

**Spicer's Bakery, Ramparts Car Park and Andy Brennan Park
Project,
Co. Meath**

Athlumney townland
Site Area: Approx. 16,728 sqm
ITM: 687230, 767866

Record of Monuments and Places: None

Record of Protected structures: NT025-121 (NIAH 14010083) Canal Basin, NT025-120 (14010089) Store / warehouse and NT025-117 Somerville Bridge. Adjacent to NT025-118 (14010097) Gate Lodge, NT025-119 (14010098) Miscellaneous offices and NT025-116 (14010085) Mill (converted) and NT025-115 (14010086) New Bridge

Architectural Conservation Area: None

Desk Based Review and Assessment

Niall Roycroft, 19th December 2022

Non-Technical Summary

Meath County Council are proposing to develop the lands **Spicer's Bakery, Ramparts Car Park and Andy Brennan Park** amounting to approx. 16,728 sqm at the previous Spicers Mill (approx. 4,804 sqm) on the Boyne Road (closed to business since 2012); the Boyne Road Ramparts Walk carpark (approx. 1,938 sqm); the Andy Brennan Park (approx. 5,825 sqm); which are all linked together along the R153 Kentstown Road (approx. 3,485 sqm) on the eastern side of Navan, Co Meath. A general central point is ITM 687230 / 767866.

As a historic part of Navan town there are numerous Protected Structures within and adjacent to the site. These are: NT025-121 (NIAH 14010083) Canal Basin, NT025-120 (14010089) Store / warehouse and NT025-117 Somerville Bridge. Adjacent to NT025-118 (14010097) Gate Lodge, NT025-119 (14010098) Miscellaneous offices and NT025-116 (14010085) Mill (converted) and NT025-115 (14010086) New Bridge. The Building NT025-120 (14010089) Store / warehouse basically gives additional protections to all the other older associated buildings and structures. The complicated issue is to identify and separate the older elements from the newer infill works that detract from the original site. The area is shown undeveloped on the 1817 Larkin Map but numerous buildings – many of which are extant - are shown on the 1837 OS. The Meath RPS estimates these buildings are built c.1860, but it is more likely they were originally built c.1820-1830. The Bakery was originally built by Luke Smyth and was bought by John Spicer III in 1899.

Regarding the 'Ruxton Lock' Canal basin NT025-120 on the northern and western sides of Spicers, this was infilled during the c.1970s. Within Andy Brennan Park – beneath existing ground levels – there are the infilled original Boyne Navigation channel from Metges Lock (c.1790) along the E side; a Dry Dock (c.1850) at the southern end, and there is a feeder pool for two mill races for the Mills that were developed in this area c.1820-1830 on the NW side. This Park has been partly disturbed by a large, modern, Irish Water Pumping Station and connection to the River Boyne (approx. 500 sqm). Somerville Bridge has been widened and lowered since it was first built in 1792. The parapets and associated stepped access are of the 1930s.

The original Spicers Bakery is part of a large-scale Mill-based development of this area c.1820-1830 (the rare is blank on the 1817 Larkin map). Spicers Bakery comprises around 2,173 sqm adjacent to Somerville Bridge (of which 1,942 sqm is within the proposed development area) and the Bakery was extended in the 20th century to the east by a further 2813 sqm. This extension area was previously a large quarry / extraction pit by 1837. This quarry pit also extends underneath the Ramparts carpark and even further to the east. This whole zone was landscaped and infilled in the mid-19th century.

Previously to this, there is a Down Survey (1650) Mill that may have been located within the Spicers plot. The 1756 Williams Map shows a large backwater channel to the River Boyne in the Somerville Bridge area, and this may have been used as a mill race to the Down Survey Mill. This channel seems to have been partly reused to direct the Boyne Navigation channel in this area (via Metges Lock) and the Navigation channel meant that the original two or three-arch 'Somerville Bridge' as seen on the Williams Map was rebuilt in its present single-arch form.

1 Introduction

Meath County Council are proposing to develop the lands **Spicer's Bakery, Ramparts Car Park and Andy Brennan Park** amounting to approx. 16,728 sqm at the previous Spicers Mill (approx. 4,804 sqm) on the Boyne Road (closed to business since 2012); the Boyne Road Ramparts Walk carpark (approx. 1,938 sqm); the Andy Brennan Park (approx. 5,825 sqm); which are all linked together along the R153 Kentstown Road (approx. 3,485 sqm) on the eastern side of Navan, Co Meath. A general central point is ITM 687230 / 767866.

A Conservation Management Plan for the 'Former Spicer's Bakery Masterplan' is being developed with Hall Black Douglas Conservation Architects. In summary, there is to be a two-phased approach with Phase 1 to remove modern structures and conserve the historic elements. A second phase will involve the installation of new infrastructure to the former Spicer's Bakery as well as into Andy Brennan Park.

This document is to review the site from an archaeological and heritage perspective and provide further detail to the Hall Black Douglas Conservation Architects historical summary.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and hydrology

The Kenstown Road R153 was probably created at the same time as the Navan New Bridge of 1756. The R153 was constructed on a high level causeway that crossed lower ground associated with the River Boyne floodplain. From the Kentstown Road, the Spicers site has been landscaped with a series of flat terraces to allow access to the R153, but then there are dramatic steps down when approaching the northern parts of the site.

Between 1760 and 1790s the Navan end of the Boyne Navigation was cut through this area. The 1756 Williams Map of Navan implies that there was a large back-channel to the River Boyne than was spanned with several small arches by the R153 causeway. This back-channel section appears to have been reused in part for the Boyne Navigation with the earlier small-arched causeway replaced with the large, single-span Somerville Bridge in 1792.

The Andy Brennan Park was opened in 1995 following previous clearance of the area when the Metges Lock and in-channel River Boyne weirs and mill races that were all removed as part of the Boyne Drainage Scheme. Any buildings that were still on this site at that time were also removed at this stage and a large water pumping station was constructed on the site with a large connection into the River Boyne.

2.2 Record of Monuments and Places

The project lies outside the Historic Town of Navan and does not include any known archaeological site or monument. However, the general area in the vicinity of Navan and the Rivers Boyne and Blackwater confluence area gives it a fairly high potential for lost archaeological objects that were once in the river channels. However, this potential is tempered by the extensive dredging that has occurred here. However, dredging is typically mounded onto the river banks and so archaeological objects (from boats to brooches, coins and bones) may just be moved around, but still survive in the area.

The scale of the project would typically trigger an archaeological response

2.3 Details of the previous nearby archaeological works

There have been several episodes of archaeological monitoring for services along the Boyne Road a little to the east of the Spicer's Bakery site.

2006:1606 - Navan AC Watermains, Meath

County: Meath Site name: Navan AC Watermains

Sites and Monuments Record No.: ME025-029, ME025-044 Licence number: 06E0165

Author: Shane Delaney, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 8 Dungar Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Monitoring

ITM: E 689782m, N 768819m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.661413, -6.641585

Intermittent monitoring was carried out for this scheme during 2006. Monitoring was undertaken along the Boyne road, where the pipeline travels through the constraint of ME025–029, and within the town of Navan itself. Sections along the Trim road were also monitored. The scheme was originally designed to cross the possible location of the medieval gates into Navan town. An application for ministerial consent was made to carry out this work. However, the scheme design changed and the gate locations were not impacted on by this work. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered during monitoring work.

1999:699 - NAVAN SEWERAGE SCHEME, NAVAN, Meath

County: Meath **Site name:** NAVAN SEWERAGE SCHEME, NAVAN
Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 25:28 (adjacent to) **Licence number:** 99E0010

Author: Jacinta Kiely, Eachtra Archaeological Projects, Clover Hill, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 688069m, N 768393m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.657878, -6.667610

Navan Sewerage Scheme commenced in the early 1990s. The most recent phase is in operation since November 1998. Clare Mullins completed an archaeological assessment of the route. The line of the sewerage trench close to a Bronze Age cemetery site was monitored. The trench was 1.2m wide and on average 2.8m deep. A sandy silt soil overlay layers of gravel and limestone bedrock.

No archaeological stratigraphy was recorded in the trench. No artefacts were recovered.

1998:514 - NAVAN SEWERAGE SCHEME, Meath

County: Meath **Site name:** NAVAN SEWERAGE SCHEME

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 98E0602

Author: Clare Mullins, 39 Kerdiff Park, Monread, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Site type: Monitoring

ITM: E 688919m, N 762584m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.605548, -6.656417

Monitoring of works associated with the Navan Sewerage Scheme commenced in late December. It is expected that monitoring will continue until mid-1999. Furthermore, a limited programme of test-trenching will be undertaken at the Boyne Road in January 1999.

1999:685 - FERGANSTOWN/BALLYMACKON, Meath

County: Meath **Site name:** FERGANSTOWN/BALLYMACKON

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 98E602 ext.

Author: Clare Mullins, 31 Millford, Athgarvan, Co. Kildare.

Site type: Cut features

ITM: E 688153m, N 768370m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.657657, -6.666347

Monitoring associated with the Navan Sewerage Augmentation Scheme was carried out in January 1999 in between the test-trenches associated with sites SMR 25:28 and 25:29 (Nos 699 and 686 below), along a short stretch of the Navan to Donore road.

Features identified were a series of cuts into the natural, filled with material that contained charcoal, ash and animal bone. These features extended over a distance of 12m and were directly opposite a previously unidentified archaeological site just inside the roadside field boundary to the north-west. This site was a low earthen bank, roughly square and c. 20m by 20m. SMR 25:28 was a Bronze Age cemetery recorded by Wilde in 1850, but it would appear that the newly identified site is not directly related to this. It is reasonable to assume that the archaeological deposits identified in the trench are related to the low earthen enclosure described above. A sample of charcoal from one of the features produced a radiocarbon date of AD 585-675 (95% probability).

1999:686 - FERGANSTOWN/BALLYMACKON, Meath

County: Meath **Site name:** FERGANSTOWN/BALLYMACKON

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 25:029 **Licence number:** 99E0011

Author: Clare Mullins, 31 Millford, Athgarvan, Co. Kildare.

Site type: Environs of 'Mound Site'

ITM: E 688735m, N 768820m

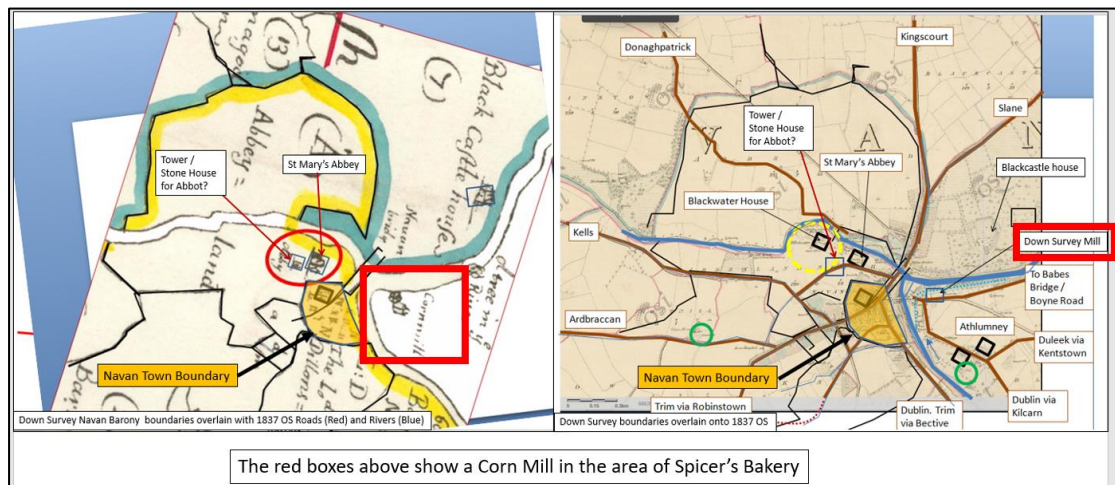
Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.661601, -6.657418

A test-trench was excavated along the Navan to Donore road, just south of SMR 25:29, in January 1999, as part of the Navan Sewerage Augmentation Scheme. The site in question was a mound, destroyed in the 1970s, which contained a long cist and inhumation.

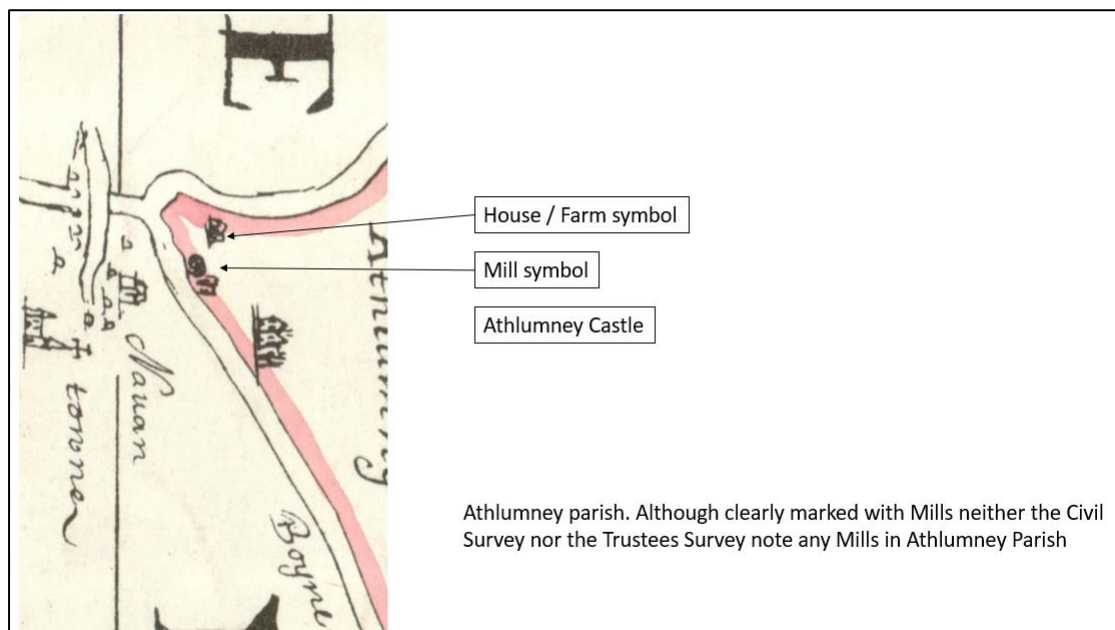
The test-trench was c. 150m long and was inserted along the route of a proposed sewerage pipe. Archaeological features had been recorded in the pipeline trench c. 200m to the west (see No. 685 above). No archaeological features were noted during the excavation of this trench.

2.4 Map regression

1650s Down Survey

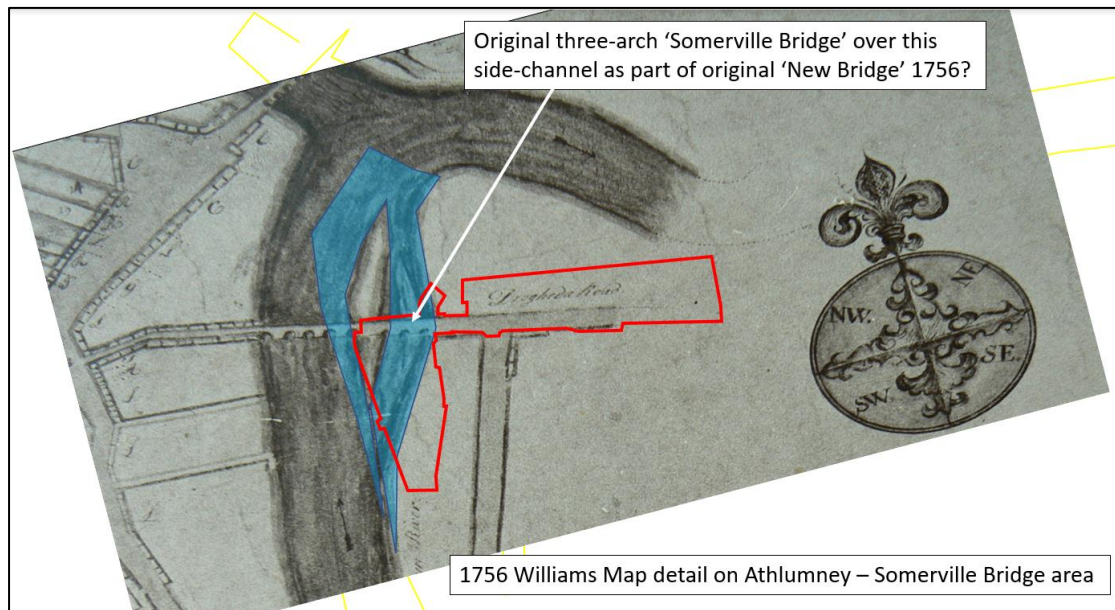


The Down Survey clearly shows a Corn Mill in the area of Spicer's Bakery. This Mill would presumably have been fed by a Mill race and this might have been around the line of the later Boyne Navigation.



The Athlumney Parish Down Survey map also shows a Mill although this seems to be located in the later Metges Lock area

Thomas Williams Map 1756



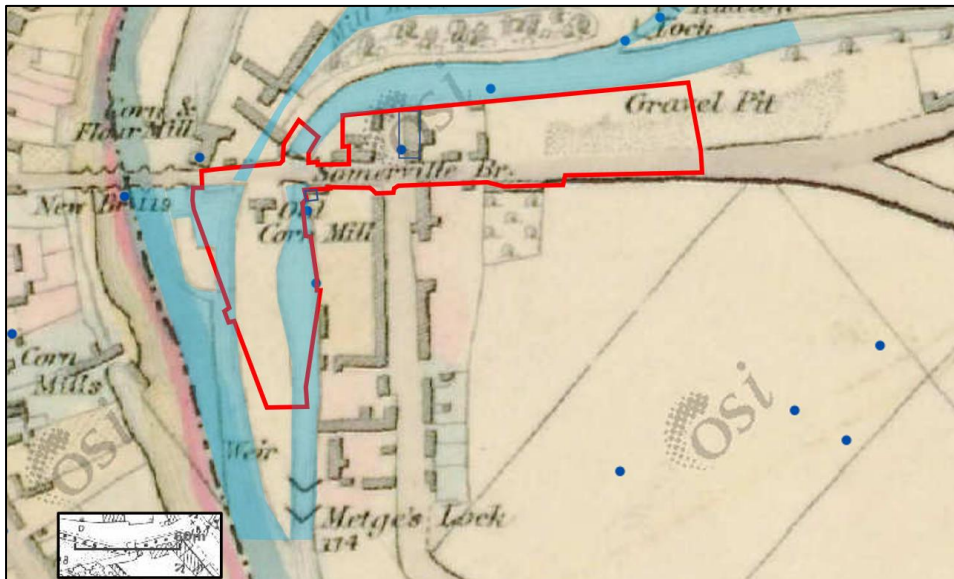
The Williams Map shows a large back-channel to the River Boyne. The map indicates a three-arch bridge over this channel and this bridge seems to have been replaced with the present Somerville Bridge in 1792. Williams does not mark any old mills in this area.

William Larkin Map 1812-17



The Larkin map shows the Boyne Navigation – and Somerville Bridge – built in this area. Both the Metges and Ruxton Locks are shown, but as yet there are no Mills marked in the immediate area (one – indicated by a 'water wheel' symbol - is shown on the W side of the River Boyne).

1837 OS

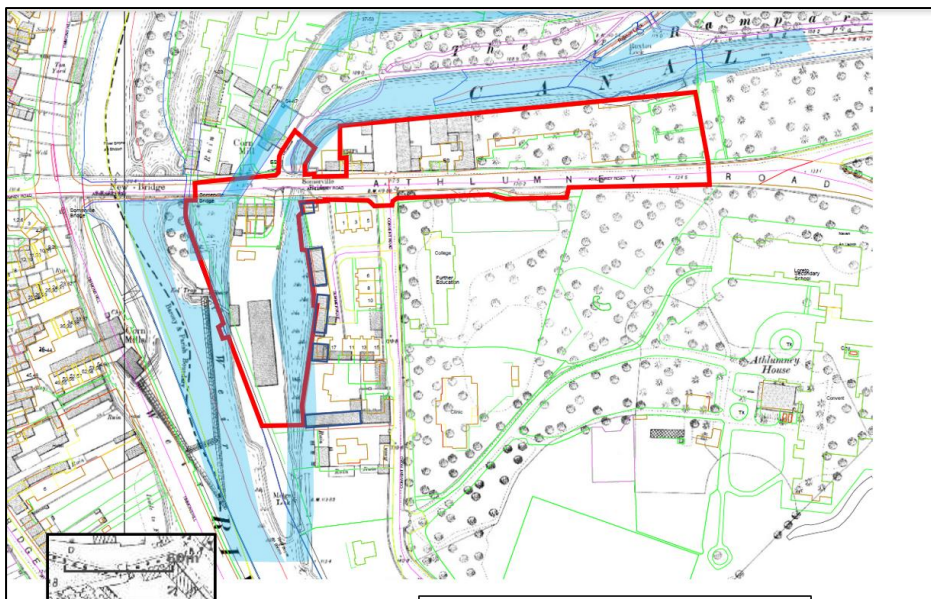


The 1837 OS shows the 'Spicer's Site' as fully developed. The Meath RPS estimates these buildings are all c.1860 (also informed by the 1856 edition of Slater's Directory), but the 1837 OS implies they date 1820-1830. The various mill races and Boyne Navigation are shaded blue for clarity above. The 'Old Corn Mill' is indicated as in the location of the buildings due for demolition on the R153 Kentstown Road. Whether there are any remains of this Mill incorporated into the Kentstown Road buildings or whether any survive in the area are not known.

The modern, eastern extension of Spicer's and the area of the Ramparts Carpark is shown as a large Gravel Pit on the 1837 OS.

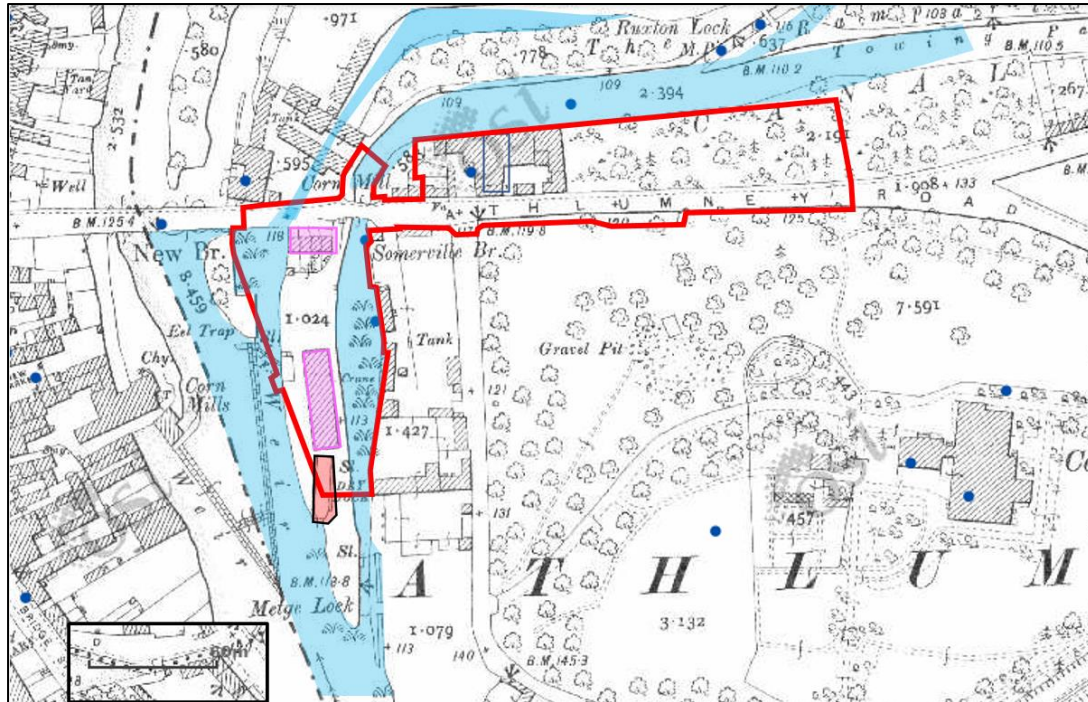
In summary, the Bakery site was bought by John Spicer III from Luke Smyth in 1899. Further discussion of the Spicer's Building is given below.

1895 Detail map of Navan



This map shows a few alterations on the Spicer's Site and the large Gravel Pit is infilled and landscaped. In the Andy Brennan Park area, the buildings along the Kentstown Road have now been constructed. The Metges Lock basin is now lined with industrial buildings – of which some still survive adjacent to the eastern side of the site.

1888-1913 OS

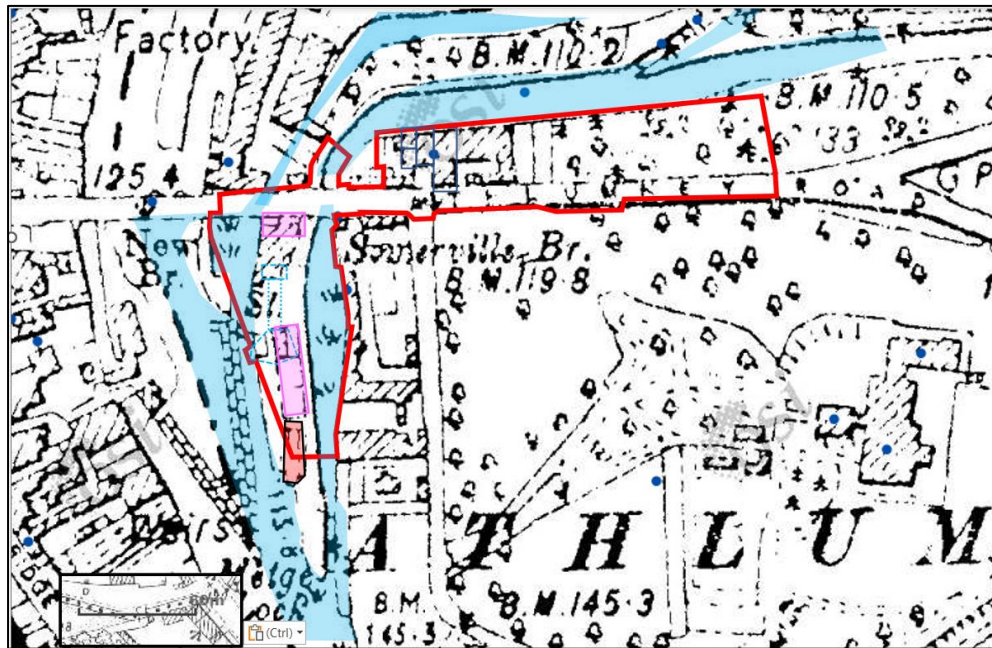


The 1888-1913 OS shows a large, dry dock built along the southern end of the Brennan Park

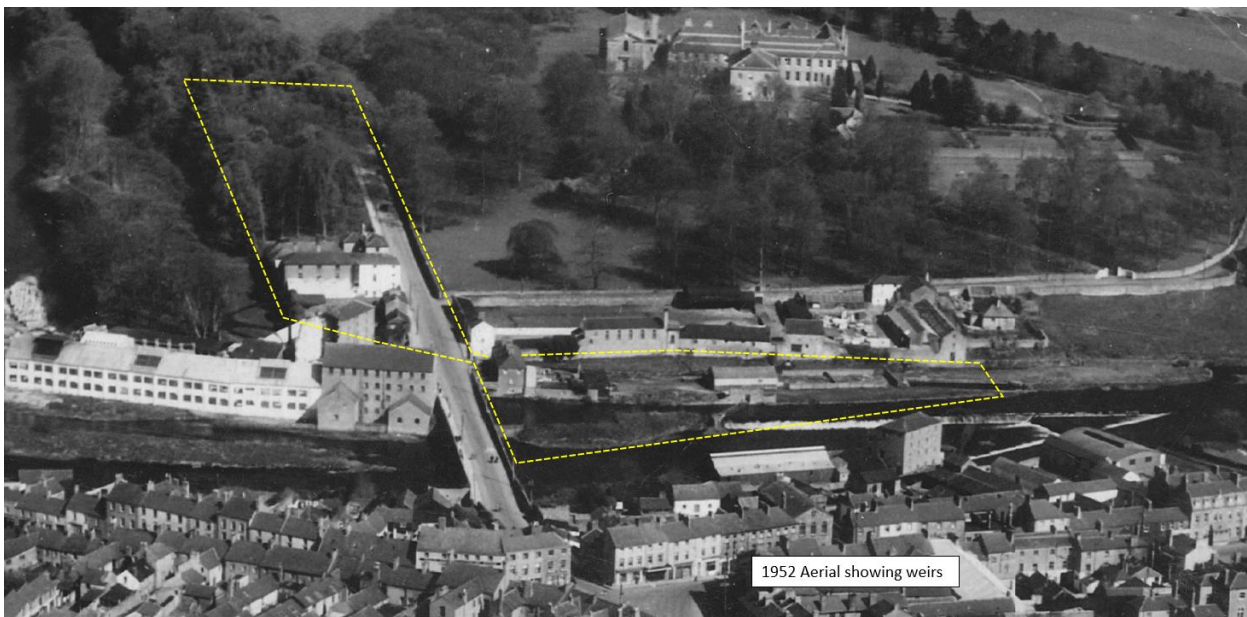
The company's many interests continued to flourish, and in 1915, two years after the [Boyne Navigation Co.](#) went into liquidation, Spicers bought the canal linking Navan to Drogheda. It was successful for a time ferrying grain to Drogheda and returning with coal and timber. His son, the next John Spicer commented that hygienic considerations were not as sensitive then as now. (This is possibly his only venture which backfired. The Spicer Family handed over the Canal to An Taisce in the 1960s.)

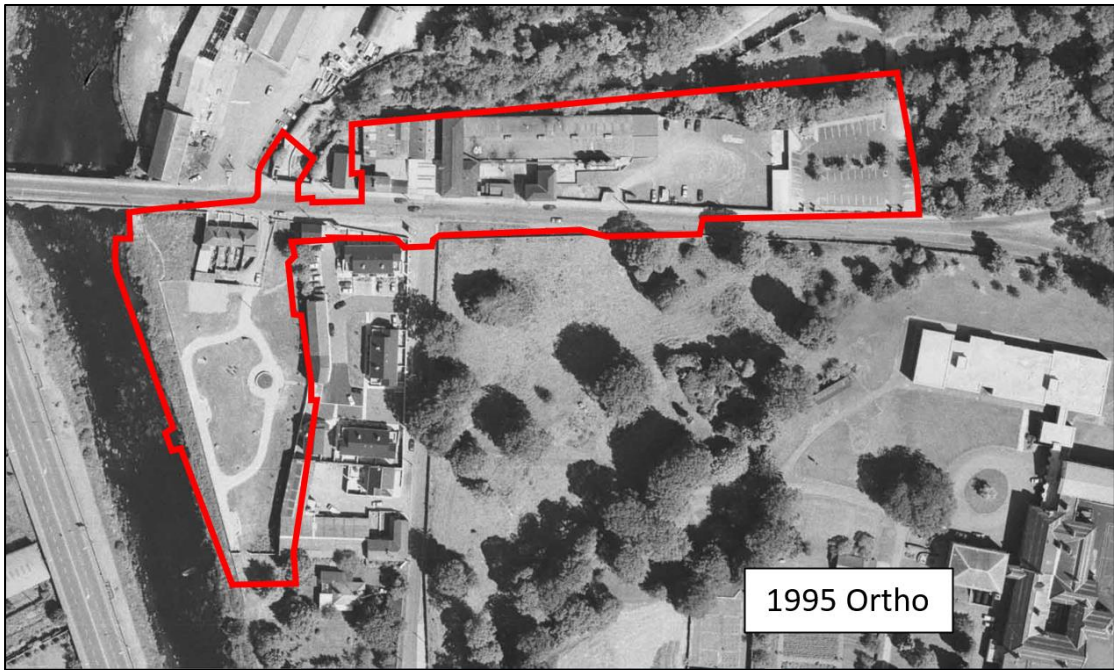
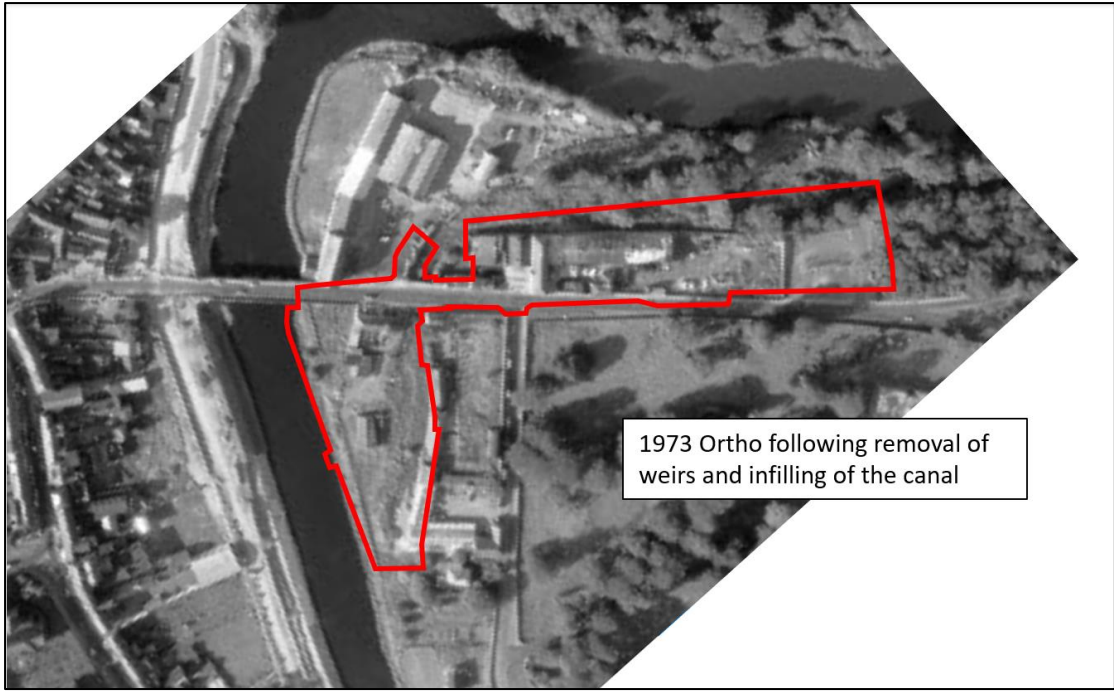
<http://www.navanhistory.ie/index.php?page=spicer-family>

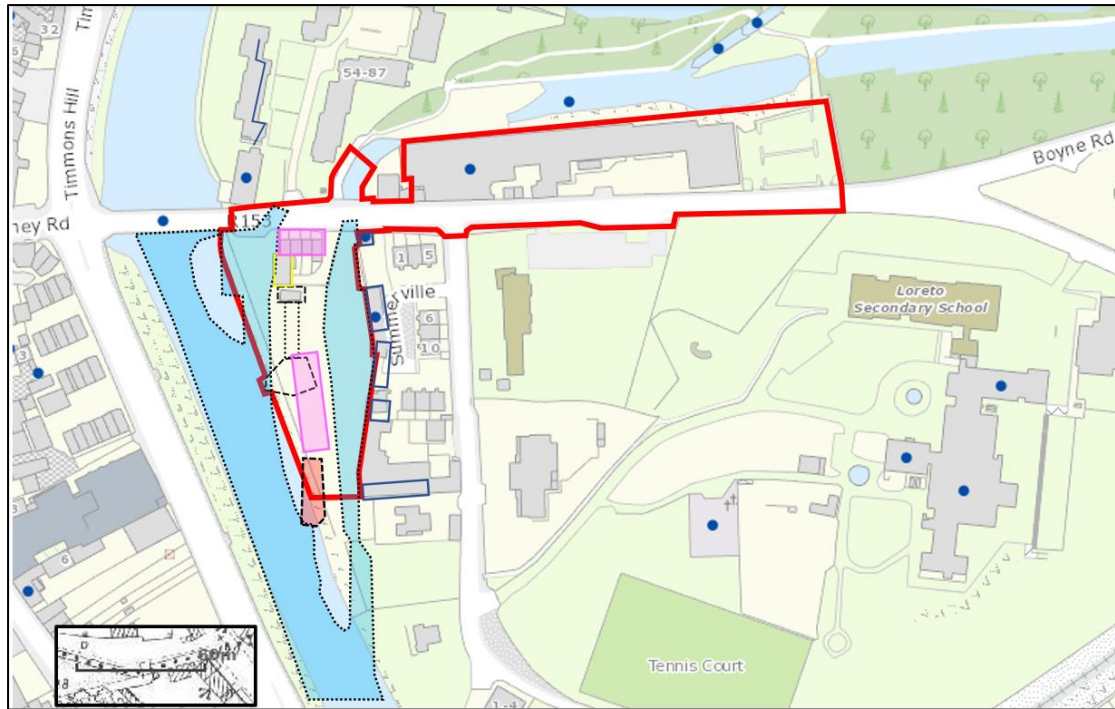
1939 Cassini



Modern mapping and aerial images



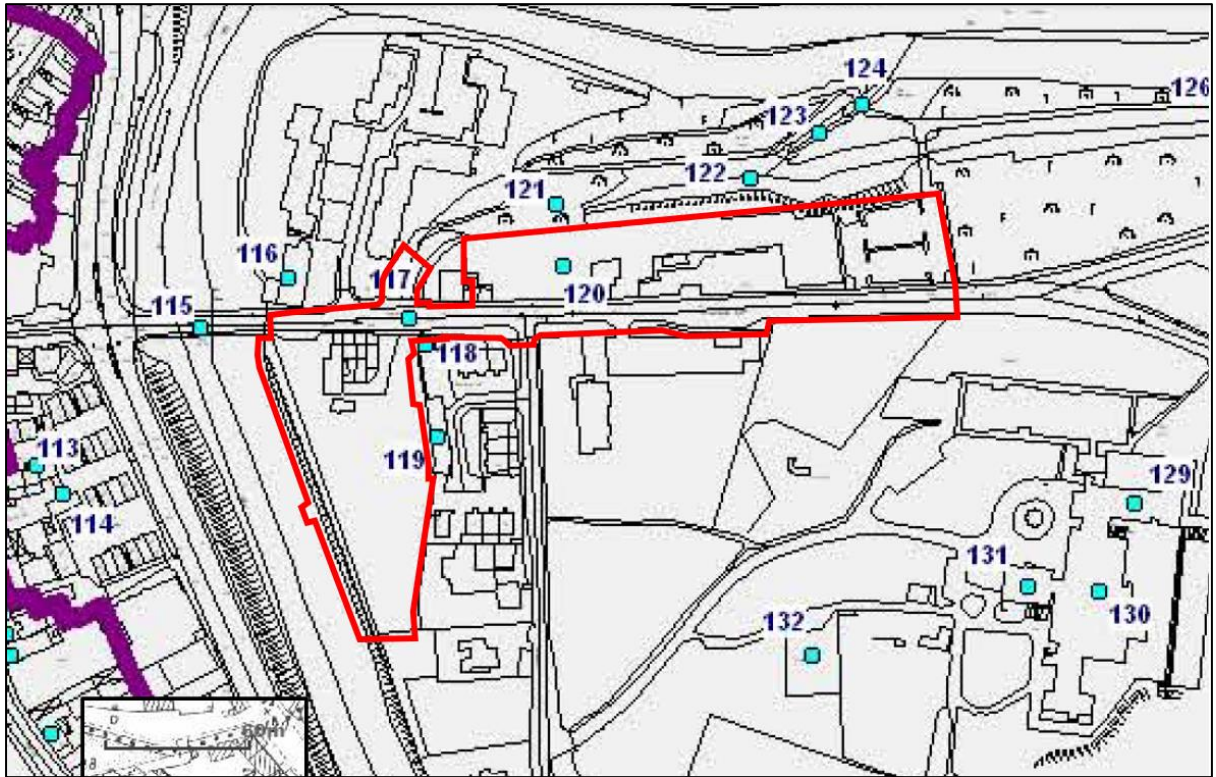




Google shows the Spicers Bakery extended to the E of the original site, the Ramparts Carpark and the Andy Brennan Park

3 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

3.1 Record of Protected Structures: Buildings and Gardens



| Map Ref. & Reg. Ref. No. | Rating & Importance | Address & Use | Composition |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 115 NT025-115 | R -- A,T,S,M | New Bridge, Athlumney Road. | Six arch road bridge over river, built 1752 with cutwaters and coursed rubble masonry parapet walls |
| 116 NT025-116 | R -- H,O,S,M | River Mill Apartments Athlumney Road | Detached none-bay four-storey former water mill c. 1850. Exposed rubble façade with brick dressings to openings. Retaining cast iron waterwheel. |
| 117 NT025-117 | L -- G,P,M | Somerville Bridge, Athlumney Road | Double arch bridge over navigation channel, with three inscribed plaques, built 1792, widened 1936. |
| 118 NT025-118 | R -- A,G,S,M | Newbridge House, Athlumney Road, (Commercial Offices) | Detached two-bay two-storey over basement former gate lodge, c 1870. Exposed rubble façade. Arched gateway attached with single and pair of wrought iron gates c. 1870 |
| 119 NT025-119 | R -- G,D,M | Newbridge House, Athlumney Road, (Commercial Offices) | Detached seven-bay two-storey former outbuilding c. 1870. Exposed rubble façade with flush brick window surrounds and rusticated door openings. |
| 120 NT025-120 | R -- G,S,M | Spicer's Bakery, Athlumney Road, (Bakery) | Detached six-bay four-storey former corn store built c. 1860 with exposed rubble façade. Now in use as bakery. |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 121 NT025-121 | R -- T,G,S | Spicer's Basin, Upper Boyne Navigation, The Boyne Navigational Canal | Remains of canal harbour built 1792, now partly filled in. |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

3.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: Buildings and Gardens

ATHLUMNEY, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reg No | 14010083 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural, Technical |
| Original Use | Harbour/dock/port |
| Date | 1785 - 1795 |
| Coordinates | 287351, 267887 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

Description

Remains of canal harbour, built 1792, now partly filled in.

Athlumney Road, ATHLUMNEY, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Reg No | 14010089 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural |
| Original Use | Store/warehouse |
| In Use As | Bakery |
| Date | 1850 - 1870 |
| Coordinates | 287355, 267863 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

Description

Detached six-bay four-storey former corn store, c.1860, with exposed rubble façade. Now in use as bakery. Double-pitched and hipped roof, natural slates. Coursed rubble, whitewashed walls. Sash and casement windows, flush brick surrounds to openings, segmental arches to reveals internally.

Newbridge House, Athlumney Road, ATHLUMNEY, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Reg No | 14010097 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural |
| Original Use | Gate lodge |
| In Use As | Office |
| Date | 1860 - 1890 |
| Coordinates | 287300, 267829 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

Description

Detached two-bay two-storey over basement former gate lodge, c.1870, with exposed rubble façade. Arched gateway attached with single and pair of wrought-iron gates, c.1870. Refurbished as offices, c.1995. Double-pitched roof, artificial slates, projecting eaves course, Velux roof lights. Exposed rubble limestone walls. Stone cills and rough-dressed stone flat arches. uPVC casement windows, timber door, iron security grill to basement window. Jostle stone, remnants of rubble stone quay wall to south adjoining former canal.

Newbridge House, Athlumney Road, ATHLUMNEY, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Reg No | 14010098 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural |
| Original Use | Building misc |
| In Use As | Office |
| Date | 1860 - 1890 |
| Coordinates | 287305, 267790 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

Description

Detached seven-bay two-storey former outbuilding, c.1870. Exposed rubble façade with flush brick window surrounds and rusticated door openings. Refurbished and extended as offices, c.1995. Double-pitched roof, projecting eaves course, natural slates, Velux rooflights, brick chimney stack, artificial slate to extension. Exposed rubble limestone walls, painted nap rendered to extension. Flush brick surrounds to window openings, limestone door case, uPVC casement windows, timber doors.

Athlumney Road, ATHLUMNEY, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Reg No | 14010085 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural, Technical |
| Original Use | Mill (water) |
| In Use As | Apartment/flat (converted) |
| Date | 1830 - 1860 |
| Coordinates | 287243, 267856 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

Description

Detached nine-bay four-storey former water mill, c.1850. Exposed rubble façade with brick dressings to openings. Retaining cast-iron waterwheel. Converted into apartments, c.1996. Double-pitched roof, natural slates, decorative clay ridge tiles, aluminium ogee gutters. Exposed rubble limestone walls with dressed quoins, metal tie bar plates. Stone cills, flush brick surrounds to window openings, uPVC casement windows, external fire escape, ground floor openings altered. Mill race reclaimed and landscaped, remains of iron sluice gate and 5M diameter iron waterwheel to south-west.

New Bridge, Athlumney Road, TOWNPARKS, Navan, MEATH



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reg No | 14010086 |
| Rating | Regional |
| Categories of Special Interest | Architectural, Scientific, Technical |
| Original Use | Bridge |
| In Use As | Bridge |
| Date | 1745 - 1755 |
| Coordinates | 287205, 267837 |
| Date Recorded | 15/09/2005 |
| Date Updated | --/-- |

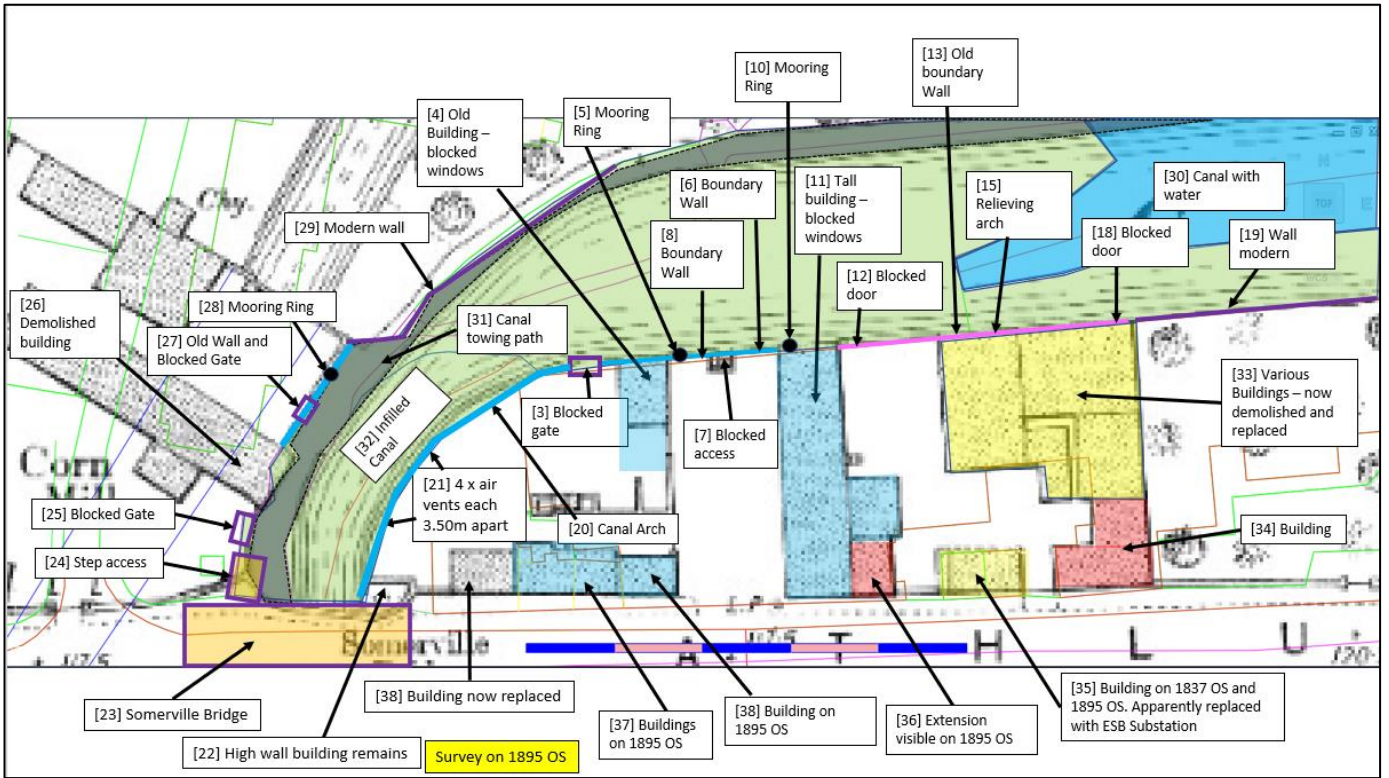
Description

Six arch road bridge over river, built 1752, with cutwaters and coursed rubble masonry parapet walls. Ashlar and rubble stone walls. Semi-circular and segmental arches with dressed ashlar voussoirs.

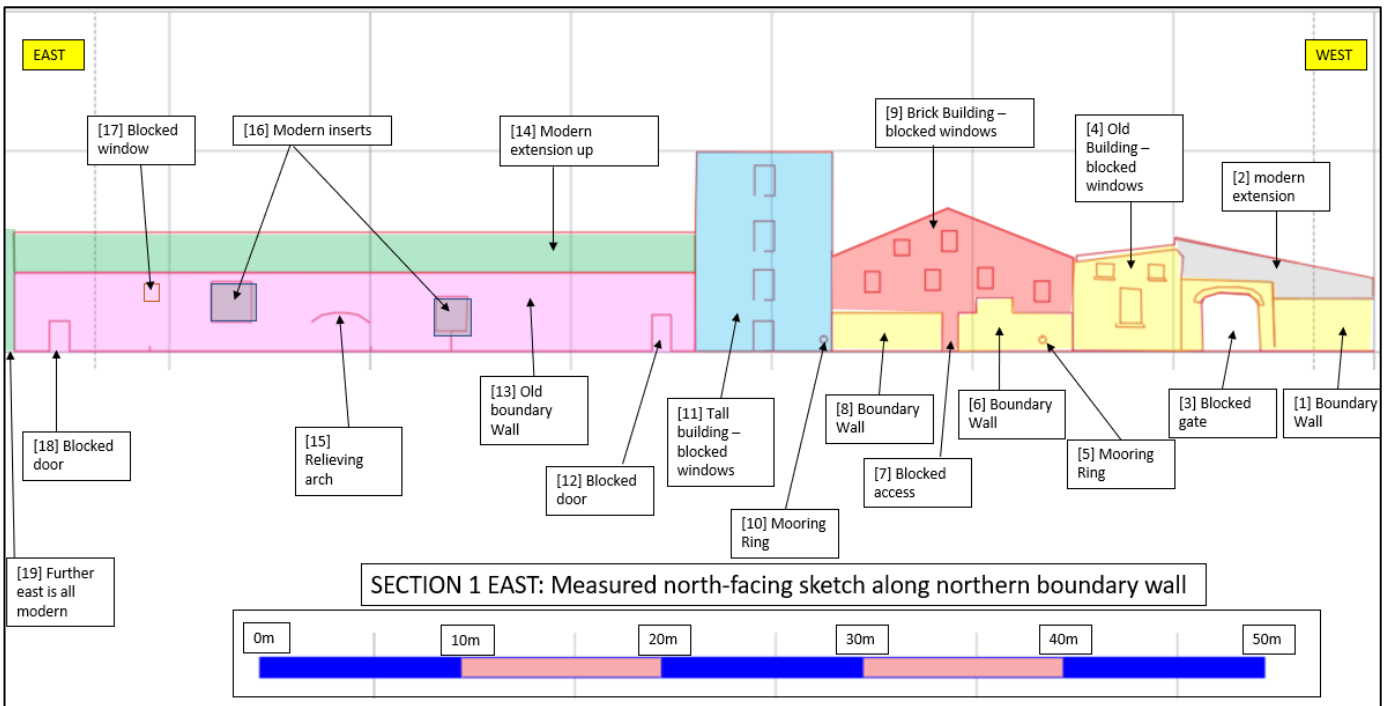
3.3 Architectural Conservation Area

NONE

4 DISCUSSION AND SITE VISIT



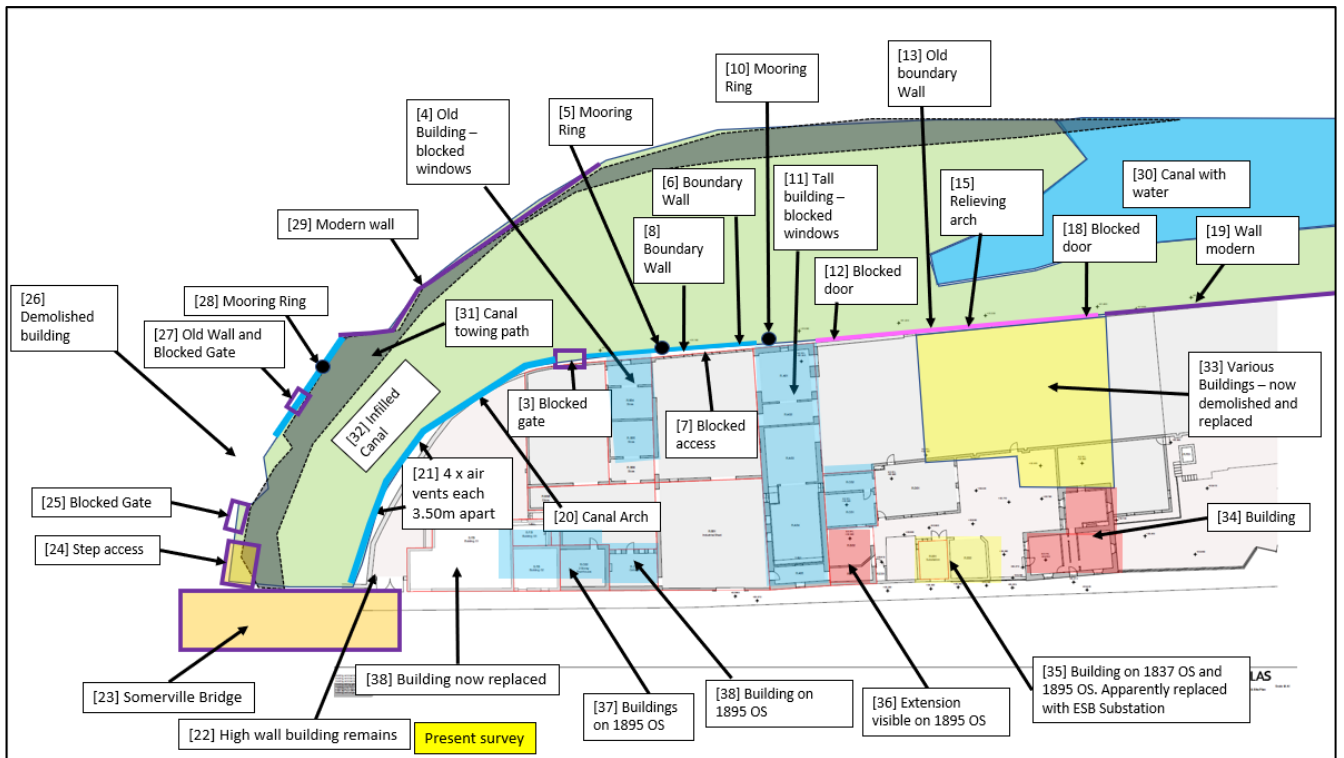
The above image is marked up from the 1895 Detail map of Navan. The walkover concentrated on the northern wall of the Spicers Bakery as in the sketch below:



Discussion with numbers 1-19:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Boundary Wall associated with Gate [3] |
|---|----------------------------------------|

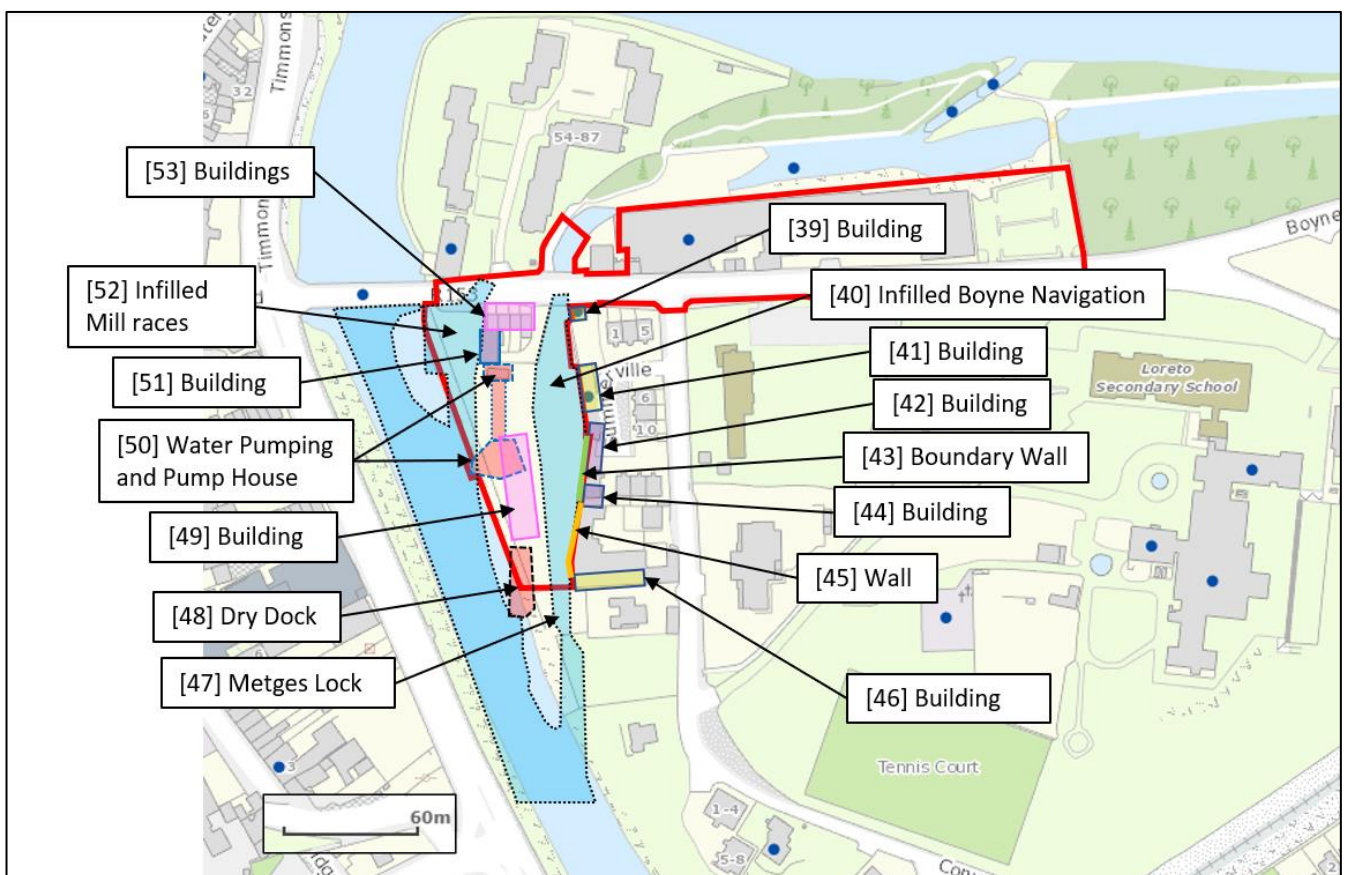
| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Modern extension building built onto abutting Building [4], over gate [3] and Wall [1] |
| 3 | Blocked Gate 2.80m wide x 3m high three-centre arch of fine cut stone voussoir (c.1790) masonry associated with Building [4] and Wall [1] |
| 4 | Old Building - blocked windows around 6.50m wide and runs into gate [3] |
| 5 | Mooring Ring in Wall [6]. Fixing is c.0.50m above present ground level. Ring is around 0.25m in diameter. |
| 6 | Boundary Wall 3m long x 1.90m high with a step up 0.75m high x 1.80m wide and a drop down to 1.90m high x 0.90m long with cut stone coping and Mooring Ring [5]. Abuts Building [4] |
| 7 | Blocked Access 0.80m wide x 1.90m high with some reused cut stone - abuts Building [11] |
| 8 | Boundary Wall 1.90m high x 5.50m long with cut stone coping |
| 9 | Brick Building - blocked windows. Later than wall [6], blocked access [7], wall [8]. Infill building 12m wide with gables N + S |
| 10 | Mooring Ring in Building [11]. Fixing is c.0.50m above present ground level. Ring is around 0.25m in diameter. |
| 11 | Tall Old Building roughly 6.75m wide with four floors as seen by opes (which are matched by opes onto Kentstown Road). Masonry with brick details around windows. Includes Mooring Ring [10]. In plan includes an Eastern extension that is also shown on 1837 OS. Blocked windows / loading doors |
| 12 | Blocked Door in Wall [13] ope is 0.95m wide x 1.80m high. Masonry quoins and voussoirs up to 2m high |
| 13 | Old N retaining Wall 34m long x 3.90m high with blocked doors [12], + [18], relieving arch [15] and window [17] and modern inserts [16]. This wall is an original boundary wall that is backed by different phases of buildings through time. The doors, windows and arch probably relate to these buildings |
| 14 | Modern vertical extension to wall [13] |
| 15 | Relieving / access saucer arch 3m wide in Wall [13]. Invert of arch is 1.90m above adjacent present ground level. Render makes form obscure but appears to be masonry voussoir arch of similar type to arch [20]. Appears in an old photo showing this may be a large, arched gate for loading directly into/out from canal barges |
| 16 | Modern inserts into Wall [13] connected with ventilation |
| 17 | Blocked window in wall [13] |
| 18 | Blocked Door in Wall [13] rendered makes form obscure but probably ope is 0.95m wide x 1.80m high. Masonry quoins and voussoirs up to 2m high |
| 19 | Wholly modern wall to E of Wall [13] - possibly a rebuild of an earlier masonry wall |



Discussion of numbers 20-38

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 | Blocked saucer arch between Spicers + Canal of fine cut stone voussoir masonry |
| 21 | 4x Air vent-type openings in Boundary Wall [1]. Normally these would be associated with a shed but there is nothing shown here on mapping |
| 22 | Building / structure on NE side of Somerville Bridge - Spicer's. May have been an original access point to area beneath E side of bridge |
| 23 | Somerville Bridge. There are three large stone plaques on S side parapet stating originally built 1792 (to carry the Kentstown Road over the Boyne Navigation), lowered 1879 and widened 1936 with new parapets and a step access on NW side. Overlay of 1756 Williams map suggests an earlier bridge over a side channel in River Boyne that was reused for the line of the Canal |
| 24 | Step access on NW side of Somerville Bridge. Use of concrete probably implies a date c. 1930s. Remains of a removed kissing gate at the top |
| 25 | Blocked stone arched gate 2.75m x 3.25m high. |
| 26 | Standing wall partial remains to gable end of a now-demolished building |
| 27 | Old boundary wall between Mills to W and Canal. Includes a blocked gate 2.75m wide at base with top hidden in ivy |
| 28 | Mooring Ring in Wall [27]. Fixing is c.0.50m above present ground level. Ring is around 0.25m in diameter. |
| 29 | Modern concrete block wall |
| 30 | Boyne Navigation still containing water. The Navigation reached Navan towards the end of the 18th century. There is a suggestion that some of this Navigation area was a pre-existing back-channel +/- a Mill Race |
| 31 | Boyne Navigation towing path. The present ground level is roughly the same level as the original towing path |

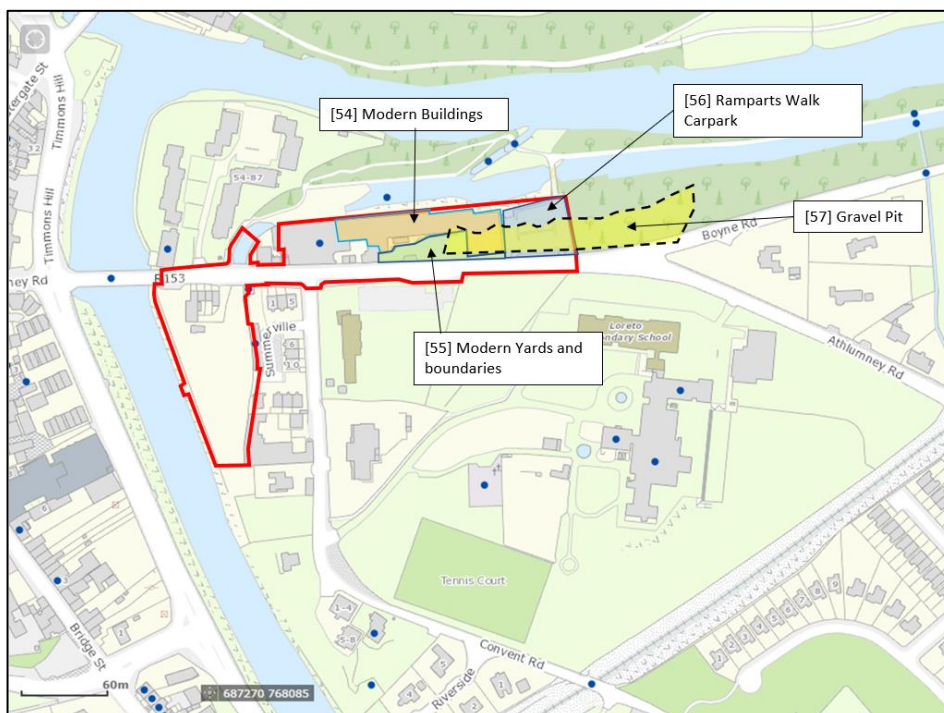
| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 32 | Infilled Canal dating from c.1970s. There is a suggestion that some of this Navigation area was a pre-existing back-channel +/- or a Mill Race |
| 33 | Various Buildings – now demolished and replaced |
| 34 | Building. A building that includes this shape in this location is marked on 1837 OS |
| 35 | Building on 1837 OS and 1895 OS. Apparently replaced with ESB Substation |
| 36 | Extension to Building [11] marked on 1895 OS |
| 37 | Pair of two-story buildings with a shared chimney stack of masonry with brick details around windows. Probably replaces a building shown on 1837 OS. |
| | Single story building. Has a brick-built chimney to W and E gable wall is fully brick built (may be a replacement). Corrugated roof removed. |
| 38 | Building on 1837 OS and 1895 OS. Now replaced with Silver Band building. If any older walls were retained during this replacement is not known. |



Discussion of numbers 20-38

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 39 | Building - Former Gate Lodge: Protected Structure |
| 40 | Now-infilled Boyne Navigation. Infilled c.1970s. There is a suggestion that some of this Navigation area was a pre-existing back-channel +/- or a Mill Race. Remains probably survive below present ground level. |
| 41 | Building - Former miscellaneous offices: Protected Structure and extended to S |
| 42 | Building - now demolished |
| 43 | Boundary wall - masonry survives in poor condition around 1m high and this is capped with modern blockwork |

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 44 | Building - mostly demolished but angle on SW corner survives to most of original gable end wall height |
| 45 | Boundary wall - masonry survives in good condition around 2.95m high. Southern end has been raised with a concrete wall. |
| 46 | Gable end to a ruined building approx. 6.50m wide with a central door 1.25m wide x 1.80m high with fine masonry jambs and voussoir saucer arch. Central first floor window (1m x 1m) located 1.80m above the door. This appears to be the remains of a building that is shown on the 1837 OS |
| 47 | Infilled Metges Lock. The lock is located just outside the current site outline |
| 48 | Dry Dock for boats created between 1837 and 1895. Remains may survive below present ground level. |
| 49 | Demolished, large 'warehouse'-type building built between 1837 and 1895. Remains may survive below present ground level. |
| 50 | Irish Water Pumping Station and Pump House with connection to River Boyne. This would presumably be associated with a large and considerable excavation that has probably truncated any earlier archaeological material. A connection between the Pump House and the Pumping location is sketched. |
| 51 | Modern building extension to Buildings [53] |
| 52 | Infilled Mill Races fed from now-removed River Boyne weirs. Mapping shows there are two mill races here; one going to NE via a now-hidden arch under the Kentstown Road and another to NW through a now-hidden arch under New Bridge. This area is the current entrance zone to Andy Brennan Park and remains may exist below present ground level. |
| 53 | Terrace of four, two story buildings over basements. The basements may extend under the front 'garden' area. Built between 1837 and 1895. These houses have not been entered for his survey and there may be items within them that require record. |



Discussion of numbers 54-57

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 54 | Modern sheds and buildings. Several are replacements to Buildings [33] |
| 55 | Modern yards and boundaries |
| 56 | Ramparts Walk carpark |
| 57 | Gravel Pit on 1837 OS. Infilled by 1895 |



Buildings [37], [38]



Building [11]



Gate arch [3]



Gate Arch [3] and Building [4] with Extension [2]



Wall [1], Gate Arch [3] with Extension [2]



Building [4], wall [6] and Ring [5]



Mooring Ring [5]



N wall of Spicers



Kingscourt Brick from infill Building [9]



Building [11] with old wall [13] (left)



Mooring Ring [10]



Infilled Canal [32]



Building [11] with old wall [13] (left)



E end of Wall [13] with blocked door [18]



Arch [15]



Blocked Door [12]



Blocked Door [18] in Wall [13]



Arch [15]



Wall [13] with inserts [16]



Blocked Door [18] in Wall [13]



E end of Wall [13] with blocked door [18]



N wall [19] from Buildings [54]



Curving boundary Wall [1]



Curving boundary Wall [1]



Blocked arch [20]



Blocked arch [20] in curving Wall [1]



Infilled Canal [32] facing Somerville Bridge



Wall [1] and Vents [21]



Wall [1] and Vents [21]



Wall [1] and Vents [21]



High Wall [22]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23] and step access [24]



Step Access [24] and Blocked Gate [25]



Blocked gate [25], Building wall [26] and modern wall



Wall [27] with ivy and infill Canal [32]



Wall [27] with ivy and infill Canal [32]



Old Wall [27]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23]



Somerville Bridge [23] and Step Access [24]



Step Access [24]



Step Access [24]



Step Access [24]



Removed kissing gate from Step Access [24]



Step Access [24]



Buildings [37], [38]



Rear of Building [38] (Silver Band)



Infilled windows to Building [11]



Building [11] and extension [36]



Boundary wall to building [35]



Walls and gate [35]



Mooring Ring [28]



Somerville Bridge [23] and Building [39]



Building [39]



Building [41] with infilled Navigation [40]



Building [41]



Wall [43]



Building [42]



Infilled Canal channel facing S



Building ruin [44] and Wall [45]



Building ruin [44]



Wall [45] and infilled canal channel



Wall [45]



Door to Building [46]



Door to Building [46]



Michael D Higgins Plaque in area of demolished building [49]



Ruin beyond S end of site from infilled Metges Lock [47]



Area of infilled Dry Dock [48] facing S



Area of infilled Dry Dock [48] facing S



Boyneside boundary to park



Infilled Metges Lock area



Water pumping station [50]



Water pumping station [50]



Infilled Mill Races [52] facing N



Infilled Mill Races [52] facing S



Andy Brennan Park - Infilled Navigation [40]



Andy Brennan Park plaque



Water Pump House [50]



Water Pump House [50]



Infilled Mill Races [52]



Extension building [51] to Buildings [53]



Andy Brennan Park plaque and Pump House [50]



Buildings [53] with extension



Buildings [53]



Roadside of Buildings [53]



Buildings [53]



Buildings [53]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] and Yard [55]



Buildings [54] from carpark [57]



Buildings [54] from carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Carpark [57]



Canal from Carpark [57]



Buildings [54] and carpark [57] (left)



Northern wall of Buildings [54]



N wall [19] from Buildings [54]

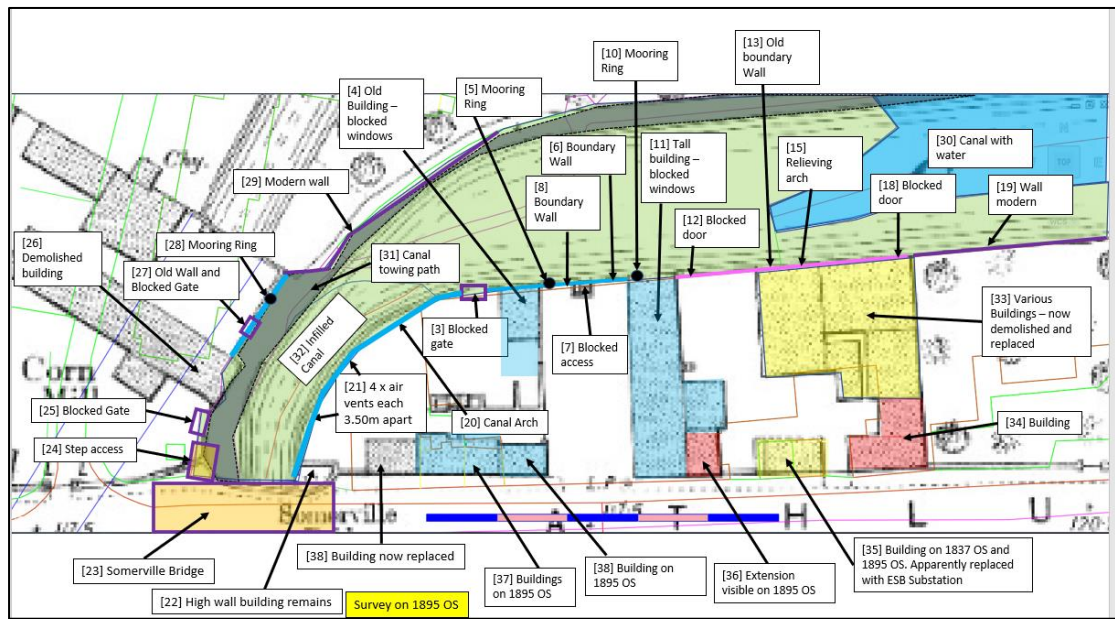


Canal [30] – Ruxton Lock to N of Spicers



N wall [19] from Buildings [54]

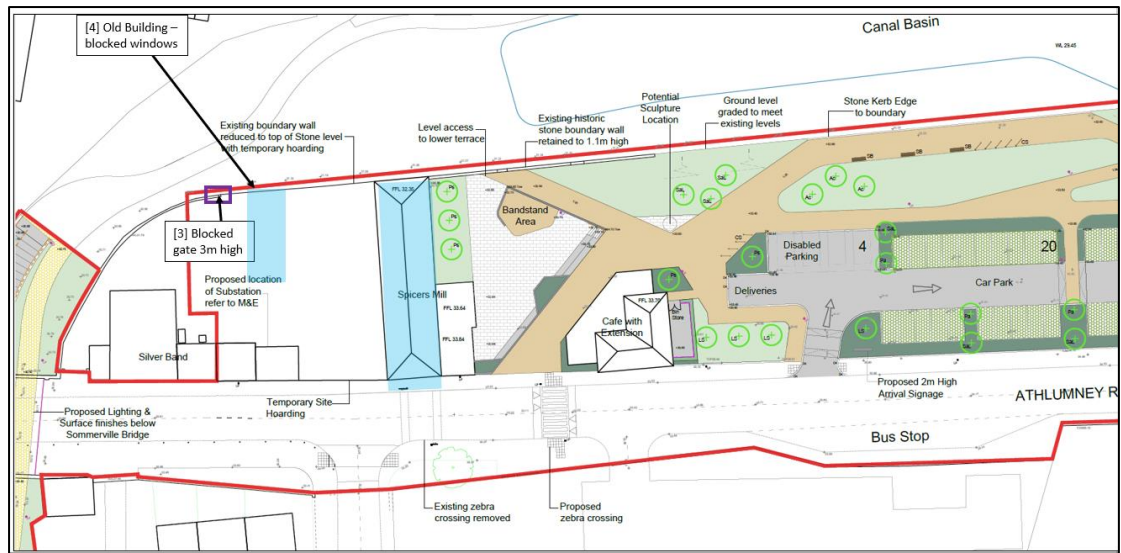
5 Proposed Works



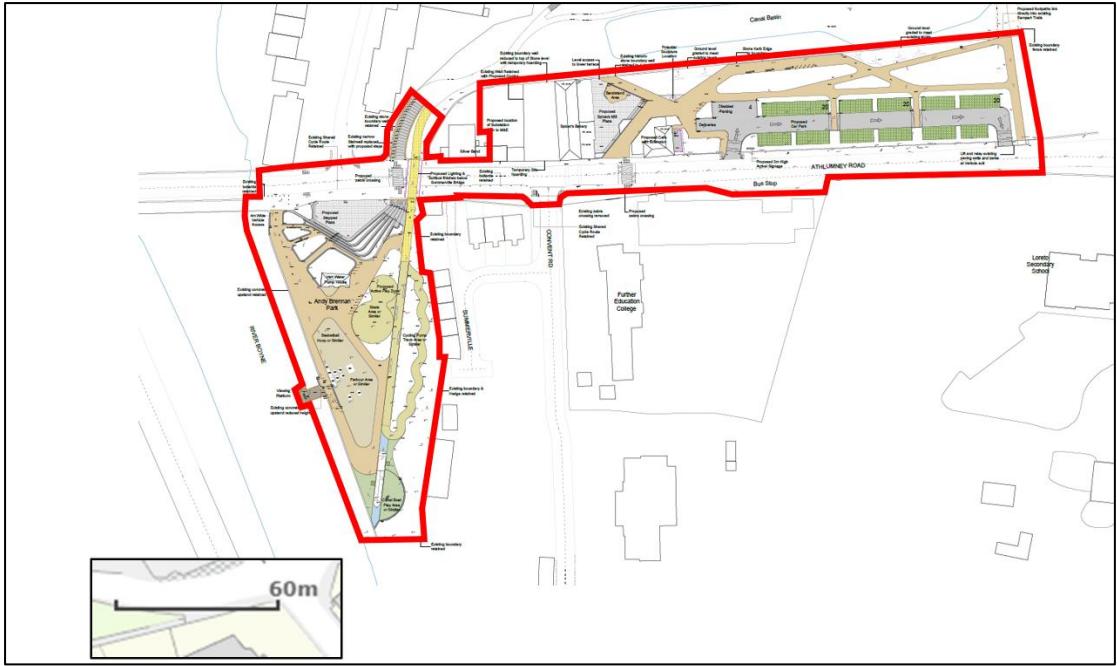
Designs are still in development. The main elements are the suggestion of taking down Wall [13] to a level of around 1.1m above present ground level. This would involve the removal of the tops of blocked doors [12] and [18] as well as arch [15]. The wall is visible in the NLI phot below (detail).



In addition, the detail of Building [4] is outlined as to be demolished. This building is associated with blocked gate [3] and some retention of the N wall would be required in this area



Building façade and Arch [3] that should be retained. All buildings and historically significant components will require full survey and record before demolition.



General proposals including Andy Brennan Park. Main element is the removal of the empty buildings along the Kentstown Road.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 General discussion of archaeological potential and impact

Meath County Council are proposing to develop the lands **Spicer's Bakery, Ramparts Car Park and Andy Brennan Park** amounting to approx. 16,728 sqm at the previous Spicers Mill (approx. 4,804 sqm) on the Boyne Road (closed to business since 2012); the Boyne Road Ramparts Walk carpark (approx. 1,938 sqm); the Andy Brennan Park (approx. 5,825 sqm); which are all linked together along the R153 Kentstown Road (approx. 3,485 sqm) on the eastern side of Navan, Co Meath. A general central point is ITM 687230 / 767866.

As a historic part of Navan town there are numerous Protected Structures within and adjacent to the site. These are: NT025-121 (NIAH 14010083) Canal Basin, NT025-120 (14010089) Store / warehouse and NT025-117 Somerville Bridge. Adjacent to NT025-118 (14010097) Gate Lodge, NT025-119 (14010098) Miscellaneous offices and NT025-116 (14010085) Mill (converted) and NT025-115 (14010086) New Bridge. The Building NT025-120 (14010089) Store / warehouse basically gives additional protections to all the other older associated buildings and structures. The complicated issue is to identify and separate the older elements from the newer infill works that detract from the original site. The area is show undeveloped on the 1817 Larkin Map but numerous buildings – many of which are extant - are shown on the 1837 OS. The Meath RPS estimates these buildings are built c.1860, but it is more likely they were originally built c.1820-1830. The Bakery was originally built by Luke Smyth and was bought by John Spicer III in 1899.

Regarding the 'Ruxton Lock' Canal basin NT025-120 on the northern and western sides of Spicers, this was infilled during the c.1970s. Within Andy Brennan Park – beneath existing ground levels – there are the infilled original Boyne Navigation channel from Metges Lock (c.1790) along the E side; a Dry Dock (c.1850) at the southern end, and there is a feeder pool for two mill races for the Mills that were developed in this area c.1820-1830 on the NW side. This Park has been partly disturbed by a large, modern, Irish Water Pumping Station and connection to the River Boyne (approx. 500 sqm). Somerville Bridge has been widened and lowered since it was first built in 1792. The parapets and associated stepped access are of the 1930s.

The original Spicers Bakery is part of a large-scale Mill-based development of this area c.1820-1830 (the rare is blank on the 1817 Larkin map). Spicers Bakery comprises around 2,173 sqm adjacent to Somerville Bridge (of which 1,942 sqm is within the proposed development area) and the Bakery was extended in the 20th century to the east by a further 2813 sqm. This extension area was previously a large quarry / extraction pit by 1837. This quarry pit also extends underneath the Ramparts carpark and even further to the east. This whole zone was landscaped and infilled in the mid-19th century.

Previously to this, there is a Down Survey (1650) Mill that may have been located within the Spicers plot. The 1756 Williams Map shows a large backwater channel to the River Boyne in the Somerville Bridge area, and this may have been used as a mill race to the Down Survey Mill. This channel seems to have been partly reused to direct the Boyne Navigation channel in this area (via Metges Lock) and the Navigation channel meant that the original two or three-arch 'Somerville Bridge' as seen on the Williams Map was rebuilt in its present single-arch form.

6.2 Site investigation Data

None

6.3 Archaeological strategy

Will require full record of all buildings, walls and components before demolition.

The site should be thoroughly trial trenched to assess for any archaeological or historical remains and these should be assessed for preservation in situ or preservation by record. The location of the large gravel quarry to the east of the original Spicers Site and the Ramparts Carpark will have removed much of the archaeological potential – but the pit may have been filled with items from Navan town which may include intrinsically interesting material.

There may also be dredging material on the site.

The level of preservation of the old Metges Lock and mill races in the area of Andy Brennan Park is not known. This area should be assessed to see how much survival there is.

7 REFERENCES

Hall Black Douglas 2022' Spicer's Mill, Athlumney Lands, Navan Conservation Management Plan'

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2009.

www.archaeology.ie – National Monuments Service website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs.

www.osi.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs (1995, 2000 & 2005) and historic OS mapping (first edition 6" and 25"). <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>

<http://www.logainm.ie/> - Placename index

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/> -National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php> Down Survey mapping

http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=LCN14679989_001
Taylor & Skinner 1777-85 Maps of the Roads of Ireland

Google Maps

Bing Maps