

Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites Application Form

(For Serial Properties one form per property is required)

Please use The National Monuments Service's https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/ as a reference in the completion of this application form.

Check to confirm that you have submitted the following documents with your application form*:

☑ Signed letter of consent by landowner

☑Letters of support by community members and stakeholder organizations

✓ Supporting photos and images (maximum of 10)

☑Map of site

*Please note that your application will not be considered unless all necessary documents, as outlined above, are submitted.

**Letters of support are encouraged but not required. Any such letters submitted will be taken into account when assessing the strength of the application

By submitting this completed form, you authorize The National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to collect, use, disclose and otherwise manage the personal information and materials (e.g. statements, text, photos) you provide. Further, you warrant, covenant and agree that to the extent the completed form includes the personal information of third parties you have enclosed the consent of those third parties to disclose the personal information to NMS for the purpose of collecting, using, disclosing and otherwise managing the personal information and materials.

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You agree that you have received and enclosed consent from all identified people in submitted photos for NMS to collect, use, disclose to relevant parties and otherwise manage the photos. The personal information and materials you submit will be used only for the purposes of reviewing the application for Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites and will be protected pursuant to the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information, contact: worldheritage@chg.gov.ie
Please note that all information provided is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and may be subject to an access request, which will be carried out in accordance with the FOI Act. For further information about the FOI Act, see: https://foi.gov.ie.

25/06/2021	BRIAN BECK	Brin Back
Date	Applicant Name Printed	Applicant Signature

Print, sign and send your application to: worldheritage@chg.gov.ie by 30 June 2021

Deadlines

The final deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June, 2021.

Applications will be appraised internally by NMS, which may seek further information. All applicants will be informed whether or not their application will be sent for assessment by an international committee to decide whether the sites have Outstanding Universal Value as required for World Heritage Sites. In relation to word counts outlined below, please adhere to them as closely as possible. However, in the case of serial sites where one omnibus form is used, the word count is **per site** and requested detail should be supplied for each site in the sections below.

OFFICE USE:		
Application number		
Date of Receipt		
<u>PART A</u> – APPLICANT INFO	RMATION	
Name	Royal Sites of Ireland	
Title and Organization	Royal Sites Steering Group	
(if applicable)		
Mailing Address	C/O Tipperary County Council	
	Civic Offices, Limerick rod, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. E45A 099	
Email	brian.beck@tipperarycoco.ie	
Telephone	0761 06 5000	
Preferred language of	English	
communication (English/Gaeilge)		
Communication (English) Gacinge		

The Royal Sites of Ireland	
The six Royal Sites of Ireland are associated from the eighth century CE in their link to the myth, legend, and early historical accounts of the development of kingship in Ireland. Four of the places are reputed to have been the provincial royal capitals of Ireland; Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon in Connaught; Navan Fort, Co. Armagh in Ulster; Dún Ailinne, Co. Kildare, in Leinster; Cashel, Co. Tipperary, in Munster. Tara, Co. Meath had a special status as the seat of the High King. and In all cases, their kings, 'Rí Temro', had claim to supreme kingship. The sixth site, Uisneach, Co. Westmeath, was seen as the omphalos or centre of Ireland and the point at which the provinces converged. It had a symbolic function that bound the provinces together spiritually.	
Five of these places are the subject of this application for inclusion on the Irish Tentative List. Information is provided for the sixth – Navan Fort (Eamhain Macha), Co Armagh. This site in Northern Ireland is included because it is an essential part of the group. It is not yet included on the United Kingdom Tentative list. The latest (2011) review of that Tentative List, accepted by the United Kingdom government, considered Navan Fort and concluded that: The Government should consider adding the Royal Sites of Ireland-Navan Fort to this [ie UK] Tentative List once there are firm proposals to proceed with a transnational nomination of the Royal Sites of Ireland provided that it can be demonstrated that the site could make a substantial contribution to the OUV of the series as a whole. Work carried out so far demonstrates very clearly that Navan Fort is one of these royal provincial centres. Its inclusion therefore will make a major contribution to the Outstanding	

responsible are working with the teams for the other five	
	components to develop this World Heritage nomination.
	The current state of the application for inclusion on the Tentative
	List is summarised in Appendix 1 Executive Summary
Geographic coordinates (latitude	See site listings below
& longitude or ITM)	

PART B – SITE INFORMATION		
Site name	Knockaulin, Co. Kildare (Cnoc/ Dún Ailinne)	
Location / Address	Dún Ailinne,	
	Whitehall,	
	Kilcullen,	
	Co Kildare.	
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 681966/707919	
& longitude or ITM)		

PART B – SITE INFORMATION	
Site name	Hill of Uisneach
Location / Address	Uisnagh Hill,
	Mweelra,
	Kellybrook,
	Rathnew,
	Co. Westmeath.
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 629029/749006
& longitude or ITM)	

PART B – SITE INFORMATION	
Site name	Rock of Cashel
Location / Address	Moor,
	Cashel,
	Co. Tipperary
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 607431/640973
& longitude or ITM)	

PART B – SITE INFORMATION	
Site name	Rathcroghan
Location / Address	Rathcroghan,
	Castlerea,
	Co. Roscommon
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 579030/783847
& longitude or ITM)	

<u>PART B</u> – SITE INFORMATION	
Site name	Tara Complex
Location / Address	Hill of Tara,

	Castleboy, Co. Meath
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 691899/759619
& longitude or ITM)	

PART B – SITE INFORMATION	
Site name	Navan Fort (Eamhain Macha)
Location / Address	Navan,
	Armagh,
	Co. Armagh
Geographic coordinates (latitude	ITM: 691906/759648
& longitude or ITM)	

	Reference in Operational guidelines¹
<u>PART C</u> – HERITAGE VALUES FOR WHICH THE SITE IS PROPOSED	
Section 1 – Identification of the Site	
Section 1A - Indicate category:	45-47
□ Natural	
☑ Cultural	
☐ Mixed (Cultural and Natural)	
☐ Cultural Landscape	
Section 2 – Description and History	
Section 2A – Description of Site (maximum 200 words)	
Provide a brief description of the proposed site, including its main heritage features	
and relevant geographic characteristics. The main focus should be on those features	
which are relevant to its Outstanding Universal Value.	
The six Royal Sites of Ireland have been recognised in Irish myths and legend since the	
eighth century CE as the principal royal seats in Ireland., Dún Ailinne (Knockaulin), the	
Rock of Cashel (Caiseal), Rathcroghan (Ráth Cruachan), and Navan (Eamhain Macha) were reputed to be respectively the capitals of the four traditional provinces of Ulster,	
Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, while Tara (Teamhair)was the seat of the High King	
of Ireland, and the Hill of Uisneach was seen as the omphalos or central point of	
Ireland. Surviving archaeology and excavated evidence of buildings and other	
structures show that the sites were used extensively for ceremonial, religious and	
funerary purposes. At some of them, such activity started in the Neolithic and all,	
except Cashel, were very active in the Iron Age, with massive ceremonial complexes.	
See Appendix 13 for a selective reading list which provides further information.	
All were sited on the top of hills or plateaux so that they could be seen from far away	
and had panoramic views of the surrounding areas. All are part of larger cultural	
landscapes which were focused on them. The character of the structures linked to	
their ceremonial function changed over time until their abandonment following the	
spread of Christianity, though The Neolithic period use was characterised by burial	

¹ The procedures, criteria and requirements for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List are prescribed in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

mounds. Burial use was also prominent in the Bronze Age on some sites. In the Iron Age, large enclosures with internal ditches, figure-of-eight enclosures, and many wooden structures were used for ceremony. The Rock of Cashel, the latest of these sites to develop, uniquely continued into the Medieval period and was given to the Church and is now characterised an iconic complex of stone-built churches and associated structures.

Dún Ailinne (Knockaulin)

Dún Ailinne is situated close to Kilcullen in Co. Kildare, also an early Christian ecclesiastical centre. It is sited on the rounded summit of the highest hill in the area and is a dominant feature in the landscape with panoramic views. The most visible feature today is a massive bank with an internal ditch surrounding the hill top. Major excavations from 1968 – 1974, smaller interventions since then coupled with extensive geophysical survey provide evidence for the complex archaeology of the site.

The earliest activity was a Neolithic enclosure with remains of a burial and there was some Bronze Age activity. The surviving ditched bank is Iron Age. Within it, a series of enclosures were constructed The earliest White phase was a circular palisade. The Rose phase had a funnel-shaped entrance leading to a figure-of-eight structure with three concentric palisades. It was linked with a ditched enclosure circling the summit, discovered by geophysical survey. These were succeeded by the Mauve phase with a single circular structure around a small central timber circle with a timber structure inside it. All these opened to the east-northeast. The last activity was evidence of feasting. The latest scientific dates for these phases are centred on the second century BCE for the Rose phase. Subsequent excavation and geophysical survey have discovered some ring shaped features which may be burials of any date from the Bronze Age through to the Early Medieval.

Rathcroghan (Ráth Cruachan)

Rathcroghan is the summit area of a limestone plateau sloping to the east with steep slopes on all but its western side. There are panoramic views. The plateau has a large number of surviving archaeological sites ranging from the Neolithic to the Medieval, with the densest use in the Iron Age and Early Medieval period. Rathcroghan has not been the subject of major excavations but has been assessed on the basis of what is visible and on geophysical surveys.

The primary focus of this site is Rathcroghan Mound, This is broad and flat topped, 5.5m high, and 80m in diameter. Geophysical surveys have shown the Mound to have a complex internal structure constructed in several phases. Deep inside are two circular stone settings or stone walls, of 22m and 35m diameter respectively. On top of the mound, geophysics revealed a double circle of pits, 32m in diameter, possibly once holding a timber circles.

The Mound is surrounded by an enclosure ditch 360m in diameter. There are some small monuments visible in its immediate vicinity, including two standing stones, one sited on a burial mound. The large enclosure also contains many buried features including at least ten ring barrows, a ring fort, and three very small earth and stone mounds.

Tara (Teamhair)

The Hill of Tara is a north-south limestone ridge 2kms long, and falling steeply away to the west. It has extensive distant views as well as being prominent in the landscape. Over 30 monuments are visible on the Hill and many more are known, particularly as the result of geophysical survey. There have also been excavations on the Hill. The surrounding landscape is thickly populated with ritual and funerary sites.

The earliest use of the hilltop was a 3rd millennium BCE Neolithic enclosure, succeeded by a passage tomb (Dúma na nGiall). This was approached by a formal avenue. In the early Bronze Age an embanked enclosure (Rath Maeve) was added and the Hill became a focus for Bronze Age ring-ditches and bowl barrows. In the Iron Age, principal monuments include the Ráith na Rig, an embanked enclosure with internal ditch constructed, probably around the same time as the palisaded enclosures and cemetery underneath the later Ráith na Senad enclosure. Within the Ráith na Rig is the Forradh, a flat topped mound, with the Lia Faidh, the Stone of Destiny to its north. The Forradh is 36m in diameter, within a bivallate enclosure, and abutted by the Teach Cormaic enclosure. The hilltop is approached by two cursus-like earthworks forming a ceremonial approach. From the 12th century CE at least, there was a Christian church on the hill.

The Rock of Cashel (Caiseal)

The Rock of Cashel is a prominent rock outcrop just north of Cashel town, rising almost 100m above the surrounding plain. It is a dominant feature in the landscape with extensive views.

While recognised from the 8th century CE as one of the provincial capitals of Ireland, the Rock does not as yet appear to have had lengthy earlier use as a centre for ritual and assembly. The earliest material found on the hilltop suggests occupation from around 400/500 CE. There are traces of apparent defensive works around the perimeter of the rock including walls, the scarping of the natural rock, ditches and possible enclosures. The name Cashel also suggests fortification.

It also became a centre for intense religious (Christian) activity unlike the other provincial capitals, possibly because the kings of Munster adopted Christianity early on, and the Rock was given to the church in 1101. The surviving structures date mostly from the 12th/ 13th centuries CE and form one of the most remarkable assemblages of Celtic art and architecture to be found anywhere in Europe. These include an imposing Round Tower, a High Cross, a unique Hiberno-Romanesque chapel, a Gothic cathedral, a fifteenth-century tower and a Hall of the Vicars Choral (restored) which is the long-standing point of entry to the complex.

Uisneach

The Hill of Uisneach is a broad and prominent ridge, in Co. Westmeath, with extensive views and also visible from far away. 35 archaeological monuments are known, about half visible above ground. Most are located on the plateau summit of the ridge. In early Irish histories, Uisneach is perceived as the symbolic central point of Ireland where the provinces came together.

The earliest feature is a Neolithic enclosure of the fourth millennium BCE, over which was placed a passage grave. The burial tradition continued through the Bronze Age, with large mounds, ring barrows and ring ditches. In the Iron Age, the large mound on the eastern summit was surrounded by an enclosure nearly 200m across. Another ditched enclosure was found c100m to the south. Both are close to the summit lake of

Lough Lugh which may have been modified to form a ritual pond. Another feature is the Cat Stone, a massive fragmented glacial erratic over 4m high, within an earthen enclosure c21m in diameter.

There was much Early Medieval activity from c400CE with four ringforts. Rathnew is the most dominant with two adjoining ditched enclosures, and an overall diameter of 112m. They were occupied from the late seventh/eighth to the eleventh centuries and contained two souterrains and the remains of several houses and evidence of metal-working debris.

Navan (Eamhain Macha)

Navan Fort is located on a rounded hilltop just west of Armagh and it may be no coincidence that Patrick traditionally chose to found his early church so close to the earthworks. The site is visible from a distance and has panoramic views. Visible remains are a massive enclosing bank, with an internal ditch, around the hilltop, within which are a large mound (Site B) and a ring ditch (Site A). Excavation over the past 50 years and more recent geophysical survey has revealed a much more complex sequence, though features revealed by non-intrusive methods can be difficult to date.

Excavation has revealed evidence for Neolithic activity, but the earliest substantive use of the hilltop, in the Late Bronze Age, was the construction of a ditched enclosure with an internal palisade. Within that palisade and its successors, there were a series of figure-of-eight timber buildings, possibly representing circular structures and attached enclosures. Around 95BCE the massive enclosing bank and internal ditch were constructed along with a huge timber building, 40m in diameter on site B. Soon afterwards this was filled with limestone boulders, deliberately burnt down and mounded over. The ring ditch at site A surrounded a double-walled timber building, possibly of early medieval date, although it partially overlay a series of figure-of- eight structures, similar to those below Site A, also dated to the Iron Age and approached by a palisaded avenue. The geophysical surveys identified a number of potential ring-ditch burials and possible rectangular buildings which could be early medieval. Further evidence for Iron Age activity has also been found at Loughnashade, immediately to the east, where the discovery of four bronze trumpets and human remains have been interpreted as evidence for ritual deposition.

<u>Section 3 – Proposed Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)</u>

*Note: all sections below must be completed unless otherwise indicated

Section 3A – Justification for adding the Site to Ireland's Tentative List. Propose why the site may have Outstanding Universal Value. OUV encapsulates why the site is of importance to all humanity. The description should summarize the main attributes which demonstrate the site's OUV. It should be written with careful reference to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. (maximum of 200 words)

From the eighth century CE, at least, Navan Fort, Dún Ailinne, the Rock of Cashel, Rathcroghan, have been the traditional royal centres of the North, East, South and West provinces, together with Tara, the seat of the High Kings, and the Hill of Uisneach, the symbolic central point of Ireland, forming a globally unique group of archaeological ceremonial complexes. They demonstrate in physical form the development of power, ceremony and religion in a Celtic society minimally influenced

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by the Romans. Great value is added to the sites by the surviving legends and myths about these places which make it possible to know something of the relationships between them. As a group, they are still perceived as the historic power and spiritual centres of Ireland. Tara in particular is still a symbol of Irish national unity and cultural identity.

Also significant is the time-depth of most of these places showing the changing ways in which their spiritual and ceremonial importance were displayed through more than four millennia. It is clear that during the Iron Age (600BCE-400CE) and Early Medieval period (400-1100CE), a range of ceremonial structures were constructed in most of them in various combinations, including large circular enclosures with internal ditches, large timber structures, and ceremonial ways. All are situated on prominent hills or plateaux so that they are dominant features in the landscape and all of them are parts of larger associated cultural landscapes. They are set apart from their wider landscapes by the scale and intensity of their use, their dominant positions, and by their obvious ceremonial, symbolic and ritual function.

Much of north-western Europe was either included within the Roman Empire or strongly influenced by proximity to it. Despite evidence of contact with the Empire, such as occasional artefacts found on the Royal Sites, Ireland is very unusual in that it was not influenced strongly (until after conversion to Christianity) so that the function of these six places into the early centuries of the Common Era enables us to see how such Celtic traditions evolved outside Roman influence, and also (particularly at the Rock of Cashel) how they could eventually be adapted to the needs of Christianity.

Section 3B – Proposed Outstanding Universal Value by criteria State which one or more of the 10 criteria for Outstanding Universal Value are being proposed for this site and describe briefly why each was chosen.

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*Refer to NMS's Information Document – Updating Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites or the Operational Guidelines for the definition of each criterion.

Operational Guidelines: https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/

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(iii) X to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

The Royal Sites of Ireland are an outstanding example of a group of places demonstrating a social system based on kingship and assembly with strong ritual and ceremonial aspects. By the early medieval period, these places were recognised in myth, legend and the earliest historical writings as the most important places in Irish kingship. These writings describe a cultural tradition of kingship, assembly and ritual which is manifested in the archaeological remains at the six sites. The combination of documentary and archaeological evidence is truly exceptional testimony to the culture of Ireland in the early medieval period.

Taken together, the sites provide an unparalleled record of the changing structural responses to the needs of Irish society, for central places of ritual, ceremony, and the display and exercise of power from the Neolithic through to the early Christian period. These complexes of monuments, with shared key elements and features, point to a common set of belief systems at various stages in Irish history. These beliefs related to the sacred nature and power of kingship and the power of ancestors. The combined material and literary evidence feeds into a wider canon of testimony worldwide of belief systems linked to the creation of sacral cultural landscapes and focal places of assembly. The size of the enclosure monuments suggests a public function in which the 'theatre' of kingship, power, inauguration and associated ceremonies took places.

(iv) X

to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

As a group, the Royal Sites illustrate the development of monumental ceremonial and funerary architecture from the Neolithic through to the early medieval period. All six demonstrate a continuing wish to locate such places prominently on hill-tops so that they are visual foci for large landscapes. Five of the sites have well preserved archaeological evidence going back for up to several thousand years. Apart from the prominent visible monuments, excavation and non-intrusive investigations have shown extraordinary concentrations of major ceremonial, ritual and funerary structures. There are Neolithic enclosures and passage graves, with Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age burials in ring-barrows or ring-ditches. From the Iron Age there are massive circular enclosures with internal ditches, figure-of-eight shaped enclosures, large timber structures including concentric circular complexes, and ceremonial approaches. The Rock of Cashel shows how the ritual and ceremonial aspects were adapted to the needs of Christianity and Christian kings and there is evidence at Tara and Uisneach for later Christian associations. At Navan Fort the Christian successor is at Armagh on the next prominent hill.

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(v)		to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
(vi)	X	to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria); The Royal Sites are directly and tangibly associated with ancient Irish myths, legends and traditions that reflect ancient Indo-European roots and universal belief systems, many of which are specifically related to these places. Because of these associations, the sites retain a special identity in modern Ireland. The great early Irish sagas of the <i>Táin Bó Cúailgne</i> and the <i>Táin Bó Fraích</i> are set at Rathcroghan and the great <i>Ulster Cycle</i> at Eamhain Macha, and there is mention of Uisneach, while the stories of St. Patrick's visits to Tara and other royal sites are chronicled in the <i>Tírechán</i> from 700 A.D. Navan Fort also retained a special status well into the medieval period, with Niall Og O'Neill building a house for the poets of Ireland within the enclosure in 1387. These legends and the places themselves have helped to maintain Irish identity through the centuries. Tara held a central place in the 'idea' of early modern Ireland and it retained its special identity to the extent that it was used as a meeting place during later political developments, for example in the rising of 1798 and Daniel O'Connell's "monster meeting" in 1843 (he also held one at Uisneach). The Royal Sites are an outstanding example of the use of specific places to encapsulate a sense of national identity.
(vii)		to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
(viii)		to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
(ix)		to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

(x)	to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-sit of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.	
Describe the	- Authenticity of the site (*for cultural criteria only) e authenticity of the site. Authenticity concerns the measure of how w truthfully a site's features express potential OUV. (maximum of 200	79-86
their surrou	retain their prominent hill-top positions with panoramic views across nding cultural landscapes. All the sites are characterised by surviving and early medieval earthworks and masonry monuments. Their overall is high.	
extensive no has provide the sites, an	cal investigation over the last 50 years, including both excavation and on-intrusive surveys (aerial, field, geophysical, LiDAR) in the last 20 years, d unequivocal evidence for the entirely authentic and unique nature of ad continues to do so. Medieval historical texts testify to the essential entity of the sites and their lexicon of mythical and legendary attribution.	
been under	tances where post-excavation reconstruction of earthwork features has taken is at Navan Fort (Site B) (where part of the mound was unexcavated, accurate recreation of its dimensions and profile) and Tara (Dúma na where, excavations have been backfilled when completed.	
of similar su significant re ruined state	and tower was restored in 1874-5 and its roof was re-built to reflect those arriving structures. Conservation in recent years has not involved econstruction. The ecclesiastical remains on the site are presented in their e, the remarkable survival intact of Cormac's Chapel and its painted and all the more significant for that fact.	
Describe the intactness of	- Integrity of the site (for both cultural and natural criteria) e integrity of the site. Integrity is a measure of the completeness or of the features that convey proposed OUV. Key areas to consider are adequate size, and absence of threats. (maximum of 200 words)	87-95
	s a whole has high integrity since it includes all six of the sites regarded as oyal Sites of Ireland.	
Universal Va each Royal S	onent will include its hilltop so that all key attributes of Outstanding alue are included within the nominated areas. The visual links between Site and its cultural hinterland remain intact, despite occasional intrusions. I component the attributes, nearly all archaeological deposits, are in good	
natural eros	sites are managed primarily as grassland. Despite some obvious localised sion and material loss at most sites, largely due to livestock and to visitors nts, overall archaeological deposits are well preserved and not	

threatened. The Rock of Cashel is owned by the State and managed by the Office of Public Works as a National Monument, so that there is no threat to the integrity of its attributes.

Parts of Tara, Rathcroghan, and two individual monuments at Uisneach are also managed by the Office of Public Works as National Monuments, while Dún Ailinne is the subject of a Preservation Order. Navan Fort is owned by the Northern Ireland Department of Communities with adjoining land owned by the local authority. The archaeological deposits of the other sites, all extensive areas of grassland, are not threatened except by localised erosion which is managed by landowners in consultation with the public authorities. There is the potential for threats to affect the visual links of the sites to their cultural landscapes but these are controlled through the spatial planning processes.

Section 3E –Indicate what distinguishes this site from other similar heritage properties around the world, including other properties on the World Heritage List? Give details on its significance in relation to a maximum of 5 properties of comparable heritage value found worldwide. (maximum of 400 words) *Desirable but not required.

The six sites have been recognised since the eighth century CE as the principal royal sites in Ireland and are still perceived as historic power and spiritual centres. Archaeologically, they have evidence of use for ceremonies, funerary rites, and assemblies over exceptionally long periods of up to four millennia in some cases. Through that time span, the structural responses to spiritual and ceremonial needs and the display of power changed but remained focused on these places.

Individual elements can be paralleled elsewhere – for example circular earthworks with internal ditches (henges) and long linear ditched and embanked areas (cursus) are found across Britain during the Neolithic. Types of burial mound are also paralleled in many places across north-west Europe. There are also extensive ceremonial and funerary landscapes such as the World Heritage properties of Stonehenge and Avebury and Neolithic Orkney (both World Heritage, UK), or Carnac in Brittany, which parallel many of the structural features and landscape characteristics of the Irish Royal Sites though often at much earlier dates and for shorter timespans.

There are also open air assembly sites such as Thingvellir (World Heritage, Iceland) which is typical of a whole series of Viking assembly sites but dates only from the late 10^{th} century CE. These tended to have temporary structures only and were all used for only a few centuries at most. Perhaps one of the closest parallels is Jelling (World Heritage, Denmark) which combines burial mounds with evidence of royal power (massive timber enclosure and runic inscriptions) and Christianisation, but was used for only a comparatively short time. There are also places like Dunadd and Kilmartin (UK) which mirror the Irish Royal Sites to some extent, because they were taken over by Irish settlers in western Scotland, and lesser royal sites in Ireland.

But while individual aspects of the Irish Royal Sites can be paralleled, they seem to be unique within their geo-cultural region (north-western Europe) in their time depth as a group demonstrating a continuing use of the same places for ceremonial and ritual

purposes, and for the display of power for several millennia. They have exceptionally rich archaeological evidence. They are also very rare in that they are firmly associated with each other through legends and myths recorded in early history which gives them outstanding intangible significance. They also demonstrate within the European context the development of power centres in an area which was comparatively little influenced by Roman imperialism compared to its impact on Britain and mainland northern Europe.	
Section 3F –Identify whether the site addresses a particular gap or under- represented area or theme on the World Heritage List. (maximum of 200 words) *Desirable but not required.	54-59
The UNESCO region of Europe and North America is commonly reputed to be over-represented on the World Heritage List, particularly for cultural properties. Out of 869 cultural properties world-wide, 453 (52%) are in the region, while out of the total 1121 properties on the List 529 (47%) are in the region. Five states parties in Europe have between them 226 properties (43% of the total sites in the region). North America has 44 properties. The remaining 44 states parties in Europe have 259 sites between them meaning that large areas of Europe, including Ireland, have very few World Heritage properties.	
Apart from geographical bias, certain categories of sites were recognised as being over-represented during the preparation of the World Heritage Global Strategy as long back as 1992. Historic towns and religious buildings were over-represented in relation to other types of property; Christianity was over-represented in relation to other religions and beliefs; and historical periods were over-represented in relation to prehistory and the 20th century. All this is certainly true of Europe while many potential equivalent sites in mainland Europe and Britain were heavily influenced by Roman culture. The Royal Sites of Ireland are evidence of a culture with much less Roman influence despite contacts having existed, and do not fall within the overrepresented categories.	
The Royal Sites clearly meet two of the priorities of the World Heritage Global Strategy. Within the theme of HUMAN BEINGS IN SOCIETY they clearly illustrate Human Interaction and Spirituality and Creative Expression. They also represent the power of surviving traditional knowledge, legends and understanding of the past. There are few if any such on the World Heritage List, particularly from the geocultural region of north-western Europe, which match the Royal Sites.	
Within this region, the Royal Sites represent, in their later centuries particularly, continuing Celtic traditions of religion, ceremony and exercise of power which must have empowered the Irish influence on the development of Christianity in western Europe. The absence from the World Heritage List of properties evidencing such traditions is a gap which this nomination can help to fill.	

Section 4 – State of Conservation

Section 4A –Describe the current state of conservation of the site, including details on any potential environmental or development threats to the site, or risks presented by natural disasters. Indicate any mitigation measures in place for the threats identified. (maximum of 200 words)	
The six sites are all in relatively good condition and intact. They are predominantly situated in pastoral land and all are largely managed by grazing, except for Navan Fort, in state care, where the grass is mowed, and Cashel which has standing masonry and is managed as a National Monument in state care. There is some obvious natural erosion and material loss at most of the rural sites, largely due to livestock, but fundamentally pasture is generally beneficial for the conservation of earthworks and buried archaeology. There is potential threat from development and grid connectors or large scale renewable energy projects and infrastructure which should be mitigated through the County Development Plans.	
Section 5 – Protection and Management	
Section 5A - Demonstrate how the property has adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection. If protection measures are not currently in place, indicate what protection mechanism will be afforded the property in the near future, and include a supporting letter from the relevant authority. (maximum of 400 words)	98
Existing legislation, policy frameworks and planning guidelines for the historic environment provide protection for World Heritage Sites. The protection and conservation of the five components in Ireland are controlled by a range of national legislation, local mechanisms and international statutory and non-statutory guidance. These legislative provisions include, amongst others, the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014, Planning and Development Acts, various EU directives and international charters.	
National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014	
The major monuments in each component are either National Monuments or Recorded Monuments. The National Monuments Acts 1930–2014 provide for the protection and preservation of National and Recorded Monuments and for the preservation of archaeological objects in the state. These acts thus provide statutory protection for archaeological elements of the nation's built heritage.	
National Monuments may be in national or local authority ownership or care. National and Recorded Monuments can be placed under a Preservation or Temporary Preservation Order. Under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as substituted by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2014) the prior written consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage is required for a range of specified activities carried out in respect of a National or Recorded Monument of which the minister or a local authority are the owners or the guardians or in respect of which a preservation order is in force.	
Planning and Development Act 2000	

Ireland has a modern and effective planning legislative code that offers comprehensive environmental and conservation protection. This is established under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the regulations made under that act (the Planning and Development Regulations 2001–19). It is mandatory to set objectives in county development plans for protection of the archaeological and natural heritage and there is a system of referral to expert statutory consultees (including the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) of applications for planning permission with potential heritage implications.

The county development plans, revised regularly and approved by the elected members of each county council, in accordance with the legislation, are central to the planning system and provide the framework for consideration of development proposals that require planning permission. The revision and adoption of a development plan by the local authority involves participation by the general public and concerned bodies (both state and civil society) through a combination of specific consultations and invitations to comment on draft plans. (See Appendix 5 for details of relevant policies from the county development plans)

Furthermore, the process of applying for planning permission is also transparent and consultative, with applications available for consideration and comment by the public generally and also referred to expert consultees as specified under the Planning and Development Regulations.

Each of the Royal sites is listed in the relevant County Development Plans/Planning Policy Guidance which contains policies and objectives which seek to protect the sites. Further information on those policies is summarised in Appendix 5.

Core groups of sites at Tara, Cashel and Rathcroghan are either National Monuments owned by the State or placed under guardianship and therefore in State care. Dún Ailinne is not a National Monument nor is it in State ownership or guardianship. However, it is protected by two Preservation Orders. Uisneach has just one National Monument (including two separate features) in state guardianship while the remaining sites in the complex are Recorded Monuments in private ownership.

Northern Ireland has a similar system of legal protection. The site of Navan Fort is owned and managed by the Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division and is protected under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (HMAO) as a monument in State ownership. Two further monuments in the Navan landscape are in the care of the State and a number of other monuments are protected as Scheduled Monuments, meaning that no works can take place without the consent of the Department. The Schedule of protected archaeological sites and monuments is compiled and maintained under Article 3 of the HMAO. In addition, several areas of land adjoining Navan are protected by being in the care of the local Council (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council). Navan Fort also forms the focus of an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest, a non-statutory designation which means that the preservation of an archaeological site or monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Section 5B - List the principal owners or competent authorities of the site. As an annex, include a letter from the site owner indicating their consent for this submission.

*For sites with multiple landowners, such as urban complexes, provide a breakdown of the number of individual legal property parcels with information on zoning (i.e. commercial versus residential). In this case, the letter of support should come from the relevant governing jurisdiction.

Subject to establishment of the extent of the six components following further research, the below may be subject to change (see Appendix 2a for letters from landowners):

Dún Ailinne - The area of the Preservation Order is within the ownership of Robert Thompson;

Rathcroghan – Office of Public Works, however depending on final definition of the boundary of the site this may be broadened to include other owners;

Tara - Office of Public Work, however depending on final definition of the boundary of the site this may be broadened to include other owners;

Rock of Cashel -Office of Public Works, however depending on final definition of the boundary of the site this may be broadened to include other owners.

Uisneach – David and Angela Clarke, Christopher and Kitty Fay

Navan Fort (Emain Macha) - Department for Communities, State owner, some adjoining land in local authority ownership and further State ownership of adjacent monuments

Section 5C –List any community groups and/or major stakeholders with an interest in the site and provide a brief summary of their views regarding its proposed inclusion on the Tentative List. (maximum of 200 words)

An online survey was held in May 2021 to gauge the level of support for the nomination proposal. There were over 1500 responses locally, nationally and internationally. All, including local responses, showed very high levels of support (often over 90%) for the concept of a Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage nomination. See Appendix 3.

Letters from key stakeholders are contained in Appendix 2b.

Dún Ailinne- There is considerable interest and pride in the site locally but access on a regular basis is not possible. Permission has to be obtained from the Thompson family to access the top the hill (the area of the preservation order). There would be strong interest in getting the site included in the Tentative List at local level. The local Heritage Centre hosts a panel exhibition on the Royal Sites of Ireland, commissioned by Dúchas and has a series of large photos and panels on the archaeological dig in the 1968-75s and the impact on the town of Kilcullen. There is a local park dedicated to Dún Ailinne which seeks to replicate the top of the hill. There is an interpretative panel describing the site and the findings of the 1970s archaeological excavation. The report on this work was published in 2008. Over the last 15 years work has been carried out by the George Washington University and New York University (USA), and the National University of Ireland. The George Washington University in particular is a

key stakeholder. This work has included much non-intrusive survey as well as targeted excavations.

Rathcroghan – Key stakeholders include the Landowners and the Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (see Appendix 7), Rathcroghan Visitor Centre, Fáilte Ireland, Department of Culture Heritage and Gaeltacht (now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage/ National Monuments Service/ Office of Public Works). Once the Farming Rathcroghan project has completed its initial 5-year course in 2024 and hopefully been renewed and extended, the Rathcroghan Landowners and the Farming Rathcroghan company would then be open to discussions on the prospect of pursuing WHS, if it is something that can be demonstrated to have positive benefits for the local community. Rathcroghan Visitor Centre would seek to resolve successfully the Farming Rathcroghan EIP project in its current guise, assist the evolution of this project into the future, and with that secured, approach the prospects of considering World Heritage from a much stronger and positive position, assuming all community stakeholders would be in agreement on this matter. Fáilte Ireland want to work with the wider local community (including the land owners) and tourism stakeholders (including Office of Public Works, National Monuments and Roscommon County Council) to identify the needs of Rathcroghan to enable it to become an Excellent Visitor Experience, in Irelands Hidden Heartlands region.

Tara Complex - The State-owned lands are part of the overall monument complex known as the Hill of Tara. Conservation works and day to day maintenance of the complex is carried out the Office of Public Works (OPW) under supervision of an OPW Conservation Architect. The Hill of Tara Visitor Centre is staffed seasonally by OPW guides who report to the Visitor Services Section of the OPW. The car park at the site entrance is owned by Meath County Council. Land ownership details are available.

A Project Steering Group has been established to prepare *Conservation Management Plan for State Owned Lands at the Hill of Tara*. The Steering Group is chaired by the Chief Archaeologist, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with representatives from the Discovery Programme, Heritage Council, National Monuments Service, Meath County Council and Office of Public Works. The coordination and drafting of the plan were undertaken jointly by The Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland and The Heritage Council. An extensive public consultation process was undertaken as part of the drafting of the CMP to gather the view of local and national stakeholders. The plan is currently being finalised by the National Monuments Service and is due for publication this year.

Rock of Cashel- The Office of Public Works manage the site and are supportive of the bid. Inclusion on the Tentative List generally has local support but the finalisation of a boundary may broaden the stakeholders/landowners.

Hill of Uisneach – The Advisory Group, which includes the principal landowners, meets regularly to discuss plans for the Hill and have commissioned *The Hill of Uisneach Tourism Feasibility Study* (2014). The group are keen that the Royal Sites be included on the Tentative List. Members of this group are stakeholders involved in the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Hill of Uisneach, with funding from the Heritage Council and Westmeath County Council

Navan Fort – The Department for Communities owns and manages the site and is supportive of the bid. The local authority owns and manages the adjacent Navan

Centre and owns some adjoining lands. The site continues to form a focus for research and investigation, most recently involving international co-operation as part	
of the Comparative Kingship Project	
Section 5D -Summarize any discussions you've had with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, OPW and/or the local authority regarding your application. (maximum of 400 words)	
Following a national World Heritage Seminar in September 2013, the relevant Local Authorities and a number of stakeholders are part of a Steering Group brought together in 2014 by the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Representatives from Armagh City and District Council (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council since 2015) joined the Steering Group to represent Navan Fort, and the Northern Ireland Department of Communities is also represented.	
The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht commissioned a Technical Assessment of Royal Sites of Ireland by archaeologist Margaret Gowen, and a peer review of it by Christopher Young in 2017 (See Appendices 10 and 11). Steering Group Members subsequently attended a workshop in Killarney in February 2020 and an online workshop in June 2020, both organised by the Department in conjunction	
with ICOMOS Ireland. A timeline outlining interactions with other bodies is at Appendix12.	
	108-118
Appendix12. Section 5E –Describe whether a management plan is in place, or how it would be developed, that specifies how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property would be protected, presented and transmitted to future generations. (maximum of	108-118
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An integrated management plan and the development of an integrated management system will be a priority when the sites are placed on the Tentative List. There will need to be an overall management plan or statement of management principles. Each component would require its own management structure and management plan according to its ownership structure and particular circumstances. See Appendix 8 for further discussion of this topic.

Any management structure will need to take account also of the policies of the World Heritage Committee on sustainable use of World Heritage properties and their relationship with local communities and other key stakeholders. See Appendix 9 for further discussion of this topic.

A road map setting out the next steps for a possible nomination is in Appendix 6.

<u>Section 6 – Documentation</u>

Section 6A – Applications can include a limited number of additional support materials beyond this completed application form. Please help ensure that the review of your application focusses on directly relevant supporting materials, which give evidence of and/or reinforce the information provided in this application form. All supporting materials should be referenced in the appropriate section of this application form; identify the specific pages within the supporting materials that are critical to substantiating the relevance of the application.

Appendix 2 Letters of Support

- 2a from landowners
- 2b from other stakeholders

Appendix 3 Report of Roy	al Sites of I	reland – Public	Consultation 202	12
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- Appendix 4 Gazetteer of images of individual sites
- Appendix 5 Information from our respective County Development Plans
- Appendix 6 Road Map of Future Steps: From Tentative list to Nomination.
- Appendix 7 Note on the Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership
- Appendix 8 Outline proposal for a management framework for the proposed

property

Appendix 9 Sustainability assessment of the proposed property in the context of

the UNESCO Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention

Appendix 10 The Royal Sites of Ireland Technical Report: towards preparation for

World Heritage nomination (2017)

Appendix 11 Peer Review of The Royal Sites of Ireland Technical Report: towards

preparation for World Heritage nomination (2017)

Appendix 12 Timeline of Progress 2010 – 2021

Appendix 13	Selected Further Reading	
Section 7 – M	aps	
Section 7A –Include a map of the site, with additional insert maps as deemed necessary. The map should include coordinates (latitude & longitude or ITM) and a clear boundary identification.		
clear boundar	y identification.	<u>l</u>

Maps are attached of each component showing their current status and designations. Each of the royal sites will form one component of the proposed serial property, but the exact boundary of each component will depend on the results of current and ongoing research, as well as on discussions with landowners affected by the nomination.

List of annexed items (please number)

Maps

Figure 1 Royal sites of Ireland sites locations map

Dun Ailinne

Figure 2 Dun Ailinne Preservation Order Map
Figure 3 RMP sites in close proximity to Dun Ailinne

Rathcroghan

Figure 4 Rathcroghan State Owned Lands

Figure 5 Rathcroghan Historic Environment Viewer Map

Tara

Figure 6 Hill of Tara RMP and State owned lands
Figure 7 Tara Historic Environment Viewer Map

Rock of Cashel

Figure 8 Rock of Cashel Site location Map

Figure 9 Rock of Cashel Historic Environment Viewer Map

Hill of Uisneach

Figure 10 Principal monuments and sites on the Hill of Uisneach

Figure 11 Hill of Uisenach RMP map

Navan Fort

Figure 12 State Care Ownership area and details

Figure 13 Location Map of Navan Fort

The Department's Privacy Statement can be found on our website at the following link:

https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/

Gazetteer of Maps

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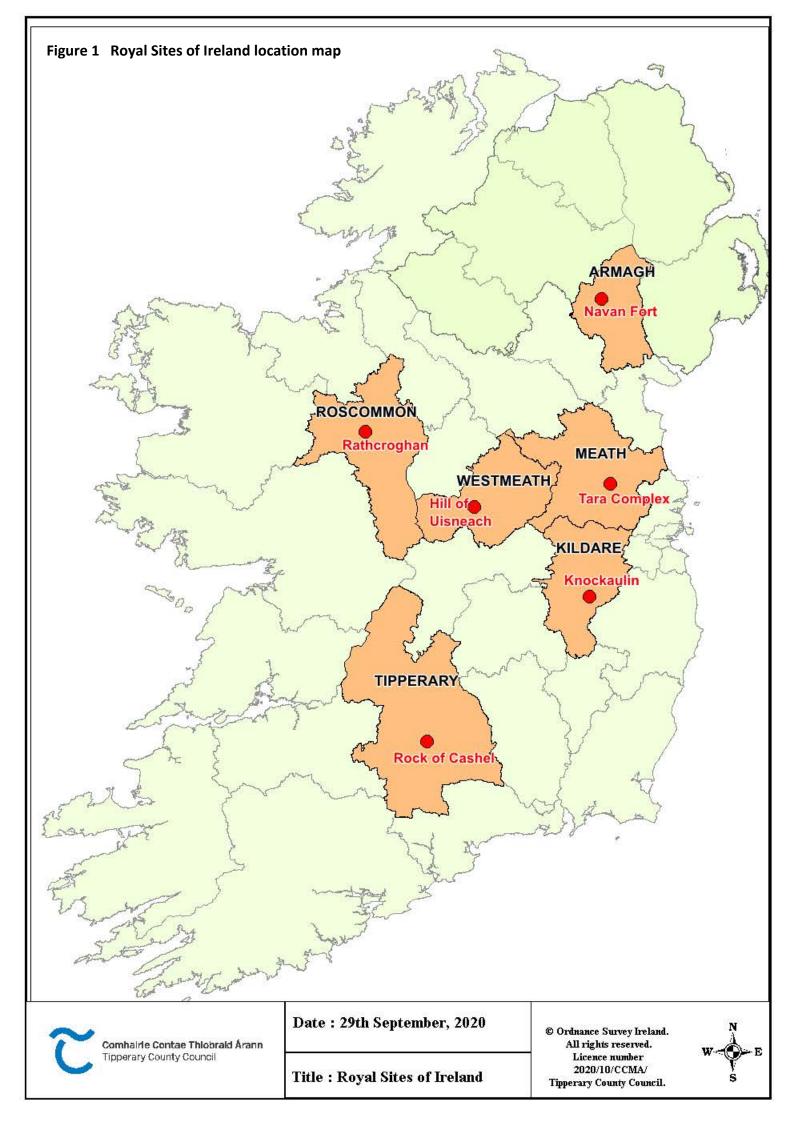
Figure 10 Principal monuments and sites on the Hill of Uisneach (after Schot 2015)

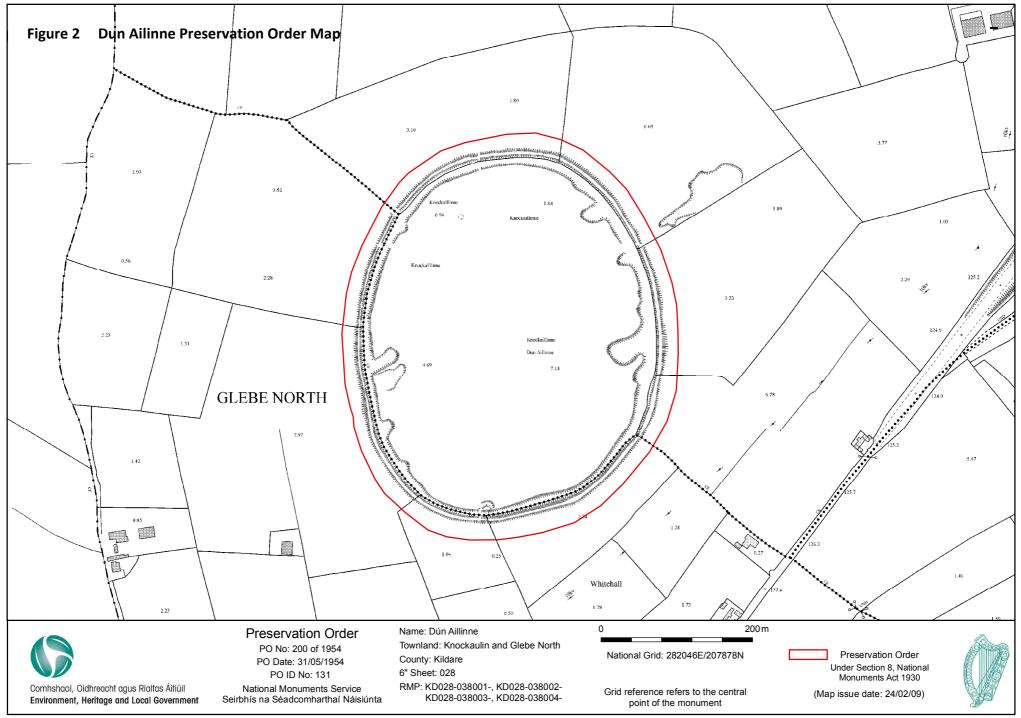
Figure 11 Hill of Uisenach RMP map

Navan Fort

Figure 12 State Care Ownership area and details

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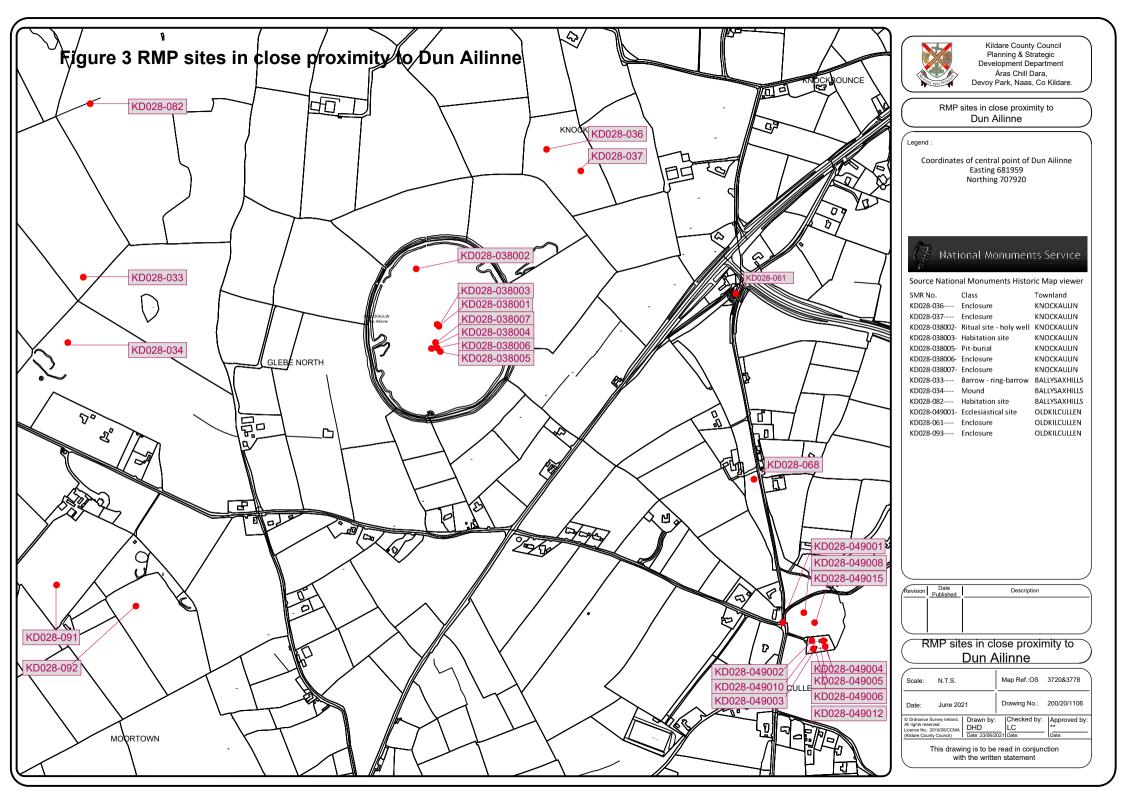
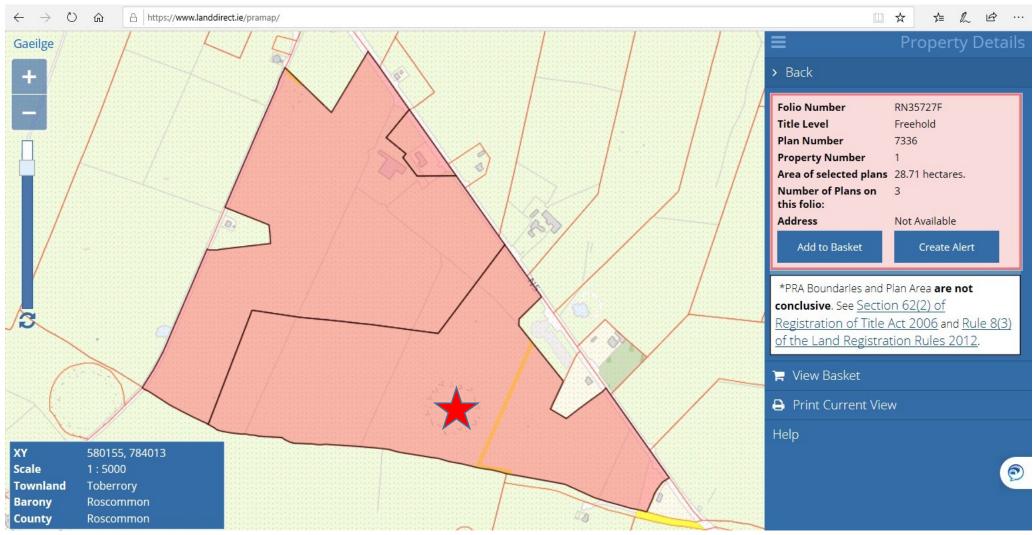


Figure 4: Rathcroghan State Owned Lands

Folio Number RN35727F - Lands are owned by Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Rathcroghan Mound is marked with



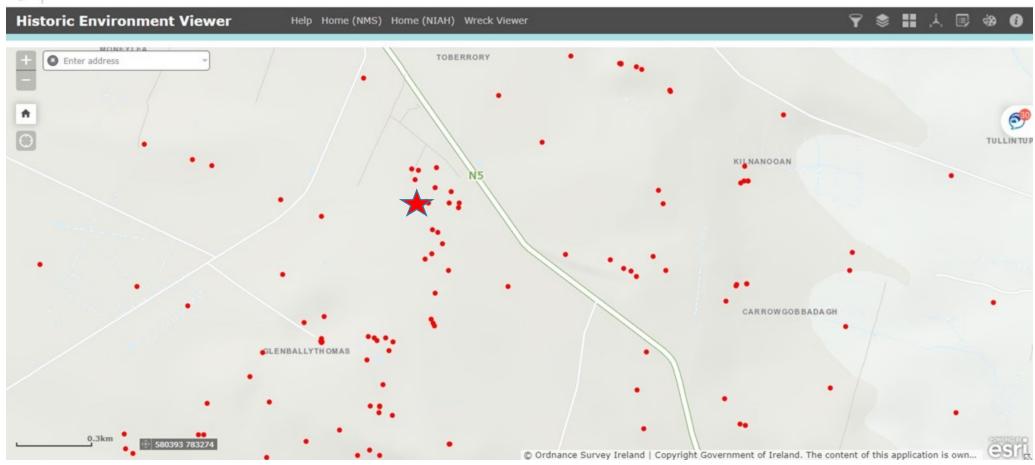
ITM 579965, 783676

Figure 5: Rathcroghan Historic Environment Viewer Map

Rathcroghan Mound is marked with

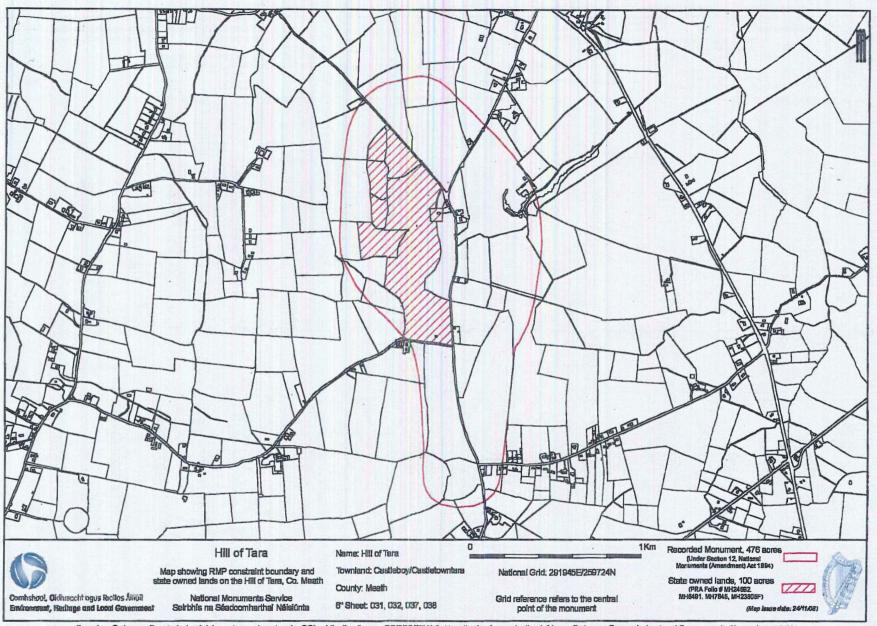






ITM 579965, 783676

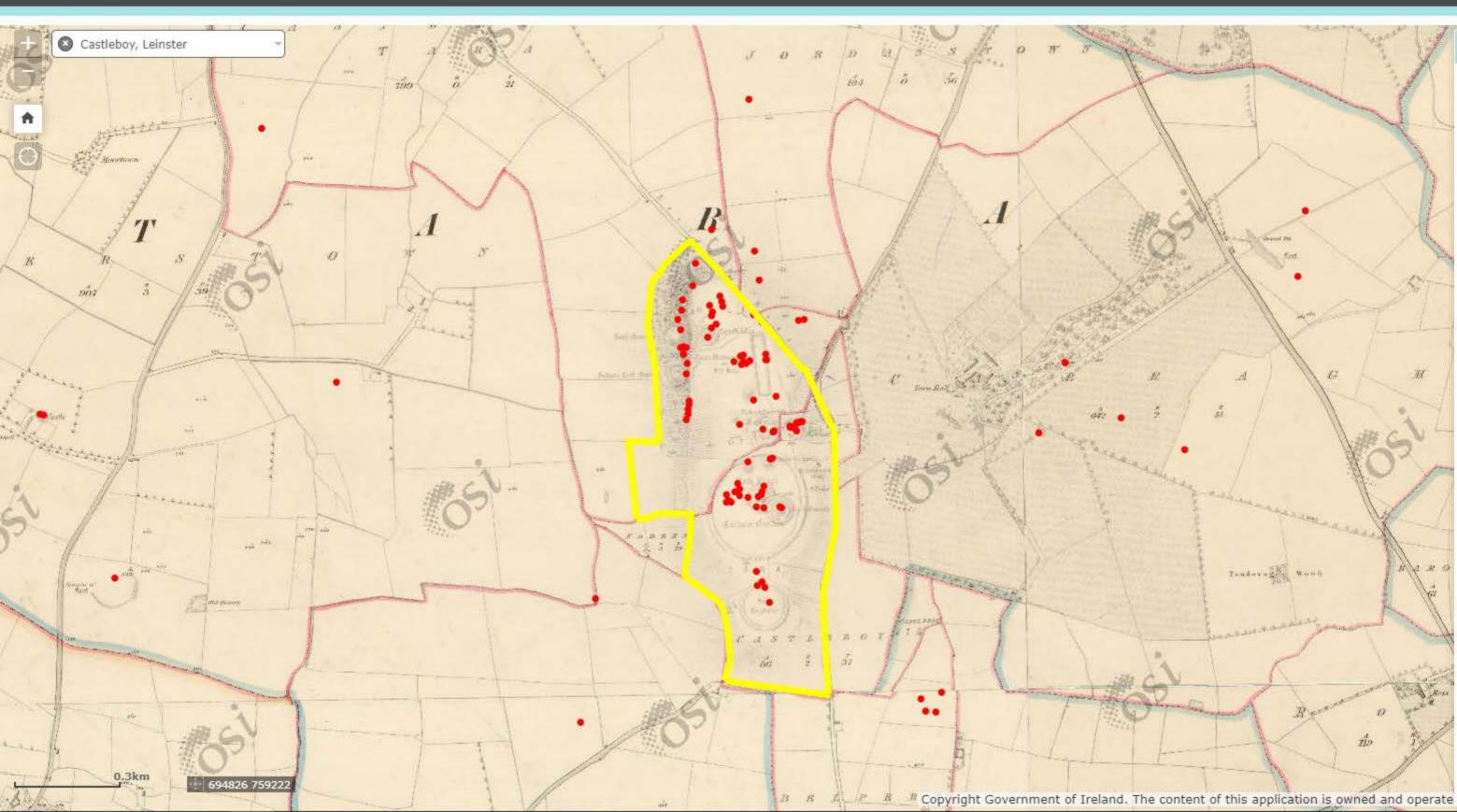
Figure 6: Hill of Tara RMP and State-owned lands

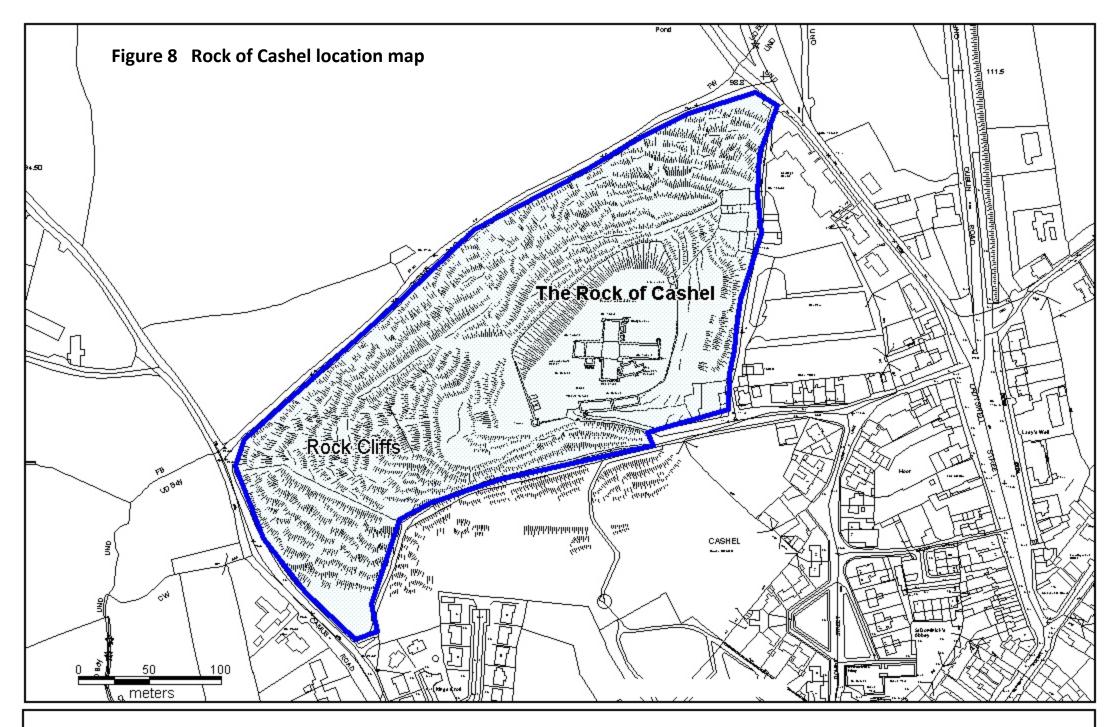


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Figure 7 Tara Historic Environment Viewer Map

Historic Environment Viewer Help Home (NMS) Home (NIAH) Wreck Viewer





Site Location: The Rock of Cashel, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

Figure 9 Rock of Cashel Historic Environment Viewer

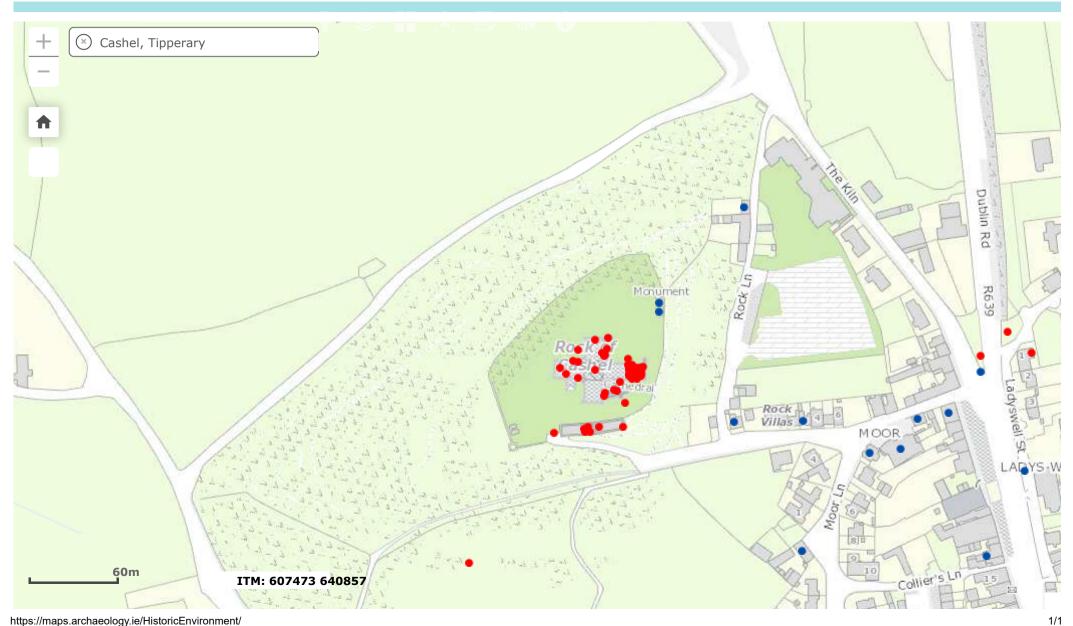


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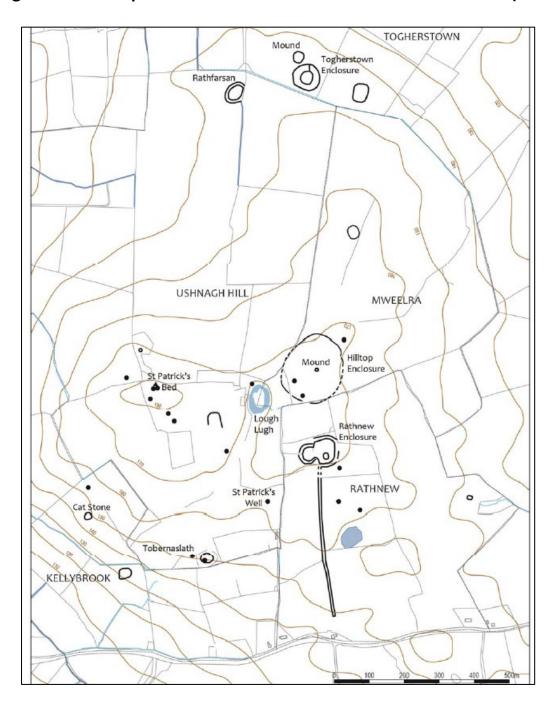


Figure 11 Hill of Uisneach RMP map

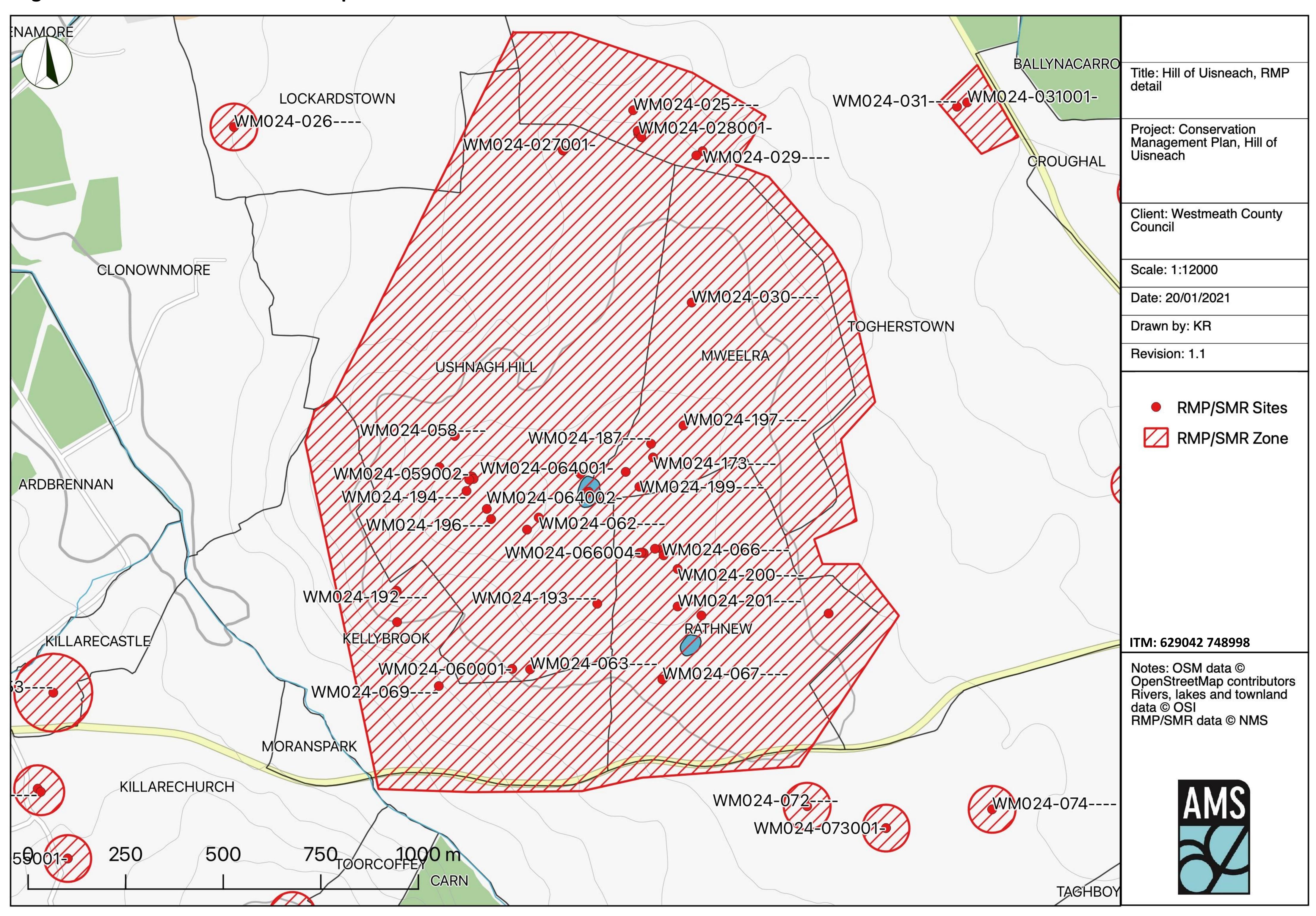
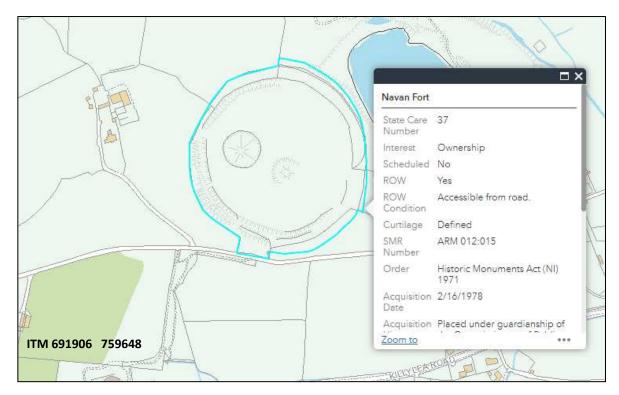


Figure 12 Navan Fort - State Care Ownership area and details



Navan Fort	
State Care Number	37
Interest	Ownership
Scheduled	No
ROW	Yes
ROW Condition	Accessible from road.
Curtilage	Defined
SMR Number	ARM 012:015
Order	Historic Monuments Act (NI) 1971
Acquisition Date	2/16/1978
Acquisition History	$Placed\ under\ guardianship\ of\ the\ Commissioners\ of\ Public\ Works\ on\ 27/3/1917.\ Vesting\ order\ made\ on\ 16/2/78\ becoming\ operative\ 24/3/78.$
GIS Accuracy	Good
GIS Source	Terrier map traced and snapped to OS Large Scale Vectors.
Conditions	
Folio No.	Folios 12090, 12669, 12670 & 12671
Registry	Registered
Prop. Ref	EV235
Χ	284,769.34
Υ	345,129.84

Figure 13 Location map of Navan Fort

Name: Navan Fort

NI Sites and Monuments Record No.: ARM 012:015

Co-ordinates Latitude 54.34803 Longitude -6.697192

Address: Navan Fort Road, Armagh

Location: Located 2 miles west of Armagh City.

Description: Settlement and ritual site

