Archaeological Assessment Part XI Church Fields Housing & Eastern Linear Park, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15

MCGLADE 19/10/2021 PRE-PLANNING AP21-06

archaeology plan
HERITAGE SOLUTIONS

SITE NAME

Part XI Church Fields Housing & Eastern Linear Park, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15

CLIENT

Dermot Foley Landscape Architects, Argus House, Blackpitts, Dublin 8

LICENCE

n/a

PLANNING

Pre-planning assessment

ARCHAEOLOGY PLAN REF.

AP21-06

REPORT AUTHORS

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DATE

19th October 2021

ABBREVIATIONS USED

DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service
OS	Ordnance Survey
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
LAP	Local Area Plan

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Section 1 Introduction

Report Summary

An archaeological assessment was carried out for the proposed park developments along the Pinkeen River and the linear parks to the south of the proposed Church Fields development (the 'Study Area'). This report assesses the impacts on the Eastern Linear Park.

Fingal County Council propose to develop a linear park associated with the housing development at Church Fields in Tyrrelstown townland to the north of Mulhuddart village in west Dublin. There is no known archaeology within the Study Area, though a church, graveyard and well lie directly to the east along Church Road. The Study Area lay within the estate of Tyrrelstown House from the 17th century.

The Study Area is located within the catchment area of the Tolka River, with the Pinkeen River to the west being one of its tributaries. A number of prehistoric monuments have been identified along the rivers and streams in County Dublin, including the Tolka and it is possible that previously unknown archaeology from this period survives within the Study Area.

Local tradition preserves a memory of a clump or mound in the vicinity of the Study Area, which may have been archaeological. The mound has not been identified archaeologically and may be a misidentified natural feature, however it is possible that the local tradition is correct to some extent, and that a more substantial archaeological feature is present within the Study Area.

The area of higher archaeological potential lies to the east near the church, graveyard and well. The two paths and associated services within the proposed park cross field boundaries that are depicted from the 18th century and it is possible these are earlier in date. A number of swales, an attenuation tank and water services are proposed across the northern end of the park also.

It is recommended that a programme of archaeological test-trenching be carried out to assess for the survival of previously unidentified archaeological features in the vicinity of the

Areas recommended for test-trenching

church, graveyard and well to the east. The testing should also test the areas to where sub-surface services and drainage will be installed along the line of the paths and to the north. Particular attention should be made to the two boundaries to assess if there is any evidence surviving for their creation.

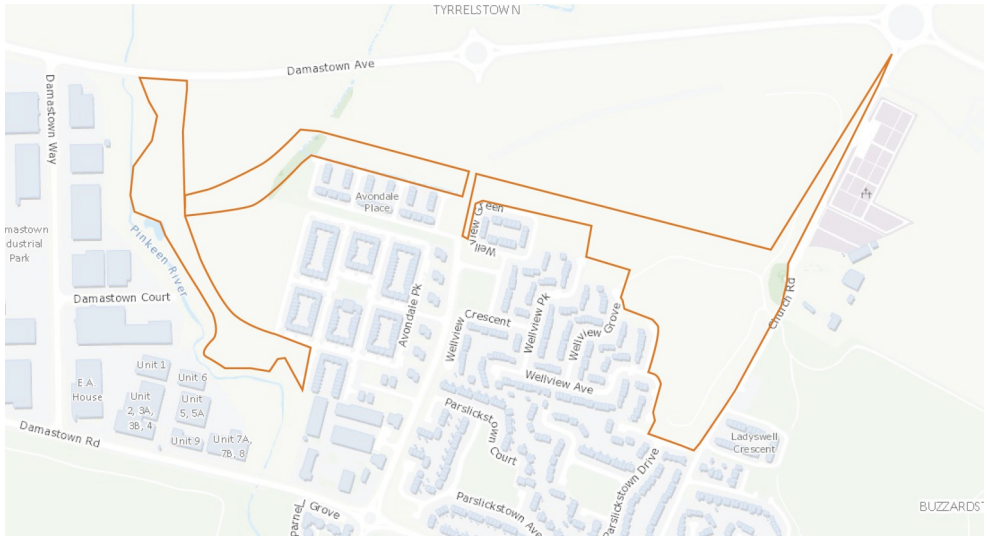
Should archaeology be identified it may be possible to preserve it in situ within the proposed parks development.

Site Location

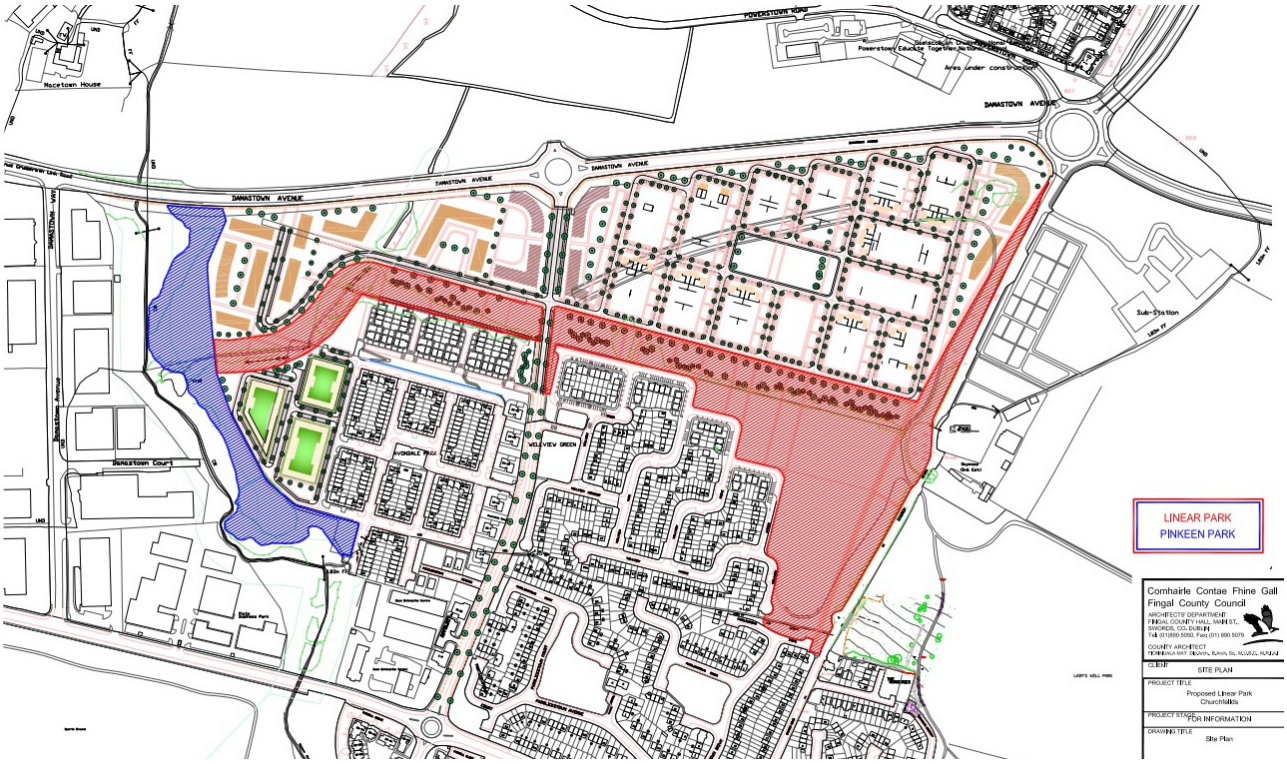
The Study Area is located between Damastown Avenue to the north and Damastown Road to the south in Dublin 15. The Study Area is bounded by industrial buildings fronting onto Damastown Way and Damastown Court to the west, Damastown Avenue to the north, Church Road to the east and by the Avondale Park and Wellview Green developments to the south. It is located within the southern part of Tyrrelstown townland. The Pinkeen River, a tributary of the Tolka River, runs from north to south through the Study Area to the west. The proposed Churchfield development lies to the east of the proposed Pinkeen Park and north of the proposed linear park.

Development proposals

This documentation is submitted as part of a Part 8 planning application to Fingal County



Site location shown on the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series map (top) and the streetviewer map (bottom)



Plan showing the location of the proposed parks at Tyrrelstown (top)

Proposed layout of Churchfields Park (bottom)

Council for a site of c.9.47 hectares. The documentation pertains to a proposed linear park which forms part of a proposed residential development. The documentation should be read in conjunction with other complementary documentation related specifically to the proposed linear park, as submitted by Dermot Foley Landscape Architects, Punch Consulting Engineers, Fallon Design, Faith Wilson Ecologist, Archaeology Plan and The Tree File. The documentation should also be read in conjunction with documentation submitted by the residential design team, which is led by

Walsh Associates Architects, and which includes information related to landscape and open space issued by BSM as well as engineering proposals and other associated documentation.

The proposed linear park is one a of a number of open spaces included in the residential development. The other open spaces are designed by BSM. It is intended that the proposed linear park will ultimately to be extended to form a larger contiguous park of c. 11.8 hectares, stretching from Church Road in the east to the Pinkeen River in the west. A sketch plan for the overall park is included in the Design Rationale, as submitted by Dermot Foley Landscape Architects.

This report relates to the Eastern Linear Park section. A number of paths and associated public lighting are proposed within the park. Service trenches for water will also be required.

It is proposed that in general the ground levels within the new park with be raised up. However, an attenuation tank associated with the proposed housing to the north is to be located within the park along with a number of swales that will act as drainage features.

Planning

A development, also to be known as Church Fields, is proposed directly north of the proposed park development. It is for a residential housing scheme, consisting of approximately 500 units and is bounded by Damastown Avenue to the north and Church Road to the east and new roads to the west and south.

A number of additional planning permissions are listed for the various phases of the developments to the south, the most recent being a grant of planning permission for an additional 70 dwellings in a sub-triangular plot directly east of the proposed Pinkeen Park (Planning Ref. PARTXI/010/19), which was granted in February 2020. A smaller infill development of 20 dwellings at the northern end of the Wellview estate to the east (Planning Ref. PARTXI/006/18) was granted permission in 2019 and lies directly south of the proposed linear park.

The western portion of the Study Area, where the proposed riverside park is located, is zoned as an area of high amenity in the Fingal County Development Plan.

The linear park portion of the Study Area includes an area to the southeast zoned as open space in the development plan, while the remainder of the linear park section to the north lies within lands zoned for residential development. The tree-line along Church Road to the northeast, which also forms part of the proposed linear park, also lies within these lands zoned for residential development.

Archaeological Potential

The Study Area lies to the north of Clonsilla and northeast of Clonee. There are three RMPs within 500m of the site. A well, known as Lady's Well (RMP DU013-009), is located on the west side of Church Road immediately to the southeast of the Study Area. To the east, on the opposite side of Church Road, is a graveyard in Buzzardstown townland with a curving western boundary. Tyrrelstown House (RMP No. DU013-006) is a 19th century two-storey house attached to an earlier c. 1720 house to the rear. It sits on the site of an earlier 16th/17th century house depicted on the Down Survey of 1656 built by the Bellings family. None of these sites lie within the boundary of the Study Area and they will not be affected by the works.

There is some potential for demesne features associated with the 16th/17th century house being uncovered during the works.

A circular mound, known as the clump, is referred to in local folklore in the vicinity of the Study Area. The exact location and nature of this feature is unclear, however it may have been archaeological in nature.

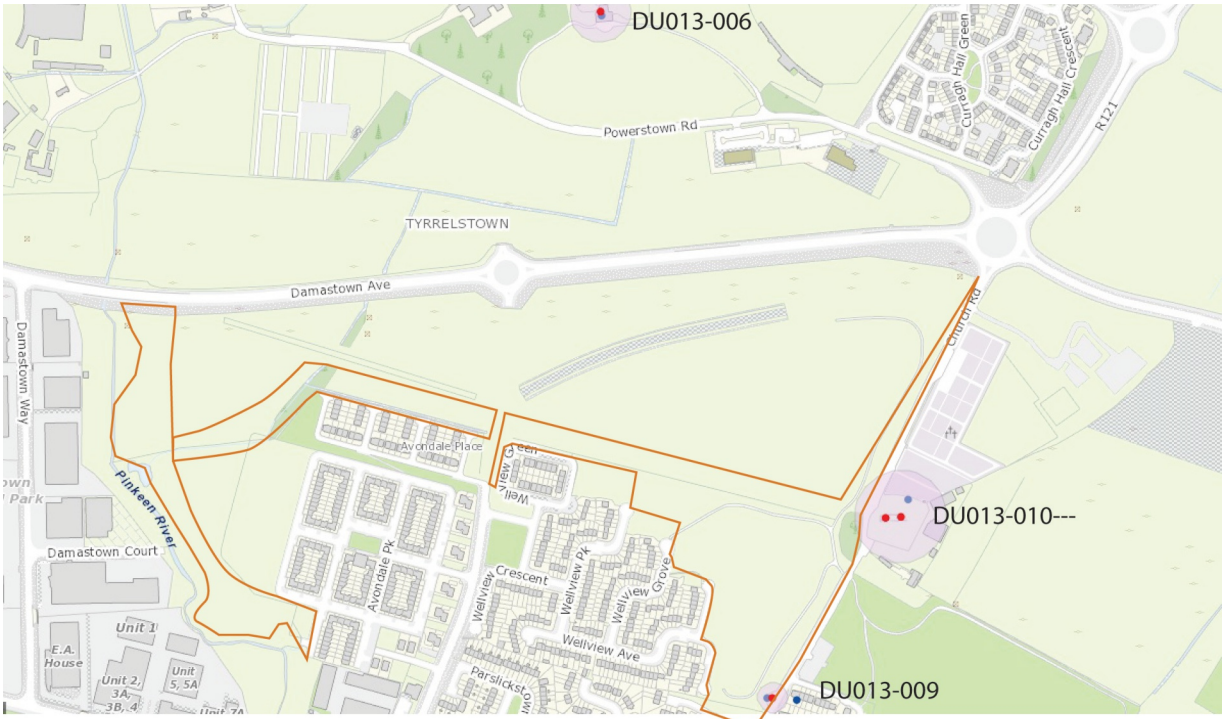
Section 2 Archaeological background

Recorded Monuments

There are five recorded monuments within one kilometre of the site.

Buzzardstown Graveyard (RMP DU013-010--) lies c. 10m east of the Study Area. This is a walled graveyard with a curved boundary along the west at some height above the road. 'The oldest section of the graveyard is the raised area that surrounds the church (DU013-010001-). It contains 18th, 19th century and modern gravestones as well as a number of re-used architectural fragments. The graveyard has been extended to the north twice' (Fingal Historic Graveyards project 2008). Interesting features in the church include the original wicker centering on the ground floor (ibid). The 1996 RMP files (and Fingal County Council) refers to -010001 as the church and -010002 as the graveyard, however the online 'Heritage Maps' resource refers to the graveyard -010003. This may be an error. Appendix 3 of the Fingal County Development Plan 20178-2023 only lists the graveyard as DU013-010003 and omits the church.

Tyrrelstown holy well (RMP DU013-009), known as Our Lady's Well, lies c. 2m east of the Study Area, and is a vaulted well-house by the roadside. The well is accessed by stone steps. 'On the roof are two finials, one a stone carved with a cross in relief and the other a stone niche with an inscription. It is still venerated. Local tradition records that when it first sprang up in was on the left hand side of the road (it is now on the right). The pattern at Our Lady's Well is held on Our Lady's feast days on the 25th March, 15th August and 8th December (Ó Danachair 1958-60). It is reputed to have great healing powers, with the water curing sprains, cuts, bruises and rheumatism (Schools Manuscript Collection vol. 791, p. 20, 72). The well is recognised by Fingal County Council as a County Geological Site.



Tyrrelstown House (RMP DU013-006) lies approximately 420m to the north of the Study Area, and occupies the site of a mid-17th century house built by the Bellings family. It was named on the Down Survey map of 1655 and was described in the Civil survey in 1654 as 'the walls of a great stonehouse' (Simington 1945, 227). It had been damaged in the 1641 Rebellion leaving only walls remaining. The existing building is described by the NIAH as a 'detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1820, attached to earlier two-storey house, c.1720, to rear. Farmyard complex, c.1820 to rear'.

An enclosure in Parslickstown (DU013-005) c. 280m to the southwest was identified through aerial photography taken in 1971 (FSI I. 063/2/1). The image shows a sub-circular enclosure approximately 20m in diameter. The site is now within playing pitches and is not visible at ground level.

A second enclosure in Parslickstown (DU013-030) c. 710m to the southwest was identified through aerial photography taken in 1969 (CUCAP, AYP 55). The image shows a continuous circular cropmark. The site has subsequently been artificially raised in height by up to 2m of introduced material. Two programmes of test-trenching (00E0760 and 03E0467) were unable to confirm the presence or absence of the enclosure.

Buzzardstown House, a 16th/17th century dwelling (DU013-023) is located in Buzzardstown townland c. 735m to the southeast of the Study Area. It is depicted on the Down Survey barony and parish maps of the 1650s. The house was in the possession of the Flood family in the second half of the 18th century. The RMP files record that the gable end of the house gave way on a winter's night in 1761, killing Mrs. Flood and her daughter. Test excavation in 2006 (Licence No. 06E0184) was undertaken on the site of Buzzardstown House, however no archaeological remains were identified.

A mound (DU013-012) c. 935m to the southeast of the Study Area in Corduff townland is preserved within an open space for Warrenmount housing estate, close to a stream running into the Tolka River. The mound measures 28m in diameter and 2m in height and is located within a designated flood plain. It is completely overgrown with brambles. The area appears to have been used for construction scarping and dumping, as well as domestic dumping. It was depicted as a ringfort on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

A designed landscape feature (DU013-011) in Coolmine c. 950m to the southeast is marked as a tree-covered mound in the 1830s Ordnance Survey map. This was one of a number of similar mounds bordered in the northern end of the Coolmine estate. It was removed in the 1950s and appeared as a continuous cropmark in an aerial photograph in the Cambridge collection (CUCAP AP1 27). The site was excavated in 1989, which identified a 26m diameter enclosure defined by a 3m wide ditch, which was 1m in depth. It contained post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe and was interpreted as a tree ring.

The two enclosures in Parslickstown, which would have stood on either side of the Tolka River, may be the remains of ring-ditches or barrows, prehistoric circular burial monuments that date to the Bronze and Iron Age. The date of the mound in Corduff is unknown, however its location along a stream flowing into the Tolka River may also be of significance. It may be prehistoric in date, though this it was depicted as a ringfort on 19th century mapping and is may date to the early medieval period. The remaining Recorded Monuments in the vicinity are late-medieval and post-medieval in date, relics of a time when this part of west Dublin was divided up into large estates for the landed gentry. The tree-ring to the southeast in Coolmine is an interesting counterpoint to the probable prehistoric burial mounds in Parslickstown, an attempt to recreate the mystery and intrigue of an ancient monument within an ordered, and at the time modern, designed landscape.

Topographical Files

The files in the National Museum of Ireland have been consulted. Collectively known as the Topographical Files, they provide information on artefacts, their find spots and any field

monuments, which have been notified to the National Museum.

The NMI has no files from within one kilometres of the site, however it has several entries from within five kilometres.

There is a record of two stone and one metal objects (NMI Reg. No. IA/46/2003) recovered from Casteheany townland, 2km to the southwest. Nothing further is recorded regarding this find.

A leaf-shaped lead object, weight or ingot (NMI Reg. No. 2007:36) found in Hansfield or Phibblestown townland, 3km to the southwest, which was given to the museum by a member of the public, who found it in her back garden. It is of unknown date.

A polished stone axe-head (NMI Reg. No. 1979:104) was uncovered in Kellystown townland, 3.1km to the south.

Post-medieval skeletal remains were also identified 2.5km to the west in Clonee.

A polished stone axe-head (NMI Reg. No. 1980:30) was uncovered in Carpenterstown townland, 3.66km south of the Study Area.

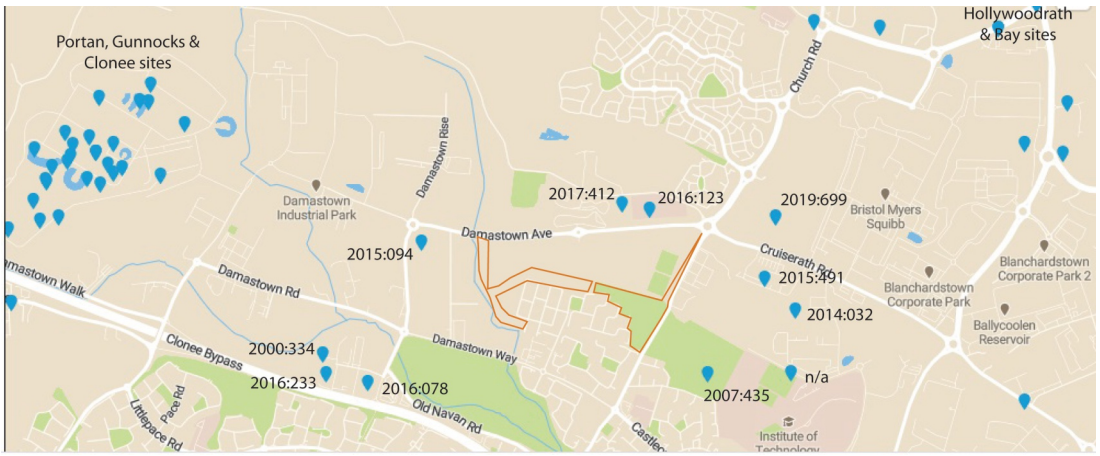
A burial ground was uncovered in Castleknock townland, 3.7km to the southwest. Approximately a third of the burials were excavated, almost 400 individuals. Finds of blue and white glass beads, a lignite ring, bronze pins, flint arrowheads and some iron objects were recorded. A silver coin of Eadgar of England dating to AD 967 was also found, indicating the site was in use in the 10th century.

A polished stone axehead (IA/1988:122) was uncovered close to the Navan Road in Dunboyne, c. 5km to the west. This was produced from Tievebullagh porcellanite and dated to the Neolithic period. Porcellanite is an extremely hard volcanic rock, found in only two locations in the world – Tievebullagh, Co. Antrim and Rathlin Island, and was an important material used for weapons in prehistory. A medieval floor tile (NMI IA/57/1992) was found close to Dunboyne Castle, originally the seat of the Anglo-Norman le Petit family, but later completely rebuilt as a Georgian house.

Archaeological investigations

Seventeen archaeological investigations have been carried out within one kilometre of the Study Area.

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the site of the Educate Together school to the north of the Study Area, north of Damastown Avenue (Licence No. 15E0510). No archaeology was identified during the course of the monitoring, part of which was traversed by the laneway depicted on Rocque's map of 1560 between Tyrrelstown House and Buzzardstown church (Giacometti 2016). This feature also crosses the eastern portion of the Study Area, however the results of the monitoring to the north suggest that this feature may not have left any below ground indicator.



Excavations in the vicinity of the Study Area

Licence No.	Excavations Ref.	Townland	Description	Director
n/a	1989:022	Coolmine	Tree ring enclosure	V.J. Keeley
99E0046	1999:165	Buzzardstown/ Corduff	Non-archaeological	M. Conway
99E0620	1999:260	Cruiserath	Remains of Cruiserath House	M. Gowan
00E0760	2000:334	Parslickstown	Assessment of enclosure	R. Tobin
02E1754	n/a	Tyrrelstown	Non-archaeological	R. O'Hara
06E0184	2006:571	Buzzardstown	Non-archaeological	J. Carroll
07E0273	2007:435	Buzzardstown	Non-archaeological	J. Carroll
07E0848	2007:535	Parslickstown/Coolmine/Buzzardstown	Non-archaeological	A. Johnston
07E1147	2008:369	Cherryhound interchange	Bronze Age funerary pits	R. O'Hara
14E0141	2014:032	Buzzardstown	Isolated pit	F. Walsh & M. Moraghan
n/a	2015:094	Damastown	Non-archaeological	D. Murphy
15E0263	2015:491	Buzzardstown	Non-archaeological	P. Clancy
15E0510	2016:123	Tyrrelstown	Non-archaeological	A. Giacometti
16E0251	2016:078	Parslickstown	Non-archaeological	T. Coughlan & N. Colfer
16E0327	2016:074	Blakestown	Non-archaeological	M.E. Byrne
16E0353	2016:233	Parslickstown	Non-archaeological	B. Foley & D. Bayley
17E0595	2017:412	Tyrrelstown	Non-archaeological	J. O'Dowd
19E0483	2019:699	Cruiserath	Non-archaeological	J. O'Dowd

An archaeological assessment (Licence No. 00E0760) was carried out on the site of the enclosure in Parslickstown (DU013:030), which confirmed that the archaeological enclosure was sealed under almost 2m of redeposited soil and rubble. Testing was not required at the time as the remains were securely preserved beneath the overburden and were preserved in situ.

An excavation (Excavations Ref. 1989:022) was carried out on the site of a tree-ring (DU013-011) in Coolmine townland. The excavation confirmed the presence of a sub-circular enclosure c. 26m in diameter internally, defined by a ditch measuring 3m in width and 1m in depth. Post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe were retrieved from the fill of the ditch.

Archaeological testing (License No: 99E0620) was carried out on the site of Cruiserath House. The remains of a house and associated structures were uncovered.

Archaeological testing and subsequent excavation at the College Business and Technology Park, Buzzardtown (Licence No. 14E0141) uncovered a pit containing a small quantity of charcoal, burnt seed and burnt bone. The charred seeds indicate that cereal processing was taking place nearby, however there was no evidence for in situ burning within the pit itself, which may have been a waste pit. The pit has been dated to the early medieval period.

Unlicenced archaeological monitoring was carried out prior to the construction of a logistics warehouse building and car park in the Damastown Industrial Estate (Fingal Co. Co. 2018, 18). No archaeology was identified.

Further to the northeast, archaeological investigations (Licence No. 07E1147) were carried out along the route of the Mulhuddart-N2 link road in Bay and Hollywoodrath townlands in 2007. Four sites of archaeological significance were identified. The sites comprised: Bay 1 (Late Bronze Age cremation pits), Bay 2 (Middle to Late Bronze Age ring-ditch, a cremation pit and an Iron Age kiln), Bay 3 (early medieval waste pit and later field system associated with Bay House) and Hollywoodrath 1 (early medieval activity, including an 11th-12th century corn-drying kiln). In 2016 additional features were uncovered in Bay, Hollywoodrath and Gaddamendy townlands indicating that this was a substantial concentration of prehistoric activity, with a triple-ditched ring barrow and a single-ditched ring barrow uncovered along with three additional enclosures (O'Donovan et al. 2017, 26). A bi-vallate ringfort was also uncovered during the investigations but was not excavated and was preserved in situ (ibid.).

To the west, across the county border in Meath a number of archaeological investigations carried out in 2015 and 2016 by IAC Ltd. in Portan, Gunnocks and Clonee townlands uncovered three fulachtai fia, three burnt spreads, four hearths, a charcoal production pit and twenty pits (see excavations.ie). Some of the pits contained burnt bone and may be related to burial, while others contained burnt stone and may be related to pyrolithic activity.

Archaeological investigations carried out further to the west in Clonee in 2008 (08E0840) uncovered two large prehistoric wells, one of which contained an Iron Age wooden vessel, as well as post- and stake-holes representing a four-post structure and an L-shaped structure and later medieval activity.

The sites in Gunnocks, Portan and Clonee are a further indication of prehistoric activity along the line of the Tolka River, while those to the northeast at Bay are demonstrate that prehistoric activity was not confined to the immediate vicinity of the watercourses and that the entire landscape was occupied and utilized in the prehistoric past.

An archaeological desktop assessment has recently been carried out for the housing component of the Churchfields development to the north of the proposed park (Courtney 2020). The findings of both assessments are broadly the same.

Site investigation works

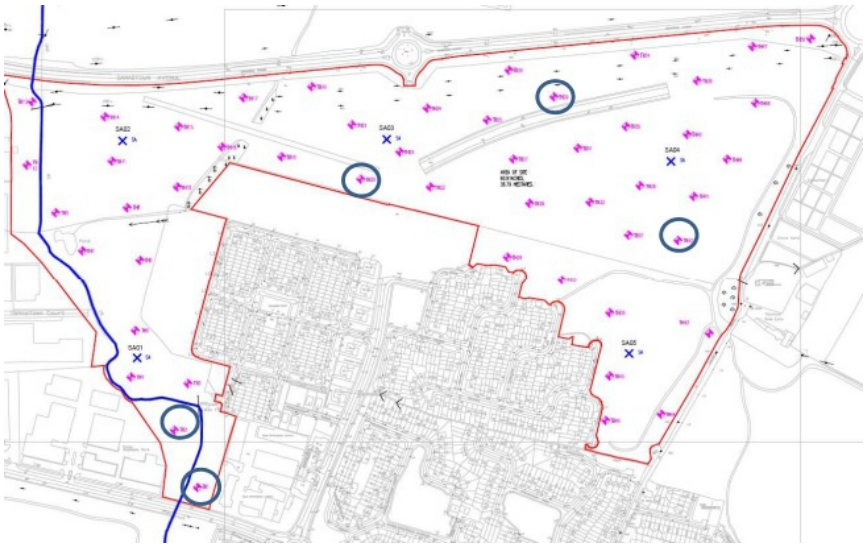
Engineering site investigations were carried out by Ground Investigation Ireland Ltd. within the Study Area in 2017 (Fingal Co. Co. 2018, 19). Bedrock was identified at a depth of 2-3.3m in the west of the Study Area, with topsoil being c. 0.2m in depth. To the east bedrock was encountered between 0.4 and 2m, with topsoil again being c. 0.2m in depth. Made ground was identified within two trial holes at the southern end along either side of the Pinkeen River. Made ground was also identified in three locations to the east, two of which are in the vicinity of the northern end of the proposed linear park.

A map of the existing civil infrastructure traversing the site shows a number of services crossing the northern end of the Study Area, with another running along the eastern side of the Pinkeen River (Fingal Co. Co. 2018). In the eastern portion of the Study Area a diagonal service trench orientated northeast-southwest is shown crossing the proposed linear park, with a north-northeast to south-southwest service trench shown within the Study Area parallel to Church Road. Additional services are depicted within the existing green space associated with the Churchfields development.

Architectural heritage

The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 lists three Protected Structures in the vicinity of the Study Area. These sites are also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

The closest of these is Lady's Well, which is directly to the east of the lands to form the linear park. Buzzardstown Graveyard is also located directly to the east, though it is located on the opposite side of Church Road. Tyrellstown House is c. 420m north of the Study Area.



Locations of trial pits excavated in 2017, after Ground Investigations Ireland 2018

NIAH Reg. No.	Fingal RPS No.	Location & Townland	Date	Description
11346003	0670	Church Road, Buzzardstown	1250-1350	Graveyard with various cut stone grave-markers from c. A.D. 1300 to the present. A rubble stone church, c. A.D. 1700, now in ruins, stands in the graveyard.
11353010	0671	Church Road, Tyrellstown	1650-1750	Rubble stone structure surrounding a holy well, c. A.D. 1700, with a corbelled roof structure. An inscribed stone is present in gable.
11346002	0673	Tyrellstown House, Tyrellstown	1800-1840	Detached five-bay two storey house, c. 1820, attached to an earlier two-storey house, c. 1720 to rear. A farmyard complex is also present to the rear.

There is one feature of industrial significance depicted within the Study Area on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, a gravel pit to the east of the Pinkeen River to the south.

A well is also depicted on the c. 1910s edition of the Ordnance Survey on the northern side of the bend in the Pinkeen River at the southern end of the Study Area.

Section 3 History and cartography

Placename analysis

The analysis of placenames can give an indication of the history and possible archaeology that may survive there as some can preserve elements referring to monuments or structures that are no longer present. The can also preserve the names of previous landowners. While frequently they may date to the post-medieval period, some, as with a number of the townlands in the vicinity of the Study Area, preserve the names of medieval landowners. The placenames database of Ireland, available at www.logainm.ie, was consulted to assess the placenames of the townlands surrounding the Study Area, with other sources referenced.

Tyrrelstown was first mentioned in the Crown Survey of Lands 1540-41 (Mac Niocaill 1992, 195). The initial spelling was 'Thurrelstowne' and a number of variations have been recorded over the years. Tyrrelstown derives its name from the Tyrrell family, Lords of Castleknock, who were granted lands in the parishes of Clonsilla and Mulhuddart, which include the Study Area, in 1178 by Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath (Ball 1920, 8). A junior branch of the Tyrrell family were granted the lands forfeited by Nicholas Hunt of Huntstown, which included the Study Area, at the end of the 14th century after he was outlawed for treason.

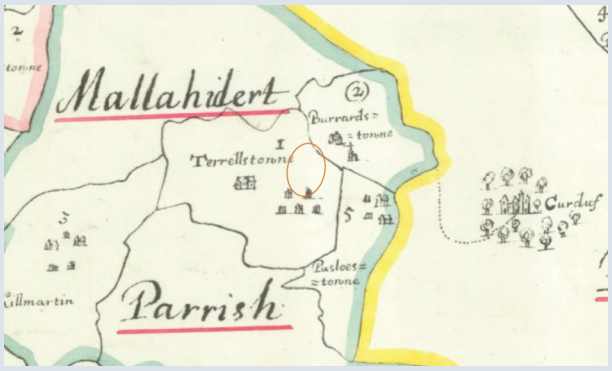
Parslickstown, to the south of the Study Area, is first referred to as Homone Passeleue in the Chartularies of St Mary's Abbey in 1186. A Roger Passeleye or Passelwew is recorded in the Register of the Hospital of St John the Baptist and in the Chartularies of St Mary's Abbey in 1200. This is a family name of Anglo-Saxon origin, originating in the parish of the same name in Sussex, now known as Pashley (Name Origin Research 1980-2017). The townland name gradually evolved through a number of spelling variations to the current Parslickstown.

Buzzardstown, to the east of the Study Area, also derives from a Norman surname, with Willelmo Bossard of Castleknock referred to in the Register of the Hospital of St John the Baptist around 1280. The name went through a number of variations in spelling until the modern Buzzardstown was settled on in the 19th century.

Powerstown is another townland name deriving from its medieval owners, the Powers (Ball 1920, 38). It was in the possession of the Tyrrell family at the end of the 14th century (Ball 1920, 39), a further indication of the territory and power held by the family in the vicinity of the Study Area.

Hollywoodrath, to the northeast of the Study Area, was originally part of the manor of Belgree, but the lands came into the possession of the Hollywood family later in the Anglo-Norman period (Ball 1920, 38-9). The name is first mentioned in Archbishop Alen's Register in 1534. The rath component of the name presumably refers to the presence of a ringfort within the townland, however it is no longer extant.

Cruiserath, to the northeast of the Study Area, was first recorded in the 14th century in Archbishop Alen's register and is associated with the Cruise family. The Cruises were a prominent family in the Middle Ages, and at one point held the office of chief serjeant of Dublin county. The rath element refers to a ringfort, which no longer survives, though it was referred to in historical documents indicating a rath was present within the townland (Ball 1920, 39). Ball (ibid., 86) indicates an earlier name of the townland as 'The Eath', however the origin of that name is unclear.



Seventeenth Century maps:

Down Survey 1656-8
On the Down Survey map for the barony of Castleknock a cluster of five small buildings are depicted to the south of Tyrellstown House, between the house and 'Pasloestonne' townland, now Parslickstown. An additional building is also depicted in the latter townland to the south of the Study Area. The exact location of the buildings within Tyrrelstown townland is unclear and they are not depicted on later mapping or mentioned in the associated terrier for the maps. They may represent a cluster of cabins or cottages, perhaps for labourers on the Tyrrelstown lands.

The Down Survey Parish map of 'Mallahidert' (Barony of Castleknock) depicted the townland of Terrelstowne (Tyrrelstown). Tyrrellstown is noted as belonging to Sir Henry Bealing. Tyrrelstown House is depicted in the centre of the townland as 'a farme house'. The church and graveyard site at Buzzardstown is depicted with a picture of a church spire and cross. A house labelled 'a farm house' is also depicted in Buzzardstown townland, possibly Buzzardstown House. Two houses labelled 'farme houses' are depicted in 'Pasloestowne' townland, now Parslickstown. All three townlands are listed as being in the possession of 'Sir Henry Bealing', an Irish Papist. The Study Area is situated between the church and Tyrrelstown House, but nothing is depicted in the vicinity.

Hollystown, also derives from a family name, however it is first referred to in the 18th century and may be post-medieval in date.

Macetown, to the west of the Study Area, is first recorded as 'Maiston' in the Crown Survey of Lands 1540-41 (Mac Niocaill 1992, 195). Ball (1920, 38) records the translation of Macetown as 'the town of the hill'.

Damastown has been recorded with various spellings since 1547 (Mason 1920, 59). The origins of the name are unclear.

Kilmartin, to the north of the Study Area, derives from the Irish Cill Mhártain, meaning Martin's church. The name has been recorded since the Crown Survey of Lands 1540-41 (Mac Niocaill 1992, 196). A church within a circular enclosure was recorded within the townland, presumably the root of the name.

Coolmine, to the south of the Study area, derives from the Irish Cúil Mhín, meaning a smooth corner, nook or back. It is the site of an early ecclesiastic settlement, supposedly founded by St Mochta, a disciple of St Patrick, which would suggest a late-5th-6th century foundation (Ball 1906, 20).

Mulhuddart is the name of the parish in with the Study Area is located and derives from Mullach Eadrad, or hillock of the milking-place.

Pinkeen is the name given to two tributaries of the Tolka River, with Pinkeen River East being the stream running through the Study Area. The name 'Pinkeen' or pincín refers to the colour of a male minnow during breeding season, though it can also be used to refer to sticklebacks, which are also emblazoned with a red colouration during breeding season (Hurley 2016).

Early history

Few upstanding monuments attest to a prehistoric presence in north Co. Dublin, a result of a long tradition of arable farming on its fertile lands from medieval times (Stout & Stout 1992, 7). The greater Dublin area has seen continuous and increasing occupation over an extended period of time. The more intense agriculture around the growing city followed by the expansion of the city suburbs and infrastructure in the past has made it difficult to identify evidence of earlier prehistoric settlement in the area. A number of monuments have survived, while the use of

aerial photography combined with an increase in archaeological investigation in recent years has seen an increase in the identification of prehistoric archaeology in the area.

The coastal zone provided rich raw materials and food resources, and after period of clearance, could lead to fertile and easily navigable river valleys (Smyth 2014, 134-5). Evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified near other rivers and streams in North Dublin, such as the Santry Stream, with a number of mounds and ring-ditches recorded, while significant prehistoric activity was taking place along the Ward and Broadmeadow Rivers near Swords (McGlade 2019; Rice 2021). The location of the site along the Tolka River and its tributary, the Pinkeen River, would have made it an attractive location in the prehistoric period, and there is growing evidence for prehistoric settlement along the rivers and streams extending from the east coast into the fertile coastal plains and beyond. Some of the artefacts recorded in the Topographical Files of the National Museum hint at prehistoric occupation, notably the polished stone axes found to the south of the Tolka, which are associated with the substantial alterations to the environment carried out by the first farmers of the Neolithic period as they cleared the primary forests and woods to make way for agricultural fields.

Along the Tolka River a number of ring-ditches have been identified to the west at Loughsallagh, while the two enclosures to the south of the Study Area in Parslickstown may also be examples of this type of monument. Ring-ditches or ring barrows typically date to the Bronze and Iron Age and were a form of circular burial monument. A number of large wells or watering holes were also identified in Clonee to the west, one of which contained an Iron Age bucket, while numerous fulachtai fia and burnt spreads were uncovered at Portan, Gunnocks and Clonee to the west of the site, further evidence of the prehistoric occupation along the Tolka River and its tributaries.

A significant prehistoric landscape has also emerged from recent archaeological investigations c. 2km to the northeast of the Study Area at Bay, Hollywoodrath and Gaddamendy, which appears to have been a focus of burial and settlement activity from the Bronze Age into the early medieval period.

Early medieval activity was uncovered in Hollywoodrath townland, c. 2km northeast of the site. The rath element in the placename, as with Cruicerath nearby, may be indicative of an early medieval origin. Two ringforts are also recorded in Corduff townland to the southeast of the Study Area while

The curving boundary of Buzzardstown (Mulhuddart) Church and Graveyard, and the way the boundary wall is respected by the townland boundary, may be indicative of an early medieval origin for this ecclesiastical site (Fingal Historic Graveyards, Vol 2 FG8).

Medieval period

Tyrrelstown derives its name from the Tyrrell family, who were granted the lands in the parishes of Clonsilla and Mulhuddart (which include the development site for the new school at Powerstown) in 1178 by Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath. Many of the local placenames of this area are similarly derived from former landowners, for example the Bossard, Gallan, Hunt and Power families (Ball 1920, 38). During the Anglo-Norman period the southern half of the Parish of Mulhuddart was owned by the Manor of Castleknock (Ball 1920, 39)

Documents pertaining to Tyrrelstown in the medieval period are scant and usually refer only to the Tyrrell family themselves. The Tyrrells held the lands at Tyrrelstown from the 12th century onwards, and Ball (1920, 39) notes the in 1408 Gerald Tyrell also held the lands of Powerstown while Walter Tyrrell was granted property in Huntstown after Nicholas Hunt was outlawed for treason at the end of the 14th century (ibid).

They were a prominent family in the medieval period, and Henry Tyrrell held the office of chief Serjeant of Dublin County (ibid). By 1558 the year of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1st, the lands at Tyrrelstown was still in the possession of the Tyrrell family and Richard Tyrrell named as the owner. At the close of the

Eighteenth Century maps:

Rocque's Map of the County of Dublin (1760)
Rocque's Map depicts Tyrrelstown House as a substantial property. Buzzardstown church and graveyard is also depicted to the east of the Study Area, as is 'Lady Well'. The lands of the Study Area are divided into small fields to the south. The northern portion of the Study Area is depicted as a large field traversed by a laneway connecting Tyrrelstown House and the church at Buzzardstown.

16th century the Tyrrells of Powerstown (and Tyrrelstown) were 'men of name in Dublin': the most significant family in the parish (Ball 1920, 40).

The church as Buzzardstown (also known as Mulhuddart Church) is situated in a raised oval graveyard enclosure to the southwest of the development site and school. The church was first referred to in the early 15th century was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, though as noted above a number of characteristics of this site are suggestive of a pre-Norman date. In 1522-1532 Henry VIII granted license to found a fraternity or guild at the site (Stubbs 1897, 447-8), and the wardens are recorded as including Richard Tyrrell (Statutes, Edw. IV, 677 cited by Ball 1920, 46).

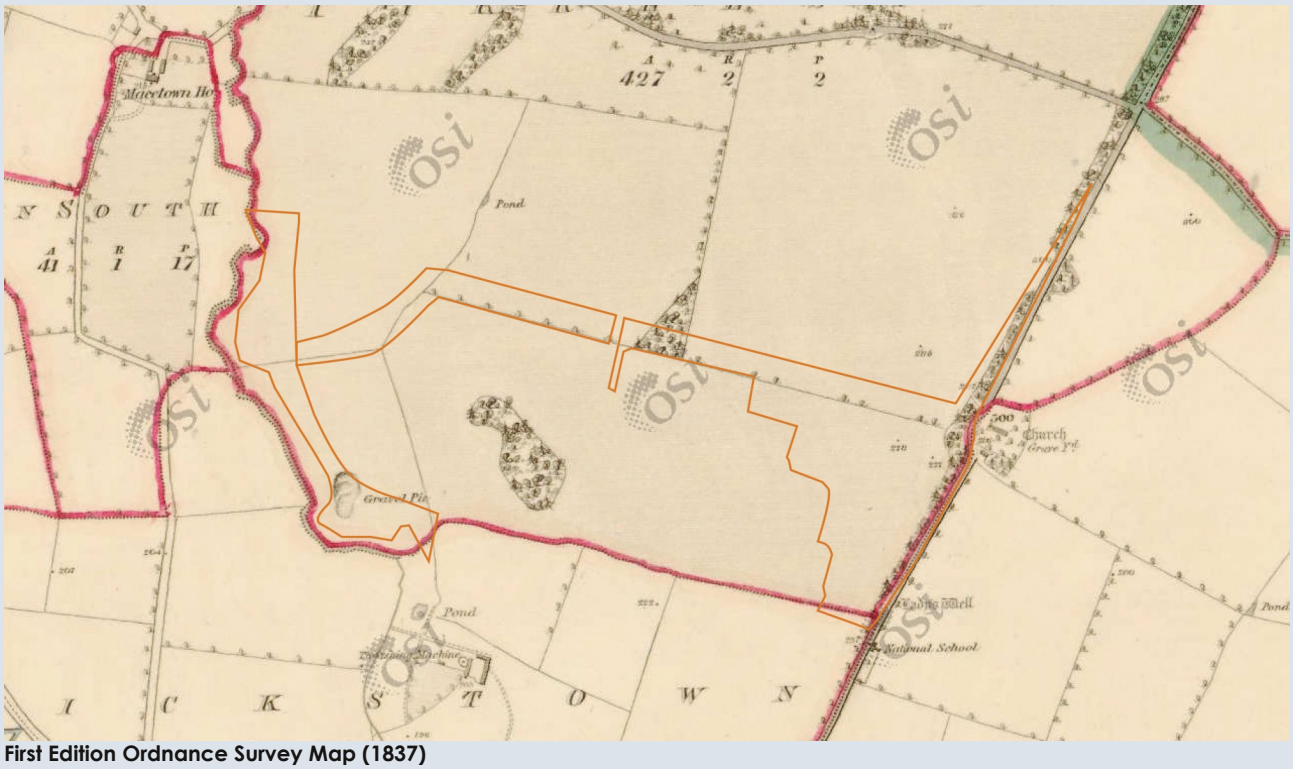
Post-medieval period

In the Civil Survey of 1654-1656, Tyrrelstown or Terrellstown is recorded as belonging to Sir Henry Bealeing (Bellings), a Protestant who inherited the land and 'went to the Irish and remained with them till his death' (Simington 1945, 227). The Bellings family had obtained Tyrrelstown from a crown grant in c. 1600 (Ball 1920, 40).

Sir Henry Bellings of Tyrrelstown House held office of the Provost marshal and was very unpopular through his career. One of the reasons for his unpopularity was during Proceedings against the O Byrnes where he was one of Lord Falklands 'chief instruments', serving as Chief Sherriff of Wicklow he was fined for 'irregularities', the nature of the irregularities were never described. While Richard Bellings was 'viewed with suspicion' (Ball, 1920, 41) and a 'creature of Duke of Ormonde' (ibid, 41).

By the mid-17th century the parish of Mulhuddart which contains Tyrrelstown was overrun by contending armies. The Commonwealth survey of the time recorded that 'no buildings of importance escaped destruction' and of the Bellings house only the walls remained. (Ball 1920, 41). The 1650s Civil Survey records Tyrrelstown as having 'upon the premises the walles of a greate stone house with five or six small houses vallewed by the Jury at eighty pounds' (Simington 1945, 227). The Tythes belonged to the Deanery of St Patricks and consisted of 206 acres of profitable land, 6 acres of meadow and 20 acres of pasture (Simington 1945, 226). By this time Powerstown which belonged to William Freeme escaped the destruction due to his house being small (ibid, 41).

The church at Buzzardstown was also in poor condition by the mid-17th century, and the Civil Survey (1654) records only 'the walls of a church' here (Simington 1945, 227). It was still ruined in 1630, according to a citation (in Ball 1920, 40) by Bishop Bulkley (cited from Mason's 'History of St. Patrick's Cathedral'). In 1643 Lord Cavan found shelter in the church during the Confederate Wars, and after the



First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1837)
The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows some alteration to the field boundaries within the Study Area. There has been some subdivision of the large field to the north and the lane running to the church is no longer depicted. Some consolidation of the fields to the south has also taken place, with the fields now being of similar size.

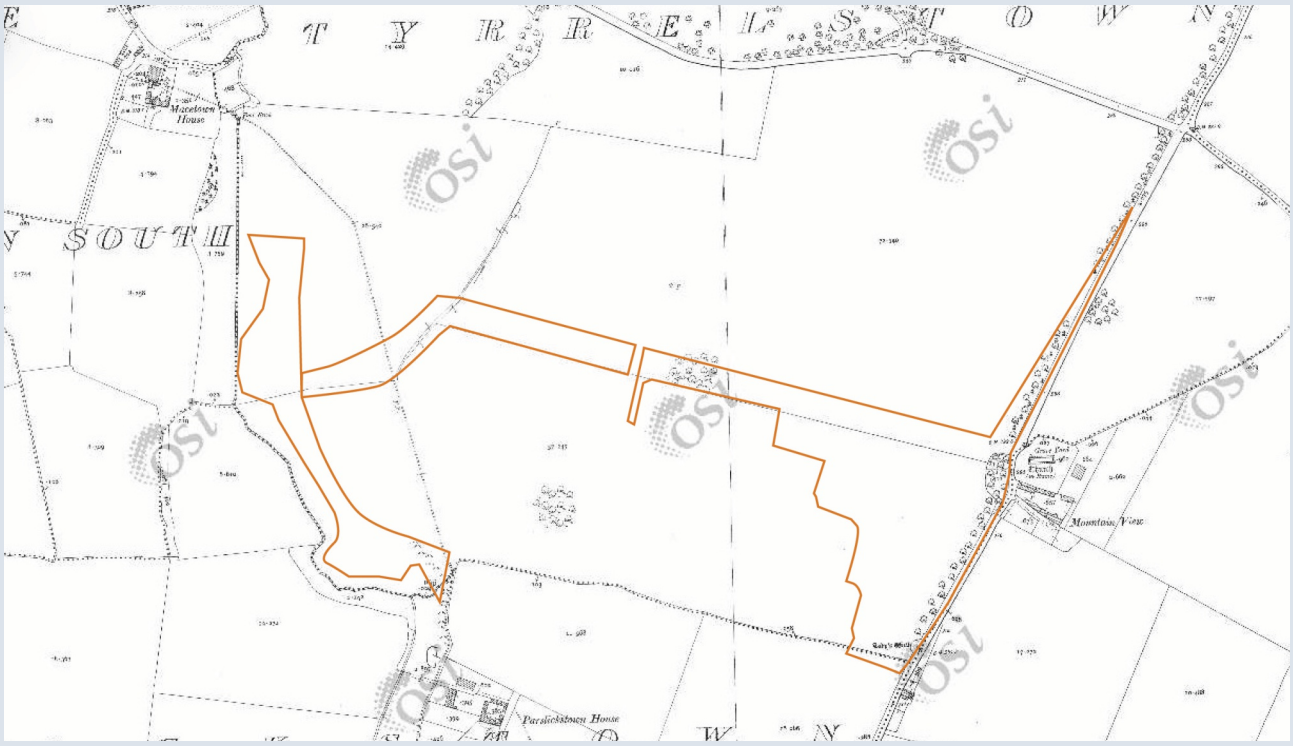
A number of copses of trees are depicted within the Study Area, one of which is located centrally within the proposed linear park and still partially survives. A tree-line is also depicted parallel to Church Road to the east, which also survives in places. A gravel pit is depicted to the southeast along the eastern side of the Pinkeen River.

Tyrrelstown House is depicted as a large house with two courtyards to the north, outbuildings, gate lodges to the east and west. To the north is a large area of land marked as 'The back lawn', with a pond to the west. Buzzardstown Church and Lady Well to the east of the Study Area are depicted as a historic monuments, with the church depicted in an oval enclosure respected by the townland boundary. Both sites are labelled in gothic script.

Battle of the Boyne, in 1690, eight soldiers were murdered while seeking shelter in the church (Ball, ibid). The church was recorded by the antiquarian Austin Cooper in 1775 as containing a ruined vaulted tower, which is depicted in his sketch.

By 1664 Tyrrelstown was occupied by John Jordan (though the ruined house at the time contained not more than two hearths), whereas Powerstown was assessed as having six chimneys and being the residence of Sir John Brodrick, father of the later first Viscount of Midleton (Ball 1920, 42). However, by 1667 ownership of Powerstown had changed to Right Hon Sir John Povey, Baron of the Exchequer, who was now assessed as having 11 chimneys. He did not reside here for long, dying in 1679 in Bordeaux (Ball 1920, 42).

The next accounts we have pertaining to Tyrrelstown comes from 1914 in a document from the Bureau of Military History 1952, a statement taken from Thomas McCrave an Irish Volunteer detailing they're occupation of Tyrrelstown House during the 1916 Easter Rising. He details the march by the Irish Volunteers on foot towards Dublin from Dundalk to join the 1916 Easter Rising at the General Post Office. Upon leaving Dunboyne they came to Tyrrelstown they came to 'a large gentleman's residence known as Tyrrelstown House near or at Mullhuddart. We took possession of the out-buildings at Tyrrelstown Rouse and we posted sentries at all approaches to the place to prevent surprise. The routine of guarding the approaches to Tyrrelstown House proved a most exhausting business. There were so many points to be watched around the large farmyard and so small a number to do the work that each man had to do six hours at a time and in most cases we had to get up for further guard



Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1910)
There is little change within the Study Area on the 1910 OS map, however some additional field boundaries have been removed. Many of the field boundaries depicted at this point are still in place to some extent. The gravel pit is no longer depicted to the southwest, however a well is now depicted near to the site of the former extractive site, directly north of the bend in the Pinkeen River. Some mounds are depicted beside the well, presumably the waste from the quarry.

A footpath is depicted crossing the western part of the Study Area connecting Macetown House to the northwest with Parslickstown House to the south.

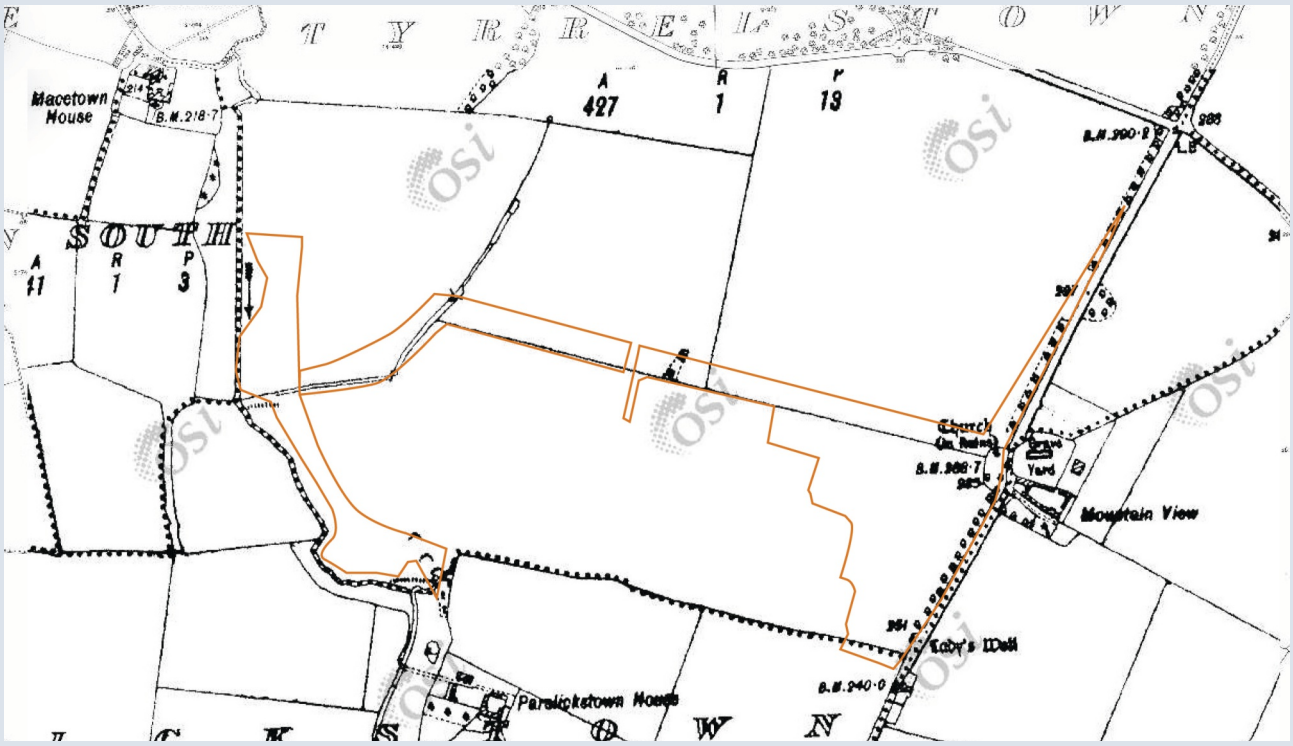
Minor changes have been made to Tyrrelstown House to the north and Buzzardstown Church to the east is now labelled as being in ruins. A new building labelled 'Mountain View' and associated buildings are depicted directly south of the church on the eastern side of the road.

duty after being lying on hay on floor for three or four hours. We soon got exhausted with this routine of little sleep and constant watching' (Bureau of Military History 1952, 7). McCrave details seeing the 'flares in the night sky of the buildings burning in Dublin City' (ibid, 8) and later sending dispatches to Padraig Pearse at the GPO to travel to Dublin, Pearse answers saying they will not be able to enter Dublin as it is surrounded by British soldiers. The volunteers continue to hold Tyrrelstown until the 31st April when they send a young lady to Dublin to get word of how the rising is proceeding. The girl returned at 1930 that evening and orders were relayed to the soldiers to prepare to leave as the rising had failed (ibid, 9).

Folklore

Occasionally there can be a kernel of truth in tales preserved in local folklore, which can help identify previously unknown or forgotten archaeological and historical sites. A collection of local folklore was compiled by the schoolchildren of Ireland in the 1930s known as the Schools' Collection and is part of the National Folklore Collection. The record for Mulhuddart school (Vol. 0790; www.duchas.ie) includes a number of tales relating to the lands in the vicinity of the Study Area.

The most intriguing feature referred to in the record for Mulhuddart school is a circular 'clump' or earthen mound in Tyrrelstown, which is described as having a diameter of 85 feet or c. 21m. A number of stories relating to the clump are recorded. One suggested it was



Cassini Ordnance Survey Map (1950)
Again there is little change within the Study Area. The well is no longer depicted to the southwest, though the mounds likely to represent the waste from the 19th century gravel pit are again depicted. The footpath connecting Macetown House and Parslickstown House is no longer depicted. Again, some slight alterations to field boundaries have been made.

The copse of trees located centrally within the proposed linear park is depicted at a smaller size. The tree line along Church Road is also still present.

built by Cromwell to mount artillery when destroying the church at Buzzardstown. Another suggests that a church called 'Cille Siarna', or the Church of the Shepard was located outside the clump and that the clump was a burial ground. A road passing the clump was called 'Shill Eran', reputedly named after the church at the clump. Another story suggested the clump was a Danish burial ground. The clump is described as being three quarters of a mile north of the village of Mulhuddart, though the exact location is unclear from the maps or aerial photographs. It was reputedly in the well field, the field beside the Lady Well.

The local folklore also records that the Lady Well was associated with a cure for rheumatism and sore eyes. The well was frequented on Pattern Day and devotions were held at the well. Dealers erected camps in the fields around the well selling drink and refreshments, and the presumably drunken conduct of the people attending led to the pattern being stopped.

The origins of some of the placenames in Tyrrelstown were suggested, with the Pinkeen said to derive from the quantity of pinkeens or minnows caught in the river. Field names such as the night field, the well field, the pump park, the crab field and the green are recorded. The night field was so called as men driving their cows to market during winter used to leave them in the field until daybreak. The well field was the field beside the Lady Well, while a pump was previously present in pump park. The crab field had many crab apple trees growing around it, and may indicate a former orchard. Other field names within the townland relate to field sizes of ten and sixteen acres.

A number of field names in the neighbouring townland of Buzzardstown are recorded including the brick field, referencing brick production in the past, which is not recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps, and the camp field, apparently referencing an Anglo-Norman encampment.

The name of the crossroads to the north of Buzzardstown cross and east of Tyrrelstown House is given as Magine's cross, reputed

named after a girl called Magine that died near the crossroads.

The schools collection also mentions the local landlord at the time of the recording as being Baron Robeck, who was the landlord for Parlickstown, Tyrrelstown, Buzzardstown and Bay. He is recorded as residing at Grange Naas and was reputed to be a good landlord, with no evictions carried out in the district. The de Robeck family initially had the family name of Fock and were originally from Northern Germany (Bunbury 2004). Their ancestor Hans Fock moved to Estonia in the 1560s at the time that it came under Swedish rule and his descendants were elevated to the Swedish peerage and had strong military connections (ibid.). The 2nd Baron de Robeck married Anne Fitzpatrick in the late 18th century, beginning the Irish connection for the family. The 4th Baron is accredited with the construction of Gowran Grange, near Punchestown, Naas in 1857, as referenced in the schools collection (ibid.).

Aerial photography
Ordnance Survey ortho photographs 1995-2012

The 1995 aerial image (top left)shows a much disturbed site traversed by roads and a roundabout, the remnants of which are still visible. The eastern and western portions of the Study Area are less disturbed by this development. The site of the gravel pit is visible to the southwest of the Study Area. The central portion of the Study Area has been much disturbed by the insertion of the roads, however the copse of trees first depicted in the 19th century appears to have survived to the east of the roundabout. The field to the east of this has a number of linear markings, which may be related to the adjacent road construction.

To the east Buzzardstown graveyard is much expanded, extending to the north of the earlier graveyard.

The aerial photograph from 2000 (bottom left) shows little change, though the roads and roundabout within the north of the Study Area are becoming overgrown. This continues in the 2005 (top right) aerial image, with the roundabout and nearby road almost completely overgrown.

The aerial image for 2009 (bottom right) shows that Damastown Avenue has been constructed to the north of the Study Area. New development has also taken place to the south of the Study Area at Avondale Park. The roads and roundabout previously traversing the Study Area continue to be overgrown, though a section was reopened as site access for the construction of Avondale Park. Mounding of spoil is visible to the west of the haul road.

Google Earth Pro 2003-2020
Satellite imagery for the Study Area has also been assessed. A number of circular anomalies are visible within the rough ground to the north between 2012 and 2017. These appear to relate to tethering points or lunges for horses or ponies and are not archaeological. Some additional development took place to the north of Wellview Park and Avondale Park between 2017 and 2019. The most recent satellite imagery available is from 2020, which shows the haul roads associated with the most recent development fading and becoming grassed over. No additional features were identified from the satellite imagery.

Section 4 Site inspection

A site inspection was carried out on the 18th March 2021 in fine, sunny weather.

The Recorded Monuments

The Lady's Well is located directly to the west of Church Road. The ground surrounding it is covered in concrete and is c. 0.3m below the existing pavement level and c. 0.2m below the road level. A railing surrounds the well with the footpath bending around the well to the west. The eastern end of the green space lies to the west of a low bank west of the well with an iron railing forming the boundary at this point.

The remains of Buzzardstown Church stand on the opposite side of Church Road, east of the Study Area. It is located on a raised area at the southern end of the modern graveyard, with the original graveyard appearing to have been sub-circular. The road curves around the western boundary of the graveyard. The existing structure has been repaired with cement and consists of the western residential tower surviving to first floor level with part of a stone barrel vault surviving in the interior. There is a lot on waste and rubbish within the tower. To the east of the tower the remains of an undivided nave and chancel are present, with the northern wall surviving the best. The RMP files note that the church is first mentioned in the 15th century, though the shape of the graveyard may imply an earlier establishment. Two low parallel banks are evident to the east of the church within the graveyard and are of uncertain function. There are extensive views to the east, west and south and moderate views to the north.

The Study Area

The green space to the southeast slopes from north to south. Trees and a hedgerow bound

View of Lady's Well, looking west (top)

View of Buzzardstown Church from the Study Area, looking east (centre)

View of Buzzardardstown Church and graveyard, looking northwest (bottom)

the eastern side of the green space with a section of iron railing to the south. It is bounded by a metal railing to the south and by the Wellview estate to the west. The ground level also slopes down to the west, with the Wellview estate built at a lower level than the green space to the east. The hedgerow to the north is in line with the northern end of the most recent phase of the construction and is depicted on the Field Edition Ordnance Survey mapping. Some manholes were evident at the edges of the green space indicating existing services are present within the green space.

To the north of the hedgerow the ground levels out presumably into informal grass playing fields, however no static goal posts are present. This is bounded by trees and hedgerow along Church Road to the east and by a bank and hedge to the north. A c. 4m wide and 2m high bank orientated north-south forms the western boundary of the playing field portion of the space. This does not appear to be of antiquity and presumably relates to the levelling out of the ground to the east to form the playing field.

To the west of the bank is rougher ground sloping gently to the west and south. This portion of the Study Area was quite overgrown. A number of burnt out cars were evident. The abandoned roads within this portion of the site are apparent and overgrown. Some paths are also evident and deep storm drains associated with the roads. Other services are also likely to be present.

An overgrown copse of trees is present directly north of the existing and recently constructed housing, with the access road for the new

View of green space to east of the Wellview estate, looking northwest (top left)

View of hedgerow at northern end of green space to east of the Wellview estate, which is at least 18th century in date (bottom left)

View of playing fields to the north of the field boundary with service manholes visible in the foreground (top right)

View of tree line along Church Road, looking east (bottom right)

housing partially cutting off access to the eastern side. The copse appears to be located on raised ground and is higher than the ground directly to the north and west. It is unclear whether the ground level has been intentionally raised, or when this may have happened. Recent rubbish within the trees indicates it is frequented by youths. A modern bank associated with the recent construction to the south runs up to the copse from the west.

To the west of the haul road for construction traffic leading off Damastown Avenue to the north numerous spoil heaps are present. A large spoil heap is present to the west of the haul road itself, while smaller heaps of spoil and

View of the overgrown area to west of playing fields, looking west (top left)

View of copse of treeswithin central area, which is at least 19th century in date, looking west (centre left)

View of burnt out cars on abandoned roads within central part of Study Area, looking northeast (bottom left)

View of abandoned and overgrown roads and paths within central part, looking northeast (top right)

View of storm drain along side of abandoned road, looking west (centre right)

View of madern disturbance in central part, looking west (bottom right)

gravel are present along the line of the linear park between the recently constructed housing and the former road. The road now appears to be used by local youths for rallying and burning out cars. A deep storm drain is present along the southern side of the road.

A deep ditch and hedgerow is present to the west running northeast-southwest in line with the western edge of the current housing. This ditch is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The ditch has partially been filled in to the north of the road. To the west of the ditch the Study Area is less overgrown and appears as undulating rough grass.

A broad sub-circular raised area, which appears natural, is present towards the western end of the Study Area, east of the Pinkeen River, with scrubby overgrowth on its western side and rough grass to the east. It is c. 10m in height above the stream and c. 25m to the east. There are view upslope to the east towards the church at Buzzardstown from this point. The rough grass to the east appears to be used as a rallying or scrambler circuit.

The river is very overgrown yet still flowing. It is c. 2.5-3m in width and runs approximately north-south to the northwest of the Study Area, turning to the east towards the southwest. There is a level area beside the stream to east at the northern end. This may relate to the laneway depicted on Rocque's 1760 map, which shows a road along the eastern side of the stream running towards Powerstown to the northwest. This road is not depicted on the 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. A bank, c. 2.5m in height, forms the western side of the stream and was possibly created when the

View of overgrown ditch and hedgerow towards western end of site, which is at least 19th century in date (top left)

View of raised area at the western end of the site, the possible location of the 'clump', looking northwest (bottom left)

View of raised area to the west, the possible 'clump', to one side of a road currently used for rallying, looking west (top right)

View of broad space between the raised area and the stream, possibly the location of the 18th century road, looking east (bottom right)

View of Pinkeen River, looking south (top left)

View of gabbions lining side of river to south, looking south (centre left)

View of overgrown former gravel pit, looking northwest (bottom left)

Views from top of the possible 'clump', looking east towards Buzzardstown Church (top right)

Views from top of the possible 'clump', looking southwest towards Dublin Mountains (bottom right)

industrial buildings to the west were constructed.

The western portion of the Study Area, the site of the proposed Pinkeen Park, is also divided by a hedgerow that appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. To the south of this the site of the former gravel pit appears as a copse of dense shrubs. A gap to the east was accessible for a short distance and it appears that the interior of the gravel pit was backfilled. The area between the quarry and the river to the south is very overgrown. There was no sign of the well near the southern boundary of the Study Area. The opposing bank of the river to the southwest is formed by gabbions, presumably relating to the industrial buildings to the west.

Views

From the northern end of the Study Area there are extensive views to the south of the west Dublin Hills and across the lowlands to the west. Buzzardstown Church sits on higher ground to the east with the ground levelling to the east of the church. The ground also rises

slightly to the north so the views in that direction are not extensive.

The Clump?

In the northwest of the Study Area the raised area to the east of the Pinkeen River appears to be the best candidate for this feature. There is a suggestion that a road or laneway previously ran along the eastern side of the stream, possibly the road that is mentioned as running past the clump. The raised area also has a view of Buzzardstown Church, which much of the linear park portion of the development did not due to the curvature of the slope. Whether this feature is archaeological or geological is unknown, however it clearly formed part of the local mythology and was a feature recognised as unusual with stories attached. The copse of trees midway along the southern boundary of the linear park section of the Study Area is another candidate for the clump, though again it is unclear whether this slightly raised area formed naturally or was manmade.

Section 5 Impact Assessment

Introduction

The proposed park development at Church Fields is located in lands to the north of Mulhuddart village in the northern side of the Tolka River. The park is part of a linear park running to the north of the Wellview estate between the stream known as the Pinkeen River to the west and Church Road to the east. The Eastern Linear Park section comprises the eastern portion of the proposed parklands, bounded by Church Road to the east, by the Wellview estate to the south, by the access road for the Wellview Estate to the west and by proposed new housing to the north.

A residential development is to be constructed in the lands directly north of the proposed park. An archaeological desktop assessment for the residential development has recently been carried out (Courtney 2020), which had similar conclusions to the this assessment.

The eastern portion of the proposed park lands is currently in use as playing fields. A large modern earthen berm divides it from the western portion of the proposed park, which is overgrown and disused. A number of burnt out cars were noted in this portion of the proposed park lands during the site inspection.

Archaeological potential

There are no known archaeological sites within the Study Area, however a number of Recorded Monuments are located in the immediate vicinity. To the east Buzzardstown church and graveyard are located on the opposite side of Church Road, while Lady's Well is located on the western side of the road, to the south. The walled graveyard surrounding the church is raised and curved to the west, suggesting it may have early medieval origins. There is potential

for features associated with an early ecclesiastic settlement to be located nearby, such as cereal-drying kilns.

Main features identified within the Study Area

Summary of impacts and subsurface works required for the proposed park development

The tree-line along Church Road appears to have been in place in the mid-18th century, as depicted on Rocque's map. Two field boundaries that were in existence in the 18th century and possibly earlier are located within the proposed park lands. One of these forms the southern boundary of the proposed park and the second lay to the west along the eastern side of the small copse of trees. It is possible that these may preserve the remains of earlier boundaries, perhaps dating to the medieval period.

While the growth of Dublin city and the intensive agricultural practices in its hinterland have removed the upstanding elements of many prehistoric monuments that were in the region, archaeological investigations in recent times have shown that prehistoric archaeology does survive beneath the ground in the Dublin area. A number of polished stone axes have been uncovered, evidence of the clearing of the primary forests in the area in the Neolithic period. Additional activity is frequently found along the main rivers of the area, such as the Tolka to the south of the site, but also along their smaller tributaries, such as the Pinkeen to the west of the Study Area. The closest examples of this to the site are the two enclosures in Parslickstown townland, south of the site, which may be the remains of ring-ditches, located on either side of the Tolka River. These features are frequently found to be burial monuments and can date to the Bronze and Iron Ages. To the west of the Study Area a concentration of prehistoric pits, fulachtai fia and other features was uncovered in the vicinity of the Tolka River and the Pinkeen West River, again highlighting prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the river and its tributaries. To the northeast of the Study Area a large complex of archaeology was uncovered in the vicinity of Bay townland with numerous enclosures and burial monuments identified dating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and early medieval period. This may indicate a local population centre in the vicinity of the site. There is a potential for previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeology being uncovered within the proposed park lands.

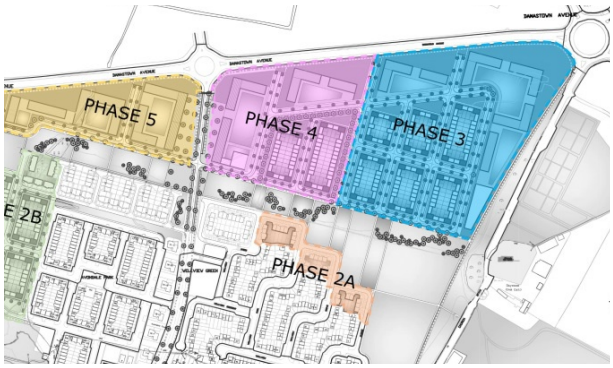
Many of the townlands in the area, including Tyrellstown in which the Study Area is located, derive their names from medieval or post-medieval landowners. However, other early medieval settlements or ringforts in the vicinity are suggested in the survival of the 'rath' element of some of the nearby placenames.

There is a local tradition of a 'clump' or mound being located in the vicinity of the Study Area, with a number of suggestions relating to its origin. There were no obvious candidates for this feature identified during the site inspection,

however an area of higher ground to the east of the Pinkeen River and west of the proposed Churchfields Park may be the feature referred to. A second possibility is a small copse of trees towards the west of the proposed park, however this appears too close to Buzzardstown Church to conform to some of the local traditions about the site. The local traditions refer to a church located beside the clump, as well as a former road or lane located beside it, while others refer to the possibility the mound relates to burial. The mound is unknown archaeologically and may be a natural feature that stories became associated with, however it is possible that the local traditions preserve memories of a site that has subsequently been forgotten.

Development proposals

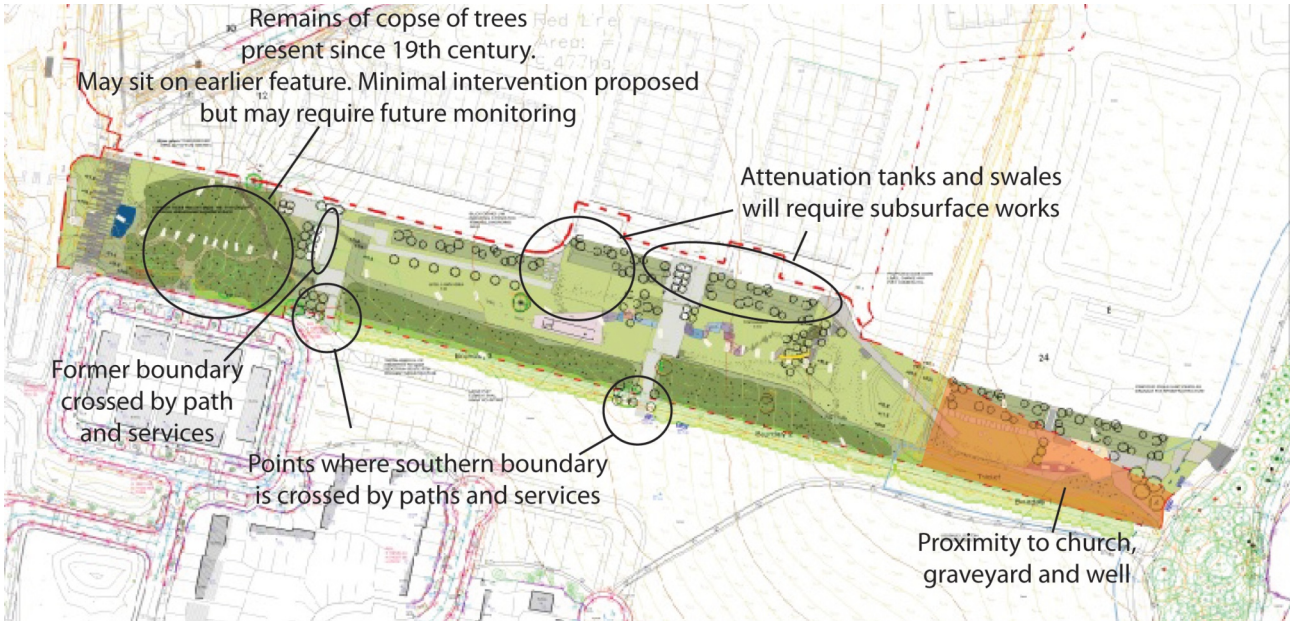
This documentation is submitted as part of a Part 8 planning application to Fingal County Council for a site of c.9.47 hectares. The documentation pertains to a proposed linear park which forms part of a proposed residential development. The documentation should be read in conjunction with other complementary documentation related specifically to the proposed linear park, as submitted by Dermot Foley Landscape Architects, Punch Consulting Engineers, Fallon Design, Faith Wilson Ecologist, Archaeology Plan and The Tree File. The documentation should also be read in



Plan of the proposed Churchfields Park (top)

Proposed infrastructure in the vicinity of the Study Area (centre)

Phasing of the proposed housing to the north of the Study Area (bottom)



Summary of potential impacts of the proposed park

conjunction with documentation submitted by the residential design team, which is led by Walsh Associates Architects, and which includes information related to landscape and open space issued by BSM as well as engineering proposals and other associated documentation.

The proposed linear park is one a of a number of open spaces included in the residential development. The other open spaces are designed by BSM. It is intended that the proposed linear park will ultimately to be extended to form a larger contiguous park of c. 11.8 hectares, stretching from Church Road in the east to the Pinkeen River in the west. A sketch plan for the overall park is included in the Design Rationale, as submitted by Dermot Foley Landscape Architects.

A number of paths and associated public lighting are proposed within the park. Service trenches for water will also be required.

It is proposed that in general the ground levels within the new park with be raised up. However, an attenuation tank associated with the proposed housing to the north is to be located within the park along with a number of swales that will act as drainage features.

Impact assessment

There is no known archaeology within the bounds of the Study Area and as such, the proposed development of the linear park will not impact directly on any known archaeology. The creation of the parks and upgrading of the green spaces will maintain the open area to the west of the closest Recorded Monuments to the Study Area along Church Road, preserving the existing views over the lowlands to the west. This would be a positive impact of the proposed park development.

Parts of the central portion and western end of the proposed linear park have already been severely impacted by previous infrastructural works. The eastern portion of the Study Area has been landscaped, however it is unknown how much ground level alteration has taken place. This portion of the site is in the closest proximity to the church, graveyard and well, and it is possible additional features associated with these sites may survive in the vicinity.

The boundary to the south, which dates to the 18th century or earlier, is to be largely maintained, however it will be broken through in two locations to allow for connections between Wellview to the south and the new development to the north. A former boundary dating to the 18th century or earlier is located within the proposed park towards the western

end and is in the vicinity of one of the proposed paths.

Landscaping works within the eastern portion of the Study Area may encounter previously unknown archaeology. Landscaping works within the central portion of the Study Area may also encounter previously unknown archaeology, however this is more likely to have been disturbed during the previous infrastructural works and there is a lower potential for the survival of archaeology within this area.

Overall, the proposed development of parklands at Churchfields will improve the local amenity and preserve views from the known archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity. It is possible that previously unknown archaeology may be identified during the development of the parks. It may be possible to preserve these in situ within the proposed park development.

The 'do nothing' impact

If the proposed park is not developed at this point it is possible that the lands will be zoned for housing at a later point, which would negatively impact the views from the known Recorded Monuments in the immediate vicinity, as well as any unknown archaeology surviving within the site.

Section 6 Recommendations

Recommendations

A targeted programme of archaeological test-trenching should be carried out within the proposed Eastern Linear Park. This should test the areas where ground level reduction is to be carried out, as well as the eastern end of the site, which is closest to the Recorded Monuments of the church, graveyard and well. The testing should also investigate the field boundary to the south and the former boundary to the west. These are marked from the 18th century but may be earlier land divisions and should be assessed.

At present minimal intervention is proposed in the vicinity of the copse of trees to the west. If this should change and sub-surface works be required in this area all works should be archaeologically monitored in case the copse of trees lies on earlier and previously unidentified archaeology.

Should archaeological features be encountered during the testing programme it may be possible to preserve them within the park development. Where this is not possible excavation may be required in advance of the groundworks associated with laying out of the parks development.

Additional recommendations, such as monitoring during the topsoil removal phase of the groundworks may also be made based on the results of the testing programme.

These recommendations are subject to the approval from the National Monuments Service.

Areas recommended for archaeological test-trenching. Particular attention should be given to the points crossing the southern boundary and the eastern portion of the site adjacent to the church and graveyard

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