

COURTNEY • DEERY
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Church Fields
Tyrrelstown Townland
Mulhuddart
Dublin 15

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Executive Summary

This report provides a high-level archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage report for a proposed residential development at Church Fields, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. It was produced by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. for, Brady Shipman Martin (BSM), on behalf of the client Fingal County Council. The proposed development involves the building of a residential estate and the creation of a landscaped linear park.

The combination of recorded archaeological monuments (RMP / SMR sites) and archaeological discoveries demonstrate a rich archaeological heritage in the adjacent townlands. There are no recorded monuments, protected structure or features of an architectural heritage significance within the proposed development area. There are no stray finds from the Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) within the proposed development area. The area presents as a greenfield area that has been previously significantly disturbed with the insertion of services, dumping of spoil and previous road layouts.

Recorded monuments and protected structures such as Mulhuddart Church and Graveyard (RMP DU013-01001, DU013-01002) (RPS 670) and Tyrrelstown House (RMP DU013-006) (RPS 673) and Lady's Well (RMP DU013-009) (RPS 671) are located to the east, north and south of the proposed development. A number of archaeological investigations have taken place in and around the proposed development site. These exercises did not reveal any archaeological material or activity in the area. Previous archaeological reports were carried out for a wider constraints area (Courtney 2020), for the Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network (Ryle 2020) and for a linear park (McGlade 2021).

The development of a linear park is seen as a positive, moderate long-term impact to the setting of Mulhuddart Church and Graveyard preserving views along the east-west corridor to and from the site and enhancing the overall setting of the monument.

The remnants of a former grove of trees associated with Tyrrelstown House as noted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1836) is located within the proposed linear park. While it has lost its original setting and connection within the wider historic landscape given the level of development and disturbance of the area, it would be beneficial to the character of the area if landscaping proposals for the linear park could integrate remnants of this feature where possible into the proposal through interpretation and/or the planting regime as a reference to the past and lost demesne landscape.

As a result of the archaeological desk study and site inspection which demonstrate the disturbed nature of the site, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring take place at the site preparation stage and/or during the construction stage of the project. All recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and Fingal County Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report provides a high-level archaeological, architectural heritage and cultural heritage constraints report for a proposed residential development at Church Fields, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. It was produced by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. for Brady Shipman Martin (BSM), on behalf of the client, Fingal County Council.

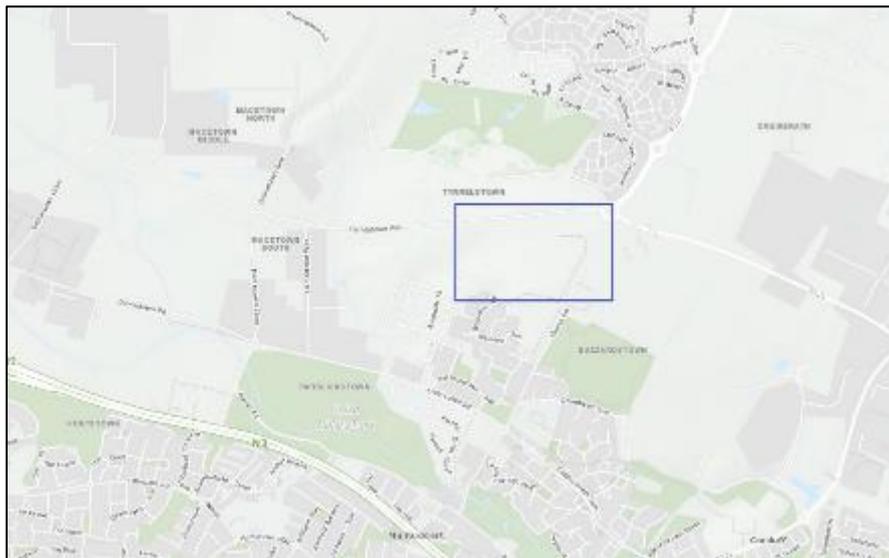


Figure 1 Site Location

1.2. Research Methodology

The constraints study availed of the following sources:

- The National Monuments and Preservation Orders lists were sourced directly from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR, as revised in the light of fieldwork, formed the basis for the establishment of the statutory Record of Monuments and Places in 1994 (RMP; pursuant to Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994). The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. The information held in the RMP files is read in conjunction with published constraint maps. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DCHG), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Those sites designated

as SMR sites have not yet been added to the statutory record, but may be scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

- The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- Cartographical sources included William Petty's Down Survey parish and baronial maps, c.1656; John Rocque's map of the county of Dublin 1760; John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816; Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch and 25-inch maps.
- Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database at www.excavations.ie (1970-2020).
- Excavation reports for County Dublin on the Dublin County Archaeology webservice at www.heritagemaps.ie.
- Other documentary sources as listed in the references, (Section 4).
- Aerial imagery (Google Earth 1995–2021, Bing 2013; OSI 1995, 2000, 2006, Digital Globe).

1.3. Standards and Guidelines

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted:

- National Monuments (Amendments) Acts, 1930-2014.
- The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- Heritage Act, 1995.
- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada) 1985, ratified by Ireland in 1991.
- Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta) 1992, ratified by Ireland in 1997.
- The Burra Charter, the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013.
- The European Landscape Convention (ELC), ratified by Ireland 2002 European Landscapes Convention 2010. (The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines' have been in draft form since 2000, however the Draft National Landscape Strategy (NLS) was launched in July 2014).
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands.
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- Code of Practice between the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, June 2000.

Excerpts from the relevant legislation are contained in Appendix 1.

2. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

2.1. Site Location

The study area is located within Tyrrelstown townland in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The Proposed Development is for a residential housing scheme (first phase of development), consisting of approximately 300 units and for a linear park to the south of the residential scheme. In total there is c.1.9 hectares of proposed linear park / open space, together with all associated and ancillary development. The overall area of the Proposed Development is circa 9.5 hectares at Church Fields, Mulhuddart in Dublin 15. The site is bound by Damastown Avenue to the north and playing field east of Church Road and new roads to the west and south. It is greenfield in nature and has been very disturbed by the insertion of services across the site and dumping has taken place.

The Proposed Development consists of:

- 300 Residential units comprising:
 - 220 houses, two, three and four-bedroomed two and three-storey houses;
 - 80 one and two-bedroomed apartments in three four-storey blocks;

- The provision of a Crèche of approximately 570sqm;
- The provision of a Community Facility of approximately 270sqm;
- The provision of 2 retail units with a combined area of approximately 280sqm;
- The provision of 3no. ESB sub-stations;
- The provision of access roads, car parking, bike parking and storage and associated infrastructure;
- The provision of public open spaces including play areas and kick-about areas and new pedestrian and cycle connections; and
- The provision of approximately 1.9 hectares of new Linear Park including destination play facilities, walks, and new pedestrian and cycle connections.

Vehicular access to the site is proposed via a new roundabout off the permitted Church Fields Link Road which links Ladyswell Road in the south to Damastown Avenue in the north.

The Proposed development is located in the townland of Tyrrelstown within the civil parish of Mulhuddart, in the barony of Castleknock, in the county of Fingal. There are no recorded monuments and protected structures or features of an architectural and cultural heritage significance within the proposed development lands.



Figure 2 Location of the proposed development



Figure 3 Proposed development layout

2.2. Archaeological and Historical Background

The name Mulhuddart is thought to be derived from 'Mullach-Chuidbert' (the mound of Cuthbert). St Cuthbert is identified with the church of Kilmahuddrick to the northwest of Clondalkin. In the annals of St. Mary's Abbey mention is made in A.D. 684 of Father Cuthbert 'a native of Ireland born in the village of Kilmocodrick' (Trehy 2008).

The church (RMP DU013-01001, DU013-01002) in Buzzardstown, known as Mulhuddart Church, dates to the fourteenth century. Though the original dedication of the church remains unknown, it is thought to have been founded as a second prebend of the Cathedral of St. Patrick Castleknock in 1260. It is not until a century later that the name Mulhuddart is mentioned in connection with the church site.

Henry VI established 'the guild and fraternity of our Lady of St. Mary of the Church of Mulhuddart', which by 1472 owned considerable property (Ball 1912, 44-45, Vol VI). The church was a member of one of the chapters of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the terms of the guild included provision for a minimum of two chaplains, for whom the square tower may have been built (Ronan 1940). In 1532 Henry VIII granted a licence for the collegiate foundation of a religious guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Mulhuddart. The guild, which continued until 1572, made provision for a master and two wardens, with power to erect a chantry for two or more chaplains serving the parish (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988). With the dissolution of St Patrick's Cathedral in the 16th century, the prebend of Mulhuddart had assigned to it the tithes from the townlands of Belgree, Buzzardstown, Kilmartin, Paslickstown and Tyrellstown (Carroll 2007).

The Church is noted as being in good repair in 1613, although in 1630 Archbishop Buckley states that both the chancel and nave were in ruins. In the early 1600's the area suffered badly from incursions from numerous armies. During the period of 1641 to 1649, the parish of Mulhuddart is recorded to have been laid to waste by contending armies, it was recorded that 'no building of importance escaped destruction'.

The commonwealth surveys (Down Survey, Civil Survey and Hearth Money Rolls in Public Records Office) show that no buildings of importance in Mulhuddart escaped the destruction of the rebellion years (1641-1649). In April 1643, a party of horses was sent out to the area from Dublin by Ormond while in the following year the Earl of Cavan was encamped in Mulhuddart with a large number of troops for several days. He was in great need of equipment and provisions and addressed more than one urgent appeal to Ormonde from quarters in Mulhuddart church. In 1647 Owen Roe O'Neill passed through the parish and in the following year Mulhuddart was garrisoned with seventy-two men and seven non-commissioned officers under the command of Sir Francis Willoughby, with John Bradshaw as lieutenant and Thomas Barnes as ensign (Carroll 2007).

The houses of Buzzardstown, Paslickstown and Cruiserath are noted as small thatched structures (cited in Ball 1920) during the seventeenth century. Amongst the residents in the eighteenth century the owners of Buzzardstown are prominent. In the first half of the century the family Royme, and in the second half the family of Flood, were in possession. On the winter's night in 1761 it is recorded that "the gable-end of Mr. Flood's house at Mulhuddart suddenly gave way, whereby Mrs. Flood and her daughter were killed (Carroll 2007). A post-medieval building is recorded at Buzzardstown (RMP DU013-023). Buzzardstown House consists of a late nineteenth century, two-storey, four bay house with additional later wing (Trehay 2008).

Tyrrelstown was occupied by cadets of the Tyrell family. The chief seat of the Tyrell was at Powerstown. By the 16th century, the Tyrells were succeeded as chief residents by the Bellings. Richard Bellings was the Solicitor-General for Ireland between 1574 and 1584. He was granted Tyrrelstown, Buzzards, Parslicktown and Macetown, together with a mill and watercourse and it was around this time that a large house was built on the lands of Tyrrelstown (Ball, 1920).

Tyrrelstown House is the site of a mid-17th century house built by the Bellings family, who acquired Tyrrelstown around 1580 (Ronan 1940). The house is noted on the Down Survey (1655-6) map and described in the Civil survey (1654-6) as 'the walls of a great stonehouse'. It was damaged in the 1641 Rebellion, which devastated the area and only the walls of the house remained. The earliest portion of the modern house structure dates to 1720 and a detached five-bay two-storey house was added to this structure c.1820. The gardens of Tyrrelstown House have been significantly reduced over time, with the land having been subdivided to create a golf course and housing developments. The gardens comprise 10 hectares of parkland and include two walled gardens, which are over 600 years old.

The church located in Mulhuddart graveyard is in a prominent position with land falling away gently to the west and steeply to the south. It consists of an undivided nave and chancel with a residential west tower that survives to first floor level.

To the south of the graveyard which surrounds the church, a vaulted well house known as Lady's Well (DU013-009) is located. It stands on the western side of Church Road and is approached by stone steps. On the roof of the superstructure are two finials, one of which is stone carved with a cross in relief and the other is represented as a stone niche with an inscription. The well was associated with the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin, and was frequented on 8th September, known as Lady's Day. Water from the well is reputed to cure sprains, cuts, bruises and rheumatism (Ball 1920).

The pattern at Lady's Well was a source of scandal and outrage during the 18th century, as the yearly pattern at this site was reported to draw large crowds who frequently engaged in drunkenness and brawling at the site (Butler 1892).

The well remained a popular site for pilgrimage until the 19th century until practice of holy well visitation began to decline throughout the country. Local folklore associated with the site, tells of an instance where the well was filled up by local men but immediately after they had finished, the well sprung up on the opposite side of the road. The grove around the site is no longer present and well is still visited and venerated today, with people leaving offerings of flowers and money.

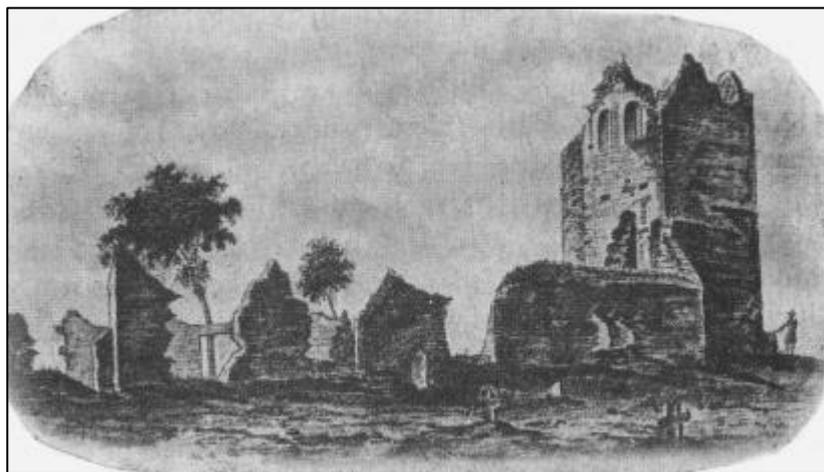


Figure 4 Mulhuddart Church in 1777 after Ball 1920

A sketch of the church by Gabriel Beranger (1775) depicts the church site as ruinous. (Plate 1). Austin Cooper in his 1781 account of the church describes a tower, vaulted on the ground-floor and the remains of a staircase in the southwest corner.

Both the well (RPS No. 671) and church and graveyard are protected structures (RPS No. 670).

2.2.1. Cultural Heritage and Place names

Townland names are a rich source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. Where a monument has been forgotten or destroyed, a place name may still refer to it and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites survive below the ground surface.

There are numerous place names with English forms in the area, reflecting its position within the Pale and the proximity to the English centre of power in Dublin City. One such example is Tyrrelstown, which comes from the Tyrell family name, specially Hugh Tyrell, who received the barony of Castleknock in 1173 from Hugh de Lacy during the Norman invasion of Ireland. This land grant included Tyrrelstown and portions of Clonsilla and Mulhuddart. The neighbouring townland of Buzzardstown similarly derives its name after the family of William Bossard, a 14th century occupant of the townland.

Some Irish toponymy suggests alternative land use that corresponds with the topography. The origins of the name Mulhuddart are unknown and local folklore indicated that the Gaelic name could be 'Mullac Eadairne' but it is mostly commonly believed to represent the Irish 'Mullach Eadarta' meaning "the hill of the milking place". The practice of booleying, the seasonal movement of cow between fixed summer and winter pastures for feeding or milking, has ancient origins and could predate the Norman arrival to the area.

There are no stray finds recorded to this area or Tyrrelstown townland where the proposed development is proposed in the Topographical files in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

In the 1930s, children from Mulhuddart School as part of The Schools' Collection that forms the National Folklore Collection recorded features and happenings of a cultural heritage interest in the area. An earthen mound is referred to in Tyrrelstown townland and is described as being 85 feet in diameter (21m). Many suggestions are put forward for its use including that it was a mound built by Cromwell or that it was a burial mound (www.duchas.ie). This feature was reputedly located in the well field, which was the field beside the Lady Well, located to the south of the proposed development. This area is now built upon.

2.3. Cartographic Analysis

2.3.1. The Down Survey (1656-1658)

The Down Survey was undertaken by William Petty in the 1650's and was at the time the most detailed mapping project to ever have been undertaken, the intention being to accurately survey the land in order to redistribute it among merchant adventurers and English soldiers. Tyrrelstown is located within the Barony of Castleknock in the parish of Mullhuddart (Parrish of Mallahidert). A church and one other structure are indicated in Buzzardstwon (Burrardstone) and a large house and five smaller structures are shown within Tyrrelstown (Terrellestonne).

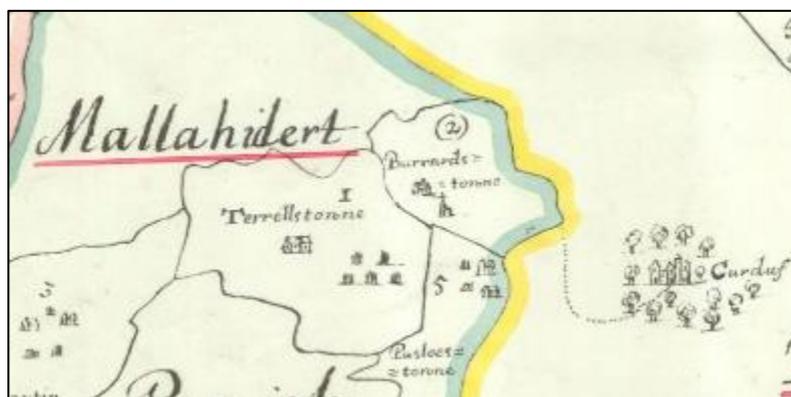


Figure 5 Down Survey of Barony of Castleknock

2.3.2. John Rocque's 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin', 1760

Rocque's map of 1760 shows a well laid out area, consisting of roadways, neat fields and a bridge over the river to the south with a mill in place. Tyrrelstown House is named as 'Terrels Town' and shown on the map along with the church ('Mallahurrert Church') and well ('Ladys Well'). The church is shown surrounded by a graveyard and appears to be enclosed by a boundary forming a circular area around the church. The proposed development site is shown as a green field to the south of Tyrrelstown House and west of the church and graveyard. There is a laneway shown that connects these two features and this would have crossed the proposed development area in a northwest-southeast direction.



Figure 6 Rocque's Map of the County of Dublin, 1760

2.3.3. John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816

Taylor's early 19th century map does not depict the exact locations of the field boundaries and land divisions within the proposed development area, however it does provide more detail as to local topography and Tyrrelstown House estate (Figure 7). Tyrrelstown House was built c.1720 (a later house was built c.1820 and attached to the earlier house) and is shown on this map as being surrounded by woodlands. There are two buildings and a farmyard within Tyrrelstown House and the two pathways from Tyrrelstown House are visible. The first pathway leads to Powerstown Road and the second leads to Mulhuddart Church, through the proposed development area.



Figure 7 Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816

2.3.4. Ordnance Survey Maps

The Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition six-inch map provides the earliest detailed and accurate depiction of the study area. This map shows the field that the proposed development area is situated within had been subdivided and most of the surrounding field boundaries had changed (Figure 8). The fields have been lined with scrub and trees, and clumps/copses of woodland have been planted. A triangular area of woodland would have formerly been located at the southwest corner of the proposed development. Church Road was also subject to extensive ornamental tree planting as part of the demesne lands associated with Tyrrelstown House.

The realignment of the road around Tyrrelstown House and the expansion of the estate are the most obvious changes within the area at this time. The proposed development site is located in agricultural fields associated with the former demesne. Tyrrelstown House itself has also been substantially expanded and two gate lodges on either side of the estate are now depicted. The path connecting Mulhuddart Church and Tyrrelstown House is no longer apparent.

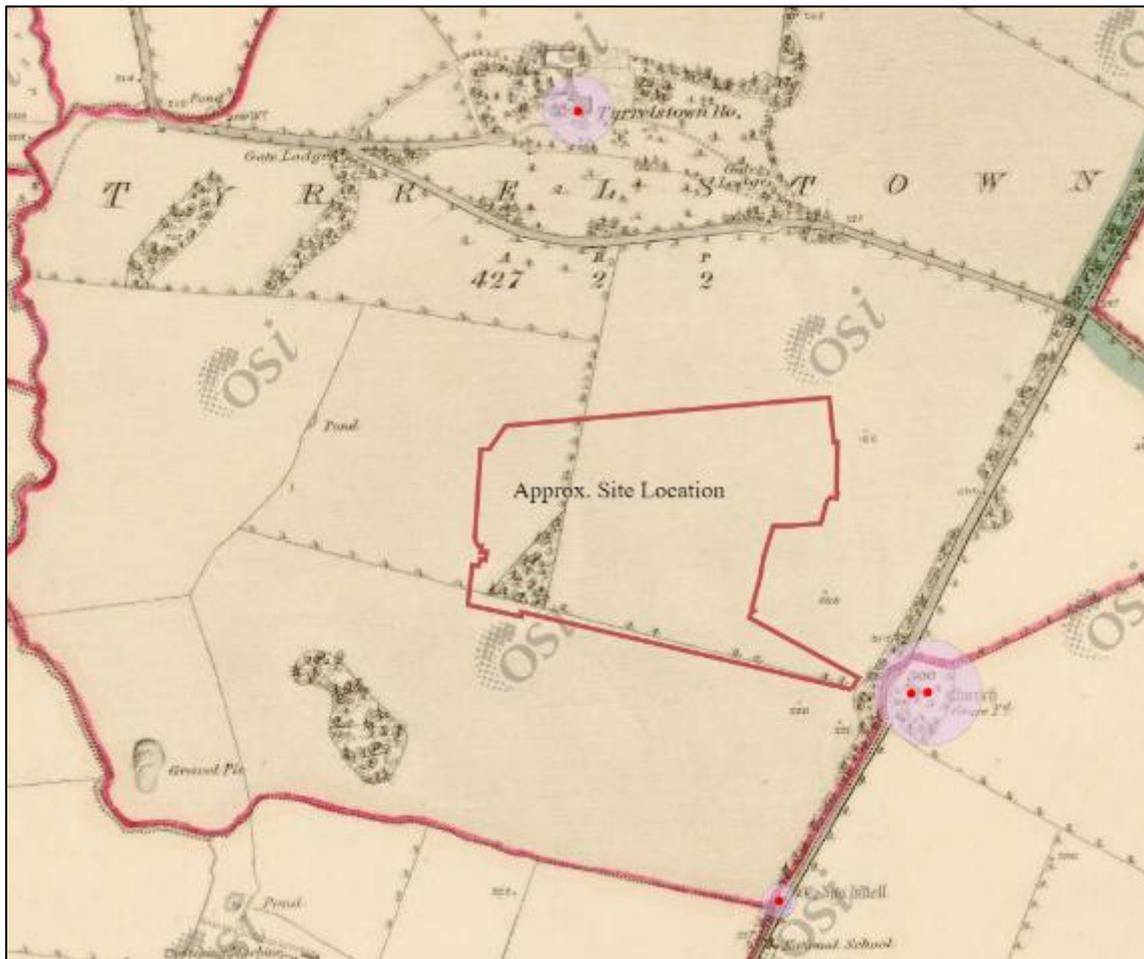


Figure 8 Ordnance Survey first edition six-inch map 1836

Further change to the field boundaries within the wider area and within the proposed development site are shown on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (1863-7). On this map, the field, the proposed development site is located within, has been consolidated to become one very large field. Much of the hedge lines in the wider area have been removed, creating a number of large fields with connected enclosures (Figure 10). Remnants of the former area planted with woodland is annotated in the southwest corner of the proposed development lands.

Aside from the removal of one of the roads within the grounds of Tyrrelstown House and the addition of a spring to the western edge of the estate past the lodge house, the grounds were largely unchanged. Mulhuddart Church is noted as being in ruins on this map and a new estate of Mountain View was established in the lands immediately adjacent to it. 'Lady's Well' is shown and named on the map.

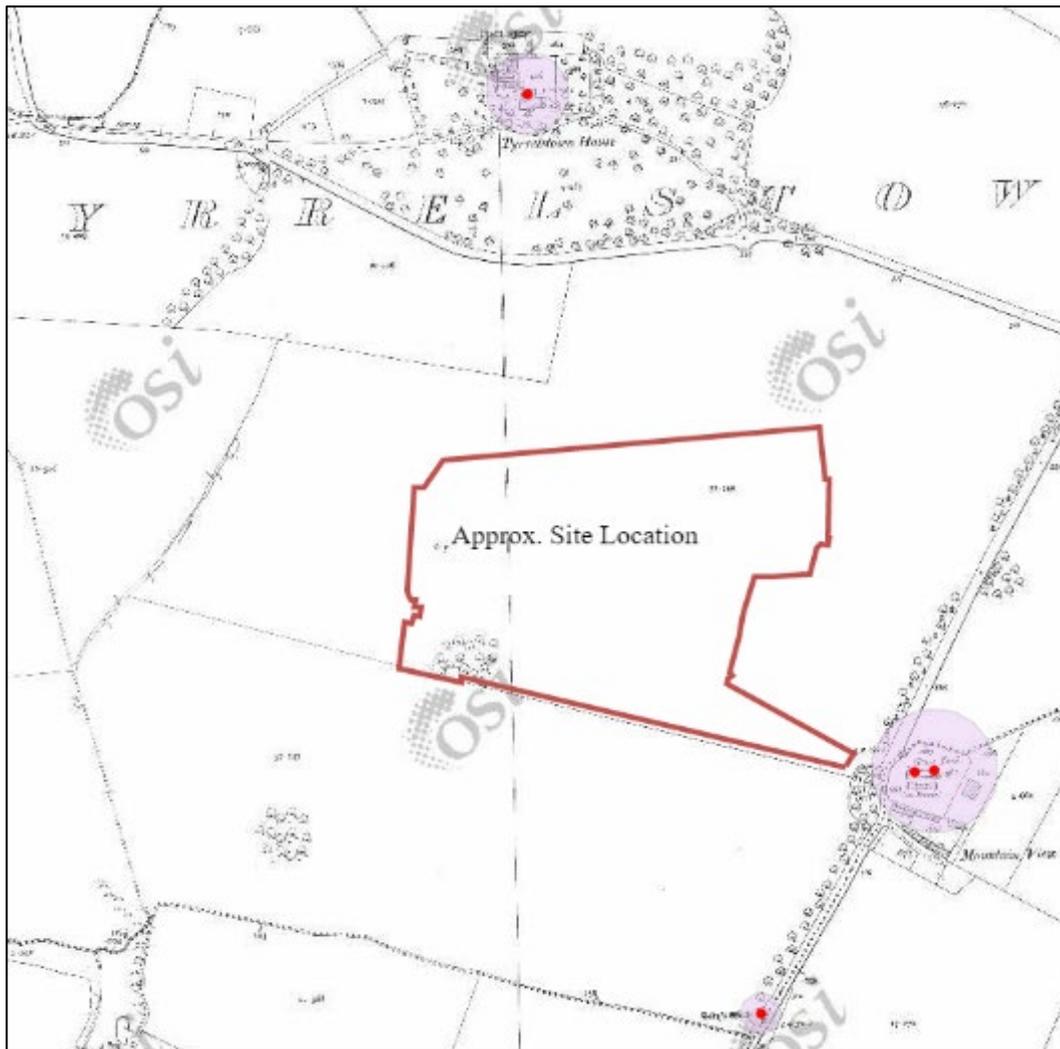


Figure 9 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map 1909

2.4. Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

2.4.1. Recorded Archaeological Sites (RMP / SMR) and Stray Finds

There are no recorded archaeological monuments within the boundaries of the proposed development site and there are no known archaeological sites or finds from the topographical files of the National Museum located within the vicinity of the proposed development. There are four archaeological monuments within 500m of the proposed development site; a church and graveyard site (RMP DU013-01001, DU013-01002), a holy well (RMP DU013-009) and a house site (RMP DU013-006).

RMP No.	DU013-009	Townland	Buzzardstown
Site Type	Holy well	ITM	706926 741013

2.4.2. Architectural Heritage

There are no protected structures or features of architectural heritage merit within the proposed development site. The Record of Protected Structures (RPS sites), comprises schedules of buildings and items of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest that are listed for protection. In addition to this, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was consulted for additional information regarding the architectural heritage of the area. The building survey of Fingal was carried out in 2001 and highlights a representative sample of architecturally significant structures and raises awareness of the wealth and diversity of architectural heritage in the county. The NIAH surveys can be reviewed at www.buildingsofireland.ie.

Fingal County Council Development Plan 2017-2023 records four protected structures c.500m of the proposed development. These are Mulhuddart Church and Graveyard (RPS Ref 670) and Lady's Well (RPS Ref 671) and Tyrrelstown House (RPS Ref 673). As these are also recorded archaeological monuments they are discussed in detail above.

Table 1: RPS and NIAH Sites (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage 2020)

RPS/NIAH number	Name	Image	Relationship to proposed works
RPS 671, NIAH 11353010	Lady's Well		Rubble stone corbelled roof structure surrounding holy well, c.1700, with inscribed stone to gable. Isaac Butler wrote in 1740 about the well and the great Pattern that would occur yearly at it. Located c.247m southeast of the proposed development.
RPS 670, NIAH 11346003	Mulhuddart Church/ Graveyard		Located c.40m east of the proposed development.

<p>RPS 673, NIAH 11346002</p>	<p>Tyrrelstown House</p>		<p>Located c.363m northwest of the proposed development.</p> <p>Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1820, with nap rendered Ionic portico. Attached to earlier two-storey house, c.1720, to rear. Farmyard complex, c.1820 to rear.</p>
<p>NIAH Garden Survey ID 2249</p>	<p>Tyrrelstown House</p>		<p>Proposed development lands were formerly part of lands associated with Tyrrelstown House.</p>



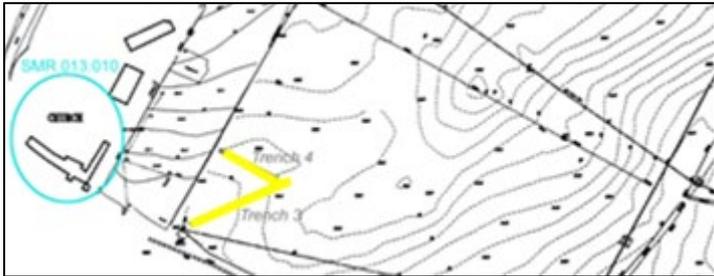
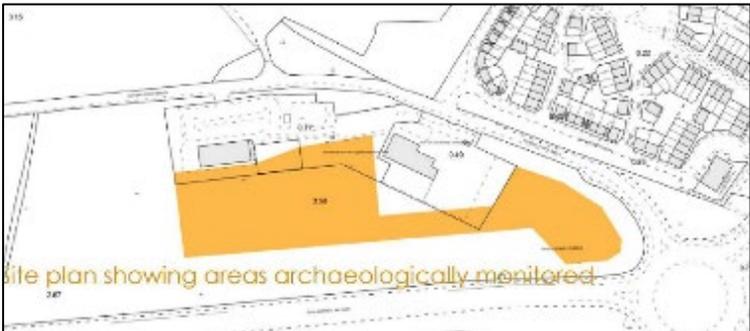
Figure 10 Site location of RMP, NIAH and RPS in proximity to the proposed development

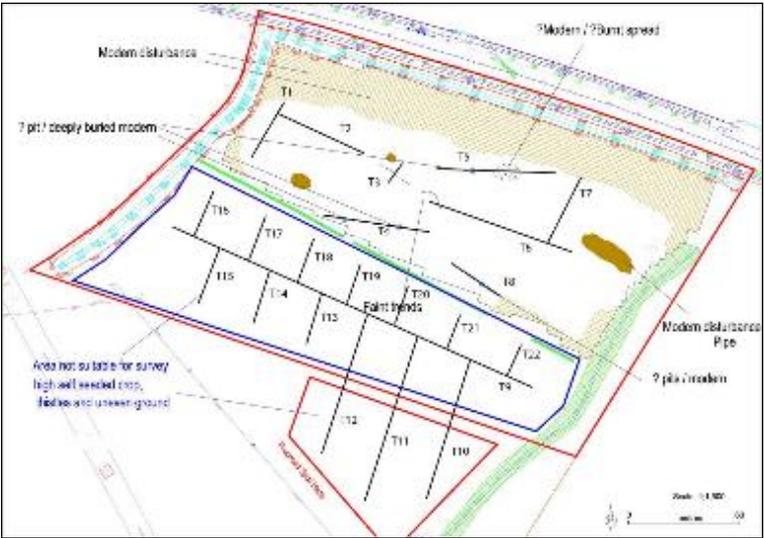
2.4.3. Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been a number of archaeological investigations conducted under licence in the surrounding area. No features or deposits of an archaeological interest have been identified to date.

Within the site, ground investigation works (GII 2018) were undertaken in 2017 without archaeological supervision. These comprised the excavation of 50 trial pits and 5 soakaways. The soils were characterised as clay slit or sand with five areas of made ground described as brown/ black gravelly clay that contained fragments indicative of disturbance and later modern inclusions such as brick, wood and plastic.

Table 2 Archaeological Investigations

Licence No. / 'Excavations' ref.	Name	Summary
02E 1754	Tyrrelstown, Dublin	Monitoring was conducted in advance of an industrial development at the junction of Ladyswell Road and Tyrrelstown Road in Parlickstown Estate. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified (Planning Ref. F02A/1192).
99E0046/ 1999:165	IDA, Blanchardstown, Dublin	Testing took place in close proximity and to the east of Mulhuddart church and graveyard as part of a previous application for the development of the IDA Blanchardstown Park. The trenches were excavated to a depth of c.0.60m and yielded no archaeological material (Planning Ref. F98A/0724). 
15E510/2016:123	Powerstown Educate Together School	Monitoring prior to the construction of new school buildings located between Powerstown Road and Damastown Avenue in Tyrrelstown townland, Dublin 15 was conducted from November 2015 to February 2016. A path connecting Tyrrelstown House and Mulhuddart Church was noted on Rocque's map of 1756 however no evidence of this or any other archaeological material was found during monitoring. 
Unlicensed Monitoring	Damastown Industrial Estate	Monitoring was carried out prior to the construction of a logistics warehouse building and carpark at 6 Damastown Avenue, Damastown Industrial Estate, Dublin 15. No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified during the monitoring phase of works (Planning Ref. FW15AA/0059).
08E0878/ 2009:304	Damastown	Monitoring was carried out at the site of an attenuation pond as part of the Leixlip-Ballycoolen water supply scheme at Damastown, Co. Dublin. All topsoil-stripping at the site was monitored but nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.
17E0595/ 2017:412	Tyrrelstown, Dublin	Test trenching of a total of 263.49 linear metres was conducted at a proposed development site south of Tyrrelstown House and north of Damastown Avenue. No features of archaeological interest were identified (Planning Ref. FW16A/0181).

Licence No. / 'Excavations' ref.	Name	Summary
15E0263	Buzzardstown Dublin 15	The site is located on the R121, to the east of Mulhuddart graveyard on Church Road and adjacent to the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and the Amazon Blanchardstown Corporate Park. 22 test trenches were excavated over two days in June 2015 and no features or finds of archaeological interest were identified in any of the trenches (Planning Ref. FW15A/0038).
15R0056	Buzzardstown Dublin 15	<p>A geophysical survey (15R0056) was undertaken by J.M Leigh Surveys east of Mulhuddart Church and graveyard. The survey was conducted within the northern field of the proposed development as the remainder was inaccessible due to vegetation cover. It identified a high degree of modern disturbance along the western, northern and eastern boundaries. Within the field a number of isolated features and trends were identified as ferrous or being of low archaeological potential. The features identified in the geophysical survey were targeted by archaeological test trenches (15E0263) to establish their nature. None were of archaeological significance (Planning Ref. FW15A/0038).</p> 

2.4.4. Aerial Photographic Analysis

Aerial imagery from 1995 shows that the site has experienced disturbance from the development of a road and services, oriented from the southwest to the northeast throughout the site. To the south of the site a residential housing estate is being developed. By 2005, the road is disused and overgrown with vegetation. The area in general (outside the proposed development area) is markedly more industrialised than it had been in 1995, with the construction of a number of industrial buildings southwest of the site.

The construction of Damastown Avenue along with a southward trending haul road, which connected the growing industrial and residential areas of Damastown to Tyrrelstown, was opened in 2008 and on imagery dating to this time period, there are areas of spoil extending into the proposed development area and areas

of dumping. An additional housing development is in the process of being constructed to the southwest of the proposed development site. Additional disturbance, likely from the construction of Damastown Avenue, is noted in the northern boundary of the proposed development site. A former planted area of woodland as depicted on the historic OS maps still survives at the southeast corner of the site where the linear park is proposed (as shown on Google Earth Pro image 2021, Plate 8).



Plate 1 Aerial image, Ordnance Survey, 2009

3. FIELD INSPECTION

A field inspection took place on the 11th of September 2020. The proposed development can be divided into two areas for analysis, the residential development area and the linear park. Both these areas slightly encroach on a level playing pitch located to the east of the development. The rough ground located to the west (which forms the development area) is at a higher level to the playing fields to the east, these areas are separated by a modern earthen bund, approximately 4m wide at its base and 2m high.

The Proposed Residential Development Lands

This area, is located to the north and south of a former roadway, that runs throughout the site and consists of rough ground where dumping has occurred. The ground level throughout the area is uneven under foot and has been previously disturbed. Sporadic dumping is evident throughout, with burnt out vehicles present and the land is overgrown with long grasses, recently seeded scrub bushes and vegetation (Plates 2 and 4).

The northern extent of the proposed development adjacent to Damastown Avenue is currently a corridor for electricity lines, the area underneath is relatively low lying compared to the remainder of the site.

No archaeological features were detected on the lands and the closest archaeological monument, Mulhuddart Church (Plate 5) is visible through the tree line in an elevated position overlooking the site to the east. The mature treeline along the western boundary of Church Road provides a reminder of the former treelined boundaries associated with the demesne lands of Tyrrelstown House (located to the north of the proposed development lands) and enhances to the historic character of the area (Plate 6).



Plate 2 Residential Development Lands looking northwest



Plate 3 Residential Development Lands looking southwest



Plate 4 Residential lands at northeast corner looking northwest



Plate 5 Mulhuddart Church DU013-010001-003, RPS 670



Plate 6 View to Church Road and the site from Mulhuddart Church

The Proposed Linear Park

The remnants of a former copse of trees (as shown on the historic OS maps) are located at the southwest corner along the southern boundary of linear park. It presents as an overgrown, slightly raised area (Plate 7) populated with scrub and low-level tree coverage. A modern bank associated a haul road and construction activity to the south of the development site adjoins the copse area from the west, north and east (Figure 2 and Plate 8). The area is strewn with debris and rubbish, possibly indicating that it is frequented for antisocial activities.

The rest of the land proposed for the linear park within this phase of development is largely overgrown and disturbed apart from the southeast corner where the linear park encroaches on a level playing pitch west of Church Road (Plate 8). The area has been used for scrambling with tracks evident throughout.

The linear park forms the south-eastern extent of the proposed development and consists of a large level playing fields (Plate 9) and a scrub and treeline boundary. The mature treelined boundary along Church Road is probably the last remnants of the former demesne woodland landscape/ former avenue previously associated with Tyrrelstown House (DU013-006, RPS 673) (Plate 10).



Plate 7 View to the former copse area along the linear park, looking west



Plate 8 Aerial image showing the former woodland area as shown on the 1st edition OS surrounded by development activities (Google Earth April 20021)



Plate 9 View from the northeast looking at the former playing field and southern boundary



Plate 10 Mature tree aligning Church Road to the east (outside proposed development lands)

4. CONCLUSION

There are no known or upstanding archaeological monuments within the proposed development site and the closest archaeological monument and protected structure is Mulhuddart church and graveyard (DU013-010001-003, RPS 670), which lies on the other side of Church Road, c. 40m to the east. This cemetery and church serviced many of the prominent estates in the area and a path led from the church to Tyrrelstown House (DU013-006, RPS 673), traversing through the proposed development area (Figure 6 and 7). This laneway was noted on Rocque's map of County Dublin, 1760, and Taylor's map of Dublin, 1816.

The laneway appears to be out of use by the first edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map, in 1836, however a gap in the treeline is potentially the remnants of the end of this laneway (Figure 9 and Plate 6). This area is located outside the proposed development lands, however, it is suggested that this gap in the mature treeline should be retained as a visual connection with Mulhuddart church. Monitoring at new school buildings to the north of the proposed development works (Licence Ref 15E0510) failed to identify any remains of this former trackway (even though it passed through that land parcel as depicted from historic mapping) and perhaps suggests that this feature may not have left any below ground indicator (McGlade 2021).

The mature trees along Church Road to the east of the development, previously formed an important element of the former demesne landscape of Tyrrelstown House and provide a reminder of the historical character of the area (Plate 9). The creation of a Linear Park, as part of this development proposal will maintain a green and open space preserving the views to the west and Co. Meath from Mulhuddart Church and graveyard and will have a positive impact to the setting of the recorded monument.

Landscaping works within the linear park have the potential to reveal previously unrecorded archaeology, however, the area has been previously disturbed from infrastructural works and this lowers the potential for subsurface archaeological remains to survive intact.

The remnants of a former grove of trees (Plate 8) associated with Tyrrelstown House as noted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1836) is located within the proposed linear park. While it has lost its original setting, function and connection within the wider historic landscape given the level of development and disturbance of the area, it would be beneficial to the future character of the area if landscaping proposals for the linear park could integrate remnants of this feature into the proposal through interpretation and/ or the planting regime.

Overall, the development of a linear park at this location is a positive, moderate and long-term impact to the setting of the church and graveyard at Mulhuddart and of benefit to the local community as a managed amenity area.

Historically, the proposed residential lands were part of a network of fields used for agricultural purposes, however in recent years, the area where the development is proposed has been extensively disturbed as a result of roadworks, temporary haul roads and service insertion and in areas the ground level has been artificially raised due to the dumping of spoil, resulting in it becoming a wasteland.

Given the difficulties of examining the below ground archaeological potential of the lands due to the disturbance on the site, it is recommended that the site preparation stage of the works be archaeologically monitored. If any features are identified, they should be investigated, recorded and reported to the authorities.

The conclusions presented in this report are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and Final County Council. As the developer of these lands, Fingal County Council will make provision to allow for and fund whatever archaeological work may be required at the site and the post excavation requirements in accordance with the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2004).

The attention of Fingal County Council is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments Acts (Appendix 1), which describes the responsibility of the site owners to report the finding of archaeological items if any should be discovered during construction works to the National Museum of Ireland (Irish

Antiquities Division) and the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH who will determine the nature and extent of any archaeological work to be carried out on site.

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Online Resources (accessed on the 11/10/2021 and 24/10/2021)

www.archaeology.ie the Historic Environment Viewer

www.buildingsofireland.ie NIAH of Fingal

www.excavations.ie archaeological assessment that have taken place from 1970-2020

www.heritagemaps.ie showing the location of former archaeological investigation

www.osimaps.ie Former OS mapping

www.fingal.ie . Fingal Historic Graveyard Project

www.duchas.ie Irish Folklore Commission Schools Manuscript Collection (Volume 790)

Google Earth Pro showing historic aerial imagery of the area from 1995 onwards

APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004)

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

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);
- National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;
- National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);
- Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

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

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

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

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

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

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

or

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

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

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

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

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new

status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

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

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

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

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

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

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

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,
- (c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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