

**Archaeological Impact Assessment**

**Large-scale Residential Development (LRD),  
Gortnahomna More, Castlemartyr, County Cork**



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## Document Control Sheet

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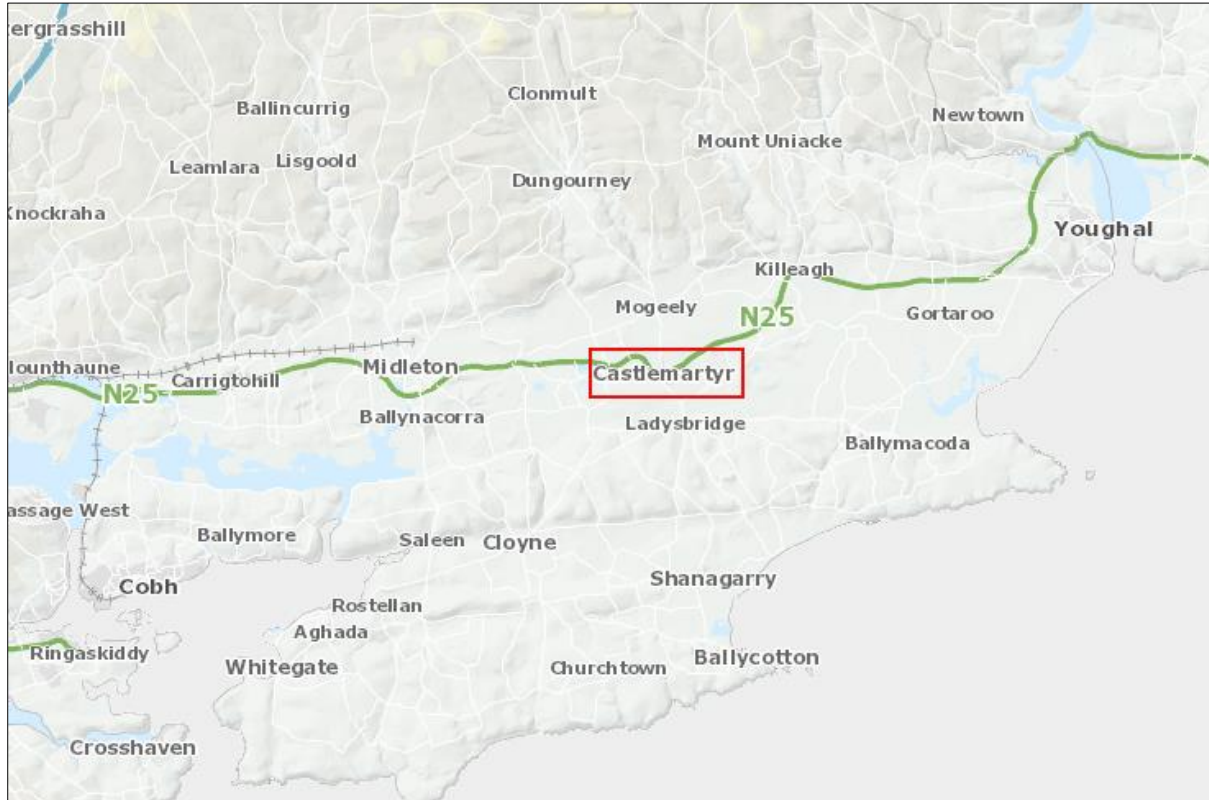
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# Contents

<i>1. Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2. Methodology.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3. Context.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>4. Description of site.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>5. Assessment of archaeological impact.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>6. Conclusions and recommendations.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>7. References/sources.....</i>	<i>27</i>
 <i>Appendix 1: Relevant inventory entries.....</i>	 <i>28</i>
<i>Appendix 2: Previous excavations within the study area.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Appendix 3: Cork County Council's Executive Archaeologist's Report (March 2018).....</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Appendix 4: Selected photographs from Site Inspection.....</i>	<i>39</i>

# 1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd. to produce an Archaeological Assessment in advance of a proposed development (hereafter referred to as the 'subject site') at Gortnahomna More townland, Castlemartyr, County Cork (Figures 1 & 2).



*Figure 1: General location of subject site in Castlemartyr, County Cork (Source: Government of Ireland)*

The subject site consists of three separate fields, located 28 kilometres east of Cork City within the townland of Gortnahomna More, Castlemartyr, County Cork. Two of the fields within the subject site consists of arable farmland with a third field comprising a mix of vegetation and modern ground disturbance.

This report is based on a desktop study and a field inspection. It presents summary details on the locations of recorded elements of the archaeological resource within the environs of the subject site and aims to identify any previously unknown archaeological constraints. The study area for this assessment comprised the internal area of the subject lands combined with the lands extending for approximately 1km from its outer boundary. **Section 2** outlines the methodology used in the compilation of this assessment. **Section 3** provides an archaeological and historical context for the study area, including a summary of the relevant legal and planning framework for the recorded sites and a summary of the archaeological mitigation measures that have previously been carried within the subject lands. A description of the subject site and the results of the site inspection are provided in **Section 4**, an assessment of archaeological impact is provided in **Section 5** and conclusions and recommendations are presented in **Section 6**.

## 2. Methodology

A desktop study assessment has been carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Between 1984 and 1992, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) issued a series of county SMRs which lists known archaeological sites and places and this record formed the basis for the statutory RMP established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Similar in format to the SMRs (comprising a list and set of maps), the RMPs were issued for each county in the State between 1995 and 1998. Archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

The ASI has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and has developed an online database and web viewer known as 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This has been developed to enhance the user's experience by facilitating access to the database of the National Monuments Service's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one stop point of access for both data resources (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* – The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded, or partially levelled, features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the first edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913).
- *Development Plans* – The local authority development plan relevant to the study area is the *Cork County Development Plan 2022 – 2028* and was consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* – The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1960s to present.
- *Placenames Database of Ireland* – The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and place name research conducted by the State. Its primary function is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the place names of Ireland and to publish them on a public website ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List* – UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites are included in a Tentative List (2021) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion. The nearest UNESCO World Heritage site to the study area is Skellig Michael, located 172km west of the subject site.

A programme of archaeological pre-planning mitigation was undertaken within much of the site in 2017 in advance of a proposed development. That planning application was ultimately unsuccessful with planning refused for other reasons than archaeology. The pre-planning mitigation consisted of a geophysical survey and a programme of archaeological test trenching. Due to the considerable ground disturbance in Field A (see **Figure 2**), the field was not included in the geophysical survey or the programme of test trenching. The reports detailing the results of the investigations were examined in the preparation of this report and are summarised in **Section 3** of this report.

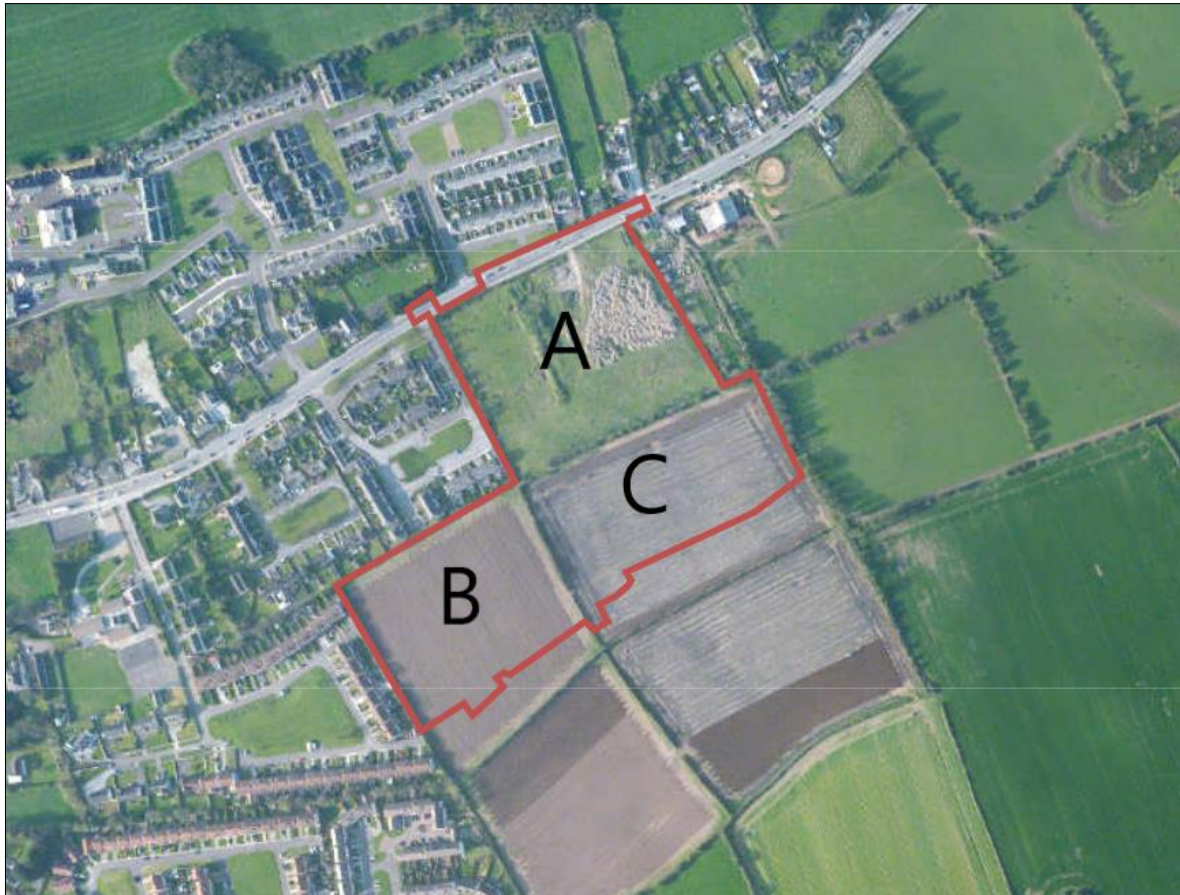
A site inspection was undertaken by two suitably qualified archaeologists (Mr Peter Looney and Mr Colm Chambers) in March 2023. The area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites/features. The weather was cloudy with intermittent rain at the time of the site visit, but with excellent landscape visibility. Strong gusts of wind ruled out the use of a drone for aerial photograph. A selection of photographs from the site inspection is included in **Appendix 4**.



### 3. Context

#### Location

The subject site is located at the eastern edge of the village of Castlemartyr within the townland of Gortnahomna More, County Cork, approximately 28km east of Cork City (**Figures 1 & 2**). The site is bounded by the N25 along its northern edge, residential areas to the west and arable farmland to the south and east. The soil profiles of this area consist of coarse loamy drift with siliceous stones overlaying a shale bedrock (gis.teagasc.ie).



**Figure 2:** Detailed location of subject site (red outline). Includes field names used in Section 4 (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)

#### Legal & Policy Framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed and none are located in the area

surrounding the subject site. The nearest World Heritage Site is Skellig Michael which is located circa 172km to the west.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 was signed into law by President Michael D. Higgins. The new Act will repeal existing legislation and institute new provisions equipped to cater for the protection of historic heritage in a modern era.

The Act will repeal the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and replace those Acts with provisions for the protection of historic heritage, provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, provisions for the regulation of certain activities in the interests of such protection and provisions enabling the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions which relate to such protection or regulation; to give effect to the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive in relation to the carrying out of works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of monuments; to give further effect to the Valletta Convention; to consequentially repeal or amend certain other enactments; to make miscellaneous amendments to the Foreshore Act 1933, the Lough Corrib Navigation Act 1945, the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Valuation Act 2001, the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government Rates and other Matters Act 2019 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021; and to provide for related matters

The Act introduces the following innovative measures:

- newly discovered archaeological sites are afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration;
- a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments;
- a new ‘Register of Monuments’ will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems hitherto in operation;
- “World Heritage Property” is defined for the first time in Irish legislation;
- subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State;
- the Act provides the necessary provisions to allow for the ratification of two important international treaties, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;
- the Act enables the State to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- an integrated licensing system whereby one licence can authorise a range of activities will be introduced and, for the first time, a statutory appeals process will be established to review licensing decisions, and
- a new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings.

The Act defines archaeology as “the study of past human societies of all periods, either as a whole or of various aspects of them, through the material remains of all forms, moveable and immoveable, left by those societies and the evidence of their environment, and includes the study of climatological, ecological, geological, geomorphological or pedological factors relevant to understanding the nature or context of those societies or the distribution or nature of their material remains, and “archaeological interest” shall be construed accordingly”.

Section 14 of the Act provides for the establishment of a register to be known as the Register of Monuments. The Act sets out transitional provisions applicable to Register of Historic Monuments, Record of Monuments and Places and National Monuments.



Additional national legal statutes and guidelines relevant to this assessment include:

- National Monuments Act (1930) (and amendments in 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004);
- Heritage Act (1995);
- National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);
- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

The **Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028** includes the following relevant policies and objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

*HE 16-2: Protection of Archaeological Sites and Monuments*

*Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments and their setting included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally.*

*HE 16-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential*

*Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located within historic towns, urban areas and around archaeological monuments generally. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the upstanding and potential for subsurface archaeology, through appropriate archaeological assessment.*

*HE 16-6 Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology*

*Protect and preserve industrial and post-medieval archaeology such as mills, limekilns, bridges, piers and harbours, water-related engineering works and buildings, penal chapels, dwellings, walls and boundaries, farm buildings, estate features, military and coastal installations. There is a general presumption for retention of these structures and features. Proposals for appropriate redevelopment including conversion should be subject to an appropriate assessment and record by a suitably qualified specialist/s*

*HE 16-9: Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes*

*All large-scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5 ha or more in area or 1km or more in length) and Infrastructure schemes and proposed roadworks are subjected to an archaeological assessment as part of the planning application process which should comply with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's codes of practice. It is recommended that the assessment is carried out in advance, by an appropriately experienced archaeologist to guide the design and layout of the proposed scheme/development, safeguarding the archaeological heritage in line with Development Management Guidelines and also facilitating a viable development*

## **Archaeological Heritage**

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant

sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘*a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance*’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. **There are no National Monuments located within the study area.** The nearest National Monument to the subject site is the North Abbey Dominican Friary at Youghal (CO067-030002-; Nat. Mon. 286) which is located c. 14km east of the subject site.

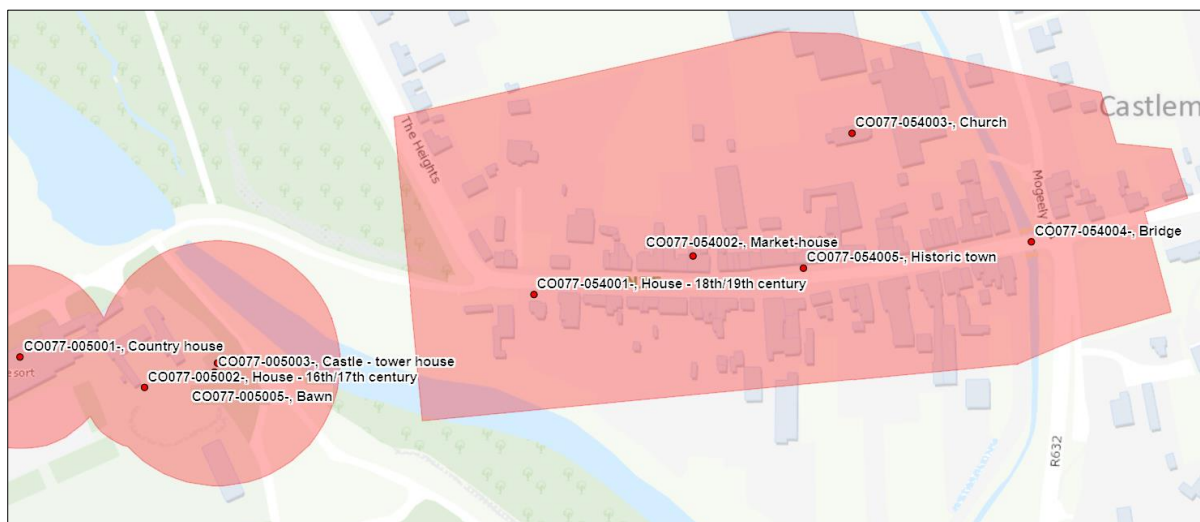
The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), provides county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months’ notice in advance of any work proposed at their locations. There are **no** recorded archaeological sites within the subject site. However, there are 17 archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 1km radius study area which surrounds the subject site. The closest site (CO077-092----) is located 60m north of the subject site and consists of two archaeological features discovered during an excavation which took place in 2004. One of the features uncovered contained charcoal and Neolithic pottery. All of the recorded archaeological sites within the study area are listed in **Table 1** and mapped in **Figures 3 - 5** while their published inventory descriptions are provided in **Appendix 1**.

**Table 1:** List of recorded archaeological sites within the 1km study area

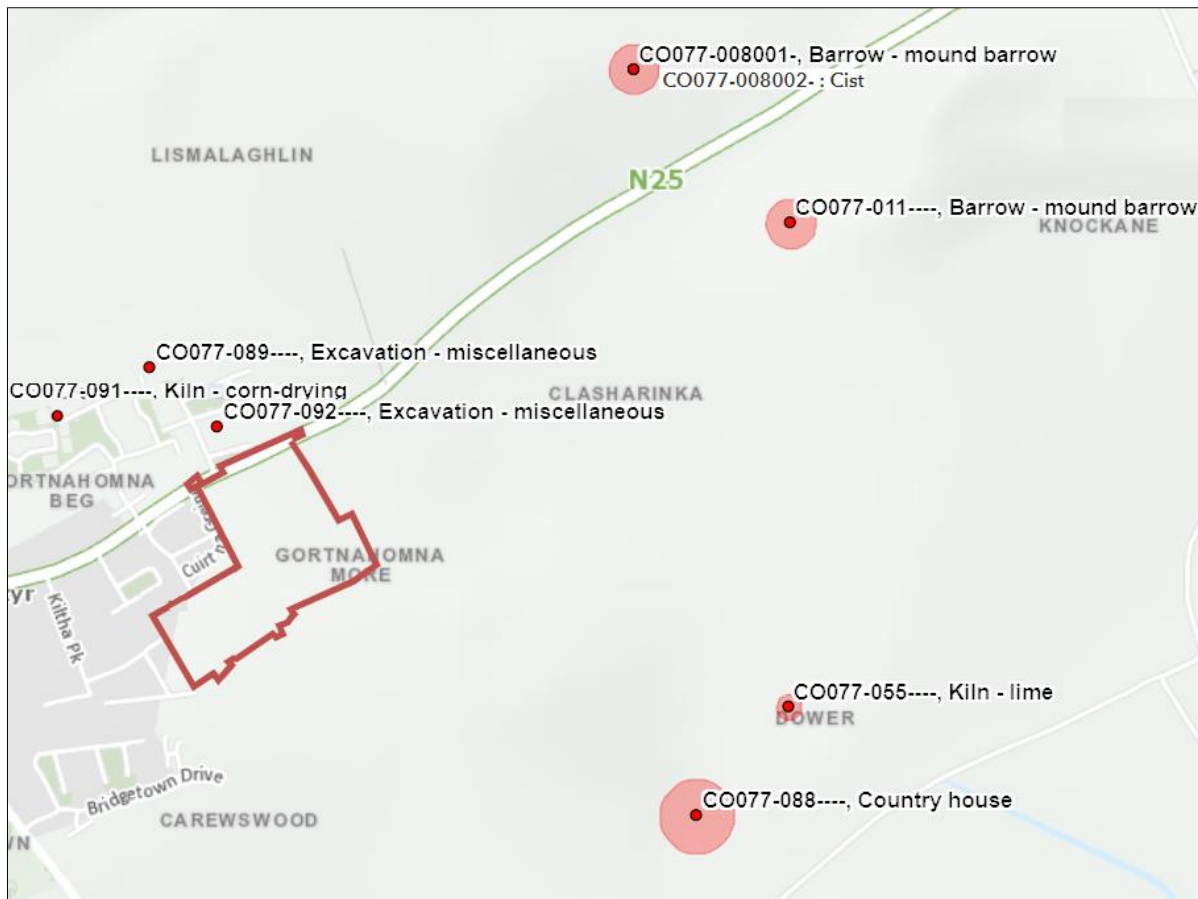
SMR No.	Classification	ITM (E, N)
CO077-005001-	Country house	595665, 573237
CO077-005002-	House - 16th/17th century	595746, 573217
CO077-005003-	Castle - tower house	595792, 573227
CO077-005005-	Bawn	595794, 573233
CO077-008001-	Barrow - mound barrow	597407, 574153
CO077-008002-	Cist	597407, 574153
CO077-011----	Barrow - mound barrow	597659, 573905
CO077-054001-	House - 18th/19th century	596000, 573278
CO077-054002-	Market-house	596104, 573303
CO077-054003-	Church	596208, 573383
CO077-054004-	Bridge	596325, 573312
CO077-054005-	Historic town	596176, 573295
CO077-055----	Kiln - lime	597656, 573128
CO077-088----	Country house	597508, 572953
CO077-089----	Excavation - miscellaneous	596628, 573674
CO077-091----	Kiln - corn-drying	596480, 573597
CO077-092----	Excavation - miscellaneous	596738, 573579



**Figure 3:** Recorded archaeological sites within 1km of the subject site, including SMR zones shaded red  
(Source: Government of Ireland)



**Figure 4:** Detail of recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area west of the subject site  
(Source: Government of Ireland)



**Figure 5:** Detail of recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area, north and east of the subject site  
(Source: Government of Ireland)

The following section presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service.

### Early prehistoric

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (c.7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers were present on the island, however recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in Alice and Gwendoline Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden, 2016, 161). In 2021, re-examination of a reindeer bone fragment that had been discovered in Castlepook Cave near Doneraile, County Cork in 1905 revealed human butchery marks on the bone, which was radiocarbon dated to 31,000 BC, proving human settlement in Ireland at a much earlier stage than previously thought. While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or shell middens adjacent to the coastline. There are no recorded sites dating to the Mesolithic period within the study area.

The Neolithic period (circa 4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin

to appear in the archaeological record during this period. **An archaeological excavation that was carried out 60m to the north of the subject site (C0077-092----) has yielded pottery dating to this period.**

### **Late prehistoric periods**

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (*circa* 2400–500 BC). This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and *fulachta fia*. *Fulachta fia* translates as cooking places of the wild (or of deer), they are often interpreted as the remains of cooking sites and are the most numerous archaeological site type in Ireland, radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (*circa* 2400-500BC). **One such site was uncovered within the study area and was subsequently excavated under licence number 09E0014.** A summary of the excavation can be viewed in **Appendix 2.**

The development of new burial practices saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The later first millennium BC and the early centuries AD comprise the Irish Iron Age, which is the most obscure period in the Irish archaeological record. While there is general agreement that the introduction of an iron technology was a significant factor in the eventual demise of bronze working on a large scale, but how, why, and when this came about in Ireland is far from clear. **There are three sites within the study area which are likely to date to this period: two barrows C0077-008001- and C0077-011----, and one cist burial C0077-008002-, which was within one of the barrows (C0077-008001-).** Human skeletal remains were recovered from these sites in 1858. Further information regarding these discoveries is outlined in **Appendix 1.**

### **Early medieval**

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12th century (*circa* 400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by roughly circular earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape, with some 45,000 recorded examples (Stout 1997, 53). The early medieval terms for these sites – *ráth/lios/dún* these still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that many ringforts were early medieval farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems. No recorded sites dating to the early medieval period are located within the study area.

### **Later and post-medieval**

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century broadly marks the advent of the Irish late medieval period, which continued up until the beginning of the post-medieval period in *circa* 1550. This period saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns developed as local or regional market centres.

The post-medieval period (1550+) saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish country. During this period any given settlement cluster is likely to have consisted primarily of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-



storey farmhouses became more common in the 19th century. In the latter half of the 20th century, there was a radical change in the nature and character of Irish domestic architecture manifested by the replacement of older stone-built structures with modern bungalows of concrete blockwork construction. The subject site is located just under 1km from Castlemartyr House (SMR no. CO077-005002-) which is located adjacent to Castlemartyr Castle/Tower house (SMR no. CO077-005003-) and Bawn (SMR no.CO077-00505-). Castlemartyr Castle was the seat of the Seneschals of Imokilly, a branch of the Fitzgerald family. The castle came into the possession of Walter Raleigh and subsequently Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, during the 17th century. On the 28th of July 1675 Boyle was granted a charter by Charles II to incorporate the town and Borough of Castlemartyr. The Earl of Orrery was likely responsible for the addition of the fortified house (CO077-005002-) to the Castlemartyr complex.

Castlemartyr House (SMR no. CO077-005001-) was built immediately to the west of the Castle in the early 18th century by the Earls of Shannon and at this stage the Bawn of Castlemartyr Castle was transformed into a coach or farmyard. The early 18th century house, named 'Castlemartyr Ho' on the 1842 OS 6-inch map; was enlarged by the 2nd Earl (of Shannon) between 1764 and 1771 and was further remodelled in late 18th or early 19th century. The house was subsequently used as a Carmelite college and became a hotel in 2007.

The following description of Castlemartyr is included in Lewis' *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837):

*CASTLEMARTYR, a post-town (formerly a parliamentary borough), partly in the parishes of ITERMORROUGH, BALLYOUGHTERA, and MOGEELY, barony of IMOKILLY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 19 miles (E. by N.) from Cork, and 127 (S. W. by S.) from Dublin; containing 830 inhabitants. This place is situated on the road from Youghal to Midleton, and on the mail coach road from Dublin, by Waterford to Cork; it appears to have risen into importance at a very early period. At the time of the English invasion, the castle, then called the castle of Imokilly, was resolutely defended by one of the Geraldines; but the English at length reduced it and kept in it a powerful garrison, till 1196, when Donald McCarthy besieged and destroyed it by fire, burying the garrison in its ruins, and putting to death all who escaped from the flames, The castle was afterwards rebuilt and became a very important fortress, commanding the pass between Cork and Youghal, and was strongly fortified and garrisoned by the English. In 1575, this castle, then called the castle of Ballymartyr, was garrisoned by Fitzgerald, seneschal of Imokilly, but was attacked by the Lord-Deputy Sidney and his forces, aided by 200 of the citizens of Cork, who, after a protracted and vigorous defence, compelled the garrison to surrender, and Fitzgerald narrowly escaped by flight. In 1645 it was besieged by Lord Inchiquin, to whom it was given up on honourable terms; and during the whole period of the parliamentary war, the town was the scene of violence and depredation, and was frequently plundered and partially destroyed. In 1688 it was plundered by Lieut.-Gen. McCarthy and the Irish forces, on their retreat from Cork; and in 1690, after the battle of the Boyne and the surrender of Youghal, a detachment of 36 dragoons and 42 infantry of King William's forces charged a body of 300 Irish at this place; the cavalry pursued them to the castle, in which they took refuge, and being joined by the infantry, they compelled the fortress to surrender, and the garrison to march out without either horses or arms: in this skirmish the Irish lost 60 men killed and 16 prisoners. In 1691, after the surrender of Limerick, the Irish under Gen. McCarthy obtained possession of the town by stratagem, but were shortly after driven out by a party of the garrison from Youghal, since which time the castle has been in ruins.*

*The town consists of one wide street, at one end of which is the demesne of the Earl of Shannon, and at the other a bridge, beyond which a cross road leads on the right to the villages on the sea coast, and on the left to Imogeely, Fermoy, and Tallow. On the right side of this cross road, which is lined with fine ash trees, some neat houses have been recently built, forming a suburb to the town. The total number of houses is 129, most of which are large and well built, and the whole being whitewashed gives the town a very cheerful appearance. The approach from Midleton is by a magnificent avenue of lofty*

elms, one mile in length, and terminating at the eastern gate of Lord Shannon's demesne. About two miles from the town are Ballynona flour-mills, the property of Mr. W. Jackson, who has a neat cottage residence adjoining; the mills are propelled by a mountain stream, and produce about 12,000 bags of flour annually. Fairs are held on the 2nd of May and October; a constabulary police force is stationed here; and petty sessions are held every alternate Wednesday.

The inhabitants were incorporated by charter of Chas. II., dated July 28th, 1675, granted to Roger, Earl of Orrery, by which the castle and lands forming his estate were erected into a lordship, called the manor of Castlemartyr, with courts leet and baron, and a court of record with jurisdiction extending to £200, under a seneschal to be appointed by his lordship. The charter also granted that the castle, town, and lands of "Ballymartyr," part of the said manor, should be a free borough, under the designation of the "Borough and Town of Castlemartyr," and should extend into the county of Cork in every direction from the centre of the town, so as to comprise in the whole an area of 100 acres. The corporation was styled "The Portreeve, Bailiffs, and Burgesses," and consisted of a portreeve, two bailiffs, and twelve burgesses, who had power to admit freemen at their discretion, and to send two members to the Irish parliament; the former privilege was never exercised, nor have the limits of the borough been defined. The portreeve and bailiffs are annually elected on the Monday after St. John's day; and the burgesses, as vacancies occur, are chosen by the corporation. The portreeve has power to appoint a deputy; both are justices of the peace and coroners for the borough, during their year of office, and the portreeve for one year after. The corporation continued to return two members to the Irish parliament till the Union, when the borough was disfranchised, and the £15,000 awarded as compensation was paid to Richard, Earl of Shannon. The charter gave power to appoint a recorder and town-clerk, who were never appointed, and the only officer elected is a serjeant-at-mace, who also acts as a peace officer. A manorial court is held on the second Monday in every month, or oftener if required, by the seneschal, in which debts under £2 late currency are recoverable. The charter granted two weekly markets, but none are held; a market-house was erected in 1757, by the Hon. Henry Boyle, and a beam and scales are kept in it by the serjeant-at-mace, who receives small fees for weighing grain and other articles. There is a small bridewell belonging, to the borough, chiefly used for the temporary confinement of disorderly persons. The parish church of Ballyoughtera is situated on a gentle eminence on the north side of the town; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have lately granted £225 for its repair. A dispensary has been established, and a fever hospital is entirely supported by the Earl of Shannon. Twelve almshouses were built for six aged men and six aged women of the borough, under a provision of the charter, authorising the lord of the manor to endow them with such lands as he might think proper. These almshouses are not kept up, and the Earl of Shannon, in lieu of them, allows £5 per annum each to 12 aged persons of the borough.

Immediately adjoining the town is Castlemartyr, the seat of the Earl of Shannon, a spacious mansion erected by the Rt. Hon. Henry Boyle, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. It is a substantial structure, consisting of a centre with a handsome portico and two extensive wings, and is situated in a demesne of 1000 acres tastefully laid out in lawns and shrubberies, embellished with woods of stately growth, diversified with some beautiful sheets of water, and intersected with numerous walks and rides commanding fine views of the richly varied and highly picturesque scenery with which the demesne abounds. Near the house is a large and beautiful lake, and there are two of smaller dimensions within the grounds; also two canals, over one of which is an elegant bridge. The shrubberies are exceedingly luxuriant, and the flower garden contains a great number of rare and hardy exotics, which, from the mildness of the climate, attain an extraordinary size. The ruins of the old castle of Imokilly, or Castlemartyr, the ancient seat of the Fitzgeralds, mantled with ivy to the very summit, and surrounded at the base with trees of stately growth, form a strikingly interesting feature in the landscape; and within the demesne are also the ruins of the ancient parish churches of Ballyoughtera and Cahirultan. The deer park is about two miles distant; it contains some of the finest timber in the country. In the neighbourhood are numerous other seats, among which are Dromadda, the residence of G. W. Courtenay, Esq.; Kilbree, of S. W. Adams, Esq.;

*Kilmountain, of J. Boles, Esq.; Carew's Wood, of the Rev. J. Leslie; Ballyhickaday, of Capt. Leach; Springfield, of the Rev. W. Boles; and Castletown, of Norman Uniacke, Esq. The ruins of the ancient castle shew it to have been a place of great strength, and from the variety of its architecture it appears to have been built at different times. Richard Alfred Millikin, a gentleman distinguished for his talents and benevolence, author of a poem called "The River side" and other productions, including the well-known song of the "Groves of Blarney," was born here in 1767. The Earl of Shannon enjoys the inferior title of Baron Boyle of Castlemartyr, in the peerage of Ireland.*

## Placenames

Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout and nomenclature of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the 19th century. The Irish translations of the townlands names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland, e.g. dun, lios or ráth indicate the presence of a ringfort while temple, saggart, termon or kill record an association with a church site.

The Irish origins and translations for the townland of Gortnahomna More and the surrounding townlands (**Table 3**). The name Lismalaghlin indicates the presence of a ringfort, though there is no recorded ringfort in that townland. Grange refers to a monastic farm, there are no archaeological remains related to a monastic farm recorded within the townland. A variation of the name *Granshaghe* was in use for the townland as early as 1586.

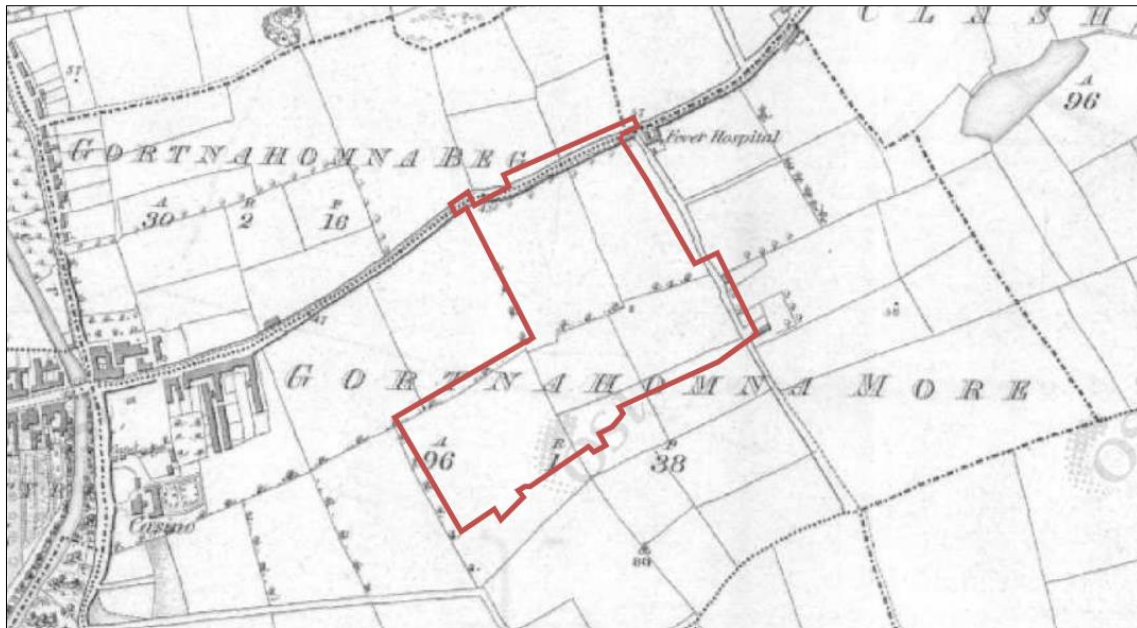
**Table 3:** Translation of townland name (Source [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie))

Townland	Irish Root	Translation
Gortnahomna More	Gort na hIomna Mór	<i>Gort</i> ; field; <i>mór</i> ; great, big
Gortnahomna Beg	Gort na hIomna Beag	<i>Gort</i> ; field; <i>beag</i> ; small
Castlemartyr Demesne	Baile na Martra	<i>Baile</i> ; townland, homestead
Grange	An Ghráinseach	Monastic farm
Dower	Dobhar	-
Carewswood	Coill an Charrúnaigh	Coill; wood
Bridgetown	Baile an Droichid	-
Clasharinka	Clais an Rince	<i>Clais</i> ; trench, ravine
Lismalaghlin	Lios Maoileachlainn	<i>Lios</i> ; ringfort, enclosure

## Cartographic review

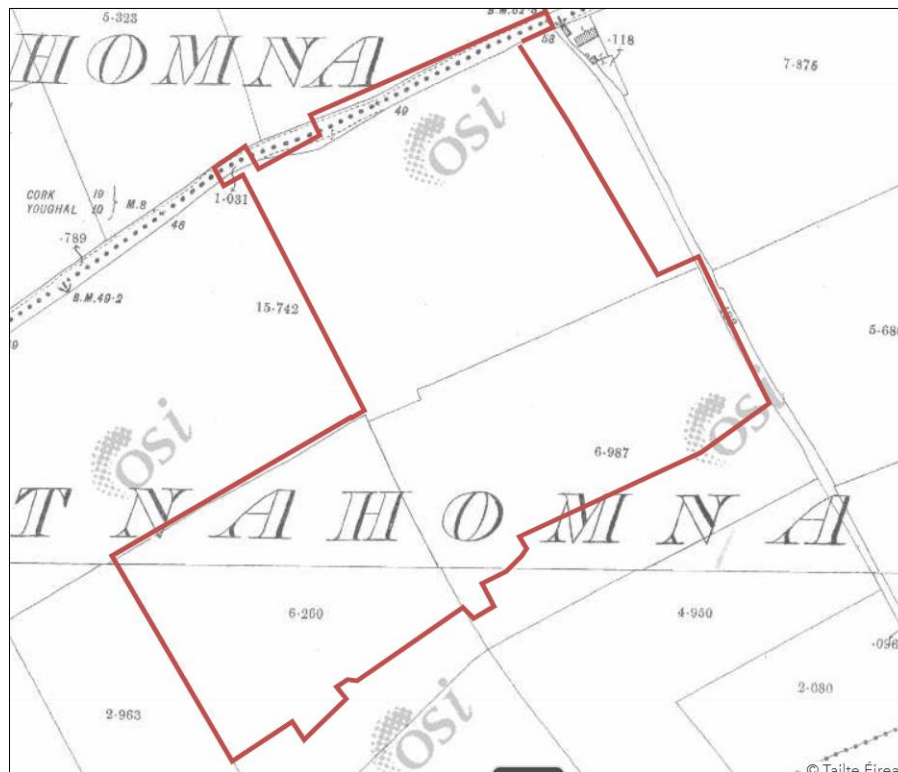
The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest.

The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the first edition of the 6-inch OS map (surveyed in 1841) (**Figure 6**) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed in 1898) (**Figure 7**). The 6-inch map depicts Castlemartyr as a well-established village with long burgage plots extending to the north and south of the main thoroughfare, which runs from the entrance to Castlemartyr Country House to the west to the bridge over the Kiltha River to the east. The subject site is positioned within a formally enclosed agricultural landscape of rectilinear fields. The townland boundary of Gortnahomna More can be seen along the northern and southern perimeter of the subject lands.



**Figure 6:** Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map depicting the subject lands, approximate site boundary defined in red (Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland)

The 25-inch map similarly depicts the subject site within agricultural land, though minor changes can be seen in the form of field boundary alterations. Generally, the review of cartographic sources indicates that the fields within the subject site have remained agricultural and largely undisturbed. No potential archaeological features are depicted.



**Figure 7:** Extract from the 25-inch OS map depicting the subject lands, approximate site boundary defined in red (Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland)



## Aerial photography

An examination of Ordnance Survey and Google satellite images from 1995 to the present was undertaken on the subject site. The images show that the land has remained largely unchanged except for the ground disturbance in the northernmost field, and there is no indication of any archaeological features on the site (**Figures 8 - 10**).



*Figure 8: Segment of 1995 aerial image centered over subject site (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)*



*Figure 9: Segment of 2013-2018 aerial image centered over subject site (Source: Google Maps)*



The site is covered by the TII 2m LiDAR DTM Hillshade data, provided by the Geological Survey of Ireland through the Open Topographic Data Viewer (**Figure 10**). A series of parallel linear features, following the orientation of the field boundaries, likely to represent recent agricultural activity is visible throughout the subject site. In addition, two sub-circular anomalies, visible in the fields to the south of the subject site are likely to represent quarrying. There is no indication of any definitive archaeological features on the site. However, it must be noted that LiDAR (particularly crude 2m data) can only identify larger features which have surface expression.



*Figure 10: LiDAR image centered on subject site (Source: Geological Survey of Ireland)*

## **The Excavations Database**

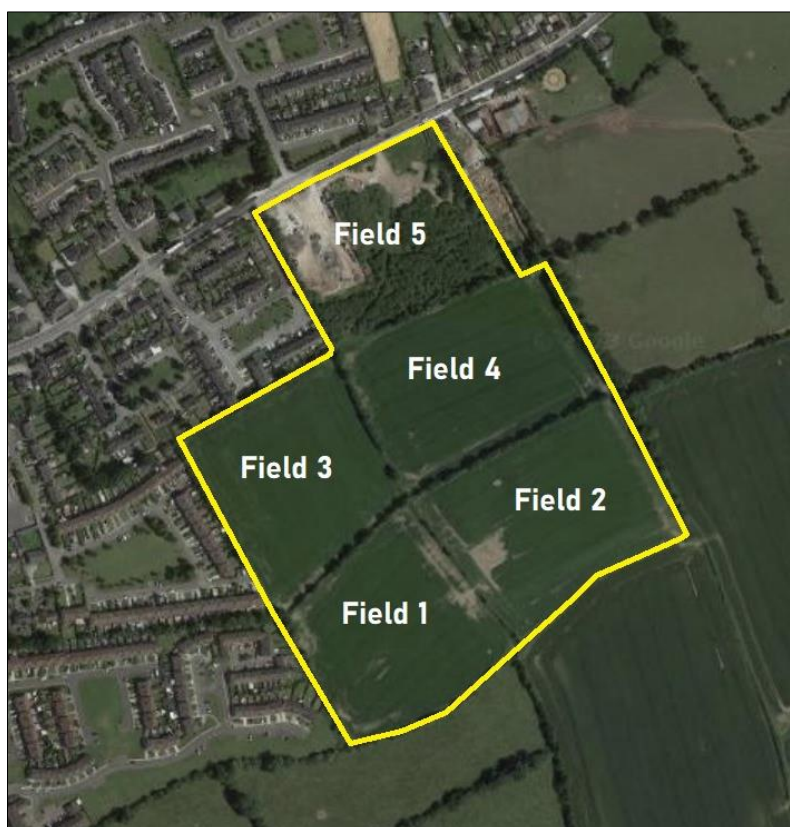
The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from the 1960s to present. The database gives access to over 27,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, license number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author.

According to the Excavation Database, a total of nine licenced excavations have taken place within the study area. Five of the recorded excavations produced archaeological material, the majority of which was prehistoric in date, though later periods are also represented. Please consult **Appendix 2** for full Excavations Database summaries of the above investigations. It should be noted that the database did not include a summary of 17E0487, a programme of archaeological testing undertaken at the subject site, this testing programme is summarised in the next section.

## Archaeological investigations within the subject site

The land parcel was subject to a planning application in 2017 for a proposed housing development (Cork County Council Planning Reference 17/04624). As part of a request of further information (RFI), Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy (DNAC), carried out an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) based on (a) geophysical survey and (b) follow-up targeted test trenching. In the AIA, the land parcel was divided into five fields (see **Figure 11**). Of these five fields, only three; Fields 3, 4 and 5 (as per the labels applied by DNAC), are within the area of the current proposal.

**Field 5** consists of unproductive land under heavy vegetation cover and has been partially stripped of topsoil. This field was not included in the geophysical survey or the programme of test trenching as it *'has been substantially impacted on with topsoil stripping, stockpiling and subsequent colonisation by nature. This makes it an unsuitable candidate for geophysical survey and difficult for effective test trenching'*. (Noonan & Hegarty 2017). **No surface features suggestive of potential subsurface archaeological material were encountered in Field 5.**

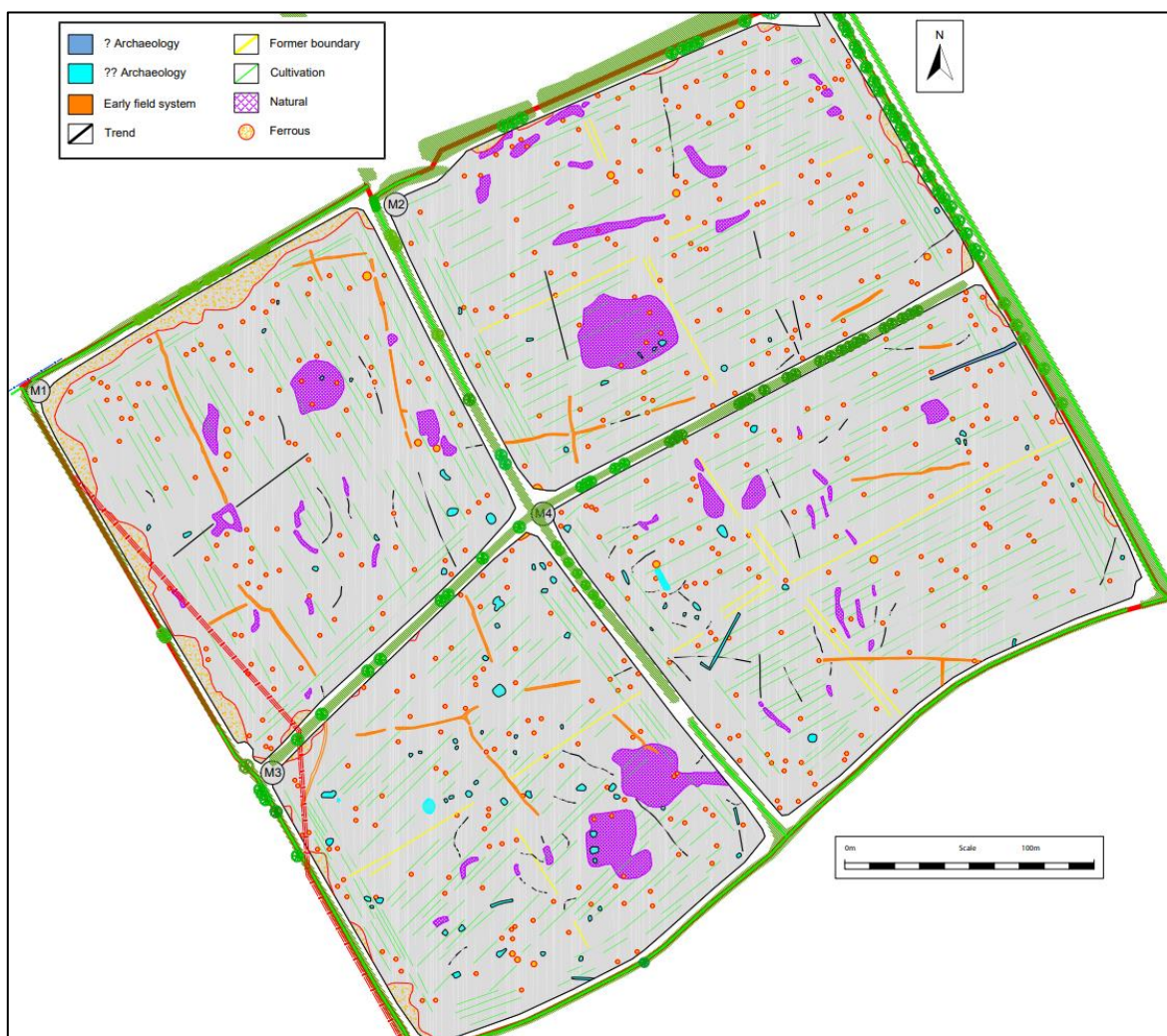


**Figure 11:** Field referencing used in the 2017 Archaeological Impact Assessment, only Fields 3, 4 and 5 are within the current proposed development (Source: Google Maps)

Fields 1 – 4 were subject to a geophysical survey (under licence 17R0158), see Figure 12. No obvious or readily recognizable features suggestive of archaeological sites or particular site types were detected by the geophysical survey. However, the surveyor noted that:

*A concentration of poorly defined positive responses and weak trends (T-U) W/SW of survey centre in M4 [Field 2] may be significant. The potential that T-U represent levelled remains of a building footprint or similar archaeological features should not be dismissed.*

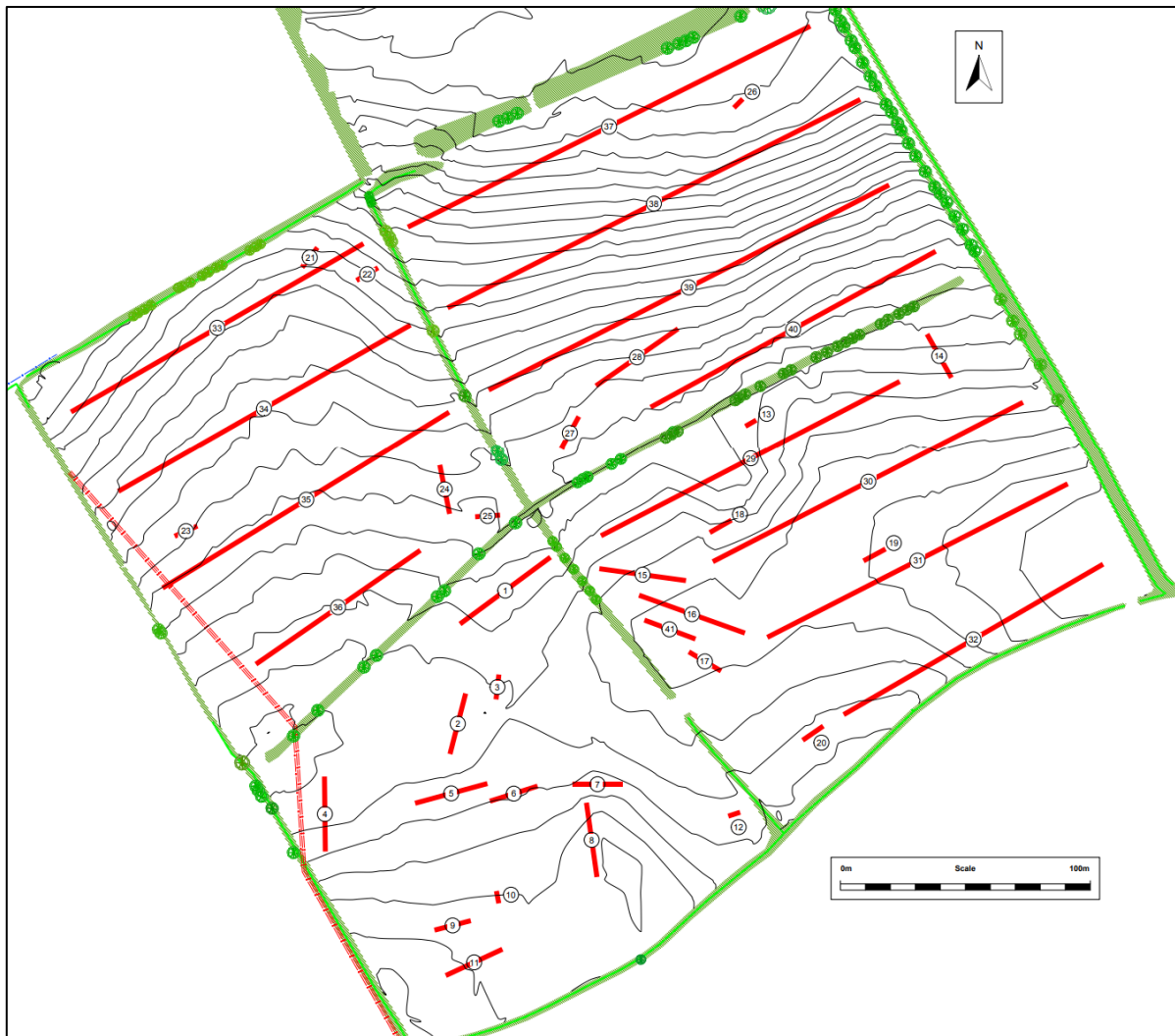




**Figure 12:** Interpretative image based on geophysical survey (17R0158) of subject site and lands to south  
(Source: Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy)

Fields 1-4 of the development site were then subject to a programme of archaeological test trenching (under excavation licence 17E0487). The trenching strategy consisted of a combination of targeted trenches to assess the potential archaeological anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and a general array of linear trenches in the remainder of fields, see **Figure 13**.

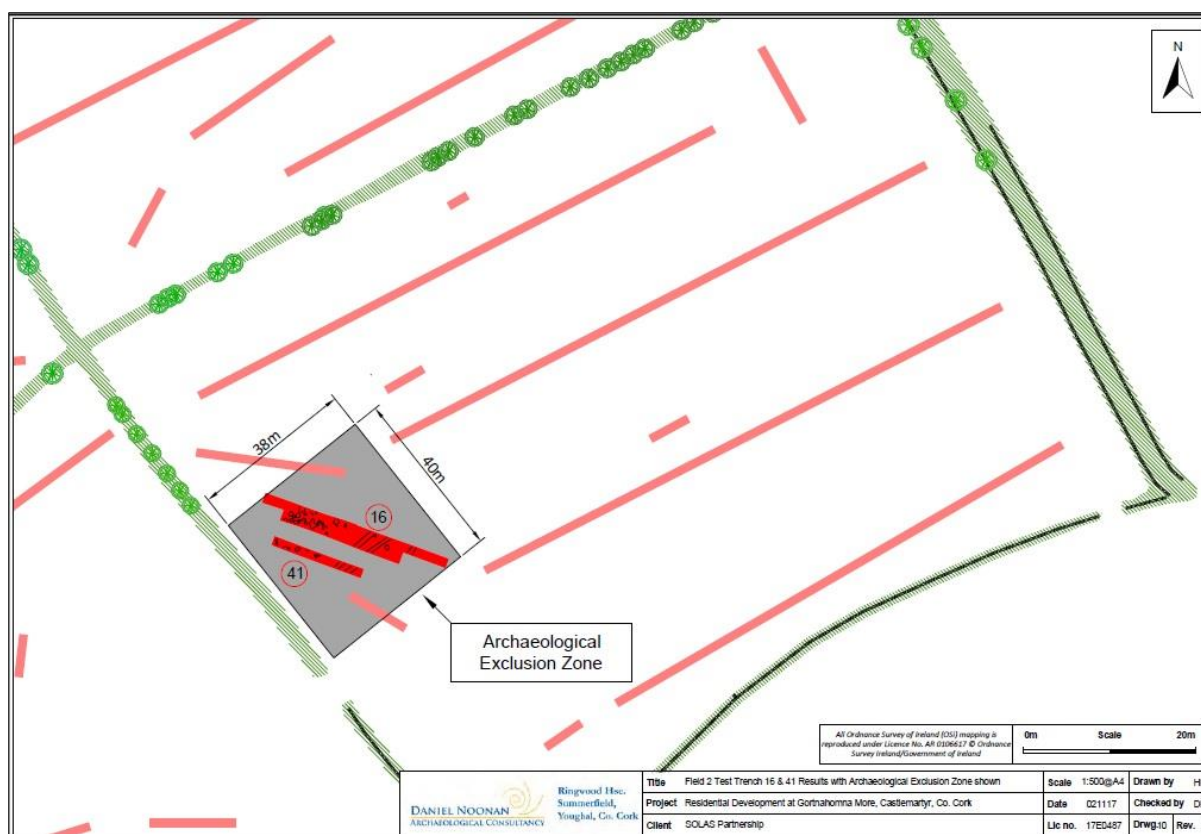
The vast majority of geophysical anomalies of archaeological potential proved to be non-archaeological, being either geological variations in subsoil, variations in topsoil depth due to hollows in the natural or compaction of topsoil due to the operation of heavy agricultural machinery on the site that compacted the traversing tram lines. However, the potential anomalies T-U, the concentration of poorly defined positive responses and weak trends in Field 2 proved to be of archaeological significance, see **Figure 14**.



**Figure 13:** Location of test trenches excavated in subject site and lands to south (17E0487)  
(Source: Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy)

The AIA prepared by DNAC stated the following:

*A cluster of pit features, which characteristically suggest a prehistoric origin, were centred on trenches 16 and 41, and currently consist of 31 irregularly sized features, randomly dispersed over an area approximately measuring 20m east to west by 20m north to south. As the full extent of the site is not currently known, an exclusion zone measuring 38m east-west by 40 north-south has been established around the features.*



**Figure 14:** Extract from 2017 Archaeological Impact Assessment showing the archaeological exclusion zone to the **south** of the current development site (Source: Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy)

These features were in the vicinity of the then-proposed multi-use games area (MUGA) of Phase 3 of the proposed residential development). Notwithstanding the targeted and supplementary trench testing undertaken, the full extent of the archaeological site remain unknown. The AIA recommended full preservation in situ of these features if feasible, and an exclusion zone measuring 38m by 40m was suggested.

After reviewing the AIA, Cork County Council's Archaeologist prepared a planning report (see **Appendix 3**) which recommended the application of two archaeological conditions:

*The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to **monitor under licence** from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCH&G) **all topsoil removal associated with the development**. The removal of topsoil shall be carried out by a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless graded bucket and under the direction of the appointed archaeologist. In the event that archaeological material is found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have work on the site immediately stopped and notify the Local Authority Archaeologist and National Monuments Service (DCH&G). No further surface clearance shall take place, pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the Local Authority Archaeologist in regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ, or excavation) and allow enough time to facilitate implementation of the agreed mitigation measures. The applicant shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found. The Planning Authority National Monuments Service (DCH&G) shall be furnished with a written report describing the results of the monitoring.*

*The **archaeological features identified** in testing in western side of Field 2 (T-U) shall be **preserved in situ with an exclusion zone** of 38m northeast to southwest x 40m*



*northwest to southeast as outlined in the Archaeological Impact Assessment drawing 10. The exclusion zone shall be delimited using appropriate temporary boundary fencing and signage. Prior to the commencement of the development the archaeologist shall submit a site layout showing the fencing supported by photographic evidence. No construction works, stockpiling of topsoil etc, or any development, or landscaping and/or planting should take place within the designated buffer zone. No trees, plants etc shall be removed from this buffer zone. Subsequent to the completion of the development the buffer zone shall remain around the archaeological features TU. Planting within this buffer zone shall be limited to shallow-rooted plants and/or grass.*

The planning application was refused planning permission by Cork County Council but was appealed to An Bord Pleanála (ABP Ref. 301316-18). In the planning appeal report, the inspector stated the following:

*In view of the development, it is reasonable that preservation in situ be pursued, which would require an amendment to the layout and the inclusion of the area of archaeological interest within an open space... In the event that permission is to be granted for later phases of the development, or in the event of further applications, a revised layout should be secured to allow for preservation in situ of the pit features.*

The appeal was ultimately refused by An Bord Pleanála on grounds not related to archaeology.

## 4. Description of site

A site inspection was undertaken by two suitably qualified archaeologists (Mr Peter Looney and Mr Colm Chambers) in March 2023. The area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites/features. The weather was mixed at the time of the visit, but with excellent landscape visibility. Strong gusts of wind ruled out the use of a drone for aerial photograph. A selection of photographs from the site inspection is included in **Appendix 4** to this report.

The subject site comprises three adjoining fields, located approximately 28 kilometres east of Cork City, immediately south of the N25. Two of the fields are comprised of arable farmland with the northernmost land parcel comprising a mix of vegetation and modern ground disturbance. The site is bounded by urban development on its northern and western sides, and by arable farmland to the south and east.

There are no recorded cultural heritage sites located within the subject site boundary. There is nothing visible on historic cartographic sources or various aerial photography images to suggest the presence of previously unrecorded archaeological features with surface expression within the subject site. The field boundaries that currently exist were depicted on the first edition OS map and the northern and southern boundaries are townland boundaries.

The northernmost field (**Field A** as per **Figure 2**) has been subject to significant ground disturbance. This can be seen on the range of aerial images available online and was also apparent during the site inspection. There are large areas where the topsoil had been removed, areas of stockpiled material and areas of thick vegetation growth (**Plates 1 & 2**).

The western field (**Field B**) was under grass cover at the time of the site inspection and included waterlogged areas at the time of the inspection. The field slopes gradually towards the north. The field boundaries consist of earthen banks and low dry stone walls with intermittent tree and hedge growth above, apart from the west, where a wall of concrete blocks separates the field from a modern housing development. Overhead lines cross the western part of the field in a northwest to southeast direction. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the field (**Plates 3 & 4**).

The eastern field (**Field C**) was under grass cover at the time of the site inspection. The field slopes towards the north. The field boundaries consist of a mix of earthen banks and low dry stone walls with intermittent tree and hedge growth above. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the field (**Plates 5 & 6**).

## 5. Assessment of archaeological impact

There are no recorded archaeological monuments with the subject site. However, there are 17 archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 1km radius study area which surrounds the subject site. The closest site is the location of an excavation (C0077-092----), located 60m north of the subject site and represents the discovery of two archaeological features during an excavation which took place in 2004. One of the features uncovered contained charcoal and Neolithic pottery.

There is ***no predicted impact*** of this development on any recorded archaeological sites.



**Figure 15:** Extract from proposed site layout plan (Source: Deady Gahan Architects)

The northern field (**Field A**) was not included within the geophysical survey or programme of test trenching due to modern ground disturbance. Field A has a *negligible* archaeological potential,

The land parcel was the subject of a planning application in 2017 for a proposed housing development (Cork County Council Planning Reference 17/04624). The 2017 application boundary included additional lands to the south of the subject site. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) based on (a) geophysical survey and (b) follow-up targeted test trenching was carried out by Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy (DNAC) in response to a request for further information (RFI) from the planning authority in relation to the 2017 application.

A programme of archaeological test trenching targeted anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. The vast majority of geophysical anomalies of archaeological potential proved to be non-archaeological, being either geological variations in subsoil, variations in topsoil depth due to hollows in the natural subsoil or compaction of topsoil due to the operation of heavy agricultural machinery on the site (tram lines). However, a concentration of poorly defined positive responses and weak trends in Field 2 (anomalies T-U) proved to be of archaeological significance. This was described as a cluster of pit features, of probable prehistoric origin, randomly dispersed over an area approximately measuring 20m east to west by 20m north to south. As the full extent of the site was not determined, an exclusion zone measuring 38m east-west by 40 north-south was established around the features. This area of archaeological activity is not within the lands considered in this report and there is no predicted impact on these features, should the current proposal be carried out. **No archaeological features or material were identified within the lands that are the subject of this report.**

While planning permission for the housing development in 2017 was ultimately refused by Cork County Council and An Bord Pleanála, it was clear from the consultation process that both Cork County Council's Executive Archaeologist and the Planning Inspector considered preservation-in-situ of the concentration of pits to be an appropriate mitigation measure. **The concentration of pits is located *outside* the proposed development site boundary for this phase of residential development.**

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions

The northernmost field (**Field A**) within the current subject site was within the area of the 2017 proposed development but was not included in the geophysical survey or the programme of test trenching because it 'has been substantially impacted on with topsoil stripping, stockpiling and subsequent colonisation by nature. This makes it an unsuitable candidate for geophysical survey and difficult for effective test trenching' (Noonan & Hegarty 2017). This field was partially stripped of topsoil in c.2005 and was used for construction compounds in both 2009 and 2018. Field A can be considered to possess *negligible archaeological potential*.

The greenfield portions of the proposed development site (**Fields B & C**) were subjected to a detailed programme of archaeological investigations in 2017 (Noonan & Hegarty 2017). These investigations included lands to the south of the subject site which are now *outside* the area under consideration. **Nothing of archaeological interest was identified during the programme of archaeological testing within the boundary of the current proposed development site.**



**Figure 16:** Indicative location of the Archaeological Exclusion Zone in field to the south and *outside* of the current proposed development lands

One area of archaeological interest was identified *outside* the proposed development site, in a field to the south of Field C, and the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) compiled by DNAC recommended that **an Archaeological Exclusion Zone** measuring 38 metres by 40 metres (1,520 sq. m) should be established (**Figure 16**). This area is *outside* the current proposed



development site but is within land that is owned by the applicant. It is recommended that the exclusion zone outlined above is marked using temporary boundary fencing (post-and-rope) and appropriate signage during any development at this site (despite being outside the redline planning boundary) in order to avoid inadvertent damage to the area of archaeological sensitivity.

Given the high degree of ground disturbance within Field A its archaeological potential must be considered **negligible**. Previous archaeological investigations in the greenfield portions of the proposed development site (Fields B and C) have not identified any archaeological material, therefore the **potential** for unrecorded archaeological remains to survive within the remainder of the site is considered **low**.

## Recommendations

Fields B and C of the subject site have previously been subject to an archaeological geophysical survey and a programme of test trenching in 2017. These investigations did not identify any archaeological remains within the current development site boundary. However, one area of archaeological activity was identified in ***a field to the south of the current development site*** as part of the 2017 pre-planning mitigation measures. It is recommended that, despite being located outside the current proposed development boundary, an ***archaeological exclusion zone*** (see **Figure 16** above) as outlined in the 2017 AIA is marked out and fenced off in advance of any development, to prevent inadvertent damage from site traffic, vehicle movements or establishment of site compounds or storage areas during construction works.

It is recommended that such ***a programme of archaeological monitoring of site development works*** should be carried out, under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), in the two greenfield areas (Field B and C) within the current site. Field A has been significantly disturbed, and its archaeological potential must be considered ***negligible***. In the event that any archaeological features are identified during the site development works, the appointed archaeologist shall ensure the features are preserved while consultation and agreement on appropriate mitigation measures can be agreed with the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the County Archaeologist of Cork County Council.

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## Appendix 1: Relevant inventory entries

### CO077-005001-

**Class:** Country house

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Ballyoughtera Par.)

**Description:** Early 18th century house adjacent to Castlemartyr castle (CO077-005003-); named 'Castlemartyr Ho' on 1842 OS 6-inch map; 'greatly enlarged by 2nd Earl (of Shannon) between 1764/71' (Bence Jones 1978, 72) and further remodelled in late 18th/early 19th century; was used as a Carmelite college but became a hotel in 2007. Bence Jones describes the entrance front (NW) as '2 storeys and 17 bays, consisting of a 5-bay recessed centre with a giant pedimented portico' which is between long projecting wings and other additions giving a very long facade. The roof is 'high pitched and slightly sprocketed' (ibid., 73). Notable plasterwork in ballroom. Irregular garden front. Kiltha river widened where it flows through demesne. Ice house (CO077-052---) in woods to the NW.

### CO077-005002-

**Class:** House - 16th/17th century

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Ballyoughtera Par.)

**Description:** Immediately W of tower house (CO077-005003-), large rectangular two-storey building (47.6mE-W; 12m N-S), 17th-century in appearance, of which only S and W walls survive - these forming part of bawn enclosure. Interior now covered by concrete floor; large modern hay-barn covers most of area; nearby all opes blocked up. West wall rises above gable line to a square-topped facade; wall walk on top reached by stairs in polygonal turret at S end; crenellations atop this and along rest of W bawn wall of recent appearance. Most conspicuous features of S wall are three massive rectangular chimney stacks atop subsidiary gables. Number of badly damaged large fireplaces at ground level inside, flanked by remains of domed bread-ovens. Near W end are two blocked windows with mullion and transom divisions in square frame, with hood mouldings.

### CO077-005003-

**Class:** Castle - tower house

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Ballyoughtera Par.)

**Description:** On W side of Castlemartyr; large sub-rectangular bawn (c. 65m NW-SE; c. 50m SW-NE), now functioning as farmyard with 18th, 19th and 20th-century farm buildings. At SE corner 5-storey tower house standing to full height. At NE corner 3-storey gabled tower (CO077-005004-). Along S wall of bawn, remains of large 17th-century range (CO077-005002-).

Tower house (13m N-S; 9.5m E-W) entered at ground and 1st floor level by central doors in N wall. Rectangular fore-building (6.5m N-S; 5.5m E-W) gives access to both doors; entered by door with pointed arch in W wall; stairway on inside face of N wall gave access to wooden floor (now gone) above, from which main 1st floor door approached. Main ground floor door has pointed arch with foliate stop chamfer. Rounded, wicker-centred vault (axis N-S) covers chamber inside, lit by double-splayed lintelled windows in centre of E, S and W wall.

Main 1st floor door also has pointed arch, with fleur-de-lis stop chamfer, blocked by recent wooden door; gun loops flank each side of door. First floor chamber lit by central windows in W, S and E wall, each with stone seats; E and W windows have narrow vertical lights with ogee-heads. At N end of E wall second window with flat-headed light; on N side of embrasure small garderobe chamber with gun loops in N wall. Straight flight of stairs leads up from W side of 1st floor doorway (2nd gun-loop at base of stairs) to NW corner where it rises as spiral staircase to 3rd floor level. Door from stairs, now blocked, gives access to main 2nd floor chamber under bluntly-pointed vault (axis N-S); central windows in N and S walls with single ogee-headed lights.

Third floor chamber entered at NW corner from stairs; tall window embrasures in centre of N, E and S wall; window in E wall almost entirely gone. S window has broken window seat and two ogee-heads, otherwise broken. N window has segmental vault over embrasure, light divided by mullion and transom with two cusped ogee-heads; mullion and transom rebated on inside to house shutters. Fireplace in centre of W wall,

only jambstone on N side survives. From W side of window in N wall, stairs rise to NW corner, continuing as spiral stairs to wall walk level, also giving access to main 4th floor chamber and mural garderobe chamber in N wall, at same level. E wall entirely fallen at 4th floor level; window in S wall has square light divided by two mullions and a transom (all now gone), with hood moulding. Top of stairs gives access to wall walk atop N and W wall; latter now blocked by chimney stack. Fragments of original stepped battlements survive atop N and W wall. Shallow pointed arch brings top of S wall inward to support S gable (now fallen) and wall walk.

Gabled, 3-storey tower (CO077-005004-) at NE corner of bawn has pointed wicker-centred vault over 1st floor. Interior strewn with rubbish and ground level now higher than when tower built; tower also heavily modified and repaired. At ground level, door at W end of N wall, possible door in S wall opposite, both now blocked. Window opes in centre of E and W walls and at E ends of N and S wall; all blocked and modified. Judging by inserted flue overhead, fireplace set in ground floor window in W wall - much of this wall now fallen. Small much-ruined chamber in NE corner. First floor has window opes in centre of W wall (almost entirely fallen) and near E end of S wall, with flat-headed light. Second floor now entered by stairway built against S wall; originally by manhole at SE corner of vault, now blocked. Inserted fireplace in centre of W wall; just to N, door into mural passage with stairway rising to NW corner and wall walk. Central window in E wall with flat-headed light; on N side of embrasure narrow garderobe chamber. Square chimney stacks atop both gables.

Immediately W of tower house, large rectangular two-storey building (47.6m E-W; 12m N-S) (CO077-005002-), 17th-century in appearance, of which only S and W walls survive - these forming part of bawn enclosure. Interior now covered by concrete floor; large modern hay-barn covers most of area; nearby all opes blocked up. West wall rises above gable line to a square-topped facade; wall walk on top reached by stairs in polygonal turret at S end; crenellations atop this and along rest of W bawn wall of recent appearance. Most conspicuous features of S wall are three massive rectangular chimney stacks atop subsidiary gables. Number of badly damaged large fireplaces at ground level inside, flanked by remains of domed bread-ovens. Near W end are two blocked windows with mullion and transome divisions in square frame, with hood mouldings.

Bawn wall intact except at NW corner where it appears to be absent. Both N (L c. 30m) and S (see above) runs are straight; at W side it runs out at angle to W (L c. 40m) from N end of W wall of S range. Along here is blocked door with pointed arch, over which is a horizontal stone set in wall with a human head carved in false relief. E run of wall runs from S wall of NE tower, swinging out to SE until it returns W and then S again in two right angles, to meet N wall tower house. Farmyard now entered through rounded archway of 19th-century appearance in N wall; castellations atop this wall are similar in date.

Castlemartyr Castle was seat of the Seneschals of Imokilly, a branch of the Fitzgerald family; attacked and taken by Sir Henry Sidney in 1569 and 1575; came into possession of Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, in 17th century; castle restored and lived in by his son the Earl of Orrery, who died in 1679 (Monahan 1980, 7). House (CO077-00501-) built immediately to W in early 18th century by Earls of Shannon, at this stage bawn transformed into coach/farm yard.

## **CO077-005005-**

**Class:** Bawn

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Ballyoughtera Par.)

**Description:** On W side of Castlemartyr; large subrectangular bawn (c. 65m NW-SE; c. 50m SW-NE), now functioning as farmyard with 18th, 19th and 20th-century farm buildings. At SE corner 5-storey tower house (CO077-005003-) standing to full height. At NE corner 3-storey gabled tower (CO077-005004-). Along S wall of bawn, remains of large 17th-century range (CO077-005002-).

Bawn wall intact except at NW corner where it appears to be absent. Both N (L c. 30m) and S runs are straight; at W side it runs out at angle to W (L c. 40m) from N end of W wall of S range. Along here is blocked door with pointed arch, over which is a horizontal stone set in wall with a human head carved in false relief. E run of wall runs from S wall of NE tower, swinging out to SE until it returns W and then S again in two



right angles, to meet N wall tower house. Farmyard now entered through rounded archway of 19th-century appearance in N wall; castellations atop this wall are similar in date.

### **CO077-008001-**

**Class:** Barrow - mound barrow

**Townland:** Ballyvorisheen (Imokilly By.)

**Description:** In pasture, to N of Castlemartyr to Killeagh road. Low, oval mound (6m N-S; 4m E-W; max. H 0.5m); stones partially exposed in SE quadrant, appear to form three sides of square (1.2m x 1.2m). According to Fitzgerald (1858, 12), farmer, while levelling mound, discovered cist (CO077-008002-) with larger cover stone containing two human skeletons. One of three tumuli in same townland; other two (CO077-00901-; CO077-010---) c. 400m to NE.

### **CO077-008002-**

**Class:** Cist

**Townland:** Ballyvorisheen (Imokilly By.)

**Description:** In pasture, to N of Castlemartyr to Killeagh road. Low, oval mound (6m N-S; 4m E-W; max. H 0.5m); stones partially exposed in SE quadrant, appear to form three sides of square (1.2m x 1.2m). According to Fitzgerald (1858, 12), farmer, while levelling mound, discovered cist (CO077-008002-) with larger cover stone containing two human skeletons. One of three tumuli in same townland; other two (CO077-00901-; CO077-010---) c. 400m to NE.

### **CO077-011----**

**Class:** Barrow - mound barrow

**Townland:** Clasharinka

**Description:** In pasture, on gentle N-facing slope. Mound (12m E-W; 7m N-S; max. H 1.1m) heavily overgrown; hollow in centre. According to Fitzgerald (1858, 11), mound dug into and cist discovered (7 feet by 3 feet) containing 'human skeleton in good preservation'.

### **CO077-054001-**

**Class:** House - 18th/19th century

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Mogeely Par.)

**Description:** Eighteenth century, 2-storey gable-ended house at W end of Castlemartyr. Entrance front (N) of 5 bays; central round headed door flanked by sidelight; fanlight with switch line tracery. Sash windows with shallow reveals; central tripartite window. Projecting chimney on W gable.

### **CO077-054002-**

**Class:** Market-house

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Mogeely Par.)

**Description:** Rectangular 2-storey gabled structure (long axis E-W) in Castlemartyr village; now used as garage show room. Front (S) has 3-bay arcading on ground floor with alternating long and short cut limestone voussoirs. First floor has three large windows with shallow reveals. Rectangular plaque with yellow brick surround over central window at roof line. End chimney on E gable. One-storey addition to rear (in ruins).

### **CO077-054003-**

**Class:** Church

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Mogeely Par.)

**Description:** In centre of graveyard on N side of Castlemartyr. Building of church here proposed in 1710 following unification of 'Ballyoughtra, Mogely and Cahirultan' parishes; consecrated in 1731 (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 79); improved and enlarged in 1870 (Cole 1903, 174). Present church has rectangular nave; 5 round-

headed windows in S wall; cut limestone bandcourse rises over head of windows. Apse to E with hipped roof; embattled tower to W with round-headed door. Vestry at W end of N wall. Surrounded by rectangular graveyard; inscribed headstones date from late 18th century; in occasional use.

#### **C0077-054004-**

**Class:** Bridge

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Mogeely Par.)

**Description:** In Castlemartyr village, road bridge over Kiltha river. Three segmental arches with dressed voussoirs; low pointed breakwaters.

#### **C0077-054005-**

**Class:** Historic town

**Townland:** Castlemartyr (Imokilly By., Mogeely Par.)

**Description:** The town of Castlemartyr established itself in the environs of a tower house and bawn (vol. 2, 5571). It was known as Ballymartyr in the 16th century and was later referred to as Leperstown, after a leper house (vol. 2, 5786) in the nearby village of Ballyoughteragh. At the time of the Desmond confiscations the castle and domain was granted to Sir Walter Raleigh. It was sold subsequently to Sir Richard Boyle whose son, the Earl of Orrery, established the present town, to the E of the castle, in the 17th century. During the Cromwellian wars the town was frequently plundered and partially destroyed. The town was incorporated by a charter of Charles 2nd in 1675 as a free borough. There is a 16th/17th-century house (vol. 2, 5571) immediately to the W of the tower house. (Zajac et al. 1995, 19-20).

#### **C0077-055----**

**Class:** Kiln - lime

**Townland:** Dower

**Description:** Built against rock outcrop. Front (Wth 6.35m) has arched recess (H 2m; Wth 3m; D 2.2m). Stone-lined funnel (diam. 1.93m); lean-to covers area in front of recess.

#### **C0077-088----**

**Class:** Country house

**Townland:** Dower

**Description:** The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

#### **C0077-089----**

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** Gortnahomna Beg

**Description:** A group of seven features was discovered during archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal in advance of a housing development to the E of Castlemartyr; these were excavated in 2003. The features comprised five circular/oval pits (dims. of largest pit: 1.11m x 1.22m; D 0.29m), one circular depression (diam. 0.7m; D 0.12m) and one linear feature (L 4.36m; Wth 0.42m; max. D 0.2m), all with a burnt stone content. They all occurred in close proximity in an area measuring c. 17m N-S by 9m E-W. The excavator concluded that these features may have been roasting pits and therefore part of a cooking site though the absence of heat-shattered stones around the features suggests that they had a short-term use. Deep ploughing in the area is thought likely to have truncated the upper levels of the features exposed and any other associated features. No finds were recovered from any of the features which makes their dating difficult. (Lane et al. 2003; Lane 2006b, 45, no. 197)

**C0077-091----**

**Class:** Kiln - corn-drying

**Townland:** Gortnahomna Beg

**Description:** This corn-drying kiln was excavated in 2004 in advance of the construction of a housing development to the E of Castlemartyr village. The kiln comprised two circular pits, at the N and S, linked by a stone-lined flue (L 3m; Wth 0.4m; D 0.4m). The N pit (diam. 1.4m; D 0.45m), which was circular in plan, was stone-lined. The S pit (diam c. 1.2m; D 0.3m), which was subcircular in plan, was unlined. The sides of the S pit were oxidised. Both pits were filled with black charcoal-enriched soil with medium-sized limestone fragments. A lintel stone was situated at the mid-point of the flue. In situ burning was evident only to the S of the lintel. According to the excavator (Lane 2007a, 47), it is possible that this was a corn-drying kiln that was reused as a limekiln. (Lane 2007a, 47)

**C0077-092----**

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** Gortnahomna Beg

**Description:** Two features were discovered during archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal in advance of a housing development to the E of Castlemartyr; these were excavated in 2004. One feature comprised an irregular pit (D c. 0.4m) containing charcoal and some Neolithic pottery. The second feature consisted of a rectangular spread (1.85m x 1.1m; D 0.14m) of charcoal, possibly the result of in situ burning. Deep ploughing is likely to have truncated the upper levels of the features exposed and any other associated features. Two other features were also discovered but excavation confirmed that these were of modern date. (Lane 2007b, 47)

## Appendix 2: Previous excavations within the study area

The following summary accounts of licensed archaeological investigations within the study area have been extracted from *The Excavation Database* (Source: [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)). **Please note that the online database does not (as of July 2024) include a summary of 17E0487, a programme of archaeological testing undertaken at the subject site.**

Licence No.	Summary
18E0527	No archaeological significance
17E0499	<p>Four test trenches were mechanically excavated on the footprint of a proposed car park development in the vicinity of Castlemartyr Castle tower house (CO077-005003-), an associated bawn (CO077-005005-) and a mural tower (CO077-005004-), as well as a 16th- or 17th-century fortified house (CO077-005002-). Topsoil stripping was carried out by a machine operating with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket.</p> <p>A number of post-1700 agricultural linear features were noted across the site. These included a levelled ha-ha ditch identified at the southern end of Trench 2. This feature was likely designed by Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington, who carried out extensive landscaping work on the Castlemartyr estate on behalf of his cousin in the mid-1700s.</p> <p>A small concentration of burnt bone fragments was located c. 5m from the east end of Trench 3. This bone was within a brownish grey sandy silt deposit, which may have filled a cut measuring c. 0.4m east to west by c. 0.3m. An absence of elements of human skeletal architecture (diagnostic features) was noted, however this may have been due to the lack of survival because of fragmentation during the cremation process. <b>The deposition of the bone, which had been burnt elsewhere, may potentially represent a cremation burial or token burial</b> (often dated to the Late Bronze Age). This feature was not excavated and remains in situ.</p>
09E0014	<p>Test-trenching was carried out at a proposed development site comprising eight pasture fields on the north side of Castlemartyr village. There are no known archaeological monuments within the proposed development site and no potential archaeological features were noted during a programme of geophysical survey that preceded test-trenching. <b>The fragmentary remains of a levelled fulacht fiadh were identified in a test-trench excavated in a low-lying area of the southernmost field</b> (NGR 196106 073478). It was composed of a thin spread of heat-shattered stones within a charcoal-enriched deposit that appeared to have been truncated by recent land drainage works. A small charcoal-rich deposit was uncovered 3m to the north of the main spread and appeared to be the fill of a circular pit (measuring 1m in diameter) associated with the burnt spread. There were no other archaeological features or finds uncovered during test-trenching.</p>
05E1309	<p>Monitoring has been undertaken within the grounds of Castlemartyr House since January 2005. Site works commenced with the access road through the development leading from the tower-house and adjacent country house through parkland towards the walled gardens. The removal of topsoil along this road revealed that no archaeological features were present on the underlying subsoil.</p> <p>The first phase of the development involved the construction of housing within the two walled gardens. The topsoil was removed to the level of the natural boulder clay across the entire area enclosed by the walls and no features of archaeological significance were uncovered. Two brick-and-stone walls were surveyed and are presumed to represent the footings of glasshouses that were originally located in this area. The excavation of the foundation trenches for the houses in the southern walled garden uncovered pipes associated with a 19th-century water sprinkler system; this was recorded by the landscape architect before it was removed. The base of a previously unknown fountain was uncovered in the northern walled garden. Fortunately, this original feature will not be impacted upon by the construction of the new houses and it was recommended that the fountain be restored and retained as a landscape feature within the overall</p>



<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Summary</i>
	development. The second phase of the works involved the dismantling of recent farm outbuildings within the area of the bawn wall. This was carried out under archaeological supervision to ensure that no damage was caused to the original fabric of the tower-house, fortified house, bawn wall and mural tower. The five-storey tower-house in the south-east corner of the bawn wall was fenced off to a height that ensured that no damage was caused by the raised buckets of heavy machinery. Fencing was also placed along the entire circuit of the bawn wall incorporating what remains of the 17th-century fortified house in the south-east corner of the bawn area. The three-storey mural tower in the north-east corner of the bawn was also protected. Ground disturbance within the bawn area was limited to the excavation of service trenches and the deepening of a slurry pit adjacent to the tower-house. <b>No archaeological features or finds were uncovered during this phase of construction work.</b>
04E1401	Cork County Council requested an assessment of a development at Grange, Castlemartyr. The site is located north of the zone of archaeological potential for Castlemartyr. A post-impact assessment was undertaken at the site, as the majority of construction work had been completed. Testing was carried out for an earlier phase of development works by James Lyttleton (Excavations 2001, No. 139, 01E1057), but <b>no test-trenches were excavated</b> within the development site in 2004.
03E0644	In the course of monitoring in March 2004, four features of archaeological interest were excavated. Feature 1 was a lime-burning pit (c. 3m in diam. by c. 0.6m deep), Feature 2 was an irregular pit, c. 0.4m deep, containing charcoal and some Neolithic pottery. Feature 3 was a roughly rectangular-shaped area of charcoal (1.1m by 1.85m and 0.14m deep), possibly a result of in situ burning. Feature 4 was modern. Deep ploughing in the area is likely to have truncated the upper levels of the features exposed and any other associated features.
03E0449	Planning permission was granted for a housing development to the east of the village of Castlemartyr, Co. Cork. A condition of planning required monitoring of all subsurface excavation and topsoil removal. Topsoil-stripping of Phase 1 was carried out in April 2003 (Excavations 2003, No. 197) and Phases 2 and 3 were monitored during March and July 2004 under an extension to this licence. During Phase 3, in July 2004, <b>a kiln feature was excavated</b> . It comprised two circular pits linked by a flue. The northern pit was circular (diam. 1.4m by 0.45m deep) and stone-lined. The southern pit was subcircular (diam. c. 1.2m by 0.3m deep) and unlined, but the sides were oxidised. Both were filled with black charcoal-enriched soil with medium-sized limestone fragments. The connecting flue (3m long by 0.4m wide by 0.4m deep) was stone-lined, with a lintel stone at its mid-point. In situ burning was evident only to the south of the lintel. It is possible that this is a corn-drying kiln reused as a limekiln.
02E0066	Planning conditions required monitoring of a site for a new house to be erected on the location of a number of demolished buildings on either side of a laneway that formerly ran perpendicular to the north side of Main Street, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork. The laneway and demolished buildings were depicted on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey but were no longer extant by the time of the second edition. The site is within the zone of archaeological potential of the historical town, and monitoring was carried out on 26 January and 13 July 2002 as part of an assessment. <b>No finds or features of archaeological significance were revealed during the works.</b>
01E1057	Monitoring was carried out in advance of a new warehouse. The development involved the digging of 32 foundation pads which averaged 2m by 1.3m. One of the pads revealed a modern linear cut into the natural subsoil, with a grey brown gravel acting as fill. The cut was parallel to the west bank of the River Kiltha, which flows 12m to the east, and is a modern attempt to consolidate the riverbank and prevent minor flooding. <b>No archaeological features or small finds were uncovered</b>

## Appendix 3: Cork County Council's Executive Archaeologist's Report (March 2018)

This report was downloaded from Cork County Council's Planning Enquiry System.

ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT	
APPLICATION NO.	17/04624
APPLICANT	Solas Partnership
DESCRIPTION	209 unit residential development, consisting of 9 no. 2 bed terraced units, 12 no. 3 bed terraced units, 90 no. 3 bed semi-detached units, 78 no. 4 bed semi-detached units and 20 no. detached units, a crèche facility (508sq.m) with 2 no. first floor office units (152sq.m), 660sq.m total building area, 2 no. pedestrian links into the existing Gortnahomna More residential estate, main street entrance pillars, wing walls, a kick-about pitch, multi-use games area, 4 no. Local Play Areas, open space areas, site landscaping and all associated site works
LOCATION	Gortnahomna More Castlemartyr Co. Cork
DECISION DUE DATE	06/03/2018

**Assessment**

I have read and assessed Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) by Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy including the results of the geophysical survey and archaeological testing submitted as Further Information as requested.

The results of the geophysical survey showed no readably recognizable archaeological features however several anomalies were identified with a concentration in Field 2 identified as TU in the Geophysical survey. Testing was subsequently carried out across the site and targeting the results of the geophysical survey. The anomalies TU proved to be a cluster of 31 archaeological features centred on trenches 16 and 41, these are randomly dispersed over an area approximately measuring 20m square. The full extent of the archaeological site is unclear as the investigations were confined to the test trenches and there is significant potential for further features in the wider area. The date of the features are unclear but the report suggests they are likely to be prehistoric in nature and similar to some uncovered nearby in advance of other developments. The report recommends an exclusion zone of a 38m northeast to south west by 40m northwest to southeast as shown on drawing 10.

I concur with the proposed mitigation for archaeological monitoring given the discovery of the archaeological features. This can be conditioned if planning permission is granted.

In regards to preservation of the archaeological features TU, no discussion in regards to the preservation with these sites has taken place with the Local Authority in this regard as requested in the Further Information request. The AIA report concludes with a vague mitigation option... 'if preservation in situ' is not possible though redesign then full archaeological excavation is proposed. No justification has been provided for the excavation of same, neither is there any evidence that redesign was even considered. Based on the evidence provided and in compliance with National guidelines *preservation in-situ must also be presumed to be the preferred option* (Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage). I am recommending the proposed development is redesigned/removal of housing to facilitate the preservation *in situ* of the archaeological features TU with an exclusion zone of 38m northeast to south west by 40m northwest to southeast as outlined in the report drawing 10. If planning permission is granted this area should be excluded from development.

Page 1 of 4

I have been advised by Noel Sheridan Snr. Planner that planning permission will only be considered for Phase 1 of the development which is outside the area where the archaeological features were identified and the archaeological features can be preserved in situ. Any future planning applications should be guided by *preservation in-situ must also be presumed to be the preferred option* and reflect this in their design and layout.

### Recommendation

It is therefore my recommendation that the archaeological features TU are preservation *in situ* with an exclusion zone of 38m northeast to south west by 40m northwest to southeast as outlined established and protected during Phase 1 construction and the removal of topsoil is archaeologically monitored.

It is recommended that the following conditions are attached if planning permission granted for Phase 1.

### Conditions/ Reasons

No.	Condition	Reason
1	The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to monitor under licence from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCH&G) all topsoil removal associated with the development. The removal of topsoil shall be carried out by a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless graded bucket and under the direction of the appointed archaeologist. In the event that archaeological material is found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have work on the site immediately stopped and notify the Local Authority Archaeologist and National Monuments Service (DCH&G). No further surface clearance shall take place, pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the Local Authority Archaeologist in regard to any	In interest of preserving items of archaeological interest

	necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ, or excavation) and allow enough time to facilitate implementation of the agreed mitigation measures. The applicant shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found. The Planning Authority National Monuments Service (DCH&G) shall be furnished with a written report describing the results of the monitoring.	
2	The archaeological features identified in testing in western side of Field 2 (T-U) shall be preserved in situ with an exclusion zone of 38m northeast to southwest x 40m northwest to southeast as outlined in the Archaeological Impact Assessment drawing 10. The exclusion zone shall be delimited using appropriate temporary boundary fencing and signage. Prior to the commencement of the development the archaeologist shall submit a site layout showing the fencing supported by photographic evidence. No construction works, stockpiling of topsoil etc, or any development, or landscaping and/or planting should take place within the designated buffer zone. No trees, plants etc shall be removed from this buffer zone. Subsequent to the completion of the development the buffer zone shall remain around the archaeological features TU . Planting within this buffer zone shall be limited to shallow-rooted plants and/or grass.	To preserve items of archaeological importance

May Slean



ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT

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Mary Sleeman

06/03/2018

Page 4 of 4

## Appendix 4: Selected photographs from Site Inspection

### Field A



*Plate 1: View of Field A, facing south*



*Plate 2: View of Field A, facing northwest*



## Field B



*Plate 3: View of Field B facing northwest*



*Plate 4: View of Field B, facing southwest*



## Field C



*Plate 5: View of Field C, facing northeast*



*Plate 6: View of Field C, facing north*