

Archaeological Screening of the Proposed Ballymastone Recreational Hub in Donabate

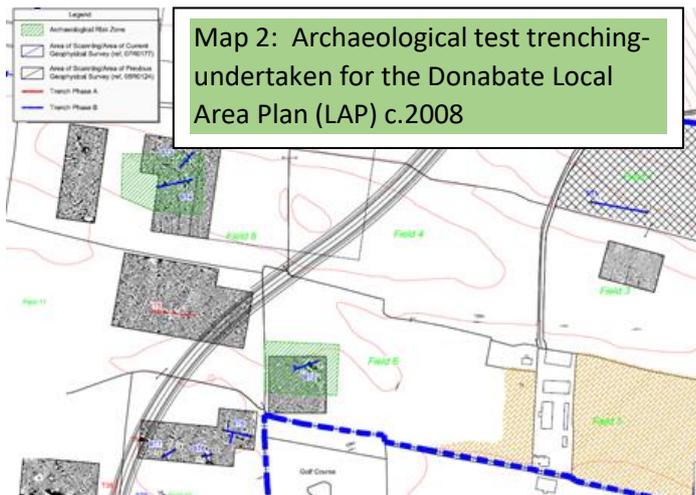
Map 1 below illustrates the location of the proposed Ballymastone Recreational Hub in Donabate Co. Dublin. The nearest recorded monuments listed on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are over 180m from the proposed site. However, the investigative works-geophysical survey and

Map 1: Location of Proposed Ballymastone Recreational Hub, Donabate, Donabate



archaeological test trenching- undertaken for the Donabate Local Area Plan (LAP) c.2008 have identified the proposed site which corresponds with Field 6 as an 'archaeological risk zone' (see Map 2 below). Archaeological remains as described below were identified here during the test-excitation. There is also the potential for the identification of further remains outside the previously tested areas.

Map 2: Archaeological test trenching-undertaken for the Donabate Local Area Plan (LAP) c.2008



Field 6 (Map2)

Archaeology was identified in Field 6, in BT2 (Phase B Trench 2) and its offset trench. The archaeology consists of a burnt mound/possible *fulacht fiadh* and an associated ditch. It is located on the south-facing slope of higher ground, and, as elsewhere on the Ballymastone Lands, corresponds to the topography there. The nature of the archaeology and its position within the landscape suggests a Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC) date



Plate 4 View E of curvilinear ditch F3 in BT2 (Field 6)

Archaeological Assessment Ballymastone Lands, Donabate Local Area Action Plan Donabate Co. Dublin Licence No. 06E0027ext

Conclusion

While geophysical survey was previously undertaken across the LAP lands including the area of proposed development, archaeological test excavation was confined to an area of an identified anomaly, which proved to be of archaeological origin. In order to establish the extent of archaeological remains, within the footprint of the proposed development it is recommended that a more detailed pre-development test excavation programme be undertaken, outside of the previously identified archaeological area. The probable Bronze Age remains identified in the 2008 report would

require to be preserved by record, that is archaeologically resolved prior to development. **ENDS**