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## **An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of a Proposed Development at Church Road, Lusk, County Dublin.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential, archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment of the proposed development site at Church Road, Lusk, County Dublin, to identify the impact of the proposed development on this environment and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any impacts on said environment. This assessment has been informed by a programme of archaeological test trenching undertaken in March 2019.

These works were undertaken for Fingal County Council. The proposed development design is not yet finalised.

The archaeological assessment of the proposed development site at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin has identified 12 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the study area. These comprise seven RMPs, one National Monument, two Protected Structures, one ACA, four sites listed in the NIAH and one area of archaeological potential (AAP). The results of the test excavation carried out at the site indicate that the middle circuit of the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure transects the site with related archaeological features located both within and without it.

The results of this impact assessment, in conjunction with results of test excavation, indicate that the development site as a whole is an area of archaeological potential (CH012).

It is expected that most impacts would occur as a result of construction groundworks. In addition, the development site is located within the Lusk ACA (CH008) and is adjacent to a number of upstanding archaeological features, including a designated National Monument (CH003; CH005), so there is the potential for indirect or visual impact.

The following mitigation measures are proposed:

1. A visual impact assessment of the finalised development design should be prepared to ensure that any proposed structure is appropriate to the requirements of the Lusk ACA (CH008) and is suitably sympathetic to the upstanding ecclesiastical remains (CH003; CH005).
2. Unless a minimum impact design solution has been agreed and approved by the National Monuments Service, the proposed development site should be fully archaeologically excavated under licence from the National Monuments Service in advance of any construction works.
3. Any essential enabling works or demolition works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Note where possible enabling or other groundworks works should be deferred until after the full archaeological excavation has been completed.
4. All archaeological material encountered during such monitoring works will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
5. A written report should be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

**Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of Fingal County Council Architects Department and the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues that need to be addressed in respect of a proposed development at Church Road, Lusk, County Dublin (Figure 1). These works were undertaken for Fingal County Council.

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the following legislative procedures which are further detailed in Appendix 3:

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2004
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts 2000-2015

It has also been undertaken in accordance with the policies set out in Chapter 10 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023.

### 1.1 Site location

The proposed development site is located within the historic town of Lusk in close proximity to the ecclesiastical centre. It is located on the north side of Church Road and is bounded by private property on the west, north and east. The proposed development covers an area of 0.75 HA.

### 1.2 Proposed development

The proposed development design is not yet finalised.

### 1.3 Study area

The study area for this assessment has been defined in respect of two factors: 1.) the ability of sites/information sources to provide information pertaining to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, and 2.) the potential physical impact, as well as impact on setting, that the proposed scheme may have on sites of cultural heritage significance.

Taking these factors into account the study area has been defined as follows:

Subject	Study area
National Monuments and Recorded archaeological monuments (RMPs)	Within 100 m of proposed development site
Protected Structures and/or their curtilage	Within approx. 100 m proposed development site
Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAS)	Within approx. 100 m proposed development site
Structures recorded in the NIAH	Within approx. 100 m of proposed development site
Unregistered features of cultural heritage	Within proposed development site
Townland boundaries	Within proposed development site
Areas of archaeological potential	Within proposed development site

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Study area</b>
Previous Excavations	Within townlands or streets encompassed by and adjacent to the proposed development site
Topographical files	Within the area incorporated by the proposed development

Table 1 – Dimensions of the study area

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Objectives

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, evaluate the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on this environment and provide mitigation measures, in accordance with the policies of the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) and Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 and best practise guidelines, to ameliorate these impacts.

In order to provide a comprehensive assessment, an extensive desktop study in addition to a field inspection of the proposed development area was undertaken.

The scope and methodology for the baseline assessment has been devised with reference to the following guidelines:

- Environmental Protection Agency (2002) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2003) 'Advice notes on current practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2017) 'Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)'
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999) 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2004) 'Architectural Heritage Guidelines'
- National Roads Authority (2005) 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes'
- National Roads Authority (2005) 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes'

### 2.2 Desktop Study Methodology

The present assessment of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the proposed development area is based on a desktop study of a number of documentary and cartographic sources. The desktop study was further augmented by an examination of aerial photography as well as a field survey. The main sources consulted in completing the desktop study are listed here.

- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023
- Fingal Heritage Plan 2018 -2023
- National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Topographical Files
- Excavations Bulletin
- Aerial Photographs
- Cartographic Sources

### **2.3 *Field Inspection Methodology***

A field inspection of the proposed development site was undertaken by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd in March 2019.

The primary purpose of a field inspection is to assess local topography in order to identify any potential low-visibility archaeological and/or historical sites that are not currently recorded and which may be impacted upon negatively by the proposed development. It is also the purpose of the field inspection to survey any known monuments or sites and to consider the relationship between them and the surrounding landscape, all of which need to be considered during the assessment process.

The methodology used during the field inspection involved recording the present land use as well as the existing topography for the entire area comprising the proposed development site. A photographic record and written description were compiled for any known and/or potential sites of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural significance.

### **2.4 *Test Trenching Methodology***

Archaeological test trenching involved the mechanical excavation of three test trenches. The investigation complied in full with *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (DAHG 1999).

The exposed subsoil was examined for archaeological features. When potentially archaeologically significant features/ deposits were identified, mechanical excavation ceased, and the features were cleaned back and exploratory sections dug by hand.

Recording was carried out using the Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd standard method and was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. All contexts, fields and trenches have been given unique numbers. Photographic recording was in digital format

### **2.5 *Methodology used for assessing baseline value of sites***

In order to categorise the baseline environment in a systemised manner, 'baseline values' have been assigned to each identified site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within the study area. The baseline value of a site is determined with reference to the 'importance' and 'sensitivity' of the site.

In accordance with NRA Guidelines, the importance of a site is determined based on the following criteria: legal status, condition, historical associations, amenity value, ritual value, specimen value, group value and rarity.

The sensitivity of a site is determined based on the presence of extant remains and/or the potential for associated sub-surface remains of the feature to be present *in situ*.

It should be noted that the National Monuments Act 1930-2004 does not differentiate between recorded archaeological sites on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity. In addition, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 does not differentiate between Protected Structures or Areas of Architectural Conservation on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity either. Consequently, professional judgement has been exercised to rate these features based on their perceived importance and sensitivity in relation to physical impacts and impacts on setting.

Taking the above factors into consideration, the criteria that have been defined are provided in Table 2 below.

Subject	Baseline Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recorded Archaeological Monuments</li> <li>- Protected Structures</li> <li>- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)</li> </ul>	Very High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures</li> <li>- Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural heritage features</li> <li>- Unrecorded features of archaeological potential</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition</li> <li>- Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains</li> <li>- Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains</li> <li>- Marshy/wetland areas</li> </ul>	Medium/High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence</li> <li>- Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains</li> </ul>	Medium/Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence</li> </ul>	Low

Table 2 – Baseline values of sites

Caution should be exercised when assessing the perceived significance of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site as such categorisation is open to subjectivity. In addition, the perceived levels of importance as identified in this report are liable to future revision in the instance where new information, through the undertaking of further archaeological investigations, is provided.

## 2.6 Type of impacts

The following table lists the type of impacts that a proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource:

Type of Impacts	Definition
Direct	Direct impacts arise where an archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical impact zone, whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
Indirect	Indirect impacts arise when an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature is not located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical impact zone, and thus is not impacted directly. Such an impact could include impact on setting or impact on the zone of archaeological potential of site whereby the actual site itself is not physically affected.
Cumulative	The addition of many impacts to create a large, significant impact.

Type of Impacts	Definition
Undeterminable	Whereby the full consequence that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource is not known.
Residual	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.

Table 3 – Type of impacts

## 2.7 Methodology used for assessing magnitude of impacts

The methodology used to assess the magnitude of potential pre-mitigation impacts, as well as residual impacts, of the proposed development on the baseline environment is presented in Table 4 below.

Impact magnitude	Criteria
Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeology site is completely and irreversibly destroyed.</li> <li>- An impact that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects.</li> </ul>
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological feature/site.</li> <li>- An impact that by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or the setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently impacted upon leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigate is likely to reduce the impact.</li> <li>- A beneficial or positive effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.</li> </ul>

Impact magnitude	Criteria
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A medium impact arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.</li> <li>- A medium impact to a site/monument may also arise when a site is fully or partly excavated under license and all recovered data is preserved by record.</li> <li>- An impact that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Impacts are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the impact.</li> <li>- A beneficial or positive effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.</li> </ul>
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as visual impact, which are not high or very high and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.</li> <li>- An impact that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly impact on the architectural structure or feature. Impacts are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the impact.</li> <li>- A beneficial or positive effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of an architectural heritage significance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An impact on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.</li> <li>- An impact on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measure merit but without noticeable consequences.</li> <li>- A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.</li> </ul>

Table 4 – Criteria used for rating magnitude of impacts

## 2.8 Methodology used for assessing significance level of impacts

The significance level of a construction or operation impact on a feature is assessed by combining the magnitude of the impact and baseline value of the feature. The matrix in Table 5.4 provides a guide to decision-making, but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the baseline value or impact magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The permanence of the effects are also taken into account, with irreversible effects being more significant while temporary or reversible changes are likely to be less significant.

Magnitude of Impact	Baseline Value				
	Very High	High	Medium/High	Medium/Low	Low
<b>Severe</b>	Very significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight
<b>Major</b>	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight	Slight
<b>Moderate</b>	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible
<b>Minor</b>	Slight	Slight	Slight	Negligible	Negligible
<b>Negligible</b>	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Table 5 – Criteria for assessing significance level of impacts

## 2.9 Difficulties experienced during compilation of assessment

No significant difficulties were encountered during the preparation of this impact assessment.

### **3 BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT**

#### **3.1 *Designated archaeological sites***

##### *3.1.1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs)*

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1994 made provision the establishment and maintenance of a Record of Monuments & Places (RMP). Under this Act, each site recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 2 months before commencing that work.

There are seven recorded archaeological monuments incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area). All seven sites can be directly related with the early medieval ecclesiastical foundation at Lusk and include the church (CH005), round tower (CH003), ecclesiastical enclosure (CH006), burials (CH001), a souterrain (CH002) and a Sheela-na-gig (CH004). The proposed development site is located within the reconstructed circuit of the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure (CH006).

##### *3.1.2 National Monuments*

National monuments are broken into two categories; National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local authority. Section 8 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954 provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months' notice must be given to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There is one National Monuments incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area); this is the round tower (CH003).

##### *3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders*

The National Monuments Act 1930-2004 provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the National Monument Act 1930 (as amended) the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers' opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with preservation orders incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

#### **3.2 *Designated architectural heritage sites***

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000, and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

### 3.2.1 *Record of Protected Structures*

The Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023 was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

There are two Protected Structures incorporated in the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area)—the church (CH005) and the round tower (CH003).

### 3.2.2 *Architectural Conservation Areas*

The Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023 was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas (hereinafter 'ACAs'). The stated objective of ACAs is to conserve and enhance the special character of the area, including traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, landscape and setting.

There are one ACAs within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area). The centre of Lusk village is designated an ACA (CH008) and the proposed development site is located within it.

### 3.2.3 *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)*

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the 'NIAH') is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are four structures listed in the NIAH within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area). These include the church (CH005), a house (CH009), water pump (CH010) and a former church/chapel (CH011).

## 3.3 *Areas of archaeological potential*

Analysis of historic mapping (see Section 3.5 below) does not reveal any previous structures on the proposed development site. No additional indication for possible archaeological or historical remains is evident from historic maps within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

### 3.3.1 *Results of Archaeological Test Trenching*

A programme of archaeological test trenching was carried out at the site on 25 March 2019 (Appendix 5).

A total of 19 features were identified and investigated during the testing programme, 12 of these proved to be archaeological features. The most significant feature identified is ditch (011). Excavations carried out in 2005 under Ministerial Consent No. C010 identified the location of the middle enclosure ditch for the ecclesiastical site. Approximately 50 m to the north north-east of ditch (011) in the larger open green space beyond the site boundary, Google Earth imagery from 30/05/2013 shows a curving

cropmark in the northern area of this field, which is believed to correlate to the middle enclosure ditch. The position and orientation of ditch (011) within the proposed development site suggests that it continues the line of the middle enclosure ditch (Figure 6). Notably archaeological features were identified both to the east and west of it indicating settlement activity between the middle and inner as well as middle and outer enclosure ditches.

Since archaeological features were found in all trenches, it is likely that archaeological material is present across the whole of the proposed development site. Therefore the entire site is considered to be an area of archaeological potential (CH012).

### 3.4 *Archaeological and historical context (after Bolger 2005 and Duffy 1997)*

The site is located in the townland of Lusk, parish of Lusk, in the centre of the modern village.

#### 3.4.1 *Prehistoric period*

There is evidence for settlement in north county Dublin generally from the Mesolithic onwards. The known archaeological sites within Lusk village are much later in date (see below). However identification of a pit containing Grooved Ware during monitoring works at a site off Main Street within the village (RMP DU008-065----) does hint at some (albeit limited) prehistoric settlement. Archaeological investigations further out on the perimeter of the village settlement have identified features such as burnt mounds (RMP DU008-082---- and DU008-112----), a ring ditch (RMP DU008-060---) and a house site (DU008-101----).

#### 3.4.2 *Early medieval period*

During the early medieval period, north county Dublin formed part of the over-kingdom of Brega, which was controlled by the *Síl nÁeda Sláine* branch of the *Uí Néill*. North County Dublin, however, was occupied by their subject peoples the *Ciannachta*, the *Saitne*, the *Gailenga* and the *Uí Maicc Uais*. The *Ciannachta* controlled most of the coastline of the coastline between the river Dee in County Louth and the river Tolka in county Dublin. They are associated with the ecclesiastical sites of Lusk, Swords and Rush. The most significant political changes during this period occurred during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries with the establishment of the Norse kingdom of Dublin. The Norse extended their sphere of influence over a significant portion of north county Dublin, which came to be called *Dyflinasskerri* or *Fine Gall* (modern Fingal).

Lusk appears to be a 5<sup>th</sup> century foundation and developed into one of the most important ecclesiastical settlements of the east coast region. The size of the enclosure with a diameter of 250 metres is impressive, dominated by a round tower which itself is a symbol of prestige (Swan 1985, 89). The persistence throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD of a hereditary ecclesiastical family, the descendants of *Colggu* son of *Móenach*, as noted by Hughes (1966, 162) is significant. This particular line, in view of the personal names recorded, probably represented an offshoot of the *Ciannachta* (Rawl B 502, 145c; O' Brien 1962, 168). Moreover, the range of ecclesiastical offices attested in the record highlights the importance of Lusk as an ecclesiastical centre. It was an episcopal see and had in addition to an abbot a *secnap* (vice-abbot) and an *oeconimus* (spenser); it had a scriptorium and a school, as demonstrated by obits of scribes and of a lector.

The existence of a fair at Lusk by the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD is an indicator of commercial growth (Stout and Stout 1992, 16) and it is clear that a large number of people were attracted to the location. Regarding the death in AD800 from a horsefall of Ailill son of Fergus king of Brega, Doherty (1980, 72) is probably correct in suggesting that this event took place at the fair of Lusk on the feast of *Mac Cuilinn [in circio, ferie filii Cuilinn Luscan, AU]*. Ailill belonged to *Síl nÁeda Sláine* and it may be not be entirely coincidental

that the personal names of several office-holders of 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century figure in the genealogies of that dynasty.

In the Viking period and later, Lusk would be a prime target for military objectives but would survive as a church and, post diocesan reform, would be included among the properties of the archbishop of Dublin (Simms and Fagan 1992, 87, 89). Lusk and its appurtenances are included in a list of possessions confirmed in 1179 by Pope Alexander III to St. *Lorcán Ua Tuathail* in his capacity as archbishop (A. R. I, 1; McNeill 1950, 3).

Analysis of the plan form of the village initially identified evidence for the early medieval enclosures defining and delimiting the ecclesiastical site (Swan 1985). This initial assessment has been developed and enhanced through more recent direct archaeological investigations (O'Connell 2017). The available evidence points to three concentric enclosures (Figure 6):

- Inner enclosure (c. 110 m x 100 m) incorporating the sub-rectangular churchyard and the curving portion of Church Road to the south of it
- Middle enclosure (c. 250 m x 220 m) preserved in curving street pattern to the east of church and alignment of property boundaries to west of church
- Outer enclosure (c. 515 m x 280 m) identified in archaeological excavations on west and southwest, preserved in curving street pattern on south-east and in property boundaries on north-east

Radiocarbon dating places the outer enclosure in the period AD420–600 (O'Connell 2017). It is likely that the enclosures were in contemporary rather than successive use. The proposed development site straddles the reconstructed circuit of the middle enclosure.

### 3.4.3 *Later medieval period*

During the Anglo-Norman period Lusk, like Swords, became an archiepiscopal manor, one of the components which, until 1844, made up the archiepiscopal Barony of Nethercross. The manor of Lusk was extensive, encompassing 6,977 acres and including the townlands of Bishopsland, Bridtree, Beau, Whitestown and Rogerstown (Otway-Ruthven 1961, 57, 72). The church of Lusk was assigned to the precentor of St. Patrick's cathedral in 1219 (Stubbs 1914, 252) and in the post-Norman period chapelries existed at the early medieval site of Rush (DU008-004) dedicated to St Catherine and at Whitestown (DU008-021) where the dedication to St Maur, almost certainly a Continental import, appears to be late.

The Liber Niger lists archiepiscopal tenants who paid wax-rent in the time of Archbishop Fulk (1276-71). Later in 1326, an inspeximus of the manors of Swords and Lusk lists tenants' holdings including those of Ralph de Williby at Whitestown (Knightstown) and Geoffrey de Santo Bosco at Rogerstown. The duties of the burgagers of Lusk are catalogued; they did sit at the manorial court, worked in the Autumn at harvesting and carrying the crop and were bound to grind their corn at the manorial mill (A.R., I 85: McNeill 1950, 176-177). The importance of Rogerstown as the port of Lusk about this time is illustrated by the fact that local notable John Holywood was obliged in 1355 to quit his claim to the harbour in favour of the archbishop.

## 3.5 *Cartographic evidence*

### 3.5.1 *Down Survey (1655-6)*

Lusk is shown with the centre of the village settlement denoted by a representation of the church. No other structures or features are illustrated and no terrier is available. However, the Civil Survey description of the settlement notes a church in good repair as well as the walls of an old chapel (Simington 1945, 117). Houses of various types are recorded from many of the properties held in and around the town (Simington 1945, 117–133).

### 3.5.2 *Rocque's Map of Dublin c.1760*

The church at Lusk is shown at the centre of the village settlement set in a rectangular walled enclosure. A road corresponding to Church Road is shown extending west from the church and there are buildings indicated along the north side of it in the general area of the site location.

### 3.5.3 *1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch series (1837-42)*

The site is shown as comprising open fields and part of the wide triangular expansion to the former alignment of Church Road. Given the proximity of this expanded section of roadway this could reflect the preservation of an earlier civic space such as a market site or green.

### 3.5.4 *Ordnance Survey 25-inch series map (1910-11)*

The alignment of Church Road has been altered to its modern form (though the older wider street line survives in the field boundary alignment to the south and west of the site. The site itself is shown as undeveloped greenfield.

### 3.5.5 *Ordnance Survey Casini 6-inch series (1936)*

No significant changes from the earlier 25-inch series map. The site remains undeveloped greenfield.

## 3.6 *Recent excavations*

Over 49 archaeological investigations have been carried out within the town of Lusk, which have identified sites dating from the prehistoric to early historic periods. The majority have been undertaken on the outskirts in conjunction with the development and expansion of the town, with investigations within the centre of the town being more limited (see Appendix 2).

The most immediately relevant investigation, however, is a programme of geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching carried out at site located immediately east of the present site (between it and the church) (O'Connell 2017). This investigation identified a possible north-south orientated ditch (that may relate to the circuit of the inner ecclesiastical enclosure) and a stone trackway aligned towards the surviving church buildings to the east. Notably natural geological strata were not reached across most of the excavated trenches due to deep deposits of garden soils and (possibly) occupation layers. It is assumed that these deposits mask further archaeological features (O'Connell 2017).

## 4 IMPACT STATEMENT

### 4.1 Description of the site

The proposed development site is located on the north side of Church Road, Lusk, in the Parish of Lusk, in Co. Dublin (Figure 1). It is bounded by private property on the west, north and east. The proposed development covers an area of 0.75 HA

#### 4.1.1 Past impacts on site

A dwelling house was previously constructed at the site and is located towards the Church Road frontage.

#### 4.1.2 Summary of baseline environment

Site Type	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RMPs</li> <li>- National Monuments</li> <li>- Sites with Preservation Orders</li> <li>- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments</li> </ul>	<p>There are seven recorded archaeological monuments incorporated by the study area. None are located within the proposed development site.</p> <p>There is one National Monument within the study area but no sites with Preservation Orders. This site is not located within the proposed development site</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protected Structures</li> </ul>	<p>There are two Protected Structures incorporated in the study area. None are located within the proposed development site.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed development site lies within the Luas ACA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sites Listed in the NIAH</li> </ul>	<p>There are four structures listed in the NIAH within the study area. None are located within the proposed development site.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites</li> </ul>	<p>There are no unregistered cultural heritage sites incorporated by the study area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Areas/features of archaeological potential</li> </ul>	<p>The development site as a whole is also regarded as an area of very high archaeological potential.</p>

Table 9 – Summary of baseline environment

### 4.2 Description of the proposed development

No detailed design is currently available for the site.

### 4.3 Impact assessment

This section assesses the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on the baseline/receiving environment, prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures. The methodology used in ascertaining the baseline value of sites, the type, magnitude and significance level of impacts is set out in Section 2 above.

Mitigation measures to ameliorate these impacts and the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on each site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential are provided in Sections 5 and 6 below.

All impacts that occur during the construction phase are likely to be direct impacts as a result of sub-surface disturbance or construction works. In addition, the proposed development site is located within an ACA (CH008) and there are a number of upstanding RMP sites within 100 m (CH003; CH005), one of which is a designated National Monument (CH003). Therefore, there is a potential for any development to have an indirect impact or impact on the setting of these sites.

CH No.	Impact Type	Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact prior to implementation of mitigation measures	Baseline Value	Significance level of impact prior to implementation of mitigation measures
003	Indirect	Newly constructed buildings may impact on the setting and character	Moderate	Very High	Significant
005	Indirect	Newly constructed buildings may impact on the setting and character	Moderate	Very High	Significant
006	Direct	Impacts will occur as a result of construction groundworks	Major	Very High	Significant
008	Indirect	Newly constructed buildings may impact on the setting and character	Moderate	Very High	Significant
012	Direct	Impacts will occur as a result of construction groundworks	Major	Very High	Significant

Table 6 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude prior to mitigation

## 5 MITIGATION STRATEGY

The mitigation strategies outlined in this section detail the techniques to be adopted in order to ameliorate the impacts that the proposed development may have on features of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage within the study area during both the construction and operational phases of the scheme. The residual impacts that will remain once these mitigation measures have been implemented are identified in Section 9 further on.

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

The current policy of the Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of all affected archaeological material.

The following mitigation measures are proposed:

1. A visual impact assessment of the finalised development design should be prepared to ensure that any proposed structure is appropriate to the requirements of the Lusk ACA (CH008) and is suitably sympathetic to the upstanding ecclesiastical remains (CH003; CH005).
2. Unless a minimum impact design solution has been agreed and approved by the National Monuments Service, the proposed development site should be fully archaeologically excavated under licence from the National Monuments Service in advance of any construction works.
3. Any essential enabling works or demolition works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Note where possible enabling or other groundworks works should be deferred until after the full archaeological excavation has been completed.
4. All archaeological material encountered during such monitoring works will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
5. A written report should be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

If development of the site proceeds, then the following general sequencing of works is advised in order to deliver the mitigation measures outlined above:

- 1 Demolition of any upstanding structures to ground slab level only (no ground reduction or other groundworks)
- 2 Removal of groundslabs and foundations under archaeological supervision; disconnection of any services (under archaeological supervision if groundworks required).
- 3 Full footprint archaeological excavation unless otherwise agreed with National Monuments Service on foot of an approved minimum impact design solution that facilitates preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits.

- 4 Construction of development. Archaeological supervision at this stage should only be required if a minimum impact design solution has been agreed with the National Monuments Service and supervision is required to ensure appropriate preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits is achieved.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 *Summary of archaeological findings*

The archaeological assessment of the proposed development site at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin has identified 12 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the study area. These comprise seven RMPs, one National Monument, two Protected Structures, one ACA, four sites listed in the NIAH and one area of archaeological potential (AAP). The results of the test excavation carried out at the site indicate that the middle circuit of the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure transects the site with related archaeological features located both within and without it.

The results of this impact assessment, in conjunction with results of test excavation, indicate that the development site as a whole is an area of archaeological potential (CH012).

### 6.2 *Recommendations*

The proposed development design is not yet finalised, but it is expected that most impacts would occur as a result of construction groundworks. In addition, the development site is located within the Lusk ACA (CH008) and is adjacent to a number of upstanding archaeological features, including a designated National Monument (CH003; CH005), so there is the potential for indirect or visual impact.

1. A visual impact assessment of the finalised development design should be prepared to ensure that any proposed structure is appropriate to the requirements of the Lusk ACA (CH008) and is suitably sympathetic to the upstanding ecclesiastical remains (CH003; CH005).
2. Unless a minimum impact design solution has been agreed and approved by the National Monuments Service, the proposed development site should be fully archaeologically excavated under licence from the National Monuments Service in advance of any construction works.
3. Any essential enabling works or demolition works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Note where possible enabling or other groundworks works should be deferred until after the full archaeological excavation has been completed.
4. All archaeological material encountered during such monitoring works will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
5. A written report should be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

If development of the site proceeds, then the following general sequencing of works is advised in order to deliver the mitigation measures outlined above:

- 1 Demolition of any upstanding structures to ground slab level only (no ground reduction or other groundworks)
- 2 Removal of groundslabs and foundations under archaeological supervision; disconnection of any services (under archaeological supervision if groundworks required).

- 3 Full footprint archaeological excavation unless otherwise agreed with National Monuments Service on foot of an approved minimum impact design solution that facilitates preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4 Construction of development. Archaeological supervision at this stage should only be required if a minimum impact design solution has been agreed with the National Monuments Service and supervision is required to ensure appropriate preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits is achieved.

### 6.3 Residual impacts

CH No.	Baseline Value	Impact Type	Mitigation Measures	Magnitude of impact taking into account mitigation measures	Significance level of impact after implementation of mitigation measures
003	Very High	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Impact Assessment of any proposed development design</li> </ul>	Minor	Slight
005	Very High	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Impact Assessment of any proposed development design</li> </ul>	Minor	Slight
006	Very High	Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full archaeological excavation in advance of construction</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate
008	Very High	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Impact Assessment of any proposed development design</li> </ul>	Minor	Slight
012	Very High	Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full archaeological excavation in advance of construction</li> </ul>	Moderate	Slight

Table 6 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude after implementation of mitigation

**Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of Fingal County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.**

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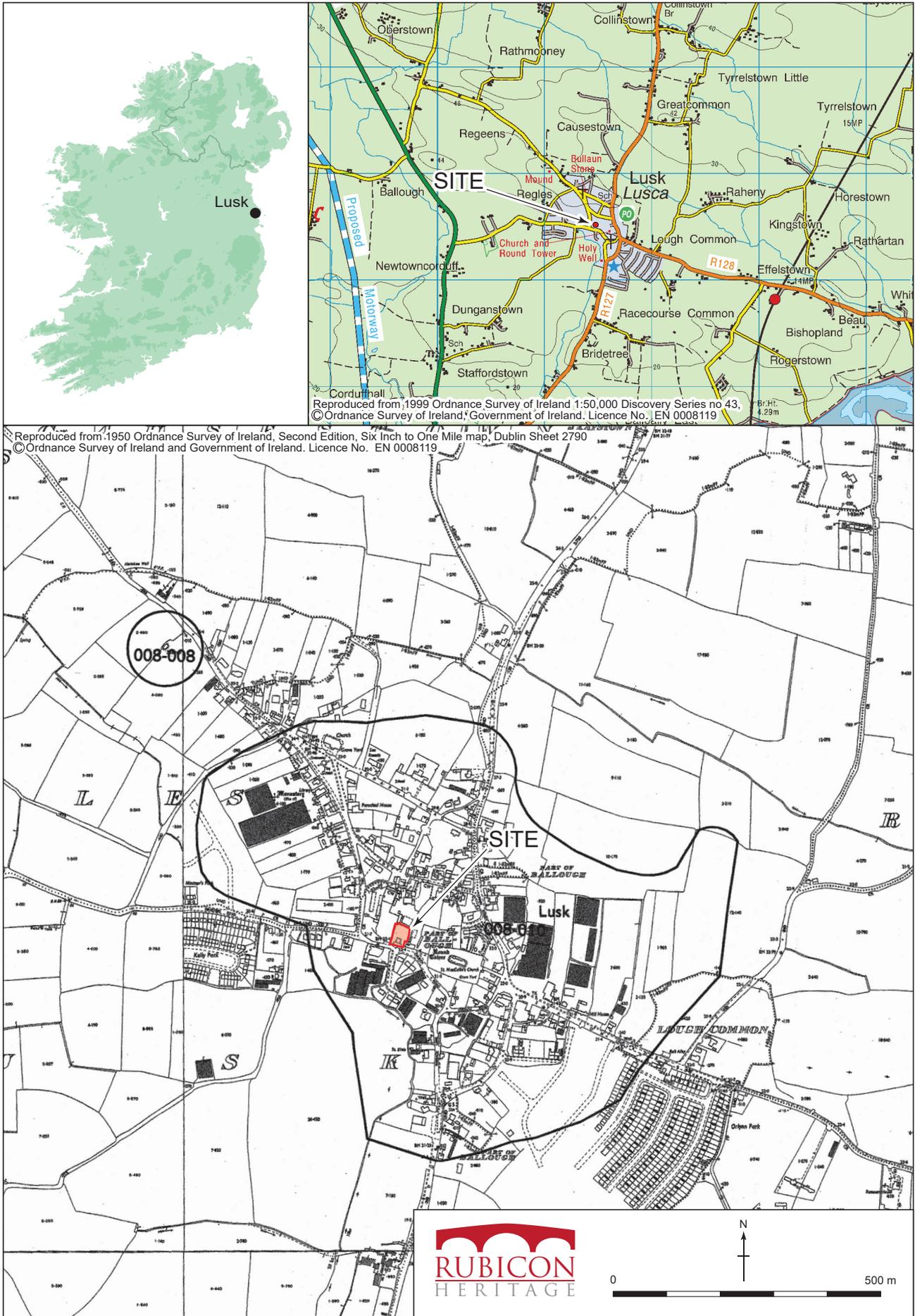


Figure 1 - Proposed development site, Church Road, Lusk:  
 Site location and extract from RMP.

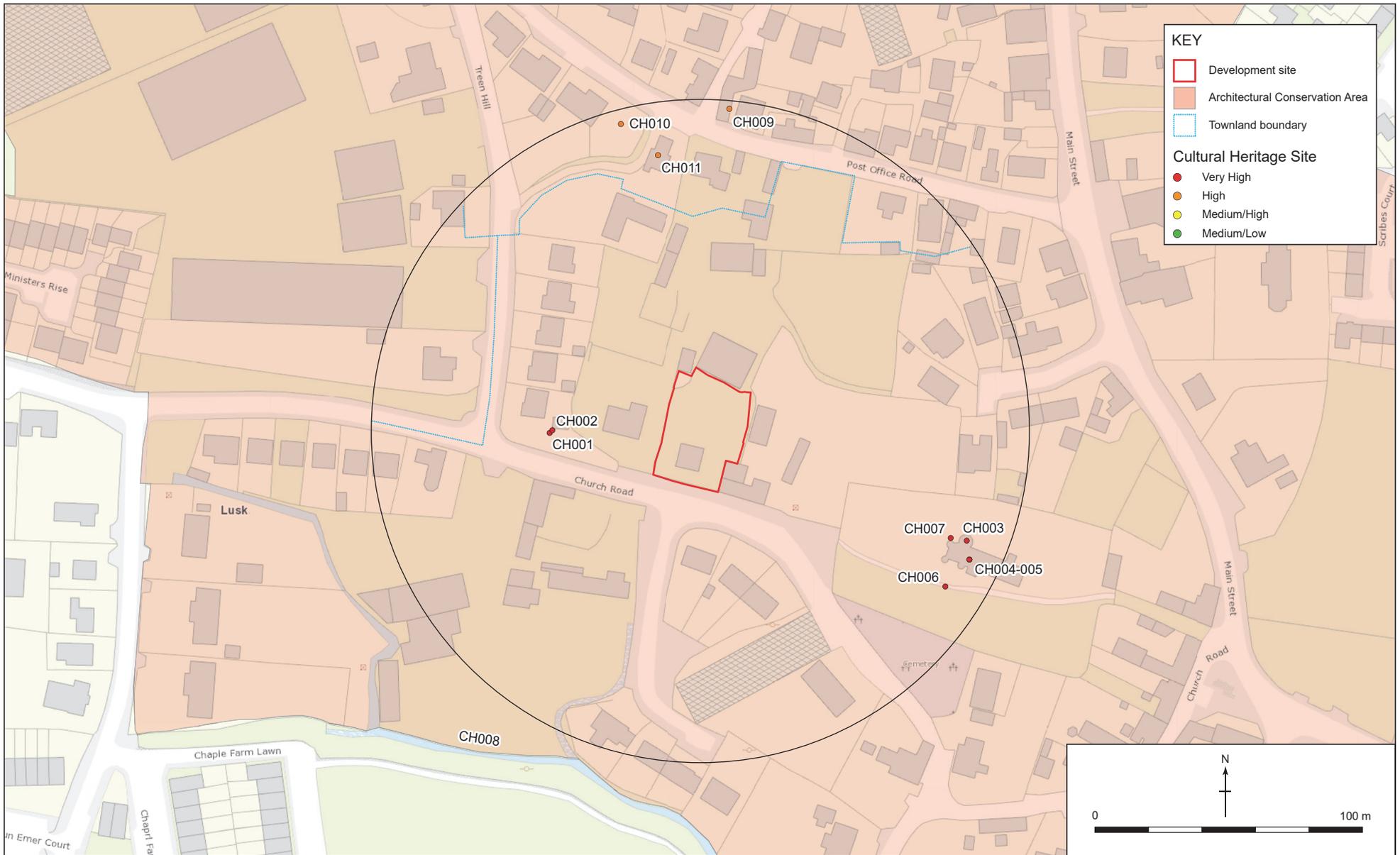


Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage sites within 100m radius of proposed development site.

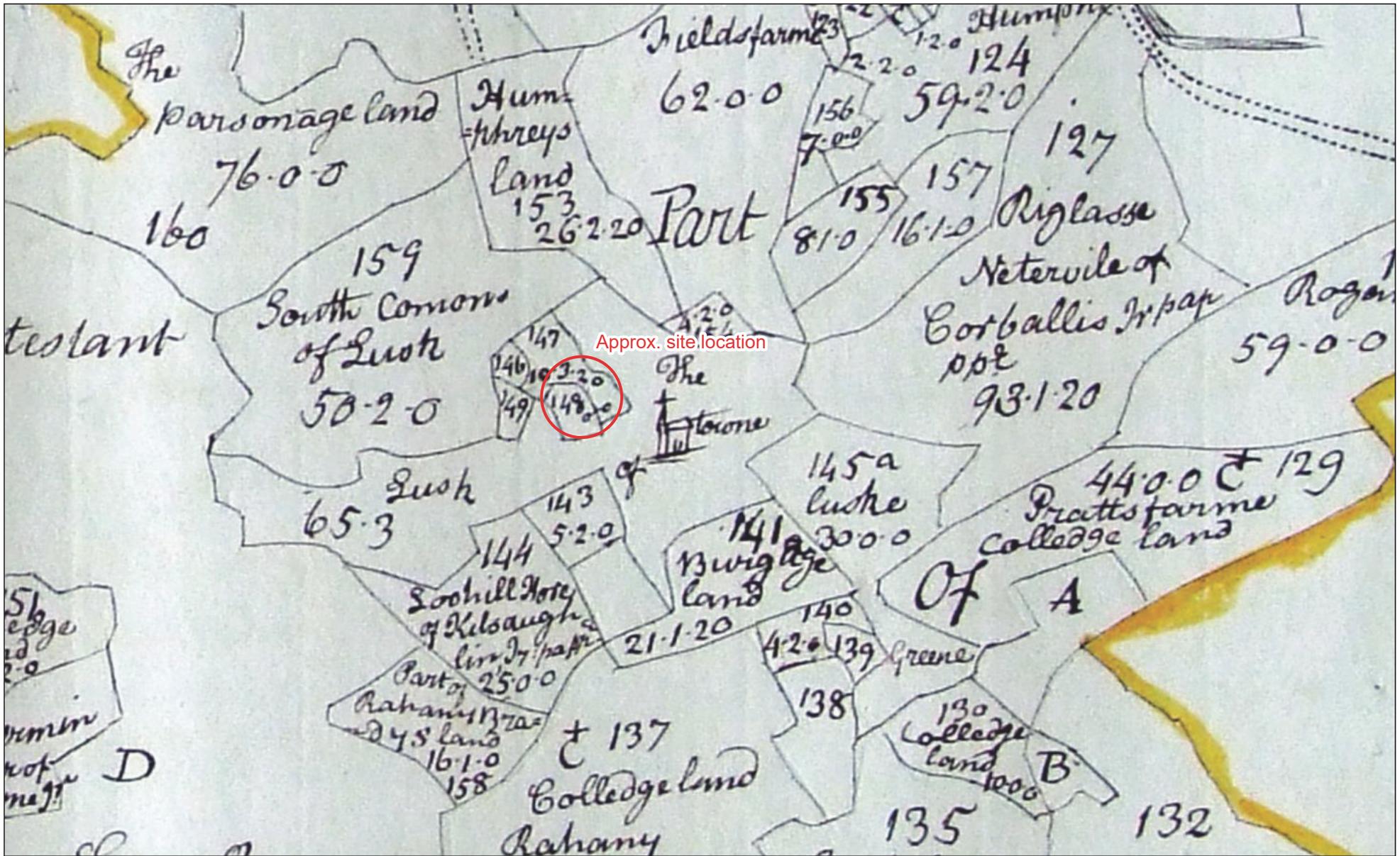


Figure 3 - Extract from Down Survey map of Lusk Parish.



Figure 4 - Extract from Rocque's map of county Dublin.

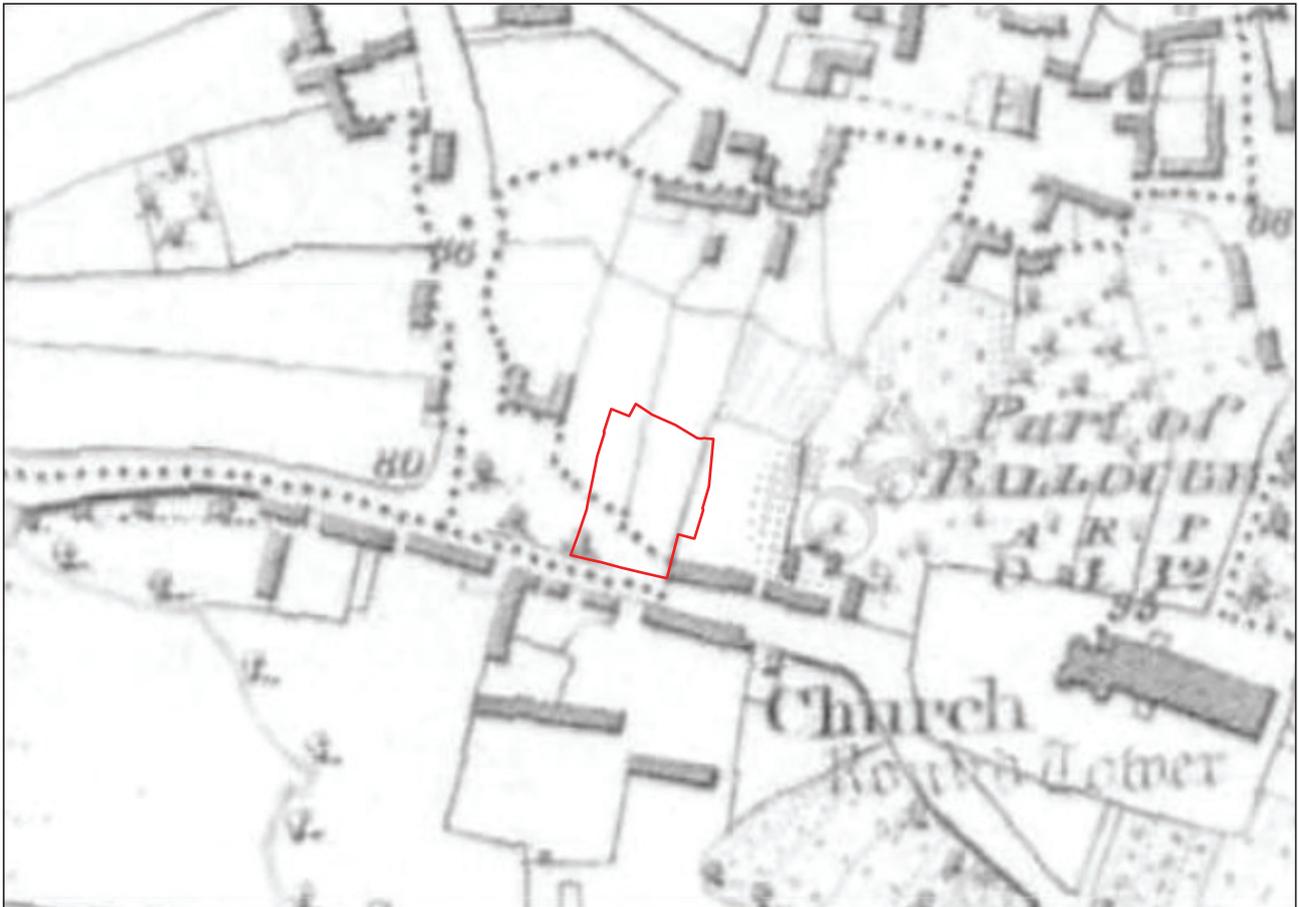


Figure 5 - First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map with proposed development site.

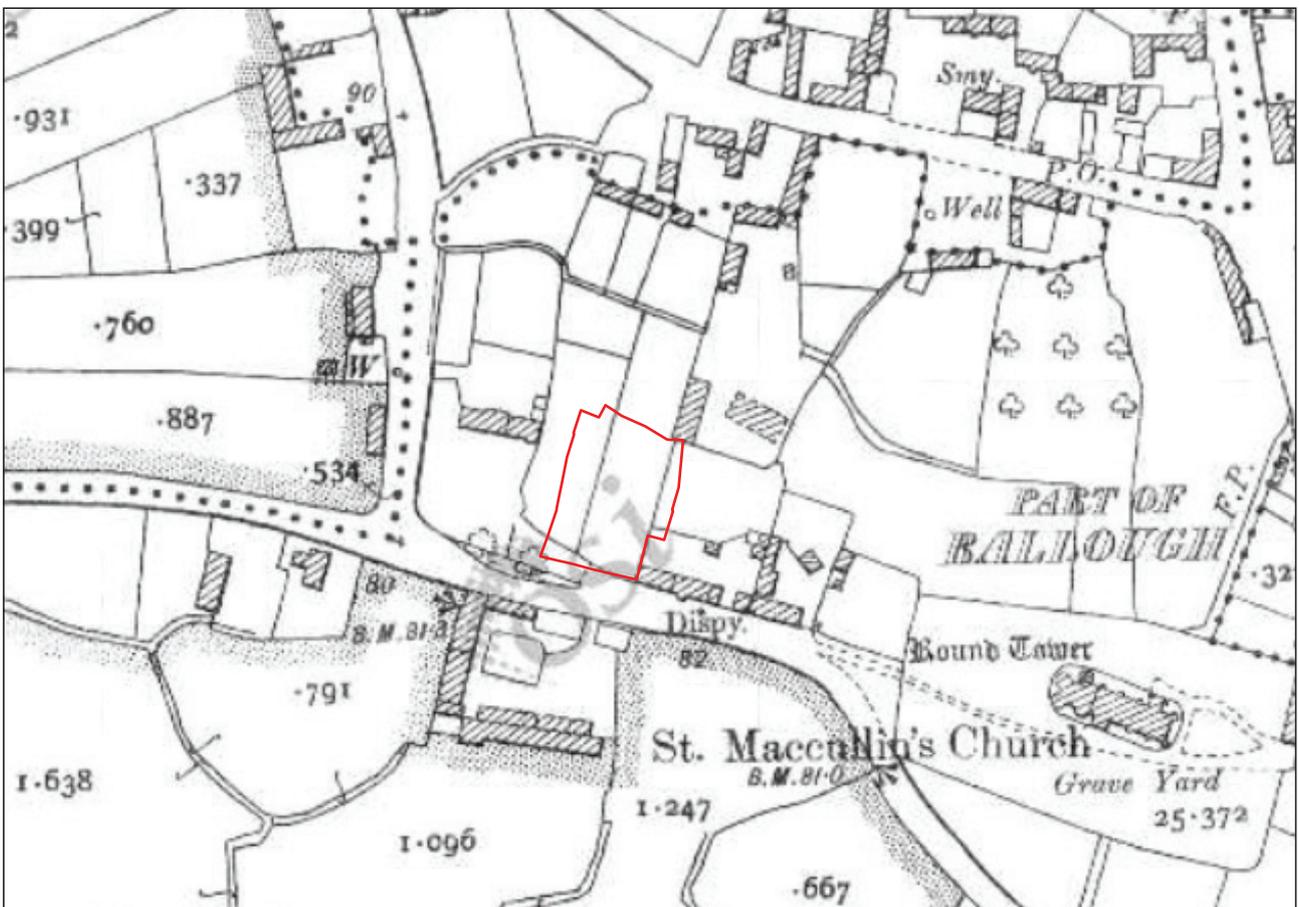


Figure 6 - Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with proposed development site.

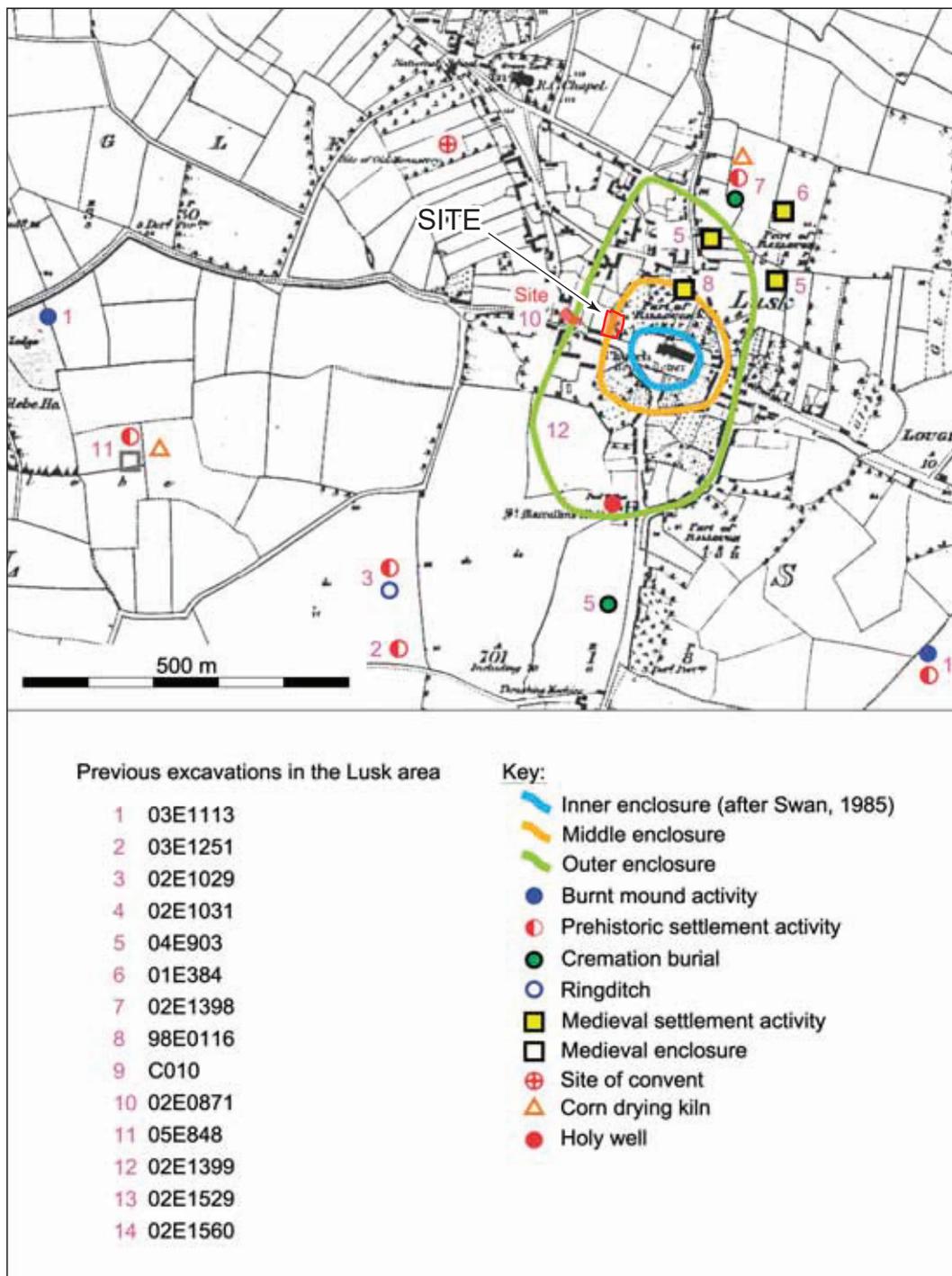


Figure 7 - Reconstruction of the ecclesiastical enclosures at Lusk.



**Appendix 1 – Inventory of identified sites of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within study area**

CH No.	Category	Legal status	Baseline Value	Description	Townland/ Street Address	Approx. distance to site (m)	ITM_N	ITM_E
CH001	RMP	DU008-097001-	Very High	Burial. This monument was first identified during an assessment (Licence no. 05E0161) of a greenfield site delimited by Church road to the S and Treen Lane to the W. At least five inhumations, all supine, extended and orientated E–W, with the head to the east were identified (Clarke 2005). Excavation was undertaken (Licence no. C010) in advance of road-widening. A 5m long portion of the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU008-010006-) was excavated and a ditch fill date of 42-600 AD recovered. External to the ditch eight E-W supine burials were excavated including a double burial containing two adult males. Both had been beheaded and an iron spearhead was protruding from the torso of one. The burial was dated to 410-570 AD (O’Connell 2009, 54).	LUSK	40	721364	754514
CH002	RMP	DU008-097002-	Very High	Souterrain. Excavation was undertaken (Licence no. C010) in advance of road-widening. The souterrain was located external to the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU008-010006-) and consisted of two rectangular chambers connected by a creepway (2.2m long). Chamber 1 (12m x 1.7m) was constructed of large blocks and boulders; a rotary quernstone had been reused as a roof lintel. Pottery dating to the 13th century was recovered from the backfill. The second chamber (2.2m x 1.7m) extended beyond the limit of excavation (O’Connell 2009, 55).	LUSK	40	721365	754515

CH No.	Category	Legal status	Baseline Value	Description	Townland/ Street Address	Approx. distance to site (m)	ITM_N	ITM_E
CH003	RMP RPS NM/PO	DU008-010003-; PS298	Very High	Round tower. Located within St Macullin's graveyard, the round tower forms a detached north-east turret to the 15th century belfry tower at Lusk. It is built of coursed limestone masonry and contains eight floors under a conical roof (H c. 34m). The wall is slightly battered and the thickness of the wall is reduced from the bottom to the top (T 1.4m-0.9m). The tower is entered in the ESE through a doorway which has a plain moulding. A trap door in the interior provides access to the basement of the tower (int. dims.2.2m-2.5m). The interior is lit by narrow slit opes (Healy 1975, 20; Barrow 1975, 65-67, 8:10 (03)). The conical roof was restored in 1860 by William reeves, rector of Lusk at the time. The round tower is a National Monument in state guardianship.	LUSK	90	721520	754474
CH004	RMP	DU008-010008-	Very High	Sheela-na-gig. Unlocated possible sheela-na-gig located inside Lusk Church (DU008-010004-) where it was recorded and described by antiquarian Austin Cooper in 1783 as following; 'the human features fancifully hideous; the face being seven inches broad, and the head without neck or body, being attached to a pair of kneeling thighs and legs' (Anon 1914, 253; Guest 1936, 111). This figure was locally known as 'The Idol' (Clibborn 1844, 575). According to Guest this figure had been buried 1844 by the Rev. Mr Tyrrell. This event appears to have occurred at least a year earlier in 1843 if not earlier (Freitag 2004, 111). Its current location is unknown.	LUSK	95	721521	754467

CH No.	Category	Legal status	Baseline Value	Description	Townland/ Street Address	Approx. distance to site (m)	ITM_N	ITM_E
CH005	RMP RPS NIAH	DU008-010004-; PS297; NIAH1132 3010	Very High	Within the tower is a 17th century font, bullaun stone and portion of a fireplace removed from Bremore castle, decorated in false relief with six shields bearing arms surrounding the Annuciation (H 0.52m, Wth 2.05m, T 0.17m); two graveslabs, one commemorates Walter Dermot d. 1538 with a depiction of the Holy Trinity (Hunt 1974, 146; Roe 1979, 140), the other commemorates James Birmingham d. 1637 and is decorated with a relief effigy of an armoured knight and the coat of arms of the Birmingham and Fitzwilliams (Hunt 1974, 146). On the first floor is a Renaissance table tomb decorated in high relief with the effigies of a knight and lady erected in the mid 1580's to the memory of Sir. Christopher Barnewall d. 1575 and Marion Sharl (Jocelyn 1973, 153-158). "	LUSK	95	721521	754467
CH006	RMP	DU008-010006-	Very High	Ecclesiastical enclosure. Lusk is the best example of an early ecclesiastical enclosure in the county. Both inner c.110m x 100m) and middle enclosures (c.250m x 220m) are reflected in street layout and plot boundaries (Aalen 1992, 87). The present Main Street, N portion of the Dublin Road, Church Road and Church Street respect the former boundaries of the early ecclesiastical enclosure. Part of the outer enclosure was identified through test excavation (Licence 01E0872ext.) and preserved in what is now the open space of Chapel Farm housing estate. Archaeological investigation to accommodate road widening along the Church road also identified part of the outer ecclesiastical enclosure which was	LUSK	90	721512	754457

CH No.	Category	Legal status	Baseline Value	Description	Townland/ Street Address	Approx. distance to site (m)	ITM_N	ITM_E
				radiocarbon dated from the early 5th through the 6th century AD. (O'Connell 2009, 59).				
CH007	RMP	DU008-076----	Very High	Redundant record. A female effigy fragment (L1.18m, Wth 1.0m) which consists of the lower half of a female figure was discovered in the graveyard of Garristown church (DU003-002005-) where it was used as a gravemarker (Mc Mahon 1991, 26). It was moved to the Wille Monks Museum in Lusk. It portrays a heavy woolen skirt which is raised to reveal a smock underneath. Her feet rest on a tasselled cushion. Two smaller fragments were also discovered and a side slab of the tomb chest. This slab has been dated to the 15th century and represents a Pale school of figure sculpture (Mc Mahon 1991, 26). It has since been placed in Garristown Library.	LUSK	85	721514	754475
CH008	ACA		Very High	Lusk Architectural Conservation Area	LUSK	0	-	-
CH009	NIAH	11323009	High	House. Detached three-bay two-storey former post office, c.1860. Rendered shopfront, c.1915, and extension to rear, c.1960. ROOF: Double pitched slate roof hipped to left side with terracotta tiles and red brick chimney stacks with brick cornices; terracotta chimney pots; uPVC rainwater goods and timber eaves. WALLS: Rendered channelling and string course to ground floor; pebble dashed and rendered quoins to first floor; rendered pilasters, panels and fascia shopfront. OPENINGS: Square headed rendered architraves; uPVC casements; fixed timber shop windows; moulded rendered	Post Office Road	95	721431.2217	754634.2959

CH No.	Category	Legal status	Baseline Value	Description	Townland/ Street Address	Approx. distance to site (m)	ITM_N	ITM_E
				recessed porch. Entrance moulded door surround and timber panelled door with overlight.				
CH010	NIAH	11323006	High	water pump. Cast-iron water pump, c.1900, of square profile with a curved handle.	Post Office Road	95	721390.6462	754628.6366
CH011	NIAH	11323008	High	church/chapel. Pair of single-storey gable-fronted warehouses, c.1890. Originally used as a Roman Catholic chapel. ROOF: Double pitched; artificial slate and corrugated-iron; terracotta and iron ridging; decorative timber barge boards to building to left. WALLS: Rendered quoins to left building; roughcast render. OPENINGS: Pointed arched windows to gables; boarded up; square headed tongue & grooved double doors; having timber lintel above building to right. Square headed windows; render reveals; concrete cills; replacement timber casements.	Post Office Road	80	721404.5276	754617.0423
CH012	AAP	N/A	Very High	The proposed development site as a whole constitutes an area of archaeological potential. Test trenching has indicated that the middle enclosure ditch of the early medieval ecclesiastical site transects the site and related occupation activity is present both within and without the area that it encloses.	Church Road	0	-	-

**Note:** The abbreviations that have been used for the 'Category' section are as follows:

RMP: Recorded archaeological monument

NM/PO National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of state or subject to a preservation order or temporary preservation order

PS: Protected Structure

NIAH: Site recorded in NIAH

ACA:	Architectural Conservation Area
UBH:	Unregistered built heritage site
UCH (1):	Unregistered cultural heritage site that comprises extant remains
UCH (2):	Unregistered cultural heritage site that does not comprise extant remains
TB:	Townland boundary
AAP:	Area/feature of archaeological potential

## **Appendix 2 Previous archaeological investigations**

An examination of previous excavations carried out within and around the area proposed for development provides a useful framework for assessment of the study area in terms of its archaeological significance as well as its archaeological potential. The Archaeological Excavations Bulletin is an annual fieldwork gazetteer for Irish Archaeology; it was checked for a record of any licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of the development area between 1970 and 2017.

### **Dublin 1996:135**

**Treen Hill, Lusk** No archaeological significance

**96E274**

No archaeologically significant stratigraphy was found during excavations at this site.

Mary McMahon, 77 Brian Rd, Marino, Dublin 3. <https://excavations.ie/report/1996/Dublin/0002266/>

### **Dublin 1997:181**

**CHURCH ROAD, LUSK** Early Christian foundation

**O210550 97E0025**

Archaeological testing was carried out in advance of the construction of a residential dwelling at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site of the proposed development is located to the north-west of an Early Christian monastery. The excavation of test-trenches revealed that archaeological deposits did not exist at this site. The boulder clay was exposed very close to the surface in both trenches and at a consistent depth. The site had evidently been ploughed in the past and this may explain the absence of archaeological stratigraphy.

Deirdre Murphy, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, 5 Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/1997/Dublin/0002729/>

### **Dublin 1998:213**

**POST OFFICE ROAD, LUSK** Possible Early Christian/medieval

**322115 253413 98E0116**

Archaeological assessment took place at a proposed residential development at Post Office Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site was thought to be within the enclosure of an early monastery founded by St MacCuillinn in the 5th century. Six trenches were excavated along the proposed foundations and bio-cycle unit. Trenches were dug to 1-1.35m deep and revealed sod, ploughsoil and boulder clay. Trench One revealed a black layer at a depth of 0.9m. This layer contained shell, burnt animal bone and fragments of iron slag but no datable artefacts. It was 0.2m thick and overlay boulder clay. Proposed house foundations will not extend beyond 0.75m below the surface and will not truncate archaeological deposits.

Deirdre Murphy, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, 15 Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/1998/Dublin/0003386/>

**County:** Dublin

**Site name:** Ballough (Part of)

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** RMP 8:10

**Licence number:** 01E0384

**Site type:** Medieval settlement

The townland of Ballough (Part of), Lusk, consists of a single plot which extends east from the Skerries Road. Two trenches were opened by machine extending from the western boundary (street front) eastwards. Trench A measured 64.8m in length and averaged 0.97m in width. Trench B was located

close to the southern field boundary and measured approximately 37.2m in length and averaged 0.98m in width.

The stratigraphy of the site was straightforward and consistent across the site. Topsoil, a dark brown friable silty clay, overlay an orange marly subsoil. A total of ten features were identified, all cut into the natural subsoil. Features 1–5 were situated within Trench A and Features 6–10 within Trench B. The results of the test excavation indicate a typical medieval plot. Towards the street front are a number of possible structural features (F1, F2, F7 and F8). F3 is a broad ditch (5.8m in width and 1.1m in depth) which may have extended south towards F9 to form a subdivision of the east–west plot. Beyond this are F4 and F10, which appear to have been pits.

The layout of the plot, the spatial relationship of the archaeological remains within it and the recovery of stratified fragments of medieval pottery (including Leinster Cooking Ware) suggest an urban settlement datable to the 12th–14th centuries. Christine Baker, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2001/Dublin/0006264/>

### **Dublin 2002:0623**

**Lusk** Monitoring: prehistoric burial-pit, pit and kiln

**32170, 25460: 02E0794**

Monitoring of Phase 3 of a large-scale residential development took place north of the medieval town of Lusk (SMR 8:10) and within the boundary of the zone of archaeological potential as outlined in the Urban Archaeological Survey. The landscape was low lying and poorly drained. In addition to several undiagnostic charcoal spreads and agricultural activity, three features of archaeological potential were identified. These were a subcircular pit containing charcoal-rich material and possible prehistoric pottery, a second, similar-sized pit and a possible figure-of-eight-shaped kiln. Further details of these features are given in the excavation summary for the site (No. 628 below, 02E1398). Susan McCabe, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2002/Dublin/0007939/>

### **Dublin 2002:0628**

**Lusk** Prehistoric burial-pit, pit and kiln

**32170, 25460: 02E1398**

During monitoring of Phase 3 of a residential development north of the medieval town of Lusk, Co. Dublin (SMR 8:10), two small, circular pits and a possible kiln were identified. These features were situated at a considerable distance from each other and are not thought to be associated. Feature 1 was subcircular and was cut into the subsoil. Prehistoric pottery was present in the fill, especially at the western side, where pottery protruded from it. The feature measured 1.1m east–west by 0.92m and was 0.35m deep. Its sides were steeply sloped and, in places, undercut slightly. The base was U-shaped. Two fills were present. It is thought that the secondary fill, a light brown/grey clay sand that contained occasional charcoal flecks and two pieces of worked flint, reflects silting up of the pit while still open or in use. The pottery was in the primary fill only, which was 0.1m deep, comprised black/grey, charcoal-enriched, smooth, silty clay and contained frequent chunks of charcoal. Along the west side the slope was more gentle, and it was in this location that a pottery vessel was identified. Suzanna Kelly and Helen Roche of UCD have confirmed that the remains of possibly two Grooved Ware (2800–2400 BC) vessels were present. Flint waste flakes of varying sizes were concentrated in the fill around the vessel. In addition to this, a very small quantity of burnt bone was also identified in the immediate area around the pottery. Feature 2 was visible as a subcircular deposit of mid-brown/grey, clayey silt measuring 1.32m north–south by 1.16m by 0.14m deep. It resembled Feature 1 in both shape and fill and was thought to be associated with it. On excavation, however, it was clear that Feature 2 had been cut into the subsoil, with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single, loose, topsoil-like fill of mid-brown/grey, clayey silt, which contained very occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and two pieces of smooth, unworked flint. Abundant in the fill were fire-cracked stones measuring 0.03–0.15m.

Adjacent to a field boundary, Feature 3 was first visible as an hourglass-shaped, dark deposit. On excavation it became clear that a distinctive bowl and flue were present, suggesting a kiln. The feature was cut into the natural subsoil and was 2.3m long. It was 1m wide in the east, at the bowl, narrowing to 0.54m at the flue and expanding again to 0.94m at its western end. The cut had gently sloped sides to the west, with an eastward-sloping base toward the bowl. The sides became increasingly steep from the flue to the bowl, with a U-shaped base in the bowl itself. Three distinct contexts were present. They comprised an oxidised clay, 0.07m deep, lining the bowl, an overlying primary fill of black silty clay with very high quantities of crushed and lumped charcoal, and a secondary, upper fill comprising a compact, light brown, silty clay containing frequent inclusions of small, subangular stones. Also within this fill were charcoal flecks, which were especially concentrated in the flue area. Four rolled and polished stones were identified in this fill. The rare presence of animal bone was also noted. No evidence in the form of seed or metalworking remains was present in the feature to suggest the function of the kiln. Microanalysis of the primary fill may shed light on this. Susan McCabe, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2002/Dublin/0007939/>

#### **Dublin 2004:0621**

##### **ST MACULLIN'S CHURCH, LUSK Inhumations**

**326100, 25440: 04E1031**

As part of the refurbishment of St Macullin's Church, Lusk, Fingal County Council proposed the excavation of two service trenches for foul water and gas. The church is within the zone of archaeological potential for the town (SMR 8:10). The round tower (SMR 8:10(03)) is a National Monument in State Care. The 19th-century church is a protected structure and both the church and graveyard are in the care of Fingal County Council. Orientated approximately east-south-east to west-north-west, the service trenches were to run from the north-eastern wall of the church along the present line of the gravel pathway and through the main entrance to the church and graveyard and connect to existing services located under Main Street. Monitoring was undertaken on 12 October, 30 November and 1 December 2004. Under a layer of made ground c. 0.4-0.5m thick, at least two inhumations in an undisturbed palaeosol were identified. Excavation of the service trenches was halted. The made ground was mainly comprised of material from the demolition of the medieval church, including two fragments of floor tile, which were dated to the 15th century. The palaeosol consisted of a well-sorted, moderately stiff, dark-brown silty clay with occasional gravel, sub-rounded stone and occasional human bone. Some of this bone appeared to be articulated and in situ. The layout of the scheme was altered to preserve these remains in situ. Monitoring is ongoing. Jonathan Dempsey, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011745/>

#### **Dublin 2004:0622**

##### **SKERRIES ROAD, LUSK Pits of probable medieval date**

**32206, 25479: 04E0751**

Monitoring was undertaken on Phase 4 of a residential development at Skerries Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. Monitoring of all topsoil-stripping was undertaken and 44 features of archaeological potential were identified. These comprised 36 circular pits, seven linear features and a stone-lined drain. The pits were aligned in north-south and east-west lines and a single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved during preliminary investigation. All features were fully excavated under licence 04E0903. Stuart Halliday, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011746/>

#### **Dublin 2004:0623**

##### **SKERRIES ROAD, LUSK Features of probable medieval date**

**321754, 254459: 04E0903**

Features of archaeological significance identified during monitoring (No. 622 above, 04E0751) were subject to full excavation. The main features of note that were identified comprised a series of circular

pits that were all very similar in form and size. In plan, they appeared to be laid out in rows aligned both north-south and east-west. With the exception of sherds of medieval pottery, no finds were retrieved from any of the pits and their function is unclear at present. None of the features was exceptionally deep, with the majority having a depth of less than 0.1m. The layout of these pits may be suggestive of some activity related to gardening, but further analysis will have to be undertaken in order to determine possible function or date. Environmental soil samples have been taken from all features and analysis of these samples will take place during full post-excavation works. Of the remaining features, Pit 035 in the northwest corner of the site may be indicative of a fulacht fiadh in the area, although not in this specific site. Of the seven linear features identified on this site, the retrieval of sherds of post-medieval pottery is indicative of a later date for these features, while their form is suggestive of either drainage ditches or field boundaries. If these features were field boundaries, the system may be indicative of strip fields, although these would not be aligned the same way that other strip fields are aligned around the remainder of Lusk. It is more likely that these features represent the remains of drains. Stuart Halliday, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011747/>

#### **Dublin 2005:504**

**CHURCH ROAD, LUSK** Early medieval burial site

**321600, 254440: 05E0161**

An assessment was carried out on behalf of Fingal County Council at the junction of Church Road and Treen Lane, Lusk, on 1 March 2005. This was a greenfield site, with Church Road delimiting the site to the south and a number of residential plots to the north. The site contained evidence of at least five inhumations, all supine, extended and orientated east-west, with the head to the east. The remains all lay within 0.3m of existing ground level and were in a poor state of preservation. There was possible evidence of a stone-lined grave laid out roughly north-south. Further investigation of this feature could not be undertaken, due to the presence of overlying remains. The remains would appear to be part of the medieval monastery 150m to the east and lie within the precincts of the original monastery as suggested by the curving route of Church Road and Treen Lane. Following consultation with DoEHLG, excavation within the site ceased and the remains were covered with plastic and reburied. There were occasional occurrences of animal bone, some probably recent, as the site was previously a farm, but some medieval remains were present in the form of a boar's tusk. Linda Clarke, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Dublin/0013508/>

#### **Dublin 2005:505**

**CHURCH ROAD, LUSK** Souterrain and burial ground

**321600, 254440: C010**

Fingal County Council have undertaken a road widening and traffic management scheme at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site is located 150m west of, and within the precincts of, the early medieval monastic site in the historic town of Lusk. An assessment was undertaken by Linda Clarke in March 2005 (see No. 504 above), which revealed buried human remains that were interpreted as part of a medieval burial ground.

Fingal County Council were granted consent to carry out the works subject to a full archaeological excavation at the site. The excavation was carried out from 7 June to 3 August 2005 under ministerial consent.

Five burials were recorded in the course of the initial assessment. Two of these consisted of extended adult inhumations orientated east-west, with the head located at the west. This is typical of Christian burial practice and, in an archaeological context, indicative of the medieval period. A date of c. AD 1000 was suggested for these burials. The remaining three burials consisted of assorted upper and lower

limbs. In the course of the excavation, the two extended inhumations (Burials 1 and 4) and two of the partial burials (Burials 2 and 3) were re-exposed and fully recorded. The fifth burial from the assessment was not located in the course of the excavation. It is suggested that Burials 2, 3 and 5 consisted of disarticulated human remains. Numerous other disarticulated human remains were collected in the course of clearance.

Six additional burials were recorded in the course of the excavation. They were all extended, supine and orientated east–west, with the head at the west. All were recorded very close to the existing ground surface. Of the six additional burials, five were adults and one was an infant. Two of the burials (Burials 9 and 10) were contained within the same grave-cut. Burial 9 contained an iron leaf-shaped spearhead protruding from the upper right-hand side of the torso. The spearhead was recorded in situ and had dislodged a number of ribs. The hands of both burials were joined in the centre of the grave-cut. Burial 10 was decapitated. The spearhead is of a type known from Lagore Crannóg and of early medieval date. A preliminary assessment of the burials would suggest that they are all of an early medieval date. Further burials may be located to the north of the excavated area.

The fragmentary remains of a stone-lined souterrain were also recorded at the site. This consisted of two galleries connected by a creep. Gallery 1 was an oblong chamber, with the partial remains of its stone facing recorded in situ. It was 12m long within the excavated area by 2m wide. The long axis of this chamber was orientated north-west/south-east. The stone facing was recorded on the western and southern sides at the south of the structure and consisted of mainly unworked limestone blocks and boulders built to an interior face. The western facing was c. 5m long and abutted the southern facing. Elsewhere at the base of this gallery two lines of stone sockets were present in place of the stone facing. The floor of this gallery consisted of a well-laid metalled surface. There was no roof present, but the profile of the stone facing combined with the presence of three flat slabs within the gallery suggests that it may have been a corbelled structure. A short recess/passage with dimensions of 0.4m wide by 0.4m high by 1.5m long extended at floor level from the southern side of Gallery 1. Two rotary disc quernstones were reused as roof lintels in this structure.

The second gallery was located at the west of Gallery 1. It was 2.2m long by 1.7m wide within the excavated area. It was stone-faced on all three of the recorded sides and utilised smaller limestone blocks than those recorded in Gallery 1. The floor of this gallery also consisted of a well-laid metalled surface. The southern side of a short creep between the two galleries was also recorded. This was 2m long and there was a noticeable incline from Gallery 2 to Gallery 1. The floor within the creep also consisted of a metalled surface and the southern side was lined with a series of stone sockets where stone facing once existed. There were no burials cut by the souterrain and none were recorded above it, suggesting that the souterrain and the burials may have been broadly contemporary.

The two galleries and the creep were backfilled in the medieval period when numerous animal bones and sherds of medieval pottery were dumped into them. The remainder of the stone facing may also have been robbed-out during this period.

Excavation works were confined to the area of the proposed road widening. As a result, neither of the galleries nor the creep were fully exposed. Significant archaeological deposits are therefore preserved in situ outside of the road corridor at the north of the site. All exposed archaeological features on this northern limit of excavation were covered with a geotextile membrane and backfilled in advance of road-widening works under archaeological supervision.

A substantial ditch was recorded at the eastern side of the site. It was 5m long within the excavated area, with a slight curvature noted. This ditch was steep-sided and 2.5m wide by 1.5m deep. It had a V-shaped profile and the basal fill consisted of a redeposited boulder clay, suggestive of eroded/ flattened

bank material. The remaining fills silted up over time. The only artefact collected from the ditch was an undiagnostic iron nail, although it should be possible to obtain a secure date from the collected soil samples. The ditch also extended beyond the northern limit of excavation.

Ground-reduction works within the site were carried on under archaeological supervision to ensure proper preservation of the remainder of the souterrain and ditch and to ensure that no further burials were disturbed. Aidan O'Connell, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Dublin/0013509/>

## **Appendix 3 Legislative and Policy framework**

### *EIA Legislation*

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects before planning permission can be granted. This original directive and its amendments were consolidated informally in EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and further amended 2014/52/EU.

Directive 2014/52/EU that among other factors, information is to be provided on:

‘cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects’ (Annex IV, Section 3)

Each of these assets is addressed within this assessment report.

### *Cultural Heritage Legislation*

#### *Archaeological Monuments/Sites*

Archaeological heritage is protected primarily under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines the word ‘monument’ as including:

‘any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes’.

Under the 1994 Act, provision was made for a Record of Monuments & Places (RMP). The RMP is a revised set of SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) maps, on which newly-discovered sites have been added and locations which proved not to be of antiquity have been de-listed by the National Monuments Service.

In effect, the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide a statutory basis for:

- Protection of sites and monuments (RMPs)
- Sites with Preservation Orders
- Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments
- Register of Historic Monuments (pre-dating 1700AD)
- Licensing of archaeological excavations
- Licensing of Detection Devices
- Protection of archaeological objects
- Protection of wrecks and underwater heritage (more than 100 years old)

In relation to proposed works at or in the vicinity of a recorded archaeological monument, Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states:

‘When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded [in the Record of Monuments and Places] or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or

permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.'

#### *Archaeological artefacts*

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act (amended) defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Section 9 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states that any such artefact recovered during archaeological investigations should be taken into possession by the licensed archaeological director and held on behalf of the state until such a time as they are deposited accordingly subsequent to consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

#### *Architectural Sites*

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage. The former Act has helped to provide for a forum for the strengthening of architectural heritage protection as it called for the creation of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which is used by local authorities for compiling the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in each respective county's Development Plan and provides statutory protection for these monuments.

Section 1 (1) of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 states:

'architectural heritage means all—

- (a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and
- (c) sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest''

The 1999 Act was replaced by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act. Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that:

'...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of –

- (a) the structure, or
- (b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'

## ***Policy Framework***

### *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023*

#### **10.2 Archaeological Heritage**

##### Protection of the Archaeological Resource

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide for the protection of archaeological sites, monuments, artefacts and shipwrecks that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Although the archaeological resource is finite (refer Appendix 3), sites continue to be discovered. Where new development is being considered, it is therefore advisable to check the National Monuments Service's Archaeological Survey Database on [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) in order to assess the archaeological potential of a site.

##### **Objective CH02**

Favour the preservation in situ or at a minimum preservation by record, of archaeological sites, monuments, features or objects in their settings. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

##### **Objective CH03**

Protect all archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and all sites and features of archaeological and historic interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.

##### **Objective CH04**

Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

##### Development and the Archaeological Resource

Archaeology is a non-renewable resource in that once an archaeological feature or site is excavated or removed it is gone forever from the landscape. Therefore, any proposed development should consider the potential impact on archaeology in the very earliest stages and seek to avoid affecting archaeological features or sites and their setting. This includes development along or in Fingal's rivers, coastline and tidal estuaries. Currently 40% of the recorded archaeological sites within Fingal are sub-surface. Therefore, any development has the potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological sites.

##### **Objective CH05**

Ensure archaeological remains are identified and fully considered at the very earliest stages of the development process, that schemes are designed to avoid impacting on the archaeological heritage.

##### **Objective CH06**

Require that proposals for linear development over one kilometre in length; proposals for development involving ground clearance of more than half a hectare; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery; to include an Archaeological Impact Assessment and refer such applications to the relevant Prescribed Bodies.

**Objective CH07**

Ensure that development within the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Notification does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature, and is sited and designed appropriately.

**Objective CH08**

Develop a policy in relation to the treatment of archaeological monuments within open space of developments. A different designation from that of open space will be applied where sub-surface archaeological remains are incorporated to differentiate the area.

**Objective CH09**

Recognise the importance of archaeology or historic landscapes and the connectivity between sites, where it exists, in order to safeguard them from developments that would unduly sever or disrupt the relationship and/or inter-visibility between sites.

**Objective CH10**

Co-operate with other agencies in the assessment of the potential for climate change to impact on coastal, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal sites and their environments including shipwreck sites.

**Objective CH11**

Encourage reference to or incorporation of significant archaeological finds into development schemes, where appropriate and sensitively designed, through layout, displays, signage, plaques, information panels and by using historic place names and the Irish language where appropriate

**Awareness and the Archaeological Resource**

There are currently 1015 known archaeological sites and monuments in Fingal. These vary from the familiar-churches, graveyards, castles, windmills and holy wells to sites that survive only beneath the surface-settlements, burials, ditches and pits. All of these sites contain unique information about our past and the people who lived in Fingal before us. They also form a resource for education, for communities and for tourism. The Council owns or is responsible for almost 20% of all the archaeological sites within Fingal.

**Objective CH12**

Promote best practice for archaeological excavation by ensuring that they are undertaken according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, The National Museum and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

**Objective CH13**

Actively support the dissemination of the findings of archaeological investigations and excavations through the publication of excavation reports thereby promoting public awareness and appreciation of the value of archaeological resources.

**Objective CH14**

Identify Zones of Archaeological Notification that contain clusters of Recorded Monuments or have a significant history of the discovery of archaeological sites, features and objects in order to allow for their designation, protection of their setting and environs.

**Objective CH15**

Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate signage or interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.

**Objective CH16**

Develop and implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal.

**Objective CH17**

Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways etc. and activities such as community excavation.

**Objective CH18**

Manage the archaeological sites and monuments that Fingal County Council owns or is responsible for according to best practice and according to Conservation Plans where they exist

## **Appendix 4    Terms and definitions used**

The following sets out the definitions of the terms which are used throughout the report:

- (i) The phrase 'cultural heritage' is a generic term used in reference to a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'cultural heritage', in compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to be of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest.

For the purpose of this assessment, each identified cultural heritage site is assigned a unique cultural heritage number with the prefix 'CH'.

- (ii) A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site (see below), this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.
- (iii) An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.
- (iv) The term 'proposed development site' refers to the defined area of land within which the proposed development, including access tracks etc, may be constructed.
- (v) In relation to the term 'study area' please see Section 1.3 above.
- (vi) The term 'receiving environment' refers to the broader landscape within which the study area is situated. Examination of the site's receiving environment allows the study area to be analysed in its wider cultural context.
- (vii) The terms 'baseline environment' and 'cultural heritage resource' refer to the existing, identifiable environment against which potential impacts of the proposed scheme may be measured.

## APPENDIX 5—RESULTS OF TEST TRENCHING



**Project code:** CRLA19  
**Client:** Fingal County Council  
**Date:** April 2019

## Report on Archaeological Testing at lands Church Road, Lusk, North County Dublin.

**Director:** James Hession  
**Report Author:** James Hession, Jean O'Dowd and Robert Hanbidge  
**Licence No:** 19E0161X  
**Planning Reference:** In advance of planning  
**Co-ordinates (ITM):** 721421, 754519

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological excavation of test trenches for the purposes of a future planning application associated with a proposed development at Church Road, Lusk, North County Dublin. The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 0.075 ha and the works were carried out on behalf of Fingal County Council.

A detailed development design has not yet been finalised and the works are being carried out at this, the pre-planning stage. The proposed development site is located within the historic town of Lusk in close proximity to the ecclesiastical centre, round tower and medieval church tower situated in the centre of the village. To the west of the proposed development site, a souterrain and burials were discovered during the widening of Church Road.

The results of the investigations have indicated that there is sub-surface archaeological remains present within the area tested as part of the footprint of the proposed development site at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

A total of 19 features were identified and investigated during the testing programme, 12 of these were archaeological features, all of which were located within the footprint of the test trench layout. Ditch (011) identified during the testing programme is a large ditch curving in a north north-eastern direction and extending beyond the site boundary. Approximately 50 m to the north north-east of the site in the larger open green space, the Google Earth imagery from 30/05/2013 shows a curving dark green feature in the northern area of this field. This may be a continuation of ditch (011) and previous conjecture has suggested this cropmark reflects one of the ecclesiastical enclosure ditches. It is highly probable, therefore, that this ditch (011) corresponds with the central enclosing ditch around the ecclesiastical site.

The development site as a whole is an area of high archaeological potential. There is a potential that construction groundworks could uncover previously unknown archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

1. The proposed development site should be fully archaeologically excavated under licence from the National Monuments Service in advance of any construction works.
2. Any essential enabling works or demolition works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Note where possible enabling or other groundworks works should be deferred until after the full archaeological excavation has been completed.
3. All archaeological material encountered during such monitoring works will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).

A written report should be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring of test trenches and test pits for the purposes of a future planning application associated with a proposed housing development at Church Road, Lusk, North County Dublin (ITM: 721421, 754519) (Figure 1). The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 0.075 ha and the works were carried out on behalf of Fingal County Council.

The works involved the mechanical excavation of three test trenches totalling 80 linear metres (Figure 2). The investigations were carried out under the direction of James Hession with the assistance of Jean O'Dowd and Rob Hanbidge.

No previous archaeological investigations have taken place at the site. However, in 2017, Fingal County Council commissioned an archaeological impact assessment including geophysical survey and test trenching for a proposed development site located immediately east of the present site (between it and the church) (O'Connell 2017). This investigation identified a possible north-south orientated ditch (that may relate to the circuit of the inner ecclesiastical enclosure) and a stone trackway aligned towards the surviving church buildings to the east.



**Project code:** CRLA19

**Date:** April 2019

## **Report on Archaeological Testing at lands Church Road, Lusk, North County Dublin.**

**Director:** James Hession

**Licence No:** 19E0161

**Co-ordinates (ITM):** 721421, 754519

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## **1 SITE LOCATION**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological test trenches undertaken at a site at Church Road, Lust, North County Dublin (ITM: 721421, 754519) (Figure 1).

The archaeological test trenching programme at the site took place on 25 March 2019 in accordance with Licence No 19E0161.

### **1.1 *Site Location and description***

The proposed development site is located within the historic town of Lusk in close proximity to the ecclesiastical centre (DU008-010006-), round tower (DU008-010003-) and medieval church tower (DU008-010004) situated in the centre of the village (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the south by Church Road, to the west by a private laneway, to the north by existing farm buildings and to the east by derelict farm buildings. Access to site is via a gate off Church Road.

To the west of the proposed development site, a souterrain (DU008-097002-) and burials (DU008-097002-) were discovered during the widening of Church Road and in the site immediately to the east, part of an enclosure ditch was identified during an archaeological assessment (NMS Licence Ref.: 17E0177). As such, there is high potential for the recovery of archaeological remains at the proposed development site.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 General Archaeological Background (after Bolger 2005 and Duffy 1997)

#### *Prehistoric period*

There is evidence for settlement in north county Dublin generally from the Mesolithic onwards. The known archaeological sites within Lusk village are much later in date (see below). However identification of a pit containing Grooved Ware during monitoring works at a site off Main Street within the village (RMP DU008-065----) does hint at some (albeit limited) prehistoric settlement. Archaeological investigations further out on the perimeter of the village settlement have identified features such as burnt mounds (RMP DU008-082---- and DU008-112----), a ring ditch (RMP DU008-060---) and a house site (DU008-101----).

#### *Early medieval period*

During the early medieval period, north county Dublin formed part of the over-kingdom of Brega, which was controlled by the *Síl nÁeda Sláine* branch of the *Uí Néill*. North County Dublin, however, was occupied by their subject peoples the *Ciannachta*, the *Saitne*, the *Gailenga* and the *Uí Maicc Uais*. The *Ciannachta* controlled most of the coastline of the coastline between the river Dee in County Louth and the river Tolka in county Dublin. They are associated with the ecclesiastical sites of Lusk, Swords and Rush. The most significant political changes during this period occurred during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries with the establishment of the Norse kingdom of Dublin. The Norse extended their sphere of influence over a significant portion of north county Dublin, which came to be called *Dyflinasskerri* or *Fine Gall* (modern Fingal).

Lusk appears to be a 5<sup>th</sup> century foundation and developed into one of the most important ecclesiastical settlements of the east coast region. The size of the enclosure with a diameter of 250 metres is impressive, dominated by a round tower which itself is a symbol of prestige (Swan 1985, 89). The persistence throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD of a hereditary ecclesiastical family, the descendants of *Colggu* son of *Móenach*, as noted by Hughes (1966, 162) is significant. This particular line, in view of the personal names recorded, probably represented an offshoot of the *Ciannachta* (Rawl B 502, 145c; O' Brien 1962, 168). Moreover, the range of ecclesiastical offices attested in the record highlights the importance of Lusk as an ecclesiastical centre. It was an episcopal see and had in addition to an abbot a *secnap* (vice-abbot) and an *oeconimus* (spenser); it had a scriptorium and a school, as demonstrated by obits of scribes and of a lector.

The existence of a fair at Lusk by the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD is an indicator of commercial growth (Stout and Stout 1992, 16) and it is clear that a large number of people were attracted to the location. Regarding the death in AD800 from a horsefall of Ailill son of Fergus king of Brega, Doherty (1980, 72) is probably correct in suggesting that this event took place at the fair of Lusk on the feast of *Mac Cuilinn [in circio, ferie filii Cuilinn Luscan, AU]*. Ailill belonged to *Síl nÁeda Sláine* and it may be not be entirely coincidental that the personal names of several office-holders of 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century figure in the genealogies of that dynasty.

In the Viking period and later, Lusk would be a prime target for military objectives but would survive as a church and, post diocesan reform, would be included among the properties of the archbishop of Dublin (Simms and Fagan 1992, 87, 89). Lusk and its appurtenances are included in a list of possessions confirmed in 1179 by Pope Alexander III to St. *Lorcán Ua Tuathail* in his capacity as archbishop (A. R. I, 1; McNeill 1950, 3).

Analysis of the plan form of the village initially identified evidence for the early medieval enclosures defining and delimiting the ecclesiastical site (Swan 1985). This initial assessment has been developed

and enhanced through more recent direct archaeological investigations (O'Connell 2017). The available evidence points to three concentric enclosures (Figure 6):

- Inner enclosure (c. 110 m x 100 m) incorporating the sub-rectangular churchyard and the curving portion of Church Road to the south of it
- Middle enclosure (c. 250 m x 220 m) preserved in curving street pattern to the east of church and alignment of property boundaries to west of church
- Outer enclosure (c. 515 m x 280 m) identified in archaeological excavations on west and southwest, preserved in curving street pattern on south-east and in property boundaries on north-east

Radiocarbon dating places the outer enclosure in the period AD420–600 (O'Connell 2017). It is likely that the enclosures were in contemporary rather than successive use. The proposed development site straddles the reconstructed circuit of the middle enclosure.

#### *Later medieval period*

During the Anglo-Norman period Lusk, like Swords, became an archiepiscopal manor, one of the components which, until 1844, made up the archiepiscopal Barony of Nethercross. The manor of Lusk was extensive, encompassing 6,977 acres and including the townlands of Bishopslane, Bridtree, Beau, Whitestown and Rogerstown (Otway-Ruthven 1961, 57, 72). The church of Lusk was assigned to the precentor of St. Patrick's cathedral in 1219 (Stubbs 1914, 252) and in the post-Norman period chapelries existed at the early medieval site of Rush (DU008-004) dedicated to St Catherine and at Whitestown (DU008-021) where the dedication to St Maur, almost certainly a Continental import, appears to be late.

The Liber Niger lists archiepiscopal tenants who paid wax-rent in the time of Archbishop Fulc (1276-71). Later in 1326, an inspeximus of the manors of Swords and Lusk lists tenants' holdings including those of Ralph de Williby at Whitestown (Knightstown) and Geoffrey de Santo Bosco at Rogerstown. The duties of the burgagers of Lusk are catalogued; they did sit at the manorial court, worked in the Autumn at harvesting and carrying the crop and were bound to grind their corn at the manorial mill (A.R., I 85; McNeill 1950, 176-177). The importance of Rogerstown as the port of Lusk about this time is illustrated by the fact that local notable John Holywood was obliged in 1355 to quit his claim to the harbour in favour of the archbishop.

### **2.3 Recent archaeological investigations**

Over 49 archaeological investigations have been carried out within the town of Lusk, which have identified sites dating from the prehistoric to early historic periods. The majority have been undertaken on the outskirts in conjunction with the development and expansion of the town, with investigations within the centre of the town being more limited. A search has been carried out on the Excavations website [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) and a total of thirty-four excavations have been carried out in Lusk. Excavations which were carried out in proximity to the site on Church Street are summarised below.

#### **Dublin 1996:135**

**Treen Hill, Lusk** No archaeological significance

**96E274**

No archaeologically significant stratigraphy was found during excavations at this site.

Mary McMahan, 77 Brian Rd, Marino, Dublin 3. <https://excavations.ie/report/1996/Dublin/0002266/>

#### **Dublin 1997:181**

**CHURCH ROAD, LUSK** Early Christian foundation

**O210550 97E0025**

Archaeological testing was carried out in advance of the construction of a residential dwelling at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site of the proposed development is located to the north-west of

an Early Christian monastery. The excavation of test-trenches revealed that archaeological deposits did not exist at this site. The boulder clay was exposed very close to the surface in both trenches and at a consistent depth. The site had evidently been ploughed in the past and this may explain the absence of archaeological stratigraphy.

Deirdre Murphy, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, 5 Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
<https://excavations.ie/report/1997/Dublin/0002729/>

### **Dublin 1998:213**

**POST OFFICE ROAD, LUSK** Possible Early Christian/medieval  
**322115 253413 98E0116**

Archaeological assessment took place at a proposed residential development at Post Office Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site was thought to be within the enclosure of an early monastery founded by St MacCuillinn in the 5th century. Six trenches were excavated along the proposed foundations and bio-cycle unit. Trenches were dug to 1-1.35m deep and revealed sod, ploughsoil and boulder clay. Trench One revealed a black layer at a depth of 0.9m. This layer contained shell, burnt animal bone and fragments of iron slag but no datable artefacts. It was 0.2m thick and overlay boulder clay. Proposed house foundations will not extend beyond 0.75m below the surface and will not truncate archaeological deposits.

Deirdre Murphy, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, 15 Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
<https://excavations.ie/report/1998/Dublin/0003386/>

**County:** Dublin

**Site name:** Ballough (Part of)

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** RMP 8:10

**Licence number:** 01E0384

**Site type:** Medieval settlement

The townland of Ballough (Part of), Lusk, consists of a single plot which extends east from the Skerries Road. Two trenches were opened by machine extending from the western boundary (street front) eastwards. Trench A measured 64.8m in length and averaged 0.97m in width. Trench B was located close to the southern field boundary and measured approximately 37.2m in length and averaged 0.98m in width.

The stratigraphy of the site was straightforward and consistent across the site. Topsoil, a dark brown friable silty clay, overlay an orange marly subsoil. A total of ten features were identified, all cut into the natural subsoil. Features 1–5 were situated within Trench A and Features 6–10 within Trench B. The results of the test excavation indicate a typical medieval plot. Towards the street front are a number of possible structural features (F1, F2, F7 and F8). F3 is a broad ditch (5.8m in width and 1.1m in depth) which may have extended south towards F9 to form a subdivision of the east–west plot. Beyond this are F4 and F10, which appear to have been pits.

The layout of the plot, the spatial relationship of the archaeological remains within it and the recovery of stratified fragments of medieval pottery (including Leinster Cooking Ware) suggest an urban settlement datable to the 12th–14th centuries. Christine Baker, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2001/Dublin/0006264/>

### **Dublin 2002:0623**

**Lusk** Monitoring: prehistoric burial-pit, pit and kiln

**32170, 25460: 02E0794**

Monitoring of Phase 3 of a large-scale residential development took place north of the medieval town of Lusk (SMR 8:10) and within the boundary of the zone of archaeological potential as outlined in the

Urban Archaeological Survey. The landscape was low lying and poorly drained. In addition to several undiagnostic charcoal spreads and agricultural activity, three features of archaeological potential were identified. These were a subcircular pit containing charcoal-rich material and possible prehistoric pottery, a second, similar-sized pit and a possible figure-of-eight-shaped kiln. Further details of these features are given in the excavation summary for the site (No. 628 below, 02E1398). Susan McCabe, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2002/Dublin/0007939/>

#### **Dublin 2002:0628**

**Lusk** Prehistoric burial-pit, pit and kiln

**32170, 25460: 02E1398**

During monitoring of Phase 3 of a residential development north of the medieval town of Lusk, Co. Dublin (SMR 8:10), two small, circular pits and a possible kiln were identified. These features were situated at a considerable distance from each other and are not thought to be associated. Feature 1 was subcircular and was cut into the subsoil. Prehistoric pottery was present in the fill, especially at the western side, where pottery protruded from it. The feature measured 1.1m east–west by 0.92m and was 0.35m deep. Its sides were steeply sloped and, in places, undercut slightly. The base was U-shaped. Two fills were present. It is thought that the secondary fill, a light brown/grey clay sand that contained occasional charcoal flecks and two pieces of worked flint, reflects silting up of the pit while still open or in use. The pottery was in the primary fill only, which was 0.1m deep, comprised black/grey, charcoal-enriched, smooth, silty clay and contained frequent chunks of charcoal. Along the west side the slope was more gentle, and it was in this location that a pottery vessel was identified. Suzanna Kelly and Helen Roche of UCD have confirmed that the remains of possibly two Grooved Ware (2800–2400 BC) vessels were present. Flint waste flakes of varying sizes were concentrated in the fill around the vessel. In addition to this, a very small quantity of burnt bone was also identified in the immediate area around the pottery. Feature 2 was visible as a subcircular deposit of mid-brown/grey, clayey silt measuring 1.32m north–south by 1.16m by 0.14m deep. It resembled Feature 1 in both shape and fill and was thought to be associated with it. On excavation, however, it was clear that Feature 2 had been cut into the subsoil, with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single, loose, topsoil-like fill of mid-brown/grey, clayey silt, which contained very occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and two pieces of smooth, unworked flint. Abundant in the fill were fire-cracked stones measuring 0.03–0.15m. Adjacent to a field boundary, Feature 3 was first visible as an hourglass-shaped, dark deposit. On excavation it became clear that a distinctive bowl and flue were present, suggesting a kiln. The feature was cut into the natural subsoil and was 2.3m long. It was 1m wide in the east, at the bowl, narrowing to 0.54m at the flue and expanding again to 0.94m at its western end. The cut had gently sloped sides to the west, with an eastward-sloping base toward the bowl. The sides became increasingly steep from the flue to the bowl, with a U-shaped base in the bowl itself. Three distinct contexts were present. They comprised an oxidised clay, 0.07m deep, lining the bowl, an overlying primary fill of black silty clay with very high quantities of crushed and lumped charcoal, and a secondary, upper fill comprising a compact, light brown, silty clay containing frequent inclusions of small, subangular stones. Also within this fill were charcoal flecks, which were especially concentrated in the flue area. Four rolled and polished stones were identified in this fill. The rare presence of animal bone was also noted. No evidence in the form of seed or metalworking remains was present in the feature to suggest the function of the kiln. Microanalysis of the primary fill may shed light on this. Susan McCabe, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2002/Dublin/0007939/>

#### **Dublin 2004:0621**

**ST MACULLIN'S CHURCH, LUSK** Inhumations

**326100, 25440: 04E1031**

As part of the refurbishment of St Macullin's Church, Lusk, Fingal County Council proposed the excavation of two service trenches for foul water and gas. The church is within the zone of archaeological potential for the town (SMR 8:10). The round tower (SMR 8:10(03)) is a National

Monument in State Care. The 19th-century church is a protected structure and both the church and graveyard are in the care of Fingal County Council. Orientated approximately east-south-east to west-north-west, the service trenches were to run from the north-eastern wall of the church along the present line of the gravel pathway and through the main entrance to the church and graveyard and connect to existing services located under Main Street. Monitoring was undertaken on 12 October, 30 November and 1 December 2004. Under a layer of made ground c. 0.4-0.5m thick, at least two inhumations in an undisturbed palaeosol were identified. Excavation of the service trenches was halted. The made ground was mainly comprised of material from the demolition of the medieval church, including two fragments of floor tile, which were dated to the 15th century. The palaeosol consisted of a well-sorted, moderately stiff, dark-brown silty clay with occasional gravel, sub-rounded stone and occasional human bone. Some of this bone appeared to be articulated and in situ. The layout of the scheme was altered to preserve these remains in situ. Monitoring is ongoing. Jonathan Dempsey, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011745/>

**Dublin 2004:0622**

**SKERRIES ROAD, LUSK** Pits of probable medieval date  
**32206, 25479: 04E0751**

Monitoring was undertaken on Phase 4 of a residential development at Skerries Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. Monitoring of all topsoil-stripping was undertaken and 44 features of archaeological potential were identified. These comprised 36 circular pits, seven linear features and a stone-lined drain. The pits were aligned in north-south and east-west lines and a single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved during preliminary investigation. All features were fully excavated under licence 04E0903. Stuart Halliday, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011746/>

**Dublin 2004:0623**

**SKERRIES ROAD, LUSK** Features of probable medieval date  
**321754, 254459: 04E0903**

Features of archaeological significance identified during monitoring (No. 622 above, 04E0751) were subject to full excavation. The main features of note that were identified comprised a series of circular pits that were all very similar in form and size. In plan, they appeared to be laid out in rows aligned both north-south and east-west. With the exception of sherds of medieval pottery, no finds were retrieved from any of the pits and their function is unclear at present. None of the features was exceptionally deep, with the majority having a depth of less than 0.1m. The layout of these pits may be suggestive of some activity related to gardening, but further analysis will have to be undertaken in order to determine possible function or date. Environmental soil samples have been taken from all features and analysis of these samples will take place during full post-excavation works. Of the remaining features, Pit 035 in the northwest corner of the site may be indicative of a fulacht fiadh in the area, although not in this specific site. Of the seven linear features identified on this site, the retrieval of sherds of post-medieval pottery is indicative of a later date for these features, while their form is suggestive of either drainage ditches or field boundaries. If these features were field boundaries, the system may be indicative of strip fields, although these would not be aligned the same way that other strip fields are aligned around the remainder of Lusk. It is more likely that these features represent the remains of drains. Stuart Halliday, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. <https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Dublin/0011747/>

**Dublin 2005:504**

**CHURCH ROAD, LUSK** Early medieval burial site  
**321600, 254440: 05E0161**

An assessment was carried out on behalf of Fingal County Council at the junction of Church Road and Treen Lane, Lusk, on 1 March 2005. This was a greenfield site, with Church Road delimiting the site to

the south and a number of residential plots to the north. The site contained evidence of at least five inhumations, all supine, extended and orientated east–west, with the head to the east. The remains all lay within 0.3m of existing ground level and were in a poor state of preservation. There was possible evidence of a stone-lined grave laid out roughly north–south. Further investigation of this feature could not be undertaken, due to the presence of overlying remains. The remains would appear to be part of the medieval monastery 150m to the east and lie within the precincts of the original monastery as suggested by the curving route of Church Road and Treen Lane. Following consultation with DoEHLG, excavation within the site ceased and the remains were covered with plastic and reburied. There were occasional occurrences of animal bone, some probably recent, as the site was previously a farm, but some medieval remains were present in the form of a boar's tusk. Linda Clarke, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Dublin/0013508/>

### **Dublin 2005:505**

#### **CHURCH ROAD, LUSK Souterrain and burial ground**

#### **321600, 254440: C010**

Fingal County Council have undertaken a road widening and traffic management scheme at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site is located 150m west of, and within the precincts of, the early medieval monastic site in the historic town of Lusk. An assessment was undertaken by Linda Clarke in March 2005 (see No. 504 above), which revealed buried human remains that were interpreted as part of a medieval burial ground.

Fingal County Council were granted consent to carry out the works subject to a full archaeological excavation at the site. The excavation was carried out from 7 June to 3 August 2005 under ministerial consent.

Five burials were recorded in the course of the initial assessment. Two of these consisted of extended adult inhumations orientated east–west, with the head located at the west. This is typical of Christian burial practice and, in an archaeological context, indicative of the medieval period. A date of c. AD 1000 was suggested for these burials. The remaining three burials consisted of assorted upper and lower limbs. In the course of the excavation, the two extended inhumations (Burials 1 and 4) and two of the partial burials (Burials 2 and 3) were re-exposed and fully recorded. The fifth burial from the assessment was not located in the course of the excavation. It is suggested that Burials 2, 3 and 5 consisted of disarticulated human remains. Numerous other disarticulated human remains were collected in the course of clearance.

Six additional burials were recorded in the course of the excavation. They were all extended, supine and orientated east–west, with the head at the west. All were recorded very close to the existing ground surface. Of the six additional burials, five were adults and one was an infant. Two of the burials (Burials 9 and 10) were contained within the same grave-cut. Burial 9 contained an iron leaf-shaped spearhead protruding from the upper right-hand side of the torso. The spearhead was recorded in situ and had dislodged a number of ribs. The hands of both burials were joined in the centre of the grave-cut. Burial 10 was decapitated. The spearhead is of a type known from Lagore Crannóg and of early medieval date. A preliminary assessment of the burials would suggest that they are all of an early medieval date. Further burials may be located to the north of the excavated area.

The fragmentary remains of a stone-lined souterrain were also recorded at the site. This consisted of two galleries connected by a creep. Gallery 1 was an oblong chamber, with the partial remains of its stone facing recorded in situ. It was 12m long within the excavated area by 2m wide. The long axis of this chamber was orientated north-west/south-east. The stone facing was recorded on the western and southern sides at the south of the structure and consisted of mainly unworked limestone blocks and

boulders built to an interior face. The western facing was c. 5m long and abutted the southern facing. Elsewhere at the base of this gallery two lines of stone sockets were present in place of the stone facing. The floor of this gallery consisted of a well-laid metalled surface. There was no roof present, but the profile of the stone facing combined with the presence of three flat slabs within the gallery suggests that it may have been a corbelled structure. A short recess/passage with dimensions of 0.4m wide by 0.4m high by 1.5m long extended at floor level from the southern side of Gallery 1. Two rotary disc quernstones were reused as roof lintels in this structure.

The second gallery was located at the west of Gallery 1. It was 2.2m long by 1.7m wide within the excavated area. It was stone-faced on all three of the recorded sides and utilised smaller limestone blocks than those recorded in Gallery 1. The floor of this gallery also consisted of a well-laid metalled surface. The southern side of a short creep between the two galleries was also recorded. This was 2m long and there was a noticeable incline from Gallery 2 to Gallery 1. The floor within the creep also consisted of a metalled surface and the southern side was lined with a series of stone sockets where stone facing once existed. There were no burials cut by the souterrain and none were recorded above it, suggesting that the souterrain and the burials may have been broadly contemporary.

The two galleries and the creep were backfilled in the medieval period when numerous animal bones and sherds of medieval pottery were dumped into them. The remainder of the stone facing may also have been robbed-out during this period.

Excavation works were confined to the area of the proposed road widening. As a result, neither of the galleries nor the creep were fully exposed. Significant archaeological deposits are therefore preserved in situ outside of the road corridor at the north of the site. All exposed archaeological features on this northern limit of excavation were covered with a geotextile membrane and backfilled in advance of road-widening works under archaeological supervision.

A substantial ditch was recorded at the eastern side of the site. It was 5m long within the excavated area, with a slight curvature noted. This ditch was steep-sided and 2.5m wide by 1.5m deep. It had a V-shaped profile and the basal fill consisted of a redeposited boulder clay, suggestive of eroded/ flattened bank material. The remaining fills silted up over time. The only artefact collected from the ditch was an undiagnostic iron nail, although it should be possible to obtain a secure date from the collected soil samples. The ditch also extended beyond the northern limit of excavation.

Ground-reduction works within the site were carried on under archaeological supervision to ensure proper preservation of the remainder of the souterrain and ditch and to ensure that no further burials were disturbed. Aidan O'Connell, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth. <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Dublin/0013509/>

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The objective of the test trenching programme was:

- to determine the nature, extent, date and significance of presently unknown archaeological deposits by means of machine excavated test trenches.
- to record any archaeological features or deposits encountered.
- to assess the impact of the development on any surviving archaeological deposits, as well as assessing the relative significance of any such deposits.
- to present possible mitigation measures in relation to any surviving archaeological deposits.

All results are compiled in this report which includes a detailed impact statement and proposes mitigation measures where appropriate.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the conditions associated with an excavation licence. In addition, it complies with the following:

- *The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.*
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999).*
- *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999).*
- *Guidelines for Archaeologists, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (2013).*

The excavation of all test trenches was undertaken under archaeological supervision. All trenches were excavated using a machine excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation ceased at the first sign of archaeological deposits, features or layers. Each trench was archaeologically recorded and photographed

##### *Recording*

All recording was by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd standard method and was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Photographic recording was in digital format.

##### *Samples and artefacts*

Samples were taken from primary contexts where results were likely to inform the project team on the use of a particular structure/feature. No finds were recovered during the excavation works.

## 4 THE RESULTS

A total of three test trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Access to the proposed development area was to the east site of the modern dwelling house (Plate 1). The exposed subsoil was examined for archaeological features. Excavation ceased at the first significant archaeological level or at natural subsoil.

### 4.1 Test Trenches

T1 (Figure 2)

0.24–0.65 m	Dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions. Soft but well compacted. Substantially deeper to rear (north) lawn area of existing house where it measures between 0.66-0.77m deep. (Topsoil gets gradually deeper to east side of this lawn area). Shallower to west side of house at 0.22m deep - historic topsoil (001)
0.05 m	East/west orientated linear which was exposed in Trenches 1 and 3. This linear curves slightly to the west and features a rounded corner to the east. Very shallow to west end where the curve begins – (003)
0.18 m	Linear, orientated west-northwest/east-southeast – (019) 0.05 m Softly compacted brown clayey silt with little inclusions, fill of (003) – (004)
0.18 m	Softly compacted brown clayey silt with little inclusions, fill of (019) – (020)
0.08 m	Circular pit 0.96 m by 0.89 m with a maximum depth of 0.08 – (021)
0.08 m	Softly compacted brown clayey silt, fill of (021) – (022)
0.65 m +	Natural/boulder clay - mottled beige/yellow and yellow (002)

T1 was located in the western area of the proposed development site (Plate 2). It measured 30.47 m long by 1.6 m wide and was a maximum of 0.65 m deep, it was orientated roughly north northeast/south southwest (Figure 2). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.24-0.65 m. The natural sub soil (002) was mottled beige/yellow and yellow in colour with occasional medium to small stone inclusions. Three archaeological features were identified in this trench, the first feature was an east/west orientated linear (003) (Figure 2) which is evident in both Trenches 1 and 3. This linear appears to curve slightly to west end where it is at its narrowest width of 0.98 m. Here at the western end, the linear has sharp breaks in slope to the top and a steeply sloped (concave) northern side which gradually broke onto a shallow flat base. In contrast, the eastern end of the linear is much wider at 2.25m wide. The western end also features a notable rounded corner to its northern side, after which the linear changes its orientation and aligns itself along a more east-southeast/west-northwest axis. This linear feature measured 13.14 m in minimum length and was 0.05 m in depth. It was filled by (004) a softly compacted brown clayey silt with little inclusions (occasional pebbles and rare charcoal flecks) to western end in Trench 1 but varied in Trench 3 (see below).

The second feature in T1 was located to the north of (003) and was also a linear feature (019). It was orientated west-northwest/east-southeast with sharp breaks in slope to the top and a steeply sloped north and south sides which gradually broke onto a concave base (Plates 3 and 5). It measured 1.66 m in length and was 0.58 m in width with a maximum depth of 0.18 m. It was filled by a single deposit (020) which was a softly compacted brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions.

The final feature identified in T1 was pit (021). This pit was located immediately to the north of linear feature (019) and was circular in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and gently sloped sides all around which gradually broke onto a concave base (Plate 3 and 4). It measured 0.96 m by 0.89 m with a maximum depth of 0.08 m. It was filled by a single deposit (022) which was a softly compacted

brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. A small scattering of animal bone (Plate 6) was located to the north of circular pit (021) no additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T1.

*T2 (Figure 2)*

0.34–0.77 m	Dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions. Soft but well compacted. Substantially deeper to rear (north) lawn area of existing house where it measures between 0.66-0.77m deep. (Topsoil gets gradually deeper to east side of this lawn area). Shallower to west side of house at 0.22m deep - historic topsoil (001)
0.24 m	Linear feature which was orientated north/south – (017)
0.24 m	Single fill of (017) a loosely compacted friable dark greyish brown clayey silt – (018)
0.20 m (min)	Linear feature orientated north-northeast/south-southwest – (015)
0.20 m (min)	Fill of linear feature (015), softly compacted grey brown clayey silt – (016)
0.30 m (min)	Linear feature orientated north-northeast/south-southwest (011)
0.30 m (min)	Fill of linear feature (011), mid-dark brown clayey silt – (012)
0.50 m (min)	Linear cut orientated north-northeast/south-southwest and present in T2 and T3 – (013)
0.50 m (min)	Fill of linear feature (013), softly compacted grey/brown clayey silt – (014)
0.77 m +	Natural/boulder clay - mottled beige/yellow and yellow (002)

T2 was located in the northern area of the proposed development site. It measured 22 m long by 1.6 m wide and was a maximum of 0.77 m deep, it was oriented roughly east northeast/west southwest (Figure 2). T2 intersected with T1 at its west-southwest end. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.34-0.77 m. The natural sub soil (002) was mottled beige/yellow and yellow in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions. The first feature identified in T2 was a linear (017) which was orientated north/south with sharp breaks in slope to the top and steeply sloped sides which gradually broke onto a concave base. It measured 1.68 m in length and 0.42 m in width and it had a maximum depth of 0.24 m (Plate 7). This linear was narrow but deep with a rounded V-shaped profile and it contained a single fill (018). The fill was a loosely compacted and friable it was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecking and animal bone fragments. The direct north/south orientation differentiates this feature from other linears that were uncovered during the testing programme.

The second feature identified in T2 was also a linear (015) (Plate 8) which was orientated on a north-northeast/south-southwest axis. It was located to the east of linear feature (017) and appeared to have a standard width of 1.06 m, however, to the north western side there was a notable bulge measuring c. 0.60 m wide which extends the width of this linear to 1.76 m. It measured 2.69 m and had a minimum depth of 0.20 m. It was noted that this 'bulge' feature had rounded corners and is possibly associated with linear (009) in T3 as both share the same orientation and are along the same axis. Linear feature (015) contained a single fill (016) which consisted of a softly compacted grey brown clayey silt fill with occasional inclusions of small stones.

The third feature identified in T2 was a broad linear (011) which was orientated north-northeast/south-southwest (Plate 9) and was noted in T2 and T3 to the south. This feature was truncated by modern animal burials. A single fill (012), was identified in (011) in T2, it consisted of a mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small stones and occasional inclusions of animal bones. There were inclusions of redeposited natural to the centre of the fill within the trench. It is probable that (011) is a large ditch curving in a north north-eastern direction

To the east of (011) was a pit containing modern animal bone and to the east of this pit was (013) (Plate 10), a linear cut orientated north-northeast/south-southwest and present in T2 and T3. In Trench 2, this linear has a short return (0.58 m long x 0.49 m wide) to the western side which extends 0.58m before it is truncated by the modern animal burial pit. The minimum length of (013) was 7.67 m and its minimum depth measured 0.50 m. It contained a single fill (014), a softly compacted grey/brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T2.

*T3 (Figure 2)*

0.32–0.76 m	Dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions. Soft but well compacted. Substantially deeper to rear (north) lawn area of existing house where it measures between 0.66-0.77m deep. (Topsoil gets gradually deeper to east side of this lawn area). Shallower to west side of house at 0.22m deep - historic topsoil (001)
0.08 m	East/west orientated linear which was exposed in Trenches 1 and 3. This linear curves slightly to the west and features a rounded corner to the east. Very shallow to west end where the curve begins – (003)
0.08 m	Softly compacted brown clayey silt with little inclusions, fill of (003) – (004)
0.20 m	Short linear with a rounded terminal – (009)
0.20 m	Fill of linear feature (009), softly compacted and very friable dark grey brown clayey silt – (010)
0.07 m(min)	Charcoal rich deposit, softly compacted black charcoal rich clayey silt - (007)
0.12 m (min)	A dense shell midden - (005)
0.08 m (min)	Metalled surface – (006)
0.10 m (min)	Upper fill of linear feature (003) – (008)
0.30 m (min)	Linear feature orientated north-northeast/south-southwest (011)
0.30 m (min)	Fill of linear feature (011), mid-dark brown clayey silt – (012)
0.76 m +	Natural/boulder clay - mottled beige/yellow and yellow (002)

T3 was located in the central area of the proposed development site. It measured 25.07 m long by 1.6 m wide and was a maximum of 0.77 m deep, it was orientated roughly east northeast/west southwest (Figure 2). T3 intersected with T1 at its west southwestern end. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.76 m. The natural sub soil (002) was mottled beige/yellow and yellow in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions which was consistent across the proposed development area. The first feature identified in T3 was the continuation of linear (003) from T1 into T3 (Plate 11) and extended outside the trench on its southern side and its eastern extent was unclear. Occasional sea shells were noted at the eastern extent. Located immediately to the north of (003) was linear feature (009) (Plate 12) which was orientated northeast/southwest having sharp breaks in slope to top, steeply sloped side to southeast and a gentle sloped side to northwest. The sides gradually broke onto a concave but undulated base. It had a rounded terminal to southwest and continued outside the limits of the trench on its northern side. It measured 2.27 m in minimum length and 0.42 m in width by 0.20 m in depth.

In the central area of T3 the trench was extended southwards (Figure 2) in order to establish the extent of linear (003), however, rather than clarifying its extent it uncovered additional archaeological features. The first of these features identified was occupation debris in the form of a linear charcoal rich deposit (007) which was centrally located with within linear (003) (Plate 11). This charcoal rich deposit (007) was a softly compacted black charcoal rich clayey silt with frequent inclusions of large animal bones. It gradually turns to a more compacted reddish blackish dark grey along the edges and has a firm compaction with more ash inclusions. Hardened and dense ash and red-oxidisation along exterior

edges of this charcoal deposit suggest that there was *in-situ* burning within this linear. It measured 3.93 m in length by 0.67 m in width and its minimum depth was 0.07 m. Above (007) was the upper fill (008) of linear feature (003). This uppermost fill was a softly compacted mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, large animal bones and small sized stones. It measured 2.51 m in length by 0.64 m in width and had a minimum depth of 0.10 m.

A dense shell midden (005) (Plate 13) appears to cover part of the southern edge of linear (003). Occasional scattered sea shells were also recovered from close to the northern edge of (003). This C-shaped loosely compacted sea shell deposit consisted mostly of muscle shells. It measured 2.01 m in length by 1.28 m in width and had a minimum depth of 0.12 m. The deposit continues in depth around the outside edges of the metalled surface (006) to the southern side of (005).

Partially covering (005) was a metalled surface (006) (Plate 13). This surface took the form of a compacted surface comprising of small angular, sub-angular and rounded pebbles and small stones. This feature also extended beyond the edge test trench extension to the west and south sides. It measured 2.01 m in length by 0.95 m in width and had a minimum depth of 0.08 m. It's possible that this surface may have been removed on its southern end by the earlier construction of the modern dwelling house to the south.

Located immediately to the north east of linear (003) in T3 was a modern pit with frequent animal bone. To the east of this (011) is picked up again as it continues to run from T2 (see Section 5 below). At the eastern end of T3 there is a modern, active, concrete constructed drain/sewer, no additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T3.

## 5 DISCUSSION

The results of the investigations have indicated that there is sub-surface archaeological remains present within the area tested as part of the footprint of the proposed development site at Church Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site is located to the east of, and within the precincts of, the early medieval monastic site in the historic town of Lusk. It is also situated approximately 55 m from DU008-097001 a burial site and DU008-097002 - a souterrain both to the west of the proposed development site.

A total of 19 features were identified and investigated during the testing programme, 12 of these were archaeological features, all of which were located within the footprint of the test trench layout (Figure 2).

The most significant feature identified is ditch (011). Excavations carried out in 2005 under Ministerial Consent No. C010 identified the location of the middle enclosure ditch for the ecclesiastical site. Approximately 50 m to the north north-east of ditch (011) in the larger open green space beyond the site boundary, Google Earth imagery from 30/05/2013 shows a curving cropmark in the northern area of this field, which is believed to correlate to the middle enclosure ditch. The position and orientation of ditch (011) within the proposed development site suggests that it continues the line of the middle enclosure ditch (Figure 6). Notably archaeological features were identified both to the east and west of it indicating settlement activity between the middle and inner as well as middle and outer enclosure ditches. Investigations in 2017 at the immediately adjacent site to the east of the present development site also identified a potential enclosure ditch (O'Connell 2017). This is most likely part of the circuit of the inner enclosure ditch. The separation between the two enclosure ditches is c. 30–35 m.

Since archaeological features were found in all trenches, it is likely that archaeological material is present across the whole of the proposed development site. Notably, in contrast to the adjacent site to the east (O'Connell 2017) there does not appear to be deep deposits of garden soils or (possibly) occupation layers present within the excavated test trenches. It is not possible to say if this reflects a reduced intensity of occupation further out from the core of the ecclesiastical site or differential preservation/use-history between the two adjacent sites.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 *Summary of archaeological findings*

Archaeological testing of advance works has identified 12 archaeological features within the footprint of the proposed development area. These are located in proximity to RMP listed sites DU008-097001, a burial site, DU008-097002 a souterrain and the early medieval monastic site in the historic town of Lusk. The most significant of the features identified is the potential middle enclosure ditch for the ecclesiastical site. It is likely that further archaeological features, deposits or artefacts remain *in situ*. The development site as a whole is an area of high archaeological potential. There is a potential that construction groundworks could uncover previously unknown archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

### 6.2 *Recommendations*

The current policy of the Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of all affected archaeological material.

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

1. Unless a minimum impact design solution has been agreed and approved by the National Monuments Service, the proposed development site should be fully archaeologically excavated under licence from the National Monuments Service in advance of any construction works.
2. Any essential enabling works or demolition works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Note where possible enabling or other groundworks works should be deferred until after the full archaeological excavation has been completed.
3. All archaeological material encountered during such monitoring works will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
4. A written report should be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

If development of the site proceeds, then the following general sequencing of works is advised in order to deliver the mitigation measures outlined above:

- 1 Demolition of any upstanding structures to ground slab level only (no ground reduction or other groundworks)
- 2 Removal of groundslabs and foundations under archaeological supervision; disconnection of any services (under archaeological supervision if groundworks required).

- 3 Full footprint archaeological excavation unless otherwise agreed with National Monuments Service on foot of an approved minimum impact design solution that facilitates preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4 Construction of development. Archaeological supervision at this stage should only be required if a minimum impact design solution has been agreed with the National Monuments Service and supervision is required to ensure appropriate preservation *in situ* of archaeological features and deposits is achieved.

**Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.**

## 8 ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Context Sheets	22
Plans	-
Sections	-
Photographs	13
Registers	2
Notebooks	-

Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd., Unit 2, Europa Enterprise Park, Middleton, Co. Cork.

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### **Electronic resources**

Bennet, I. (ed.) 2017 *Excavations.ie, database of Irish excavation reports* [online]. Available <http://www.excavations.ie/> [Accessed: April 2019]

Heritage Maps 2017 Dublin County Archaeology GIS [online]. Available: <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/DublinArchaeologyProject/index.html> [Accessed: April 2019]

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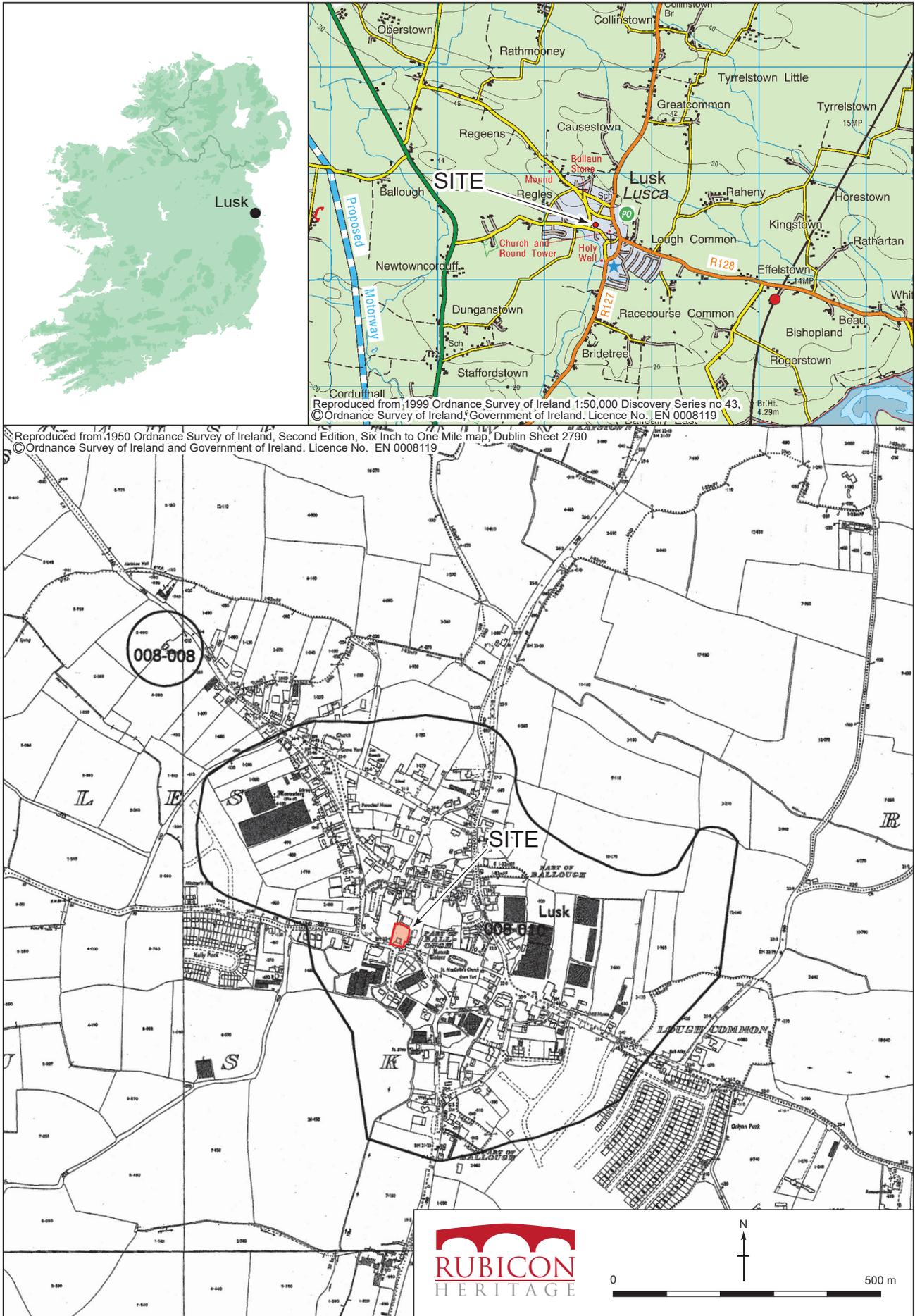


Figure 1 - Church Road: Site location and RMP mapping.





Figure 3 - Rocque's Map of Dublin (1756).

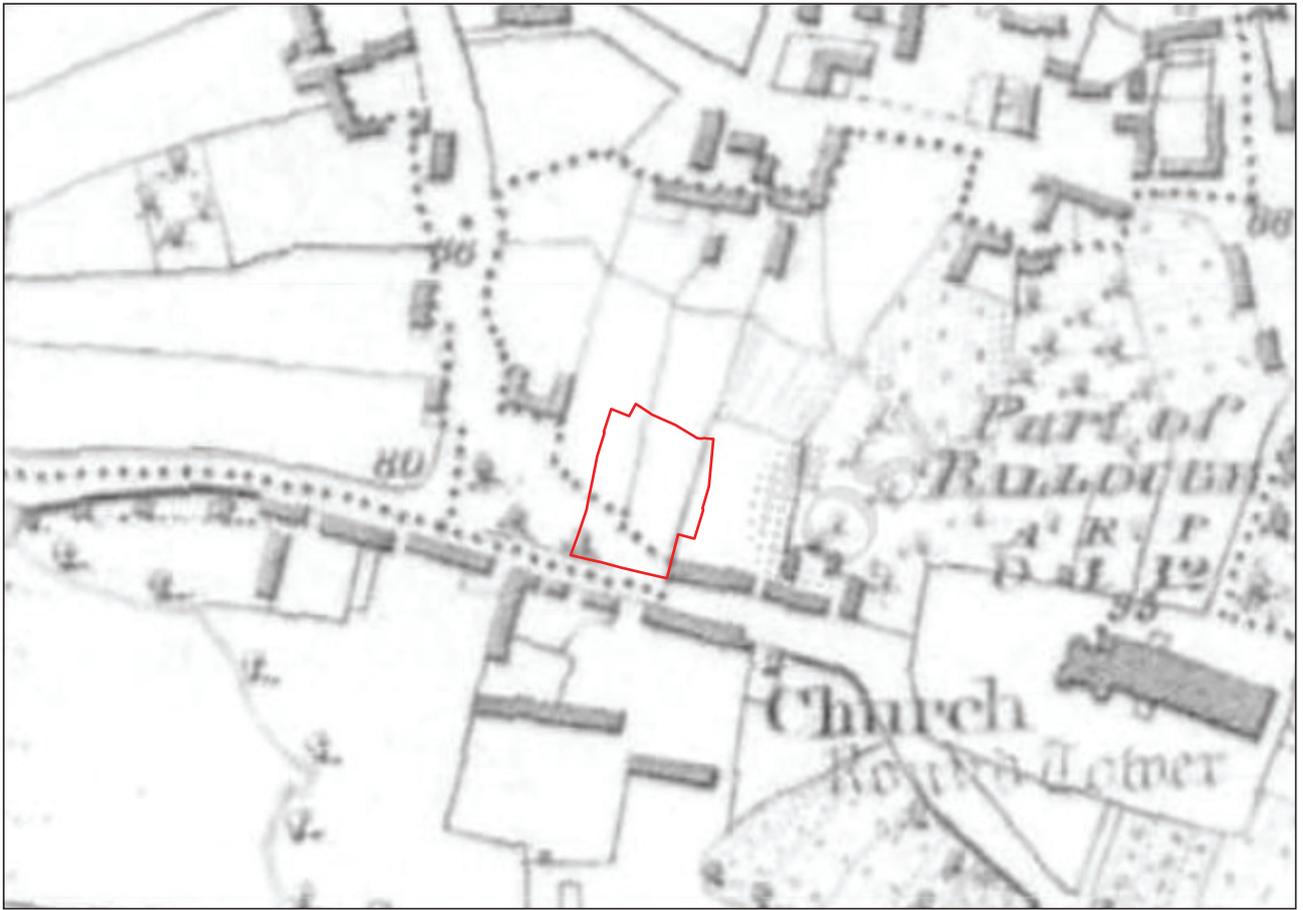


Figure 4 - First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet.

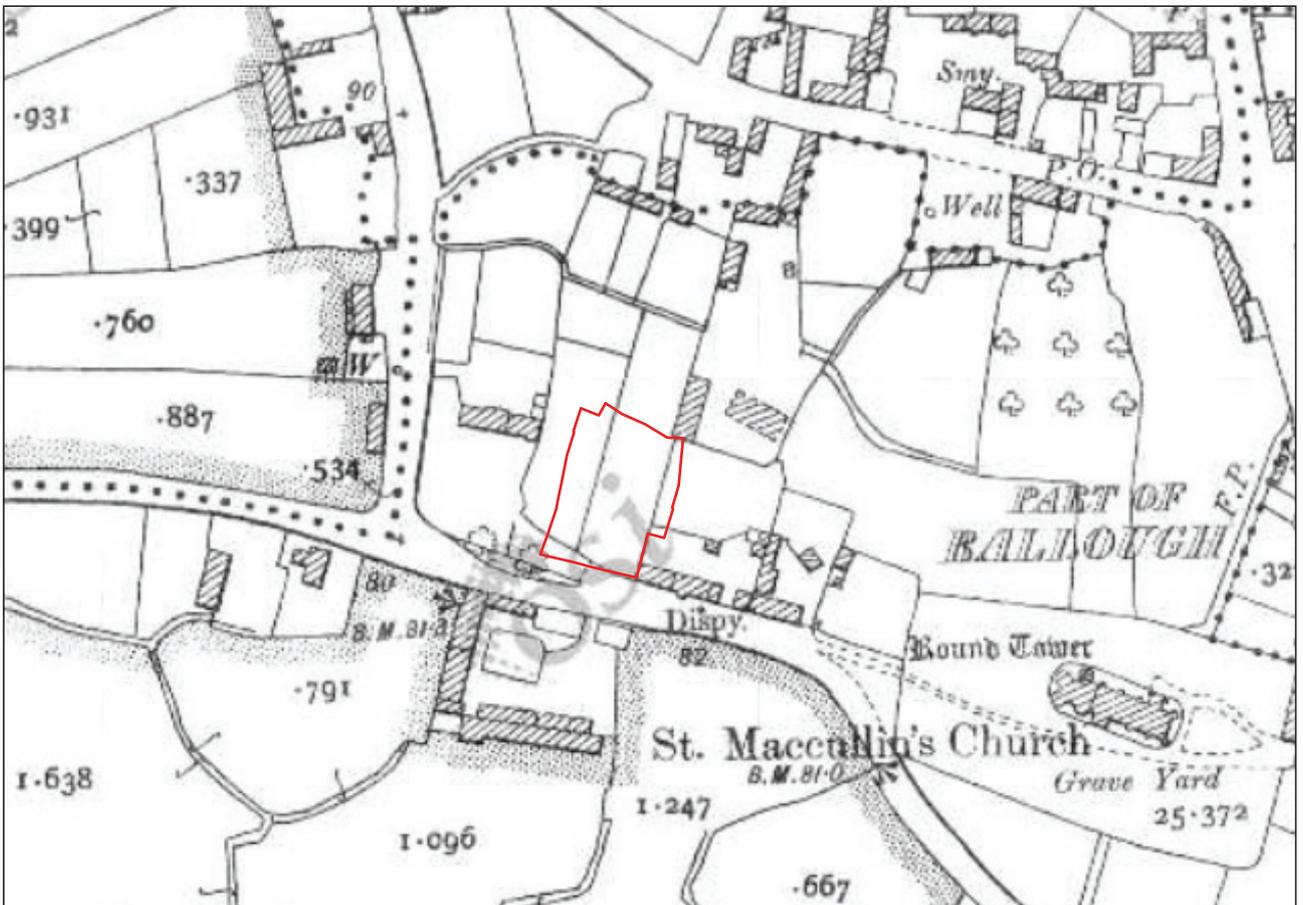


Figure 5 - First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet.

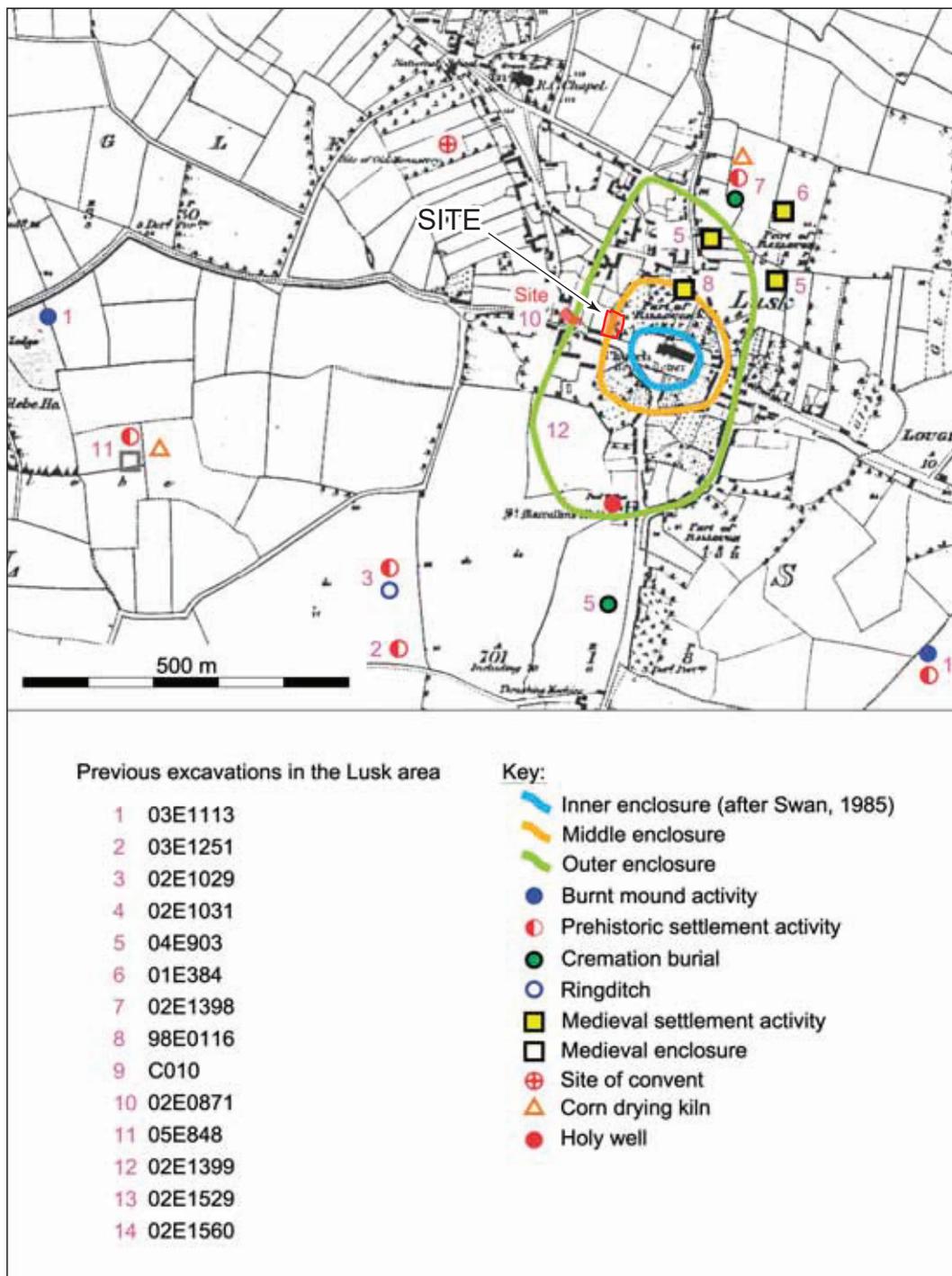


Figure 6 - Reconstruction of the ecclesiastical enclosures at Lusk.



Plate 1 - Pre-excavation overview of site via access way, looking northwest

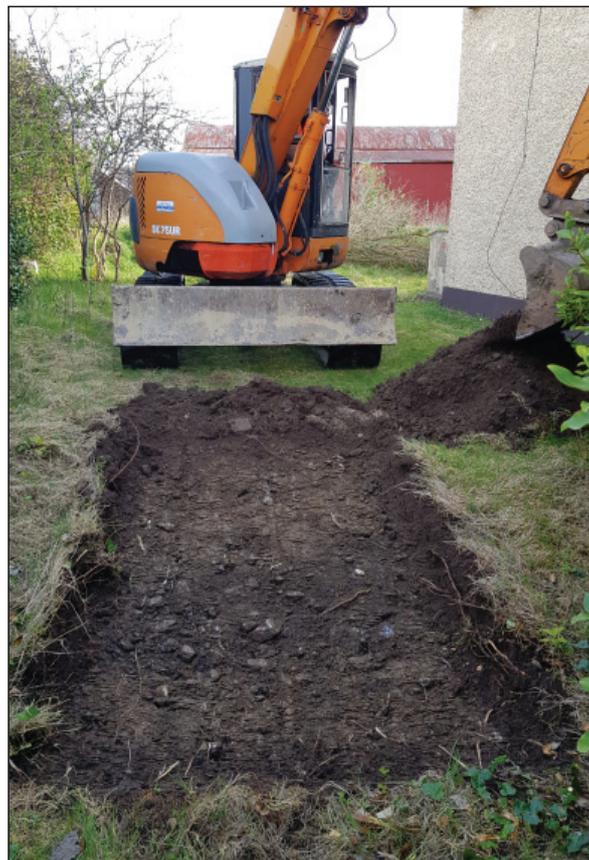


Plate 2 - Mid-excavation shot of works commencing in T1, looking north



Plate 3 - Linear (019) and pit (021) in T1, looking south



Plate 4 - Section through pit (021) in T1, looking south



Plate 5 - Section through linear (019) in T1, looking south



Plate 6 - Animal bone in northern end of T1, looking south.



Plate 7 - View of north-facing section through linear (017) in T2, looking south



Plate 8 - View of linear (015) within T2, looking southwest



Plate 9 - View of linear (011) within T2, looking southwest



Plate 10 - View of linear (013) (to left) and modern animal burial pit within linear (011) to the east end of T2, looking southwest



Plate 11 - View of eastern end of linear (003) with charcoal rich fill (007) beside metal surface (006), looking east



Plate 12 - View of section through linear (009) in T3, looking southwest



Plate 13 - View of shell midden (005) within southern baulk of extension area to T3, looking southwards, metallised surface (006) to right foreground

**Appendix 1 – Context Register**

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	-	-	0.24 south 0.66-0.77 to north	Softly compacted dark brown loam	Topsoil, substantially deeper to rear (north) lawn area of existing house where it measures between 0.66-0.77m deep. (Topsoil gets gradually deeper to east side of this lawn area). Topsoil is much shallower to west side of house at 0.22m deep.
002	Deposit	-	-	-	Mottled beige/yellow and yellow	Subsoil
003	Cut	13.14	0.98-2.25	0.05 (to west end)	East/west orientated linear which is seen in Trenches 1 and 2. This linear appears to curve slightly to west end where it is at its narrowest width of 0.98m. Here at the western end, this linear has sharp breaks in slope to the top and a steeply sloped (concave) northern side which gradually broke onto a shallow flat base. In Contrast, the east end of this linear is much wider at 2.25m wide. this western end also features a notable rounded corner to its northern side, after which the linear changes its orientation and aligns itself along a more east-southeast/west-northwest axis. To the central area of this linear, occupation debris in the form of a linear charcoal rich deposit (007) is centrally located with this linear. Hardened and dense ash and red-oxidisation along the edge exterior edges of this charcoal deposit suggest that there was <i>in-situ burning</i> within this linear. A dense shell midden (005) appears to cover part of the southern edge of this linear. Occasional scattered sea shells were also	East/west orientated linear which was exposed in Trenches 1 and 2. This linear curves slightly to the west and features a rounded corner to the east. Very shallow to west end where the curve begins. More evidence of occupational debris and possible <i>in-situ</i> burning to east end of linear.

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
					recovered from close to the northern edge of this linear.	
004	Deposit	13.14	0.98-2.25	0.05 (to west end)	Softly compacted brown clayey silt with little inclusions (occasional pebbles and rare charcoal flecks) to western end. In contrast, to the eastern end, the colour of the fill shifts to a grey brown clayey silt which contains and abundance of inclusions. These include: Frequent inclusions of seashells (mostly muscles to both northern and southern areas), charcoal flecking, burnt clay, ash and large animal bones	Main fill of linear (003). Large amount of shell inclusions to eastern end which are related to the presence of a small shell midden (005)
005	Deposit	2.01	1.28	0.12 (min)	C-shaped loosely compacted sea shell deposit consisting mostly of muscle shells. Deposit continues in depth around the outside edges of the metallated surface (006) and may extend into the linear (003) which it also covers	Shell Midden which covers the metallated surface (006) and partially the southern edge of the linear (003)
006	Metallated Surface	2.01	0.95	-	Compacted surface comprising of small angular, sub-angular and rounded pebbles and small stones. Feature extends beyond the edge test trench extension to the west and south	Metallated surface partially covered by shell midden (005) (Probably removed to the south by the modern house)
007	Deposit	3.92	0.67	-	Softly compacted black charcoal rich clayey silt with frequent inclusions of large animal bones. Deposit gradually turns to a more compacted reddish blackish dark grey along the edges and has a firm compaction with more ash inclusions.	Charcoal rich fill to east end of linear (003) with possible evidence of <i>in-situ</i> burning along edges
008	Deposit	2.51	0.64	-	Softly compacted mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, large animal bones and small sized stones.	An upper fill to linear (003) above the charcoal rich fill (007)

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
009	Cut	2.27	0.42	0.2	Linear feature orientated northeast/southwest having sharp breaks in slope to top, steeply sloped side to southeast, gentle sloped side to northwest. Sides gradually broke onto a concave but undulated base. Rounded terminal to southwest	Short linear which extends beyond the edge of Trench 3 to north. The linear features a rounded terminal and respects the location of the larger linear (003) as it stops 0.47m to the northeast of (003)
010	Deposit	2.27	0.42	0.2	Softly compacted and very friable dark grey brown clayey silt having occasional inclusions of small stones. Rare inclusions charcoal flecks and sea shell fragment	Main fill of linear (009). Very friable in consistency
011	Cut	8.12 (min)	2.62	-	Broad linear orientated north-northeast/south-southwest and seen in Trenches 2 and 3. Truncated by modern animal burials	Probable broad ditch traversing site on a north-northeast/south-southwest axis. Feature is located in both Trenches 2 and 3 and is truncated by a modern animal burial pit within Trench 2
012	Deposit	8.12 (min)	2.62	-	Mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small stones and occasional inclusions of animal bones. Inclusion of redeposited natural to centre of fill within Trench 2	Main fill of ditch (011)
013	Cut	7.67	0.69	-	Linear cut orientated north-northeast/south-southwest and seen in trenches 2 and 3. In Trench 2, this linear has a short return (0.58m long x 0.49m wide) to the western side which extends 0.58m before it is truncated by a modern animal burial pit	Narrower linear feature which runs almost parallel to the possible ditch (011) to its eastern side
014	Deposit	7.67	0.69	-	Softly compacted grey brown clayey silt fill with occasional inclusions of small stones.	Main silty fill of narrower linear (013)
015	Cut	2.69	1.06-1.76	-	Linear cut within Trench 2 and orientated on a north-northeast/south-southwest axis. This linear appears to have standard width of 1.06m, however to the north western side, a	Cut of medium sized linear, possibly associated with linear (009) in Trench 3 as both share the same orientation and are along the same axis

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
					notable bulge measuring c. 0.60 m wide extends the width of this linear to 1.76. This bulge features rounded corners.	
016	Deposit	2.69	1.06-1.76	-	Softly compacted grey brown clayey silt fill with occasional inclusions of small stones.	Main fill of linear (015)
017	Cut	1.68	0.42	0.24	Linear feature orientated north/south with sharp breaks in slope to the top and steeply sloped sides which gradually broke onto a concave base.	Narrow but deep linear which has a rounded V-shape in profile. The direct north/south orientation differentiates this feature from other linear that were uncovered during testing.
018	Deposit	1.68	0.42	0.24	Loosely compacted friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecking and animal bone fragments	Main fill of linear (017)
019	Cut	1.66	0.58	0.15-0.18	Linear feature orientated west-northwest/east-southeast with sharp breaks in slope to the top and a steeply sloped north and south sides which gradually broke onto a concave base	Linear with a concave base
020	Deposit	1.66	0.58	0.15-0.18	A softly compacted brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions.	Fill of linear feature (019)
021	Cut	0.96	0.89	-	Circular in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and and gently sloped sides all around which gradually broke onto a concave base	Circular pit
022	Deposit	0.96	0.89	-	Softly compacted dark brown loam	Fill of circular pit (022)

## Appendix 2 – Photo Register

Photo No.	Trench No./Test Pit No.	Looking	Description
001	Trench 1	Northwest	Pre-excavation shot through site access, looking northwest
002	Trench 1	North	Trench 1 mid-excavation shot of works commencing, looking north
003	Trench 1	South	Trench 1 linear (019) and pit (021) pre-excavation, looking south
004	Trench 1	South	Trench 1 section through pit (021), looking south
005	Trench 1	South	Trench 1 section through linear (019), looking south
006	Trench 1	South	Trench 1 animal bone in northern end of the trench, looking south
007	Trench 2	South	Trench 2 view of north-facing section through linear (017), looking south
008	Trench 2	Southwest	Trench 2 view of linear (015), looking southwest
009	Trench 2	Southwest	Trench 2 view of linear (011), looking southwest
010	Trench 2	Southwest	Trench 2 view of linear (013) (to the left) and modern animal burial pit within linear (011) to the east end of the trench, looking southwest
011	Trench 3	East	Trench 3 view of eastern end of linear (003) with charcoal rich fill (007) beside metalled surface (006), looking east
012	Trench 3	Southwest	Trench 3 view of section through linear (009), looking southwest
013	Trench 3	South	Trench 3 extension, view of shell midden (005) in southern baulk with metalled surface to the right foreground, looking south