

# Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

## SCOPING REPORT



# Backstown, County Dublin

June 2023

Dr Stephen Mandal MIAI PGeo EurGeol

## Table of Contents

	List of Figures	ii
	List of Tables	ii
	List of Appendices	ii
1.	Executive Summary	3
2.	Baseline Survey	4
2.1.	<i>Introduction</i>	4
2.2.	<i>Recorded archaeological sites and monuments</i>	4
2.3.	<i>Topographical finds</i>	4
2.4.	<i>Archaeological Excavations</i>	4
2.5.	<i>Down Survey</i>	4
2.6.	<i>Architectural Heritage</i>	4
2.7.	<i>Cartographic sources</i>	5
2.8.	<i>Aerial Photography</i>	5
2.9.	<i>County Development Plan</i>	5
3.	Archaeological and historical background	5
3.1.	<i>Introduction</i>	5
3.1.	<i>Prehistory (c. 9000 BC – 400 AD)</i>	6
3.2.	<i>Early Medieval (c. 400 – 1100 AD)</i>	7
3.3.	<i>Later Medieval (c. 1150 – 1550 AD)</i>	7
3.4.	<i>Post- Medieval (c. 1550 –)</i>	7
4.	Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Risk	8
5.	Potential Impact of the Proposed Development	8
6.	Recommended Mitigation Measures	8
7.	References	9
	Figures	10
	Appendices	14
	Appendix 1. Recorded Archaeological Monuments and Places	15
	Appendix 2. Archaeological Excavations	21
	Appendix 3. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage / Record of Protected Structures	25

### List of Figures

- Figure 1. Site location map showing recorded archaeological monuments and places, archaeological excavations and recorded architectural heritage buildings within c. 500m of the proposed development lands (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)).
- Figure 2. Extract from William Petty's (1660) map of Dublin (source [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)).
- Figure 3. Extract from Roque's (1760) map of Dublin (source [www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html](http://www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html)).
- Figure 4. Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1830s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Figure 5. Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1910s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the proposed development lands (source [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)).

### List of Tables

- Table 1. Recorded archaeological monuments and places within 500m of the proposed development lands (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); see Figure 1 and Appendix 1)
- Table 2. Recorded archaeological excavations within c. 500m of the proposed development (source [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie); see Appendix 2)
- Table 3. Recorded architectural heritage sites within the study area (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/); see Appendix 3).

### List of Appendices

- Appendix 1. Recorded Archaeological Monuments and Places (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Appendix 2. Archaeological Excavations ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)).
- Appendix 3. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage / Record of Protected Structures ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)).

## 1. Executive Summary

On behalf of AWN Consulting (for the OPW), CRDS Ltd have undertaken an archaeological scoping assessment for the proposed development lands at Backstown, County Dublin (ITM 701026 733988). The study comprised an examination of available archaeological, architectural heritage and historical sources, including the following:

- Recorded archaeological sites and monuments
- Topographical finds
- Archaeological Excavations
- Architectural Heritage
- Cartographic sources
- Aerial Photography
- The County Development Plan

The potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage risk at the site can be summarised as follows:

- There are no recorded archaeological site within the proposed development lands.
- There are twelve recorded archaeological sites within c. 500m of the proposed development lands, of which ten are scheduled for inclusion the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places. None of these sites will be impacted, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed development works. However, they are indicative of the landscape having been populated since at least the Early Medieval Period.
- There are records of five archaeological excavations, a dive survey and a geophysical survey in the study area in advance of development works. Three of these identified archaeological remains, most significantly the discovery of prehistoric settlement in the form of pits. A stone axehead found in the study area gives further evidence of the area having been inhabited in early prehistory.
- A desk-top survey of the lands proposed for development, did not highlight any additional, previously unrecorded, archaeological features.
- The proposed development land is on undeveloped agricultural land which appears to have been unaltered since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- There are no recorded architectural heritage sites within the proposed development site. There are five sites within c. 500m of the proposed development lands, as listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for Co. Dublin, of which three are listed in the Record of Protected Structure in the South County Development Plan 2022-2028. None of these sites will be impacted, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed development works.

***Based on the above, there is a risk of previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains surviving on site.***

The proposed development will include the excavation of topsoil from the site for the digging of pad foundations and services, up to a depth of c. 1.5m. As noted above, there is the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological material to be uncovered during the course of development works. It is possible to mitigate against the risks of impacting on previously unrecorded archaeological features (should they exist) during the course of development.

In order to mitigate against the archaeological risks of developing this site, the following is recommended:

1. The appointment of a suitably qualified archaeological consultant to oversee the project at construction phase.
2. The archaeological consultant should consult with the National Monuments Service and the design team, and implement a monitoring strategy, if required, in areas that have not been subjected to significant disturbance in the recent past.
3. Any archaeological features identified during monitoring in areas where they will be impacted on by the development, will require permission from the National Monuments Service for the excavation (preservation by record) of these remains.

*Please note that the recommendations given here are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

## 2. Baseline Survey

### 2.1. Introduction

The proposed development is located in the townland of Backstown, County Dublin, c. 2.5km southwest of Lucan village (ITM 701026 733988; see Figure 1). To set the proposed development within its wider archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape, and to assess the potential of encountering such features on the site, a high level paper survey of archaeological, architectural heritage, historical and cartographic sources was undertaken. A study area of approximately 500m radius around the proposed development site was chosen.

### 2.2. Recorded archaeological sites and monuments

The Record of Monuments and Places was consulted for the relevant parts of Cos. Dublin and Kildare. This is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service. The relevant files for these sites contain details of documentary sources and aerial photographs, early maps, OS memoirs, OPW Archaeological Survey notes and other relevant publications. There are twelve recorded archaeological monuments within the study area listed in the Sites and Monuments Record, of which ten are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places (see Figure 1, Table 1 and Appendix 1).

### 2.3. Topographical finds

Published catalogues of prehistoric material were studied: Raftery (1983 - Iron Age antiquities), Eogan (1965; 1993; 1994 - bronze swords, Bronze Age hoards and goldwork), Harbison (1968; 1969a; 1969b - bronze axes, halberds and daggers) and the Irish Stone Axe Project Database (Archaeology Dept., U.C.D.). A stone axehead has been recorded from Backweston Park (NMI Reg. No. 1976:548). No other finds were recorded. It is important to note that numerous artefacts would have been recorded during the excavation of archaeological sites as listed below (Section 2.4). It is also important to note that the topographical files in the National Museum of Ireland were not consulted. This is the National archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. It relates primarily to stray artefacts.

### 2.4. Archaeological Excavations

The excavation bulletin website ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) was consulted to identify previous excavations that have been carried out within c. 500m of the proposed development. This database contains summary accounts of excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2022. The Dublin dataset on Heritage Maps ([www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)) was also examined; this database includes full excavation reports for some of the above archaeological excavation summaries. The site locations for excavations was taken from the Heritage Maps database as it is a more reliable source. There are five archaeological excavations recorded from the study area, as well as one dive survey and one geophysical survey. Of which three encountered archaeological remains (see Figure 1, Table 2 and Appendix 2).

### 2.5. Down Survey

Taken in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland is the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. The survey, led by William Petty, sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish in order to facilitate its redistribution to Merchant Adventurers and English soldiers ([www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)). The Down Survey 'Parish of Adery, Barony of Newcastle, in the County of Dublin' is given as Figure 2.

### 2.6. Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a systematic programme of identification, classification, and evaluation of the architectural heritage of the State. The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is currently using the Inventory as the basis for making recommendations for the NIAH. There are five structures included in the NIAH within the study area (see Figure 1, Table 3 and Appendix 3).

### 2.7. Cartographic sources

Analysis of cartographic sources is important in tracing the development of the site. Sources included:

- John Rocque (c.1705–62) was a cartographer and engraver of European repute, who could count among his achievement's maps of London, Paris, Berlin and Rome. Rocque's Irish work between 1754 and 1760, included a remarkable series of c.170 manuscript estate maps for the earl of Kildare, and a range of commercially driven projects that resulted in finely-engraved and printed surveys of the cities of Dublin (Figure 3).
- Ordnance Survey 1st Edition – Scale 6 inches: 1 mile (1838-1842). The first comprehensive series of maps covering the whole of Ireland, which was the first country in the world to be mapped in this manner (Figure 4).
- Ordnance Survey 25-inch Maps: Scale 25-inches: 1 mile. Mostly date from the 1890s up to c. 1915 with later printings (Figure 5)

### 2.8. Aerial Photography

Available online sources for aerial photography were consulted, including the Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey and National Monuments Service collections (see Figure 6).

### 2.9. County Development Plan

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 was also consulted ([www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)). The plan includes policy objectives for the protection of the County's archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage. The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) contained within the plan includes every structure which is of special architectural, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest within the county boundaries. There are three RPSs within the study area, all of which are recorded in the NIAH (see Figure 1, Table 3 and Appendix 3).

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

### 3.1. Introduction

The proposed development is located in the townland of Backstown, which is in the Electoral Division of Lucan, in Civil Parish of Aderrig, in the Barony of Newcastle, in the County of Dublin. The Irish name for Backstown is *Bacastún*.

The recorded archaeology and architectural heritage within approximately 500m of the proposed development lands is shown below in Tables 1 and 2 (see also Figure 1 and Appendices 1, 2 and 3).

SMR No.	Class	Townland	Next RMP
DU017-027----	Ritual site - holy well	Tobermaclugg	Yes
DU017-028001-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Aderrig	Yes
DU017-028002-	Church	Aderrig	Yes
DU017-028003-	Graveyard	Aderrig	Yes
DU017-028004-	Field system	Aderrig	Yes
DU017-045----	House - 16th/17th century	Backwestonpark	Yes
DU017-092----	Enclosure	Aderrig	Yes
DU017-100----	Earthwork	Backstown	No
DU017-102----	Earthwork	Tobermaclugg	Yes
DU017-103----	Earthwork	Tobermaclugg	Yes
KD011-018----	Mound	Leixlip Demesne	Yes
KD011-041----	Excavation - miscellaneous	Ballymadeer	No

Table 1. Recorded archaeological monuments and places within 500m of the proposed development lands (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); see Figure 1 and Appendix 1)

Excavation no.	Site name	Licence no.	Site type
2001:475/ 2002:692	Tobermaclugg	01E1152	Holy well and 18th-century house site
2002:864	Backweston State Agriculture Laboratory Campus, Ballymadeer	02E0531, 02E0680	Monitoring; isolated pit
2006:671	Tobermaclugg Stream, Lucan	06D031, 06R068	Riverine; no archaeological significance
2006:672	Tobermaclugg, Lucan	06E0289	Holy well; no archaeological significance
No summary submitted	Finnstown	17E0477	Prehistoric Pits

*Table 2. Recorded archaeological excavations within c. 500m of the proposed development (source [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie); see Appendix 2)*

Reg No	Location:	Cat of Special Interest	Original Use	Date	RPS
11204001	Westonpark House	Architectural	House	1800 - 1840	106
11204002	Backweston House	Architectural	Farm house	1780 - 1820	-
11204044	Airlie House	Artistic	House	1820 - 1850	-
11204060	Aghderrig Farm	Archaeological , Architectural	Farm house	1800 - 1830	110
11204061	Aghderrig Farm	Architectural	Outbuilding	1800 - 1830	111

*Table 3. Recorded architectural heritage sites within the study area (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/); see Appendix 3).*

### 3.1. Prehistory (c. 9000 BC – 400 AD)

The earliest evidence of human habitation in the study area is in the form of a stone axehead found at Backweston Park (NMI Reg No. 1976:548; source ISAP database). Over 21,000 stone axeheads are known from Ireland (Sheridan et al. 1992, 391; Cooney and Mandal 1998, 4). They represent the ‘single most numerous artefact type surviving from prehistory in Ireland’ (Mandal 1997, 289; Mandal et al 2004, 116; Woodman 1978; 1987; Cooney and Grogan 1994), with their production and usage noted as commencing in the early Mesolithic and continuing well into the Bronze Age (c. 2,500 BCE – 500 BCE) (Cooney & Mandal 1998, 1; Sheridan et al 1992, 400; Cooney et al 2011, 432; Cooney 2000, 210). Since 1991 stone axeheads have been the focus of detailed research by the Irish Stone Axehead Project (ISAP). Stone axeheads were both a symbol of prestige and an ordinary working tool for people for thousands of years. They served a wide range of functions in early prehistoric Irish society, including use in woodworking, in burial and ceremonial contexts and as symbols of power.

Occupational debris found in pits excavated at Finnstown, to the southeast of the proposed development site (License No. 17E477; see Figure 1 and Appendix 2) in the form of hearth debris with the fills of pits, areas of in-situ burning, and artefacts including prehistoric pottery and worked flints, indicate a form of prehistoric settlement was situated in this area of Finnstown.

An undated (late-18th/19th C) Estate Map in the National Library of Ireland shows a mound, skirted along the N by a curving field boundary, near the W bank of the River Liffey. It is not shown on any edition of the OS 6-inch map, but the curving boundary is recorded on both the 1st ed.(1838) and latest ed. (1939) (see Figures 4 and 5 respectively). It’s size and form suggest it may be prehistoric, perhaps a Bronze Age Barrow, but only archaeological investigation would shed any light on this (see Figure 1 and Appendix 1).

### **3.2. Early Medieval (c. 400 – 1100 AD)**

The earliest monumental evidence of human habitation in the study area dates to the early medieval period. During this period, defensive enclosures known as ringforts were constructed to protect farmsteads. These are one of the most frequently recorded archaeological site types and c. 50,000 examples are recorded in the Irish landscape. Monuments classified in the SMRs as 'Enclosures' are often the ploughed out remains of ringforts; the enclosure at Aderrig (SMR No. DU17-92) may be the buried remains of a ringfort.

There is more substantial evidence of Early Christian Ireland in the area; notably the holy well at Tobermaclugg (Tober being the Gaelic for well) (SMR No. DU17-27) and Aderrig ecclesiastical enclosure (SMR No. DU17-28.1). The associated church (SMR No. DU17-28.2) and graveyard (SMR No. DU17-28.3) may date to many centuries later, but this pattern of building stone churches on Early Christian monastic settlements is well documented.

### **3.3. Later Medieval (c. 1150 – 1550 AD)**

Ireland was invaded by the Anglo-Norman's in May 1169, with the conquest starting in county Wexford in the southeast. The expansion into Leinster had an impact on the Irish landscape that lasts to this day. Most of the province of Leinster came under Strongbow's control after the conquest. During this period, the Anglo-Normans built castles of stone construction or large flat-topped mounds or mottes with timber structures atop (Harbison 1992) in order to defend their recently acquired lands. By the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman settlement was effective over the whole county.

This medieval parish church noted above (SMR No.: DU17-28.2) is one of those confirmed to the Archbishop of Dublin after the Anglo-Norman Conquest and in the first half of the 13th century was granted to St. Patrick's Cathedral (see Appendix 1).

### **3.4. Post- Medieval (c. 1550 –)**

The Down Survey (1655-6) map shows a house at 'Backstowne' where Westownpark House is located today (see Figure 2). This house was occupied by Thomas Sedgrave, a member of a Dublin mercantile family. After the Restoration Backweston House had become a residence of Sir Bryan O'Neill, a baronet and Knight (Ball 1906, 60). The present building is a three bay Georgian House with later additions (NIAH No. 11204001; RPS No. 106; see Appendix 3).

Rocque (c.1705–62) map is interesting as it shows the land proposed for development as in tillage (see Figure 3). The road now named Tubber Lane is clearly shown flanking the southern boundary of the site, as is the River Liffey to the north. Also of note is that Tobermaclug well is shown (as Tubermaclough spring). The cluster of buildings at Aderrig is also visible.

By the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey – Scale 6 inches: 1 mile (1838-1842), little had changed (see Figure 4). The proposed development site is shown as comprising a portion of one agricultural field. The townland boundary between Backstown and Tobermaclugh to the east and Aderrig to the south run along the road (Tuber Lane) which forms the southern boundary of the proposed development site. There is very little change in the landscape between this and the second edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch Maps: Scale 25-inches: 1 mile (1890s up to c. 1915; Figure 5).

Modern Aerial Photography (Google Maps; see Figure 6) show that whilst the area to the east of the proposed development lands have been very significantly developed in the recent past, including the very recent construction of the road which forms the northern boundary to the proposed development lands, the site itself remains relatively unchanged since at least the time of Roques' 18<sup>th</sup> century map, and probably long before.



#### 4. Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Risk

The potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage risk at the site can be summarised as follows:

- There are no recorded archaeological site within the proposed development lands.
- There are twelve recorded archaeological sites within c. 500m of the proposed development lands, of which ten are scheduled for inclusion the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places. None of these sites will be impacted, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed development works. However, they are indicative of the landscape having been populated since at least the Early Medieval Period.
- There are records of five archaeological excavations, a dive survey and a geophysical survey in the study area in advance of development works. Three of these identified archaeological remains, most significantly the discovery of prehistoric settlement in the form of pits. A stone axehead found in the study area gives further evidence of the area having been inhabited in early prehistory.
- A desk-top survey of the lands proposed for development, did not highlight any additional, previously unrecorded, archaeological features.
- The proposed development land is on undeveloped agricultural land which appears to have been unaltered since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- There are no recorded architectural heritage sites within the proposed development site. There are five sites within c. 500m of the proposed development lands, as listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for Co. Dublin, of which three are listed in the Record of Protected Structure in the South County Development Plan 2022-2028. None of these sites will be impacted, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed development works.

***Based on the above, there is a risk of previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains surviving on site.***

#### 5. Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

The proposed development will include the excavation of topsoil from the site for the digging of pad foundations and services, up to a depth of c. 1.5m. As noted above, there is the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological material to be uncovered during the course of development works.

It is possible to mitigate against the risks of impacting on previously unrecorded archaeological features (should they exist) during the course of development.

#### 6. Recommended Mitigation Measures

In order to mitigate against the archaeological risks of developing this site, the following is recommended:

1. The appointment of a suitably qualified archaeological consultant to oversee the project at construction phase.
2. The archaeological consultant should consult with the National Monuments Service and the design team, and implement a monitoring strategy, if required, in areas that have not been subjected to significant disturbance in the recent past.

3. Any archaeological features identified during monitoring in areas where they will be impacted on by the development, will require permission from the National Monuments Service for the excavation (preservation by record) of these remains.

*Please note that the recommendations given here are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

## 7. References

- Ball, E.F. 1902-20 (Reprint 1979) *A history of the County Dublin, 6 vols. Dublin*. Gill and Macmillan
- Cooney, G. 2000 *Landscapes of Neolithic Ireland*. Routledge, London.
- Cooney, G. and Grogan, E. 1994. *Irish Prehistory – A Social Perspective*. Dublin: Wordwell.
- Cooney, G. and Mandal, S 1998 *Irish Stone Axe Project Monograph I*. Dublin: Wordwell.
- Cooney, G., S. Mandal and E. O’Keeffe 2011 The Irish Stone Axe Project: Reviewing progress, future prospects, in V. Davis and M. Edmonds (eds) *Stone Axe Studies III*, 427-441. Oxbow Books, Oxford.
- Eogan, G., 1965. *A catalogue of Irish Bronze swords*. Dublin.
- Eogan, G., 1983. *Hoards of the Irish Later Bronze Age*. Dublin.
- Eogan, G., 1994. *The Accomplished Art, Gold and Gold working in Britain and Ireland during the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 650 BC)*. Oxbow Monograph **42**, Oxford.
- Harbison, P. 1992 *Guide to the National and Historic Monuments of Ireland*. Dublin. Gill and Macmillan.
- Mandal, S. 1997 Striking The Balance: The Roles of Petrography and Geochemistry in Stone Axe Studies in Ireland, *Archaeometry* 39, 289-308.
- Mandal, S., A. O’Sullivan, E. Byrnes, D. Weddle and J. Weddle 2004 Archaeological experiments in the production of stone axeheads, in E. A. Walker, F. Wenban-Smith and F. Healy (eds) *Lithics In Action Papers from the conference Lithic Studies in the Year 2000*, 116-123. Oxbow Books, Oxford.
- Raftery, B., 1983. *A catalogue of Irish iron age antiquities*. Marburg
- Sheridan, J.A., Cooney, G. and Grogan, E. 1992 Stone axe studies in Ireland. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 58, 389-416.
- Stout, M. 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

### Online resources:

- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)
- [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)
- [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)
- [www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html](http://www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html)
- [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)
- [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)

## Figures

- Figure 1. Site location map showing recorded archaeological monuments and places, archaeological excavations and recorded architectural heritage buildings within c. 500m of the proposed development lands (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)).
- Figure 2. Extract from William Petty's (1660) map of Dublin (source [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)).
- Figure 3. Extract from Roque's (1760) map of Dublin (source [www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html](http://www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html)).
- Figure 4. Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1830s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Figure 5. Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1910s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the proposed development lands (source [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)).

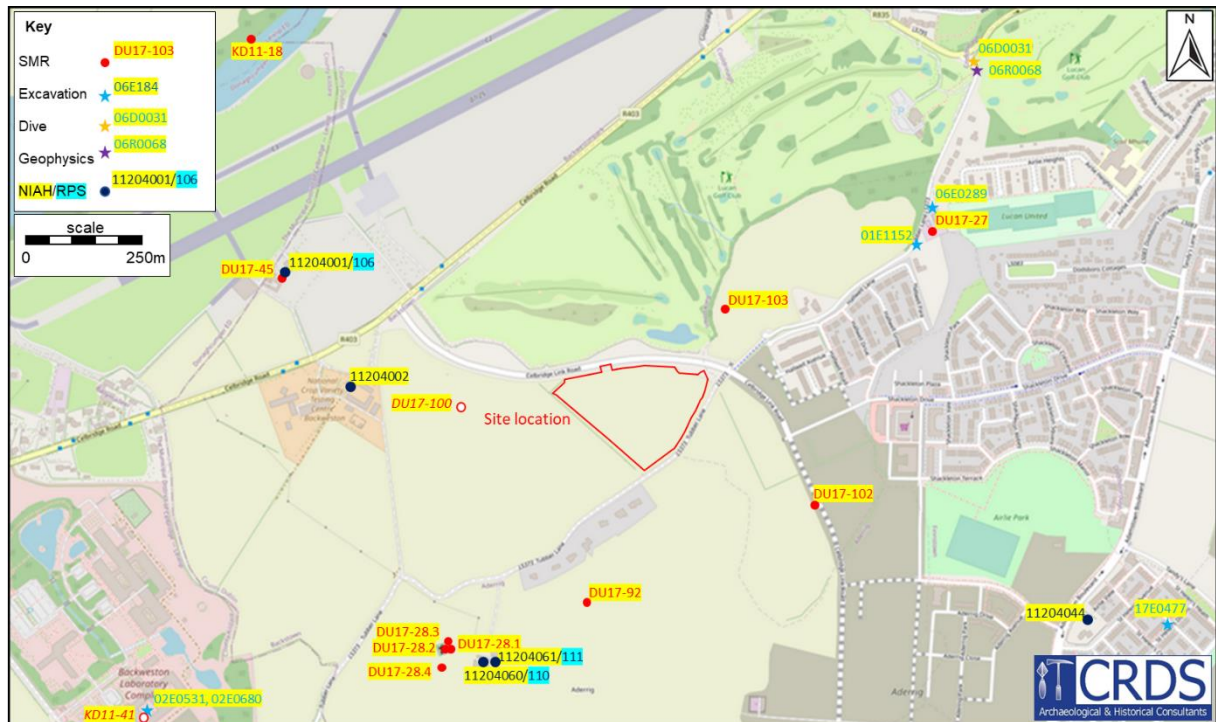


Figure 1. Site location map showing recorded archaeological monuments and places, archaeological excavations and recorded architectural heritage buildings within c. 500m of the proposed development lands (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)).

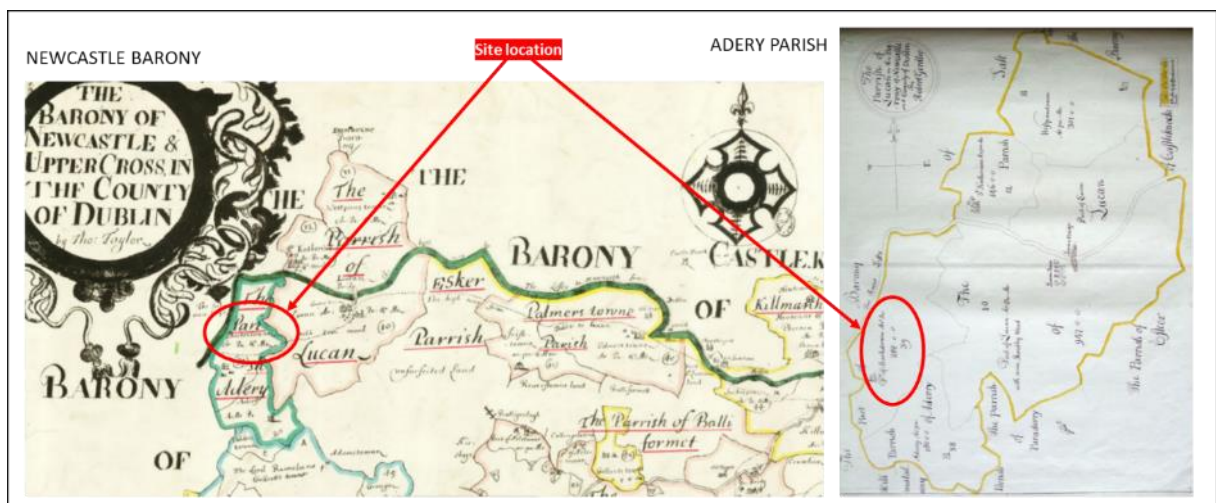


Figure 2. Extract from William Petty's (1660) map of Dublin (source [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)).





Figure 3. Extract from Roque's (1760) map of Dublin (source [www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html](http://www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html)).



Figure 4. Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1830s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

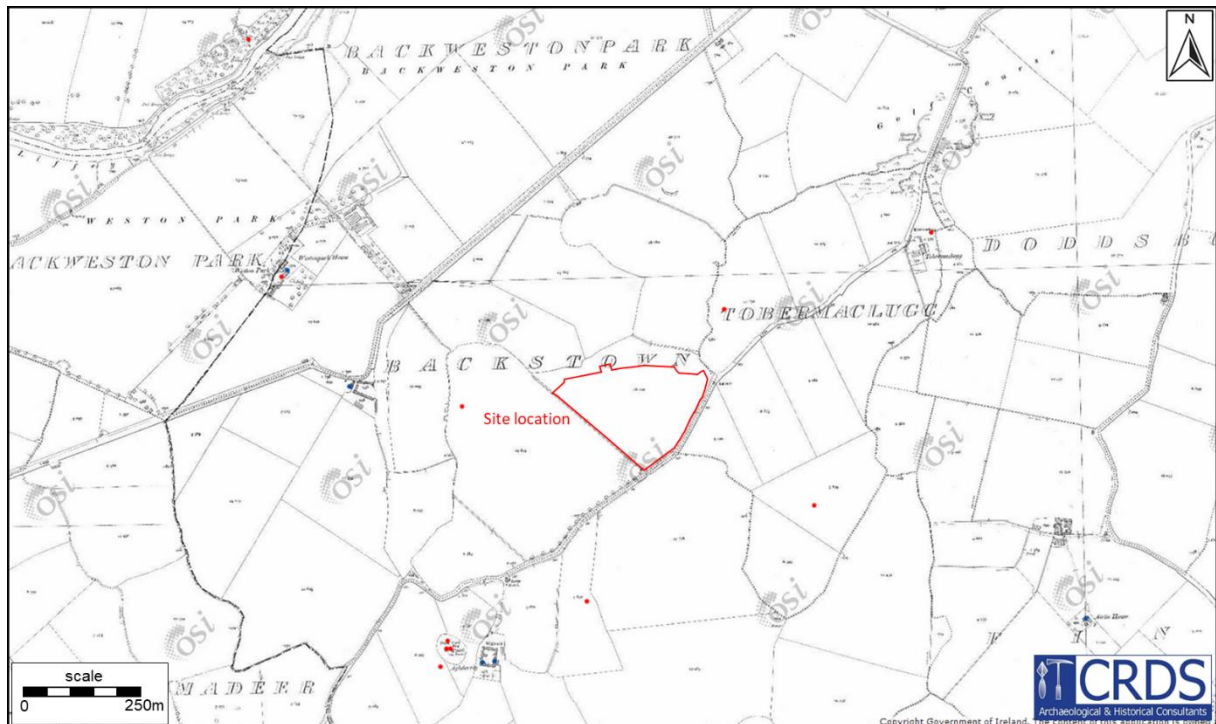


Figure 5. Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1910s; source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).



Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the proposed development lands (source [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)).

## Appendices

- Appendix 1. Recorded Archaeological Monuments and Places (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).
- Appendix 2. Archaeological Excavations ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)).
- Appendix 3. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage / Record of Protected Structures ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie); [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/development-plan/)).



## Appendix 1. Recorded Archaeological Monuments and Places

The recorded monuments and places within c. 500m of the proposed development are listed below, all noted in the Record of Monuments and Places for Dublin (source [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

**SMR No.:** DU017-027----



**Class:** Ritual site - holy well

**Townland:** TOBERMACLUGG

**Description:** Tobermaclugg or Tobar na gClog is a natural spring situated in a hollow by a tree. Accessible from steps (Ó Danachair 1958, 83). It is dedicated to St. John (Daly 1957, 18). No longer venerated.

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

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout

**Revised by:** Caimin O'Brien

**Date of upload:** 17 April 2023

**References:**

1. Daly, M. 1957 Curative wells in old Dublin. Dublin Historical Record 17, 13-24.
2. Ó Danachair, C. 1958 The holy wells of county Dublin. Reportorium Novum 2, 68-87; 2, No. 2 The holy wells of County Dublin: A supplementary list, 233-5.

**SMR No.:** DU017-028001-



**Class:** Ecclesiastical enclosure

**Townland:** ADERRIG

**Description:** An oblique aerial photograph (CUCAP, BDU047) taken 19/07/1970 shows Aderrig Church (DU017-028002-) standing on a circular-shaped hillock partially enclosed by an earth and bank field boundary from S to W only which has been partially levelled from W through N to E, with an external fosse enclosing an oval-shaped area (dims. 70m x 50m). A possible inner bank with opening in the S is also visible on the photograph. The field boundary has now been removed and some of the enclosing features can be identified on the ground as an artificially raised area. This oval shaped earthwork enclosing Aderrig church and graveyard (DU017-028003-) is depicted on the 1837 ed. OSI 6-inch map and represents the enclosing element of Aderrig graveyard. The poorly preserved remains of Aderrig Church now stands isolated on an island of uncultivated land in a tillage field with no surface remains visible of grave-markers or any enclosing element that was visible in the 1970 aerial photograph. Enclosing feature visible on Cambridge University aerial photograph may be the remains of the enclosing element of the graveyard which may follow the line of an earlier ecclesiastical enclosure. Outline of levelled enclosure visible as a cropmark on Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011-13.



Cropmarks of possible field system (DU017-028004-) to S of church and graveyard visible on Google Earth orthoimages.

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

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Revised by: Caimin O'Brien

Date of upload: 29 May 2023

References:

1. CUCAP - Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs. Unit for Landscape Modelling, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge. See: <https://www.cambridgeairphotos.com>

**SMR No.:** DU017-028002-



**Class:** Church

**Townland:** ADERRIG

**Description:** Aderrig (Áth Deirg/Red Ford) Church and graveyard (DU017-028003-) stands on an artificial rise within the W quadrant of a levelled enclosure (DU017-028001-). This medieval parish church is one of those confirmed to the Archbishop of Dublin after the Anglo-Norman Conquest and in the first half of the 13th century was granted to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Between 1212-28 there are references to the 'Ecclesia de Adderke' (Gilbert 1897, 137). In 1328, on the 12th of June, the Archbishop of Dublin being then abroad, Dean Rodyard, as Vicar-General, held an inquisition relative to the right of presentation to the church of Adderke (Mason 1820, 122). In 1547 a 21 year lease was granted by the Crown to Thomas Luttrell of Luttrellstown which included the; 'the rectory of Aderge, county Dublin, with Roes Croft and other appurtenances in Aderge, and the tithes, &c., extending to the towns of Aderge, Backweyston, Fydanston, Kellioston, Galrotheston, Kaillaghton, and Leighton; lands in Marshialrathe, Esker, Kysshoke, and Lucan; parcel of the possessions of the vicars-choral of the late cathedral of S. Patrick, Dublin. Also the rectory or prebend of Monmahennoke, county Kildare, with all tithes, &c., belonging thereto. To hold for twenty-one years, at a rent of £31, finding fit chaplains for the churches of Aderge and Monmahennoke' (Nicholls 1994, 98).

Poorly preserved ivy-clad single cell rectangular church (ext. dims. 12.9m NE-SW x 7.3m N-S; Wall T 0.8-0.9m) aligned NE-SW which was built with roughly coursed large limestone blocks with packing stones in the interstices with alternating long and short quoin stones. It has been suggested that the walls of the church represents two phases of construction (SMR Field Report Heey Wheeler 13/09/1977 and Michael Moore 26/06/1986). The first phase is represented by the use of large stones (dims. c. 0.5 x 0.7m) in the lower walls which in some places is capped by smaller masonry (dims. c. 0.4m x 0.15m) representing a second phase of construction. The large masonry is bonded with a white coloured mortar while the smaller masonry on the the higher sections of the wall are bonded with a cream-coloured mortar. There are two putlog holes visible in the N wall c. 1m from ground level and 2 putlog holes visible in the S wall. The putlog hole in the S wall close to the door runs through the wall at an angle and may have served some other function than a putlog. The church has opposed doorways at the W end of the N and S walls which may be later insertions. The better preserved S doorway (Wth 1m) has a pointed segmental arch now covered in ivy with a rebate and draw-bar hole visible. The poorly preserved N doorway no survives as a broken out opening and has a particular long drawbar hole in the E jamb. Interior is lit by a slit ope in W gable which may have been an insertion. The N side of a similar window in the E wall survives. The N wall stands to full height or to eaves level (c. 3m) along with the W part of the S wall. The ivy-clad W gable stands to full height. N side of E gable stands c. 2m high.

Church ruins described by Ní Mharcaigh (1997, 263-264) as follows; 'Aderrig Church stands at the highest point of a circular raised burial ground, at one side of a larger elliptical raised feature. Aerial photography shows that the church lies within a larger enclosure. The west wall stands to gable height and the north wall to about 3m for its full length. The north corner of the east wall stands to about 2.5m and terminates in a jamb for a splayed window with a flat sill. The south corner of the east wall stands to less than 1m and the side is completely broken. An entrance in the south wall, 3.7m from the west gable, has a pointed arch edged by large plain stones. It is 1m wide and has a bolt hole on the west side. There is an opening 0.2m sq. in the south wall west of the entrance. In the north wall there is another entrance of the same dimensions directly opposite the south entrance with a bolt hole on the east side; the other side is broken and the top of the door is missing. A sill of flat stones in the north wall indicates a window but the upper part of the wall is missing. There are two putlog holes in this wall, 1m from ground level. Most of the south wall east of the door is missing except for foundations. There is no evidence for a division into nave and chancel. A slit window, splayed inside, is in the west gable'.

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

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Revised by: Caimin O'Brien

Date of upload: 25 May 2023

#### References:

1. Mason, W.M. 1820 The history and antiquities of the collegiate and cathedral church of St. Patrick, near Dublin. Dublin. Author.
2. McNeill, C. (ed.) 1950 Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register c. 1172-1534. Dublin. Royal Society of Antiquaries.
3. Ní Mharcaigh, M. 1997 The medieval parish churches of south-west County Dublin. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 97C, 245-96.
4. Nicholls, K.W. (ed.) 1994 The Irish fiants of the Tudor sovereigns during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip & Mary, and Elizabeth I, 4 vols. Dublin. Éamonn de Búrca for Edmund Burke Publisher.
5. Ball, E.F. 1902-20 (Reprint 1979) A history of the County Dublin, 6 vols. Dublin. Gill and Macmillan.
6. Gilbert, J.T. 1897 Crede Mihi: the most ancient register book of the archbishops of Dublin before the Reformation. Dublin.

**SMR No.:** DU017-028003-

**Class:** Graveyard

**Townland:** ADERRIG

**Description:** Situated on an artificial rise within an enclosure (DU017-028001-) in flat, low-lying ground. The graveyard is unfenced with two gravestones outside the SW corner of the ruined medieval church (DU017-028002-) one of which dates to 1733 the other 1820.

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

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Date of upload: 26 August 2011

**SMR No.:** DU017-028004-



**Class:** Field system

**Townland:** ADERRIG

**Description:** A series of enclosures are visible as crop marks Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011-13 along the west and southern boundaries of the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU017-028001-).

These may represent the remains of a field system associated with the ecclesiastical site (SMR file; pers. comm. Tom Condit, 11 March 2015).

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

Compiled by: Paul Walsh  
Date of upload: 12 March 2015

**SMR No.: DU017-045----**

Class: House - 16th/17th century  
Townland: BACKWESTONPARK

Description: The Down Survey (1655-6) map shows a house at 'Backstowne' where Westownpark House is located today. This house was occupied by Thomas Sedgrave, a member of a Dublin mercantile family. After the Restoration Backweston House had become a residence of Sir Bryan O'Neill, a baronet and Knight (Ball 1906, 60). The present building is a three bay Georgian House with later additions.

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

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout  
Date of upload: 26 August 2011

References:

1. Ball, E.F. 1902-20 (Reprint 1979) A history of the County Dublin, 6 vols. Dublin. Gill and Macmillan.

**SMR No.: DU017-092----**



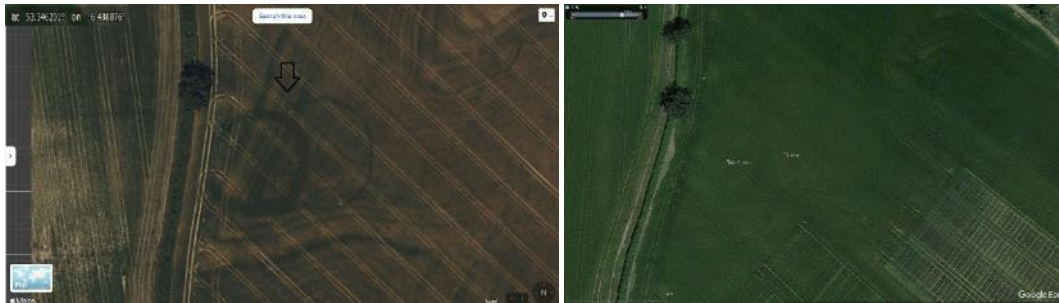
Class: Enclosure  
Townland: ADERRIG

Description: A sub-circular enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph (SMR file; pers. comm. Tom Condit, 11 March 2015). The north-eastern perimeter was reflected in a field boundary shown on the OS maps, now removed.

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

Compiled by: Paul Walsh  
Date of upload: 12 March 2015

**SMR No.: DU017-100----**



Class: Earthwork  
Townland: BACKSTOWN

Description: In grassland immediately E of a watercourse running from S to N. Ecclesiastical site (DU017-028001-) 470m to S. Cropmark of a circular shaped area (diam. c. 35m) defined by a wide ditch with cropmark of semi-circular-shaped annexe (diam. c. 23m) defined by a faint narrow cropmark to E visible on OSi Bluesky orthoimages taken 2018 (<https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e0c5595b033341de>)

a7661e248d2e9ee9). Faint traces of cropmark visible on Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011-13 and on Google Earth orthoimages taken 12/07/2013 and 27/06/2019.

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien based on details provided by Donal Lucey and Jean-Charles Caillere

Date of upload: 30 November 2022

**SMR No.:** DU017-102----



Class: Earthwork

Townland: TOBERMACLUGG

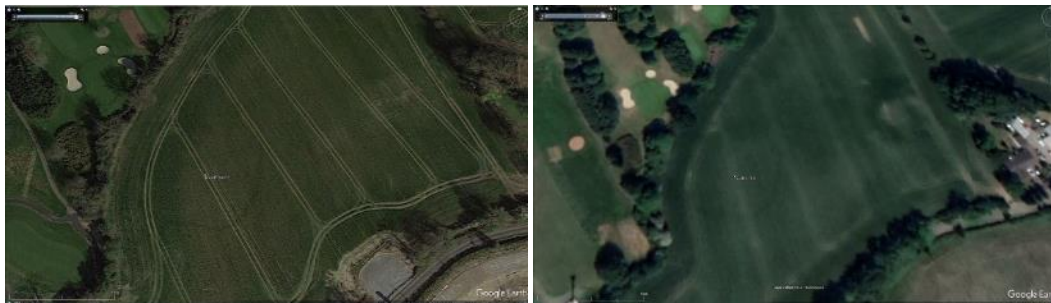
Description: In grassland. Cropmark of polygonal-shaped area (dims. c. 46m N-S x 24m E-W) defined by a wide ditch visible on OSi Bluesky orthoimage taken 2018 (<https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e0c5595b033341dea7661e248d2e9ee9>). Faint traces of cropmark visible on Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011-13 and clearly visible on Google Earth orthoimages. Google Earth orthoimage taken 04/04/2021 shows the construction of a road that has cut across the NE quadrant of the cropmark.

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

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien based on details provided by Donal Lucey and Jean-Charles Caillere

Date of upload: 30 November 2022

**SMR No.:** DU017-103----



Class: Earthwork

Townland: TOBERMACLUGG

Description: In grassland. Cropmark of a large sub-circular shaped area (diam. c. 50m) defined by a wide ditch visible on OSi Bluesky orthoimages taken 2018 (<https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e0c5595b033341dea7661e248d2e9ee9>). Partial cropmark visible on Google Earth orthoimage taken 04/04/2021.

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

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien based on details provided by Donal Lucey and Jean-Charles Caillere

Date of upload: 30 November 2022

**SMR No.:** KD011-018----

Class: Mound

Townland: LEIXLIP DEMESNE

Description: An undated (late-18th/19th C) Estate Map (Ms 21.F.37 (131-171) map 157) in the National Library of Ireland shows a mound, skirted along the N by a curving field boundary, near the W bank of the River Liffey. It is not shown on any ed. of the OS 6-inch map, but the curving boundary is recorded on both the 1st ed.(1838) and latest ed. (1939). In a narrow strip of old

woodland bordering the river with level pasture to W and N. A very overgrown, low, almost circular earthen mound (basal diams. 22.9m N-S; 21.7m E-W; H 1.5m at N - 2m at S) has a level upper surface (diams. 8.9m N-S; 8.4m E-W).

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

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy

Date of upload: 10 June 2011

**SMR No.:** KD011-041----

**Class:** Excavation - miscellaneous

**Townland:** BALLYMADEER

**Description:** In 2002, archaeological monitoring (Licence No. 02E0680) was undertaken before development of the Backweston State Agricultural Laboratory Campus, and a pit was archaeologically excavated. It was cut into the natural boulder clay and had been significantly truncated on top, presumably by late post-medieval or modern ploughing. It exhibited clear indications of in situ burning, containing two charcoal-rich fills, with the natural boulder clay surrounding the edge of the cut burnt to a light to mid-red/brown. The feature measured 2.03m north-east/south-west by 0.94m. It achieved a maximum depth of c. 0.22m. The cut had a flat base, with straight sides and sharp upper and basal breaks of slope. The upper fill was a mid-grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional burnt mid-red/brown patches and small, irregularly shaped stones, and a single medium-sized stone. It was 0.14m deep. The lower 0.08m of fill was black, of which 90% was composed of charcoal (flecks and small fragments), with 10% comprising a soil identical to the upper fill of the feature. The lower fill was visible around some of the edges of the feature, indicating truncation. No small finds were recovered from these deposits. ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie))

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy

Date of upload: 10 June 2011



## Appendix 2. Archaeological Excavations

The excavation bulletin website ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) was consulted to identify previous excavations that have been carried out c. 500m of the proposed development lands. This database contains summary accounts of excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2022. The Dublin dataset on Heritage Maps ([www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)) was also examined; this database includes full excavation reports for the above archaeological excavation summaries. The site locations for excavations was taken from the Heritage Maps database as it is a more reliable source.

**Excavation no.: 2001:475/2002:692**

Site name: Tobermaclugg

SMR No.: SMR 17:27

Licence No.: 01E1152

Author: Georgina Scally, 81 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4, for Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd.

Site type: Holy well and house site

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 701190m, N 733961m

Description: The site of the 18th-century Tobermaclugg House and Holy Well is located in a field of rough grassland and dense overgrowth c. 12 miles west of Dublin city, c. 2 miles south-west of Lucan village. Topographically the site (320m x 160m) is divided in two: a plateau of elevated ground, reputedly the site of Tobermaclugg House, on the western side, and on the eastern side a low-lying valley, reputedly the site of Tobermaclugg Holy Well.

On the elevated ground remains of a building (20m x 10m) were located beneath overgrowth, together with foundations of several outhouses. From map references and site examination most of the structures are thought to be 19th-century in date. However, a gate pillar at the site entrance and foundations of a low wall extending into the site for c. 15m and terminating with a second gate pillar were identified. Although these features are not datable in themselves, the masonry employed in their construction differs from other surviving remains on the site and they may be contemporary with the original 18th-century Tobermaclugg House. Between the upstanding remains, seven test-trenches were excavated by mechanical digger. In no trench were finds or features of any archaeological significance uncovered.

On the low-lying ground in the valley of the site a single test-trench was excavated by mechanical digger. Remains of a well were located c. 0.4m below present ground level. The well was composed of a roughly oval area of cut stone c. 1m in diameter, c. 0.5m high and abutted by three stone steps; it was not fully exposed. The trench was backfilled and no further excavation took place.

**Excavation no.: 2002:864**

Site name: Backweston State Agriculture Laboratory Campus, Ballymadeer

SMR No.: N/A

Licence No.: 02E0531, 02E0680

Author: William O. Frazer, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 2 Killiney View, Albert Road Lower, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Monitoring/isolated pit

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 699929m, N 733277m

Description: Monitoring was undertaken from April 2002 before development of the Backweston State Agricultural Laboratory Campus. The development site is on the Kildare–Dublin border, east of Celbridge and south of Leixlip. It encompasses most of the townland of Ballymadeer and comprises c. 36.76ha. The site is quite flat, and most or all of the land was boggy and undrained (and possibly partially wooded) until the post-medieval era (probably the mid-/late 18th century or early 19th century). At this time much of the surrounding land was being, or had been, reorganised into various, lesser-gentry estates like St Wolstan's House (SMR 11:28) and Stacumny House (SMR 11:21). The development site was not included in the lands of St Wolstan's House at the time of the Civil Survey in the mid-17th century, but it lay immediately adjacent to (east of) that estate. Although it is unclear whether all or part of the development site was held by either of these two estates by the mid-/late 18th century, evidence of the

systematic drainage and 'improvement' of the development site suggests organised estate management, undertaken according to ideas about agricultural improvement that were widespread at that time. Fields in the development site were farmed (and cropped) fairly intensively during subsequent centuries. A consequence of ploughing and associated practices has been the damaging of earlier archaeological evidence of land use or settlement.

Before its post-medieval drainage, around one-third of the development site appears to have been used as common (boggy) land, with associated communal rights of pasture and turbary. Another one-third of the site was probably held by St Wolstan's Priory (SMR 11:14) and passed into the possession of Sir John Alen, at St Wolstan's House, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. The remaining one-third of the site, including the archaeological deposits described in this report, formed part of the townland of 'Stacomny', at least up until the mid-17th century. These latter two-thirds of the site are similar to that part that was once common land and are likely to have served similar purposes for, respectively, the lordly holdings of St Wolstan's Priory and the medieval church foundation at the present site of Stacomny House (see report by Una Cosgrave in *Excavations* 1997, No. 265, 97E0119). This pattern of land use probably dates from at least the medieval period and may extend back to the Early Christian period. Evidence of prehistoric activity on the development site (in the form of ploughzone artefacts) was extremely sparse but may indicate that parts of the site were not always as wet during that era, despite the lack of drainage. It is possible therefore that the site served as rough pasture for much of its earlier history. Field observations indicated intensive recent (modern and possibly later post-medieval) agricultural activity across most of the site.

Sterile glacial-drift soils ('boulder clay') were encountered at depths of 0.2–0.4m below the pre-development ground level during monitoring. Across much of the site a decayed limestone bedrock was present only 0.5–0.7m beneath the pre-development ground level. Field drains and culverts were not mapped, as they mostly conformed to typical late post-medieval (post-agricultural improvement) morphologies. Two field drains that were not immediately identifiable as late post-medieval or modern proved, from finds in their base (creamware from one, and creamware and a wire iron nail from the other), to be of late 18th-/19th-century date.

Topsoil finds across the site indicate activity from the late 18th century onward, evidence that is consistent with the landscape history of the site. They include black-glazed red earthenwares; (late) clay-pipe fragments; creamwares (blue and green shell-edged, transfer-printed willow pattern etc.); wire nails; and homogeneous, high-fired brick fragments. Other typical (earlier) post-medieval finds were noticeably absent. A few artefacts from earlier eras were found in one of the fields in the east-central part of the development site (near NGR 300250 233250), but no archaeological features were unearthed there. Likely prehistoric finds include two fragments of struck, light grey flint (one debitage and the other a possible broken blade that has been burnt). A mid-blue (indigo), apple-shaped glass bead (7mm by 9mm by 9mm) may be of prehistoric, Early Christian or medieval date. Any archaeological features that these stray topsoil finds may once have related to appear to have been destroyed by late post-medieval/modern agriculture.

No deposits of archaeological significance were unearthed anywhere on the site, with the exception of an isolated, truncated, subrectangular pit with evidence of in situ burning (NGR 299990.472 233235.691, c. 61m OD). Topsoil removal across the development site has not been completed and will continue in 2003.

The pit was in a field to the south-west of the development and was excavated under a separate licence (02E0680). It lay at the north-east edge of a very gradual natural rise that sloped up to the south-west, in otherwise flat and low-lying ground, covered by c. 0.25m of topsoil. The field, while showing no evidence of peat formation, had clearly been wet and boggy for much of its past. It had been heavily ploughed in later post-medieval and modern times, with significant damage to earlier archaeology a likely consequence. The land has been drained only in the last 250 years or so, probably in the latter half of the 18th century.

The pit was cut into the natural boulder clay and had been significantly truncated on top, presumably by late post-medieval/modern ploughing. It exhibited clear indications of in situ burning, containing two charcoal-rich fills, with the natural boulder clay surrounding the edge of the cut burnt to a light to mid-red/brown. The feature measured 2.03m north-east/south-west by 0.94m. It achieved a maximum depth of c. 0.22m. The cut had a flat base, with straight

sides and sharp upper and basal breaks of slope. The upper fill was a mid-grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional burnt mid-red/brown patches and small, irregularly shaped stones, and a single medium-sized stone. It was 0.14m deep. The lower 0.08m of fill was black, of which 90% was composed of charcoal (flecks and small fragments), with 10% comprising a soil identical to the upper fill of the feature. The lower fill was visible around some of the edges of the feature, indicating truncation. No small finds were recovered from these deposits.

An area measuring 10–12m across, with the feature at its centre, was cleaned by hand, but no further archaeological deposits were found. No evidence of a fulacht fiadh mound was anywhere apparent. It may be that other, shallower features once surrounded the pit but no longer survive owing to agricultural practice in succeeding centuries.

The fills in the pit are likely to be the remains of fuel burnt in the cut and a mixture of ash and backfill. A certain amount of soil migration during post-depositional processes has resulted in some identical soil elements in both fills. Because of its isolation, it is difficult to interpret the burnt pit itself, and it is not even clear how many episodes of use the pit represents (probably not many). The time frame for the pit is also unclear, although it is unlikely to date from periods during which the field was probably boggy (medieval, possibly Early Christian) or after the time it was drained, improved and used more intensively for agriculture (post-medieval, modern).

Small finds recovered from the topsoil in the vicinity of the feature (NGR 30000.7519 23323.5307), c. 15m distant, included two fragments of a sheet-bronze pierced disc artefact, c. 60mm in diameter, with a central hole, 10mm in diameter. A concentration of late 18th-/19th-century potsherds (black-glazed earthenwares, transfer-printed willow pattern wares) found near the bronze artefact prompts speculation that the spot may have once lain beneath a plough headland where artefacts tended to collect in the topsoil.

**Excavation no.: 2006:671**

Site name: Tobermaclugg Stream, Lucan

SMR No.: -

Licence No.: 06D031, 06R068

Author: Rex Bangerter, The Archaeological Diving Co. Ltd, Brehon House, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

Site type: Riverine

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 701679m, N 734269m

Description: Non-disturbance archaeological assessment took place of a 200m section of Tobermaclugg Stream, on the site of the proposed pumping station and storm water tanks associated with the Admestown ASDZ development. The development works will include the construction of twin rising mains, a trunk foul-sewer, a storm-water culvert, an overflow channel, pumping station and storm-water tanks to facilitate the Adamstown housing development. The waterway is in close proximity to two sites of archaeological interest: Tobermaclugg Holy Well and the remains of Tobermaclugg House (DU017–027). Both sites are depicted on the first-edition (1848) OS map.

Visual inspection was employed to assess the archaeological potential of the streambed and attendant bank structures along the affected section of Tobermaclugg Stream. Detailed descriptions were made of stream topography and bottom composition. A photographic record of the existing stream environment was made. Metal detection was deemed impractical due to the high concentration of metallic debris present within the stream. It was not possible to tune out the background metallic signature and an almost constant hit ratio was observed. No archaeologically significant materials/structures were encountered as part of the survey.

**Excavation no.: 2006:672**

Site name: Tobermaclugg, Lucan

SMR No.: DU017–027

Licence No.: 06E0289

Author: Amanda Kelly, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 9 Albert Terrace, Meath Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Site type: Holy well



Period/Dating: —  
ITM: E 701190m, N 733961m  
Description: Test-trenching took place on 2 May 2006 in advance of the development of a proposed pumping station in the vicinity of a holy well. Nine trenches were excavated within the area to be occupied by the pumping station, as it is bounded by a stream and was classed as an area of archaeological potential during the initial desktop assessment. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered within this area. Trench 10 was located in the south-west corner of the area and was opened in order to locate the extent of the holy well.

The well was comprised of a substantial capstone (1.2m by 1m) abutted by four steps that descend along the east side of the well to the south façade of the structure where the water would have been accessed. The steps measured c. 0.8m wide by 0.3m long and each rose to a height of c. 0.15m. It is probable that the steps continue downwards, as described in the SMR file. The structure was considerable, measuring 2m by 1.6m, although no associated archaeological features were discovered surrounding the well. Once disturbed, the spring emitted copious amounts of water and a small channel had to be dug to drain the trench. No dating evidence was discovered during the testing, but the well was obviously created to venerate the natural spring that flows into the stream.

During previous testing, the well was originally recorded by Georgina Scally, who located, and partially exposed, the structure (Excavations 2001, No. 475, 01E1152). The position of the well in 2001 was stated to be c. 0.4m beneath ground level. As the site of the holy well has been established, a 5m buffer has been installed between the remains and the proposed pumping station.

**Excavation no.: NO SUMMARY SUBMITTED**

Site name: Finnstown  
SMR No.: N/A  
Licence No.: 17E0477  
Author: Jane Whitaker, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 9 Albert Terrace, Meath Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
Site type: Prehistoric Pits  
Period/Dating: —  
ITM: E 702169M, N 733469m  
Description: The following report describes the preliminary results of an archaeological excavation at Finnstown, Adamstown, Co. Dublin (Licence: 17E0477). The site is situated within the Adamstown SDZ. The excavations were undertaken by Jane Whitaker for IAC Archaeology on behalf of Castlethorn Developments in advance of proposed residential development. Excavation follows on from an earlier programme of licenced monitoring (Licence 17E0477) in September 2017.

A total of eight features were excavated in the north western portion of this development area. Six pit like features were identified during monitoring and two more pit features were uncovered during excavation. Three of these pits can be associated with burning activity and either acted as hearths or as firepits. The remaining pits were also associated with this burning activity with their fills containing high amounts burnt debris. Other occupational evidence in the form of flint artefacts, degraded pottery pieces, burnt and unburnt bone fragments were also recovered from the fills of these features. Residual evidence of prehistoric activity in the general area was also present with a number of worked flint pieces found within the topsoil.

### Appendix 3. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage / Record of Protected Structures

The recorded architectural heritage sites within the study area are listed below, all noted in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Co. Dublin ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie); [www.buildingsofireland.ie/](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/)).

**Reg No** 11204001

**RPS No.** 106



#### Westonpark House, Celbridge Road, BACKWESTONPARK, DUBLIN

**Rating** Regional

**Cat of Spec Int** Architectural

**Original Use** House

**In Use As** House

**Date** 1800 - 1840

**Coordinates** 300409, 234341

**Date Recorded** 20/05/2002

**Date Updated** --/--/--

**Description** Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1825, on an L-plan, with full-height canted bay window to each side. Timber sash windows. Timber panelled door with fanlight set into dressed stone door surround with engaged columns, flanking sash windows and open-bed triangular pediment. Roughcast rendered walls with smooth rendered base course and parallel quoins. Hipped slate roof with smooth rendered chimney stacks. Two-storey wing and flat-roofed veranda to rere. Limestone rubble wall adjacent to house. Cylindrical ashlar stone gate piers at head of drive.

**Appraisal** A handsome, modest house with an attractively detailed doorway, retaining fabric from different building phases enriching its history. The mature grounds and avenue with gate piers enhance its setting.

**Reg No** 11204002



#### Backweston House, Off Celbridge Road, BACKSTOWN, DUBLIN

**Rating** Regional

**Cat of Spec Int** Architectural

**Original Use** Farm house

**In Use As** Office

**Date** 1780 - 1820

**Coordinates** 300444, 233970

**Date Recorded** 20/05/2002

**Date Updated** --/--/--

Description	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c. 1800. Timber sash windows. Replacement timber panelled door with original radial fanlight. Roughcast rendered walls with smooth rendered base course and raised quoins. Extensions to rere of house with various casement windows. Square rubble stone gate piers to rere leading to road.
Appraisal	Simple, well-proportioned Georgian house retaining much original fabric, including a simple radial fanlight. Provides a valuable historical character to the adjacent modern farm complex.

**Reg No** 11204044



**Airlie House, Tandy's Lane, FINNSTOWN, DUBLIN**

Rating	Regional
Cat of Spec Int	Artistic
Original Use	House
Date	1820 - 1850
Coordinates	302068, 233452
Date Recorded	16/05/2002
Date Updated	--/--/--
Description	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1840, with large two-storey L-plan extension to rere. Roughcast rendered walls with smooth rendered base course. Timber sash windows to front, timber and uPVC windows to sides and rere. Projecting central flat-roofed porch extension with further projecting semi-circular canopy on four simple Ionic columns. Timber panelled door with carved timber surround. Hipped slate roof with rendered chimney stacks. Large garage extension to north-east. Mid twentieth-century extension to west. Circular cut stone ornamental pond set within grounds and glass structure to rear housing swimming pool.
Appraisal	This large country house has been reasonably maintained and is set in peaceful and pleasant surroundings. The original section still retains its original proportions and timber sash windows. The series of additions and alterations is a good example of the evolution of formerly modest houses of this type.

**Reg No** 11204060

**RPS No.** 110



**Aghderrig Farm, ADERRIG, DUBLIN**

Rating	Regional
Cat of Spec Int	Archaeological, Architectural
Original Use	Farm house
In Use As	Farm house
Date	1800 - 1830
Coordinates	300665, 233389
Date Recorded	20/05/2002

Date Updated	--/--/--
Description	Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1820. Replacement timber casement windows. Replacement timber panelled door with radial fanlight. Roughcast rendered walls with smooth rendered base course, window heads and door surround. Pitched slate roof with smooth rendered chimney stacks. Gabled projection to rere. In field adjacent to house are the remains of a medieval church, currently in an overgrown state.
Appraisal	A modest two-storey farmhouse which, despite some alterations, retains its original proportions and forms, with its outbuildings, a good example of a working rural farm complex.

**Reg No** 11204061  
**RPS No.** 111



**Aghderrig Farm, ADERRIG, DUBLIN**

Rating	Regional
Cat of Spec Int	Architectural
Original Use	Outbuilding
In Use As	Outbuilding
Date	1800 - 1830
Coordinates	300756, 233358
Date Recorded	20/05/2002
Date Updated	--/--/--
Description	Detached three-bay two-storey outbuildings, c.1820, on an L-shaped plan, attached to main house of farm. Various openings to elevations of outbuildings with larger openings on ground floor, one blocked. Limestone rubble walls. Pitched slate roof.
Appraisal	The L-shaped plan of the outbuildings forms one corner of a courtyard adjacent to the farm house, and the buildings are a good example of the vernacular tradition of Irish farm buildings.