

Chapter 4

Archaeology

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following chapter details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a project at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin (Figure 4.1, ITM 725009, 759143). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and cultural heritage resource that may exist within the project and study area. The assessment was undertaken by Faith Bailey and Jacqui Anderson of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC).

Faith is an Associate Director and Senior Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Consultant with IAC Archaeology. She holds an MA in Cultural Landscape Management (archaeology and built heritage) and a BA in single honours archaeology from the University of Wales, Lampeter. She is a licence eligible archaeologist, a member of the Chartered Institute of for Archaeologists, a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has over 18 years' experience working in the commercial archaeological and cultural heritage sector. Jacqui works as an Archaeological Consultant with IAC Archaeology. She holds an MA in Archaeology from University College Dublin and a BA in Archaeology and Classical Studies also from University College Dublin. She is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has seven years' experience in the commercial archaeological sector in Ireland. Jacqui specialises in the production of archaeological assessments and EIAR across all sectors of development.

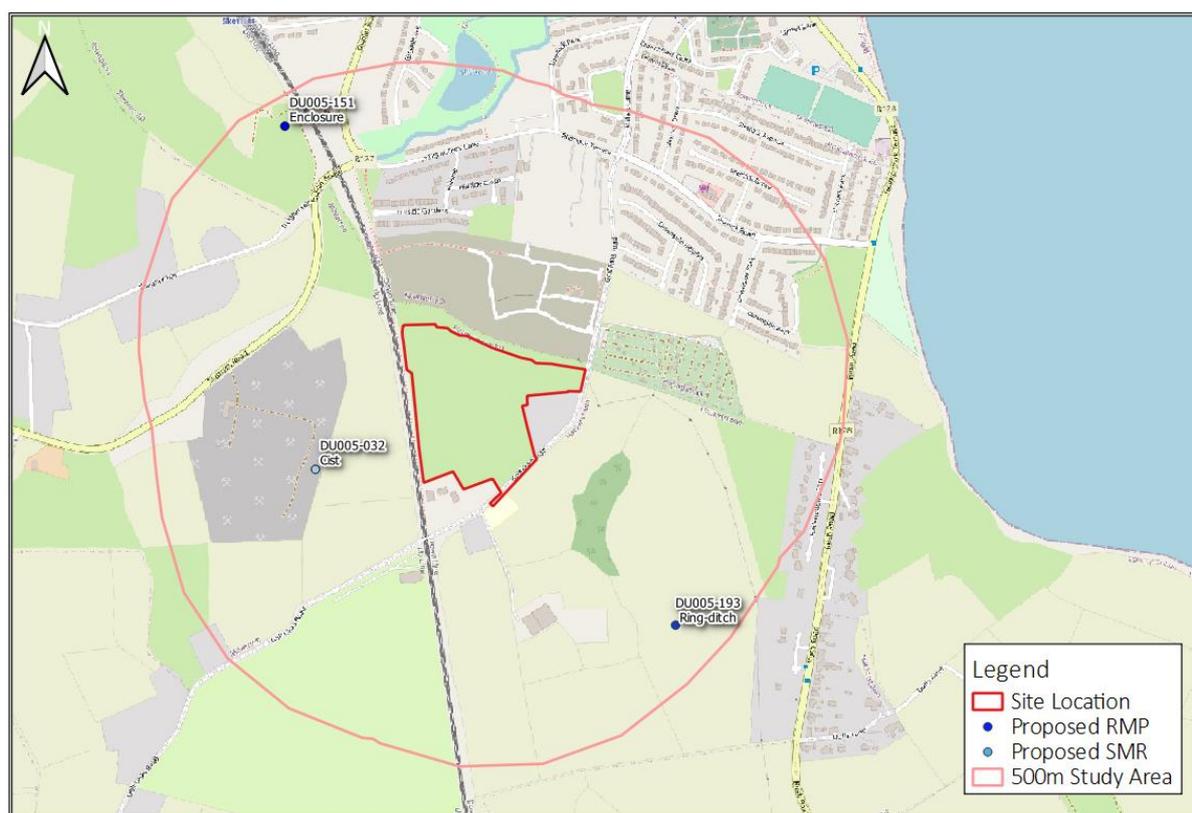


Figure 4.1 Site Location

This study determines, based on best available scientific knowledge, from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource in and within the study area of the development area using accepted industry practice methods. The study area is defined as an area measuring 500m from the edge of the project.

Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (ClfA 2014). In order to compile a complete baseline, a site inspection is carried out to complement the results of the desk-based assessment. This leads to the following:

- Determining the presence of known archaeological heritage sites that may be affected by the proposed development;
- Assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological remains during the construction programme; and
- Suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the development area and study area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Dublin (Figure 14.2), the County Development Plan, topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, cartographic and documentary records. A field inspection has been carried out in an attempt to identify any known archaeological features, along with previously unrecorded features, structures and/or archaeological artefacts within the proposed development area.

An impact assessment and a mitigation strategy have been prepared. The impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential significant effects that the proposed development may have on the archaeology and cultural heritage resource, while the mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.

4.1.1 Definitions

In order to assess, distil and present the findings of this study, the following definitions apply:

‘Cultural Heritage’ where used generically, is an over-arching term applied to describe any combination of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage features, where –

- the term ‘archaeological heritage’ is applied to objects, monuments, buildings or landscapes of an (assumed) age typically older than AD 1700 (and recorded as archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places)
- the term ‘cultural heritage’, where used specifically, is applied to other (often less tangible) aspects of the landscape such as historical events, folklore memories and cultural associations.

Impact Descriptive Terminology

TABLE 4.1: SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Significance of Effects on the Receiving Environment	Description of Potential Effects
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

TABLE 4.1: SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Significance of Effects on the Receiving Environment	Description of Potential Effects
Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Impacts as defined by the EPA 2017 Guidelines.

4.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Land Development Agency intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a strategic housing development at the site located at Hacketstown in the townland of Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin. The subject lands are located west of the Golf Links Road. The application site is 6.7 hectares.

The proposed development entails a Strategic Housing Development comprising 345 no. residential units, childcare facility, vehicular access, pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, and all associated site development and infrastructural works, on lands zoned for residential use of the subject site in the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 (the “SHD Project”).

The project, which is the subject of assessment in this EIAR and the accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement, will be facilitated by advance infrastructural works. These works were the subject of a Section 34 application to Fingal County Council (FCC F21A/0287). This grant is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála (ABP Reg. Ref. 312189), (See Figure 1.1 below). The advance works consist of a connecting road to the north, drainage infrastructure, cycle and pedestrian facilities, and associated landscaping (the “AI Works”). The project site is 8.15 ha. in size

In summary, the ‘Project’ which is subject of this EIAR, comprises the proposed SHD. The Project will result in the delivery of a residential development on lands (in the ownership of the Housing Agency) zoned for residential use in the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023.

4.3 METHODOLOGY

Research has been undertaken in two phases and in accordance with best practice. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

4.3.1 Paper Survey

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;

- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Fingal Development Plan, 2017–2023;
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2021).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act (National Monuments Act 1930 - 2014, as amended). Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

- William Petty, *Down Survey, Barony of Balruddery*, c. 1655
- John Rocque, *Map of the City and County of Dublin*, 1760
- Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843-1938

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Fingal Development Plan (2017–2023) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970-2020.

4.3.2 Field Inspection

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed –

- Walking the proposed development area and its study area.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

4.4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

4.4.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Milverton within the parish of Holmpatrick and barony of Balrothery East. The site comprises five open fields bounded by the townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks to the northeast; the townland boundaries between Milverton and Hacketstown and Milverton and Holmpatrick to the southeast and a railway line to the west. There are three archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development area, the closest of which comprises a cist (DU005-032), c. 200m to the west (Figure 4.2).

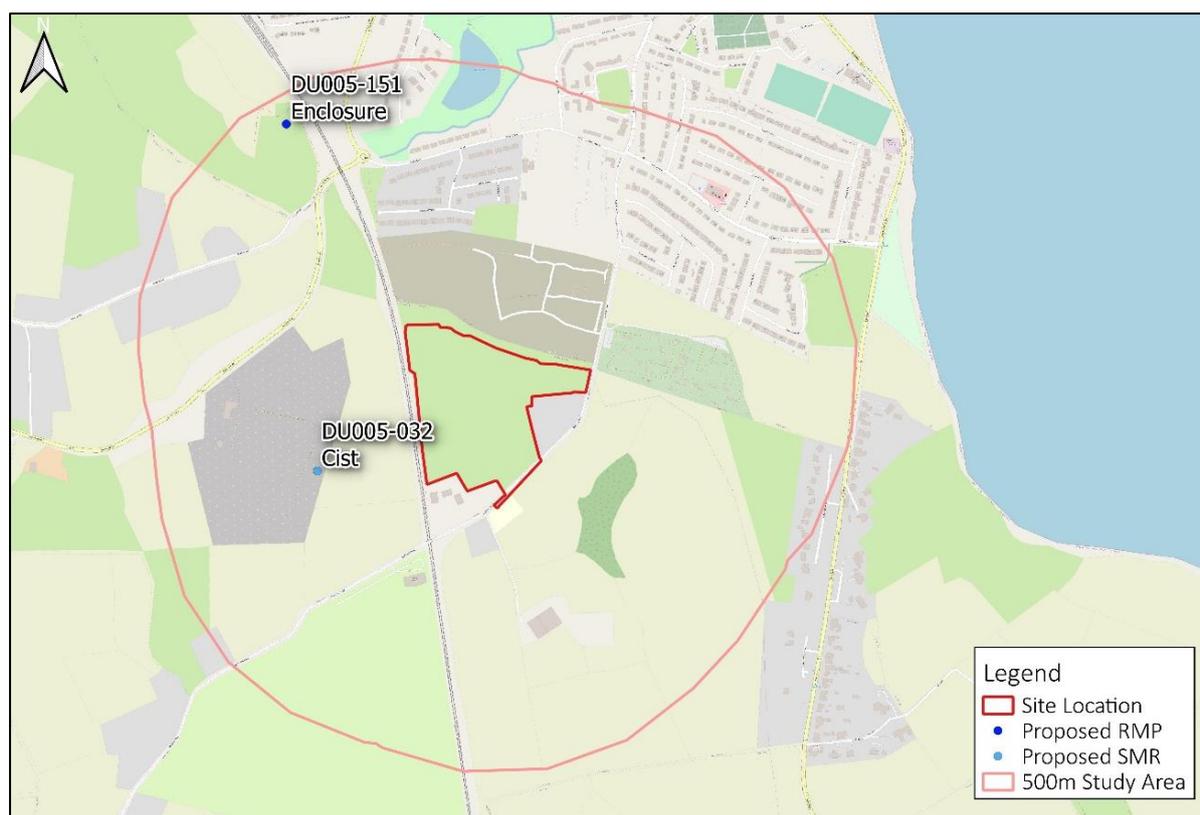


Figure 4.2: Archaeological sites within the study area

Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (7000–4000 BC)

The Mesolithic Period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence of prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence indicative of Mesolithic activity at a site comprises of scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements (Stout and Stout 1997). A large amount of lithic material has been collected c. 2.1-2.5km to the northwest of the proposed development area at Barnageeragh (DU005-017002; DU005-058002; DU005-060), a headland overlooking the sea. These scatters occur at four discrete locations across the headland.

Mesolithic activity has also been identified on Lambay Island, c. 9.4km to the southeast (Dolan and Cooney 2010) and it has been noted that during this period, sea-level was as much as 5m lower than current levels (Brooks and Edwards 2006). Given the prevalence of Mesolithic sites to occur along rivers or coastlines, it is conceivable that further evidence for Mesolithic activity in the area was subsequently flooded by sea level rise.

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory, which saw the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period. The basic component of a megalithic tomb is a burial chamber built with large stones exhibiting a clearly defined entrance at one end. The remains of the dead were placed in one chamber and were often accompanied

by grave goods such as pottery, ornaments and stone implements. The tombs fall into four main classes: court tombs, portal tombs, passage tombs, and wedge tombs.

The surface collections of some lithic artefacts retrieved at Barnageeragh (c. 2.1-2.5km northwest of the proposed development area) partly date from this period and illustrate that the area was exploited and possibly settled during the Neolithic (Dolan and Cooney 2010). The scatters at Barnageeragh are located in the vicinity of DU005-016001, a circular round-topped cairn (diam. 15m; H 2m) and c. 200m north-northwest of the site of another cairn (DU005-017001). The siting and morphology of these cairns is reminiscent of the Bremore passage tomb cemetery 6.9km north along the coast and may represent megalithic structures of the Neolithic period. A passage tomb is also known to have been sited on a coastal headland at Loughshinny, c. 3.5km to the southeast of the proposed development area (DU008-013001). All of these sites would have shared some degree of inter-visibility and would have had clear views of the summit cairns on Lambay (DU009-001002) and Howth (DU019-003; DU019-006).

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

The Bronze Age was characterised by the introduction of metalworking technology to Ireland and coincides with many changes in the archaeological record, both in terms of material culture as well as the nature of the sites and monuments themselves. Though this activity has markedly different characteristics to that of the preceding Neolithic period including new structural forms and new artefacts (such as Beaker pottery), it also reflects a degree of continuity. Archaeological investigations at the Barnageeragh headland in 2006 revealed a possible Bronze Age house in the form of a group of seven postholes and two stakeholes, which created a sub-circular arrangement with a central hearth (d. 6m). Sherds of prehistoric pottery of possible Bronze Age date and struck flint were recovered from the postholes (Licence 06E0477, Bennett: 2006:703; Corcoran 2009).

During the Bronze Age, Megalithic tombs were no longer constructed and the burial of the individual became more typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, a small stone box set into the ground, or a stone lined grave. Burials were often made within cemeteries which were either unenclosed or else marked in the landscape with the construction of an earthen barrow. Barrows of this period often vary in form and can include the ring-ditch, the embanked ring-ditch, the ring barrow, the bowl barrow and the bowl barrow lacking an external bank. In general, ring-ditches date to the Bronze Age, with the earlier examples being simpler in form and later examples incorporating entrances and a wider range of burials practices. Ring-ditches appear to have continued to be built and earlier monuments re-used, during the Iron Age and early medieval period.

A complex of ring-ditches/barrows has recently been identified by the Discovery Programme in the vicinity of Popeshall, c. 1.9km to the southeast of the proposed development area (DU005-174001-4). Further evidence for barrows and single burial occur to the west of the proposed development area. The tradition of a cist burial is also recorded c. 200m to the west (DU005-032) and a ring-ditch (DU005-112) is situated c. 565m west of the proposed development area. In 2016 a late Bronze Age enclosure was identified and investigated in the townland of Holmpatrick, c. 800m southeast of the proposed development area (Bennett 2016:142, Licence Ref.: 16E0286). A further ring-ditch was identified in April 2022 and is located c. 417m southeast of the proposed development area (DU005-193).

Taken in conjunction with the complex at Popeshall, these monuments illustrate a rich variety of burial tradition in the area during the Bronze Age.

The most common Bronze Age site within the archaeological record is the burnt mound or *fulacht fiadh*. Over 4500 *fulachta fiadh* have been recorded in the country making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 1998, 174). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, those noted in

close proximity to a trough are generally interpreted as Bronze Age cooking/industrial sites. *Fulacht fiadh* generally consist of a low mound of burnt stone, commonly in horseshoe shape, and are found in low lying marshy areas or close to streams. Often these sites have been ploughed out and survive as a spread of heat shattered stones in charcoal rich soil with no surface expression in close proximity to a trough. Three burnt mounds (DU005-148-150) were identified by a geophysical survey (Licence 06R0135), c. 520-735m to the north-northwest of the site. Evidence for burnt mound activity was also identified during investigations at Holmpatrick, c. 800m to the southeast of the proposed development area in 2016 (Bennett 2016:142, Licence Ref.: 16E0286).

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

Compared to the rest of Irish prehistory there is relatively little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC. For several centuries the La Tène Celts were the dominant people in Europe, until they were finally overcome by the Roman Empire. Despite the relative paucity of evidence for the period in Ireland, the Fingal coastline presents one of the most interesting areas in Ireland in terms of Iron Age material.

Large defensive structures and earthworks were characteristic of the period, including coastal promontory forts. A promontory fort is a defensive structure located above a steep cliff, often only connected to the mainland by a small neck of land, thus utilizing the topography to reduce the ramparts needed. Although their dating is problematic, most seem to date to the Iron Age (Raftery 1994). The headland of Drumanagh, 3.5km southeast from the proposed development area, is the location of the remains of one of the largest promontory forts in Ireland (consisting of c. 16 hectares). The neck of the headland is defended by a straight series of earthworks (L. 350m). They comprise three parallel banks with contiguous fosses except at the north end where the defences are reduced to a single bank with an external fosse. The upper portion of the inner bank is stone capped. It has long been suspected that the site may have some connection to Roman Britain. Because of this potential, the Discovery Programme commenced a programme of archaeological research in Fingal in autumn 2011. This research focused on the late Iron Age period and any interaction between Roman populations from England and Europe. Geophysical survey carried out within the promontory fort and in surrounding townlands has identified numerous features of archaeological interest which will form the focus for future study (Dowling 2015). The promontory fort is protected by a Preservation Order.

A number of objects imported from Roman Britain, including weapons and personal items, were also discovered in an Iron Age cemetery on Lambay Island, Co. Dublin (Cahill Wilson 2015). A smaller promontory fort (DU005-116) is also known from Shenick Island, c. 1.7km east-northeast of the proposed development area. A stone oil lamp of potentially of Iron Age date was found close to this site (Grundy 2011). A now levelled, large earthwork that once cut across the headland of Barnageeragh (DU005-053001), c. 1.4km to the north may also represent a former promontory fort as may a cropmark (DU008-051) located along sea cliff south of Loughshinny harbour, c. 3km to the southeast of the proposed development area.

Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

Skerries and its islands were an important centre of the ancient Gaelic kingdom of *Brega*, which, from the late Iron Age to the Norman intervention of 1169, approximately covered the same area of modern Fingal, bounded by the River Tolka (to the south) and River Delvin (to the north). During this period *Brega* was ruled by the *Ui Chernaig* branch of the dynasty known as *Sil nAedo Slaine* (Connon 2008;

Charles-Edwards 2005), who appropriated control of the secular *Ciannachta* territory in the early 8th century (O'Corrain 1981).

Tradition associates Skerries and more specifically, Church Island (*Inis Pádraic*) with one of St Patrick's first land falls in Ireland. An ecclesiastical foundation was founded here in the 6th century AD, allegedly by Patrick himself. The remains of a church and traces of other structures are located at the south end of St. Patrick's Island. They were built on ground that had been artificially levelled (Ryan et al 2004). This early monastery is associated with St. Mochonna (Doconna, or Conna), venerated on the 13th of January. Recent aerial photography of St Patrick's Island shows traces of a roughly circular enclosure of c. 75m diameter around the church (Ryan et al 2004).

During this period, Ireland is depicted in the surviving sources as entirely rural. The Kingdom of Brega would have been sub-divided into smaller territorial units, known as *túaths* (Stout 1997). Secular habitation sites in the early medieval period include crannógs, cashels, and ringforts in addition to unenclosed settlements which are more difficult to identify in the archaeological record. The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period. Ringforts are strongly associated with agricultural land and, as such, are rarely situated at higher altitudes. A levelled, bivallate ringfort (DU005-026) occupies a prominent rise overlooking the coast, c. 1.4km to the northwest of the proposed development area. Ringforts are often recorded as enclosures and an enclosure (DU005-151) was identified during a geophysical survey (Licence 06R0135), c. 390m to the north-northwest.

In the 8th century, Church Island and its monastery had attracted the attention of Scandinavian raiders. The Annals of Ulster record that in 798 "Inis Pátraic was burned by heathens, and the cattle-tribute of the territories was carried away, and the shrine of Dochonna was broken by them, and also great invasions of both Ireland and Britain by them". While no physical evidence of Viking occupation has been uncovered to date in the vicinity of the proposed development area, place name evidence and annalistic entries attest to a strong Scandinavian presence. The word Skerries itself is of Norse derivation while the word Holm, from Holmpatrick relates to the Norse word for island. Similarly, Ireland's Eye, and Lambay have their origins in Norse (Baker 2010).

Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The ecclesiastical site on Church Island survived into the Viking Period. In 1120 a priory of Canons Regular of St. Augustine was established on *Inis Patraic* and became so nationally significant that by 1127 it hosted a synod, which preceded the reorganisation of Irish dioceses. It was here that decisions were made to change from a largely Celtic style church to a Roman one, encompassing administrative structures that have survived to the present day (Scantlebury 1960).

In the early 13th century, under the Augustinian Canons, the monastic foundation on *Inis Patraic* was transferred to the mainland by the Archbishop of Dublin, Henry de Londres c. 1220. The monastic foundation on Ireland's Eye was transferred to the mainland at Howth around this time also. Holmpatrick graveyard (DU005-031002), c. 700m north-northeast of the proposed development area, is believed to be the site of this re-located medieval priory. Located to the south of the main north-south aligned streets of Skerries it is characterised by its situation on high ground to the rear of the current Protestant Church. It is on three levels, the upper enclosure encompassing many of the oldest burials and the remains of the church bell tower. The tower was erected in 1720 and has evidence for the gable of an adjoining building on its eastern facade, indicating an east-west alignment. The second level extends from the entrance way on Miller's Lane, a curvilinear road, to surround the upper tier, while the third element of the graveyard is the lowest set and known as the 'new graveyard'. Several fragments of line-impressed medieval floor tile of 13th century date were recovered from the graveyard in recent years suggesting a foundation of some standing (Baker 2002).

Several graveslabs survive in the graveyard at Holmpatrick including one relating to Peter Manne (DU005-031003), one of the last priors of the Augustinian Priory of Holmpatrick (d. 1520). Another (DU005-031004) is dedicated to Richard de La Hoyde of Loughshinny (d. 1587). A table tomb (DU005-031005) is dedicated to Elizabeth Finglas, wife of Thomas Hussey of Holmpatrick (d. 1577).

The well DU005-030 is located c. 30m to the north of the church at Holmpatrick (c. 805m north of the redline boundary). The well is an enclosed spring well and is associated with the name 'kibe' on the first edition OS map. According to the Placenames Commission, 'kibe' means 'chillblain' in Middle English, suggesting that this well may have had curative powers and be of medieval origin (RMP).

Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1900)

Skerries, within the parish of Holmpatrick, developed into a sea-port and fishing town during the post-medieval period. Skerries seems to have been a place of landfall utilised by some of the major figures in the English Administration at this time. Sir Henry Sydney landed here in 1575 when sent by Queen Elizabeth as Lord Deputy of Ireland. In 1675 His Majesty's yacht was wrecked at Skerries and the Earl of Meath, along with his son Lord Brabazon, were lost. In 1668 Peter Talbot, Archbishop of Dublin, landed at Skerries and was hospitably entertained by a Captain Coddington. About 1720 the Hamiltons of Hackettown purchased the Manor of Holmpatrick from the Earl of Thomond, which included the town and port of Skerries, four islands, custom of fish and customs of 3/4 on every ship that came from France, Spain and Scotland and 4d. on every ship that came from England (Campion 1969).

In 1755 the Irish Parliament granted two thousand pounds for the construction of a Pier at Skerries (*ibid.*). This is presumably the pier that is visible on John Rocque's map of 1760. Rocque's map also shows a relatively large three-masted sailing ship berthed at this harbour indicating its importance in promoting Skerries as a trading port. The pier also facilitated fishing in the area which resulted in the growth of the town. Lewis in 1837 describes 528 houses 'chiefly inhabited by persons employed in the fishery' (Ryan 2001).

In 1820 there were 52 boats in the harbour employing six or eight men each and in 1838 there were only 38 of these vessels (Campion 1969). Indication of rural industry can be seen on the OS mapping. The Skerries windmills and the 'Corn Mill' bear testament to the cultivation of significant harvests of cereal crop in the area. A quarry is marked to the west on the first edition OS map of 1843 in the townland of Milverton.

4.5 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2021) has revealed that a number of archaeological investigations have been carried out within the redline boundary.

The proposed development area and the area to its immediate north underwent a geophysical survey in 2006 (Licence 06R0133, Leigh 2006a). This identified a series of curvilinear responses and trends in Field 3 that may represent an enclosure identified in the field by aerial photography in 2006. A possible drainage ditch or former field boundary was identified in Field 4 and Field 1 returned a response indicative of a buried field boundary wall (Figure 3). The field to the north of the redline boundary returned responses of possible archaeological interest.

Test-trenching followed on from the survey and 21 trenches were opened across the site. This determined that the possible enclosure was natural in origin and identified field boundaries in Fields 4 and 5. The field to the north uncovered three ditches and an area of burning (Licence 06E0889, Bennett 2006:704). It was recommended that a further programme of testing open four 10mx10m cuttings around the trenches to further investigate the features. This identified remains of disused field systems

dating from the 19th/20th centuries (Licence 10E0111, Bennett 2015:097). Monitoring followed on from this testing and encountered prehistoric features in the field to the north of the proposed development area, including a possible burnt mound adjacent to the stream and a ring-barrow on the slope overlooking the stream. The ditch of the ring-barrow contained deposits of crushed pot fragments and burnt bone mixed with cairn or cist-like material. An inverted urn burial and 15 pits, some containing evidence of in-situ burning and burnt bone, were found nearby the feature.

A geophysical survey c. 265m to the north-northwest of the proposed development area identified five areas of archaeological potential (Licence 06R0135, Leigh 2006b). These areas were subsequently tested and determined to be deposits of burnt material associated with burnt mounds, an enclosure (DU005-151), and a number of linear and curvilinear features (Licence 06E0996, Bennett 2006:705).

4.6 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty's Down Survey, Barony of Balruddery, c. 1655

On Petty's map the proposed development area is located within the Barony of Balruddery and Parish of Old Patrick. No features are depicted within the area of the proposed development.

John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 4.3)

The proposed development area is depicted to the south-southwest of the town of Skerries in open fields and bordered by a road to the southeast and northeast. Hacketstown House is depicted to the south-southeast and a small number of houses are depicted in the immediate environs of the proposed development area. This map annotates the windmill, chapel, and church of Skerries to the north and northeast of the proposed development area.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4.3)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The proposed development area is depicted within eight open fields bordered to the west by the route of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway, the construction of which is marked as being in progress. The road to the northeast is no longer depicted. A small number of farmyard structures are depicted to the immediate south of the southwest corner of the proposed development area. The demesne of Hacketstown House borders the proposed development area to the immediate southeast. Three quarries are marked within the 500m study area of the proposed development area and a mill dam with an associated mill race feed a corn mill to the north.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1906-9, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 4.4)

By the time of this map the proposed development area is situated within six open fields, the farmyard to the south has expanded and the construction of the railway completed. The townland boundary to the north is formed by a small watercourse on this map. A club house is marked to the south-southwest of the proposed development area within the former Hacketstown demesne. Only one of the quarries, c. 260m to the west, is still depicted in the study area and it has greatly expanded.

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1935-8, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4.4)

There have not been any significant changes to the proposed development area on this map. Two small structures have been constructed to the immediate south of the eastern corner of the proposed development area. The demesne of Hacketstown House has degraded further since the 25-inch OS map. The western portion of the former demesne, containing the club house, is annotated as Skerries Golf Course. There are no other changes of note.



Figure 4.3: Extracts from historic mapping showing the proposed development area

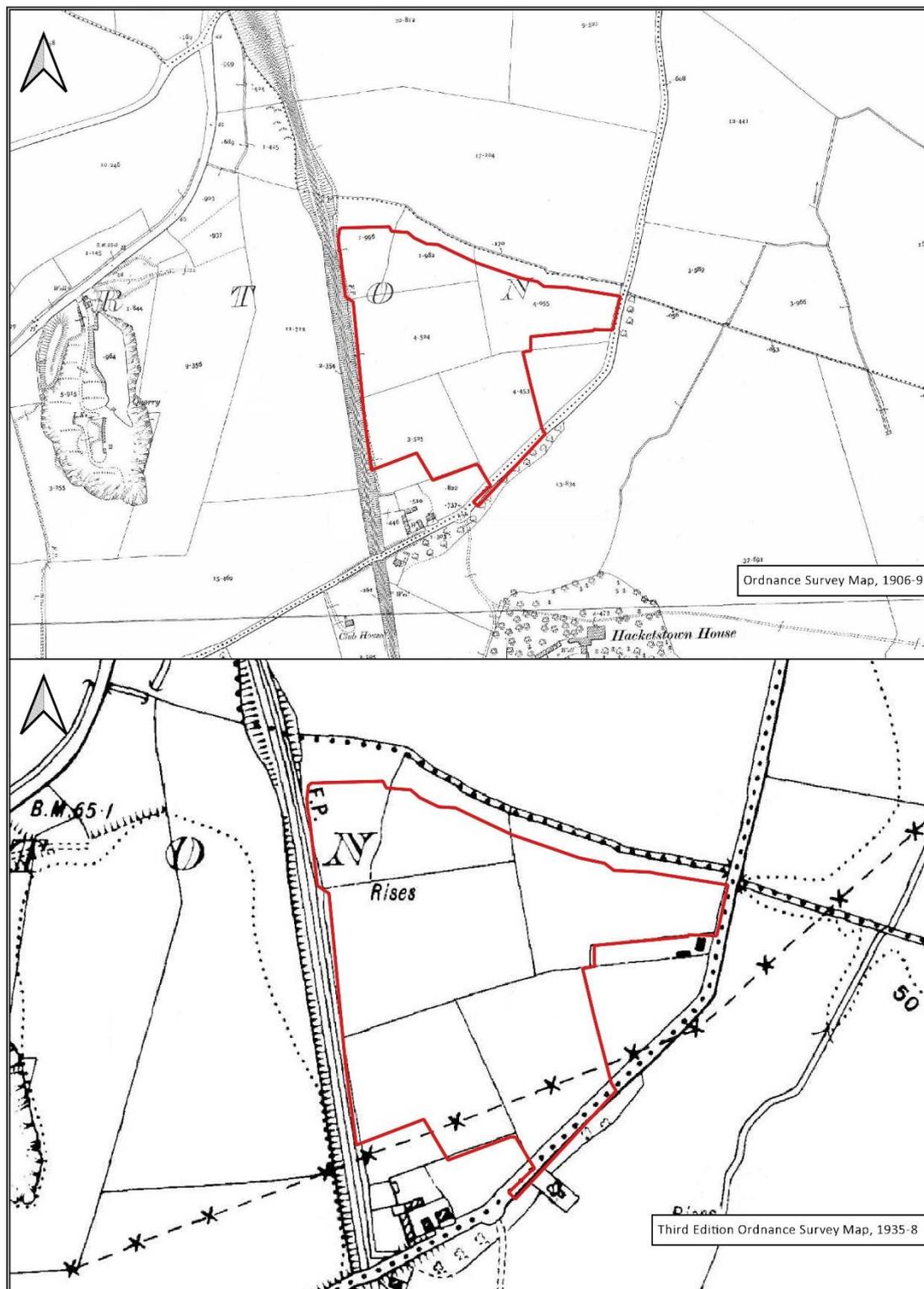


Figure 4.4: Extracts from historic OS mapping showing the proposed development area

4.7 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023 recognises the statutory protection afforded to archaeological sites included within the Record of Monuments and Places and seeks to protect those monuments, including their setting, access, views and prospects. The sites are described in detail in Appendix 4.1 and shown on Figure 4.2.

Fingal County Council recognises the value and significance of the county’s archaeological heritage, and the importance of fostering a greater public appreciation of this heritage. Through policies contained in this Development Plan, they seek to ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and their settings.

There are three archaeological sites within the 500m study area of the proposed development area, two of which are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP (Table 4.2).

TABLE 4.2: RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

RMP/SMR No.	Townland	Classification	Distance from development	RMP Status
DU005-032	Milverton	Cist	c. 200m west	No
DU005-151	Townparks	Enclosure	c. 390m north-northwest	Yes
DU005-193	Hacketstown	Ring-ditch	c. 417m southeast	No

4.8 CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

4.8.1 Toponymy of Townlands

Townland and topographic names are an invaluable source of information on topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape. They also provide information on history; archaeological monuments and folklore of an area. A place name may refer to a long-forgotten site, and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites may still survive below the ground surface. The Ordnance Survey surveyors wrote down townland names in the 1830’s and 1840’s, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. Some of the townland names in the study area are of Irish origin and through time have been anglicised. A description and possible explanation of each townland name in the environs of the proposed development area are provided in Table 4.3.

TABLE 4.3: TOPONOMY OF LOCAL TOWNLANDS

Placename	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Milverton	<i>Bhaile an Mhiolbhardaigh</i>	Mill View town
Hacketstown	<i>Baile Haicéadaigh</i>	Hacket’s Town
Townparks	<i>Páirceanna Bhaile</i>	Town parks
Holmpatrick	<i>Inis Pádraig</i>	Patrick’s Island. Also known as Church Island

4.8.2 Townland Boundaries

The townland is an Irish land unit of considerable longevity as many of the units are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. However, the term townland was not used to denote a unit of land until the Civil Survey of 1654. It bears no relation to the modern word 'town' but like the Irish word baile refers to a place. It is possible that the word is derived from the Old English *tun land* and meant 'the land forming an estate or manor' (Culleton 1999, 174).

Gaelic land ownership required a clear definition of the territories held by each sept and a need for strong, permanent fences around their territories. It is possible that boundaries following ridge tops, streams or bog are more likely to be older in date than those composed of straight lines (ibid. 179).

The vast majority of townlands are referred to in the 17th century, when land documentation records begin. Many of the townlands are mapped within the Down Survey of the 1650s, so called as all measurements were carefully 'laid downe' on paper at a scale of forty perches to one inch. Therefore, most are in the context of pre-17th century landscape organisation (McErlean 1983, 315).

In the 19th century, some demesnes, deer parks or large farms were given townland status during the Ordnance Survey and some imprecise townland boundaries in areas such as bogs or lakes, were given more precise definition (ibid.). Larger tracks of land were divided into a number of townlands, and named Upper, Middle or Lower, as well as Beg and More (small and large) and north, east, south and west (Culleton 1999, 179). By the time the first Ordnance Survey had been completed a total of 62,000 townlands were recorded in Ireland.

The proposed development is bounded by the townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks to the northeast and by the boundaries between Milverton and Hacketstown and Milverton and Holmpatrick to the southeast. All are visible on the First Edition (1843) OS mapping in their current form. The former is delineated by mature hedgerow along a field boundary, partially removed by development to the north, the latter two lie along Golflinks Road.

4.9 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2005-2021) and Bing Maps revealed that the development to the immediate north of the proposed development area disturbed part of the north-eastern section of the site during 2016 (Plate 4.1). No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted in or within the vicinity of the proposed development area.

4.10 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland record a human skull fragment (NMI 1946:140) from a ploughed field known as the 'Danes Burial Ground' in the townland of Milverton in 1946. The precise location of this field is now unknown.

4.11 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the

proposed development area was inspected (Figure 4.1). The field inspection was carried out on the 6th of November 2019.

For ease of discussion the proposed development area has been divided into five fields (Plate 4.1). Field 1 gently slopes down to the northeast and comprises uneven pasture. It is bounded by mature vegetation on all sides except the east. The townland boundary between Milverton and Hacketstown forms the southeast limit (Plate 4.2). Field 2 undulates east to north, it is bounded by a farmyard to the south, the railway and mature vegetation to the west and mature vegetation to the north and east (Plate 4.3).



Plate 4.1: Google Earth (2016) coverage of the site



Plate 4.2: Field 1 towards townland boundary, facing southeast



Plate 4.3: Field 2, facing southeast

Field 3 also undulates east-west and is bounded by the railway and mature vegetation to the west. It is bounded on all other sides by mature vegetation and the field slopes down to the north (Plate 4.4). Field 4 is bounded by two townland boundaries to the northeast and east and mature vegetation to the west and south. The townland boundary to the east, between Milverton and Holmpatrick, comprises a stone wall within a mature hedgerow. The townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks consists of a stream and mature vegetation. The field slopes down to this stream (Plate 4.5).



Plate 4.4: Field 3, facing southeast



Plate 4.5: Field 4 towards townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks, facing northeast

Field 5 slopes down to the stream in the northeast forming the townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks and rises to the southwest corner. The western boundary consists of railway and mature hedgerow and the southern boundary mature vegetation (Plate 4.6). There is no division between Field 5 and Field 4 to the east. No previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential were noted during the field inspection.



Plate 4.6: Field 5 towards townland boundary between Milverton and Townparks, facing east-northeast

4.12 CONCLUSION

The proposed development area is situated within five open fields in the townland of Milverton, the parish of Holmpatrick, and barony of Balrothery East. There are three archaeological sites within the study area of the proposed development, two of which are scheduled to be included in the next revision of the RMP. The nearest site comprises a cist (DU005-032), c. 200m to the west, which is listed in the SMR due to the fact that the site has been quarried away. An enclosure (DU005-151) is located c. 390m north-northwest of the redline boundary and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP, as is a ring-ditch (DU005-193), located c. 417m to the southeast.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2021) has revealed that the proposed development area has been subject to a geophysical survey and test-trenching that identified the remains of disused field systems dating from the 19th/20th centuries (Licence 06R0133, 06E0889, 10E0111). Evidence of a Bronze Age domestic site and a central burial site was uncovered during monitoring to the north of the proposed development area.

Analysis of historic maps has shown that the proposed development area remained as open fields throughout the post-medieval period, bordered by the demesne of Hacketstown House to the southeast and later by the route of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway to the west.

An inspection of the aerial photography failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features within the site; however, it did note that the northern half of Field 4 was disturbed in 2016 by the development to the immediate north.

A field inspection has been carried out as part of this assessment. No previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological or cultural heritage potential were noted.

4.13 PREDICTED IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Geophysical survey and archaeological testing have previously been carried out within the proposed development area. No features of archaeological potential were identified during the course of these works, although prehistoric features were identified during works to the immediate north. It remains possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development area may have a direct and negative effect on isolated archaeological features that may exist outside of the footprint of the excavated test trenches. Effects may range from moderate to significant in significance, dependant on the nature, extent and significance of any identified remains.

No impacts are predicted upon the three recorded archaeological sites located within the study area. This is due to the fact that DU005-032 (cist) has been quarried away and is no longer extant. The remaining sites are located over 390m away from the proposed development and the distances means that the setting of these monuments will not be affected.

4.14 'DO NOTHING' SCENARIO

If the proposed development were not to proceed, there would be no negative impact on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource.

4.15 WORST CASE SCENARIO

Under a worst-case scenario, the proposed development would disturb previously unidentified and unrecorded deposits and artefacts without appropriate excavation and recording being undertaken.

4.16 MITIGATION MEASURES

Topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, which will ensure the identification of any small archaeological features that may survive within the site. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation will be required, such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH).

4.17 RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Following the completion of the above mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual impacts upon the archaeological or cultural heritage resource.

4.18 MONITORING

The mitigation measures recommended above would also function as a monitoring system to allow the further assessment of the scale of the predicted impacts and the effectiveness of the recommended mitigation measures.

4.19 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The surrounding proposed and permitted developments (as detailed in Chapter 2) have been assessed in relation to the archaeological and cultural heritage resource and the proposed development.

We note the following developments in close proximity to the project site:

Reg. Ref.	Description	Date
Ref. ABP-312189-21 FCC Reg. Ref. F21A/0287	The 'advanced infrastructure works' is subject of a Section 34 application, and that which is currently under consideration by ABP	Case is due to be decided by 26/04/2022
Ref. ABP 308583-20	'Ballygossan Phase 2' refers to the lands to the north in the ownership of Noonan Construction which has been the subject of an SHD pre-application to the Board	Considered Reasonable basis for application 26/01/2021
ABP Reg. Ref. 309409; FCC Reg. Ref. F20A/0324	Off-site road improvements which were granted by ABP and FCC to provide the necessary upgrades to local road network.	Granted by ABP 19/07/2021

These combined with the Project have the potential to create a cumulative impact upon the settings of designated heritage assets noted within this chapter during the construction and operation phases.

Following the application of mitigation measures, there will be no cumulative impact upon the archaeological resource as any archaeological remains that are present within the proposed development area will be preserved by record.

4.20 REINSTATEMENT

Not applicable.

4.21 INTERACTIONS

None identified.

4.22 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN COMPILING

No difficulties were encountered during the compilation of this assessment.

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CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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- www.archaeology.ie –website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

- www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.
- www.bing.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.
- www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesC.php - Contains the text from Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870).
- www.logainm.ie –Placenames Database of Ireland launched by Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaelige and DoHLGH.

APPENDICES

4.1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE REDLINE BOUNDARY

SMR NO.	DU005-032
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Milverton
PARISH	Holmpatrick
BARONY	Balrothery East
I.T.M.	724709/759003
CLASSIFICATION	Cist
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m west
DESCRIPTION	There is a tradition of burials in 'stone coffins' being discovered at Milverton. The site is known traditionally as the 'Danes burial ground'. The field has been incorporated into Milverton Quarry since 1970 and there is no visible surface trace (Campion 1969, 39; Healy 1975, 18, Cahill and Sikora 2011, 472).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU005-151
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Townparks
PARISH	Holmpatrick
BARONY	Balrothery East
I.T.M.	724649/759658
CLASSIFICATION	Enclosure
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 390m north-northwest
DESCRIPTION	Geophysical survey (Licence no. 06R0135) undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development, identified strong linear and curvilinear features which were interpreted as a network of ditches or structural remains. Test-excavation (Licence no. 06E0996) confirmed the presence of an enclosure ditch, evidence of in situ burning and extensive archaeological activity interpreted as probable multi-phase occupation (Turrell 2006, 28).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU005-193
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Hacketstown
PARISH	Holmpatrick
BARONY	Balrothery East
I.T.M.	725382/758720

CLASSIFICATION	Ring-ditch
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 417m southeast
DESCRIPTION	Located in a large arable field, c. 200m ESE of the site of Hacketstown House, cropmarks indicate the presence of the subsurface remains of a ring-ditch. The ring-ditch, visible on Apple Maps imagery (June 2018), comprises a circular feature (ext. diam. c. 15m) defined by a ditch (Wth c. 2m). There are no indications of any gap across the ditch. Other irregular cropmarks in the immediate environs may represent the subsurface remains of periglacial features.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file