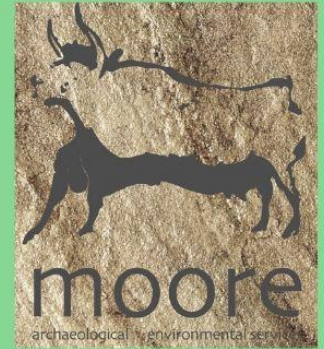

Prepared for
Laois County Council

Presented on
1st August 2023



CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared by
Declan Moore

Our Reference **23166**

Your Reference **NA**

PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT DERRY ROAD, DURROW, COUNTY LAOIS

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Revision History

Revision Reference	Date Issued	Issued To
23166 Barnhillwood Durrow CHA	1 st August 2023	Client

Report prepared by: Declan Moore
Archaeological Consultant

Purpose

This report describes the results of a cultural heritage assessment of a proposed housing development at Derry Road, Durrow, County Laois. The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data has been collated, the author and Moore Group accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available after the reports completion. Moore Group accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

Filename: 23166 Barnhillwood Durrow CHA

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	Scope of Work	5
1.2	Terms and Definitions	5
1.3	Methodology	8
1.4	Difficulties Encountered	10
1.5	Description of Project	10
2	Existing Environment	13
2.1	Location Details.....	13
2.2	Archaeological Baseline Data	13
2.3	Fieldwork	19
2.4	Potential Effects	20
2.5	Potential Effects on the Setting	21
3	Mitigation Measures	22
Appendix 1	References and Bibliography	23
Appendix 2	Conventions, Directives and Legislation.....	24
	Conventions	24
	Legislation.....	25

List of Figures

Figure 1	Project Location © OpenStreetMap contributors.....	10
Figure 2	Project Location detail © OpenStreetMap contributors.....	11
Figure 3	Proposed development.....	12
Figure 4	Extract from ASD Map (www.archaeology.ie) showing nearby archaeological sites.....	18

List of Plates

Plate 1	Looking at eastern part of subject site.	20
Plate 2	Looking towards northern boundary.	20

Plate 3 Looking west at subject site.....	20
Plate 4 Looking at southern part of subject site.....	20

Abbreviations

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
ACA	Architectural Conservation Areas
ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DLHG	Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens
LAP	Local Area Plan
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMS	National Monuments Service
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
ZAP	Zones of Archaeological Potential
ZoN	Zone of Notification

Coordinate System

All GPS coordinates given in this report are in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

1 Introduction

Moore Group was commissioned to complete a cultural heritage impact assessment of a proposed housing development at Derry Road, Durrow, County Meath (hereinafter referred to as Barnhill Wood). There are no recorded monuments within the subject site. The nearest recorded monument is LA029-045---, St. Fintan's Church, and associated graveyard located roughly 400m to the northwest of the subject site. The nearest protected structure is RPS165, Laois Infant School which borders the site to the north. This report has been prepared at the request of the client as part of a Part VIII planning package.

1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological and cultural heritage environment (hereafter referred to as cultural heritage environment or cultural heritage resource), to evaluate the potential or likely impacts that the proposed development will have on this environment and, where appropriate, to suggest mitigation measures to ameliorate potential impacts, in accordance with the policies of:

- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The National Monuments Acts (1930-2005).
- The Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- And Best practice guidelines.

Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on the baseline environment is identified and evaluated.

1.2 Terms and Definitions

Cultural Heritage

The phrase 'cultural heritage' is a generic term used to identify a multitude of cultural, archaeological, and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'cultural heritage', in Environmental Impact Statement compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to have historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social, or technical significance/merit. For the purposes of this report the definition of "cultural heritage" is taken broadly from the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which considers the following to be "cultural heritage":

- Tangible cultural heritage.
- movable cultural heritage (artefacts).
- immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, etc).
- underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and
- Intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

World Heritage Sites

Although not formally recognised in Irish legislation, impacts on World Heritage Sites will nonetheless be a material consideration for developments in their wider vicinity. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific, or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity".

National Monuments

On a national level, the highest degree of protection granted to archaeological monuments are those afforded National Monument status, which are protected under the National Monuments Act of 1930 and its various amendments. These are the pre-eminent archaeological sites in Ireland and fall into several categories including:

- Sites that are in the ownership or guardianship of the state.
- Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders.
- Monuments in the ownership of a local authority; and
- Walled towns.

Generally National Monuments in state care are numbered amongst the best preserved and most impressive monuments in the country.

Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database

The legislation that affords protection to the archaeology of Ireland has seen several amendments since the first National Monuments Act of 1930 and there is a legacy of several different registers and associated terminology.

A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The RMP is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places (resulting from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland [ASI]) and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. The information contained within the RMP is derived from the earlier non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). However, some entries were not transferred to the statutory record as they refer to features that on inspection by the Archaeological Survey were found not to merit inclusion in that record or could not be located with sufficient accuracy to be included. Such sites however remain part of the SMR. The record is a dynamic one and is updated to take account of on-going research.

The most up-to-date record of archaeological monuments, the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD), is available for viewing and download on the www.archaeology.ie website. This record is continually

revised and indicates several additional sites that do not feature in the RMP. The National Monuments Service also makes available SMR Zones of Notification on the website.

Sites and Monuments Record

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is an inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. There are more than 150,800 records in the database and over 138,800 of these relate to archaeological monuments.

An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.

Register of Historic Monuments

Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act states that the Minister is required to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded in the Register without the permission of the Minister is illegal, and two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. This list was largely replaced by the Record of Monuments and Places following the 1994 Amendment Act. No registered Historic Monuments were identified.

Architectural Conservation Areas

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides that all Development Plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures.

In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

Record of Protected Structures/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The importance of our built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part II, Section 10) which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include in their Development Plans objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the importance of a structure, protection from adverse impacts and potential access to grant aid for conservation works. The record of Protected Structures is an ongoing process and can be reviewed and added to. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates

The Architectural Section of the DHLGH is in the process of a multi-phase study looking at Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens that appear as shaded areas on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps, circa. 1830.

'The objective of this survey is to begin a process of understanding of the extent of Ireland's historic gardens and designed landscape. Sites were identified using the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. These were compared with current aerial photography to assess the level of survival and change.'

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Introduction

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is broadly based on guidance provided in the National Roads Authority's (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005a), and Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005b) (the 'NRA Guidelines'), the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and other relevant guidelines.

This impact assessment addresses Cultural Heritage under the two headings of archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

1.3.2 Desktop Assessment

All known cultural heritage sites were reviewed on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping. Sites mapped included the following:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the tentative list of candidate sites.
- National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders.
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from www.archaeology.ie.
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

All townlands located within 1km of the proposed development site were listed and cross referenced with:

- National Monuments, a list for County Laois available from www.archaeology.ie.
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the National Monuments Service, and
- Lists contained in the Report of the Commissioners or Church Temporalities of Ireland (1879) which contain lists of Churches, School Houses and Graveyards that were vested in the Representative Church Body and the Burial Boards under The Irish Church Act, 1869. These sites which have the potential to be in the ownership of the Local Authorities were highlighted as potential National Monuments.

The Laois County Development Plan (2021-2027) was reviewed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural heritage of the area. The development plan contains lists of cultural heritage sites including national monuments, recorded monuments, architectural conservation areas, protected structures, and protected views as well as baseline assessments of the landscape character of the county.

The plans also outline the county's heritage policies and objectives that aim to protect and promote the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the region. This evaluation was carried out with due regard to these policies and other relevant information contained within the plans.

To assess the potential impact of the proposed works the following sources were also consulted or reviewed:

- Excavations Bulletin. The Excavation Bulletin is both a published directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2012. The database gives access to over 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author.
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland. The topographical files of the NMI identify all recorded finds held in the NMI archive that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. The files sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early 20th century. Valuable information that can be gleaned might include the exact location, ground type, depth below ground level and condition when found, of each find. However, the amount and the usefulness of the information available on each find can vary considerably. The topographical files are listed by county and townland and/or street name.
- Cartographic Sources. Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork.
- Toponyms. Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology, and folklore of an area. The placename can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. In compiling the following data, several resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland www.logainm.ie and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).
- Aerial photographs. The usefulness of aerial photography is that it allows for a different perspective - 'the distant view'. Archaeological sites may show up on the ground surface, depending on their state of preservation, by light and shadow contrasts (shadow marks), tonal differences in the soil (soil marks) or differences in height and colour of the cultivated cereal

(crop marks). It is also a useful aid in pinpointing existing features and can assist in ascertaining their extent and degree of preservation.

- Published archaeological inventories; and
- Documentary Sources: several literary references were consulted.

1.4 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the completion of this assessment.

1.5 Description of Project

The proposed development comprises a residential development of 24 houses and 4 no serviced sites at Derry Road, Durrow County Laois. The Estate name is Barnhill Wood.

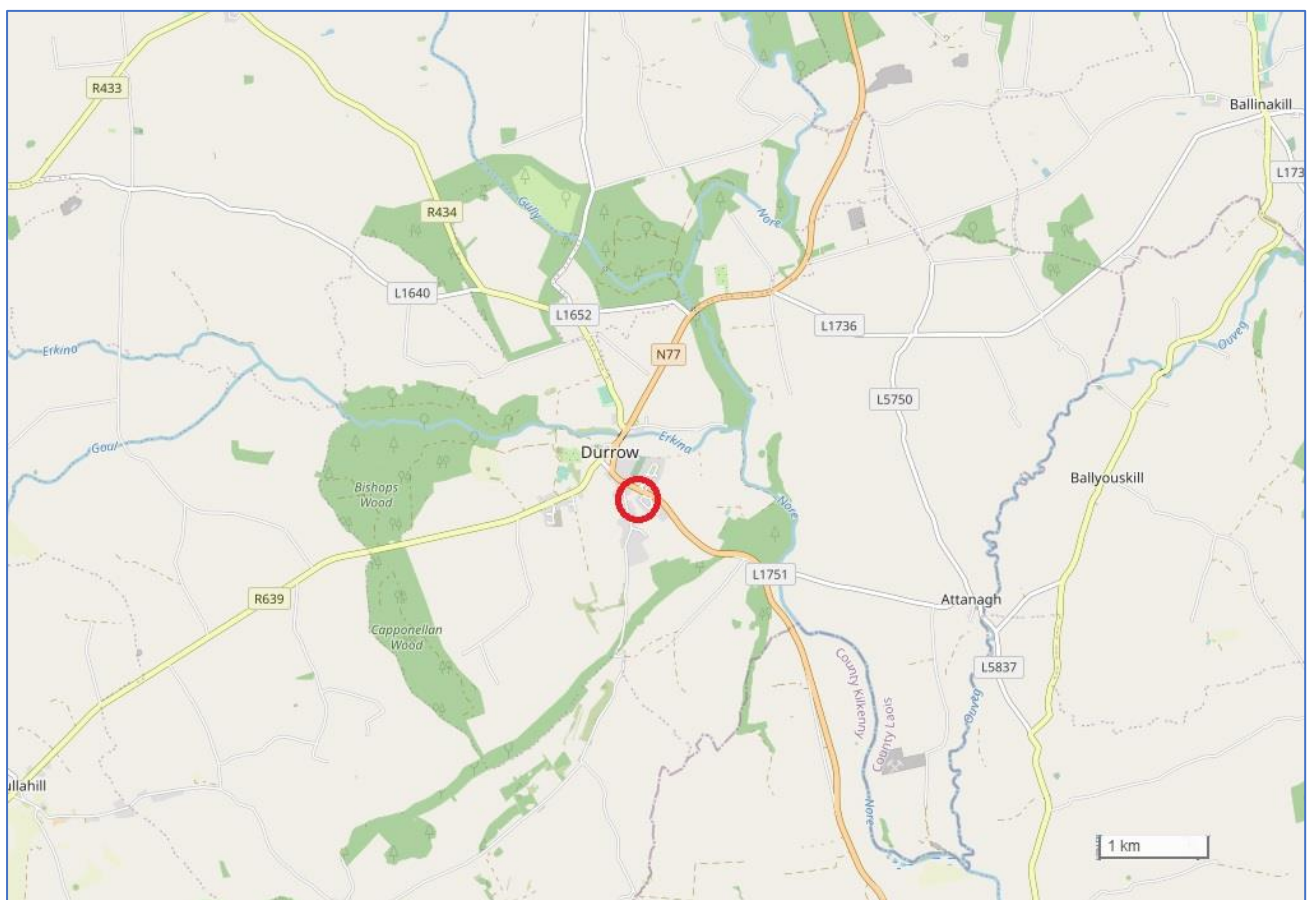


Figure 1 Project Location © OpenStreetMap contributors.

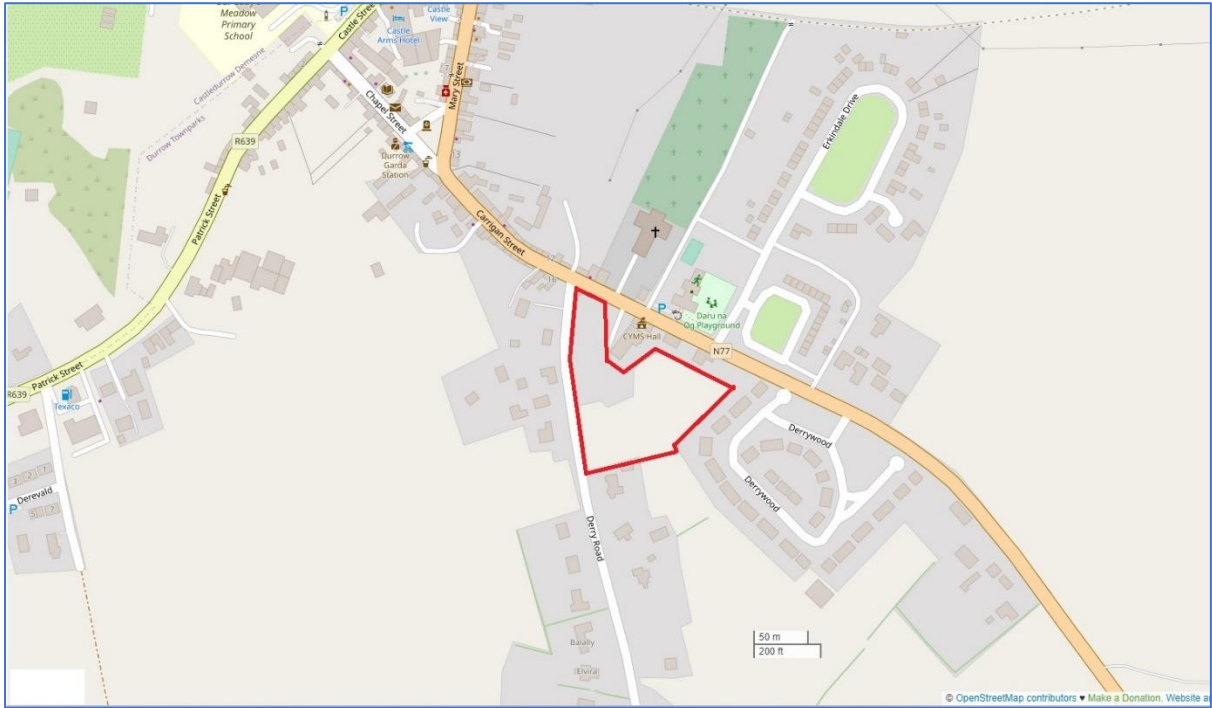


Figure 2 Project Location detail showing rough outline © OpenStreetMap contributors.

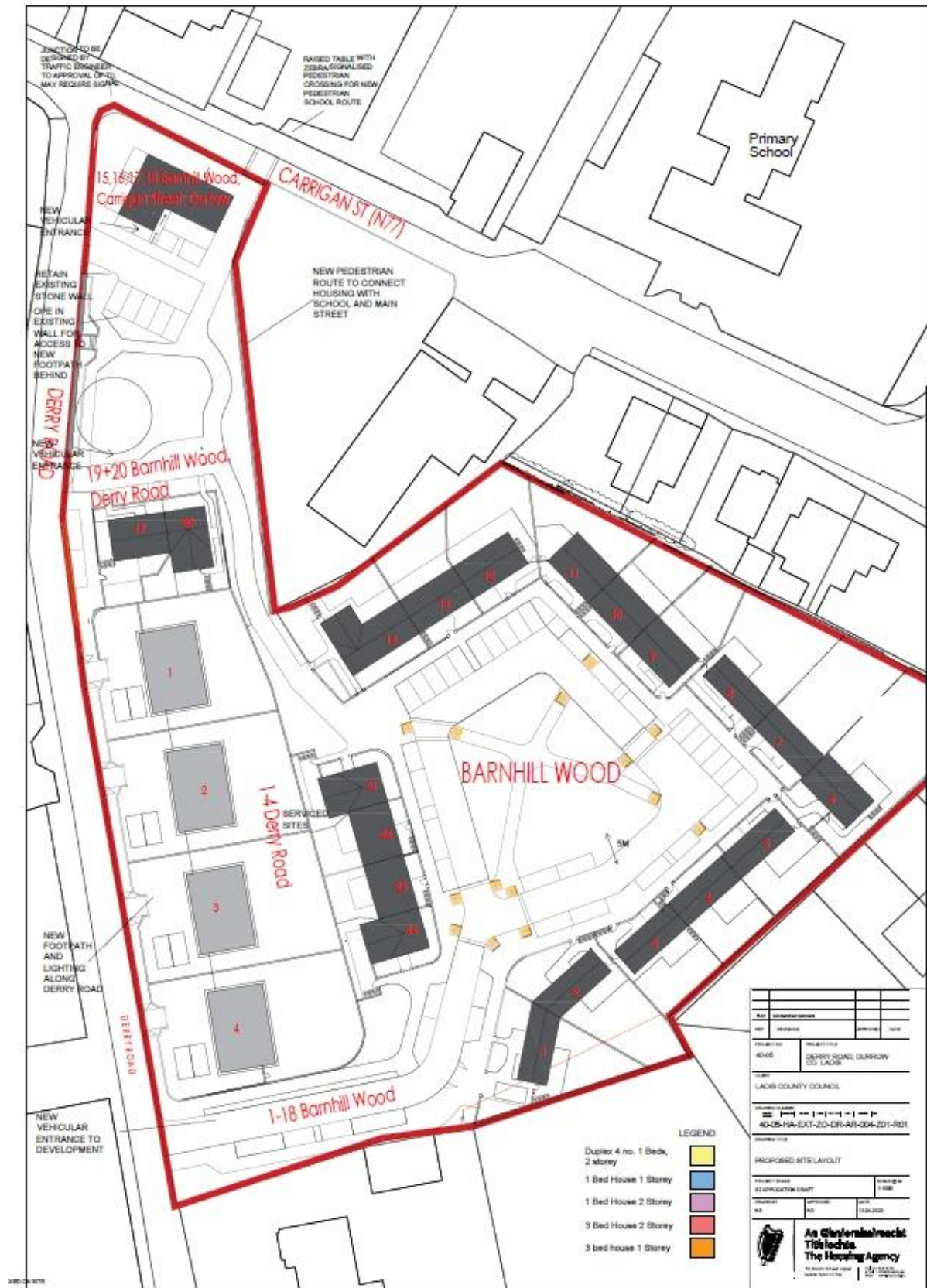


Figure 3 Proposed development plan.

2 Existing Environment

2.1 Location Details

Table 1 Location details

County and town	Laois, Durrow.
Barony	Clarmallagh.
Parish	Durrow.
Street	Between Derry Road and N77.
Townland/s	Durrow/Townparks.
Archaeological Monuments within 200m	None.
Architectural Sites within 50m	RPS165, Laois Infant School.
ITM	Centred on 640914/676987

2.2 Archaeological Baseline Data

2.2.1 General Archaeological and Historical Background

The place name Durrow is variously interpreted as an anglicisation of *Dar Magh/Darú* or *Doire* ('the plain of the oaks') and the earliest reference to the area is in the fifth century.

2.2.1.1 Mesolithic Period (8000-4000 BC)

The Mesolithic (middle stone age) people were the first inhabitants of Ireland, arriving about 9000 years ago. They were a mobile society relying on wild resources for food, which was hunted and gathered using stone tools as well as boats, nets, and traps. Settlement was in temporary and semi-permanent groups of huts constructed of wood slung with hide, which may have operated as seasonal or hunting camps. Mesolithic activity to date shows a marked concentration in the north-east of Ireland with no evidence in the vicinity of the subject site. The concentration of find-spots and sites in the northeast can, in part be attributed to both the availability of flint and the large number of antiquarians and collectors in the region and suggests that activity in this period was widespread in the country, with settlers probably utilising the extensive coastline for fish and shellfish.

2.2.1.2 Neolithic Period (4000-2500 BC)

Farming was first adopted in the Middle East but spread gradually across Europe in succeeding centuries, arriving in Ireland about 4000 BC. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements were built. The megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments of the Neolithic people built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes, are

relatively common in the landscape. New methods were adopted for shaping stone tools and the first long distance trade networks were established.

The earliest evidence for settlement in Laois dates from the Neolithic period. Five megalithic structures and seven unclassified megalithic tombs are recorded in county Laois. County Kilkenny contains one court tomb, four passage tombs, nine portal tombs and four wedge tombs. In addition, it contains 14 megalithic structures and nine unclassified megalithic tombs.

2.2.1.3 The Bronze Age (2500 -500 BC)

As stone tools were replaced using copper, later combined with tin to make bronze, the structure of society also changed over centuries. While some communal megalithic monuments, particularly wedge tombs continued to be used, the Bronze Age is characterised by a movement towards single burial in pits or cists often accompanied with grave goods, pottery etc. and an expansion of settlement from hill slopes and uplands into lower lying areas.

Bronze Age monuments from counties Laois and Kilkenny include stone rows and standing stones, cist burials, barrows and fulachtaí fiadh which are one of the most numerous prehistoric monument types in Ireland with over 4,500 examples recorded (Waddell 2005, 174). Barrows may cover or contain cists, cremations, or inhumations. Bowl Barrows, often referred to as Tumuli or Moats, have a central dome-shaped mound, 2m or higher, usually enclosed by a fosse and one or more external banks. Although there is some debate about the provenance of the standing stones, it is generally accepted that they date from the later part of the Bronze Age. Stone rows or single standing stones were probably ceremonial in function, although single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories. Fulachtaí fia, generally dating from the Bronze Age, consist of small, horseshoe shaped mounds, which are composed of burnt and fire cracked stones with a central pit or trough. These features designed to heat water were most likely multifunctional and used for cooking, bathing, and brewing. They are commonly found in river valleys or in boggy ground and are indicative of communal activity.

2.2.1.4 Iron Age (500 BC-500 AD)

In late Bronze Age Ireland, the use of the metal reached a high point with the production of high-quality decorated weapons, ornament, and instruments, often discovered from hoards or ritual deposits. The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Life in Iron Age in Ireland seems to have been much as it was in the early historic period – mixed farmers living in or around small, defended settlements. The tuath system meant for local power bases allied to regional chiefdoms. Hilltop enclosures are associated with this period.

2.2.1.5 Early Medieval Period (c.500 AD-1200 AD)

With an expansion in population, the Early Medieval Period witnessed the introduction of a new settlement type generally known as the ringfort. Other names for this site type include rath, lios, cashel

and dun. These circular enclosures, numbering between 30,000 and 40,000 across the country, represent the homesteads of the upper echelons of Irish Early Medieval society. Ringforts are generally circular areas surrounded by a bank(s), walls, and an external ditch. In some cases, there can be up to three sets of defences. The larger more impressive multivallate, raised and platform raths are generally regarded as higher status settlements and are the foci around which the smaller satellite univallate enclosures would be arranged. The smaller ringfort settlements are the most common monuments in Galway and are thought to be small farmsteads, enclosing houses, farm buildings and animal pens, enclosed as protection against raiders or wild animals. Excavations of the interiors suggest that the houses were small circular huts, built of stakes with a double skin of wattle and a thatched roof. Their distribution in the region is dispersed and widespread.

In the fifth century Christianity was introduced to Ireland and monastic sites began to be founded throughout the country. Between the 6th and 8th centuries the influence of the church continued to grow and through the secular and ecclesiastical legislation it is possible to trace the gradual assimilation of the Church into early Irish society (Edwards, 1996). There are references to a monastery founded in Dervagh during the sixth century. There are no remains of this monastery, but the RMP records an ecclesiastical site (LA029-042000) on the south side of the Erkina river and on the western outskirts of the present-day town. The association of St Fintan with Durrow is commemorated by a holy well (LA029-043001) dedicated to him on the north bank of the river.

2.2.1.6 Medieval Period onwards (1200 AD-1700 AD)

The start of the medieval period is generally defined by the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169. A grant issued in 1245 to Geoffry de Turville, Bishop of Ossory, to hold a weekly market and an annual fair at the manor of Derevald. In 1350 the Manor of Deraugh was listed as the most valuable of the temporalities of the See of Ossory.

The estate at Castle Durrow was rented by the Viscount of Ashbrook, Sir William Flower in the late 17th century, and was then released to the Flower family in 1708, remaining in the ownership of his descendants until the early twentieth century. The construction of Castledurrow was completed in the 1730s and by the end of the eighteenth century the earlier settlement of Durrow had been replaced with a planned estate village of 218 houses.

constructed in the 1790s, functioned as a

Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (1837) describes Durrow as follows (excerpted):

DURROW, or CASTLE-DURROW, a market and post-town... containing 2911 inhabitants, of which number, 1298 are in the town... The town, which is on the bank of the river Erkn, contains 236 houses forming a square, many of which are well-built and slated... Malt is made here, and there is a large boulting-mill. The market is held on Friday in the market-house; and fairs are held on the second Thursday... It has a constabulary police station and has a dispensary.

Adjoining the town is Castle-Durrow, a large ancient mansion belonging to Viscount Ashbrook, from which he takes the title of Baron...

The church is a large building, with a tower and spire, and has recently been repaired by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, at an expense of \$6738.

The parochial school is aided by Lord Ashbrook and the incumbent, and an infants' school is supported by an annual donation of £52 from Mrs. Walker. About 70 children are educated in these schools, about 180 in four private schools, and there is also a Sunday school. A monastery once existed at Durrow, but its history is unknown; and at Ballynaslough was a large altar, or cromlech, which was destroyed in a search for money, also another cromlech and some enclosures and pits.

2.2.2 Archaeological Heritage

2.2.2.1 World Heritage Sites

There are no World Heritage Site or potential World Heritage Site contained in the Tentative List of Candidate Sites within 5km of the study area.

2.2.2.2 National Monuments in State Care, Guardianship or under Protection Order

There are no National Monuments within 3km of the subject site.

2.2.2.3 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database/Register of Historic Monuments

The following sections contain information relative to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD). Archaeological monuments are general registered by the National Monuments Service using a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number.

There are no recorded monuments within 200m of the subject site. The nearest recorded monument is LA029-045----, St. Fintan's Church, and associated graveyard located roughly 400m to the northwest of the subject site.

LA029-045----

Class: Church

Townland: DURROW TOWNPARKS

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: Marked on the 1841 edition of the OS 6-inch map and on the Down Survey (1655-6) map. Dedicated to St Fintan and was demolished before 1731 and the site is now occupied by the Protestant church (Carrigan 1905, vol. 2, 213). No visible surface remains.

According to Carrigan 'The foundations of what was traditionally known as 'Durrow Monastery' (LA029-042), remained till 1835, about 60 yards north-west of the churchyard of Durrow, between the base of the 'Castle Hill' and the small stone bridge crossing the Erkina at this point. The ancient parish church (LA029-045) of Durrow, dedicated to St. Fintan, stood within the present churchyard. No trace of it remains. It must have been taken down close to two centuries ago; for in 1731, its site was occupied by the Protestant parish church of Durrow, which is described as 'new built and decently pewd. And flagged'. This latter church continued in use till between 1792 and 1798, when it was replaced by its present successor' (Carrigan 1905, vol. 2, 213).

Nineteenth century C of I church located in N quadrant of a large rectangular graveyard (LA029-045001-) enclosed by a high stone wall located just off the town green of Durrow village. Current church probably built on the site of the medieval church of Durrow.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Laois' (Dublin Stationery Office, 1995) compiled by P. David Sweetman, Olive Alcock, and Bernie Moran. In certain instances, the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

LA029-045001-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: DURROW TOWNPARKS

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: According to Carrigan 'The foundations of what was traditionally known as 'Durrow Monastery' (LA029-042), remained till 1835, about 60 yards north-west of the churchyard of Durrow, between the base of the 'Castle Hill' and the small stone bridge crossing the Erkina at this point. The ancient parish church (LA029-045) of Durrow, dedicated to St. Fintan, stood within the present churchyard. This latter church continued in use till between 1792 and 1798, when it was replaced by its present successor' (Carrigan 1905, vol. 2, 213).

19th century C of I church located in NE quadrant of a large rectangular graveyard (dims. 46M N-S ; 77M E-W) enclosed by a high stone wall located just off the town green of Durrow village. Current church probably built on the site of the medieval church (LA025-049) of Durrow.

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien

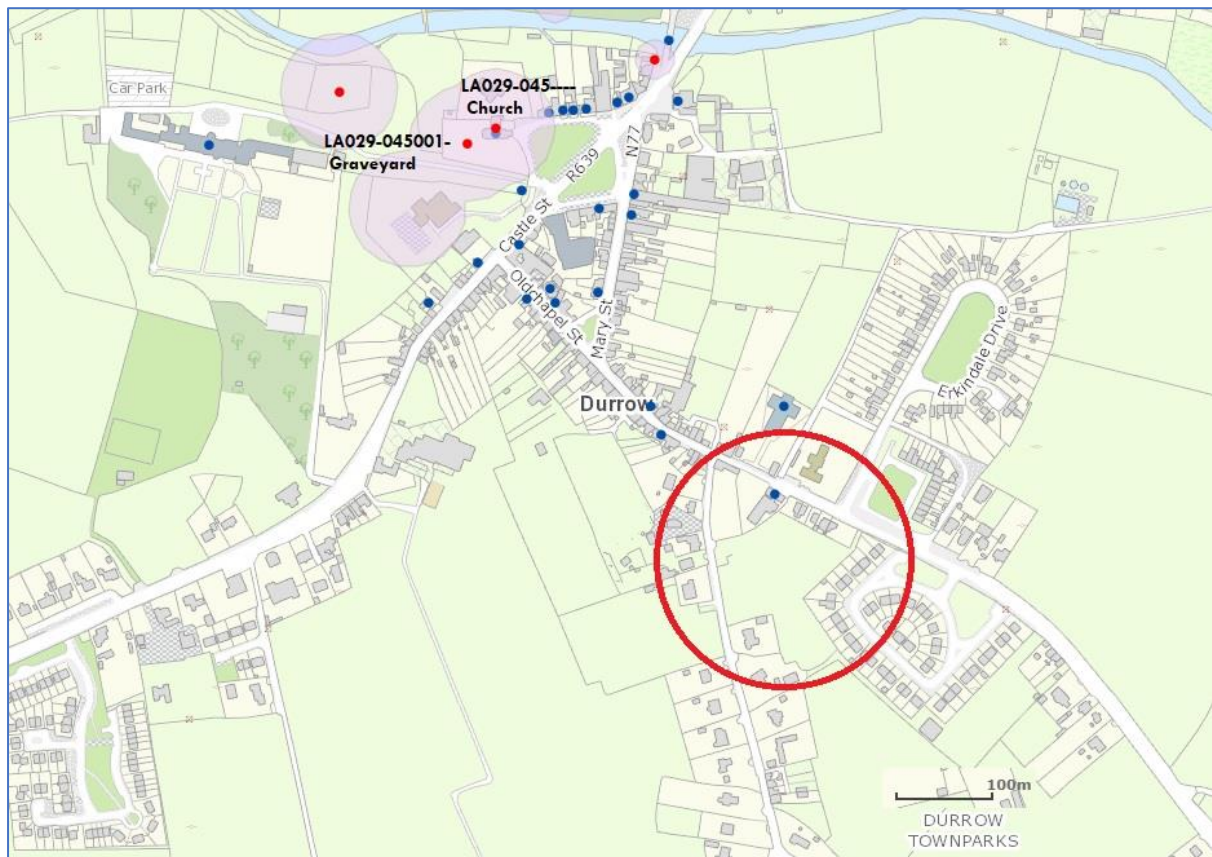


Figure 4 Extract from ASD Map (www.archaeology.ie) showing nearby archaeological sites, site location circled red.

2.2.2.4 Map Regression

Primary cartographic sources consulted consisted of the Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, surveyed c. 1841 depicts the present-day street layout on the south side of the river with regular garden plots to the rear of the street front buildings. The present-day building fronting the N77 is depicted with the remainder of the subject site is undeveloped fields. The Infant School is also depicted to the north of the site.

The detail on the 2nd edition OS map of 1890 and the later 25-inch map of 1908 indicates that the layout of the core of the town remained unchanged during the remainder of the nineteenth century. The subject site remains undeveloped with no new structures or features evident.

2.2.2.5 Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photographs from 2010 to more recent satellite imagery was undertaken to identify any previously unrecorded anomalies of historical potential. No additional sites or features were noted.

2.2.2.6 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A review of the online resource www.heritagemaps.ie was completed. No finds are recorded in the vicinity of the subject site. Due to current company policy regardless indoor spaces and COVID 19 the

topographical files in the NMI were not inspected. It should be noted that not all recorded finds in the Topographical Files are included in www.heritagemaps.ie. The review of www.heritagemaps.ie indicates that there are no relevant files in the immediate vicinity.

2.2.2.7 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in the vicinity

A search of the Excavations Bulletin website the vicinity produced no results in the vicinity of the subject site.

2.2.2.8 Toponym Analysis

Table 2 Toponyms

Townland Name/ Name	Irish Version	Translation
Durrow	<i>Darú or Doire</i>	Oak (plain).

2.2.3 Architectural Heritage

2.2.3.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)

The existing derelict building at the northern end of the site is located with the boundary of the Durrow Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) as identified in the Laois County Development Plan, 2017-2023. The building is not listed on the NIAH, nor is it recorded on the RPS.

2.2.3.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)/Industrial/Vernacular Heritage

RPS165, Laois Infant School is located at the northern border of the site. The school is also listed on the NIAH (Reg. No. 12900921) and is considered of Regional Significance. It is described in the NIAH as follows: 'Detached five-bay single-storey infant school, dated 1880. Three-bay two-storey house attached to side. Now vacant.'

2.2.3.3 Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates

There are no demesnes, historic gardens, or country estates within the immediate vicinity of the subject site. The nearest designed landscape/ demesne is the demesne associated with Castle Durrow, located roughly 400m to the northwest.

2.3 Fieldwork

A site inspection was carried out by foot in July 2023 in dry and bright conditions. The PDA is located roughly 250m southeast of the centre of Durrow at the junction of the N77 national road that runs south from Durrow in the direction of Ballyraggett and a local road that runs south in the general direction of Freshford (the Derry Road). The site is currently occupied by a two-storey house with frontage to the N77 and two larger plots of rough, overgrown grazing land to the rear bordered by a low stone wall

and hedgerow along the Derry Road. The site rises from the northern end to the southern end. Nothing of significance was noted during the site walkover.



Plate 1 Looking north towards Darrow from the southern end of the subject site.



Plate 2 Looking east.



Plate 3 Looking south at the northern end of the subject site.



Plate 4 Looking north at existing dwelling at the northern end of the subject site.

2.4 Potential Effects

2.4.1 Potential Direct Effects

Direct negative effects may occur where sites of archaeological and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical effects on the archaeological and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological or cultural heritage site, structure, monument, or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.

- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical impact will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

If these effects cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

2.4.1.1 Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

The proposed development will have no direct physical impact on any nearby archaeological sites and monuments.

2.4.1.2 Potential Direct Effects on Unrecorded Archaeological Monuments or Features

There is a low to moderate potential to impact previously unknown archaeological sites or features.

2.4.1.3 Potential Direct Effects Architectural Sites

There will be no anticipated direct effects onto the fabric of the nearby historic structures or features.

2.4.2 'Do Nothing Scenario'

If the proposed works were not to proceed, there would be no effect upon the archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage resource.

2.5 Potential Effects on the Setting

Effects on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the proposed works upon the setting of a site within the wider landscape. Impacts on Setting can be reduced with sensitive site development and screening. The impact of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to and from the extant recorded monuments and features.

2.5.1 Archaeological Sites

The proposed development will not affect the visual amenity of any known monuments.

2.5.2 Architectural Sites

It is the authors opinion that the proposed development will not significantly affect the visual amenity of any of these sites/features.

3 Mitigation Measures

The mitigation strategies outlined in this section detail the measures to be adopted to ameliorate the effects that the proposed development may have on features of archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage significance within the study area during both the construction and operational phases of the scheme.

Given the extent of the proposed works it is recommended that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out in advance of construction. 'Test excavation is that form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature and extent of archaeological deposits and features present in a location which it is proposed to develop (though not normally to fully investigate those deposits or features) and allow an assessment to be made of the archaeological impact of the proposed development. It may also be referred to as archaeological testing' (DAHGI 1999a, 27).

A suitably qualified archaeologist should be appointed to advise the design team on archaeological matters, liaise with the relevant authorities, prepare an archaeological licence application and method statement, and complete the archaeological testing work. Testing should be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH. The application for such a licence requires a detailed method statement, outlining the procedures to be adopted to record and recover material of archaeological interest during such work.

Should archaeological material be uncovered at any location, the feature will be summarily investigated to determine the form, age, nature, and extent of the feature. The feature will be planned, photographed, and recorded to best professional standards.

Upon completion of the works dissemination of the results will take the form of a stratigraphic report and full report to publishable standard lodged with the licensing section (NMS) and the Planning Section (NMS) and the National Museum of Ireland. A summary of the report will also be submitted to the Excavations Bulletin within six weeks of the end of fieldwork. Should results warrant it, wider dissemination in the form of a full publication may be recommended.

The above recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH and other relevant authorities.

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Appendix 2 Conventions, Directives and Legislation

Conventions

Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage. This section summarises Ireland's obligations as a signatory to several International and European conventions relating to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites. Also included is a synopsis of existing national legislation governing the care and protection of our cultural heritage resources.

ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration, 2005

Ireland is a signatory to an international declaration sponsored by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005, that endeavours to ensure the safeguard and conservation of the World's cultural heritage as part of its sustainable and human development.

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.

To assist planning and other consent authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIS thresholds, the DHLGH published a Guidance document in August 2003.

The European Landscape Convention 2000

In 2002 Ireland ratified the European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, which promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

Valletta Convention, 1997

In 1997 the Republic of Ireland ratified the Council of Europe, European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the 'Valletta Convention'). Obligations under the Convention include provision for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas.

Granada Convention, 1997

Under the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), 1997, the Republic of Ireland is obliged to maintain inventories of architectural heritage, to protect the architectural heritage and adopt conservation policies as integrated planning objectives.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972

This Convention provides for the identification, conservation, and preservation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value for inclusion in a world heritage list. The World Heritage status is a non-statutory designation, and no additional statutory controls result from this designation. However, the impact of proposed development upon a World Heritage Site will be a key material consideration in determining planning applications.

Legislation

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 ensures the protection of the archaeological heritage resource by requiring that all applications under this Act are accompanied by an EIAR including information on material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage.

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monuments Acts 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004. These acts are the principal statutes governing the care of monuments in Ireland. They provide for the protection of national monuments using preservation orders. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the DHLGH and delivered through the Planning and Heritage Section of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts in several ways:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority.
- National Monuments, which are subject to a preservation order.
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; and
- Monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Planning and Development Act 2000

Under arrangements which came into operation on 1 January 2000 (The Planning and Development Act 2000), the system of listing buildings was replaced with strengthened procedures for the preservation of protected structures and structures in architectural conservation areas (ACA).

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage which forms the basis for recommendation from the Minister to local authorities of sites for inclusion in the local authorities Record of Protected Structures