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Archaeological Testing

Proposed Part 8 Residential Development

Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin

Licence 23E0810

April 2024

Client: NDFA

Executive Summary

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1 Introduction

A pre planning archaeological impact assessment was undertaken by John Purcell Archaeological Consultancy to assess the cultural heritage impact of a development at Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin. This report is being undertaken on behalf of the National Development Finance Agency. The report has been compiled to assess the impact of the site on the archaeological and historical landscape.

The report is based on documentary and cartographic research from all available sources including but not limited to the Record of Monuments and Places, the Sites and Monument Records, the topographical files of the National Museum, the Development Plan, local sources, and other literary and documentary references. Previous excavation in the immediate vicinity should also be reviewed. Archaeological testing was also undertaken at the site.

This report was compiled by John Purcell of John Purcell Archaeological Consultancy.



Figure 1: Location of development

2 Receiving Environment

The proposed development is located in a greenfield site in the townland of Kishoge in West Dublin. The site was previously in use as allotments. The site is bounded by housing at the east, by Kishoge Community College is located to the north. The Dublin to Galway train line forms the southern boundary of the site.

3 Methodology

This report has been prepared having regard to the following guidelines;

- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, 2018)
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Commission, 2017)
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports – Draft (EPA, 2017)
- National Monuments Acts, 1930-2014
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Bill, 2006
- Heritage Act 1995
- Frameworks and Principles for the protection of Archaeological Heritage 1999
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000

3.1 Study Methodology

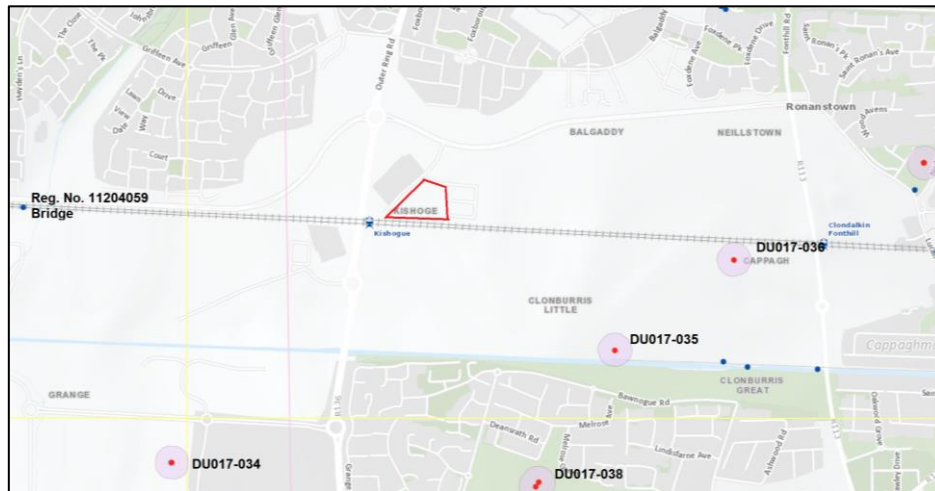
This assessment consists of a paper survey identifying all recorded sites within the vicinity of the proposed development, a site inspection and the results of archaeological test trenching.

The desktop survey undertaken consisted of a document and cartographic search utilising a number of sources including the following:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP); The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, the original location of destroyed monuments and the location of possible sites identified through, documentary, cartographic, photographic research and field inspections.

- The RMP consists of a list, organised by county and subdivided by 6" map sheets showing the location of each site. The RMP data is compiled from the files of the Archaeological Survey.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage; The inventory of architectural heritage lists all post 1700 structures and buildings in the country. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.
- County Development Plans; The county development plans were consulted to ascertain if any structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and/or any Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) were to be impact by the proposed development.
- Cartographic Sources; the following maps were examined: Down Survey (1656-1658), 1st edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1836-1846) and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1908).
- Literary Sources; various published sources, including local and national journals, were consulted to establish a historical background for the proposed development site. Literary sources are a valuable means of completing the written record of an area and gaining insight into the history of the environs of the proposed development. Principal archaeological sources include: Local Journals; Published archaeological and architectural inventories; Peter Harbison's Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland; and O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters.
- Previous archaeological assessments and excavations for the area were also reviewed.
- Topographical files are located at the National Museum of Ireland and detail stray finds across the country.

Figure 2: Site boundary with archaeological monuments marked



4 General Archaeological and Historical Summary

4.1 Brief Archaeological Background

Prehistory

Mesolithic to Bronze Age

Hunter-gatherer communities or Mesolithic people reached Ireland around 8000 BC. Early Mesolithic sites in Ireland are frequently found in coastal areas or further inland along river valleys. These settlers have left little trace on the landscape. The recovery of artefacts and identification of sites is usually where farmland is ploughed or in areas where developments include a topsoil strip. Most of the known Mesolithic material has been found on archaeological excavations. The Mesolithic period is divided into two periods – early (c. 8000–6500 BC) and late (6500–4000 BC) based on the type of tools.

The arrival of agriculture in the Neolithic Period led to a more sedentary way of life. The most visible remains associated with this period are megalithic tombs. These are located across the country. Over 90 Neolithic houses have been recorded across the country. These are usually only recorded during archaeological testing and excavation.

The commonest prehistoric monument are barrows. These are associated with the Bronze/Iron Age burial tradition (c. 2400 BC - AD 400) and are defined by an artificial mound of earth or earth and stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials.

These sites vary in shape and scale and can be variously described as bowl-barrow, ditch barrow, embanked barrow, mound barrow, pond barrow, ring-barrow and stepped barrow. The incidence and frequency of these sites in the area attests to the extent of prehistoric settlement in this area from earliest times.

Iron Age to Early Medieval Period

In late Bronze Age Ireland, the use of the metal reached a high point with the production of high-quality decorated weapons, ornament and instruments, often discovered from hoards or ritual deposits. The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Political life in the Iron Age seems to have been defined by continually warring petty kingdoms vying for power. These kingdoms, run on an extended clan system, had their economy rooted in mixed farming and, in particular cattle. Settlement was typically centred on a focal hillfort. Another more domestic site common to the Bronze Age is the *fulachta fiadh*. These are located along the edges of streams or in damp areas. They consist of a mound of charcoal enriched soil with fragmented burnt rocks. They usually are accompanied by a wooden or stone lined trough. These were used seasonally possibly for cooking or may have been used for recreational purposes.

Settlement in the Early Medieval Period is defined by the ringfort. The country was a patchwork of competing kingdoms during this period numbering up to 150. Ringforts were a farmstead surrounded by one or more earthen banks. These are the commonest monument across Co. Wexford and have been frequently recorded in the area. These are generally located in areas with commanding views over the countryside to provide security.

The introduction of Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century had a profound impact on Gaelic society, not in the least in terms of land ownership and the development of churches and the development of a large number of religious houses. The earliest churches were constructed of wood and mortar and wattle walls. By the ninth and tenth centuries these were being replaced by stone structures. These settlements became very important around the country and became small towns. Many of these sites were surrounded large earthen enclosures.

Historic Period

When the Anglo-Normans arrived in 1169, as mercenaries under Dermot Mac Murrugh, the landscape changed dramatically, the influx of new settlers signified by the construction of several new types of homesteads, defensive and ecclesiastical sites.

Post Medieval Ireland

Seventeenth century Ireland saw massive upheaval a result of the Confederate wars, the Cromwellian response and the Wars of the two kings. It is estimated that up to a third of the population was wiped out because of famine, disease and war. Soldiers were given land as payment resulting in further upheaval of the local population and the establishment of large estates. These came to dominate the landscape from this period onwards. Religious intolerance in other parts of Europe resulted in the expulsion of the Huguenot from France which were welcomed by the English Crown into Ireland.

4.2 Archaeological Monuments

A number of archaeological monuments are located in the wider environs of the proposed development. The details of these sites have been taken from archaeology.ie and are outlined below.

DU017-036----

Class: Enclosure

Townland: CAPPAGH

Situated in rough pasture on fairly level ground N of a stream. An aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 206/5/4) shows a cropmark of an elongated oval enclosure (est. dims. NE-SW c. 34m; NW-SE c. 22m). Not visible at ground level.

DU017-035----

Class: Enclosure

Townland: CLONBURRIS LITTLE

In field of rough pasture bordering the canal. An aerial photograph (FSI 1971/224-6) shows a horseshoe-shaped enclosure. No visible at ground level.

DU017-038001-

Class: Church

Townland: KILMAHUDDRICK

Situated in the NE corner of a rectangular disused graveyard close to Deansrath Estate. This is a medieval parish church which served the smallest parish in the county. It is dedicated to St. Cuthbert of Lindesfarne and was held by St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin from 1186 until 1540 when it was re-united with Clondalkin (Ball 1940, 182-183). Comprises a nave and chancel divided by a two-centred chancel arch. Built of undressed random rubble masonry. Entrance is in the W gable through a round arched doorway. There is a rectangular window above the doorway. The door is rebated with draw bar holes. The nave (dims. L 6.60m, Wth 5.10m, wall Wth 0.90m) is lit by narrow slit opes on W and S side, there is a square opening in N wall and a wall press in the S wall. A double bellcote rises above the chancel arch. The chancel (dims. L 5.85m, Wth 5.05m narrowing to 4.42m) is lit by plain pointed lights. The E window is a pointed light in deep widely splayed embrasure, which has a stepped feature. There is a recess under the sill of the E window and on S wall of chancel and a low aumbrey at S end of E wall (Mc Dix 1898, 165-166). To the S of the graveyard is a possible moated site (DU017-038001-; see Ní Mharcaigh 1977, 270-271).

DU017-038002-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: KILMAHUDDRICK

Located in a flat, low-lying area. This is a rectangular disused graveyard close to Deansrath Estate. Remains of a medieval parish church (DU017-038001-) stand in the NE corner of the graveyard. Very few gravestones remain visible. It contains some 19th century memorials. Attached to the S side of the graveyard is a possible moated site (DU017-038003-).

DU017-038003-

Class: Moated site

Townland: KILMAHUDDRICK

Located in flat, low-lying land attached to the S side of Kilmahuddrick graveyard (DU017-038002-). A roughly rectangular enclosure (int. dims. L 95m; Wth 50m) which is defined by a flat-topped earthen bank (Wth 4.1m; H 0.5m) and wide outer

fosse (Wth 3.5m; D 2.1m). There is a causeway across the fosse in the NE and a corresponding break in the enclosing bank.

4.3 Previous Archaeological Works

The archaeological excavation database (excavations.ie) was searched for archaeological excavations and reports in the environs of the proposed development. This has shown a number of entries for Kishoge. One of these entries was for a site that bounds the study area at the south (Licence 20E0390). This identified areas of brick manufacturing and charcoal kilns. Other excavations to the southwest of the site has also uncovered prehistoric settlement (Licence 01E0061).

4.4 Cartographic Evidence

The first edition OS map shows the site as an open area (Figure 3). By the 25" map the current layout was visible (Figure 4). No features indicative of archaeological remains were identified. The aerial photographs for the site shows the field laid out as a series of allotments. These were visible in the aerial photographs from 1999 to 2005.

Figure 3: First edition OS map for the site

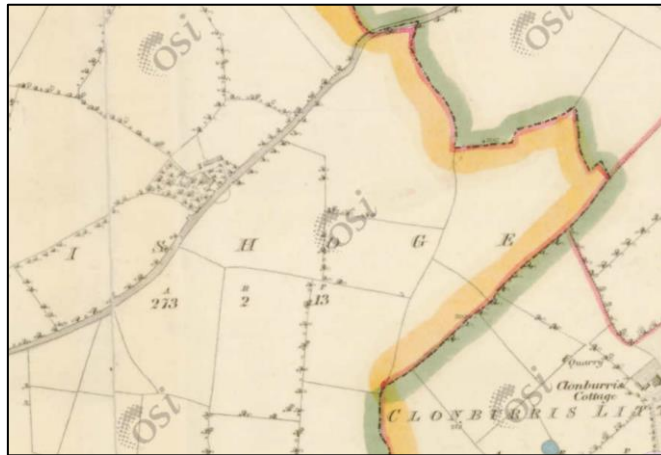


Figure 4: 25" map for the area

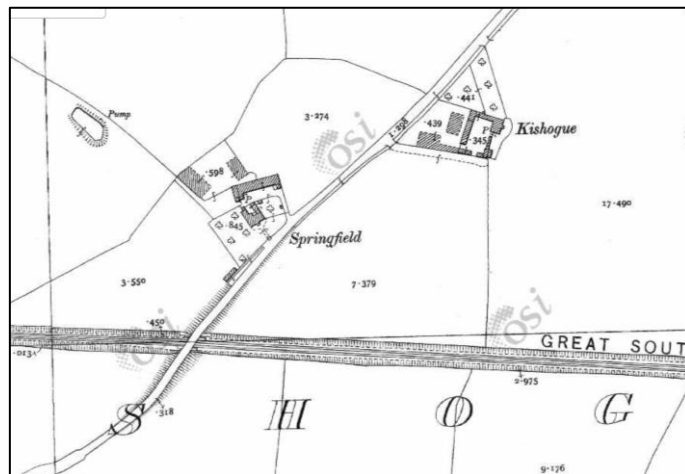
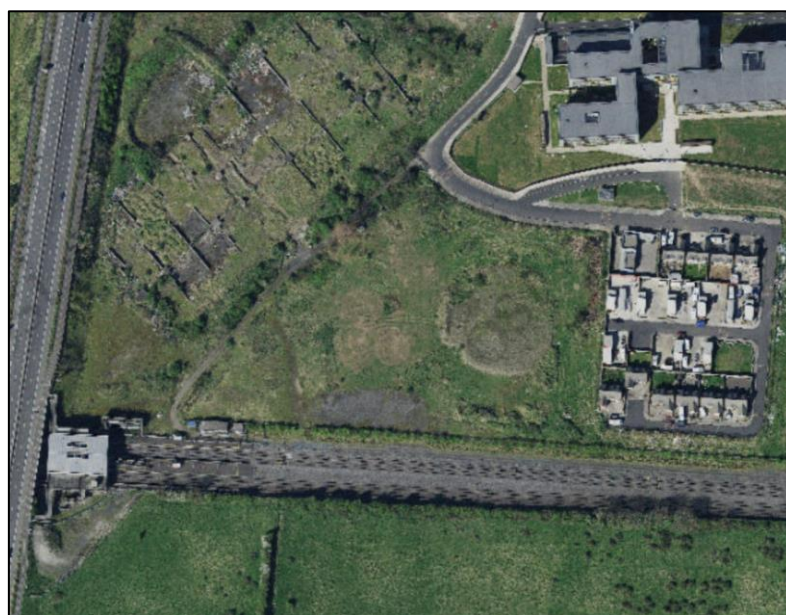


Figure 5: Aerial Photograph for the site (taken from geohive.ie)



4.5 Protected Structures

The study area does not include any structures listed in the RPS or the NIAH. The closest protected structures are located over 1km from the study area.

4.6 Topographical Files

The topographical files are a record of stray finds and artefacts reported to the National Museum of Ireland. A database is available for research and the artefacts are listed by townland. An examination of the topographical files did reveal one stray find for Kishoge. A bronze axe head was found in 1994 in the townland (NMI Ref; 1994:20).

5 Archaeological Testing

As part of the assessment licenced archaeological testing was undertaken in April 2024. This was undertaken on an dry sunny day. The test trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a grading bucket.



Plate 1: Looking southwest at the site during testing

Test trench 1

This was located at the southwest of the site. The trench was orientated northwest to southeast. The trench was excavated to a length of 10m and was 1.5m in width. The topsoil was shallow measuring between 0.2-0.25m in depth. Below this the natural boulder clay was exposed. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Test trench 2-3

These were located at the centre west of the site. The trenches were orientated northwest to southeast. They were excavated to a length of 30-40m in length and were 1.5m in width. The topsoil was shallow measuring between 0.2-0.25m in depth. Below this the natural, an orange boulder clay, was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.



Plate 2: Test trench 2, looking northwest



Plate 3: Test trench 3 looking northwest

Test trench 4-5

These were located at the centre east of the site. The trenches were orientated north to south. They were excavated to a length of 50m in length and were 1.5m in width. The topsoil was shallow measuring between 0.2-0.25m in depth. Below this the natural, an orange boulder clay, was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.



Plate 4: Test trench 5, looking southwest

Test trench 6

This was located at the east of the site. The trench was orientated east to west. The trench was excavated to a length of 30m and was 1.5m in width. The topsoil was shallow measuring between 0.2-0.25m in depth. Below this the natural boulder clay was exposed. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.



Plate 5: Test trench 6, looking west

6 Cultural Heritage Assessment

The proposed development does not include any recorded archaeological monuments. However an examination of the archaeological evidence for the area has shown the potential for sub surface finds in the area. An adjoining site recorded brick manufacturing and charcoal kilns, further to the west in the townland a Neolithic house was excavated. A prehistoric bronze axe was also recorded within the townland. This random finds shows the potential for further sub surface remains in the area. As a result of the finds in the area pre development archaeological testing was undertaken at the site. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

6 Mitigation And Conclusion

A review of the archaeological evidence for the area has shown that the site does not include any archaeological remains. Archaeological was undertaken across the site. These trenches did not uncover any archaeological finds, features or deposits. The potential for further remains at the site is low. As a result of this no further archaeological input is required.

All recommendations are subject to agreement with the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government.

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