

# PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

**KILHEDGE LANE  
LUSK  
Co. DUBLIN**

**FCC REG. REF: PART XI/005/21**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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**Report Commissioned by  
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# PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

## KILHEDGE LANE LUSK Co. DUBLIN

### FCC REG. REF: PART XI/005/21

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

**Martin E. Byrne, MA, Dip. EIA Mgmt, MIAI.**

BYRNE MULLINS & ASSOCIATES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Archaeological Heritage Assessment Report has been prepared with respect to a proposed residential development at Kilhedge Lane, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The report was prepared on behalf of the applicants, Tuath Housing c/o Walsh Associates, Architects & Project Managers, Merchants House, 27-30 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8.

#### 1.1 Requirement for Assessment

Proposals for the development submitted to Fingal County Council (Register Ref: Part XI/005/21) resulted in the following comments being received from the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department, as follows: “The cultural heritage section (4.2.7.) of the *Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report* by McCutcheon Halley (dated May 2021) submitted, consists of a single sentence ‘There will be no impacts on Cultural Heritage in the area as a result of the proposed development’ (p.15).

Given the site is located within the Zone of Notification for the historic town of Lusk and in the vicinity of a number of previously unknown sites discovered ahead of the construction of adjacent developments, including a ring ditch (DU008-060) to the south-east, the evidence for this conclusion needs to be presented.”

### 2. METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Definition of Study Area

The subject development lands (red-line boundary) and an area of 500m surrounding such lands were determined to be the Study Area for Archaeological Heritage. The extent of the Archaeological Heritage Study Area was chosen to reflect an appropriate context for the development, beyond which it was considered that a development of this nature would have no direct/indirect impacts.

#### 2.2 Paper Survey

As part of a documentary/cartographic search, the following principal sources were examined from which a list of sites and areas of Archaeological Heritage interest/potential was compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places – Co. Dublin (RMP)
- Sites and Monuments Archive files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI)
- *Excavations – Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie))
- Historic maps and Aerial Photographic Archive of Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) – [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)
- Documentary and Cartographic Sources – Appendix 1.

- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 (FCDP)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Survey (NIAH) – Fingal County – [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)
- Heritage Council Data (incl. Dublin Archaeological Data) – [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)
- Placenames Commission – [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

### 2.3 Field Inspection

Following completion of the preceding paper a survey field survey of the proposed development area and immediate environs was undertaken in early August 2021. This entailed a surface reconnaissance of the subject development area and inspections of the immediate environs.

An attempt was also made to identify previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage potential within, and in the immediate environs of, the proposed development area.

## 3. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site is located at the south-western extent of Lusk, bounded by Kilhedge Lane to the north and the Chapel Farm housing estate to the south – Figure 1.



Figure 1 Site Location

The elongated rectangular site comprises an area of 0.86 ha, is greenfield in form, with a relatively level surface (Figure 2). The northern boundary to Kilhedge Lane is largely planted, as indicated in Figure 2 and Plate 1, with the remaining boundaries unenclosed and formed by existing access roads; that to the west links the Chapel Farm housing estate to Kilhedge Lane, the eastern road links Chapel Farm to the Dun Emer housing estate to the north, with that to the south forming an access road to Chapel Farm Mews and Chapel Farm Copse.

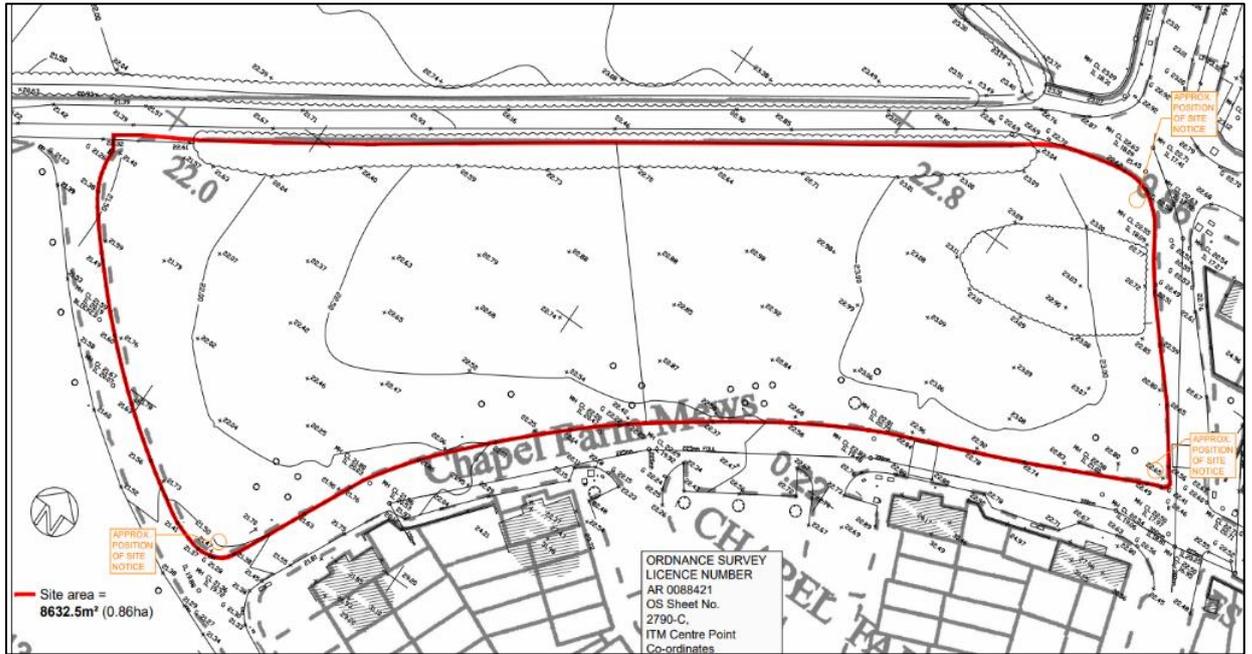


Figure 2 Existing Site Layout

An aerial view of the site and immediate environs is illustrated in Plate 1 with selections of existing site views illustrated below in Plates 2 – 4 (see Figure 3 for viewpoints).



Plate 1 Aerial View subject development area and immediate environs



Figure 3 Site extent indicating viewpoints for Plates 2 - 4



Plate 2 Viewpoint 1



Plate 3 Viewpoint 2



Plate 4 Viewpoint 3

#### 4. GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The subject development lands form part of the townland and civil parish of Lusk and barony of Balrothery East (O.S. 6" Map – Dublin Sheet 8). The name Lusk derives from the Irish *Lusca* – a 'cave' (Placenames Commission - [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).

Clinton (1998, 124-5) speculated that the combination of the 'cave' derivation in the placename and the location of an early medieval church site within the village may be indicative of souterrains associated with the ecclesiastical site. Souterrains, which are constructed subterranean passages and chambers and sometimes defined by drystone masonry walls and lintelled roofs, are often found in association with early medieval defended farmsteads such as ringforts (Stout, 1997, 32-3) as well as early medieval church sites (Clinton, 1998, 125). This may indicate that a souterrain may have existed and was known from the nearby early medieval ecclesiastical site; in that regard, part of a souterrain was uncovered in 2005 during widening of Church Road, outside the extent of the ecclesiastical enclosure (O'Connell; Excavations.ie Ref: 2005:505).

The subject lands are located within the general ancient boundaries of Fingal, the regional name applied to the northern half of County Dublin in the early historic period. It formed part of the overkingdom of Brega, which was mainly controlled by the *Síl nÁeda Sláine*, a dynastic branch of the powerful *Uí Néill*. Within Fingal itself there were different population groups defending their own territories, forming local dynasties and making alliances with one another. Mac Cotter (2008, 165-6) notes that the northern territory of Fingal, in which the subject site is located, was known as *Saithne* and comprised lands north of the River Gouere or Gowre (renamed the Broad Meadow Water) and controlled by the *Uí Chathasaig*; this clan was part of a conglomerate who took off the overlordship of *Deiscert Breg* (Southern Brega) before 1000 and subsequently challenged for the title *rí Breg* (king of Brega). Nine kings of Saithne are recorded between 1019 and 1179.

The village of Lusk traces its establishment to the foundation of a monastery by St. Macculin in the later fifth century. Over the following centuries, this monastery, together with that of Swords, became one of the primary religious establishments and settlement foci in the area. D'Alton (183, 146) notes the death of St. Macculin in 497 AD at Lusk, while the deaths of subsequent bishops and abbots of the monastery are recorded throughout the Annals. The centre of the monastery is now the location of the nineteenth century

C-of-I church and it was surrounded by an enclosure, some of which can be traces in the existing street pattern. Annalistic sources make reference to the burning of 180 people in a 'stone church' at the site in 1089 (Manning, 2001, 47), indicating the wealth and status of Lusk at this time. Much of the surrounding lands were likely to have come under the influence of the monastery, whether directly as church lands or farmed on behalf of the monastery.

As population centres, and through royal and church patronage, early medieval monastic establishments often accrued considerable wealth and influence. The Annals of Ulster record that Lusk was the site of an óenach or assembly on the feast day of St. Macculin, at which the local king died in 800, indicating that Lusk was a centre of royal patronage by this time. Manning (2001, 116-7) notes that such assemblies were frequently convened by kings or local rulers 'on land under his personal control', but gradually lost their symbolic importance and by the 11<sup>th</sup> century their 'function had become predominantly economic'. Consequently, many monastic establishments became centres of wealth which were frequent targets for raiding, or became embroiled in local and national political struggles. It is not surprising, therefore, that Lusk was plundered by the Danes in 825 and burned again a few years later (Anon, 1914, 251). It was attacked in 1089 by the men of Munster, and in 1053 by the Foxes of Teffia and Conchobair Ua Maelechlainn, king of Meath (Walsh, 2003, 95).

The abbacy of Lusk in Saithne was outside the diocese of Glendalough (= Dublin) as established in 1111 but had been absorbed by Dublin by 1148, a development which, according to MacCotter (2008, 165), "probably reflects the contemporary transfer of Saithne from Mide (Meath) to the regional kingdom of Dublin"; MacCotter (2008, 166) further notes that confusion regarding the overlordship of Saithne continued into the Anglo-Norman period when its status was contested between the lordship of Meath and the royal demesne of Dublin.

The importance of Lusk as a religious and economic centre continued after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, as the monastery and its lands were confirmed by Papal Bull to the see of Dublin in 1179; this may be a reflection that much of the lands may have belonged to the church before then. The grant of the monastery to Laurence O'Toole in the 12<sup>th</sup> century may indicate that the monastic church was transformed to a parish church (Bradley, 1998, 142). The 'vill of Lusk' presumably the settlement and lands around the monastery – were subsequently granted by King John to Hubert Walter (Flanagan, 2001, 373) and the 'vill' may have formed the basis of the borough that was subsequently established at Lusk in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Archbishop of Dublin (Bradley, 1998, 135).

Lusk's earlier status as a 'mother church possessed [of] a number of dependant chapelries', the extensive nature of its lands and the value of its settlement as a population and economic centre meant that it was an attractive benefice coveted by the Crown. In 1294, King Edward I conferred Lusk upon 'John of Spain, the nephew of Queen Eleanor', while 'there was some litigation in 1284 and 1318 about the patronage, and finally in 1467 a moiety was restored to the precentors of St. Patricks' and the other moiety to the treasured' (Anon, 1914, 252).

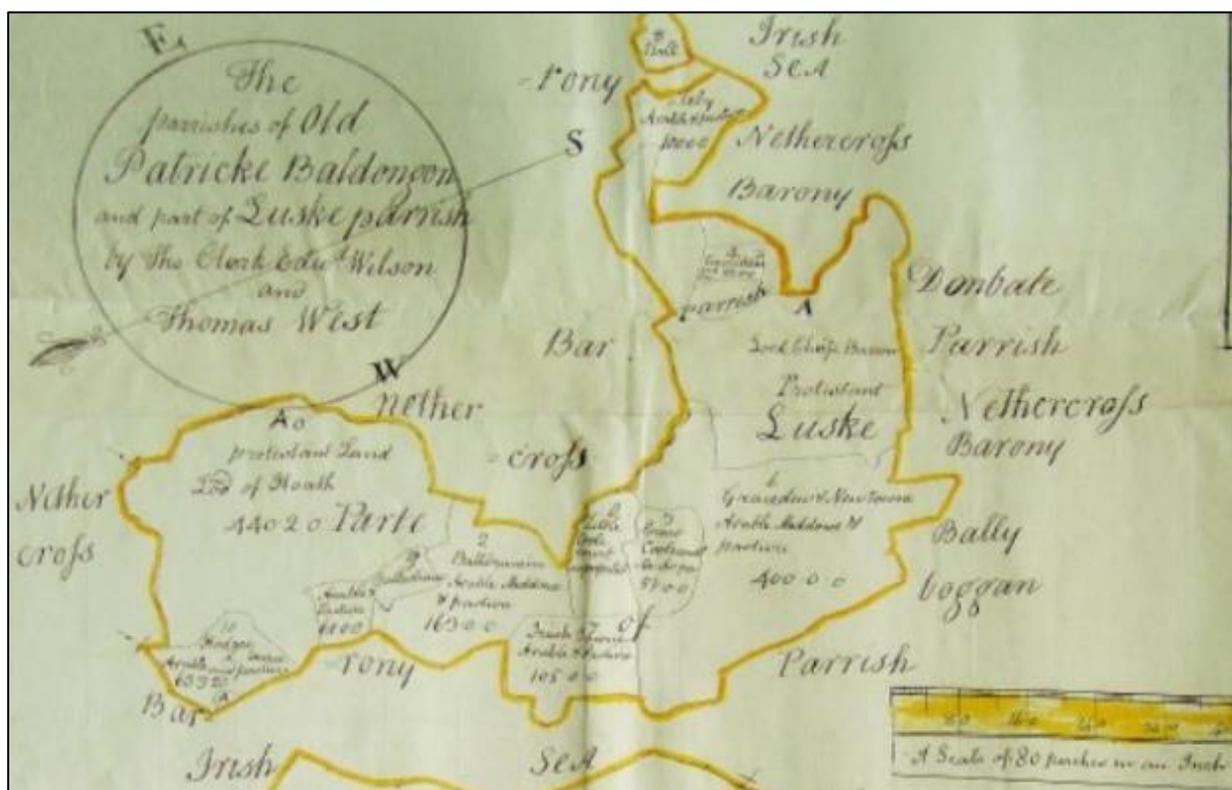
Throughout the medieval period, Lusk functioned as a manorial centre, as a local religious centre and as a centre for the cultivation and processing of agricultural produce, particularly grain production. Much of the agricultural produce, particularly grain, was likely to have supplied the needs of Dublin city as well as more local requirements; it is likely that the city traders and merchants established direct connections with the area. For instance, Ralph de Cobeleye, a merchant of Dublin, was granted £8 by the King in 1317 or 1318 in part payment for a sum of £20 (Connolly, 1998, 264); this was made in compensation for the loss of a haggard at Lusk which a few years earlier had been 'taken into the king's hands and afterwards completely destroyed' by the invading Scottish and Ulster forces. Other historical sources also record transactions, payments and grants from Lusk occupants to the various Archbishops of Dublin, who controlled such properties.

Despite its small size relative to other manorial centres, it is likely that Lusk had a relatively high number of inhabitants due to intensive grain production. The 14<sup>th</sup> century *Liber Niger* of the archbishops contained a list of the burghers of Lusk who held thirty-six burgesses and who worked 'in autumn, reaping and carrying, and being bound to grind their corn at the mill of the manor (Anon, 1914, 253). In 1395, the archbishop 'was granted a Thursday market at his manor of Lusk' (Bradley, 1998, 135); it is speculated that this may have contained a market cross and was positioned at a triangular area at the eastern entrance to St. Macculin's graveyard.

The prominence of Lusk as a town appears to have been relatively short lived, however, as very little is known of the borough after the fourteenth century and by the sixteenth century it was simply a village (Bradley, 1998, 135-6). It remained a parish centre and the graveyard contains the graves of the prominent

landholding families of the area, many of whom were granted church lands following the dissolution of monasteries in the 1530s. Among these were the Barnewalls who were granted the lands of nearby Grace Dieu and who significantly increased their estate by acquiring and leasing large expanses of old episcopal manors in the parishes of Lusk and Swords, as well as the Nettervilles, who in 1609 received a grant of a 'messuage and certain lands in the town of Lusk' (D'Alton, 1976, 212).

This pattern of land ownership continued into the seventeenth century, although church possession of lands in Lusk was further threatened by Confederate Wars of the 1640s. By the 1550s, it was recorded that there was 'upon ye Towne of Luske a faire Church belonging to ye said Parish being in good reaire & ye Walls of an old Chappell; also attached to the town, and reflecting earlier medieval landscape patterns, were 'Two Co[m]m[un]ions containing Two Hundred Acres or thereabouts' (Simmington, 1945, 117). The village comprised tenements, often composed of thatched cabins, while freeholds frequently involved the possession of several acres within the former town boundary or within the surrounding townlands. The Civil Survey of 1654-6 lists a total of seven freeholds in the village itself (averaging 5 – 6 plantation acres) and thirty-four tenements, many of which contained more than one premises. A significant number of 'chaff houses' and the heavy concentration of arable lands in the parish indicate the continued importance of grain cultivation in the area. The 'chaff houses' were probably used for the processing and winnowing of the harvested grain, as well as stores for the cereals as other by-products such as hay. An extract from the Civil Survey map for the parish of Lusk is illustrated in Figure 4 (from [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)).



**Figure 4 Extract from Civil Survey Map (1655-6) illustrating Lusk Parish**

The lands at Lusk and surrounding areas are indicated by Rocque in 1760 as largely in agricultural use, as illustrated in Figure 5; it also indicates that Kilhedge Lane was established by this time.

The village was described by Austin Cooper in 1783 as being small and straggling, 'consisting only of Cabins, with a large Commonage which will ever be the means of keeping such a poor assemblage together'. However, in the early nineteenth century, a large portion of the old common lands, measuring approximately 300 Irish acres, were purchased by a Mr. White from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests; by 1841 only ecclesiastical commons survived in the townland of Lusk. In the 1830s, other primary landholders of Lusk were listed by D'Alton (1976, 210) as Lord Howth, Sir William Palmer, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Earl of Kingston, Colonel Loftus, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Byrne.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1837 (Figure 6) illustrates that the subject lands formed part of a much larger field, bounded to the north by Kilhedge Lane.



of Rush. The village is pleasantly situated on the road from Dublin, and the surrounding scenery is agreeably diversified. At Rogerstown is a good quay for landing coal; and from a document dated 1175, prohibiting the illicit exportation of corn, and the departure of any of the retinue of William de Windsor from the port of Lusk, it appears that this place formerly possessed some maritime importance. Fairs are held on May 4th, June 24th, July 25th, and Nov. 25th, chiefly for cattle. A constabulary police force has been established here, and also a coast-guard station belonging to the district of Swords...”

Griffith’s ‘Valuation’ of 1853 for County Dublin indicate that the subject site formed part of a very large landholding, owned by Arthur Forbes Esq., and within a landholding of approximately 146 acres leased by Mark Taylor.



Figure 7 Extract from O.S. map of 1910

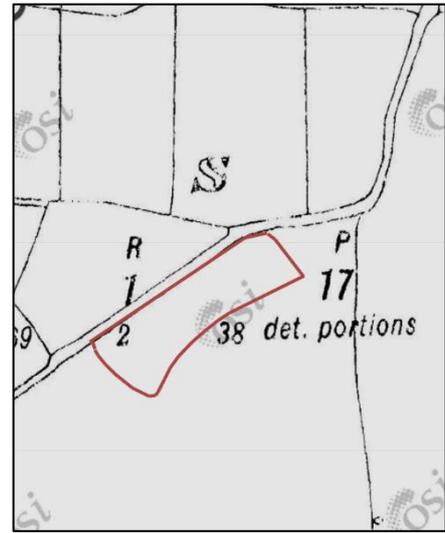


Figure 8 Extract from O.S. map of 1935

The subject site and immediate surrounds remained in agricultural use during the twentieth century, as illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

The Chapel Farm estate to the south and east was developed in the early-mid 2000s; such development was undertaken in phases, during which time the subject development site was used as a construction compound and storage area, resulting in extensive topsoil stripping and ground disturbance works – Plate 5.



Plate 5 Aerial View of Site and surrounds - 2005

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Archaeology is the study of past societies through their material remains and the landscapes they lived in. “The archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence” (DoAHG 1999, p9).

Archaeological heritage comprises all material remains of past societies, with the potential to enhance our understanding of such societies. It includes the remains of features such as settlements, burials, ships and boats and portable objects of all kinds, from the everyday to the very special. It also includes evidence of the environment in which those societies lived. The terms “site” or “monument” are used generally to refer to fixed structures or areas of activity, as opposed to particular moveable objects. Historic wrecks are also part of the archaeological heritage (Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2021, 3).

### 5.1 Statutory Protections

The statutory and administrative framework of development control in zone of archaeological potential or in proximity to recorded monuments has two main elements:

- (a) Archaeological preservation and licensing under the National Monuments Acts and
- (b) Development plans and planning applications under the Planning Acts.

#### 5.1.1 National Monuments Acts 1930-2004

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 provides that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect to each county of the State. This is referred to as the ‘Record of Monuments and Places’ (RMP), and monuments entered into it are referred to as ‘Recorded Monuments’.

Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 provides for the protection of monuments and places in the record, stating that

*“When the owner or occupier (not being the Minister) of a monument or place which has been recorded under subsection (1) of this section 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 Minister and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence work for a period of two months after having given the notice.*

#### 5.2.2 Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023

The following relevant Archaeological Heritage Objectives are set out in Chapter 10 of the Plan:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Note:** The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Dublin was published in 1998. Consequently, all monuments discovered since the publication are not RMP Sites but are subject to protection under Objective AH05 of the County Development Plan 2017-2023, as set out above.

## 5.2 Archaeological Inventory

As outlined above in Section 4, Lusk is a significant urban centre in terms of archaeological and historical interest and potential; consequently a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP; RMP Ref: DU008-010) has been established for the area, under Section 12(1) of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The extent of the ZAP is illustrated in Figure 9, which indicates that the subject site is positioned outside the Archaeological Zone.

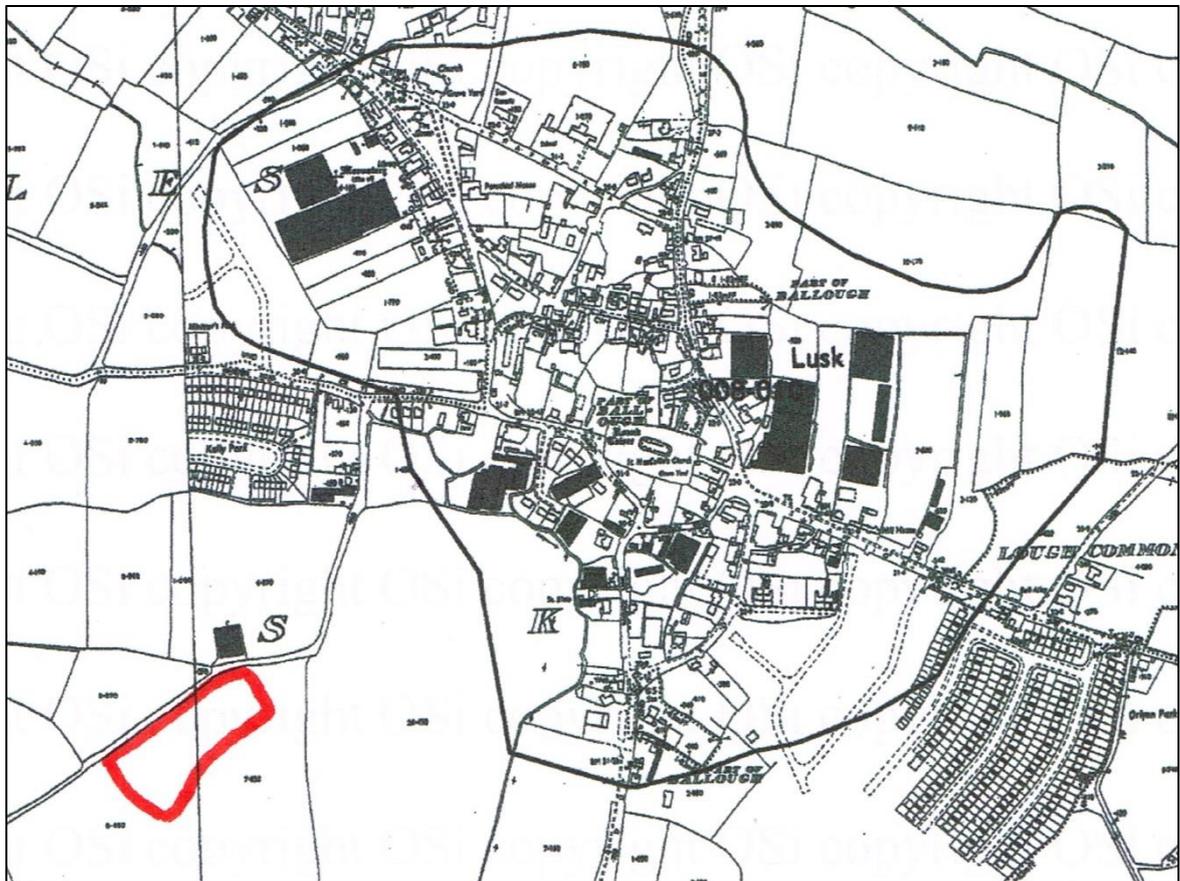


Figure 9 Site Location with respect to Zone of Archaeological Potential established for Lusk (DU008-010)

In more recent years, following the discovery of a number of previously unknown archaeological sites and features in the lands outside the Zone of Archaeological Potential (Figure 9 above) – uncovered by investigations associated with a range of development works – a more extensive Zone of Archaeological Notification (ZAN) was established for Lusk. The extent of this ZAN is indicated in Figure 10, which illustrates that the subject site is located within its extent.

There is one Recorded Monument located within the Archaeological Study Area, as defined above in Section 2.1. In addition, a further eleven individual sites/features have been identified within the defined study area and entered into the Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The locations of these sites and features, as indicated on SMR mapping ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) are indicated below in Figure 10 and listed in Table 1. The classifications of the features are contained in Appendix 2 and they are described in Appendix 3.

The following abbreviations/codes are used in relation to Table 1

**Site No.:** Individual site number assigned to site with respect to the defined study area.

**SMR No:** Individual number assigned to site in the Sites and Monuments Record of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland

**Classification:** Brief nature of the archaeological site as listed in the SMR (see Appendix 2)

**RMP:** Listed in the Record of Monuments and Places



## 5.4 Results from previous documented relevant archaeological investigations

A search undertaken of the annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) that a number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the area of Lusk. Of particular interest are those investigations carried out with respect to the Castle Farm and Dun Emer housing developments. These are summarised as follows:

### 5.4.1 Chapel Farm

Several programmes of archaeological testing were undertaken with respect to this overall housing development by Eoghan Moore and Christine Baker of Arch-Tech Ltd (Licence No: 01E0872; (Excavations.ie Refs: 2001:448; 2001:449; 2001:450; 2002:0621). A total of 87 features of archaeological significance were identified in these previous programmes, including several datable to the 10th to 12th centuries, a bone spindle whorl (01E0872:002) and iron blade (01E0872:001) of Early Medieval date and a single sherd of medieval pottery (01E0872:003), which were recovered from stratified layers in defined features indicating occupation of the site for centuries (SITE AR-2). Also identified were the remains of a possible ecclesiastical ditch. As a result of these testing programmes, an archaeological buffer zone was placed around this area.

During archaeological monitoring of part of Phase 2 of the Chapel Farm development, a complex of archaeological features including a possible ring ditch, several burnt spreads and two linear features to the west of the site were identified by Susan McCabe of Arch-Tech Ltd (Excavations.ie Ref: 2002:0624; SITE AR-4). In addition to this, two isolated burnt spreads were identified to the east of the site. These features were excavated under Excavation Licence No. 02E1029 (Excavations.ie Ref: 2002:0626) and 02E1031 (Excavations.ie Ref: 2002:0627; SITE AR-5)).

Phases 3 and 4 of the Chapel Farm development were archaeologically monitored by Angela Wallace (Licence No: 03E0036) and Stuart Halliday (Licence No: 04E1158) and recovered nothing of archaeological significance; in that regard, the subject development site is located within the overall extent of the area of development monitored by Halliday. Likewise, nothing of interest was uncovered during Phase 5 of the development (Holger Schweitzer; Licence No: 05E1241). A further programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Antoine Giacometti (Licence No: 07E0409) in 2007 in the buffer zone in order to grade the banks of a stream curving around a proposed public park within the development. This identified medieval and post-medieval agricultural or drainage features, and also part of a larger prehistoric settlement (SITE AR-3)

### 5.4.2. Dun Emer

Archaeological monitoring with respect to Phase 1A of the development was undertaken by Angela Wallace (Licence No: 02E1719; Excavations.ie Ref: 2002:0629); several features were revealed - three irregularly shaped pit features with fills of burnt stone and charcoal were exposed cut into the subsoil..

Two areas of possible archaeological significance were identified by Stuart Halliday during archaeological monitoring (Excavation Licence 03E 0792) of the majority of Phase 2 of the development. The areas were subsequently excavated under Licence No. 03E 1113 by Angela Wallace. Area A consisted of three pits containing burnt stone material mixed with charcoal resembling fulacht fiadh material. Area D consisted of an oval/sub-rectangular slot trench, measuring 3.6m north-south. The activity was subsequently radiocarbon dated to c. 2000 BC (CAL). The remainder of the archaeological monitoring of Phase 2 of the Dun Emer residential development was carried out by Stuart Halliday under Excavation Licence 03E 0792 (ext) in 2004. No more archaeological features were encountered.

The excavation of Phase 6 of the Dun Emer residential development, carried out by Antoine Giacometti under licence 05E848 (Excavations.ie Ref: 2005:506; SITE AR-6), revealed a defended Early Medieval farmstead. It was set in the centre of a series of radiating ditches, extending for over 70m to the north, east and west, forming an agricultural field system surrounding the site. The excavation also uncovered evidence for the management of the landscape around the site over a very long period of time, possibly from the late prehistoric period to the 18th century, in the form of field ditches and field drains.

The main enclosure of the early medieval settlement was sub-square in shape, and measured c. 35m in diameter. It was defined by a large ditch that measured c. 2.50m in width and c. 1m in depth, with evidence for an inner bank. A rough metalled or cobbled surface was found along the base of the ditch. A set of postholes indicated a large timber bridge over the ditch to the south of the enclosure, suggesting that the main entrance was from this direction. Two oval or circular structures defined by postholes were found within the enclosure, measuring 6-11m in diameter. One of these had an entrance to the southeast, and the other had a centrally located hearth. Some evidence of small scale metal-working was also found.

Immediately to the east of the main enclosure was a second sub-square enclosure 20m in diameter, defined by a smaller ditch. Two possible entrances were located to the north of this enclosure, and an access point over the ditch to the west allowed passage between both enclosures. No features were found within the enclosure, and one possible interpretation is that it served as an animal pen. A third smaller rectangular enclosure was located to the north of the main enclosure. This was defined by a complex of shallow ditches that were filled by silts packed with charred seeds, which were likely to have come from a large unlined corn-drying kiln located nearby.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The development proposes the construction of sheltered housing for the elderly, consisting of 31 no. dwellings, 1 no. communal facility and all associated site development works, including 13 no. 1-bedroom, 2-person, single-storey houses (varying types, with gross floor areas ranging from 50.0 m<sup>2</sup> to 51.7 m<sup>2</sup>), 18 no. 2-bedroom, 3-person, single-storey houses (varying types, with gross floor areas ranging from 64.4 – 66.9 m<sup>2</sup>) and a single-storey Communal Facility (gross floor area 99.0 m<sup>2</sup>). All dwellings will be provided with access to a secure private shared garden area including shared bin store and bicycle parking areas. Car parking will be provided as required by Development Plan Standards including 1 no. spaces per house, 8 no. visitor spaces in total and 2 no. spaces at the Communal Facility, providing for a total of 41 no. car parking spaces across the development. 29 no. car parking spaces will be provided off-street at the entrances of dwelling units and Communal Facility and 12 no. car parking spaces will be provided on-street arranged along the new Public Open Space.

A layout plan of the development, as proposed, is illustrated below in Figure 11.



Figure 11 Proposed Layout Plan

## 7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSALS

The two main impacts of a development of this nature, with respect to archaeological features, can broadly be described as Physical and Visual.

### 7.1 Physical Impacts

There are no previously identified monuments or features of archaeological interest/potential located within, or in the immediate environs of, the subject development lands. No surface features of archaeological

interest and/or potential were noted by cartographic or aerial photographic research or by the subsequent surface reconnaissance survey.

The nearest Recorded Monument to the subject site is a Holy Well (SITE AR-1: SMR No: DU008-010007) located approximately 350m to the east, as illustrated in Figure 10.

It is noted that a number of subsurface archaeological features were discovered by archaeological investigations undertaken with respect to the existing Chapel Farm and Dun Emer housing estates; a rind ditch (SITE AR-4; Figure 10) is the nearest documented archaeological feature to the subject site uncovered within Chapel Farm while those uncovered with Dun Emer are located a minimum of approximately 200m from the subject site.

In general, it is considered that the site under assessment is part of a landscape which is rich in historical and archaeological material. The general region has attracted settlement from early times as evidenced by the presence of monuments dating back to the prehistoric period. And continuing into the historic medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence for such past settlement activity in the environs of the subject site has been uncovered by archaeological investigations within the existing Chapel Farm and Dun Emer housing estates; consequently, it is considered that the general area of the site is one of moderate-high archaeological potential.

In general, ground reductions, in areas of previous generally undisturbed ground, have the ability to uncover and disturb hitherto unrecorded subsurface features, deposits, structures and finds of archaeological interest and potential. However, as illustrated in Plate 5 above, the overall extent of the site has been the subject of extensive topsoil stripping and ground disturbance works, associated with its use as a construction compound and storage area in the mid-2000s; such topsoil stripping was monitored by Stuart Halliday (Licence No: 04E1158.ext) and nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.

Given the above, it is considered that the development of the site will not cause any direct impacts to any previously recorded archaeological monuments or features; in addition, given the previous extent of topsoil stripping, which was subject to archaeological monitoring, and subsequent ground disturbance works within the site, it is considered that there is no potential for the discovery of subsurface features by the proposed development.

## **7.2 Visual Impacts**

There are no extant archaeological monuments located within, or in the immediate environs of, the subject development area and, consequently, it is not considered likely that the settings of any extant monuments will be impacted upon.

## **8. MITIGATION MEASURES**

As noted above in Section 7 it is not considered likely that the development, as proposed, will cause any direct or visual impacts to any identified archaeological monuments.

It is noted that the proposed development site was subjected to topsoil stripping and general ground disturbance in the mid-2000s, as illustrated in Plate 5. In addition, the topsoil stripping was monitored by an archaeologist and nothing of interest was discovered. The lands were subsequently reinstated.

Given the above it is considered that the subject site is of no archaeological potential and that no additional archaeological interventions are required of the development.

## APPENDIX 1

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## APPENDIX 2

### Classification of Archaeological Monuments

The following list is based in the Class List Definitions of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland

<b>Cremation Pit</b>	A burial site in which a corpse has been burnt on a pyre above a pit into which the remains of the pyre collapse and the corpse are buried. Occasionally accompanied by burnt grave goods that were placed with the corpse on the pyre. These generally date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC).
<b>Enclosure</b>	An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.
<b>Excavation - Miscellaneous</b>	A feature or group of features of indeterminate function revealed by excavation that cannot be assigned to a particular monument class. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.
<b>Habitation Site</b>	A concentration of archaeological features which are indicative of habitation, the remains being insufficient to allow a more specific classification. These may be of any date up to the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD).
<b>House - Early Medieval</b>	A building for human habitation which dates from the 5th to the 12th century AD.
<b>Kiln - Corn Drying</b>	A structure used for drying corn before it is ground. These are also known as cereal-drying kilns. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards.
<b>Ring Ditch</b>	A circular or near circular fosse, usually less than 20m in diameter and visible as cropmarks/soilmarks on aerial photographs. The function of these monuments is unknown as ring-ditches may be the remains of ploughed out barrows, round houses or other modern features and, in consequence, may date to any period from prehistory onwards.
<b>Ringfort - unclassified</b>	A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse or a stone wall. The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.
<b>Ritual Site - Holy Well</b>	A well or spring, though in some unusual cases a natural rock basin, which usually bears a saint's name and is often reputed to possess miraculous healing properties. These may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards.

## APPENDIX 3

### Descriptions of Monuments listed in Archaeological Inventory (Table 1)

The following is based on descriptions in the SMR ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

#### SITE AR-1

DU008-010007

Class: Ritual site - holy well

Townland: LUSK

Description: Located in the garden to the rear of Barrack House. Traditionally associated with St Macullin, it was formerly a pool (diam. c. 15m) which was enclosed with concrete pipes. It has since been built up into the form of a 'wishing well'. It had not been venerated for some time (Ó Danachair 1958, 73; Healy 1975, 20).

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Updated by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 15 December 2014

#### References:

- 1. Ó Danachair, C. 1958 The holy wells of county Dublin. Reportorium Novum 2, 68-87; 2, No. 2 The holy wells of County Dublin: A supplementary list, 233-5.
- 2. Healy, P. 1975a Second report on monuments and sites of archaeological interest in county Dublin. An Foras Forbartha Teoranta.
- 3. Healy, P. 1975b Third report on monuments and sites of archaeological interest in county Dublin. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

#### SITE AR-2

DU008-098

Class: Habitation site

Townland: LUSK

Description: Test-excavation (Licence no. 01E0872Ext) of a greenfield site S of Church road identified a possible portion of the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU008-010006-) and evidence for habitation including ditches, pits, possible hearths and drainage. A bone spindle whorl and iron knife of probable early medieval date and a single sherd of medieval pottery were recovered from stratified layers in defined features indicating long-term settlement in the area. The features have been preserved within the open space of Chapel Farm housing estate (Baker 2001, 24).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

#### References:

- 1. Baker, C. 2001, Report on Archaeological Test Excavation at Lusk Co. Dublin. Licence 01E872EXT. Unpublished report. National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

#### SITE AR-3

DU008-105

Class: Excavation - miscellaneous

Townland: LUSK

Description: This site was excavated during grading of a stream bank that surrounds the open space of Chapel Farm housing estate (Licence no. 07E0409). Located along a small spur of the stream a N-S ditch, E-W ditch and a pit truncated by a modern sewer were excavated. The features were sealed by a layer rich with 12th-14th century pottery (Giacometti 2007, 34).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

#### References:

- 1. Giacometti, A. 2007 Archaeological Monitoring report, Townpark Area, Chapel Farm Lusk, Co. Dublin (Licence no. 07E0409). Unpublished report. National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**SITE AR-4**

DU008-060

Class: Ring-ditch

Townland: LUSK

**Description:** Monitoring of a large scale development in 2002 revealed a possible ring-ditch with several associated deposits of burnt material in sub-circular cut pits (McCabe 2004a, 175). This had rounded terminals opening westwards. There was no evidence for a corresponding bank. The base of the terminals contained five carbonised slit planks associated with burnt bone (McCabe 2004b, 175).

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Date of upload: 26 August 2011

**References:**

- 1. McCabe, S. 2004 Report on archaeological excavation Phase 2, Ministers road, Lusk, Co. Dublin (Licence no. 01E1113). Unpublished report. National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**SITE AR-5**

DU008-100

Class: Cremation pit

Townland: LUSK

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** No

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 02E1031). A sub-oval cremation pit (1m N-S x 0.75m E-W) contained a basal layer of charcoal and inclusions of burnt bone (McCabe 2003, 6).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

**References:**

- 1. McCabe, S. 2003, Report on archaeological excavation Lusk, Co. Dublin (Licence no. 01E1031). Unpublished report. National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**SITE AR-6**

DU008-103001

Class: Ringfort - unclassified

Townland: LUSK

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). The defended farmstead consisted of several elements, the primary D-shaped enclosure (35m diam.) of which was defined by a large ditch (2.5m wide x c. 1m deep). The main entrance of the enclosure was to the S and post-hole supports for a large timber bridge were found here. Internally two oval structures (DU008-103002-; DU008-103003-) were defined by postholes (6-11m diam.). Immediately E of the main enclosure was a sub-square enclosure (DU008-10304-). A third enclosure (DU008-103005-) was located to the N of the farmstead, NE of which was a kiln (DU008—06). Several phases of use were indicated by charcoal samples, the earliest of which was dated to 596-672 AD and the latest to 770-885 AD (Giacometti 2011).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

**References:**

- 1. Giacometti, A. 2011 Reconstructing the human landscape before, during and after the lifespan of a ringfort at Lusk. In Corlett, C. and Potterton, M. (eds.) Settlement in early medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations, 157-68. Wordwell Ltd. Bray.

DU008-103002

Class: House - early medieval

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). One of two structures located internally to ringfort enclosure (DU008-103001-) this oval structure (11m diam.) had an entrance to the SE (Giacometti 2011, 160).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

DU008-103003

Class: House - early medieval

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). One of two structures (see DU008-103002-) located internally to ringfort enclosure (DU008-103001-) this oval structure (6m diam.) had a centrally located hearth with small postholes to either side (Giacometti 2011, 160).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

DU008-103004

Class: Enclosure

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). Located immediately E of ringfort enclosure (DU008-103001-) this enclosure (20m diam.) was defined by a ditch with two possible entrance to the N. No internal structures were identified and this may have been an animal enclosure (Giacometti 2011, 160).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

DU008-103005

Class: Enclosure

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). Located immediately N of ringfort enclosure (DU008-103001-) this enclosure was defined by a complex of shallow ditches that were filled with charred cereal remains, predominantly oats. This area was likely to have been used to process cereals (Giacometti 2011, 160).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015

DU008-103006

Class: Kiln - corn-drying

**Description:** This site was excavated prior to development of a housing estate (Licence no. 05E0848). Located NE of northern enclosure (DU008-103005-) this kiln was irregular in plan. The main bowl (1.5m diam.) had a flue extending 1.35m to the W. It was surrounded by postholes suggesting it had been covered by a wooden structure. (Giacometti 2011, 160).

Compiled by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 5 February 2015