ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
SKERRIES ROAD, PALMER ROAD, PALMER AVENUE AND ST. MAUR’S PARK,
RUSH, COUNTY DUBLIN

ON BEHALF OF:
THE SKERRIES ROAD PARTNERSHIP

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ABSTRACT

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has prepared this report on behalf of The Skerries Road Partnership, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed residential development located in the townland of Rush Demesne, at Skerries Road, Palmer Road, Palmer Avenue and St. Maur’s Park, Rush, County Dublin (ITM:726284/755105). The assessment was carried out by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Ltd.

There are four recorded monuments located east-northeast (and outside) of the proposed development area in a cluster on a small headland. These include a passage tomb (DU008-013001) c. 445m east-northeast; a midden (DU008-013003) c. 445m east-northeast; a cist (DU008-013002) c. 470m east-northeast and a promontory fort (DU008-090) c. 485m east-northeast. Previous archaeological investigations, consisting of geophysical survey and targeted archaeological testing, have been carried out in the proposed development area under licences 08R247 and 08E0845. This work failed to reveal any evidence of archaeological features.

The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is considered to be low. However, it is possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on isolated archaeological features, which have the potential to survive outside of the areas already subject to archaeological investigations (geophysical survey and archaeological testing).

Given the low archaeological potential of the proposed development area and the fact that previous geophysical survey and archaeological testing have failed to identify archaeological features, it is recommended that additional archaeological test-trenching be carried out, post any grant of planning permission, across the footprint of the proposed development prior to the commencement of construction. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoCHG.
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL
The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development in the townland of Rush Demesne, at Skerries Road, Palmer Road, Palmer Avenue and St. Maur’s Park, Rush, Co. Dublin (Figure 1, ITM 726284/755105). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC), on behalf of The Skerries Road Partnership.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Dublin, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT
The development will consist of a residential development of 165 no. units, comprising 117 no. houses and 48 no. apartments. The houses comprise of 28 no. two bed units, 65 no. 3 bed units, and 24 no. 4 bed units. The houses include 7 no. housing typologies comprising of 2 storey typologies (typologies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and a 3 storey typology (typology 7). The apartments comprise of 19 no. 1 bed units and 29 no. 2 bed units located in 2 no. three storey blocks to the north-west of the application site, bounded by Palmer Road and Palmer Avenue. The development also includes 294 no. surface car parking spaces, 118 no bicycle parking spaces, public open space including a children’s playground, new vehicular entrances to Skerries Road and Palmer Avenue, internal vehicular routes including a new east-west link street, the widening and upgrade of Palmer Avenue to include footpaths and cycleways, ESB substations, all site services, refuse/bin stores, public lighting, boundary treatment, pedestrian/cycle linkages to St. Maur’s Park to the south and Palmer Court to the north, repair and making good of retained elements of the existing boundary wall to Skerries Road, re-use on-site of material from the boundary wall to Skerries Road required to be removed to facilitate the site entrance, removal of existing bus stop on Skerries Road adjacent to site, and all other associated and ancillary development/works. The total gross floorspace of the development is circa 16,983 sq.m.
2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017–2023;
- Aerial photographs;

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoCHG may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites
deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

- Down Survey Map of the Barony of Balruddery, c. 1655
- John Rocque’s Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760
- Ordnance Survey Maps of County Dublin, 1843, 1906–9

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Fingal County Development Plan (2017–2023) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2018.
2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.
3 RESULTS OF DESKTOP STUDY

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located at Skerries Road, Palmer Road, Palmer Avenue and St. Maur’s Park, Rush, County Dublin, within the townland of Rush Demesne. There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area, however, there are four recorded monuments located within 500m of the proposed development area. All four of these sites are located on a small headland east-northeast of the development area. The closest of these recorded monuments is a passage tomb (DU008-013001) recorded c. 445m east-northeast. A midden (DU008-013003) is also located c. 445m east-northeast with a cist (DU008-013002) recorded c. 470m east-northeast. A promontory fort (DU008-090) is located c. 485m east-northeast of the proposed development area.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (6000–4000 BC)

Although recent discoveries may push back the date of human activity by a number of millennia (Dowd and Carden 2016), the earliest widespread evidence suggests that Ireland was first occupied in the Mesolithic period by communities that subsisted on hunting, fishing and foraging. The most common evidence indicative of Mesolithic activity at a site comprises of scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements or rubbish middens consisting largely of shells. The latter are commonly discovered in coastal regions or at the edge of lakes. A number of shell middens and flint scatters are located along the coast from Sutton and Malahide to Balbriggan and most notably on Lambay Island, c. 4km off the coast of Rush (Baker 2010).

While there is no recorded evidence of Mesolithic activity within the proposed development area, it is likely that small communities migrated through the wider region and settled temporarily in order to exploit the coastal resource at Rush. A possible Mesolithic microlith was recovered from the midden (DU008-013003) located c. 445m east-northeast of the proposed development area (SMR file).

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape, forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory, which contributed to the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period. Only two types of megalithic tombs are recorded in Fingal, the portal tomb and passage tomb. A passage tomb (DU008-013001) is located on the coast at Rush; c. 445m east-northeast of the proposed development area, known as the Giants Hill. In 1838, extensive land clearance took place at the location of the passage tomb. As a result, only a number of large stones and small cairn material survives. A
magnetic gradiometry survey carried out by the Discovery Programme under licence 08R257, failed to locate the precise location of the passage tomb prior to its destruction. It was noted at the time that human bones were found in the chamber. The remaining stones on the site do not exhibit any megalithic art, of the kind known from other passage tombs (SMR file).

Evidence for settlement dating to this period is hard to identify as the land has been so intensively farmed that the majority of sites have no above surface expression. Flint scatters are commonly found along the north Dublin coastline.

**Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)**

The Bronze Age was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. The megalithic tomb tradition declined and ended with the burial of the individual becoming typical. Cremated or inhumed bones were often placed in a cist, which is a small stone box set into the ground or a stone-lined grave. These were often accompanied by pottery. Burials were sometimes accompanied by barrows, (mounds of earth set over the burial) or stone cairns. Often these types of burials are found on high ground and may have acted as a marker for ritual or burial space to the surrounding populations.

Three cist burials (DU008-013002) were recorded in association with the passage tomb cleared in the late 1830s. Two were located within the cairn of the monument and a third was identified to the west of the kerbstones. One of the cist burials from within the cairn, contained a food vessel and skeletal remains while the other contained a food vessel and a cremation burial. The cist identified to the west contained a human skull. The re-use or adaption of Neolithic monuments such as passage tombs is often seen in the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The most common Bronze Age site within the archaeological record is the burnt mound or *fulacht fia*. Over 4500 *fulachtai fia* have been recorded in the country making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 1998). Although burnt mounds of heat-affected stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, those noted in close proximity to a trough are generally interpreted as Bronze Age sites. *Fulacht fia* generally consist of a low mound of burnt stone, commonly in horseshoe shape, and are found in low lying marshy areas or close to streams or rivers. Often these sites have been ploughed out and survive as a spread of heat-shattered stones in charcoal rich soil with no surface expression and in close proximity to a trough. Much debate exists as to the function of these monuments and suggestions include cooking sites (O’Kelly 1954), bathing sites (Eogan and Shee Twohig 2012), textile dyeing sites and brewing sites (Quinn and Moore 2009). There are no known burnt mounds in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

**Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)**

The Iron Age was traditionally seen as a period for which there was little evidence in comparison to the preceding Bronze Age and the succeeding early medieval period. However, development-led excavation in recent decades and projects such as the
Late Iron Age and Roman Project have added significantly to our knowledge of the Irish Iron Age. In Europe, there are two stages to the Iron Age, the earlier Hallstatt and followed by the La Tene phase. While in Ireland, evidence of a Hallstatt phase is rare, and the La Tene phase is reflected strongly in the style of metalwork of this period. It is clear there was significant contact and interaction between the Continental Europe, Britain and Ireland at this time.

With the expanding population there was an increased need for defence at this time. Coastal promontory forts were constructed around Ireland as defensive settlements, of which four are located in Fingal. The largest of these four is located at Drumanagh (DU008-006001) c. 1.3km northeast of the proposed development area. At Drumanagh, the promontory is defended by a series of deep ditches and high banks at the neck while also providing extensive views of the coastline. Roman artefacts such as 2nd century AD Roman coins, Romano-British fibulae and copper ingots, were found at Drumanagh which are thought to represent a possible trading centre (Baker 2010). Several Roman burials were uncovered in the 1920s near the harbour at Lambay Island and it has been suggested that the island may have acted as a refuge for fleeing Brigantes. Ptolemy’s map of Ireland dating to c. AD 150 shows an island off the coast of Fingal annotated as Limnos and this is thought to represent Lambay off the coast to southeast of the constraints study area (ibid.).

A smaller promontory fort (DU008-090) is recorded c. 485m east-northeast of the proposed development area, located on a small headland.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)
Ireland was primarily rural in nature in the early medieval period, with c. 150 kings across the country each ruling over his own tūath (Byrne 1973). A tūath, according to most recent estimates would have comprised 1,700 to 3,000 subjects (Stout 2017), many of which would have lived within defended farmsteads known as ringforts. Ringforts, (also known as rath, lios, caiseal, cathair and dún) are a type of defended homestead comprising of a central site enclosed by a number of circular banks and ditches. The number of ditches can vary from one (univallate) to two or three (bivallate or multi-vallate) and is thought to reflect the status and affluence of the inhabitants (Edwards 1996). Another morphological variation consists of the platform or raised rath – the former resulting from the construction of the rath on a naturally raised area. Ringforts are most commonly located at sites with commanding views of the surrounding environs which provided an element of security. While raths, for the most part, avoid the extreme low and uplands, they also show a preference for the most productive soils (Stout 1997). While there are no recorded ringforts within the vicinity of the proposed development area, it is likely the area was inhabited during this time.

Rush in the early medieval period was a part of the kingdom of the Kingdom of South Brega, which was ruled by the Uí Chernaig branch of the dynasty known as Síl nAedo Slaine (Connon 2008; Charles-Edwards 2005). The nearby monastery at Lusk, c. 4.5km to the west of the proposed development area, was one of the earliest Christian foundations in Ireland (Baker, 2010). It grew in power and prestige and as a result,
Lusk was targeted, plundered and burned on several occasions. It was sacked in 827 and 856 by the Norsemen but survived these raids and later prospered under Scandinavian control in the 11th and 12th centuries (Bradley 1998). In 1069 it was once again burnt and then sacked again in 1089, when 180 people were burned in its Daimhliag (stone church) by the men of Munster (O’Connell 2009, Harbison 1992). During this time, a church was also established in what is now the townland of Rush Demesne. The church (DU008-004) at Kenure is located on the site of this earlier church, c. 720m north of the proposed development area.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, in his bid to regain the Kingdom of Leinster. By the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in overthrowing the previous ruling elites in much of the country.

By the 12th century AD, the monastic lands of Lusk formed part of the estate of the archbishops of Dublin, and this presumably indicates that a parish church had come into being by the time of the Norman invasion (Bradley 1998). It was at this time that the dedication of the church was changed from St MacCullin to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the parish and tithes were bestowed to St Mary’s Abbey, Dublin. However, as a mother church, Lusk was in possession of the parochial chapelries at Rush in addition to Baldungan, Knights-town, Kenure, Holmpatrick and Balrothery (including Bremore) (Walsh 1888). The tithes were assigned by the prior and monks of St Mary’s to John Comyn (Archbishop of Dublin) in 1188 before the church was assigned as part of the provision for the precentor of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin in 1219.

There are no recorded archaeological sites of medieval date in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

The 18th century saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause and effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland. This was achieved at all scales, from a modest Rectory Glebe to demesne landscapes that covered thousands of acres. The proposed development area is located in the southeast corner of the former Kenure
Park Demesne. The demesne landscape is barely recognisable today with extensive development carried out in the area and the principal building survives only as a section of the original entrance portico (RPS 258, NIAH 11324028).

The proposed development area lies to the north of Rush village. In 1837, Lewis describes Rush as a small sea port. He notes that ‘the harbour is difficult to access, and consequently adapted only for small vessels’, perhaps suggesting why Rush has remained a small seaside village until the increasing development of recent decades.

### 3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2018) has revealed that one previous archaeological investigation was carried out, which partially contained the proposed development area. In 2008, a programme of geophysical survey (Harbison 2008, Licence Ref.: 08R0005) and targeted archaeological testing (Hession 2008, Licence Ref.: 08E0845) was carried out across ten areas of the then proposed Local Area Plan Lands. Areas 2, 3 and 4 are located within the proposed development area (Figure 3).

Magnetic gradiometry survey carried out in 2007, revealed that several areas may contain small-scale or ephemeral archaeological features (Harbison 2008). These areas were later subject to targeted archaeological test trenching which is described below.

Area 2 revealed a shallow drain or plough furrow, a semi-circular pit including animal bone, charcoal flecks, decayed wood and post-medieval ceramics and a circular pit filled with mid-brown silty clay with no inclusions. These features were interpreted as related to post-medieval agricultural activities. Area 3 revealed a small number of possible pit and linear features; however, no testing was carried out as the area was under crop at the time of works. Area 4 contained two trenches- known as trench 5a and 5b. Trench 5a was located outside what is now the proposed development area and revealed evidence of stone-lined drains and a possible boundary or drainage ditch which contained red-brick fragments and metal nails. Trench 5b was crossed frequently by agricultural plough furrows, and drainage features. A modern ditch was also identified which contained ferrous material such as wire, bolts and scrap metal.

No archaeological features were identified by these investigations both within the proposed development area and in the additional LAP lands.

### 3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

**Down Survey Map of the Barony of Balruddery, c. 1655**

The proposed development area is not depicted in detail on this map, the church at Lusk to the west is shown. A single building is shown in the Rush area, suggesting the village of Rush was not very substantial at this time.
John Rocque’s Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760
By the time of this map, the proposed development area is within the demesne lands of Kenure Park. The ruins of the church (DU008-004) are noted as well Drumanagh fort which is labelled ‘Old Danish Forts’, presumably the local knowledge of the time mistakenly attributed the promontory fort (DU008-090) and passage tomb (DU008-013001) as relating to Viking activity along the coast.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:1056 (Figure 4)
This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The development area is shown at this time as located in the southeastern corner of the demesne of Kenure Park. A number of circular landscape features are shown within the proposed development area and a gate lodge is depicted to the south. A roadway s shown as passing northeast–southwest through the very corner of the proposed development area. The passage tomb (DU008-013001) is noted as a ‘Carn called Giant’s Hill’, c. 445m east-northeast.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:1056 (Figure 5)
The proposed development area has been subject to some change by the time of this mapping. The road shown in the earlier mapping of 1843 is no longer shown in the southeast corner of the proposed development area and the demesne has been extended to the south. The passage tomb (DU008-013001) is still noted as a ‘Carn called Giant’s Hill’, c. 445m east-northeast. Kenure Church has been constructed c. 150m southeast of the proposed development area.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1906–9, scale 1:2500
There is little significant change to the proposed development area by the time of this mapping. The passage tomb (DU008-013001) is labelled in the same way as in the previous mapping.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
The Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023 recognises the statutory protection afforded to archaeological sites included within the Record of Monuments and Places and seeks to protect those monuments, to including their setting, access, views and prospects. The sites are described in detail in Appendix 1 and shown on Figure 1.

Fingal County Council recognises the value and significance of the county’s archaeological heritage, and the importance of fostering a greater public appreciation of this heritage. Through policies contained in this Development Plan, they seek to ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and their settings (Appendix 3).

There are four recorded monuments within 500m of the proposed development (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: Recorded Archaeological Sites</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RMP NO.</strong></td>
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<td>=========</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DU008-013001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995, 2000, and 2005), Google Earth (2005–2018) and Bing Maps revealed no features of archaeological potential within the site. The OSi imagery of 2005 shows the central areas of the proposed development area has been subject to significant disturbance due to adjacent construction works.
4 RESULTS OF FIELD INSPECTION

4.1 FIELD INSPECTION
The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1).

The proposed development area consists of three fields. The western field is level, with no substantial field boundaries bordering the field to the west and north (Plate 1). The southern boundary consists of a fence erected between the field and a private residential property. An overgrown ditch or drain runs north–south along the eastern boundary of the field (Plate 2). The field appears to have been most recently in use for vegetable crop production.

The central area has been subject to extensive dumping, with mounds of dumped soil, construction debris and modern household items throughout (Plate 3), as shown in the OSI imagery of 2005. In the far east of the proposed development area, a gravel driveway is present (Plate 4), and the demesne wall appears to have been reinstated bordering the Skerries Road.

The southern field is level and largely undisturbed, and currently characterised as rough pasture (Plate 5). No potential archaeological features were identified during the field inspection of the proposed development area.

4.2 CONCLUSIONS
The proposed development area is located in the townland of Rush Demesne, Rush County Dublin. There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area, though there are four within 500m. These monuments are clustered on a headland, to the east-northeast of the proposed development area. They consist of a passage tomb (DU008-013001), a midden (DU008-013003), a cist (DU008-013002) and a promontory fort (DU008-090).

Previous archaeological investigations included small areas of geophysical survey (Licence Ref.: 08R247) and testing (Licence Ref.: 08E084), which were carried out within the proposed development area (Hession 2008). However, nothing of archaeological significance was identified.

Cartographic sources depict the proposed development area as part of the former Kenure Park Demesne (OS mapping 1843/1906–9). Examination of aerial photography failed to identify any features of archaeological potential, however, the OSI imagery of 2005 shows disturbance in the central portion of the site relating to adjacent development.

A field inspection of the proposed development area confirmed that the central section of the site has been subject to disturbance and extensive dumping. The
southern and western fields remain undisturbed. The southern field is currently under rough pasture and the western field appears to have been recently used for vegetable farming.
5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building’s visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

• It is possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on isolated archaeological features, which have the potential to survive outside of the areas already subject to archaeological investigations (geophysical survey and archaeological testing).

The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is considered to be low.

5.2 MITIGATION

• Given the low archaeological potential of the proposed development area and the fact that previous geophysical survey and archaeological testing have failed to identify archaeological features, it is recommended that additional archaeological test-trenching be carried out, post any grant of planning permission, across the footprint of the proposed development prior to the commencement of construction. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoCHG.

It is the developer’s responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.
Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
6 REFERENCES


Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a Standards & Guidance for Field Evaluation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.

Chartered Institution of Field Archaeologists 2014c Standards & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Monitoring).

Connon, A 2008 Early Medieval Historical Research on the M3 in County Meath: Sources, Contexts and Analysis’ in O’Sullivan, J & Stanley, M (eds) Roads, Rediscovery and Research: Proceedings of a Public Seminar on Archaeological Discoveries on National Road Schemes Archaeology and the NRA Monograph Series No. 5


Dowd M., Carden R. 2016 ‘First evidence of a Late Upper Palaeolithic human presence in Ireland’ Quaternary Science Reviews 139, 158-163.


Eogan, J., & Shee Twohig, E. 2012 Cois tSiuire – Nine Thousand years of Human Activity in the Lower Suir Valley. NRA Scheme Monographs 8, Dublin.


Lewis, S. 1837 (online edition) Topographical Dictionary of Ireland.

National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Sites and Monuments Record, County Dublin

National Museum of Ireland. Topographical Files, County Dublin.


Stout, M. 1997 The Irish Ringfort. Four Courts Press, Dublin.

Walsh, R 1888 Fingal and its Churches: A Historical Sketch of the Foundations and Struggles of the Church of Ireland in that part of County Dublin which lies to the North of the River Tolka William McGee, Dublin and Simpkin, Marshall and Co. London

**CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

Down Survey Map of the Barony of Balruddery, c. 1655

John Rocque’s Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760

Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843, 1871, 1906–9
**ELECTRONIC SOURCES**


www.archaeology.ie – DoCHG website listing all SMR sites.


www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.


www.logainm.ie – Placenames Database of Ireland launched by *Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge* and the DoCHG.
## APPENDIX 1  SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMR NO.</th>
<th>DU008-013001</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMP STATUS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOWNLAND</td>
<td>Rush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARISH</td>
<td>Lusk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARONY</td>
<td>Balrothery East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.T.M.</td>
<td>726907/755352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>Megalithic tomb- passage tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>c. 445m east-northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Situated on a small headland south of Loughshinney village. Prior to c. 1838 the site comprised a circular cairn (diam. c. 30m) with a funnel-shaped entrance and a rectangular chamber (L 2.4m; Wth 1.8m). Human bones were found in the chamber and midden material containing a possible microlith (DU008-013003-) was found underneath (Newenham 1838, 247; Flanagan 1984, 15). Two cist burials were found in the cairn and a third W of the kerbstones (DU008-013002-). The cairn was partially removed by land improvement in 1838, the remainder incorporated into a field boundary. Remains of this field boundary extend almost from the cliff edge for c. 21m NS. Large stones (&gt; 1m diam.) and small stone cairn material are visible within the overgrown field boundary. One large boulder is outlying c.2m south-east of the field boundary. No markings or decoration visible on these stones. Magnetic gradiometry undertaken by the Discovery Programme (Licence 08R247) did not succeed in establishing a location for the passage tomb as a large part of the area had been subject to intensive ploughing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file</a></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMR NO.</th>
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<td>RMP STATUS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Rush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARISH</td>
<td>Lusk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARONY</td>
<td>Balrothery East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.T.M.</td>
<td>726909/755356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>Midden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>c. 445m east-northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Midden material containing a possible microlith was found underneath a passage tomb (DU008-013001-) situated on a small headland S of Loughshinney Village (Flanagan 1984, 15).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file</a></td>
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<td>BARONY</td>
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### Cist

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>Cist</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>c. 470m east-northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Two cist burials were found in the cairn of a passage tomb (DU008-013001-) and a third lay W of the kerbstones (Newenham 1838, 247; Ó Ríordáin 1968, 165). The cist at the N end of the cairn contained a food vessel and skeletal remains, the cist at the E contained a food vessel and cremation. The cist burial outside the cairn contained a human skull (Cahill &amp; Sikora 2011, 176-180).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file</td>
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### Promontory fort- coastal

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<td>726935/755387</td>
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<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>Promontory fort- coastal</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file</td>
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APPENDIX 2  STRAY FINDS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSEUM NO</th>
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<tr>
<td>BARONY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND</td>
<td>Food vessel, cremated bone fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND PLACE</td>
<td>Cist burial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td>NMI Topographical Files</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSEUM NO</th>
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<tr>
<td>BARONY</td>
<td>Balrothery East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND</td>
<td>Two flint fragments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND PLACE</td>
<td>Cairn of passage tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td>NMI Topographical Files</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>MUSEUM NO</th>
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<td>Lusk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARONY</td>
<td>Balrothery East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND</td>
<td>Food vessel, skeletal remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIND PLACE</td>
<td>Cist burial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCE</td>
<td>NMI Topographical Files</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 3  LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE
The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as ‘a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto’ (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS
The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS
Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months’ notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS
Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site...
illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

**RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES**

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

**THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000**

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable
development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

**Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023**

It is an objective of Fingal County Council to:

**CH 02** Favour the preservation in situ or at a minimum preservation by record, of archaeological sites, monuments, features or objects in their settings. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

**CH 03** Protect all archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and all sites and features of archaeological and historic interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.

**CH 04** Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County’s archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.

**CH 05** Ensure archaeological remains are identified and fully considered at the very earliest stages of the development process, that schemes are designed to avoid impacting on the archaeological heritage.

**CH 06** Require that proposals for linear development over one kilometre in length; proposals for development involving ground clearance of more than half a hectare; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery; to include an Archaeological Impact Assessment and refer such applications to the relevant Prescribed Bodies.

**CH 07** Ensure that development within the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Notification does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately.

**CH 08** Develop a policy in relation to the treatment of archaeological monuments within open space of developments. A different designation from that of open space will be applied where subsurface archaeological remains are incorporated to differentiate the area.

**CH 09** Recognise the importance of archaeology or historic landscapes and the connectivity between sites, where it exists, in order to safeguard them from developments that would unduly sever or disrupt the relationship and/or intervisibility between sites.
CH 10 Co-operate with other agencies in the assessment of the potential for climate change to impact on coastal, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal sites and their environments including shipwreck sites.

CH 11 Encourage reference to or incorporation of significant archaeological finds into development schemes, where appropriate and sensitively designed, through layout, displays, signage, plaques, information panels and by using historic place names and the Irish language where appropriate.

CH 12 Promote best practice for archaeological excavation by ensuring that they are undertaken according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, The National Museum and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

CH 13 Actively support the dissemination of the findings of archaeological investigations and excavations through the publication of excavation reports thereby promoting public awareness and appreciation of the value of archaeological resources.

CH 14 Identify Zones of Archaeological Notification that contain clusters of Recorded Monuments or have a significant history of the discovery of archaeological sites, features and objects in order to allow for their designation, protection of their setting and environs.

CH 15 Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate signage or interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.

CH 16 Develop and implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal.

CH 17 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways etc. and activities such as community excavation.

CH 18 Manage the archaeological sites and monuments that Fingal County Council owns or is responsible for according to best practice and according to Conservation Plans where they exist.
APPENDIX 5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS
Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways:

• Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.

• Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.

• Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.

• Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.

• Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.

• Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
• Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS
The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

• The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;

• Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;

• Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.
APPENDIX 6  MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS
Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved in situ.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE
The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation in situ. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation in situ are not possible.

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (CIfA 2014a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (CIfA 2014b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be
disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (CifA 2014c).

*Underwater Archaeological Assessment* consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.
Title: Extract from the Second Edition 6-inch OS map of 1871, showing the proposed development area

Scale: NTS

Client: The Skerns Road Partnership

Job No.: 33438

Fig. 5

Rev. 0
Plate 1  Western field, facing northeast
Plate 2  Drain running North–south, facing north
Plate 3  Modern dumped material, in central area
Plate 4  Gravel driveway in east of the proposed development area, facing west
Plate 5  Southern field, facing northeast