

16 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

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16.1 Introduction

This chapter has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Limited.

Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. has prepared this Cultural Heritage and Archaeology study undertaken at a greenfield site in Cornelscourt village situated between the N11 and the Old Bray Road (ITM 722391, 725857). 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 documentary and web sources, a non-intrusive walkover survey, geophysical survey (19R0038) and a test-excavation (19E0169). 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 Liam Coen BA, Archaeologist, Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.

The study area is a circa 2.14 Ha. site located in South County Dublin off the N11 in Cornelscourt village; it consists of a single rectangular field which has been partially landscaped on its northern extent (adjacent to AIB Bank) but remains largely untouched elsewhere. Soil bunds have been raised on the eastern and northern boundaries to a height of approximately 2m. The site itself is set out in rough grazing and slopes gently from the west (Cornelscourt village) to the east (N11 – Stillorgan Rd). The site itself contains no RMP sites; there is one RMP site approx. 200m to the south-west, which is a Castle-Tower House (DU023-028) on the site of the current Cornelscourt Shopping Centre.

16.2 Study Methodology

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).
- Geophysical survey (Detection Licence no. 19R0038)
- Archaeological test trenching (Licence number 19E0169)

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.

Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown Development Plan 2016- 2022

The Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown Development Plan 2016-2022 (6.1 Archaeological and Architectural Heritage) sets out general policies and standards for development within the area. The current plan contains lists of cultural heritage sites, including national monuments, recorded monuments and protected structures within the area. It is the Policy of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Council to:

Policy AH2: Protection of Archaeological Material in Situ.

It is Council policy to seek the preservation in situ (or where this is not possible or appropriate, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places, and of previously unknown sites, features and objects of archaeological interest that become revealed through development activity. In respect of decision making on development proposals affecting sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, the Council will have regard to the advice and/ or recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoAHG).

The Council will strictly control development proposals that could have a negative impact on the significance of archaeological sites and monuments, their settlements and/or interpretation. Land uses shall not give rise to significant losses of the integrity, quality or context of archaeological material – except as may be conditioned or directed by the appropriate heritage agencies. This shall be achieved by the application of appropriate design standards and criteria.

https://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/cdp2016_section6.pdf

16.3 The Existing Receiving Environment (Baseline)

The subject site is situated in the townland of Cornelscourt (Parish: Kill; Barony: Rathdown). There are some indications of prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. A cist burial containing the remains of two adult skulls (age: 35+) was discovered c. 310m NE of the subject site in 1965. The cist was rectangular and formed of four upright granite slabs (L 0.63m; Wth 0.4m) aligned NW-SE) with a paved floor. The burials are undated but are assumed to be early Bronze Age (Cahill & Sikora 2011, 174-6). Similarly, a mound (DU023-026----) located c 350m WNW from the subject site may mark the site of additional prehistoric burial.

In the early medieval period, the area was in the ownership of the Augustinian Canons of the priory of the Holy Trinity. A pre-Romanesque church (with a late medieval chancel) survives c. 1.3 km NNE of the subject site with associated graveyard, cross inscribed stone crosses, a font and a holy well (DU023-015; Murphy & Potterton 2010, 216; D'Alton 1838, 934-5). The tenants of the grange or farm resided nearby at the village of Kill of the Grange and managed extensive woodlands and clay pits (for pottery manufacture) on behalf of the Canons (Murphy and Potterton 2010, 363 & 391).

Cornelscourt tower house (to the West of the site) is described in the RMP entry as “Located at the junction of Gort Na Mona Drive and Cornelscourt Hill Road. A tower house described in 1654 as a 'thatched castle' associated with the Cheever family (D'Alton 1976, 2nd ed.420). Austin Cooper in 1781 observed a fragment of the old castle, which comprised the lower arch over ground floor and part of the first floor (Price 1942, 68). Cornelscourt Shopping Centre and Car Park occupies the site.”

Record of Monuments & 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), 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)

There are no RMP sites in or adjacent to the subject site. A selection of RMP entries relevant to the wider area of the subject site are presented in Table 16.1 below and Appendix 16.1 - Figure 1. These include two RMP sites within 1km of the subject site.

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM
DU023-028	Castle - tower house	Cornelscourt	722311, 725729
DU023-026----	Mound	Foxrock	722031, 726071
DU023-042----	Cist	Deansgrange	722585, 726158
DU023-027002	Ritual site - holy tree/bush	Kill of the Grange	723037, 726226
DU023-027001	Ritual site - holy well	Kill of the Grange	723033, 726222

Table 16.1 - Archaeological sites within the wider area of the proposed development

There no nearby Zones of archaeological interest (as defined in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-22), the nearest is the Zone around DU023-028 Cornelscourt Castle which skirts the houses on the western edge of the site along the Old Bray Road.

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 sixteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 16.2 below (Figure 2 & 3). The development of the local area was recorded in the cartographic research of the site and surrounding area. No new archaeological features were recorded within the subject site.

Map	Date	Description
Rocque	1760	This map depicts the area of the subject site as open fields in an area denoted as “Corners Court”
Taylor South	1816	Site is shown as SE sloping land just north of Cornelscourt Village
Duncan	1821	The area of interest is not depicted on this map; the general area is shown as “Grange”.
1st Edition OS Map	1844	No change
Ordnance Survey 25-inch map revision	1871-5	Housing is now depicted along the Old Bray Rd, a small terrace of houses extends into the SW corner of the site adjacent to the entrance from the Old Bray Rd.
Cassini 6 inch	1906-10	A small wooded area is shown in the area of the entrance from Old Bray Rd.

Table 16.2 - Cartographic sources relating to the site

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 2018). No areas of archaeological potential were noted

The 1995 aerials of the area omit Cornelscourt so were not assessed. The 2000 aerial shows the northern part of the site near the AIB Bank under groundwork's with an area of topsoil strip or soil levelling shown.

The 2005 (OSI) and 2018 (Google Earth) aerial shots show the site in its current form. (See Figure 4).

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 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 development plan is being reviewed. <https://www.dlrco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/appendix4.pdf>

RPS	Address	Description	ACA
1621	12 Bray Road, Dublin 18.	Cornelscourt House (300m from site)	N/A

Table 16.3 - Protected Structures within the wider area of the proposed development

There are a further two entries on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which are a Milestone (60230142) 200m to the south on the Old Bray Rd and St. Brigid's NS (60230055) 200m to the west of the site.

Previous Archaeological Excavations

A single archaeological excavation has taken place in the immediate area;

2008:400 - 1 -Cornelscourt Hill, Dublin (60m to the SW of the subject site)

Author: Ellen O' Carroll, Licence Number: 09E0482

Testing was carried out at the site of a proposed residential development at Cornelscourt Hill, Dublin 18. The development area is located within the constraint area for DU023-028, which is listed as a castle site. Three trenches were excavated across the development area, but nothing of archaeological significance was discovered.

In the wider area extensive excavations of part of an Early Medieval enclosed cemetery at the site of the Esso filling station in Cabinteely (1.8km south of subject site) took place in 1998 uncovering a very large multi-period cemetery of over 1500 burials.

1998:124 - Mount Offaly, Cabinteely, Dublin

Author: Malachy Conway, Licence Number: 98E0355

In summary, the excavations have revealed a portion of an enclosed cemetery that, by the nature of the burial phases and succession of ditches, clearly reflects a sequential development or growth of the site. The large number of finds of funerary, domestic and industrial nature suggests that the site was not used exclusively for burial and religious practices. Along with producing objects interpreted as the mounts and fittings for possible shrines or reliquaries, it is suggested that the site had a dual religious and secular function. This is further highlighted by the large volume of butchered animal bone from the inner and middle ditches and the large (used) millstone derived from the base of the stone-lined charnel pit, as well as features such as the furnace and hearths. This clearly shows that agricultural and industrial activities were undertaken on (or very close to) the site. During at least two stages the area was possibly discontinued as a cemetery, and during these times cobbled surfaces were constructed (there is also tentative evidence of a structure) before the site reverted back to a burial-ground. What is certain is that the range and type of objects recovered from the site, especially the imported pottery of 6th-7th-century date, suggests that the site is of considerable status and

importance. The exact dimensions of the enclosure may only be estimated; however, it is reasonable to assume that within the boundary of the site lies evidence of perhaps a church, ancillary buildings, possible workshops and certainly further burials.

Toponyms

Research into a site or areas place name (or toponym) can provide information relating to an areas heritage or previous land use. Many townland names were anglicised by the time the Ordnance Survey (OS) began in the 1830s and when townland names were standardised in the Townland Index (1851). The townland name of Cornelscourt may refer to a local landowner Cornell.

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.

No entries are recorded for the townland of Cornelscourt. Deansgrange townland to the north contained human remains found in a cist (Topographical file no. 1965:11). They were identified as the remains of two adult (age 35+) individuals in a simple stone lined and capped cist and thought likely to date from 1800-1600 BC (Early Bronze Age). Cabinteely townland, to the south-east, produced two Early Bronze Age copper alloy axeheads (2011:262 & 263); and has a 19th Century entry recorded in or near Cabinteely comprising a flint flake (R2454:3), human remains (R2454:2) and miniature biconical cup (R2454:1) found in a small cist that again would be typical of the Early-Middle Bronze Age. Foxrock townland to the west has an entry for an undated bronze harness bell (1943:114).

Site Visit

The study area is composed of a single field between the N11 Stillorgan Road and the Old Bray Road to the west. The site slopes gently from the NW to the SE and is surrounded by housing to the south and west, the AIB Bank to the north and the N11 to the east. The entrance to the site is via a narrow strip between the bank and the housing onto the Old Bray Road which is enclosed by a low stone wall and earth berms which have been built up to a height of 2m in the recent past. The site itself is laid out in rough grazing and is flat with a noticeable fall to the SE (N11). There is an area of recently disturbed ground to the north of the site where it borders the Bank; a palisade fence and gate indicate that it may have been used as overflow car parking in the recent past. There is a substantial earth berm along the northern and eastern edges of the site with concrete walls around modern housing forming the boundaries to the south and west. There were no obvious areas of archaeological potential noted during the site visit.

Geophysical Survey (Figure 5)

A geophysical survey (Detection Licence no. 19R0038) was undertaken by J. Nichols of Target Archaeological Geophysics of the site in advance of the test-excavation (Figure 5). Due to the previous use of the northern area as a car-park and further ground disturbance in the north-western corner, only the southern half of the site was considered appropriate for survey. No features of archaeological potential were identified during the survey.

Test-excavation (Figure 6) (Licence number 19E0169)

Methodology

A total of eight test-trenches (850 linear metres) were excavated on 25th March 2019 (Figure 6). The north-western corner has been subject to considerable previous disturbance evident in the apparent spoil-heaps, now grassed over and two proposed trenches, 8 and 9, located here to investigate the

townland boundary were abandoned due to the presence of a gas main in the area. Two exclusion zones for Japanese Knotweed were established just prior to the test-excavation and this resulted in changes to Trenches 1 and 2. As a result of these factors, one trench was lengthened and another re-orientated to make up the meterage. Trench 6 was re-orientated from its proposed original position to avoid a field ditch. A 16-ton tracked excavator with a 2 m grading bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Excavation proceeded in level spits of 0.20m. Each trench was inspected for archaeological remains and all trenches were reinstated on completion.

Results

The site has been subject to disturbance from earlier construction and dumping activity. Topsoil varied across the site, 0.3-0.5m in depth. However, the northern area of the site previously covered by a temporary car-park contained a deposit of mixed topsoil and subsoil on the surface (0.2m deep) below which lay hard-core material (0.2m deep) overlying the subsoil. Trench 7 contained extensive modern construction debris in its western end while intermittent patches of modern material comprising dumped construction debris and household rubbish was encountered elsewhere, particularly in Trench 6 and Trench 1. Several east/west orientated rubble-filled field drains were identified including a granite French drain in Trench 5. No archaeological features or material was identified during the test-excavation.

Trench	L x B x D	Orientation	Description
1	90m x 2m x 0.4-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
2	130m x 2m x 0.45-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
3	120m x 2m x 0.4-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
4	120m x 2m x 0.45-0.65m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
5	110m x 2m x 0.4-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
6	110m x 2m x 0.35-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
7	95m x 2m x 0.35-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found
8	75m x 2m x 0.35-0.6m	NE/SW	No archaeology found

Table 16.4 - Testing results

16.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The current proposal provides for a Build to Rent development consisting:

- 468 residential units (452 apartments and 16 houses) as follow:
 - 41 no. studio apartment units,
 - 257 no. 1 bed apartment units,
 - 136 no. 2 bed apartment units;
 - 18 no. 3 bed apartment units;
 - 10 no. 3 bed semi-detached house units; and
 - 6 no. 1 bed bungalow units.
- A café / restaurant of c. 140 sq m; office space of 149 sq m; concierge of c. 149 sq m; and a residential tenant amenity space of c. 458 sq m is also proposed.
- 274 Car Parking Spaces (273 at basement level and 1 at surface level)
- 12 Motor Cycle Spaces
- 616 Bicycle Parking Spaces
- Public Open Space
- Vehicular Access
- Basement Areas

- Sub Stations and 3 Switch Rooms
- All Associated Site Development Works

16.5 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

This cultural heritage assessment has employed a variety of sources in conjunction with non-intrusive walkover survey to make a coherent 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 application area is large in scale, occupying an area of circa 2.14 hectares on the southern edge of Dublin City and the northern edge of the Dublin Mountains.
- Significant disturbance of the area has taken place in the recent past with the construction of what appears to be an overflow car park in the northern third of the site.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundary.
- There are relatively few recorded monuments located in the wider study area, there are no Zones of Archaeological Interest as defined under the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 22.
- No potential archaeological features were recorded in aerial photos of the subject site.
- No potential archaeological features were recorded in historic mapping of the subject site.
- Analysis of historical mapping has shown the area to be former agricultural land.
- Site survey confirmed that much of the site remains undisturbed.
- Geophysical survey revealed no potential archaeological features.
- Test trenching revealed no archaeological features.

These factors indicate that there is a low-moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

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 machines and storage of material in sensitive areas. In the absence of the mitigation measures described below, significant likely impacts on any buried archaeology and heritage sites would be direct, negative and permanent.

Operation Phase

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.

16.6 Potential 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.

16.7 Do Nothing Scenario

If the proposed development were not undertaken, any sites/objects of archaeological or Cultural Heritage significance on the subject lands would be preserved in-situ beneath the existing ground surface.

16.8 Risks to Human Health

There are no anticipated risks to human health arising from interactions with archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage issues.

16.9 Mitigation Measures

The site has been subject to desktop survey, geophysical survey and test trenching with no archaeological features or material identified. Furthermore, topsoil stripping of the site should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist and if any archaeological features are identified then an appropriate area will be cordoned off from surrounding construction activity. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and National Museum of Ireland (NMI) will be notified and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be agreed, i.e. preservation in situ or full archaeological excavation under licence.

16.10 Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Development

Construction Stage

Any potential impacts during the construction phase will be mitigated by the monitoring of the topsoil stripping; cordoning off from construction activity of any potential archaeological features or material identified; the notification of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and the implementation of an agreed strategy, i.e. preservation in situ or full archaeological excavation under licence from the DCHG in consultation with the NMI.

Operational Stage

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 the operational stage.

16.11 Monitoring

Any potential archaeological excavation that may result from the implementation of mitigation measures can only be undertaken upon receipt of a licence issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Conditions of awarding of an excavation licence include the production of a Preliminary Report within four weeks and a Final Report within twelve months of the completion of the excavation. The production of these reports ensures compliance with the proposed mitigation measures. If the monitoring of the topsoil stripping is undertaken without a licence then it is standard practice to issue a report of such an exercise to the DCHG.

16.12 Reinstatement

Reinstatement is not required.

16.13 Interactions

No archaeological or cultural heritage material has been identified to date. Currently, any potential impacts from interactions with other aspects of the environment are imperceptible.

16.14 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered arising from archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues.

16.15 References

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