



Chapter 13

Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Contents

13.	Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	1
13.1	Introduction	1
13.2	Methodology	1
13.3	Baseline Environment	5
13.4	Potential Impacts	23
13.5	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	24
13.6	Cumulative Impacts	25
13.7	Residual Impacts	25
13.8	Difficulties Encountered	25
13.9	References	26

Tables

Table 13.1:	RMP Sites within 1.5km of the Proposed Development Site	5
Table 13.2:	Archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site	8
Table 13.3:	PS and NIAH Sites within c. 1.5km of the Proposed Development site	11

Images

Image 13.1:	Grand Jury Map of 1811 with Ditchley House (PS501) arrowed	12
Image 13.2:	Francis Candell's map of Cork Harbour (1587) (https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698)	14
Image 13.3:	John Speed's map of Munster (1610) (www.lbrowncollection.com)	14
Image 13.4:	Down Survey Parish Map of Little Island (1655-66) (www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)	15
Image 13.5:	Smiths map of county cork (1750) depicting Little Island completely separate from the mainland (www.corkpastandpresent.ie)	15
Image 13.6:	Taylor and Skinner (1777) depicting Little Island completely separate from the mainland (www.lbrowncollection.com/road-maps-of-ireland-taylor-skinner-1777-)	16
Image 13.7:	OS 6-inch map 1841 (1841) depicting Little Island with its county houses and demesnes and the three bridges which connected it to the mainland in the mid-19 th century (www.osi.ie)	17
Image 13.8:	Indicative outline of Proposed Development site on OS 6-inch map 1841 (www.archaeology.ie)	18
Image 13.9:	Indicative outline of Proposed Development site on OS 25-inch map 1902 (www.archaeology.ie)	19
Image 13.10:	Indicative outline of Proposed Development site outlined on OS 6-inch map 1935 (www.archaeology.ie)	19
Image 13.11:	Indicative outline of the Proposed Development outlined on OS aerial 2014-2018 (www.osi.ie)	20

13. Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

13.1 Introduction

This chapter comprises an assessment of the likely effects that the Proposed Development, the N25 Little Island Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge, as detailed in **Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Development**, will have on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment.

13.1.1 Terms used

Some terms used in this Chapter are explained hereunder:

The phrase ‘*Cultural Heritage*’ is a generic term covering a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments within the landscape. For the purpose of this report, Cultural Heritage is divided into three sub-groups, namely Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Architecture.

Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage can be described as the study of past human societies through their material remains and artifactual assemblages. The Valletta Treaty (or the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992) defines archaeological heritage as “all remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past times” and this includes “structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or underwater”.

Cultural heritage

Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation. This includes customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural Heritage is often expressed as either Tangible or Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICOMOS, 2002). Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines (EPA, 2015) define Tangible Cultural Heritage as movable cultural heritage (artefacts), immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites and so on) and underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins and cities). Intangible cultural heritage encompasses oral traditions, folklore, history and language. The cultural heritage aspects of this assessment include an overall history of Little Island, The Cork to Middleton / Cobh railway line and a study of the placenames in and around the Proposed Development site.

Architectural Heritage

Architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999, as structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings, groups of such structures and buildings, and sites, which are of architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

13.2 Methodology

13.2.1 Study area

The Proposed Development site is situated in the townlands of Kilcoolishal and Castlevew in the parishes of Caherlag and Little Island, respectively, and the barony of Barrymore. To obtain a comprehensive assessment of the Cultural Heritage environment, a study area within a 1.5km radius of the Proposed Development site was chosen. All known registered archaeological monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and on the Sites and Monuments Register (SMR) and all registered architectural sites listed as Protected Structures (PS) or listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) within the study area were assessed.

For the purpose of this assessment the Proposed Development site is divided into two sections as follows:

- **Area A** to the north of the Cork to Midleton railway line, comprising an irregular area stretching west from the western side of Little Island train station. Most of the site is greenfield with some hard standing towards its eastern end; and
- **Area B** to the south of the N25 in Little Island comprising an irregular area stepping south from the N25 into the grounds of the Radisson Blu Hotel (formerly Ditchley House) and Eastgate Business Park. It is divided roughly half and half into woodland / dense vegetation and car parking.

13.2.2 Relevant guidelines, policy and legislation

In Ireland, the principal legislative measures protecting cultural heritage assets are the National Monument (Amendments) Acts 1930 to 2014, the Heritage Act 1995, the relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended.

This Chapter has been undertaken with regard to the following guidelines:

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2022);
- Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999a);
- Policy & Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999b); and
- Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2004).

13.2.3 Data collection and collation

The methodology for this assessment comprised the following steps;

- A desktop study of the Proposed Development site and study area (1.5km radius of Proposed Development site);
- A walkover survey of the Proposed Development site in October 2022 and February 2023;
- An evaluation of the likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment; and
- Proposed mitigation measures to be undertaken to prevent or reduce any potential impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment.

13.2.3.1 Desktop study

A comprehensive review and analysis of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage environment of the Proposed Development site and study area was undertaken using the following sources:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

This record was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. It lists all monuments and places believed to be of archaeological importance in the County. The numbering system consists of two parts: the first part is the county code (CO for Cork) followed by the Ordnance Survey map number (six inches to the mile scale); the second part is the number of a circle surrounding the site on the RMP map, e.g. (CO075-010) refers to circle 010 on OS sheet 075 for County Cork. The area within the circle is referred to as the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) or zone of notification for that site. Its diameter can vary depending on the size and shape of the site, but it averages out at approximately 180m. The RMP for County Cork was published in 1998. All RMP sites within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site are listed in **Table 13.1**.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)

The purpose of the ASI is to compile a baseline inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. It contains details of all monuments and places or sites known to the ASI which pre-date AD 1700, and a selection of monuments which post-date 1700. The large record archive and databases resulting from the survey are continually updated. Archaeological sites which are added to the database are proposed to be included in the next published edition of the RMP and will then be afforded its protection. This database, complete with maps, is available for consultation via the National Monuments Service (NMS) website at www.archaeology.ie.

Some sites listed in the SMR Database will not be included in the next revision of the RMP but will remain on the database for record purposes. There are four such sites within the study area; a fulacht fia (CO075-082) and three corn drying kilns (CO075-084, CO075-085 and CO075-086). All four sites were fully excavated and preserved by record in 1999 in advance of construction of Eastgate Business Park. All SMR sites within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site are listed in **Table 13.1**.

Archaeological Inventory

The inventories for each county are follow-ons by the ASI to the RMPs. They give a written description of each archaeological site in the county. The archaeological inventory for East and South Cork, Volume 2 (Power, Byrne, Egan, Lane & Sleeman, 1994) was published in 1994 and a follow up volume, Volume 5 (Ronan, Egan & Byrne, 2009), was published in 2009.

Files of the NMS, DAU

These files were consulted in order to retrieve information on lists of RMP sites that have been afforded added protection such as:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state – none in the study area;
- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the local authority – none in the study area;
- Monuments subject to Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders – none in the study area; and
- Monuments listed in the Register of Historic Monuments – none in the study area.

Database of Irish Excavation Reports (www.excavations.ie)

This website provides a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations and investigations in Ireland undertaken between 1970 and 2023. The database was queried for any investigations undertaken in any of the townlands within proximity of the Proposed Development site and are listed in **Table 13.2**.

Cork County Development Plan (CCDP) (2022-2028)

The CCDP (2022-2028) outlines Cork County Council's (CCC's) objectives with regard to the preservation of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the county. The CCDP sets out CCC's commitment to identifying and safeguarding sites and settings, structures and objects of archaeological and architectural interest within the county. Volume 2 of the CCDP lists Protected Structures (PS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) in county Cork. All PS's within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site are listed in **Table 13.3**.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The NIAH was set up under the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe or the Granada Convention of 1985. It was established on a statutory basis under Section 2 of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day, in a systematic and consistent manner. It is divided into two parts; The Building Survey and Historic Garden Survey (www.buildingsofireland.ie). The main function of both is to identify and evaluate the State's architectural heritage in a uniform and consistent manner, so as to aid its protection and conservation. The NIAH carried out a survey of the buildings of County Cork between 2006 and 2011. Under Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, all structures considered of regional, national or international

importance within the survey are recommended for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) by the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht. If this is not adopted by the local authority, the reasons must be communicated to the Department. The Building and Historic Garden Survey for County Cork is available online. The NIAH for County Cork includes approximately 6,500 items of architectural importance in the County. All NIAH structures listed within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site are listed in **Table 13.3**.

Aerial photographs

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) and Google maps have posted a number of online aerial photographs dating from 1995 (OSI; 1995, 1999-2003, 2004-2006, 2005-2012, 2011-2013 and 2013-2018). These were examined to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological/cultural heritage significance that may only be visible from the air. No potential archaeological features are apparent in the photographs.

LiDAR

LiDAR (light detection and ranging) is a survey method that can provide detailed landscape data and information on the earth's topography which enable a better understanding of historical landscapes and their past uses. Much of the Proposed Development site is covered by LiDAR survey and no potential archaeological features were apparent on the images.

Cartographic Sources

A small number of later medieval and post medieval maps of Cork Harbour were consulted and these are reproduced in **Image 13.1** to **Image 13.10** in Section 13.3.3 and Section 13.3.4, as follows:

- The 1811 Grand Jury map of Cork compiled by Neville Bath in the 1790s and published in 1811 at a scale of three quarters of an inch to one mile;
- Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587);
- John Speed's Map of Munster (1610);
- Down Survey Parish map of Little Island (1654-1659);
- Smith's Map of County Cork 1750;
- Taylor and Skinner Road maps (1777);
- Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch maps; the three editions of the 6-inch to one mile scale maps were consulted, the first edition published in 1841-1842, the second edition published in 1902 and the third edition published in 1935. The 25-inches to one mile OS map (1902), from which the second edition 6-inch map was derived.

13.2.3.2 Walkover survey

The primary purpose of a walkover survey is to assess the physical environment in which the Proposed Development will take place to identify any potential archaeological sites or Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) and any features of cultural heritage interest. The Proposed Development site was inspected by the author in October 2022 and February 2023 in overcast dry weather conditions and no features or finds of archaeological or cultural heritage interest were evident in either Area A or B. Details of the walkover survey with photographs are given in Section 13.3.5.

13.2.4 Appraisal method for the assessment of impacts

The assessment of impacts (both direct and indirect) during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been carried out in accordance with Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022). The likely significant effect of the Proposed Development on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment are assessed with reference to the EPA Description of Effects (EPA, 2022) as provided in Table 1.1 of **Chapter 1, Introduction**.

13.2.5 Consultation

During the compilation of the EIAR, discussions were held with Mary Sleeman, Cork County Archaeologist via email and phone. Her recommendations are reflected in the mitigation measures in Section 13.5.

13.3 Baseline Environment

13.3.1 Archaeology

The Proposed Development will involve the construction of a bridge to span the Cork to Midleton railway line and the N25. The bridge will provide a link from Little Island train station and the Glounthaune region (Area A) to Eastgate Business Park and Little Island (Area B).

One of the earliest maps of Cork Harbour (Candell, 1587) depicts Little Island as an island in Lough Mahon, completely separate from the mainland and only accessible by boat (refer to **Image 13.2** in Section 13.3.4). On the Grand Jury map of 1811 (refer to **Image 13.1** in Section 13.3.3), a bridge can be seen linking the mainland to Little Island in the same area as the present bridge. By the time of the 1841 OS map (refer to **Image 13.7** in Section 13.3.4), the island is connected to the mainland by three bridges and by the time of the 1902 OS map, the channel on the north side of the island has been infilled and reclaimed with the Great Southern and Western railway line (now the Cork to Midleton and Cobh railway line) running roughly along its course (refer to **Image 13.9** in Section 13.3.4). With the construction of the railway line in 1859, the landscape was transformed, and this change continued with the construction of the N25 in the 2000s. Waterways and their drainage areas have always been attractive as places to both live and forage and have been used as a means of travel, trading and a major food resource over the Millennia. The Proposed Development site is located at the northern end of Little Island which lies in Lough Mahon in the inner reaches of Cork Harbour, an area with a rich and varied tradition.

There are no recorded archaeological sites listed in the RMP or the SMR within the Proposed Development site. The closest known recorded archaeological sites to the proposed works are a fulacht fia (CO075-082) and three corn drying kilns (CO075-084, CO075-085 and CO075-086) in the townland of Castleview, c. 220m to the southwest (refer to **Figure 13.1** in **Volume 3** of this EIAR). All four sites were fully excavated and preserved by record in 1999 in advance of construction of Eastgate Business Park. In total, there are 16 recorded archaeological monuments within a 1.5km radius of the Proposed Development site (refer to **Table 13.1** and **Figure 13.2** in **Volume 3** of this EIAR) providing evidence for human settlement and activity within the study area dating back to the Bronze Age and giving an indication of the archaeological potential of the Proposed Development site.

The pace of landscape change in Ireland accelerated in the second half of the 20th century and many archaeological sites have been levelled by activities associated with modern development such as agriculture, industry and infrastructural improvements. This has ensured that the present-day archaeological landscape is not fully representative of the human occupation of this island, which has spanned at least ten thousand years. Much of the physical evidence for the existence of past societies has been altered by each successive community, all of which leave their mark on the landscape they have occupied. While many archaeological sites survive today as partially upstanding structures, such as earthworks and stone monuments, many more survive only as subsurface remains, often forgotten and concealed from view.

Table 13.1: RMP Sites within 1.5km of the Proposed Development Site

RMP / SMR PS, NIAH	Site Type	Townland	ITM Co-Ordinates	Distance
CO075-020001 PS495	Graveyard	Wallingstown	574402, 572026	1km to south-west
CO075-020002 PS495	Church	Wallingstown	574417, 572023	1km to south-west
CO075-004	Ringfort	Rowgarrane	574712, 574215	1.4km to north-west
CO075-005001	Graveyard	Kilcoolishal	574904, 573852	1km to north-west
CO075-005002	Church	Kilcoolishal	574904, 573852	1km to north-west
CO075-007	Ringfort	Rowgarrane	575740, 574182	1.3km to north-east
CO075-008	Enclosure	Rowgarrane	576354, 574206	1.5km to north-east

RMP / SMR PS, NIAH	Site Type	Townland	ITM Co-Ordinates	Distance
CO075-009	Ringfort	Ballynaroona	576351, 574039	1.4km to north-east
CO075-010	Ringfort	Ballynaroona	576281, 573882	1.2km to north-east
CO075-021 PS491	Castle	Wallingstown	574506, 572015	950m to south-west
CO075-049 PS492, 20907523	Father Mathew Tower	Kilcoolishal	574261, 573080	1km to north-west
CO075-052	Water mill	Wallingstown	574635, 571670	1.2km to south-west
CO075-082	Fulacht fia	Castleview	574962, 572470	320m to south-west
CO075-084	Corn drying kiln	Castleview	575133, 572455	230m to south-west
CO075-085	Corn drying kiln	Castleview	575060, 572437	280m to south-west
CO075-086	Corn drying kiln	Castleview	575001, 572460	300m to south-west

The archaeological timescale can be divided into two major periods, each with a number of sub-sections:

- **The prehistoric period:** Mesolithic (c. 8000 to 4000 BC); Neolithic (c. 4000 to 2400 BC); Chalcolithic (c. 2450-2200 BC); Bronze Age (c. 2200 to 700 BC); Iron Age (c. 700 BC to AD 400); and
- **The medieval period:** Early medieval 5th – 12th century; high medieval 12th century – c. 1400; late medieval c. 1400 – 16th century.

Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic

The earliest evidence for human colonisation and settlement in Cork can be dated to 8000 BC, the Mesolithic Period. The people of this era were hunter-gatherers, entirely dependent on what food could be obtained through hunting and gathering, amongst other things, edible plants and shellfish. The transition of these early settlers from hunter / gatherers to a farming way of life in the Neolithic Period brought about more permanent settlements and a more complex and structured social hierarchy. The Chalcolithic, meaning the ‘Copper and Stone Age’ is a transitional phase in Ireland between the Neolithic and Bronze Age that is characterised by the adoption of copper metallurgy as an established technology prior to the use of bronze. This period is also frequently represented on excavated sites ‘*by the widespread cultural adoption of a new form of pottery, collectively referred to as Beaker Ware*’ (Hanley, 2013).

There are no known archaeological sites dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic or Chalcolithic periods within the study area. The general lack of sites does not, however, mean that there was no early settlement and occupation in the broader region. A Neolithic polished stone axe (almost 0.12m long) was identified during monitoring of topsoil removal prior to the construction of the waste-water treatment plant at Carrigrenan, c. 2.3km to the south-east of the Proposed Development site (Lane 2001). A number of Neolithic polished stone axes have been recovered from the Cork Harbour area while the Files of the NMI give details of a dugout canoe washed ashore in the townland of Pembroke, Passage West, 4km across Lough Mahon to the south-east. Although this boat wasn’t dated, it is typical of the earliest boats known to have been made by humans. These finds provide valuable evidence of human activity in the study area in the early prehistoric period.

Bronze Age and Iron Age

The Irish Bronze Age is characterised by the adoption of bronze, distinctive pottery styles, changes in burial traditions and an increase in population. The burial traditions of the Bronze Age were generally much simpler than the elaborate megalithic tombs of the earlier Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, although these were frequently reused for later burials. Most Bronze Age burials, either cremated or inhumed, were placed in stone-lined cists or simple earth-cut pits often accompanied by grave goods. Some graves were marked with a cairn or a mound of stones, while others were marked by a mound of earth known as a barrow.

The earliest recorded archaeological site in the study area is a fulacht fia (CO075-082) in the townland of Castleview, 320m to the south-west of the Proposed Development site. Fulachtaí fia are the most common type of prehistoric site in the country and although some Neolithic examples occur, most excavated fulachtaí fia have been dated to the Bronze Age. They comprised a trough or pit usually lined with stone, wattle or

planks in which quantities of water could be boiled using fire-heated stones. A mound (often horseshoe-shaped) was formed when the heat-shattered stones were removed from the trough. Fulachtaí fia are generally interpreted as ancient cooking sites but could have been used for any purpose that required large quantities of hot or boiling water such as bathing, processing textiles, tanning, brewing, extraction of fats from meat, and soap making, or even a combination of these functions (Ó Drisceoil, 1988; Monk, 2007; Quinn & Moore, 2007).

The example in Castleview was excavated in 1999 in advance of development of an industrial and retail complex (Eastgate). Excavation revealed a D-shaped spread (10.46m E-W; L 9.6m; D 0.1-0.45m) of heat-shattered stone and charcoal-enriched soil which covered a trough of two conjoined unlined pits (Ronan *et al.* 2009). Radiocarbon dates retrieved from the site place the use of this fulacht fia in the Late Bronze Age (*ibid.*).

Early Medieval Period

This period in Ireland is characterised by the influx and influence of Christianity, which had become widely established by the 6th century. Monasteries became a focal point for the lay communities of this period who were spread throughout the countryside in settlements such as ringforts / raths, crannogs and simple huts. The majority of recorded archaeological monuments within a 1km radius of the Proposed Development site date from the medieval and post medieval period and later.

There are four ringforts in the study area, two in Ballynaron (CO075-009 and CO075-010) and two in Rowgarrane (CO075-004 and CO075-007). Ringforts (also known by the names rath, lios, cathair or caiseal / cashel) are defended farmsteads and are the most characteristic monument of this period. Their main phase of construction and occupation dates from the beginning of the 7th century AD to the end of the 9th century. They are generally circular or oval in plan, defined by an earthen bank with an external ditch or fosse. Larger ringforts with double defences (bi-vallate) and triple defences (tri-vallate) are generally interpreted as higher status sites and these can be particularly associated with specialised craft working.

One of the ringforts in Ballynaron (CO075-010) is described by Power *et al.* (1994) as a slightly raised circular area (34.5m E-W; 34m N-S) enclosed by an earthen bank (int. H. 0.3m; ext. H 1.8m). The nearby ringfort (CO075-009) 75m to the north, is described as a roughly circular area (46.5m E-W; 40.5m N-S) enclosed by an earthen bank (int. H 1.3m) and external fosse (*ibid.*). There is no visible surface trace of the two ringforts in Rowgarrane. Both monuments are shown on the OS 6-inch map of 1841 as hachured circular enclosures approximately 35m in diameter.

Two tidal mills (CO075-052) were identified during construction of an extension to the Mitsui Denman factory in Wallingstown, 1.2km to the south-west of the Proposed Development site. Upon excavation, the timber remains of one horizontal-wheeled mill and one vertical-wheeled mill were uncovered in reclaimed land and dated to c. 630AD (Power *et al.* 1994). The site of the mill is incorrectly marked on the ASI database. Its correct location, as given on the published RMP map is depicted on **Figure 13.2** in **Volume 3** of this EIAR.

High Medieval and Late Medieval Periods

The majority of castles in Ireland can be broadly classified into two groups; the early castles of the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries and the tower houses of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Tower houses consist of fortified residences in the form of a tower that was usually four to six storeys high and often partially enclosed by a bawn. Most tower houses date to the fifteenth / sixteenth centuries.

Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021; PS00491) lies 950m to the south-west of the Proposed Development site. It consists of a small rectangular tower (6.1m N-S; 7.6m E-W) which stands to 4 storeys. It is known as Wallingstown Castle although there is no apparent link with the Wallyns or Waleys (later Walsh) family. The castle was held by the Fitzgeralds for a time in the 16th century and stood in the demesne lands of Little Island House which no longer survives. The following excerpt is taken from an archaeological assessment carried out as part of a proposed programme of conservation works for the castle; *‘The remains of Wallingstown Castle stand in an area of rough grass within a modern industrial estate and so it is difficult to establish the original landscape context of the site, though a ruined medieval church and graveyard are located a short distance away to the west. The structure is a Later Medieval tower house and as such belongs to a late form of castle architecture that was common in Ireland, and particularly in Munster, in the*

fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Wallingstown is a relatively simple tower house and is comprised of a rectangular stone-built structure which appears to have had a single room at each level within it. The structure is built with limestone rubble and lime mortar, though there have been many alterations to the original building over time. The building is now in a ruinous state and the timber floors, the roof, the doors and the window fittings are no longer in situ. (Sherlock, January 2003) The conservation works were archaeologically monitored and no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified. It was noted at the time that the works ‘should considerably improve the stability of the structure and ensure its preservation for future years’ (*ibid.*).

A church and graveyard (CO075-020002 and CO075-020001; PS00495) lie a short distance to the west of the castle also in the townland of Wallingstown. The ruins of the rectangular church (13.35m E-W; 8.5m N-S) consist of the west gable wall and north wall standing to full height but most of the east and south walls reduced to 1.1m in height (Power *et al.*, 1994). The church stands in the north-western corner of the graveyard which is enclosed within a stone wall with the earliest grave slab dating to 1715 (*ibid.*). Brady (1863) described it as the parish church of Little Island in repair in 1615 and 1639 and in 1700 as built with stones and lime and in good repair (Power *et al.*, *ibid.*). There is another church and graveyard in Kilcoolishal, 1km to the north-west of the Proposed Development area. There is no visible surface trace of the church which is depicted as ‘in ruins’ on the OS 6-inch map of 1841. The former parish church of Caherlag is described by Brady in 1918 as ‘almost completely disappeared’ (Power *et al.* *ibid.*). The roughly rectangular graveyard contains many late 18th and 19th century headstones.

Post Medieval Period

The eighteenth century was an era of relative peace and political stability in Ireland. This encouraged a growing sense of prosperity and order, which in turn created an environment favourable to industrial and agricultural innovation as well as intellectual and aesthetic pursuits. Perhaps the most notable cultural heritage site-type of this period and the ensuing century is the country house and its demesne. The term ‘demesne’ or ‘demaine’ is Norman French in origin and denotes that portion of the manorial estate not leased out to tenants but retained by the Lord for his own use and occupation’ (Reeves-Smyth, 1997, 549). The estate system was finally dismantled in Ireland in the early twentieth century.

Little Island is described by Lewis (1837) as being ‘...embellished with several handsome seats’ which were attracted to the island by the ‘pure atmosphere, fertile soil and sylvan scenery’. The OS map of 1841 (refer to **Image 13.7** and **Image 13.8**) depicts several named country houses and their attendant demesnes in great detail. Amongst the houses mentioned by Lewis is Castle View (PS502) (latterly called Ditchley) which lies within the study area. This is discussed in greater detail in Section 13.3.3.

Ten archaeological investigations have taken place (www.excavations.ie) within the study area and archaeological remains were revealed in five. These are listed and summarised in **Table 13.2**.

Table 13.2: Archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site

Excavation Reference	Townland	Details
None	Wallingstown	Timber remains of two tidal mills, one horizontal-wheeled mill and one vertical mill found during extension to the Mitsun Denman (Ireland) Ltd factory in 1978. The mills were excavated and dated to c. 630AD (Power <i>et al.</i> 1994).
1998:088	Wallingstown	Archaeological monitoring of an expansion to the existing Irotec Laboratories Ltd plant. Apart from the recovery of a single sherd of post medieval ware and two struck lithics, nothing of archaeological significance was noted (McCarthy, 1998).
1999:085	Castleview	Monitoring of topsoil removal identified four archaeological sites consisting of a fulacht fia and three linear stone-lined features. Archaeological excavation of the fulacht fia exposed a D-Shaped spread (10.46m E-W; straight W side; L 9.6m N-S; D 0.1-0.45m) of heat shattered stones and charcoal-enriched soil covering a trough of two conjoined unlined pits. The three linear stone-lined features (between 2.2m and 4.1m in length with an average width and depth of 0.65m and 0/52m respectively) contained fills of charcoal-enriched deposits and red, oxidised soil caused by intense burning. A large quantity of charred cereal grain and charcoal was recovered (McCarthy, 1999).
2001:135	Carrigrenan	Monitoring of a 15ha greenfield site was undertaken prior to construction of wastewater prior to construction of wastewater treatment plant. Two shell spreads along the western seashore perimeter were noted and were tested under licence (see below 2001:136). A polished stone axe was recovered during monitoring and has been dated to the late Mesolithic (Lane, 2001).

Excavation Reference	Townland	Details
2001:136	Carrigrenan	Three test trenches excavated across two shell spreads identified during archaeological monitoring (see above 2001:135). A beach head of stratified shell and beach material tapering inland was identified. No evidence of human activity and the position and nature of the stratified material suggests the layers were laid down naturally (Lane, 2001).
2004:0299	Wallingstown, Flaxfort, Courtstown	Monitoring of Cork Main Drainage Scheme (Phase 2) was undertaken around the southern portion of Little Island. Monitoring of groundworks associated with the site compound, access road, three pump stations and their associated rising mains and gravity sewers undertaken in the townlands of Wallingstown, Flaxfort and Courtstown. A section of the rising main was laid along the northern shore of Lough Mahon and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified (Dunne, 2004).
2004:0300	Castleview – Ditchley House	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks was carried out in the grounds of Ditchley House (PS 005202) in advance of its development as a hotel. No archaeological finds or features were noted (Lane, 2004).
2006:320	Courtstown	This greenfield site was in the zone of archaeological potential for the site of Courtstown Castle (CO075-025). There were no visible remains of the castle thought to be of 17 th century date. Trenches were opened on the site in areas of potential identified in a geophysical survey. Several sherds of post-medieval glazed red earthenware were recovered particularly in the trench closest to the extant 19-century Courtstown House (Sutton, 2006).
2016:184	Wallingstown	Archaeological testing on the site of a proposed data centre within the grounds of the former Mitsui Denman Factory which was constructed in 1973. Testing confirmed ground levels had been reduced down to the natural subsoil when the 1970s industrial complex was constructed. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were noted (Cummins, 2016).
2018:082	Inchera and Dunkettle	Archaeological monitoring of the N25 Dunkettle Interchange Improvement Motorway Scheme. Monitoring of tree grubbing was carried out and archaeological features were identified which correlated to features present on historic mapping. These consisted of a revetted field drain and two linears which were interpreted as walls, a curved wall relating to the original causeway leading into Little Island, a tank/pump structure, townland boundaries and a drain and cobbled feature. All features were recorded and left <i>in situ</i> (Long, 2018).

13.3.2 Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage can be site specific, when an archaeological or architectural site has cultural heritage associations, or non-site specific, where less tangible aspects of cultural heritage cannot be pinpointed to a particular place but can be tied to a specific region. Our cultural heritage provides a link with our past, is part of our identity and who we are as a people and as a region.

Little Island was once home to a number of country houses surrounded by extensive demesnes and owned by wealthy landowners and aristocrats. It is described by Lewis (1837) as follows; ‘*Little Island, a parish and island, in the barony of Barrymore... containing 1103 inhabitants. It comprises 1627 statute acres, chiefly under tillage and in high state of cultivation; there is no waste land or bog. Limestone abounds, and it is worked to a considerable extent for agricultural and building purposes, and as a ballast for vessels sailing without cargoes from the port of Cork. The island is embellished with several handsome seats, the principal of which is Wallingstown house, the residence of Phineas Bury, Esq., the principal proprietor, containing within the demesne the ruins of a church or chapel and of the castle of Wallingstown*’. Other country houses referred to by Lewis include, Castleview, the property of W.H. Jackson, latterly called Ditchley and now the Radisson Blu Hotel (PS502).

As mentioned by Lewis (*ibid.*), quarrying was an important industry in the Little Island area in the 19th century where the quality of the limestone was considered excellent. Thus, the demand for Little Island limestone was high and it was used extensively in the construction of public buildings in Cork City such as the Court House (built 1835), and St. Fin Barre’s Cathedral (1865-79) (Rynne, 2006). Extensive quarrying appears to have taken place in Ballytrasna (Rock Farm Quarry), at the southern end of Little Island while additional smaller unnamed quarries are also depicted on all three OS map editions. The quarries were conveniently located on the shoreline allowing the quarried stone to be moved by boat upriver to the city. A number of quays along the southern coastline of Little Island still remain, if in somewhat poor condition. Limestones which could be polished were commonly referred as ‘marbles’ and one such marble, known as the Cork ‘reds’ from Little Island, was used in the Liverpool and Manchester exchanges and in St John’s College, Cambridge (*ibid.*).

The industrialisation of Little Island commenced in the 1970s and 1980s when a number of multinational companies established factories and manufacturing facilities in the area. With the opening of three industrial estates by 1980, 1,000 jobs had been created on the island, in small and medium sized engineering and pharmaceutical companies (Brunt, 2005). Eastgate Business Park is a major commercial and industrial park and, as one of the largest in the country, is home to a range of businesses, which include multinational corporations and indigenous Irish companies. Little Island has been transformed from a seaside retreat for the wealthy in the 19th century to an industrial hub, where according to the Little Island Business Association, over 1,000 businesses operate (www.liba.ie).

The Proposed Development site is situated in the townlands Castleview and Kilcoolishal. The Irish landscape is divided into over 62,000 townlands and this system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands are pre-Anglo / Norman in origin and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised across the country in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. Townlands existed long before the parishes and counties. The original Irish names were eventually systematically recorded in anglicised form in the mid-19th century during compilation of the OS 6-inch maps. Many townlands throughout Ireland took their names from early habitation sites, both ecclesiastical and secular.

Townland names are an important aspect of cultural landscapes in Ireland, providing valuable insights into the history, culture and language of the area. The social customs or history of the people who have lived in a particular place can be reflected in the name of the townland. Some townland names are derived from the names of prominent individuals who owned or occupied the land, while some are named after early Christian monasteries or religious sites such as churches or holy wells. Many other townland names are descriptive of the natural features of the landscape of that area and region, such as hills, rivers or forests. The townland of Castleview is an English name which in Irish is '*Radharc an Chaisleáin*'. It is most likely referring to either Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021; PS491) situated to the south-west or Courtstown Castle (CO075-025) to the south-east. Courtstown Castle is no longer extant but was located on top of a natural knoll in a commanding position, making it very visible on the landscape at one point in time. Killcoolishal, in Irish, '*Cill Chúil Iseal*' means the low corner or angle of a church (www.loganim.ie). Other townland names in the surrounding region include Rowgarrane, in Irish '*Ruagharrán*' meaning Red Grove, Ballynaron, in Irish '*Bhaile na Rúin*' meaning town of the spades and Wallingstown in Irish '*Baile an Bhailisigh*', meaning the town or homestead of the Walshes. The Proposed Development site lies in the parishes of Caherlag and Little Island. Caherlag in Irish '*Chathair Laga*' meaning fort of the hollow. Little Island is in Irish '*An tOileán Beag*'. Little Island is depicted on early maps of the harbour area (Candell, 1587; Down Survey, 1655-66; Taylor and Skinner, 1777) as an island only accessible by boat. By the time of the OS 6-inch map of 1841, three bridges are depicted linking the island to the mainland.

13.3.3 Architecture

There are no Protected Structures (PS) listed in the CCDP 2022-2028 within the Proposed Development site. The closest PS is the Radisson Blu Hotel (PS502), approximately 50m to the south of Area B, while the closest structures listed in the NIAH are in Area A and include those associated with the Cork to Midleton / Cobh railway line, formerly the Great Southern and Western railway line (GS & W). They comprise a cast iron foot bridge (20907530), Station Master's House (20907529) and Railway Station (20907528), located between 13m to 20m to the east of the Proposed Development site. The closest Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is that at Passage West, c. 4km across Lough Mahon to the south-east. There are a total of 25 structures within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site which date from the 16th century (Wallingstown Castle; PS491) to the early 20th century (Dunsland House; PS494). These are listed in **Table 13.3** and displayed on **Figure 13.3** in **Volume 3** of this EIAR.

Table 13.3: PS and NIAH Sites within c. 1.5km of the Proposed Development site

NIAH, PS, RMP	Site Type	Townland	ITM Co-Ordinates	Distance
20907518 PS494	Dunslan House Gate Lodge – c. 1890	Kilcoolishal	573739 572861	1.5km to west
20907519 PS 494	Dunslan House – c. 1930	Kilcoolishal	573928 572970	1.3km to west
20907521	Glenburne Country house – c. 1840	Kilcoohishal	574287 573491	1.2km to north-west
20907523 PS492 CO075-049	Father Mathew Tower - 1843	Kilcoolishal	574250 573082	1km to north-west
20907524	Dunslan Cottage – c. 1890	Kilcoolishal	574189 572925	1km to west
20907525	Mount Patrick House – c. 1810	Kilcoolishal	574432 573023	870m to north-west
20907526	House – c. 1900		575279572150	600m to south-west
20907527 PS502	Ditchley House (now Raddison Hotel) – c. 1820	Castleview	575342 572683	50m to south
20907527 PS502	Gate lodge to Ditchley House (now Radisson Blu Hotel)	Castleview	575546 572780	120m to south
20907528	Railway station – 1859	Ballyhennick	575555 572888	20m to south-east
20907529	Station Master’s House - 1859	Ballyhennick	575541 572928	19m to north-east
20907530	Foot Bridge - 1859	Ballyhennick	575530 572890	13m to south-east
20907531 PS490	Rockgrove House (now Biocel Ltd) – c. 1760	Ballyhennick	575727 573151	340m to north-east
20907531 PS490	Gate Lodge Rock Grove House - c. 1760	Ballyhennick	575468 573006	70m to north-east
20907532	Saint Lappan’s Church of Ireland – 1865	Ballytrasna	575712 572195	660m to south-east
20907533	House – c. 1930	Ballytrasna	576380 572198	1.2km to south-east
20907534	Bridge – single arch, built c. 1811	Ballynaroona	576790 573530	1.4km to north-east
20907535	House dated 1819	Lackenroe	576876 573205	1.3km to north-east
20907536	Water pump	Lackenroe	576940 573205	1.4km to north-east
20907537	Sacred Heart roman catholic church – c. 1880	Lackenroe	576936 573342	1.4km to north-east
PS495 CO075-020001	Graveyard	Wallingstown	574402 572026	1km to south-west
PS495 CO075-020002	Church	Wallingstown	574417 572023	1km to south-west
PS491 CO075-021	Tower house	Wallingstown	574506 572015	950m to south-west
PS500	North Esk Lodge	Dunkettle	573761 572571	1.5km to west
PS501	Lodge	Inchera	574019 571607	1.6km to south-west

The structures within 1.5km of the Proposed Development site reflect the residential, spiritual and infrastructural history of the area from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. The closest structure to the Proposed Development site is the Radisson Blu Hotel, formerly Ditchley House (PS502; NIAH 20907527). The southern half of the Proposed Development site (Area B) lies within the former demesne associated with this house. Ditchley House is described in the NIAH as a six-bay, two-storey over half-basement which despite more modern extensions and alterations, retains much of its early character. Remnant demesne structures comprise the gate lodge and limestone gate piers which lie c. 200m to the east of the house at the entrance to the Radisson Blu Hotel. On the OS 6-inch map of 1841, the house is named Castle View and the associated farm buildings are depicted to the east (refer to **Image 13.8**). On the later OS maps dating to 1902 (refer to **Image 13.9**) and 1935 (refer to **Image 13.10**), the house is named Ditchley while the farm buildings to the east are called Castle View.

An architectural survey of Ditchley House and Farm buildings was carried out in advance of development of the house as a hotel in 2002 (Sutton, 2002). Archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with this development was carried out in 2004 and no archaeological finds or features were identified (Lane, 2004). Ditchley House was built by S. Jackson in 1760-1780 as the Dower House to Little Island House (no longer extant) which stood at the north-western side of the island in the townland of Wallingstown. Jackson was from an English family and reputedly owned a large amount of land on Little Island, including quarries (Sutton, 2002). Little Island is described by Lewis (1837) as being ‘...embellished with several handsome seats’ which are attracted to the island by the ‘pure atmosphere, fertile soil and sylvan scenery’. Amongst those houses mentioned is Castleview which he describes as the property of W. H. Jackson. In Griffiths Valuation of 1852, the occupier of Ditchley House is Robert de la Cour Beamish when the property, consisting of 13 acres was valued at £34 (Griffith, 1852). Castleview farm is listed in the same valuation as being owned by Edmond Murphy with 208 acres, valued at £13.10s (Sutton, 2002). It is probable that the Jackson family may still have been landlords of both Castleview and Ditchley at this time with separate tenants paying them a ground rent (*ibid.*).

In 1900, Ditchley House was purchased by Arthur Julian, a solicitor and his wife Mary Louisa Grey who moved from Carrigrennan House at the southern end of Little Island. One of their daughters, Dorothy, married Judge D.B. Sullivan and lived in Carrigrennan House while their second daughter known as Miss Julian, inherited Ditchley house and lived there until it was sold to the Ellis family in the 1960’s who were the last to occupy the house until it was again sold in the late 1990’s (Sutton, 2002). The Murphy’s were involved with Castleview Farm from at least from the mid-19th century until the Ellis family bought both Ditchley House and Castleview Farm in the 1960’s. The farm buildings were demolished as part of the redevelopment of the site into a hotel in 2004.

The Grand Jury Map of 1811 depicts the house and several other mansions (none of which are named) on ‘The Little Island’ when at this time, the Island Bridge is the only bridge connecting Little Island to the mainland (refer to **Image 13.1**).



Image 13.1: Grand Jury Map of 1811 with Ditchley House (PS501) arrowed

Another country house in the study area is Rockgrove House (PS490; 20907531), located 340m to the north-east of the Proposed Development site. The house is described in the NIAH as '*Detached five-bay three-storey over half-basement former country house, built c. 1760, with breakfront to central bay, bowed bays and two-bay two-storey wings to east and west elevations and two-storey extensions to the rear (north)*'. A gate lodge and limestone gate piers remain at the entrance to the house which was the seat of the Dring family in the 18th and 19th centuries and valued in the early 1850s at £51 (www.landedstatesdatabase.ie). The house was subsequently sold in 1906 when it was valued at £80 and was restored in the 1970s (Bence Jones, 1988).

Saint Lappan's Church of Ireland, situated in the townland of Ballytrasna c. 660m to the south-east of the Proposed Development site, is a Gothic Revival style church. The church was built in 1865 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of Ireland and aided by a bequest from Miss Hester Bury (NIAH). According to the NIAH, '*The attention to detailing and skilled workmanship evident on the exterior continues throughout the interior, most notably in the carpentry of the roof bracing and carved timber reredos*'. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs Elizabeth Bury of Little Island House on the 29th of September 1864 (www.historicgraves.com).

Father Mathew Tower (PS00492/CO075-049), c. 1km to the north-west in the townland of Kilcoolishal, was built in 1843 by William O'Connell to honour Theobald Matthew (1790-1856), known as Father Mathew, the temperance reformer (NIAH). It consists of a detached circular-plan, single-bay, three-stage former folly which is now in use as part of a house.

The railway line, formerly the Great Southern and Western railway line (GS & W), divides the Proposed Development site east to west. During the 19th century, with the industrial revolution, there was an increase in production and a change in population shift with more people moving to towns and cities to work. The introduction of railway lines improved communication shortened travel times and allowed for better trade and commerce. The section of railway line between Dunkettle and Middleton opened for traffic on the 10th of November 1859 and was extended eastwards to Killeagh and then on to Youghal which opened in 1860 (Johnson 2005, 25). The railway line was an important transport link for the region, and it played a significant role in the economic development of the area, facilitating the transportation of goods such as coal, timber and agricultural produce. It also provided an important passenger service connecting Cork city with towns like Middleton, Youghal and Dungarvan. The railway line was closed to all traffic in 1963 as part of a wider programme of railway closures across Ireland. It reopened under the Irish Government's Transport 21 investment programme in 2009, a section of which now stops at Little Island. The NIAH lists the red brick Railway Station (20907528), Tudor Revival style Station Masters (20907529) and cast-iron foot bridge (20907529), all constructed in 1859 and still extant.

13.3.4 Cartographic information

A small number of later medieval and post medieval maps of the harbour were consulted. The earliest of these is Candell's map of Cork harbour, dated to 1587, that depicts *Little Island* on which a house is shown, while Belvelly Castle (CO075-030) is depicted on *Great Island* and named '*Belville*' (refer to **Image 13.2**). John Speed's Map of Munster dated to 1610 depicts Little Island as Lord Barry Island (refer to **Image 13.3**), while the Down Survey Map of 1654-1659 depicts three houses on the island, none of which appear to be Ditchley (refer to **Image 13.4**). Smith's map of County Cork dated to 1750 and Taylor and Skinner map dated to 1777, similarly depict Little Island as an island in Lough Mahon, completely separate from the mainland and only accessible by boat (refer to **Image 13.5** and **Image 13.6**). The Grand Jury Map of Cork Harbour dated to 1811 (refer to **Image 13.1**) depicts but does not name Ditchley House and several other mansions on the island which is now accessible via one bridge to the north. On the OS 6-inch map of 1841 there are three bridges linking the north side of the island to the mainland (refer to **Image 13.7**).

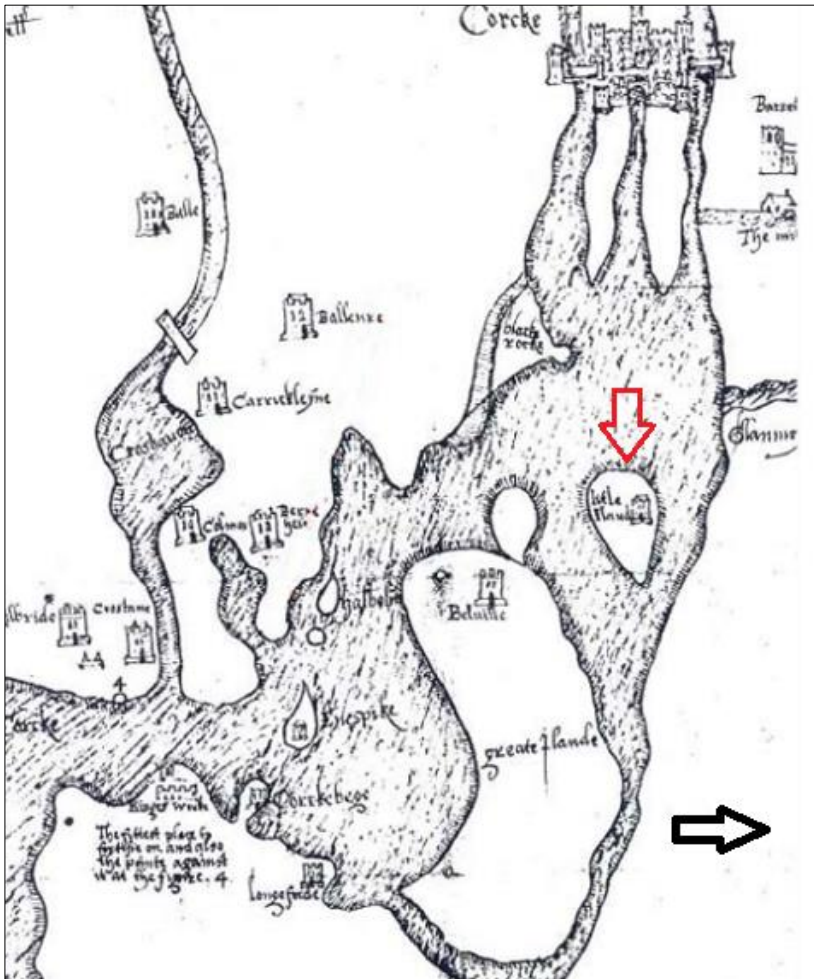


Image 13.2: Francis Candell's map of Cork Harbour (1587) (<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698>)



Image 13.3: John Speed's map of Munster (1610) (www.lbrowncollection.com)



Image 13.4: Down Survey Parish Map of Little Island (1655-66) (www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)



Image 13.5: Smiths map of county cork (1750) depicting Little Island completely separate from the mainland (www.corkpastandpresent.ie)



Image 13.6: Taylor and Skinner (1777) depicting Little Island completely separate from the mainland (www.lbrowncollection.com/road-maps-of-ireland-taylor-skinner-1777-)

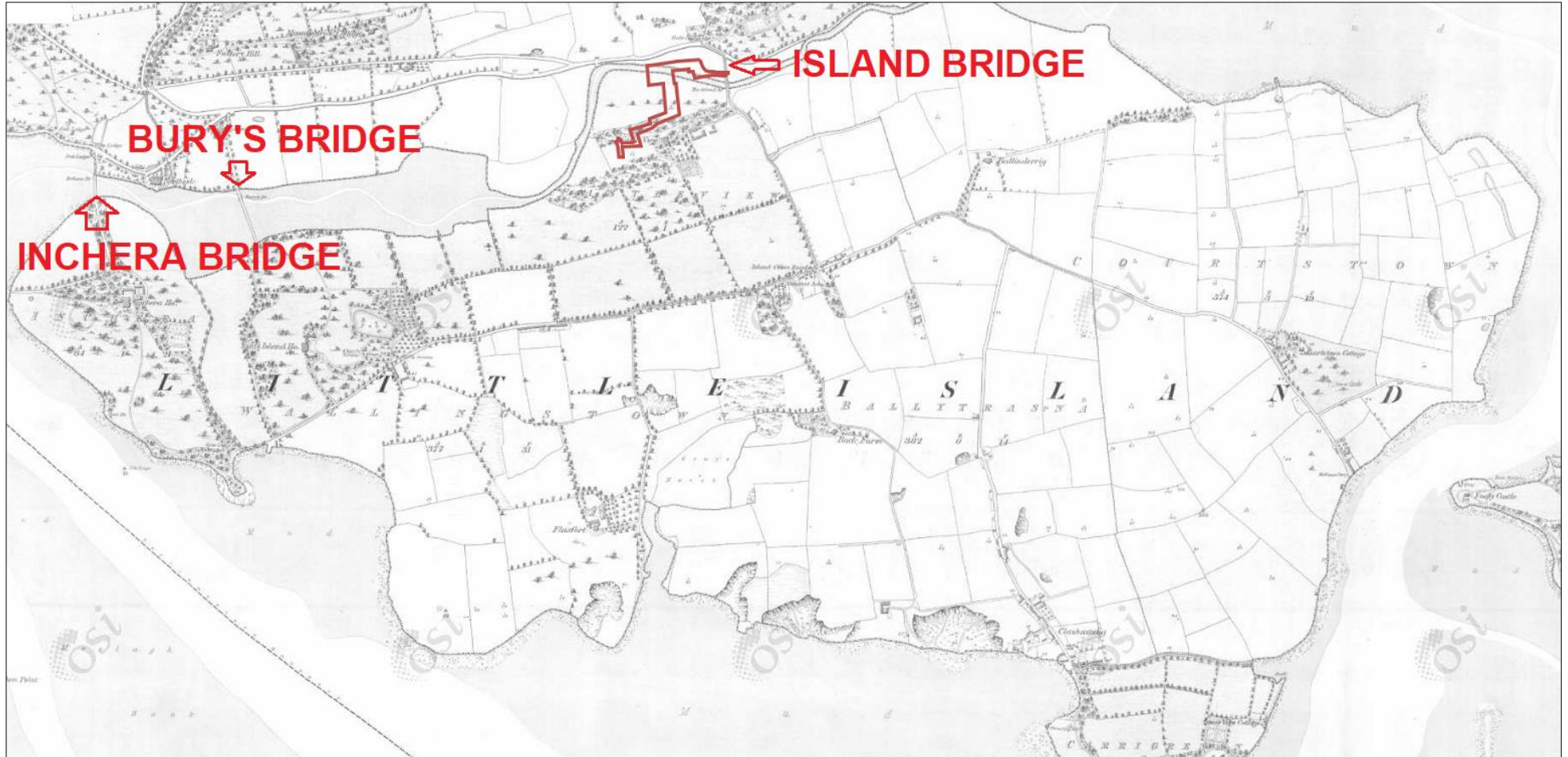


Image 13.7: OS 6-inch map 1841 (1841) depicting Little Island with its county houses and demesnes and the three bridges which connected it to the mainland in the mid-19th century (www.osi.ie)

On the 1841 OS 6 inch map (refer to **Image 13.7** and **Image 13.8**), Little Island can be seen as the most northerly of the islands in Cork harbour with its northern shore separated from the mainland by a narrow tidal channel which is crossed by three bridges. One of the bridges, The Island Bridge, lies just to the east of the Proposed Development site. Area A (on the mainland side) is depicted as part of a field on the northern bank of the tidal channel with the Cork to Youghal Road forming the northern boundary of the field. The Island Bridge was a swing bridge, built in 1880 linking Little Island to the mainland. Area B across the channel to the south is situated on Little Island. It lies within the demesne lands of Castle View (now the Radisson Blu Hotel; PS502). On the OS map of 1902 (refer to **Image 13.9**) almost all of the channel has been infilled and reclaimed and the GS & W railway line (now the Cork to Midleton and Cobh railway line) runs roughly along this railway line. Area A lies in a field now sandwiched between the Cork to Youghal Road to the north and the railway line to the south. Little Island train station lies to the east. Area B, to the south of the railway line, lies within the grounds of Ditchley and covers an area of open ground with some trees at the southern end. The two areas of the Proposed Development site are depicted in much the same way on the OS 6-inch map of 1935 (refer to **Image 13.10**).

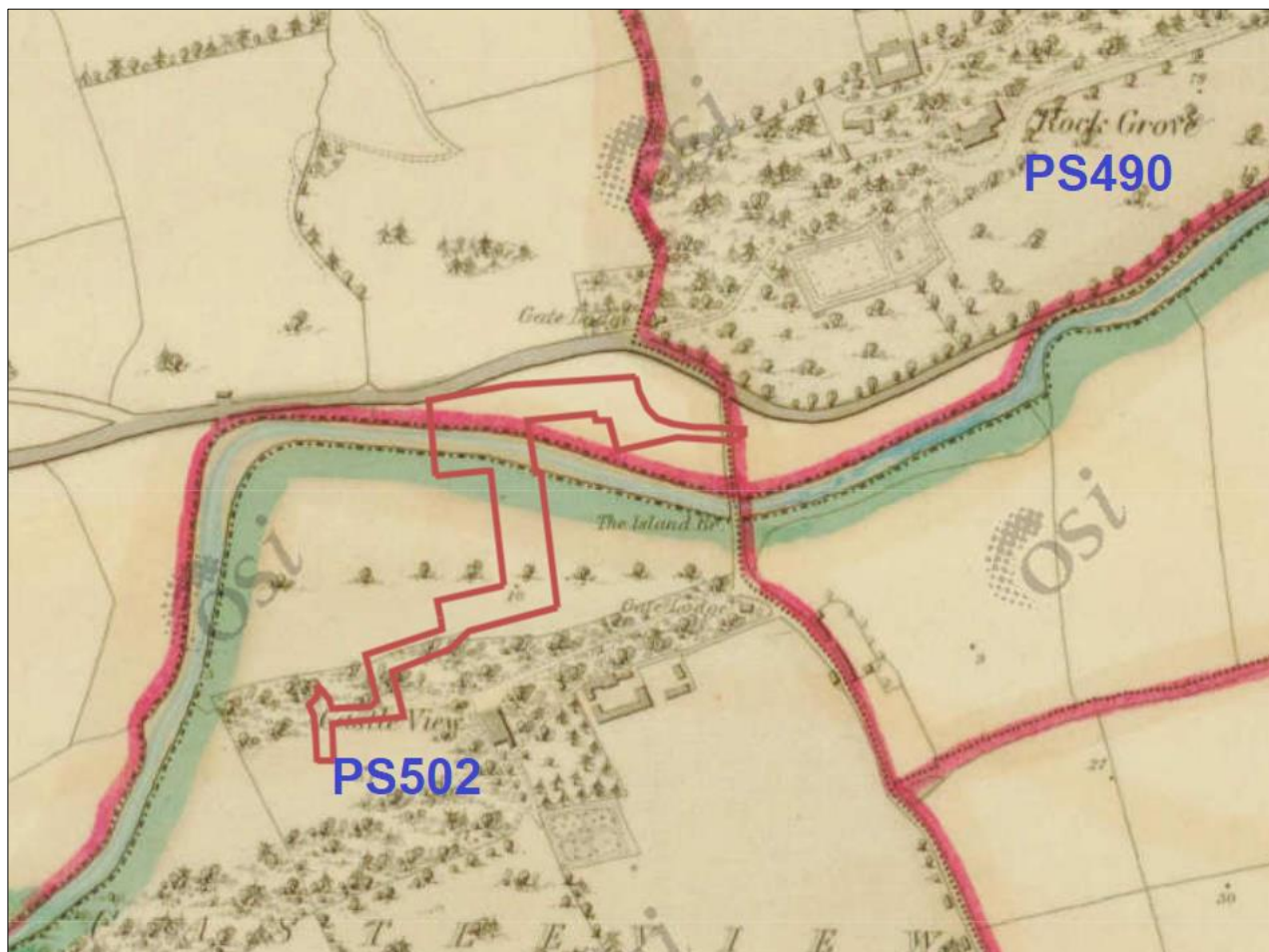


Image 13.8: Indicative outline of Proposed Development site on OS 6-inch map 1841 (www.archaeology.ie)

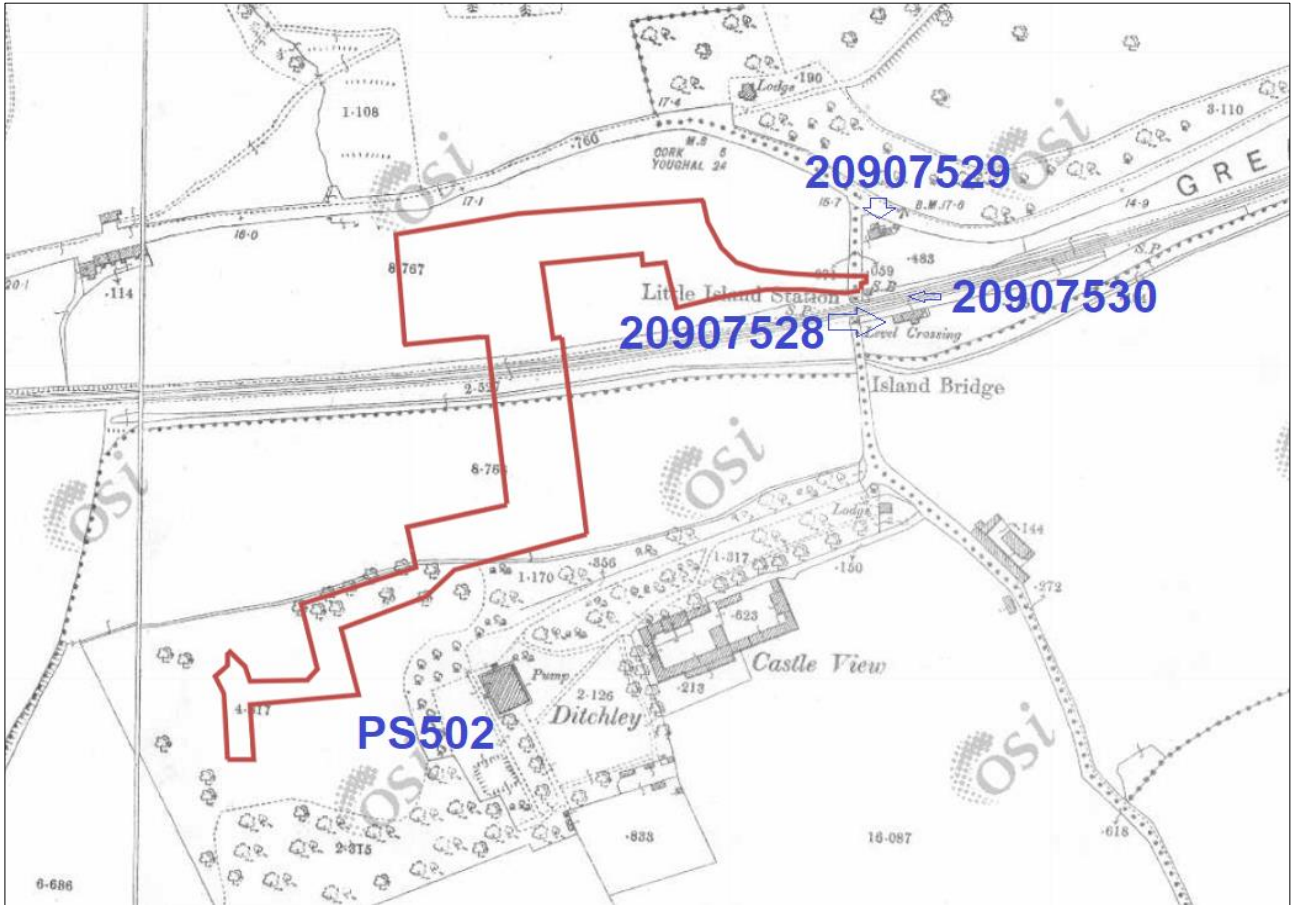


Image 13.9: Indicative outline of Proposed Development site on OS 25-inch map 1902 (www.archaeology.ie)

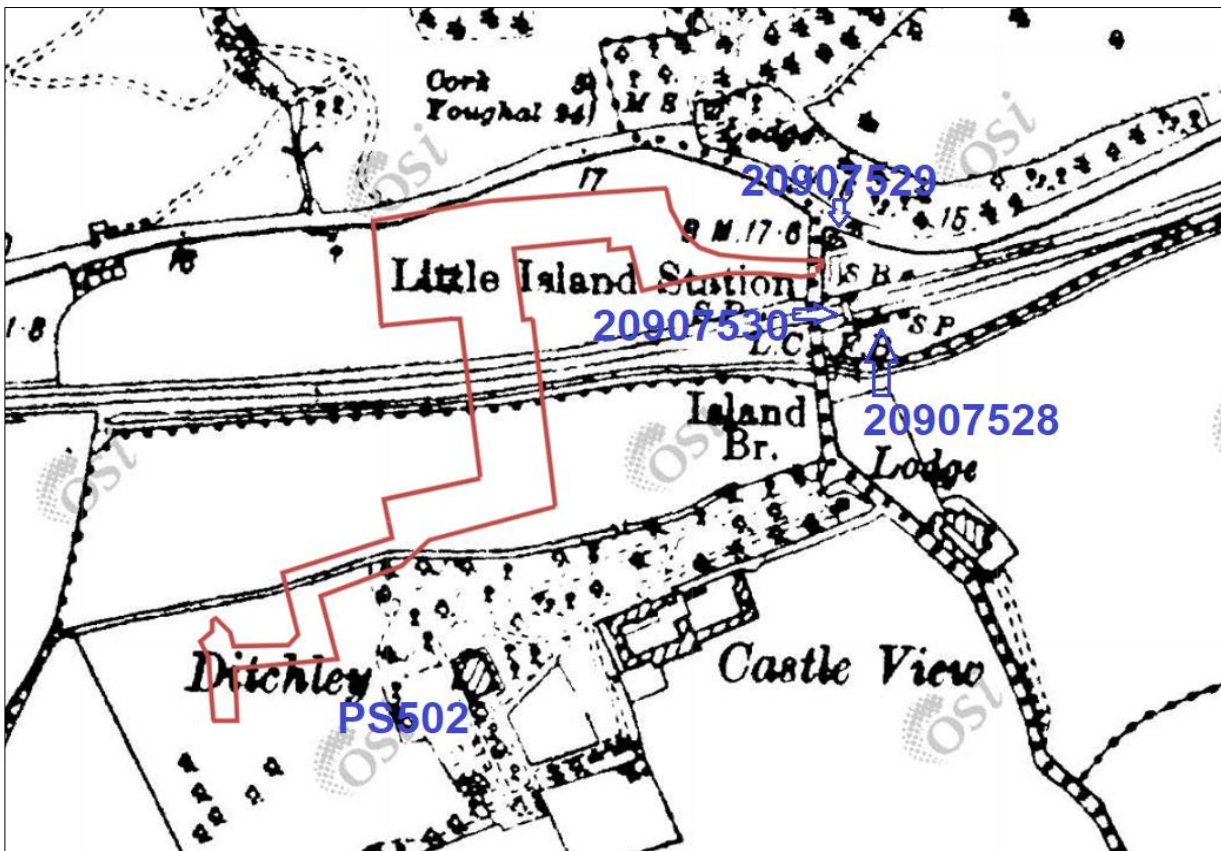


Image 13.10: Indicative outline of Proposed Development site outlined on OS 6-inch map 1935 (www.archaeology.ie)

13.3.5 Walkover survey

The Proposed Development site (refer to **Image 13.11**) was inspected by the author in October 2022 and February 2023 in overcast dry weather conditions (refer to **Plates 1 to 5**) and the following observations were made:

- Area A comprises a section of a public park on the south side of the old Youghal Road and to the north of the Cork to Middleton and Cobh railway line. It comprises a level green area with a gravel pathway running east-west along the northern boundary and a row of mature trees along the southern boundary within waterlogged ground. An aerial photograph dated 1999-2003 depicts it as an amenity space with meandering pathways running through it. Subsequent aerial photographs (2004-2013) show changes and variations to these pathways. Just outside the Proposed Development site to the west, an open drain feeds into a roughly circular overgrown pond with banked up excavated material around its edges;
- The eastern section of Area B comprises an overgrown area of mature woodland and dense vegetation, a section of which lies within the grounds of the Radisson Blu Hotel. To the west of this overgrown area are car park areas associated with the Radisson Blu Hotel and Eastgate Business Park; and
- No features or finds of archaeological / cultural heritage interest were evident in either Area A or B.

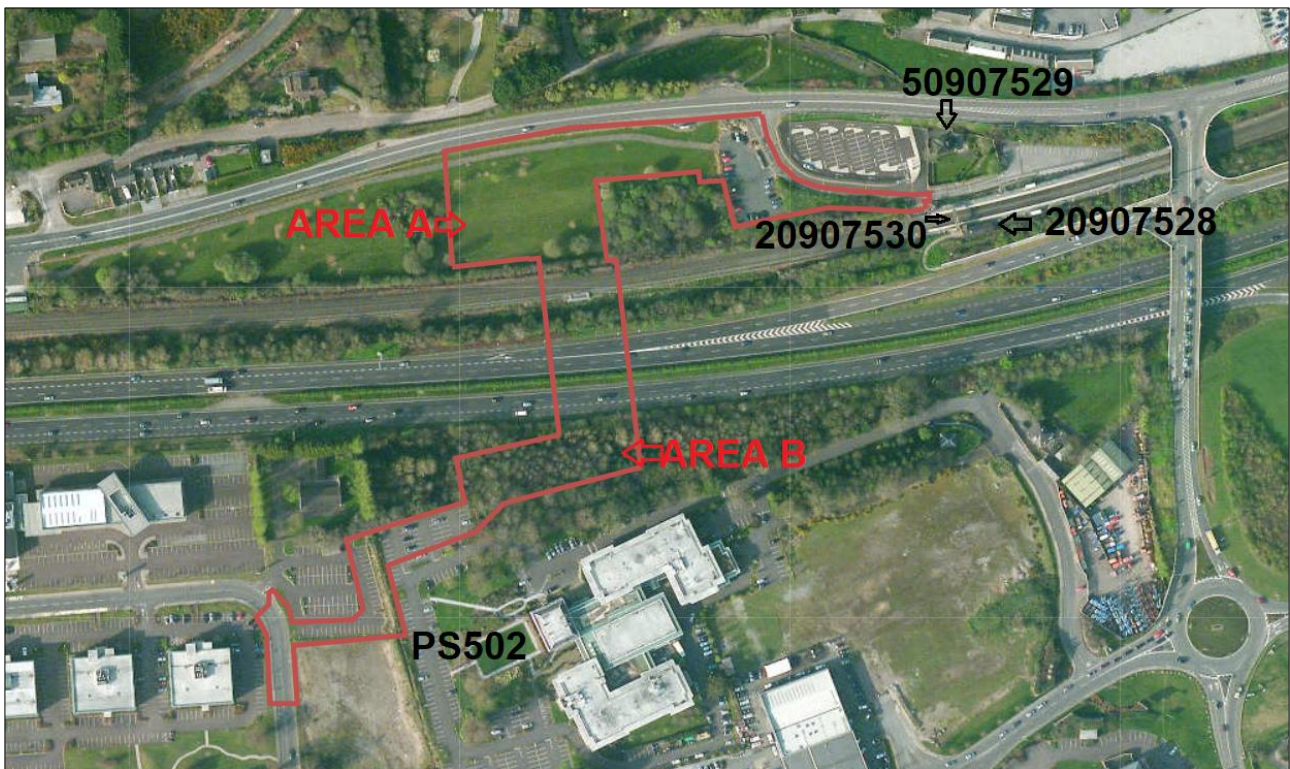


Image 13.11: Indicative outline of the Proposed Development outlined on OS aerial 2014-2018 (www.osi.ie)



Plate 1: Area A, looking west



Plate 2: Area A, looking west



Plate 3: Area A, looking east



Plate 4: Area B, looking south towards the Radisson Blu Hotel



Plate 5: Area B, looking east

13.4 Potential Impacts

The assessment of impacts (both direct and indirect) during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been carried out in accordance with the Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022). The likely significant effect of the Proposed Development on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment are assessed with reference to the EPA Description of Effects (EPA, 2022) as detailed in Table 1.1 of **Chapter 1, Introduction**.

13.4.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development involves the construction of a pedestrian and cyclist bridge between Areas A and B and will involve large scale ground disturbance and ground reduction. The location of the Proposed Development site, albeit in a radically transformed landscape, would have encouraged human settlement and use from the earliest of times and evidence of such may still exist beneath the surface.

13.4.2 Do-Nothing Scenario

If the Proposed Development does not proceed, the existing landscape will remain in its current condition with the potential for subsurface archaeological remains to exist in situ, resulting in a neutral impact.

13.4.3 Construction Phase

There are no registered archaeological sites listed in the RMP for Cork or on the SMR database of the ASI within the Proposed Development site.

The predicted impact of the Construction Phase on registered archaeological sites will be neutral.

There are no Protected Structures listed in the CCDP and no structures listed in the NIAH within the Proposed Development site. One PS, the Radisson Blu Hotel, is located approximately 50m to the south of the Proposed Development site.

The predicted impact of the Construction Phase on the Radisson Blu Hotel will be neutral.

The Proposed Development will involve large scale ground reduction. This would have a direct effect on any potential archaeological sites which may survive below the ground surface. Where extensive earthmoving is involved, there is always the possibility that archaeological material will be uncovered.

If previously unknown archaeological features are identified during ground reduction, they will either be preserved by record or preserved in situ. If such features are preserved by record, they will be removed from the cultural landscape following full archaeological excavation. This effect would be significant and permanent.

13.4.4 Operational Phase

13.4.4.1 Visual impact on Ditchley House

The Proposed Development site is situated within a well-established industrial and commercial landscape which has experienced monumental change since the construction of the railway line in 1859. This change continued with the construction of the N25 and the growth of Little Island into an industrial and commercial hub in the 1970s and 80s. Ditchley House (PS502) once stood within a highly ornate demesne landscape and both the demesne and house have now been permanently altered. The house was converted to a hotel in 2004 and while the house itself was restored and retained, a large modern extension was added to its east and south. As part of that development, the associated farm buildings and courtyard were demolished. The development of Eastgate Business Park and the N25 have removed all trace of the demesne. These developments have had a significant effect on Ditchley House and its setting, irreversibly altering it and its setting.

The construction of a bridge here will be in keeping with the type of development which has taken place in the past 200 years. Several bridges have linked Little Island with the mainland since the first bridge shown on the Grand Jury map of 1811. The Proposed Development will not detract from the setting of the house, rather it will open up views to and from it, making it a more prominent feature which will ultimately have a positive visual effect on the local landscape. Ditchley House and its remaining demesne features, gate lodge and entrance piers, will remain intact within this ever-changing landscape.

The predicted visual impact of the bridge on the Radisson Blu Hotel will be positive and long term.

13.4.5 Decommissioning Phase

In the event of decommissioning of the site, no archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage effects are predicted.

13.5 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

13.5.1 Construction Phase

The Proposed Development was assessed as being wholly unsuitable to conduct a geophysical survey due to prevailing ground conditions (previous ground disturbance such as hardstanding, underground services and overhead medium voltage powerlines in Area A and dense tree cover and hardstanding in Area B). Similarly, it was determined that existing ground conditions meant that archaeological monitoring during construction was more suitable mitigation than pre-development archaeological testing.

Licensed archaeological monitoring of all ground works will be undertaken during construction. If features of archaeological significance are identified, further mitigation will be required following consultation with the County Archaeologist and the NMS. Such features will be fully resolved to professional standards of archaeological practice either by preservation in situ or preservation by record, as outlined in Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999b).

13.5.2 Operational Phase

No archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage effects are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, no mitigation or monitoring measures are required during the Operational Phase.

13.5.3 Decommissioning Phase

No archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage effects are predicted during the Decommissioning Phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, no mitigation or monitoring measures are required during the Decommissioning Phase.

13.6 Cumulative Impacts

A review of CCC, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) online planning records has indicated that other projects have been permitted or proposed within the surrounding area that may give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with the impacts of the Proposed Development. The list of projects is included in **Chapter 20, Cumulative and Interactive Impacts**.

There is predicted to be no cumulative effects on archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage associated with the Construction, Operation or Decommissioning of the Proposed Development in combination with the projects listed in **Chapter 20, Cumulative and Interactive Impacts**.

13.7 Residual Impacts

Following the implementation of mitigation measures, no significant negative residual archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage effects are predicted.

13.8 Difficulties Encountered

No archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage features were identified within the Proposed Development site via a desktop assessment and walkover survey. Many archaeological sites, however, survive only as subsurface remains, often forgotten and concealed from view.

Prevailing ground conditions throughout the Proposed Development site prevented a geophysical survey (which can identify subsurface archaeological remains) being undertaken. Hitherto unknown subsurface archaeological remains may be present in areas of undisturbed ground within the Proposed Development site. The eastern half of Area B is heavily wooded and overgrown with vegetation, making a full assessment of this area on the ground difficult.

Although difficulties were encountered, an informed conclusion on the effects that the Proposed Development will have on the receiving archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment was nevertheless feasible.

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