and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To protect the landscape setting of the village and the views outwards.
3. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables and inappropriate signage.
4. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

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Somerville Demesne Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Sommerville was built by Sir James Sommerville, who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1736 and also served as MP for the city. The area of the home farm was substantially enlarged between 1812 and 1836 and the demesne was then laid out in the romantic naturalistic manner of the picturesque English Landscape Garden that is evident in many contemporary demesnes in County Meath.

Built Form

The plan of this house can be traced today only at basement level, where a series of vaulted rooms survive with joinery details that suggest a date of c. 1730. The back of Somerville was at that time four windows wide, while the front had five.

A two-storey, stone-built stable yard lies to the north of the house. At the centre is a pedimented archway surmounted by an octagonal castellated tower. A pair of houses flanks the archway, with tripartite windows looking into the courtyard.

On the western drive, Archway Lodge is a high-rusticated arch flanked by pilasters, with substantial square rooms on either side.

The demesne contains landscaped grounds which includes areas of protected woodland, a walled garden, and ice house.

Summary of Special Character

The historic demesne of Somerville House is a complex landscape of cultural significance. The site encompasses a major country house of National architectural and artistic value, set within a well conceived designed landscape of harmoniously overlaid layers, and is a good example of the picturesque English Landscape Garden in Ireland. The designed landscape is enlivened by outbuildings of fine architectural quality and a rare example of an underground ice house.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features, by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development, both within the demesne and in the surrounding area, should not have an adverse affect on the special qualities of the demesne.

2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

A detailed statement of character and planning guidance is available to download from the website – http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Heritage/ArchitecturalHeritage/ArchitecturalConservationAreas/

Stackallan House Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Stackallan House is one of the very few surviving classical Irish country houses from the early eighteenth century. (c. 1716) and reflects both classical and northern European influences.

The house has important historical connections with Gustavus Hamilton, a noted Protestant politician in Irish affairs during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Hamilton commanded a regiment of Williamite soldiers at the Battle of the Boyne (1690) and later rose to become a Major General in the English Army and fought against Louis XIV of France. The lands of Stackallan formed the nucleus of the manor of Stackallan where, in the fifteenth century, Sir Barnaby Barnewall had constructed a castle and church. The castle was later absorbed into the present house.

Built form and materials

The demesne includes fine outbuildings of rubble stone with brick detailing, some with high pitched roofs and tall brick diamond shaped chimneystacks, a walled garden, gates

lodges, entrance gates and demesne walls. The current owners have carried out extensive work in recent years, in the conservation of the existing buildings and grounds, and of particular note is the introduction of new demesne features – a classical folly in the grounds, and a canal in the gardens.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features, by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development, both within the demesne and in the surrounding area, should not have an adverse affect on the special qualities of the demesne.

2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.

Summerhill Architectural Conservation Area

Historical Development

Built in the 1730's by Hercules Langford Rowley, Summerhill House was twice burnt in the C 19 and C 20 and finally demolished in 1970. The granting of patents for a fair at Summerhill to H.L. Rowley by George III in 1780 most likely coincided with the planned development of the village. Lewis, writing some thirty years later, said that Summerhill contained 49 houses and 331 inhabitants, had a constabulary police station and a Presbyterian meeting house.

Layout

The street pattern within Summerhill reflects the planned estate layout associated with Summerhill demesne to the south. The village green is bounded by rubble limestone walls to centre and concrete bollards with iron chain to north and south ends. It includes a cast-iron waterpump to north-west, Celtic Revival high cross to north end and a Medieval cross.

Built form

The green is framed by townhouses of varying architectural styles and together with the alignment of the main axis of the village to Summerhill Demesne, this has created a village character of a very high quality. The stands of deciduous trees also contribute to the special character of the village. The existing three-storey Georgian houses and single-storey estate cottages date to the late C 18 and C 19 and add significantly to the character of the village. Buildings are for the most part plastered and painted, with slate roofs.

Objectives:

1. To preserve the character of the village by requiring that the height, scale, and design of any proposed development within the village should complement the character of the village and its open space, and not diminish its distinctiveness of place.
2. To encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements such as overhead cables and inappropriate signage.
3. To require the preservation and re-instatement of traditional details and materials on existing buildings and the streetscape where improvements or maintenance works are being carried out.

A detailed statement of character and planning guidance is available to download from the website – http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Heritage/ArchitecturalHeritage/ArchitecturalConservationAreas/