

# 11. Cultural Heritage

## 11.1. Introduction

This Cultural Heritage assessment undertaken on lands in Blackrock, Dundalk, Co. Louth (ITM 706797, 804321; Figure 11.1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Kingsbridge Consultancy Ltd. in October 2017 and updated in September 2018 in order to incorporate the results of geophysical survey and test trenching. It seeks to identify and record the location, nature and dimensions of any archaeological or cultural heritage features, fabric or artefacts that may be impacted by the proposed works through an examination of existing sources, completed in tandem with a non-intrusive walkover survey, geophysical survey and test trenching of the site. The assessment gauges the level of development impact and includes recommendations for the mitigation of any sites or features of cultural heritage interest present within the development area.

The assessment was undertaken by Aidan O'Connell BA MIAI, Senior Archaeologist, Archer Heritage Planning Ltd, an excavation licence eligible archaeologist with 20 years' experience in archaeological assessment.

## 11.2. Methodology

### 11.2.1. General

Direct impact occurs when an item of archaeological or architectural heritage is located within the footprint of a proposed development and entails the removal of part, or all, of the monument or feature. Indirect impact may be caused where a feature or site of archaeological or architectural interest is located in close proximity of the proposed development. No predicted impact occurs when the proposed development does not adversely or positively affect an archaeological or architectural heritage site.

These impact categories are further assessed in terms of their quality, i.e. positive, negative, neutral (or direct and indirect). Negative Impact is a change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological or architectural monument from the landscape. Neutral Impact is a change that does not affect the archaeological or architectural heritage. Positive Impact is a change that improves or enhances the setting of an archaeological or architectural monument.

A significance rating for these impacts is then given, i.e. slight, moderate, significant or profound. Profound applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. This is reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeological or architectural site/feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development. Significant is an impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where the site/feature or part thereof would be permanently impacted upon leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological or architectural site/feature. Moderate is a moderate direct impact that arises where a change to the site is proposed which, though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site/feature is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological or architectural site/feature can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible. Slight is an impact that causes changes in the character of the environment that are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological or architectural feature or monument. Imperceptible is an impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

In addition, the duration of impacts is assessed and can be sub-divided into the following categories; Temporary Impact, where an impact lasts for one year or less; Short-term Impacts, where an impact lasts one to seven years; Medium-term Impact, where an impact lasts seven to fifteen years; Long-term Impact, where an impact lasts fifteen to sixty years; and Permanent Impact, where an impact lasts over sixty years.

Using the 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes', it can be assessed whether, during the construction phase of the proposed development, in the absence of mitigation measures, there will be the potential for a permanent profound negative direct impact on any sub-surface archaeological features and/or artefacts that may as of yet be unidentified in the footprint of the scheme.

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of the desktop study:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record<sup>13</sup>
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Aerial photography
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

### 11.2.2. Field Inspection

The Site was visited on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. This field inspection took the form of a non-intrusive walkover survey, undertaken to assess land-use patterns, Site topography, Site access and the identification of Sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest.

### 11.2.3. Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey (Magnetic Gradiometer) was undertaken across the Site by J Nicholls of Target Archaeological Geophysics on 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 under licence 18R0036 (Nicholls 2018). The purpose of this survey was to identify sub-surface magnetic anomalies indicative of areas of archaeological potential with no surface expression.

### 11.2.4. Archaeological Test Excavation

Test excavation was undertaken across the Site on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 under excavation licence 18E0417 by A O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The aim of the test trenching was to target various anomalies recorded in the course of geophysical survey and to reveal the horizontal extent of all associated archaeological Sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy.

### 11.2.5. Legislative Background

Archaeological and cultural heritage protection in Ireland is provided by a number of international and national mechanisms. These include but are not limited to:

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2006;
- Architectural Heritage & Historic Properties Act. 1999.;
- Planning & Development Act. 2000, as amended;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. 1992.

The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) outlines the State's general principles in relation to the management and protection of archaeological heritage. This document outlines that avoidance of developmental impacts on archaeological heritage and preservation in situ of archaeological Sites and monuments are always the preferred option. When a Site, or part of a Site, has to be removed due to development, then preservation by record must be undertaken, i.e. through excavation and recording.

### 11.2.6. Louth County Development Plan

The Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 sets out general policies and standards for development within the county. The current plan contains lists of cultural heritage Sites, including national monuments, recorded monuments and protected structures within the administrative areas. Louth County Council recognises the value and significance of the county's archaeological heritage, and the importance of fostering a greater public appreciation of this heritage. Through strategies and objectives contained in this Development Plan, the Council is dedicated to protecting, conserving and presenting the County's rich cultural heritage while promoting sustainable economic development and the enrichment of the environment. A selection of relevant objectives contained in the Development Plan is provided below:

---

<sup>13</sup> Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

*Policy HER20 'To protect archaeological Sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.'*

*Policy HER21 'To ensure that any development, both above and below ground, adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument or an area of special archaeological interest (including formerly walled towns) shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological Site or its setting and be Sited and designed with care to protect the monument and its setting. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.'*

*Policy HER22 'Within areas of special archaeological Interest and other Sites of archaeological potential (including formerly walled towns), as listed in the RMP, the Council will require applicants to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and may require that an on-Site assessment is carried out by trial work prior to a decision on a planning application being taken.'*

## 11.3. Receiving Environment

The proposed Site is a c. 17.9 hectare green-field Site located east of Louth Golf Club at Blackrock, Co. Louth (Haggardstown Td., Upper Dundalk Barony, Haggardstown Parish; OS Louth sheet 7 & 12; ITM 706797, 804321; refer to Figure 1, Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I). It is composed of two large rectangular fields currently in stubble, the Site slopes gently west to east before sloping more steeply east where the proposed connecting road to the Blackrock Road runs to a low area near the sea. Numerous rock outcrops overgrown with bramble and other vegetation are visible within the subject Site.

### 11.3.1. Brief Archaeological Background

Blackrock is a coastal village in the parish of Haggardstown, largely subsumed into the town of Dundalk. Recorded monuments in the area and, in particular, in close proximity to the works area attest to significant medieval settlement. These comprise souterrains (LH012-069002, LH012-011 & LH012-13), two castle Sites (LH012-010 & LH012-012) and St. Furseys church and graveyard (LH012-014). Haggardstown was previously known as Stamanaran with a laneway called Bóthar Maol denoting the border between it and the Marshes Upper, the name "Bóthar Maol" may refer to a flat-topped hillock in the area (Sharkey 2016). This is also reputed to be an ancient roadway referenced in the *Táin Bó Cuailgne* and may refer to the laneway which borders the subject Site to the north (Mr. B Mc Sherry pers comm.). In more recent times the village of Blackrock developed as a coastal resort and in the mid-nineteenth century, Lewis (1837, 240) described Blackrock as 'much frequented, during the summer season, by the farmers of the inland counties, both for the purposes of bathing and drinking the sea-water'.

### 11.3.2. Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological Sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act). It is compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) and comprises descriptive lists and maps of all Sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential, recorded to date in the country. The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD Sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (full records of the ASI are available at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

There are no recorded archaeological Sites **within** the subject Site. The closest listed Sites are a group of 6 early medieval souterrains (LH007-082 – LH007-086), two of which are associated with enclosures. All Sites located within 1km of the subject Site are listed below in Table 11.1. The closest RMP's are shown on Figure 1, Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I. The following descriptions were derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1987) and in certain instances entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research (date of upload/revision: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007).

**Table 11.1 - Recorded Monuments adjacent to the proposed development**

SMR	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance
LH007-080----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706498, 804971	c. 560m
Excavated by P. Gosling in 1980 prior to factory construction. The Site consisted of a passage (L 14.5m overall, Wth 1m) extending NW (L 8m) then curving gently E (L 6.5m). A second passage (L 3m, Wth 0.7m) extended N from the middle of the first passage and terminated at the E end of a gallery (L 3.5m, Wth 1m) aligned E-W.				
LH007-081----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706058, 804831	c. 580m
Excavated by P. Gosling in 1981 and restored by Dundalk UDC. The souterrain consists of a passage (L 4m, Wth 1.4m, H 0.9m) running S from the entrance, then turning into a gallery (L 12.3m overall, Wth 1.4m, H 0.9m) which runs E and then gently curves S. At the junction of the passage and gallery are niches in the walls from floor to roof which probably represent door jambs.				
LH007-082----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706308, 804591	c. 235m
Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982 in advance of construction work. Situated NW of four other excavated souterrains (LH007-083----, LH007-084----, LH007-085----, LH007-086----), apparently in isolation at the base of a small hillock. The souterrain consisted of a passage (L 10m, Wth 0.7-0.9m) at the N end of which was a small recess and a chamber (L 4m, Wth 1m) running at right angles to it towards the W.				
LH007-083----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706328, 804561	c. 200m
Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982 in advance of construction work. The Site consisted of two souterrains within an oval enclosure (diam. 40m by 60m) (LH007-139----). The first souterrain (LH007-083----) T-shaped in plan, consisted of a passage (L 11m, Wth 1.1-5m) running W from the original rock-cut ramp entrance at the E. At the W end of the passage is gallery (L 18m, Wth 1.3-1.7m) ran S and another section of the same gallery (L 10m, Wth 1.6-2m) ran NW. The second souterrain (LH007-084----), roughly U-shaped in plan, consisted of a simple passage (L 25m, Wth 0.6-1m, H 1.4-1.6m) curving gently N-WSW.				
LH007-084----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706358, 804541	c. 165m
Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982 in advance of construction work. The Site consisted of two souterrains within an oval enclosure (diam. 40m by 60m) (LH007-139----). The first souterrain (LH007-083----) T-shaped in plan, consisted of a passage (L 11m, Wth 1.1-5m) running W from the original rock-cut ramp entrance at the E. At the W end of the passage is gallery (L 18m, Wth 1.3-1.7m) ran S and another section of the same gallery (L 10m, Wth 1.6-2m) ran NW. The second souterrain (LH007-084----), roughly U-shaped in plan, consisted of a simple passage (L 25m, Wth 0.6-1m, H 1.4-1.6m) curving gently N-WSW.				
LH007-085----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706398, 804491	c. 95m
Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982. The Site consisted of an enclosure (LH007-140----) (diam. c. 60m) within which were two souterrains, the second of which was cut by the enclosure ditch and must pre-date it. The first souterrain (LH007-085----) was roughly S-shaped in plan, consisting of a passage (L 22.5m, Wth 1-1.4m, H 1.7m) running E from the original rock-cut ramp entrance, then turning N and terminating at the E end in a sub-rectangular chamber (L 12.5m) aligned E-W. There were a pair of door slots in the walls at the junction of the passage and chamber. The second souterrain (LH007-086----) had a rock-cut ramp entrance 3m S of the entrance to the first souterrain, and consisted of a passage (L 24m, Wth 1-1.1m, H 1.2m) running SSW, with a slight terminal bulge forming a chamber at the SSW end. There was a trap 3.4m from the entrance at the NE end.				
LH007-086----	Souterrain	Marshes Upper	706418, 804471	c. 75m
Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982. The Site consisted of an enclosure (LH007-140----) (diam. c. 60m) within which were two souterrains, the second of which was cut by the enclosure ditch and must pre-date it. The first souterrain (LH007-085----) was roughly S-shaped in plan, consisting of a passage (L 22.5m, Wth 1-1.4m, H 1.7m) running E from the original rock-cut ramp entrance, then turning N and terminating at the E end in a sub-rectangular chamber (L 12.5m) aligned E-W.				

There were a pair of door slots in the walls at the junction of the passage and chamber. The second souterrain (LH007-086----) had a rock-cut ramp entrance 3m S of the entrance to the first souterrain, and consisted of a passage (L 24m, Wth 1-1.1m, H 1.2m) running SSW, with a slight terminal bulge forming a chamber at the SSW end. There was a trap 3.4m from the entrance at the NE end.

LH007-139----	Enclosure	Marshes Upper	706328, 804561	c. 200m
Oval area enclosed by single ditch. Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982. Two souterrains (LH007-083----, LH007-084----) within enclosure.				
LH007-140----	Enclosure	Marshes Upper	706398, 804491	c. 95m
Roughly circular area enclosed by single ditch. Excavated by M. Gowen in 1982. Two souterrains (LH007-085----, LH007-086----) within enclosure.				
LH012-006----	Souterrain	Haggardstown	705788, 804061	c. 780m
Reputed Site of a souterrain. (CLAJ 1934, 210-11)				
LH012-013----	Souterrain	Haggardstown	707558, 803821	c. 594m
Local tradition of a souterrain.				
LH012-011----	Souterrain	Haggardstown	706568, 803291	c.735m
Local tradition of a souterrain.				
LH012-069001-	Ringfort - Rath	Haggardstown	706915, 803076	c. 997m
Discovered as a result of land reduction for development (Excavation Licence No. 95E0126). Prior to arrival of an archaeologist on Site, the capstones of a souterrain (LH012-069002-) had been disturbed causing it to collapse in on itself. A number of trenches were excavated around the souterrain to reveal an enclosing ditch with a diam. of c. 30m. The ditch was not evident in the S, leading to the suggestion that this was perhaps the location of the entrance. The fill contained a large quantity of bone and shell.				
LH012-069002-	Souterrain	Haggardstown	706915, 803076	c. 997m
Discovered as a result of land reduction for a development (Excavation Licence No. 95E0126). Prior to the arrival of an archaeologist on Site, the capstones had been disturbed causing it to collapse in on itself. A passageway ran E-W for 10m, then it turned S and continued for 11m leading to a collapsed chamber. The walls of the passage were of drystone construction using shale and slate.				
LH012-063----	Souterrain	Haggardstown	706478, 803121	c.1000m
Local tradition of a souterrain in St. Fursey's graveyard (LH012-014----).				
LH012-012----	Castle - unclassified	Haggardstown	706298, 803181	c.900
Site of castle now occupied by farm buildings which may incorporate fabric from the monument. No visible trace.				
LH012-014001-	Church	Haggardstown	706428, 803101	c.780m
Chancel narrower than nave (int. dims. of chancel 4m N-S by 4.4m; nave 10.5m by 5.6m), built of limestone blocks and greywacke and more or less completely covered with ivy. Opposing doorways in nave and double bellcote in W gable. The most westerly window in the S wall of the chancel has a two-centred arch constructed of two rounded punch-dressed blocks, one of sandstone, the other of limestone. Its two western jambs and sill stone are granite. The E jamb is limestone, has bar holes and was originally a sill stone. The remaining two windows in the S wall and the E window have been destroyed and there are no surviving remains of cut stone. The doorways are lintelled and featureless. The church was repaired in 1622 and was in ruins in 1692.				

The opposing doorways, bell-gable and two-centred window arch indicate a fifteenth- or sixteenth century building.

LH012-014002-	Graveyard	Haggardstown	706428, 803101	c.1000m
Sub-rectangular shaped graveyard (map dims. c. 52m x 42m) bounded on W side by roadway with church (LH012-014001-) in N half. Earliest headstone noted dates to 1770.				
LH012-010----	Castle - unclassified	Haggardstown	706114, 803340	c.900m
Site of castle known as 'Caislean Uachtrach Baile Sagairt'. No visible surface trace.				
LH012-008----	Redundant record	Haggardstown	705938, 803551	c.900m
Listed in the SMR for Louth (1984) as a possible souterrain. This location was subject to extensive archaeological testing in 2002 and no evidence of the possible souterrain was uncovered. See Excavation Licence number 02E0549.				
LH012-093----	Excavation miscellaneous	Haggardstown	706027, 803645	c. 700m
Test excavations were carried out in advance of proposed development at this location in 2002 (Excavation Licence No. 02E0549). Spreads of charcoal rich clay and heat fractured stones, linear features of probable early medieval date and a number of possible pits were identified. Finds included a number of sherds of coarse, early medieval pottery and numerous pieces of metal slag. Further testing in 2006 did not reveal any archaeological material.				
LH012-007----	Enclosure	Haggardstown	705958, 803811	c.700m
Complex series of cropmarks bounding roughly circular enclosure (max. diam c. 48m) on aerial photograph (CUCAP, AYM 58).				
LH012-109----	Enclosure	Haggardstown	705717, 804086	c.800m
Aerial photograph (GB89.B.16) shows cropmark of a circular enclosure defined by a fosse. A possible pit is located at the centre of the enclosure.				

### 11.3.3. Topographical Files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/ street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928. The stray finds recorded at Haggardstown indicate human activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, none of these finds can be directly related to the subject Site.

**Table 11.2 - Topographical Files**

Museum No.	Location	Description
-	Haggardstown	Faunal remains from midden
1978:272-274	Haggardstown	Plough pebble and 2 pot sherds from St Fursey's Graveyard
1978:129	Haynestown	Medieval pottery rim sherd from vicinity of Souterrain
-	Haggardstown	4 stone whorls
2012:23-27	Haggardstown	Ceramic. Sherd of brown glazed ware, wheel thrown, probably 19thC
2004:141	Haggardstown	Semi elliptical white quartz plough pebble
1999:12	Haggardstown	Six conjoined sherds of a glazed jug found in Quarry face

### 11.3.4. Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). Several historical maps were consulted in the compilation of this assessment. No previously unrecorded archaeological or cultural heritage features were recorded within the proposed Site. Analysis of historical mapping is listed in Table 11.3 below and Figure 3 of the Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I.

**Table 11.3 - Cartographic Sources**

Map	Date	Description
1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (6-inch)	1835	The Site is shown as agricultural land with no specific features marked that might point to archaeological potential
3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (25-inch)	1907-9	Some minor changes to field boundary layout. Otherwise, no major changes from 1835

### 11.3.5. Aerial Photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or Sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. There are a number of available collections including the National Monuments Section, Geological Survey of Ireland (1970-73), Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1995, 2000, 2005), National Museum of Ireland (St Joseph CUCAP Collection) and Air Corps (1950's-1970's). Ortho-rectified raster colour and black and white photography held by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (2005, 2000, 1995 & Digital Globe 2007-2013) were consulted along with recent aerial imagery viewed on Google Earth. However, no archaeological features were identified (refer to Figure 4, Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I).

### 11.3.6. Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2017. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent Sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section. No excavations have been undertaken within the subject Site.

**Table 11.4 - Previous Archaeological Excavations**

Licence	RMP No	OS Ref	Townland	Ex. Bull. Ref.	Author
-	LH012-010	J062032	Haggardstown	1994:178	D Murphy
Unlicensed monitoring in advance of single dwelling. 2 pits, 1 ditch and a stone filled trench of uncertain date and function recorded.					
94E197	LH012-019	J067026	Haggardstown	1994:180	K Campbell
99E0683	LH012-009			1999:544	F O'Carroll
	LH012-027				
Testing in advance of housing development. A possible ringfort c. 40m x 45m was recorded. 3 ditch like features may have indicated souterrain(s).					
2 <sup>nd</sup> phase of work in 1999; monitoring of entire 16 hectare Site. 1 x shell midden, 3 x burnt spreads, 1 x pit filled with burnt mound material, 1 x field boundary ditch and 1 x keyhole type kiln were recorded in addition to a concentration of features in an area not proposed for development.					
95E126	-	J068030	Haggardstown	1995:220	C McConway
A souterrain was uncovered during a housing development. Machine assisted excavation revealed its extent and an enclosing ditch c. 30m in diameter.					
98E0440	LH007-095	J052504	Mullagharlin &	1998:468	D Moore
00E0132		38	Haggardstown	1998:469	A Gahan

		30539 30364		1999:610 2000:684	C McLoughlin
<p>Testing in advance of Xerox Industrial Park. 28 trenches excavated. Archaeology recorded in 3 trenches comprising 1 x horseshoe shaped ditch (possible remains of ringfort; LH007-095) and 3 burnt spreads.</p> <p>Further testing undertaken at the enclosure. 1 small charcoal spread close to the enclosure</p> <p>Monitoring and full excavation at the 100 acre Site in 1999. This revealed 3 x fulachta fiadh, 1 x hearth, 2 houses (all Bronze Age), 1 x corn drying kiln, a range of pits and ditches and, 1 x souterrain.</p> <p>In 2000 one of the fulachta fiadh found in 1999 excavated under a new licence.</p>					
01E0015	LH012-006	O30586 30405	Haggardstown	2001:858	D Moore
<p>Test-trenching was carried out in advance of a development. A possible multi period enclosed settlement was recorded.</p>					
02E0549	LH012-008	30601 30354	Haggardstown	2002:1348 2006:1365	F Walsh G McLoughlin
<p>Testing undertaken on Site adjacent to Xerox campus (see 98E0440 &amp; 00E0132 above) to ascertain its archaeological potential. 5 areas of archaeological activity across the Site:</p> <p>1): early medieval settlement activity; 2): 1 pit; 3): Fulacht fiadh; 4): Fulacht fiadh &amp; 5): pits and gullies.</p> <p>Second phase of testing in 2006 undertaken by G McLoughlin. This revealed a series of spreads, layers and linear features of probable early medieval date, the possible remains of a burnt mound and a pit.</p> <p>No evidence of the possible souterrain Site (LH012-008) was uncovered in either testing programme.</p>					
04E0252	-	30620 30331	Haggardstown	2004:1073	D Sweetman
<p>Monitoring of groundworks for a one-off house produced nothing of archaeological interest.</p>					
04E0876	-	J039702 16 30611 30242	Haggardstown	2004:1110 2004:1111	E Halpin E Corcoran
<p>Testing of features recorded in geophysical survey over a 14.5Ha Site. Only gullies and a spread were recorded.</p> <p>Full excavation undertaken under same licence. 3 heavily truncated fulachta fiadh</p>					
05E0963	-	30580	Haynestown &	2005:1078	G McLoughlin
06E0485		30270	Haggardstown	2006:1367	R Lynch
06E0484				2006:1368	
06E0483				2006:1369	
06E0270				2006:1366	
<p>05E963 GMcL: Testing of a 57Ha greenfield Site following geophysical survey (05R087). Numerous areas of archaeological potential noted and excavated under separate licences (below).</p> <p>06E485 GMcL: Full excavation of 1 archaeological area within the Site revealed a late Bronze Age enclosure (47m x 45m), a neolithic house (8.9m x 3.8m) and 2 earth cut figure of eight cereal drying kilns.</p> <p>06E484 GMcL: Full excavation of 1 archaeological area within the Site revealed 2 Bronze Age roundhouses and associated features.</p> <p>06E483 GMcL: Full excavation of 1 archaeological area within the Site revealed an earth cut figure of eight cereal drying kiln</p> <p>06E270 GMcL &amp; RL: Monitoring followed by full excavation of smaller areas within the scheme. Numerous pits postholes stakeholes kilns gullies and linear features were recorded in 6 separate concentrations.</p>					
08E0743	-	30570 30285	Haggardstown	2008:845	S Delaney



2 previously unknown souterrains disturbed during construction work and subsequently excavated under licence. A hollow area between the 2 may indicate the location of a 3<sup>rd</sup> souterrain with stone lining robbed out.

10E0054	-	705718, 803913	Haggardstown	2010:461	G McLoughlin
Assessment in advance of residential development. 5 archaeological areas noted; 2 burnt mounds and 3 isolated pits. Numerous field boundary ditches also noted across the Site.					
11E0095	-	705719, 803913	Haggardstown	2011:428	D Sweetman
Testing in advance of housing development. No archaeology noted.					
12E0290	-	705682, 803559	Haggardstown	2012:427	A O'Connell

Monitoring of Site investigations works in advance of watermain. No archaeology noted.

### 11.3.7. Record of Protected Structures

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social* or *technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed. The Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 was consulted to see if there were any Protected Structures within or adjacent to the Site. There are no protected structures located within or adjacent to the subject Site and construction here will not adversely impact upon the integrity or character of the protected structures.

### 11.3.8. Site Inspection

The Site was visited by Aidan O' Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 in clear, dry conditions. The Site is composed of two large fields to the east of the Dundalk Golf Club accessed via a gateway onto Bóthar Maol. The land is elevated and slopes gently west to east with excellent views of the Cooley Mountains and Irish Sea to the north and east. Land-use is currently the remains of a recently harvested bean crop; the land is generally good well drained fertile soil with what appear to be frequent outcroppings of shale which have been left fallow.

**Field 1** is approached through a gateway from Bóthar Maol and borders the Golf Club to the west. It is a very large rectangular field currently under stubble, well drained and sloping gently from west to east. There are a number of large and small possible shale outcrops which have been left as fallow "islands" within the field; mature hedgerow forms the eastern and southern boundary with housing along Bóthar Maol to the north and more recent planting along the Golf Course to the west. The land undulates gently falling slightly to Field 2 to the east.

**Field 2** is a large sub-rectangular field formed by the amalgamation of a single large field with a number of smaller fields to the south (some field boundaries remaining). The land is again generally good with a number of outcrops of possible shale. To the south of this field are farm sheds associated with the former Mountainview residence. Mature trees and hedgerows form the field boundary on the northern, western and eastern sides with post and wire to the south (where the fields have been combined).

**Road connection** is formed through a long narrow strip (c. 250m long) which falls markedly from Field 2 to the Blackrock Road to the east. The area is heavily overgrown with semi-mature trees and heavy tussocky grass and weeds in a low-lying area.

### 11.3.9. Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey (Magnetic Gradiometer) was undertaken across the Site by J Nicholls of Target Archaeological Geophysics on 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 under licence 18R0036 (Nicholls 2018; refer to Figure 5, Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I). The survey area was divided into 2 sections (M1 east & M2 west). The results from survey in M1-M2 displayed no clear evidence of

archaeological activity within the proposed development boundary. No definitive patterns of archaeological settlement, enclosure remains, or concentrations of archaeological activity were recorded. Small-scale positive responses and weak trends were apparent in the data. While a possible archaeological interpretation for these anomalies could not be entirely dismissed the likely source of these anomalies was considered to be variation in natural soil/geological conditions or recent land-use. Elsewhere the survey results from M1-M2 highlight extensive natural soil/geological variation, which is typical for the region surrounding Dundalk, responses from former cultivation, and remains of several former boundaries (see Geophysical report in Appendix I).

### 11.3.10. Test Excavation

Test excavation was undertaken in order to target various anomalies recorded in the course of the geophysical survey and to reveal the horizontal extent of all associated archaeological Sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. The excavations were licensed (18E0417) by the DCHG and NMI under National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 and carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018. Fifteen test trenches (250 linear metres) were opened and closed by a 13t mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision (refer to Figure 6, Archaeological Assessment presented in Appendix I). Trenches were situated in locations agreed with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and set out with a Geomax Zenith 15 Rover GPS. Excavation proceeded in level spits no greater than 0.20m and each revealed surface was inspected for archaeological remains. Subsoil consisted of compact orange/brown stony clay. Bedrock was observed close to the subsoil surface at various locations. The test excavation works verified that no archaeological features were present at the locations where anomalies were recorded during the geophysical survey. Hence these anomalies were confirmed to be associated with naturally occurring variations in ground conditions / shallow bedrock (see Archaeological Test Trenching report attached).

### 11.3.11. Identification of Likely Significant Impacts

This cultural heritage assessment has employed a variety of sources in conjunction with non-intrusive walkover survey to ensure a detailed and robust assessment of the cultural heritage risk associated with the project. The following conclusions are presented in order to ascertain any likely significant potential direct and indirect impacts which the proposed development may have:

- The site is large in scale, occupying an area of c. 17.9 hectares
- There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed site. The closest listed site is a possible early medieval souterrain (LH007-086) located c. 75m north of the subject site.
- The laneway located at the north of the site is the reputed location of an ancient roadway mentioned in the Táin Bó Cuailgne.
- No stray finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland can be directly associated with the subject site.
- No previously unrecorded archaeological or cultural heritage features were recorded in historic maps
- No new features of archaeological or cultural heritage interest were identified in aerial photographs.
- No previous excavations have been undertaken within the subject site.
- There are no protected structures located within the subject site.
- Geophysical survey undertaken across the site displayed no clear evidence for archaeological activity.
- The test excavation works verified that no archaeological features were present at the locations where anomalies were recorded during the geophysical survey. Hence these anomalies were confirmed to be associated with naturally occurring variations in ground conditions / shallow bedrock
- Test trenching was not undertaken in order to establish the archaeological potential of the remainder of the site.

The scale of the site and its proximity to recorded archaeological monuments indicate that there is moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site

## 11.4. Potential Impacts on Cultural Heritage during Construction Phase

The greatest threat to unrecorded, buried archaeological sites/ features occur during the construction stage and include all ground disturbance works undertaken at this stage (excavations and other groundworks including the provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machinery and storage of material in sensitive areas. In the absence of the mitigation measures described below, significant likely impacts on archaeology and heritage would be direct, negative and permanent. A significant impact is an impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where the site/feature or part thereof would be permanently impacted upon leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological or architectural site/feature.

## 11.5. Potential Impacts on Cultural Heritage during Operational Phase

No potential impacts are identified during the operational phase as it is anticipated that any potential issues of archaeological and cultural heritage interest will have been resolved prior to or during the construction phase.

## 11.6. Cumulative Impacts

No potential cumulative impacts are identified as it is anticipated that matters of archaeological and cultural heritage interest at this Site will have been resolved during the construction phase of this proposal.

## 11.7. Mitigation Measures

While no archaeological material was recorded during this assessment, it is noted that the Site is large in scale and could potentially contain buried archaeological deposits at locations which were not subject to test trench assessment in the course of this study. It is therefore recommended that any future development works carried out at the subject Site be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Particular attention will be paid to those areas adjacent to and covering the laneway to the north of the Site which may potentially be the location of an ancient roadway.

## 11.8. Residual Impacts

The greatest potential impact of groundworks on the archaeological heritage of an area is to hitherto unknown archaeological features. Groundworks may have a negative archaeological impact on undisturbed areas of ground where topsoil removal will be required for the construction of the proposed development. Pre-construction archaeological testing and subsequent monitoring of all large-scale topsoil removal will ensure the full recognition and recording of any buried finds or features therefore it is envisaged that there will be no residual impacts on archaeology.

## 11.9. Monitoring Requirements

All future archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the DCHG and the planning authority and under licence to the DCHG in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.