



CourtneyDeery

ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Impact Assessment report  
Local Authority Owned Housing Development  
under Section 179a of the Planning & Development Act

---

For

Fingal County Council

---

Licence Ref. 24E0067

RMP No: DU011-144001/004

ITM 716737E; 747872N

Author Siobhán Deery BA, MA, H-Dip (Ed.), Dip  
Planning & Env. Law, MIAI, Licence Eligible  
Archaeologist



## CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	7
1.1.	General .....	7
1.2.	Former Oldtown Mooretown LAP lands archaeological assessments. ....	8
1.3.	Proposed development .....	9
1.4.	Research Methodology.....	12
2.	Archaeological and Historical Background .....	13
2.1.1.	Prehistoric Period.....	14
2.1.2.	Early Medieval Period and Ecclesiastical Settlement.....	15
2.1.3.	Secular Settlement .....	17
2.1.4.	Medieval period .....	17
2.1.5.	Post-medieval period .....	18
2.2.	Cartographic Sources.....	19
2.2.1.	Down Survey, Barony Map of Nethercross, 1656 (Figure 7).....	19
2.2.2.	Rocque’s Map of County Dublin, 1760 (Figure 8) .....	20
2.2.3.	Taylor’s Map of County Dublin, 1816 (not shown) .....	20
2.2.4.	First edition Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10560, 1837 and revised editions (Figure 9) 20	
3.	Archaeological and Architectural Heritage.....	22
3.1.	Statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites .....	22
3.2.	Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Sites .....	24
3.3.	Topographical Files.....	25
4.	Field inspection.....	25
4.1.	Introduction.....	25
4.2.	Field inspection.....	26
4.2.1.	Field 1 .....	26
4.2.2.	Field 2 .....	26
4.2.3.	Field 3 .....	27
4.2.4.	Field 4.....	28
4.2.5.	Mooretown - Field 13.....	29
4.2.6.	Field 14 .....	31
5.	Archaeological Testing.....	32
5.1.	Introduction.....	32
5.1.1.	Field 13.....	32

5.1.2.	Field 1 (Trenches 1,1a–5) .....	33
5.2.	Methodology .....	33
5.3.	Results .....	34
5.3.1.	General.....	34
5.3.2.	Field 1 (Trenches 1,1a–5) .....	34
5.3.3.	Field 13 (Test Trench 6 – 10) .....	39
6.	Summary and Potential Impacts .....	44
6.1.	Summary.....	44
6.2.	Potential Impacts.....	44
6.2.1.	Phase 1 application lands.....	44
6.2.2.	Overall Mooretown Framework Plan Lands .....	45
7.	Proposed Mitigation.....	45
7.1.	Mooretown Phase 1 Development .....	45
7.2.	Framework Plan Area .....	46
8.	REFERENCES.....	47
8.1.	Online Sources.....	48
APPENDIX 1	SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION .....	49

**List of Figures.**

Figure 1	Proposed development site location and lands in the ownership of the applicant .....	7
Figure 2	Archaeologically sensitive areas outlined in green as defined by investigations in the Oldtown- Mooretown LAP area .....	9
Figure 3	, RMP sites and zones of notification established on the basis of this work.....	9
Figure 4	Proposed development site layout .....	11
Figure 5	Overall Lands - Framework Plan (Source: BSM 2023) .....	12
Figure 6	Sites identified in the LAP lands with the subject lands outlined.....	14
Figure 7	Down Survey Map c.1656.....	19
Figure 8	Rocque’s Map of County of Dublin 1760 and framework plan area .....	20
Figure 9	Ordnance Survey Map, 1837 showing the proposed development land parcel.....	21
Figure 10	Ordnance Survey Map c.1950’s, with the overall Framework Plan lands and current application area .....	22

Figure 11 Recorded archaeological monuments (RMP sites) and the proposed development area .....	23
Figure 12 Archaeologically sensitive zones within the framework plan lands.....	24
Figure 13 Framework plan lands, proposed development lands, RMP site locations and field numbers.....	25
Figure 14 Geophysical survey interpretation, former and current (Field 1 and Field 13) and test trenches.....	32
Figure 15 Geophysical survey results and the archaeologically sensitive area in Field 13 .....	33

**List of Plates.**

Plate 1 View southeast across Field 1, note the mounds of spoil overgrown with dense vegetation .....	26
Plate 2 Field 2, view looking south .....	27
Plate 3 Field 3 looking north.....	28
Plate 4 Field 3 looking towards the site of the holy well and site of fulacht fiadh .....	28
Plate 5 View looking northwest across Field 4.....	29
Plate 6 View looking northwest across Field 13.....	29
Plate 7 Access established between the Rathbeal Archaeological Park and the proposed Mooretown extension of it.....	30
Plate 8 View from on top of the enclosing mounds in the Rathbeal Park towards the eastern sloping side of Field 13. The property boundary and roofline of the dwelling block have clear views of the site of the field system. ....	30
Plate 9 View from the pedestrian path within the southeastern corner of the Rathbeal Archaeological Park towards the eastern sloping side of Field 13. The central core of the field system is located to the right, where the trees are. ....	31
Plate 10 Test trench 1, view looking east.....	35
Plate 11 Test trench 2, view looking north.....	36
Plate 12 Test trench 3, view looking northeast.....	37
Plate 13 Test trench 4, view looking northeast.....	38
Plate 14 Test trench 4, looking northwest (towards the watercourse) and looking southwest and inset showing the land drain .....	39
Plate 15 View looking east and downslope of Test trench 6 and deep alluvial soils at the eastern end of the trench.....	40

Plate 16 View looking east downslope along Test trench 7 .....	41
Plate 17 Test trench 8 view looking west upslope .....	42
Plate 18 Test trench 9, view looking east .....	43
Plate 19 Test trench 10, view looking north.....	44

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General

This archaeological impact assessment (AIA) report has been prepared by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. It provides an archaeological and cultural heritage background and impact assessment for a proposed residential development application in the townland of Mooretown on behalf of Fingal County Council.

Mooretown is located to the west of Swords and south of Rathbeale Road (R125) in north County Dublin (Figure 1). The north of the site is bound by Rathbeale Road and further north by Rathbeale Park and residential development; to the east by the existing residential areas of 'Cianlea' and 'Lioscian'; to the south by greenfield lands; and to the west by Swords Community College and Broadmeadow Community National School and lands under development by Gannon Homes.

The proposed application area, incorporating approximately 9.35 ha, is Phase 1 of the proposed development of a larger landbank within the Mooretown lands in Fingal County Council's ownership. This assessment considers the archaeological potential of both the current application area and the entirety of the Fingal Co. Co. lands of c.23.9 ha (Figure 1).

The objective of the report is to assess the impact of the proposed development on the local archaeological and cultural heritage environment and to propose ameliorative measures to safeguard any monuments, features, finds of antiquity or features of architectural or cultural heritage merit.

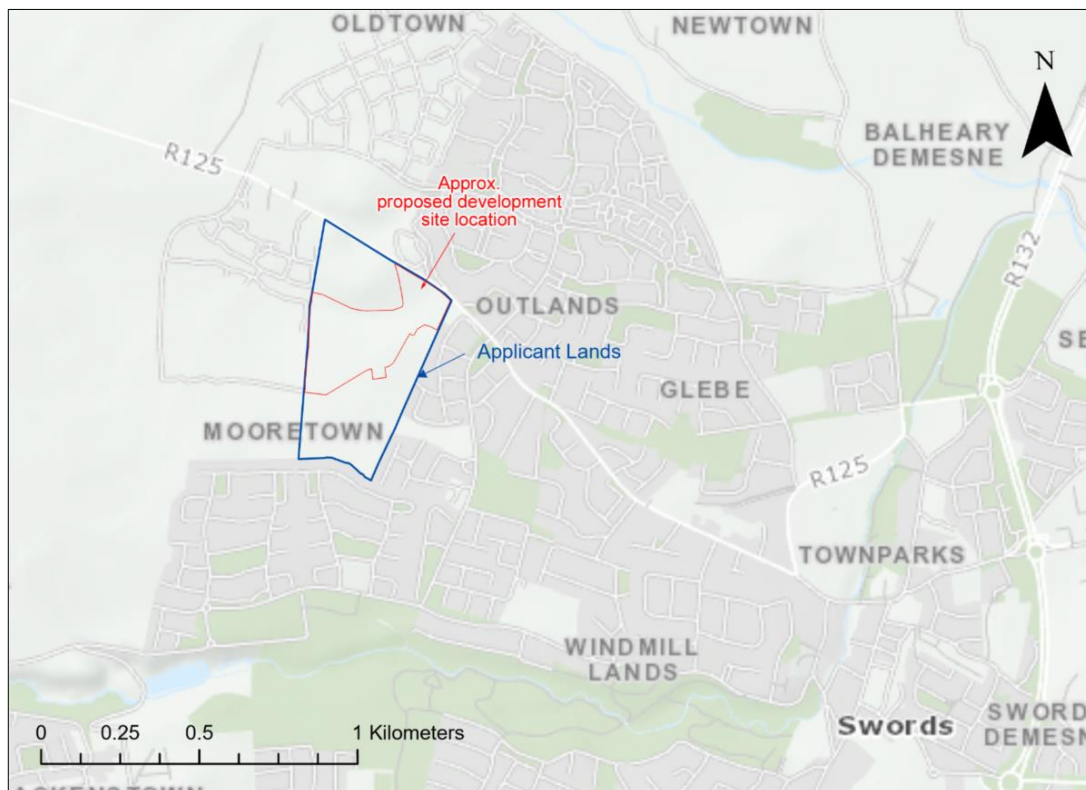


Figure 1 Proposed development site location and lands in the ownership of the applicant

## 1.2. Former Oldtown Mooretown LAP lands archaeological assessments.

The impact assessment includes a review of previous archaeological investigations that have been carried out within the subject lands and also includes supplementary archaeological testing carried out under licence number 24E0067. The proposed development area and wider development lands lie within the now lapsed Oldtown-Mooretown Local Area Plan (LAP) (2010, extended to 2020) located on either side of the Rathbeale Road within the townlands of Rathbeal, Oldtown and Mooretown. As part of the former LAP process, the application lands have been subjected to several phases of licenced non-invasive and invasive archaeological assessments comprising desk studies, field walkover surveys, licenced geophysical surveys, and test excavations. The focus of many of the earlier investigations was to provide a detailed archaeological assessment for consideration in the development of a planning strategy for the LAP.

The most significant result of these investigations was the identification of a previously unknown extensive early medieval ecclesiastical complex, a religious site with burials and settlements dating to the first millennium AD (RMP DU011-144001/004). This complex is entirely subsurface, without any remains above ground, and presents only as natural ridges within green fields. It extends from the southern part of Oldtown, into the northern part of Mooretown (into the subject lands). The complex is now cut by the Rathbeale Road, and separated into two different townlands. In addition to the ecclesiastical complex at Oldtown-Mooretown, further significant unrecorded archaeological sites were discovered within the Mooretown lands, including a water mill, a medieval settlement in the vicinity of what is known as Glasmore Abbey (RMP no: DU011-019), a fulacht fiadh (RMP no: DU011-148), a natural spring source for the recorded holy well (RMP no: DU011-018), and a possible ringfort (RMP no: DU011-147) (Figure 2).

The archaeological investigations identified previously unknown subsurface archaeological sites and features with no above-ground representation and established the plan-form extent of these sites. The definition of these sites has led to a comprehensive understanding of the archaeological landscape within the receiving environment. It has enabled a considered strategy for the preservation in situ and protection of significant archaeological remains to be put in place in a series of linked archaeological parks open space areas which include interpretative signage. The archaeological sites/areas identified have been added to the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (Figure 3).



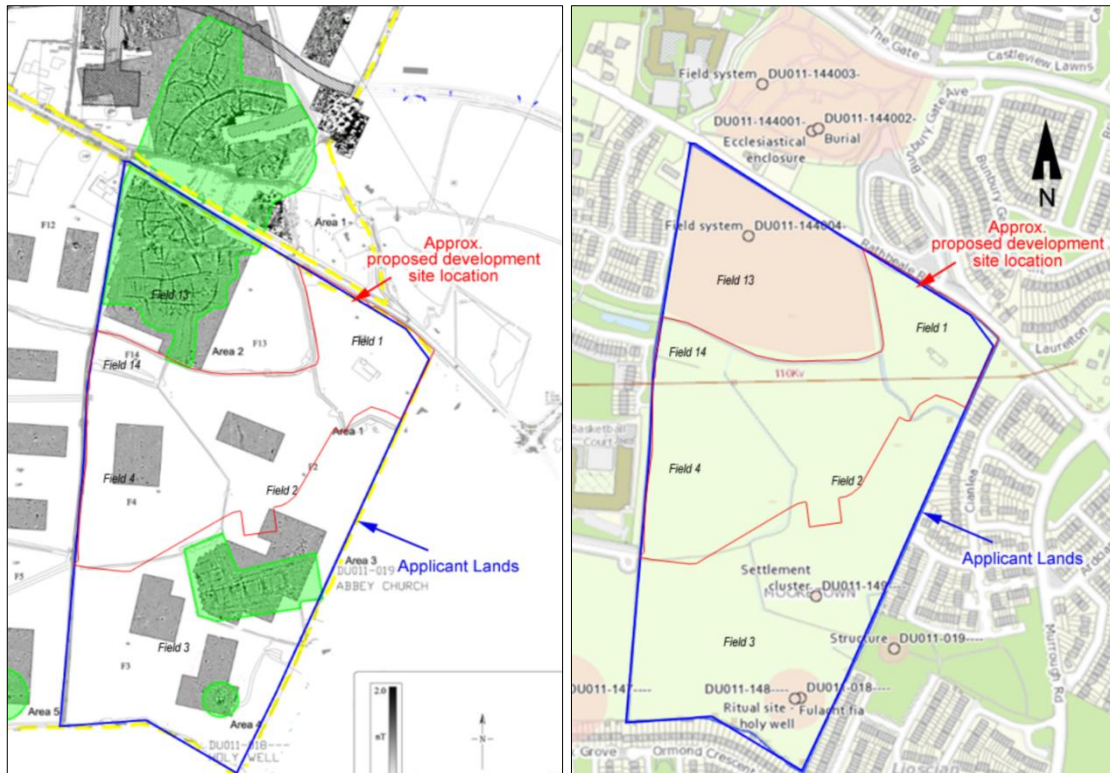


Figure 2 Archaeologically sensitive areas outlined in green as defined by investigations in the Oldtown-Mooretown LAP area

Figure 3, RMP sites and zones of notification established on the basis of this work.

Given the scale and significance of the discoveries within the LAP lands, a Conservation and Management Plan (Courtney, 2010) was undertaken on behalf of Fingal County Council. The plan outlined the historical and cultural significance of the LAP lands at Oldtown-Mooretown. It recognises the subsurface nature of the newly identified sites and features, and that any future development layout should support their identity. The above-mentioned archaeological sites were preserved in situ in open spaces of the LAP lands. The proposed framework plan for the lands includes three archaeological parks defined in the former LAP: Rathbeale Archaeological Park-Mooretown Section (Field 13), Glasmore Green Archaeological Park (Field 2) and St Cronan's Well 'Archaeology Park' (Field 3)(Figure 5).

### 1.3. Proposed development

In accordance with Article 81A(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the County Council intends to carry out a 'housing development' as defined by Section 179A(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The proposed Mooretown Phase 1 is the first phase of development proposed within a larger landbank area under the ownership of Fingal County Council.

The development is proposed at this site of c.9.35ha. on land zoned (Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029) for residential development and open space (Figure 4). The site is generally bound by Rathbeale Road to the north, to the east by the existing residential area of Cianlea, to the south by greenfield lands and to the west by Swords Community College and residential lands under development.

The proposed development will principally comprise the construction of:

1. A total of 274 no. residential units including 187 no. houses, and 87 no. duplex and apartment units, ranging from 2 – 5 storeys in height, in a mixed tenure development (18 no. 1-beds, 109 no. 2-beds, 128 no. 3-beds and 19 no. 4-beds)
2. Landscaping works including the provision of Class 2 Open Space of c.18,065 sq.m including riparian corridors, 8 no. pocket parks with a total area of c.2,950 sq.m, and new pedestrian and cycle connections into neighbouring residential lands to the west and connecting to the existing school access road along the western boundary.
3. A total of 415 no. car parking spaces consisting of 357 no. long-stay resident spaces, 58 no. short-stay and visitor spaces.
4. A total of 1,143 no. bicycle parking spaces consisting of 1,117 no. long-stay resident spaces and 26 no. short-stay visitor spaces.
5. Associated site and infrastructural works including the provision of foul and surface water drainage and associated connections, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including permeable paving, greens roofs, bio-retention planting and below ground tank storage.
6. The proposed development includes for all site enabling and development works, landscaping works, plant, PV panels, storage, boundary treatments, ESB substations, lighting, servicing, signage, and all site development works above and below ground.



Figure 4 Proposed development site layout

An overall Framework Plan for the development of the lands has been prepared for Fingal County Council to guide the development of the overall site (Figure 5). The Framework Plan proposes a new link road through the site connecting the Rathbeale Road to the education hub to the west, in addition to a clear road and access hierarchy to facilitate residential development. It also sets out a series of green corridors and pedestrian and cycle networks across the site, which connect to surrounding lands while protecting archaeological remains. The Framework Plan draws on the Oldtown Mooretown Local Area Plan (2010-2016 as extended to July 2020), with regard to these lands, incorporating linkages and connectivity objectives, in addition to key opportunities and constraints identified. As this LAP is now expired, Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029, in addition to national policies and objectives, inform the development framework proposals, including proposed density, approach to archaeology, open space considerations, and sustainable drainage strategies.

As part of the current framework plan development strategy, in future phases of the development of the lands it is proposed to reduce the size of the Mooretown Section of the Rathbeale Archaeological Park on its eastern side (Figure 5). This is to encourage the safe use of the park, safe access and a wider scope for passive surveillance of the very large greenfield area. The

previous archaeological investigations and additional archaeological testing (see Section 5 below) have established that the field system identified in this field does not extend into this eastern area.

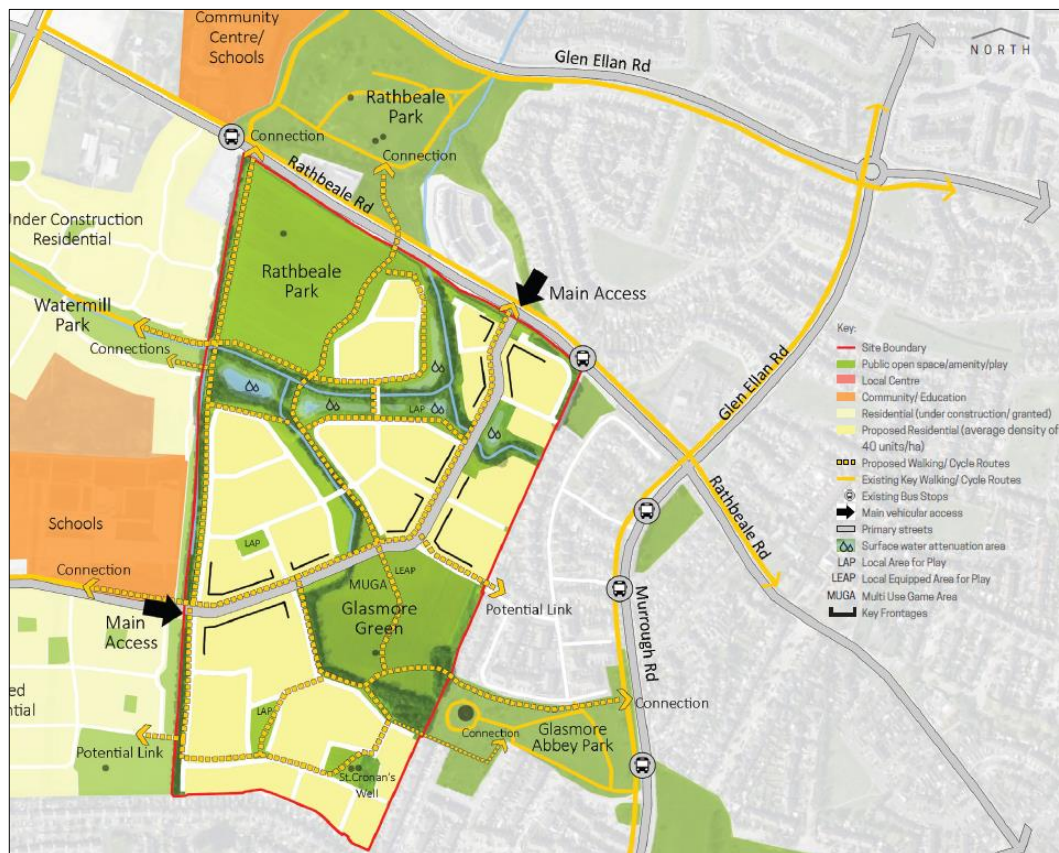


Figure 5 Overall Lands - Framework Plan (Source: BSM 2023)

#### 1.4. Research Methodology

This AIA was based on a desk study, field inspection and archaeological testing (Licence ref: 24E0067). It was also based on the review of the now-lapsed Oldtown Moortown LAP, and Conservation and Management Plan (Courtney, 2010) and the archaeological assessments that informed it.

The following sources were availed of:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Tentative World Heritage Sites and those monuments on the tentative list;
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders;
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; The statutory RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Archaeological

sites identified since 1994 are placed on the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion on the next revision of the RMP;

- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Fingal County Development Plan (2023-2029);
- County Councils Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and their statements of character;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey (paper survey only);
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e. Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponomy (loganim.ie);
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
- Fingal County Development Plan (2023-2029).
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSi Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001-2022, Bing 2022) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

A bibliography of sources used is provided in the References section.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

To produce a comprehensive picture of the archaeological remains within the current planning application area and the overall Framework Plan lands, the findings must not be viewed in isolation but considered within the context of an overall landscape perspective for the entire former LAP lands. Therefore, the results of investigations carried out in the proposed application areas and the entire LAP area are examined together.

The dominant archaeological periods represented within the LAP lands are the Bronze Age (2400-500BC), the early medieval (AD 400-1100), the medieval (c. AD 1100-1534) and the early post-medieval (c. AD 1534-1700) periods. This emerging multi-period landscape is described below by time period. It is best understood when read in conjunction with Figure 6 which shows field numbers, geophysical survey interpretative results, the new RMP site designations and archaeologically sensitive areas.

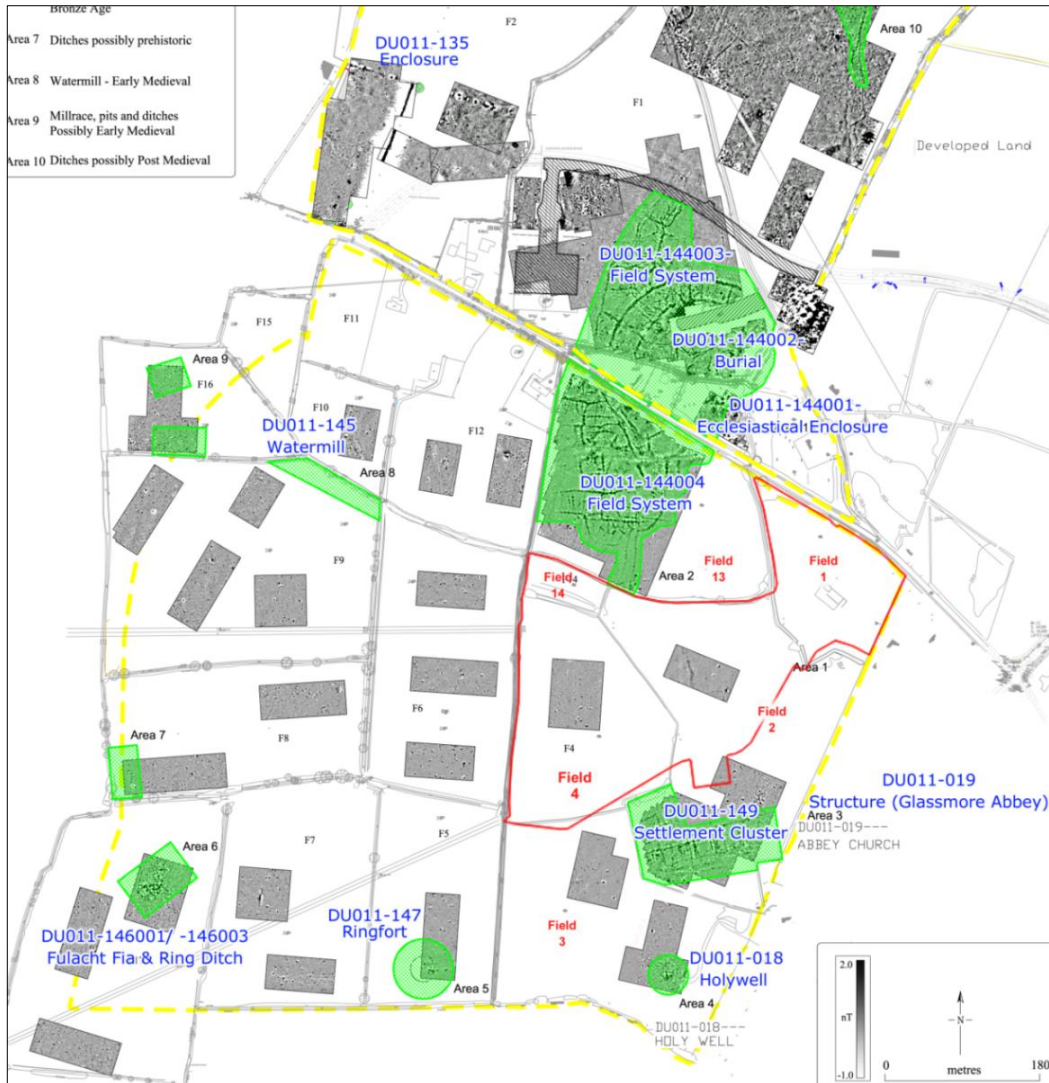


Figure 6 Sites identified in the LAP lands with the subject lands outlined

### 2.1.1. Prehistoric Period

The Bronze Age is represented in the form of two fulachta fia and a ring ditch. The fulachta fia were identified to the south of the proposed development in Mooretown during testing: one in Field 3 (Area 4; DU011-148) and a larger one (DU011-146001), overlying a ring-ditch (DU011-146002) and with adjacent evidence for activity, in Field 17 (Area 6) in a neighbouring field outside the development (Figure 2). Most recently, excavations in Mooretown Phase 1 (Gannon Lands), Area 2, revealed a burnt spread, trough and waterhole dating to the early Bronze Age (Licence no.: 20E0376; McLoughlin 2021). Area 4 comprised two pits, one of which contained Beaker pottery.

Fulachta fiadh ('burnt mounds', 'burnt spreads' or 'cooking sites') sites are made up of three main elements: a hearth in which stones were heated; a trough in which water was heated using the stones; and a low mound or flatter 'spread' of the stones, burnt and shattered after use. Besides cooking, a variety of functions have been suggested for these sites, including their use as saunas (Buckley 1990; Barfield and Hodder 1987; Brindley 1989–90), for the washing and dyeing of cloth or wool and for tanning/leatherworking (Brindley 1989–90). The majority of fulachta fiadh/burnt

mounds/burnt spreads in Ireland that have been dated indicate use during the Mid–Late Bronze Age.

Ring ditches are prehistoric burial sites, dating from the Bronze and Iron Ages (c. 2400BC–400AD). The term refers to the circular—or sometimes annular—shape in plan of an encircling ditch, sometimes surrounded by a low concentric bank ('ring-bank') or enclosing a low interior mound ('ring-barrow'). Ring ditches are usually associated with pits filled with cremated human burial remains. A ring-ditch, approximately 11–12m in diameter, was identified in Field 17 (Area 6, DU011-146003) in Mooretown, apparently beneath part of a fulacht fiadh (although this provisional chronological sequencing of the two may be complicated by subsequent ploughing and re-depositing of the latter's burnt mound deposit).

### 2.1.2. Early Medieval Period and Ecclesiastical Settlement

#### *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Complex*

A significant subsurface early medieval ecclesiastical complex with burials (DU011-144001/002) dating from the first millennium AD was identified in 2003. The complex is centred in the southern half of the Oldtown townland. The northern part of the site has been developed as a large archaeological park; the southern part of this complex, a field system is currently within the proposed Framework plan lands in a potato field (DU011-144004).

The following is a short interpretation that fits the presently available evidence for the Oldtown ecclesiastical complex, based on an examination of the aforementioned reports. Uncertainties remain, especially with regard to settlement dates and the nature of different parts of the complex and its annexes. The ecclesiastical complex is a former early medieval religious and settlement centre, inhabited by a Christian monastic community and other lay adherents. The complex survives beneath the topsoil only, as archaeological features, such as ditches and pits, are cut into the sterile natural subsoil. The complex survives as three concentric oval enclosure ditches, with additional settlement within these. The smaller and innermost of the enclosures appear to define a burial ground. The largest, outermost enclosure is 200m in diameter and defines the edge of the main settlement/activity area. The complex is of a form that has other parallels, particularly in North Leinster, such as Nevitt (Harrison D., 2006) or Milverton (DU005-024/01-04), both in Fingal (Nicholls J., 2003), but it is of a significantly larger size than most other such ecclesiastical complexes. The inner enclosure appears to circumscribe the burial ground area, in accordance with contemporary descriptions of such sites (Baker 2003c, 2004). The outer enclosure—at least on its southern side—contained settlement, probably of lay inhabitants. A circular building there suggests a date prior to c. AD 800, consistent with the artefactual dating evidence from the inner enclosure (Baker 2003c). The lack of medieval pottery across the complex also suggests it was abandoned by the late twelfth century. The presence of possible dog whelk shells here is intriguing: such shellfish could be used to produce an expensive, valuable dye. Their presence may indicate the harvesting of such a resource and, consequently, suggest a participation in high-status luxury exchange. Combined with the frequent remains of butchered cattle bone, their presence may even suggest the existence of a scriptorium at the ecclesiastical complex (requiring both vellum and coloured illumination inks to produce manuscripts), but the present evidence is too scant to confirm this.

Extending northwest and south from this main outer enclosure of the complex are two 'annexes' consisting of cell-like (ditch) enclosures. The southern annex possesses more rectilinear-shaped cells and may represent another area of (secular) settlement that was part of the ecclesiastical complex. The northwest 'annex'/enclosure extends north, in a 'rabbit-ear' shape, from the main complex and possesses a more sharply defined (i.e. deeper, wider) enclosure ditch along much of

its exterior. Limited test excavation suggests that the enclosures in this northwest annex represent field systems associated with the complex: possibly some of the larger 'cells' served as fields for arable cultivation, but perhaps others served instead as corral enclosures for livestock (cattle husbandry in particular, was fundamental to the early medieval Irish economy; Frazer 2007).

Test excavation suggests that the south part of the southern annex (within the subject lands), across a narrow paleochannel from the main ecclesiastical complex, may have originated as a separate enclosure that was eventually linked with later ditches to the main complex. No evidence for craft industry such as metalworking was identified. The fills of surrounding ditches here contained some component of butchered animal bone. The precise dating of the southern annex has not been determined, but it seems likely to be contemporary with the main early medieval occupation of the central ecclesiastical complex. A causeway that extends from the southern annex leads only to the watercourse in the existing southern field boundary but not beyond.

#### *Watermill site (RMP DU011-145)*

An early medieval–medieval watermill (RMP DU011-145) was identified in lands to the east of the framework plan area along with part of its headrace and its tailrace (Figure 6, Field 9, Area 8). This site lies to the west of the Oldtown-Mooretown ecclesiastical centre, along a watercourse. The watermill now lies within a pocket park associated with the development.

Early medieval horizontal watermills were used to grind grain, but were also a means through which local potentates could control agricultural production. Their construction, the engineering of the neighbouring landscape (millraces, ponds, etc.) and the sourcing of certain materials (millstones) all required specialist technical knowledge and significant resources. They also required a sizeable labour force, even if the labour was acquired via 'customary' payment-in-kind obligations rather than conscription or payment. As a result of all of these factors, mills of the era were invariably under the control of a significant local or regional power, and archaeology has increasingly demonstrated that power was often ecclesiastical. A similar situation also pertained later in the medieval period (twelfth–sixteenth century AD), and certain medieval monasteries—such as the Abbey of St Thomas in Dublin—were well-known for their control of milling activities. In practice, control over this aspect of grain production seems, in most cases to have entailed the literal overseeing of the mill by an ecclesiastical or lay authority, and mills are usually found in close proximity to a monastery, a castle or a similar site. The inference from recent evidence is that the mill, like the enclosure, should be seen as a characteristic component of the early Irish monastery (Mc Erlean & Crothers 2007, 433).

#### *St Cronan's Holy Well and Glasmore Abbey*

Within the southeast corner framework plan lands, there is a holy well (RMP DU011-018) dedicated to St Cronan, the seventh-century-AD saint. Holy Wells are a Christian adaptation of a pre-Christian tradition of sacred springs, which like their pagan predecessors, were often visited at certain times of the years, and often had a reputation for effecting cures. There is a growing acceptance among archaeologists that holy wells are often indicators of early ecclesiastical settlement. Even though this well is 455m south of the secular activity revealed in Field 13 in Mooretown and some 700m from the ecclesiastical complex at Oldtown it may well have been venerated and linked to this establishment. It is no longer venerated and no longer visible above ground. It was formerly a station well, and local tradition thought of it as a cure for sore eyes and chicken pox (G. Stout, in RMP files at the DAHG). Test-trenching at the site of St Cronan's holy well has identified the precise location of the spring. Beneath more than a metre of peat, a man-made streambed or path of metalled stones (stones pressed into the underlying soil) was found, associated with nineteenth–twentieth-century potsherds and ceramic drainpipe fragments. The



route of the metalled streambed/path corresponds with that represented on recent Ordnance Survey maps, indicating that the metalling and all of the overlying peat is recent/modern.

Nearby to St Cronan's well, immediately east of the Framework plan lands are the reputed remains of Cronan's early medieval church, Glasmore Abbey (RMP DU011-019). Material evidence suggests that the building is not a church and that it is post-medieval in date. As such, the surviving structure is discussed in the post-medieval section below.

### 2.1.3. Secular Settlement

The ringfort is the most significant component of an early medieval secular settlement. One possible ringfort in Mooretown was identified within the LAP lands, outside of the framework plan lands to the west (DU011-147). The site was identified in Field 5 (Figure 6, Area 5), with a north-northeast entrance oriented towards the ecclesiastical complex in Field 13. Ringforts are one of the most widespread archaeological sites surviving in the Irish landscape. They consist of a circular, sub-circular or D-shaped enclosure of 20–50m diameter. The enclosure is typically a deep ditch outside of a bank (of earth, of earth and stone) or a drystone wall. They seem to have functioned as farmsteads and served to protect interior dwellings, their inhabitants and the farm's livestock. Often, they have associated field systems and sometimes underground souterrains. Most that have been robustly dated were occupied between c. 500–1200 AD. They tend to be situated on, or near, particularly good agricultural land for both pasture and tillage, although in the latter case, they often demonstrate a preference for heavier soils than those that are today considered ideal for arable farming. A second ringfort site was identified and excavated in Oldtown lands to the north.

From the newly emerging recorded archaeological evidence to date, apart from the ecclesiastical site in Oldtown, the concentration of early medieval remains and its associated secular annexes and field systems to the ecclesiastical site, a holy well (both within proposed Framework plan lands), a mill site and a separate ringfort sites serve to demonstrate the significance of this general area and what must have been a thriving community in the latter half of the early medieval period. Excavation evidence suggests, however, that by the 12th century, this area had been abandoned.

### 2.1.4. Medieval period

Revenues for the principal archepiscopal manor at Swords were generated predominantly from agriculture, through a manorial system that extracted payment-in-kind from landless peasants who worked the land, and eventually also from lightly better-off tenants—freemen peasants and lesser nobles both—who leased farms and generally paid their rents in agricultural produce. In some cases, particularly with monastic lands, 'grange' manors were used to administer ecclesiastical lands more directly. These granges served as agricultural estates centred around a manor farm—often with a nearby mill, sometimes with fishponds—run by a steward with either local labour or lay brothers. Their produce could be used directly or sold. Lands that had formerly been within the purview of some manner of early medieval ecclesiastical power and that were reassigned to a new Anglo-Norman ecclesiastical establishment by the late twelfth century may therefore also contain traces of the later medieval manorial system of tenant farms, granges and farm labourers' residences.

This appears to be the case in Mooretown, where most of the early medieval Oldtown/Mooretown ecclesiastical complex—certainly the southern annex of the complex which lies within the LAP lands—seems to have been disused or abandoned by the twelfth century. Instead, agricultural production may have been administered from the medieval settlement identified in Field 2, within the application lands (DU011-149, Figure 6, Area 3). The archaeology

identified there included a fair-sized assemblage of 127 medieval potsherds (dating from the twelfth–fourteenth century, and perhaps slightly later) and an iron riding spur, all of which may indicate the presence of a moderately-well-off tenant farm or grange farm. However, the ground plan of the settlement is more akin to the layout of a small village or hamlet, suggesting it formerly housed peasant labourers. In either case, settlement at the site seems to have persisted, in a reduced capacity, into the sixteenth–seventeenth centuries (on the basis of twenty early post-medieval potsherds also recovered).

#### 2.1.5. Post-medieval period

Mooretown is mentioned in the mid-seventeenth-century Civil Survey (1654-56AD). At that time the proprietor of Mooretown was 'Sir Edward Bolton, knight of Brazeil, Protestant'. Several structures, including a house, a barn and eight cabins, are noted within the townland. Furthermore, it is recorded that ornamental ash trees, an orchard and a garden plot were established by this time (after Bolger 2006). The latter features imply that the house was occupied by someone of a middling station, in other words, perhaps not Bolton 'of Brazil' but rather his tenant. In the hearth money roll of 1664, the heads of eight households are listed in 'Murrtowne': Patrick Wales, John Kerrygane, James Gaffney, James Byrne, Christopher Comers, Nicholas Wales, Patrick Crane and John Ash (Anon. 1930–3: 418) all reside in homes with a single hearth, except Patrick Wales who possessed two hearths.

Oldtown is not mentioned by name in the mid-seventeenth century AD Civil Survey, perhaps because it still formed part of the lands of the manor of Swords. Nicholas Barnewall of Turvey, 'Irish Papist', is recorded as the proprietor of 60 acres of arable and meadow, 6 acres of which was 'Bounded East with part of Bath's farme; south with part of ye lands of Mooretowne, West and North [sic—south?] with part of ye lands of Mooretowne' and formed a part 'of ye Mannor of Swords'. The influential Barnewall family of Turvey built a vast estate partly by acquiring and leasing large segments of extensive old Episcopal manors in the parishes of Swords and Lusk. In the Ordnance Survey Names Books of 1843 Oldtown is recorded as 'bounded East by Broadmeadow' and 'of townlands in the Liberties of Swords Parish'. The property of 'Mr Boden Esq.' and 'Earl O'Neill', is described as 'Good Farm steading in the north part of the Townland and small Cott. In the South part being the only house in it' (O'Donovan 1843). The farmstead referred to is shown on each of the Ordnance Survey maps just south of the Broadmeadow River. A long avenue once led off the Rathbeale Road and accessed the farmstead from the south (after Bolger 2006). This appears to confirm the archaeological evidence from Oldtown (Baker 2003c), and now also from Mooretown, that indicates no settlement and little or no activity on the site of the ecclesiastical complex from the twelfth century AD at least.

The reputed remains of Glasmore Abbey church, DU011-019 lie just southeast and outside of the Framework plan lands. The site is said to have a 7th-century AD origin, but there is some uncertainty as to whether the location is that of Glasmore or another similar site for which the name has been forgotten. The surviving remains of a building (RMP DU011-019) of coursed limestone with dressed quoins set on their narrow sides, stands to a single storey. At the northern end of the structure there is a (reused?) window of fifteenth–sixteenth-century date. The structure is likely to be of seventeenth–eighteenth-century date (i.e., post-medieval), but it is of vernacular construction and not readily dateable by its architectural features. It is traditionally held that the early medieval Glasmore Abbey church was founded by St Cronan before the mid-seventh century AD (he is also said to have been martyred here). However, the building does not at all resemble a church. It could be a folly, except that it is not in the grounds of a large estate. The structure also lacks a fireplace, such as might be expected in a house, although early post-medieval dwellings sometimes lacked proper chimneys and possessed instead a simpler fire hood.

or even just a central hearth (with either a smokehole or a permeable thatched roof). The structure underwent a programme of conservation in 2001, in which loose stone was collected and inserted into the structure. In 1999 nearby archaeological work relating to the adjacent development revealed nothing of archaeological significance (Swan 1999), in particular no burials or any enclosure, both of which would normally be expected nearby an early medieval–medieval church. The small amount of early post-medieval pottery found in Field 2 (Figure 6, Area 3) may be a clue as to the real origin of this building: it could be the surviving part of the house or barn (or a related outbuilding) owned by Edward Bolton in the mid-seventeenth-century, perhaps with some of the cottier ‘cabins’ mentioned in the Civil Survey built over the medieval settlement in Field 2. Local tradition holds that James II was brought to the nearby townland of Rathbeal while on the way to the Battle of the Boyne (1690). The site of possible fortifications associated with this tradition (DU011-016) is located approximately 200m west of the lands. The site consists of a series of gullies running northeast–southwest across a field. Considerable quantities of cut stone have been exposed during ploughing (after Bolger 2006).

## 2.2. Cartographic Sources

### 2.2.1. Down Survey, Barony Map of Nethercross, 1656 (Figure 7)

The Down Survey Map of 1656 illustrates the Barony of Nethercross in the County of Dublin. The proposed development area is shown in the Parish of Swords in the townland of Mooretown which is noted as ‘Moortonne land Lord Chief Baron protestant’. No features are indicated within the lands. An extract from the accompanying map terrier names the Baron as the landowner of Mooretown. It is referring to Sir Edward Bolton, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Knight of Brazeil, who resided at Brazil House to the west of Mooretown. Within the lands held by Bolton at Mooretown, a stone house with a slated roof is recorded, along with a barn and eight small cabins. The house was valued at 200- pounds and included an orchard, a garden plot and a grove of ornamental ash trees. A small shrubby wood is also recorded on the premises, and the land was listed as part of the manor of Swords (Simington 1945, 113). It is possible that this description relates to the building later depicted on Rocque's map in 1760, and also possible that the cabins listed are those identified as a settlement cluster (RMP ref. DU011-149) in the LAP archaeological investigations (Frazer 2008).



Figure 7 Down Survey Map c.1656

### 2.2.2. Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760 (Figure 8)

John Rocque's map of County Dublin in 1760 depicts Mooretown clearly as a cluster of buildings to the southeast of the proposed development area. These appear to correlate with the farmstead noted in the geophysical survey and testing of the LAP area. The Rathbeale Road existed by this time and forms the boundary between the townlands of Oldtown and Mooretown. To the north 'Rickenhore', 'Leabstown' and Oldtown are depicted. The proposed development area is shown as open fields.



Figure 8 Rocque's Map of County of Dublin 1760 and framework plan area

### 2.2.3. Taylor's Map of County Dublin, 1816 (not shown)

John Taylor records little additional detail on his 1816 map of Swords. Mooretown is noted to the south of 'Holy Studs', the site of burials uncovered in the mid-19th century. The proposed development areas are shown as open greenfields. To the west, 'Rabaille' is noted in Rathbeal, and curiously, to the north 'Leabstown' and Oldtown appears to have exchanged locations.

### 2.2.4. First edition Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10560, 1837 and revised editions (Figure 9)

This is the first detailed map of the framework plan study area. The proposed development lands lie in irregularly shaped open greenfields on the northern side of the townland of Mooretown. A watercourse runs to the north of the proposed development. There are no structures indicated within the proposed development area.

North of the Rathbeale Road at a fork in the road, 'Holy Studs' is labelled. Holy Studs is referred to in The OS Names Books '*I was informed there is the remains of a tumulus or cairn, which was recently destroyed six years since in cutting down the road. Bones were found covered with rolled or beach stones. The remains of Holystud is about 4ft high a segment of a circle in shape and when perfect must have been small*' (O'Donovan 1843)

Cronan's well is indicated in the field to the southeast. It appears to flow northeast through Glasmore Abbey. There is a small rectangular structure and rectangular area of scrub leading to a possible watercourse or path going east. The first edition OS mapping (1837) provides a linkage St Cronan's holy well (DU011-018) site in the form of a laneway from Glasmore Abbey (DU 011-019). A former track runs northward along the western boundary of the framework plan area to a farm north of Rathbeale Road. A bridge is also shown to run beneath the Rathbeale road, a modern culvert has replaced it in recent times.

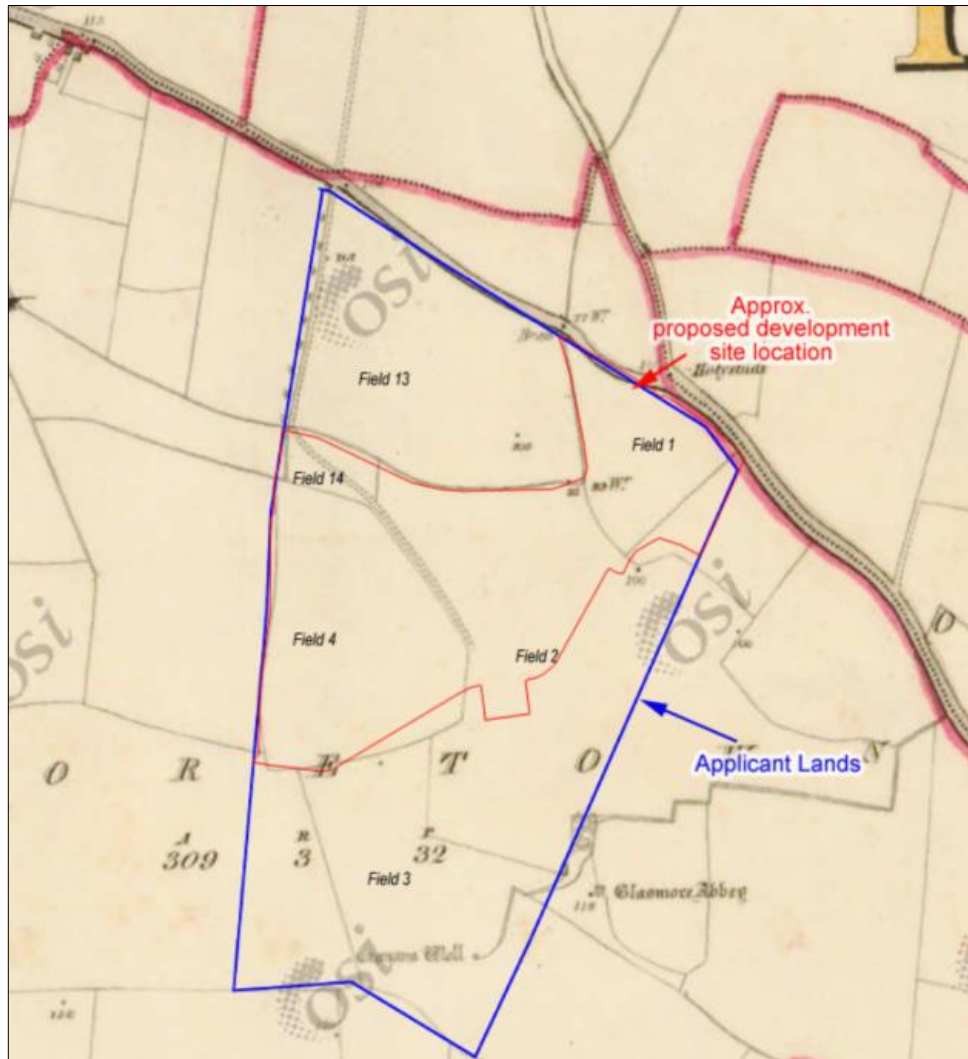


Figure 9 Ordnance Survey Map, 1837 showing the proposed development land parcel

Except for a more defined watercourse, the proposed development area remained the same as depicted in the latter map source on the 1837-46 and 1906 OS Maps. The field sub-divisions remain unaltered. By the time of the revised edition, a linear settlement of twelve houses with long property plots was developed on Rathbeale Road (to the northeast of the study area).

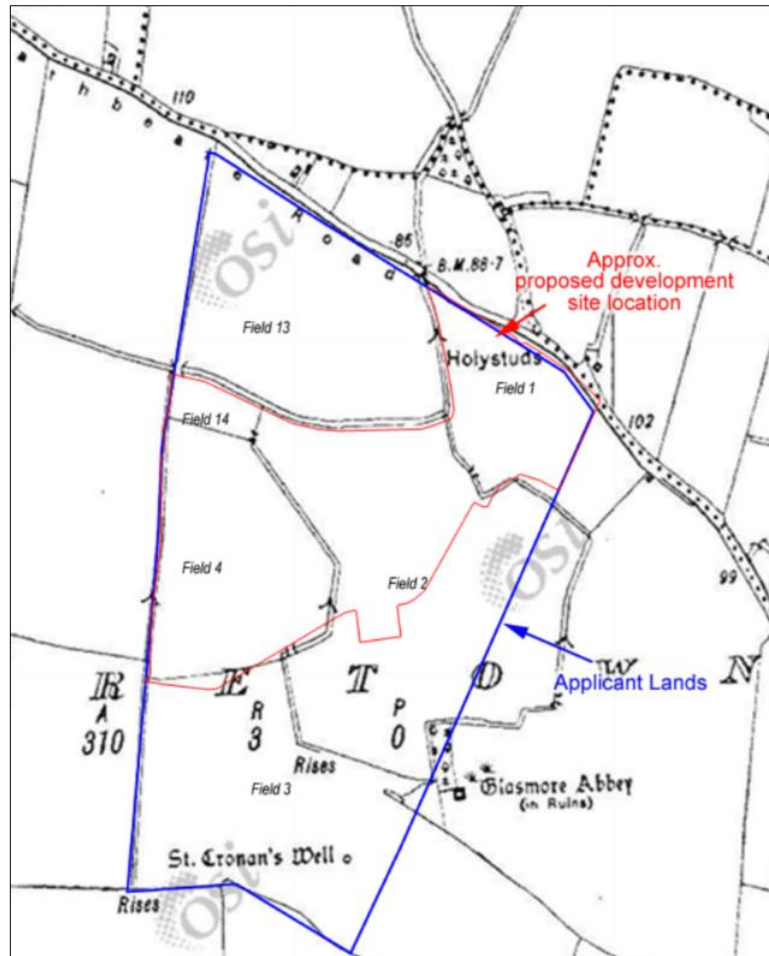


Figure 10 Ordnance Survey Map c.1950's, with the overall Framework Plan lands and current application area

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

#### 3.1. Statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites

Before the extensive archaeological investigation for the Oldtown-Mooretown LAP, there was a paucity of known archaeological sites and features in Oldtown and Mooretown. This is a testimony to the fertile soils, which led to an intensive agricultural regime which can denude upstanding earthen features. The features identified have since been added to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) record. They are described in detail in the archaeological background in Section 2 above and indicate a multi-period landscape.

As outlined above the most significant result of the archaeological investigation of the Oldtown-Mooretown LAP area was the identification of a previously unknown extensive early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure complex with burials and field systems (RMP Ref: DU014-144001-144004) dating to the first millennium AD. The site is on both sides of Rathbeale Road, the southern side of which is located in the framework plan lands and the proposed development.

Within the overall Framework Plan lands there are three RMP sites (Figure 11): the above-mentioned field system (DU011-144004, Field 13), which forms the southern annexe to the ecclesiastical site; a settlement cluster RMP DU011-149 (Field 2); and a Holy well DU011-018 and Fulacht fiadh, DU011-148 (Field 3). These sites are discussed in greater detail in Section 4 below.

Table 1 RMP site within the overall Framework Plan lands

RMP / SMR no.	Townland	Townland	Description
DU011-144004	0m (F13)	Mooretown	Field system
DU011-149	0m (F2)	Mooretown	Settlement cluster
DU011-018	0m (F3)	Mooretown	Holy well
DU011-148	0m (F3)	Mooretown	Fulacht fiadh

The proposed Phase 1 development does not incorporate any of the recorded monuments or their Zones of Notification (Figure 11).



Figure 11 Recorded archaeological monuments (RMP sites) and the proposed development area

As published in the Oldtown—Mooretown Conservation and Management Plan (Courtney, 2010), 'Archaeological Risk Zones' were established around confirmed archaeological sites identified based on the results of geophysical surveys, archaeological testing, and landscape archaeological analysis. Three of these zones are within the current framework plan lands, the zones of notifications around these sites are different from what is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer (Figure 11, Figure 12). As designated in the original LAP lands, these zones will be preserved in situ within 'archaeological parks' within the proposed framework plan lands:

- Rathbeale Archaeological Park- Mooretown Section,
- Glasmore Green Archaeological Park, and
- St Cronan's Well Archaeology Park.

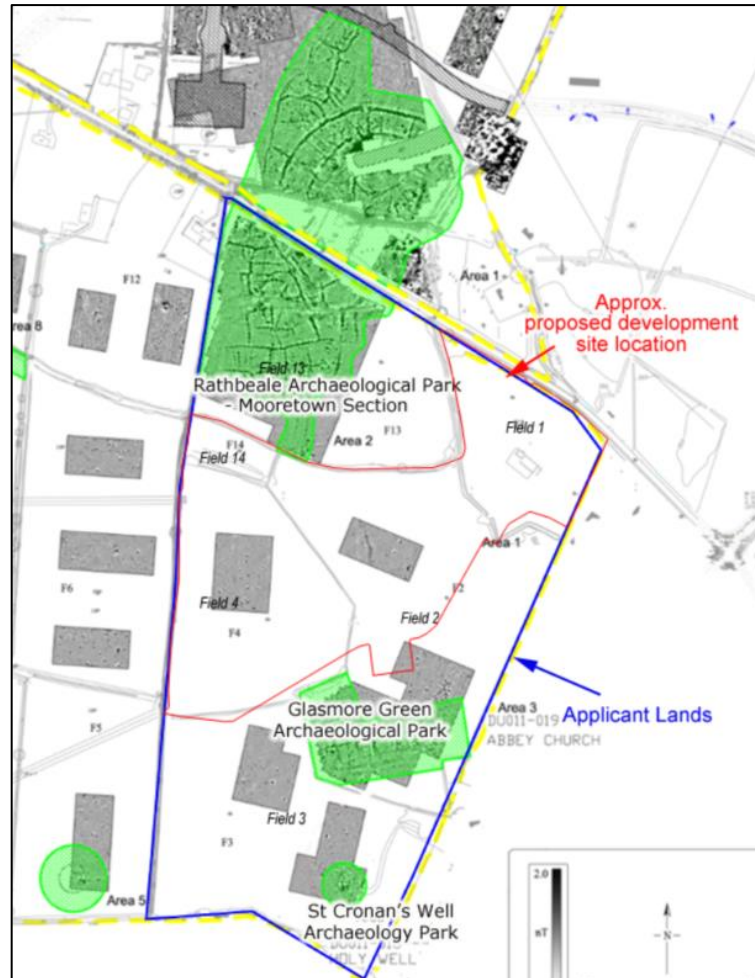


Figure 12 Archaeologically sensitive zones within the framework plan lands

There are no archaeological parks within the Phase 1 development lands application area.

### 3.2. Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Sites

There are no upstanding structures within the proposed development area and no protected structures are listed in the record of protected structures in the Fingal Development Plan (2023-2029) or in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) within the bounds of the overall development lands. There is one protected structure just outside the site, RPS Ref: 370, known locally as Glasmore Abbey and is also recorded in the RMP as DU011-019 and is described in detail in Section 2 above. It is located 35m to the east of the framework plan lands within the open space of the Cianlea housing estate.

Other protected structures that are some distance from the site include Rathbeale Hall, located over 1km to the west in Rathbeale townland, and Newton House, located approximately 1.2km to the west in Newtown townland. The town of Swords, located over 1.5km to the southeast, contains a number of protected structures including the Swords Castle, Court House, Carnegie Library, the Old Borough School, Sexton's House, Old Vicarage, St. Columba's Church and St. Columcille's Church.



### 3.3. Topographical Files

The topographical files in the National Museum of Ireland record a stone mortar (NMI Reg. No 1958.80) from Mooretown townland. The artefact has been variously interpreted as a holy water font possibly associated with Glasmore Abbey or a mortar from the medieval or late medieval period which would correspond with the recent findings in the area.

## 4. FIELD INSPECTION

### 4.1. Introduction

The overall Framework Plan lands comprise six- fields of unused arable land, i.e. Fields 1-4 and Fields 13 and 14 (using the same numbering as previous assessments). The proposed Phase 1 planning application encompasses parts of Fields 1, 2, 4 and Field 14 (Figure 13).



Figure 13 Framework plan lands, proposed development lands, RMP site locations and field numbers

## 4.2. Field inspection

### 4.2.1. Field 1

Field 1 (Figure 13, Plate 1) is bound to the north by the newly aligned Rathbeale Road, to the east by a housing development, and to the south and west by a tree- and hedgerow-lined watercourse. The field generally slopes away to the west and south to a watercourse, with a steep drop-off to the western boundary. The field is overgrown with briars and grass and is difficult to access; there are large mounds of spoil throughout the field. Large, raised areas and spoil heaps run parallel to the road. An overhead electricity line runs along the southern end of the field ending in the field with an angle mast. A concrete slab and debris in the centre of the site represent a recently demolished structure. There was also a modern manhole located in the northeast corner of the field.

Archaeological investigations were not carried out in this field for the LAP as the area was too disturbed. This field was subsequently tested as part of the present development application (See results in Section 5: Archaeological Testing).



Plate 1 View southeast across Field 1, note the mounds of spoil overgrown with dense vegetation

### 4.2.2. Field 2

Field 2 (Figure 13, Plate 2) is a large, low-lying, and irregular-shaped field of unused pasture. It generally slopes downward to its northeastern corner. Its northern boundary is formed by a tree and hedgerow-lined drainage ditch.

There is a relatively level area at the southern end of the field, at the location of RMP site DU011-149. The site comprises the subsurface remains of a medieval (c. AD 1200–1540)–early post-medieval (c. AD 1540–1700) settlement—a farmstead or small village/hamlet—it was identified during geophysical survey and confirmed by testing and interpreted as a medieval settlement associated with Glasmole Abbey. The settlement may be the remains of a manor farm or grange farm for Mooretown, or of peasant labourer dwellings connected to such a farm. There is no above-ground evidence of the site.



Plate 2 Field 2, view looking south

#### 4.2.3. Field 3

Located in the southeast corner of the Framework plan study area, Field 3 (Figure 13, Plate 3) is bounded along the east and south by modern housing development. The eastern edge of the field is overgrown, with the remainder under rough pasture.

The remains of St Cronan's holy well (DU011-018) are shown on the first and subsequent Ordnance Survey map editions near the southeast corner of the field. This area is overgrown and is very wet underfoot; there is a waterfilled ditch running from the site towards the boundary to the north with a thorn bush in the area of the holy well (Plate 4). Test excavation (Frazer & Erickson 2008) showed that the well was presented simply as a spring percolating up through the underlying natural subsoil, near which a small sub-rectangular pool/pit for collecting the water had been dug. The pool measured 1.4m northeast–southwest x 1.35+m and was lined with a single course of large irregularly shaped stones pressed into the ground around its edges. The pool was filled with light brown peat. A metalled surface was found surrounding the well, which corresponds to the lines representing a path or waterway on the Ordnance Survey maps; late post-medieval –modern potsherds were identified on and in the metalled surface. Excavation proved the existence of a natural spring, however, there are no remains at the holy well site that pre-date the nineteenth century AD.

During the LAP investigations, a Bronze Age fulacht fiadh (RMP DU011-148) of probable prehistoric (Bronze Age, c. 2400–500 BC) date was discovered in close proximity to a recorded holy well (RMP DU011-018); this corresponds with the low-lying and waterlogged nature of this area of the site. The site consisted of two burnt spreads and a waterlogged trough lined with wickerwork.

Both these sites will be preserved in situ in the framework plan within the overall development lands. No other features were revealed in this field through geophysical surveys or archaeological test excavation.



Plate 3 Field 3 looking north



Plate 4 Field 3 looking towards the site of the holy well and site of fulacht fiadh

#### 4.2.4. Field 4

Field 4 is a large irregular field of low-lying, level unused pasture bound by drainage ditches (Figure 13, Plate 5). No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the previous geophysical survey and test excavation investigations in this field (trenches T24 and T26) Figure 14.



Plate 5 View looking northwest across Field 4

#### 4.2.5. Mooretown - Field 13

Field 13 (Figure 13, Plate 6) is a large, irregularly shaped field of potato crop harvested some time ago. It is deeply cut with machine ridge and furrow cultivation. There is a natural level ridge in the northeast corner of the field (30m OD), where it generally runs level towards the western field boundary; it gradually slopes to the south, and off the ridge, it slopes more steeply again to the east to the watercourse. There is a natural valley/dip in the northern half of the field, referred to previously as a paleochannel running roughly east-west. The southern annex associated with the early medieval Oldtown/Mooretown ecclesiastical complex was identified in the western half of Field 13, concentrated on the natural ridge. The proposed development includes the eastern half of this field on the slopes of the hill; additional testing was carried out here to confirm the results of the previous assessments in the field (see Section 5 below).



Plate 6 View looking northwest across Field 13

There is a road crossing the existing Rathbeale road at the northwestern end of the site, which provides for a future connection to the Rathbeale Archaeological Park (Plate 7).



Plate 7 Access established between the Rathbeal Archaeological Park and the proposed Mooretown extension of it

Unfortunately, due to two large residential dwellings and the tree-lined property boundary, there are no clear views from Rathbeale Park to the hillock where the field system in Field 13 is located. The only view into Field 13 is from the park's southwest corner, which captures the sloping eastern half of the field, where none of the field system lies (Plate 8 and Plate 9).



Plate 8 View from on top of the enclosing mounds in the Rathbeal Park towards the eastern sloping side of Field 13. The property boundary and roofline of the dwelling block have clear views of the site of the field system.



Plate 9 View from the pedestrian path within the southeastern corner of the Rathbeal Archaeological Park towards the eastern sloping side of Field 13. The central core of the field system is located to the right, where the trees are.

#### 4.2.6. Field 14

These fields are heavily disturbed and overgrown; they were not previously investigated by test-trenching. Field 14 lies to the south of the large annexe site revealed in Mooretown and to the south of the water course. The land in this field has archaeological potential; however, with the exception of a footbridge, it is an area that will not be subject to development and will be maintained as a natural corridor.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

### 5.1. Introduction

Additional archaeological test excavation was carried out in the northern two fields of the Framework Plan lands (Field 1 and Field 13) on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 in dull, overcast and wet weather conditions. Ten test trenches (T1 to T10) and a small box trench (T1a) were opened across the fields under licence reference 24E0067 (Figure 14).

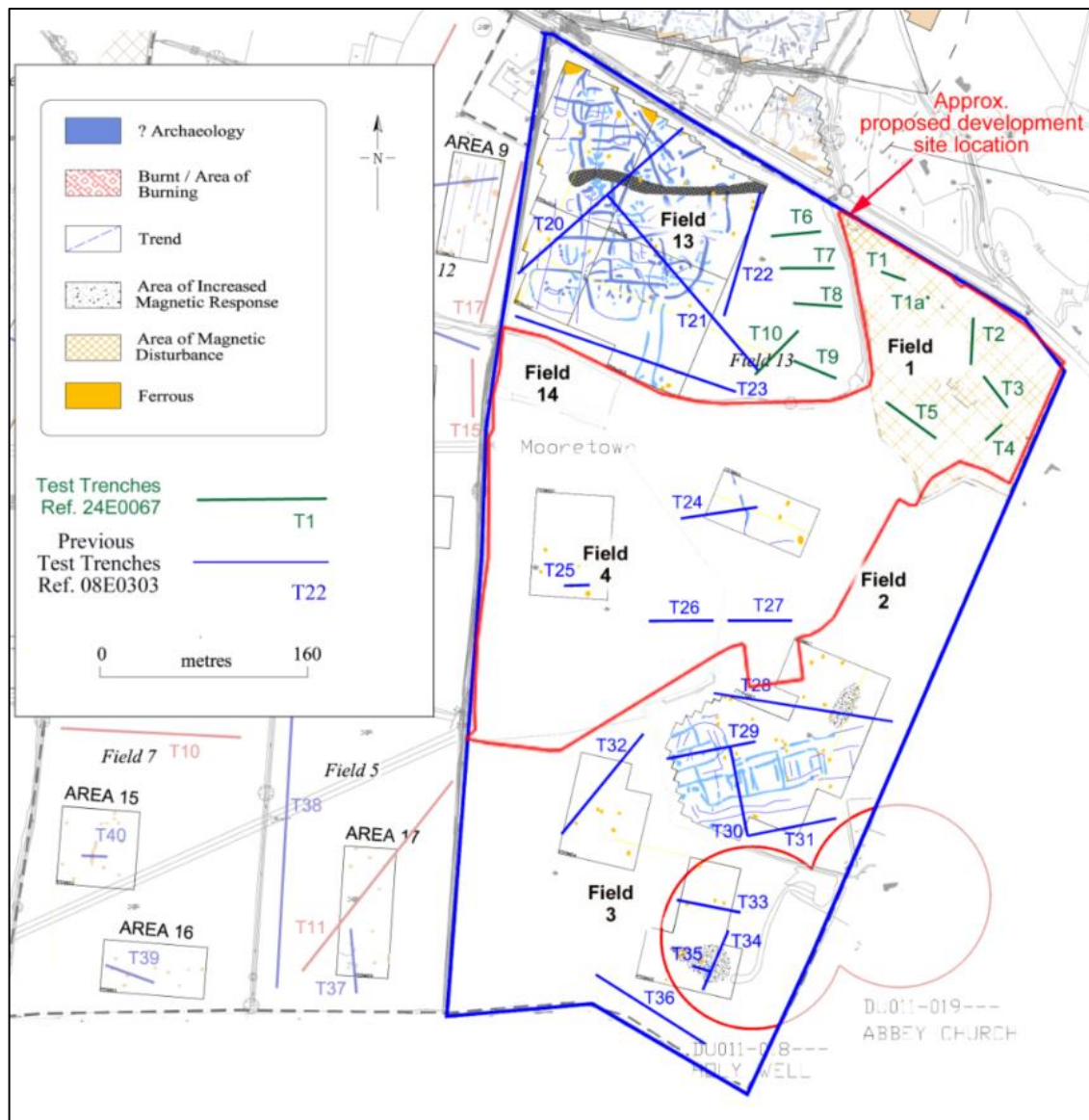


Figure 14 Geophysical survey interpretation, former and current (Field 1 and Field 13) and test trenches

#### 5.1.1. Field 13

Field 13 lies within the zone of notification of RMP DU011-144004, an early medieval field system associated with the Oldtown ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP DU011-144001). The previous geophysical survey for the LAP lands appears to have captured the full extent of this site, and subsequent testing (08E0303) indicated that the remains corresponded with the geophysical



survey. The close correspondence between the geophysics results and the archaeology confirmed in the testing enabled the identification of an archaeologically sensitive area or risk zone in Field 13 (Figure 15). This zone included the locations of identified archaeology, cross-referenced, with landscape topography and with the extent of related geophysical anomalies.



Figure 15 Geophysical survey results and the archaeologically sensitive area in Field 13

The findings suggested that the archaeology is concentrated on the western side of the field on the top of the natural hill (and includes a natural paleochannel). Given the layout of the proposed development, which includes the eastern side of this field, further testing in the sloping lands east of the Field system RMP DU011-014 (Figure 14, Field 13; Figure 2) was carried out. Five test trenches (T6-T10) on the eastern side of Field 1 and within the ZoN of DU011-114 in order to:

- Confirm the validity of the geophysical survey in this area.
- Carry out an archaeological risk assessment exercise for the proposed development, as development is being considered on the eastern side of this hill.

#### 5.1.2. Field 1 (Trenches 1,1a–5)

No previous archaeological assessment has been carried out in field 1; it was too disturbed for a geophysical survey. Six test trenches were opened across accessible areas of the field after some undergrowth was cleared from the site and access to the field was broken through from the road (Figure 14).

## 5.2. Methodology

Trench locations were set out using GPS. Under the direction of the licenced archaeologist, trenches were then excavated with a mechanical digger equipped with a c.1.8m flat-edged grading bucket to the upper surface of archaeology or sterile natural subsoil, whichever appeared first.

Potential archaeology was then ‘cleaned back’ by hand, and a limited degree of further hand investigation was undertaken to ascertain its nature.

### 5.3. Results

#### 5.3.1. General

The soils of the locality are primarily grey-brown podzolics and gley soils (Association 38), with an underlying geology comprising till of Irish Sea origin with limestone and shale (National Soil Survey of Ireland, 1980). The natural subsoil's geology was relatively homogeneous in both fields, comprising a mottled mid-brown/rusty yellow silty clay with frequent small-to medium-sized sub-rounded stones. However, deep deposits of sterile mid-brown-grey alluvial silty clay were identified adjacent to the watercourse in both fields (T5–T8). In field 2, localised changes in natural subsoil related to the standing water, which resulted in the gleying of the soils (grey-blue colour), corresponded to waterlogged dips in the field topography.

No archaeological features of significance were identified in the trenches opened.

#### 5.3.2. Field 1 (Trenches 1,1a–5)

##### Introduction

Six test trenches (Figure 14) were opened in the field; their length and orientation depended on ground conditions and services (drainage chambers, debris in the centre of the fields, overhead lines, and angle masts in the southern part of the field). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trenches opened in Field 1.

##### Test Trench 1

Test trench 1 ran northeast to southwest across the northern part of the field parallel to the Rathbeale Road, which was lower in level than the field surface. The trench measured 17.5m long and 1.8m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.80m (Plate 10). To the south, spoil mounds were overgrown with vegetation extended further into the field. Immediately below the overgrown sod layer, there was a deep deposit of construction debris to a depth of at least 1.8m; the original ground surface was not reached. The trench demonstrated that the area north of Field 1 comprised upcast/dumped material, possibly from the recent Rathbeale Road improvements or neighbouring developments.

Table 2: Summary of T1

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.10m	Humic mid-brown grass and weed sod layer.	Topsoil
0.10m – 0.1.8m + (base of trench)	Loose dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of boulders, concrete blocks, brick, wood, plastic and concrete	Modern construction debris



Plate 10 Test trench 1, view looking east.

A smaller (T1a) box trench measuring 2m x 2m was excavated c.30m further east of Trench 1, to confirm whether the mounded material continued across the northeastern area of the site. This area was similarly built up; one sherd of post-medieval willow ware was found.

Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in either trench. However, there is a potential that some archaeological features may lie beneath the original ground level, which could not be reached.

#### Test Trench 2

Test trench 2 ran roughly north-south, following the natural slope. It measured 36m long and 1.8m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.80m at its southern end (Plate 11). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trench.

Table 3: Summary of T2

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.30m	Humic mid-brown sod layer.	Topsoil
0.30m – 0.60m +	Dark brown silty clay with infrequent stone inclusions.	Subsoil
+0.60m/0.80m	Moderately compact light brown/orangey in places silty clay with inclusions of small stones and decayed rock	Natural subsoil



Plate 11 Test trench 2, view looking north

### Test Trench 3

Test trench 3 ran roughly northwest-southeast and measured 30m long and 1.8m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.80m (Plate 12). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trench.

Table 4: Summary of T3

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.20m	Humic mid-brown sod layer.	Topsoil
0.20m – 0.80m +	Dark brown silty clay with infrequent stone inclusions.	Subsoil
+0.80m	Moderately compact light brown/orangey in places silty clay with inclusions of small stones and decayed rock	Natural subsoil

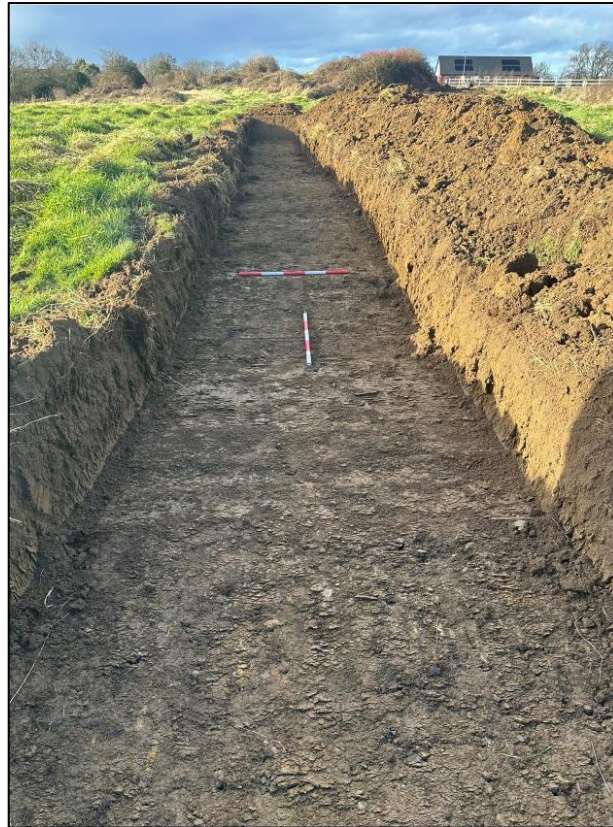


Plate 12 Test trench 3, view looking northeast

#### Test Trench 4

Test trench 4 ran roughly northeast–southwest. It measured 18.5m long and 1.8m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.70m (Plate 13). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trench.

Table 5: Summary of T4

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.20m	Humic mid-brown sod layer.	Topsoil
0.20m – 0.80m +	Mid-brown silty clay with infrequent stone inclusions.	Subsoil
+0.80m	Moderately compact light rusty brown in places silty clay with inclusions of small stones and decayed rock and in frequent pockets of gravelly clay	Natural subsoil



Plate 13 Test trench 4, view looking northeast

### Test Trench 5

Test trench 5 ran northeast–southwest and measured 50m long; it cut across the slope down to the watercourse on the eastern boundary (Plate 14). At the western downslope end of the trench in the river valley, the first 3m comprised a deep deposit of sterile alluvial clay that reached a depth of 1.2m before rapidly filling with water. Two linear stone-lined field drains of post-medieval date were identified in the trench and not considered archaeologically significant. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trench.

Table 6: Summary of T5

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.20m	Waterlogged humic mid-brown sod layer.	Topsoil
0.20m – 0.80m +	Mid-brown silty clay with infrequent stone inclusions.	Subsoil
+0.80m	Moderately compact light rusty brown in places silty clay with inclusions of small stones and decayed rock and in frequent pockets of gravelly clay.	Natural subsoil
0.20m – 1.20m+	In the first 3m of the western end of the trench, there was a deep (1.20+m) deposit of sticky light brown alluvial clay built up at the edge of the river's floodplain; it was sterile and had no inclusions.	Alluvial soils
0.80m	At 6m from the west end of the trench, 4m of an east-west stone-lined field drain was exposed. A 0.20m section was investigated; it was 15cm deep and filled with loose stone, which quickly filled with water. A second drain was located 26m from the western end of the trench.	Field drains



Plate 14 Test trench 4, looking northwest (towards the watercourse) and looking southwest and inset showing the land drain

### 5.3.3. Field 13 (Test Trench 6 – 10)

Field 13 lies within the current zone of notification (ZoN) of RMP DU011-144004, an early medieval field system associated with the Oldtown ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP DU011-144001) north of Rathbeale Road. Five test trenches (T6-T10) on the eastern side of Field 1 and within the RMP ZoN.

#### Test Trench 6

Test trench 6 ran in a roughly east-west orientation on the eastern slopes of a natural rise. It measured 38m long, 1.8m wide, and was at least 0.40m to 0.80m deep. At the eastern downslope end of the trench in the river valley, a deep deposit of alluvial material reached a depth of 1.2m. No features of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.

Table 7: Summary of T6

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.25m	Dark brown silty clay with potato crop stubble	Ploughsoil
0.25m- 0.40m/0.80m	Mid-brown silty clay with some rare pebble inclusions	Subsoil
+0.40m/0.80m	A mottled, mid-rusty-yellow, grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of tiny to medium-sized irregular stones and decayed stones.	Natural subsoil

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
+1.20m	From 0-4m at the sloping eastern end of the trench (c. 5m from the river), a deep deposit of sterile soft light brown to light grey silty clay alluvium was encountered, quickly filling with water. No organic deposits were observed in this.	Alluvial soils



Plate 15 View looking east and downslope of Test trench 6 and deep alluvial soils at the eastern end of the trench.

### Test Trench 7

Test trench 7 roughly east-west orientation and measured 38m long, and generally 0.60m deep. Like trench 6, a deep deposit of alluvial material reached a depth of 1m at the eastern downslope end of the trench in the river valley. No features of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.



Table 8: Summary of T7

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.30m	Dark brown silty clay with potato crop stubble	Ploughsoil
0.30m- 0.60m	Mid-brown silty clay with some rare pebble inclusions	Subsoil
+0.30m/0.60m	A mottled, mid-rusty-yellow, grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of tiny to medium-sized irregular stones and decayed stones.	Natural subsoil
+1m	From 0-3m at the sloping eastern end of the trench (c. 5m from the river), a deep deposit of sterile soft light brown to light grey silty clay alluvium was encountered, that quickly filled with water. No organic deposits were observed in this.	Alluvial soils



Plate 16 View looking east downslope along Test trench 7

### Test trench 8

Test trench 8 roughly east-west orientation and measured 38m long, and generally 0.60m deep. At the eastern downslope end of the trench in the river valley, a deep deposit of alluvial material reached a depth of 1m. At 12m from the eastern end of the trench, a change in natural was encountered; it comprised a wide c. 4m spread of very soft mid-brown damp clay with loose pebble stone clay and grey natural gravelly clay; this area corresponds to a subtle natural waterlogged dip in the field. No features of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.

Table 9: Summary of T8

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.30m	Dark brown silty clay with potato crop stubble	Ploughsoil
0.30m- 0.60m	Mid-brown silty clay with some rare pebble inclusions	Subsoil
+0.30m/0.60m	A mottled, mid-rusty-yellow, grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of tiny to medium-sized irregular stones and decayed stones.	Natural subsoil
+1m	From 0-3m at the sloping eastern end of the trench (c. 5m from the river), a deep deposit of sterile soft light brown to light grey silty clay alluvium was encountered, which quickly filled with water. No organic deposits were observed in this.	Alluvial soils



Plate 17 Test trench 8 view looking west upslope

### Test Trench 9

Test trench 9 had a roughly northwest -southeast orientation and measured 36m long. No features of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.

Table 10: Summary of T9

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.30m	Dark brown silty clay with potato crop stubble	Ploughsoil
0.30m- 0.40m	Loose mid-brown silty clay with some rare pebble inclusions	Subsoil
+0.30m/0.60m	A mottled, mid-rusty-yellow, grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of tiny to medium-sized irregular stones and decayed stones.	Natural subsoil
	A 1.8-m-wide natural amorphic deposit of fine grey sand was identified 10m from the eastern end of the trench.	Natural sand deposit
+1m	From 0-3m at the sloping eastern end of the trench (c. 5m from the river), a deep deposit of sterile soft light brown to light grey silty clay alluvium was encountered, and quickly filled with water. No organic deposits or inclusions were observed in this.	Alluvial soils



Plate 18 Test trench 9, view looking east

### Test Trench 10

Test trench 10 ran roughly northeast-southwest orientation and measured 49m long. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the trench.

Table 11: Summary of T10

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.00m – 0.30m	Dark brown silty clay with potato crop stubble	Ploughsoil
0.30m- 0.40m	Loose mid-brown silty clay with some rare pebble inclusions	Subsoil
+0.30m/0.60m	A mottled, mid-rusty-yellow, grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of tiny to medium-sized irregular stones and decayed stones.	Natural subsoil



Plate 19 Test trench 10, view looking north

## 6. SUMMARY AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

### 6.1. Summary

Geophysical survey and testing have provided an excellent level of certainty and definition of the below-ground archaeological potential of the overall Framework Plan for the Mooretown lands. This has informed the layout of each phase development proposed within the lands, ensuring that the areas of archaeological significance have been preserved in situ and integrated into each development.

### 6.2. Potential Impacts

#### 6.2.1. Phase 1 application lands

There are no recorded archaeological sites (RMP sites) or features of cultural heritage significance within the Mooretown Phase 1 application lands. Supplementary archaeological testing carried out in Field 1, where investigations had not previously been carried out, did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance. In addition, the previous LAP archaeological surveys carried

out in the remainder of the Phase 1 lands (Fields 4 and part of Field 2) did not identify any features of archaeological significance.

Archaeological monitoring of construction in the neighbouring Mooretown lands (Gannon Lands), to the east, which was subject to the same archaeological investigations as part of the LAP process, revealed some additional small-scale/isolated archaeological sites (e.g. a burnt spread, ring barrow, a trough and waterhole dating to the early Bronze Age and two pits, one of which contained Beaker pottery) which were not evident in the previous surveys. This demonstrates that while the LAP surveys have provided great certainty on the lands' archaeological potential, due to the nature of small-scale archaeological remains and ephemeral archaeological features, there is a potential, albeit reduced, that discrete archaeological features/sites or soils may still survive undetected in the proposed Phase 1 lands and may be revealed during site clearance in the area subject to development. If such features survive, the proposed development will have a direct impact on them.

### 6.2.2. Overall Mooretown Framework Plan Lands

The overall Mooretown Framework Plan lands include three archaeological parks defined in the former LAP: Rathbeale Archaeological Park- Mooretown Section (Field 13), Glasmore Green Archaeological Park (Field 2) and St Cronan's Well Archaeology Park (Field 3) which will contain in-situ archaeological remains. The archaeological sites will be kept free from development and will be incorporated into an open-space strategy.

As part of the current framework plan development strategy, in future phases of the development of the lands, it is proposed to reduce the size of the Mooretown Section of the Rathbeale Archaeological Park (which contains the field system, RMP DU011-114 in Field 13) on its eastern side. Field 13 is a large irregular field that slopes steeply towards the east to a deep watercourse. It is proposed to preserve the field system in-situ and to develop it as a landscaped archaeological park (reflecting the lapsed LAP proposals) that connects to the Rathbeale Archaeological Park to the north. There is an existing pedestrian link across Rathbeale Road that will provide a link between the two sites. The field is very large, and it was decided as part of the current Framework Plan to reduce the size of the Mooretown Section of the Rathbeale Archaeological Park and to develop the eastern part of the field where there is no in situ archaeology. This is to encourage the use of the park, safe access and a broader scope for passive surveillance of the very large greenfield area. Archaeological testing of the eastern side of the ZoN confirmed that the field system recorded in Field 13 is concentrated on the western side of the field, on top of the natural hill. As previously suggested, the testing has shown that it does not extend beyond the features indicated in the geophysical survey and previous testing.

The landscaping proposals for Rathbeale Archaeological Park- Mooretown Section, Glasmore Green Archaeological Park and St Cronan's Well Archaeology Park will be developed with the overall Framework Plan to ensure connectivity and a uniform strategy.

## 7. PROPOSED MITIGATION

### 7.1. Mooretown Phase 1 Development

As is the nature of archaeological remains, it is difficult to ensure that everything is identified in advance of development, or that sites will not be revealed during the early stages of construction-phase earthmoving. In view of this potential, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping is carried out across the site within the area of the proposed development as an archaeological exercise. This should be carried out during the site set-up phase of the

development and well in advance of the main construction phase. Monitoring will be carried out under licence to the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and will ensure the full recognition of, and – if required – the proper excavating and recording of all archaeological features, finds or deposits which may lie undisturbed beneath the ground surface.

Should any archaeological features and/or deposits be revealed during the monitoring, then any further work would be subject to additional licensing with approval from the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH, who may recommend preservation in situ (avoidance) or full excavation and recording of the feature in advance of construction work. If features are revealed, the area will need to be investigated, allowing no further development to occur in the area around the find spot until the identified site is fully recorded and excavated or, alternatively, avoided.

Fingal County Council is drawn to appropriate sections of National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004), which states that in the event of the discovery of archaeological features or finds the DHLGH must be informed. No construction can take place until the archaeological issues are resolved by a licensed archaeologist. Provision must be made to allow for and fund any archaeological work that may be needed if any remains should be noted during ground preparation works or construction.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) and the local authority.

It is recommended that all contractors be made aware of the sensitive areas across the overall Framework Plan site during construction of the Phase 1 development. A protection zone will be placed around the recorded extent of each archaeological area, (Rathbeale Archaeological Park-Mooretown Section (Field 13), Glasmore Green Archaeological Park (Field 2) and St Cronan's Well Archaeology Park (Field 3)) under archaeological direction by way of a robust fence erected in advance of development. The protection zone will encircle each area with a buffer zone of 20m beyond the extent of the monument to protect it from any construction-related activities. No construction activity, including traffic, storage, or landfill/borrow sites, can occur within these areas. This will ensure no inadvertent damage occurs to the archaeology in these sensitive areas.

## 7.2. Framework Plan Area

A separate planning application and impact assessment will be carried out for each phase of the proposed development within the overall Mooretown Framework Plan lands.

## 8. REFERENCES

- Anonymous. 1930–3. Hearth Money Roll for County Dublin (continued from vol. 10). *Journal of the Kildare Archaeology Society* 11: 386–466.
- Baker, C. 2003a. Archaeological Assessment, Oldtown, Swords, County Dublin. Unpublished report. Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Baker, C. 2003b. Archaeological Assessment [of an] Access Road, Oldtown, Swords, County Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Baker, C. 2003c. Archaeological Monitoring [of an] Access Road, Oldtown, Swords, County Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Baker C. 2004. A lost ecclesiastical site in Fingal. *Archaeology Ireland* 18(3), Autumn issue.
- Bolger, T. 2006. Archaeological Assessment, Oldtown/Mooretown, Swords, County Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Courtney, L. 2010. Oldtown-Mooretown Conservation and Management Plan, County Dublin' Unpublished report for Fingal County Council
- Deery, S. 2006. Strategic Environmental Assessment. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Deery, S. 2006. Strategic Environmental Assessment Archaeology Oldtown, Swords, Co. Dublin Unpublished report. Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd
- Deery, S. 2010. 'The emerging medieval landscape of the baronies of Nethercross and Balrothery East, Fingal, Co Dublin' Unpublished Masters in Archaeology and Heritage Thesis, University of Leicester.
- DOEHLG 2006. Guidelines for Authors of Report on Archaeological Excavations. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Bradley, J. 1998. The medieval boroughs of County Dublin. In C. Manning (ed.) *Dublin and Beyond the Pale: Studies in honour of Patrick Healy*. Bray.
- Byrne, F.J. 1973. *Irish Kings and High Kings*. London.
- D'Alton, J. 1838. *History of the County Dublin*.
- Fingal County Council 2010. *Oldtown-Mooretown Local Area Plan*.
- Frazer, W.O. & Eriksson C. July, 2008. Archaeological Assessment, Mooretown Local Area Plan, Mooretown Townland, Swords, Co Dublin. Licence No. 08E0303. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd.
- Frazer, W.O. 2007. Archaeological Assessment, Permanent School, Rathbeale Road, Oldtown, Swords, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Halliday, S. 2004. Report on Archaeological Testing Mooretown, Swords, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report, Arch-Tech Ltd.

Jordan, J. 2005. Archaeological, Architectural & Cultural Heritage Appraisal, LAP, Oldtown, Swords, Co. Dublin Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Harbison, P. 1970. Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland. Dublin.

IAI 2006. Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Codes of Conduct for Archaeological Assessment Excavation. Dublin. At [http://www.iai.ie/Publications\\_Files/Code Assessment1-0.pdf](http://www.iai.ie/Publications_Files/Code%20Assessment1-0.pdf)

Joyce, P.W. 1995 (reprint). Irish Names of Places. Dublin.

Leask, H.G. 1973. Irish Castles. Dundalk.

Leigh, J. 2006. Geophysical Survey Report, Mooretown, Swords, County Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Lynn, C.J. 1978. Early Christian period domestic structures: a change from round to rectangular. Irish Archaeological Research Forum 5: 29–45.

Lynn, C.J. 1994. Houses in rural Ireland, AD 500–1000. Ulster Journal of Archaeology 57: 81–94.

Moore, D. & Quinn, B. 2007. Ale, brewing and fulacht fiadh. Archaeology Ireland (Winter 2007).

Nicholls, J. 2003. Geophysical Survey, Lands at Oldtown, Swords, North County Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

O'Donovan, J. et al. 1843. Ordnance Survey Name Books, Dublin County, vol. 4.

O'Sullivan, A. and L. Harney. 2008. Early Medieval Archaeology Project: Investigating the character of early medieval archaeological excavations 1970–2002. Unpublished report, University College Dublin. At [http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/emap\\_report\\_january\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/emap_report_january_2008.pdf)

Simms, A. and Fagan, P. 1992. Villages in Co. Dublin. In F.H.A. Aalen and K. Whelan (eds) Dublin City and County: From Prehistory to Present. Dublin.

Stephens, C. 2005. Geophysical Survey Report, Oldtown, Swords, North County Dublin. Unpublished report, GSB Prospection on behalf of Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Stout, M. 1997. The Irish Ringfort. Four Courts Press, Dublin.

Swan, R. 1999. Cianlea, Mooretown (No. 259). In I. Bennet (ed.) Excavations Bulletin 1999. At [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

Thébaudeau, B. 2008. Geophysical Survey Report, Mooretown LAP, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd.

### 8.1. Online Sources

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

[www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)



## **APPENDIX 1      SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

The National Monuments Acts (1930-2014) serve to protect archaeological sites and features as well as the potential for new discovery in Ireland on dry land. The regulation of work that might encounter archaeology is governed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and while this Act is now law, most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made one or more Commencement Orders. This means that the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.

### **National Monuments Legislation (1930-2014)**

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, 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.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by

the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

### **Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999**

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines “architectural heritage” as:

- (a) all 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.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999)

