

## 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 5.1 Introduction

This Cultural Heritage and Archaeology study undertaken at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16 (Figure 5.1) was prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd on behalf of Ardstone Homes Limited in September 2019. The objective of the study was to identify and record the location, nature and dimensions of archaeological or cultural heritage features, fabric or artefacts that may be impacted by proposed development, gauge the level of impact and include recommendations for potential mitigations necessary.

The study included an examination of existing documentary sources, which was completed in tandem non-intrusive walkover and geophysical surveys, three separate phases of archaeological test trenching and an archaeological excavation of a previously unknown archaeological site which identified as part of the assessment.

The study was undertaken by Aidan O'Connell BA MIAI, Senior Archaeologist with Archer Heritage Planning Ltd, who has 20 years experience in archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessments. He has been eligible to conduct licenced archaeological excavations (under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)) since 2002.

### 5.2 Methodology

The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology study included a desk-based study where relevant databases and sources were consulted to determine the archaeological potential of the general area. These sources included:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record. 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), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). 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 (see [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland. 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.
  - Aerial photography.
  - Historical maps.
  - Documentary research.
  - Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

The desk-based study was supported by several field-based surveys that investigated the potential of the site to have unrecorded archaeological material. These surveys included:

- Visual inspection of the site was undertaken on 22<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This involved a systematic, non-intrusive walkover survey. This survey assessed current land-use patterns, site topography, site access and the presence of any previously unrecorded sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest.
- Archaeological geophysics survey was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken to identify sub-surface magnetic anomalies indicative of buried areas of archaeological potential. This was undertaken by John Nichols, Target Archaeological Geophysics (TAG) under licence (18R0112) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) (Nichols, 2018) (Appendix 5.1).
- Archaeological test excavation. Three separate phases of archaeological testing were carried out at the site:
  - Phase I (5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2018) (Appendix 5.2). The aim of test excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of potential archaeological features discovered initially through geophysical survey and to reveal the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. The test excavations were carried out under license (18E0458) from the DCHG and NMI (O’Connell, 2018). An osteologist was retained on site to examine all human remains in-situ during topsoil removal.
  - Phase II (14<sup>th</sup> June 2019) (Appendix 5.3). This phase of works was in response to a Request for Additional Information from South Dublin County Council in relation to Planning Application SD19A/0088 to carry out enabling works in advance of full development. The test excavations were carried out under license (18E0458) from the DCHG and NMI (O’Connell, 2019b).
  - Phase III (6-7<sup>th</sup> August 2019) (Appendix 5.4). This phase of works assessed the archaeological potential of the footprint of the proposed development. The aim of test excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of potential archaeological features and to reveal the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. The test excavations were carried out under (18E0458) license from the DCHG and NMI (O’Connell, 2019c).
- Archaeological excavation was completed between 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at a previously unrecorded, enclosed early medieval located at the north-eastern corner of the subject site. Post excavation analysis and report preparation are on-going. The excavation was carried out under license (18E0458) from the DCHG and NMI. An osteologist was retained on site to examine all human remains in-situ during topsoil removal and to oversee the excavation and recording of human remains. A preliminary excavation report was lodged with the relevant statutory bodies (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – Appendix 5.5) (O’Connell, 2019b). A final excavation report is scheduled to be completed by February 2020.

### 5.3 Guidance and Legislation

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

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2004;
- 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) publication outlines the State's general principles in relation to the management and protection of archaeological heritage. It states 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, must be removed due to development, then preservation by record must be undertaken (i.e. through licensed excavation and recording).

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 (Volume 1, Chapter 9) sets out general policies and standards for development within the county. South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that built and natural heritage and landscapes are protected, and that they contribute to the future sustainable development of the County. Through objectives and actions contained in the Development Plan and the South Dublin County Heritage Plan (2010), they seek 'to balance the protection of built and natural heritage and landscapes with the management of change in a manner that enhances rather than diminishes heritage and landscape features, structures, buildings, sites and places of special interest'. The Development Plan sets out several objectives relating to archaeological heritage:

**HCL1 Objective 1:** To protect, conserve and enhance natural, built and cultural heritage features and restrict development that would have a significant negative impact on these assets.

**HCL1 Objective 2:** To support the objectives and actions of the County Heritage Plan, including the preparation of a County Biodiversity Plan.

**HCL2 Objective 1:** To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, or any superseding national policy document.

**HCL2 Objective 2:** To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

**HCL2 Objective 3:** To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

**HCL2 Objective 5:** To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

**HCL3 Objective 1:** To ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) and the immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures.

**HCL5 Objective 4:** To ensure that infill development is sympathetic to the architectural interest, character and visual amenity of the area.

**HCL18 Objective 3:** To promote local heritage, the naming of any new residential development will reflect the local and historical context of its siting, and should include the use of the Irish language.

#### 5.4 Site Description

The developable site is a green-field area (5.35 Ha) sub-divided into two paddocks (northern field and southern field) by post & rail fencing and with 3 upstanding buildings. In the northwest area, there is a modern stable-block and toilet. At the centre of the site there is mid-twentieth century bungalow. A narrow tarmac driveway extends from Scholarstown Road to the bungalow, bisecting the southern field into an east and west portion. In the southeast area, an early to mid-twentieth century detached two-storey dwelling is located.

#### 5.5 Consultation

Consultation with the following statutory bodies was undertaken at different stages during the archaeological assessment. These are set out below.

- A licence application and methodology to use a detection device for archaeological purposes was submitted to the DCHG under Section 2 of the National Monuments Act 1987 (as amended). The application was approved by DCHG in consultation with the NMI (licence 18R0112).
- A licence application and methodology to excavated test trenches under Phase I was submitted to the DCHG and NMI under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended). The application was approved by DCHG in consultation with the NMI (18E0458).
- After the unanticipated discovery of human remains at the site (7th August 2018):
  - The DCHG and NMI were contacted by phone as per Condition 10 of the excavation licence.
  - The Coroner's Office and An Garda Síochána were contacted by phone as per the requirements of the Coroners Act, 1962. A memo describing the discovery and context of the human remains was issued to the Coroner's Office, An Garda Síochána, DCHG and NMI (7th August 2018). The site was later inspected by An Garda Síochána (8 August 2018).
- Additional test trenching undertaken at the site following the discovery of human remains was completed after consultation with the DCHG. This included the submission of an amended method statement (9<sup>th</sup> August 2018) attached to the

existing excavation licence (18E0458). A report detailing these assessments was issued to the DCHG and the NMI (7<sup>th</sup> September 2018)

- A formal consultation between representatives of the Applicant and the National Monuments Section (NMS) of the DCHG was undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to discuss the potential impact of the proposed development on the identified archaeological site (including the burial remains). It was agreed by both parties that any negative impact on the archaeological remains from development at this location could be mitigated by “preservation-by-record” (i.e. archaeological excavation).
- A licence application and methodology to excavate the archaeological remains was submitted to the DCHG and NMI under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended). The application was approved by DCHG in consultation with the NMI (licence 18E0458ext).
- Phase II and Phase III archaeological test trenching were agreed with the DCHG in advance of site works through the submission of a licence application and methodology. The application was approved by DCHG in consultation with the NMI (licence 18E0458ext).

## 5.6 Aims of the Archaeological Impact Assessment

The objective of this study was to assess the significance of the receiving archaeological environment and the impact of the proposed development. Ameliorative measures are proposed where necessary and feasible, to safeguard any monuments, features or finds of antiquity that are identified during this study as likely to sustain significant impacts.

## 5.7 Description of Receiving Environment

### 5.7.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

Scholarstown townland formed part of the Manor of Rathfarnham purchased c. 1589 by Adam Loftus. Loftus had been Archbishop of Armagh and Archbishop of Dublin and had served as Lord Chancellor of Ireland from 1581. The earliest recorded tenant of Scholarstown House was Henry Jones who died at the Siege of Rathfarnham Castle during the 1641 Rebellion. Records from 1659 show a David Gibson was subsequently in residence. Following the death of Sir Adam Loftus (grandson of the original Adam Loftus) at the Siege of Limerick in 1691, the property passed (through his daughter Lucy) to the Wharton family.

In 1723, William Connolly of Castletown acquired most of the land in the area including Scholarstown House. Referred to also as Schoolers Town, Schollarstone and Scholardstown, the name is believed to derive from the family name Schollard (Ball 1905).

### 5.7.2 Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was consulted in the preparation of this report. There are no recorded monuments located within the site itself; there are a small number of RMP sites in the wider area, the closest RMP's are listed below in Table 5.1 and depicted in Figure 5.1. There are a small number of recorded monuments located within 1km of the subject site. A fulacht fia (DU022-111) excavated in advance of the M50 motorway is indicative of Bronze Age settlement in the area. An early medieval enclosed settlement is located 620m SW of the subject site and an anglo-norman tower house is located c. 980m to the northwest.

**Table 5.1: Archaeological sites within 1 km of the proposed development**

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
DU022-019	Castle - tower house	Knocklyon	711406, 727222	980m NW
<p>Located at the foot of the Dublin Mountains off a by road that leads to Castlefield Manor housing estate. Knocklyon Castle was associated with Walter de Ridelesford in the medieval period. In the 16th century the castle was said to be ruinous but was, nevertheless, occupied in the 17th century by Piers Archbold, son of Richard Archbold of Kilmacud. It was subsequently converted into a dwelling house. The tower house rises to three storeys with a slated, hipped roof. The exterior has been pebble-dashed. It has a rectangular ground plan (int. dims. L 8.7 m; Wth 5.6 m) with angle towers in NE and SW angles that have plain slit opes. There is a spiral stair in the SW tower. A fireplace has been inserted into the E wall at this level. Two-light windows have been inserted into the main floors. The towerhouse can also be entered through a modern opening in the SW tower. A cone-shaped roof has recently been added to the later</p> <p>Compiled by Geraldine Stout; Date of upload: 25th April 2012</p>				
DU022-111	Fulacht Fia	Scholarstown	711517, 726545	875m W
<p>No information available on archaeology.ie. Site refers to fulacht fia excavated in advance of M50 Motorway (see 98E0518, Ex Bulletin 1998:215).</p>				
DU022-020	Ringfort - unclassified	Scholarstown	711744, 726570	700m W
<p>Situated in an area of undulating grassland SE of the Dodder valley. Named on the 1843 OS 6-inch map as a roughly circular, hachured enclosure. The site was excavated in 1985 prior to motorway construction (Keeley 1985, 23). It comprised a truncated circular structure (int. diam. 24m) defined by a bank and external fosse. Excavations revealed a D-shaped wooden structure, a hearth and a series of pits and post-holes within the interior. Finds included a flint scraper and a possible loom weight.</p> <p>Compiled by Geraldine Stout; Date of upload: 25th April 2012</p>				

### 5.7.3 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).

The development of the site and its vicinity recorded through the eighteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 5.2 below (see Figures 5.2 & 5.3). The site is

depicted as agricultural land between the mid-eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries. In the mid-nineteenth century the subject lands are depicted as parklands attached to Ros Mór House, which is marked 'Sabinefields'. By the early twentieth century the land had returned to agricultural use. No new archaeological features were recorded within the subject site in the review of cartographic sources.

**Table 5.2: Cartographic Sources Relating to the Site**

Map	Date	Description
Rocque	1760	The location of the subject site can be seen to the north of Scholarstown Road in an area of open farmland. A cluster of 3 buildings at the south of the road may mark the location of Scholarstown House. The general area is called 'Scoolers Town'. (Figure 5.2)
Duncan	1821	The subject site can be seen to the north of Scholarstown Road with an early 19C house situated beyond the NW corner. There is an internal sub-division at the NW marked by deciduous trees. The eastern site boundary is marked by a watercourse. (Figure 5.2)
1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map	1839	The subject site is partially depicted in parklands attached to a house (Sabinefields). There is a gate lodge at the southwest corner. Both structures are still standing. A statue is marked in the area between the gate lodge and the house. Deciduous trees are marked within the parklands. The eastern side of the site is agricultural land albeit lined with deciduous trees along the eastern boundary. No potential archaeological features or church sites are noted on this map. (Figure 5.3)
3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map	1908	The subject site is depicted as agricultural land with numerous internal divisions. The house is now marked Beech Park. The statue marked on the 1839 map is no longer shown on the subject lands. (Figure 5.3)

#### 5.7.4 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. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google Maps 2016). The subject site was observed in its current layout with no discernible anomalies suggestive of buried archaeological sites or features (Figure 5.4).

However, two potential sub-circular aerial anomalies have recently been identified on drone footage on an adjoining green space located directly northeast of the subject site<sup>1</sup>. These are not visible on the orthostatic imagery previously consulted. These are located in an area

<sup>1</sup> <https://vimeo.com/329149211?ref=tw-share>

that has been subject to previous ground disturbance and landscaping. As such, they are unverified as archaeological sites.

### 5.7.5 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2018. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section. No archaeological excavations have been previously undertaken within the subject site. However, numerous archaeological investigations have been undertaken around the wider area in the past decade. These include three previously unrecorded fulachtaí fia, suggestive of Bronze Age settlement in the wider area (see Table 5.3; 1998:215, 2000:332 & 2004:632). A ringfort (Table 5.3; 1985:26) partially excavated in advance of the M50 is indicative of early medieval settlement.

**Table 5.3: Previous Archaeological Investigations in the Wider Area**

Licence No.	RMP	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
-	DU022-020	712723, 726783	Scholarstown	1985:26	V. Keeley
Excavation at Scholarstown 'fairy fort'. The ditch and bank and 3/4 of the interior of the fort were exposed. The enclosure comprised a truncated circular structure (int. diam. 24m) defined by a bank and external fosse. Excavations revealed a D-shaped wooden structure, a hearth and a series of pits and post-holes within the interior. Finds included a flint scraper and a possible loom weight.					
98E0206 98E0518	-	712359, 733373	Various	1998:121 1998:215	C. Gracie M. Reid
1998:121; Monitoring in advance of Southern Cross Motorway. A hearth and 2 burnt spreads were recorded. One of the spreads was associated with a stake-built tent-like structure. 1998:215; Excavation of burnt spreads in Scholarstown TD. Following on from 1998:121.					
99E0344	-	713326, 725528	Newtown	1999:261 2000:332	N. Birmingham M. Reid
1999:261; Monitoring in advance Rathfarnham Golf Club. A burnt mound and 2 burnt spreads were recorded. 2000:3323; Full excavation of the burnt mound and spreads. One of the pits/troughs associated with the mound returned a date of 3700±60 BP.					
01E1214 01E1214ext	DU014:013	713092, 725187	Newtown	2001:456 2002:636	F. Rooney M. Fitzpatrick
2001:456; Testing at site of destroyed motte. No archaeology recorded. 2002:636; Further testing at DU014:013. No archaeology recorded.					
04E0940	-	712528, 725233	Various	2004:632	G. Dehane
Monitoring followed by excavation in advance of Oldcourt Road/Stocking Lane link road. Elements of truncated fulacht fiadh activity, a pit furnace and two possible medieval ditches were recorded and subsequently excavated.					



Licence No.	RMP	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
15E0516	-	713020, 726687	Scholarstown Road	2015:350	A. O'Connell
An assessment was carried out at the site of a proposed residential development on Scholarstown Road in Ballyboden, Dublin 14. Excavation of 1885 linear metres of test trench across the site revealed an elevated laneway and localized concentrations of oxidized clay. No archaeological features were recorded.					

### 5.7.6 Topographical Files

The results of a search of the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland did not yield any results for stray finds in Scholarstown townland. Two stray finds are recorded for Knocklyon townland to the north; a flint pebble from Mt. Carmel Park (1987:116) and a clay pipe of unknown origin (1976:611). Ballycullen townland to the south-west contained a Late Bronze Age gold dress fastener (1998:70) found during house construction and late medieval Coarseware pottery sherds (1993:26) found near St. Comcille's Well. Newtown townland to the south-east contained a late 17th Century Jacobin decorative iron button (1995:160).

### 5.7.7 Architectural Heritage

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 that 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 that 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. There are no protected structures located within the subject site. The closest protected structures are listed below in Table 5.4 and located on Figure 5.1.

**Table 5.4: Record of Protected Structures**

RPS	Location	Description
304	Ros Mor, Scholarstown Road, Rathfarnham	House, Recessed Gateway, Gates & Outbuildings
307	Mount Michael, The Rookery, Scholarstown Road, Rathfarnham	Detached Three-Bay Two-Storey over Basement House
322	Scholarstown House, Scholarstown Road, Rathfarnham	Two Storey House

### 5.7.8 Walkover Survey

The site was visited by Aidan O' Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. on 22nd May 2018 for a systematic visual inspection. The inspection was carried out under fair conditions with no constraints on the surveying methodology (Plates 1-2). The developable site was a green-field area (5.35 Ha) sub-divided into two paddocks (northern field and southern field) by post & rail fencing. Land cover in the two paddocks was pasture.

The northern field was a relatively narrow elongated area, bounded to the north and east by a concrete boundary wall to the rear of existing housing. The southern field was bounded to the east by a concrete wall to the rear of existing housing; to the south by the Scholarstown Road (R113), and to the west by a detached mid nineteenth century house (Ros Mór) and its associated entrance avenue. Ros Mór is listed on the South County Dublin Record of Protected Structures (RPS number 304).

The three extant buildings were identified within the subject site. Numerous manholes were noted along the eastern site boundary marking the location of subsurface foul and surface water sewer pipes. The area was generally level with were no discernible areas of archaeological potential obvious from the surface topography.

### 5.7.9 Geophysical Survey

A magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken by John Nicholls of Target Archaeological Geophysics (TAG) under licence 18Ro112 (Nicholls 2018) (Appendix 5.1). This geophysical survey recorded a probable enclosure site in the north-eastern portion of the proposed development (Figure 5.5). It was roughly oval in form and measured c.50m N-S by 45m E-W. Extensive ferrous disturbance immediately to the north and east prevented a more precise archaeological interpretation of the responses recorded from survey in this location. Potential archaeological remains (pit/linear) were also identified to the NW at survey centre and to the SE. Elsewhere, patterns of former cultivation, recent buried service installations, and disturbance from modern sources of interference were observed.

## 5.8 Phase I Archaeological Test Trenching

Test excavations were undertaken at the site from 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 under licence (18E0458; O'Connell, 2018) to the DCHG in consultation with the NMI. A total of 19 trenches were excavated across the site. Test trenching confirmed the presence of a ditched enclosure at the location suggested by the geophysical survey. Human remains were also identified that suggested the site was an enclosed cemetery. A limited quantity of disarticulated human bone was collected during this phase of test-excavation.

The enclosure ditch was identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 (Figures 5.5 & 5.6; Plates 3 & 4). It measured 3.42 m wide by 1.61 m deep. An apparent break in the enclosure ditch at the southwest side was confirmed by test trenching. Human skeletal remains were identified across the southern area of the enclosure interior (Plates 5 & 6).

Thirty-four potential grave cuts were recorded in the excavated trenches. Skeletal remains were recorded in 15 No. of the potential cuts. At two further locations, burials were identified on the subsoil surface. Also, a minimum of 3 No. individuals were recognised within the small assemblage of disarticulated remains. A number of non-burial-archaeological features were also recorded within the interior of the enclosure. These included potential bowl furnaces (for iron-working), an area of burning, a potential cereal drying kiln, postholes, pits and linear features/small ditches. These features were indicative of potential settlement activity within the enclosure. Four furrows recorded roughly 190 m SW of the enclosure were the result of agricultural activity in relatively recent times.

The archaeological site was interpreted as an early medieval enclosure with accompanying human burials. As it was not exclusively secular or ecclesiastical in character, it could be termed a "settlement/cemetery" (O'Sullivan et al., 2008) or "secular cemetery" (Stout & Stout, 2008). This site type may be defined by a large, rounded or oval enclosure containing burial evidence as well as evidence of occupation or non-funerary activity (O'Sullivan et al., 2008, 175). A sample of disarticulated bone collected during test trenching was dated to AD 617-688 (95% probability; D-AMS 030531; 1365±27 BP). This suggested burial activity in the early medieval period.

## 5.8 Archaeological Excavation

Archaeological excavation of the enclosure and accompanying burials was carried out between 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 under licence 18E0458ext issued by the DCHG in consultation with the NMI (Figure 5.7). A preliminary report has been submitted (O'Connell, 2019a) (Appendix 5.5). Post excavation analysis is ongoing and scheduled for completion in February 2020.

Excavation revealed the full extent of the enclosure and burials (Plate 7). The earth-cut ditch was 1.8-2.3m wide and generally 1.5m deep (Plate 8) and would have originally enclosed an area of roughly 1700 sq. m (0.17 hectares). It was noted from excavation that large portions of the enclosure ditch on the south-western and eastern sides had been significantly disturbed or removed by previous water infrastructure works at the site which took place prior to its acquisition by Ardstone.

Preliminary excavation results suggest two broad phases of activity based on the stratigraphy recorded in ditch sections. The primary phase is currently assigned to the early medieval period (AD 400-1200) on morphological grounds and based on findings from similar excavated sites. This will be confirmed by radiocarbon dating. The second is also probably early medieval (post AD 800). Occupation/ activity phase may extend as late as the late medieval/Anglo-Norman period (post AD 1200). Two sherds of green glazed, late medieval pottery were found in late layers sealing the ditch. Artefacts found in the ditch included a bone pin, a possible whetstone and a possible iron knife fragment. Additional features within the enclosure (pits, postholes and hearths) were indicative of settlement activity.

The final number of in-situ human burials at the site was eighty-three. Seventy-eight of these were densely clustered in the south/central portion of the enclosure. The remaining five individuals were located c. 15m to the northwest (Figure 5.7; Plates 9-12). There was no

evidence for burials in the intermediate area and no suggestion that burials had existed but had been removed. Burials were contained in simple earth-cut graves. Nineteen burials had instances of ear-muff stones and/or pillow stones.

One of the burials (SK30) was accompanied by an iron shroud pin. They were supine and extended burials aligned west-east. Variations in the body positions were noted, particularly the position of the hands. Sixty of the burials were adults, nineteen were juveniles, with two infants and two perinates. The skeletal remains were in generally moderate to very poor condition. As a result of the poor preservation, only four of the adults could be assigned a sex (all male). Disarticulated human bone was also collected from several features. In many cases, disarticulated bone was reburied with later graves. Disarticulated bone collected in Phase I trenching was dated to AD 617-688. It is assumed at this stage that burials were contemporary with the initial phase of enclosure. The dating scheme offered here is provisional. It will be refined during post-excavation analysis and as the results of radiocarbon dating are known.

### 5.9 Phase II Archaeological Test Trenching

A second phase of test excavation was undertaken in response a Request for Additional Information (SD19A/0088) in relation to proposed enabling works that were to be carried out in advance of the full development. Testing occurred on 14th June 2019 under licence 18E0458ext from the DCHG in consultation with the NMI.

Test trenches were targeted on areas of proposed ground disturbance (Figure 5.8; Plates 15 & 16). Two trenches (T1 & T2) were targeted on areas south of the existing bungalow which have been set aside for a site compound and storage area. The remaining trenches (T3a-3d) were excavated within the proposed works corridor for the sewage pipe diversion. It was necessary to leave some portions of this trench unexcavated to avoid existing subsurface sewage pipes and ESB cables and an existing tree-line at the north of the site.

No archaeological features were recorded. A modern refuse pit containing red brick, mortar and concrete (1.8 m E-W x 0.85 m N-S) was recorded in Trench 2 at ITM 712436, 726852. This may be contemporary with the construction of the existing bungalow, which was located 12.5m to the north. A second feature was recorded c. 115 m to the northeast. This was a linear feature (9 m WNW-ESE x 0.7 m wide x 0.15 m deep). It was filled with soft carbonised clay. A body sherd of black glazed red earthenware was collected from the surface of this feature. This type of pottery has a wide date range from the seventeenth to nineteenth century.

### 5.10 Phase III Archaeological Test Trenching

A third phase of test excavation was carried out on 6-7th August 2019 under licence 18E0458ext from the DCHG in consultation with the NMI. Test trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance (Figures 5.8 & 5.10; Plates 17 & 18). A total of 1,135 linear meters of test trenches amounting to 2,043 sq m were excavated across the site. No features of archaeological significance were recorded.

### 5.11 Assessment of Significance

This assessment of significance has been carried out for the settlement cemetery. It follows the criteria listed in Appendix 2 of the Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (Anon. 2006, 51).

**Table 5.5: Significance Criteria for Scholarstown Settlement Cemetery**

Criteria	Description
Existing Status	The site is not listed on the published Record of Monuments and Places and no current statutory protection.
Condition/ Preservation	The site has been fully excavated and preserved by record. This involved the systematic removal of all archaeological layers, deposits and associated archaeological objects (including human remains). The archaeological excavation has removed all archaeological material from the site.
Documentation	Not applicable
Group Value	There are currently no recorded archaeological sites adjacent to Scholarstown site. Recorded sites in the broader area cannot be categorically linked to the settlement cemetery, although the Scholarstown ringfort (see Section 5.5, Table 5.3) is contemporary. Two sub-circular aerial anomalies located in the green space between Dargle Wood and Scholarstown Park are unverified. They are problematic in they are on previously disturbed and landscaped areas. Consequently, it would be premature to consider them as part of a larger complex of archaeological sites in this area.
Rarity	The settlement cemetery is one of a growing corpus of enclosed early medieval burial grounds with evidence for both burial non-funerary activity nationally. There are two previously excavated examples in the South County Dublin area (Mt. Offaly [Cabinteely; Conway 1999] and Cherrywood [O'Neill & Coughlan 2010]) as well an unenclosed site at Murphystown (Breen 2010). Scholarstown conforms with the general morphology of contemporary enclosed burial sites as they are currently understood. It will be important to understanding early medieval settlement chronology and burial rites in the South County Dublin area.
Visibility	The site is not visible from the ground.
Vulnerability	The monument has been preserved-by-record.
Amenity Value	None. The site is privately owned and not visible at ground level. All archaeological layers and objects have been systematically removed from the area during archaeological excavation.

Following this examination of these significance criteria, it is concluded that the Scholarstown site is of medium-high significance. It is a good example of its type, and important to our understanding of settlement and burial in the South County Dublin area.

### 5.12 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

Ardstone Homes Limited intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a strategic housing development at a 5.35 hectare site located north of Scholarstown Road incorporating dwellings known as 'Beechpark' and 'Maryfield', Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16, D16 X3X8 and D16 N6V6. Works are also proposed to Scholarstown Road and Woodfield junction including new traffic signals, the elimination of the left-turn slip-lane into Woodfield off Scholarstown Road, upgraded public lighting and upgraded cycle and pedestrian facilities on an area measuring 0.7 hectares, providing a total application site area of 6.05 hectares.

The development will principally consist of: the demolition of all existing structures on site which include a single story dwelling known as 'Beechpark' (172 sq m), a 2 No. storey dwelling known as 'Maryfield' (182 sq m), with associated garage/shed (33.5 sq m) and associated outbuildings (47.1 sq m); and the construction of 590 No. residential units (480 No. Build-to-Rent apartment units and 110 No. Build-to-Sell duplex units and apartments), ancillary residential support facilities and commercial floorspace. The total gross floor space of the development is 51,252 sq m over a partial basement of 5,888 sq m (which principally provides car and bicycle parking, plant and bin stores).

The 480 No. 'Build-to-Rent' units will be provided in 8 No. blocks as follows: 7 No. blocks ranging in height from part 5 to part 6 No. storeys (Blocks B1 – B5, C1 and C3) and 1 No. block ranging in height from part 4 to part 6 No. storeys (Block C2) and will comprise 246 No. one bed units and 234 No. two bed units. The 110 No. 'Build-to-Sell' units will be provided in 9 No. duplex blocks which will be 3 No. storeys in height (Blocks A1 – A9) and will comprise 55 No. two bed units and 55 No. three bed units.

The development will also consist of the provision of a part 1 to part 2 No. storey ancillary amenity block (Block D1) (414 sq m) within the central open space which comprises a gymnasium, lobby, kitchenette and lounge at ground floor level and lounge at first floor level in addition to a roof terrace (facing north, south and west) to serve the Build-to-Rent residents; a 2 No. storey retail/café/restaurant building (Block D2) (657 sq m) comprising 2 No. retail units at ground floor level (328.5 sq m) and a café/restaurant unit at first floor level (328.5 sq m); a creche (438 sq m) within Block C2 at ground floor level; and a management suite (261 sq m) and café/restaurant (288 sq m) within Block C3 at ground floor level.

The development provides a vehicular access off Scholarstown Road between Blocks C1 and C3 towards the south-east corner of the site; a separate pedestrian access and emergency vehicular access off Scholarstown Road between Blocks A9 and C2 towards the south-west corner of the site; the facilitation of a pedestrian connection from the north-east corner of the subject site to the public open space in Dargle Park; 459 No. car parking spaces (178 No. at basement level and 281 No. at surface level); bicycle parking; bin storage; boundary treatments; private balconies and terraces; hard and soft landscaping; plant; services; sedum roofs; PV panels; substations; lighting; and all other associated site works above and below ground (Figure 5.9).

The areas of proposed ground disturbance across the site have undergone extensive archaeological assessment and excavation (Figure 5.10).

### 5.13 Description of Potential Impacts

This Cultural Heritage and Archaeology study has employed a variety of sources in conjunction with non-intrusive surveys and archaeological excavation to make a coherent assessment of the cultural heritage risk associated with the project. The following conclusions are presented to ascertain any likely significant potential direct and indirect impacts which the proposed development may have:

- The site is large in scale, occupying a developable site area of 5.35 hectares on the development site [wider site area of 6.05 hectares incorporating Scholarstown Road].
- There are no recorded monuments (as defined under Section 12 of the National Monuments Amendment Act 1994) located within the footprint of the site.
- No new sites of archaeological potential were recorded in the reviewed cartographic sources located within the footprint of the site.
- No new sites of archaeological potential were recorded in the reviewed aerial photographic sources located within the footprint of the site.
- There are no protected structures as defined under Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 located within the footprint of the site.
- There are no stray archaeological objects in the Topographical Files of the NMI recorded for the subject site or for Scholarstown townland.
- An enclosed settlement/cemetery site of early medieval date was recorded during pre-development archaeological assessments (geophysical survey and Phase I test trenching).
- This site was fully archaeological excavated under licence from the DCHG in consultation with the NMI.
- No new archaeological sites were recorded during Phase II test trenching (in advance of proposed enabling works) or Phase III test trenching (over the remainder of the site).
- Following pre development assessments and excavation, there is low potential for the survival of further buried archaeological remains across the remainder of the site.

### 5.14 Construction Phase Impact

The current development proposal will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site including excavations and other groundworks (e.g. provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machines and storage of material in sensitive areas. It is also proposed to tie into existing foul and surface water infrastructure at the northeast corner of the site. The proposed service lines are routed under planned public roads, reflecting the site topography and enabling drainage to the northeast corner. The proposed surface water attenuation facility is also located in this area. Within the development proposal, service lines (which are located under public roads) will cut through the internal burial area of the settlement cemetery (p 5.9). Insertion of these services would require the excavation of a 4m wide trench and an adjacent works corridor.

The potential impact is based on Appendix 4 of the Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (Anon. 2006, 54). It is concluded

that, in the absence of the mitigation measures described below, significant likely impacts on the archaeological remains at the site would be direct, negative and permanent.

#### **5.15 Operational Phase Impact**

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

#### **5.16 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.

#### **5.17 'Do Nothing' Impact**

If the proposed development were not undertaken, the enclosed burial site would be preserved-by record. Any other potential archaeological sites within the subject site would be preserved in-situ beneath the existing ground surface.

#### **5.18 Mitigation Measures**

Archaeological remains have been identified within the site. It has been established as an area of considerable archaeological potential. The following recommendations are made subject to the approval of the DCHG. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, they may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

##### **5.18.1 Pre-Construction Phase**

Following completion of pre-development geophysical survey and Phase I test excavation, archaeological remains were identified in the north-eastern corner of the site. The site was interpreted as an enclosed burial site, otherwise known as a secular cemetery or a settlement/cemetery. Consultation took place between representatives of the developer and the NMS in September 2018. Significant constraints on the design and layout of the proposed scheme, regarding the natural physical topography and the requirements of foul- and surface-water drainage provision were outlined by the Applicant. It was concluded that avoidance of the archaeological site recorded in pre-development archaeological assessments would have required a very substantial revision of the layout of the development. This would have been difficult to achieve given the nature and type of development proposed.



Following consideration of the development proposal and the results of test trenching, the NMS concluded that, in this case, the expected negative impact on the archaeological site from future development works could be mitigated by preservation-by-record (i.e. archaeological excavation) of the archaeological remains at the north-eastern corner of the subject site.

Archaeological excavation has been completed at the site under licence to the DCHG in consultation with the NMI. This involved the systematic removal of all archaeological layers, deposits and their associated archaeological objects (including human remains) from the site to preserve a complete and meaningful record of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphical sequence. Post-excavation processing and analysis of this material is ongoing off-site in a controlled environment.

The archaeological excavation thus reduced ground levels across the site to the exposed natural subsoil surface, including the emptied 'cuts' of archaeological features (ditches, pits, postholes and stakeholes). Adequate financial provision has been made available for the completion of post-excavation work, the conservation of artefacts and the publication of archaeological excavation results through the excavation licensing system. A preliminary report on the excavation was lodged with the DCHG and NMI on 22nd May 2019. The final excavation report is due for completion by February 2020.

No additional archaeological sites or features were recorded during Phase II or Phase III archaeological test excavations.

**Recommended Mitigation Measure 1.** It is acknowledged that archaeological excavation of the settlement/cemetery is complete. It is recommended that the post-excavation analysis and report preparation currently underway is brought to completion.

#### 5.18.2 Construction Phase

**Recommended Mitigation Measure 2.** Following mitigation of any impacts to the identified archaeological site, all ground disturbance works across the remainder of the development site should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. In the event that archaeological material is recorded during monitoring, further discussion/consultation with the DCHG should be sought in order to ascertain the appropriate treatment (i.e. preservation by record/preservation in situ) of any additional archaeological remains. Should the DCHG recommend preservation by record/full archaeological excavation, this work should be undertaken under the appropriate licence.

#### 5.19 Residual Impacts

It is not anticipated that there will be any residual impacts with the appropriate mitigation measures in place. Potential residual impacts may arise should archaeological sites or features be recorded during monitoring of groundworks as per Recommended Mitigation Measure 2. In this instance, further discussion/consultation with the DCHG would be sought to ascertain the appropriate treatment (i.e. preservation by record/preservation in situ) of any additional archaeological remains. Should the DCHG recommend preservation-in-situ

of any site found in monitoring of construction works, this may have an impact upon future maintenance requirements if preserved under green space.

## 5.20 Interactions

The excavation of the archaeological features will ensure that they are made available to the general public, allowing a greater understanding of our archaeological heritage. An interpretation panel with information in relation to the archaeological work carried out on site is proposed to be placed in the north-east pocket park and the trees and the bank will follow the line of the ring-fort.

## 5.21 References

### 5.21.1 Bibliography

Anonymous. 2006. Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes, National Roads Authority. Dublin.

Ball F.E. 1905. A history of the county of Dublin. Volume III. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dublin.

Breen T.C. 2010. 'Two first-millennium cemeteries at Mell, Co. Louth, and Murphystown, Co. Dublin', in C. Corlett & M Potterton (eds) Death and Burial in Early Medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations, 33-41. Wordwell, Dublin.

Conway M. 1900. Directors first findings from excavations in Cabinteely. Margaret Gowen and Co., Dublin.

DAHGI. 1999. Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. Available at <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf> [accessed 6 September 2018]

Nichols, J. 2018. 'Geophysical Survey Report: Lands at Scholarstown Road, South Co. Dublin. Detection Licence 18R0112'. Unpublished report prepared by Target Archaeological Geophysics on behalf of Archer Heritage Planning and Ardstone Homes.

O'Connell, A. 2018. 'Scholarstown Road, Knocklyon, Dublin 16. Archaeological Impact Assessment. Excavation Licence 18E0458'. Unpublished report prepared by Archer Heritage Planning on behalf of Ardstone Homes.

O'Connell, A. 2019a. 'Preliminary Archaeological Excavation Report for a proposed residential development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16. Excavation Licence 18E0458ext'. Unpublished report prepared by Archer Heritage Planning on behalf of Ardstone Homes.

O'Connell, A. 2019b. 'Archaeological Test Excavation Report in advance of proposed enabling works at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16. Excavation Licence 18E0458'. Unpublished report prepared by Archer Heritage Planning on behalf of Ardstone Homes.

O'Connell, A. 2019c. 'Archaeological Test Excavation Report in advance of proposed Residential Development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16. Excavation Licence 18E0458'. Unpublished report prepared by Archer Heritage Planning on behalf of Ardstone Homes.

O'Sullivan, A McCormick, F, Kerr, T & Harney, L 2008. Early medieval Ireland: Archaeological excavations 1930-2004. The Heritage Council.

O'Neill, J & Coughlan, J. 2010. 'An enclosed early medieval cemetery at Cherrywood, Co. Dublin', in C. Corlett & M Potterton (eds) Death and Burial in Early Medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations, 239-50. Wordwell, Dublin.

Stout, G & Stout, M 2008. Excavation of a secular cemetery at Knowth, Site M, Co. Meath and related sites in north-east Leinster. Wordwell Books, Bray.

### 5.21.2 Web References

Online Excavations bulletin [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) [accessed 6 September 2018]

Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed 6 September 2018]

Online Excavations bulletin [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) [accessed 6 September 2018]

Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) [accessed 6 September 2018]

South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022

[https://www.southdublindcvplan.ie/sites/default/files/documents/SSDC\\_Full\\_Development\\_Plan%20Draft\\_2\\_\(low%20ores\).pdf](https://www.southdublindcvplan.ie/sites/default/files/documents/SSDC_Full_Development_Plan%20Draft_2_(low%20ores).pdf) [accessed 6 September 2018]

5.22 Reference Plates



Plate 1: General view of site from northeast



Plate 2: Southern field from east with modern bungalow in background



Plate 3: Test trenching; east facing section of ringfort ditch



Plate 4: Test trenching; pre-excavation view of ringfort ditch



Plate 5: Test trenching; burial area from southwest in the course of archaeological recording



Plate 6: Test trenching; Burial (F5) from south



Plate 7: Aerial view of site under excavation from west



Plate 8: West facing section through enclosure ditch at north of site



Plate 9: Topsoil clearance within burial area from east



Plate 10: Aerial view of burial area under excavation



Plate 11: Burial 2 from east



Plate 12: Burial 43 from east



Plate 15: Phase II Testing; Aerial view of excavated trenches from NE



Plate 16: Phase II Testing; Trench 3 from W



Plate 17: Phase III Testing; Trench 5 from N



Plate 18: Phase III Testing; Trench 12 from E



Plate 13: Post excavation aerial view of site



Plate 14: Oblique aerial post excavation view of site

## 5.22 Figures Referenced Throughout this Chapter

Figures 5.1 – 5.10 referenced throughout this chapter are included as Appendix 5.6 in Volume 3.