SDCC Rathcoole Housing Development

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
Chapter 13: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

South Dublin County Council (SDCC)

October 2026

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
0	02/09/2026	Draft	Y	Richard O'Callaghan	Project Director
1	06/10/2026	Final	Y	Richard O'Callaghan	Project Director

Distribution List

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13 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

This chapter presents an assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets. It defines the study area, focussing on the archaeological and cultural heritage assets within and in the vicinity of the Proposed Development which could be affected by the proposed works; describes the methodology used for developing the baseline and undertake the impact assessment; provides a description of the baseline environment in relation to heritage; and presents the findings of the impact assessment.

13.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

This chapter has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines.

13.1.1 Legislation

This assessment has been informed by legislation relating to cultural heritage including:

- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023. At the time of writing, only certain provisions of the Act have been commenced. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 continue to apply to the extent that the relevant provisions of the 2023 Act have not yet been brought into operation. The Heritage Act 1995;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (amendment) Act 1994.
- The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Planning and Development Act 2024 (enacted but not yet fully commenced at the time of writing).
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) Act and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.
- South Dublin County Council (SDCC) County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

National Policy for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill, which revised and replaced the existing National Monuments Act. This Act replaced the previous registration systems and designations under the National Monuments Act, introducing a new single Register of Monuments, and the introduction of prescribed monuments, which aim to strengthen the legal protection afforded to archaeological sites, ensuring that archaeological sites are protected without the need for formal designation or registration.

The National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has specific responsibilities for the identification and protection of the archaeological heritage, which are outlined in 'Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (1999).

The importance of the built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000, which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest in the objectives of their Development Plans. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion in a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the structure’s importance, provides protection from adverse impacts, and ensures that future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process. In considering additions to the RPS local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

The Planning and Development Act provides that all Development Plans must include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

13.1.2 Policy

Local planning policy within the study area is contained within the current South Dublin County Council (SDCC) County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028. There are a number of strategic objectives providing a framework for development which may affect heritage assets. These are presented in chapter 3 of the SDCC CDP and deal with both archaeological and architectural heritage. The overarching policy for Archaeology and Built Heritage within South Dublin is Policy NCBH1, which aims to: 'Protect, conserve and enhance the County's natural, cultural and built heritage, supporting its sensitive integration into the development of the County for the benefit of present and future generations.'

Local planning policy relevant to the archaeology within the Proposed Development is detailed in Policy NCBH13 within Chapter 3 of the SDCC CDP:

- **Policy NCBH13:** Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the Archaeological Heritage of the County and avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.
- **NCBH13 Objective 1:** To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.
- **NCBH13 Objective 2:** To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage including previously unknown sites, features and objects.
- **NCBH13 Objective 3:** To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

Local planning policy relevant to the industrial heritage within the Proposed Development is detailed in Policy NCBH16 within Chapter 3 of the SDCC CDP:

- **Policy NCBH16:** Promote the County's industrial heritage.
- **NCBH16 Objective 1:** To promote and encourage the sensitive and adaptive reuse of industrial heritage structures where appropriate, ensuring that any change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best practice conservation, consistent with RPO 9.27 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

Local planning policy relevant to the built heritage within the Proposed Development is detailed in Policy NCBH19 within Chapter 3 of the SDCC CDP:

- **Policy NCBH19:** Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures and carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the setting, special character or appearance of a Protected Structure including its historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.
- **NCBH19 Objective 1:** To ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) and their immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures identified in the Record of Protected Structures.
- **NCBH19 Objective 2:** To ensure that all development proposals that affect a Protected Structure and its setting including proposals to extend, alter or refurbish any Protected Structure are sympathetic to its special character and integrity and are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form. All such proposals shall be consistent with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DAHG (2011 or any superseding documents) including the principles of conservation.
- **NCBH19 Objective 5:** To prohibit demolition and inappropriate alterations of Protected Structures unless in very exceptional circumstances.
- **NCBH19 Objective 7:** To review the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and update the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with any direct Ministerial recommendations.

Local planning policy relevant to the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) within the Proposed Development is detailed in Policy NCBH20 within Chapter 3 of the SDCC CDP:

- **Policy NCBH20:** Preserve and enhance the historic character and visual setting of Architectural Conservation Areas and carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such areas.
- **NCBH20 Objective 1:** To avoid the removal of distinctive features that positively contribute to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas including building features, shop fronts, boundary treatments (including walls), street furniture, landscaping and paving.
- **NCBH20 Objective 3:** To ensure that new development, including infill development, extensions and renovation works within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) preserves or enhances the special character and visual setting of the ACA including vistas, streetscapes and roofscapes.

13.1.3 Guidance

The assessment of baseline conditions was carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

- EPA (2022). Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.
- EPA (2003). Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements'.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2005a). Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's (2011). Architectural Heritage Guidelines.
- TII (2025), 'Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects' (PE-ARC-02009).

13.2 Methodology

The assessment was undertaken using a desk-based review of online datasets (Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Record of Protected Structures (RPS), the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), architectural conservation areas (ACA), excavations) using the NMS Historic Environment Viewer; the Heritage Council's online map viewer, and the database of Irish Excavation reports at Excavations.ie, field survey and professional judgement, in accordance with EPA (2022). Significance was determined by combining receptor sensitivity with magnitude of impact, and outlined below:

- Establishment of the baseline conditions, including identification and assessment of the receiving environment and evaluation of receptor sensitivity (heritage value);
- Embedded mitigation incorporated into the design has been considered in the evaluation of potential effects, as required by EPA (2022), while additional mitigation is applied only when determining residual effects.
- Identification of the potential impacts, and assessment of the magnitude of potential effects, and their significance;
- Consideration of mitigation measures; and
- Assessment of residual effects.

No formal methodology for undertaking EIA assessment with regard to cultural heritage exists and the methodology used in this assessment draws upon the policy and guidance cited in the previous section, on current best practice and the experience and judgement of the specialists involved. It follows the EPA Guidelines by considering the value of heritage assets alongside the nature and magnitude of potential impacts to determine the significance of likely effects. (refer to Table 13.1, Table 13.2 and Plate 13.1).

13.2.1 Study Area

A study area extending 500m from the Proposed Development Site boundary has been used to identify all known and potential cultural heritage (archaeological, architectural and designed historic landscapes)

assets. This Study area is illustrated in Figure 13-1. The size of this study area was determined by the potential ground disturbance associated with the Proposed Development, the connectivity to known heritage assets and likely impacts to their setting. The 500m study area enabled detailed examination of the heritage assets surrounding the Proposed Development Site in order to provide sufficient archaeological and historic contextual information and allow an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Proposed Development Site to be made.

13.2.2 Determination of Sensitive Receptors

A heritage asset is defined as a monument, building, group of buildings and sites, which are the combined works of nature and man constituting the historic or built environment (UNESCO, 1972). A heritage asset's value is not solely expressed through any designated status but can also be exhibited through a series of values or special interests. These include architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interests. In order to assess the potential effects of a development upon a heritage asset, it must first be assigned a level of importance. This can be done in accordance with a four-point scale, as set out in Table 13-1 which has been derived from the following guidance, with reference to relevant legislation and policy, and using professional judgement:

- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (2025), 'NIAH Handbook';
- EPA Guidelines (2022);
- Code of Practice for Archaeology agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (2017);
- TII's PE-ARC-02009 (2024) (particularly Information Box 10: Describing Significance of Effect).

Table 13-1: Factors Determining the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance	Criteria
International / Very High	• World Heritage Sites. • Protected Structures deemed to be of very high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) rating criteria and professional judgement. • Structures and Designed Landscapes recorded by the NIAH. • Building and Garden Survey with an International Rating.
National / High	• National Monuments. • Recorded Monuments deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, TII Significance Criteria and professional judgement. • Protected Structures deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a National Rating or deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH Garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Architectural Conservation Areas containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly national importance. • Undesignated archaeological remains which are rare or complex in nature, and deemed to be of high importance using legislation, EPA guidance, TII Significance Criteria and professional judgement.
Regional / Medium	• Recorded Monuments deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, TII Significance Criteria and professional judgement. • Protected Structures deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Regional Rating or deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with main features substantially present and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) containing structures and/or designed landscapes of predominantly regional importance. • Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Undesignated archaeological remains which are neither particularly common nor uncommon, and/or of moderate complexity, and deemed to be of medium importance using legislation, EPA guidance, TII Significance Criteria and professional judgement.

Importance	Criteria
Local / Low	• Structures recorded by the NIAH Building Survey with a Local or Record Only Rating or deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Designed landscapes recorded by the NIAH garden survey with only peripheral features surviving, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Townland Boundary Features. • Undesignated architectural heritage assets which are deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, NIAH rating criteria and professional judgement. • Undesignated archaeological features which are particularly common or in poor condition, and deemed to be of low importance using legislation, EPA guidance, TII Significance Criteria and professional judgement. • Parks / Gardens / Demesnes recorded by the NIAH Garden Survey which have poor historic legibility. •
Negligible	• Locations/ original locations of heritage assets marked on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps such as architectural fragments, boundary stones but no longer extant or moved to other locations (museum etc). • 19th-20th century civic locations such as police stations, schools, reservoirs, churches marked on OS maps in areas now redeveloped. • Single findspots of medieval/ post medieval coins as very limited potential for further archaeological discoveries in these locations.

13.2.3 Describing Potential Effects

Having identified the heritage value of the heritage asset, the magnitude of the effect from the Proposed Development is assessed. Potential effects are defined as a change resulting from the Proposed Development which affects a heritage asset. Chapter 04: Methodology (EIAR Volume 1) details the terminology used to describe the extent, content, probability, and duration of effects. The quality of an effect can be reported on a three-point scale, similarly to that presented in Chapter 04: Methodology (EIAR Volume 1) but adapted to cultural heritage assets:

- Positive/ beneficial – A change which improves the quality or the special interests of the asset, for example the removal of an element of the surrounding setting which detracts from the appreciation of an asset;
- Neutral – A change which does not affect the quality or special interests of the asset; or
- Negative/ Adverse – A change which reduces the quality or special interest of the asset, for example the removal of a below-ground archaeological deposit through construction.

The extent and context of effects can be assessed by the following two descriptions:

- Extent – the description of the size of the area and number of assets affected by the effect.
- Context – the description whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established baseline conditions relating to an asset.

The probability of effects can be described by the following two points:

- Likely effects – these are effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
- Unlikely effects– these are effects that cannot reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.

The duration of an effect can be defined by the following criteria:

- Momentary effect – effect lasting from seconds to minutes.
- Brief effect – effect lasting for a day or less.
- Temporary effect – effect lasting for one year or less.
- Short-term effect – effect lasting one to seven years.
- Medium-term effect – effect lasting seven to fifteen years.
- Long-term effect – effect lasting fifteen to sixty years.

Effects can also be identified as permanent, i.e., lasting over sixty years and reversible effect, i.e., can be reversed through remediation or restoration. Another consideration is the frequency of the effect, i.e., how often will the effect occur. once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually.

These effects have been derived from the EPA Guidelines (2022). The effect upon the setting of an asset is also taken into account.

The magnitude of effect is determined independently of the heritage value of the asset and takes account of the nature and scale of the predicted change, including effects on the setting of heritage assets where relevant. Embedded mitigation incorporated into the Proposed Development has been taken into account in determining the magnitude of effect. Based on these considerations, the magnitude of effect is assigned using the five-point scale, as set out in Table 13-2.

Table 13-2: Factors Determining the Magnitude of Effect

Magnitude of Effect	Description
Very High	Major alteration to, or complete loss of, a Cultural Heritage asset. Effects likely to be experienced at a very large scale; considered permanent and irreversible.
High	Change such that the special interests or qualities of the asset are totally altered or destroyed. Comprehensive change to setting affecting heritage value of asset, resulting in a serious loss in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Medium	Change such that the special interests or qualities of the asset are affected. Noticeably different change to setting affecting heritage value, resulting in erosion in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Low	Change such that the special interests or qualities of the asset are slightly affected. Slight change to setting affecting significance resulting in a change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.
Negligible	Minimal change to the asset that has little effect on its special interests or qualities. Does not affect our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.

Source: EPA 2022

13.2.4 Significance of Impact

The classification and significance of impacts have been evaluated with reference to definitive standards, accepted criteria and legislation where available. Where it has not been possible to quantify effects, qualitative assessments were carried out, based on professional opinion and professional judgement. Where uncertainty exists, this is noted.

The magnitude of impact is judged on a seven-point scale as illustrated in Plate 13-1:

- Imperceptible – An impact capable of measurement but without significant consequences;
- Not significant – An impact which causes noticeable changes in the character of the asset but without significant consequences;
- Slight impact – An impact which causes a noticeable change in the character of the asset without affecting its sensitivities (special interests or qualities);
- Moderate impact – A change which alters the character (or special qualities) of an asset in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends;
- Significant impact – An impact which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters the sensitive aspects (special interests or qualities) of an asset;
- Very significant impact – An impact which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of the sensitive aspect (special interests or qualities) of an asset; and
- Profound impact – An impact which obliterates the sensitive characteristics (special interest or qualities) of an asset.

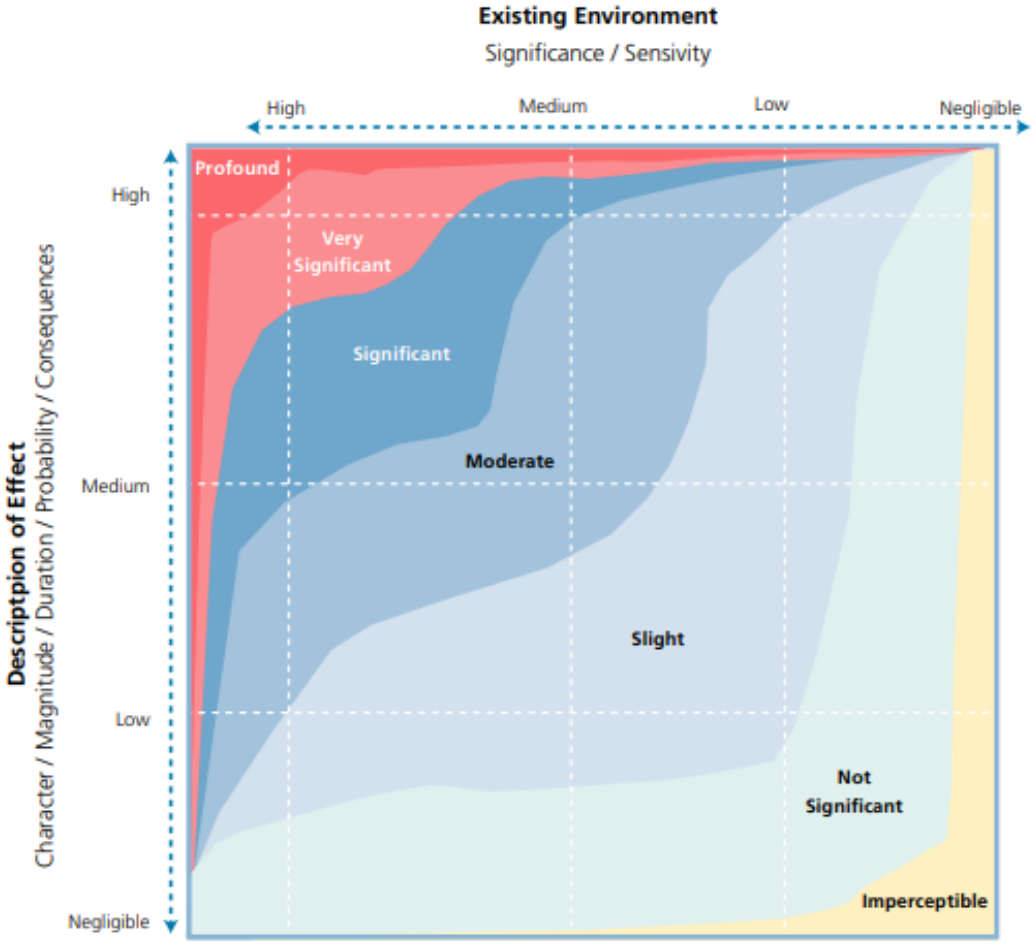


Plate 13-1: Chart Showing Typical Classifications of the Significance of Impacts (*Source: EPA 2022*)

This chapter considers that moderate to profound impacts are classed as significant. Once a significant impact has been identified, additional mitigation can be used to offset, reduce or compensate for any significant adverse effects, or to enhance positive effects. Reassessing the significance after applying additional mitigation reflects the success rating of the mitigation and allows the level of residual effect and impact to be assessed.

13.2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

The assessment is based upon currently available information at the time of writing including a walkover survey of the study area. The previous surveys are considered relevant, robust and representative and no additional investigative archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken as part of the assessment.

13.3 Baseline Environment

13.3.1 Site Location and Description

The Proposed Development Site consists of an area of public open space situated to the southeast of Rathcoole, immediately east of existing residential developments and south of Rathcoole Park. It comprises c.11.4ha of land to the south and south-east of Rathcoole Village. It forms part of a wider landbank extending to 17.78ha which is divided across two ownerships, comprising South Dublin County Council (c.15.93ha) and the Department of Education (c.1.85ha). The site lies wholly within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council. The northern and eastern extents parts of the Proposed Development Site consist of maintained parkland, with the entire area being publicly accessible.

The southeastern extent of the Proposed Development Site is bounded by an Irish Water Easement.

The Proposed Development Site was assessed as part of a Land Use and Movement Option Analysis undertaken in 2023, which considered the site's capacity for residential development. It was deemed that

between 155-165 houses could be constructed within the Proposed Development Site, as well as one junior GAA pitch, two senior GAA pitches and changing facilities.

13.3.2 Site Visit and Topography

The Proposed Development site is situated within an area of public open space comprising of a mixture of landscaped parkland and sparse scrubland. The terrain is largely level, ranging in height from 126m OD in the southwest to 115m OD in the east. A small stream is located within the southwest of the Proposed Development Site running southwest to northeast.

A Gaelic football pitch is located within the eastern extent of the Proposed Development Site, which forms part of the larger Rathcoole Park. This Park includes the northern extent of the Proposed Development Site, comprising a landscaped parkland and paved walkways.

The heritage site visit was undertaken on the 2nd of September 2025. Weather conditions were dry, clear and bright. The northern extents of the Proposed Development Site were found to comprise largely level and well-maintained parkland bordered to the north by a row of trees and with a tree line path travelling through the area (Photograph 13-1). Ground disturbance associated with existing services was observed in close proximity to the sports pitch located at the eastern extent of the Proposed Development Site (Photographs 13-2 and 13-3). The northeastern boundary of the Site was found to be formed of a simple stone bridge (Photograph 13-4) crossing the ditch that formed the northern boundary. This may represent a former watercourse. (Photograph 13-5).

The southeastern boundary of the Proposed Development Site is marked by the Cromac River (Photography 13-6). The former Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332) were easily accessible in the Rathcoole Woodland (Photograph 13-7 and 13-8) as well as a possible weir being located adjacent to the Mill Race (Photograph 13-9). It was noted that there was no intervisibility between the Proposed Development Site and these assets, with dense woodland located between screening views. The remains of the Paper Mill (RPS 330) (Photograph 13-10) are set into a grassy bank located to the north of the former mill pond and consists of a standalone red brick chimney with metal tensioning bands, that leans noticeably to the south. The original storage building of the former paper mill is located adjacent to the chimney and has also been retained. It consists of a rubbled stone building retaining the original doors and windows, however, with a modern roof having been installed.

A small earthen bank (Photograph 13-11) was noted to the north of the southern boundary of the Proposed Development Site, however, it is likely a result of landscaping associated with the pathway through the Rathcoole Woodland. This is supported by the deposit of spoil material further to the west along the bank (Photograph 13-12).

A possible cropmark (CH1) is present towards the centre of the southwestern field, consisting of a circular feature approximately 20m in diameter noted on satellite photography. It is discussed in greater detail in Section 13.4.13. The area containing the possible cropmark was heavily overgrown with vegetation during the site visit (Photograph 13-13) and the location of the cropmark could not be accurately identified or assessed.

The northwestern extent of the Proposed Development Site was not accessible during the site visit as it was fenced off from the publicly accessible land (Photograph 13-14). However, it was visible through the fence and was found to comprise largely level good quality for agriculture ground mostly overgrown with vegetation (Photograph 13-15). The level nature of the terrain added to the proximity to the Cromac River suggest this area would have good archaeological potential to contain evidence for settlement or industrial activity.

The Protected Structure, Rathcoole House (RPS 305), is set off the Main Street with its rear facing the road and located between two modern houses. It is noted in the asset description (section 13.4.7) as being in disuse, however, during the site visit it was noted as being occupied and well maintained (Photograph 13-16). Further Protected Structures, as well Rathcoole Church of Ireland Church (RPS 310) and Rathcoole Garda Station (RPS 311) are both located along Main Street (Photograph 13-17). It was noted that there is no intervisibility between the location of the Proposed Development Site and any of these assets. The remainder of Rathcoole's ACA and Protected Structures are located further west along Main Street (Photograph 13-18) and have no visibility towards the Proposed Development Site.

13.3.3 Geology

The Proposed Development Site is situated atop the Pollaphuca Formation, which consists of coarse, graded greywackes that are largely medium grey in colour and dark grey shales. The Pollaphuca Formation dates to the Llandovery and Ludlow time periods within the Silurian era, dating to between 443.8 to 428 mya (GSI). A detailed description of the geological and soil conditions within the Site is provided in Chapter 07 (Land, Soils and Geology).

13.3.4 History of Local Area

Prehistoric Period (7000 BC to 500 AD)

The first known human activity within Ireland dates back to the Mesolithic Era, roughly 9,000 years ago, when the first humans came to Ireland as hunter gatherers. Cooldrinagh contains one of the largest known areas of Mesolithic activity within South Dublin and is located approximately 8.5km north of the Proposed Development Site. The site at Cooldrinagh contained a large assemblage of Mesolithic flint lithics that were uncovered in a low-lying field adjacent to the River Liffey (SDCC, 2022). River valleys were the favoured settlement areas of Mesolithic peoples due to the abundance of food available and rivers offering a means of transporting individuals and goods.

The advent of technological and social change seen during the subsequent Neolithic Era (c. 4000-2400 BC) saw an increased impact in the historic landscape, with the construction of new settlements and the commencement of widespread land clearance. Following the introduction and widespread adoption of agriculture, societies became increasingly sedentary in order to facilitate the planting and harvesting of cereal crops, like wheat and barley and the rearing of cattle and sheep. Again, due to the fertile nature of river valleys, the Neolithic peoples favoured these areas for their settlements. This is seen in areas like the Neolithic house at Kishoge (Licence No. 01E0061) located approximately 5km to the north of the Proposed Development Site and the habitation sites at Piperstown (DU025-019012) located approximately 9km to the southeast of the Proposed Development Site (SDCC, 2022). The Neolithic Era also saw the construction of large megalithic monuments, with 14 such monuments recorded in the Dublin Mountains.

The Bronze Age occurred in Ireland between 2,500 BC to 600 BC and brought about great technological changes in the form of metalworking. The Bronze Age also brought about an increase in settlements as well as an increase in conflict. One of the most notable type of asset dating to the Bronze Age present in South Dublin is the ring barrow. These comprise a circular or oval raised area (generally up to 1m above the external ground level or level with it) enclosed by a ditch and outer bank, with or without an entrance. These are part of a Bronze/Iron Age burial tradition. There are a total of 19 ring barrows recorded in South Dublin, some of which are individual sites whilst others form ‘cemeteries’ or groups (SDCC, 2022). The ring barrow is not the only form of barrow present in South Dublin, with a stepped barrow (an oval or circular platform with a raised, flat-topped or rounded central area, giving the monument its characteristic 'stepped' profile) recorded in Ballymount Great (DU021-015003) and two unclassified barrows at Athgoe/Highdownhill (DU020-006) and Crooksling (DU024-015). It is believed that barrows were far more prominent in the Bronze Age landscape, however, most have been destroyed by intensive farming practices in the lowland areas (SDCC, 2022) in later periods.

The archaeological record for the Iron Age in Ireland is less well represented than that of the Bronze Age, partly due to the difficulty in defining the period of transition between the two eras (SDCC, 2022). It is hard to distinguish the dates of most sites as there is a high similarity between features from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, such as the hilltop enclosure at Athgoe (DU020-023) located approximately 3km west of the Proposed Development.

Early Medieval Period (500 AD to 1100 AD)

The Early Medieval period in Ireland is marked by the introduction of Christianity during the 5th century AD, as well as a number of great technological and intellectual advances spurred on by a greater connectivity with both mainland Europe and Britain. The Early Medieval Period also saw a large change in the land use, particularly in South Dublin, which saw the construction of large religious and secular settlements and monuments.

There are two assets mainly associated with Early Medieval Secular settlements- the ringfort and the souterrain. The ringfort[1], or rath, is the most prominent archaeological feature in Ireland, with over 45,000 having been identified throughout the island to date.

South Dublin is noted, however, for having a markedly low number of known ringforts, with only eight having been identified in the area. The closest of these is the ringfort at Baldonnell Little (DU021-020), located approximately 3km to the north of the Proposed Development Site.

The second asset associated with Early Medieval Secular settlements is the souterrain. These are underground structures consisting of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages or creepways, usually constructed of drystone-walling with a lintelled roof over the passages and a corbelled roof over the chambers. Most souterrains appear to have been built in the early medieval period by ringfort inhabitants (c. 500 - 1000 AD) as a defensive feature and/or for storage. However, examples have been recorded with no obvious ringfort nearby suggesting they were associated with non-enclosed settlement as well. The souterrain is far rarer in South Dublin than the ringfort, with only two souterrains having been identified so far, the closer of which is in Bustyhill (DU020-010) located approximately 3.5km southeast of the Proposed Development Site.

The earliest recorded human activity in Rathcoole dates to the Early Medieval period, as a Holy Well (DU021-030004) likely originated during this period and was in use until the mid-20th century, before being demolished as part of housing development (Figure 13-1). Many Holy Wells were used in conjunction with nearby ecclesiastical sites, however, there has been no evidence for an early medieval ecclesiastical site in Rathcoole. The Holy Well (DU021-030004) is located 566m to the northwest of the Proposed Development Site and outside the study area.

It is also noted that the settlement of Saggart is located 750m to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site. Early indications for activity at Saggart come in the form of St. Mosacra who founded a monastery at Saggart during the 7th century. The current Saggart Graveyard is 643m to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site. It has a raised interior and is oval in plan with traces of an inner ditch at the base of slope running from north to southeast suggesting that it has been formed from an ecclesiastical enclosure (DU021-034001). The site of the medieval church (DU021-034002) of Saggart stands in the centre of the graveyard.

The closest recorded site to the Proposed Development, (DU021-033), is located 195m to the southwest and immediately southeast of Rathcoole Park (Figure 13-1). It appeared as a curving depression on the commons land south of Rathcoole close to what was thought to be a winding passage. This feature was interpreted by Ua Broin in 1943 as the 'rath of cumhal'. However, a subsequent field inspection by the National Monuments Service found that the 'winding passage' is a naturally formed valley of a stream and there are no surface indications to suggest that there was any man-made feature at the location. Given this, the feature has been identified as a natural feature of no archaeological significance.

Medieval Period (1100 AD to 1700 AD)

The Medieval Period in Ireland is marked by the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1171. The lands of South Dublin came under the ownership of Hugh de Lacy, who was granted the Lordship of Meath in 1171, which stretched from the Irish sea to the Shannon. This land was further divided into large estates that were then granted to both secular and ecclesiastical individuals (SDCC, 2022).

The history of settlements in South Dublin is largely different than the rest of Ireland, as a large number of boroughs here were founded by the Church as opposed to secular landowners. Rathcoole is one of these boroughs and became one of the many ecclesiastical settlements that began to develop in South Dublin during the 13th century. The borough of Rathcoole was established by the Archbishops of Dublin in 1242, with the current church (DU021-030001, RPS 310 and NIAH 11213025), located 146m to the north of the Proposed Development, utilising the remains of the medieval church in its construction. It is likely that this ecclesiastical borough formed the origins of Rathcoole as the secular settlement (DU021-0300008) began to form around the church (Figure 2). The settlement form is linear and consists of a single main street. A triangular marketplace was located at the west end of the street. A Zone of Notification (ZON) has been drawn around the settlement (DU021-0300008). This is rectangular in shape following Main Street as its

[1] A ringfort comprises a roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external ditch. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and ditches, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.

centre line. The southern boundary of the ZON does not extend into the Proposed Development Site although they bound one another at one location.

Further evidence for medieval activity at Rathcoole is located 387m to the southwest beside a fence in a field known as the 'trough field'. This is a font (DU021-031) comprising a hemispherical piece of granite with hollowed upper surface. Local tradition suggests that it was a holy water font attached to a local church. Within the wider area, the settlement of Saggart (DU021-034) was clustered around two castles (DU021-034010 / 014) which were depicted as tower house type structures and a third ruinous castle annotated 'stump of a Castle' on the Down Survey map of Newcastle Barony. The settlement of Saggart (DU021-034) has an associated ZON which is rectangular in shape following Castle Road and Main Street as its centre line. The southwest extent of this ZON is 200m from the Proposed Development Site. Evidence for medieval field boundaries and agricultural features have also been uncovered during archaeological excavations at Saggart.

English control began to diminish through the medieval period as the Gaelic Lords began to reassert themselves over Ireland. Eventually, the English effectively controlled only a small area surrounding Dublin known as the Pale after the defensive ditch constructed around it. This large ditch and defensive fortifications were constructed along the western boundary of the Pale, with Rathcoole and Saggart being mentioned in a 1488 Act that named places that were pivotal in the defence of the Pale. No trace of either the ditch or defences are known in Rathcoole with its route thought to have passed to the south of Saggart and Tallaght and into Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown.

The loss of surrounding lands to Gaelic Lords during the 15th century meant that Rathcoole and Saggart were closed off to agricultural produce in these hinterlands which hindered their ability to function effectively as markets and their prosperity as boroughs. Indeed, Saggart's exposed location near the border with the Gaelic Irish saw it captured and burned by Fiach McHugh O'Byrne in 1580 (SDCC, 2022).

Post-Medieval Period (1700 AD to 1900 AD)

Following the destruction that occurred throughout Ireland during the Cromwellian conquest in the 1640s, many of the aristocratic families that held large swathes of land saw their lands confiscated and distributed to Cromwellian soldiers. However, in South Dublin a number of influential individuals managed to retain large tracts of their land, most notably the church and members of the clergy (SDCC, 2022).

The widespread destruction in the 1640s is reflected in the archaeological record, with only five houses surviving that are dated to the 16th and 17th centuries in South Dublin, including one within Rathcoole (DU021-030007). Rathcoole during the mid-17th century was reputed to contain many good houses, although only one of these remains. The Poitín Stíl, situated at the west end of Rathcoole village, close to the road to Naas, is believed to date to 1649. It is located approximately 700m to the west of the Proposed Development Site.

The post-medieval era saw a great boom in Dublin's population and as a result, the agricultural output of South Dublin increased dramatically. This increase in agriculture significantly altered the land use of South Dublin, including widespread land reclamation and bog draining projects. It was estimated that one eighth of South Dublin's area was common land, which included the mountainous regions to the south of the County, as well as salt marshes, tidal flats and lowland bog. A number of earlier field systems survived into the post-medieval period, including those shown around Rathcoole, which reflect the field systems shown on 18th century maps. One such example is the field system (DU021-032) located approximately 500m northeast of the Proposed Development Site.

13.3.4.1 National Monuments

There are no National Monuments located within the Proposed Development Site or within the surrounding 500m study area. The closest National Monument to the Proposed Development Site is the Round Tower (DU017-041006) at Clondalkin, located approximately 5.9km to the northeast, outside the study area. The round tower was believed to have been originally five-storeys in height and is built of calp limestone with the tower's base being cased in the 18th century. The tower was accessed by a lintelled doorway on the first floor along the eastern face of the tower.

13.3.4.2 Archaeological Monuments

There are no recorded archaeological monuments within the footprint of the Proposed Development Site. A total of 7 archaeological assets, including the historic settlement of Rathcoole (DU021-0300008) , are

located within the 500 m study area. The ZON associated with the historic settlement adjoins the northern boundary of the Proposed Development Site.

The next closest archaeological monument is the redundant record (DU021-033) found to be a naturally formed stream valley rather than an archaeological feature. It is located approximately 280m south of the Proposed Development Site. The closest of the archaeological assets is Rathcoole graveyard (DU021-030002), which is located 235m north of the Proposed Development Site. This asset consists of a walled, roadside graveyard enclosed within the churchyard of the church (DU021-030001) in Rathcoole and contains the grave-slab (DU021-030005), cross-slab (DU021-030003) and holed stone (DU021-030009). The church is located within the site of the medieval parish church that was assigned to St Patrick's Cathedral (DU018-020269) during in the 13th century. It was described in a survey in 1630 as being in good repair, however, no trace of the medieval church can be seen at the site, with only the current 18th century church, graveyard and associated features present.

A second redundant record (DU021-030006) was initially listed as a possible dwelling in the 1998 Records of Monuments and Places (RMP) and is believed to have been based on the depiction of a cluster of buildings on the 17th century Down Survey Map. There was not the sufficient evidence to include the asset in the revised editions of the RMP. It is located approximately 480m to the north.

The final archaeological asset included within this assessment is the historic settlement of Rathcoole. The town can trace its foundation to the Archbishops of Dublin, who established the borough of Rathcoole as early as 1242. The ZON for this asset covers the historic core of Rathcoole, including the northernmost extent of the Proposed Development Site.

The historic settlement of Rathcoole is the archaeological asset of greatest relevance to the Proposed Development, as its ZON extends to the northern boundary of the Site.

13.3.4.3 Protected Structures

There are seven structures listed on the SDCC Development Plan 2022-2028 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) within the study area (Figure 13-2). Of these seven Protected Structures, five are located within the historic settlement of Rathcoole including the Church of Ireland church, graveyard and walled enclosure (RPS 310) that are discussed in Section 13.4.6.

Rathcoole Garda Station (RPS 311) is a detached, five-bay, two-storey Garda Síochána station that was built in 1930 and is noted as a fine example of the traditional garda station architectural style that is attributed to T.F O. Rippingham. It is located approximately 300m north of the Proposed Development Site.

House (RPS 312) is a semi-detached three bay, single-storey house along Main Street, which dates to 1820. It is located approximately 430m north of the Site.

Rathcoole Health Centre (RPS 316) is a former Glebe house associated with the Church of Ireland church that was constructed in 1820 and is offset from Main Street. It retains significant portions of its original features, including the windows and doors. It is located approximately 200m north of the Proposed Development Site.

Rathcoole House (RPS 305) is a farmhouse that was known to be extant in 1798 with connections to the prominent Clinch Family, who were noted as the proprietors of the house. Significant elements of original fabric, both within the interior and exterior of the building remains, including contemporary joinery and plasterwork. It is located approximately 305m north of the Proposed Development Site.

The remaining two Protected Structures are both linked to the industrial buildings that were located west of Saggart, including the Former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and the Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332) that date to the late 18th century. They are valued as strong reminders of the industrial heritage of the Saggart area.

None of the Protected Structures are located within the Proposed Development Site. The closest Protected Structures are located to the north within Rathcoole and to the south within Rathcoole Woodland, and are considered in the assessment of potential direct and indirect effects, including effects on their setting where relevant.

13.3.4.4 Architectural Conservation Areas

The footprint of the Proposed Development is not located within any ACA. However, the Rathcoole Village ACA (ACA001) is located within the 500m study area. Rathcoole Village is designated as an ACA due to the concentration of historic buildings dating to the 18th and 19th century and due to the village retaining

its urban focus despite modern development especially with the drive to expand the village during the 20th century.

13.3.4.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

There are a total of 11 structures recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) database within the study area (Figure 13-1). Of these 11 structures, six are also listed as Protected Structures by SDCC. The remaining five NIAH recorded buildings are the houses (NIAH 11213019, 11213020, 11213021, 11213022 and 11213028) within Rathcoole village and the water pump (NIAH 11213030) and post box (NIAH 11213031) both located along Mill Road between Rathcoole and Saggart.

These structures also represent the urban settlement within the study area dating to the mid-19th century.

13.3.4.6 Historic Gardens

There are no Historic Gardens noted on the NIAH Garden Survey within either the footprint of the Proposed Development Site or the 500m study area. The closest Historic Garden is Saggart House (NIAH Garden No. 2221), which is located approximately 1km northeast of the Proposed Development Site. Although the historic grounds have been substantially redeveloped, the principal house, several ancillary structures and elements of the historic designed landscape, including ornamental gardens, parkland, woodland and water features, remain.

Given its separation distance from the Proposed Development Site, the Historic Garden is considered only in relation to potential indirect effects on its setting, where relevant.

13.3.4.7 Townland Boundaries

Townlands are the lowest level, officially defined geographical area in Ireland and date to before the Anglo-Norman period (12th century). The townlands boundaries are often visible in the landscape as walls, tree-lined ditches and embankments or natural features such as streams. They provide visible physical evidence of historical territory or political boundaries and are regarded as being of local importance as historic, cultural heritage landscape features with low heritage significance.

The Proposed Development Site is contained almost entirely within the townland of Rathcoole, with much of the southern and southeastern extent of the Site being located adjacent to the townland boundary between Rathcoole and Coolmine. This townland boundary also marks the edge of Rathcoole Wood and is delineated by a thick hedgerow.

The easternmost extent of the Proposed Development Site is situated at the boundary of three townland boundaries. The boundary between the townlands of Rathcoole, Coolmine and Saggart is defined by the Camac River, reflecting the common historic use of natural landscape features to define administrative boundaries.

The townland boundaries contribute to the historic landscape character of the Site and are considered in the assessment of potential effects on cultural heritage.

13.3.4.8 Historic Cartographic Evidence

The Down Survey Map of Ireland (Down Survey of Ireland Online Map Viewer) was undertaken between 1656 and 1658 following the conquest of Ireland by the New Model Army under Oliver Cromwell. The map was conducted in conjunction with the Irish Civil Survey in order to aid the transferal of Irish Catholic land to the victorious English Protestants, most of which was used as payment to the soldiers that fought in the New Model Army.

The location of the Proposed Development Site lies within the Barony of Newcastle and within the Parish of Rathcoole (map not reproduced). Rathcoole Village is labelled as ‘Racoole’ on the map, clearly depicted as a collection of buildings that are situated along either side of the ‘Cormmack’, now called the River Camac. The Church at Rathcoole is also shown on the map to the north of the village. Rathcoole is described as containing two old castles and a number of ‘good, habitable houses and cabbins’. The church is also depicted on the map as ruinous. Saggart is also depicted and labelled as ‘Sagard’. It is shown as a larger settlement than Rathcoole comprising 2 castles, a stump of a castle with four houses marked. These appear to be well made cottages with pitched roofs and chimneys rather than Irish cabins. The location of the Proposed Development Site is located between the two settlements. No features are marked in this area on the map.

The location of the Proposed Development Site is clearly depicted on John Rocque's 1762 map of Dublin County (map not reproduced). Rathcoole is shown as being a collection of buildings that line the road to Dublin. Identified structures are 'The Church', 'Charter School' and a lime kiln. The Proposed Development Site is shown as being located within an area of agricultural land labelled as 'Commons'. It is subdivided into fields and crossed by a stream. No buildings or other structures are marked within the location of the Proposed Development. Saggart is also shown as a larger settlement with mills and buildings marked alongside the main road in addition to the castles and church.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Rathcoole, published in 1843, highlights the lack of development seen both within the location of the Proposed Development and the surrounding area (map not reproduced). Rathcoole has undergone little expansion from Rocque's 1762 map, with the most noticeable change to Rathcoole being the construction of 'Rathcoole House' (RPS 305). The Paper Mill (RPS 330), located to the east of the location of the Proposed Development site, has also been constructed and is labelled as 'Swiftbrook'. The location of the Proposed Development Site is still depicted as comprising agricultural fields, however, it is bordered to the south by glebe land and a footpath and to the northeast by a corn mill and its mill dam.

The next edition of the OS map was published in 1912 and again shows little development to either the location of the Proposed Development Site or to the surrounding area. The most noticeable change is the expansion of the Paper Mill (RPS 330) at Swiftbrook, which now consists of a large number of buildings and is serviced by a tramway that connects to a second mill directly to the east. The corn mill and mill pond are still shown to the northeast, although neither is identified suggesting that the site may have gone out of use.

The final historic OS map was published in 1958 and again shows little development to either the location of the Proposed Development Site or to the surrounding area. The widespread residential developments present at Rathcoole had yet to occur, with the village remaining concentrated along the main street, with little development occurring along the roads that lead away from the main core of the village. All of the NIAH and Protected Structures are extant by this time and shown on this map edition. Swiftbrook Mill (RPS 330) is still depicted as being at the same extent as shown in the earlier 1912 edition OS map. The layout of the location of the Proposed Development Site shown on the 1912 edition OS map is again mirrored on the 1958 edition, with no change to the field systems.

Overall, the historic mapping demonstrates that the Proposed Development Site remained largely undeveloped agricultural and open land from at least the mid-seventeenth century until the second half of the twentieth century, with no buildings or other heritage features depicted within the Site. This evidence supports the understanding of the historic development of the Site and informs the assessment of its archaeological potential.

13.3.4.9 Aerial and Satellite Photographic Evidence

Aerial photographs from a range of dates were reviewed online using Heritage Maps.ie. Aerial photographs taken in 1995 show the location of the Proposed Development in black and white (photograph not reproduced). This shows the motorway now extant with Rathcoole Main Street joined to the motorway at each end. Rathcoole has expanded greatly with housing developments shown to the south of Main Street. The location of the Proposed Development Site is still shown as comprising fields, although these have been amalgamated into larger areas. A possible cropmark (CH1), comprising a circular feature approximately 20 m in diameter, is visible towards the centre of the southwestern field. It comprises a circular feature, located 50m from the southwestern boundary. No other potential cropmarks are visible within the Proposed Development Site. The fields to the north of the Proposed Development Site appear to have a path around their periphery with offshoots extending into their centre.

Colour aerial photography taken in 2000 shows the location of the Proposed Development Site in greater definition (photograph not reproduced). The location of the Proposed Development Site is shown as still comprising open ground. There appears to be one area sub-divided by drainage ditches. The ground surface appears marginal. The cropmark (CH1) is not apparent on this aerial photograph nor are any other possible cropmarks visible within the remainder of the Proposed Development site. The area to the north of the location of the Proposed Development Site has been disturbed with an off-slip road from the motorway leading to Rathcoole. Buildings are located around the off slip. Paths are visible within the remainder, and a pond is now located within the western extent as part of Rathcoole Park.

Colour aerial photography taken in 2005 shows little change to the Proposed Development Site (photograph not reproduced). It is still shown as one field with the drainage channels still visible. A track is also visible

curving from northwest to southeast across the east side of the Proposed Development Site. The cropmark (CH1) is not apparent on this aerial photograph. The area to the north that includes Rathcoole Park is unchanged.

Colour aerial photography taken in 2012 shows no change to the location of the Proposed Development Site (photograph not reproduced). The colour aerial photography taken in 2013 shows the location of the Proposed Development with areas of bushes apparent within the southwest. The cropmark (CH1) is not apparent on this aerial photograph. The track clearly leads from Rathcoole Park. Another path now extends along the eastern boundary of the location of the Proposed Development Site. A further path appears to be under construction along the southern boundary. The northern and eastern parts of the locations of the Proposed Development Site appear to be maintained, including a football pitch in the northeast corner. Rathcoole Park is clearly visible to the north with the paths and ponds lined with trees.

Colour aerial photography taken in 2018 shows the location of the Proposed Development Site as largely unchanged, although the area to the southwest of the track is shown as marginal and overgrown (photograph not reproduced). The overgrown nature of this area obscures the location of the cropmark (CH1). Current aerial photography (Google.co.uk) shows little change with the location of the Proposed Development Site still comprising rough, overgrown ground to the southwest (photograph not reproduced).

Overall, the available aerial photography demonstrates that the Proposed Development Site remained largely undeveloped throughout the period reviewed, with changes principally relating to the creation of Rathcoole Park, footpaths and recreational facilities. The only potential archaeological feature identified is the possible cropmark (CH1), which is visible on the 1995 imagery but is not evident on subsequent aerial photographs.

13.3.4.10 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been eight previous archaeological investigations recorded within the study area, none of which have been conducted within the Proposed Development Site. Of the eight, six found no evidence for archaeological remains (Licence Nos 02E1037, 03E0846, 02E0081 02E1651, 18E0245 and 24E1200).

The two remaining investigations were conducted within the grounds of Rathcoole House (RPS 305) with both uncovering archaeological material. The first of these was undertaken in 2007 (Licence No. 07E1080), to facilitate the construction of new office buildings adjacent to the existing Rathcoole House. Six test trenches were opened in order to assess a number of anomalies identified through a geophysical survey. A number of structural features that were associated with a building that predated the current Rathcoole House were identified. These included small rectangular buildings, a former road and structural rubble.

The second took place in 2014 (Licence No. 14E0457). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the construction of a number of houses within the grounds of Rathcoole House, during which two medieval pits were uncovered. A large amount of pottery was uncovered within the pits and was dated to the 13th century. It was inferred from analysis of the pottery that the area was originally an Anglo-Norman burgage plot. No evidence was uncovered for the 14th century manor house during the investigations.

Although archaeological remains have been identified within the wider study area, no previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Proposed Development Site. The results of nearby investigations nevertheless indicate the presence of archaeological remains within the surrounding landscape and inform the assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site.

13.4 Potential Impacts

13.4.1 Construction

This section assesses the impacts resulting from the construction of the Proposed Development up to the commencement of operation. It includes temporary effects from construction activities and permanent effects from the Proposed Development. The construction works, including extensive excavation and earthworks associated with site regrading, infrastructure installation, drainage, building foundations, temporary construction compounds and storage areas, have the potential to affect both known and previously unrecorded heritage assets during the construction phase. Permanent effects can occur either as a result of physical effects on heritage assets or through changes to the setting of heritage assets through the presence of the Proposed Development.

The assessment of likely significant impacts during construction is assessed under the criteria outlined in Sections 13.3.3 – 13.3.4 above.

It is deemed that all intrusive groundworks associated with the Proposed Development will create ground disturbance that could physically impact both upstanding and buried heritage assets. Given this, the construction of the Proposed Development under consideration has the likelihood to impact heritage assets in the following ways:

- Partial or total removal of heritage assets, both recorded and unrecorded during site clearance and construction of the Proposed Development and associated features and infrastructure;
- Impact of any landscaping, soil regrading and planting on the setting of heritage assets, and damage caused to archaeological deposits caused by associated planting or earthwork embankments; and
- Change to the setting of heritage assets, including visual and noise intrusion, and changes in traffic levels (construction phase only).

The location of the Proposed Development Site comprises areas of previously disturbed and developed land alongside undeveloped ground to the south and west. While the baseline shows no evidence for recorded heritage assets within these areas, the Proposed Development Site is located directly between the villages of Rathcoole and Saggart which both contain evidence for continued settlement activity from the Early Medieval period onwards with significant activity recorded during the medieval period.

The cropmark (CH1) located within the Proposed Development Site appears to be an enclosure and could represent evidence of activity dating to the Early Medieval period or earlier. If proven archaeological in nature, it is assessed that this enclosure would likely be of low importance and local interest. Groundworks associated with the Proposed Development could impact the enclosure resulting in its destruction. This effect would be high, leading to a slight permanent and negative impact. Whilst not considered a significant effect according to the strict application of the methodology set out Section 13-3 above, considering the potential for total loss of any assets, the application of professional judgement in this instance increases the categorisation in Plate 13-1 by one level to a moderate impact which is considered significant adverse effect

The western extent of the site is located within greenfield land, with the eastern extent having been subject to previous development and disturbance, as a result of the installation of utilities and landscaping previously outlined. As such, it is possible that previously unrecorded archaeological remains may survive within areas of the Proposed Development Site that have not been subject to previous disturbance Groundworks associated with the construction phase have the potential to disturb or remove these archaeological remains. Given the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be present, precautionary assessment has been adopted (Plate 13-1). Prior to mitigation, the potential effect is considered to be significant and adverse.

There are no recorded archaeological assets on the RMP located within the footprint of the Proposed Development Site, however there are a total of eight archaeological assets located within the 0.5km study area surrounding the Site, including the church (DU021-030001), graveyard (DU021-030002), holed stone (DU021-030009), cross-slab (DU021-030003), grave-slab (DU021-030005), settlement cluster (DU021-030008) and the redundant records (DU021-033 and DU021-030006). The redundant records are no longer considered to be of archaeological importance and are considered to be of negligible importance, with all other remaining assets considered of low importance and local interest.

The closest of these archaeological assets is the graveyard (DU021-030002) at Rathcoole. This asset is located approximately 140m north of the Proposed Development Site and is screened from view by modern residential developments. Given the separation distance between the asset and the Proposed Development Site it is deemed unlikely that it will be subject to any increased levels of dust and noise caused by intrusive groundworks above the asset's baseline. There will, therefore, be no predicted effects resulting from the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development Site is also located adjacent to the ZON for the historic core of Rathcoole (DU021-030008). Due to the modern residential developments located within this section of Rathcoole, it is likely that any associated archaeological remains associated with the historic settlement of Rathcoole will have been heavily disturbed while the modern development has impacted the historic setting of Rathcoole. Groundworks associated with the Proposed Development will not enter the ZON for the historic core of Rathcoole (DU021-030008) so will not disturb any archaeological remains located within it while its

historic setting has been greatly diminished by modern development. Given these conditions, there will be no impacts to the ZON for the historic core of Rathcoole (DU021-030008).

There is the potential for intervisibility between the taller elements of the Proposed Development, such as between the four and five storey apartments and the closest Protected Structures, including the former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and associated Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332). While these assets are largely screened by the thick vegetation of Rathcoole Woodland from the majority of the Proposed Development, the extremities of the taller structures may be visible above this vegetation. As such, there is the possibility for a negative visual predicted impact affecting the setting of these assets during the construction phase and extending to the operational phase. However, it should also be noted that the industrial heritage setting of these assets has been previously altered by the urban expansion of Saggart, as well as the widespread landscaping associated with the walking trails in Rathcoole Woodland. It is anticipated that the ability to understand and appreciate the Protected Structures will be slightly diminished especially as the woodland will grow to screen views of the buildings. The magnitude of effect from these impacts is judged to be low, the significance of impact would be moderate, temporary and adverse resulting in a significant effect which is significant.

13.4.2 Operation

This assesses the likely significant impacts which could result from the operation of the Proposed Development. Potential effects relate to changes in the setting of heritage assets, including those arising from increased activity, lighting and noise associated with the operational phase. The assessment considers the Proposed Development once operational, and all effects are considered to be long-term. During the operation of the Proposed Development, no further ground works are anticipated and, as such, there would be no further physical effects on any heritage assets.

Effects on the setting of heritage assets arising from the presence of the Proposed Development are established during the construction phase and continue throughout the operational life of the development. These effects are, therefore, assessed under the construction phase and are not repeated here.

The assessment of potential impacts during operation is assessed under the criteria outlined in Sections 13.3.3 – 13.3.4 above.

Once operational, there will be no requirement for groundworks or ground intrusive activity in the area. Significant impacts for the operation of the Proposed Development derive from changes to the setting of heritage assets. These mirror the impacts assessed for the permanent presence of the Proposed Development as detailed above in the assessment of the construction phase. Therefore, the only operational impact predicted is the possible intervisibility between the four and five storey apartment blocks and the former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and associated Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332) discussed in Section 13.1.6.1 above.

13.4.3 Indirect, Secondary & Transboundary Effects

Indirect and secondary effects are described in the EPA Guidelines as “effects on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway”. Transboundary effects are those affecting another state or jurisdiction.

The zone of influence of the effects identified does not affect any other state or states.

The potential for indirect and secondary effects has been considered in the preparation of this EIAR chapter, and none have been identified. All effects identified in this chapter are direct effects and not predicted to give rise to likely significant indirect or secondary effects.

13.5 Mitigation Measures

13.5.1 Construction Phase

Due to sections of the site being located within greenfield land with noted archaeological potential, it is recommended that a scheme of archaeological testing will be carried out at the pre-construction phase across the identified area of the Proposed Development (Figure 13-2). Particular attention will be paid to the location of the cropmark (CH1).

The detail and scope of all archaeological works will be agreed with the National Monuments Service (NMS) and carried out in compliance with the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2014; and Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Department of Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999).

The archaeological works will require a licence from the National Monuments Service on behalf of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland, all in accordance with the Provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014. It will be the responsibility of the Archaeological Contractor appointed to prepare a method statement and submit a licence application to the Minister. Due allowance will be made for this in the project programme.

The programme of pre-construction archaeological testing will consist of the mechanical excavation of test trenches, down to sterile glacial tills and bedrock by means of a smooth toothless bucket, at specified locations within the Proposed Development targeting those areas where ground disturbance is proposed. The appointed archaeologist will undertake full-time monitoring of the excavation of the test trenches and where appropriate, carry out investigation of any features uncovered.

Should archaeological material/features be encountered during archaeological testing, all works in the affected area shall cease immediately. Further archaeological investigation (by hand) shall be carried out by the licensed archaeologist to determine the nature, extent and significance of the remains, in consultation with the National Monuments Service (NMS), as appropriate. Construction works in the affected area shall not recommence until an appropriate mitigation strategy has been agreed. Archaeological deposits shall not be removed as part of the assessment process unless otherwise agreed as part of the approved mitigation strategy. The testing will be undertaken in advance of construction to allow adequate time to evaluate, record and, where necessary, mitigate any archaeological features that may be revealed. In the event that any archaeological features are uncovered during construction, the appointed Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service (NMS) will be consulted to determine the appropriate mitigation measures which may include preservation in situ, or preservation by record, through systematic archaeological excavation and/or monitoring of specific construction activities during the construction phase.

13.5.2 Operational Phase

As operational effects are limited to the continuation of the permanent setting effects assessed under the construction phase, no additional operational mitigation measures are required

13.6 Residual Effects

13.6.1 Construction Phase

A summary of residual effects is provided in Table 13 3. Only those assets where an impact has been identified are discussed in this section. Those assets where no impact has been identified are not included.

The cropmark (CH1) has been identified as experiencing a High magnitude of effect from the Proposed Development during construction. Mitigation has been proposed in the form of archaeological testing and excavation, if appropriate, to determine the presence of archaeological features at this location and to preserve them by record. This mitigation will not reduce the impact to features but will allow record before removal enriching the archaeological knowledge of south Dublin and reducing the impact. Based on the results of the baseline report, it is assessed that any archaeological assets within the site are likely to be of local value. The impact is, therefore, assessed to be Slight, Adverse and Permanent and, therefore, Not Significant effect should cropmark (CH1) prove to be archaeological in nature.

The greenfield / grassed areas within the Proposed Development Site have the potential to contain unrecorded archaeological remains. These have been identified as experiencing a High magnitude of effect from the Proposed Development during construction. As with the cropmark (CH1), mitigation has been proposed in the form of archaeological testing followed by excavation, if appropriate, to determine the presence/absence of such features and to preserve them by record. This mitigation will not reduce the impact to features but will ensure that any archaeological remains are identified, investigated and managed appropriately prior to construction. Where preservation in situ is not feasible, preservation by record will be undertaken. This proposed mitigation will allow the impacts to be offset through excavation and recording of archaeological remains before removal, which will enrich the archaeological knowledge of south Dublin thereby reducing the impact. Based on the results of the baseline report, it is assessed that previously unrecorded archaeological assets within the site are likely to be of low value and local significance. The

impact is, therefore, assessed to be Slight, Adverse, Permanent which is Not Significant effect, should unrecorded archaeological receptors be present.

It has been identified that the Protected Structures, the former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and associated Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332) may experience limited changes to their settings resulting in a moderate, permanent and adverse impact. It is noted that these assets are largely screened from the Proposed Development by the thick vegetation of Rathcoole Woodland which will likely grow to screen views and that their settings have already been modified by the urban expansion of Saggart and the construction of the parkland. The ability to understand and appreciate these former industrial assets will be temporarily slightly diminished so no mitigation measures are proposed with the impact assessed to be Slight, Permanent and Adverse which is not Significant

Table 13-1 Summary of Construction Residual Effects

Receptor	Description of Effect(s)	Significance of Impact(s) (Before Mitigation)	Proposed Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effects(s)
Cropmark (CH1)	Permanent physical effect during construction of the Proposed Development	Moderate, Significant	Archaeological investigation and preservation in situ or preservation by record, as appropriate.	Slight adverse permanent, Not Significant
Previously unrecorded archaeological features	Permanent physical effect during construction of the Proposed Development	Moderate, Significant	Archaeological testing and recording	Slight adverse permanent, Not Significant
Paper Mill (RPS 330), Mill Pond and Mill race (RPS 332)	Permanent impact to the settings of these assets during construction and operation	Moderate, Significant	None proposed	Slight adverse temporary, Not significant

13.7 Cumulative Impacts

The potential for cumulative effects has been assessed with reference to other permitted and proposed developments within, or in close proximity to, the study area. A desktop planning history search using the South Dublin County Council and An Coimisíun Pleanála Online Planning Systems identified four planning applications within, or just outside 500m, which could combine with the Proposed Development to create a cumulative impact upon heritage assets. These planning applications are outlined in **Appendix 1-3** of this EIAR.

The closest of these planning applications is the application (SDCC Ref. SD23A/0336 and ACP Ref. 321696) for the construction of a new primary school directly adjacent to the Proposed Development and will consist of a new three-storey primary school with 20 classrooms.

The planning application (ACP Ref. 307698) is the proposed construction of 204 new residential buildings and the demolition of existing buildings within a parcel of largely undeveloped land along Stoney Hill Road, approximately 200m to the southwest of the Proposed Development.

The Planning Application (ACP Ref. 322539) consists of the proposed construction of a total of 73 new housing units within the curtilage of the Former Paper Mill (RPS 330) approximately 160m from the Proposed Development.

The final planning application that may have the potential to create negative cumulative impacts is the planning application (SDCC Ref.SD24B/0025W and ACP Ref. 321133) seeks the proposed demolition of three derelict buildings and outbuildings, along with the erection of a new boundary wall and ancillary works, along Main Street approximately 300m north of the Proposed Development.

If the construction of these developments were to overlap with that of the Proposed Development, there is potential for temporary cumulative effects arising from increased construction traffic, noise, dust and general construction activity. These effects could influence the setting of nearby heritage assets, particularly within the historic core of Rathcoole. Particular note should be made to planning application (ACP Ref. 322539) that is located within the curtilage of the Former Paper Mill, which is a Protected Structure (RPS 330). However, these effects would be temporary and limited to the construction phase and are only

predicted to occur if the construction works occur concurrent to those of the Proposed Development. It should be noted that each of these planning applications will likely subject to a cultural heritage assessment . As such, all potential negative effects associated with these applications will be dealt with through the use of effective mitigation measures and planning conditions issued by South Dublin County Council and An Coimisíun Pleanála. Impacts will also be lessened, as detailed in Section 13.5.1, due to the assets within Rathcoole being subject to an existing baseline of noise and dust from the urban environment. It is also deemed that due to the heavily developed nature of Rathcoole and the lack of intervisibility between these applications, the Proposed Development and recorded heritage assets as a result of the heavy vegetation of Rathcoole Park, natural topography and existing developments, it is deemed unlikely to result in any permanent visual cumulative impacts. The significance of the cumulative impact is judged to be not significant.

13.8 'Do Nothing' Scenario

The Do-Nothing Scenario would see no change to the heritage baseline.

The Proposed Development Site is located on greenfield / grassed land which could contain unrecorded archaeological remains including the cropmark (CH1), but this land would remain unchanged without implementation of the Proposed Development with any unrecorded heritage assets remaining undisturbed and *in situ*.

The Proposed Development would not have been constructed and there would be no impacts to the settings of the Protected Structures, the former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and associated Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332).

It is recognised, however, that the future baseline may continue to evolve as a result of other permitted or committed developments, including the associated primary school, which are assumed to proceed independently of the Proposed Development.

13.9 Summary

The impacts to cultural heritage resources from the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

- This assessment identified that the western extent of the Proposed Development site is located within an area of greenfield land that has a probility to contain previously unknown archaeological remains including the cropmark (CH1). The significance of impact to these unrecorded archaeological remains is assessed as being moderate, permanent and negative leading to a significant, adverse effect.
- Archaeological mitigation has been proposed to reduce any impact caused by intrusive groundworks during the construction phase and aid in enriching the recorded heritage of South County Dublin.
- Following mitigation there remains an adverse residual impact upon the following asset (if present). Previously unrecorded archaeological remains will be preserved through record by archaeological excavation and recording hereby enriching knowledge of the history of South County Dublin. The residual significance of impact is assessed to be slight, adverse and permanent resulting in a not significant residual effect
- It was determined that the only other possible negative impact to any cultural heritage assets, as a result of the Proposed Development, is to the historic setting of the former Paper Mill (RPS 330) and associated Mill Pond and Mill Race (RPS 332), due to the intervisibility between them and the four and five storey apartment blocks associated with the Proposed Development. These impacts are assessed to be moderate, adverse and permanent resulting in a significant, adverse effect. No mitigation is proposed as existing tree cover will likely grow to screen views with the residual effect assessed as slight. adverse and negative which is not significant.
- Despite the presence of planning applications that have the potential to create negative cumulative impacts to the settings of heritage assets if construction works are undertaken in conjunction with the construction phase of the Proposed Development, it is deemed unlikely that any such impacts will occur. Therefore, the significance of the cumulative impact is judged to be not significant.

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