

## 16 CULTURAL HERITAGE (ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ARCHITECTURAL)

### 16.1 Introduction

This chapter is prepared by Lisa Courtney of Courtney Deery Consultancy Ltd with contributions from J. M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. The chapter describes and assesses the archaeological, cultural and architectural heritage of the lands proposed for residential development at Portmarnock South Phase 1D (Figure 16.1).

The lands are located to the west of the Coast Road (R106) and the Baldoyle Estuary, north of the Mayne Road (R123) and to the east of the Dublin-Belfast Railway Line and to the south of the existing 'St. Marnock's Bay' residential development (Figure 16.2).

This chapter describes the archaeological findings as a result of investigations undertaken to assess the potential of Phase 1D lands including geophysical survey, test excavation and excavation as well as investigations and archaeological monitoring which have been undertaken across the site for the previous phases of works (Phase 1A, 1B and 1C 2016 – 2019). Excavations are also described which have recently been undertaken in lands adjacent to the development, west of the Dublin-Belfast Railway Line, but which are part of the same overall archaeological landscape.

This chapter was prepared by Lisa Courtney, a director of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy who has over 25 years of field and research experience in environmental impact assessment reporting. Lisa holds a BA (Hons) in Archaeology and Economics and a Msc (Ag) in Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin and has obtained certificates from the University of Oxford in Condition Surveys of Historic Buildings (2017) and the assessment of setting of heritage assets (2013). Lisa holds a higher diploma in Planning and Environmental Law (2020). Lisa is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) and a member of the International Council of Monuments and Places (ICOMOS).

Consultation has taken place with the National Monuments Service and Fingal County Council throughout all previous phases of archaeological investigation and excavation works and during this phase of work.

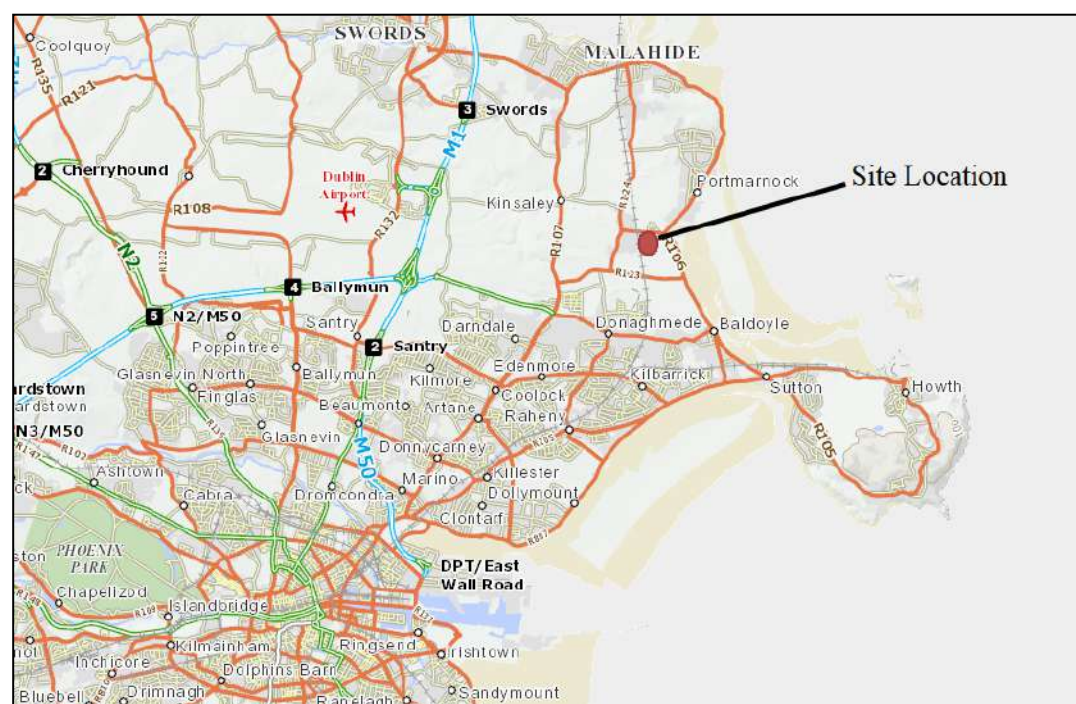


Figure 16.1: Site Location.

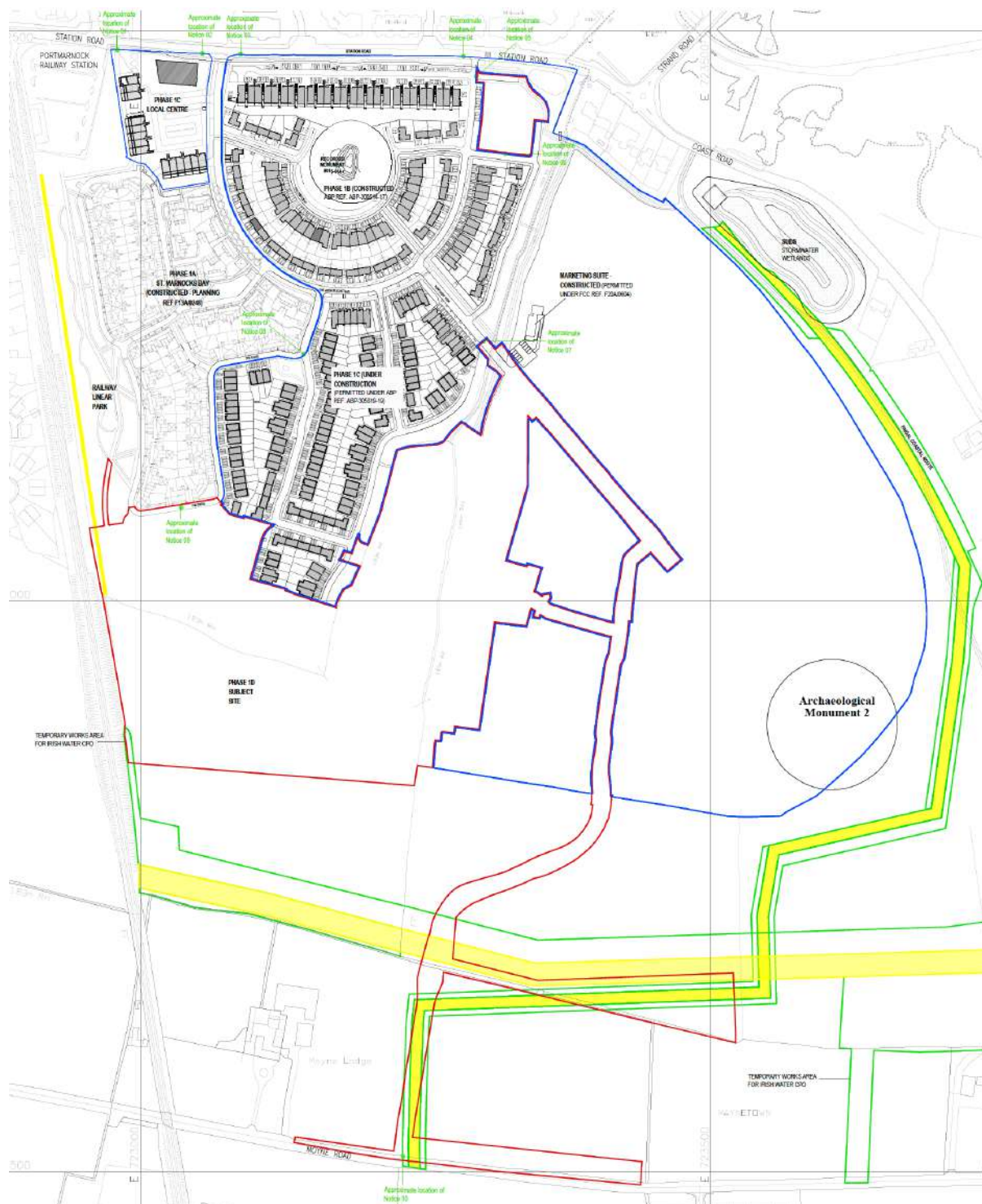


Figure 16.2: Extent of Proposed Development at Portmarnock South Phase 1D (highlighted in red).

## 16.2 Assessment Methodology

The evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource of the Proposed Development site was based on a desk study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, supported by a site inspection (see Section 16.2.2). It also incorporated the results of archaeological monitoring of ground investigation works and archaeological testing at the site. This has established, as far as the records allow, the archaeological potential of the site and its immediate environs.

### 16.2.1 Guidance and Legislation

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted to inform the assessment: -

- National Monuments (Amendments) Acts, 1930-2014, as amended (Appendix 16.1).
- The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (Appendix 16.1).
- Heritage Act, 1995.
- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada) 1985, ratified by Ireland in 1991.
- Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta) 1992, ratified by Ireland in 1997.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2017), Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, Draft August 2017.
- EPA (2015), Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements, Draft September 2015.
- EPA (2002), Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements.
- EPA (2003), Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements).
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands.
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, 2005, NRA.
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, 2005, NRA.
- National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

### 16.2.2 Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken on 25 May 2021 to assess the current condition of the Proposed Development lands. The site inspection was carried out within the context of an assessment of the archaeological and cultural heritage potential of the surrounding area (e.g. results of previous archaeological investigations nearby), taking cognisance of the potential implications of the development on the surviving cultural heritage landscape (e.g. where upstanding monuments might be visible).

### 16.2.3 Categorisation of the Baseline Environment

The assessment has been conducted based on the available information and has followed the existing best practice format of desk and field study. The desk study used the following sources:

National Monuments, Preservation Orders and Register of Historic Monuments lists, which were sourced directly from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ('DCHG');

Record of Monuments and Places ('RMP') and Sites and Monuments Record ('SMR'). The SMR, as revised in the light of fieldwork, formed the basis for the establishment of the statutory RMP in 1994 (pursuant to Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994). The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed

monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. The information held in the RMP files is read in conjunction with published constraint maps. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland ('ASI', National Monuments Service, DCHG), which is available online at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Those sites designated as SMR sites have not yet been added to the statutory record, but are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: -

- Fingal County Development Plan (2017 – 2023).
- The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland ('NMI').
- Cartographic sources, which included Down (1654), Rocque (1760), Taylor (1816) and Ordnance Survey ('OS') maps.
- Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database (1970 – 2020).
- Other documentary sources (as listed in the references, Section 16.7).
- Aerial imagery (Google Earth 2001 – 2020, Bing 2013; OSi 1995, 2000, 2006).

The methodology has been designed so a full understanding of the potential effects on the character of the historic landscape can be assessed. A detailed archaeological and historical background has been included which describes the character of the immediate and wider historic landscape, as well as the individual heritage assets, and highlights the potential to reveal subsurface features. The methodology used is based on the EPA Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, and both direct physical effects, as well as impacts to the setting of individual heritage assets, have been assessed.

By using all the different sources and data sets we have developed an understanding of the historic character that surrounds and is part of the Proposed Development and as a result of this we can assess the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development as well as the Phase 1D development.

#### 16.2.4 Categorisation of the Baseline Environment

The assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development relies on a combination of qualitative and quantitative assessment.

Cultural heritage assets / landscapes are considered to be a non-renewable resource and location sensitive. In this context, any change to their environment, such as construction activity and ground disturbance works, could affect these sites. The likely significance of all effects is determined in consideration of the magnitude of the effects and the baseline rating of the cultural heritage asset (i.e. its sensitivity or value). Having assessed the magnitude of effect with respect to the sensitivity/value of the asset, the overall significance of the effect is then classified as imperceptible, slight, moderate, significant, or profound. A glossary of impact assessment terms, including the criteria for the assessment of impact significance, is contained in Appendix 16.2.

Cultural heritage is a broad term that includes a wide range of tangible and intangible cultural considerations. It encompasses aspects of archaeology and architecture and is expressed in the physical landscape as well as in non-physical ways. Cultural heritage can relate to settlements, former designed landscapes, building and structures, as well as folklore, townland and place names, historical events and traditions.

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<sup>1</sup> EPA (2017) Draft Guidelines on information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

## 16.3 Receiving Environment

### 16.3.1 Archaeological Heritage

#### 16.3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of flint scatters, has been found in a number of locations along the north Dublin coast, dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Mitchell discovered both Mesolithic and Neolithic flints as well as polished stone axes at the raised beaches at Sutton during his excavations in the 1950s and 1970s (Mitchell 1956, 1972; Stout and Stout 1992) and a major assemblage of flint artefacts was found at Paddy's Hill in Robswalls townland in the 1980's as a result of systematic field walking and excavation. In total 2,809 artefacts were retrieved from Paddy's Hill, ranging in date from Neolithic to early Bronze Age. The only structural evidence identified during the excavation was two pits, the contents of which produced dates of around 2000 BC (4120+/-70 BP and 4040+/-70 BP, Keeling et al, 1994).

Other prehistoric material is relatively rare in this part of the county, and Stout and Stout (1992) speculate that centuries of continuous tillage north of the Liffey must have led to the destruction of a large number of archaeological monuments. Despite this, recent excavations to the south of Station Road in Portmarnock (16E0613, 16E0101 and 18E0016, McLoughlin 2019b, 2019c, 2020) have added to the evidence of prehistoric activity in coastal north county Dublin. A variety of flint artefacts and two stone axeheads recovered during the course of the excavations attest to prehistoric activity in the area, as does burnt mound activity in the form of a large waterhole filled with burnt stone and charcoal rich soil, dated to the early Bronze Age (BC 2434 – 2051). This feature was discovered close to the coast road (R106) during monitoring of an east-west pipeline trench. A pit containing grinding stone fragments was dated 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) (McLoughlin, 2019b). The flint artefacts from these recent excavations include a tiny barbed and tanged arrowhead (16E0101:198:1, Beaker), a hollow based arrowhead (16E0613:2, Neolithic/Beaker), a butt-trimmed flake (18E0016:2194, later Mesolithic) and an elongated leaf-shaped projectile form (18E0016:1809, Neolithic). A significant late Bronze Age find from the Phase 1C excavation is a copper alloy Dowris phase knife blade (19E0303:4).

The Neolithic period (c. 4000 – c. 2400 BC) saw new developments in ritual activity and the building of the first permanent monuments in the Irish landscape; megalithic tombs. A large, well-preserved portal tomb at Howth Demesne, at the foot of Muck Rock and a number of cairns on Lambay Island, could date to the Neolithic period. This whole stretch of north Dublin coast has a clear view of Lambay Island to the east and excavations on the island have revealed areas of Neolithic activity associated with stone axe and flint tool manufacturing (Cooney, 2000).

The Bronze Age (c. 2400 – c.600 BC) 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.

There is a note on RMP maps from the 1980s 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 (18E0016) and returned a radiocarbon date range in the early Bronze Age (BC 2135 – 1920) (McLoughlin, 2020a).

Given the indications of prehistoric activity in the area it is possible that the upstanding mound at Portmarnock (DU015-014) could be prehistoric. Testing of the mound in 2007 (Moriarty, 2009a) suggested a medieval date, however the mound was quite disturbed. Based on the newly revealed evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding area, it now seems more likely that the mound had its origins in prehistory. Morris (1939) in an examination of the Dínsheanchas (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'.

Mayne (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. It is possible that if the mound did originate in prehistory, it could have been used as the burial place of Maine.

#### 16.3.1.2 Early Medieval Period

The early medieval period represents the introduction of Christianity into Ireland, and there are several large well-known early medieval Christian foundations in north County Dublin. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD. In Kinsealy townland, c. 1.6km to the northwest a church was in ruins by the 17<sup>th</sup> 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).

A burial discovered in the grounds of Suttonians rugby club in 1937 (DU015-022) was laid out in a stone lined cist oriented east-west with no accompanying grave goods (Raftery 1941) and is thought to date to the early medieval period.

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). The early medieval date ranges of these sites correspond well with the majority of dated ringforts which appear to have been constructed between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD (Stout 1997, 22-31). Ringforts are a site type that is relatively uncommon in the archaeological record for north County Dublin, partly due to the intensive agricultural practices that have destroyed any surface trace of these sites, however, recent archaeological investigations, including aerial photographic analysis, geophysical survey and archaeological testing have shown that many of these enclosures survive 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).

#### 16.3.1.3 Viking Activity

By the early historic period shipping routes had been established along the eastern coast and the arrival of the Vikings at the end of the 8th century saw the establishment of Hiberno-Norse settlements along the coastline. Fingal was in close proximity to the Viking settlement at Dublin, and the significant Norse influence on Fingal can be seen from both Gaelic place-names, such as Fine Gall or 'territory of the strangers' and Baile Dubh Gaill (Baldoyle: 'town of the dark stranger').

Viking rule and settlement influenced the region for over two hundred and fifty years, from the ninth to the twelfth centuries. Bradley suggests Viking Dublin should be looked at as part of 'the rurally settled area of the Dublin Scandinavians' rather than as a number of successful trading settlements strategically located along the coast (Simms and Fagan 1992, 89).

According to Hurley, a Viking harbour is recorded in the vicinity of Baldoyle, with the early Viking settlement located further inland than the present-day village, as the seashore was at a higher level than it is today (Hurley 1983). Although there has never been any definitive evidence for this, archaeological excavations undertaken at a rectangular cropmark site in Baldoyle in 2014 provided a radiocarbon date of 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> century for a charred seed retrieved from the bottom of one of the features (Duffy, 2014). This implies that there was at least some level of settlement activity there during the Viking period. There is also evidence to suggest that a Norse community lived on Lambay, at least on a temporary basis, using it as a base from which to attack the mainland (Cooney, 1993).

#### 16.3.1.4 Medieval and Post Medieval Period

Excavation 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 2020a). The site corresponds to the medieval vill 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 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century (Moriarty, 2009b and McLoughlin, 2020a).

From the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Anglo-Normans superimposed the manorial system of landholding they had acquired from England and the Welsh borderlands onto their newly conquered territory in Fingal. 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 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 only surviving structural remains which may represent a mill structure in the vicinity of Portmarnock Bridge consist of a grass covered rectangular platform at the edge of the estuary located at the site of the Corn Mill shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS six-inch map. According to the archaeological record ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) the remains of the mill comprises the footing of the mill building walls, the sluice gate, 19<sup>th</sup> century mill

race and fragmentary remains of the walls revetting the mill pond and inlet. 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.

### 16.3.2 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

There are no RMP / SMR sites recorded within the Phase 1D residential lands (Figure 16.3). To the north of the Portmarnock lands adjacent to Station Road, the proposed wastewater facility is to be developed as part of this phase of works and is located in an area previously excavated (Licence No. 08E0376 and 18E0016). This area revealed the remnants of a medieval settlement (13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century in date) and the following SMR numbers have been assigned to the site, DU015-136001/002/003.



**Figure 16.3:** RMP/ SMR sites overlaid on 2018 Google Earth Imagery with the approximate location of the Proposed Development superimposed.



### 16.3.3 Site Investigations: Testing and Excavation

Pre-planning testing of a haul route relating to Phase 1C and subsequent phases was carried out over six days from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Maynetown and Drumnigh townlands (Figure 16.4). 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 (McLoughlin, 2020b). The permitted haul road is large consistent with the location of the proposed route connecting the Proposed Development with Moyne Road (R123) (Figure 16.4). This report is presented in Appendix 16.3.

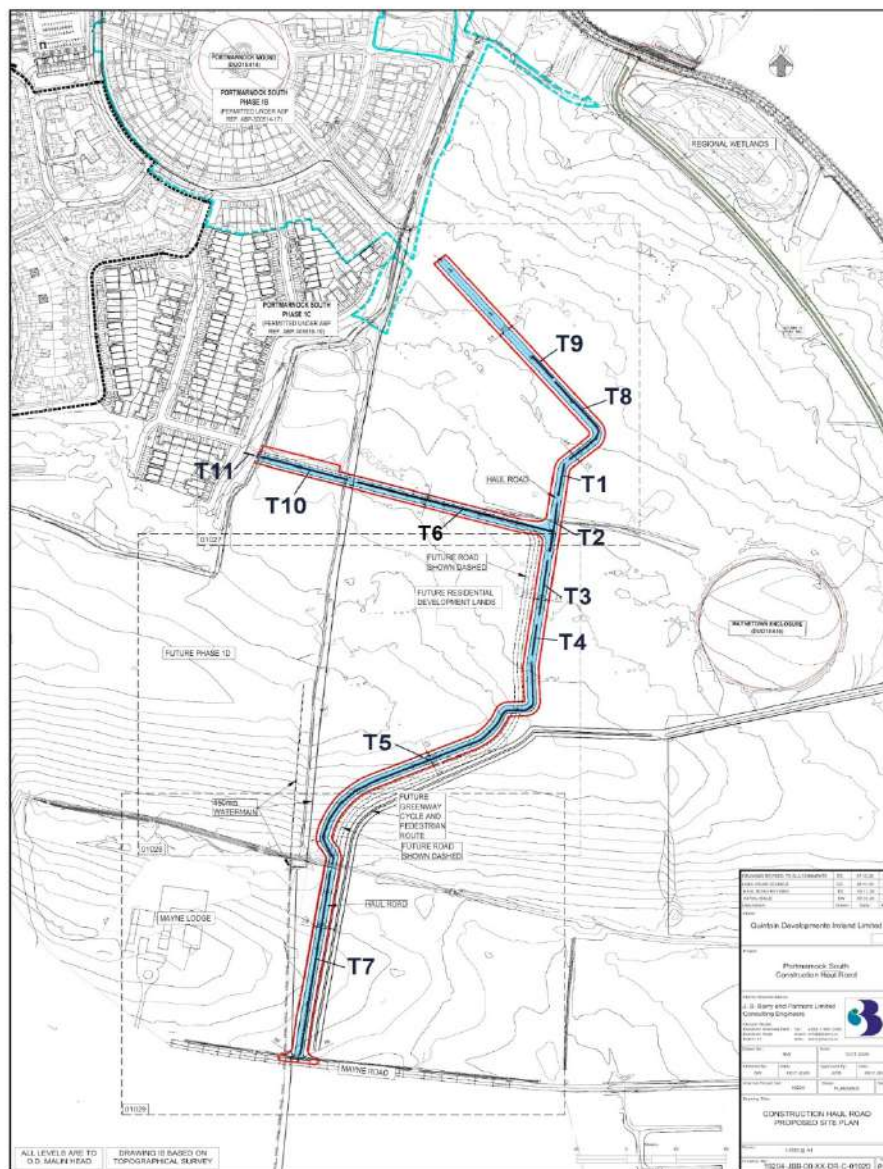


Figure 16.4: Location of haul route testing, T1-T11.

It was noted that archaeological investigation and recording would be required in advance of construction in two locations, where the haul route is proposed to cross the townland boundaries between Portmarnock / Drumnigh and Drumnigh / Maynetown. This is because the townland boundary between Portmarnock and Drumnigh corresponds with the boundary of the excavated Phase 1C early medieval enclosure and as such has the potential to contain archaeological material. Also both townland boundaries are of some antiquity being unchanged since the Down Survey map of 1656. This excavation took place under licence No. 20E0180 in May 2021.

### 16.3.3.1 Portmarnock / Drumnigh Boundary (Plates 16.1 and 16.2)

The vegetation from both the ditch and bank was removed by a 13-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket, followed by the removal of topsoil from the bank and the area immediately west of the bank with a flat bucket. As it was only possible to access the boundary from the east side for the purpose of this investigation some of the topsoil was pulled into the ditch to allow access across the ditch to the bank side without disturbing the ditch itself.

The substantial bank which lay on the Portmarnock side was reduced gradually by machine fitted with a flat bucket and cleaned back by hand at intervals to identify any deposits of potential archaeological interest. The bank measured c.5m wide and 1.7m in height and was made up of six layers. The four lower layers were made up of redeposited natural subsoil with varying quantities of stone within, topped by a layer of topsoil and over that a mixed layer of topsoil and relatively recent upcast from the ditch. No features or finds of interest were noted within the bank deposits but two pits were identified under the bank. The pits measured 0.62m x 0.45m x 0.3m deep (C5) and 0.24m x 0.2m x 0.1m deep (C9) and the fill of C5 contained inclusions of seashell, animal bone and charcoal. The pits pre-date the bank and dating evidence suggest that they were associated with the excavated early medieval, ditched enclosure to the west.



**Plate 16.1:** Portmarnock / Drumnigh townland boundary bank and pits under the bank.

Once the bank was fully excavated and recorded the topsoil was removed from the ditch, followed by the gradual excavation of the fill. This was gradually reduced using the flat bucket, with the area being cleaned by hand at intervals to assess the nature of the fill. The ditch was a wide 'U' shape in profile, measuring 3m wide and 1.15m deep and contained one fill. The fill was a dark brown loose clayey silt with frequent inclusions of land snails towards the base. The west edge of the ditch was very disturbed by the roots and root balls of mature trees which had been growing out of its side. It was evident that this ditch had been well maintained by repeated cleaning in the past and no finds or deposits of archaeological interest were identified within it.

The presence of the two pits beneath the bank, which appears to incorporate the eastern side of the outer enclosure could be an indication that the outer enclosure may have been slightly later than the inner one. Analysis of a soil sample retrieved from one of the pits may assist in determining if this is the case. The dating sample returned a date ranging from the mid 7<sup>th</sup> – mid 9<sup>th</sup> century, dating the pit to the early medieval period. This may indicate small scale activity in and around the time that the enclosure was built (McLoughlin pers comm).



**Plate 16.2:** Portmarnock / Drumnigh townland boundary bank and ditch.

#### 16.3.3.2 Drumnigh / Maynestown Boundary (Plates 16.3)

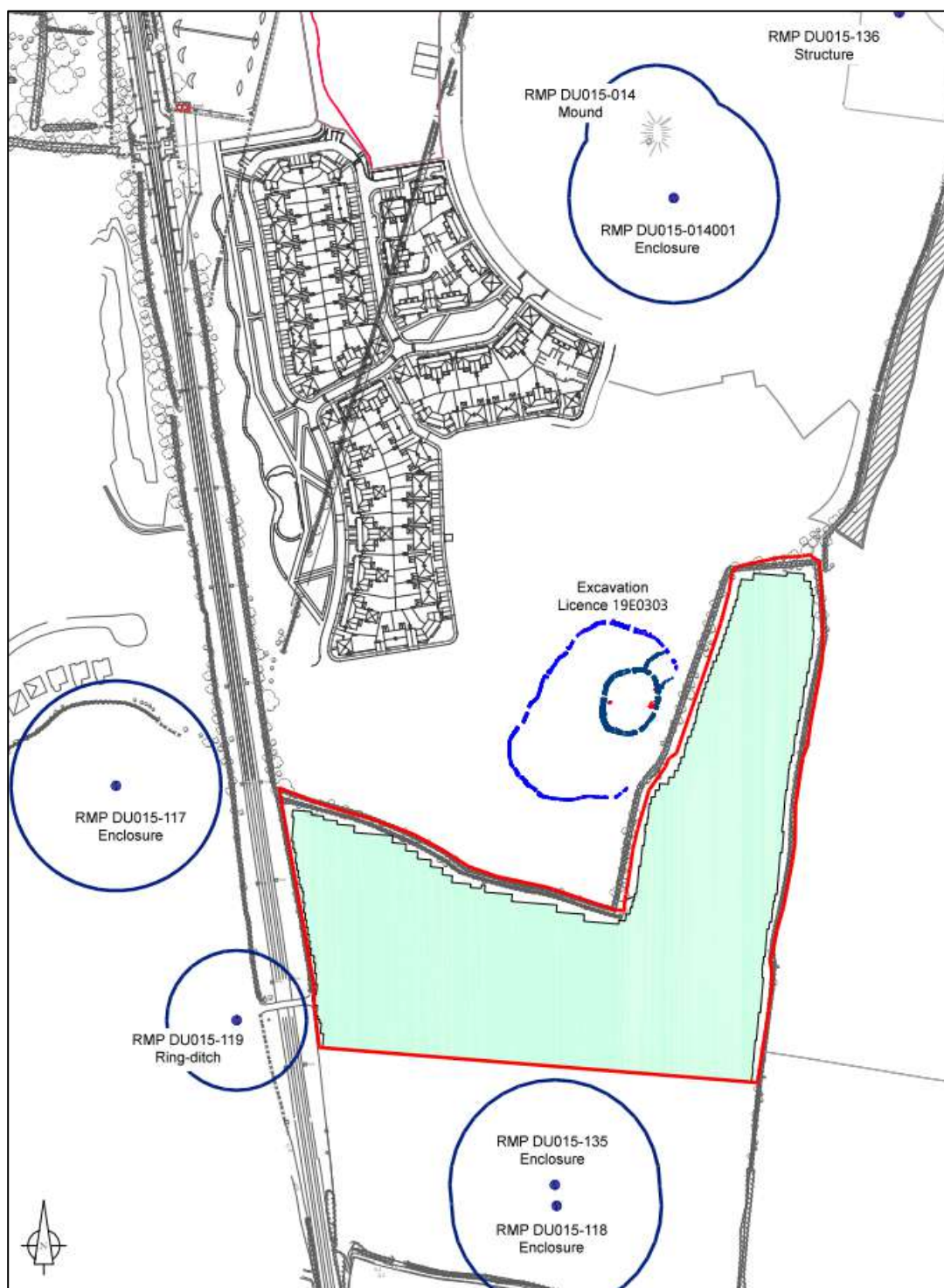
The vegetation from both the ditch and bank was removed by a 13-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket, followed by the removal of topsoil from the bank with a flat bucket. The low bank which lay on the Drumnigh side was removed first, being reduced in increments, and inspected for any deposits of potential archaeological interest. The bank measured c. 2.5m wide and 0.95m in height, of which the upper 0.65m comprised topsoil. The lower 0.3m of bank material was comprised of a mixture of subsoil and redeposited natural subsoil. Following removal of the bank, the ditch fill which comprised 0.85m of homogenous dark organic soil was excavated. Frequent land snail shells were noted towards the base of the fill indicating the presence of vegetation in the ditch. The ditch fill was inspected at intervals for any indication that the deposit may be of archaeological interest. No features, finds or deposits warranting any further investigation were uncovered. The ditch cut measured c. 2m wide and 1.4m in total depth and presented as a broad 'U' shape in profile.



**Plate 16.3:** Portmarnock / Drumnigh townland boundary bank and ditch.

#### **16.3.4 Site Investigations: Geophysical Survey**

A detailed gradiometer geophysical survey took place in May 2021 under licence 21R089 over the lands proposed for the Phase 1D development (Appendix 16.4). The main aim of the survey was to identify any responses which may represent previously unknown archaeological remains within the application area. It was an objective of the survey to identify any responses that may represent associated features to the adjacent enclosure sites.



**Figure 16.5:** Showing the location of the detailed gradiometer survey (in green) (after JM Leigh Surveys 2021).

The results included short linear responses in the north-east of the data set, they may represent plough damaged archaeology (10) associated with the adjacent excavated enclosure. However, there is no clear pattern or form, and they may equally be agricultural in origin. Test excavation in 2019 (T3, 5, and 7 Licence 19E0303) and in 2020 (T10, Licence 20E0598) did not reveal any archaeological material in this area.

Parallel faint linear trends run north to south through the data (12) (Figure 16.7). It is possible that these represent a trackway, perhaps associated with the enclosures to the north and south. However, the trends are at the limits of instrument detection and may represent a more recent farm trackway.

A small area of increased response in the northwest of the data is of possible interest (14) (Figure 16.7). This may represent a spread of burnt material. However, archaeological interpretation is tentative. This may equally represent more recent activity.

Linear trends in the data correspond with former field divisions as depicted in historic mapping (2-8) (Figure 16.7). The linear trends reflect former field divisions and agricultural activity.

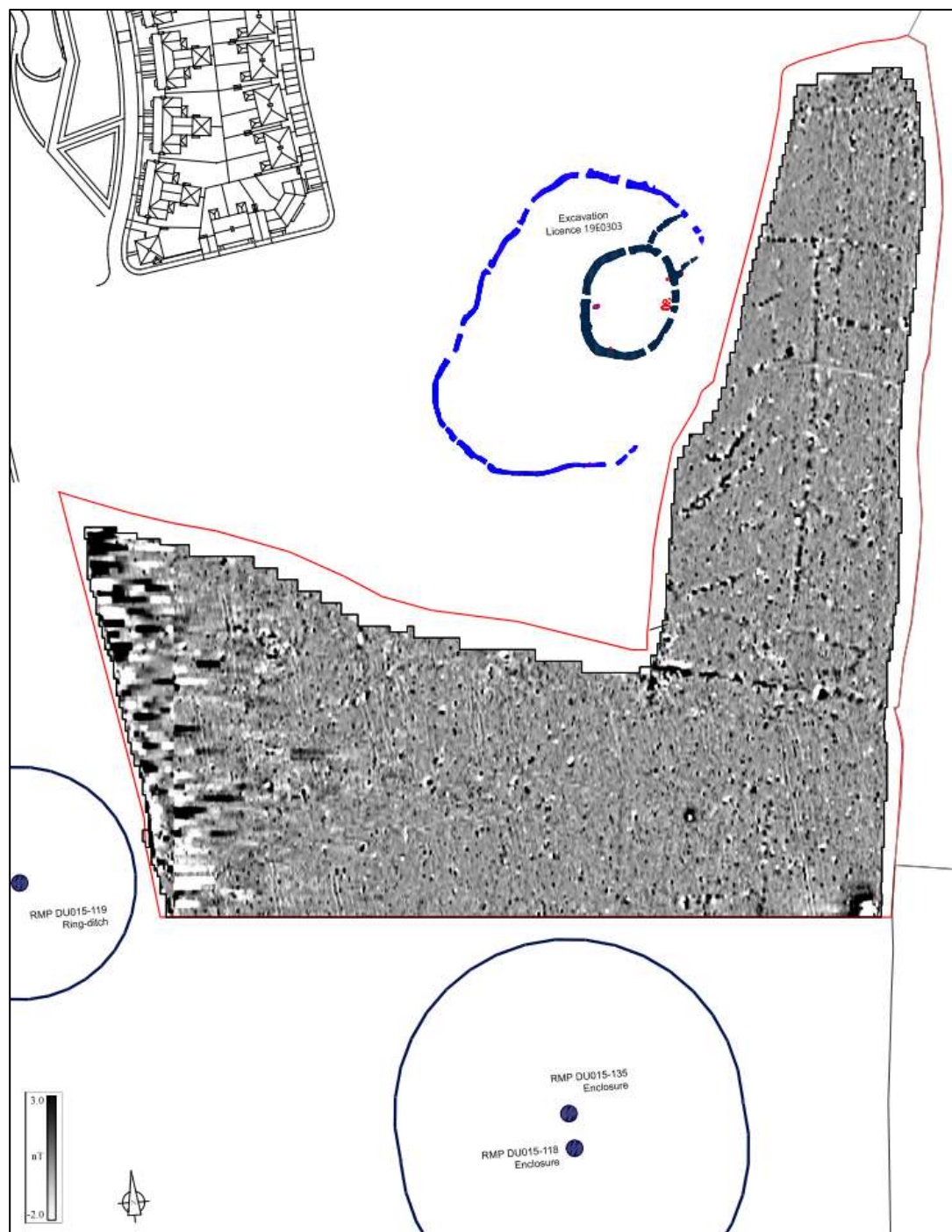


Figure 16.6: Summary greyscale image (JM Leigh Surveys 2021).

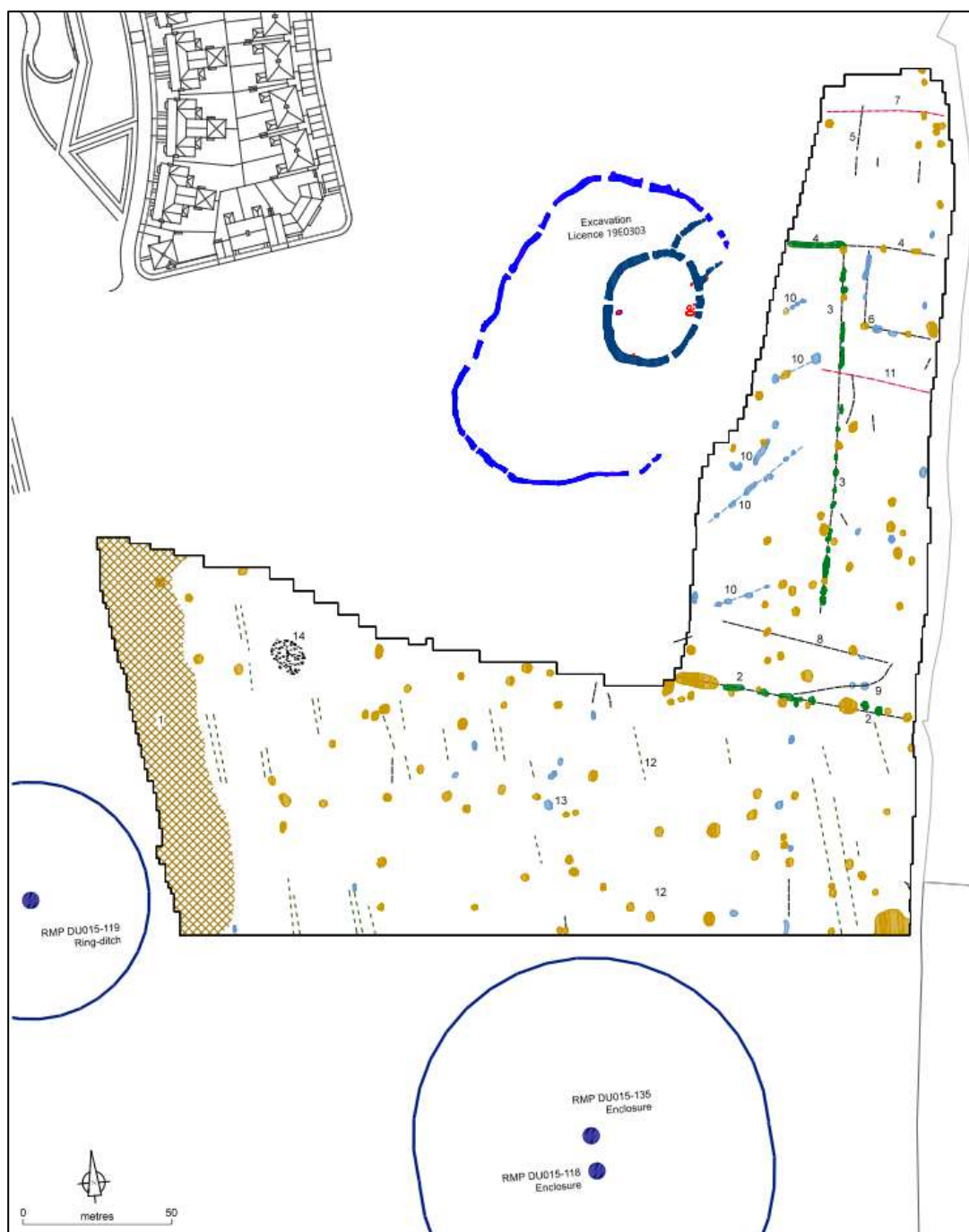


Figure 16.7: Summary interpretation diagram (JM Leigh Surveys 2021).

### 16.3.5 Cultural Heritage

#### 16.3.5.1 Folklore

Morris (1939) has suggested that the Portmarnock mound (RMP No.: DU015-014) may have been a burial place of Maine, son of Maedhbh and Ailill of Connacht. He based this assumption on a passage in the Metrical Dinshenchas, which describes Maine being killed at Inber cichmaine, ([www.celt.ucc.ie](http://www.celt.ucc.ie)), a place Morris equates with Portmarnock Bay. As the place of Maine’s death is described as being located at the northern end of the inlet, Morris claims that this is similar to where the tumulus / mound is located in Portmarnock townland at the northern end of what is now known as Portmarnock Bay.

*“At Inber Cichmain, though it be narrow, was slain (a mighty onslaught) far-famed Maine, son of Medb and Ailell, exulting in fury of warlike combats.*

*Him Fergna, generous sob of widowed Findchoem, smote, in his flower, and his grave is in the ground, where the tall stripling murdered him.*

*Dreadful the deed unworthy that Findchoem’s son committed, the killing of Maine Andoe, lord of steeds, known over every bright blue-watered plain.*

*Around the Curragh – famous meeting! It was ruin, it was great pity, - befell the loss of mighty Maine, that was not witless, whereby the inlet got its name.*

*There was he slain (harsh the tidings), Ailill Find’s ill-omened son, Cichmaine, stout champion against death, when he leapt into the inlet in the north.*

*Or else, this is the true story of the stranger’s death by no kindly deed, even the killing of him with the fierce heavy eyes as he hauled the fish out of the inlets.”*

However, this was based on a rather dubious comparison between the local topography and the descriptions in the text. Indeed, other scholars, such as O’Hogan, have placed Inber cichmaine not at Portmarnock but instead, further north at Tullyallen, ([www.publish.ucc.ie](http://www.publish.ucc.ie)), where the River Mattock enters the Boyne.

#### 16.3.5.2 Townland Names

The name Portmarnock is derived from Port Mo Ernoc or Ernan, interpreted as St Mernoc’s bank or landing place. The neighbouring townland of Maynetown is thought to have derived from Maine, the son of Medb and Ailill who is associated with the mound. Despite the English suffix ‘town,’ the name is of Irish origin. Drumnigh appears to be derived from drom, a back or ridge, referring to a small hillock.

#### 16.3.5.3 Cartographic Sources

##### **The Down Survey (1656 – 1658)**

The Down Survey of the 1650s was at the time the most coherent mapping project ever undertaken in the world. The aim was to measure lands forfeited by the Catholic Irish in order to redistribute it to Merchant Adventurers and English soldiers. ‘Portmathnock’ is indicated on the ‘Map of County Dublin’, with the inlet and a bridge indicated. The map of ‘The Barony of Coolock in the County of Dublin’ depicts the Parishes of Portmarnock and Moyne, with the inlet appearing to feed two tidal mills, one in Moyne, and the other in the vicinity of the recorded mill site at Maynetown / Portmarnock (DU015-015). The townland of Portmarnock as indicated on the ‘The Parishes of Portmarnock and Howth in the Barony of Coolock’ does not indicate any structures or features. The townland boundaries between Portmarnock, Mayne and Drumnigh are unchanged since the time of the Down Survey (Figure 16.8).



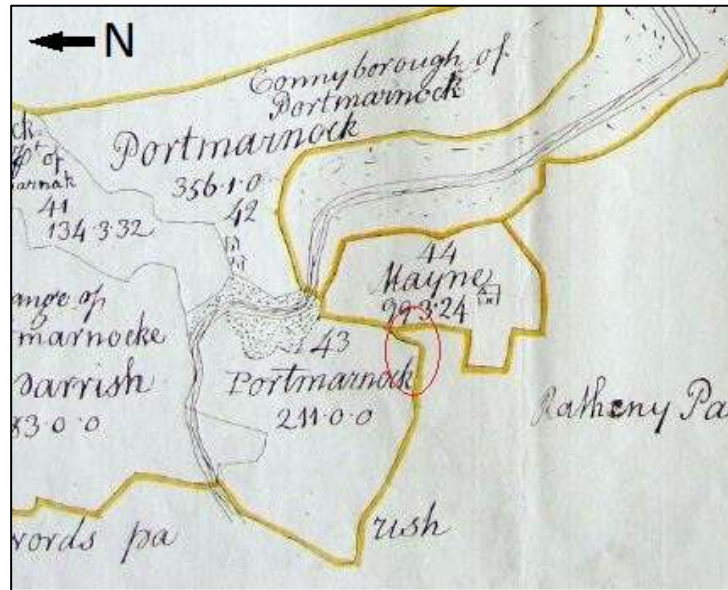


Figure 16.8: Down Survey Parish map of Portmarnock with approximate site location marked.

**Rocque’s ‘An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin’ (1760)**

Rocque’s map of 1760 depicts the inlet and mudflats, with a cluster of houses north of the bridge at Portmarnock indicating Portmarnock village. A mill is also depicted by the bridge. The mound (DU015-014), is depicted to the north of the site and south of a large house with formal gardens. A short north-south aligned avenue appears to connect the two, presumably incorporating the existing monument as a landscape design feature. The mound is the only feature depicted within the vicinity of the Phase 1D development, with the remaining lands shown to have been open farmland. To the south of the site an east-road is depicted which corresponds with the existing R123 and the Maine River is depicted south of that and the Maine Bridge further east where it meets the coast road (Figure 16.9).

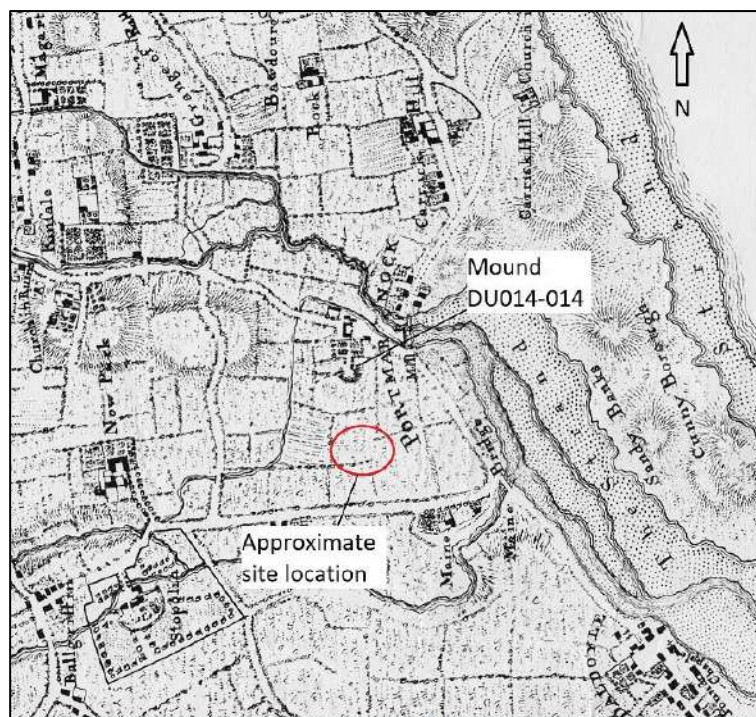


Figure 16.9: Rocque’s map of County Dublin (1760)

### Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin (1816)

Taylor's 1816 map of the area shows the development of the Station Road and a cluster of buildings at Portmarnock Village. The mound (DU015-014) is indicated as a knoll south of the road, and a series of streams appear to run through the townlands of Portmarnock, Drumnigh and Maynestown. A cluster of buildings annotated Maine House is depicted to the south of the site and north of the east-west road which is unchanged from the earlier mapping (Figure 16.10).



Figure 16.10: Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin (1816)

### Ordnance Survey Mapping

Ordnance Survey Ireland completed their first map survey of Ireland between 1829 and 1842, producing the First Edition 6-Inch-to-the-Mile maps which are renowned for their accuracy and level of detail. The Dublin sheets were produced in 1843 and the lands at Portmarnock are shown as open agricultural fields at that time. The mound (DU015-014) is depicted to the north and the townland boundaries between Portmarnock / Drumnigh and Drumnigh / Maynestown are illustrated. The line of the railway is depicted with the note 'Drogheda Railway in Progress', clearly transecting the earlier field divisions. A building is depicted in the same location as Mayne House from the earlier mapping but it is not annotated (Figure 16.11).

The 25-inch edition of 1863 – 7 shows the completed railway and the addition of Portmarnock Station (Figure 16.12). An enclosure is depicted around the mound (DU015-014), with a 'Tank' annotation and a northwest by southeast boundary with tree line appearing south of the mound. The buildings depicted on Taylor's map and the first edition OS map have been added to and are now annotated Mayne Lodge. There is little change in the Phase 1D area, with a field boundary to the north and the south of the area having been removed (Figure 16.12).

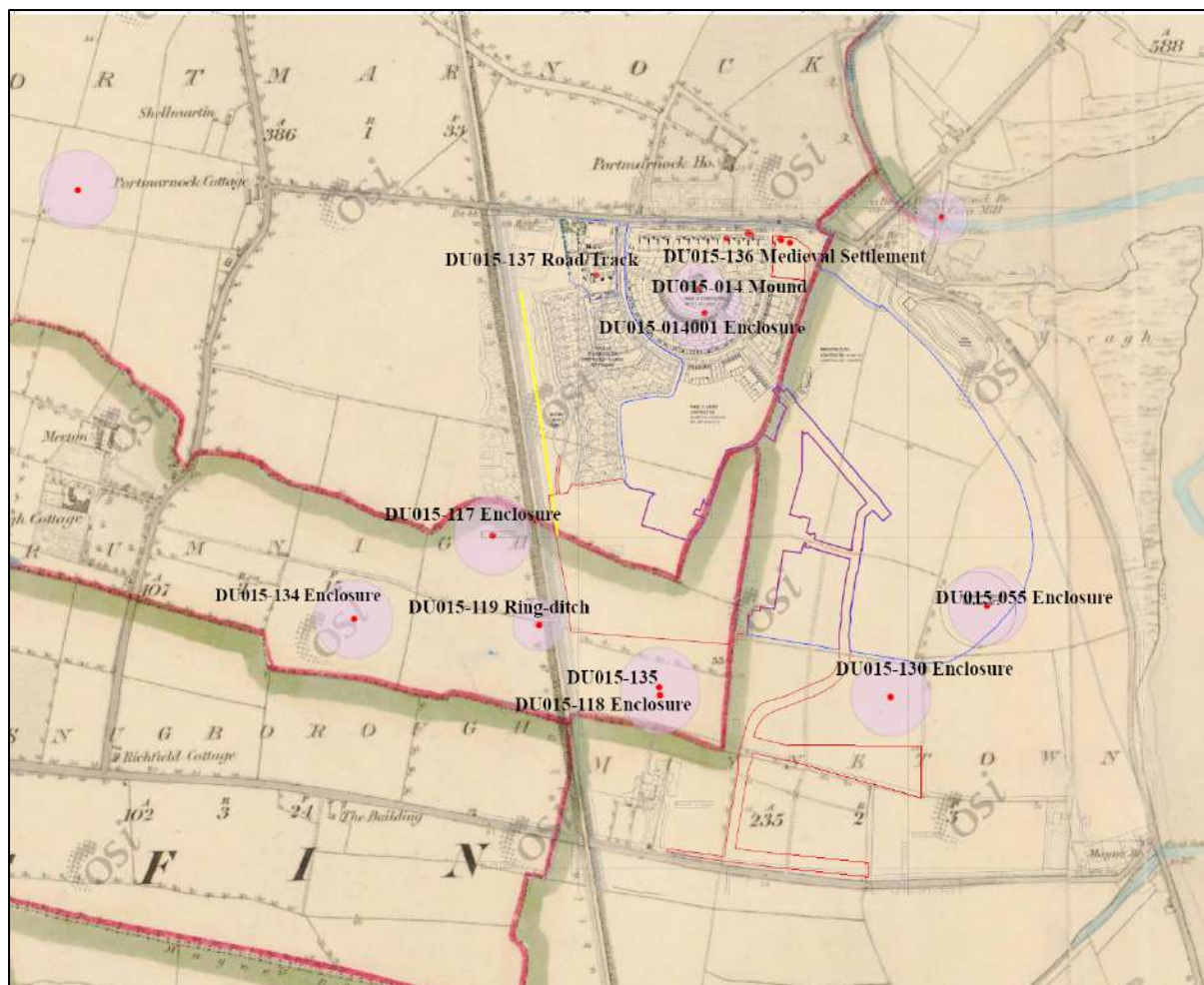
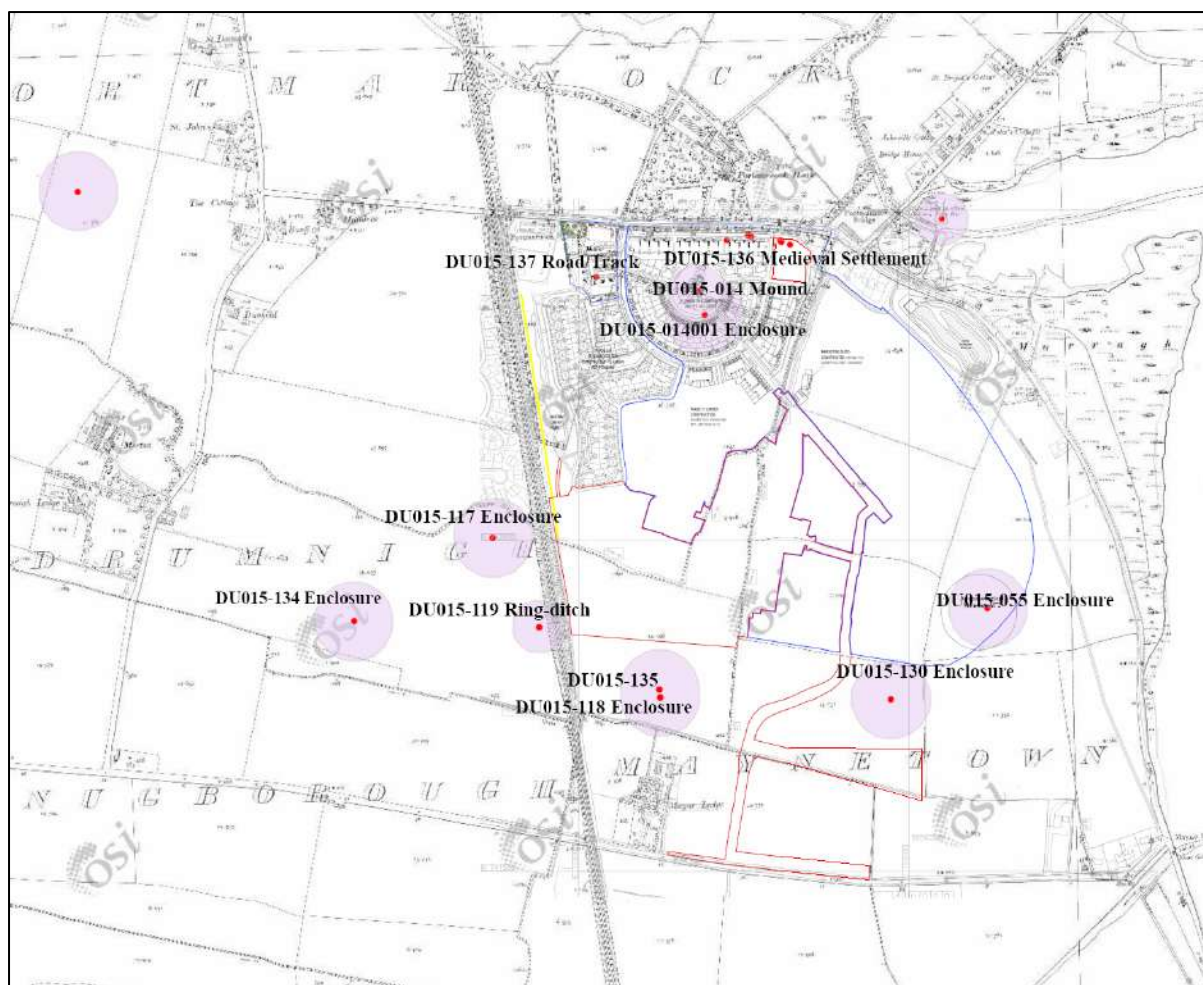


Figure 16.11: Approximate location of Phase 1D First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1843).



**Figure 16.12:** Approximate location of Phase 1D on the Revised 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (1863 – 7).

### 16.3.6 Built Heritage

#### 16.3.6.1 Record of Protected Structures / NIAH Survey

The mound (RMP DU015-014) is recorded as a protected structure by Fingal County Council (RPS 0475), but there are no further protected structures or sites recorded by the NIAH on the application lands or within the overall Portmarnock development.

The closest site of architectural merit is St. Marnocks Church (RPS 0457; NIAH 11350030), approximately 650m northwest of the application site. The Church of Ireland church was built 1786 – 8. Several sites are located in Portmarnock Village, along the Strand Road and Coast Road, which date to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, showing the development of the seaside town at that time.

Portmarnock House is no longer present. It was illustrated on Rocque's map of 1760 (Figure 16.9) with an avenue linking the house to the mound, but the construction of the Station Road separated the house from this feature as evident in Taylor's map of 1816 (Figure 16.10). The first edition 6-inch map (Figure 16.11) shows an ornamental geometric garden south of the house along the Station Road. A gate lodge and long avenue are also depicted.

### 16.3.7 Site Inspection

The Proposed Development area was inspected on 25 May 2021. The inspection was undertaken to assess the current land use, access to the site, local topography, and any additional environmental information relevant to the site's appraisal. It also sought to identify potential low-visibility archaeological and / or historical features that will possibly be impacted, directly or indirectly, by the Proposed Development and to provide a viewshed analysis of the surrounding environs.

The site consists of a large, L-shaped agricultural field that was previously in tillage but now lies fallow. Evenly spaced wheel ruts, possibly from construction traffic, were noted in places. While the terrain is relatively flat, a central ridge, running east – west, dissects the middle sector of the site, from which the townland Drumnigh takes its name. The ridge then drops away to the Mayne River to the south of the Proposed Development site. A trail through the long grass has been trampled down by frequent dog walkers along the entire perimeter of the site, with access being gained through the western corner.

The northern sector of the site is flanked to the north and northwest by the Portmarnock / Drumnigh townland boundary which separates the Proposed Development site from existing housing and ongoing construction. The boundary consists of small – medium diameter trees intertwined with a mature hedgerow. The boundary is presumably following the line of an early medieval enclosure which forms part of a previously excavated double-ditched enclosure site (Licence No. 19E0303) which lies to the immediate west of the Proposed Development site. The eastern extent of the Proposed Development site is delimited by the Drumnigh / Maynetown townland boundary, a low hedgerow which dips down towards the northern end. A 10m breach, which facilitated archaeological excavations, severs both townland boundaries.

The southern end of the Proposed Development site is bounded to the west by a low stone wall separating the site from the railway line. Two monuments (DU015-135 and DU015-118) occupy the south-facing slope of the east-west ridge, south of the Proposed Development site. The monuments, identified by geophysical survey are thought to be enclosures with evidence of internal pits and postholes, have no visible surface expression. Wheel ruts in the ground surrounding the monuments suggests construction traffic close to or through the area.

The northern sector offers panoramic views of open fields and the Irish Sea to the east. While the vista of the Dublin Mountains to the south is interrupted by the construction of modern apartments. The southern end of the development site provides extensive views to Howth and Ireland's Eye to the east and southeast and to Lambay Island to the northeast. The western view is blocked by the wall of the railway line.



**Plate 16.4:** View northeast to Drumnigh / Portmarnock townland boundary and Lambay Island in the distance



**Plate 16.5:** View southeast to Howth from the top of the E-W ridge at the south of the Proposed Development area



**Plate 16.6:** Looking south along Drumnigh / Portmarnock townland boundary.



**Plate 16.7:** Looking north along Drumnigh / Portmarnock townland boundary.



**Plate 16.8:** Site of excavation through Drumnigh / Portmarnock townland boundary, looking west.



**Plate 16.9:** Looking east towards site of excavation through Drumnigh / Portmarnock townland boundary. Ireland's Eye in the background.



### 16.3.8 Cumulative

#### 16.3.8.1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

Two significant recorded monuments, the Portmarnock mound DU015-014 and the Maynetown enclosure DU015-055 are located outside Portmarnock Phase 1D lands but lie within the overarching development lands, and are to be preserved in-situ. The mound is considered in documentary sources to have been the burial place of Maine, the son of Queen Medb and Ailill of Connacht.

The mound (RMP DU015-014) is also listed as a protected structure (RPS No. 0475) in the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023. It is a flat-topped mound, oval in plan, measuring 27m north-south by 14m east-west and 3.5m in height, but was probably originally larger as it was damaged in the 1970s when an attempt was made to level it for land clearance (Moriarty 2008). It is located on a slight rise with extensive views of the coast but restricted views to the north.

A topographical survey and test excavation (Licence No. 07E0754; Moriarty, 2009a) were undertaken in 2007 revealing considerable disturbance to the site. The appearance of the monument has changed considerably over time and this is reflected on Rocque (1760; Figure 16.9) and various editions of the Ordnance Survey historic mapping (Figures 16.11 and 16.12).

As part of the previous phases of development the mound has been preserved in situ within a landscaped area and interpretive signage erected at the mound includes information on the excavations that have taken place in Phases 1A and 1B of the overall development.

The Maynetown enclosure (DU015-055) is located towards the eastern end of an east-west ridge with extensive views of the coast. The site comprises a 70m diameter enclosure with an avenue feature comprised of two parallel ditches leading to an east-facing entrance. Lower fills from the enclosure ditch were dated to AD 687 – 887.

Both sites 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 DHLGH) and Fingal County Council. Both monuments will form focal points and green areas within the overarching Portmarnock development.

In addition to this, the overarching Portmarnock development site contains a number of other RMP / SMR sites, many of which have been revealed through ongoing archaeological investigations. A medieval village site was excavated adjacent to the Station Road on the northern edge of the wider Portmarnock development (DU015-136001 – DU015-136006; Licence No.: 08E0376), revealing the remains of at least four truncated rectangular buildings, along with metallised surfaces and wells and an easterly extension to this settlement was excavated in 2018 (Licence No. 18E0016). The 2018 excavation revealed north-south linear ditches and intermittent east – west ditches broadly consistent with the pattern of ditches identified in the previous excavation area. Other features included an area of metallising suggestive of a yard area and three well pits. Remnants of a stone structure in the south of the site were defined by an L-shaped foundation with a keyhole shaped oven set into the wall. Charred cereal from a founding deposit in the structure returned a date range of 1275-1386 AD, placing the initial construction between the late 13<sup>th</sup> – late 14<sup>th</sup> Century and a lower fill of the main north-south linear ditch returned a date range of 1420 – 1454 AD. Part of this now archaeologically excavated area is to be developed as part of Phase 1D lands with the upgrading of the existing temporary pumping station and wastewater storage tank (Figure 16.3).

An enclosure site (DU015-014001) was revealed through archaeological investigations immediately southeast of the mound (Licence No. 16E0613). It was found to comprise a ditched enclosure beneath 50 – 70cm of redeposited natural subsoil, making identification through geophysical survey difficult. The enclosure was slightly elliptical or sub-circular in plan and had 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. Activity at the site ranged from Mesolithic to early medieval although the bulk of activity belonged to the late Iron Age / early medieval transition phase. Finds recovered from the site included early medieval imported pottery (LRA 1 and E ware) and a single adult male burial (AD 410 – 607). A lack of habitation evidence along with a substantial volume of animal bone and occasional activities such as cereal drying and metal working suggest that the site may have been a feasting/gathering or Óenach site.

The lands adjacent to the Proposed Development also contain recorded archaeological monuments which further indicate the rich archaeological heritage of the area. Three further enclosures are recorded to the south (DU015-135 & DU015-118 in Drumnigh townland; DU015-130 in Maynestown townland), with an additional two across the Dublin – Belfast railway line in Drumnigh to the west (DU015-134, DU015-117). All were identified through aerial photography and geophysical survey. Archaeological testing has occurred on two of these sites (DU015-134, DU015-117; Licence No. 14E0007), revealing a large figure of eight enclosure in the case of the former (75m N-S x 50m E-W; ditches 2m wide x 1.2m deep) and a large oval enclosure for the latter (c. 100m diameter; ditch 2.5m wide x 1.1m deep). The figure of eight enclosure was excavated as part of an adjacent development from July – November 2018. A ring-ditch (DU015-119; Licence No. 14E0007) was also noted as a crop mark and confirmed through test excavation west of the railway track.

Outside the development to the east, a tidal mill (DU015-015) is recorded at the mouth of the river. Historical sources note a mill at Portmarnock from the 12th century, which was associated with the surrounding lands owned by St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin. The mill was demolished in 1799 to rebuild a three-storey structure. The visible remains are related to this later structure.

#### 16.3.8.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

##### **Investigations 2000 – 2015**

A phased programme of archaeological investigations and resolution took place on the Portmarnock lands over the period from 2000 to 2008. As a result, 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 DHLGH) and Fingal County Council.

In addition to this, the medieval settlement (DU015-136001 – DU015-136006) was identified by geophysical survey on the northern edge of the Phase 1B development area, and was subsequently archaeologically excavated (Moriarty 2009b, 08E0376). The area of excavation was roughly rectangular in plan and measured c. 50 – 70m north–south by 110m, revealing at least four truncated buildings were identified, metalled surfaces and wells. The medieval metalled road surface (DU015-137) within the northern segment of the proposed Phase 1C development was also found and excavated at that time.

During the period 2000 – 2008, geophysical survey and test excavation of the lands assisted in defining the location and extent of below ground features of an archaeological origin throughout the wider development lands, including lands for this application (Figure 16.5). No survey was undertaken within the Phase 1D lands, however, with recent phases of work it has been demonstrated that topsoil stripping as an archaeological exercise within the lands is particularly beneficial for detecting sites that have been previously 'sealed' and therefore cannot be effectively detected by geophysical survey and/or surface test excavation.

The conservation plan and compliance document (Gowen, 2009) and previous archaeological test excavation and excavation reports (Moriarty, 2009) recommended archaeological resolution / excavation of any further remains should they be revealed during the course of monitoring or investigation within the remaining development lands at Portmarnock.

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 no. 12E0358). The enabling works comprised the construction of a site entrance and compound, the erection of fencing around the mound site DU015-014 and the Maynetown enclosure site DU015-055, the erection of hoarding along the northern perimeter of the site and the excavation of a c. 100m long trench along the western boundary of the site for power cables. No archaeological features were encountered during the course of the topsoil stripping. No further work was carried out pursuant to planning permission register reference F07A/0947 and this planning permission has now lapsed.

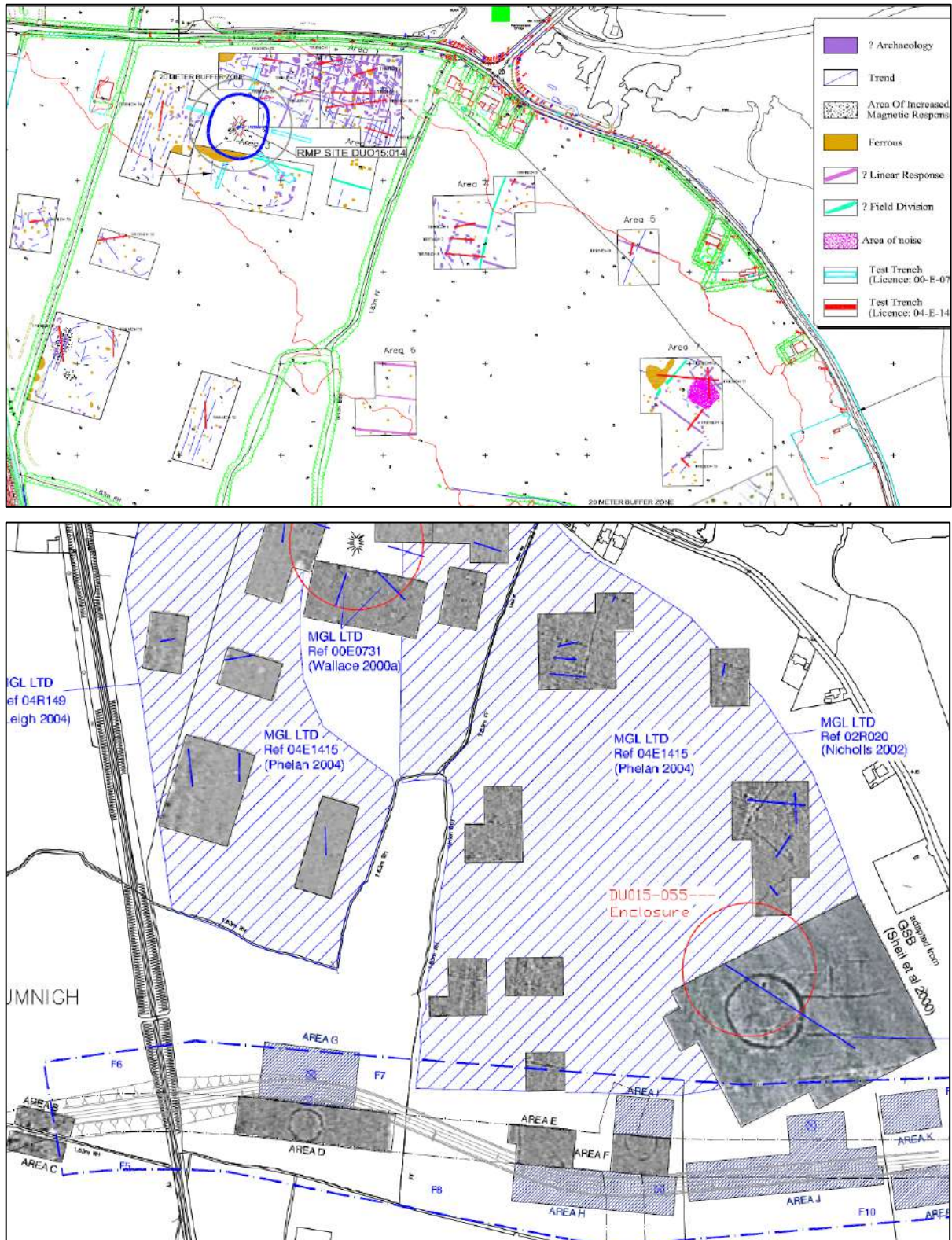
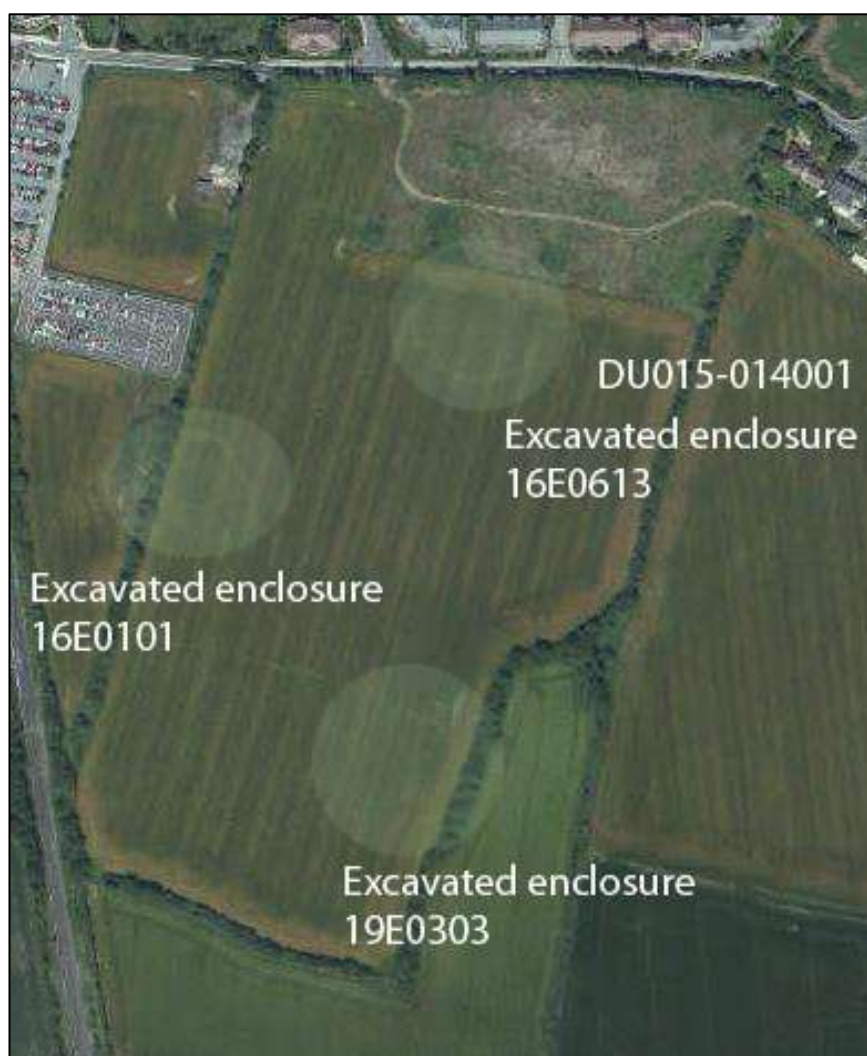


Figure 16.13: Summary of Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Testing 2000 – 2008.

### Investigations 2016 – 2019

Monitoring and testing of Phase 1A, 1B and 1C lands has taken place resulting in the excavation of three enclosures sites; a sub rectangular enclosure dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> – late 9<sup>th</sup> century and a burnt mound dating to the Bronze Age was excavated under Licence No. 16E0101 , a sub circular enclosure where eight phases of activity were identified ranging from Mesolithic, early Bronze Age, late Bronze Age, Iron Age, late Iron Age / early medieval transition, early medieval (pre c. 800 AD), early medieval (post c. 800 AD) and modern was identified and recorded under Licence No. 16E0613 . The bulk of the activity belonged to the late Iron Age / early medieval transition phases (c. 400 – 600 AD). A double ditched early medieval enclosure with evidence for earlier Bronze Age and Iron Age activity in the wider area was excavated under Licence No. 19E0303) (Figure 16.16).

In 2018, Gill McLoughlin excavated the periphery of a previously excavated medieval village site (DU015-136001-DU015-136006, Moriarty, 2009 Licence No. 08E0376) and revealed further medieval finds, features under Licence No. 18E0016. This area is now proposed for the site of an upgrade of an existing foul water pumping station and wastewater storage tank as part of the works for Phase 1D. A burnt mound and associated trough dating to the Early Bronze Age was also excavated under this licence.



**Figure 16.14:** Aerial photograph showed the three excavated enclosures in Phase 1A, 1B and 1C.

### Archaeological Investigations outside the Portmarnock Lands

A series of excavations immediately to the west in the townland of Drumnigh are relevant to the archaeological potential of the site insofar as they are part of the same archaeological landscape (Figure 16.3). They are located between 40m-300m to the west of Phase 1D lands, and although the Dublin-Belfast railway line disrupts the existing landscape, they should be interpreted as forming part of the same overall archaeological landscape.

It was evident from aerial photography that at least two monuments were present in this area, which was supplemented by geophysical survey (Licence No. 14R007) and test excavation (Licence No. 14E0007, Walsh, 2014b) in advance of a housing development.

A crop mark (RMP No. DU015-119) was evident from aerial photography approximately 40m west of the Phase 1D lands. It was found through excavation to be a ring-ditch which measured 12.5m in diameter. The site and was preserved in-situ to be part of an open green space within the development.

A large enclosure (c. 100m diameter) was similarly identified through aerial photography (DU015-117) approximately 90m west of the Phase 1D lands. Similar to the sub-rectangular enclosure at in Portmarnock Phase 1A, this site did not have a significant response to geophysical survey. Test excavation (14E0007) confirmed the presence of the enclosure, with a large ditch c. 100m in diameter, measuring 2.5m wide by 1.1m deep.

A figure-of-eight enclosure (RMP No. DU015-134) was identified in the course of the geophysical survey and test excavations in advance of the adjacent development, 320m west of the Phase 1D lands. It measures approximately 75m N-S by 50m E-W and comprises of ditches (2m wide by 1.2m deep) which contained water-logged basal fills, molluscs and animal bone. A possible entrance was located to the northwest, and the southern part of the site enclosed several features, including a possible kiln, pits and ditches. This site was excavated in advance of development in 2018 and included a souterrain, four burials, kilns and a ring ditch (Whittaker, pers. comm.).

## 16.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

### 16.4.1 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development (Phase 1D), is described in detail in Chapter 3: Description of Proposed Development, but may be summarised as follows: -

- 172no. residential units consisting of 22no. duplex / apartments and 150no. houses ranging in heights between 1.5 and 3 storeys.
- Provision of public open space including Skylark Park and extension to Railway Linear Park and Townland Boundary Linear Parks.
- Vehicular access to serve the development is proposed off the existing / under construction access points on roads serving the St. Marnock's Bay development.
- A new vehicular road is proposed to serve the Proposed Development which will connect with Moyne Road. The permanent road includes the provision of a new junction with Moyne Road and associated ancillary works including SuDs features to control surface water run-off.
- Upgrade of existing temporary foul water pumping station and storage tank to increase capacity.
- All associated and ancillary site development, infrastructural, landscaping and boundary treatment works.

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

#### 16.4.1.1 Construction Phase

The upgrade of an existing temporary foul water pumping station and wastewater storage tank is occurring in an area that was previously archaeologically excavated (Licence No. 08E0376 and No. 18E0016). Even though, this area has been placed on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (DU015-136001-DU015-136006) as a result of the medieval findings, the archaeology has been removed from the site as a result of the excavation and no further archaeological works are required.

There are no recorded monuments (RMPs) or structures of an architectural heritage interest (RPS or NIAH) within Phase 1D lands. A geophysical survey has taken place within Phase 1D lands and no anomaly of an obvious archaeological potential was identified. Archaeological testing has taken place along a new vehicular road to serve the Proposed Development which will connect with Mayne Road are no features of an archaeological interest was identified.

Archaeological excavation took place across two 10m sections of townland boundaries at Portmarnock / Drumnigh and Drumnigh / Maynetown under licence No. 20E0180. This occurred as the townland boundary between Portmarnock and Drumnigh corresponds with the boundary of the excavated Phase 1C early medieval enclosure and as such had the potential to contain archaeological material. Also both boundaries are considered to be of some antiquity as they are shown on the Down Survey map of 1656. Excavation revealed the morphologies of these boundaries (Sections 16.3.3.1 and 16.3.3.2).

As a result of these assessments, the archaeological potential of Phase 1D is considered to be low and archaeological assessment in the form of licensed monitoring will take place at the site preparation stage and Construction Phase of the Proposed Development (see Section 16.6 Mitigation Measures).

#### 16.4.1.2 Operational Phase

No archaeological assessment is required at the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.

### 16.4.2 Cumulative

Other developments that contribute to the cumulative development include: -

- Portmarnock South Phase 1C – this considers of 153no. residential units, the ‘Local Centre’ consisting of 3no. retail / café / restaurant units and public open space, all located adjacent to the north of the application site (permitted under ABP Ref. ABP-305619-19 and currently under construction).
- Envisaged Future Development of the Remaining Portmarnock South LAP Lands – Approximately 507no. residential units, provision of public open space, integration of the recorded monument and provision of road and drainage infrastructure.

#### 16.4.2.1 Construction Phase

All archaeological and cultural heritage work within Phase 1D is being carried out with the knowledge of the findings from previous development stages of the Portmarnock lands. If any archaeological findings are revealed as a result of the development of Phase 1D, the findings will contribute to our understanding of the wider archaeological landscape and add to the knowledge base of the overall lands.

The development of the above-mentioned schemes and phasing of the remaining Portmarnock South LAP lands will not result in a negative, likely significant, direct, indirect or cumulative effect when assessed in relation to the proposed works necessary for the construction and operational phases of the residential development from an archaeological, architectural heritage and cultural heritage perspective. This is due to the nature of the Proposed Developments and the approach to protect insitu two recorded monuments (DU015-014; a Mound and DU015-055, an enclosure) within the LAP lands in Portmarnock and Maynetown townland and to provide signage as to the development of archaeological and historical landscape.

The remaining lands will be archaeologically assessed and where below ground remains are revealed, they are mitigated and excavated in accordance with the requirements of the DHLGH and Fingal County Council. The retention of the townland boundaries will assist in the protection of the cultural heritage of the area across all phases of development.

#### 16.4.2.2 Operational Phase

Following the implementation of the mitigation measures, there will not be a significant cumulative effect whether the schemes and phasing of permitted and Proposed Developments are undertaken concurrently or consecutively. No significant cumulative effects will occur.

### 16.5 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

In accordance with EPA guidelines, the context, character, significance and sensitivity of each heritage asset, was evaluated. The significance of the impact is then determined by consideration of the significance of the asset and the predicted magnitude of impact. A glossary of impacts as defined by the EPA is provided in Appendix 16.2.

#### 16.5.1 Proposed Development

##### 16.5.1.1 Construction Phase

###### Archaeological Heritage

There will be no direct effects on any recorded archaeological sites. The geophysical survey undertaken throughout Phase 1D did not identify any anomalies of a definite archaeological signature. Testing of possible features within the proposed Skylark Park area did not identify any below ground archaeological features.

Excavation of the townland boundaries revealed the morphology of these boundaries and a charcoal filled pit was identified, the material of which has been sent for dating analysis.

Given our knowledge of the wider Portmarnock lands and the lands proposed for development at Phase 1D, no significant impact has been identified from an archaeological perspective.

###### Architectural and Cultural Heritage

There are no architectural heritage structures within the lands for the Proposed Development at Phase 1D. The townland boundaries which are of a cultural heritage interest will be retained within the Proposed Development and there is no significant impact to them.

##### 16.5.1.2 Operational Phase

All archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues will be resolved during the pre-construction and construction phases.

##### 16.5.1.3 Do-Noting Impact

In the 'Do-Nothing' scenario the development would not proceed and the land would remain in use for agricultural purposes. No archaeological monitoring would take place in order to identify below ground remains (if present) and no further archaeological sites would be identified and recorded.

## 16.5.2 Cumulative

### 16.5.2.1 Construction Phase

Given the presence of newly identified below ground archaeological features that did not have an above ground presence in adjacent developments as part of the Portmarnock lands and in Drimnigh to the west of the railway line, a number of site investigations were undertaken to determine and provide greater certainty in the below ground potential of Phase 1D lands.

No anomalies or features of a definite archaeological potential have been revealed as a result of the geophysical survey (Licence No. 21R0089, Leigh 2021) and test excavation (Licence Nos. 19E0303 and 20E0598, McLoughlin, 2020b) within Phase 1D lands.

Excavation took place at the Portmarnock / Drumnigh townland boundary as this section of the boundary corresponded with the eastern side of the early medieval ditched enclosure excavated in advance of Phase 1C development (Licence No. 19E0303) as there was a potential to reveal archaeological features associated with the previously excavated enclosure site.

Phase 1D incorporates the townland boundaries Portmarnock / Drumnigh and Portmarnock / Maynetown. These boundaries are of cultural heritage interest and the Proposed Development layout has been designed to maintain these boundaries between the different phases of development and to minimise the impact upon them. Where they have to be traversed to provide access, these areas were subject to archaeological excavation, recorded and preserved by record.

When assessing this development, all previous archaeological findings and features of a cultural heritage and built heritage interest within the Portmarnock lands were considered. There is no significant potential cumulative impact to archaeology or cultural heritage features as a result of developing Phase 1D lands.

### 16.5.2.2 Operational Phase

All archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues will be resolved during the pre-construction and construction phases.

### 16.5.2.3 Do-Nothing Impact

No cumulative effects were identified in relation to the Do-Nothing scenario.

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

### 16.6.1 Proposed Development

#### 16.6.1.1 Construction Phase

All archaeological mitigation measures identified within the SHD baseline report (CDHC 2021) for this project in order to gain a better understanding and certainty of the archaeological potential lands of the Phase 1D lands namely a geophysical survey and excavation of two 10m sections of townland boundaries to be impacted by the Proposed Development have taken place. The results of these surveys and excavations are discussed within this report (sections 16.3.3-16.3.4) and no features of an archaeological significance were identified.

Archaeological monitoring will take place of any works requiring ground disturbance / excavation, including site preparation works and temporary works where required. Should archaeological material be identified and subject to approval from the statutory authorities, the remains will be preserved by record through archaeological excavation. All findings will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

The developer, Quintain Developments Ireland Ltd is aware of their responsibility to fund all necessary archaeological work. All recommendations are subject to approval by the NMS of the DHLGH and the Heritage Officer from Fingal County Council.



#### 16.6.1.2 Operational Phase

No mitigation measures are required during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.

### 16.6.2 Cumulative

#### 16.6.2.1 Construction Phase

No cumulative mitigation measures were identified in relation Phase 1D during the Construction Phase.

#### 16.6.2.2 Operational Phase

No cumulative mitigation measures were identified in relation Phase 1D during the Operational Phase.

## 16.7 Residual Impact of the Proposed Development

### 16.7.1 Proposed Development

#### 16.7.1.1 Construction Phase

No residual effects during construction phase were identified during the course of the assessment on archaeological or cultural heritage. Should any archaeological remains be uncovered, they will be fully resolved prior to the main Construction Phase (as detailed in Section 16.6.1.1).

#### 16.7.1.2 Operational Phase

No residual effects were identified during Operation Phase.

#### 16.7.1.3 Worst Case Impact

Within the worst case scenario an archaeological site would be removed without full recording taking place and there would be no record or archive of the site. Archaeological monitoring mitigates against scenario from occurring.

### 16.7.2 Cumulative

#### 16.7.2.1 Construction Phase

When taken in conjunction with Phase 1D, a number of archaeological monuments have been preserved insitu while other newly identified sites with no surface visibility have been excavated under licence to the DHLGH. Within Phase 1A, a D shaped enclosure and burnt spread was identified and excavated. Phase 1B has preserved in situ, a mound, DU015-014 and provided interpretive signage as to the archaeological and cultural heritage significance of the area. An enclosure, burnt spread and part of a medieval settlement have been excavated as part of Phase 1B works. Within Phase 1C, a double ditched enclosure was identified and excavated. DU015-055, an enclosure in Maynetown shall be preserved in situ within future phases of the Portmarnock LAP lands.

Within the assessments undertaken for Phase 1D, no features of an archaeological significance have been identified. Also, there are no features of a built heritage interest within the lands. The townland boundaries which are of cultural heritage interest will be largely preserved in situ across all development phases including Phase 1D.

There are no significant residual, cumulative impacts anticipated to archaeological, built heritage and cultural heritage assets as a result of the construction of Phase 1D.

#### 16.7.2.2 Operational Phase

No cumulative mitigation measures were identified in relation Phase 1D during the Operational Phase.

#### 16.7.2.3 Worst Case Impact

Within the worst case scenario an archaeological site would be removed without full recording taking place and there would be no record or archive of the site. Archaeological monitoring mitigates against scenario from occurring.

### 16.8 Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring will take place during any ground disturbance and excavation works on site at the site preparation stage of the Proposed Development as discussed in section 16.6.1.1. There will be no requirement for monitoring post-construction.

### 16.9 Reinstatement

There will be no requirement for reinstatement at any stage of the Proposed Development.

### 16.10 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the assessment process.