

## **17 CULTURAL HERITAGE (ARCHAEOLOGICAL)**

### **17.1 Introduction**

The EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) (and amendment Directive 2014/52/EU) requires that the Material Assets section of an EIA Report address cultural, including archaeological, heritage. However, such is the importance of this issue in Ireland, EIA best practice has established that it is important to address this issue separately and not as an adjunct to the Material Assets chapter in the EIA Report (Chapters 14 – 16).

This chapter assesses the potential significance and likely impact of the proposed residential development, and of the cumulative development, on archaeological heritage.

### **17.2 Assessment Methodology**

This Chapter of the EIAR has been prepared with reference to the specific criteria set out in the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

#### **17.2.1 The Study Area**

For the purposes of the chapter on Cultural Heritage (Archaeological), the Proposed Development and the Cumulative Development are collectively referred to as the Study Area.

Archaeology is defined as the study of the past through the examination and analysis of material cultural remains. These include buildings, structures, features, artefacts and the landscape itself.

Thus, for developments which involve earth-moving or disturbance in areas of known archaeological remains or in areas of high archaeological potential, mitigation of impacts and of possible impacts will be required.

All archaeological sites and monuments in Ireland are protected under the National Monuments Act 1930 and subsequent Amendment Acts, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2004 and the Heritage Act, 1995 and 'The Valletta Convention'.

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised), dated 16 January 1992, (commonly referred to as the 'The Valletta Convention'), European Treaty Series no. 143 entered into force for Ireland on 19 September 1997.

This study is based on an examination of Ordnance Survey maps, records and publications of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, documentation and archive material from various institutions including: -

- National Monuments Service, Customs House, Dublin 1.
- Map Library, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin 2
- National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

The standard publications that relate to the area under consideration have been consulted.

In addition, the results of archaeological investigations in the Study Area (including geophysical survey, archaeological testing and excavation) and in the wider vicinity of the Study Area have been incorporated into this chapter.

### Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The Archaeological Constraint Maps, in conjunction with the County Record of Monuments and Places, provide an initial database for Planning Authorities, State Agencies and other bodies involved in environmental change.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) comprise the following elements: (i) Letter or Letters indicating County (KD = Kildare, ME = Meath); (ii) A three digit number indicating the relevant Ordnance Survey Sheet Number (e.g. 049); (iii) A three, four or five digit number indicating the dedicated number of the individual site or monument.

The proximity of the development area to known and identifiable archaeological monuments has also been considered.

### The Topographic Files

The files held in the National Museum of Ireland have been consulted. Collectively known as the Topographic Files, they provide information on artefacts, their find spots, and any field monuments that have been notified to the National Museum.

### Field Inspection

In addition to documentary and archival research and analysis, a detailed surface-based inspection of the area of the Proposed Development was undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.

### Aerial Photographic Analysis

A series of aerial photographs from Google Earth were analysed for this study.

### Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Study Area

A number of archaeological investigations have previously taken place within both the Proposed Development and the Cumulative Development. These have included geophysical surveys, archaeological testing, archaeological monitoring and archaeological excavation. An analysis of these investigations was undertaken to measure the potential impact of the Proposed Development and the actual impact of the Cumulative Development on the archaeological resource.

Further archaeological testing of the Proposed Development has since been carried out. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.

### Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Wider Area

A summary of other archaeological investigations within the Dunshaughlin area is provided to illustrate the wider archaeological landscape.

Abbreviations Used: -

- DCHG – Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NIAH – National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.
- NMI – National Museum of Ireland.
- OS – Ordnance Survey.
- RMP – Record of Monuments and Places.
- RPS – Record of Protected Structures.

### 17.3 Receiving Environment

The EIA Directive requires: -

*“A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge” (EPA 2017, 43).*

In describing the receiving environment, the context, character, significance and sensitivity of the baseline receiving environment, into which the proposed development will fit, is assessed. This takes account of any other proposed developments that are also likely to proceed.

#### 17.3.1 Planning Context in Relation to Cultural Heritage

##### Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

Chapter 9 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013–2019 addresses issues relating to Cultural Heritage and sets out a wide range of policies under a number of relevant sub-headings. This assessment takes account of all the stated policies and related objectives.

##### Archaeological Heritage

Section 9.6.9 of the Development Plan is concerned with the Archaeological Heritage, and seeks to ‘ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and their settings’. In relation to archaeology and development, the Meath County Development Plan includes the following policies and objectives: -

- **CH POL 7:** To ensure that development in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument is sensitively sited and designed so that it does not significantly detract from the monument. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.
- **CH POL 8:** To retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the villages and town of Meath, where practicable, and in the course of development to record evidence of ancient boundaries, layouts, etc.
- **CH POL 9:** To inform and seek guidance from the National Museum of Ireland if an unrecorded archaeological object is discovered, or the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the case of the discovery of an unrecorded archaeological site, in accordance with National Monuments legislation.
- **CH OBJ 7:** To protect archaeological sites, monuments, underwater archaeology and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in-situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.
- **CH OBJ 8:** To seek to protect important archaeological landscapes from inappropriate development.
- **CH OBJ 9:** To make the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) available to the public in the Planning Office and maintain a link on the Meath website to the on-line edition at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).
- **CH OBJ 10:** To establish in-house training programmes for Council staff carrying out repair and maintenance works to historic structures, subject to the availability of resources.
- **CH OBJ 11:** To encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County’s archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.
- **CH OBJ 12:** To consider the establishment of a National Monuments Advisory Committee for Meath, subject to available resources.

### Industrial Heritage

The industrial heritage is considered in Section 9.6.11 of the Development Plan, and is defined as *“sites and structures associated with transportation, communications, manufacturing, public utilities, and materials extraction, but can also refer to archaeological sites and objects which demonstrate early evidence of industry such as metal working, or mining.”*

With regards to industrial heritage, it is the policy and objective of the County Council: -

- **CH POL 16:** To protect the industrial heritage of Meath, including the Royal Canal and Boyne Navigation, historic bridges, roadside features and street furniture.
- **CH OBJ 18:** To work with stakeholders to promote the maintenance and re-use for amenity purposes of the Royal Canal and associated structures within Meath.

### Vernacular Heritage

In relation to vernacular heritage, the following policies have been adopted by Meath County Council: -

- **CH POL 20:** a) To encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate re-use of the vernacular heritage of Meath in both the towns and rural areas of the County, including the retention of the original fabric, such as windows, renders, shop fronts, gates, yards, boundary walls and other significant features where possible.  
b) To discourage the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings with modern structures.  
c) To ensure that new build adjoining, and extensions to, vernacular buildings are of an appropriate design and do not detract from the building's character.

### Landscape Character Areas

A Landscape Character Assessment was carried out by Meath County Council, in accordance with guidelines published by the DoEHLG in 2000, and considers the characteristics of the county, describing and defining them and assesses their capacity for development. A strategic policy of Meath County Council is: -

- **LC SP 1:** To protect the landscape character, quality, and local distinctiveness of County Meath in accordance with relevant government policy and guidelines and the recommendations included in Meath Landscape Character Assessment (2007) in Appendix 7.

One of these Landscape Character Areas is relevant to the proposed development site: LCA No. 10: The Ward Lowlands. It is assessed as being of low landscape value, of high landscape sensitivity and of regional landscape importance. It is characterised as being a large area with a long-established history of pasture and arable farmland. Its proximity to the Dublin Metropolitan Area puts it under significant development pressure. It is recommended that design guidelines be adopted to enhance the appearance and function of landscapes around road corridors and settlements.

## 17.3.2 Historical and Cartographical Context

### Placename Evidence

The Study Area straddles the townlands of Cooksland, Readsland, Knocks and Roestown. Cooksland derives from Sir Richard Cooke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was granted a large parcel of land in Dunshaughlin in 1603. The name Readsland is likely to derive from the family name Read. There are no Reads listed as resident in the townland in the Tithe Applotment Books of 1823-37 or Griffith's Valuation of 1847-64. Cogan (1867, 353) records the brutal death of Alison Read of Dunshaughlin in 1642, killed by 'Puritan soldiers'.

Roestown also presumably derives from the family name Roe. Roe and Read are both recorded as family names in nearby parishes in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The townland name Knocks, usually translated as 'The Hills', is unusual given its relatively low-lying position. It is possible it derives from a family name rather than from Irish.

Seven townlands surround the four townlands that the Study Area lies in: Redbog, Dunshaughlin, Johnstown, Leshemstown, Clowanstown, Smithstown and Garretstown. Again, the prevalence of family names forming the main component of the townland name can be seen in many of these.

Dunshaughlin (Dún Seachlainn) – the modern Irish name for Dunshaughlin – is a distortion of the original form Domnach Sechnaill 'the church of Sechnall'.

Leshemstown is likely to derive from a family name. The change of townland name between the 1650s and the 1830s suggests this family arrived in the area during this period. The previous townland name, Lustianstown, may also have an English derivation. The Old Saxon word lustian, meaning to be pleasing or to desire, occurs in Devon, northern England and Scotland (Wright 1898-1905). The name may have been given by English settlers prior to the 1650s and mean the pleasing townland.

Smithstown, Garretstown and Johnstown are presumably named after family names also, with the latter two having substantial houses named after the townland depicted on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ordnance Survey maps. It is possible that Johnstown may previously have been named Newtown or Suyockstown, both of which are described as lying to the south of Dunshaughlin in the Civil Survey in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, however the exact location of these townlands is unclear.

Clowanstown may be translated from the Irish Baile Uí Chlúmháin or Colman's town. Clann Cholmáin were one of the most powerful families in Brega during the early medieval period.

The townland of Grangend. The word 'grange' has ecclesiastical connotations, being the outlying farmlands cultivated by monastic institutions from the 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries onwards (Platt 1969, 12). The name suggests a relationship with the nearby Domnach Sechnaill, the early Christian establishment which gave its name to the town.

Redbog is an area of reclaimed marsh which was drained during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (O' Hara 2009, 141).

## History

Dunshaughlin was the focal point for a large ecclesiastical settlement in early medieval times. It was one of the eight episcopal sees of Meath that were consolidated before 1152, with the see fixed at Clonard (Cogan 1862 op. cit., 5-6). Dún Seachlainn – the modern Irish name for Dunshaughlin – is a distortion of the original form Domnach Sechnaill 'the church of Sechnall'. Sechnall – the Irish form of Secundinus – is traditionally believed to have been the nephew of St. Patrick through his sister Darerca – also known as Liamhain – and Restitutus the Lombard (Stokes 1905, 248). The annals record his arrival in Ireland in AD439, alongside bishops Auxilius and Iserninus, to aid in Patrick's evangelising mission (AU/AI 439). He is reputed to have been the author of the first Latin hymn of the Irish Church entitled Audite Omnes Amantes from the Book of Armagh, a poem in praise of Patrick (Orchard 1993).

Sechnall is reputed to have prayed at the shrine of Tobar Mucna in Mayo, which Patrick is also credited with founding (O'Donovan et al. 1864, 319f.). The historicity of Patrick has been hotly debated for decades, with O'Rahilly (1942, 21) and Dumville speculating that Sechnall assisted Palladius prior to Patrick's arrival, and furthermore, that Sechnall was the founder and first bishop of Armagh (Carney 1955; Bieler 1956). The foundation and dedication of Domnach Sechnaill has been tentatively dated at 443 (O'Donovan 1856, 135). Early Irish monasteries were often located on important travel routes – either land or water – or close to important settlements (Koch 2006, 1303). The monastery of Domhach Sechnaill had the advantage of close proximity to Lagore, and would have benefitted from its wealth and influence, as well as a ready water source. Early Irish domnach, derived from the Latin dominicum, appears in the specific context of a church building in Irish placenames (Flanagan 1984, 29).

By the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, evidence suggests that the term domnach was generally confined to place names, generally with ecclesiastical connections (ibid.). Sechnall's death is dated by the Four Masters as occurring on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 447, "in the seventy-fifth year of his age".

In the aftermath of Sechnall's death, the monastery continued to thrive for a number of Centuries. The Annals record the deaths of a succession of abbots at the monastery from the late 8<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. These included Feirghil, son of Comhsudh who was "secretly killed" (AM 876). The final record of an abbot's death was Feirghil's son in 883, though in the years 1027 and 1040, two "successors of Sechnall" – presumably both abbots – died (AM). During the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, ecclesiastical power and influence reached a new peak, as indicated by the position cenn athchomairc or 'head of counsel', which was synonymous with maer, or steward of ecclesiastical property. According to the annals, the cenn athchomairc (Jaski 2000, 49f., 255) had authority over all men of Breg, both laymen and clerics, underlying the influence of the clergy over secular affairs in early medieval Ireland.

The compound name Máel Sechnaill, 'Sechnall's servant/devotee', appeared from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century onwards, such as Máel Sechnaill mac Néill, one of the two kings of southern Breg, who was killed by 'Ulf the dark foreigner' (AU 870). Similarly, Máel Sechnaill I (d. 862) – who defeated the Norsemen at the battle of Tara in 980 – and Máel Sechnaill II (d. 1022) were High Kings of Ireland from Clann Cholmáin. Similarly, the name Gilla Sechnaill 'Sechnall's servant/devotee' appeared in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1034, the death of Giolla Sechnaill, son of Giolla Mo Chonna, lord of south Breg was recorded (AM).

In 1026, the monastery was attacked by one Gearr-an-Chogaidh, who was subsequently murdered along with his two brothers by Muireadhach Ó Céile – an act credited to the miraculous powers of God and Sechnall (AM). This was part of a period of attacks and retaliations between native Irish kings and Norse rulers in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The consolidation of power under Brian Bóroimhe and subsequently Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill caused a decline in Norse influence in Brega (Bhreathnach 1999, 13). The death of Máel Sechnaill caused a power vacuum which led to Irish kings scrambling for control (ibid.). The church of Domnach Sechnaill was attacked and burned in 1143, and subsequently plundered in 1152 by Tigernán Ua Ruairc (d. 1172) of Uí Briúin Bréifne, along with the nearby churches at Skreen and Trevet. Ua Ruairc was a warlike king whose ambitions stretched far beyond the newly consolidated kingdom of Breifne. He also had claims upon the kingship of Mide through his wife Derbforgaill, daughter of Ua Maeleachlainn (Duffy 2005, 799). Hencken (1950, 227) viewed the arrival of the Norsemen as a key factor in the decline in influence of Lagore in its later phase (indicated by the relative decline in the quantity of deposited cow bones compared to those of pig and sheep). The political turmoil which encompassed Meath appears to have heralded a decline in the influence of Lagore, and the final nail in its coffin arrived with the Anglo-Norman invasion.

In 1200, Walter de Lacy, son of Anglo-Norman Lord of Meath Hugh de Lacy, made large grants to the Augustinian Abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr in Dublin. (Archdall 1873, 34). These grants included the churches of Trevet, Ratoath and "Dunelinsachlin, with the grange, as his father had granted it" (ibid.), referring to a previous grant by Hugh in 1180 (ibid., 31). The church at Dunshaughlin and its grange lands remained in the possession of the Abbey until the Dissolution. It was agreed by the canons of St. Thomas that the men of Dunshaughlin should have access through their grange lands through the lake of Loch Gabor (Gilbert 1889, 26-7). At the Dissolution, this holding was described as the manor of Grangend, consisting of the townlands of Grangend and Thomastown (White 1943, 32-6).

Trevet (the anglicised form of Treoid) was located 2.9 km north-east of the Study Area. Originally named Duma Dergluachra 'mound of the red rushy place', this monastery is the reputed burial place of Art, son of legendary 2<sup>nd</sup> Century High King Conn Cétchathach (Petrie 1845, 99). Despite the alleged early date for the foundation of Trevet, the first record from annals dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. The size and importance of the religious house is evidenced by the presence of both an abbot and a bishop in residence. In 769, both Abbot Albran and Bishop Forannan are recorded as having died. In 848 (AU 850/CS 850), the oratory of Trevet was burned by Vikings, killing seventy people inside. In 1145, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhaill of Airghialla launched an attack on the monastery, killing sixty people.

After the Anglo-Norman conquest, the church was rebuilt and dedicated to St. Patrick (Cogan 1862, 154). Parish priests were recorded at the rectory from 1690 until 1823, when the parish of Trevet was united with Skryne (ibid., 158). Though the church is still extant, no trace of the monastery remains.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Century saw a number of churches in Meath established as perpetual chantries (Lennon op. cit., 187). A perpetual chantry involved a priest or priests receiving a licence from a local bishop to perform masses for the soul of a donor or saint. Chantry chapels or altars were often dedicated with a chapel or cathedral for this purpose. In 1467, a group including Richard, abbot of the Abbey of St. Thomas, made a proposal to establish a chantry of one or two chaplains at Dunshaughlin for an altar of worship to St. Katherine (Berry 1914, 455-61).

Killeen was a manorial church, located 4.7 km north-west of the Study Area. Though no trace of the original church remains, the external enclosure was excavated, consisting of an outer and an inner fosse (Baker 2009, 57-60). A new church was endowed by the Plunkett family on the grounds of an Anglo-Norman castle built in 1180 by Hugh de Lacy (ibid., 354). In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, a chantry was established for prayer for the family's souls, and subsequently a confraternity of brothers and sisters was founded under licence to King Henry VI (ibid.). Killeen became an important centre of worship with an associated college of clergy, supported by 1000 acres donated by Sir Christopher Fleming (Lennon 2008, 90). The church survives today as a national monument.

From 1536 onward, Henry VIII pursued his policy of suppressing ecclesiastical houses in Ireland, stripping properties and lands from religious orders. In addition to religious reasons, English authorities believed that monasteries were havens for Irish rebels (Scott 2005, 261). The surrender of religious houses was achieved successfully and largely voluntarily, as clerics generally accepted pensions and benefices in return for religious houses and property (ibid., 276). It was on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1545 that the abbey of St. Thomas, with all its properties and lands, both spiritual and temporal were granted to Lord Justice Sir William Brabazon (Archdall op. cit., 52). In 1597, Vice-Treasurer of Ireland Sir Henry Wallop was granted the rectoral tithes of the parsonage at Dunshaughlin (Morris 1862, 459).

In the years following the Dissolution, many chapels in Dublin and Meath were reported to be in poor repair (O'Neill 2002, 48ff.). Indeed, in 1622, Ussher gave an account of the church at "Donshahlin" as being in a ruinous state (Erlington & Todd 1847-64, 1, lxx). Nevertheless, in 1723/33, a visitation by Bishop Ellis recorded Dunshaughlin as being still in use in its pre-Dissolution state (O'Neill op. cit., 51). In 1749, Isaac Butler stated that the chapel and tower were in good repair, but the chancel was ruined (ibid.).

In 1814, St. Sechnall's Church of Ireland Church was built on the site of the former church of Domnach Sechnall. The main road curves around the remains of the medieval monastic enclosure, similar to the curved Stephen's Street in Dublin (Clarke 2002, 2). Remnants of a number of ditches were discovered during excavations by Roseanne Meenan in 1991 and Linzi Simpson in 1995, producing features and artefacts dating from the medieval period. Subsequent excavations uncovered further evidence of an inner and outer ditch (Meehan 1999: 683) and a possible ditch and several other small features (Murphy 2002: 1453).

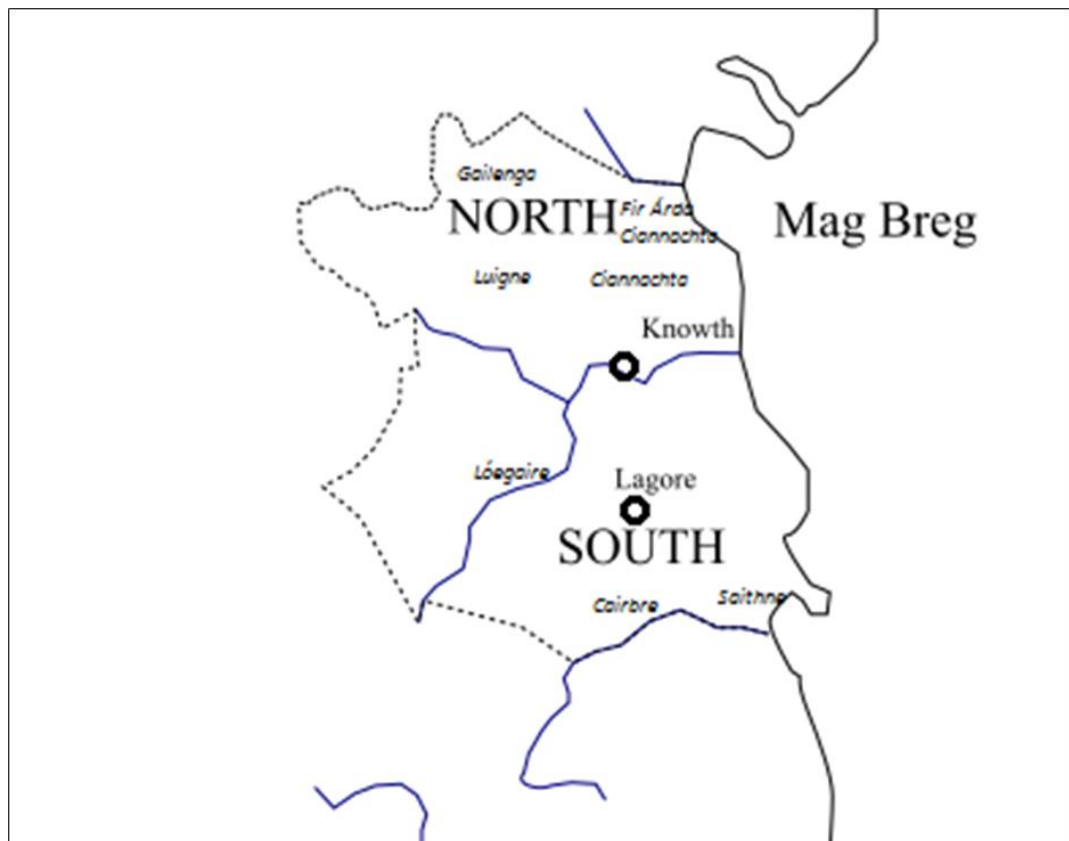


**Figure 17.1:** Historic maps of Dunshaughlin and Lagore – *Irlandiae Accurata Descriptio*, J. Ortelius (1606), *Map of Leinster*, John Speed (1610), *A General Mapp of Ireland*, William Petty (1657), *Atlas Maior*, Joan Bleu (1662-5).

#### Kingdom of Southern Breg – 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries

In the Centuries prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion, the basic Irish territorial division was the túath, translated as 'tribe' or 'petty kingdom' (Kelly 1995, 3ff.). Its ruler was a rí tuaithe 'king of a túath', a title which encompassed the people of the túath in addition to the territory itself (Jaski op. cit., 37f.). The area encompassing modern Meath, in addition to parts of Dublin and Louth between the Liffey and the Boyne, was known as Mag Breg (the plain of Breg). The political importance of Mag Breg is underlined by Muirchú, a 7<sup>th</sup> Century missionary of Patrick's: in campo Breg maximo, ubi erat regnum maximum nationum harum 'in the great plain of Breg, because it was there that there was the greatest kingdom among these tribes' (Bieler 1979, 82). This consolidated grouping of túatha, which became associated with the Sí nÁedo Sláine, part of the Southern Uí Néill and descendants of Áed Sláine (Áed mac Diarmato) (d. 603/4). As their dominance grew over the Centuries, smaller sub-kingdoms were erased and subsumed by this powerful dynasty (Bhreathnach 2004, 38). Their hold over these territories was not total however, and this area was often subject to political and social upheaval even before the arrival of the Vikings (MacShamhráin 2004, 128).

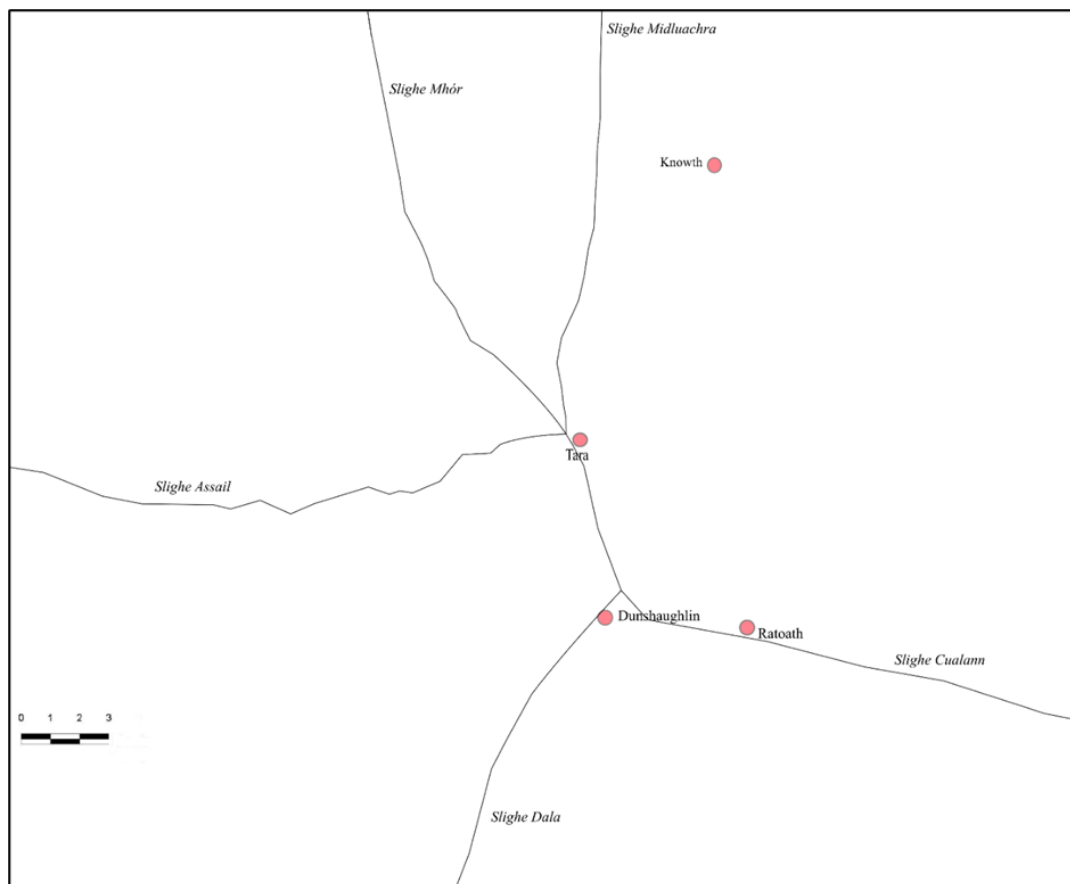




**Figure 17.2:** Approximate limits of Mag Breg.

The two main branches of this group were the Uí Chonaing, which ruled the northern kingdom of Breg from Cnogba (Dowth), and the Uí Chernaig, rulers of the southern kingdom which had its locus of power at Lagore (Loch Gabor) in Dunshaughlin. The latter were also known as Clann Cernaig Sotail 'the family of Cernach the Proud' (Carty and Gleeson 2013, 29). The split which divided these two factions is believed to have taken place at the battle of Imlech Pích (Emlagh, near Kells) in 688 in which the Uí Chernaig were victorious (Ó Cróinín 2008, 204).

In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Book of Leinster, Loch Gabor was described as one of seven lakes formed during the reign of Tigernmas mac Follaigh, among the mythical High Kings of Ireland (Best, Bergin & O'Brien 1954, 65). A middle-Irish tale about the 6<sup>th</sup> Century king Diarmait mac Cerbaill recounts his visit to Loch Gabor, where he is ambushed by his enemy Máelodrán while he and his men are feasting (Greene 1975, 49). Dunshaughlin, 6.5km south-east of Tara, may have been located close to Slighe Cualann and Slighe Dala, two of the legendary five roads which ran from Tara.



**Figure 17.3:** The five roads of Tara (Annals of the Four Masters AD123).

The first historical reference to Loch Gabor (AU 677) mentioned Finnechta Fledech mac Dúchado (c. 695) – the Síl nÁedo king of Tara – as the victor of a battle against the Laigin. The annals confirmed the existence of the kingship of southern Breg in 746, with the death of Fergus mac Fogartaigh (AU/AT 751). The title of ‘king of south Breg’ was first attested in the Annals of Tigernach in 727. The term ‘king of Loch Gabor’ (rí/rex Locha Gabor) first appeared in 785, in which Máel Dúin mac Fergusu died, and would continue through the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. Máel Dúin’s successor, Fócartach mac Cumuscaig, was killed in the battle of Lia Finn the following year. The appearance of this term is indicative of a split within the Uí Chernaig of southern Breg in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, between the line of Conall Grant (d. 718) and that of his brother Fogartach (d. 724), who was briefly sent into exile only to subsequently return.

Conall Grant’s descendants resided at Calatruim (Galtrim, Co. Meath), while Fogartach successors were based some 18km eastwards at Loch Gabor. Bhreathnach (op. cit., 40-3) suggested that the Battle of Calatruim – fought in 777 between Níall mac Conaill Grant (d. 778) and Cummasach mac Fogartaigh (d. 797) – was related to the succession of the kingship of south Breg. The kingship of Calatruim sprang up to rival the kingship of Loch Gabor, of which the descendants of Fogartach were the sole successors by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century (ibid.). Níall emerged victorious from the battle, but the so-called ‘Calatruim dynasty’ was not successful, as the term rí/rex Calatruim did not continue after the death of Níall’s grandson Máel-Dúin mac Conaill (d. 846). However, the rule of Loch Gabor continued for at least another Century, having sprung from this division.

Date of Death	Kings of Loch Gabor	Kings of South Breg
AD 751		Fergus mac Fogartaig (rí Desceirt Breagh) (AT) (AU)
AD 778		Níall mac Conaill (rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 785	Máel Dúin mac Fergus (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 786	Fogartach mac Cummascaig (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 797		Cumascach mac Fogartaig (rí Deiscert Breg) (AU)
AD 800		Ailill mac Fergus (rí Deiscert Breg) (AU)
AD 805	Cernach mac Fergus (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 815		Conall mac Néill (rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 815		Fogartach mac Cernaig (leth-rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 825	Óengus mac Máele Dúin (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 826		Diarmait mac Néill (rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 836	Cairpre mac Máele Dúin (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 865	Tigernach mac Fócartaí (rí Locha Gabor & lethrí Breg) (AU)	
AD 868	Diarmait mac Etersceili (rí Locha Gabor)	
AD 870		Máel Sechnaill mac Néill (leth-rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 888		Tolarg mac Cellaig (leth-rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 908	Máel Ograi mac Congalaig (rí Locha Gabor) (AU)	
AD 916		Fogartach mac Tolaig (rí Desceirt Breagh) (AU)
AD 916		Ceallach mac Foccartaigh (tighearna Deiscert Breg) (AM)
AD 969	Beollán mac Ciarmaic (rí Locha Gabor) (AM)	
AD 1014		Gilla Mo Chonna mac Fogartach mac Ciarmac (rí Deiscert Breg) (AU)
AD 1027		Ruaidhri mac Fogurtaigh (rí Deiscert Breg) (AU) (AT)

**Table 17.1:** Dates of deaths of Kings of Loch Gabor and South Breg.

The fortunes of the kingdom of southern Breg continued to fluctuate over the course of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Centuries. From 704 onwards, when Fogartach joined Clann Cholmáin in their failed attack on the Laigin, they “tended to be overshadowed by the Uí Chonaing of northern Brega” (O’Flynn 2011, 165). In contrast with the frequent use of the term rí/rex Locha Gabor, the title rí/rex Cnogba ‘king of Knowth’, appeared more sporadically as an alternative to rí/rex Breg, the term for the overlordship of Breg (Bhreathnach op. cit., 39). In 770, south Breg joined forces with the Uí Chonaing to launch more attacks on the Laigin. Though the northern Breg were initially successful, their southern counterparts were routed at the battle of Bolg Bóinne. During the early decades of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, they inflicted defeat on the Cíannachta and were forced to submit in battle to Conchobar mac Donnchada, the Clann Cholmáin High King of Ireland. This was in revenge for their submission to Murchad mac Máele Dúin of Cenél nEógain, who attempted to seize the kingship for himself.

The first Viking raid on Ireland was recorded in 705, and major attacks were recorded at Rechru in 795 and Lusk in 827 (MacShamhráin op. cit., 128ff.). The Scandinavians quickly recognised that the eastern waterways were a convenient means of attacking interior settlements. The year 837 saw the first incursion of invaders on the Boyne and into Breg territory, where “churches, forts and dwellings” were plundered (AU 837 /CS 837/AFM 836). In 848, Tigernach (d. 865), king of Loch Gabor scored his most famous victory against the Scandinavians at Dísert Do-Chonna, resulting in the deaths of twelve score warriors (AU 838/CS 848/AM 846). Perhaps in memory of this decisive victory, the name Gilla Mo-Chonna appeared in the Loch Gabor dynasty until the 11<sup>th</sup> Century (Bhreathnach op. cit., 42).

The next year, Tigernach joined High King Máel Sechnaill mac Máele Ruanaid (Máel Sechnaill I) in his seizure of Dublin. Both men were betrayed by Cináed mac Conaing, the king of north Breg, who allied with the Scandinavians against them, plundering “Uí Néill from the Shannon to the sea” (AU 850). The Uí Chonaing had formed early alliances with the Scandinavians, probably as a means of bolstering their own power against rival dynasties and rivalling the power of Clann Cholmáin and Cenél nÉogain (MacShamhráin op. cit., 130). With the help of his Viking allies, Cináed attacked and levelled the island of Loch Gabor. The following year, Máel Sechnaill I violated a surety of safety guaranteed by a group of noblemen including the abbot of Armagh, and drowned Cináed.

Despite the apparent destruction of the island, Loch Gabor continued to be a centre of power. The annals recorded the deaths of nine kings of Loch Gabor between 865 and 917. One of these kings was Diarmuid mac Etarscéle, who made a strategic alliance with the Norsemen and the Laigin in his dynastic struggle against Áed Findliath (d. 879) of the northern Uí Néill. He had claimed the title of High King after the death of Máel Sechnaill I. At the battle of Cell Ua nDaigri in 868 (AM 866), an alliance between southern Breg, the Laigin and three hundred Norsemen was vanquished and Diarmuid was killed, along with Flann mac Conaing, king of Breg. The Scandinavians were defeated at the hands of the men of Breg and Laigin in 902, and subsequently withdrew from Dublin. At the battle of Kilmashogue in 917, the Irish forces were routed, among them Cellach mac Fogartaigh, king of south Breg and “many other noblemen and plebeians, who are not enumerated” (AM 917). This resulted in the Vikings re-establishing themselves in Dublin. During this time, the influence of Clann Cholmáin in Breg became more pronounced, with Donnchad Donn mac Flainn (d. 944) and Máel Mithig mac Flannacán (d. 919) defeating Fogartach mac Tolair, king of southern Breg in 913.

In 935, Loch Gabor experienced another devastating attack at the hands of Amlaíb mac Gofraid (d. 941), Norse-Gaelic king of Dublin, after which he sacked Cnogba. He would later consolidate his power over the Vikings of Limerick and went on to plunder the ecclesiastical site of Cell Cuilinn (Kilcullen, Co. Kildare), which had hitherto gone unmolested by Scandinavians (AU 938). Amlaíb is generally believed to have ended his days as King of Northumbria after the death of Æthelstan (Woolf 2005, 25).

The year AD 969 saw the final mention of the kingship of Loch Gabor in the annals, with the death of Beollán (Bjólán) mac Ciarmaic. Beollán was a Norse-Gaelic king of Loch Gabor who married Cadlinar (Kaðlín) Hrólfsdóttir, daughter of Rollo, the first ruler of Normandy (Hudson 2005, 64). The death of the final king of southern Breg was recorded in Chronicon Scotorum in 1029 (AU 1032). Mathgamain ua Riacháin, king of both Breg kingdoms, had a fraught and violent relationship with his Irish and Norse neighbours. The annals record him abducting Amlaíb mac Sitric – son of Norse-Gaelic King of Dublin Sigtrygg Silkbeard – and demanding a massive ransom which included 1,200 cows and 140 British horses (AU 1029). This act demonstrates both the value of such a nobleman to his captor and his military ambitions. Eventually, Mathgamain’s hubris betrayed him and he was treacherously slain by Domnall ua Cellaig, one of the Uí Máine of south Connacht (AU 1032).

At this point, the kingdom of southern Breg appears to have effectively ceased, at least in written records. It may be that Loch Gabor never truly recovered from its depredations at the hands of Amlaíb in 935. In spite of Mathgamain’s bold move in kidnapping Amlaíb, the power of southern Breg was already waning. Due to a combination of internal strife and external pressure, the kingship of Breg dissolved entirely in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. The territory was left under the tenuous control of a number of smaller lordships in conjunction with the Ua Cathasaig of Saithne, a former subject people (Jaski op. cit., 212).

### Meath in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169 had an enormous and irrevocable impact on the physical and political landscape of Ireland. A settlement pattern based on manorial villages and market towns quickly emerged (Graham 1975, 223). The early Anglo-Norman occupation saw the creation of cantreds as a territorial subdivision (MacCotter 2005, 308). The traditional Irish land division which the cantred replaced was called *trícha cét* (ibid.). In general, the *trícha cét* corresponded with the *túath* in terms of size (MacCotter 2008, 22). Many of the manorial divisions made use of ancient territorial divisions as well as pre-existing settlements (MacCotter 2005 op. cit., 310).

A number of kingdoms were readily adapted as colonial lordships or counties, as in the case of modern Meath (MacCotter 2008 op. cit., 40). On a smaller level, *trícha céts* often became the foundations of feudal baronies (ibid.) In place of cantreds, the title of barony was used in certain regions such as Meath, which was based on feudal divisions derived from seignorial manors.

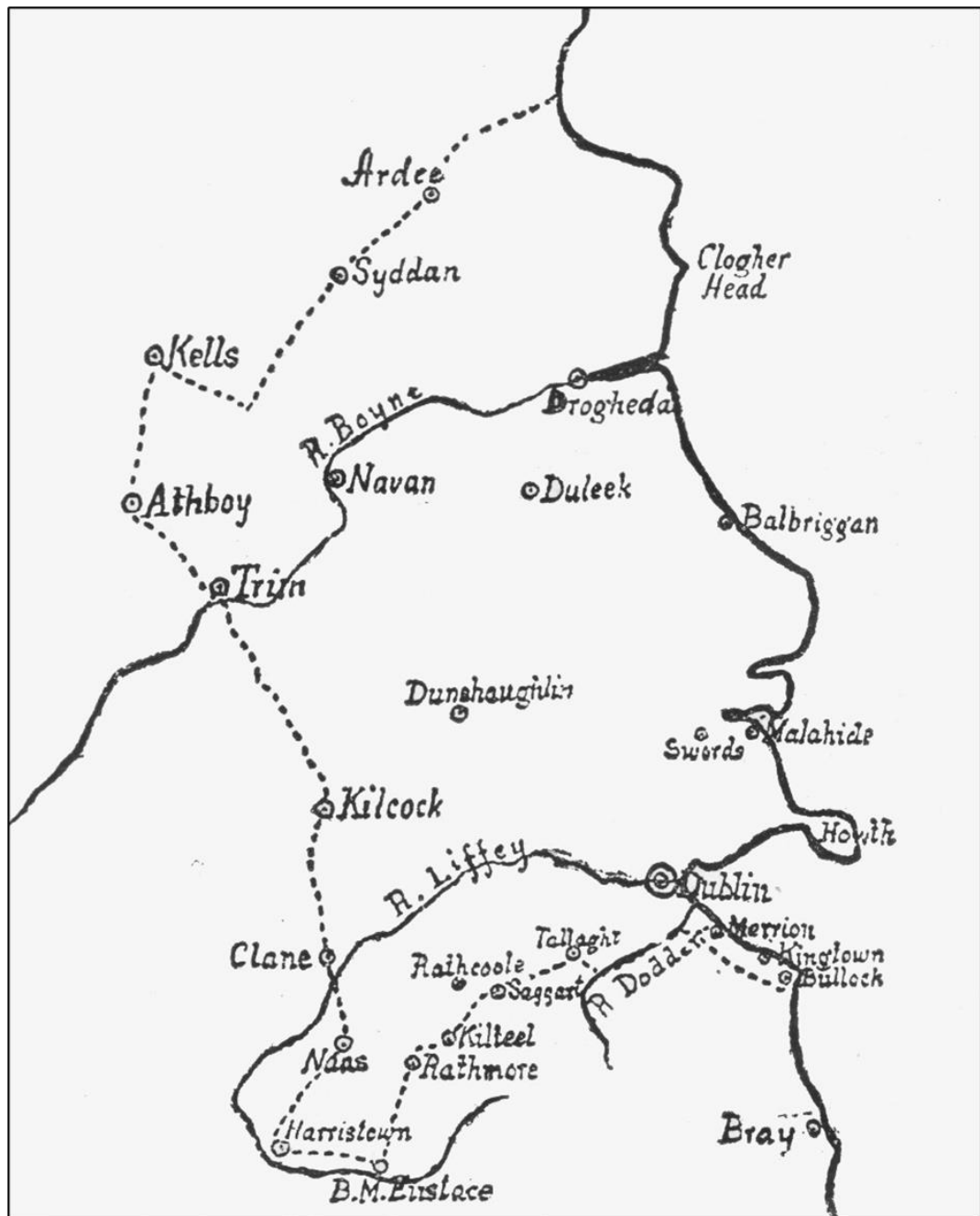
In 1172, Henry II granted Welsh lord Hugh de Lacy ‘the land of Meath with all its appurtenances’ (Mills & McEnery 1916, 177). The grant was offered as a “liberty”, or royal franchise in return for his service, and also included Westmeath and parts of Longford and Offaly (Graham op. cit., 225). De Lacy built his stronghold at Trim, which became one of the strongest Anglo-Norman fortifications in Ireland. With the Anglo-Normans came the manorial system, the manor being the main unit of landholding within the barony or cantred. De Lacy divided (or sub-infeudated) the territory of Meath into ten major land-divisions, keeping land for himself in the form of seignorial manors and subletting the rest to tenants (ibid., 226). The main method of infeudation involved the granting of cantreds or half-cantred-sized fiefs by primary tenants to their dependent lords (MacCotter 2008 op. cit., 27). Manors often occupied the same area as the medieval parish of the same name (Murphy 2008, 119). The centre or caput was where the lord was located, along with the parish church as well as other buildings (ibid.).

A medieval borough was ‘nucleated settlement that enjoyed special privileges’, established by a crown charter (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 192). With the exception of a few boroughs which were new creations, most – including Dunshaughlin – evolved from pre-Norman ecclesiastical settlements and took on new administrative and commercial roles while retaining their religious functions (ibid.). Dunshaughlin became one of the unwalled settlements which formed the centres of the major sub-infeudations, in this case within the barony of Ratoath, and possessing borough status (Graham op. cit., 226). The other borough within Ratoath was Greenoge. Ratoath developed as a successful urban centre in the medieval period due to its fertile lands, and in 1227, Hugh de Lacy the younger established an annual fair in the town (Murphy & Potterton op. cit., 465). Though there was no weekly market in Dunshaughlin (ibid.), its status as a commercial and ecclesiastical centre necessitated military protection – hence the construction of a motte and castle some 650m to the south of Domnach Sechnaill. This area remained within the ownership of de Lacy, being passed on to his son Walter following his murder in 1186 (Veach 2009, 165). An inquisition post-mortem taken in 1344 records that Dunshaughlin was in the possession of Walter de la Hide (National Archives of England C135/75), along with other lands in the Pale.



**Figure 17.4:** Ratoath barony map from the Down Survey (1654-6).

During the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, the Anglo-Norman territories of Meath and Louth became securely fortified, protecting the manorial agricultural economy from encroachments by native Irish (Murphy & Potterton op. cit., 264). Over two centuries later, this area was further enclosed by a palisaded earthen rampart and ditches – the pale by which the region would be identified (ibid., 265). Dunshaughlin, lying 15.2km from the Anglo-Norman castle at Kilcock and 16.9km from Trim, was safely within the boundaries of the enclosure. Despite financial incentives to build fortifications at the Pale borders (ibid., 267), Gaelic power was revived in many parts of the country. By the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century, The Pale remained the only part of the country subject to the English crown and would remain so until the Tudor conquest.



**Figure 17.5:** The Pale, or the English Pale, according to the Statute of 1488 (Joyce 1921).

#### Post Medieval History of Meath

In 1542, Henry VIII created the county of Meath from the pre-existing Anglo-Norman baronies (Simington op. cit., xviii). During his lifetime, he had failed to bring the country to knee, and by the time of his death in 1547, English rule was largely confined to the Pale. However, policies such as surrender and regrant and the first successful attempt at colonial plantation in Ulster in 1606 help to copper-fasten English power in Ireland. The 1641 Rebellion was a watershed moment, prompting the depredations of Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army as well as sectarian massacres of Protestants. This was followed by the forced expulsion of thousands of Catholics and, following the Land Grant Act of 1652, wholesale confiscation of land and possessions (Prendergast 1997, 44).



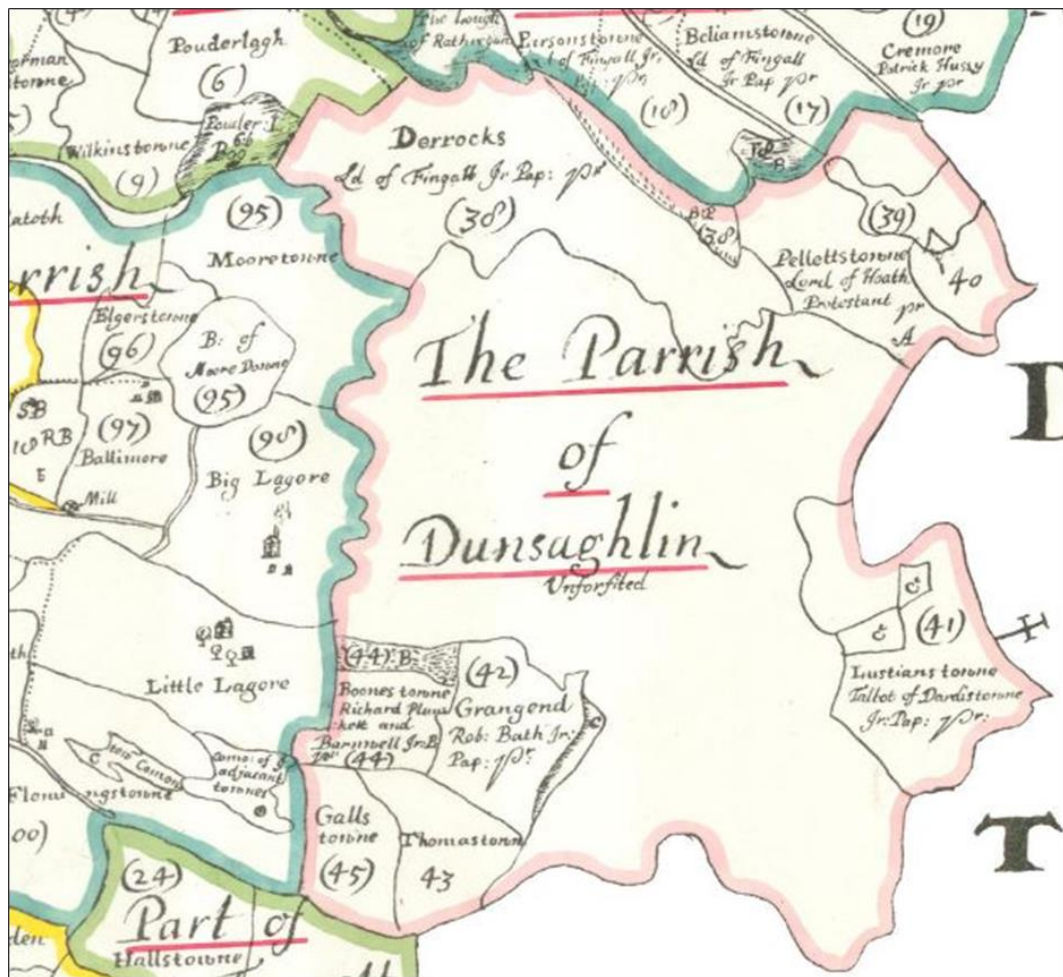


Figure 17.6: Parish map of Dunshaughlin from the Down survey.



Figure 17.7: Parish map superimposed onto 19<sup>th</sup> Century 6-inch Ordnance Survey map.

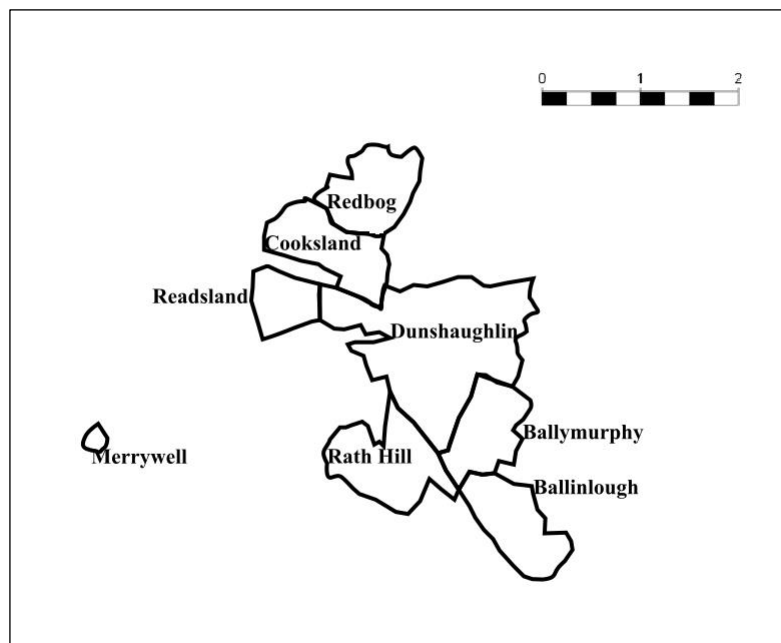


Between 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland was undertaken to facilitate the redistribution of land to loyal subjects. It involved surveying and mapping the country to an unprecedented level of detail. The mapping was preceded by the Civil Survey in 1654-6, which identified and classified lands as profitable or unprofitable and listed the religion of the owners (*ibid.*, 46). Furthermore, the Books of Survey and Distribution provided an official record of land distribution between 1656 and 1702, including the name and religion of landowners in 1641 and the townland name (*ibid.*). The Civil Survey lists 'a parke of Timber Trees' as among the inventory of Dunshaughlin properties (Simington *op. cit.*, 109).

In 1603, Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Richard Cooke had been granted a large parcel of land in Dunshaughlin, including a "capital messuage" or house, outbuildings and appurtenances, in addition to arable and pasture land, woods and bogland, amounting to 368.5 acres. Furthermore, he was granted 'the entire manor and house of Dunshaughlin, with the meadows and demesne lands thereof' and the heritable lands in the townland of Roestown, to the north of Cooksland. This land had been confiscated from John Dalahyde Jr., who had been accused of treason and granted to Cooke at a rent of 26 pounds, 12 shillings and 4 pence a year (Morris 1880, 3). The 1654-6 Civil Survey of Meath records Thomas Cooke, a Catholic inhabitant of Dunshaughlin, being in possession of 'One Mease and a garden' in Ratoath – mease meaning manor house (Simington *op. cit.*, 107).

In 1640, Sir William Parsons, Lord Justice of Ireland, was listed as proprietor of the townland of Dunshaughlin and 'Ladyhill' comprising 366 acres, which included a church, which we can presume was what remained of Domnach Sechnaill (Simington *op. cit.*, 90ff). He was also in possession of 135 acres in Roestown and 213 acres in Lustianstowne (modern day Leshamstown). This latter property was called 'the Church land of Donshaughlin', given on the condition that 'he should keepe the church of Donshaughlin in constant good repair' (*ibid.*, 91). The same survey recorded a Catholic named James Plunkett as possessing a considerable amount of land in the parish of Dunshaughlin, including 172 acres in Lagore Big. He is also listed as owning twenty acres and three tenement buildings in Ratoath (*ibid.*, 106f.).

In the 1670 survey, Richard's son, Sir Walsingham Cooke of Tomduffe, Wexford, High Sheriff of Ireland is listed as landowner of eight properties in Meath. Presumably these were the same lands as his father was granted by the king, namely the townlands of Merrywell, Redbog, Ballinlough, Rath Hill, Ballymurphy, Dunshaughlin, as well as Readsland and Cooksland, likely named for his father. He was also the owner of extensive plantation lands in Wexford and had rebuilt the ruined Glascarrig priory in 1654 (Flood 1905, 170).



**Figure 17.8:** Meath lands granted to Walsingham Cooke, based on Down Survey maps (1654-6).

### Cartographic Analysis

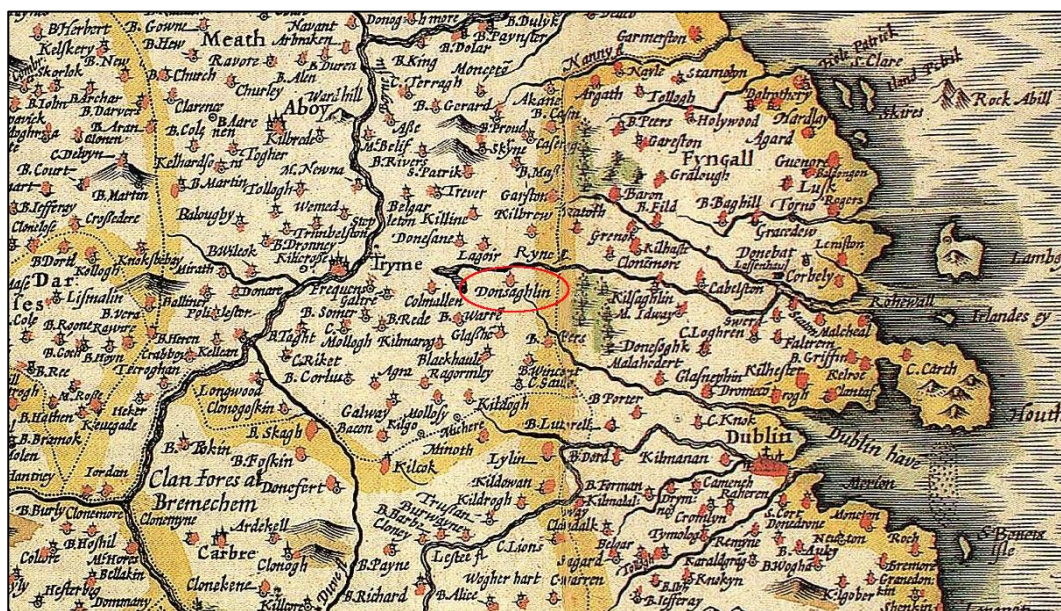


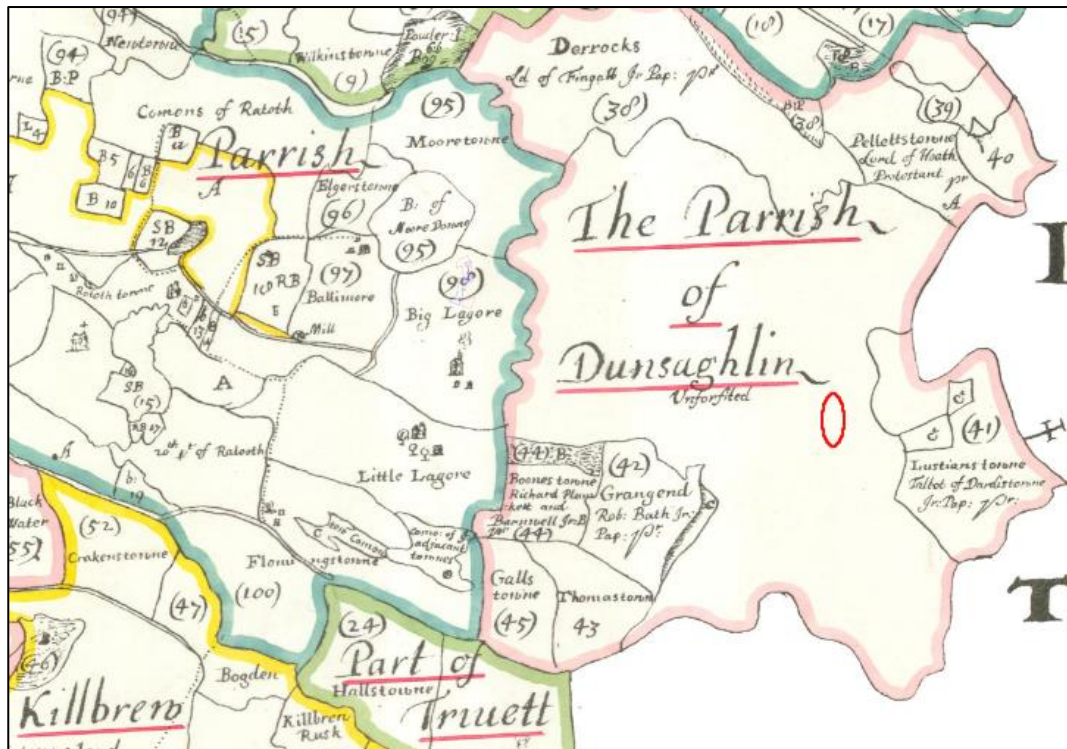
Figure 17.9: John Speed's 1610 Map of Leinster.



Figure 17.10: Joan Blaeu's 1654 Map of Leinster.

The village of Dunshaughlin was recorded on maps of the wider region as far back as the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries, such as on John Speed's 1610 map of Leinster. By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, and Joan Blaeu's 1654 Map of Leinster, Dunshaughlin was still represented by a dot within the county of Meath.





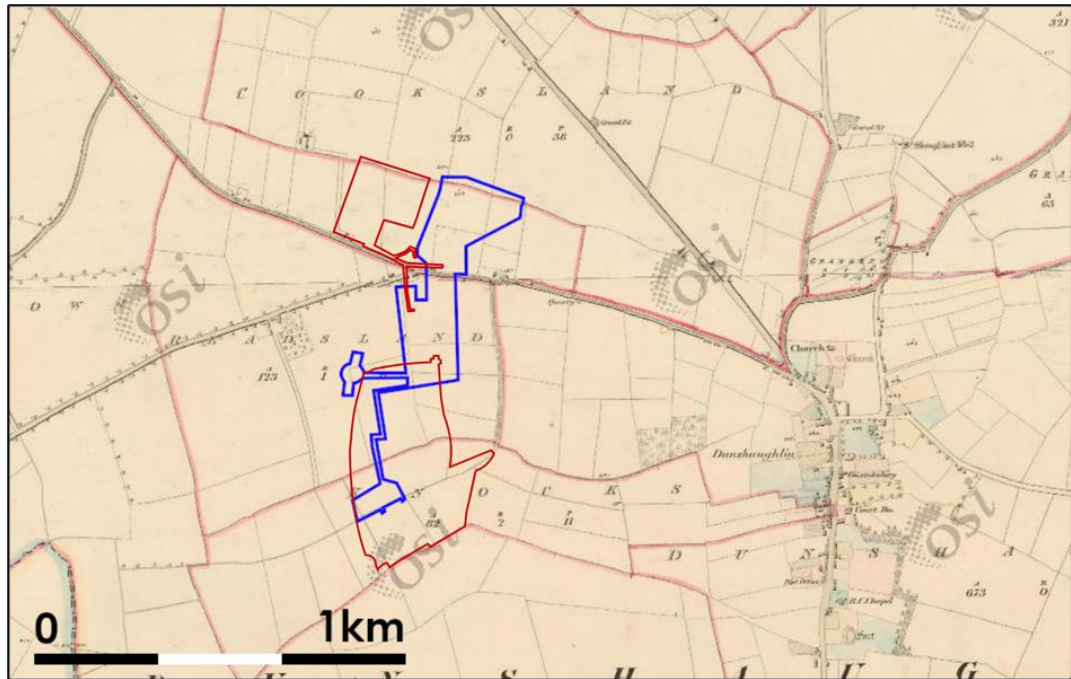
**Figure 17.11:** Approximate location of the Study Area on the Down Survey Barony Map of Rathoath, 1656-1658.

The first major national land survey of the baronies and parishes of Ireland took place following the Cromwellian conquest between 1656 and 1658. The Down Survey, as it was known, aimed to map all of the Catholic-owned land to be forfeited and re-distributed to Cromwell's loyal followers (downsurvey.tcd.ie). Much of the lands within the parish of Dunshaughlin were to remain 'unforfeited', and as such, the Down Survey did not take the time to map those lands in any great detail apart from the parish boundary itself. The approximate location of the Study Area has been determined in relation to its proximity to the townlands of Leshemstown and Grangend that did contain properties that were to be forfeited.



**Figure 17.12:** Approximate location of the Study Area on Taylor and Skinner's 1777 Map of the Road from Dublin to Ballyshannon.

It was not until the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and the production of Taylor and Skinner's 1777 Maps of the Roads of Ireland, that the village of Dunshaughlin was depicted in any kind of detail. Even then, much was left to the imagination. The thick black lines on either side of the main road were representative of the relatively densely built-up Main Street. The ruins of the medieval church of St Seachnaill are recorded at the turnpike road (the present-day Church of Ireland building was not built in 1814 with process from the Board of First Fruits). The approximate location of the Study Area is further along the turnpike road at the junction of the Drumree (Trim Road) and Dunsany Roads. This junction has since been replaced with a roundabout. Some buildings, indicative of settlement, have been recorded within the Study Area along the sides of these roads.



**Figure 17.13:** The Study Area on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" maps were completed in 1842. The results of an ambitious project to chart the entire island, these maps were highly regarded for their accuracy. The townlands surrounding Dunshaughlin were recorded in detail for the first time and the location of the Study Area can be precisely placed. The northern portion of the Proposed Development was recorded as being almost entirely farmland, the only exception being a laneway along its western boundary. This laneway is no longer in existence, nor are the several field boundaries and townland boundary depicted on the map. The present-day Proposed Development site is one large field, with temporary timber post and wire fences along its northern and western boundaries.

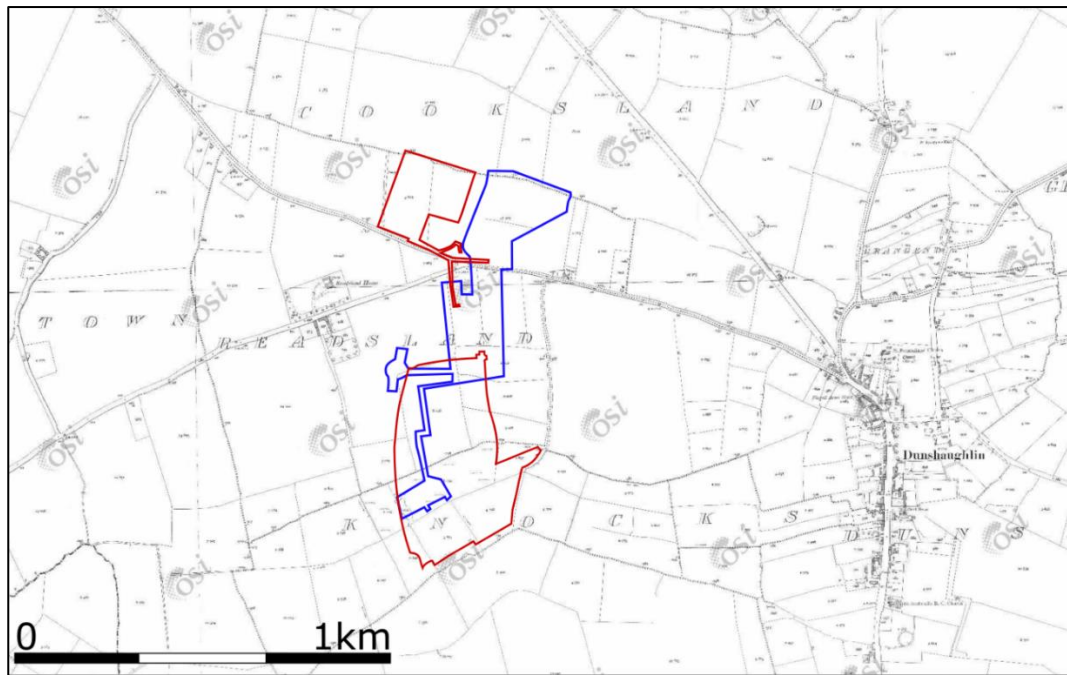
The southern portion of the Proposed Development occupies several fields within the townlands of Readsland and Knocks. There are no structures or roadways recorded within the Proposed Development. The townland boundary between Readsland and Knocks and most of the field boundaries that were recorded on the First Edition map are still intact today and were noted during the site visit.

The northern part of the Cumulative Development was recorded as fields on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The interior field boundaries that were marked on the map were no longer in situ by the beginning of works associated with the Cumulative Development. It is interesting to note that no upstanding remains of the significant medieval activity that was subsequently excavated in the northern part of the Cumulative Development were recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. This suggests that the banks of the enclosures and any structural evidence had already vanished from view.

The centre portion of the Cumulative Development was within two fields at the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map. Construction of the Cumulative Development within this area has almost reached its conclusion at the time of writing.

Much of the southern portion of the Cumulative Development overlaps with the southern portion of the Proposed Development. Again, this area was recorded as fields without any structures on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.





**Figure 17.14:** The Study Area on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map.

Little had changed within the Study Area by the time of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map. No new structures were recorded within the Study Area and all the field boundaries recorded on the First Edition map were still in situ. The central fields of the Cumulative Development had in fact been further subdivided.

#### Satellite Imagery Analysis



**Figure 17.15:** Google Earth satellite image of the Study Area 2009.

Satellite imagery from 2009 shows that there had been no significant development or change within the Study Area in the almost 100 years since the production of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map. The Study Area was comprised of grass fields and boundaries. A new road and roundabout on the western border of the southern portion of the Study had been constructed along with the M3 motorway, further to the west. Considerable development had taken place in Dunshaughlin and to the west, beyond the motorway. The Meadows housing development had also been constructed adjacent to the Cumulative Development.

Plough marks are visible in the northern portion of the Proposed Development. No areas of archaeological potential can be identified within the Study Area from the 2009 satellite image.



**Figure 17.16:** Google Earth satellite image of the Study Area 2012.

Likewise, no features of archaeological potential can be identified from the 2012 satellite image. A dry patch within the area of the attenuation tank could potentially have resulted from subsurface archaeological deposits, however, subsequent archaeological monitoring within this area did not identify any archaeological features.





**Figure 17.17:** Google Earth satellite image of the Study Area 2013.

The 2013 satellite view is perhaps the clearest image available on Google Earth. No significant changes had taken place within the Study Area. A darker shade within the southern portion of the Proposed Development corresponds to an area of potential *fulacht fiadh* activity that was identified in the geophysical survey (Harrison 2009a). The darker shade within that area of the field may have resulted from water-logged, charcoal deposits that can be expected to be found in association with *fulacht fiadh*.



**Figure 17.18:** Google Earth satellite image of the Study Area 2019.



Construction works across the entire Cumulative Development were well-advanced in the 2019 Google Earth image. The image appears to have been captured following a significant dry spell as discrepancies within the fields of the Proposed Development are clearly visible. The northern field of the Proposed Development has been subdivided, for different use. A dark patch within the western boundary of the field is interesting and this area corresponds to a sunken zone that was identified in the Field Inspection. The geophysical survey did not identify any clear patterns of archaeological activity in that field and, subsequently, no archaeological testing was carried out there.

### 17.3.3 Archaeological Background

To accurately assess the potential impact of the Proposed Development and the actual impact of the Cumulative Development on archaeological features and/or deposits, it is necessary to review the known archaeological record from within the Study Area and from the wider area.

#### 17.3.3.1 Record of Monuments and Places

The Archaeological Constraint Maps, in conjunction with the County Record of Monuments and Places, provide an initial database for Planning Authorities, State Agencies and other bodies involved in environmental change.

The Record of Monuments and Places comprise the following elements: (i) Letter or Letters indicating County (KD=Kildare, ME=Meath); (ii) A three digit number indicating the relevant Ordnance Survey Sheet Number (e.g. 049); (iii) A three, four or five digit number indicating the dedicated number of the individual site or monument.

There are no Recorded Monuments within the Study Area. There are, however, several monuments in the general area, none of which will be directly impacted upon by the proposed works.

Townland	RMP No.	Classification
Cookstown	ME038-034----	Fulacht fia
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033002-	Church
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033003-	Architectural fragment
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033004-	Font
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033005-	Stone sculpture
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033006-	Graveslab
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033007-	House - 16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> Century
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033008-	Industrial site
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033009-	Ecclesiastical enclosure
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033010-	Stone sculpture
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033011-	Graveyard
Bonestown	ME038-031----	Ritual site - holy well
Leshemstown	ME044-032----	Ringfort - rath
Dunshaughlin	ME044-033001-	Castle - motte

**Table 17.2:** RMPs within the vicinity of the Study Area.

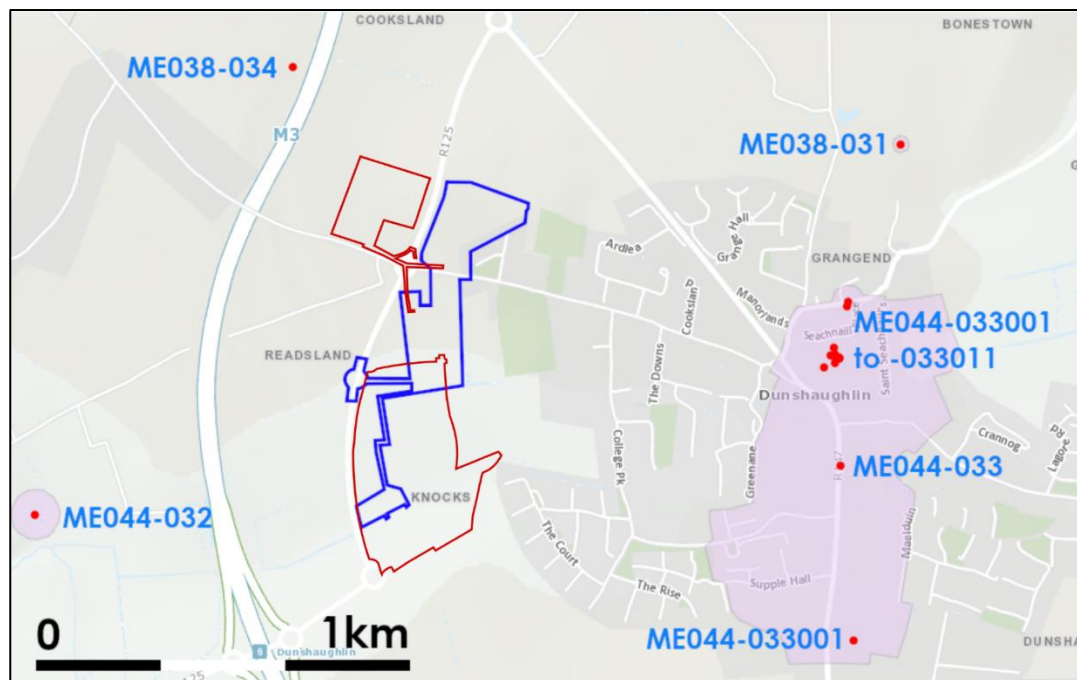


Figure 17.19: Map of RMPs near the Study Area.

#### ME038-031 – Holy Well

This ritual site is recorded as St Shaughlin's Well on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The RMP files contained no further information for this monument.

#### ME038-034 – Fulacht Fiadh

A localised spread of broken and burnt stone in a darkened soil was identified during topsoil stripping (Licence 02E0194) in advance of a gas pipeline. The monument was fully excavated under Licence 02E0641. It had been truncated by agricultural activity but three small spreads of broken and burnt stone survived overlaying a rectangular trough. Several earlier, intercutting puts were found to the east and north-east of the trough and one large oval pit, filled with burnt mound material, was to the west. Two of the pits returned calibrated radiocarbon dates of 2562-2366BC and 2463-2145B (RMP files). Having been fully excavated, this record is not due for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP list.

#### ME044-032 – Ringfort – Rath

This rath is located on a slightly south-facing slope in Leshemstown, c.70m north of the Skane stream. It consists of a raised circular, grass-covered platform that is defined by two rounded fosses that are separated by a berm. Much of the perimeter has been reduced to a scarp and there is no visible entrance (RMP files).

#### ME044-033 – Settlement Cluster

Prehistoric objects found during turf-cutting and the nearby crannóg at Lagore are testament to early human activity in the general vicinity of Dunshaughlin. Historically, the village is associated with St Seachnall / Secundus who died in 447AD according to the Annals of Ulster. Abbots are noted from the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century and the monastery was raided a number of times in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Following the arrival of the Normans, Dunshaughlin became the centre of a seignorial manor belonging to Hugh de Lacy.

Knowledge of the nature of the medieval settlement is scant, but it was likely centred in the area south of the church of St Seachnall and north of the motte that is in the south of the town. This area has been designated to be of archaeological potential and may yet preserve evidence for domestic dwellings, street patterns, defences and the extent of the medieval settlement (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033001 – Castle – Motte**

This motte survives as a flat circular mound with no visible fosse or entrance. It is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and there are historical references to a castle being erected in Dunshaughlin in the late 12<sup>th</sup> Century. There is a Preservation Order on this RMP (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033002 – Church**

As previously discussed, this early church was allegedly founded by Seachnall or Secundus who was sent to assist St Patrick in AD 439. An early ecclesiastical enclosure is likely fossilised in the curving Main Street of Dunshaughlin village. Little other evidence of the early church survives apart from an orans stone that dates to the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Centuries and was found in the graveyard in 1969. A thin stone slab bearing a Crucifixion scene carved in false relief also survives. It once would have acted as the lintel of a 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Century pre-Romanesque church and is now kept in the present Church of Ireland church for safe-keeping.

According to the Dopping (1682-5) and Royal (1693) visitations, the church was in good repair, the roof was slated, and the floor was clay. Isaac Butler, writing in 1749, noted that the tower was in good repair, but the chancel was ruined. At present, all that remains of the medieval church are a pointed arch and two piers of an arcade.

Archaeological testing (Licence 91E0099) outside the perimeter of the graveyard identified nine ditches curving in two bands roughly centred on the church. One substantial ditch was interpreted as the fosse of an ecclesiastical enclosure and it contained medieval pottery and a spindle whorl (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033003 – Architectural Fragment**

Some fragments of multi-cusped window heads are in the graveyard attached to the early church of St Seachnall or Secundus, suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> Century date for the later church (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033004 – Font**

An octagonal limestone font, that still functions in the present Church of Ireland church, has a circular basin and chamfered under-panels. A rectangular base supports the octagonal shaft and circular basin. Five of the upper panels on the basin are decorated, one with a man's head in relief. The others consist of a plain shield and animals in false relief (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033005 – Stone Sculpture**

An orans stone was found in the graveyard in 1969. It depicts a skirted figure with praying with raised arms and dates to the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Centuries. It is 0.59m high, 0.26m wide and 0.07m thick (RMP files).

#### **ME044-033006 – Graveslab**

This flat rectangular limestone slab is in four fragments at the south-west of the graveyard associated with the church of St. Seachnall / Secundus / Secondinus. It is decorated with a figure above a rope moulding and a star above a rope moulding. It is inscribed in Latin and commemorates Reverend Noah Webb who died in 1696 (RMP files).

**ME044-033007 – House**

The remains of a large oval structure in the form of a slot trench and associated post-holes were identified during monitoring works in the field to the north of the church of St. Secondinus, under Licence 91E0099. The structure was approximately 8m in diameter with possible entrances on the northern and southern ends. The entire structure was sealed under a deep layer of charcoal that contained three possible kiln fragments (RMP files).

**ME044-033008 – Industrial Site**

Four pits that were identified during monitoring works in the field to the north of the church of St. Secondinus, under Licence 91E0099 were filled with ash, charcoal and burnt stone. Each of the pits had evidence for in situ burning. Three of the pits measured 1.1 – 2.4m long, 0.4-0.9m wide and 0.1-0.35m deep. The fourth pit was much larger at 4.7m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.8m in depth and had interleaving layers of ash, charcoal and burnt timber. The pits were interpreted as being representative of small-scale industrial activity (RMP files).

**ME044-033009 – Ecclesiastical Enclosure**

The fosse of an early ecclesiastical enclosure associated with the church of St. Seachnall / Secondus was identified to the north of the graveyard during testing under Licence 91E0099. This RMP is the subject of a preservation order.

**ME044-0330010 – Stone Sculpture**

A crucifixion scene carved in false relief on a thin stone slab is kept in the present-day Church of Ireland church of St Seachnall / Secondus. The circumstances of its discovery are not known, and it is not mentioned in historical accounts of the church. Its antiquity was apparently first recognised by persons associated with Hencken's excavation of the nearby Lagore crannog in the 1930s. It would have originally served as the lintel over the western doorway of 10/11<sup>th</sup> pre-Romanesque church (RMP files).

**ME044-0330011 – Graveyard**

The site of the early church of St Seachnall/Secondus and the remains of the medieval church that succeeded it are within a rectangular graveyard defined by masonry walls, trees and a northern bank. The headstones mostly date from 1743 with the exception of that belonging to Noah Webb and dating to 1696 (RMP files).

**17.3.3.2 Topographic Files of the National Museum of Ireland**

The files held in the National Museum of Ireland have been consulted. Collectively known as the Topographic Files, they provide information on artefacts, their find spots, and any field monuments that have been notified to the National Museum. No artefacts were listed for the Study Area. One artefact was found from Cooksland and several in the townland of Dunshaughlin.

Townland	Topographic file	Artefact
Cooksland	1977:1215	Polished stone axe
Gaulstown	1976:609	Bronze medieval seal matrix
Lagore Little	Wk. 21	Iron javelin-head
Lagore Big	1982:50a-b	Four small iron objects

**Table 17.3:** Location of finds recorded in the topographic files (NMI).

#### 17.3.3.3 Industrial Heritage

The Meath Industrial Heritage Survey (Giacometti, Duffy & McGlade 2010) was carried out in 2010. There are no Industrial Heritage sites listed within the Study Area.

Dunshaughlin itself is recorded as an urban focus of industrial activity (MIHS 044-001). Dunshaughlin benefitted from the programme of later 18<sup>th</sup> Century road improvement and the primary roads still follow the courses established by the turnpike system. A turnpike toll booth (MIHS 044-00106) survives today and is occupied by offices. A miscellaneous industrial site (MIHS 044-00104) and a miscellaneous industrial building (MIHS 044-00107) are both in Dunshaughlin. All of these industrial sites are also listed in the RMP. Dunshaughlin post office also once served as a Telegraph Office. Finally, a marl pit was located to the south of Dunshaughlin.

#### 17.3.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Study Area

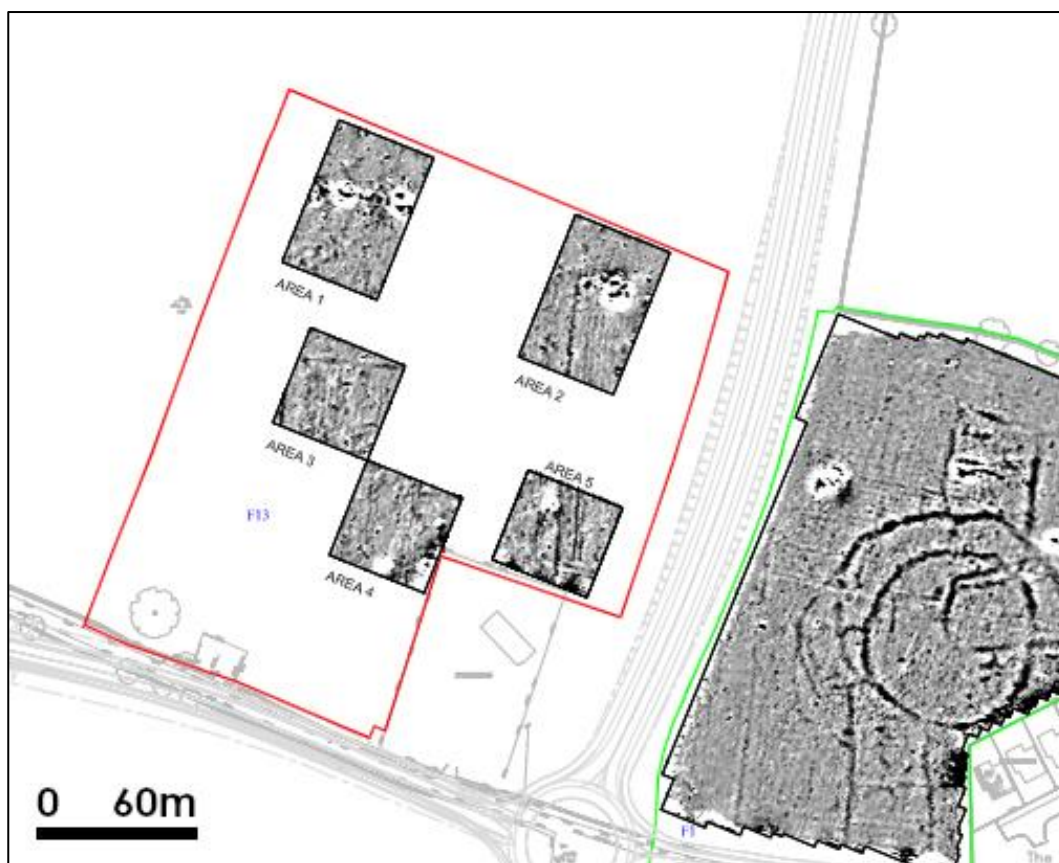
##### **Geophysical Survey**

Two geophysical surveys of the Study Area were previously commissioned part of pre-planning investigations for possible future development. Both surveys were conducted by David Harrison of Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. Under Licences 09R0138 and 09R0089. The main objectives of the surveys were to locate and identify the nature and extent of any archaeological responses within the Study Area. The results of the surveys were used to inform subsequent archaeological testing (Harrison 2009a, 2; 2009b, 2).

### Proposed Development



**Figure 17.20:** The blue areas within the Proposed Development were subjected to a geophysical survey.



**Figure 17.21:** Areas of geophysical survey within the northern part of the Proposed Development (red outline).

Magnetic disturbances in Areas 4 and 5 resulted from the adjacent field boundary and electricity pylons. A magnetic disturbance in the north of the field (Areas 1 and 2) were thought to correspond to a buried service trench. It was noted, however, noted that the magnetic disturbances could have masked areas of archaeological potential (Harrison 2009b, 6).





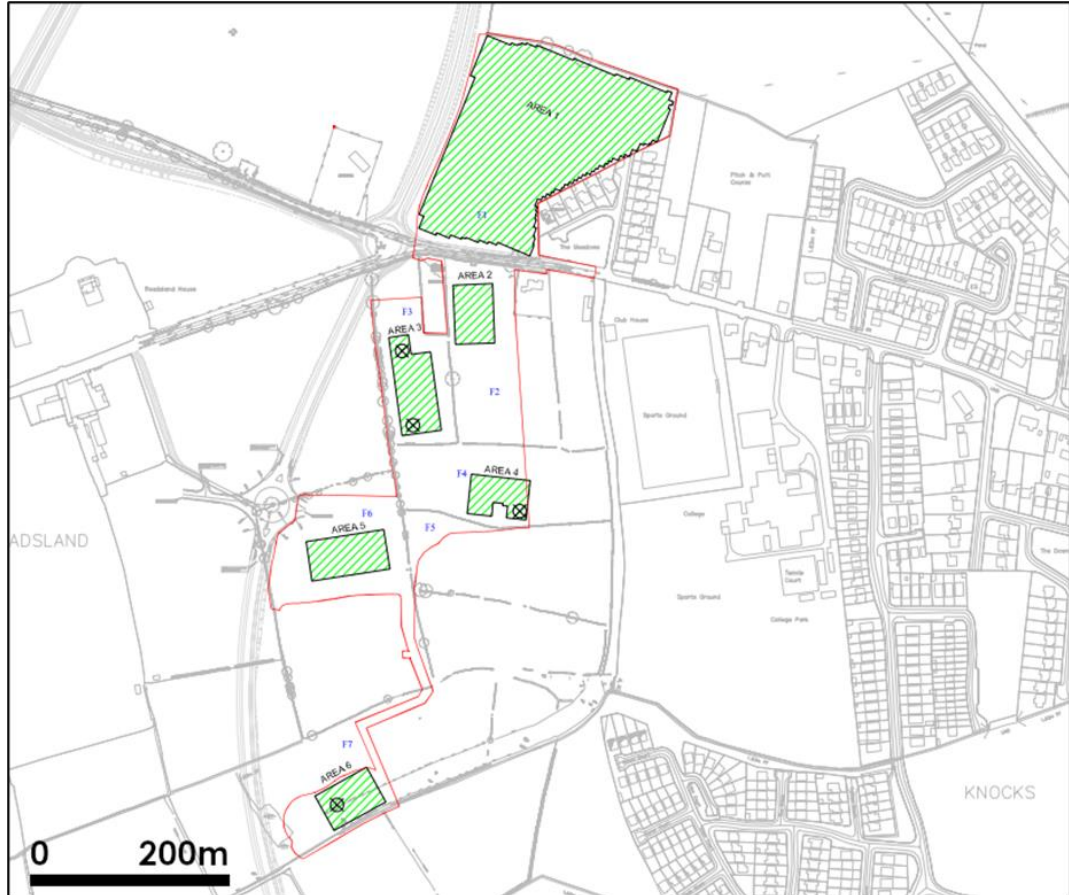
**Figure 17.22:** Areas of geophysical survey within the southern part of the Proposed Development (red outline).

Area 9 in the southern part of the Proposed Development site yielded a concentration of positive responses that were typical of plough-damaged *fulacht fiadh* activity, and thought to indicate the presence of burnt spreads, possible pits and ditches. Responses of archaeological potential in Area 9 spanned an area 121m in length, from north to south, and 50m in width, from east to west (Harrison 2009b, 6).

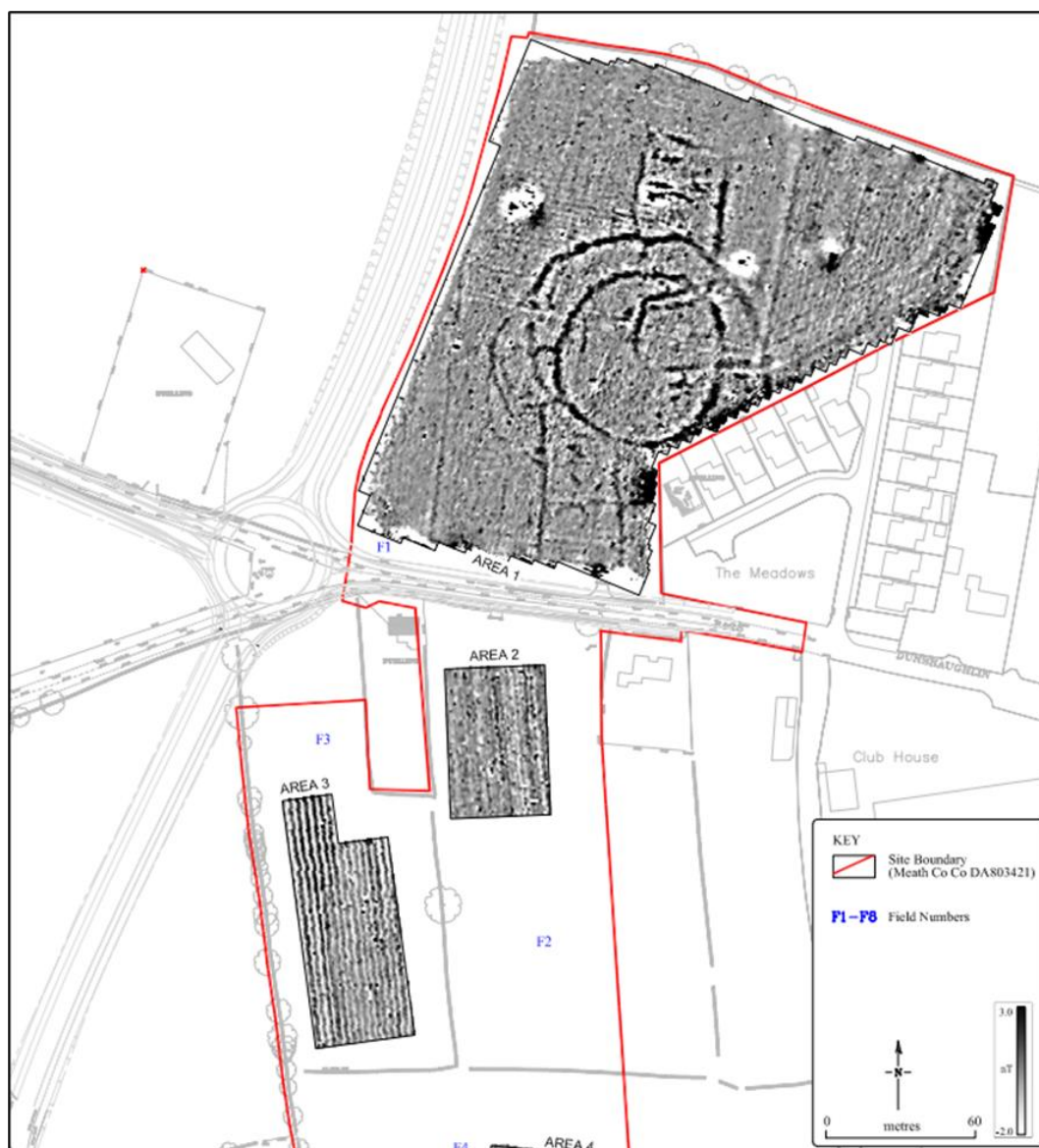


Positive responses in Area 8 may have corresponded to pits or spreads of archaeological material. Areas 6 and 7 showed responses for possible isolated pits that may be of archaeological interest (Harrison 2009b, 7).

#### Cumulative Development



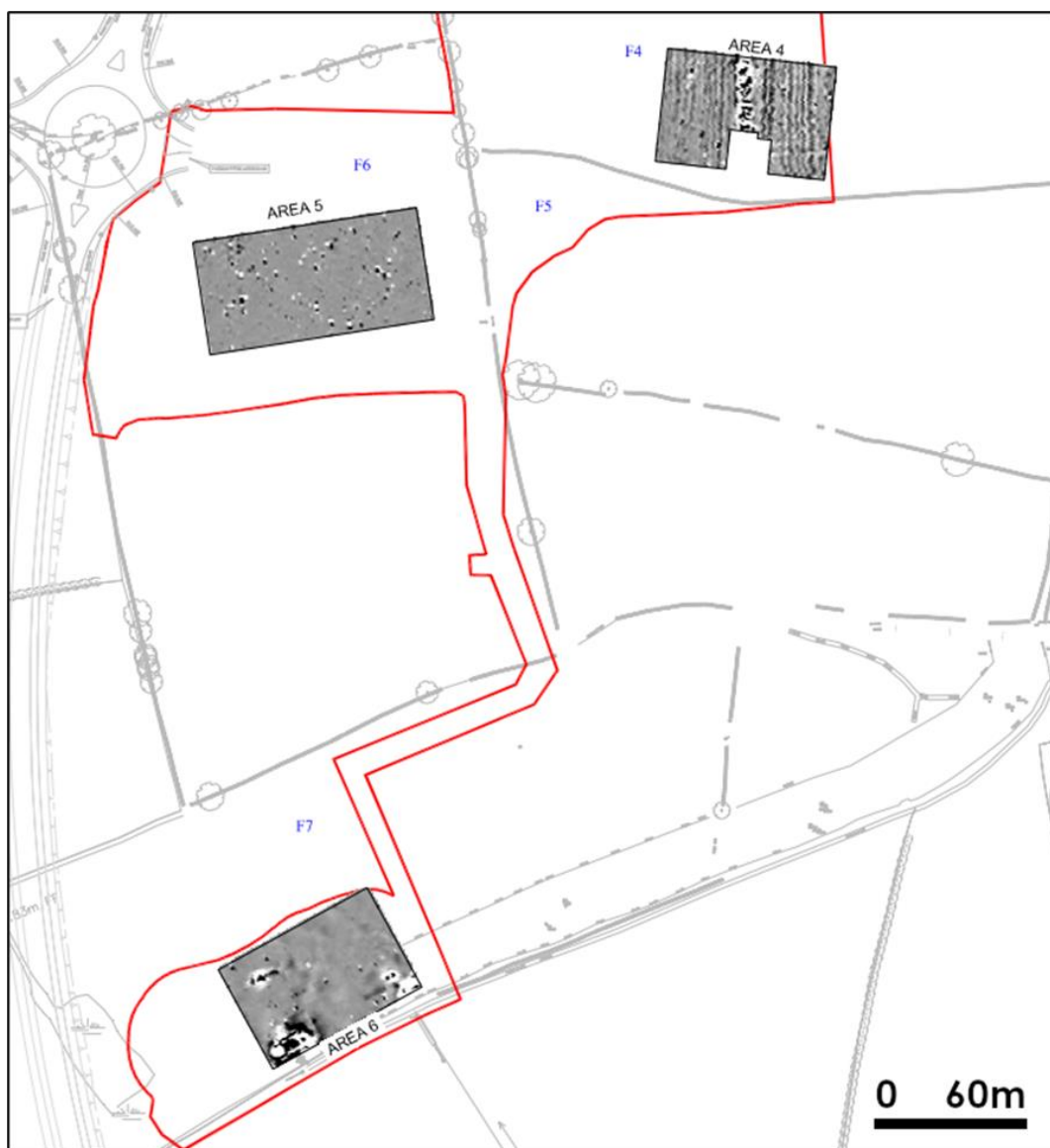
**Figure 17.23:** Areas of geophysical survey in the Cumulative Development (red outline) are highlighted in green.



**Figure 17.24:** Geophysical survey results within the northern portion of the Cumulative Development.

A large area of considerable archaeological potential was identified in Area 1 in the northern Field 1. A complex of fragmented curvilinear responses and a central sub-circular ditched enclosure with several annexes was identified. The central sub-circular enclosure was symmetrical in form with a diameter of 68m. An outer enclosure was also identified. The morphology of responses suggested a multiphase occupational site with a potentially early medieval origin and measuring 183m north to south by 115m east to west (Harrison 2009a, 6).

Further rectilinear responses to the north and east of the internal enclosure were interpreted as annex ditches. Fragmented curvilinear responses were thought to indicate further annexes and sub-circular ditches. A smaller enclosure with a diameter of 6.5m was identified in the north-eastern part of Area 1, Field 1 and was thought to represent a barrow (Harrison 2009a, 6).

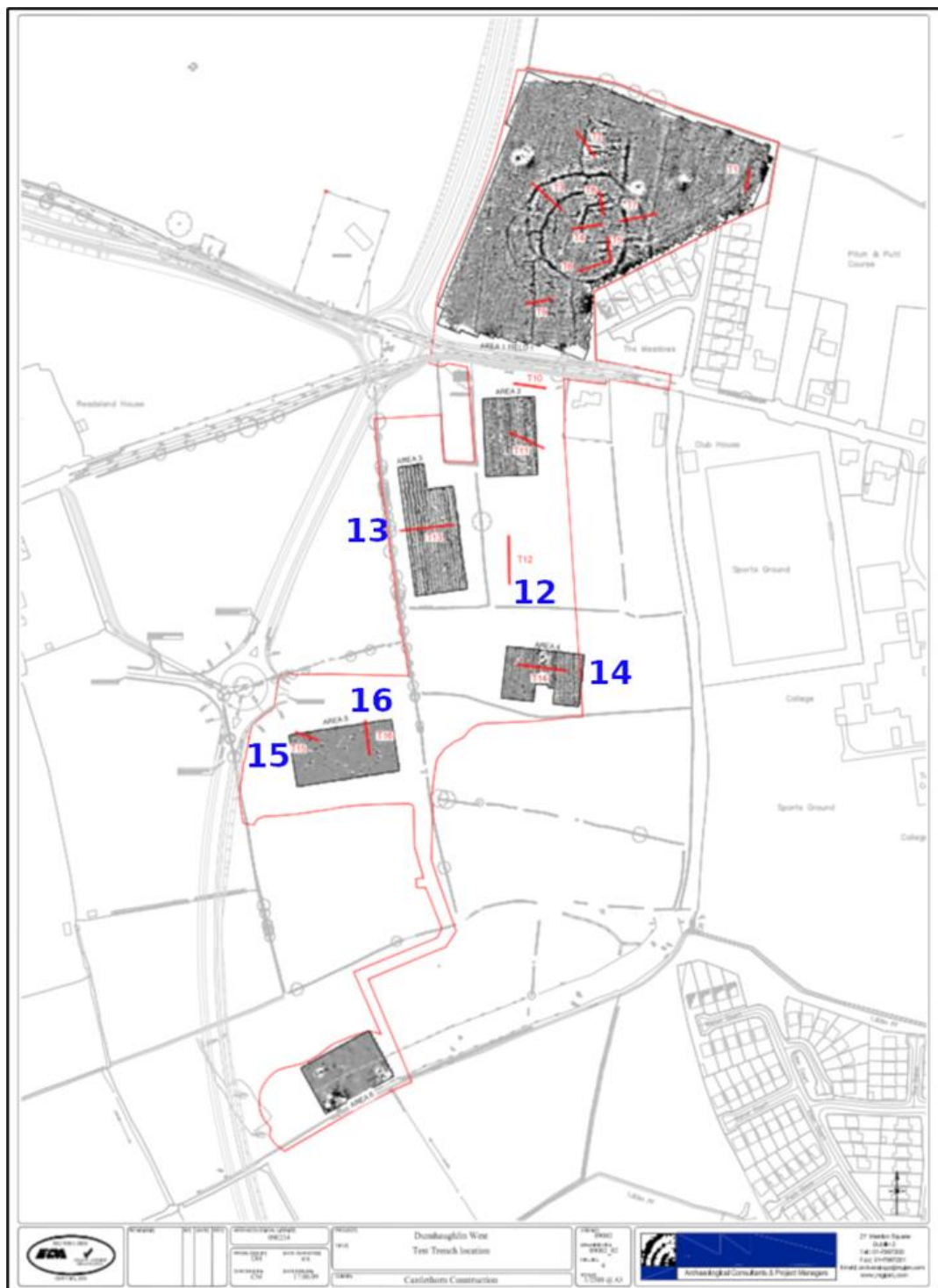


**Figure 17.25:** Areas in the southern part of the Cumulative Development that were subjected to geophysical survey.

### Archaeological Testing

Archaeological testing within the Study Area was carried out by James Hession and Colm Moriarty of Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. under Licence 09E0214 on behalf of Castlethorn Construction Ltd. in 2009. Testing within the Proposed Development identified two pits that were potentially related to activities associated with fulachtaí fiadh. The existence of a substantial multiphase settlement with an associated cemetery was confirmed in the north-eastern part (Cumulative Development) of the Study Area. The site consisted of a very large multi-ditched enclosure that contained additional annexes to the north, west and south and that had previously been identified in the geophysical survey (Harrison 2009a). A possible prehistoric barrow was also identified in the north-eastern part of the Cumulative Development (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 2).

### Proposed Development



**Figure 17.26:** Location of archaeological test trenches in the Study Area under Licence 09E0214.

Archaeological testing under Licence 09E0214 within the Proposed Development was confined to Trenches 15 and 16 in Hession & Moriarty's Area 5, in Readsland townland. The geophysical survey had identified pit-type responses but no clear archaeological patterns within that area.



Two pits of archaeological potential were identified in Trench 15. The first was of elliptical shape in plan and was filled with a dark grey clay with frequent inclusions of burnt stone and charcoal flecks, similar to deposits associated with *fulachtaí fiadh*. The second pit was circular in plan and contained similar burnt stone and charcoal material (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 30).

No features or deposits of archaeological potential were identified in Trench 16 (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 30).

Further archaeological testing of the Proposed Development has since been carried out. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.

#### Cumulative Development

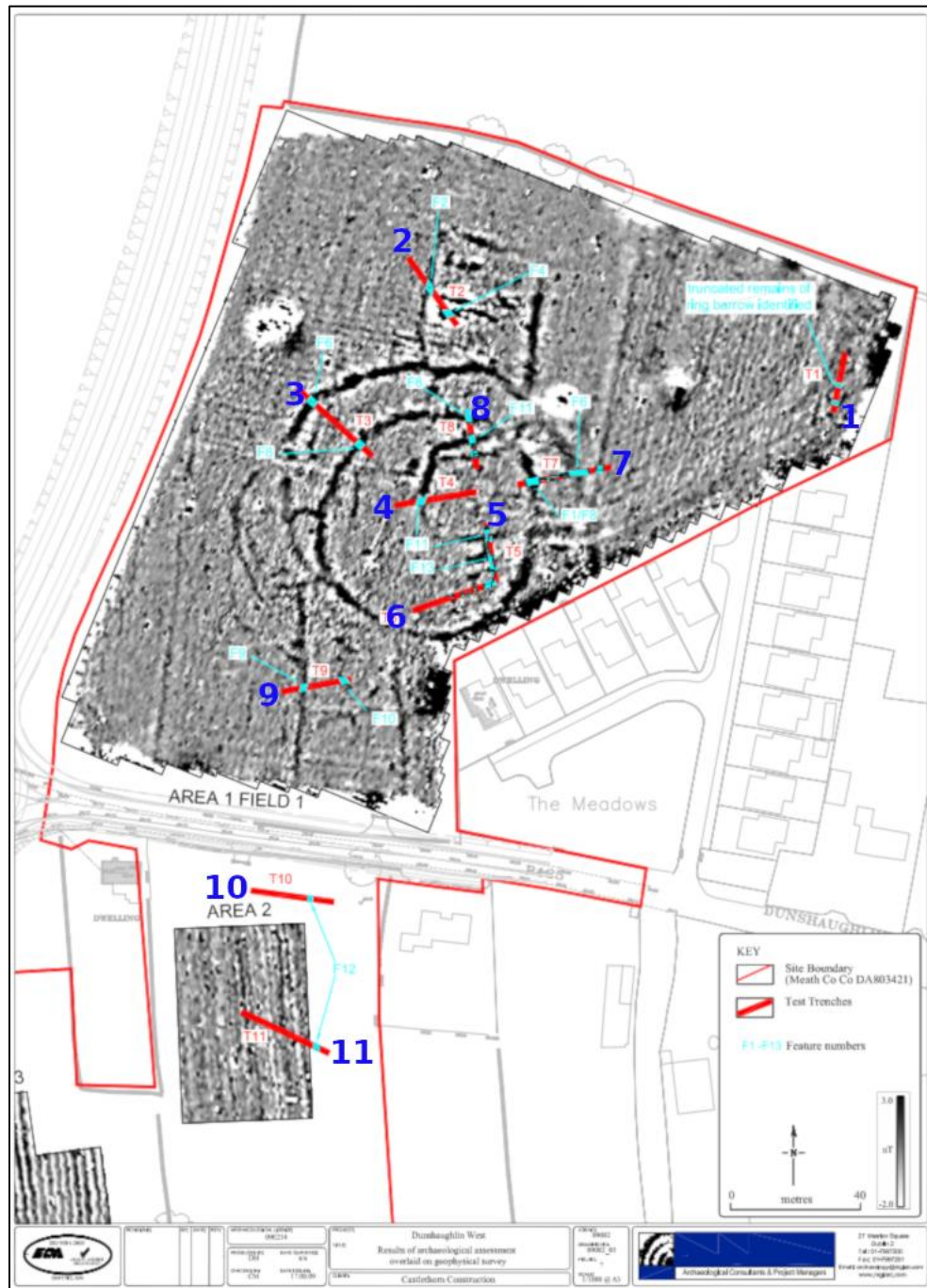


Figure 17.27: Location of test trenches in the Cumulative Development.

Testing within the northern portion (Hession & Moriarty's Area 1) of the Cumulative Development confirmed an area of considerable archaeological potential that had previously been identified in the geophysical survey. A potential ring barrow ditch was identified in Trench 1. Several ditches were located in Trench 2 and corresponded to the rectilinear enclosure identified in the geophysical survey (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 13-14).

Two large ditches were identified in Trench 3 and these corresponded to the large central enclosure ditches that showed up in the geophysical survey. Trench 4 was opened within the large central enclosure and human remains were immediately found in the topsoil. The burials were in a poor state of preservation but appeared to be oriented east-west. A large ditch near the western limit of Trench 4 corresponded to a small inner enclosure on the geophysical survey. All of the human remains were discovered within the enclosure (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 15-18).

Trench 5 was also located within the large enclosure that was identified in the geophysical survey. The southern limit of the inner burial enclosure ditch and several other gullies/ditches were discovered in Trench 5. Trench 6 was also within the large enclosure and it contained evidence for a large ditch, several pits and a possible kiln (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 19-20).

Trench 7 crossed the inner burial enclosure and the inner and outer ditches of the large central enclosure. Skeletal remains on the western side of the inner burial enclosure and two gullies/ditches were also identified in Trench 7. Similarly, Trench 8 contained a human burial and crossed the inner burial enclosure and the inner ditch of the large central enclosure (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 21 – 24).

Trench 9 was south of the central large enclosure and it contained evidence for a large ditch that corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey. A second ditch was also located within the trench (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 24-25).

Three test trenches were excavated in Hession & Moriarty's Field 2/Area 2. The geophysical survey had indicated minimal responses of archaeological potential within that area. A possible old field boundary was identified in Trenches 10 and 11. No other features of archaeological potential were identified in those trenches. Likewise, no features or deposits of archaeological potential were located in Trench 12 (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 25-27).

Trench 13 was the only test trench to be opened in Hession & Moriarty's Field 3/Area 3. The geophysical survey again had indicated minimal responses of archaeological potential within the field and no archaeological deposits or features were identified within Trench 13 (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 28).

Minimal responses of archaeological potential were also recorded during the geophysical survey of Hession & Moriarty's Field 4/Area 4. No features or deposits of archaeological potential were identified in the solitary Trench 14 within that area (Hession & Moriarty 2009, 28-29).

## Results

The archaeological testing confirmed the presence of a substantial multiphase archaeological complex in the northern area of the Cumulative Development that had previously been identified during the geophysical survey. Two pits potentially associated with a *fulacht fiadh* were also identified in the southern portion of the Proposed Development.

Following on from the archaeological geophysical survey and archaeological testing, it was proposed that the Cumulative Development would give full regard to the protection and preservation of the large central bivallate enclosure and inner burial enclosure by preserving the monument beneath an area of green space. This would allow for archaeological preservation in situ (Gowen 2009, 4).

Archaeological features and deposits outside of this central green area would be significantly impacted by the Cumulative Development. It was therefore proposed that the removal of topsoil in those areas outside of the central enclosure would be subjected to archaeological monitoring and that any archaeological features and/or deposits identified during monitoring be fully excavated and recorded. This would allow for archaeological preservation by record. It would also extend the existing knowledge of multi-phase settlement and burial (Gowen 2009, 6-7).

Further archaeological testing was carried out within the Study Area following the initial EIAR assessment. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.

### Archaeological Excavation

#### Proposed Development

Test trenching aside, no archaeological excavation has taken place to date within the Proposed Development.

#### Cumulative Development



**Figure 17.28:** Plan of excavated archaeological features in the northern portion of the Cumulative Development.

Following the identification of the large central enclosure and the inner enclosure with human burials during the archaeological testing, it was decided to redesign the layout of the Cumulative Development to preserve the central ringfort and the associated burial area in situ.

The remainder of the field was stripped and excavated in 2018 and 2019. During the excavation, a number of phases of annexation were identified, with early curvilinear annexes to the south, south-west and west, a later large crescent-shaped annex to the north with an associated rectilinear annex further to the north. A similar rectilinear annex was added to the south also.

The most significant activity encountered during the excavation was a substantial iron metalworking site within the northern enclosure – over a tonne of slag and metalworking waste was collected. Eight definite furnaces and a further eight possible furnaces were identified during the excavation, including a partially collapsed furnace shaft.

In addition to this there were 25 kilns across the site. This may be indicative of the longevity of the site as much as the level of production. The latest phase of the kiln activity was intensive, with a series of large intercutting kilns within the northern annex. The metalworking and cereal drying being carried out at the site suggest it was a substantial production centre, with comparative sites such as Raystown, Co. Meath (milling and cereal production; Seaver 2016), Rosepark, Co. Dublin (cereal production; Carroll 2008) and Johnstown, Co. Meath (iron production; Clarke and Carlin 2008).

Twenty-four structures were also uncovered across the site. Most of these were windbreaks associated with the kilns, however five related to buildings and another to a gate structure over the outer enclosure ditch. There was one circular structure in the southern rectilinear annex, one rectangular structure beside the metalworking area in the northern annex and a cluster of structures to the east beside one of the enclosure entrances. The eastern cluster consisted of the remains of two circular structures and a larger rectangular structure. A handbell of Norse manufacture was retrieved from the rectangular structure. Another slot trench to the east defined a larger area, possibly a fence-line for a paddock or enclosed pen. The presence of these structures at one of the entrances to the settlement is intriguing and perhaps related to hospitality for those visiting the settlement (McGlade 2020).

There were some other interesting finds from the site: several gaming pieces, a tiny gaming board, a ring-pin (of comparative type to pins from Lagore and Fishamble Street), a number of other broken pin fragments, a strike-a-light, iron knives, some amber and glass beads, lignite bracelet fragments and a core from their manufacture, antler combs of Hiberno-Norse style, and a tiny fragment of glass bangle of probable Romano-British origin, with comparanda in Lagore. The finds suggest the settlement was in use over an extended period of time. A spike in activity in the later early medieval period corresponds with several Hiberno-Norse artefacts and suggests an intensification of use at this point. Earlier finds indicate that the settlement had been active prior to this (McGlade 2020).

The settlement site at Readsland was clearly a significant site and its proximity to the royal crannog of Lagore is revealing. The site lay within the kingdom of Lagore during the early medieval period. The important early ecclesiastic foundation of Domhnach Sechnaill (now Dunshaughlin) is almost equidistant between the two sites and it is clear that the settlement at Readsland would have been under the control of the kings of Lagore. The exact nature of the settlement at Readsland is not known as the interior has been preserved in situ. The human remains identified within the interior during the testing indicate that some burial was taking place within the enclosure, however it is unclear whether this was during the use of the settlement or after it had gone out of use. The extent of the burials is unknown; however, no additional burials were encountered during the excavation indicating the burial area was confined to the central enclosure (McGlade 2020).





**Figure 17.29:** Excavated archaeological features within the southern portion of the Cumulative Development.

The southern portion of the Cumulative Development was excavated in 2018 and revealed a different archaeological landscape. A number of sporadic prehistoric features were identified in the lower lying land to the south of the site. There was evidence that this portion of the site would have been marginal wetlands in the past, with prehistoric activity focussing on the slight rises within the area. Two separate *fulacht fiadh* sites were identified. These were places where heated stones were used to heat water within pits or troughs and usually date to the Bronze Age.

Prehistoric burial was also represented with a cremation pit associated with a probable pyre spread uncovered towards the southern end of the site. The pyre spread is an unusual survival and initial indications are that human and animal bone was present within the spread, suggesting animal offerings may have been burnt with the body as part of the funeral ritual. Other possible cremation pits were also uncovered along with two clusters of pits. A number of flint artefacts were retrieved from the vicinity of the cremation pit and pyre suggesting a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (McGlade 2020).

Later activity within the southern part of the site consisted of a medieval field system, which was identified across the area and divided the land into acre plots. A possible light-weight structure dating to this phase of activity was uncovered to the east. A former road was identified at the northern end of the southern area relating to an earlier alignment of the Drumree Road. This was respected by the medieval field system and may be of a similar date (McGlade 2020).

#### 17.3.4.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Wider Area

Licence No.	Townland	Result	Distance
04E0479	Roestown 4	Pits	0.1km NW
A017/024, E3046	Roestown 4	Pits	0.1km NW
04E0415	Roestown/Cooksland	Various	0.5km SW
04E0415	Cooksland 4	Structure	0.5km NW
04E0415	Roestown 1	Burnt mound	0.5km N
A008/001	Roestown 1	Burnt mound	0.5km N
04E0479	Cooksland 3	Possible ring ditch	0.5km N
A017/023, E3045	Cooksland 3	Possible ring ditch	0.5km N
04E0479	Roestown/Cooksland	Pits and associated features	0.6km N
02E0194	Cooksland	Fulacht fiadh	0.6W NW
02E0641	Cooksland	Fulacht fiadh	0.6W NW
04E0415	Cooksland 2	Burnt mound	0.6km NW
A008/005, E3058	Cooksland 2	Burnt mound	0.6km NW
A017022, E3044	Knocks 1	Segmented ring-ditch	0.9km SW
02E1358	Grangeland/Dunshaughlin	Small pits and linear	1.0km E
99E01I4	Dunshaughlin	Monastic enclosure	1.0km E
04E0415	Cooksland 1	Pit	1.0km NW
A008/004, E305773057	Cooksland 1	Pit	1.0km NW
04E0415	Roestown 2	Multi-phased enclosure complex	1.0km NW
A008/002, E3055	Roestown 2	Multi-phased enclosure complex	1.0km NW
N/A	'St Secundinus' Church'	Early ecclesiastical site	1.0km SE
04E0415	Roestown 3	Possible structure	1.1km NW
A008/003	Roestown 3	Possible structure	1.1km NW
01E2019	Dunshaughlin	Drain	1.1km SE
A017/021, E3043	Johnstown 3	Kiln and associated features	1.1km SW
05E0628	Leshemstown	Fulacht fiadh, pits and spreads	1.1km SW
05E0398	Leshamstown	Burnt mound with crouched inhumation	1.2km SW
1E0154	Leshamstown	Area of burning	1.2km SW
A017/025, E3047	Leshemstown 1	Burnt mound	1.2km SW
A017/025, E3048	Leshemstown 2	Pit	1.2km SW
04E0480	Leshemstown	Fulacht fiadh, pits and spreads	1.3km SW
04E0478	Knocks/Readsland	Testing: fulacht fiadh	1.3km SW
04E0476	Johnstown	Enclosure, pits and possible metalworking area	1.4km SW
A017/020, E3042	Johnstown 2	Kilns	1.4km SW

A017/043, E3052	Johnstown 4	Ring-ditch and smaller features	1.4km SW
02E0694	Bonestown	Ring-ditch	1.5km NE
02E0696	Bonestown	Kiln	1.5km NE
04E0476	Johnstown	Enclosure, pits and possible metalworking area	1.6km S
A017/019, E3041	Johnstown 1	Enclosed settlement, burnt mound	1.6km S
18E0495	Dunshaughlin	Ring-barrow, burnt mound deposits, pits	1.8km SE
02E0633	Knockmark	Burnt spread	1.9km W
04E0475	Rath Hill	Post-medieval industrial	2.4km SE
A017/018, E3040	Rath Hill 1	Stone structure	2.4km SE
02E0692	Lagore Little	Fulacht fiadh	3.7km NE
02E1259	Lagore Little	Knapping cluster	3.7km NE
02E0691	Lagore Little	Fulacht fiadh	3.7km NE

**Table 17.4:** Archaeological investigations within 4km of the Study Area (excavations.ie).

### 17.3.5 Field Inspections



**Figure 17.30:** Numbering system used in the site inspection of the Proposed Development.

The proposed development lands were visited on a bright frosty morning in early February 2020. No archaeological monuments were noted within the Proposed Development site. Some areas of archaeological potential were noted.

### Field 1

Field 1 comprises the entire northern component of the Proposed Development and is the largest single field of the Proposed Development. Access is from the L2208 road to Athboy at the southern side of the field. A holding pen for livestock stands within the field at the main entrance. It is constructed from concrete cinder blocks and it has a concrete floor surface. Electricity wires cross the field from the south-west corner to the centre of the eastern boundary. The rest of the field is grassland.



**Plate 17.1:** Access and holding pen of Field 1, facing north-east.

Field 1 is bounded to the south by the L2208 road, to the east by a single-house property and the R125 road, and to the north and west by other fields. The southern and eastern boundaries are comprised of timber fencing with additional metal wiring, while the northern and western boundaries are comprised of timber posts with metal wire fencing. The highest point of the field is in the north-west corner and the uneven land slopes downwards to the south and east. A significant, large hollowed area is near the north-west corner. It may be of archaeological potential. No other surface features of archaeological potential were noted in Field 1.





**Plate 17.2:** View of Field 1 from north-eastern corner, facing south-west.



**Plate 17.3:** View of Field 1 from north-western corner, facing south-east.

## Field 2



**Plate 17.4:** Access to Field 2 from the Dun Ríoga estate, facing west.

Access to Field 2 and the southern component of the Proposed Development is through the Dun Ríoga housing estate (the Cumulative Development). Field 2 borders the Dun Ríoga estate to the east, the R125 road and Fields 3 and 4 to the west and Field 5 to the south. It is a large field of mostly grassland. It is on slight incline, sloping downwards from north to south.

Work associated with the attenuation tank of the Cumulative Development have previously taken place in Field 2. A large 1.5m high and 2m wide bank of spoil material still sits next to the trench that contains pipes leading to the attenuation tank. McGlade (2020) excavated material from two potential fulachtaí fiadh and a potential pyre within this trench as part of the Cumulative Development and further archaeological remains likely survive within the field.



**Plate 17.5:** View of the western half of Field 2, facing north.



The area to the north of the attenuation bank contains mounds of topsoil and construction material from the Dun Ríoga (Cumulative Development). The rest of the field is under grass.

A wide ditch and hedge separate Field 2 on its western side from Fields 3 and 4. This ditch corresponds to a field boundary on the First Edition OS map.



**Plate 17.6:** View of the eastern half of Field 2, facing south.

The eastern half of Field 2 has been fenced off from the rest of the field and appears to be in use as grazing land. No above ground archaeological features were noted in Field 2 during the site visit.

#### **Field 3 and Field 4**



**Plate 17.7:** Field 3, facing north.



The field boundary between Fields 3 and 4 no longer exists and they now essentially form a single field. It is bordered by the R125 road to the west and north, by Field 2 to the east and by Field 5 to the south. Fields 3 and 4 were not previously subjected to geophysical survey or archaeological testing. The eastern boundary ditch and hedge with Field 2 has previously been mentioned. The western boundary consists of a timber fence and the boundary with Field 5 consists of a wide ditch. Fields 3 and 4 are comprised of flat grassland with some trees. No features of archaeological potential were noted.



**Plate 17.8:** Boundary ditch between Fields 4 and 5, facing west.

#### Field 5



**Plate 17.9:** View of Field 5 and discrepancy in levels, facing south-west.

Field 5 is bordered to the north by Fields 2 and 4, to the west by the R125 road, to the south by Field 6 and by another field to the east. The attenuation tank of the Cumulative Development is in Field 5 and much of the field has been subsequently subdivided.

A wide ditch separates Field 5 from fields 2 and 4. A metal fence sits along its western border with the road. A timber post and wire fence and wide ditch separates Fields 5 and 6. A timber fence acts as its eastern boundary. Timber fencing has subdivided the western part of Field 5 and another fence running parallel to Field 6 has created an access lane between the two fields. The lane is accessible from the R125 road. The attenuation tank area (Cumulative Development) has been fenced off with a tall metal fence. The rest of the field is grassland.



**Plate 17.10:** Field 5, facing north-west.

There is a significant discrepancy in level between the eastern and western parts of Field 5, with a sharp drop in height from east to west in the centre of the field. No surface features of archaeological potential were identified in Field 5 during the site visit.

No archaeological features of potential were identified during the geophysical survey and archaeological testing within the Cumulative Development area of Field 5 (Harrison 2009a, Hession & Moriarty 2009).

### **Field 6**

Field 6 is a large open field at the southern limit of the Proposed Development. It borders Field 5 and another field to the north, the R125 road to the west, and fields to the south and east. A wide, water-logged ditch and occasional hedging separates Field 6 from Field 5. A low bank stands on the southern side of the ditch and a timber post and wire fence has been erected to the northern side of the ditch. A metal fence sits on the western border of Field 6 and field boundaries are on its southern and eastern limits.





**Plate 17.11:** Ditch and bank in Field 6, facing south-west.

A second ditch runs north-west to south-east through the centre of Field 6. Both this ditch and the ditch on the border with Field 5 are marked as field boundaries on the First Edition OS map. The rest of the field is flat, open grassland.



**Plate 17.12:** Eastern area of reeds with the western reed growth visible in the top right background, facing south-west.

Two areas of reed growth within Field 6 are suggestive of waterlogged conditions that would be suitable for *fulachtaí fiadh*. These areas were previously the subject of a geophysical survey with the western area giving positive results for pit-type responses and the responses in the eastern area being indicative of disturbed burnt spread material that is typical of *fulachtaí fiadh* (Harrison 2009a).



**Plate 17.13:** View across Field 6 from south-western corner, facing north-east.



**Plate 17.14:** View from north-eastern corner of Field 6, facing south-west.

No other surface features of archaeological potential were noted in Field 6.

## **17.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development**

### **17.4.1 Proposed Development**

Consideration of the Characteristics of the Proposed Development allows for a projection of the 'level of impact' on any particular aspect of the proposed environment that could arise. For this chapter, the potential impact on Cultural Heritage is discussed.

The subject site forms part of the Applicant's wider landholding of c. 18.8 Ha extending north and beyond the Drumree Road. These lands are irregularly shaped and largely comprise two distinct sites within the western part of the Dunshaughlin Local Area Plan and are bisected by Drumree Road and Dunshaughlin Link Road and comprise a total area of c. 14.8 Ha (which includes the lands zoned F1 – Open Space).

The proposed development is set out within three character areas. Character Area 6 (c. 3.75 Ha) comprises a greenfield site which lies north of Drumree Road and to the west of the Dunshaughlin Link Road. A single private dwelling adjoins the subject site along the south eastern boundary.

Character Areas 3 & 4 (c. 8.47 Ha) are generally bounded to the west by the existing Dunshaughlin Link Road, to the south and east by lands zoned for open space, to the north by Phase 1 lands (currently under construction by the Applicant) and lands identified for neighbourhood centre use.

In summary, the proposed Strategic Housing Development broadly comprises: -

- 415no. residential units (254no. houses, 55no. duplex and 106no. apartments) in buildings ranging in height from 2 to 5-storeys.
- 1no. childcare facility (c. 409 sq. m gross floor area).
- Provision of access from Drumree Road (Character Area 6) and Dunshaughlin Link Road – R125 (Character Areas 3 & 4) and provision of internal road network including pedestrian and cycle links.
- Provision of public open space including facilitation of planned pedestrian and cyclist connection along River Skane Greenway toward Dunshaughlin Town Centre.
- Provision of wastewater infrastructure including connections to main sewers on Drumree Road and to foul networks in permitted Phase 1 development and provision of SuDS infrastructure.
- All associated and ancillary site development and infrastructural works, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment works.

A full project description is provided in Chapter 3: Description of Proposed Development.

#### **17.4.1.1 Construction Stage**

With the correct mitigation measures, the Proposed Development can have a very significant, positive effect for any potential archaeological features and / or deposits.

#### **17.4.1.2 Operational Stage**

Once construction of the Proposed Development is complete, and the residential development comes into full operation, it is envisaged that there will be an imperceptible neutral effect upon any potential surviving archaeological features and/or deposits.

### **17.4.2 Cumulative**

The Cumulative Development of Dún Ríoga was for the construction of 142no. residential units in two residential character areas with a creche and associated site works.

#### 17.4.2.1 Construction Stage

The construction stage of the Cumulative Development involved the removal of topsoil throughout much of the site, exposing archaeological features, and significant subsurface works, necessitating the excavation of archaeological features.

The use of correct mitigation measures (geophysical survey and archaeological testing) prior to the construction stage of the Cumulative Development led to the identification of a significant ringfort and associated burial ground. This allowed for the profound, long-term positive effect of preservation in situ for the ringfort and burials.

During the construction phase, the archaeological excavation of other archaeological features external to the central enclosure had a permanent, very significant positive effect for our knowledge of metal-working and cereal-producing multi-phase sites associated with enclosures and burial grounds

#### 17.4.2.2 Operational Stage

No further groundworks are associated with the operational stage of the Cumulative Development. Therefore, the operational stage of the Cumulative Development continues to have a long-term positive effect for the preservation in situ of the ringfort and associated burials.

### 17.5 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

#### 17.5.1 Proposed Development

This section provides a description of the specific, direct and indirect, impacts that the proposed development may have during both the construction and operational phases of the infrastructural elements of the proposed project. This is provided with reference to the Characteristics of the Receiving Baseline Environment and Characteristics of the Proposed Development sections.

The following impact assessment is based on the results of the preceding sections (desktop study, site inspection and previous investigations).

The Impact Assessment is divided both into three sections, and is summarised below: -

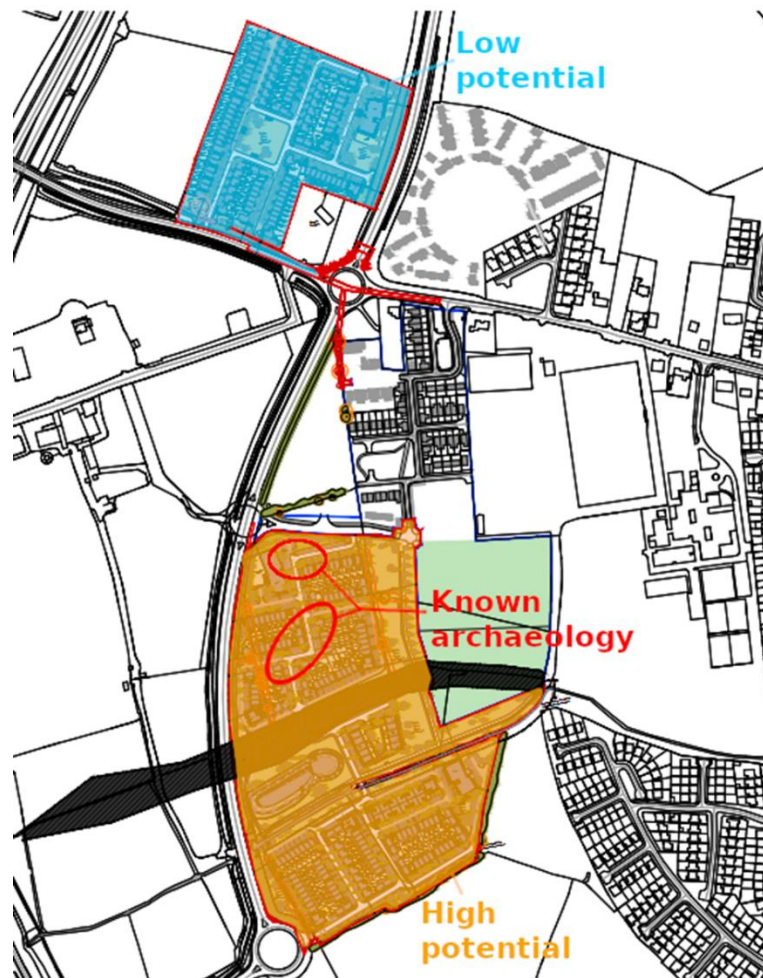
- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Impact on recorded monuments (RMP)      | None     |
| • Impact on known archaeology             | Profound |
| • Impact on potential/unknown archaeology | Profound |

#### Impacts on Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures

The Proposed Development will not impact directly or indirectly upon any previously recorded site or monument listed in the RMP or the RPS.



### Impacts on Known (and Unprotected) Archaeological or Cultural Heritage Sites



**Figure 17.31:** Areas of confirmed archaeology and potential archaeology within the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development will have a profound permanent negative impact on the known archaeological features within the southern part of the development site, without the correct mitigation measures. Two pits of archaeological material potentially associated with *fulacht fiadh* activity were first identified during testing in Trench 15 (Hession & Moriarty 2009). McGlade (2020) subsequently excavated two *fulachtaí fiadh* within the footprint of the attenuation trench of the Cumulative Development. Both features extended beyond the limits of the trench, and therefore it is highly likely that partial remains of the archaeological features survive within the Proposed Development.

McGlade (2020) also excavated a cremation pit and partially excavated material associated with a potential pyre to the south of the *fulachtaí fiadh*. It is highly likely therefore, that further archaeological deposits survive within that part of the Proposed Development.

Both areas of known archaeological deposits will be profoundly and negatively impacted by the Proposed Development. The creche, housing, infrastructure and landscaping are all proposed for construction within the two areas of known archaeology.

Subsequent archaeological testing of the Proposed Development has further defined the areas of archaeological potential within the Proposed Development. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.



An alternative layout for the omission of the road in Field 5 that would link Fields 4 and 6 has been included in the EIAR. The omission of this road would have no impact upon potential subsurface archaeological features and/or deposits. Following the latest archaeological testing (Appendix 17.1), it is recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is required in Field 5.

### Impacts on Unknown / Potential Archaeological Sites

The Proposed Development will have a widespread profound permanent negative impact on areas of archaeological potential and previously unidentified sub-surface archaeological remains that may survive on the development site. There is a potential for an imperceptible long-term positive effect of preservation *in situ* for unknown archaeological features and/or deposits that potentially survive within the proposed green areas of the development.

The northern portion of the Proposed Development is of low archaeological potential. No clear archaeological pattern was identified during the geophysical survey and no definite features of archaeological potential were identified in the analysis of satellite imagery or during the Field Inspection. The hollow area within the north-western boundary of the northern field is of interest. It is worth noting, however, that archaeological features do not normally present themselves as hollow areas but as quite the opposite, i.e. ditches, structures and pits that have been 'filled-in' with material.

Given the relatively large size of the northern field of the Proposed Development, and its proximity to the significant archaeological discoveries within the northern portion of the Cumulative Development, potential unknown archaeological features and/or deposits cannot be fully ruled out. These potential features would be profoundly and permanently negatively impacted by much of the Proposed Development, without appropriate ameliorative measures. The two large proposed green areas could potentially provide for an imperceptible long-term positive effect of preservation *in situ* should any archaeological features be found in those areas.

The southern portion of the Proposed Development is considered to be of high archaeological potential. Potential archaeological features were first identified in this area in the geophysical survey. Archaeological test trenching within the Proposed Development and archaeological excavation within that part of the Cumulative Development that overlaps the Proposed Development confirmed the presence of archaeological features and deposits. Furthermore, an area of high potential within the southern-most field of the Proposed Development that was identified during the geophysical survey, the analysis of satellite imagery and during the Field Inspection. This area yielded results in the geophysical survey that were suggestive of a large area of activity associated with a *fulacht fiadh*. Two large areas of reed-growth in this southern field were noted in the Field Inspection and these also are often associated with water-logged fulacht material.

Further archaeological testing of the Proposed Development has since been carried out. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a Report on the results of this testing.

#### 17.5.1.1 Construction Stage

The Construction Stage (without appropriate ameliorative measures) will have a profound permanent negative impact on known archaeological features and deposits within the Proposed Development.

The Construction Stage, without appropriate ameliorative measures, will have a profound permanent negative impact on known archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the Proposed Development.

### 17.5.1.2 Operational Stage

It is envisaged that the known archaeological features within the Proposed Development would not survive the Construction Stage, without appropriate ameliorative measures. Nevertheless, the Operational Stage of the residential development would have an imperceptible long-term neutral effect on any remnants of the known archaeology.

It is envisaged that the unknown potential archaeological features within the Proposed Development would not survive the Construction Stage, without appropriate ameliorative measures. Nevertheless, the Operational Stage of the residential development would have an imperceptible long-term neutral effect on any remnants of the known archaeology.

Furthermore, there is a possibility for an imperceptible long-term positive effect of preservation in situ for unknown archaeological features and/or deposits that potentially survive within the proposed green areas of the development.

### 17.5.1.3 Do-Noting Impact

The Do-Nothing Impact would have an imperceptible permanent neutral effect on the known archaeology.

The Do-Nothing Impact would have an imperceptible permanent neutral effect on any unknown archaeology.

## 17.5.2 Cumulative

Application	Applicant	Address	Archaeological mitigation	Archaeology present	Impact on Proposed Development
ABP 303433	Rockture 1 Ltd.	North of R147	Pre-development testing	Ring-barrow	None
ABP 307244	Loughglynn Developments Ltd.	Grangend	Pre-development testing	Bronze Age rim sherd and burnt spread	None
FS1960	Aldi Stores (Ireland) Ltd.	Lagore Road/ Main Street	None	None	None
RA170866	Lidl Ireland GmbH	Main Street	Testing	None	None
RA171239	ADC Ltd.	St Seachnaill's Road	Testing	Bronze Age fulacht fiadh and medieval burgrave plots	None
RA171416	Rockture 1 Ltd.	Dublin Road	RFI for Testing	Not yet assessed	None
RA191066	Jackie Green Construction	Dunshaughlin Business Park	None	N/A	None
RA200028	Kingscroft Development Ltd.	Johnstown/ Rath Hill	Testing	None	None
RA190815	Castletown Construction Ltd.	Roestown, Cookstown & Readsland	Geophysical survey, archaeological testing and excavation	Ringfort and associated features including burials	Profound, long-term and positive and Very significant, permanent and positive

**Table 17.5:** Summary of impact of cumulative developments on the Proposed Development.

#### 17.5.2.1 Construction Stage

The actual impact of the Construction Stage of the Cumulative Development on the archaeological resource is described in Section 17.4.2.1.

#### 17.5.2.2 Operational Stage

The actual impact of the Operational Stage of the Cumulative Development on the archaeological resource is described in Section 17.4.2.2.

#### 17.5.2.3 Do-Nothing Impact

The Do-Nothing impact of the Cumulative Development would have been positive, profound and long-term for the preservation *in situ* of the archaeological ringfort, burials and associated features.

### 17.6 Mitigation Measures (Ameliorative, Remedial or Reductive Measures)

Remedial and mitigation measures describe any corrective or mitigative measures that are either practicable or reasonable, having regard to the potential likely and significant environmental impacts. This includes avoidance, reduction and remedy measures as set out in Section 4.7 of the Development Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007) to reduce or eliminate any significant adverse impacts identified.

The Archaeological Assessment has identified a number of areas and features of archaeological and cultural heritage interest, on and around the lands comprising the development site. This is based on the desktop assessment, field inspection, geophysical survey, test-trenching, and excavation. The impact of the proposed development has been considered above and the summary results are repeated here: -

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Impact on recorded monuments (RMP)      | None     |
| • Impact on known archaeology             | Profound |
| • Impact on potential/unknown archaeology | Profound |

#### 17.6.1 Proposed Development

##### 17.6.1.1 Construction Stage

Further archaeological testing was carried out within the Study Area following the initial EIAR assessment. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.

The pre-development geophysical survey and archaeological testing informed the design of the Cumulative Development. This allowed for the positive profound long-term effect of preservation *in situ* of the large central enclosure and the inner burial enclosure and the very significant, permanent positive effect of preservation by record (excavation) for the remainder of the archaeological features and deposits.

The previous geophysical surveys, testing and excavation within the footprint of the attenuation trench have shown that while archaeological features are highly likely to be present within the Proposed Development, they are highly unlikely to be of the same density, size and magnitude as those already excavated/preserved *in situ* within the Cumulative Development.

Testing of the Proposed Development has identified the location and extent of potential features and informed the location of areas for archaeological monitoring and excavation works to be carried out in conjunction with groundworks. Please refer to Appendix 17.1 for a report on the results of this testing.

Archaeological monitoring of the removal of topsoil within areas of the Proposed Development to contain archaeological features identified during the pre-development testing would profoundly reduce the negative impact of the Construction Stage on previously unknown archaeological features.

Archaeological excavation of previously unknown archaeological features within the Proposed Development would allow for the very significant positive permanent effect of preservation by record.

#### 17.6.1.2 Operational Stage

It is envisaged that the Operational Stage would have a long-term neutral effect on any unexcavated archaeological features and/or deposits that may potentially be preserved in situ within the green areas of the Proposed Development and so further ameliorative, remedial or reductive measures will not be necessary.

### 17.6.2 Cumulative

#### 17.6.2.1 Construction Stage

The pre-development geophysical survey and test trenching allowed for the identification of previously unknown significant archaeological features, including a large central enclosure with an inner burial enclosure. As a result, the development was re-designed to allow for the best practice reductive measure of preservation in situ for the central enclosure and inner burial enclosure. This was a very significant long-term positive effect.

Excavation, or preservation by record, of substantial archaeological features external to the central enclosure had a permanent very significant positive effect on knowledge of metal-working and cereal-producing multi-phase sites associated with enclosures and burial grounds.

The Cumulative Development had zero impact on the archaeological resource of the wider Dunshaughlin area and so mitigation measures were not necessary.

#### 17.6.2.2 Operational Stage

The Operational Stage of the Cumulative Development has a long-term very significant positive effect on the continuing *in situ* survival of the large central enclosure and the associated inner burial enclosure.

It has no impact on the archaeological features that were fully excavated as part of the Cumulative Development.

The Operational Stage has zero effect on the archaeology of the wider Dunshaughlin area and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Receiving Environment	Impact without Measure	Impact with Measures
RMP	None	None
Known Archaeology	Profound, negative	Very significant, positive
Potential Archaeology	Profound, negative	Very significant, positive

**Table 17.6:** Summary of Impact and Ameliorative Measures.

## **17.7 Residual Impact of the Proposed Development**

### **17.7.1 Proposed Development**

#### **17.7.1.1 Construction Stage**

If the appropriate reductive measures of archaeological testing (Appendix 17.1) and potential monitoring and excavation are followed, then the Residual Impact of the Proposed Development on the potential archaeological features and/or deposits will be zero.

Should any archaeological features and/or deposits be preserved *in situ* within green areas of the Proposed Development, then the Residual Impact on those features will be long-term, imperceptible and permanent.

#### **17.7.1.2 Operational Stage**

Likewise, the Residual Impact of the Proposed Development on the potential archaeological features and/or deposits during the Operation Stage of the residential development will be zero in the case of archaeology that has been excavated and long-term imperceptible positive for any archaeology that is preserved *in situ*.

#### **17.7.1.3 Worst Case Impact**

The worst case impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource would be for the construction and operational stages to go ahead without the correct mitigation measures; i.e. the removal of archaeological features and/or deposits without preservation *in situ* and/or preservation by record.

### **17.7.2 Cumulative**

#### **17.7.2.1 Construction Stage**

Following the preservation *in situ* of the central, large enclosure and the inner burial enclosure and the excavation of all other archaeological features external to these, the residual effect of the Construction Stage of the Cumulative Development was long-term, imperceptible and positive.

The effect of the Construction Stage of the Cumulative Development on the known and unknown archaeological resource in the wider Dunshaughlin area was zero.

#### **17.7.2.2 Operational Stage**

The effect of the Operational Stage of the Cumulative Development on the known and unknown archaeological resource in the wider Dunshaughlin area is zero.

#### **17.7.2.3 Worst Case Impact**

The worst case impact of the Cumulative Development on the archaeological resource would have been for the construction phase to commence without the correct mitigation measures, i.e. geophysical survey, archaeological testing and archaeological excavation. This would have led to the removal of archaeological features and/or deposits without preservation *in situ* and/or preservation by record.



## **17.8 Monitoring**

### **17.8.1 Proposed Development**

#### **17.8.1.1 Construction Stage**

Following the mitigation measures of archaeological testing (Appendix 17.1), monitoring and possible excavation, further monitoring of the impact of the Construction Stage on the archaeological resource will not be necessary.

#### **17.8.1.2 Operational Stage**

Following the possible excavation and/or preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and/or deposits during the Construction Stage, further monitoring of the archaeological resource during the Operational Stage of the Proposed Development will not be necessary.

### **17.8.2 Cumulative**

#### **17.8.2.1 Construction Stage**

Following the mitigation measures of archaeological testing (Appendix 17.1), monitoring, excavation/ preservation *in situ*, further monitoring of the impact of the Construction Stage of the Cumulative Development on the archaeological resource within the Cumulative Development and within the wider Dunshaughlin area was not necessary.

#### **17.8.2.2 Operational Stage**

Further monitoring of the archaeological resource in the Cumulative Development and in the wider Dunshaughlin area during the Operation Stage of the residential development is not necessary.

## **17.9 Reinstatement**

### **17.9.1 Proposed Development**

#### **17.9.1.1 Construction Stage**

Given the complex stratigraphical nature of archaeological features and/or deposits, reinstatement after their removal/excavation is in most cases impossible. One exception to this are stone-built walls that can, in some cases, be partially reconstructed following their removal.

Should any archaeological features be preserved *in situ* during the Construction Stage of the Proposed Development, then reinstatement will not be necessary.

#### **17.9.1.2 Operational Stage**

Reinstatement of archaeological stone-built walls would, by their definition, take place during the Construction Stage of the Proposed Development, and therefore could not take place during the Operational stage of the residential development.

### **17.9.2 Cumulative**

#### **17.9.2.1 Construction Stage**

No archaeological features and/or deposits were reinstated during the Construction Stage of the Cumulative Development.

#### 17.9.2.2 Operational Stage

No archaeological features and/or deposits have been reinstated during the Operational Stage of the Cumulative Development, within the residential development or within the wider Dunshaughlin area.

### 17.10 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the production of this section of the EIAR.

