



CourtneyDeery
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Lands in Clongriffin,

Dublin 13

For

for Conroy Crowe Kelly Architects and Urban
Designers

on behalf of

the Land Development Agency

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Date 31/07/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report assesses the archaeological importance and potential of the lands at Clongriffin in Dublin 13. It has been carried out by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Conroy Crowe Kelly Architects and Urban Designers on behalf of the Land Development Agency. The report is to support a large-scale residential development (LRD) application.

Extensive archaeological investigation, comprising monitoring, testing, and excavation, has occurred across the site. This report aims to examine the findings and establish whether there are any further archaeological remains to be resolved within the proposed development lands.

The archaeological investigations that took place in 2003/2004 (discussed in Section 2.7 of the report) have realised and fully addressed the archaeological potential within the LRD lands and its immediate environs. Topsoil stripping within the proposed LRD area identified two early medieval pits that may have served either as storage, waste, or a structural feature in the past. Fragments of hazelnut shell in one of the pits may suggest that it contained the cleared-out remnants of a hearth. The pits were preserved by record (fully excavated) and do not present an issue for the proposed development. No other finds, features or soils of archaeological significance was identified within the LRD area.

There are no further archaeological considerations regarding the LRD application lands; the area has previously been stripped of topsoil, and the archaeological features identified have been fully preserved by record.

It is recommended that heritage signage be incorporated into the design to highlight the significant archaeological heritage of this landscape. This area on the banks of the Mayne river was the focus of human activity and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards, with many new sites uncovered during archaeological investigations in advance of development. Information panels that reflect this rich archaeological record would assist in providing a sense of place to the new residents. The panels would include illustrations and text designed to be informative and readily accessible to the general public, fostering an interest and pride in the heritage of the area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report assesses the archaeological importance and potential of the lands at Clongriffin in Dublin 13. It has been carried out by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Conroy Crowe Kelly Architects and Urban Designers on behalf of the Land Development Agency. The report is to support a large-scale residential development (LRD) application.

Extensive archaeological investigation, comprising monitoring, testing and excavation, has occurred across the site. This report aims to examine the findings and to establish if there are any further archaeological remains to be resolved within the proposed development lands.

1.2. Study Area

The subject lands are located in the townland of Grange, and form part of a relatively new residential suburb named Clongriffin (Figure 1). The site is located less than a kilometre from the coastline, with the River Mayne flowing along the north side of the site on its course to the Irish sea.

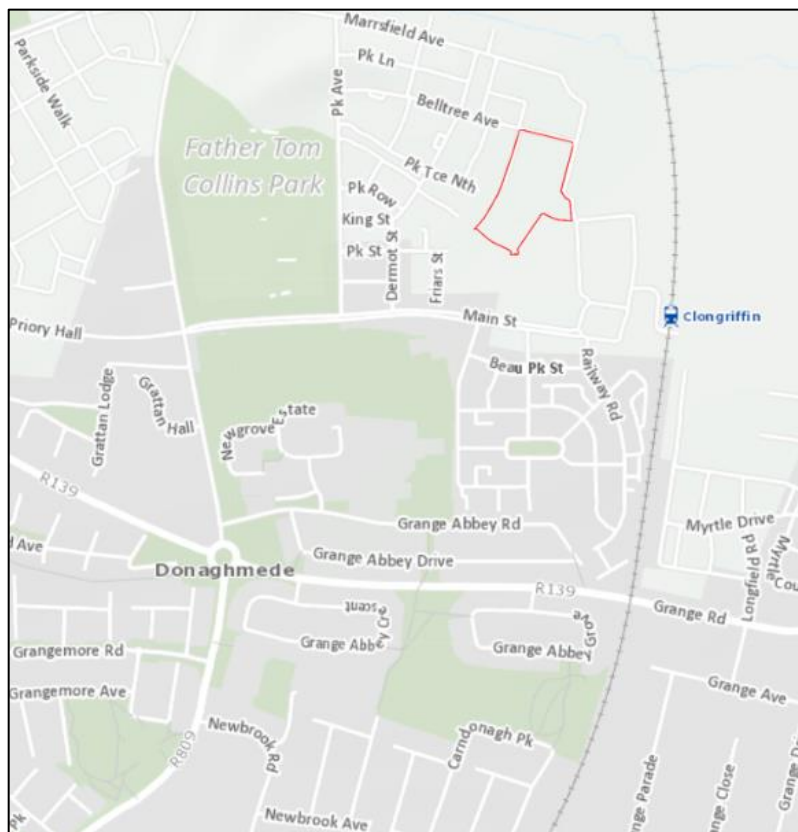


Figure 1 Site Location

1.3. Proposed Development

A planning application for the development of 408 apartments in 2 no. blocks (Blocks 5 and 6), 1720sqm of community, arts and cultural uses, 3 no. integrated ESB sub-stations and one landscaped pocket park (called Grant Park) plus all ancillary and associated development (Figure 2).



Figure 2 Proposed development layout

1.4. Methodology

A review of the following information took place in order to inform the report:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Tentative World Heritage Sites and those monuments on the tentative list;
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders;
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; The statutory RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 are placed on the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion on the next revision of the RMP;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Dublin City Development Plan (2022-2028);

- County Councils Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and their statements of character;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey (paper survey only);
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e. Excavations Bulletin and Excavations Database; Dublin City Archaeological GIS (Heritage Council Viewer)
- Place names; Townland names and toponomy (loganim.ie);
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
- Dublin City Development Plan (2022-2028).
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSI Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2022, Bing 2022) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches (Appendix 1).

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

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Introduction

The proposed site is located in the townland of Grange, in the barony of Coolock and the historic parish of Portmarnock.

2.2. Prehistoric Period (c.9000BC-c.500AD)

The coastal area of north County Dublin has produced relatively large quantities of worked flint tools, many of which may date to the Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age, (c. 7000–5000 BC). Within the wider landscape of the LRD area, Mesolithic and Neolithic activity has been noted at the raised beaches at Sutton (Mitchell 1990; Stout & Stout 1992) and Portmarnock Football Club in Robswall townland (Keeling & Keeley 1994). Further north again, systematic field walking at a proposed site for Malahide Football Club in 1999 – also close to the coast road – revealed lithic material (Keeling & Keeley 1994; Purcell 1999).

There is some evidence for activity within the study area during the Neolithic period (see Section 2.7). This fits well with the significant body of Neolithic (c. 4,000BC– c 2,300 BC) material from the wider north County Dublin area. Evidence includes a large, well-preserved portal tomb at Howth Demesne, while excavations at Feltrim Hill revealed Neolithic ceramics and worked lithics, though no apparent remains of structures. Recent excavations on Lambay Island revealed areas of Neolithic activity associated with stone axe and flint tool manufacturing, some of which was of extremely high quality (Cooney 2000). The highest points of Lambay Island also have at least two cairns, mounds of stone that often cover burials, which may also date to the Neolithic.

The archaeological investigations within and surrounding the study area point to a considerable amount of activity here during the Bronze Age. A ring ditch (a funerary monument) was discovered in close proximity to site (Licence No. 04E0704, Section 2.7), along with a number of pits (or complexes thereof) which also date to this period (see Table 1, Section 2.7).

Two *fulachta fia* and two burnt mounds have been identified and excavated within / in proximity to the LRD area (Cf. Section 2.7, Licence Nos 04E0701, 04E 0352, 04E 0367; & SMR DU015-096/-097, section 4). A third *fulachta fia* site was identified c. 310m to the west (Licence No. 07E0979). The *fulachta fia* or burnt mound is the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland, with over 4500 known sites (Waddell 1998) and the number is rising all the time. *Fulachta fia* consist of a low mound of burnt stone commonly in horseshoe shape and are found in low-lying marshy areas or close to streams.

The presence of *fulachta fia* is often indicative of Bronze Age seasonal communal activity in river valleys, lakeshores and boggy ground; scientific dating of a randomly excavated sample has shown a predominance of second millennium BC dates for their use (Brindley & Lanting 1990). There is no agreement that burnt mounds were cooking places, although it does seem that they were used to prepare large quantities of boiling water and that they were repeatedly used, resulting in a large mound of heat shattered stones accumulating. Other theories for the use of these sites include bathing, saunas or sweathouses, washing or dyeing large quantities of cloth, the preparation of leather and brewing.

A number of Early Bronze Age (c. 2400-1800 BC) burial sites are also recorded in wider landscape, including a burial on the Strand Road (RMP DU015-019), a stone cist burial (RMP DU015-022) in the grounds of the Suttonians Rugby Club, a burial from a mound (RMP DU015-023) in the area of the Rugby Club, and a ring-ditch identified in Drumnigh townland (SMR DU015-119). The latter was identified during geophysical survey and confirmed by archaeological testing.

The Maynetown enclosure site (DU015-055), to the northeast of the LRD area (c. 1.7km), represents the ploughed-out remains of what was thought to be a substantial late prehistoric enclosure. A geophysical survey, carried out in 2000, identified the existence of the enclosure and also revealed responses indicating an unusual entrance feature of two splayed linear elements leading to the south east side of the enclosure ditch (Shiels *et al.* 2000). These have been interpreted as a formal approach or avenue to the enclosure. This linear avenue is not typical of enclosures generally and makes this particular monument very unique. A portion of the approach was later confirmed during archaeological testing (Wallace 2000b) and was subject to further testing in 2008 (Moriarty, *pers. comm.*). During test excavation the enclosure ditch was found to be substantial in spite of its eroded state and measured approximately 7m wide and 2m deep. Finds recovered from the ditch included butchered animal bone and a ferrous nail shank. A charcoal sample from the base of the ditch was sent for radiocarbon dating, which returned a medieval date for the enclosure site (Moriarty *pers. comm.*).

Post-excavation analysis for the excavations undertaken within and around the LRD area revealed that there was also activity in this area during the Iron Age. Radiocarbon dating identified that the quasi-industrial site formed by a complex of pits (including a primitive corn-drying kiln) was Iron Age, as was a single charcoal production pit, with a phase of Iron Age activity also found at the ring ditch site mentioned above (Licence Nos 04E0598, 04E0703, 04E0704; Table 1, Section 2.7).

2.3. Early Medieval Period (c.500AD-c.1100AD)

The early medieval period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles and free farmers. There was an increase in settlement during the early medieval period (c. AD 500–AD 1200), and the ringfort, otherwise known as the ‘rath’ or ‘fairy fort’, is the best-known native monument of this period (Stout 1997).

Ringforts are essentially enclosed farmsteads dating to the early medieval period. The majority of these sites are univallate, surrounded by one ditch and bank, but some are surrounded by two

and, to a lesser extent, three enclosing ditches and banks (known as bivallate and trivallate raths respectively). Another morphological variation consists of the platform or raised rath – the former resulting from the construction of the rath on a naturally raised area while the latter's height resulting from prolonged occupation over many centuries. Many raths are circular or oval in shape but they can occur as D-, pear- and sub-rectangular-shaped enclosures (Kinsella 2007). Ringforts were not simple isolated homesteads, and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, route ways and natural resources.

Many raths are situated on valley sides and on the brow of drumlins and for the most part, avoid the extreme low and uplands. They also show a preference for the most productive soils (Stout 1997) and usually command a good view of the surrounding landscape. Stout (1997) has shown that the majority were occupied from the beginning of the 7th until the end of the 9th centuries, covering a 300-year period. Raised and platform raths have been shown to be slightly later in date and were constructed between approximately the mid-8th and mid-10th centuries AD (Kerr 2007).

That being said, they are a site type that is relatively scarce in the archaeological record for County Dublin, partly because of the urban or suburban nature of much of the county, but also because of the intensive agricultural practices carried out in north County Dublin, which has destroyed surface traces of these sites. This can be witnessed in some of the recorded archaeological sites in the surrounding landscape. A ringfort site was excavated east of the LRD area, with both radiocarbon dating and artefactual analysis indicating early medieval settlement at the site (Licence No. 04E0342, Section 2.7). Lithics recovered from the site suggest that it overlay an area of previous prehistoric activity. The enclosure sites formerly recorded in the immediate area (DU015-063, DU015-064001 & 002) may also have been ringforts.

The survival of destroyed enclosures sub-surface is also demonstrated in the surrounding townlands, where geophysical survey and testing have identified the remains of several possible early medieval enclosed settlements, some of which are quite substantial in size (e.g. SMR sites DU015-117 & DU015-134 in Drumnigh townland). In addition, cropmarks have been recorded in Saint Doolaghs townland which may represent the remains of a ringfort and associated field system (DU015-123 & 124).

Where ringforts were the major secular component of early Christian settlement, ecclesiastical centres became the focus of the new religion that was readily adopted in the 5th and 6th centuries. Early medieval monastic settlements tend to be defined by a large curvilinear bank and ditch or stone enclosure (topography permitting), enclosing an area circa 90-120m in diameter, often preserved in the line of townland or field boundaries and roads (Swan 1988). The majority of ecclesiastical settlements had one or more concentric curvilinear enclosures, with the church placed at the centre, in the inner sanctum (frequently preserved in the surviving graveyard boundary), with more secular activities (domestic, commercial and industrial) reserved for the outer enclosures. They usually had a network of radiating roads, with the principal approach road (often from the east) terminating in a triangular market place. Features commonly found to be associated with early ecclesiastical sites include holy wells (usually outside of the main settlement), bullaun stones, high crosses, cross-inscribed stones and round towers.

A possible example of an ecclesiastical settlement is recorded in the wider area in Balgriffin Park townland, c.1.3km west/northwest of the proposed development site (RMP DU015-012001 & -012002). According to D'Alton the church was confirmed of its titles in 1178 by Archbishop O'Toole, though the Regal Visitations of 1630 describe the church and chancel as ruinous (Ronan 1941). The site is currently located within the open space of a housing development and a number of archaeological investigations were undertaken prior to the development. A substantial curving

ditch (4.75m in width and 1.3m deep) that appeared to be enclosing the site of the church was identified during geophysical survey and archaeological testing at the site. Two smaller linear ditches were associated with the enclosure and contained similar fills, while several sherds of medieval pottery and a medieval glass bead were found in this area. Although an early medieval date could not be confirmed, the enclosing element is suggestive of an early foundation.

The early medieval period also saw the arrival of the Vikings and the establishment of Hiberno-Norse settlements. Fingal was in close proximity to the Viking settlement at Dublin, and the significant Norse influence on Fingal can be seen from both Gaelic place-names, such as Fine Gall or 'territory of the strangers' and Baile Dubh Gaill (Baldoyle: 'town of the dark stranger'). According to Hurley (1983), a Viking harbour is recorded in the vicinity of Baldoyle. Although there has never been any definitive evidence for this, archaeological excavations undertaken at a rectangular cropmark site in Baldoyle village in 2014 provided a radiocarbon date of 9th / 10th century for a cereal grain retrieved from the bottom of one of the features. This implies that there was at least some level of settlement activity there during the Viking period.

Before the battle of Clontarf, Brian Ború is said to have burned Fingal and the district of Howth, and some years later, during a predatory excursion into Fingal, the region is said to have been burned from Dublin to the River Delvin (Ball 1920). Fingal later came under the rule of Mac Gillamochoimog, who controlled the lands south of Dublin before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century.

2.4. Late Medieval activity (c. 1100AD-1600AD)

From the 12th century, the Anglo-Normans, with a keen eye for good agricultural land, superimposed the manorial system of landholding they had acquired from England and the Welsh borderlands onto their newly conquered territory in Fingal. Portmarnock, c. 1.8km to the north, was a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site that subsequently became a manorial village when taken over by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th to 15th centuries. The possible remnants of this settlement may have been uncovered during archaeological excavations in 2008 c. 45m north of the recorded mound DU015-014, which identified defined property plots, the foundations of rectangular houses and an associated medieval roadway (SMR DU015-136). A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the excavation, including in excess of 2,000 sherds of medieval pottery, mainly locally produced Leinster cooking ware and Dublin-type wares, as well as large numbers of metal objects. Evidence for food waste included large amounts of butchered animal bone as well as quantities of seashell (cockles, muscles, oysters, periwinkles, razor shell, etc.) and carbonised grains. Additional archaeological investigations undertaken at the recorded mound to the south of the settlement suggest that this was the site of an Anglo-Norman motte and bailey (DU015-014 & 014-001).

There is additional evidence for medieval activity at Portmarnock in the form of a tidal mill (DU015-015). Two tidal mills are recorded in the possession of St Mary's Abbey in an inquisition taken in 1541 (de Courcy 1996), one of which is probably represented by the remains of the old mill at Portmarnock (DU015-015) and the other at Malahide. The mill at Portmarnock was recorded as being in the property of the Plunkett family in 1663, but in a ruinous state after 1903 – 'unroofed and much dilapidated by the storm of 1903'. The Down Survey refers to a tidal mill at Malahide as "a mill that goeth by ebb tides" (Joyce 1912).

The full extent of the Maynetown enclosure was not identified until November 2000 when geophysical survey was carried out to establish the extent of the site for the creation of a buffer zone around it. The geophysical survey revealed a unique and interesting site when two linear responses identified what appeared to be a formal approach to the entrance of the enclosure.

This entrance feature is rare in Ireland and similar in style to the Iron Age enclosures found in Britain; however, a charcoal sample taken from the base of the enclosure ditch during archaeological testing in 2008, was radiocarbon dated to the medieval period. When viewed in context with the other archaeological features found at Portmarnock an extensive medieval landscape begins to emerge.

Further medieval secular activity is known at Baldoyle village c. 1.7km to the east/southeast, which was reputedly the location of a Viking base for many years, was established as a manorial village after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans.

Grange Abbey (DU015-069) is situated west of Baldoyle village, with the road connecting the two named Grange Road, and had a long association with All Saints Priory. In 1478, the prior of All Saints and lord of the town of Baldoyle made representations on behalf of the inhabitants. They were much distressed by excessive taxes levied upon them by the king's admirals and their deputies. It was therefore enacted by Parliament that the prior should henceforth be admiral of Baldoyle and of all other lands belonging to the priory in Ireland.

Several writers on the subject of Baldoyle have made reference to a parliament that was reputedly called at Grange Abbey in 1369 by the then lord lieutenant, William de Windsor, for the purpose of levying subsidies. However, there would appear to be no substantiation for the claim that de Windsor ever held a parliament in Grange Abbey. In 1609, repairs were made to the abbey by Thomas Fitzsimons and by the parishioners. By 1615, a royal visitation records that it was no longer in use, and in 1630, Archbishop Buckley made the comment that 'the church is altogether ruinous' (Grange Abbey Restoration Publication).

2.5. Post-Medieval / Early Modern activity

The 17th century saw significant transfers of land from Catholic to Protestant ownership throughout Ireland, often through the seizure of property following both the Confederate Wars and the Williamite War (1689–1691) and by the 18th and 19th centuries, many of these influential land-owners were consolidating their estates, building new, larger houses and creating landscaped demesnes. The stone manor houses, or what became known in Ireland as the 'big house', were constructed by planter families in County Dublin, as elsewhere in the country, roughly between the years 1670 and 1850, and they are often found near to or on the sites of older ruined castles or tower houses, churches or defunct administrative centres. Big Houses were also often situated within embellished and ornamented demesne land, which was frequently ringed by high walls (McCullough & Mulvin, 1987). Several examples of 18th and 19th century houses can be seen in the surrounding landscape, including Balgriffin Park (formerly 'Stapolin'), Stapolin House, Belcamp, Grange House and Newgrove House.

The most significant change to the landscape in the 19th century was the introduction of the railway line from Dublin to Drogheda. The scheme to construct the railway line between Dublin and Drogheda was presented to parliament in 1836 and received royal assent on 13 August 1836. The line was proposed to be built to 5ft 2in (1,575mm) gauge on the grounds of lower costs. The two broader gauges were used nowhere else. Following complaints from the UR, the Board of Trade investigated the matter and, in 1843, decreed the use of 5ft 3 in (1,600 mm). John MacNeill was appointed as the line's engineer in 1840 and by October 1840 construction was underway. The official opening of the line occurred on 25 May 1844. Initially trains ran from Drogheda (the Drogheda terminus being 1/4 mile southeast of the current Drogheda railway station) to a temporary Dublin terminus at the Royal Canal.

2.6. Cartographic Sources

2.6.1. Earliest available sources

The Down Survey map for the barony of Coolock, c. 1656, show no detail within the study area (Figure 3). The location can be approximated using the topographical features depicted on the map, with the estuary of the Mayne and Sluice rivers and the Burrow isthmus ('Conyborough') both depicted to the east. The point where the Mayne river enters the estuary is also depicted, with a house shown at the shoreline (possibly the site of Mayne Bridge). The townland named 'Part of Mayne' on the map is the present Maynetown townland, to the northeast of Grange townland. The latter is not named or depicted, being part of the lands owned by the Lord of Howth and, as such, unforfeited. No additional detail can be gleaned from the parish map or the accompanying terrier.



Figure 3 Down Survey, barony map of Coolock, County Dublin. c. 1656

Rocque's map of County Dublin in 1760 (Figure 4) is considerably more detailed and provides the first cartographic depiction of the LRD area, which is exclusively agricultural land. The fields are shown as pastureland on the south side of the Mayne river. Baldoyle village and Kilbarrack are shown on the map, with the principal road network in place. Grange House is depicted to the southwest and a house and estate named Stapolin are shown to the northwest.

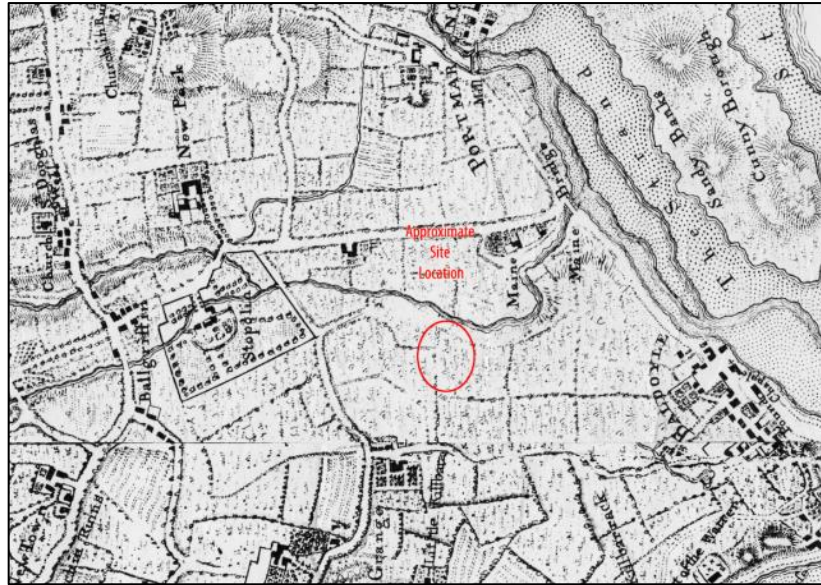


Figure 4 Rocque's 'An Actual Survey of County Dublin', 1760

2.6.2. Ordnance Survey maps

Between 1829 and 1843, the Ordnance Survey (OS) completed the first ever large-scale survey of the entire country; Dublin county was largely completed in 1843. The maps were produced at a scale of six-inches to one mile, in both colour and in black and white, and are acclaimed for their accuracy. The first edition OS six-inch map (Figure 5) shows more detail within the LRD area, which has remained undeveloped since Rocque's mid-18th century map. The agricultural fields extend south of the River Mayne, with a footpath crossing east-west through the fields.

The line of the as yet unfinished Dublin to Drogheda railway line, which forms the eastern boundary to the LRD area, is also depicted (noted on the map as 'in progress'). The country house to the west, formerly named Stapolin, is now called Balgriffin House, with a new 'Stapolin House' depicted on the eastern side of the railway line. Grange House and the site of Grange Abbey are depicted to the southwest, on the south side of the public road (named Grange Road).



Figure 5 First edition 6-inch OS Map 1843

Both the footpath and tree-lined avenue are gone by the time of the 1906 edition OS map (Figure 6). The railway line, which was officially opened in 1844, is designated as the ‘Great Northern Railway’ on the map. There are no other significant changes on this edition map.

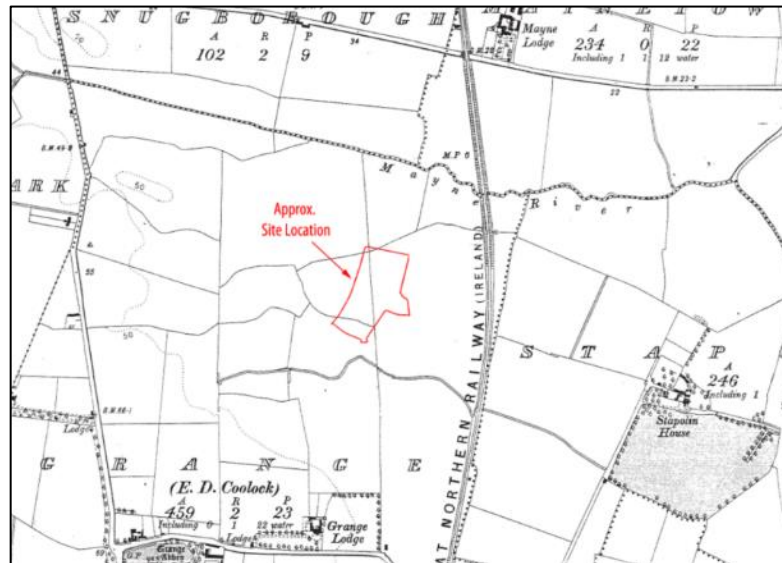


Figure 6 Second edition 25-inch OS Map, 1906-9

2.7. Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.7.1. Introduction

Extensive archaeological investigation, comprising monitoring, testing and excavation, took place in the LRD area and its surrounding lands in 2003 / 2004. These investigations were carried out in advance of proposed development within an area of approximately 133 acres, on lands bordered by Grange Road to the south, the Hole-in-the-Wall Road to the west, the Dublin-Belfast railway to the east and the Mayne River to the north (Figure 7). The lands under assessment in this report occupy the central section of the area investigated.



Figure 7 Google Earth aerial image 2003, showing area subjected to archaeological investigation (yellow), with present LRD area in red

Much of this area has now already been stripped of topsoil; Figure 8 shows the subsequent progressive development between 2005 and 2018.



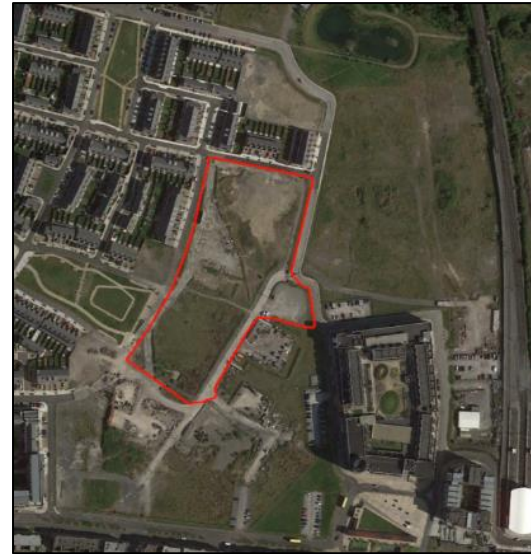
A. Google Earth aerial image 2005



B. Google Earth aerial image 2008



C. Google Earth aerial image 2017



D. Google Earth aerial image 2021



E. Recent drone imagery of the proposed development area view looking northeast

Figure 8 Aerial imagery from 2005 to 2021 and recent drone imagery (2023 after CCK) showing progressive development of the site

An initial programme of archaeological testing was carried out in 2003 prior to commencement of the monitoring phase, at the site of two recorded enclosures (DU015-063 & DU015-064001; Excavations 2003, No. 485, Licence No. 03E1496). As noted above no trace of either monument was uncovered, though a burnt spread was uncovered and fully excavated (O'Carroll 2003). Subsequent monitoring began in early October 2003, before an application was made for the extension and alteration of the monitoring licence, in order to carry out comprehensive testing across the entire site area in conjunction with an extended period of monitoring.

The archaeological investigations produced evidence for a variety of sites including burnt mounds, pits and hearths associated with domestic and craft / quasi-industrial activities, ritual sites (a ring-ditch and an isolated cremation) and an early medieval ringfort. A total of 17 archaeological sites were uncovered and excavated, many of which were pits, with a number of the sites displaying evidence for multi-phase activity (Cf. Table 1, Figure 9).

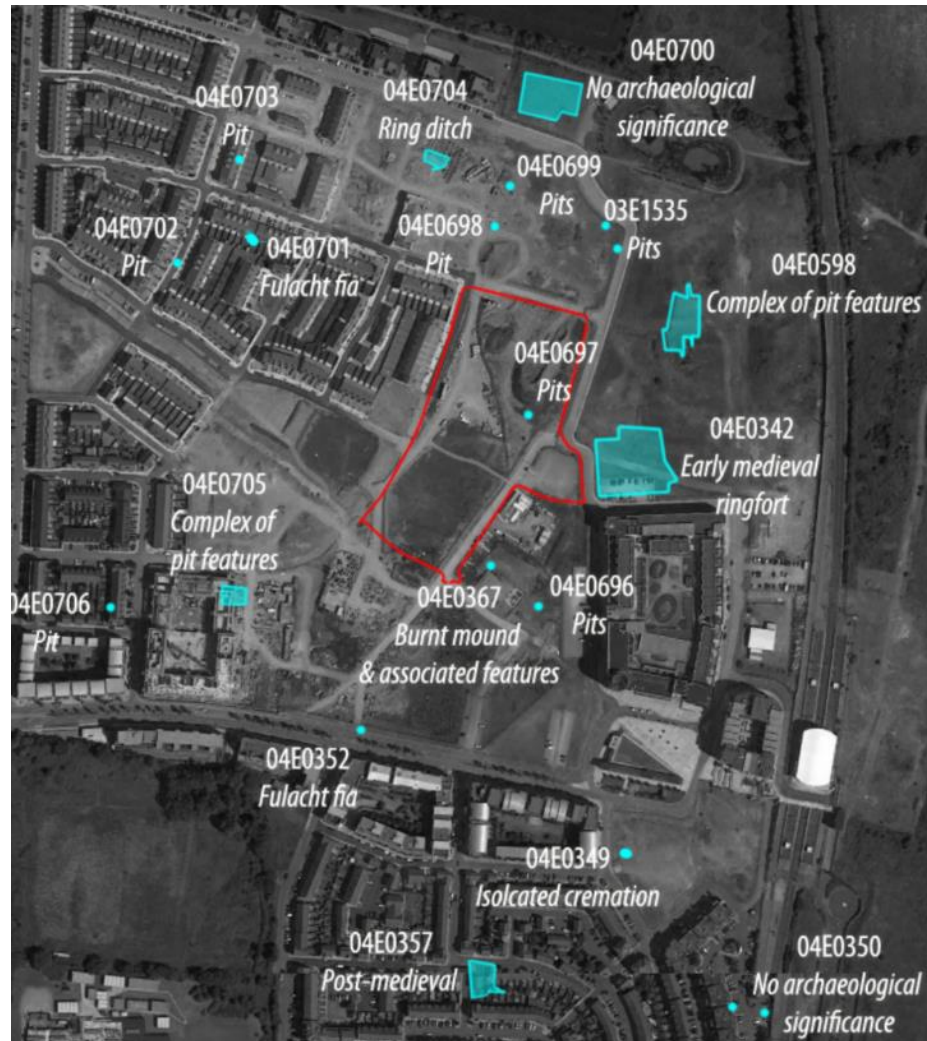


Figure 9 Results of Archaeological Investigations within / in proximity to LDA area

The original site topography was characterised by a mixture of high and low ground, with at least four glacial prominences evident on the topographical survey. Unsurprisingly, it was on the higher and drier land that the majority of the sites were found (Elder 2005). Post-excavation analysis (including radiocarbon dating, and environmental and artefactual analyses) indicates that these lands on the south side of the River Mayne have been the focus for human activity and / or settlement from the late Neolithic and Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and into the early medieval period.

Within the LRD lands two pits were found during topsoil-stripping. They were situated just above the 6.5m contour, on the west-facing slope of an east-west orientated esker. (Licence Ref. 04E0697). Both pits contained a single charcoal-rich fill. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal recovered from one of the fills was used to determine the age of these pits, producing a date from the early medieval period. Function unknown but pits may have served either for storage, waste, or as a structural feature in the past. Fragments of hazelnut shell in one of the pits may suggest that it contained the cleared-out remnants of a hearth. The pits were fully excavated.

Table 1 Results of Previous Archaeological Investigations

Licence No.	Site Type	Description	Date	Site Status
03E1535	Pits	Found during testing. Two charcoal production pits. Three other sites were located in the general vicinity, and all featured pits with charcoal-rich fills. This complex of features may, therefore, represent as yet unknown and undated industrial activity centred on the production of charcoal. Radiocarbon dating indicates both Bronze Age and early medieval activity.	Early medieval & Bronze Age	Excavated
04E0342	Ringfort	Found during testing. The site consisted of a c. 30m diameter sub-circular fosse with rounded terminal ends on the northern side, a metallated pathway extending several metres beyond the gap on either side, and a probable gatehouse immediately inside the gap. There were a series of sub-circular and sub-rectangular pits, and isolated postholes within the enclosure, but no direct evidence for dwellings, and no hearths or areas of industrial activity. A number of north - south aligned, evenly spaced wide plough furrows were seen to cut through the upper deposits of the archaeological features, suggesting that intensive tillage from the later medieval period onwards may have removed all traces of archaeology at a slightly higher level than the present substrate. Artefacts included a fragment of lignite bracelet and a copper-alloy stick pin from pit deposits towards the centre of the site and a socketed iron object from the western terminal of the ditch. Radiocarbon dating indicates early medieval settlement, while lithics recovered from the site suggest that it overlies an area of previous prehistoric activity.	Early medieval (also prehistoric)	Excavated
04E0349	Isolated cremation	Found during testing. Comprised a single sub-circular feature measuring 0.55m by 0.4m by 0.16m. The pit contained three fills; a layer of stones lining the base; the charcoal-rich cremation deposit; and a silty clay sealing deposit. A few fragments of crude earthenware were found adjacent to the pit feature, including a much worn neck-sherd, most probably from an early Neolithic carinated bowl. If, indeed, the pit contained a human cremation it is most probably of middle to late Bronze Age date (as indicated by the radiocarbon dating) and the pottery represents much earlier residual activity.	Bronze Age (also Early Neolithic)	Excavated
04E0350	n/a	No archaeological significance	n/a	Excavated
04E0352	Fulacht fia	Found during topsoil-stripping. Situated in low-lying pasture at the base of a north-facing slope, close to an area of persistent wetland centred upon a small stream. The site comprised three features: an elongated oval pit measuring 1.92m by 0.97m by 0.32m deep containing two fills and a clay lining; a shallow sub-rectangular spread; and a short linear feature (probable modern plough furrow). The heat-shattered stone and charcoal-rich deposits filling the pit and spread were consistent with a burnt-mound site, though it is believed that intensive cultivation removed almost all traces of the mound. The pit feature most likely represents a single trough, lined with clay to prevent water seepage, and eventually filled by two separate layers of burnt-stone and charcoal-mound material. Radiocarbon date for fulacht indicated a Bronze Age date. Small hollow scraper recovered from site dates to Late Neolithic.	Bronze Age (also Late Neolithic)	Excavated
04E0357	Post-medieval	Post-medieval agricultural activity.	Post-medieval	Excavated
04E0367	Burnt mound &	Found during topsoil-stripping. Comprised a complex of pits and stake-holes, with cobbling and associated burnt-mound spread. Four pits were present in the northern half of the site;	Bronze Age	Excavated

Licence No.	Site Type	Description	Date	Site Status
	associated features	three of these may be boiling pits, given that they were filled by charcoal and heat-shattered stone deposits, whilst a much smaller pit may have been for related activity, possibly blanching or cooling. Some of the stake-holes may have formed a splayed fence-like structure between the pits and the cobbled surface, possibly indicating an entrance into the working area.		
04E0598	Complex of pit features	Found during testing. The site comprised a complex of pits, post-holes and stake-holes, within an area measuring c. 15m by 10m. The pits measured between 2.5m by 1.2m by 0.35m deep and 0.4m by 0.24m by 0.14m deep, and all contained charcoal-rich silty clay fills. One of the pits contained a large amount of charred cereals and may have been a primitive corn-drying kiln. A cluster of post-holes located towards the centre of the site may have formed a drying frame of some sort or a windbreaker. It is clear that the site formed some sort of industrial purpose, though the exact function remains unknown. Radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age, with lithics indicating an earlier phase of activity in the Neolithic / Bronze Age.	Iron Age (also Neolithic / Bronze Age)	Excavated
04E0696	Pits	Found during testing. Comprised two pits in isolation, the primary purpose of which is unknown. There was no obvious oxidisation of the base and sides of the pits, to suggest burning <i>in-situ</i> , but the charcoal-rich fills show that they were ultimately used as receptacles for the by-product of industrial or domestic (i.e. cooking) processes. These features are therefore interpreted as rubbish pits. This site was accidentally destroyed prior to full recording.	Unknown	Partly recorded
04E0697	Pits	Found during topsoil-stripping. Two pits situated just above the 6.5m contour, on the west-facing slope of an east - west orientated esker. Both pits contained a single charcoal-rich fill. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal recovered from one of the fills was used to determine the age of these pits, producing a date that from the early medieval period. Function unknown but pits may have served either for storage, waste, or as a structural feature in the past. Fragments of hazel nut shell in one of the pits may suggest that it contained the cleared out remnants of a hearth.	Early medieval period	Excavated
04E0698	Pit	Found during topsoil-stripping. The site comprised an oval pit featuring a metallised base and intense burning in situ and contained two charcoal-rich deposits. The evidence from the excavation of this site suggests that it was constructed as a deliberate hearth. Three other sites were located in the general vicinity and all featured pits with charcoal-rich fills. This complex of features, therefore, may represent thus far unknown and undated industrial activity centred on the production of charcoal.	Early medieval period	Excavated
04E0699	Pit	Found during spoil-heap removal. Two pits with charcoal-rich fills. The exact function of the two pits is unknown, but appears to be focused on the production of charcoal. Radiocarbon dated to Early medieval period. Two lithics recovered of probable Late Neolithic date, based on their technology and morphology, and therefore represent an earlier phase of activity on this Early Medieval site.	Early medieval period (also Late Neolithic)	Excavated
04E0700	n/a	No archaeological significance	n/a	Excavated
04E0701	Fulacht fia	This feature was interpreted as the site of a <i>fulacht fiadh</i> , with evidence of related activity in the form of small boiling pits. Two large sub-rectangular pits, which can be interpreted as trough	Bronze Age	Excavated

Licence No.	Site Type	Description	Date	Site Status
		pits. These two pits have stake-holes in each corner, which suggests either they formed a frame or suspension device for a cauldron or similar object, perhaps even the object being boiled, or that they represent the securing in place of a wooden trough, either a box constructed of planks, or a woven structure. Radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age.		
04E0702	Pit	Found during topsoil stripping, it consisted of a linear feature cut into the natural subsoil, measuring 2m by 0.20m. It contained a charcoal-rich silty clay matrix with occasional burnt stone inclusions. During the erection of a safety barrier either side of the overhead power cables, construction machinery destroyed the site before excavation could take place.	Unknown	Partly recorded
04E0703	Pit	Found during topsoil-stripping. Comprised a single shallow pit feature with oxidisation of the base and sides. It contained two charcoal-rich fills and an ashen deposit. Interpreted as a hearth site. The uppermost fill contained token amounts of burnt bone, some possibly pottery sherds and a polished pebble. This material would be consistent with a rubbish deposit and probably represents mixed soil, ash and refuse deliberately deposited to douse a fire. Radiocarbon dated to Iron Age.	Iron Age	Excavated
04E0704	Ring ditch	Found during topsoil-stripping. It comprised a single curvilinear ditch feature containing two fills and a recut containing three charcoal-rich fills. The ditch feature was aligned roughly north – south for the main part, curving slightly towards the southwest at its southern extreme, and was approximately 12m in overall length. Situated on an elevated location at the northern end of the area, south of the River Mayne, centrally-placed within a cluster of sites that are thought to be roughly contemporary. Sherds of crude pottery and token amounts of burnt bone were recovered from the deposits within the feature, as was a single fragmentary amber bead. The discovery of crude pottery sherds in association with burnt bone fragments (possibly cremated human bone), suggests that this site represents a burial monument. Two pottery rim sherds were found with the top of rim pointing downwards in context 3, the uppermost fill of the re-cut and therefore the final deposit of the feature. This suggests that an upturned Urn burial may have been placed in the ditch, but which may have succumbed to damage through more modern agricultural practice. Based on the radiocarbon results and specialist reports this site would appear to represent an area of multi-phase human activity and/or settlement extending from the late Neolithic / Bronze Age through the Iron Age into the Early Medieval period, with representative artefactual or dating evidence for each period.	Bronze Age (also Late Neolithic, Iron Age, Early Medieval period)	Excavated
04E0705	Complex of pit features	Found during testing. Two smaller oval pits contained a single deposit each, a third slightly larger pit contained two deposits, and the fourth feature was a larger oval pit containing four deposits, and with a single stake-hole and a small oval single-deposit pit in the base. The features were roughly equidistant from each other, in a rectangular setting, as if four corners of a structure, for instance. There was no evidence, however, to suggest that any of the features were structural. The site lies close to the southern edge of an east - west esker, and faces an area of marshland. The original functions are therefore unclear, but ultimately, they became repositories for waste. Radiocarbon dated to Bronze Age.	Bronze Age	Excavated

Licence No.	Site Type	Description	Date	Site Status
04E0706	Pit	Found during testing. Situated on relatively flat pasture towards the crown of a southeast-facing slope, at the eastern end of an east - west esker. Comprised a single north - south orientated oval pit feature containing two fills, and with heavy oxidisation of the edges denoting intense burning <i>in situ</i> . This site was interpreted as an isolated kiln-type feature. Radiocarbon dated to Early Medieval period.	Early Medieval period	Excavated

3. DESIGNATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

3.1. Record of Monuments and Places Sites (RMP / SMR sites)

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the LRD area (Figure 10).

Four recorded archaeological sites are, however, located outside the proposed LRD area, none of which are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP (Figure 10). Two of these comprise enclosure sites that were identified on aerial photography. At enclosure site DU015-063, the aerial photograph showed cropmark evidence for a univallate enclosure roughly circular in plan. A second enclosure (DU015-064001) was identified on aerial photography, where there appeared to be cropmark evidence for a univallate enclosure (diam. c. 20m) with an annex on the east.



Figure 10 Recorded sites in proximity to the LRD area

According to the descriptions in the Sites and Monuments Record file (available on the Historic Environment Viewer at www.archaeology.ie), test excavation was undertaken in advance of a housing development in 2003, at which time nine trenches were opened on the site of the potential enclosures; no traces of any archaeological features were identified, and both sites are now built over (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>; Licence no. 03E1496;

Excavations Bulletin Ref. 2003:485). The remaining two sites are situated c. 40m apart and are recorded as burnt mounds that were discovered during archaeological testing and subsequently excavated (DU015-097 & DU015-096). According to the file descriptions in the ASI online SMR viewer, these were the remains of two small prehistoric burnt mounds comprising deposits of heat-shattered stone (Licence No. 03E1496; O'Carroll, E. 2006, 117; cited in SMR file).

The description of both in the online SMR is identical with the exception of the dates of testing (given as 1993 and 2003) and inversion of the dimensions.

Only one burnt spread is described in the archaeological testing report associated with licence number 03E1496, however, and there is no record of earlier testing on the site in 1993 (nor of a second burnt spread) either in the excavations bulletin or in the Dublin County Archaeology database (www.excavations.ie; <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/DublinArchaeologyProject>). It is possible that the site was duplicated when it was being entered into the system.

In Section 2 of this report, other RMP / SMR sites in the surrounding landscape are discussed where relevant in the context of the archaeological and historical background, and their locations are illustrated in Figure 11.

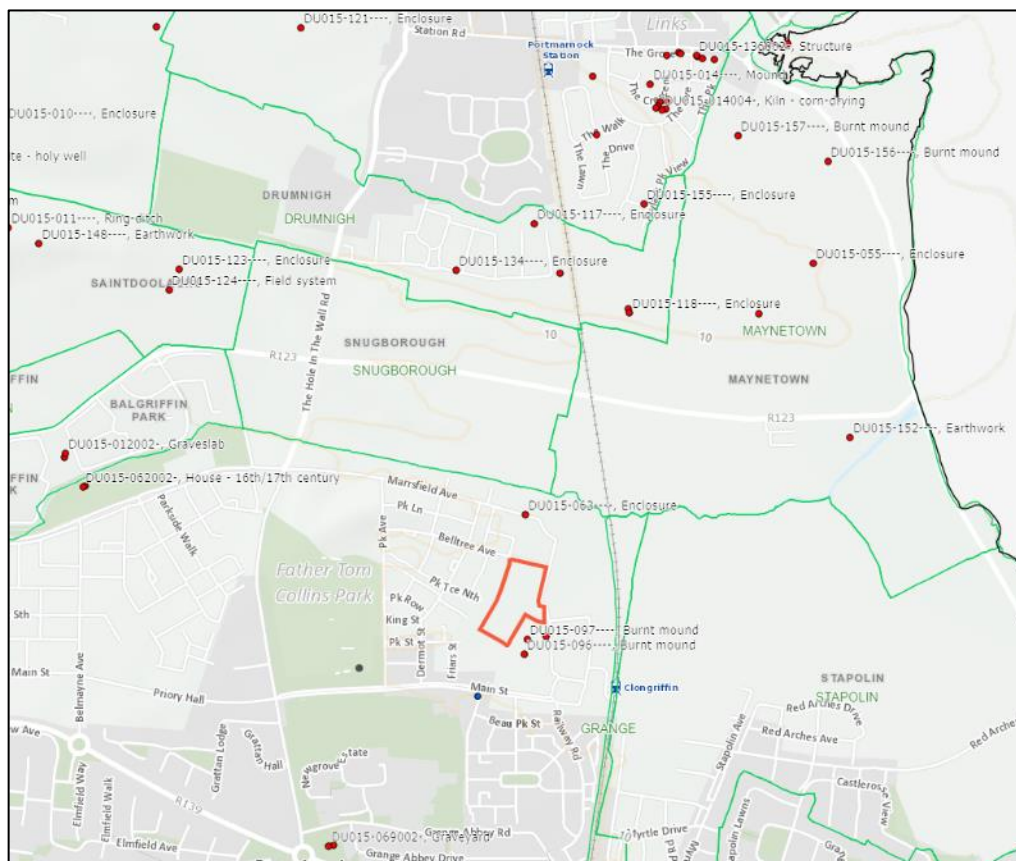


Figure 11 RMP / SMR site location map in relation to the LRD area

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Archaeological Potential

The extensive archaeological investigations that took place in 2003/2004 (discussed above in Section 2.7) have realised and fully addressed the archaeological potential within the proposed LRD area and its immediate environs.

Previous topsoil stripping carried out across the entire footprint of the proposed LRD area identified two early medieval pits that may have served either as storage, waste, or a structural feature in the past. Fragments of hazelnut shell in one of the pits may suggest that it contained the cleared-out remnants of a hearth. The pits were preserved by record (fully excavated) and do not present an issue for the proposed development. No other finds, features or soils of archaeological significance was identified within the LRD area.

4.2. Considerations for Development

There are no further archaeological considerations regarding the LRD lands; the area has previously been stripped, and the archaeological features identified have been fully preserved by record.

4.3. Recommendations

It is recommended that heritage signage be incorporated into the design to highlight the significant archaeological heritage of this landscape. This area on the banks of the Mayne river was the focus of human activity and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards, with many new sites uncovered during archaeological investigations in advance of development. Information panels that reflect this rich archaeological record would assist in providing a sense of place to the new residents. The panels would include illustrations and text designed to be informative and readily accessible to the general public, fostering an interest and pride in the heritage of the area.

4.4. General

All recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

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APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

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).

Relevant Guidelines

The study was informed by relevant guidelines, policy and advice notes, as listed below.

- Code of Practice for Archaeology agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (TII 2017);
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (ratified by Ireland 1997), ‘Granada Convention’ (Council of Europe 1985);

- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ratified by Ireland 1992), 'Valetta Convention' (Council of Europe 1992);
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHG) 1999);
- Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, 'Faro Convention' (Council of Europe 2005);
- Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects (hereafter referred to as TII Guidelines) (Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2024);
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022);
- Historic Landscape Characterisation in Ireland: Best Practice Guidance (The Heritage Council 2013);
- International Cultural Tourism Charter (ICOMOS 1999);
- National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) 2015);
- Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2017;
- The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) (Historic England 2017);
- UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972; and
- Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (ICOMOS 2005).