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An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of a Proposed Development Site at 61 Dublin Road, Swords, 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 61 Dublin Road, Swords, 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.

These works were undertaken for Michael Mohan Architects in advance of an application for planning permission.

The proposed development will comprise the following:

- a) Demolition of the existing converted garage at the side of the existing bungalow at No.61 Dublin Road.
- b) Constructing a single storey extension at the rear of the existing bungalow
- c) Constructing a new local day care building, part single/part two storey, adjoining the side of the existing bungalow
- d) Associated ancillary site works to include a new car park. (This car park will be located within the part of the site which is in the woodland area.)

The results of this impact assessment indicate that the development site as a whole is not an area of high or particular archaeological potential. Historic mapping does not show any buildings within the proposed development site prior to the 19th century, however the discovery of medieval burials in the townland of Miltonsfields indicate the possibility of further sub surface features and deposits beyond the historic town centre of Swords. So, there is still a small possibility that unknown sub-surface archaeological features may be present at the site which could be uncovered by development groundworks.

The proposed development will require ground reduction across the development footprint, which would impact on any potential archaeological material on the site.

The following mitigation measures will be undertaken:

1. All ground reduction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
2. If archaeological material is encountered then it 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 in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoH/LGH).
3. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the Fingal County Community Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues that need to be addressed in respect of a proposed development at 61 Dublin Road, Swords, County Dublin (ITM: 717892, 746004) (Figure 1). These works were undertaken for Michael Mohan Architects.

This study has been undertaken in advance of an application for planning permission.

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 2000-2001

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 site is located immediately north of the Pinnock Hill roundabout on the R132 and extends over c. 0.2 ha. It comprises an existing bungalow at 61 Dublin Road (which accommodates an existing Autistic Spectrum Day Care Unit), an open space to the south of the bungalow which is currently used as a car park and part of the woodland adjoining the Pinnock Hill roundabout.

1.2 Proposed development

The proposed development will comprise the following:

- a) Demolition of the existing converted garage at the side of the existing bungalow at No.61 Dublin Road.
- b) Constructing a single storey extension at the rear of the existing bungalow
- c) Constructing a new local day care building, part single/part two storey, adjoining the side of the existing bungalow
- d) Associated ancillary site works to include a new car park. (This car park will be located within the part of the site which is in the woodland area.)

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 200 m of proposed development site
Protected Structures and/or their curtilage	Within approx. 200 m proposed development site
Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAS)	Within approx. 200 m proposed development site
Structures recorded in the NIAH	Within approx. 200 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
Previous Excavations	Within street bounding and adjacent to the proposed development site
Topographical files	Within respective townland incorporated by the proposed development site

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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) 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:

- EirGrid (2015) 'Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A stand approach to archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of high voltage transmission projects.
- 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 Development Plan 2017–2023
- National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Topographical Files
- Excavations Bulletin
- Dublin County Archaeology GIS
- Aerial Photographs
- Cartographic Sources

2.3 *Field Inspection Methodology*

A field inspection of the proposed development site was undertaken by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd on 3 March 2021 (Plates 1–6).

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 *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"> - Recorded Archaeological Monuments - Protected Structures - Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) 	Very High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural heritage features - Unrecorded features of archaeological potential 	High

Subject	Baseline Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition - Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains - Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains - Marshy/wetland areas 	Medium/High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence - Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains 	Medium/Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence 	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.

2.5 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.
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

2.6 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"> - 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. - 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.
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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 - 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.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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. - 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.

Impact magnitude	Criteria
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An impact on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences. - An impact on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measure merit but without noticeable consequences. - A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Table 4 – Criteria used for rating magnitude of impacts

2.7 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
Severe	Very significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight
Major	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight	Slight
Moderate	Significant	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible
Minor	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible	Negligible
Negligible	Slight	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Table 5 – Criteria for assessing significance level of impacts

2.8 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage 2 months before commencing that work.

There are no recorded archaeological monuments incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

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 Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are no National Monuments incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

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 Development Plan 2017–2023 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 no Protected Structures within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

3.2.2 *Architectural Conservation Areas*

The Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023 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 no areas listed as ACAs within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

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 Culture, 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 no structures listed in the NIAH within the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

3.3 *Areas of archaeological potential*

Analysis of historic mapping (see Section 3.5 below) does not indicate any buildings on the Dublin Road frontage of the site prior to the 19th century. There are two townland boundaries within the study area: the boundary between Miltonsfields and Cremona (CH001) and the boundary between Miltonsfields and Crowscastle (CH002). Neither of these townland boundaries lies within the proposed development site. As a result, the development site is not considered to be an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP).

3.4 *Archaeological and historical context*

There is evidence for settlement in north county Dublin generally from the Mesolithic onwards. The known archaeological sites within Swords are much later in date. The name Fingal is derived from *Fine Gall* (kindred of the foreigners) and refers to the lands north of the River Liffey under the control of Scandinavian settlers in the 9th century.

Swords is referred to in the annals in the year 994, when the monastery was attacked by Maelseachlainn. The foundation of the ecclesiastical settlement, situated by a bend in the River Ward, is popularly attributed to Saint Colmcille (Columba) in the 6th century. As well as being a significant monastic settlement, it was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyflinarskir and it is clear that it exerted considerable influence over the surrounding landscape.

After the Anglo Norman invasion, much of the lands surrounding Dublin were issued to colonists. Considerable estates were also bequeathed to the church, and in 1182 the church at Swords was granted to John Comyn, the Archbishop of Dublin. Swords Castle was constructed c.1200, as the manorial residence of the Archbishop and this became the centre of the medieval town of Swords. The castle appears to have fallen into disrepair by the early 14th century, possibly as a result of the Bruce invasion of Ireland and by the 16th century the castle had fallen into ruin.

Rocque's Map of Dublin indicates development along the streets surrounding the castle by the mid 18th century. In the 1830s the castle was purchased by the Cobbe family of Newbridge House, who planted the lands as an orchard. Many of the prominent buildings of Swords town centre date from the mid to late 19th century.

3.5 Cartographic evidence

3.5.1 John Rocque's Map (1760)

This map shows the site as undeveloped greenfield to the east of a main road extending south from Swords village towards Dublin. A local road or trackway extends east across the approximate location of the site.

3.5.2 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch series (1838)

This map shows a road or trackway branching off the Dublin Road and extending approximately from east to west across the proposed development site. No buildings are visible within the proposed development area.

3.5.3 Ordnance Survey 25-inch series map (1910-11)

This shows no great changes from the previous 19th century mapping, with a road or trackway running through the proposed development site.

3.5.4 Ordnance Survey Cassini 6-inch series

This shows no further changes from previous mapping. A road or trackway extends through the site and there are no buildings visible within the proposed development site.

3.6 Recent excavations

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at adjacent sites (see Appendix 2). The most relevant investigations to the present site were those at Mount Gamble, Miltonsfields, to the northeast of the proposed development site.

The investigations at Mount Gamble (under licence no. 02E0608) revealed human burials dating to the medieval era. There is no cartographic evidence for a cemetery in this area and there are no surviving ecclesiastical structures. It is possible that further sub surface medieval archaeological features survive within this townland.

4 IMPACT STATEMENT

4.1 Description of the site

The site is located immediately north of the Pinnock Hill roundabout on the R132 and extends over c. 0.2 ha. The site comprises an existing bungalow at 61 Dublin Road (which accommodates an existing Autistic Spectrum Day Care Unit), an open space to the south of the bungalow which is currently used as a car park and (C) part of the woodland adjoining the Pinnock Hill roundabout.

4.1.1 Past impacts on site

The construction of the existing bungalow would have resulted in sub-surface disturbance within the footprint of the development site as a result of the insertion of its foundations; there would also have been disturbances for the insertion of services relating to this development.

4.1.2 Summary of baseline environment

Site Type	Summary
- RMPs - National Monuments - Sites with Preservation Orders - Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments	There are no RMPs incorporated by the study area. There are no National Monuments or sites with Preservation Orders placed on them.
- Protected Structures	There are no Protected Structures incorporated by the study area.
- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)	There is no Architectural Conservation Area incorporated by the study area.
- Sites Listed in the NIAH	There are no sites listed in the NIAH incorporated by the study area.
- Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites	There are no unregistered cultural heritage sites incorporated by the study area.
- Areas/features of archaeological potential	There are no areas/features of archaeological potential incorporated by the study area.
- Townland boundaries	There are two townland boundaries within the development site (CH001-002).

Table 9 – Summary of baseline environment

4.2 Description of the proposed development

The proposed development will comprise the following:

- a) Demolition of the existing converted garage at the side of the existing bungalow at No.61 Dublin Road.
- b) Constructing a single storey extension at the rear of the existing bungalow
- c) Constructing a new local day care building, part single/part two storey, adjoining the side of the existing bungalow
- d) Associated ancillary site works to include a new car park. (This car park will be located within the part of the site which is in the woodland area.)

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.

The proposed development will not have any impact on any known archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites.

Any direct impacts would be most likely to occur as a result of development groundworks. The development site as a whole is not considered to be a site of high or particular archaeological potential, but there is still a small possibility that unknown sub-surface archaeological features may be present which could be uncovered by development groundworks.

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 the Fingal County Community Archaeologist, the National Monuments Service, DoHLGH.

The current policy of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 will be undertaken:

1. All ground reduction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
2. If archaeological material is encountered then it 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 in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH).
3. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 *Summary of archaeological findings*

The results of this impact assessment indicate the proposed development will not have any impact on any known archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites. The development site as a whole is not considered to be a site of high or particular archaeological potential, but there is still a small possibility that unknown sub-surface archaeological features may be present which could be uncovered by development groundworks.

6.2 *Recommendations*

The proposed development will require ground reduction across the development footprint. This has the potential to result in the removal of archaeological material at the site.

The following mitigation measures will be undertaken:

1. All ground reduction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
2. If archaeological material is encountered then it 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 in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoH/LGH).
3. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

6.3 *Residual impacts*

None.

Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of Fingal County Community Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Electronic resources

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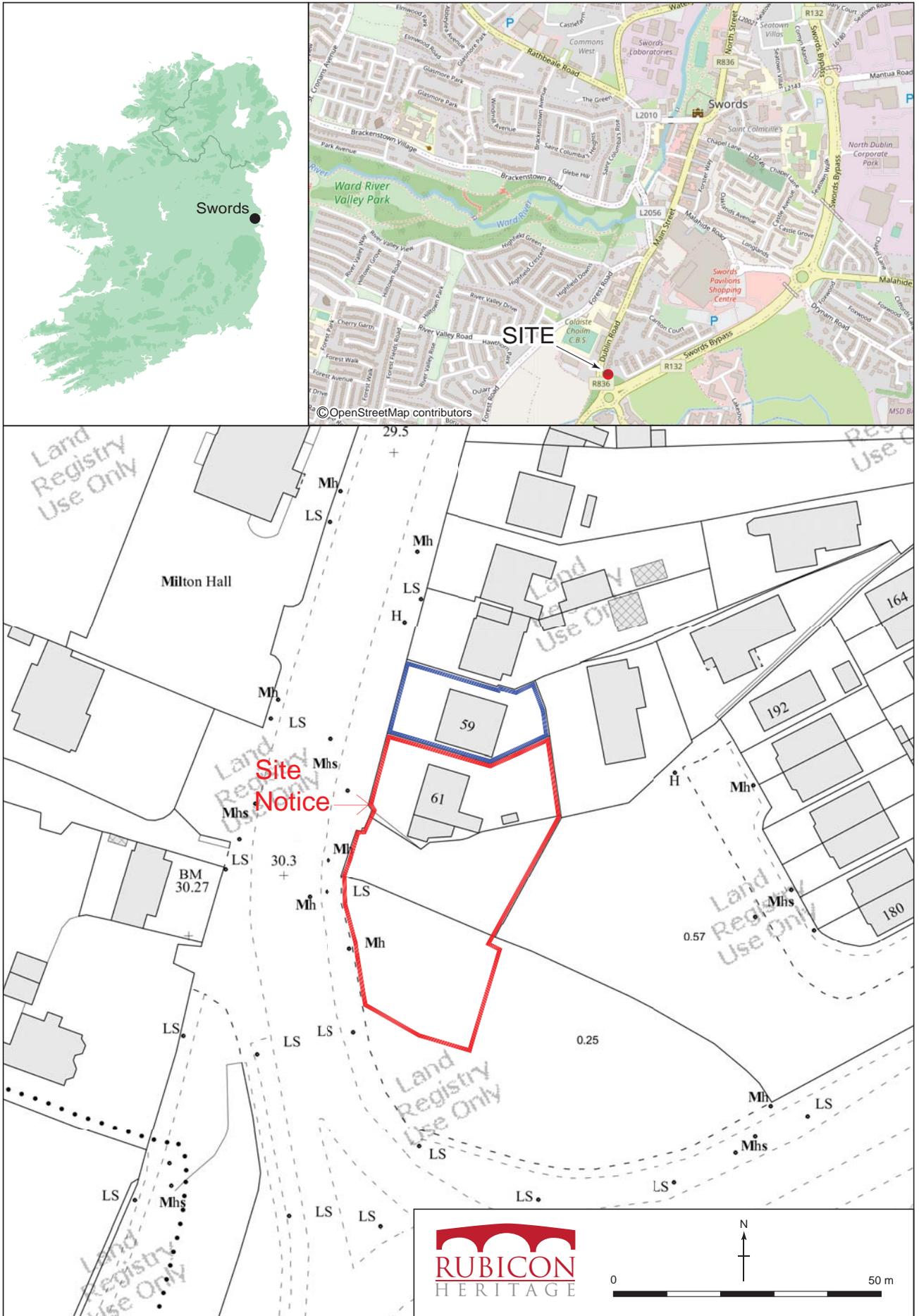


Figure 1 - Site location.

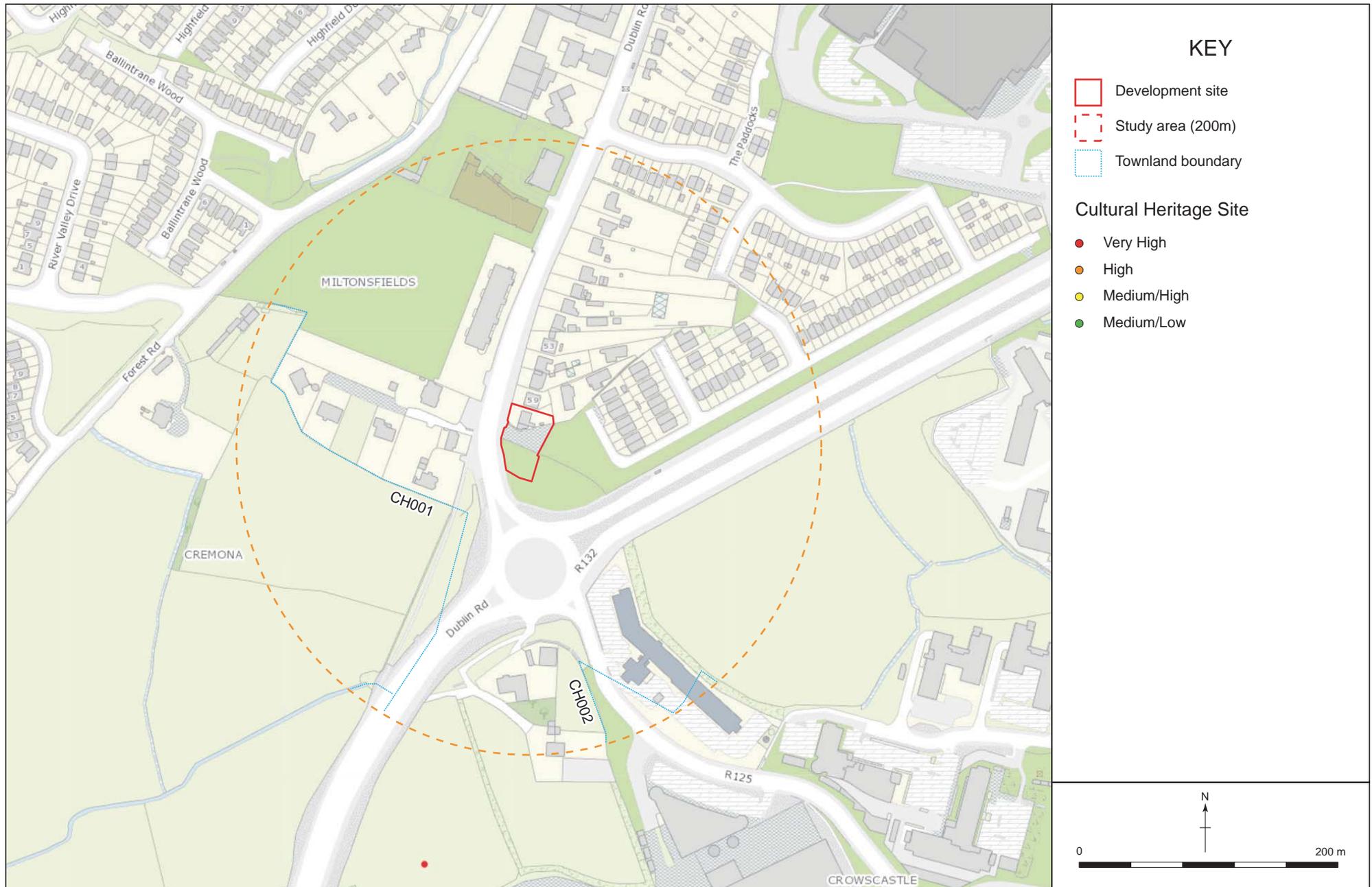


Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage sites within 200m radius of proposed development site.



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

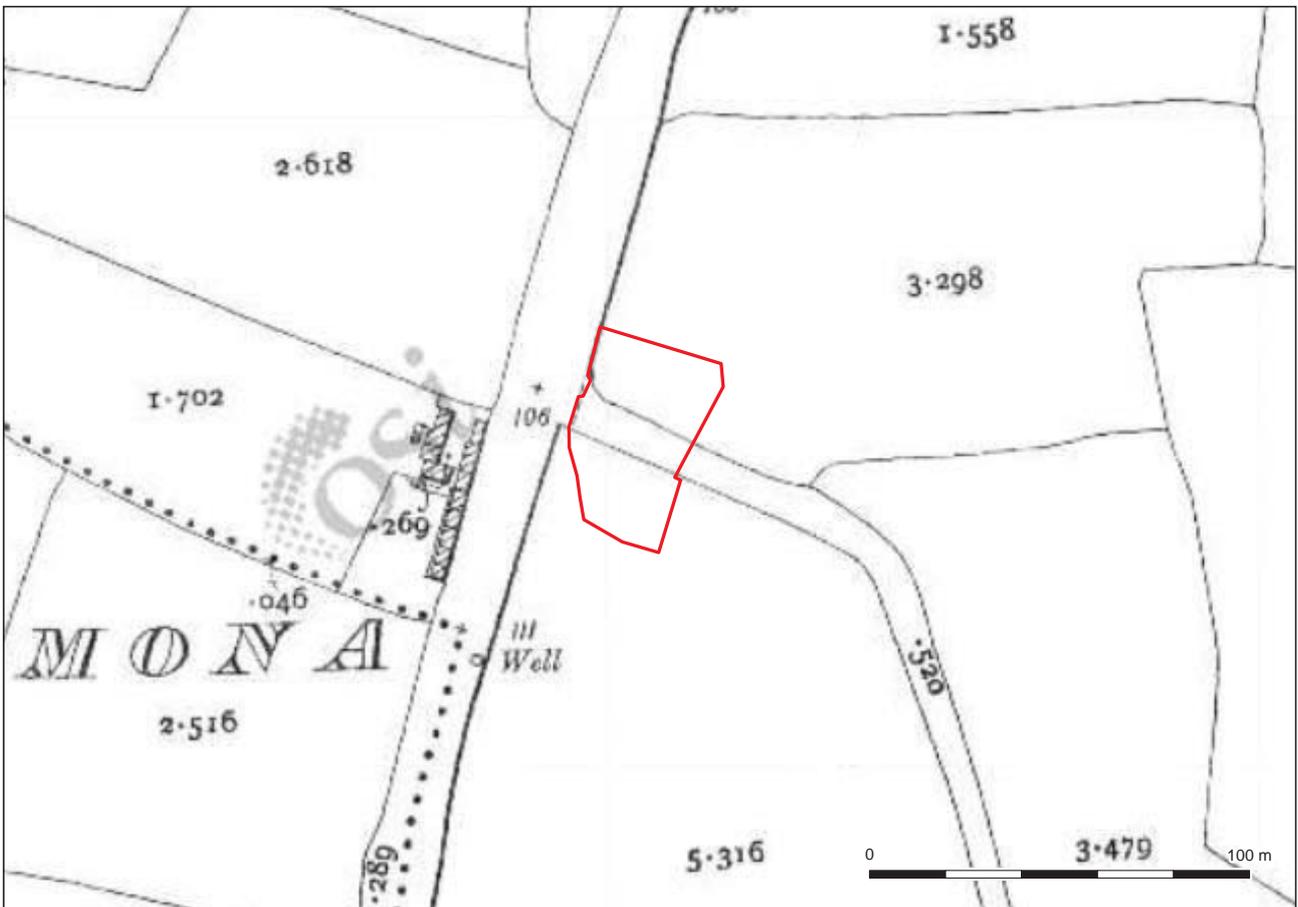
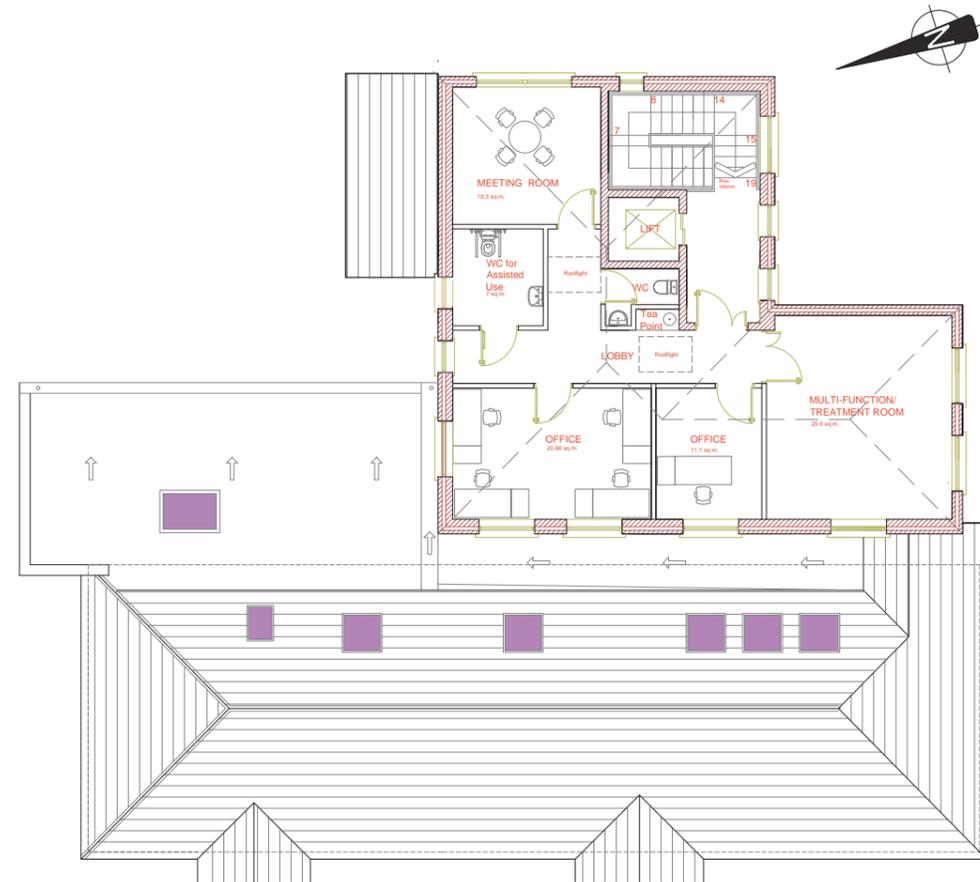


Figure 6 - Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with proposed development site.

This drawing is copyright. The builder is responsible for checking all levels and dimensions on site and shall refer all discrepancies to the architect for his direction. Work to figured dimensions only. Do not scale off the drawings. Proprietary items shall be fixed in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions and the sizes checked.



For Approval

No.	Revision / Issue	Date

MICHAEL MOHAN ARCHITECTS

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Bahrain, Doha 5
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Planning Stage

Client: _____
Date: _____

1/100	Feb 2021
2031 P	

Figure 8 - Plan of proposed development.



Plate 1 - Site, facing east



Plate 2 - Site entrance, facing southeast



Plate 3 - Eastern boundary of site



Plate 4 - Existing building, facing north



Plate 5 - Facing west from site



Plate 6 - View towards site, facing north

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

CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH001	TB	N/A		Townland boundary between Miltonsfields and Cremona	MILTONSFIELDS / CREMONA	Medium	717819	745929
CH002	TB	N/A		Townland boundary between Miltonsfields and Crowscastle	MILTONSFIELDS / CROWSCASTLE	Medium	717934	745829

Note: The abbreviations that have been used for the ‘Category’ section are as follows:

- RMP: Recorded archaeological monument
- 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

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to present. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area. The database produced one result for archaeological excavations undertaken within the study area.

1993:101

County: Dublin **Site name:** The Pound Licensed Premises, Bridge St., Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** -

Author: D.L. Swan, Arch-Tech, 32 Fitzwilliam Pl., Dublin 2.

Site type: Adjacent to castle

ITM: E 718100m, N 746941m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.459270, -6.221596

In accordance with an order made by An Bord Pleanála, the developer of the above premises was required to facilitate the relevant authorities in the monitoring of foundation trenching and the laying of utility services.

On the 17th July, 1992, work commenced with the removal of a store along the southern boundary of the site beneath the outer face of the castle wall and with the opening of a trench (Trench A) along the northern boundary.

Trench A:

This trench was mechanically cleared to an average width of 0.9m, and to a depth of approximately 0.8m. The fill was very disturbed to a depth over 0.7m, at which level both brick fragments and some crock-ware were recovered. Towards the centre of the trench, the undisturbed natural appeared, directly underlying the disturbed fill.

No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench B:

Was cut from the outer face of the east wall of the premises, parallel to Trench A.

At an average depth of 0.55m to 0.6m, the machine cut into what appeared to be natural gravel deposits, quite sterile and in a matrix of dark, heavy clay rather than sand. At 2.25m from the west end of the trench, and at a depth of 0.65m, a fragment of green-glazed medieval pottery was recovered.

Trench C:

Trench C extends for the full length of the eastern boundary of the proposed structure at right angles to the castle wall. At the southern end of this cutting, the much degraded upper surface of the limestone bedrock appears at a depth of approximately 0.75m, with evidence of modern disturbance at every level. At a distance of 3.7m from the southern end of the cutting, the natural limestone beds sloped away markedly, revealing what was to prove to be the cut of a large ditch. The line of the fill of this feature was clearly apparent. The inner edge of the ditch was located at a point 2.2m from the northern end of the cutting, allowing a total width of the feature of about 4.5m. It was set at a distance of about 2.2m from base of the outer face of the castle wall, and appears to have been cut steeply into the solid rock. A number of sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. There can be little doubt that

this represents the moat ditch, which had previously been located outside the face of the west wall by resistivity survey.

Thus, it is likely, that at some period in the past, the outer face of the castle wall was encircled by a substantial moat ditch, which still survives today, and which, if archaeologically cleared, must shed a great deal of light on the early and subsequent development of the castle itself.

1994:099

County: Dublin **Site name:** 60-68 Main St., Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 94E0088

Author: Neil O'Flanagan, Enterprise Centre, Pearse St., Dublin 2.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 718126m, N 747024m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.460010, -6.221173

A large site stretching from Main St., Swords, to the banks of the Ward river was assessed on March 9, 1994. It included the infill of a large gravel quarry in the western half. All traces of archaeological remains, if any existed, would have been removed by the quarry in that portion. There were no archaeological deposits recovered in the eastern half, adjacent to Main St.

1994:100

County: Dublin **Site name:** Swords Castle, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 11:35 **Licence number:** 94E0191

Author: John Channing, 17 Rowan House, Sussex Rd., Dublin 4.

Site type: Area outside castle

ITM: E 718192m, N 746968m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.459495, -6.220188

The site was tested as part of an overall project led by Ms V.J. Keeley. Testing took place just north of the castle. There was no evidence of a moat close to the north wall of the castle, nor was evidence of medieval activity picked up.

1995:109

County: Dublin **Site name:** Bridge St., Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 11:35 **Licence number:** 95E0244

Author: Margaret Gowen, Rath House, Ferndale Rd, Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Medieval urban

ITM: E 718925m, N 747024m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.459830, -6.209135

The site was tested as part of an overall project led by Ms V.J. Keeley. Testing took place just north of the castle. There was no evidence of a moat close to the north wall of the castle, nor was evidence of medieval activity picked up.

An archaeological assessment was carried out on a proposed development site at Bridge St., Swords, which lies within the northern edge of the zone of archaeological potential identified by the OPW Urban Archaeological Survey. Six test- trenches were opened on the site which indicated that the central portion of the site was covered by reinforced concrete slabs resting on a bed of granite hardcore 0.4m thick. It formed the floor of an industrial buildings, since demolished. No archaeological features,

deposits or artefacts were encountered on the site and no remnants of mill buildings or channels were discovered near the river. The entrance area, near Bridge St., had a relatively recent fill up to 2.2m deep, but no evidence for early buildings or deposits.

1995:110

County: Dublin **Site name:** New Rd., Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 95E0280

Author: Rónán Swan, 746 Howth Rd, Raheny, Dublin 5.

Site type: Adjacent to well

ITM: E 717726m, N 745724m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.448424, -6.227679

Archaeological testing took place in Swords over a period of four days commencing on 4 December 1995. The testing was undertaken in accordance with the planning regulations for a residential/commercial development. The reason for the testing was that this property was adjacent to St Columba's Well. This well is one of the few surviving features of medieval Swords and none of the proposed development is to be located within 5m of it. In agreement with the Office of Public Works, a trenching programme was agreed upon which would fully test this site. The site itself was divided into three distinct areas, but a common stratigraphy was reflected in all trenches cut.

The results of the testing demonstrated that activity on the site has consisted of repeated dumping of infill to level the site and also of indiscriminate dumping of material by local traders.

No archaeological material was recovered in any of the trenches cut, but a series of springs were identified in the course of excavation which may have accounted for the area being unsuitable for previous occupation.

1995:110

County: Dublin **Site name:** New Rd., Swords

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No archaeological material was recovered in any of the trenches cut, but a series of springs were identified in the course of excavation which may have accounted for the area being unsuitable for previous occupation.

1996:139

County: Dublin **Site name:** Bridge Street, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 95E244 ext.

Author: Margaret Gowen, Rath House, Ferndale Rd. Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Medieval urban

ITM: E 718925m, N 747024m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.459830, -6.209135

Additional archaeological test-trenching was carried out on this site in an area to be crossed by the insertion of services on the access road/street frontage area of the proposed Health Centre development at Swords, Dublin. Three test-trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator on 15 March 1996.

One 5m-long trench was opened north/south along the riverfront wall, the second was opened as close to the street front as possible along the western boundary, and the third was opened further north. The difference in level between the Health Centre site and the adjacent, higher and sloping site measures between 0.2m at the street front and 1.2m towards the present gateway into the site.

The profiles revealed in the three trenches suggested that no structural remains of a house depicted in Brewer's Beauties of Ireland (close to the bridge across the Ward River) were present. However, an examination of the boundary between the access area and the site itself revealed the foundations of a recently demolished cottage, which may represent the remains of a house depicted in Grose's Antiquities. These remains consisted of the partly demolished southern gable wall with a fireplace and a very low stump of the west wall of a structure 12.5m long and 5m wide. The clay and mortared stone walls were just 500mm thick. The fireplace survived as two projecting piers, 0.5m by 0.5m, with the fireplace 1.2m wide between them. No other internal features or partitions were evident,

The trenching indicated that the insertion of the proposed new services in the area would not reach the old ground level on the east but would cut through very disturbed fill on a truncated old ground level on the west. There were evident archaeological implications for these additional aspects of the proposed scheme. The presence of a thick concrete slab across the central portion of the site on which a number of (occupied) caravans were parked precluded archaeological test-trenching in this area. The site was inspected during the insertion of foundations and an old ground level was revealed in the central area. This consisted of a dark brown garden soil which was up to 1m thick and contained sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of a glazed floor tile.

1996:140

County: Dublin **Site name:** 7 North Street, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 95E0243

Author: Margaret Gowen, Rath House, Ferndale Rd. Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Medieval urban

ITM: E 718126m, N 746024m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.451029, -6.221549

An archaeological assessment was carried out on a site at 7 North Street, Swords, on 2S January 1996 to fulfil a condition of the planning approval for the scheme. The site is located to the south-east of the medieval castle of Swords, with the curtain-wall of the castle forming the western boundary. It lies to the rear of a renovated building, now a shop.

The site measured 5.5m north—south and 7.7m east—west, and was covered by a concrete slab 0.3m deep. The assessment was based on the excavation of two trenches opened by 'mini'-excavator; one was opened across the site and the other was located in the eastern corner.

The archaeological assessment revealed no evidence for any fosse or moat surrounding the castle on this side (Rocque's map of 1760 indicates the presence of street-front properties in this location). The old ground level did not survive and appeared to have been significantly reduced at some date. The concrete slab sat directly on undisturbed clay, with no evidence for any accumulation of archaeologically enriched soils.

The castle wall was protected by the concrete boundary wall of the property. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the assessment and there were no archaeological implications for the development of this site.

1996:141

County: Dublin **Site name:** Old Vicarage, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 95E0035

Author: Helen Kehoe for Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd. Rath House, Ferndale Rd. Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Medieval urban

ITM: E 715626m, N 745224m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.444399, -6.259454

An archaeological assessment was carried out on a site at the rear of the Old Vicarage, Swords, to fulfil a condition of the planning permission for the scheme. The site lies close to a group of ecclesiastical buildings to the north-west of the present Church of Ireland church, which was built in 1818 on the site of an earlier foundation.

Four test-trenches and two test-pits were opened on 8 and 16 February 1995 on a north-east/south-west axis across the site. The stratigraphy observed during excavation of the trenches suggests a consistent soil profile throughout the site. There were no indications of archaeological features or soils and there were no archaeological inclusions in any of the trenches opened.

The site lies at a distance from the ecclesiastical remains and therefore outside the line of any enclosure that may have surrounded them. There were no further archaeological reasons to impede development on the site.

Editor's note: Although excavated in 1995, this report did not arrive on time for inclusion in the bulletin of that year.

2002:0686

County: Dublin **Site name:** Mount Gamble, Miltonsfields, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 02E0608

Author: Edmond O'Donovan, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 2 Killiney View, Albert Road Lower, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Human remains

ITM: E 718290m, N 746503m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.458713, -6.222531

An assessment including test excavation was carried out on the final phase of the development of Swords Town Centre, Co. Dublin. The site is immediately east of and beyond the medieval borough of Swords. Human burials were identified on the summit of a low hill that occupies the site. The hillock is named Cobbe's Hill on the first edition of the OS, and the placename relates to the Cobbe family, important landowners in north County Dublin. Mount Gamble House was built on the site in the 18th century, and the human burials were discovered under the driveway leading to the house. Mount Gamble House was demolished in the late 1980s when an overflow carpark for Superquinn was constructed at the site. There was no record of a cemetery at the site before the assessment.

The work revealed an area on the apex of Cobbe's Hill measuring 15m by 15m and containing burials. The ground slopes gently down from the top of the hillock in all directions. No enclosing ditch was

identified by the geophysical survey or in the area stripped; however, an enclosing ditch may be situated close to the burial area, as only the upper surface of the archaeological deposits was exposed in the area. It is possible that some further, outlying burials extend beyond the zone but only by a maximum of 5m, as the natural boulder clay was exposed under most of the carpark surface, clearly defining the extent of burial described below. The surviving remains appeared as three distinct areas.

Burials under the drive to Mount Gamble House

Human skeletal material representing at least seven individuals was identified in this area. The burials were identified as articulated skeletons, disarticulated skeletal material and a lintel grave. The upper surface deposits were trowelled, and late post-medieval deposits associated with the construction and occupation of Mount Gamble House were recorded over the ground surface, masking the density of burial. The post-medieval activity was characterised by shallow mortar pits with brick and compact deposits of black, coal-stained clay containing modern creamware. A single early 19th-century halfpenny (dated 1823) was also recovered from the Mount Gamble deposits. Compact, stony, gritty, silty clay (topsoil) was present between the Mount Gamble deposits where the burials were situated. Subtle faint grave fills were noted at this level as sticky brown clay surrounding the human bone; these may represent upper grave-cuts through the compacted topsoil (brown, stony, silty clay). The burials were identified on the surface of the surviving ground level and consisted of both poorly preserved inhumations oriented with the head to the west and dense deposits of disarticulated bone that appeared to be the remains of inhumations, disturbed by the construction of both Mount Gamble and the carpark. Further burials are situated in this area, both beneath the recorded remains and under the post-medieval deposits.

Earlier trench

Examination of a previously excavated trench through the site revealed further inhumations, with bones exposed along 7.5m of the section. The burials were oriented at oblique angles and appeared to be aligned east-west. The base of the trench was irregular, and at least eleven intercutting graves were identified. A tile fragment recovered from the base of the topsoil suggests that post-medieval disturbance associated with Mount Gamble has truncated cut graves on the site.

Burials to the south-east of the trench

Seven individuals represented by skulls and long bones were identified to the south-east of the test-trench; these included two juveniles. One of the adult burials had stones adjacent to the skull (evidence of possible 'ear-muff' stones). The burials appeared to be much less disturbed in this location, as the topsoil survived to a greater extent. The ground sloped to the south-east here, and the topsoil overlying the burials was a loose, light brown, silty clay containing some stones, animal bone and disarticulated fragments of human bone. A small quantity of cockle and oyster shell was also identified in the topsoil. The burials were again oriented with the head to the west. Further burials remain unidentified under the loose, brown, silty clay in this location.

Cultural context of the cemetery

The purpose of the assessment was to attempt to establish the extent and context of the burials. Initially it was thought that the burials may be medieval and that the hill was the site of a gallows. Little artefactual dating evidence for the burials was recovered from the excavations, which suggests a pre-Norman date for the site, as no medieval pottery was recovered. No historical or cartographic references associated with a burial-ground were found during the compilation of the report, which suggests that the tradition of burial associated with Cobbe's Hill had been forgotten by at least the post-medieval period (AD 1550). The identification of the lintel grave and the discovery of a single skull with a stone resting against it suggest that some of the burials date from c. AD 600–1100. No associated structures such as a ditch (enclosure) or church were identified at the site. This is not surprising, given the level of redevelopment carried out on the site with the construction and occupation of Mount

Gamble and the carpark. The historical sources suggest that there were at least three churches at Swords. Previous scholars have suggested that these were all situated at the known early church site at Swords adjacent to the round tower. However, the site at Mount Gamble suggests that there may have been an outlying ecclesiastical site around the summit of Cobbe's Hill, as early burial sites are unlikely to be unassociated.

2018:806

County: Dublin **Site name:** Bridge/Church Street, Miltonsfields, Townparks, Swords

Sites and Monuments Record No.: The historic town of Swords (DU011-035) **Licence number:** 18E0125

Author: Deirdre Murphy

Site type: Medieval stone quarry

ITM: E 718039m, N 746877m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.458713, -6.222531

Monitoring and subsequent excavation took place of identified archaeological features and deposits at Bridge/Church Street, Townparks, Swords, Co. Dublin. This work was undertaken in advance of the proposed development of a Nursing Home.

Monitoring and excavation were carried out following the results of a geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching. The geophysical survey was carried out by Joanna Leigh under licence 16-R-0035. A resistance survey was conducted in all available survey areas but the interpretation was complicated by modern landscaping and disturbance. Test trenching was undertaken from 11–16 March 2016 by Faith Bailey under licence 16E0115. A total of 17 trenches were excavated, demonstrating the considerable change to which the natural topography of the proposed development area had been subject over several hundred years. This included a process of landfill and reclamation in the eastern portion of the site, which appears to have commenced in the medieval period and continued into modern times.

The monitoring and subsequent excavation focused on five areas within the proposed development site in order to target the features identified during the test trenching. It was evident that the site had been heavily disturbed by 19th- and 20th-century development of the site, including the construction of three dwellings and their associated gardens. Despite this, truncated evidence of medieval activity, in the form of a stone quarry and rubbish pits, was identified.

Area 1: This area contained the foundations of a building (C3–C4) and associated drain (C5), which were originally identified during test trenching. Excavation confirmed that the foundations were associated with a dwelling depicted on the first edition OS map dated 1843, and which was demolished before the production of the 1935–38 revisions of the OS maps. The appearance of the foundations suggest that this building was of possible late 17th–18th-century date.

Areas 2: This area contained a cobbled surface (C6) with a central gully or surface drain. This cobbling appears to be aligned with the original approach road to the bridge, the alignment of which changed between the production of the first edition 6-inch OS map (1843) and the 25-inch map (1906–09). The cobbled surface was heavily truncated and appeared to be slightly sunken. No further evidence of its surface was identified within the development area.

Area 3: This area contained a possible medieval stone quarry (C8), interpreted during the earlier test trenching as a rock-cut gully or ditch. The cut into the natural underlying geology showed visible signs of stone quarrying activity, which had been backfilled with phases of both medieval and post-medieval

rubbish deposits. Finds from the fills of the quarry include 12th–15th-century pottery, post-medieval pottery and roof ridge tiles, a bone spindle whorl and animal bone.

Area 4: Similar to Area 3, this area also showed clear indications of stone-quarrying activity backfilled with both medieval and post-medieval rubbish deposits/reclamation material, including a primary deposit of animal bone and shell (C10). Recovered from the upper fill were sherds of 12th–15th-century pottery, a possible medieval copper alloy stick pin shaft, a fragment of a post-medieval spiral-turned iron nail and a single sherd of possibly post-medieval unglazed red earthenware.

Area 5: This area contained 15 truncated pits, as well as a small surface and a truncated linear feature, all of which produced 12th–15th-century pottery. The features appeared to have been truncated by the groundworks associated with the development of Ard Druim house in the late 18th to early 19th century. Three sections of stone-built foundations (C26) associated with Ard Druim were also recorded.

The proposed development site was heavily disturbed by development works in the 19th and 20th centuries, including the construction of three dwellings and their associated gardens. Despite this, truncated evidence of medieval activity, in the form of a stone quarry and medieval rubbish pits, was identified. Following the excavation of the identified archaeological features and the monitoring of the remaining ground reduction works within the site, no further archaeological features or deposits were identified.

2019:432

County: Dublin **Site name:** Fosterstown North and Cremona

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 19E0400

Author: Ian Russell

Site type: Testing

ITM: E 717558m, N 745841m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.449515, -6.230157

Test trenching was carried out at the request of the client at a pre-planning stage. This was undertaken between 4 and 11 September 2019, following a program of geophysical survey. A total of 26 test trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m in width and averaging 0.44m in depth. In total 1,554m of linear trenches were excavated. The trenches revealed topsoil (0.3–0.6m in thickness) overlying a natural sandy/gravelly clay, orange–yellow in colour. This investigation exposed no archaeological features, structures, deposits or artefacts. Consequently, in the event of development proceeding at the site, it is recommended that no further archaeological mitigation will be necessary.

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 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 3 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.