## An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural

 Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Residential Development at New Road, Donabate, Co.Project code: RH1182
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment for a proposed residential development at New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin. This study was undertaken for Fingal Co. Co.by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. The proposed residential development (Figure 6) comprises 175 No. units over an area of 4.72 На.

This assessment has identified 30 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas. These sites include eight RMPs (CH001-CH008), nine NIAH registrations, four of which are also protected structures (CH009 and CH017) five townland boundaries (CH018CH 022 ), and eight previous archaeological excavations ( $\mathrm{CH} 023-\mathrm{CH} 030$ ).

As laid out, the proposed development site overlies or crosses five townland boundaries (CH018CH 022 ) and will have a permanent, localised direct impact on the boundaries.

As laid out, the proposed development may have a direct impact on CH001; DU012-088----an enclosure, or features associated with this monument. This enclosure has no above ground expression. The marked location of this monument is 10 m outside the application boundary, though examination of a preceding geophysical survey suggests the monuments is located immediately adjacent to the proposed development boundary (Figure 7). This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence No. 05R012; see Appendix 7) and test excavation (Licence No. 07E0650; see Appendix 6) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. However, the proposed development site was only partially subject to the geophysical survey at the time as the site was overgrown. The results of the adjacent Geophysical survey suggest that DU012-088---- or associated feature may extend to the proposed development site. The proposed development site crosses the statutory zone of notification for DU012-088----.

Part of the proposed development site was subject to archaeological test-trenching in 2019 (License No. 19E0351). A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated toward the southern and western side of the proposed development site. One archaeologically significant feature, a sub-circular pit of uncertain date, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. These excavations demonstrate the potential for archaeological deposits to remain in situ outside of the area not subject to previous archaeological test-trenching.

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant under licence from National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on those parts of the proposed development site not previously archaeologically tested. Trench layout should be informed by the layout of the proposed development. Among the aims of this advance works programme may be determining the extents of CH001 DU012-088---- to ensure the monument lies entirely outside the proposed development site, and determining the absence or presence of any other archaeological deposits. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist

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2. A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any sub-surface groundworks which may need to be undertaken within any statutory zone of notification. Should any archaeological material be encountered, works in that area will cease and the local authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the local authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service
3. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary may need to be removed, a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant prior to or during removal. This may be undertaken as part of the preceding programme of archaeological evaluation.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment for a for a proposed residential development at New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin. This study was undertaken for Fingal Co. Co. by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.

The proposed development will principally comprise the construction of 175 No. residential dwellings (123 No. houses and 52 No. apartments) and a single-storey crèche of 365 sq m (with outdoor play area and external stores). The 123 No. houses, which are part-1-/part-2-storey and 2-storey in height, include 30 No. 2-bed units, 82 No. 3-bed units and 11 No. 4-bed units. The 52 No. apartments include 26 No. 1bed units, 20 No. 2-bed units and 6 No. 3-bed units and are contained in a single block ranging in height from 1 No. to 4 No. storeys.

The development will also include the following: 2 No. new multi-modal entrances/exits at New Road; 2 No. multi-modal connections to existing and under construction residential developments to the east and north respectively; cycle track and footpath along New Road; 139 No. car parking spaces; 4 No. set down bays; 6 No. motorcycle parking spaces; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping, including public open space, communal amenity space and private amenity spaces (which include gardens, balconies and terraces facing all directions); boundary treatments; 1 No. sub-station; bin stores; lighting; PV panels atop houses; green roofs, PV panels, lift overruns and plant atop the apartment block; green roofs and PV panels atop the crèche building; and all associated works above and below ground.

### 1.1 Site description and location

The proposed development is situated in the townland of Ballisk off New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin. It comprises a single ,flat green field bounded to the south by New Road, to the east and west by residential developments, and to the north by actively under construction for residential development. The site includes: part of New Road for road junction, cycle track, footpath and water service connection works; and part of the site to the north for water service connection works.

### 1.2 Study area

The study area for this assessment has been defined in respect of two factors:

- the ability of sites/information sources to provide information pertaining to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, and
- the potential physical effects, as well as effects on setting, that the proposed works may have on sites of cultural heritage significance.

Taking these factors into account the study area has been defined as follows (See Figure 2):

| Subject | Study area |
| :--- | :--- |
| National Monuments and Recorded <br> archaeological monuments (RMPs) | Within 500 m of the proposed development application boundary. |
| Protected Structures and/or their <br> curtilage | Within 500 m of the proposed development application boundary |
| Architectural Conservation Areas <br> (ACAS) | Within 500 m of the proposed development application boundary |


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| Subject | Study area |
| :--- | :--- |
| Structures recorded in the NIAH | Within 500 m of the proposed development application boundary |
| Unregistered features of cultural <br> heritage | Within the proposed development footprint |
| Areas of archaeological potential; <br> Unregistered Cultural Heritage <br> Receptors (UCH) | Within the proposed development footprint |
| Previous Excavations and National <br> Museum Topographical Files | Within townlands incorporated by the proposed development application <br> boundary. |

Table 1-1 Dimensions of the study area

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## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Objectives

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, evaluate potential effects that the proposed works will have on this environment, and provide mitigation measures in accordance with the policies of the National Monuments Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) and Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended, and best practice guidelines, to avoid, reduce or offset these effects.

Cultural heritage ( CH ) includes artefacts, monuments, groups of buildings, sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It includes industrial heritage and cave paintings (UNESCO 2009).

In order to provide a comprehensive assessment, an extensive desktop study in addition to a field inspection of the proposed development area was undertaken.

The scope and methodology for the baseline assessment has been devised with reference to the following guidelines:

- Environmental Protection Agency (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements'
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999) 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2003; Draft 2015) 'Advice notes on current practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage 2018)
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Environmental Protection Agency 2017)
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2011) 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities'
- National Roads Authority (2005) ‘Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes'
- Eirgrid (2015) Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A stand approach to archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of high voltage transmission projects.


### 2.2 Desktop study methodology

The present assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the proposed development area is based on a desktop study of a number of documentary and cartographic sources. The desktop study was further augmented by an examination of aerial photography as well as a field survey. The main sources consulted in completing the desktop study are listed here:

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- List of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership \& Guardianship
- List of Preservation Orders and the Register of Historic Monuments
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- Files of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey
- County and Town Development Plans
- Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files
- Urban Archaeological Surveys
- Ordnance Survey first and subsequent editions, www.osi.ie
- Ordnance Survey Name books / Letters / Memoirs
- National Folklore Collection
- Early maps and estate maps
- Aerial photographs
- Excavations Bulletin (www.excavations.ie)
- www.loganim.ie (for townland names)


### 2.3 Methodology used for assessing baseline value of sites

In order to categorise the baseline environment in a systemised manner, 'baseline values' have been assigned to each identified site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within the study area (see Section 1.2). The baseline value of a site is determined with reference to the 'importance' and 'sensitivity' of the site.

The importance of a site is determined based on the following criteria: legal status, condition, historical associations, amenity value, ritual value, specimen value, group value and rarity.

The sensitivity of a site is determined based on the presence of extant remains and/or the potential for associated sub-surface remains of the feature to be present in situ.

It should be noted that the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended does not differentiate between recorded archaeological sites on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity. In addition, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) does not differentiate between Protected Structures or Areas of Architectural Conservation on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity either. Consequently, professional judgement has been exercised to rate these features based on their perceived importance and sensitivity in relation to physical effects and effects on setting.

Taking the above factors into consideration, the criteria that have been defined are provided in Table 2 below.

| Subject | Baseline Value |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | Recorded Archaeological Monuments | Very High |
| - | Protected Structures |  |
| - | Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) | High |
| - | Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures |  |
| - | Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in |  |
|  | good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural |  |
| heritage features |  |  |
| - | Unrecorded features of archaeological potential |  |


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| Subject | Baseline Value |
| :---: | :---: |
| - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition <br> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains <br> - Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains <br> - Marshy/wetland areas | Medium/High |
| - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence <br> - Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains | Medium/Low |
| - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence | Low |

Table 2-1 Baseline values of sites
Caution should be exercised when assessing the perceived significance of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site as such categorisation is open to subjectivity. In addition, the perceived levels of importance as identified in this report are liable to future revision in the instance where new information, through the undertaking of further archaeological investigations, is provided.

### 2.4 Type of effects

The following table lists the type of effects that a proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource (after Environmental Protection Agency, 2022):

| Type of effects | Definition |
| :--- | :--- |
| Direct | Direct effects arise where an archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage feature <br> or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its <br> associated physical effect zone, whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is <br> thus required. |
| Indirect | Indirect effects arise when an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature is <br> not located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical <br> effect zone, and thus is not effected directly. Such an effect could include effect on setting <br> or effect on the zone of archaeological potential of site whereby the actual site itself is not <br> physically affected. |
| Do-nothing effects | The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out. |
| Worst-case Effects | The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail. |
| Cumulative | The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to <br> create larger, more significant effects |
| Indeterminable | Whereby the full consequence that the proposed development may have on the cultural <br> heritage resource is not known |
| Irreversible Effects | When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment <br> is permanently lost. |
| Residual | The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation <br> measures have taken effect. |
| Synergistic Effects | Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents |

## Table 2-2 Type of effects

### 2.5 Methodology used for assessing magnitude of effects

The methodology used to assess the magnitude of potential pre-mitigation effects, as well as residual effects, of the proposed development on the baseline environment is presented in Table 2-3 below.

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| Effect magnitude | Criteria |
| :---: | :---: |
| Profound | - An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics <br> - Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, adverse effects only. These effects arise where an archaeology site is completely and irreversibly destroyed. <br> - An effect that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects. |
| Very Significant | - An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment. |
| Significant | - An effect which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently effected, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological feature/site. <br> - An effect that by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or the setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently effected leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigate is likely to reduce the effect. <br> - A beneficial or positive effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner. |
| Moderate | - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends. <br> - A medium effect arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible. <br> - A medium effect to a site/monument may also arise when a site is fully or partly excavated under license and all recovered data is preserved by record. <br> - An effect that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Effects are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the effect. <br> - A beneficial or positive effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner. |
| Slight | - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities <br> - An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as visual effect, which are not high or very high and do not directly effect or affect an archaeological feature or monument. <br> - An effect that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly effect the architectural structure or feature. Effects are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the effect. <br> - A beneficial or positive effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of an architectural heritage significance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable. |


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| Effect magnitude | Criteria |
| :--- | :---: |
| Not-significant | •An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment <br> but without significant consequences. |
| Imperceptible | •An effect on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement <br> but without significant consequences. |
|  | •An effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of <br> measure merit but without noticeable consequences. <br> - A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance <br> that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences. |

Table 2-3 Criteria used for rating magnitude of effects
Positive significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature may also be expressed.

- Significant positive: a beneficial effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage in a clearly noticeable manner;
- Moderate positive: a beneficial effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage and which is noticeable and consistent with existing and emerging trends;
- Slight positive: a beneficial effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of architectural heritage or local or regional importance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable; and
- Imperceptible positive: a beneficial effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.


### 2.6 Assessing the duration and frequency of effect

'Duration' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics. The EPA (2022) has issued the below guideline definitions when discussing duration in the context of environmental impact assessment.

| Term | Criteria |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Momentary Effects | - | Effects lasting from seconds to minutes. |
| Brief Effects | - | Effects lasting less than a day |
| Temporary Effects | - | Effects lasting less than a year. |
| Short-term Effects | - | Effects lasting one to seven years |
| Medium-term Effects | - | Effects lasting seven to fifteen years. |
| Long-term Effects | - | Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years. |
| Permanent Effects | - | Effects lasting over sixty years. |
| Reversible Effects | - | Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or |
| Frequency of Effects | -Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, <br> frequently, constantly - or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually). |  |

Table 2-4 Duration and frequency of effect

### 2.7 Methodology used for assessing significance level of effects

The significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature is assessed by combining the magnitude of the effect and baseline value of the feature. The matrix in Table 2-5 provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly

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where the baseline value or effect magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The permanence of the effects is also taken into account, with irreversible effects being more significant while temporary or reversible changes are likely to be less significant.

| Magnitude of <br> Effect | Baseline Value |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Very High | High | Medium/High | Medium/Low | Low |
|  | Very <br> significant | Very <br> significant | Significant | Moderate | Slight |
| Very <br> Significant | Significant | Significant | Moderate | Slight | Slight |
| Significant | Significant | Moderate | Moderate | Slight | Slight |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Slight | Slight | Negligible |
| Slight | Moderate | Slight | Slight | Negligible | Negligible |
| Not Significant | Slight | Slight | Imperceptible | Imperceptible | Imperceptible |
| Imperceptible | Imperceptible | Imperceptible | Imperceptible | Imperceptible | Imperceptible |

Table 2-5 Criteria for assessing significance level of effects

### 2.8 Assessing effects on setting

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.
The definition of setting follows the guidance set by Historic England as they have developed a range of comprehensive guidance on this subject specific to heritage assets (Historic England; 2008; 2017). Hence setting is not simply the visual envelope of the asset in question. Rather, it is those parts of the asset's surroundings that are relevant to the significance of the asset and the appreciation thereof, and in which a heritage asset is experienced.

In most instances setting will relate to the historical value of the asset, where an appreciable relationship between the asset and an element of its surroundings helps the visitor understand and appreciate the asset. This may be in terms of a physical relationship, such as between a castle and the natural rise that it occupies, or a more distant visual relationship, such as a designed vista or the view from, for example, one ringfort to another. The former is referred to as immediate setting and the latter as landscape setting. Many assets will only have an immediate setting. Some assets will have aesthetic value that relates to the surrounding landscape, such as in the case of a designed view incorporating a distant hill, or that relates to the contribution the asset makes to the local landscape, for example a church spire providing a focal point in a view down a valley.

Historic England has provided a list of factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting. These are broad factors and have been taken into consideration when assessing magnitude of effect and sensitivity. They are summarised in Table 2-6.

| Factor | Discussion |
| :--- | :--- |
| Visual dominance | Where an historic feature (such as a hilltop monument or fortification, a church spire, <br> or a plantation belonging to a designed landscape) is the most visually dominant <br> feature in the surrounding landscape, adjacent construction of the proposed <br> development may be inappropriate. |
| Scale | The extent of a proposed development and the number, density and disposition of its <br> associated elements will also contribute to its visual effect. |
| Intervisibility | Certain archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from <br> other historic sites. Construction of a proposed development should respect this <br> intervisibility. |


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| Factor | Discussion |
| :--- | :--- |
| Vistas and sight-lines | Designed landscapes invariably involve key vistas, prospects, panoramas and sight- <br> lines, or the use of topography to add drama. Location of a proposed development <br> within key views, which may often extend beyond any designated area, should be <br> avoided. |
| Movement, sound or <br> light effects | The movement associated with a proposed development may be a significant issue in <br> certain historic settings. Adequate distance should always be provided between <br> important historic sites and proposed developments to avoid the site being <br> overshadowed or affected by noise. |
| Unaltered settings | The setting of some historic sites may be little changed from the period when the site <br> was first constructed, used or abandoned. Largely unaltered settings for certain types <br> of sites, particularly more ancient sites, may be rare survivals and especially vulnerable <br> to modern intrusions such as wind turbines. This may be a particular issue in certain <br> upland areas. |

Table 2-6 Factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting (after Historic England 2017)
The following are guides to the assessment of magnitude of effect on setting:

- Obstruction of or distraction from key views. Some assets have been sited or designed with specific views in mind, such as the view from a country house with designed vistas. The obstruction or cluttering of such views would reduce the extent to which the asset could be understood and appreciated by the visitor. Developments outside key views may distract from them and make them difficult to appreciate on account of their prominence and movement. In such instances the magnitude is likely to be greatest where views have a particular focus or a strong aesthetic character. Sympathetic development may improve key views by removing features that obstruct or distract from key views and hence preserve or enhance the importance of the asset.
- Changes in prominence. Some assets are deliberately placed in prominent locations in order to be prominent in the surrounding landscape, for example prehistoric cairns are often placed to be silhouetted against the sky and churches in some areas are deliberately placed on ridges in order to be highly visible. Developments can reduce such prominence and therefore reduce the extent to which such sites can be appreciated or the contribution that they make to the local landscape. Similarly, sympathetic development can enhance the setting of such sites by, for example, removing modern forestry that would otherwise compromise the setting of a cairn that had been placed on a skyline.
- Changes in landscape character. A particular land use regime may be essential to the appreciation of an asset's function, for instance the fields surrounding an Improvement period farmstead are inextricably linked to its appreciation. Changes in land use can leave the asset isolated and reduce its value. In some instances, assets will have aesthetic value or a sense of place that is tied to the surrounding landscape character. Conversely, sympathetic development may restore or preserve the relevant land use and hence preserve or enhance the relevant value of the asset.
- Duration of effect. Effects that are long term or permanent are generally of greater magnitude than those that are short term.

Readily reversible effects are generally of lesser magnitude than those that cannot be reversed. Effects upon the defined setting will be of greater magnitude than those that affect unrelated elements of the asset's surroundings or incidental views to or from an asset that are unrelated to the appreciation of its value. The magnitude of effects can be rated from Negligible to Major using a similar scale to that for physical effects.

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### 2.9 Legislation, planning policy and guidance

A review of the applicable legislation, as well as national, strategic and local planning policies and guidance was undertaken as part of this study. The relevant sections addressing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage in the Fingal Development Plan (2023-2029) are included in Appendix 5. Any mitigation measures proposed in Section 5 take account of the current legislation, policies and guidelines so as to avoid, reduce or offset effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, in line with the aforementioned legislation, local planning policies and guidance.

### 2.10 Limitations of this assessment.

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.

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## 3 BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1 Designated archaeological sites

### 3.1.1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs)

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1994 made provision the establishment and maintenance of a Record of Monuments \& Places (RMP). Under this Act, each site recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

There are eight RMPs located within the study area (see Section 1.2) for the proposed scheme. Only one statutory zone of notification is crossed by the proposed scheme ( CH 001 ). These zones do not define the exact extent of the monuments but rather are intended to identify them for the purposes of notification under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act (1930-2004): each is referred to as a "zone of notification". If it is intended to carry out works within a Zone of Notification, you must give two months prior notice in writing to the Minister for Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage , even if planning permission is not needed for the works. Works undertaken through the planning process is via a formal notification mechanism and acts as notification in accordance with Section 12 of the National Monuments Act.

| CH ID | Type | RMP No; | Short Description | Townland |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CH001 | RMP | DU012-088---- | Enclosure | Ballymastone |
| CH002 | RMP | DU012-084---- | Ring-ditch | Ballymastone |
| CH003 | RMP | DU012-085---- | Ring-ditch | Ballymastone |
| CH004 | RMP | DU012-135---- | Souterrain | Corballis (Nethercross By.) |
| CH005 | RMP | DU012-100---- | Enclosure | Corballis (Nethercross By.) |
| CH006 | RMP | DU012-097---- | Ring-ditch | Corballis (Nethercross By.) |
| CH007 | RMP | DU012-087---- | Burnt mound | Corballis (Nethercross By.) |
| CH008 | RMP | DU012-086---- | Burnt mound | Corballis (Nethercross By.) |

Table 3-1 RMPs located within the study area

### 3.1.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are broken into two categories; National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local authority. Section 8 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954 provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months' notice must be given to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are no National Monuments sites incorporated by the study area (see Section 1.2).

### 3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders

The National Monuments Act 1930-2014 as amended provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the National

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Monument Act 1930 (as amended) the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers' opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with preservation orders incorporated by the study area (see Section 1.2).

### 3.1.4 Record of Protected Structures

The Fingal Development Plan (2023-2029) was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

If a structure is included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), the protection extends to:

- The interior of the structure
- The land in its curtilage. Curtilage means the land and outbuildings immediately surrounding a structure which is (or was) used for the purposes of the structure.
- Any other structures on that land and their interiors.
- All fixtures and features forming part of the interior and exterior of the protected structure or any structure on the grounds attached to it.

Inclusion of these structures in the RPS means that their importance is recognised, they are legally protected from harm and all future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process (for example, planning permission) or by issuing a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

There are five Protected Structures located within the study area (see Section 1.2), which are also listed on the NIAH register. None of the CH sites are located within the redline boundary of the proposed development.

| CH ID | Type | RMP No; | Short Description | Townland |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CH009 | RPS | 0513 | An Dun (Formerly Warington's House) | Ballalease West |
| CH010 | RPS | 0512 | St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church | Ballalease West |
| CH011 | RPS | 0511 | Railway Station | Beaverstown |
| CH012 | RPS | 0510 | Station Masters House | Beaverstown |
| CH013 | RPS | 0509 | Smyth's Public House | Corballis (NS. BY.) |

Table 3-2 Record of Protected Structures within the study area

### 3.2 Designated architectural heritage sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Planning and Development Act 2000, and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic

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Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

### 3.2.1 Architectural Conservation Areas

The County Development Plan (2023-2029) was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas (hereinafter 'ACAs'). The stated objective of ACAs is to conserve and enhance the special character of the area, including traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, landscape and setting.

There are no ACAs within the study area (see Section 1.2).

### 3.2.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the 'NIAH') is a state initiative under the administration of the DoHLGH and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing. Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are nine sites from the NIAH register located within the study area (see Section 1.2). Five of these are also recorded as protected structures (CH009-CH013). None of these sites are located within the redline boundary of the proposed development.

| CH ID | Type | RMP No; | Short Description | Townland |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CH009 | NIAH | 11329007 | An Dun (Formerly Warington's <br> House) | Ballalease West |
| CH010 | NIAH | 11329006 | St. Patrick's Roman Catholic <br> Church | Ballalease West |
| CH011 | NIAH | 11336015 | Railway Station | Beaverstown (Donabate) |
| CH012 | NIAH | 11336018 | Station Masters House | Beaverstown (Donabate) |
| CH013 | NIAH | 11336022 | Smyth's Public House | Corballis (NS. BY.) |
| CH014 | NIAH | 11329009 | Water pump | Ballalease West |
| CH015 | NIAH | 11329008 | Water pump | Ballalease West |
| CH016 | NIAH | 11336014 | Bridge | Beaverstown, Corballis (NS. BY.) |
| CH017 | NIAH | 11336016 | Graveyard/cemetery | Beaverstown |

Table 3-3 NIAH registrations located within the study area

### 3.3 Undesignated cultural heritage sites within the proposed development site

This section deals with sites that are considered to be of cultural heritage value, but which do not fall within the above categories as they are not registered. Such sites may include lime kilns, dwellings/outhouses, trackways or townland boundaries etc. identifiable on the First Edition 6/25-inch OS maps and/or noted during the field visit.

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### 3.3.1 Sites identifiable on cartographic sources

The cartographic record for the study area was examined for the purposes of this report (Figures 4 and 5). The following maps were consulted to identify undesignated cultural heritage sites that may be impacted on by the proposed scheme:

- 1760 Rocque's map of County Dublin
J. Rocque's map provides a clear view of the study area in the middle of the $18^{\text {th }}$ century. The map shows the proposed development site as a rectangular agricultural field. This fields forms part of a wider agricultural landscape. To the west of the site, the town of Donabate is shown with a town square and two roads forking off to the west. A short road runs east from the town square to the field system that the proposed development is part of.
- 1816 Taylor's Environs

Taylor's map provides a wider insight into the study area in the early $19^{\text {th }}$ century. The map shows a road running northwest from Mount Evans to Donabate.

- First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet (1843)

The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet (1843) shows the study area in the middle of the $19^{\text {th }}$ century. The map shows the proposed development site as two rectangular, agricultural fields. The depiction is similar to that in the $18^{\text {th }}$ century, suggesting that the area has remained largely unchanged. The map shows a road (New Road) at the southern border of the proposed development site, which runs west to Donabate.

- First Edition 25-inch Survey (1897-1913)

The First Edition 25-Inch Survey sheet shows that the proposed development site is still a field at this time. However, the two fields in the previous map have merged into one.

- First Edition 6-inch Cassini Survey (c.1940)

The proposed development site is unchanged

There are no undesignated cultural heritage sites which may be directly effected by the proposed development

### 3.3.2 Townland Boundaries

A townland is the smallest official land unit in the country. Ireland is made up of approximately 60,000 townlands. As a result, townland boundaries are ubiquitous in the Irish countryside, and have been incorporated into the modern agricultural landscape. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. This suggests that many the boundaries of many of these territorial units preserve landscape divisions from the medieval period and perhaps earlier. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. Research into

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the name of these land units frequently provides information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use.

The First Edition 6-inch and 25-Inch Ordnance Survey was consulted in order to identify the location of townland boundaries that may be effected on by the proposed scheme. The proposed development site overlies or crosses five townland boundaries.

| CH ID | ID No. | Short Description | Townland |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CH018 | TB01 | Townland Boundary | Ballalease West/ Ballisk |
| CH019 | TB02 | Townland Boundary | Ballisk/Ballalease South/Corballis |
| CH020 | TB03 | Townland Boundary | Ballisk/Ballalease South |
| CH021 | TB04 | Townland Boundary | Ballisk/Ballymastone |
| CH022 | TB05 | Townland Boundary | Ballalease South/Ballymastone |

Table 3-4 Townland Boundaries located within the study area

### 3.3.3 Sites identifiable on aerial photography and satellite imagery

Ortho-rectified aerial photography available from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland was inspected in order to identify possible features of cultural and heritage significance. Aerial photography from the 1995, 2000, and 2005 fly-overs was inspected, as well as the latest OSI images, LiDAR imagery (where available), Google Earth and Bing Maps satellite imagery.

No additional undesignated cultural heritage sites were identified on other aerial photography and satellite imagery within the proposed development site.

### 3.3.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of archaeological potential (AAPs) are additional areas or locations whose landscape characteristics suggest a higher potential for unknown archaeological features to be present e.g. riverine, estuarian or peatland environments. No additional AAPs were identified within the proposed development area.

### 3.4 Archaeological and historical background (after Baker 2006)

The paragraphs below outline the archaeological and historical background for the proposed development site and the surrounding landscape.

### 3.4.1 Prehistoric Period

There is evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity from the wider Donabate area. This evidence is based on the retrieval of large number of flint artefacts along the coast, from Howth to Balbriggan. In particular, the estuaries of Malahide/Donabate and Rogerstown are rich in finds. A stone axehead (NMI ref. 1932:5626) and two flint waste flakes (NMI.1978: 20-21) was found in Beaverstown (Baker 2006).

Bronze Age activity is indicated by two burnt mounds or fulachta fiadh ( $\mathrm{CH} 007-\mathrm{CH} 008$ ) in Corballis. Radiocarbon dating from excavated examples of fulachtaí fiadh generally date them to the Bronze Age. The most common interpretation for the function of this monument is as cooking places. However, a number of alternative functions have been put forward such as bathing, saunas, garment washing and dyeing (Hawkes 2015). Fulacht fiadh generally survive as low mounds, usually horseshoe shaped, of
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charcoal-enriched soil packed with fragments of heat-shattered stones (termed 'burnt mound'). When levelled, they are often noticeable as black spreads in ploughed fields. They are usually situated close to a water source, like a stream, or in wet marshy areas (Ó Drisceóil 1988).

There are three ring-ditches (CH002-CH003;CH006) within the study area, which may be the ploughed out barrows. However, they may also be levelled round houses or modern features. This means that they could date from prehistory onwards. One of the ring-ditches ( CH 006 ) was excavated under licence no 17E0407, which revealed a circular area defined by an enclosing fosse which was recut. This would appear to suggest continued activity at this area.

### 3.4.2 Medieval period (AD 400-1540)

During the early medieval period, the study area formed part of the geographical region of the Brega in the fifth/sixth centuries A.D. The political supremacy in the area was still contested by the Laigin, a dynastic confederation, which ruled the southeast and midland regions of Ireland. From the seventh until the eleventh centuries, the overkingship of the Brega was dominated by Síl nÁedo Sláine, a dynasty of the Southern Uí Neill. The Cianachta Bec were located in the vicinity of Corballis, Donabate and Ballylease (Baker 2006). The Cianachta Bec were also known as the Túath Turbi.

Early medieval activity is represented by a souterrain (CH004) located in Corballis. Souterrains are early medieval monuments, often found in association with ringforts but can be found in apparent isolation. The term souterrain is antiquarian in origin and comes from the French sous (tr. under) terre (tr. ground) (Power and Lane et al 2000, 367). According to Downey and O'Sullivan (2004), souterrains are artificially made underground structures comprising one or more chambers linked by tunnels called creepways, with a concealed entrance/s. Souterrains vary in complexity, with some simple in design, and others more complex, with two or more interlinked chambers (Downey and O'Sullivan 2004). A common myth surrounding souterrains is that they are tunnels linking one place with another, but all recorded souterrains so far have been self-contained, usually with a single entrance. By their nature, souterrains can go undetected for long periods and are often discovered dramatically when ground collapses during silage cutting, ploughing, and quarrying (Power and Lane et al 2000, 367). Two functions have been suggested for souterrains. The first is a place of refuge in times of danger. The second is as a storage cellar where dairy and other food products were stored at cool temperatures (O'Sullivan and Downey 2004). Other evidence of early medieval activity may be suggested by two enclosures, CH 001 and CH 005 . A tentative early medieval date was suggested for CH 005 after testing carried out in 2007 (McLoughlin 2007). The other enclosure CH001 could also date to this period, but it also may be earlier or later in date.

At the end of $12^{\text {th }}$ century, there were changes following the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. In the winter of 1171-72, King Henry II personally intervened in Ireland, and brought the districts around Dublin English Crown authority. As part of this, large estates were granted to secular and ecclesiastical peers of the English realm in the form of manors. In 1183, Comyn , the Archbishop of Dublin, established his archiepiscopal manor at Swords and a large portion of Donabate/Portaine came under his control (Baker 2006). Around 1230, Donabate was disunited from Swords, and the rectory was granted to the monastery of Grane, Co. Carlow, who maintained possession until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541. Between 1257 and 1263, Richard De La Cornere, the archbishop's stewart in the manor of Turvey, held tenancy to 500 acres of land at Ballisk (Baker 2006; Bates 2001).

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In 1326, the lands at Ballisk, which extended into the townlands of Ballisk, Beaverstown, Ballalease and Ballymastone, were owned by James Butler. The neighbouring townlands of Corballis and Baltra were owned by Burnell (Baker 2006).

### 3.4.3 Post-medieval (AD 1540-1700) \& early modern period (AD 1700-1850)

Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541, Patrick Barnewell acquired the lands and manor of Turvey, Ballalease and Ballisk in 1555. The Down Survey of 1656 shows Ballymastone and Ballisk as part of lands owned by the Barnewell family (Baker 2006). By the 1737, Charles Cobb, later Archbishop of Dublin, purchased lands at Donabate, including Corballis (Baker 2006).

Several surviving 19 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ century structures within Donabate town indicate activity within the study area at this time. A number of these structures relate to the railway infrastructure in Donabate, and includes a railway station (CH011), a Station master's house (CH012), and a bridge (CH013).

### 3.5 Toponomy of townland/s

The Irish landscape is divided into approximately 60,000 townlands and the system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The original Irish names were eventually anglicised to varying degrees, depending in part upon the linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. A study of the townland names can provide information on aspects of cultural heritage including descriptions of the use of the landscape by man and the potential presence of archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features.

There are six townlands within the study area (see Section 1.2).

| English Name | Irish Name | Glossary |
| :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Ballisk | Baile Uisce | 'Town of the water' |
| Ballalease West | Baile Eilís Thiar | 'town of the sheds' (west) |
| Ballalease South | Baile Eilís Theas | 'town of the sheds' (south) |
| Ballalease North | Baile Eilís Thuaidh | 'town of the sheds' (north) |
| Ballymastone | Baile Mastún | Maston's townland |
| Beaverstown | Baile an Bhéibhéaraigh | Beaverstown |
| Corballis | An Corrbhaile | 'odd town' |

Table 3-5 Townland placename evidence (after Irish Placenames Committee 2013)

### 3.6 Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission

Cultural Heritage is a broad term that includes Archaeological Heritage, Built Heritage, Portable Heritage, and other resources inherited from the past by contemporary society. It consists of the tangible and intangible traces of the interactions between people and places, people and nature and people and objects through time (TII 2022, 8). Folklore and local tradition are examples of intangible interactions between people and places where they live. In Ireland, work was done by the Irish Folklore Commission, and its successors, to collect and preserve Irish folklore. The Schools' Collection, for example, are a compilation of folklore and local traditions collected by pupils of 5,000 primary schools.

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The children collected this material from family members and neighbours (National Folklore Collection 2023).

Within the study area, two schools took part in the School's collection, Donabate (B) and Donabate (C). The material collected by the pupils of these schools preserved a wide range of local knowledge. This included placename knowledge as well as local tales and folklore about places and people within the locality. For example, an entry in the collection from Donabate (C) provides 'the Long Lane' as the name of the road that was there before the New Road. Although, there is no mention of monuments from within the study area, the collection includes details on local knowledge such as St. Cudget well and Kileneagh church.

The collections from the two schools are useful in that they provide insight into the cultural knowledge people had inherited about their environment, and about the monuments within it. Much of this knowledge would have been lost without the work of the School's collection.

### 3.7 Recent excavations

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to 2022. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area (see Section 1.2). The database produced eight results for archaeological excavations (Appendix 6) undertaken within the study area. The excavations revealed evidence of activity within the study area during the prehistoric and medieval period. Three of the excavations (CH024-CH026) were carried out as part of the Donabate Local area plan.

Within the development boundary, limited test excavations were undertaken (Figure 7; Appendix 6):

## Field 16

Three trenches, BT19-21, were located in Field 16, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4). BT19 had a length of 21 m northeast-southwest, and a depth of 0.40 m . BT20 measured 30 m northwest-southeast, and achieved a depth of 0.40 m . BT21 had a length of 40 m , and a depth of $0.35-0.45 \mathrm{~m}$, being deepest in the centre.

All trenches had a width of 1.9 m . The stratigraphy in BT19-21 was as follows: $0-0.25 / 0.35 \mathrm{~m}$ Mid to dark brown heterogeneous sandy silt clay (topsoil/turf). 0.25/0.35-0.35/0.45m Mid yellow brown to mid-brown sandy silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).

At 0.35/0.45m Mid yellow grey sandy silt clay (in BT19 and BT21), consisting of some 50-70\% small to mediumsized irregular, angular and sub-angular stones (sterile, natural subsoil). At the western end of BT21 there were patches of mid red brown sandy clay. In

BT20, the subsoil was yellow brown in colour, with moderate inclusions of small irregular and sub-rounded stones, as well as patches of mid grey silt clay, some $25 \%$ of which consisted of small to medium-sized irregular, angular and sub-angular stones.

No archaeological features of significance were identified in Field 16

- After Frazer W.O. and Eriksson C. 2008, 13

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Immediately adjacent to the proposed development site at CH 001 , the following results were described during the same test excavations (see Figure 7; Appendix 6):

## Field 13

Two trenches, BT12 and BT13, were located in Field 13, and positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4; Plates 13-15). BT 12 measured 120 m east-west, with a depth of 0.40 m . BT13 had a length of 50 m northeastsouthwest, with a perpendicular offset measuring 27.5 m northwest-southeast and located 23.3 m from the northeast end of the trench. Trench BT13 achieved a depth of 0.40-0.45m. The stratigraphy in BT12 and

BT13 was as follows:
0-0.20/0.25m Mid to dark brown silt clay, containing occasional tiny to medium-sized stones (topsoil).
0.20/0.25-0.40m Red brown silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer). At 0.40 m Mid brown to pink brown (with patches of orange yellow), compact, silt clay, with moderate inclusions of small to medium sized stones (sterile, natural subsoil).

The only archaeology identified in BT12 was a small, sub-circular pit (context F10) located at approximately 17.0 m from the western end of the trench. This pit measured $0.32-0.35 \mathrm{~m}$ in diameter, with a depth of only 0.03 m , and it was filled with black clay silt containing occasional charcoal flecks.

In BT13, a 28 m diameter circular enclosure ditch (context F11), corresponding with anomalies in the geophysical survey, was recorded. This ditch had a width of 0.90 m in the main trench (Plates 13-14) and $0.30-0.40 \mathrm{~m}$ in the offset (Plate 15), and it was filled by a mid to dark red brown silt clay, containing frequent tiny to medium-sized stones. Minute handmade pottery fragments, of indeterminate date, were also recovered from this ditch
(see Section 5).

Archaeology identified in Field 13, as elsewhere, corresponds to natural topography: a circular enclosure some $28 m$ in diameter positioned on the south-facing slopes of a low, rounded hillock, and a single pit also located on the natural prominence. The nature of the archaeology is similar to that also identified in Fields 8 and 12, and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. 500-1100; see also Section 6).

- After Frazer W.O. and Eriksson C. 2008, 11

Another of the excavations (archaeological test-trenching license no. 19E0351; CH030) was also located within the proposed development site. A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated across the proposed site. One archaeologically significant feature, a sub-circular pit measuring 0.87 m in length by 0.83 m in width and 0.1 m in depth, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. No other features of significance were identified (Hession 2019).

Located immediately adjacent and to the east of the proposed development site an area of burnt mound material was identified and subsequently excavated in 2022 (NMS Licence Ref. 21E0840). The remains of a fulacht fiadh, burnt mound feature were discovered. Upon excavation, the archaeological features recorded appear to represent the ploughed-out remains of a small prehistoric burnt mound. There was no trough and only one feature that could be identified as a pit. The results of additional monitoring showed no additional archaeological features present within the development area.

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### 3.8 Topography and soils

The proposed development is a flat field under According to the Teagasc Soil Information System (http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/index.php) the main soil composition is Elton, which is fine loamy drift with limestones. The Geological Survey of Ireland show the underlying bedrock as sandstone, conglomerate and siltstone.

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## 4 IMPACT STATEMENT

### 4.1 Description of the development

The proposed development will principally comprise the construction of 175 No. residential dwellings ( 123 No. houses and 52 No. apartments) and a single-storey crèche of 365 sq m (with outdoor play area and external stores). The 123 No. houses, which are part-1-/part-2-storey and 2-storey in height, include 30 No. 2-bed units, 82 No. 3-bed units and 11 No. 4-bed units. The 52 No. apartments include 26 No. 1bed units, 20 No. 2-bed units and 6 No. 3-bed units and are contained in a single block ranging in height from 1 No. to 4 No. storeys.

The development will also include the following: 2 No. new multi-modal entrances/exits at New Road; 2 No. multi-modal connections to existing and under construction residential developments to the east and north respectively; cycle track and footpath along New Road; 139 No. car parking spaces; 4 No. set down bays; 6 No. motorcycle parking spaces; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping, including public open space, communal amenity space and private amenity spaces (which include gardens, balconies and terraces facing all directions); boundary treatments; 1 No. sub-station; bin stores; lighting; PV panels atop houses; green roofs, PV panels, lift overruns and plant atop the apartment block; green roofs and PV panels atop the crèche building; and all associated works above and below ground.

### 4.2 Summary of the baseline environment

This assessment has identified 30 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas (see Section 1.2).

| Site Type | Summary |
| :---: | :---: |
| - RMPs <br> - SMRs <br> - National Monuments <br> - Sites with Preservation Orders <br> - Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments | There are eight RMPs located within the study area (CH001-CH008). None are located within the footprint of the proposed development. However, the development crosses the zone of notification for CH001 DU012-088----an enclosure). |
| Protected Structures | There are five Protected Structures located within the study area (see Section 1.2), which are also listed on the NIAH register. None of the CH sites are located within the redline boundary of the proposed development. |
| - Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) | There are no ACAs incorporated by the study area. |
| - Sites Listed in the NIAH | There are nine sites from the NIAH register located within the study area (see Section 1.2). Five of these are also recorded as protected structures (CH009-CH013). None of these sites are located within the redline boundary of the proposed development. |
| - Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites | The proposed development site overlies or crosses five townland boundaries (CH018-CH022) |
| - Areas/features of archaeological potential | There are no additional areas of archaeological potential incorporated by the study area. |


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| Site Type | Summary |
| :---: | :--- |
| -Previous <br> excavation Archaeological | The excavations database produced eight results for archaeological <br> excavations (Appendix 6) undertaken within the study area. The <br> excavations revealed evidence of activity within the study area during <br> the prehistoric and medieval period. |

Table 4-1-Summary of baseline environment

### 4.3 Impact assessment

This section assesses the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on the baseline/receiving environment, prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures. The methodology used in ascertaining the baseline value of sites, the type, magnitude and significance level of impacts is set out in Section 2 above.

Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset these impacts and the residual impact that the project will have on each site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential are provided in Sections 5 and 6 below.

### 4.3.1 Direct Impacts

As laid out, the proposed development site overlies or crosses five townland boundaries ( $\mathrm{CH} 018-$ CH 022 ) and will have a permanent, localised direct impact on the boundaries.

As laid out, the proposed development may have a direct impact on CH001; DU012-088----an enclosure, or features associated with this monument. This enclosure has no above ground expression. The marked location of this monument is 10 m outside the application boundary, though examination of a preceding geophysical survey suggests the monuments is located immediately adjacent to the proposed development boundary (Figure 7). This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence No. 05R012; see Appendix 7) and test excavation (Licence No. 07E0650; see Appendix 6) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. However, the proposed development site was only partially subject to the geophysical survey at the time as the site was overgrown. The results of the adjacent Geophysical survey suggest that DU012-088---- or associated feature may extend to the proposed development site. The proposed development site crosses the statutory zone of notification for DU012-088----.

Part of the proposed development site was subject to archaeological test-trenching in 2019 (License No. 19E0351). A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated toward the southern and western side of the proposed development site. One archaeologically significant feature, a sub-circular pit of uncertain date, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. These excavations demonstrate the potential for archaeological deposits to remain in situ outside of the area not subject to previous archaeological test-trenching.

No direct impact is predicted for the remaining CH sites identified in this report.

### 4.3.2 Indirect Impacts

Given the nature of the proposed development, no indirect impacts are predicted from the proposed development.

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### 4.3.3 Cumulative Impacts

Subject to the implementation of the appropriate archaeological mitigation measures during the construction phase of the development, no cumulative impacts on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage are anticipated during the operational phase of this project.


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## 5 MITIGATION STRATEGY

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority.

The current state policy is that preservation in situ of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then appropriate measures need to be adopted to ameliorate the impacts that the proposed development may have on features of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage within the study area (see Section 1.2) during both the construction and operational phases of the works.

The below recommendations have been compiled with reference to the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) as well as the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency (2003) 'Advice notes on current practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'
- Environmental Protection Agency (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)'
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999) 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2011) 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities'
- Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

The following mitigation measures are recommended:
4. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant under licence from National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on those parts of the proposed development site not previously archaeologically tested. Trench layout should be informed by the layout of the proposed development. Among the aims of this advance works programme may be determining the extents of CH001 DU012-088---- to ensure the monument lies entirely outside the proposed development site, and determining the absence or presence of any other archaeological deposits. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist
5. A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any sub-surface groundworks which may need to be undertaken within any statutory zone of notification. Should any archaeological material be encountered, works in that area will cease and the local authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ

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cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the local authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service
6. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary may need to be removed, a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant prior to or during removal. This may be undertaken as part of the preceding programme of archaeological evaluation.

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| Ch. No | Phase | $\begin{gathered} \text { Effect } \\ \text { Type } \end{gathered}$ | Mitigation Measures |  |  |  |  | Magnitude of Effect after implementation of mitigation measures | Significance of Effect after implementati on of mitigation measures |
| CH001 | Construction | Permanent Direct | - As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant under licence from National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on those parts of the proposed development site not previously archaeologically tested. Trench layout should be informed by the layout of the proposed development. Among the aims of this advance works programme may be determining the extents of CH001 DU012-$088---$ - to ensure the monument lies entirely outside the proposed development site, and determining the absence or presence of any other archaeological deposits. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist <br> - A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any subsurface groundworks which may need to be undertaken within any statutory zone of notification. Should any archaeological material be encountered, works in that area will cease and the local authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the local authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service |  |  |  |  | Moderate | Moderate |
| CH002 | Construction | Permanent Direct | - Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary may need to be removed, a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified |  |  |  |  | Not Significant | Imperceptible |


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| Ch. No | Phase | Effect <br> Type |  | Magnitude of <br> Effect after <br> implementation <br> of mitigation <br> measures | Significance <br> of Effect after <br> implementati <br> on of <br> mitigation <br> measures |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  | archaeological consultant prior to or during removal. This may be undertaken as part of the <br> preceding programme of archaeological evaluation. |  |  |

Table 5-1-Summary of impacts and impact magnitude after mitigation

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## 6 CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 Summary of archaeological findings

This assessment has identified 30 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas. These sites include eight RMPs (CH001-CH008), nine NIAH registrations, four of which are also protected structures (CH009 and CH017) five townland boundaries (CH018CH 022 ), and eight previous archaeological excavations ( $\mathrm{CH} 023-\mathrm{CH} 030$ ).

As laid out, the proposed development site overlies or crosses five townland boundaries (CH018CH 022 ) and will have a permanent, localised direct impact on the boundaries.

As laid out, the proposed development may have a direct impact on CH001; DU012-088----an enclosure, or features associated with this monument. This enclosure has no above ground expression. The marked location of this monument is 10 m outside the application boundary, though examination of a preceding geophysical survey suggests the monuments is located immediately adjacent to the proposed development boundary (Figure 7). This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence No. 05R012; see Appendix 7) and test excavation (Licence No. 07E0650; see Appendix 6) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. However, the proposed development site was only partially subject to the geophysical survey at the time as the site was overgrown. The results of the adjacent Geophysical survey suggest that DU012-088---- or associated feature may extend to the proposed development site. The proposed development site crosses the statutory zone of notification for DU012-088----.

Part of the proposed development site was subject to archaeological test-trenching in 2019 (License No. 19E0351). A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated toward the southern and western side of the proposed development site. One archaeologically significant feature, a sub-circular pit of uncertain date, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. These excavations demonstrate the potential for archaeological deposits to remain in situ outside of the area not subject to previous archaeological test-trenching.

### 6.2 Recommendations

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant under licence from National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on those parts of the proposed development site not previously archaeologically tested. Trench layout should be informed by the layout of the proposed development. Among the aims of this advance works programme may be determining the extents of CH001 DU012-088---- to ensure the monument lies entirely outside the proposed development site, and determining the absence or presence of any other archaeological deposits. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist

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2. A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any sub-surface groundworks which may need to be undertaken within any statutory zone of notification. Should any archaeological material be encountered, works in that area will cease and the local authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the local authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service
3. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary may need to be removed, a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeological consultant prior to or during removal. This may be undertaken as part of the preceding programme of archaeological evaluation.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.

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APPENDIX 1 - INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND/OR POTENTIAL WITHIN STUDY AREA

| CH No. | Category | ID | Description | Summary | Townland | Baseline Value | ITM E | ITM N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CH001 | RMP | DU012-088---- | This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 05R012) and test excavation (Licence no. 07E0650) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. A ditched (1m wide) circular enclosure ( 50 m diam.) was identified. (Frazer 2007). | Enclosure | BALLYMASTONE | Very High | 723504 | 749918 |
| CH002 | RMP | DU012-084---- | This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 05R012) and test excavation (Licence no. 06E0027) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. A circular ditch ( 5.45 m diam.) and possible post or pit were identified. Although no diagnostic material was recovered, it was interpreted on the basis of morphology as a probable prehistoric hut (Baker 2006, 17) | Ring-ditch | BALLYMASTONE | Very High | 723679 | 749981 |
| CH003 | RMP | DU012-085---- | This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 05R012) and test excavation (Licence no. 07E0650) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. A possible ring ditch ( 8 m diam.) was identified. (Frazer 2007). | Ring-ditch | BALLYMASTONE | Very High | 723695 | 749978 |


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| CH No. | Category | ID | Description | Summary | Townland | Baseline <br> Value | ITM E | ITM N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CH004 | RMP | DU012-135---- | Situated in a large rectangular arable field just SE of Donabate village along New Road. An arc of housing occupies the NE quadrant of the field. The field is cultivated into NNE-SSW running ridge and furrow, newly planted with cabbage plants. On a S-facing slope, down from the crest of an E-W running ridge, an oval area of ground (L20m, Wth 8 m ) has been skirted by a planting tractor in avoidance of lower ground within. At the centre of this area is a sunken hollow (D 0.25 m ) within which is a large capstone, (L1.0m; Wth 0.54 m ) set along an ESE - WSW axis and embedded within the ground, below the ploughsoil. This is edged by an adjacent boulder (L.0.50) and another stone lies to the S. The upper surface of the capstone, which is triangular in section, slopes NNE and SSW, has spalls have been removed from its upper surface in the past, probably through plough damage. The capstone or lintel is indicative of the presence of a souterrain. No entrance point to the souterrain is visible save approximately 13 m downslope another small dip in the topography of the ploughsoil. No variations in soil texture or colour were observed at the time of the site visit indicating that the entrance hole had been infilled some time ago. There is no current access to the souterrain. From a video of the souterrain interior which had been provided to NMS, the souterrain is T shaped in layout. A low passageway exits a small low corbelled beehive chamber of drystone construction. The walls are composed of crude angular and rounded boulders with the upper courses of the passageway walls oversailing to create a corbelled effect but roofed by flat lintels. One passageway is intersected by a taller passageway running at right angles to the former. One of the passageway ends is fairly crudely blocked by roughly coursed boulders while the other may consist of a drop-hole at its end. There are occasional areas of collapse creating an uneven floor surface | Souterrain | CORBALLIS (Nethercross By.) | Very High | 723154 | 749585 |


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| CH No. | Category | ID | Description | Summary | Townland | Baseline Value | ITM E | ITM N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CH005 | RMP | DU012-100---- | A substantial ditch enclosure was initially identified in the course of geophysical survey and confirmed as archaeological in origin by test trenching (McLoughlin 2007), the site occupies an area of roughly $65 \mathrm{~m} \times 25 \mathrm{~m}$ in extent. Further test-excavation revealed the ditch to be 1.95 m wide and 1.25 m deep. Bone, charcoal and a copper object were recovered. A preliminary interpretation of enclosed settlement of the early medieval period has been made | Enclosure | CORBALLIS <br> (Nethercross By.) | Very High | 723094 | 749570 |
| CH006 | RMP | DU012-097---- | Situated in tillage on the edge of the broad crest of a ridge, with extensive views in all directions. The sea is in view to the E and the Broadmeadow river estuary lies to the S. First identified in a geophysical survey in 2005 along with a burnt mound (DU012-086----) at the base of the slope to the $S$ in the same field. Another burnt mound (DU012-087----) was identified in that geophysical survey in the adjoining field to the SW (Baker, 2006a; Frazer 2007a). Test excavations were carried out at the site in in 2006 (Licence No. O6E0027) and the ring-ditch was fully excavated in 2017 in advance of the construction of the Donabate Distributor Road by Liam Coen working with Archer Heritage Planning (Licence No. 17E0407). The site consists of a circular area (diam c. 16m) defined by an enclosing fosse which was recut. The first phase of activity consisted of the excavation of a ring-ditch defined by a broad, fairly deep v-shaped fosse. The fill of this was largely undifferentiated, comprising of a sterile fill which gave the appearance of having been backfilled very quickly after having been dug - there was no silting at the base. The upper ring-ditch which was recut into the earlier fosse was a shallow u-shaped fosse, filled with a darker, charcoal-rich fill with an entrance to the E. This was defined by two rounded terminals with a single central post pit at the center. No features were recorded in the interior. A stone bead with a central waist somewhat reminiscent of a dumbbell bead, some lithics and burnt bone were recovered from the upper ditch fill. | Ring-ditch | CORBALLIS <br> (Nethercross By.) | Very High | 723499 | 749530 |


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| CH007 | RMP | DU012-087---- | This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 05R012) and test excavation (Licence no. 06E0027) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. A spread of burnt mound material (7.5m diam.) was identified associated with a shallow ditch and circular pit ( 0.62 m diam.) (Baker 2006, 12). | Burnt mound | CORBALLIS <br> (Nethercross By. | Very High | 723385 | 749419 |
| CH008 | RMP | DU012-086---- | This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 05R012) and test excavation (Licence no. 06E0027) to inform the Donabate Local Area Plan. A spread of burnt mound material ( 4 m diam.) was identified (Baker 2006, 10). | Burnt mound | CORBALLIS <br> (Nethercross By. | Very High | 723496 | 749419 |
| CH009 | RPS/NIAH | 0513/11329007 | Detached four-bay two-storey house, c.1860, with projecting entrance porch and original fenestration. Outbuildings to rear. ROOF:Double-pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles; brick chimney stacks with terracotta pots; single-storey lean-to with slates to rear. WALLS: Coursed rubble stone with tooled limestone quoining; pebble-dashed side walls; nap rendered; canted bay window to right side elevation. OPENINGS: Rusticated limestone dressed window openings; granite cills; $2 / 2$ timber sash windows; tall projecting porch with a rendered base; tongue and grooved timber glazed sidelights; stained glass overlights; timber door, c. 1980 | An Dun (Formerly Warington's House) | Ballalease West (Donabate) | Very High | 722891 | 750125 |


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| CH010 | RPS/NIAH | 0512/11329006 | Detached gable-fronted cruciform plan Catholic church, c.1860, with tower to right-hand side. Four-bay side elevation, intersected by single-bay gabled transepts, with polygonal apse flanked by sacristy and side chapels to east. Gable-fronted projecting entrance porches. ROOF: Double pitched; clay tiles; terracotta ridge tiles; limestone coping and crosses to gables; copper cladding to spire; cast-iron rainwater goods. WALLS: Red brick; English garden wall bond; decorative buttressing; limestone dressing and string courses; terracotta detailing to eaves. OPENINGS: Pointed arched doors with limestone surrounds; tongue and grooved timber doors with elaborate cast-iron hinges; recessed limestone opening; ornate rose window to entrance front; brick hood moulded bipartite lancet windows with limestone surrounds; stained glass. INTERIOR: Exposed timber truss, barrel vaulted ceiling; gallery to rear supported by cast-iron pillars; timber wainscoting to dado level; pointed archways with polished marble columns between crossing and transept; side chapels to transepts; canted apse with painted detailing to ceiling; marble altar and balustrade; encaustic tiled floor. | St. Patrick's <br> Roman <br> Catholic <br> Church | BALLALEASE WEST | Very High | 722903 | 750049 |
| CH011 | RPS/NIAH | 0511/11336015 | Detached eight-bay single-storey red brick railway station, c.1860, with central gable-fronted projecting porch. Single-bay singlestorey red brick public convenience to north. Single-storey outbuildings on east platform. Cast-iron pedestrian bridge spans railway tracks. ROOF: Double pitched slate roof with concrete ridge tiles, tall brick stack with a terracotta pot; cast-iron rainwater goods; carved timber barge boards to porch. WALLS: Hard red brick, English garden wall bond with a cement rendered plinth. OPENINGS: Segmental headed windows with brick reveals \& soffits; granite cills and uPVC windows; square headed door and uPVC door; timber panelled door with glazed overlight to rear. INTERIOR:Remodelled, c. 1995. | Railway Station | Beaverstown (Donabate) | Very High | 722692 | 750000 |


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| CH012 | RPS/NIAH | 0510/11336018 | Detached two-bay two-storey red brick station master's house, c.1890, with two-bay two-storey return to rear. Five-bay two-storey extension to rear, c.1999. ROOF: Double-pitched; slate; terracotta roof ridge tiles; red brick chimney stacks; yellow clay pots; cast-iron gutter with projecting eaves. WALLS: Nap rendered plinth; red brick laid in Flemish bond; timber fascia reading Donabate; nap rendered rear elevation. OPENINGS: Front has square headed red brick quoining surrounds; limestone cills; uPVC casement windows; salvage brick on gable wall. | Station <br> Masters House | Beaverstown (Donabate) | Very High | 722693 | 749983 |
| CH013 | RPS/NIAH | 0509/11336022 | Detached six-bay two-storey house, c.1840. Single-bay extension to right, rear elevation and return, c.1895. Single-storey extension to rear, c.1999. Now in use as public house. ROOF:Concrete M-profile; slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles; newly rendered chimney stacks and clay pots (front pitch of slate). WALLS: Random rubble unusual round ended quoining to left; brick bands; fascia board with title 'Smyth' rests on timber console bracket. OPENINGS: Square-headed; brick dressed openings; granite cills supported on granite corbels; timber casements; concrete lintel brick dressed reveals; two leaf timber door with overlight; two over two timber sashes to rear. INTERIOR: Some early features survive, doors, shutters, stone + brick walls. All are exposed. Timber panelling. | Smyth's Public <br> House | CORBALLIS (NS. BY.) | Very High | 722704 | 749944 |
| CH014 | NIAH | 11329009 | Cast-iron hydrant, c.1920, of round profile. | Water pump | BALLALEASE WEST | High | 722883 | 750136 |
| CH015 | NIAH | 11329008 | Cast-iron water pump, c.1890, of square profile. Now missing parts. | Water pump | BALLALEASE WEST | High | 722881 | 750132 |
| CH016 | NIAH | 11336014 | Single-arch ashlar limestone road bridge over railway line, c.1860, with cast-iron gate and concrete steps leading to station platform | Bridge | BEAVERSTOWN, CORBALLIS (NS. BY.) | High | 722679 | 749961 |
| CH017 | NIAH | 11336016 | Graveyard with various cut-stone markers from c. 1870 to present. | Graveyard/ce metery | BEAVERSTOWN | High | 722775 | 749983 |
| CH018 | Townland boundary | TB01 | Ballalease West/ Ballisk townland boundary on the 6-inch and 25Inch OS sheet | Ballalease West/ Ballisk townland boundary | Ballalease West/ Ballisk | Medium/High | 723177 | 749940 |



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| CH019 | Townland boundary | TB02 | Ballisk southern boundary with Ballalease South and Corballis on the 6 -Inch and $25-$ Inch OS sheets. Marked by a road on both OS sheets. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Ballisk/Ballale } \\ \text { ase } \\ \text { South/Corballi } \\ \text { s townland } \\ \text { boundary } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Ballisk/Ballalease South/Corballi | Medium/High | 723337 | 749785 |
| CH020 | Townland boundary | TB03 | Ballisk eastern townland booundary with Ballalease south on the 6Inch and 25 -inch sheet. | Ballisk/Ballale ase South Townland boundary | Ballisk/Ballalease South | Medium/High | 723426 | 749813 |
| CH021 | Townland boundary | TB04 | Ballisk/Ballymastone townland boundary on the 25-Inch Sheet. Represents a boundary change from the previous map. | Ballisk/Ballym astone townland boundary | Ballisk/Ballymastone | Medium/High | 723473 | 749861 |
| CH022 | Townland boundary | TB05 | Ballalease South/Ballymastone northern townland boundary on the 6 -inch OS sheet | BallaleaseSouth/Ballyma <br> stone | Ballalease <br> South/Ballymastone | Medium/High | 723513 | 749902 |


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| CH023 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 99E0690 | Test excavation was undertaken at a site at Turvey Avenue, Donabate, Co. Dublin, on 25 November 1999. Fingal County Council intends to widen the footpath on the south side of Turvey Avenue, which will entail the scarping of the existing slope to an estimated depth of 0.6 m below present ground level. The works to be carried out are adjacent to the medieval church of St Patrick. The fields to the north of the church of St Patrick slope steeply to Turvey Avenue. There is a considerable drop (c. 0.75 m ) to the existing footpath along Turvey Avenue, resulting from soil build-up along the field boundary. This may represent a plough lynchet. It was noted that a greater build-up of soil occurred at the eastern end of the field, i.e. closest to the tower and church, than elsewhere. The ground is currently in grazing. Five trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator. A considerable amount of activity, ranging in date from probably the medieval period to the 19th-early 20th century, was represented in the test-trenches. The trenches excavated revealed a thick (max. 1.35 m ) depth of ploughsoil, of probable medieval date. No cultivation furrows or ridges were evident in the soil, and there was no apparent stratification, except that of the upper humic sod level. Finds of recent date were not recovered from the ploughsoil, except where it was evident that a pit (Trench 4) cut into it. No finds of medieval pottery were made from the ploughsoil, but a coin, identified by Michael Kenny as a 'Patrick' dating to 1564 , was recovered. Pits containing food debris, bone and shell were uncovered in Trench 1. While these may relate to the cottages present on the north side of Turvey Avenue, there is a strong possibility that they are late medieval in date. Finds of more recent date were recovered from the upper black loam. | Excavation miscellaneous | DONABATE: Turvey <br> Avenue | Very High | 722724 | 749922 |


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| CH024 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 06 E0027 | This assessment constituted Phase I of a programme to test the veracity of geophysical survey results (J. Leigh, 05R102). The study area (120ha) was located to the north-east, east and south of Donabate, Co. Dublin, within the lands of Ballymastone and Corballis and was subject to the Donabate Local Action Area Plan. Phase I specifically addressed a proposed road-take which traversed (from north to south) the townlands of Ballalease North, Ballalease South, Ballymastone, Portrane Ballisk (Ballymastone lands), Donabate and Corballis. The total length of the current roadtake within the study area was 3.25 km and varied from 19 m to 54 m in width. Within the proposed road-take, Phase I, a total of four areas of geophysical anomaly were identified. A further five areas of geophysical anomaly were identified in proximity to the roadtake and were included in this phase of assessment on the basis of informing any adjustment to the current road layout.A total of fifteen trenches were opened, three by hand. Three anomalies were identified as being of archaeological origin and included a possible prehistoric hut site, burnt-mound material and a fulacht fiadh with associated pits and drains. The former was located at the base of a high ridge, the latter in a low-lying field c. 85 m to the east. The remaining geophysical anomalies proved to be modern or reflective of natural soil differentials. Topsoil artefacts were reflective of the natural geology and agricultural practices over centuries, in that naturally occurring field flint, 19th-century pottery and modern glass were recovered. | Prehistoric | Ballymastone and Corballis | Very High | 723393 | 749421 |


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| CH025 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 06 E0027ext | Testing was undertaken across the Ballymastone lands as part of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan in December 2007. Some 0.2ha of test-trenches were opened across (mostly boggy) greenfields, partly on the basis of geophysical survey (D. Harrison, 07R0177) and previous test excavation by Christine Baker (Excavations 2006, No. 562). Four 'archaeological areas' were identified, all quite truncated and positioned on higher ground. They are all likely to date from the prehistoric or early medieval eras (some areas appear to be multi-phased). The four areas include: a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh and associated ditches ( $0.45-0.8 \mathrm{~m}$ and 0.6 m wide); a ditch (possibly forming a circular enclosure as much as 50 m in diameter; 1 m wide) and a large ( 4.1 m by 1.3 m ) pit filled with midden-type material; a circular ditch enclosure ( 28 m diameter, $0.3-0.9 \mathrm{~m}$-wide ditch) with a nearby pit; a circular ditch enclosure/ring-ditch ( 12 m diameter, $0.6-1.15 \mathrm{~m}$-wide ditch), a possible round house/small ring-ditch ( 8 m diameter, 0.6 m -wide ditch) and a burnt spread/fulacht fiadh near to where another 8 m 'hut circle' had previously been identified (Baker, ibid.). None of the circular enclosures had geophysical scans typical of ring-ditch sites, so any such classification is tentative. Several lithics were also recovered from topsoil and from the archaeology areas. The 28m ditch yielded several minute fragments of unidentified hand-made pottery. The 12 m ditch yielded a single sherd of possible Leinster cooking ware. A boundary survey of an irregular, kinked field boundary was also undertaken, but yielded no remarkable observations. | Testing, prehistoric; early medieval | Ballalease <br> North/Ballymastone/Port raine Ballisk | Very High | 723755 | 750198 |


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| CH026 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 07E0650 | Testing was carried out at the site of a proposed residential development at Corballis, Donabate, Co. Dublin, over seven days between 2 and 7 August and 29 August to 3 September 2007. This testing follows a desktop study, walkover survey and geophysical survey carried out as part of the Donabate Local Area Plan. It also follows a programme of carried out by Christine Baker of Margaret Gowen \& Co. Ltd in January 2006 (Excavations 2006, No. 562, 06E0027). This phase of testing was targeted at various anomalies indicated in the geophysical survey. As a result of the eleven testtrenches excavated across these anomalies, a total of four sites were identified. Two large enclosures indicated in the geophysical survey were targeted and the presence of ditches was confirmed in the test-trenches at both enclosure sites; the fills indicate that they are both of archaeological significance. A fragment of a copperalloy object recovered from one of the ditch fills in the west enclosure may indicate a date in the early medieval period. The remains of two burnt mounds typical of the second millennium bc were also identified. | Enclosures, burnt mounds | Corballis | Very High | 723518 | 749947 |


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| CH027 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 07 E 0185 | Pre-development testing was carried out in advance of the Portrane-Donabate broadband project in March 2007. The excavation phase of the project involved the opening of a series of trenches throughout the town centre and its hinterland. All of the trenches were located along roads, either in the carriageway proper or the adjoining verge or footpath. There were no river crossings other than at existing bridges. The trenches were 0.6 m wide and excavated to a standard depth of 0.9 m in carriageways and 0.6 m in verges/footpaths. Junction boxes ( 1.25 m 2 ) were excavated where two or more trenches intersected, and at regular intervals along long straight sections. All works within the areas of constraint around recorded monuments were monitored on a full-time basis. The remainder of the works were subject to intermittent monitoring. Testing was carried out in the vicinity of an ecclesiastical site at Donabate. The monument consists of a mid-18th-century Anglican church built on the site of a medieval church and incorporating a medieval doorway. There is a medieval tower attached to the east end of the church. Three trenches were opened along a section of road some 50 m to the north of the church. A rough, cobbled surface was uncovered in one of the trenches. Upon removal, it was found to overlay an old box drain built of flat and upright slabs. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were discovered during testing or subsequent monitoring. | Box drain | Donabate | Low | 722749 | 749960 |


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| CH028 | Archaeolo gical Excavation | 17E0407 | The site was located on a south-east facing slope in an undulating landscape with panoramic views to the south, east and west. The area of Donabate is located on a peninsula on the north Dublin coast with the sea on three sides. The coastline is c .1 .5 km to the east while the tidal estuary is less than 1 km to the south. The surrounding landscape comprises fields bounded by hedgerows. Most are under a variety of crops though with some pasture and small scale forestry. The ring-ditch, c. 10.5 m in maximum external diameter, had a narrow undug entrance to the south-west and another possible entrance represented by a causeway, c. 0.25 m below the top of the cut, in the eastern arc. The ditch measured $1.4-1.5 \mathrm{~m}$ in width and $0.6-0.7 \mathrm{~m}$ in depth. Scattered burnt and unburnt human and animal bone fragments throughout the charcoal-stained upper fills of the ring-ditch represent token burials. Two burnt bone beads, a small glass bead and several small fragmentary copperalloy pieces were also retrieved and appear to represent the remains of personal adornments deposited with the cremation material. No other archaeological features were identified in or around the ringditch. A piece of ash (fraxinus) charcoal from one of the lower deposits, C20, returned a date of $20-210 \mathrm{cal} \mathrm{AD}(95 \% 28)$. The upper ditch deposits, C04, $07 \& 09$, were primarily dark sandy silts with frequent charcoal and occasional burnt bone inclusions and filled a series of recuts made in the earlier ditch fills. This shows multiphase use of the monument. The deposits comprising the earlier fills, C11 \& 12, were similar to the surrounding natural subsoil and may represent a bank or mound from the original construction of the ring-ditch that had been deliberately back-filled in a single event. The fill C. 20 appeared as a thin lens, maximum 0.06 m in depth, within C12 in the western arc of the ring-ditch. | Ring-ditch | Corballis | Very High | 723507 | 749526 |


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| CH029 | Archaeolo gical <br> Excavatio <br> n | 21E0840 ext. | An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Ballymastone, Donabate, Co. Dublin between 27 June and 7 July 2022. Excavation follows on from a course of testing carried out in December 2021 by David Bayley (Licence 21E0840), during which remains of a fulacht fiadh, burnt mound feature were discovered. Upon excavation, the archaeological features recorded appear to represent the ploughed-out remains of a small prehistoric burnt mound. There was no trough and only one feature that could be identified as a pit. The results of monitoring show no additional archaeological features present within the development area. The remnants of burnt mound material previously identified during testing by David Bayley were the only archaeological features identified on the site. Postexcavation works are ongoing and will serve to inform the final interpretation of the site | Burnt mound | Ballymastone | Very High | 723653 | 749990 |
| CH030 | Archaeolo gical <br> Excavatio <br> n | 19E0351 | A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated across the proposed site. One archaeologically significant feature, a subcircular pit measuring 0.87 m in length by 0.83 m in width and 0.1 m in depth, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. No other features of significance were identified. | Pit of uncertain date | Ballisk | Very High | 723313 | 749851 |

Note: The abbreviations that have been used for the 'Category' section are as follows:
RMP: Recorded archaeological monument
NIAH: $\quad$ National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
PS: Protected Structure
TB: Townland Boundary

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## APPENDIX 2 - LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

## EIA Legislation

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects before planning permission can be granted. The EIA Amendment Regulations, SI 93 OF 1999 specifies in Section 2(b) of the Second Schedule, 'Information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement', that among other factors, information is to be provided on:
'Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage'

Each of these assets is addressed within this assessment report.
Cultural Heritage Legislation
Archaeological Monuments/Sites
Archaeological heritage is protected primarily under the edited. Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines the word 'monument' as including:
'any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes'.

Under the 1994 Act, provision was made for a Record of Monuments \& Places (RMP). The RMP is a revised set of SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) maps, on which newly-discovered sites have been added and locations which proved not to be of antiquity have been de-listed by the National Monuments Service.

In effect, the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended provide a statutory basis for:

- Protection of sites and monuments (RMPs)
- Sites with Preservation Orders
- Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments
- Register of Historic Monuments (pre-dating AD 1700)
- Licensing of archaeological excavations
- Licensing of Detection Devices
- Protection of archaeological objects
- Protection of wrecks and underwater heritage (more than 100 years old)

In relation to proposed works at or in the vicinity of a recorded archaeological monument, Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states:
'When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded [in the Record of Monuments and Places] or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in

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writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.'

## Archaeological artefacts

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act (amended) defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Section 9 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states that any such artefact recovered during archaeological investigations should be taken into possession by the licensed archaeological director and held on behalf of the state until such a time as they are deposited accordingly subsequent to consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

## Architectural Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage. The former Act has helped to provide for a forum for the strengthening of architectural heritage protection as it called for the creation of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which is used by local authorities for compiling the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in each respective county's Development Plan and provides statutory protection for these monuments.

Section 1 (1) of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 states:
'architectural heritage means all-
(a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
(b) groups of such structures and buildings, and
(c) sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest ${ }^{\prime \prime}$

The 1999 Act was replaced by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act. Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that:
'...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of -
(a) the structure, or
(b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'

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## APPENDIX 3 - TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED

The following sets out the definitions of the terms which are used throughout the report:
(i) The phrase 'cultural heritage' is a generic term used in reference to a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'cultural heritage', in compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to be of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest.
(ii) For the purpose of this assessment, each identified cultural heritage site is assigned a unique cultural heritage number with the prefix ' $\mathrm{CH}^{\prime}$.
(iii) A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2014, as amended. When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site (see below), this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.
(iv) An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.
(v) The term 'proposed development site' refers to the defined area of land within which the proposed development, including access tracks etc, may be constructed.
(vi) In relation to the term 'study area' please see Section 1.3 above.
(vii) The term 'receiving environment' refers to the broader landscape within which the study area is situated. Examination of the site's receiving environment allows the study area to be analysed in its wider cultural context.
(viii) The terms 'baseline environment' and 'cultural heritage resource' refer to the existing, identifiable environment against which potential effects of the proposed scheme may be measured.

Note: Information regarding archaeological site types and periods is provided in a glossary in Appendix 4.

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## APPENDIX 4 - GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Bridge A structure of wood, stone, iron, brick or concrete, etc., built to span a river or ravine in order to facilitate the crossing of pedestrians or vehicles. These date from the medieval period (5th - 12th centuries AD) onwards.

Castle - motte An artificial, steep-sided, earthen mound on or in which is set the principal tower of a castle. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late $12^{\text {th }}$ and early $13^{\text {th }}$ century AD.

Castle - tower house A fortified residence in the form of a tower, usually four or five storeys high, and for the most part slightly more rectangular than square in plan. They were constructed by a lord or landholder and were often partially or completely enclosed by a bawn. The majority date to the $15^{\text {th }}$ and $16^{\text {th }}$ centuries AD.

Cathedral The principal church of a diocese in which the cathedra or bishop's throne may be found. These date from the $12^{\text {th }}$ to the $19^{\text {th }}$ century AD.

Church A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from $c$. AD 500 onwards.

Cist A rectangular or polygonal structure used for burial purposes, constructed from stone slabs set on edge and covered by one or more horizontal slabs or capstones. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. They date to the Bronze/Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC - AD 400).

Coffin-resting stone A stone found on route to a graveyard on which the coffin is rested during transportation. These can date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 AD ) onwards.

Burnt mound A circular or irregularly shaped mound of material consisting of burnt stones, ash and charcoal with no surface evidence of a trough or depression. Levelled examples can appear as a spread containing burnt stones. These can be of any date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) to the early medieval period ( $5^{\text {th }}-12^{\text {th }}$ century AD). See also Fulacht fia.

Earthwork An anomalous earthen structure, usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, that on field inspection was found to possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Enclosure An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Field boundary A continuous linear or curving bank, wall or drain which defines the limits of a field. These date to any period from the Neolithic (c. 4000-2400 BC) onwards.

Fulacht fia A horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped mound consisting of fire-cracked stone and charcoalenriched soil built up around a sunken trough located near or adjacent to a water supply, such as a stream or spring, or in wet marshy areas. The first recorded use of the Irish term 'fulacht fiadh/fia'

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(cooking pit of the deer or of the wild) as relating to ancient cooking sites was in the $17^{\text {th }}$ century. These are generally interpreted to have been associated with cooking and date primarily to the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC)

## Furnace

A chamber in which minerals, metals, etc., are subjected to continuous intense heat. These can date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) to the 17th century AD.

Hearth A place where a fire is made but where there is insufficient evidence to indicate habitation. These may date to any period from prehistory (c. $8000 \mathrm{BC}-\mathrm{AD} 400$ ) to the medieval period ( $5^{\text {th }}-16^{\text {th }}$ centuries AD).

Hillfort A large area, from 3 to 22 hectares, located on and often following the natural contours of a hill, enclosed by an earth or stone bank/banks and fosse/fosses which can be internal or external. They may have been important ceremonial tribal centres and/or permanent or temporary settlements. They have been dated to the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000-500 BC) with examples of reoccupation in the later Iron Age (c. AD 100-400).

House - vernacular house A house which is non-formal, built of local materials using local skills and craftsmen within the parameters of their own local building tradition. In Ireland the majority are single storey, rectangular in plan and only one room deep, with the main hearth/kitchen forming the core of the house for domestic and social activities. These date from the $\mathrm{AD} 17^{\text {th }}$ to the early $20^{\text {th }}$ century.

Megalithic tomb - passage tomb A round mound, usually surrounded by a kerb of large stones, enclosing a burial chamber, usually with a corbelled roof, which is entered by a passage, usually lintelled. Many tombs have side and end recesses opening off a central chamber, resulting in a cruciform plan. Cremation was the predominant burial rite in passage tombs which primarily date from 3300 to 2900 BC though some simpler tombs in Carrowmore, Co. Sligo have produced radiocarbon dates suggesting use even earlier in the Neolithic, c. 4000 BC.

Metalworking site A place where metal is produced. These may date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) onwards.

Midden A refuse heap sometimes surviving as a layer or spread. These may be of any date from prehistory (c. $8000 \mathrm{BC}-\mathrm{AD}$ c. 400) up to the medieval period ( $5^{\text {th }}-16^{\text {th }}$ centuries AD).

Pit A circular or sub-circular cropmark/maculae or soil-mark, usually identified from aerial photography, which appears to be the visible evidence of a filled-in excavated hole or cavity in the ground. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Ringfort - cashel A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by a stone wall or walls. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD. See Ringfort - rath for earthen equivalent.

Ringfort - rath A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

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Ringfort - unclassified A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse (see Ringfort - rath) or a stone wall (see Ringfort - cashel). The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.

Road - road/trackway A way, or section thereof, which has been deliberately constructed between places. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.

School An establishment in which people, usually children, are taught. These date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 to the $16^{\text {th }}$ century AD) onwards.

Settlement deserted - medieval An abandoned medieval settlement dating from the 13th century to 1550 AD consisting of a group of houses in close proximity with associated land plots, associated with a parish church and/or castle or tower house, often evident as earthworks.

Souterrain An underground structure consisting of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages or creepways, usually constructed of drystone-walling with a lintelled roof over the passages and a corbelled roof over the chambers. Most souterrains appear to have been built in the early medieval period by ringfort inhabitants (c. $500-1000 \mathrm{AD}$ ) as a defensive feature and/or for storage.

Standing stone A stone which has been deliberately set upright in the ground, usually orientated on a north-east-south-west axis, although other orientations do occur, and varying in height from 0.5 m up to 6 m . They functioned as prehistoric burial markers, commemorative monuments, indicators of routeways or boundaries and date from the Bronze and Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC - AD 500), with some associated with early medieval ecclesiastical and burial contexts (c. 5th-12th centuries).

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## APPENDIX 5 - FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2023-2029)

Fingal County Development Plan (2023-2029): This Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Fingal over a 6-year period.

Policy HCAP2 - Importance of Archaeological Resource
Recognise the importance of our archaeological resource and provide appropriate objectives to ensure its appropriate retention, promotion and recording.

Policy HCAP3 - Record of Monuments and Places/ Sites and Monuments Record

Safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), underwater cultural heritage including protected wrecks and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains.

Policy HCAP4 - Preservation-in-situ
Favour the preservation in-situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.

Objective HCAO1 - Preservation-in-situ
Favour the preservation in situ or at a minimum preservation by record, of archaeological sites, monuments, features or objects in their settings. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Objective HCAO2 - Protection of RMPs/SMRs
Protect all archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, Wreck Inventory of Ireland and all sites and features of archaeological and historic interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.

Objective HCAO3 - Management of Archaeological Resource
Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds and underwater cultural heritage in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

Objective HCAO4 - Industrial or Military Heritage
Secure the preservation in-situ of significant examples of industrial or military heritage.
Objective HCAO5 - Community Monuments Fund

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Support the implementation of the Community Monuments Fund in order to ensure the monitoring and adaptation of archaeological monuments and mitigate against damage caused by climate change.

## Objective HCAO6 - Climate Change and the Archaeological Resource

Co-operate with other agencies in the investigation of climate change on archaeological sites and monuments and to develop suitable adaptation measures to strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of archaeological heritage in line with the National Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage 2019.

## Policy HCAP5 - Development Design

Incorporate heritage features into infrastructure design at an early stage in the development planning and management process to protect and promote the cultural heritage resource and create awareness and interpretation.

Objective HCAO7 - Archaeology and Development Design
Ensure archaeological remains are identified and fully considered at the very earliest stages of the development process, that schemes are designed to avoid impacting on the archaeological heritage.

## Objective HCAO8 - Archaeological Impact Assessment

Require that proposals for linear development over one kilometre in length; proposals for development involving ground clearance of more than half a hectare; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery; to include an Archaeological Impact Assessment and refer such applications to the relevant Prescribed Bodies.

Objective HCAO9 - Archaeology in the Landscape
Ensure that in general development will not be permitted which would result in the removal of archaeological monuments with above ground features, protected wrecks and that this will be especially the case in relation to archaeological monuments which form significant features in the landscape.

Objective HCAO10 - Context of Archaeological Monuments
Ensure that development within the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Notification does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately.

Objective HCAO11 - Impacts of large-scale development
Ensure that proposals for large scale developments and infrastructure projects consider the impacts on the archaeological heritage and seek to avoid them.

Objective HCAO12 - Coastal and Maritime Heritage

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Co-operate with other agencies in the assessment of the potential for climate change to impact on coastal, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal sites and their environments including shipwreck sites.

## Objective HCAO13 - Findings of Archaeological Activity

Encourage reference to or incorporation of significant archaeological finds into development schemes, where appropriate and sensitively designed, through layout, in situ and virtual presentation of archaeological finds and by using historic place names and the Irish language where appropriate.

Objective HCAO14 - Archaeology in Open Space
Retain and manage appropriately archaeological monuments within open space areas in or beside developments, ensuring that such monuments are subject to an appropriate conservation management plan, are presented appropriately and are not left vulnerable, whether in the immediate or longer term, to dangers to their physical integrity or possibility of loss of amenity.

Policy HCAP6 - Promotion
Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing guidance for appropriate interpretation in line with the Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance 2021.

Policy HCAP7 - Community Initiatives

Support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## Objective HCAO15 - Best Practice

Promote best practice for archaeological excavation by ensuring that they are undertaken according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, The National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

## Objective HCAO16 - Conservation Plans

Manage the archaeological sites and monuments that Fingal County Council owns or is responsible for according to best practice and according to Conservation Plans where they exist.

Objective HCAO17 - Dissemination

Ensure the public dissemination of the findings of licenced archaeological activity in Fingal through the Dublin County Archaeological GIS project, publications, public lectures and events to promote awareness of, and access to, Fingal's archaeological inheritance and foster high quality community archaeology.

Objective HCAO18 - Public Awareness

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Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.

Objective HCAO19 - Community Archaeology Strategy
Continue to implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal.
Objective HCAO20 - Cultural Tourism
Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways etc. and activities such as community excavation.

## Objective HCAO21 - Climate Change

Promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of Ireland's built and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.

Objective DMSO178 - Archaeology in the Planning Process

Applicants shall have regard to Archaeology in the Planning Process Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021 and Archaeology and Development Guidelines Good Practices for Developers Heritage Council, 2000.

## Objective DMSO179 - Excavation Reports Guidelines

All archaeological reports submitted with a planning application and/or prepared in compliance with planning permission shall be produced in accordance with Excavation Reports Guidelines for Authors, NMS, 2006.

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## APPENDIX 6 - PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

An examination of previous excavations carried out within and around the area The for development provides a useful framework for assessment of the study area in terms of its archaeological significance as well as its archaeological potential. The Archaeological Excavations Bulletin is an annual fieldwork gazetteer for Irish Archaeology; it was checked for a record of any licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of the development area between 1970 and 2019.

Site name: DONABATE: Turvey Avenue<br>Sites and Monuments Record No.: NA-Licence number: 99E0690<br>Author: Claire Walsh, Archaeological Projects Ltd.<br>Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous<br>ITM: E 722724m, N 749922m

Test excavation was undertaken at a site at Turvey Avenue, Donabate, Co. Dublin, on 25 November 1999. Fingal County Council intends to widen the footpath on the south side of Turvey Avenue, which will entail the scarping of the existing slope to an estimated depth of 0.6 m below present ground level. The works to be carried out are adjacent to the medieval church of St Patrick.

The fields to the north of the church of St Patrick slope steeply to Turvey Avenue. There is a considerable drop (c. 0.75 m ) to the existing footpath along Turvey Avenue, resulting from soil buildup along the field boundary. This may represent a plough lynchet. It was noted that a greater build-up of soil occurred at the eastern end of the field, i.e. closest to the tower and church, than elsewhere. The ground is currently in grazing.

Five trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator. A considerable amount of activity, ranging in date from probably the medieval period to the 19th-early 20th century, was represented in the testtrenches.

The trenches excavated revealed a thick (max. 1.35m) depth of ploughsoil, of probable medieval date. No cultivation furrows or ridges were evident in the soil, and there was no apparent stratification, except that of the upper humic sod level. Finds of recent date were not recovered from the ploughsoil, except where it was evident that a pit (Trench 4) cut into it. No finds of medieval pottery were made from the ploughsoil, but a coin, identified by Michael Kenny as a 'Patrick' dating to 1564, was recovered.

Pits containing food debris, bone and shell were uncovered in Trench 1. While these may relate to the cottages present on the north side of Turvey Avenue, there is a strong possibility that they are late medieval in date.

Finds of more recent date were recovered from the upper black loam.

Site name: Ballymastone and Corballis
Sites and Monuments Record No.: NA-Licence number: 06E0027
Author: Christine Baker, Margaret Gowen \& Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.
Site type: Prehistoric
ITM: E723393, N749421
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This assessment constituted Phase I of a programme to test the veracity of geophysical survey results (J. Leigh, 05R102). The study area (120ha) was located to the north-east, east and south of Donabate, Co. Dublin, within the lands of Ballymastone and Corballis and was subject to the Donabate Local Action Area Plan. Phase I specifically addressed a proposed road-take which traversed (from north to south) the townlands of Ballalease North, Ballalease South, Ballymastone, Portrane Ballisk (Ballymastone lands), Donabate and Corballis. The total length of the current road-take within the study area was 3.25 km and varied from 19 m to 54 m in width. Within the proposed road-take, Phase I, a total of four areas of geophysical anomaly were identified. A further five areas of geophysical anomaly were identified in proximity to the road-take and were included in this phase of assessment on the basis of informing any adjustment to the current road layout.

A total of fifteen trenches were opened, three by hand. Three anomalies were identified as being of archaeological origin and included a possible prehistoric hut site, burnt-mound material and a fulacht fiadh with associated pits and drains. The former was located at the base of a high ridge, the latter in a low-lying field c. 85 m to the east. The remaining geophysical anomalies proved to be modern or reflective of natural soil differentials. Topsoil artefacts were reflective of the natural geology and agricultural practices over centuries, in that naturally occurring field flint, 19th-century pottery and modern glass were recovered.

Site name: Ballalease North/Ballymastone/Portraine Ballisk
Sites and Monuments Record No.: NA-Licence number: 06E0027
Author: William O. Frazer, Margaret Gowen \& Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Site type: Testing, prehistoric; early medieval
ITM: E 723755m, N 750198m

Testing was undertaken across the Ballymastone lands as part of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan in December 2007. Some 0.2ha of test-trenches were opened across (mostly boggy) greenfields, partly on the basis of geophysical survey (D. Harrison, 07R0177) and previous test excavation by Christine Baker (Excavations 2006, No. 562). Four 'archaeological areas' were identified, all quite truncated and positioned on higher ground. They are all likely to date from the prehistoric or early medieval eras (some areas appear to be multi-phased). The four areas include: a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh and associated ditches ( $0.45-0.8 \mathrm{~m}$ and 0.6 m wide); a ditch (possibly forming a circular enclosure as much as 50 m in diameter; 1 m wide) and a large ( 4.1 m by 1.3 m ) pit filled with midden-type material; a circular ditch enclosure ( 28 m diameter, $0.3-0.9 \mathrm{~m}$-wide ditch) with a nearby pit; a circular ditch enclosure/ringditch ( 12 m diameter, $0.6-1.15 \mathrm{~m}$-wide ditch), a possible round house/small ring-ditch ( 8 m diameter, 0.6 m -wide ditch) and a burnt spread/fulacht fiadh near to where another 8 m 'hut circle' had previously been identified (Baker, ibid.).

None of the circular enclosures had geophysical scans typical of ring-ditch sites, so any such classification is tentative. Several lithics were also recovered from topsoil and from the archaeology areas. The 28 m ditch yielded several minute fragments of unidentified hand-made pottery. The 12 m ditch yielded a single sherd of possible Leinster cooking ware. A boundary survey of an irregular, kinked field boundary was also undertaken, but yielded no remarkable observations.

## Site name: Corballis

Sites and Monuments Record No.: NA-Licence number: 07E0650
Author: Gill McLoughlin, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120B Greenpark Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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Site type: Enclosures, burnt mounds
ITM: E 649440m, N 823507m

Testing was carried out at the site of a proposed residential development at Corballis, Donabate, Co. Dublin, over seven days between 2 and 7 August and 29 August to 3 September 2007. This testing follows a desktop study, walkover survey and geophysical survey carried out as part of the Donabate Local Area Plan. It also follows a programme of carried out by Christine Baker of Margaret Gowen \& Co. Ltd in January 2006 (Excavations 2006, No. 562, 06E0027). This phase of testing was targeted at various anomalies indicated in the geophysical survey. As a result of the eleven test-trenches excavated across these anomalies, a total of four sites were identified.

Two large enclosures indicated in the geophysical survey were targeted and the presence of ditches was confirmed in the test-trenches at both enclosure sites; the fills indicate that they are both of archaeological significance. A fragment of a copper-alloy object recovered from one of the ditch fills in the west enclosure may indicate a date in the early medieval period.

The remains of two burnt mounds typical of the second millennium bc were also identified.

Site name: Donabate
Sites and Monuments Record No.: DU012-005-Licence number: 07E0185
Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany \& Associates, Unit 3, Howley Court, Oranmore, Co. Galway. Site type: Box drain
ITM: E 722749m, N 749960m

Pre-development testing was carried out in advance of the Portrane-Donabate broadband project in March 2007. The excavation phase of the project involved the opening of a series of trenches throughout the town centre and its hinterland. All of the trenches were located along roads, either in the carriageway proper or the adjoining verge or footpath. There were no river crossings other than at existing bridges. The trenches were 0.6 m wide and excavated to a standard depth of 0.9 m in carriageways and 0.6 m in verges/footpaths. Junction boxes ( 1.25 m 2 ) were excavated where two or more trenches intersected, and at regular intervals along long straight sections. All works within the areas of constraint around recorded monuments were monitored on a full-time basis. The remainder of the works were subject to intermittent monitoring.
Testing was carried out in the vicinity of an ecclesiastical site at Donabate. The monument consists of a mid-18th-century Anglican church built on the site of a medieval church and incorporating a medieval doorway. There is a medieval tower attached to the east end of the church. Three trenches were opened along a section of road some 50 m to the north of the church. A rough, cobbled surface was uncovered in one of the trenches. Upon removal, it was found to overlay an old box drain built of flat and upright slabs. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were discovered during testing or subsequent monitoring.

Site name: Corballis 1
Sites and Monuments Record No.: DU012-097--- -Licence number: 17E0407
Author: Liam Coen, c/o Archer Heritage Planning
Site type: Ring-ditch
ITM: E 723507m, N 749526m

|  | No: | SF-156 | Version: | 1.0 | Effective Date: | 15.04.24 |
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|  | Title: | An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Residential Development at New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin |  |  |  | Page 65 |

The site was located on a south-east facing slope in an undulating landscape with panoramic views to the south, east and west. The area of Donabate is located on a peninsula on the north Dublin coast with the sea on three sides. The coastline is c .1 .5 km to the east while the tidal estuary is less than 1 km to the south. The surrounding landscape comprises fields bounded by hedgerows. Most are under a variety of crops though with some pasture and small scale forestry.

The ring-ditch, c. 10.5 m in maximum external diameter, had a narrow undug entrance to the southwest and another possible entrance represented by a causeway, c. 0.25 m below the top of the cut, in the eastern arc. The ditch measured $1.4-1.5 \mathrm{~m}$ in width and $0.6-0.7 \mathrm{~m}$ in depth. Scattered burnt and unburnt human and animal bone fragments throughout the charcoal-stained upper fills of the ring-ditch represent token burials. Two burnt bone beads, a small glass bead and several small fragmentary copper-alloy pieces were also retrieved and appear to represent the remains of personal adornments deposited with the cremation material. No other archaeological features were identified in or around the ring-ditch. A piece of ash (fraxinus) charcoal from one of the lower deposits, C20, returned a date of 20-210 cal AD (95\% 2 $\delta$ ).

The upper ditch deposits, C04, $07 \& 09$, were primarily dark sandy silts with frequent charcoal and occasional burnt bone inclusions and filled a series of recuts made in the earlier ditch fills. This shows multi-phase use of the monument. The deposits comprising the earlier fills, C11 \& 12, were similar to the surrounding natural subsoil and may represent a bank or mound from the original construction of the ring-ditch that had been deliberately back-filled in a single event. The fill C. 20 appeared as a thin lens, maximum 0.06 m in depth, within C 12 in the western arc of the ring-ditch.

Site name: Ballymastone, Donabate
Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A-Licence number: 21E0840 ext.
Author: Fergal Murtagh.
Site type: Burnt mound
ITM: E 723653m, N 749990m

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Ballymastone, Donabate, Co. Dublin between 27 June and 7 July 2022. Excavation follows on from a course of testing carried out in December 2021 by David Bayley (Licence 21E0840), during which remains of a fulacht fiadh, burnt mound feature were discovered.

Upon excavation, the archaeological features recorded appear to represent the ploughed-out remains of a small prehistoric burnt mound. There was no trough and only one feature that could be identified as a pit.

The results of monitoring show no additional archaeological features present within the development area. The remnants of burnt mound material previously identified during testing by David Bayley were the only archaeological features identified on the site.

Post-excavation works are ongoing and will serve to inform the final interpretation of the site.

|  | No: | SF-156 | Version: | 1.0 | Effective Date: | 15.04 .24 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Title: | An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact <br> Assessment Report for the Proposed Residential Development at <br> New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin | Page 66 |  |  |  |

Site name: New Road, Ballisk, Donabate
Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/ALicence number: 19E0351
Author: James Hession
Site type: Pit of uncertain date
ITM: E 723313m, N 749851m

A total of 10 test trenches and 23 test pits were excavated across the proposed site. One archaeologically significant feature, a sub-circular pit measuring 0.87 m in length by 0.83 m in width and 0.1 m in depth, was identified and resolved during the test trenching programme. No other features of significance were identified.
$\left.\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}\hline \hline & \text { No: } & \text { SF-156 } & \text { Version: } & 1.0 & \text { Effective Date: }\end{array}\right] 15.04 .24$

## APPENDIX 7 - PREVIOUS GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY



Figure 1 - Location of the proposed development site.


Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.


Figure 3 - First edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development site.


Figure 4 - First edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development site.


Figure 5 - Last edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Cassini map with the proposed development site.



Figure 7 - The proposed development boundary overlain on the geophysical survey (Licence No.
05R012; see Appendix 6) and test excavation (Licence No. 07E0650; see Appendix 7

## Illustrations

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Figure 2 Site plan with geophysics greyscale and test trenches
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Figure 4 Location of trenches
Figure 5 Down Survey Map, c. 1650
Figure 6 Rocque's Map, I760,
Figure $7 \quad$ First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, I837-I843

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Plate $2 \quad$ View NE of excavation of BT8 (Field I2)
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Plate $6 \quad$ View NW of pit F5 in BT4 (Field 8)
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Plate $10 \quad$ View E of BT9, showing enclosure (ditches demarcated by ranging rods) and disused modern water pipe (Field I2)
Plate II View W of burnt spread/fulacht fiadh F9 in BTII (Field I2)
Plate 12 View NW of burnt spread/fulacht fiadh F9 in BTII, with post-medieval/modern field drain in foreground (Field I2)

Plate $13 \quad$ View SW of enclosure ditch nearest NE end of FII in BTI3 (Field I3)
Plate $14 \quad$ Detail of enclosure ditch FII in BTI3 (Field I3)
Plate $15 \quad$ Detail of enclosure ditch FII in BTI3's offset trench (Field I3)
Plate $16 \quad$ View WSW of kinked/curvy field boundary (FBI) between Fields 16 and I7

## 1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared to provide further test-excavation based archaeological assessment of the Ballymastone Lands, part of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan in Donabate, Co. Dublin (Figs 1-4). The work was carried out for Fingal County Council following the recommendations of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and consultation with Fingal County Council and the Department of Environment, Heritage \& Local Government.
1.2 The lands concerned are located to the east and northeast of Donabate, Co. Dublin, in the townlands of Ballalease North, Ballisk and Ballymastone (Ballymastone Lands).
1.3 The testing detailed herein follows on from both an earlier testing programme of the route of a proposed temporary access road through the site (Baker 2006, also under licence 06E0027) and a geophysical survey of the site (Harrison 2007, licence 07R0177).
1.4 This report describes the results of test excavation of twenty-six linear slit trenches, BT126, of some 990.5 m total length (Figs. 2-4; Plates 1-16; Section 3). This report also describes the archaeological and historical background on the site (Section 2).
1.5 The test trenching was undertaken in December 2007 under archaeological licence (No. 06E0027ext) in predominantly wet weather. The test trenches were excavated, and then backfilled, by mechanical digger.

## Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Donabate is situated in a regional landscape that is rich in archaeological remains. Outside of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan lands, but within the locality are an earthwork site (DU012-019), a ring barrow (DU012-061) and ecclesiastical remains (DU012-005). The Ballymastone Lands portion of the Donabate LAAP includes the townlands of Ballalease North, Ballymastone, Portraine Ballisk (Ballymastone lands), all of which are within the Parish of Portraine in the Barony of Nethercross.
2.2 The local placenames are a mixture of Irish, Scandinavian and English, the majority of which incorporate elements indicative of the type of settlement in the area. Ballalease, Ballisk, Ballymastone, and Corballis all include the element baile, which most often describes the former location of an unenclosed farmstead. Some of these also describe topographical features, such as Ballisk: esc or uisce refers to water. Ballalease originates in Baile an Lios, the townland or farmstead of the fort.

### 2.3 Prehistoric period (after Hagen 2002; Deery 2006)

The earliest identified evidence of human activity in this area dates from the Mesolithic period (c. 7000-4000 BC). Large numbers of flint artefacts have been collected along the coastal stretch from Howth to Balbriggan, an area, which has a long tradition of archaeological fieldwork. Collectors have identified the estuaries at Malahide and Rogerstown as particularly rich in evidence for early human activity (Stout and Stout 1992). While most of the finds date to the later Mesolithic period (c. 7000-4000 BC), an earlier Mesolithic microlith has been found at Knocklea near Rush. Two later Mesolithic Bann flint flakes are recorded from Kilcrea (NMI file no. IA/52/62).

The coastal pattern of settlement continued during the Neolithic period (c. 4000-2400 BC). Artefacts dating to this period have been found along the estuaries at Malahide and Rogerstown, and a cave in the cliffs at Portraine has also yielded flint artefacts. The topographical files of the National Museum record two finds from the nearby townland of Beaverstown: a stone axehead (NMI ref. 1932:5626) and two flint waste flakes (NMI ref. 1978:20-21). Several flint flakes and artefacts are also recorded from the surrounding
townlands, such as from Balcarrick (NMI ref. 1946:292), Ballymadrough (NMI refs. 1978:69-72), Kilcrea (NMI refs. 1965:56, 1967:180-184 and 1976:147), Lanestown (NMI refs. 1978:27-42 and 1978:73-74) and Turvey (NMI ref. 1978:80-116). Two hammer stones from Balcarrick (NMI refs. 1941:409) and Donabate (no NMI ref.) may also belong to this period.

Previous test excavation carried out within the study area identified remains of a circular hut in Field 13 of the Ballymastone Lands (Trench 9 or T9). It may date from the Middle to Late Bronze Age (i.e. c. 1500-500 BC; see Figs 2, 4, and Baker 2006).

### 2.4 Early medieval period (after S. Duffy in Baker 2006 \& Dehaene 2002)

The study area, located as it is within the plains of north Co. Dublin, formed part of the geographical region of Brega in the fifth-sixth centuries AD. Up to this time political supremacy in the area was still contested by the Laigin, or Leinstermen, a dynastic confederation that ruled the southeast and midland regions of Ireland (Byrne 1973, Smyth 1982). From the seventh to eleventh centuries, the overkingship of Brega was dominated by Síl nÁedo Sláine, a dynasty of the Southern Uí Néill (Byrne 1973). The Cianachta Bec also known as the Tuath Turbi occupied the vicinity of Corballis, Donabate and Ballylease during this period.

There is no known evidence for Viking activity on the Ballymastone Lands, but proof of their presence in the surrounding area is provided by written records that recount the plundering of Lambay and Inis Phádraig, off Skerries, in AD 795. Also, Fingal formed part of the hinterland of Dublin during Scandinavian rule there. In 825, Vikings destroyed the abbey of Lusk and again in 854 the whole town was destroyed by fire. Further raids took place in 1069, and in 1089 when 180 people perished in the church.

### 2.5 Medieval and post medieval periods (after Dehaene 2002)

The districts surrounding Dublin were brought under English Crown authority following the intervention of King Henry II in the winter of 1171-2, with large estates bestowed on
secular and ecclesiastical peers of the English realm in the form of manors. In 1183, Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, established his archiepiscopal manor at Swords and a large portion of Donabate/Portraine came under his control.

About the year 1230 Archbishop Luke separated Donabate from Swords, and granted the rectory there to the monastery of Grane, Co. Carlow. It remained in their possession until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541. In the period between 1257 and 1263, Richard De La Cornere was the archbishop's stewart in the manor of Turvey, and was tenant to 500 acres of land at Ballisk (Bates 2001).

In 1326 James Butler was in possession of the lands at Ballisk, which extended into the townlands of Ballisk, Benson (Beaverstown), Ballalease and Ballymastone, the rent payable to the archbishop amounting to £9-4-2. According to D’Alton (1838), the Barnewall family was in possession of Corballis and Baltra in the fourteenth century, the estate subsequently was the residence of the Burnell family in the sixteenth century and the Netterville family in the seventeenth century.

After the suppression of the monasteries in 1541, Patrick Barnewall was granted the extensive lands of the monastery of Grace Dieu, and in 1555, he also acquired the lands and the manor of Turvey, Ballalease and Ballisk. The Down Survey of 1656 records detailed information regarding the property of the Barnewall family. The lands included Ballymastone, and Ballisk.

By 1737 Charles Cobbe, later Archbishop of Dublin, had purchased lands at Donabate and was in possession of the townlands of Lanestown, Haggardstown, Newbridge Demesne, Donabate, Corballis, Baltra (now part of Corballis) and Kilcrea.

## Recent archaeological investigations

Previous test excavation within the Donabate Local Area Action Plan, carried out by Christine Baker (2006), identified remains of a circular hut in the townland of Ballymastone (Figs 2, 4). A spread of burnt mound material and a fulacht fíadh with
associated ditches and pits were identified in Corballis Lands, directly to the south of Turvey Avenue (Fig. 2; Baker 2006).

Predevelopment archaeological work nearby in Beaverstown townland, Donabate, just west of the Dublin-Belfast railway line, identified evidence for prehistoric activity (Neolithic-Bronze Age), represented by a series of pits and postholes and part of a former enclosure ditch (Hagen 2002, 2004; licences 02E1708, 03E1634).

Further north on the same development site, scattered medieval and post-medieval archaeology was identified: pits, a hearth and a small drainage or field boundary ditch (Lohan 2004, licence 04E0185).

Archaeological test excavations took place in 1999 in the glebe field west of St Patrick's church, Donabate. Medieval and post-medieval household material was found in rubbish pits containing food debris, bone and shell. Finds also included a sixteenth century coin (Walsh 2000).

### 2.7 Cartographic evidence (after Baker 2006)

The Down Survey of 1656 (Fig. 5) indicates the study area location in 'Part of Nethercrose Barrony'. Scattered houses are indicated in the area, including those at Ballisk and ‘Corbally’.

Rocque's map of 1760 (Fig. 6) shows ‘Dunabate' 'Balleas Common’ and Corballis. Several of the surviving field boundaries correspond to those on the map.

The Ordnance Survey six-inch map of 1843 (Fig. 7) shows the further refinement and division of the Ballymastone and Corballis lands. To the south of the study area is the depiction of a 'moat', recorded on the record of monuments and places as an earthwork site (DU012-019).

## $3 \quad$ Testing methodology and results

3.1 Geophysical survey was undertaken previously across the Donabate LAAP lands (Figs 24; Harrison 2007). That survey identified several possible areas of archaeology.
3.2 Test trenches excavated as part of the programme detailed herein were located on the basis of the geophysical survey: to investigate anomalies that might be the result of underlying archaeology. In addition, test trenches were located on the basis of topography (i.e. high ground, flat ground) and landscape archaeology (i.e. 'typical' locations for the remains likely to come to light in such a landscape-on 'false crests' of hills, near irregular kinks in surviving field boundaries, over surviving 'lumps and bumps' in the ground, on gentle south-facing slopes, adjacent to water, etc.). Finally, several test trenches were located in, or extended across, areas unlikely to contain archaeology on the basis of the aforementioned criteria, to act as a 'control test' on the validity of the geophysics and the trench location programme.
3.3 Twenty-six test trenches were excavated (Trenches BT1-26; Figs 2-4), for a combined total area of approximately $1882 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ ( 990.5 m combined length x c.1.9m trench width). In addition, the standing remains of the curving field boundary between Fields 16 and 17 was also investigated and recorded (Figs 2, 4; Plate 16).
3.4 Trenches were excavated with a mechanical digger equipped with a 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. A limited degree of further hand investigation was undertaken, as required, to ascertain the nature and extent of any archaeology identified. All data was recorded according to accepted professional standards.
3.5 The geology of the natural subsoil underlying the Ballymastone Lands proved to be remarkably heterogeneous and remarkably impermeable. The consequence of the latter is that, across the site, low lying areas were boggy and waterlogged. Archaeology identified
was located, without exception, on higher and dryer ground, indicating that this drainage problem is one that has persisted for millennia. Predictive analysis of the full extent of the archaeology identified (see Section 6) can also be corroborated through a comparison with contour maps of the local topography: sensibly, locations of former human occupation and, apparently, other activity, do not occur in boggy areas that might be subject to flooding.

Field 1
One trench, BT1, was excavated in this field, and was located according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2-3). It had a length of 60 m east southeast-west northwest, a width of 1.9 m , and an average depth of 450 mm . The soil profile in this trench was as follows:
$0-0.25 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Dark brown silt clay (topsoil/turf).
$0.25-0.45 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Light/mid brown silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).
At 0.45 m Yellowish grey sand clay, with moderate to frequent small to mediumsized irregularly shaped stones (sterile, natural subsoil).

## No archaeology was identified in this trench.

### 3.7 Field 6

Trench BT2 was located in this field, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2-3; Plates 3-5). It measured 26m northeast-southwest, with a perpendicular offset located 2.0 m from the southwest end of the trench, and extending 4.5 m northwestsoutheast. The trench had a width of 1.9 m , and an average depth of 450 mm . The stratigraphy in BT2 was as follows:
$0-0.30 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid brown to reddish brown sandy silt clay (topsoil/turf).
$0.30-0.45 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid brown sand silt (topsoil).
At 0.45 m Mid brownish yellow to dark brown sand clay, with moderate inclusion of medium-sized stones (sterile, natural subsoil).

A burnt spread, with a width of 9.3 m northeast-southwest, was recorded at the northeast end of trench BT2 (Plate 3). This spread consisted of two different deposits. The first one (F1), a black clay silt, consisting of some $50 \%$ fire-cracked small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones and frequent charcoal flecks, had a width of 1.8 m northeastsouthwest. The second deposit (F2) was a mid brown silt clay, containing a moderate amount of charcoal flecks, with a width of 7.5 m northeast-southwest.

A curvilinear ditch, (F3) with a width of $0.45-0.80 \mathrm{~m}$, was located at the southwest end of the trench. It ran from the southern baulk of the trench towards the west northwest, and was also visible in the northwest-southeast running offset (Plates 4-5). The ditch was filled by a black silty clay.

At approximately 7 m from the southwest end of the trench, the curvilinear ditch was cut by a northwest-southeast running ditch, (F4) measuring 0.60 m in width (Plate 5). The fill of this ditch was a mid to dark brown silt clay, containing moderate inclusions of small irregularly shaped stones.

The archaeology identified in Field 6, as elsewhere, corresponds to the topography there: a burnt mound/possible fulacht fiadh and associated ditches are located on the south-facing slope of higher ground. The nature of the archaeology and its position within the landscape suggests a Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) date.

Field 8
Two trenches, BT3 and BT4, were located in this field, orientated northeast-southwest and east northeast-west southwest and positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2-3; Plate 6). Both trenches measured 1.9 m in width, with a length of 20 m (BT3) and 38 m (BT4) respectively. They achieved average depths of 0.45 m (BT4) and 0.50 m (BT3) respectively. The stratigraphy in BT3 and BT4 was as follows:
$0-0.15 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Dark grey brown to mid red brown sandy silt clay, containing occasional small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones (topsoil/turf).

| $0.15-0.45 / 0.50 \mathrm{~m}$ | Mid brown sandy silt clay, with occasional small to medium- <br> sized irregularly shaped stones (topsoil). |
| :--- | :--- |
| At $0.45 / 0.50 \mathrm{~m}$ | Mid brown grey to brown yellow sandy clay, containing <br> moderate to frequent inclusions of small to large irregularly <br> shaped stones (sterile, natural subsoil). |

No archaeology was identified in trench BT3.

In trench BT4 a pit (F5), measuring 4.2 m west southwest-east northeast $\mathrm{x} 1.3+\mathrm{m}$, was recorded 6.8 m from the western end of the trench, corresponding with the result of the geophysical survey (Plate 6). This pit was filled by dark grey soft clay, with moderate inclusions of small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones and cockle shell fragments. In addition to this pit, a north-south ditch was identified approximately 7 m from the eastern end of the trench. This ditch had a width of up to 1.0 m , and was filled by dark black brown clay silt, containing moderate inclusions of charcoal flecks and occasional small irregularly shaped stones. The ditch corresponds to a circular anomaly visible in the geophysical survey. The anomaly is similar to other archaeology identified in Fields 12 and 13 and is tentatively identified as an enclosure.

Archaeology identified in Field 8, as elsewhere, corresponds to natural topography: a tentatively-identified circular enclosure as much as 50 m in diameter containing at least one large (rubbish?) pit is positioned just alongside the top of a low, rounded hillock, on the south-facing side of the prominence. The nature of the archaeology is similar-albeit larger in scale-to that also identified in Fields 12 and 13, and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. AD 500-1100; see also Section 6).

## 3.9 <br> Field 12

Seven trenches, BT5-11, were located in Field 12, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4; Plates 2, 7-12). They measured as follows: BT5 had a length of 30 m east northeast-west southwest, with a 12.0 m long perpendicular offset, extending south southwest and located 10.5 m from the western end of the main trench. BT5 was 0.30 m deep at the eastern end, and 0.45 m deep at the western end. BT6 had a length of 10 m , and an average depth of 0.35 m . BT7 measured 15 m northeast-southwest,
and 0.40 m in depth. BT8 had a length of 30 m northeast-southwest, and achieved a depth of $0.40-0.45 \mathrm{~m}$. BT9 measured 30 m east-west, with a depth of $0.30-0.35 \mathrm{~m}$. All trenches had a width of 1.9 m . The stratigraphy for the trenches in Field 12 was as follows:
$0-0.25 / 0.30 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid to dark brown silt clay, containing frequent potatoes (topsoil).
0.25/0.30-0.40/0.50m Light to mid brown silt clay, with occasional tiny to small irregularly shaped stones (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).
At 0.40/0.50m
Light/mid orange brown to dark brown silt clay, with moderate inclusions of tiny to medium-sized stones (sterile, natural subsoil).

No archaeological features of significance were identified in trenches BT5-8. However, modern cobble-filled field drains were recorded in trenches BT7 and BT8. In trench BT7, the drain corresponded with anomalies shown by the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 4).

In trench BT9, a circular enclosure ditch (context F7), corresponding to the geophysical survey, was recorded in two places, some 12 m apart. The westernmost part of the ditch had a width of $0.60-0.80 \mathrm{~m}$ (Plate 7). The eastern part, which was more fragmentary, was wider, measuring up to 1.15 m (Plate 8). The ditch was filled by dark brown silt clay, containing frequent small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones, as well as moderate inclusions of charcoal flecks. A base sherd of handmade pottery (possibly Leinster Cooking-type Ware, suggesting a early medieval/medieval date for the archaeology here) was found on the upper surface of the east part of the ditch. At the western end of BT9, a (disused) modern copper pipe, corresponding with an anomaly in the geophysical survey, extended across the trench (Plate 9). A modern plastic waterpipe, similarly disused, also extended north-south across the centre of the enclosure (Plate 10).

In BT10, a 0.60 m wide ditch (context F8), running northwest-southeast, was identified at $20.05-20.65 \mathrm{~m}$ from the southwest end of the trench. The fill of this ditch was dark brown sandy silt clay, with frequent small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones. This ditch, which corresponds to a circular geophysical anomaly some 8 m in diameter, may be the outer ditch of a truncated hut circle similar to those identified in T9 in an earlier phase of archaeological testing (see Baker 2006).

A burnt spread (context F9), corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey, was identified approximately 6 m from the northwest end of trench BT11 (Plates 11-12). It had a diameter of $0.70-0.80 \mathrm{~m}$, and consisted of dark brown silt clay, containing occasional small irregularly shaped stones. In addition, a field drain of post-medieval or modern date was running east northeast-west southwest across the trench at approximately 9.8 m from the northwest end (Plate 12).

Archaeology identified in Field 12, as elsewhere, corresponds to natural topography: a circular enclosure some 12 m in diameter positioned on a low, rounded hillock; a nearby possible hut circle some 8 m in diameter akin to other hut circles previously found on the same hillock (in T9, see Baker 2006); and a burnt spread/possible fulacht fiadh near the south edge of the hillock. The nature of the archaeology is similar to that also identified in Fields 8 and 13 (and, with respect to the burnt spread, Field 6), and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. 500-1100; see also Section 6).

## Field 13

Two trenches, BT12 and BT13, were located in Field 13, and positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4; Plates 13-15). BT 12 measured 120m east-west, with a depth of 0.40 m . BT13 had a length of 50 m northeast-southwest, with a perpendicular offset measuring 27.5 m northwest-southeast and located 23.3 m from the northeast end of the trench. Trench BT13 achieved a depth of $0.40-0.45 \mathrm{~m}$. The stratigraphy in BT12 and BT13 was as follows:
$0-0.20 / 0.25 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid to dark brown silt clay, containing occasional tiny to medium-sized stones (topsoil).
0.20/0.25-0.40m Red brown silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).

At 0.40 m Mid brown to pink brown (with patches of orange yellow), compact, silt clay, with moderate inclusions of small to mediumsized stones (sterile, natural subsoil).

The only archaeology identified in BT12 was a small, sub-circular pit (context F10) located at approximately 17.0 m from the western end of the trench. This pit measured $0.32-0.35 \mathrm{~m}$ in diameter, with a depth of only 0.03 m , and it was filled with black clay silt
containing occasional charcoal flecks.

In BT13, a 28 m diameter circular enclosure ditch (context F11), corresponding with anomalies in the geophysical survey, was recorded. This ditch had a width of 0.90 m in the main trench (Plates 13-14) and $0.30-0.40 \mathrm{~m}$ in the offset (Plate 15), and it was filled by a mid to dark red brown silt clay, containing frequent tiny to medium-sized stones. Minute handmade pottery fragments, of indeterminate date, were also recovered from this ditch (see Section 5).

Archaeology identified in Field 13, as elsewhere, corresponds to natural topography: a circular enclosure some 28 m in diameter positioned on the south-facing slopes of a low, rounded hillock, and a single pit also located on the natural prominence. The nature of the archaeology is similar to that also identified in Fields 8 and 12, and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. 500-1100; see also Section 6).

## $3.11 \quad$ Field 14

Five trenches, BT22-26, were located in Field 14, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4). BT22 had a length of 22 m north northwest-south southwest, and a depth of 0.55 m . BT23 measured 15 m east-west, and achieved a depth of 0.45 m . BT24 had a length of 25 m northwest-southeast, and a depth of 0.30 m . BT25 measured 24 m west northwest-east southeast, with a depth of 0.60 m . BT26 had a length of 45 m west northwest-east-southeast, and achieved a depth of $0.35-0.55 \mathrm{~m}$. All trenches had a width of 1.9 m . The stratigraphy in trenches BT23-26 was as follows:
$0-0.30 / 0.55 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid to dark grey brown (red brown in BT23) silt clay, with occasional inclusions of small to medium-sized stones (topsoil).
$0.30-0.45 / 0.55 \mathrm{~m}$ Silt clay, varying in colour from yellow brown (BT26) to orange brown (BT25) to red brown (BT23), containing occasional to moderate inclusions of small to medium-sized irregularly shaped stones, some of them decayed (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer). In trenches BT22 and 24, the topsoil was directly overlying the natural
subsoil, without any interfacial layer.

| At $0.30-0.60 \mathrm{~m}$ | Silt clay, varying in colour from yellow grey to orange brown to red <br> orange, with occasional to moderate inclusions of small to medium- <br> sized stones, some of them decayed (sterile, natural subsoil). In |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | BT24 the subsoil was very stony, with frequent large boulders. |

No archaeological features of significance were identified in Field 14.

### 3.12 <br> Field 16

Three trenches, BT19-21, were located in Field 16, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4). BT19 had a length of 21 m northeast-southwest, and a depth of 0.40 m . BT20 measured 30 m northwest-southeast, and achieved a depth of 0.40 m . BT21 had a length of 40 m , and a depth of $0.35-0.45 \mathrm{~m}$, being deepest in the centre. All trenches had a width of 1.9 m . The stratigraphy in BT19-21 was as follows:
$0-0.25 / 0.35 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid to dark brown heterogeneous sandy silt clay (topsoil/turf).
0.25/0.35-0.35/0.45m Mid yellow brown to mid brown sandy silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).

At $0.35 / 0.45 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Mid yellow grey sandy silt clay (in BT19 and BT21), consisting of some $50-70 \%$ small to medium-sized irregular, angular and sub-angular stones (sterile, natural subsoil). At the western end of BT21 there were patches of mid red brown sandy clay. In BT20, the subsoil was yellow brown in colour, with moderate inclusions of small irregular and sub-rounded stones, as well as patches of mid grey silt clay, some $25 \%$ of which consisted of small to medium-sized irregular, angular and sub-angular stones.

No archaeological features of significance were identified in Field 16.

Field 17
Five trenches, BT14-18, were located in Field 17, positioned according to the accompanying plan (Figs 2, 4; Plate 1). BT14 had a length of 40 m northwest-southeast,
and a depth of $0.30-0.60 \mathrm{~m}$. BT15 measured 25 m northeast-southwest, and achieved a depth of 0.40 m . BT16 had a length of 45.5 m west northwest-east southeast, and a depth of 0.35 m . BT17 measured approximately 25 m in length north northeast-south southwest, with a depth of 0.40 m at the southern end, and 0.60 m at the northern end. BT18 had a length of 0.40 m northwest-southeast, and it measured 0.40 m in depth. The stratigraphy in trenches BT14-18 was as follows:

0-0.25/0.50m Mid to dark brown (red brown in BT14) heterogeneous sandy silt clay (topsoil/turf).
0.25/0.50-0.30/0.60m Mid yellow brown sandy silt clay (topsoil/subsoil interfacial layer).
At $0.30 / 0.60 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ Light to mid grey silt clay, with patches of light to mid yellow grey silt clay, containing some $50-70 \%$ small to medium-sized stones (sterile, natural subsoil). In BT16 and BT17 the subsoil consisted mainly of light to mid yellow grey silt clay, with patches of light to mid grey silt clay.

No significant archaeology was identified in Field 17.

### 3.14 Summary of archaeological features

| Table 1: Summary of archaeological features identified during testing |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Context | Trench location | Field location | Interpretation | Provisional date |  |
| F1 | BT2 | Field 6 | Burnt spread/fulacht fiadh | Bronze Age |  |
| F2 | BT2 | Field 6 | Burnt spread/fulacht fiadh | Bronze Age |  |
| F3 | BT2 | Field 6 | Curvilinear ditch | Bronze Age? |  |
| F4 | BT2 | Field 6 | Ditch | Bronze Age? |  |
| F5 | BT4 | Field 8 | Pit | Bronze Age? |  |
| F6 | BT4 | Field 8 | Ditch (enclosure?) | Bronze Age? |  |
| F7 | BT9 | Field 12 | Enclosure ditch | Bronze Age or early medieval? |  |
| F8 | BT10 | Field 12 | Ditch (hut circle?) | Bronze Age or early medieval? |  |
| F9 | BT11 | Field 12 | Burnt spread/fulacht fiadh | Bronze Age |  |
| F10 | BT12 | Field 13 | Pit | Bronze Age? |  |
| F11 | BT13 | Field 13 | Enclosure ditch | Bronze Age? |  |

## 4

## Field boundaries

### 4.1 Boundary morphology

A curve in the boundary between Fields 16 and 17 was considered to be of archaeological potential as it could indicate the presence of an enclosure site that has disappeared over time, preserved by the boundary or incorporated into it (Figs 2, 4; Plate 16). This is not supported by either a detailed reanalysis of cartographic sources or the results of the geophysical survey (Harrison 2007). Nevertheless, archaeological testing was required to confirm the apparent lack of archaeological potential. In addition to archaeological testing in the vicinity of the curvy boundary, the boundary itself was recorded.

The methodology for the recording of the field boundary entailed:

- the recording of the morphology or form of the boundary;
- the counting of all woody taxa present in a randomly-selected 30 m length of each boundary.

The morphological recording was undertaken by one of the writers, William O. Frazer. It was conducted according to a scientific methodology developed by Frazer and previously employed elsewhere in Ireland and abroad (UK, France, Malta, USA; building upon Rastrick 1954, Evans 1957, M. Wildgoose in Hodges 1991, Fleming 1998). The underlying premise for the methodology is that similarly constructed boundaries within a region may date from similar eras, and that they may be discernible to a trained observer. Phasing of boundaries may be possible, where stratigraphic relationships (at junctions, etc.) are observable, or where building techniques are characteristic of certain time periods. Contrary to popular wisdom, and frequent planning recommendations, townland boundaries are generally not ideal candidates for such determination: many date at least from the medieval period and have been diligently maintained since. They therefore typically represent the most complicated palimpsest or mixture of different rebuildings/replantings/repairs present in any field boundaries within a given contiguous landscape.

The woody taxa count was undertaken by Frazer, according to a recognised scientific methodology based on 'Hooper’s Rule’ (see Pollard, Hooper \& Moore 1974). Frazer
contends that the absolute dating of hedgerows/boundaries according to taxa counts is not substantiated in an Irish context (nor in most others), but that the chronological seriation of boundaries according to the number/type of woody taxa may be possible with a large enough localised sample, in the context of other technical observations about the proximate landscape history.

The recorded ditch had a u-shaped profile, with a depth of $0.4-0.5 \mathrm{~m}$, and a width of $1.8-2.0 \mathrm{~m}$. The ditch was waterfilled, with earth banks ( 0.3 m high) on either side.

Significantly, there was no difference in boundary morphology at the curvy part of the field boundary, compared to the straighter parts. Neither did it show demonstrably more woody taxa than other nearby field boundaries. Further, the supposed 'curve' in the boundary was more angular and kinked that some maps might suggest, lessening the possibility that it might be a relict part of a former curvilinear enclosure. Finally, the vicinity of the kink, especially on its east side, was low-lying and very boggy ground

The implication is that the irregular shape of the boundary is not a consequence of it being a fossilized portion of an earlier boundary or landscape feature. Instead, the boundary at the location of the kink appears to be part of the same construction as the remainder of the north-south boundary beyond each end of the kink portion (and, indeed, many other boundaries in the vicinity). The reason for the kink may have more to do with the practicalities of boundary construction in a location that is very boggy (and contained standing water to a depth of 0.50 m on the east side of the boundary at the time of testing).

## Boundary morphology and woody taxa details

Field Boundary 1 Morphology (at 'kink', between Fields 16 and 17)

| Interpretation | ditch and 2 banks |
| :--- | :--- |
| Face 1 (F1) orientation | west (approx.) |
| F1 description | low bank |
| Bank 1 height | 0.3 m |
| Bank 1 width | $1.0-1.3 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| F2 orientation | east (approx.) |


| F2 description | low bank |
| :--- | :--- |
| Bank 2 height | 0.3 m |
| Bank 2 width | $1.0-1.3 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Ditch depth | $0.4-0.5 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Ditch width | $1.8-2.0 \mathrm{~m}$ |
| Ditch profile | u-shape |
| Ditch misc. | waterfilled |

Field Boundary 1 Woody Taxa (at 'kink', between Fields 16 and 17)

| Taxa | Taxa (Latin) | Age category | Frequency | Misc. notes |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bramble | Rubus fruticosos | mature | very common | on berm outside each bank |
| Hawthor <br> n | Crataegus spp | mature | very common | on interior sides of banks |
| Holly | Ilex aquifolium |  | uncommon | on interior sides of banks |
| Ivy | Hedera helix | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | very common |  |

## 5 Artefacts

5.1 Artefacts recovered during testing and the context from which they originated are identified below. The artefacts have been provisionally catalogued, identified and are presently in storage at Margaret Gowen \& Co.'s main office.
5.2 Finds from the topsoil were recovered during trenching by a mechanical digger, rather than during the hand investigation of identified archaeological features. They were assigned to contexts based upon their Field location (e.g. F600 for Field 6, F800 for Field 8, F1200, F1300). The recovery of finds under such circumstances is not systematic or scientifically robust; instead the topsoil finds may provide an impressionistic understanding of past activity in the area.

### 5.3 Catalogue

From topsoil (F600), Field 6
06E0027:600:1. Lithic. Yellow brown split flint.

From topsoil (F800), Field 8
06E0027:800:1. Lithic. Pink grey flint. Scraper.
06E0027:800:2. Lithic. White split flint.

From topsoil Field 12 (F1200, over enclosure ditch F7), Trench BT9
06E0027:1200:1. Ceramic. Clay pipe. Bowl fragment. Undecorated.

From interfacial layer Field 12 (F1201), Trench BT9, in association with enclosure ditch (F7)

06E0027:1201:1. Ceramic. Pottery. Possible Leinster Cooking Ware. Base fragment.

From topsoil Field 13 (F1300)
06E0027:1300:1. Lithic. Grey white flint. Debitage.

From ditch F11, Trench BT13, Field 13
06E0027:11:1. Ceramic. Pottery. Unidentified handmade ware.

## 6 Summary of findings and implications for development

### 6.1 General

This report has been prepared to provide a further test-excavation based archaeological assessment of the Ballymastone Lands part of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan in Donabate, Co. Dublin (Figs. 1-4), following the archaeological test excavations carried out previously along the proposed route of an access road through the lands (Baker 2006). The results should be considered alongside the results of that earlier report, but for ease of use this report encompasses Baker's findings into the descriptions below (in Section 6.2) and in Figs 2-4.

Archaeology has been identified in four grouped locations within the Ballymastone Lands: in Fields 6, 8, 12 and 13-14 (Plates 3-15). They are summarised below in Section 6.2.

In all cases, the archaeology identified was significantly truncated, probably by postmedieval and modern agricultural activity (ploughing, etc.). Archaeological features such as enclosures and hut circles that probably once contained numerous internal archaeological features were largely bereft of these. The implication is that the archaeology that has been survived on the Ballymastone Lands is not in a particularly good state of preservation. This may simplify its mitigation-in terms of both programme and cost-if resolution by archaeological excavation becomes necessary.

Based upon the results of the geophysical survey (Harrison 2007), archaeological testing, and landscape archaeological analysis, ‘Archaeological Risk Zones’ have been established around the four locations (Figs. 2-4). The Zones are discussed below in Section 6.3.

The nature of the archaeology identified in limited test excavation, the location of sites in the landscape and the scattered lithic artefacts recovered during testing all suggest that the sites date from the Bronze Age (i.e. c. $2400-500 \mathrm{BC}$; as initially posited in Baker 2006). However, the possible medieval potsherd found in BT9 just
atop the enclosure there may suggest instead an early medieval/medieval date for some of the archaeology. Precise dating of the archaeology is not necessary for the purposes of this report: considering other factors detailed in this report, the dates for the remains are unlikely to significantly affect any future mitigation issues.

### 6.2 Findings (Figs 2-4; Plates 3-15)

### 6.2.1 $\quad$ Field 6

Archaeology was identified in Field 6, in BT2 (Phase B Trench 2) and its offset trench. The archaeology consists of a burnt mound/possible fulacht fiadh and an associated ditch. It is located on the south-facing slope of higher ground, and, as elsewhere on the Ballymastone Lands, corresponds to the topography there. The nature of the archaeology and its position within the landscape suggests a Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) date.
6.2.2 Field 8

Archaeology was identified in Field 8, in BT4. It consists of a ditch (tentatively forming part of a circular enclosure as much as 50 m in diameter) containing at least one large (rubbish?) pit. The archaeology is positioned just alongside the top of a low, rounded hillock, on the south-facing side of the prominence and, as elsewhere, corresponds to natural topography. The nature of the archaeology is similar-albeit larger in scale-to that also identified in Fields 12 and 13, and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the Early medieval period (c. AD 5001100).

### 6.2.3 Field 12

Archaeology was identified in Field 12, in BT8, BT9, BT10 and BT11. The findings were related to archaeology previously identified by Baker (2006) in trench T9. The archaeology consists of: a circular enclosure some 12 m in diameter positioned on a low, rounded hillock; a nearby possible hut circle some 8 m in diameter and akin to another hut circle previously found on the same hillock (in T9, see Baker 2006); and a burnt spread/possible fulacht fiadh near the south edge of the hillock. As elsewhere, the archaeology corresponds to natural topography. Its nature is similar to that also
identified in Fields 8 and 13 (and, with respect to the burnt spread, Field 6), and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. AD 500-1100).
6.2.4 Field 13 (with an Archaeological Risk Zone extending into Field 14)

Archaeology was identified in Field 13, in BT12, BT13 and the latter's offset trench. The archaeology consists of a circular enclosure some 28 m in diameter positioned on the south-facing slopes of a low, rounded hillock, and a single pit also located on the natural prominence. As elsewhere, the archaeology corresponds to natural topography. The nature of the archaeology is similar to that also identified in Fields 8 and 12, and is most characteristic of either the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) or the early medieval period (c. AD 500-1100).

## 6.3 'Archaeological Risk Zones’ (Figs 2-4)

The Zones illustrated in Figs 2-4 have been determined according to the locations of identified archaeology plus the extent of related geophysical anomalies that have been confirmed as archaeological in nature.

The Zones include 'buffer areas' of 20m around the identified archaeology, in keeping with accepted practice and the general recommendations of heritage authorities on other green field developments.

In all cases, identified archaeology and related geophysical anomalies lie on higher ground, a consequence of the impermeable subsoil and the tendency for low-lying areas on the site to become boggy or to flood. The extents of the Zones have therefore been curtailed wherever possible by the intersection of topographical contours below which archaeology does not seem to occur on the Ballymastone Lands.

Importantly, the Zones do not demarcate areas which are necessarily full of archaeology. All contain identified archaeology, but the zones demarcate the extent around that confirmed archaeology (1) in which the potential for other related
archaeology is highest, and (2) for which heritage authorities are likely to recommend more stringent archaeological mitigation measures (e.g. resolution by archaeological excavation or avoidance and preservation in situ, depending on details of future development).

The zones should therefore assist in managing the risk of significant archaeological mitigation programme and costs, by permitting architects and engineers to take cognisance of their presence early in development design.

William O. Frazer and Carina Eriksson
$20^{\text {th }}$ January 2008

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Figure 5 Down Survey map, c. 1650


Figure 6 Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1760



Plate I View W of backfilling of BTI7 and BTI6 (Field I7)


Plate 2 View NE of excavation of BT8 (Field I2)


Plate 3 View NE of burnt spread/fulacht fiadh deposits FI and F2 in BT2 (Field 6)


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


Plate 5 View W of curvilinear ditches F3 and F4 in BT2 (Field 6)


Plate 6 View NW of pit F5 in BT4 (Field 8)


Plate 7 Detail of enclosure ditch F7 in BT9, W part (Field I2)


Plate 8 Detail of enclosure ditch F7 in BT9, E part (Field I2)


Plate 9 Detail of disused modern copper pipe at W end of BT9 (Field I2)


Plate 10 View E of BT9, showing enclosure (ditches demarcated by ranging rods) and disused modern water pipe (Field I2)


Plate II View W of burnt spread/fulacht fiadh F9 in BTII (Field I2)


Plate 12 View NW of burnt spread/fulacht fiadh F9 in BTII, with post-medieval/modern field drain in foreground (Field I2)


Plate 13 View SW of enclosure ditch nearest NE end of FII in BTI3 (Field I3)


Plate 14 Detail of enclosure ditch FII in BTI3 (Field I3)


Plate I5 Detail of enclosure ditch FII in BTI3's offset trench (Field I3)


Plate 16 View WSW of kinked/curvy field boundary (FBI) between Fields 16 and 17

Geophysical Survey of the Ballymastone and Corballis Lands

Licence Ref. 05-R-I24


## Illustrations

## Summary Diagrams

Fig 1 Site \& Survey Location Diagram I:7000
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Fig 3 Areas I-3: Summary Interpretation I:2000
Fig 4 Areas 4-12: Summary Greyscale Image I:2000
Fig 5 Areas 4-12: Summary Interpretation I:2000
Fig 6 Areas 13-18: Summary Greyscale Image I:2000
Fig 7 Areas 13-18: Summary Interpretation I:2000
Fig 8 Areas 19-27: Summary Greyscale Image I:2000
Fig 9 Areas 19-27: Summary Interpretation 1:2000
Fig 10 Areas 28-32: Summary Greyscale Image I:2000
Fig II Areas 28-32: Summary Interpretation I:2000

## Archive Plots on Attached CD

AI.I Area I: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram I:625
AI. 2 Area 2 \& 3: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram I:625
AI. 3 Area 4: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram I:625
Al. 4 Area 5: XY-Trace \& Dot Density Plot I:625
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Al. 6 Area 6: XY-Trace Plot I:625
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AI. 9 Area 7: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram I:625
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AI. 22 Area 14: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram ..... 1:625
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Al. 30 Area 19: XY-Trace, Dot Density Plot \& Interpretation Diagram ..... 1:625
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## Executive Summary <br> Survey Objectives

Geophysical survey was undertaken for Fingal County Council as part of an archaeological assessment of lands designated for a Local Area Action Plan for Donabate, County Dublin. The area requiring geophysical investigation is located to the immediate south and east of Donabate town, Co. Dublin. As part of the archaeological investigations for this Local Area Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment, the main aim of this geophysical investigation is to fully identify any responses which may indicate the location of substantial archaeological remains or areas of archaeological potential to assist the overall archaeological investigation for the Local Area Action Plan.

The results of the geophysical survey will be contained in Donabate Local Area Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage section.

## Survey Location, Soils and Geology

The area requiring geophysical investigation is contained within the townlands of Ballease North, Ballisk and Ballymastone in the north, and Donabate and Corballis in the south (NGR approximate N 249860 E3234IO).

Soils of the locality include predominant grey brown podzolics with associated Gleys, over a parent material of Till with Limestone and Shale. Some of the lands under investigation lie close to the coast line and soil type may vary. Coastal soils in this region are recorded as predominantly acid brown earths with associated Gleys, Regosols and Podzols, over Morianic sands and gravels. Localised variation in both the geology and soil type may result in natural responses in the data; however, these soil types are suitable for geophysical survey and any natural responses will be localised. (National Soil Survey of Ireland, 1980).

## Archaeological Background

North County Dublin has a rich and well-documented archaeological presence and the area is known to have been extensively settled since the prehistoric period.

There are no recorded archaeological sites and no stray finds within the boundary of the Corballis Lands study area. The closest archaeological site is DUOI2-019 an earthwork site, c. 60 m south of the Corballis Lands, on the first edition OS map this site is described as a Moat. At a similar distance to the south of the lands DUOI2-06I a barrow site. A watercourse runs along the southern section of fields 12 and 15 ; watercourses and their environs are considered to have
an archaeological potential as they attract settlement/activity through all periods. A sub-circular cropmark and possible associated features was identified during the examination of vertical aerial photographs of field 16 and a small circular feature was also identified in field 5 , these cropmark features may indicate the presence of subsurface archaeology. During the field walkover survey a level slightly raised platform was identified at the southern of Field I, this area in an otherwise sloping landscape is considered as being of archaeological potential.

There are no recorded archaeological sites (RMP Sites) and no stray finds recorded in the topographical files within the boundary of the Ballymastone Lands. There is a substantial kink in the boundary between fields 16 and 17 which may indicate a former archaeological feature that has been respected by subsequent field system divisions. The ground surface visibility was poor throughout the lands as they were predominantly in mature crop, it was therefore not suitable for plough zone field walking, nodules of flint were present throughout the lands, but all were isolated and unworked. These lands have been subjected to continuous arable farming which has included deep ploughing for root crops. This type of agricultural development tends to obscure archaeology leaving no traces of archaeological sites on the surface, but it can however sometimes leave subsurface archaeological remains. This has been demonstrated in the Ballymastone Lands where geophysical survey has identified several features/sites of archaeological potential i.e. in Fields 8, 13 and 12 comprising a curvilinear response of potential archaeological settlement origin and a large sub-circular ditched enclosure site.
(Summarised from Deery, S. (2006) Donabate Local Area Plan \& Strategic Environmental Assessment. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Unpublished Margaret Gowen \& Co Ltd Report)

## Summary of Results

Geophysical Survey has successfully identified areas of archaeological potential within the lands highlighted for the Donabate Local Area Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment, for Fingal County Council.

Potential archaeological sites have been identified in the northern (Ballymastone) and southern (Corballis) parts of the site. Some of the responses suggest clear archaeological activity, and possible enclosures and areas of burning are suggested.

In the Ballymastone Lands, several circular responses of varying sizes have been identified (Fields 12 \& 13). These responses are of clear archaeological potential, perhaps indicative of habitation activity. North of these responses is a series of curvilinear responses (Field 8). No clear archaeological pattern is evident; however, these responses may represent plough damaged archaeological remains.

In the Corballis Lands, further evidence suggestive of archaeological activity has been identified. In Field 3 part of a sub-rectilinear enclosure may have been identified, and responses indicative of burning have also been identified in Field 4.

Field I contains an unusually shaped response which is of clear archaeological strength. This response may represent the remains of plough damaged archaeology.

Other responses of possible interest were identified in Field I however their archaeological interpretation is unclear. These responses may be of a more modern origin. Archaeological interpretation of these responses is tentative.

## 1 Areas of Investigation (Figure 1)

1.1 Approximately 104.5 ha of gradiometer scanning complimented by 15 ha of detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken on behalf of Fingal County Council. The survey was undertaken between October 2005 and January 2006 under licence to the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (licence ref 06-R-002).
1.2 Figure 1 shows the site and survey location, with the position of gradiometer scanned anomalies and detailed gradiometer survey areas clearly identified $(1: 7,000)$.
1.3 The survey was conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (David 1995). Tie-in reference points were recorded with a DGPS system by the staff of Margaret Gowen \& Co. Ltd at the time of survey. The tie-in information is available upon request.

## 2

## Data Display

2.1 Summary greyscale images with accompanying interpretation diagrams of the detailed survey Areas 1-32 are presented in Figures 2 to 11 at a scale of 1:2000. For ease of display and description, the geophysical survey area has been subdivided into the lands in the north (the Ballymastone Lands) and the lands in the south (the Corballis Lands).
2.2 Raw data is presented as a series of XY-trace and Dot Density plots with interpretation diagrams at a scale of 1:625. These are presented in the appendix as drawings A1.1 to A1.45 on the attached CD.
2.6 The display formats referred to above are discussed in the Summary Technical Information section, attached to this report.

3 Ground Conditions and Further Information (Figure 2)
2.3 Ground conditions throughout the site varied, and also determined when survey could be conducted. Much of the Ballymastone Lands contained potato crop, and survey was postponed until the crop was harvested.
2.4 Fields F1, F14, F16 and F17 of the Ballymastone lands were overgrown and unsuitable for survey. Crop in Field 16 of the Corballis Lands prevented survey here. No geophysical assessment of the archaeological potential of these areas can be made at present.
2.5 Isolated ferrous-type responses were apparent throughout the gradiometer data. These anomalies are usually caused by the presence of modern ferrous debris within the topsoil and are not referred to in the text unless considered relevant.
2.6 Instrumentation specifications and survey methodology are discussed in the Summary Technical Information document included with this report.

## 4 Preliminary Gradiometer Scan (Figure 1)

## Ballymastone lands

4.1 Gradiometer Scanning demonstrated an overall quiet background response ( $\pm 0.5 \mathrm{nT})$. Few responses of potential interest were noted. However, increased variation was noted in Fields 12 and 13, and isolated responses of interest were targeted for detailed survey here. Detailed survey Areas $9,10,11$ and 12 were positioned here to investigate these responses
4.2 Further increased response was noted in Field 8. It was unclear if this response was of modern origin and survey Areas 4 and 5 were positioned here to investigate.
4.3 Field 5 was significantly disturbed due to modern landscaping and no detailed survey could be conducted here. Field 4 was notably waterlogged and as no scanned responses were identified this field was not subject to further detailed survey.
4.4 Fields $14,15,16$ and 17 were not surveyed as they were overgrown. Survey in these fields would have proved hazardous.
4.5 As a scientific control, areas demonstrating a quiet background response, where no clear anomalies of interest were detected, were tested with detailed survey, i.e. Areas $1,2,3,6$, 7, and 8. A sizable survey block (1ha) was located in Field 11 (Area 6), to test the scanning results.

## Corballis Lands

4.6 Scanning in this part of the site demonstrated a general background response equal to the scanned fields in Ballymastone, with a background variation of $\pm 0.5 \mathrm{nT}$. Scanned anomalies in these fields generally proved to be of more strength, and clear areas of potential were highlighted with the scanning.
4.7 Field 1 had an increase in background variation throughout. Multiple anomalies were detected but the archaeological nature of the responses was unclear. There was an
increase in responses from modern ferrous debris in this field and the archaeological potential of the scanned anomalies required clarification. Detailed survey Areas 13-20 were positioned here to investigate.
4.8 A clear area of potential was noted in the east of Field 3 as a series of broad anomalies. Detailed survey Area 24 was positioned here to investigate. Areas 23 and 25 were positioned to clarify the origin of isolated anomalies identified.
4.9 A spread of anomalies were detected in Field 4 and detailed survey Area 26 was selected to target these responses. A large ferrous disturbance was observed in the east of Field 3 during scanning and detailed survey was positioned to confirm this modern response.
4.10 Scanning in the west of the Corballis lands demonstrated a continued increase in background response. A broad spread of strong anomalies was clearly identified in Field 14 and Area 31 was selected for further detailed investigation.
4.11 Other isolated anomalies were detected and detailed survey Areas 28, 29, 30 and 32 were positioned to investigate.
4.12 No anomalies of interest were identified in Field 11. Field 9 and 13 appeared to contain a concentration of modern ferrous responses. Field 16 contained crop at the time of survey and no scanning was conducted here.

## Ballymastone Lands

## Areas 1-3(Figures 2\&3)

5.1 A linear response in Area 2 is of archaeological potential but most likely represents a former field division, and no clear responses of interest have been identified in Area 1.
5.2 Detailed survey in Area 3 has revealed an amorphous response of limited archaeological potential. Although the response is of archaeological strength, the absence of shape and form is suggestive of a natural origin. Archaeological potential must still be considered but a natural interpretation is preferred.

## Areas 4-12 (Figures 4\&5)

5.3 Area 4 is dominated by ferrous responses. Isolated anomalies of potential have been identified, however, no clear pattern is discernable and the archaeological potential of these responses is thought limited.
5.4 Area 5 contains a series of short linear responses and a clear area of increased resopnse with associated anomalies. The responses appear to form part of a curvilinear pattern. The archaeological interpretation of these responses is unclear, they may represent plough damaged archaeology. The short linear responses may represent an enclosure ditch and the increase in response could be the result of burning. This is speculative and the archaeological interpretation remains tentative.
5.5 Area 6 was positioned as a scientific control to test an area where scanning identified no anomalies of interest. The detailed survey here has confirmed the results of scanning, and no responses of archaeological interest were detected. Equally, Areas 7 and 8 contained no responses of interest.
5.6 Areas 9 and 10 were located specifically to investigate scanned responses. Area 9 has identified strong linear responses of some archaeological potential. However, these responses may be the result of former field boundaries and interpretation is cautious.
5.7 Area 10 contains responses of clear archaeological potential. A distinct circular response approximately 11.5 m in diameter has been clearly identified in the centre of the data set. This response may represent habitation activity, perhaps indicative of a ditched enclosure. There is also the suggestion in the data of an entranceway in the north of the response.
5.8 To the west of the circular response is a linear response approximately 42 m in length, orientated north-south. This is of clear archaeological potential and may be associated with the circular response. Other curvilinear responses and trends are evident in Area 10 and may also be of interest, perhaps representing smaller enclosures, or evidence of burning. This is speculative but the archaeological potential of the responses in Area 10 is thought to be significant.
5.9 Broad amorphous responses in Area 11 and the north of Area 12 are thought to be natural in origin, and correlate with an area of shallow and protruding bedrock. A weaker "mottled" effect in the data is evident in Areas 10 and 12. This is the result of natural variations, and although makes interpretation more difficult, responses of archaeological potential are still clearly visible. This natural response is not of archaeological interest.
5.10 In the west of Area 12 is a large curving response, indicative of a curvilinear enclosure ditch approximately 30 m in diameter. Other responses both within this possible enclosure and outside of it are of potential archaeological strength. The possible enclosure most likely extends outside the limits of survey and the western extent of the responses is unclear. There may be an entranceway in the eastern half of the curving response, although this is speculative.
5.11 East of the possible enclosure (Area 12) is a clear area of strong response which is highly indicative of burnt material and may be of archaeological interest.
5.12 The association of the possible enclosure and area of increased response in Area 12 and the circular response and curvilinear anomalies in Area 10 is unclear, however, these responses do suggest clear archaeological potential for the southern halves of Fields 12 and 13, and an archaeological complex may be speculated. The true association of these
responses cannot be derived from geophysical survey, these responses are, however, of similar form and this interpretation should be considered.

## Corballis Lands

## Areas 13-17 (Figures 6 \& 7)

5.13 Detailed survey in Field 1 is dominated by modern ferrous responses as suggested with the preliminary scanning. However, some responses of potential interest have been identified.
5.14 Area 16 contains responses of clear archaeological potential. A curving response appears to be associated with further responses and trends of archaeological potential. The data does not have a clear archaeological pattern that relates to a specific site type, but these responses most likely represent the plough damaged remains of an enclosure and are thought to be archaeological in nature.
5.15 Other responses of interest have been identified. Linear responses in Area 18 may be of interest. However, there is no archaeological form to these responses and a more modern interpretation can be made. These responses may represent modern agricultural activity and an archaeological interpretation is unclear.
5.16 Further isolated responses and linear trends are identified in Areas 13, 14 and 15. Although of archaeological potential, these responses are equally likely to be the result of modern activity. There is an abundance of ferrous responses in these areas and the archaeological potential of the isolated anomalies identified is thought to be minimal.

## Areas 19 to 27 (Figures 8 \& 9)

5.17 Area 19 contains a linear response orientated north-south. This is most likely representative of a former field division and its archaeological potential is thought to be minimal.
5.18 Area 20 is 40 m east of Area 16. Numerous amorphous responses are evident in Area 20. Although this data set is in close proximity to a potential archaeological site (Area 16),
these responses are indicative of natural variations. Shallow gravels may produce such responses. Parallel linear trends in Area 20 are most likely to be indicative of ploughing activity.
5.19 Areas 21 and 22 have no clear responses suggesting archaeological activity. Isolated responses may be indicative of modern agricultural activity.
5.20 Clear responses of archaeological potential have been identified in Area 24. The responses are indicative of a rectilinear enclosure, with a possible further enclosure / annex to the south of the response. A broad anomaly within the main enclosing response is suggestive of internal features, perhaps representing a hearth. Although this is speculative, this data set is thought to be of clear archaeological potential.
5.21 Areas 23 and 24 both contain responses of possible interest. Although isolated, both data sets contain a broad response. Although these responses may be the result of modern agriculture, their archaeological potential must be considered. They may represent small areas of burning which could be of archaeological interest.
5.22 Area 26 contains a broad spread of strong amorphous responses. This incoherent pattern may also be indicative of modern debris, however, a large area of burning, or burnt material may be located here. This may be of archaeological interest.
5.23 Area 27 demonstrates a large magnetic disturbance, confirming the scanning results. This response is modern in origin and is of no archaeological interest. Any responses of archaeological origin in the area will be masked. By this, no archaeological interpretation can be made of the results in Area 27.

## Areas 28-32 (Figures 10 \& 11)

5.24 These data sets have a noticeable increase in background variation. This is thought to be natural in origin, and although this makes interpretation difficult responses of interest can still be clearly interpreted.

In addition to these responses, in Area 31, are the suggestions of a linear field boundary, represented by a linear trend and a series of responses. A response in the south of the dataset is interpreted as being natural in origin.
5.31 Area 32 contains some linear responses which may be of interest. The data appears to present probable field divisions and it can be speculated that these responses reflect former boundaries relating to the farm. However, an archaeological interpretation must
also be considered. Interpretation is unclear as the dataset appears incomplete. Survey was conducted as close to the farm buildings as possible. The responses suggest the boundaries continue outside the survey area.

6

## Conclusion

6.1 Geophysical investigations as part of the Donabate Local Area Action Plan has successfully located potential archaeological sites and identified areas of archaeological potential for further investigation in the Ballymastone and Corballis lands.
6.2 In the Ballymastone Lands, a concentration of circular and curvilinear responses has been identified. In Field 12 (Area 10), a clear circular response, approximately 11.5 m in diameter, and several smaller curvilinear responses and trends may represent an area of occupation. There is also a well defined linear response approximately 42 m long which may represent a significant archaeological ditch.
6.3 In Field 13 (Area 12) a significantly large (approximately 30 m diameter) curving response is highly suggested of another enclosure. Within the response are multiple anomalies of archaeological potential, suggesting an occupational use. To the east of the enclosure is a response highly suggestive of burning, or a deposit of burnt material.
6.4 An archaeological interpretation of these responses can be made, suggesting a possible archaeological complex spanning the southern half of both Field 12 and 13. This is speculative and the true association of these responses is unknown. However, they are of similar strength and form and this archaeological interpretation must be considered.
6.5 Other responses of possible archaeological origin are evident. Field 8 (Area 5) contains a series of short curvilinear responses which may indicate plough damaged archaeological remains.
6.6 In the south of the study area, the Corballis Lands, further areas of interest have been identified. In Field 1 (Area 16) an unusual curving response and multiple anomalies and trends may represent a large (approx. $25 \mathrm{~m} \times 62 \mathrm{~m}$ ) plough damaged enclosure.
6.7 Other responses within Field 1 may be archaeological, however no clear form is evident and these responses may represent former field divisions and agricultural activity.
6.8 In Field 3 part of a sub-rectangular enclosure ditch is thought to be represented. The responses here are of clear archaeological potential and a broad anomaly within the enclosure is believed to represent a burnt feature, perhaps a hearth.
6.9 There are further responses suggestive of burnt material or burnt spreads in Field 3, in Areas 23 and 25. These responses are confined and no other responses indicative of archaeology appear to be associated. Archaeological interpretation is tentative but these responses may represent isolated areas of burning.
6.10 In Field 4 (Area 26) a broad area of anomalies is highly suggestive of burnt material and a burnt mound may be located here. Equally this response may be the result of more modern activity, perhaps relating to the near by farm buildings.
6.11 Field 14 (Area 31) contains another spread of responses which may be suggestive of burning. However, the strength of the responses is more indicative of industrial activity. An archaeological interpretation of these responses is unclear.
6.12 Linear responses indicative of boundary divisions are evident in Field 12 (Area 32) and may be of interest. However, these divisions may relate to the current farm. Interpretation is tentative.
6.13 Geophysical survey has provided a clear assessment of the archaeological potential of the lands at Ballymastone and Corballis; designated for the Donabate Local Area Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Test excavation will assist the interpretation of these results and further clarify the areas of archaeological potential.

## References

Deery, S. (2006) Donabate Local Area Plan \& Strategic Environmental Assessment. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Unpublished Margaret Gowen \& Co Ltd Report)

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