

APPENDIX 16.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Maynetown, Drumnigh & Portmarnock

Pre-Planning

Excavation Licence No.: 20E0598

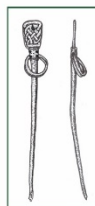
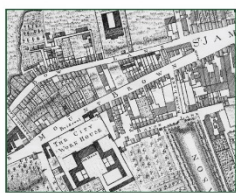
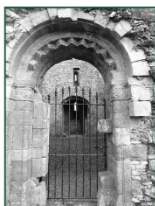
Site Director: Gill McLoughlin

ITM: 723200E / 742050N

On behalf of

Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd

3rd December 2020



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of archaeological test excavation carried out by Gill McLoughlin of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. (Licence No. 20E0598). The work has been carried out pre-planning on behalf of Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd, relating to a haul route associated with Phase 1C and future phases of residential development within the Portmarnock lands. Phase 1C is a permitted development, under planning reference ABP Ref. 305619-19.

The proposed development site is located in the townlands of Maynetown, Drumnigh and Portmarnock (as the red line does not cross the townland boundary we note that only Maynetown and Drumnigh are relevant to this application), and south of station road in Portmarnock, Co. Dublin (ITM 723200E, 742050N) (Figure 1). The site is on lands owned by Portmarnock Real Estate Ltd and are being managed and developed by Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd on a phased basis.

The archaeological testing follows the excavation of an early medieval double ditched enclosure within the Portmarnock 1C development area in 2019 (licence ref. 19E0303) and was undertaken in tandem with ongoing archaeological monitoring for the Phase 1C development (licence ref. 20E0180).

The testing took place over six days from the 12th November 2020. Eleven trenches totalling 850 linear metres were excavated along the centreline of the proposed haul route and no features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

Based on the scale of the development, no further archaeological mitigation is required along the haul road apart from at the townland boundaries.

Additional archaeological investigation will be required in two locations where the proposed haul route crosses the townland boundaries between Portmarnock-Drumnigh and Drumnigh-Maynetown. This work will only be carried out once planning permission has been granted for the haul road in order to minimise the extent of the breaches at the townland boundaries.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report describes the results of archaeological testing carried out by Gill McLoughlin of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. (Licence ref. 20E0598). The work has been carried out pre-planning on behalf of Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd, relating to a proposed haul road in Portmarnock, Drumnigh and Maynetown townlands, Co. Dublin. The haul route is associated with a permitted development (Phase 1C), under planning reference ABP Ref. 305619-19.

The proposed development site is located in the south-east of Portmarnock townland, Co. Dublin, to the south of Station Road and east of the Dublin-Belfast Railway Line (ITM 723200E, 742050N, Figure 1). The site is being managed and developed by Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd on a phased basis. To date, Phase 1A and 1B have been completed and construction on Phase 1C is due to commence.

The testing took place over six days from the 12th November 2020 and no features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were identified in any of the trenches.

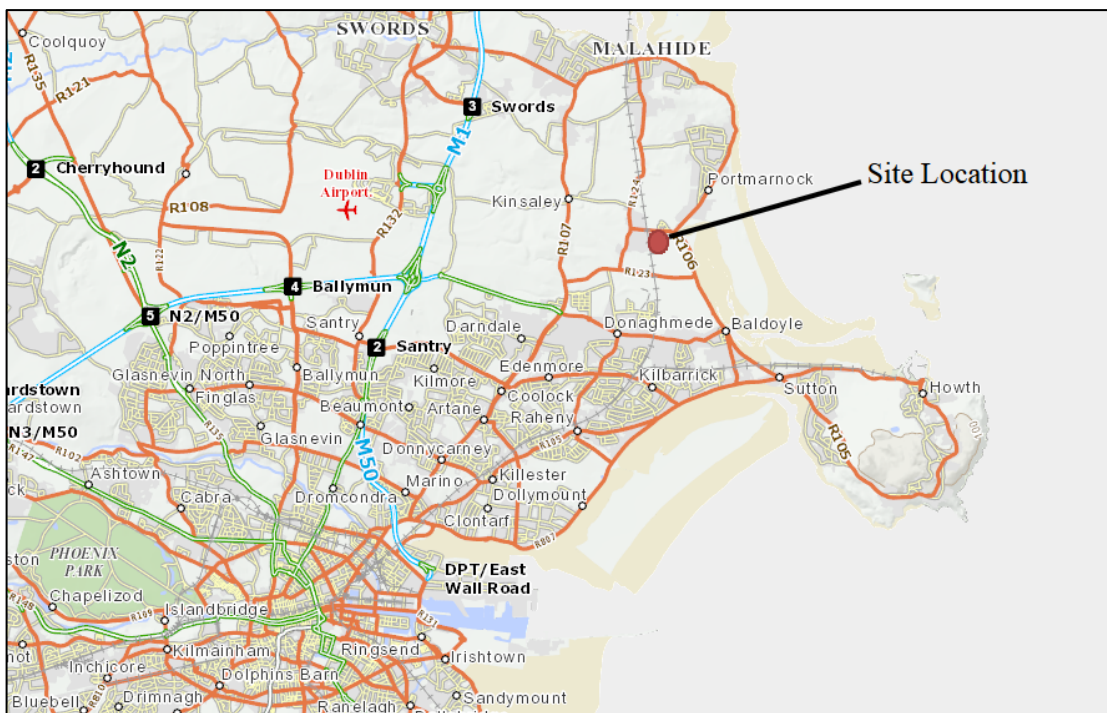


Figure 1 Site location

1.2. Description of Proposed Development

The proposed haul route measures approximately 1100m in length and 7.3m wide and runs from Mayne road in the south, travelling north and then northeast for 360m before turning north again for 150m and then turning west for c.240m where it enters the Portmarnock Phase 1C development area. At the point where it turns west another branch runs north for 60m before turning northeast for 30m and then northwest for 220m (Figure 2). The route crosses townland boundaries between Drumnigh/Maynetown at chainage CH 680 and Portmarnock/Drumnigh at chainage CH 770.

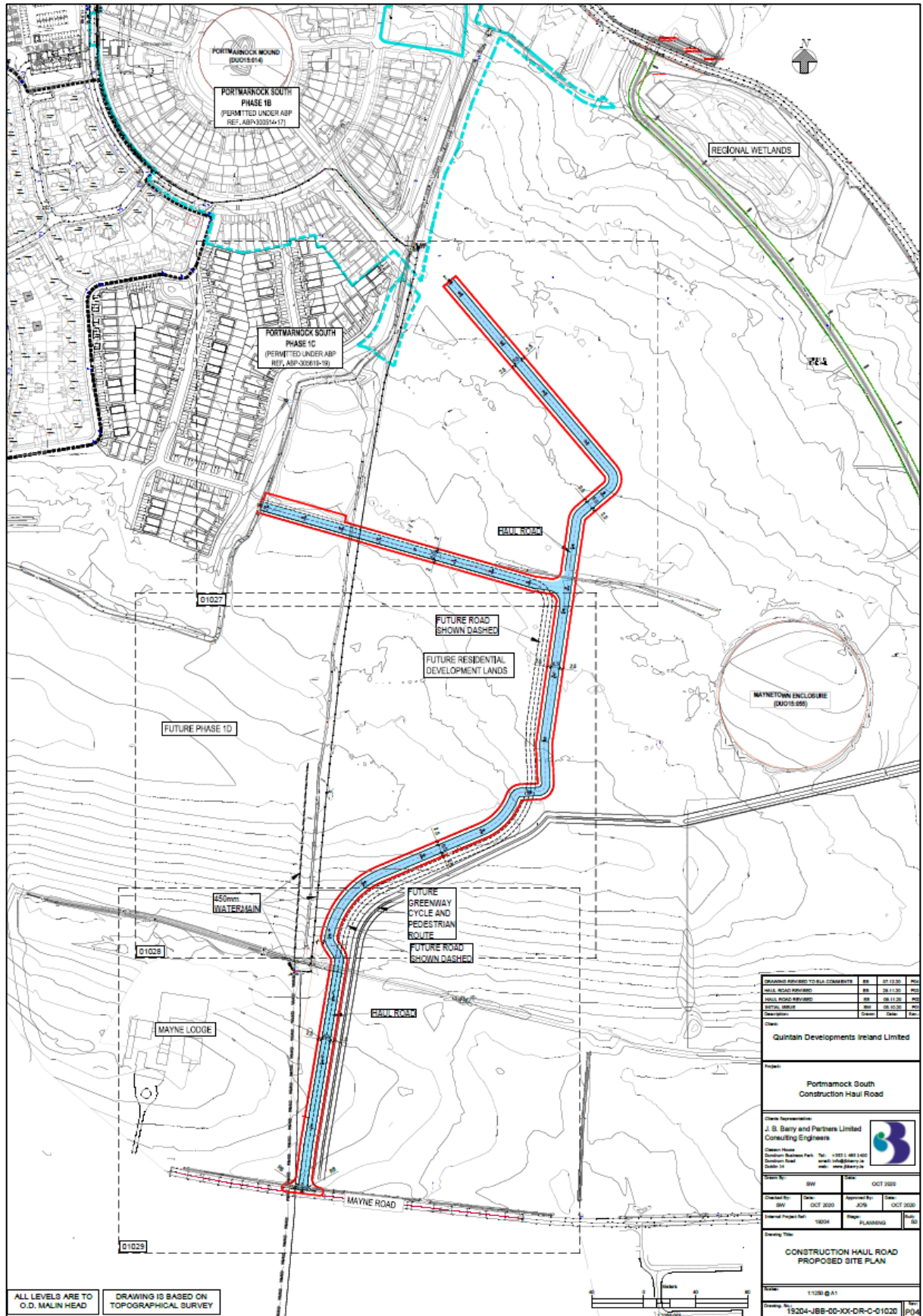


Figure 2 Proposed haul route

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Prehistoric Activity

The Mesolithic Period (c. 7000 – 4000 B.C) is the earliest time for which there is widespread evidence of human occupation on the island of Ireland (Waddell, 1998). People during this period lived in small groups which migrated to exploit seasonal resources along the rivers and coastlines. Evidence of permanent settlement during this period is rare and often the only traces of Mesolithic activity are in the form of shell middens, fish traps or scatters of flints material produced as a by-product in the production of flint implements.

There is an abundance of evidence, in the form of flint scatters, to suggest that North Dublin's coastline was used by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers who were exploiting the maritime resources. Mitchell's excavations at the raised beaches at Sutton throughout the 1950s and 1970s produced both Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, as well as polished stone axes (Mitchell 1956; Stout and Stout 1992). In addition to this, a major assemblage of flint artefacts was recovered at Paddy's Hill in the Robswalls townland as a result of systematic field walking and excavation in the 1980s. Interestingly, the only evidence of any structural remains came in the form of two pits, the contents of which produced dates of around 2000 B.C. (4120+/-70 BP and 4040+/-70 BP, Keeling et al, 1994). In total 2,809 artefacts were retrieved from Paddy's Hill, ranging in date from Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

The Neolithic period (c. 4000 – 2500 B.C) saw the adoption of agriculture as a way of life in Ireland, and with it came new developments in ritual activity and the building of the first permanent monuments in the Irish landscape; megalithic tombs. Similar to that of the Mesolithic Period, previous archaeological investigations have demonstrated that Neolithic activity was widespread in the North Dublin coastal zone. Extensive research led by Professor Gabriel Cooney on Lambay island (c. 11km northeast of the development site) has uncovered evidence for a long period of human activity and settlement, centralised around a Neolithic quarry.

The Bronze Age (c. 2500 – 600 B.C) is represented in this part of north county Dublin by a limited range of monuments. A number of ring-ditches or barrows have been identified on aerial photographs in the wider area, at Hazelbrook (DU015-131 & 132), Burrow (DU015-006), St Doolaghs (DU015-011) and Drumnigh townlands (DU015-119). Burial mounds to the south of Baldoyle village (DU015-019 and DU015-023) were destroyed in the 1920's and 30's. In addition to this, a note on the RMP maps from the 1980s indicate that there may have been a fulacht fiadh in the field to the east of the Portmarnock mound (DU015:014), although this appears to have been removed by ploughing (RMP files). Testing carried out in 2004 (Phelan) identified a burnt mound trough in the same field which could relate to this record. This feature has since been excavated as part of the Phase 1B development works (Licence Ref: 18E0016) and returned a radiocarbon date range in the early Bronze Age (BC 2135-1920) (McLoughlin, 2020).

Recent excavations to the south of Station Road in Portmarnock (Licence Refs: 16E0613, 16E0101 and 18E0016, McLoughlin 2019b, 2019c, 2020) have added to this evidence of prehistoric activity in coastal north county Dublin. Monitoring of an east-west pipeline trench close to the coast road (R106) uncovered a large waterhole, filled with burnt stone and charcoal-rich soil, returned dates relating to the early Bronze Age (2434 – 2051 B.C.). 2019 excavations in the area revealed a pit, which contained grinding stone fragments dating to the late Bronze Age (BC 968-807) and a curving ditch within an early medieval enclosure was dated to the Iron Age (BC 353 – 1 AD) (McLoughlin, 2019c). Another ditched enclosure (DU015-014001) returned late Iron Age and early medieval dates and a pit within that enclosure was dated to the early

Mesolithic (BC 6329-6052) (McLoughlin2019b). The flint artefacts from these recent excavations include a tiny barbed and tanged arrowhead (16E101:198:1, Beaker), a hollow based arrowhead (16E613:2, Neolithic/Beaker), a butt-trimmed flake (18E0016:2194, later Mesolithic) and an elongated leaf-shaped projectile form (18E0016:1809, Neolithic).

It is possible that the upstanding mound at P Portmarnock (DU015-014) could be of prehistoric origin. While results from test excavations in 2007 (Moriarty 2009a) suggested a medieval date, new evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding area challenges this. Irish folklore suggests that the mound did originate in prehistory and was used as the burial place of Maine, the son of Medb and Ailell of Connacht. Morris (1939) in an examination of the *Díndsheanchas* (Old Irish metrical lore of place names, edited by Gwynn in the early part of the twentieth century) has associated this site with the burying place of 'Maine' 'son of Medb and Ailell'. Maine (also known as Maine or Cichmaine), the son of Medb and Ailell of Connacht, is said to have been killed by fishermen at Inbher Cichmaine, the inlet or bay of Cichmaine and his burial ground is described as being at the northern end of Inbher Cichmaine. Morris makes the argument that Inbher Cichmaine appears to correspond with what is now known as Portmarnock Bay and the mound situated at the northern end of the bay, corresponds with the reputed burial location.

2.2. Early Medieval Activity

The early medieval period is portrayed in the surviving literary sources as rural, characterised by dispersed enclosed farmsteads, or raths, which likely housed an extended family. Additional improvements in agricultural from the 5th century AD resulted in a further wave of settlement expansion and population increase, which in turn lead to the construction of Ireland's most common archaeological site: the ringfort. Ringforts are circular enclosures which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, route ways and natural resources (Stout 1997).

While, ringforts are a site type that is relatively uncommon in the archaeological record for north County Dublin, there are many sub-surface enclosure sites which have been identified in Portmarnock and the surrounding townlands as a result of aerial photographic analysis, particularly in recent years, and based on the results of excavations carried out in 2016-2017 and 2019 to the south of Station Road, Portmarnock, it is likely that many of these enclosures could represent early medieval settlement activity, known as ringforts or raths. Three excavated enclosures at Portmarnock have been dated to the early medieval period, with elements of Iron Age activity (16E0101, 16E0613 and 19E0303) and a further tested example in Maynetown which remains in situ, was also dated to the early medieval period (DU015-055, 07E0574). In addition to this, aerial photographic analysis, geophysical survey, and archaeological testing have shown that a number of enclosures reside beneath the ground surface. Two such sites are located to the southwest in Drumnigh townland (DU015-117 and DU015-134), four are located in Maynetown to the south and southeast (DU015-118, DU015-135, DU015-130 and DU015-055) and another is located in Portmarnock townland to the west (DU015-121).

During this period, Ireland was also challenged by the large-scale conversion to Christianity and the foundation of a large number of ecclesiastical sites in the centuries following the 5th century. Churches in the vicinity of the development lands include the ruins of a church at Portmarnock (DU015-007) dedicated to St Marnock. The earliest reference to this church is AD 1185 when it was granted to St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin by Prince John (Gilbert, 1884), although its proximity to a holy well, also dedicated to St Marnock (Joyce 1912), the former presence of an ogham stone at the site, and the dedication of the church and well to St. Marnock, who was an early religious figure, may indicate that its origins date back to the early medieval period. There is another holy well known as Tobermaclaney at the northern end of the Velvet Strand, in Carrickhill townland (DU015-039). Grange Abbey (DU015:069) was located c.2km to the south-

southwest and there was a church at Balgriffin, to the southwest, since at least the 12th Century (DU015-012). The church at Balgriffin was dedicated to St. Samson, a Welsh abbot who came to Ireland around AD 516 to study and who eventually found himself in Balgriffin. He only stayed a few months, but his connection with the area lived on. St Doulaghs located c.2km to the west, comprises a church, graveyard, wells and an enclosure and was established as early as the 9th Century AD. In Kinsealy townland, c.1.6km to the northwest a church was in ruins by the 17th Century and a kink in the wall surrounding the church and graveyard to the southeast could be an indication of an earlier enclosure (DU015-002).

2.3. Later Medieval Activity

Excavations in the phase 1B development area in 2008 uncovered the remains of a medieval village containing six well defined property plots within the Phase 1B development area. The area of excavation was roughly rectangular in plan and measured c. 50–70m north–south by 110m. The property plots uncovered were defined by linear ditches and separated into toft and croft areas by internal divisions. They measured between 16m and 22m wide and up to 65m long, although their true lengths could not be properly assessed as the front of the plots were truncated by a 19th-century roadway (Station Road) (Moriarty, 2009b). An easterly extension of the settlement was excavated in 2018 and a further structure, metalled surfaces and wells were identified (McLoughlin, 2020). The site corresponds to the medieval mill of Portmarnock, a possession of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, which on the dissolution of the Monastery in 1539 contained ten cottages. A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered during both excavations at the site and include medieval pottery, metal objects, organic remains and plough pebbles. Finds and radiocarbon dating evidence suggest occupation at the site from the 11th/12th Century to the 17th Century (Moriarty, 2009b and McLoughlin, 2020).

The occupation of Dublin by the Anglo-Normans in 1169 A.D. saw profound social, economic and political changes throughout the country. While the town of Dublin had been established some 300 years previous, it had begun to exercise political, economic and ecclesiastical control over its hinterland territories that were occupied and farmed by the rural Irish (Potterton & Murphy, 2010). These territories were controlled by rulers of Dublin and were held as their demesne. The majority of Anglo-Norman manors were on, or close to, rivers, and, preferring established sites with an existing infrastructure, the new invaders also took over established ecclesiastical sites. Portmarnock was one such pre-Norman ecclesiastical site, becoming a manorial village when taken over by the Anglo-Normans in the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.

A Motte and Bailey (DU012-034) located at St Helens c.2.3km north of the site is further evidence of Anglo-Norman settlement in the area. A tower house known as Robswall Castle (DU012-036) lies approximately 1.6km southeast of Malahide Village, on the coast road and a further tower house is located at Malahide (DU012-030). Tower houses are small, fortified residences of the gentry built throughout the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. They often have very thick walls, intramural staircases, small windows (the earliest have very thin arrow or musket loops), and a vaulted first storey, to prevent the spread of fire. Robswall Castle was partly modernised, and a later house has been built against it. Corr Castle, in Howth Demesne, is also a tower house, while Howth Castle itself is a substantial Anglo-Norman Castle with a bawn, a defended outer enclosure, now situated within a housing estate. A Welsh settler by the name of Griffin who arrived at the end of the 12th century, as part of the Norman invasion also built a castle (DU015-062) in the area known as Balgriffin Park, of which there is now no trace. The castle was built adjacent to the church site (DU015-012) in Balgriffin.

Two tidal mills are recorded in the possession of St Mary's Abbey in an inquisition taken in 1541 (de Courcy 1996), one of which is probably represented by the remains of the old mill at Portmarnock (DU015:015). It was recorded as being in the property of the Plunkett family in 1663, but in a ruinous state after 1903 –

'unroofed and much dilapidated by the storm of 1903'. The Down Survey refers to a tidal mill at Malahide as 'a mill that goeth by ebb tides' (Joyce 1912, 280, 284).

Fingal emerged as a distinct cultural zone and was often referred to as 'the breadbasket of Dublin.' Its strategic importance to the new English-dominated city did not go unnoticed by Owen O'Neill, who, in 1641, ravaged the county between Castleknock and Drogheda, then containing 'the goodliest haggards of corn that ever was seen in those parts' (Smyth 1992). Richard Stanyhurst, in his Description of Ireland, refers to Fingal as an important part of the Pale, the region having the highest reputation for good husbandry. In the seventeenth century, according to the author of A Geographical Description of the Kingdom of Ireland, the name Fingal was associated with the more arable portion of the lands north of Dublin (Ball 1920). The name Portmarnock is derived from Port Mo Ernoc or Ernan, interpreted as St Mernoc's bank or landing place.

3. SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

A phased programme of archaeological investigations and resolution took place on the Portmarnock lands over the period from 2000 to 2008 in advance of development. As a result, two significant recorded monuments, the Portmarnock mound DU015-014 and the Maynetown enclosure DU015-055 have been preserved in situ in accordance with a multidisciplinary conservation plan which was agreed with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now the DCHG) and Fingal County Council.

In addition to this, a medieval settlement containing six well defined property plots, previously identified by geophysical survey, aligning Station Road to the north of the development lands, was archaeologically excavated (Moriarty 2008 08E0376) (RMP DU015-0136001-006) and during the summer of 2018 associated features such as linear ditches, foundations of a structure, two wells and a metalled surface were excavated to the east and west of the main settlement concentration (Licence No 18E0016), (McLoughlin 2020). Since 2016 three additional early medieval sub-surface ditched enclosures have also been excavated within the Phase 1A, 1B and 1C development areas (McLoughlin 2019b & c).

3.1. Geophysical Survey

During the period 2000-2008, geophysical survey and test excavation assisted in defining the location and extent of below ground features of an archaeological origin throughout the wider development lands. Geophysical survey carried out in 2002 (Ref. 02R020, Nicholls 2002) included the area of the proposed haul route and consisted of gradiometer scanning and detailed survey of potential archaeological responses. Detailed survey areas 8, 9 and 10 are closest to the haul route and identified anomalies were interpreted as drainage, a spread of brick and a former field boundary (Figure 3). Individual small-scale features such as burnt mound/pit were identified in 2004 by testing (Phelan 2004) and these were resolved by excavation in 2018 (McLoughlin, 2020).

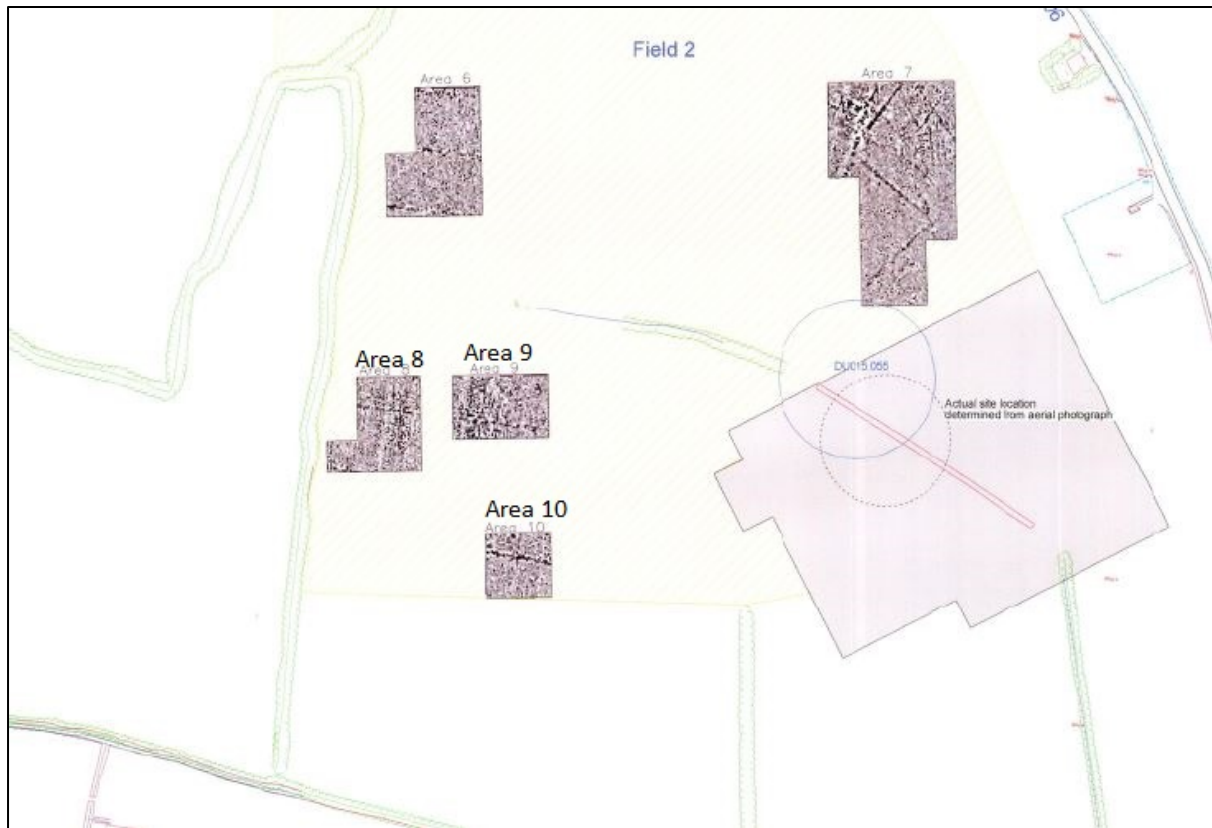


Figure 3 Geophysical survey areas 8, 9 and 10 in vicinity of proposed haul route

3.2. Monitoring

In 2012 archaeological monitoring was carried out of topsoil stripping for the establishment of a site compound and the carrying out of enabling works associated with the development permitted under planning permission register reference F07A/0947 (Walsh 2014a, Licence Ref. 12E0358). No archaeological features were encountered during the course of the topsoil stripping.

In 2016 archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal for phase 1A of the development revealed the presence of a sub-square ditched enclosure dating to the early medieval period with evidence of an internal ditched feature dating to the Iron Age. This site was fully excavated under licence 16E0101.

3.3. Excavation

In 2017 the excavation of enclosure DU0015-014001 (licence No. 16E0613) took place. The enclosure was slightly elliptical or sub-circular in plan and measured a maximum external diameter of 77m east-west x 70m north-south (68m east-west x 60m north-south internal diameter), with an entrance to the east (within the pipeline / haul route). During the test excavation a wooden hoop artefact was recovered from close to the bottom of the ditch and this has been dated to 1348 ± 27 BP (calibrated to AD 641-763). Further dating and analysis of finds from the enclosure site confirmed that this is a multi-phased site with the majority of activity taking place in the Late Iron Age/ Early medieval period. Phases represented on the site are Mesolithic, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Late Iron Age/ Early Medieval, Early Medieval – pre 800AD and Early Medieval – post 800AD. Significant finds recovered from the ditch during the excavation include early medieval pottery imported from the eastern Mediterranean (LRA 1/Bii ware, dated to c.450-600AD), E ware

dated to the late 6th - mid 7th Centuries, a wooden dish preserved in the base of the ditch, stone tools and worked antler artefacts. A huge volume of animal bone was recovered from the ditch and this includes whale/cetacean bones. Cereal drying (kilns) and metalworking activity were evident on site and there was one human burial (adult, male, approx. 40-45 years in age and 410-607AD in date) excavated within the enclosure.

The excavation of a further enclosure took place in 2019 and comprised a large double ditched enclosure, with the eastern side of the outer enclosure corresponding with the upstanding boundary between Portmarnock and Drumnigh townlands. The inner enclosure was slightly sub-circular or oval in plan and measured 36m northeast-southwest x 29m northwest-southeast internally and the outer enclosure was an irregular oval measuring 105m northeast-southwest x an estimated 71m northwest-southeast internally (the eastern extent of the outer enclosure was beyond the limit of excavation). The course of the outer enclosure was irregular, and the depth of both ditches was variable. Scientific dating has placed both enclosures in the early medieval period.

The first edition, 6-inch Ordnance Survey does not have any indication of these recently discovered and excavated enclosures. In the vicinity of the proposed haul route there are four additional recorded enclosures in Maynetown and Drumnigh townlands (DU0150-055, DU015-130, DU015-118 and DU015-135) (Figures 4-5).



Figure 4 Aerial image showing haul route, excavated enclosure 19E0303 and RMP sites in the vicinity

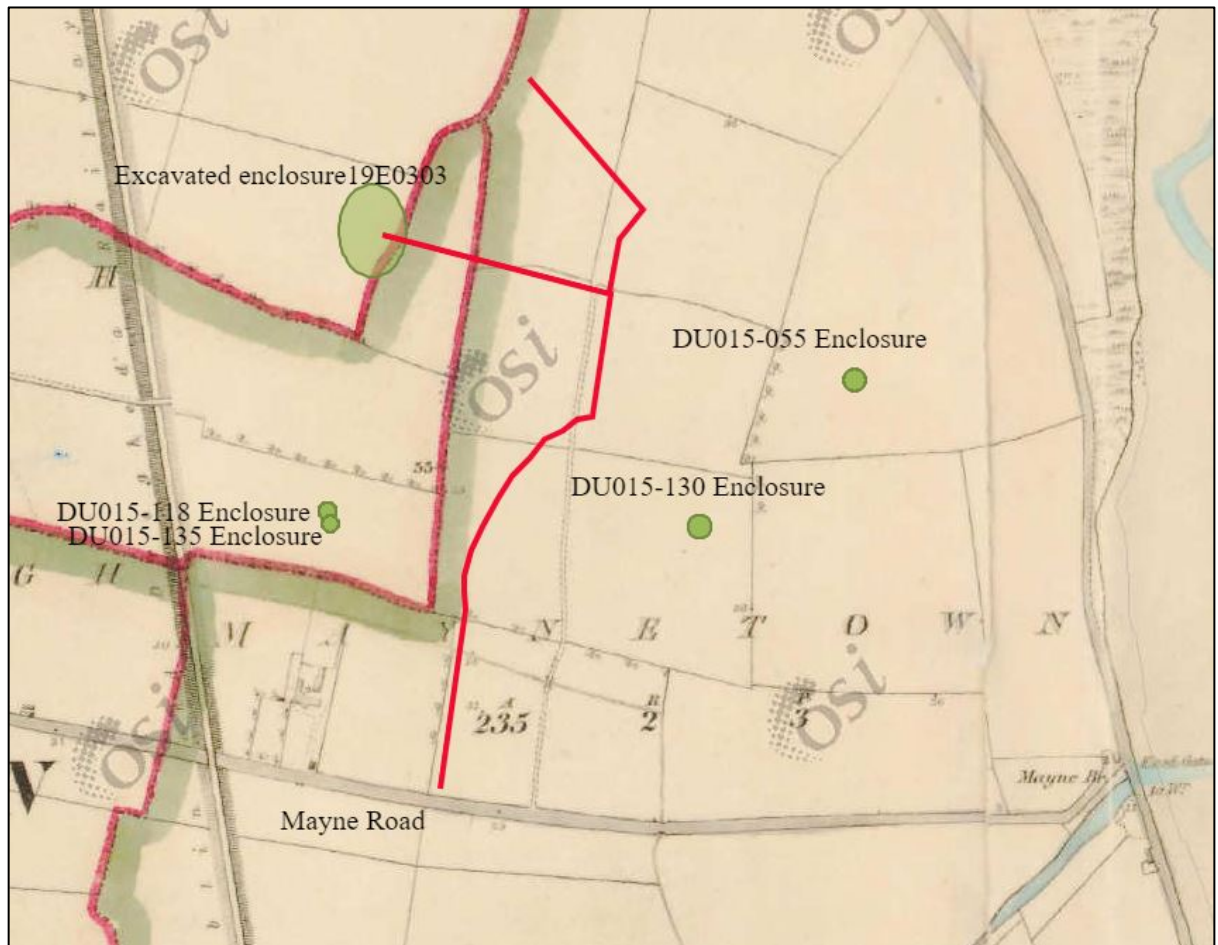


Figure 5 First edition OS map, showing haul route and surrounding sites

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING RESULTS

4.1. General

Archaeological testing was carried out over six days from 12th November 2020 by the author and two archaeological assistants. In total 11 test trenches were excavated totalling 850m (Figure 6).

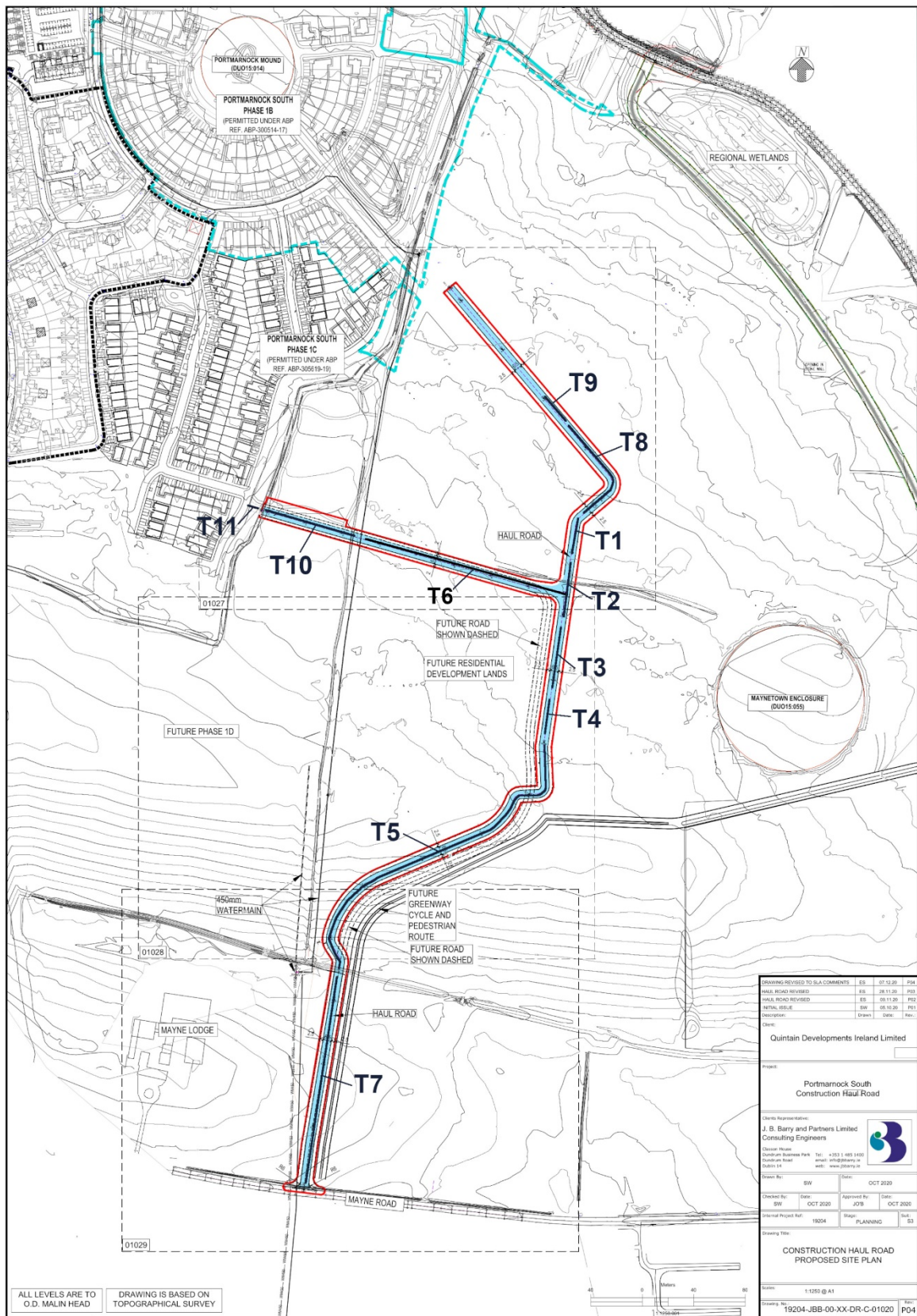


Figure 6 Haul route and test trenches T1 - T11

4.2. Methodology

A centreline trench was excavated along the proposed haul route using a tracked excavator equipped with a flat bucket. The route measures approximately 1100m in length and 10m width is required to be stripped. The route crosses townland boundaries between Portmarnock/Drumnigh and Drumnigh/Maynetown, however it was not proposed to excavate across the townland boundaries during this testing exercise, it is anticipated that will be carried out once planning permission has been obtained (likely 2021). The portion of the route within Portmarnock townland will disturb part of a buffer zone left to protect the upstanding townland boundary/outer enclosure ditch, which it is planned to preserve in situ. The area to be disturbed lies between the inner and outer ditched enclosures excavated under licence 19E0303, which date to the early medieval period.

The trenches were excavated to the surface of archaeological or potential archaeological deposits or to the underlying natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned and sectioned where necessary, to establish their nature, extent, and character. Photographs, plans and context recording sheets were used to record any features of potential archaeological interest.

4.3. Summary of Test Trenches T1 – T11

The natural subsoil on the site comprised of a yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, varying to yellow sandy clay and yellow-grey gravelly sand. Trenches T1-T7 were 1.8m wide and T8-T11 were 1.2m wide and depths ranged between 0.4 – 0.8m. Post-medieval field drains and drainage ditches were identified in several trenches.

No features, finds, or deposits of archaeological interest were identified in any of the trenches.

Table 1: Summary of Trench 1 (T1)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
Oriented north-south, T1 measured 32m long x 1.80m wide and 0.45m deep. An east-west oriented modern stone drain was uncovered in the northern part of the trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.40m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.45m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 2: Summary of Trench 2 (T2)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
Oriented north-south, T2 measured 28m long x 1.80m wide and 0.45m deep. Two linear drainage features, of the same orientation as an extant drainage ditch were exposed. These features ranged from 0.9-1.1m wide and 0.21-0.4m deep. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m – 0.35m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C3	0.35m - 0.40m	Mid yellow-brown clayey silt.	Subsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.45m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 3: Summary of Trench 3 (T3)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
Oriented north-south, T3 measured 45m long x 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.35m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.35m – 0.40m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 4: Summary of Trench 4 (T4)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
Oriented north-south, T4 measured 32m long x 1.8m wide and 0.45m deep. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.40m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.45m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 5: Summary of Trench 5 (T5)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
<p>T5 measured 265m in total length, 1.80m in width and ranged from 0.45 – 0.60m in depth. The trench meandered from northeast to southwest.</p> <p>An east-west modern drainage ditch was identified towards the northern end of the trench. The ditch had a broad V-shaped profile, with very steep sides and measured 2m wide x 1.2m deep. The single disturbed fill contained frequent inclusions of modern glass and delph and a plastic drainage pipe at the base. Another modern drainage feature was identified roughly half way along this trench, oriented north-south, and contained a dark brown humic fill and inclusions of red brick, stone, modern delph and seashell. It measured 2.15m wide and in excess of 0.35m deep.</p> <p>No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p>			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.40m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.45m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 6: Summary of Trench 6 (T6)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
<p>Oriented roughly east-west, T6 measured 120m long x 1.80m wide and 0.35m deep. The ground was quite disturbed towards the western end of the trench, with patches of gravel and waste material sealed beneath the topsoil. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p>			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.30m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.35m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 7: Summary of Trench 7 (T7)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
<p>Oriented north-south, T7 measured 147m long x 1.80m wide and 0.45m deep. There is a change in the natural subsoil towards the southern end of the trench. The topsoil deepened and the natural subsoil changed to a yellow-brown sandy clay. A modern stone filled drain with terracotta pipe oriented roughly north-south was identified. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p>			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.40m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.45m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 8: Summary of Trench 8 (T8)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
T8 measured 88m long x 1.20m wide x 0.4m deep. The trench was oriented southwest-northeast and then turned to the northwest. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.35m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.35m – 0.40m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 9: Summary of Trench 9 (T9)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
<p>Oriented roughly northwest-southeast, T9 measured 26m long x 1.20m wide and 0.4m deep. Two features, consistent with an agricultural furrow and a drainage ditch were identified. The drainage ditch was oriented northeast-southwest, measured 1.25m wide x 0.61m deep and had a U-shaped profile. It contained two fills: the upper fill consisted of a moderately compact, light orange-brown silty clay that contained occasional inclusions of modern glass. The basal fill comprised a loose grey-brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of seashell. The probable furrow was oriented roughly east-west, measured 0.94m wide x 0.16m deep and contained a single sterile yellow clay fill.</p> <p>No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p> <p>To the northwest of T9, archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping of the remainder of the haul route was carried out in conjunction with archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping for the Phase 1C compound (under licence ref. 20E0180) and no features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p>			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.35m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.35m – 0.40m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 10: Summary of Trench 10 (T10)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
<p>Oriented roughly east -west, T10 measured 62m long x 1.2m wide and ranged from 0.55 in the west to 0.8m deep in the east. The trench was bounded by the Portmarnock-Drumnigh townland boundary to the west and the Drumnigh-Maynetown townland boundary to the east.</p> <p>Two modern field drains were uncovered in the trench, both oriented northwest-southeast, one drain was comprised of stone and red brick, while the other consisted solely of redbrick. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.</p>			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.40m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C3	0.4m - 0.8m	Mid yellow-brown clayey silt in eastern end of trench.	Subsoil.
C2	0.40m – 0.8m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

Table 11: Summary of Trench 11 (T11)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION			
Oriented roughly east-west, T11 measured 5m long x 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. The trench was in close proximity to a previously excavated double-ditched enclosure site (Licence Ref: 19E0303) and was bordered by the Portmarnock-Drumnigh townland boundary to the east. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified.			
CONTEXT NO.	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
C1	0.00m - 0.25m	Humic organic mid brown layer.	Topsoil.
C2	0.25m – 0.30m (base of trench)	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone.	Natural subsoil.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Testing at Portmarnock was carried out over six days from 12th November 2020 and no features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were found in any of the trenches.

Based on the scale of the development, no further archaeological mitigation is required along the haul road apart from at the townland boundaries.

Additional archaeological investigation will be required in two locations where the proposed haul route crosses the townland boundaries between Portmarnock-Drumnigh and Drumnigh-Maynetown. This work will only be carried out once planning permission has been granted for the haul road in order to minimise the extent of the breaches at the townland boundaries.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Section of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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PLATES



Plate 1 Test trench 2, looking north



Plate 2 Test trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 3 Test trench 6, looking west



Plate 4 Test trench 7, looking north



Plate 5 Test trench 9, looking northwest



Plate 6 Drainage ditch within T9, looking northeast



Plate 7 Test trench 10, looking west



Plate 8 Test trench 11, looking east

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT RECORD*Table 12: Context Register*

CONTEXT NO.	CUT / FILL / OTHER	DESCRIPTION	AREA
1	Topsoil	Humic organic mid brown layer. Sod topped with grass	All
2	Natural Subsoil	Yellow-grey mottled clayey silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular stone	All
3	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown clayey silt.	T2 and T10

Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy

Lynwood House
Ballinteer Road
Dublin 16
D16 H9V6

Telephone: 01 5475795
Email: info@courtneydeery.ie
Website: www.courtneydeery.ie

Registered Company No. 519676
VAT No. IE1111365WH

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