



# CHURCH FIELDS LINK ROAD & CYCLE NETWORK

## Archaeology & Architectural Desktop Analysis



MDT0875-RPS-00-XX-RP-Z-RP0003  
Archaeology & Architectural  
Desktop Analysis  
A1 C03  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Document status**

Status	Revision	Purpose	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
S3	P01	Draft Issue	Tim Ryle	Shane Fanning	Michael Noonan	4/07/19
A1	C01	Complete	Tim Ryle	Shane Fanning	Michael Noonan	09/07/19
A1	C02	Complete	Tim Ryle	Shane Fanning	Michael Noonan	29/11/19
A1	C03	Issue for Planning	Tim Ryle	Shane Fanning	Shane Fanning	30/01/20

**Approval for issue**

Shane Fanning



30 January 2020

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of Works

RPS was commissioned by Fingal County Council (FCC) to complete the design of Church Fields Link Road from Damastown Avenue to Wellview Avenue including the upgrade of Wellview Avenue to Lady's Well Road, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The scheme was later modified to include for the upgrades to the local cycle network.

There is a contract requirement to undertake a review of the analysis of the Church Fields development area (in which the proposed link road and cycle network is planned to be constructed) and the report previously prepared by Fingal County Council<sup>1</sup>.

The works comprised a desktop review of constraints in the 2018 report based on confirmation of the online mapping, summarised in **Figure 1**.

This high-level assessment is being undertaken by RPS environment on the understanding that the identification of issues or concerns regarding archaeological or architectural features in the landscape will be forwarded to a licenced specialist for more detailed assessment as required.

## 1.2 The Study Area

The study area is located within the townland of Tyrellstown, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The proposed project, the Church Fields Link Road and cycle network, is a part of a large phased mixed development being undertaken as part of the Church Fields Lands Management Plan, which is being led by Fingal County Council.

The southern boundary of the Church Fields development area is bounded by Damastown Road whilst the northern boundary is bounded by Damastown Avenue. The western limit is roughly defined by the Pinkeen River (EPA name Powerstown\_010) / Damastown Court, whilst the eastern extent is defined by Church Road. The landscape is characterised by the expanding residential and commercial developments around Avondale, Wellview and Parlickstown in the south whilst the northern and western part of the study area is undeveloped land and wasteland, much of it however, having been subject to recent and ongoing disturbance through development.

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<sup>1</sup> FCC (2018). Archaeological Desktop Study, Church Fields, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Supplied Project Information

In awarding the project, Fingal County Council provided a number of reports and data with which to commence the project. In respect of the current task, this included:

- Draft Archaeological Desktop Study of Church Fields (FCC, 2018)
- Church Fields Land Management Plan (FCC and Walsh & Associates)

### 2.2 Additional Information

Corroboration of the key physical evidence presented in the 2018 report was confirmed upon interrogation of a number of databases including:

- National Inventory of Architectural heritage (NIAH) for Fingal
- Record of Protected Structures (Fingal Development plan 2017-2023 - <https://www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/development-plans-and-consultations/fingaldevelopmentplan2017-2023/>)
- Ortho-aerial photography – OSi and Google Earth
- Dublin County archaeology database - <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/>
- <https://excavations.ie/>
- <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/> - confirmation of zone of notification.

## 3 ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Approach

The proposed Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network is a supporting element for a larger phased mixed development proposed as part of the Church Fields Land Management Plan. The 2018 archaeological assessment covers the entirety of the Church Fields lands. The current assessment re-evaluates that data for the whole development lands and thereafter comments on their significance or otherwise in respect of the proposed Church Fields link road and cycle network.

#### 3.1.1 Historical & Archaeological Background

The historical context of the wider landscape is presented in sections covering different various archaeological eras. It is evident that there has been various forms of occupation and utilisation since prehistoric times, although none within the immediate surrounds of the proposed development. Thereafter it has been shown that lands around Tyrellstown House and Mulhuddart Church formed a focus for activity in the area.

#### 3.1.2 Cartographic Evidence

Map based evidence (Down Survey parish and barony Maps c 1656). indicates a small enclave comprising a large house and five smaller houses. By 1760, there had been development with roads clearly visible and Mulhuddart Church and graveyard are well established. Thereafter, the desktop analysis of historical OSi maps notes the largely agrarian nature of the area with division of fields resulting in changing field patterns over time.

#### 3.1.3 Aerial Photographic Evidence

A succession of aerial photographs, starting in 1995 show that development was already established with Wellview Estate. A number of roads, or linear areas that were being prepared for future road development were noted. Over time development has continued in various areas, until the current day where the only open/unenclosed land now lies to the northern part of the study area.

#### 3.1.4 Archaeological Background

No recorded monuments are located within the proposed development area. The report identified three features in the wider study area. A review of the databases (**Section 2.2**) confirmed this and noted that the proposed development is outside the zone of notification., whereby the proposed developments within the archaeological zone must be statutorily notified to the National Monuments Service at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The three features that were noted are:

- Mulhuddart Church and graveyard (RMP DU013-010001-003) is located east of Church Road – the eastern boundary of the Church Field development lands
- Lady's Well (RMP DU013-006) is located on the western side of Church road. It was also noted that the well was listed on the County Geological site and Protected structure #671.
- Tyrellstown House (RMP DU013-006) is a residential house (and a protected structure #673). It is located 300 metres north of Damastown Avenue.

Several other recorded sites were also identified namely:

- A mound at Corduff townland (RMP DU013-012)
- Remnant of Buzzardstown House (RMP DU013-023)
- Two separate enclosures in Parlickstown townland (RMP DU013-005 & DU013-030).

There have been a number of licenced archaeological investigations for developments outside of the proposed Church Field development site. In general, the findings recorded the absence of features or deposits of archaeological significance noted.

No additional sites or records were identified from an examination of the databases, and in respect of the proposed link road extension, and given the nature of the remodelled landscape, it is unlikely that they have been overlooked in pervious assessments.

Within the Church Field development lands, engineering site investigation works were undertaken (in the absence of any archaeological supervision). The works comprised 50 trial pits and 5 soakaways, all done in unenclosed land, with two trial holes (TH 23 and TH24) on or adjacent to the proposed link road extension. A single soakaway SA03, was made near the proposed link road on lands prosed as part of the linear park. Topsoil depth were low, and bedrock was typically encountered between 0.4 and 2m to the east of the study area and between 2 and 3.3 m to the west of the site. The soils were characterised as clay silt or sand although five areas of made ground were described as brown/black gravelly clay and contained fragments indicative of disturbance and development e.g. brick, wood, and plastic.

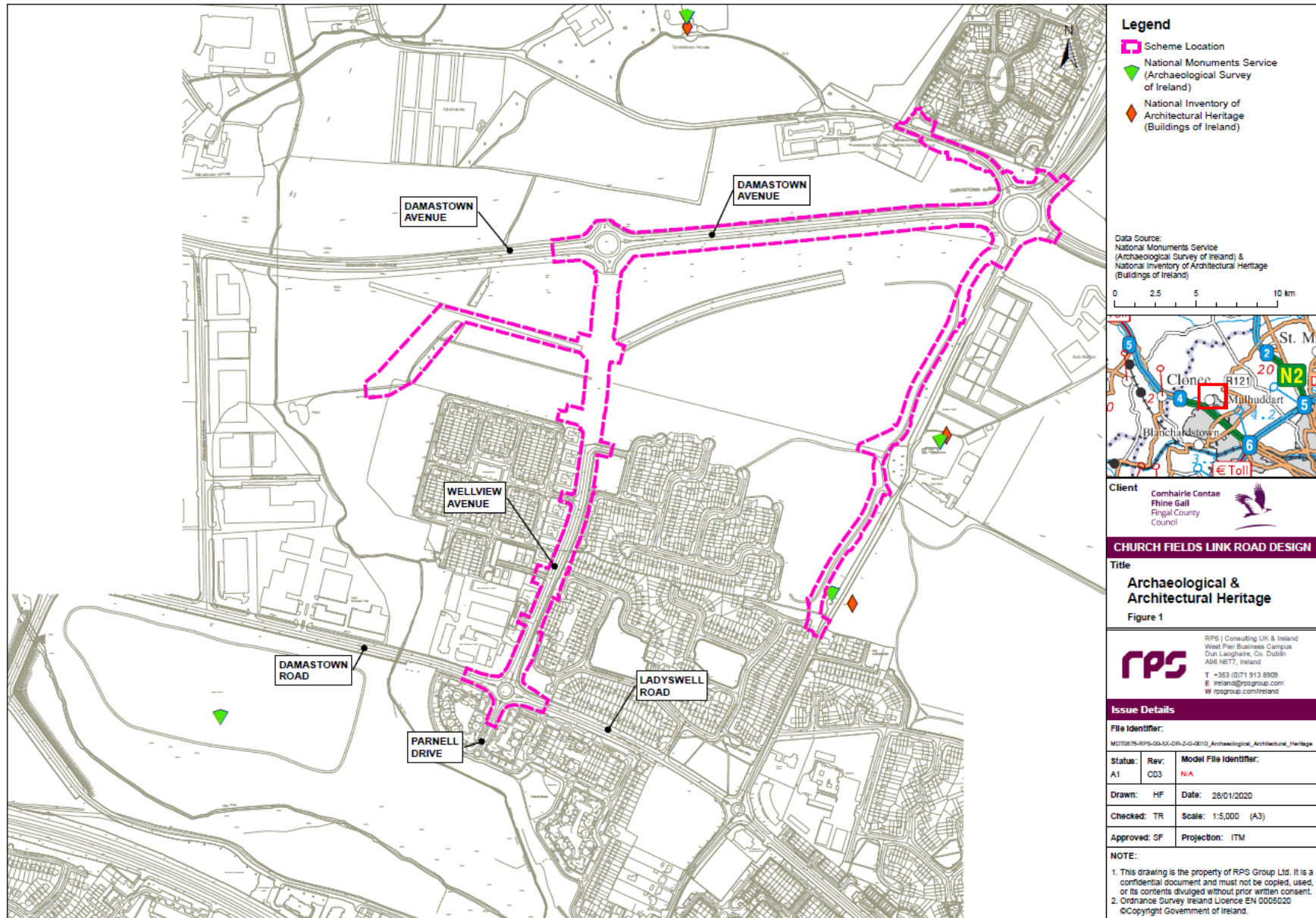
### 3.1.5 Results of Field Study

A field survey undertaken in August 2018 as part of the archaeological study identified that the receiving environment of the Church Field development lands was characterised by “open space and wasteland”. There are remnants of two roadways crossing the site with some recolonising bare ground/scrub development and the waste ground, for which burnt cars were noted. This terrain assessment was confirmed separately during ecological surveys undertaken for the proposed Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> RPS 2020 – *Ecological Appraisal* Report submitted in support of the planning application.

Figure 1: Archaeological & Architectural Heritage Constraints Map



### 3.1.6 Impact Assessment

The 2018 archaeological assessment for the Church Field development lands (FCC 2018) noted that the proposed development is located within an increasingly urbanised landscape. Surviving remnants of historical settlement, all of which are outside the proposed development lands include:

- Tyrellstown House (DU013-006);
- Mulhuddart Church & Graveyard (DU013---0101-3; and
- Lady's Well (DU013-009).

### 3.1.7 Conclusion

The Archaeological Desktop Study undertaken for Church Fields (FCC 2018) concluded that the proposed development site had been extensively disturbed through development and redistribution of soil. Owing to the demonstrated land use development, particularly over the course of the past 20 years when roads have opened up access and urbanisation has reduced the area of unenclosed land, coupled with the impacts of disturbance, it was considered that there was “little potential for recovery of archaeological remains”.

However, it was noted that owing to the scale of the overall proposal, that it should be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for their requirements. It was also recommended that the visual connection between Mulhuddart church as evidenced on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and in the extant gap in the tree line (along Church road – RPS insert) be retained and made a feature of.

### 3.1.8 References

All documents listed in the report are included here.

### 3.1.9 Appendix 1 (of 2018 report) – RMP sites in surrounding area

The appendix in the 2018 report contains summary descriptions of each of the RMP described in the text and are based on the information from the publicly available databases. It also includes a description of Tyrellstown House from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. A copy of the full report is included in **Appendix A** to this report.

## 4 RPS CONCLUSIONS

Unlike the 2018 report, no dedicated field survey was undertaken in respect of this archaeological assessment. However, an analysis of the information detailed in the 2018 report, corroborated as part of this desk review exercise in respect of the proposed Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network, suggests that the archaeological potential is considered low for the entirety of the development lands and that no further archaeological walkover was required.

The bulk of the proposed development lies in previously modified ground - built roads or areas of low archaeological potential, removed from all documented archaeological features.

The impact assessment and conclusion provided in the 2018 assessment remains valid. The lands to which the proposed Church Fields Link Road is to be modified (southern half) and built (northern half) of the proposed development, have over time been extensively disturbed, largely over the past few decades, as development has expanded in the area. The northern half of the site is characterised by heavily disturbed ground, including a haul road, bare ground and spoil heaps associated with ongoing development. The haul road effectively comprises the corridor for the extension of the link road and the proposed tie in to Damastown Avenue. In addition, some of the undeveloped lands have been remodelled in preparation for future development. This assessment has been corroborated by Fingal's Community Archaeologist in an email response (9<sup>th</sup> July 2019), which considered that the need for archaeological mitigation specifically for the proposed link road was not required.

The remaining roadways in which it is proposed to construct new or upgraded cycleways and associated drainage – Damastown Avenue, Powerstown Road and discrete sections encircling the adjacent roundabout are similarly long established and hold little archaeological potential.

The proposed upgrade to the cycle path through the existing park immediately west of Church Road, however, is located adjacent to two archaeological monuments, namely;

- Mulhuddart Church & Graveyard (DU013---01013); and
- Lady's Well (DU013-009).

A search of the Historic environment viewer website<sup>3</sup> confirmed that the proposed development lies outside, but close to the zone of notification, for these two national monuments. The zones of notification does not define the exact extent of the monuments that they surround, but rather are intended to identify the potential extent of a feature for the purposes of notification under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act (1930-2004).

Lady's Well (DU013-009), is located adjacent to the proposed cycleway along the eastern boundary of the study area. it will not be impacted by the proposed works. The expansion of the cycle lane and creation of associated drainage swale are proposed in remodelled recreational ground and will avoid the Lady's well.

The zone of notification for Mulhuddart Church and Graveyard (DU013---01013) is closer to the proposed development, but nonetheless outside of the proposed works area. The expansion of the cycle lane and creation of associated drainage swale are proposed in remodelled recreational ground and will avoid the Zone of notification for Mulhuddart Church, which is itself located on the eastern side of Church road.

While no notification in respect of disturbance to national monuments is required in respect of the proposed development in terms of notification, the 2018 Archaeological assessment recommended that

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<sup>3</sup> <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

## CHURCH FIELDS LINK ROAD & CYCLE NETWORK

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“the visual connection between Mulhuddart church as evidenced on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and in the extant gap in the tree line is retained and made a feature of”.

By virtue of the proposed development to widen the existing path to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, there is no requirement to undertake any works within the linear wooded feature along the eastern boundary of the study area. Indeed, as the primary area of mature wooded vegetation as described in the Ecological appraisal<sup>4</sup>, mitigation measures have been recommended so that no works including access or storage of material temporary or otherwise shall be permitted. This includes a clear delineation so that works are outside the root protection area (RPA)<sup>5</sup> of the trees.

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<sup>4</sup> RPS 2020– *Ecological Appraisal* report – submitted in support of the planning application

<sup>5</sup> Based on NRA, now TII guidance - *Guidelines for the Protection and preservation of Trees, Hedgerows and Scrub Prior to, during and post construction*, the RPA covers an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter (measured at 1.5m above ground level for single stemmed trees, or above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees).



**Appendix A**

**2018 Archaeological Desktop Study, Church Fields, Mulhuddart,  
Dublin 15**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP STUDY,  
CHURCH FIELDS,  
MULHUDDART,  
DUBLIN 15**

August 2018



**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report assesses the archaeological and cultural heritage environment of the proposed development at Churchfields, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15. The site is located north of Avondale Park and Wellview housing estates and west of Church road (ITM 706578/741397), Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess areas of archaeological and cultural heritage interest in the receiving environment and to recommend mitigation measures. This is a desktop report which consists of an examination of documentary and cartographic sources and a walkover site inspection.

## 2. STUDY AREA

The site is located within the townland of Tyrrelstown within the parish of Mulhuddart and barony of Castleknock. The proposed development is situated between a newly industrialised landscape, an expanding residential backdrop and a medieval and historical setting. It is bounded to the south by, the Wellview and Avondale Park housing estates; to the east by Church Road; to the north by Damastown Avenue and to the west by Damastown Court. The Pinkeen River valley is located towards the western limit of the site and the ground slopes down from a high point to the north-east. The study area currently consists of open space, wasteland and an ESB 10kV corridor.

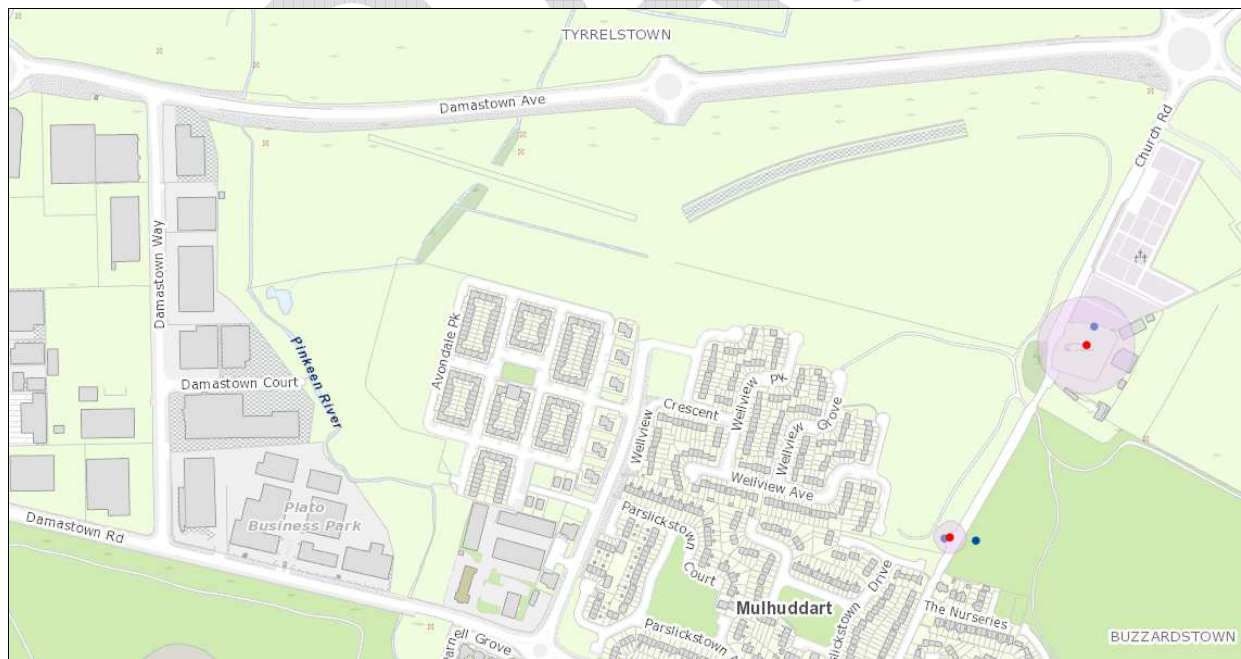


Fig. 1: Location Map

### 3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



*Fig.2: Proposed development. Image courtesy of Walsh Associates*

The main development area (highlighted in brown above) comprises approximately 25.1Ha. and will be traversed by a link road between the Wellview/Avondale estates and Damastown Avenue. To the west the Pinkeen Stream valley will comprise the Riparian Green strip of just under 7Ha. forming a north-south linear park incorporating a cycle path. To the east the open space of Wellview extending to Church Road (approximately 5.1Ha.) will remain as open space.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

This desktop study is based upon an examination of the following sources: the Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin; the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Dublin, constraint maps and files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland; historical maps published online by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland; the Placenames database of Ireland (held at [www.loganim.ie](http://www.loganim.ie)); Excavations.ie (which contains summary accounts of all excavations undertaken in Ireland); the Dublin County Archaeology database (held at [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)), the Down Survey Project and local historical publications.

Aerial photographic coverage from 1995 to the present was consulted using Bing maps, Google Earth and the Ordnance Survey of Ireland map viewer, an important source for tracking land use and potential archaeology.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Fingal and the Record of Protected Structures from the Fingal County Development Plan (2017-23) were examined for any items of built heritage interest within the study area.

#### 5. HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Placenames Committee (formerly Commission) documents the name *Tirrelston* in 1547 with different iterations until its present form in 1821

##### *Prehistory to Early Medieval*

There is currently no evidence for prehistoric activity on or in the immediate environs of the development site. The early evidence for human activity is focussed in the townlands of Bay, Hollywoodrath and Goddamendy approximately 2km to the north-east of the site, where Bronze Age activity was identified (O'Donovan 2017, 26-30). Early Medieval activity left a mark on the surrounding landscape with surviving evidence for raths or ringforts at Corduff, Balcurrism and Coldwinters.

##### *Medieval to Modern*

Tyrrelstown is one of four townland names that derived from their occupants in medieval times, including Cruiserath, from Richard Crusie one of the barons of Castleknock; Buzzardstown after the Bossard family and Hunstown whose last representative, Nicholas Hunt was outlawed for treason in the fourteenth century. Hugh Tyrell, a trusted friend of Hugh de Lacy was granted the barony of Castleknock in 1177. The grant also included portions of the parishes of Clonsilla and Mulhuddart. Tyrrelstown was occupied by cadets of the Tyrell family. The chief seat of the Tyrells was at nearby

Powerstown. By the early seventeenth century the Tyrells were succeeded as chief residents by the Bellings. Richard Bellings, Solicitor-General for Ireland from 1574 to 1584, was granted Tyrellstown, Buzzardstown, Parslicktown and Macetown, together with a mill and watercourse. It was around this time a large house was built on the lands of Tyrrellstown (Ball 1902, 20).

The seventeenth century was a period of upheaval in south-west Fingal. It is recorded that between 1641 and 1649 the parish of Mulhuddart was overrun by contending armies and laid waste. The Duke of Ormond had quartered his men at the church in Mulhuddart and in 1647 Owen Roe O'Neill marched through the parish. The following year Mulhuddart was garrisoned with seventy-two men and seven non-commissioned officers under the command of Sir Francis Willoughby. It was recorded that 'no buildings of importance escaped destruction' including the Belling's house of which only the walls remain (Ball 1920, 20). At the time of the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 there were twenty-nine inhabitants of the parish of English descent and forty-nine of Irish descent, including John Jordan who occupied Tyrrellstown.

#### *Ecclesiastical History*

The church of Mulhuddart was recorded by the antiquarian Austin Cooper in the late eighteenth century as having a tower, vaulted on the ground floor. The medieval church was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the early fifteenth century. In 1532 Henry VII granted a licence to found a guild on site and it was incorporated as the 'guild and fraternity of Our Lady of St Mary of the church of Mulhuddart'. In the mid-fifteenth century the names of the officers, a master and warden were recorded and included a John Tyrell as a warden and subsequently as master and a Richard Tyrell as warden in 1522.

Described as in good repair in 1615, by 1680 both the chancel and nave were in ruins. This was unsurprising given Lord Cavan had found shelter in the church in 1643. After the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, eight soldiers were apparently murdered while sheltering there (Ball 1902, 20).

The nearby Lady's well was associated with the Navity of the Blessed Virgin and the pattern day was held on 8 September. In 1754 it was recorded that the clergy were attempting to put a stop to the 'scandalous excesses that are annually committed at the Well' having prevailed upon the landholders contiguous not 'to permit any tents or booths to be erected' (Lacey 1999, 70).

### *Folklore*

Tall tales can often have a kernel of truth in them. An examination of the Schools Manuscripts Collection-stories gathered from local school children in the 1930s-make reference to 'The Clump'. These were earthen mounds associated with the fairies. There was a clump in Tyrellstown 'and it can be seen from the top of the one in Whitestown. There is also a good view of the old church from the clump' (Dympna Carr, Vol. 0790, 92). Patrick Byrne recorded the placenames of the lands of Tyrrelstown including the 'Well Field. 'It is so called because the field is beside the Lady Well. In this field the Clump in Tyrrellstown is situated (Vol. 0790, 61).

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## 5.1. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Tyrrelstown is depicted on both the Down Survey Parish and Barony maps produced c.1656. On the Barony map a large house and 5 smaller structures are evident, while 'a farmhouse' ascribed to 'Sir Henry Bealing, Irish papist' is recorded on the parish map.



Fig. 3: Down Survey Barony Map c.1656

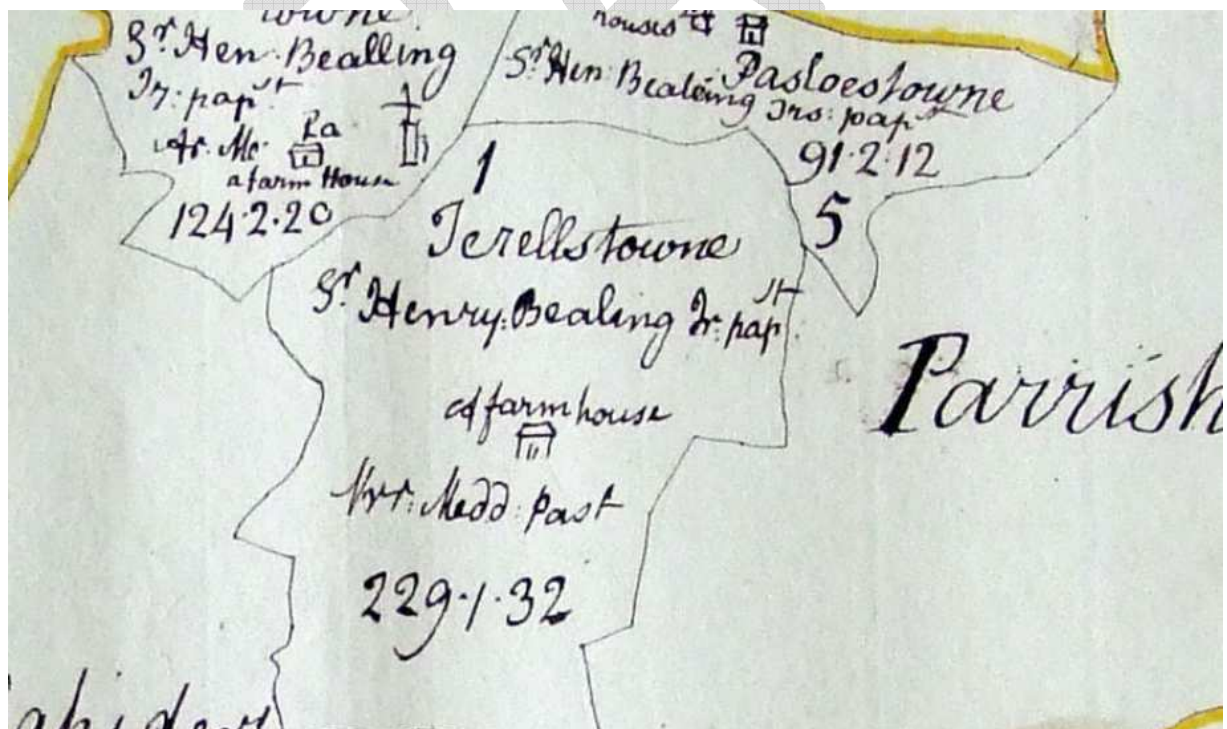


Fig. 4: Down Survey Parish Map c.1656

In contrast Rocque's Map of 1760 is detailed. Mulhuddart church and graveyard are depicted clearly, as are the roads that correspond with Church road and the Powerstown road. The site is represented primarily as a large field traversed by a pathway or roadway leading from Mulhuddart Church to Tyrrellstown House with a series of hedge lined small fields to the south.



*Fig. 5: Rocque's Map of county Dublin, 1760*

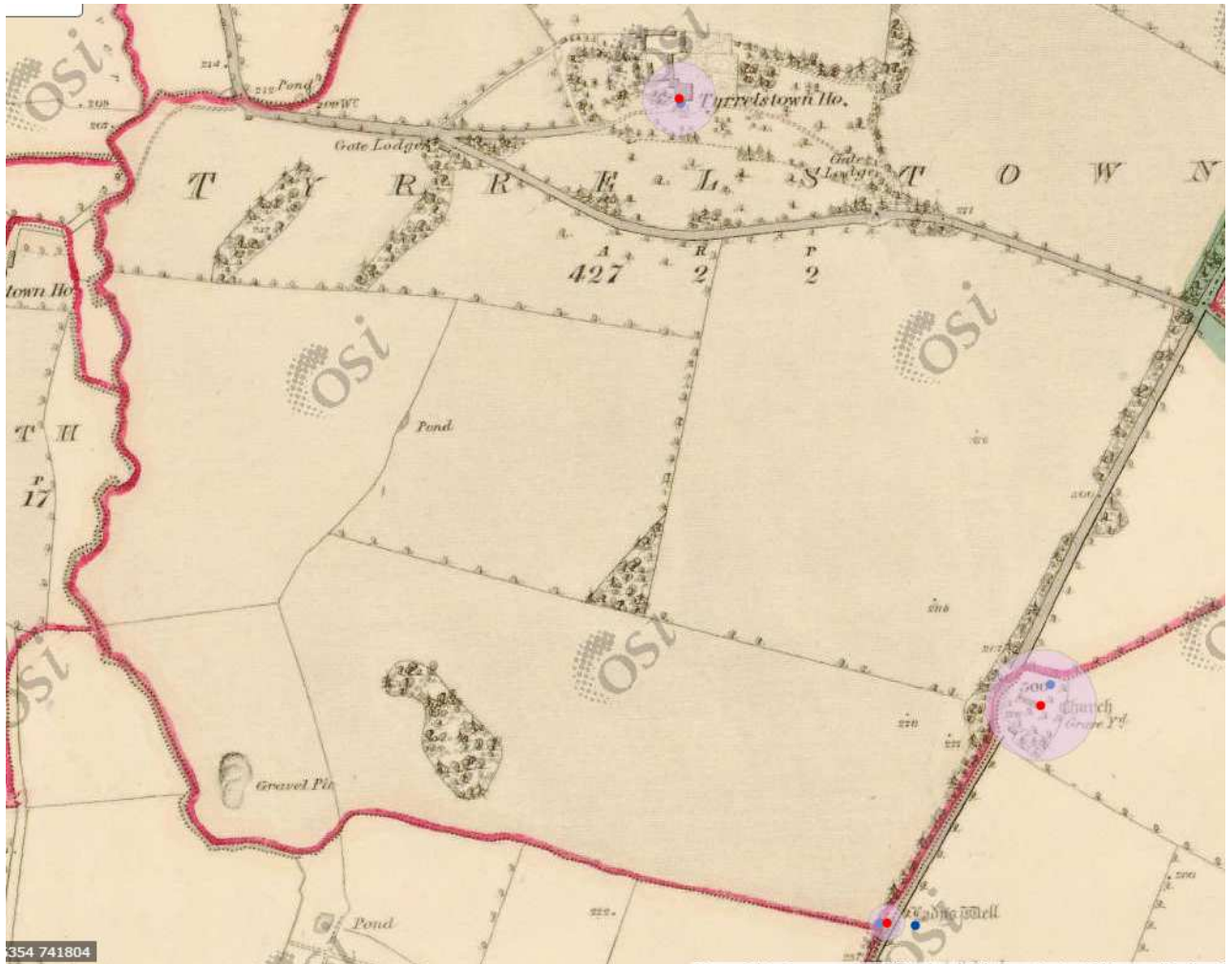
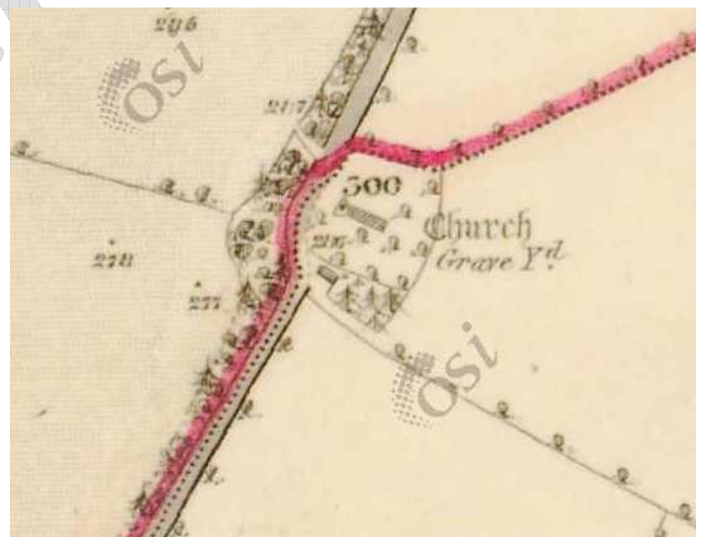


Fig. 6: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1838, Published 1843

The First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map depicts some sub-division of the larger field and consolidation of smaller fields. There has been road realignment around Tyrellstown House and extensive tree planting, including that along Church Road. A gap in the tree-line opposite Mulhuddart Church remains. However the pathway between Mulhuddart Church and Tyrellstown House is no longer in evidence.



The 25 inch map shows further hedge line removal, resulting in a series of very large fields. A few remnants of these hedge lines survive.



Fig. 7: 25 inch Ordnance Survey map, 1860s

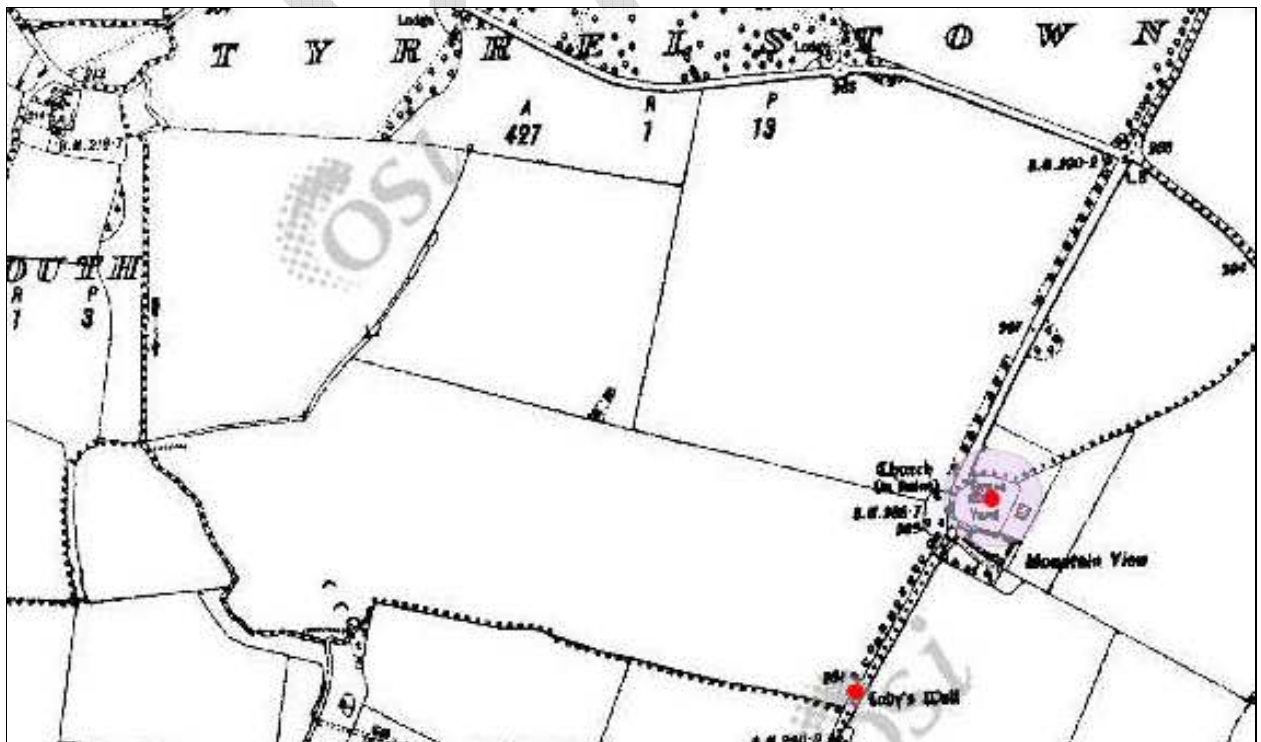


Fig. 8: 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1906; Published 1908

## 5.2. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The orthostatic images show a disturbed site. In 1995 the site was traversed by roads (the remnants of which are still visible) including a roundabout. The field to the north of Wellview estate is marked by linear disturbance that maybe associated with the road construction.



*Plate 1: Orthostatic Image, Ordnance Survey, 1995*

By 2005 the open space to the east of the proposed development was well-established with regrowth in and around the previously roadway, with the roundabout barely visible.



*Plate 2: Orthostatic Image, Ordnance Survey, 2005*



*Plate 3 Orthostatic Image, Ordnance Survey, 2009*

By 2009 Damastown Avenue forms the northern boundary of the proposed site and a haul road extending southwards from the roundabout was clearly in place during the construction of Avondale Park. Mounding of spoil is evident immediately west of the haul road.



*Plate 4: Orthostatic Image, Bing Maps, c. 2009*



*Plate 5: Orthostatic Image, Google Maps, c. 2016*

The current Google mapping imagery shows the construction of the extension to Wellview estate underway, and disturbance by the haul road between roundabout on Damastown Avenue, the construction site and the spoil heap is evident.

The images taken over two decades and in a variety of soil and weather conditions reveal no sites of archaeological origin

### 5.3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

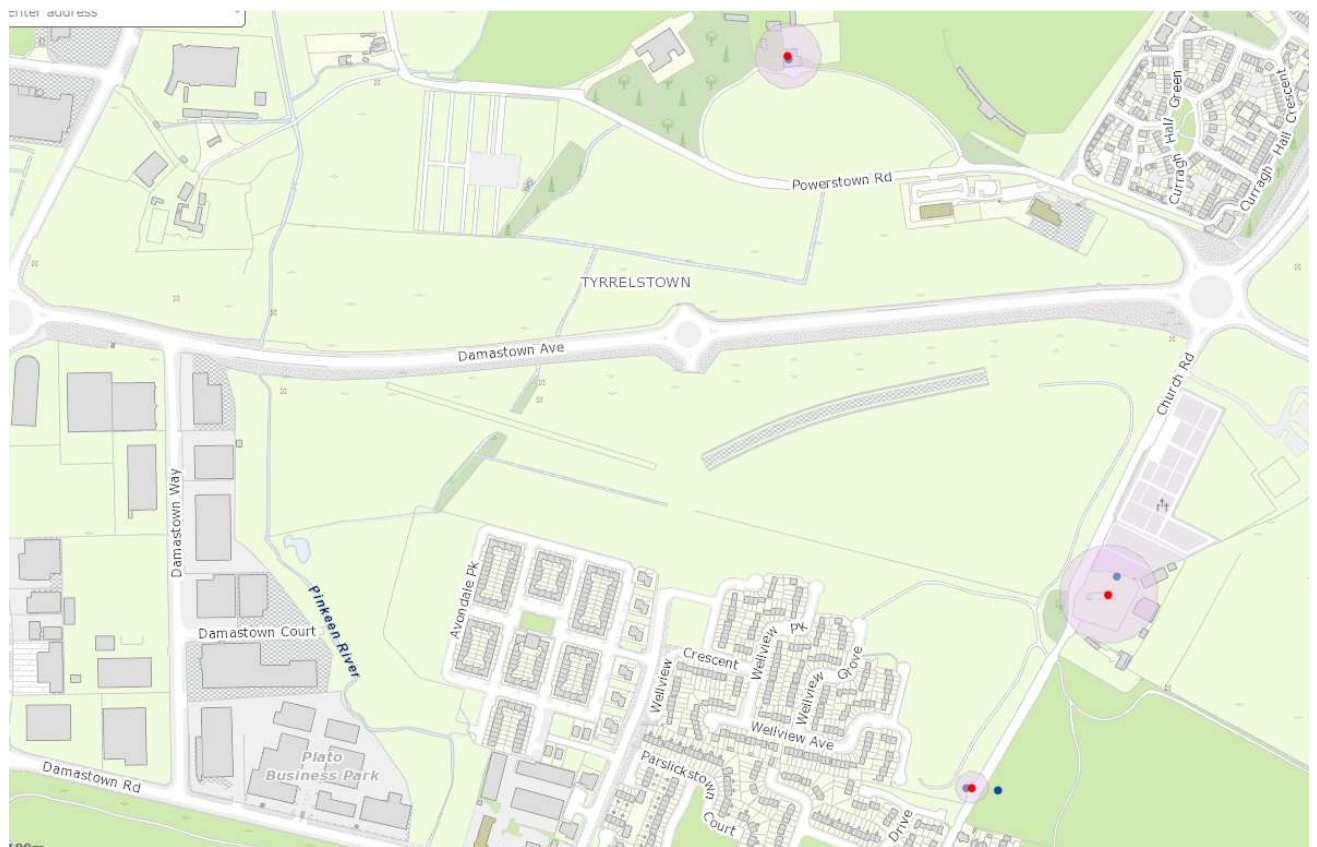


Fig. 9: Archaeological Constraint Map, [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

There are no recorded monuments located within the proposed development area. The closest recorded monuments are Mulhuddart Church and Graveyard (DU013-010001-003) immediately east of Church road (which bounds the eastern limit of the site) and Lady's well (DU013-009) on the western side of Church Road. This holy well is also recognised as a County Geological site and a Protected Structure (RPS No 671).

Over 300m to the north of the site is Tyrellstown House (RMP DU013-006) which is also a Protected Structure (RPS No. 673). There are a number of recorded sites with 1km of the proposed development site, including two enclosure sites in Parlickstown townland (DU013-005; DU013-030); the site of Buzzardstown House (DU013-023) and a mound (DU013-012) in Corduff townland. (refer Appendix 1).

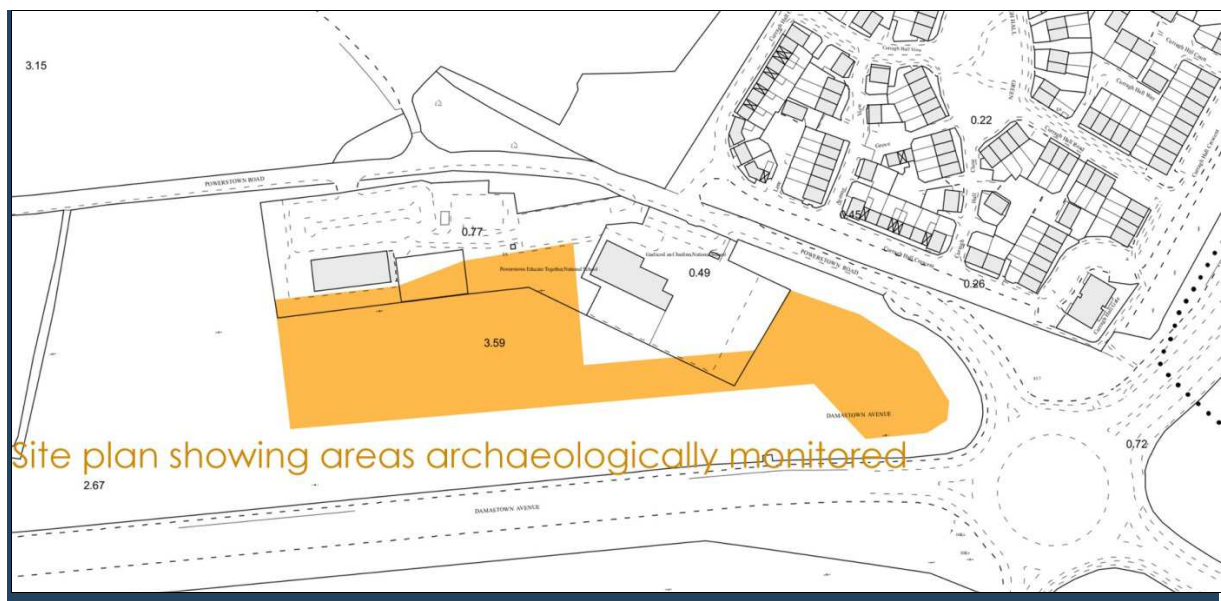
An examination on the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland recorded no finds in the vicinity, the nearest being unidentified objects within Castaheany townland, almost 2km to the south-west

### *Archaeological Investigations*

There appear to have been no previous archaeological investigation within the site. A number of investigations have taken place to the north of Damastown Avenue and one to the south within Macetown Townland.

02E 1754 (Planning Ref. F02A/1192): Archaeological Monitoring was undertaken at the site of an industrial development, at the junction of Ladyswell road and Parlickstown estate. No features or deposits of archaeological nature were identified.

15E0510: A programme of monitoring took place during groundworks for new school buildings located between Powerstown Road and Damastown Avenue in Tyrrelstown townland, Dublin 15, from November 2015 to February 2016. No archaeological material was identified, and the programme found evidence for extensive modern disturbance of this site relating to the new roundabout, new road and the pre-existing school building. Rocque's map of 1760 shows a path connecting these two sites passing through the monitored development site, however this path was not identified during the monitoring programme ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).



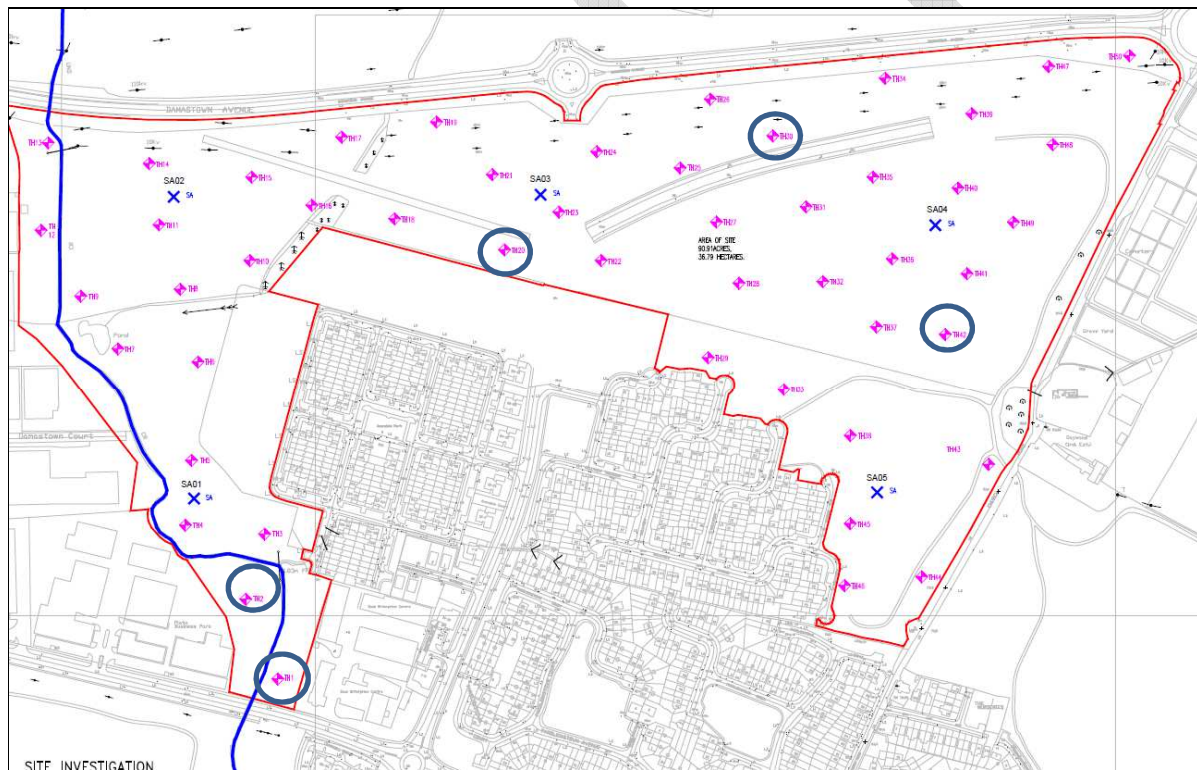
*Fig.10: Extent of archaeological monitoring north of Damastown Avenue, Archaeology Plan Ltd.*

Unlicensed Monitoring (Planning Ref. FW15A/0059): Monitoring was carried out prior to the construction of a 2056 sq. m Logistics Warehouse Building and car park at 6 Damastown Avenue, Damastown Industrial Estate, Dublin 15. No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified during the monitoring phase of works.

17E 0595 (Planning Ref. FW16A/0181): A programme of test-trenching was undertaken at a proposed development site south of Tyrrelstown House. A total of 263.49 linear metres of trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains were identified and no further works recommended

#### *Site Investigation Works*

An engineering site investigation was undertaken between 15 -19 December 2017 by Ground Investigations Ireland Ltd. It comprised the excavation of 50 trial pits and 5 soakaways using a JCB 3CX. Topsoil was present in all excavations to a maximum depth of 0.2m. Bedrock was encountered between 0.4m and 2m to the east of the site, and between 2m to 3.3m to the west of the site. In between was generally characterised consistently as clay sit or sand with made ground deposits in five locations. These deposits were generally described as brown /black gravelly clay that contained occasional fragments of concrete, red brick, wood, glass and plastic.



*Fig. 11: Circles indicate trial pits with made ground, after Ground Investigations Ireland*

Service insertion has also been mapped which include storm, foul and water mains as well as underground eircom and gas services and overhead ESB cables. These are mainly to towards the boundaries of the development site but drainage does traverse the open space of Wellview estate.



Fig.12: Existing civil infrastructure, Image courtesy of Walsh Associates

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## 6. RESULTS OF FIELD SURVEY

The site was inspected on 13 August 2018. The site is bounded to the east by Church Road which is partially tree-lined; to the north by Damastown Avenue where the boundary treatment consists of an earthen bund with partial internal wall; to the west by the Pinkeen River valley which is fenced off and to the south by the Avondale Park and Wellview housing estates, where an extension to Avondale park is currently under construction. The proposed development site is currently bisected by a haul road that extends from current construction at Avondale Park northward to the roundabout on Damastown Avenue. The haul road has been built up to the south over the sloping topography and there is topsoil mounding from previous construction (2016 extension to Wellview estate). The receiving environment can be divided into open space and wasteland.



*Plate 6: View from north-east quadrant of the site*

The highest point of the site is the north-eastern quadrant which has previously been re-modelled as a playing pitch. It is bounded to the north and west by earthen mounding that separates it from wasteland. To the east is Church road which is defined by a low earthen berm, internal to which are the remnants of estate tree planting and a modern path. There are expansive views south to the Dublin Mountains and eastwards across lowlands.



*Plate 7: View through treeline to Mulhuddart Church*

The gap in the treeline noted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map is present, through which Mulhuddart Church (DU013-010001-003) is visible. To the south separated by a ditch and well-established hedgeline is the open space associated with Wellview housing estate. It slopes gently south down southwards and eastwards and is marred by sporadic dumps of household waste.

The northern extend of the proposed development adjacent to the Damastown Avenue is currently a corridor for electricity lines, the area underneath which is relatively low lying in comparison to the remainder of the site, and is currently overgrown. To the south of this are the remnants of scarped land and mounding bisected by the remnants of two roadways that from aerial photography appear to have been constructed prior to 1995. There is sporadic dumping, burnt out car wreckage and extensive overgrowth, some of which has recently been burnt.



*Plate 8: ESB corridor facing east*



*Plate 9: Eastern roadway facing north-east*



*Plate 10: Wasteland facing west*



*Plate 11: Western roadway, facing west*

The west of the proposed development site is defined by the Pinkeen River valley which forms the western boundary of open space, currently used as a pitch abutting Avondale Park.



*Plate 12: West of Avondale Park, facing north*

## **7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The proposed development is located within an increasingly urban and industrial landscape. The surviving remnants of past settlement are Mulhuddart Church and graveyard (DU013-0101-3), Lady Well (DU013-009) and Tyrellstown House (DU013-006) which are all outside the limits of the proposed development.

Although not undertaken under archaeological supervision, the engineering investigation results indicate relatively consistent underlying soil strata with subsoil attained at a maximum of 0.4m depth and areas of made up ground. Archaeological monitoring to the north of the Damastown Avenue that formed part of the Tyrellstown House landscape did not identify any archaeological remains or the identified 18<sup>th</sup> century path. There were no archaeological investigations required ahead of the insertion of Damastown Avenue, Avondale Park or the recent extensions to Wellview and Avondale estates.

From cartographic and historical evidence the older land use was as fields and presumably agriculture. Modern land use for the proposed development area has comprised the insertion of roads, temporary haul roads, an ESB corridor, clearance and dumping, and the construction of playing pitches. The extensive and impactful nature of the latter means there is little potential for the recovery of archaeological remains.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

Analysis of the various documentary sources, cartographic and aerial photographic evidence and field inspection illustrate an estate based rural landscape that has been impacted by modern industrial and residential demands. The proposed development site has been extensively disturbed and the potential for presence of archaeological remains is considered low. However, the scale of the development is such that this proposal should be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for their requirements.

It is recommended that the visual connection between Mulhuddart church as evidenced on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and in the extant gap in the tree line is retained and made a feature of.

## 10. REFERENCES:

Ball, F.E. 1920, *A History of the County of Dublin*. Volumes 1-6.

GII Ltd.. 2018, Ground Investigations Report, Lands at Mulhuddart, *unpublished report for McMahon Associates*

Lacey, J. 1999, *A Candle in the Window: A History of the Barony of Castleknock*.

O'Hara, R. 2003, Archaeological Monitoring, Tyrrelstown, Mulhuddart (Licence Ref. 02E1754/Planning Ref. F02A/1192), *unpublished report Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.*

Walsh Associates 2018 Church Fields Land Management Plan, *draft report for Fingal County Council*

The Schools' Collection, Volume 0790, 52 <https://www.duchas.ie>

The Schools' Collection, Volume 0790, 61 <https://www.duchas.ie>

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## APPENDIX 1 RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

**RMP NO.:** DU013-009----

**CLASSIFICATION:** Ritual site-Holy well

**TOWNLAND:** Tyrrelstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c.2m

**DESCRIPTION:** This vaulted well-house stands by the roadside. The well is approached by stone steps. On the roof are two finials, one a stone carved with a cross in relief and the other a stone niche with an inscription. It is still venerated. Formerly a pattern day was held on the 8th of September (Ó Danachair 1958-60, 76; Daly 1957, 19). The water is traditionally reputed to cure sprains, cuts, bruises and rheumatism. The well is recognised by Fingal County Council as 'County Geological Site' (Parkes 2012, 52).

**RMP NO. :** DU013-010001-

**CLASSIFICATION:** Church

**TOWNLAND:** Buzzardstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 10m

**DESCRIPTION:** The standing remains within the graveyard consist of an undivided nave and chancel church with a tower at the west end. It is constructed of roughly coursed limestone with dressed quoins. The ground floor of the tower is vaulted. There is a splayed window in the west wall. The walls of the east end of the church survive at foundation level. There are a considerable number of burials within the church and a mural tablet on the exterior of the west wall of the tower.

**RMP NO. :** DU013-010003-

**CLASSIFICATION:** Graveyard

**TOWNLAND:** Buzzardstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 10m

**DESCRIPTION:** Graveyard walled and curved along west at some height above the road. The oldest section of the graveyard is the raised area that surrounds the church (DU013-010001-). It contains 18th, 19th century and modern gravestones as well as a number of re-used architectural fragments. The graveyard has been extended to the north twice. The graveyard was previously surveyed by Egan in 1993 (Fingal Historic Graveyards project 2008).

**RMP NO. :** DU013-006----

**CLASSIFICATION:** House-16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century

**TOWNLAND:** Tyrrelstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 342m

**DESCRIPTION:** Tyrrelstown House occupies the site of a mid-17th century house built by the Bellings family (Ronan 1937, 159-160). Named on the Down Survey (1655-6) map and described in the Civil survey (1654-6) as 'the walls of a great stonehouse' (Simington 1945, 227). It had been damaged in the 1641 Rebellion leaving only walls remaining. Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1820, attached to earlier two-storey house, c.1720, to rear. Farmyard complex, c.1820 to rear.

**RMP NO. :** DU013-005----

**CLASSIFICATION:** Enclosure

**TOWNLAND:** Parlickstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 300m

**DESCRIPTION:** Situated to the north of the river Tolka. An aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI I. 063/2/1) shows cropmark evidence for a subcircular enclosure (diam. c. 20m). Now within playing pitches. Not visible at ground level.

**RMP NO. :** DU013-030----

**CLASSIFICATION:** Enclosure

**TOWNLAND:** Parlickstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 730m

**DESCRIPTION:** An aerial photograph taken in 1969 (CUCAP, AYP 55) shows a continuous circular cropmark. Test excavation (Licences no. 00E0760; no. 03E0467) was undertaken at the site which has since been artificially raised to a height of 2m on two occasions in advance of proposed development. Sufficient evidence for the presence or the absence of the enclosure was not attained by either investigation.

**RMP NO. :** DU013-023----

**CLASSIFICATION:** House-16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century

**TOWNLAND:** Buzzardstown

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 695m

**DESCRIPTION:** The Down Survey (1655-6) map shows a dwelling at Buzzardstown near Buzzardstown House. In the second half of the 18th century the family of Flood owned Buzzardstown House-on a winter's night in 1761 it is recorded that the gable-end of Mr Flood's house at Mulhuddart suddenly gave way, whereby Mrs Flood and her daughter were killed. Test excavation (Licence no. 06E0184) was undertaken at the site of Buzzardstown House but archaeological remains were not located.

**RMP NO. :** DU013-012----

**CLASSIFICATION:** Mound

**TOWNLAND:** Corduff

**DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT:** c. 929m

**DESCRIPTION:** Located at eastern end of open space for Warrenstown housing estate, close to a stream that runs into the Tolka. The mound (diam.28m; H 2m) is completely overgrown with brambles and the area appears to have been used for construction scarping and dumping as well as domestic dumping. The mound is within an area designated as a flood plain.

## NATIONAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

**Tyrrelstown House, Fingal**

**11346002**



<b>Reg. No.</b>	11346002
<b>Date</b>	1800 - 1840
<b>Previous Name</b>	N/A
<b>Townland</b>	TYRRELSTOWN
<b>County</b>	Fingal
<b>Coordinates</b>	306776, 241871
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	ARCHITECTURAL ARTISTIC
<b>Rating</b>	Regional
<b>Original Use</b>	house
<b>In Use As</b>	house

### **Description**

Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1820, with nap rendered Ionic portico. Attached to earlier two-storey house, c.1720, to rear. Farmyard complex, c.1820 to rear. ROOF:U-shaped slate roof with cast-iron ridging and M-profile hipped slate roof to house to rear section; overhanging eaves supported by corbels; rendered corniced chimney stacks with octagonal terracotta pots; decorative ridge cresting. WALLS: Nap rendered with a moulded cornice and granite plinth course and granite quoins. OPENINGS: Square headed with rendered reveals; granite cills supported on nap rendered console brackets; nap rendered architraves; 1/1 timber sash windows to front façade, 2/2 to side, 3/6 and timber casements to rear; timber pedimented door surround with flat panelled pilasters and console brackets; flat panelled timber and glazed door flanked by round headed timber sash windows with coloured glass margin lights.