

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT THE
STABLES AND COURTYARDS OF
RATHFARNHAM CASTLE,
RATHFARNHAM,
DUBLIN 14**

ON BEHALF OF: SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

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11.04.25	Archaeological Assessment at the Stables and Courtyards of Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14	0	F. Bailey and J. Anderson	J. Gallacher	F. Bailey

ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of South Dublin County Council, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed redevelopment of the Stables and Courtyards of Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 (Figure 1; ITM 714436, 729008). It was carried out by Faith Bailey and Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology.

There are four individual or groups of recorded archaeological sites within the study area with the nearest monument comprising Rathfarnham Castle (RMP DU022-014), c. 19m to the south. This is also a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a preservation order (PO no. 2/1986).

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has shown that previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the development area. In 2018 some cobbled surfaces were revealed during investigations, which were preserved in-situ. No material predating the post medieval period was uncovered, but plaster samples from the barrel vault of Cromwell's Fort were dated and this revealed that the structure is broadly contemporary with the castle.

Monitoring was also carried out within the basement level of the castle, and this revealed 16th century foundations and a 16th century doorway. Monitoring confirmed that much of the area around the castle has been raised in the 18th or 19th century by just over 1m and that little archaeological stratigraphy survives outside the castle due to extensive later disturbance.

In 2005 a programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out within the northern extent of the proposed development area (Nelis 2005, Licence No. 05E1169) but no archaeological features or objects were revealed during the monitoring.

A programme of archaeological monitoring and metal detection was also carried out during the course of site investigations, as part of the proposed development. This was undertaken by Faith Bailey of IAC under Ministerial Consent (C000785, W000771, R000748, E005771). No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the works.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area has been occupied by gardens and outbuildings since at least the 18th century, with Cromwell's Fort likely present since the construction of the castle itself, possibly functioning as an early outbuilding. A demesne landscape around the castle was established during the 18th century, when such landscapes became the fashion. The stables and outbuildings that occupy the development area today are typical of ancillary structures established as part of a larger estate and post-date the construction of the castle, with the exception of Cromwell's Fort, which has seen significant modification.

A field inspection has also been carried out as part of this assessment. The inspection confirmed the findings of the baseline analysis and as shown within the review of previous excavations; it is clear that the area as a whole has been subject to a large degree of disturbance. No previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential were noted during the inspection.

The proposed development will comprise of the renovation and reuse of all the existing post medieval buildings within the proposed development plan, including Cromwell's Fort. A car park will be constructed in the northern part of the development area and new structures will be constructed in the two northern courtyards (Figure 2a). Services for water, foul water and electricity will be required throughout the development area (Figure 2b, 2c).

Ground disturbances associated with the construction of the new buildings, car park and services have the potential to result in adverse impacts on archaeological features that may be preserved beneath the current ground level, although it is noted from the results of the assessment that the area has been subject to a large degree of disturbance. Features may include post medieval cobbling and remains of post medieval structures that have been removed. Impacts in the northern most portion of the development area are considered less likely due to the presence of extensive landscaping in this area as part of the existing park.

It is recommended that all excavations associated with the construction of new buildings, car park and the laying of services be monitored by an archaeologist, under Ministerial Consent, as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH. If archaeological remains are identified during the course of monitoring, further mitigation will be required, such as preservation in-situ or preservation by record. Any further mitigation will require the approval of the DoHLGH.

Cromwell's Fort will be retained within the development multi-purpose event space, but the modern flat roof will be replaced with a pitched roof (zinc finish and rendered masonry gable-end). The existing solid floor to the southern internal room will be removed and replaced with a new insulated floor slab and all infill blockwork within existing openings will be removed and new windows and doors will be inserted within the existing openings (Figure 2d). The proposed alterations, including the removal of the existing floor and block work, have the potential to adversely impact the original fabric of the building, along with any archaeological features that may be present beneath the floor slab.

It is recommended that all ground disturbances within Cromwell's Fort be subject to archaeological monitoring, along with the removal of block work within the existing openings. This should be carried out under Ministerial Consent, as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH and include a detailed record of any exposed building fabric arising from the removal of open infills. If archaeological remains are identified during the course of monitoring, further mitigation will be required, such as preservation in-situ or preservation by record. Any further mitigation will require the approval of the DoHLGH.

The proposed development will see the retention of existing structures and the construction of new buildings with the courtyards to the north-northeast of the National Monument, Rathfarnham Castle. The site slopes gently in a northeast direction and whilst new structures will introduce new roof lines in the northern portion of the site, these will not be greater in height than the roofs associated with the post medieval structures that are closer to the castle. As such, no indirect adverse impacts are predicted on the setting of the National Monument.

The new pitched roof proposed for Cromwell's Fort replicates the roofline, as shown in a photograph from c. 1900. The roofline for this building will be greater than the surrounding structures and will have a zinc finish. The finish will mark the roof as being modern, rather than trying to replicate its 1900 appearance. The new roof will affect views of the castle from the courtyard area but will not affect the principal views of the structure from the northeast, east, south or west. As such, the presence of the new roofline will have a minor impact on the setting of the castle, which is somewhat ameliorated by the reinstatement of the historic roofline.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of development proposed at the Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 (Figure 1; ITM 714436, 729008). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. It was undertaken by Faith Bailey and Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of South Dublin County Council.

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

A programme of archaeological monitoring was also carried out during the course of site investigations. This work was carried out by Faith Bailey of IAC under Ministerial Consent (C000785, W000771, R000748, E005771), as issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH). The results of the monitoring are included in this assessment.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will consist of the refurbishment and change of use of the former stable buildings and former council depot yards at Rathfarnham Castle, to provide mixed-use cultural/arts/cafe/ restaurant uses together with retail use, WC's, storage areas and a switch room. The existing site layout within the courtyards is shown in Figure 1b and the plan of the overall development is shown in Figure 2a. Proposed services are shown in Figures 2b and 2c.

1. Works to the building to the north of the castle known as Cromwell's Fort (GFA 269m²), and its change of use to two multi-purpose event spaces and associated lobby areas (Figure 2d).

The proposed works to include:

- i) the removal of a modern flat roof covering and the replacement with a pitched roof with zinc finish and rendered masonry gable-ends;
- ii) the removal of the existing solid floor to the southern internal room and replacement with a new insulated floor slab and the insertion of a new raised floor to the northern room;
- iii) the removal of infill blockwork from existing openings and the provision of new windows and doors to existing openings;

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- iv) Installation of new services, partitions and repair and repointing works as required, including application of lime render finish.
2. Works to the existing single storey former stable buildings (GFA 591m²) within the existing courtyards to the north of the Castle and change of use to cultural/arts spaces, retail, café/restaurant, public toilets and ancillary lobby, storage and services spaces. The proposed works to include:
- i) the removal of temporary roof coverings and the replacement with slate roof coverings;
 - ii) the minor modification of roof profiles above 2no. entrance doorways to provide sufficient head height at entrances;
 - iii) the removal of temporary bracing to windows and doors and replacement with new windows and doors to existing openings;
 - iv) the insertion of a new opening to the western perimeter wall to provide a new public entrance to the courtyard immediately to the north of the castle, and the closing up of an adjacent existing doorway opening;
 - v) The creation of new openings within dividing walls of the existing stable buildings to provide improved connection between the buildings;
 - vi) The construction of a new single-storey mono-pitch extension (GFA 83m²) to the northern elevation of a former stable building;
 - vii) New insulated floor slabs, installation of new services and repair, repointing and lime render works as required.
3. The provision of a new single storey café and restaurant and ancillary support space (area GFA 528m²) within the former council depot yards comprising:
- i) The demolition of a section of wall to the northwest to provide access between the proposed restaurant dining area and back of house areas;
 - ii) The construction of a single storey mono-pitch structure in the north-west corner including clerestory windows facing north and west along the existing perimeter walls of the site to provide a café/restaurant dining area, and an associated single storey flat-roof structure to the north to provide ancillary support to the café/restaurant, including kitchens, staff and visitor WCs;
 - iii) The provision of an internal plant room to the rear;
 - iv) The provision of external ancillary support areas including a screened bin store, screened plant enclosure at ground level and screened rooftop plant enclosure;
 - v) The provision of two new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of secure entrance gates, to provide staff, deliveries and bin store access to the rear of the ancillary space and bin storage areas;
 - vi) The provision of four new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of new glazed window openings to the café/restaurant;
 - vii) Repairs and repointing to the existing walls as required.
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4. The provision of new, single storey, slated roof structures to the existing structures (GFA 33m²) to the north of the building known as the Seismograph Building consisting of:
 - i) A secure bike store area and provision of 10no. long term bicycle storage spaces including 1no. enlarged bicycle space for a cargo bike;
 - ii) A secure bin storage area for the retail spaces;
 5. The demolition and reconstruction of the walls to the north and west of the northernmost former depot yard;
 6. The provision of a new car park on part of the Sean Keating garden adjacent to the boundary with Castleside Drive, with entry from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park, including:
 - i) the demolition of 2no. existing gate posts and part of the adjacent existing garden wall and railings, and the removal of 14no. existing trees to facilitate the construction of a new pedestrian and vehicular entrance, pedestrian footpath and delivery drop-off area;
 - ii) the regrading and relevelling of the existing sunken pond and garden area to provide 54 no. car parking spaces (including 4no. accessible parking spaces and 10 no. EV parking spaces) and 42 no. short-term bicycle parking spaces to the north of the site and associated landscaping;
 - i) The reconfiguration of the existing pedestrian entrance gate and new hard and soft landscaping to the north-west corner of the site to facilitate improved pedestrian access;
 7. All associated site services, site development works and landscaping comprising:
 - i) Removal of temporary cabin structures from the existing former council depot yards and associated site clearances;
 - ii) The construction of new gated entrance and railings between Rathfarnham Castle forecourt and the proposed site;
 - iii) The removal of 4no. car spaces from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park to provide a new enlarged pavement area adjacent to the entrance to the Café/Restaurant;
 - iv) The reallocation of the existing bus set down area to accommodate a universally accessible set down area;
 - v) The local regrading of the footpath within the Rathfarnham Road car park along the perimeter wall to the west of the courtyards to provide accessible entrance points to the courtyards;
 - vi) The removal of part of southern end of the existing low level boundary wall between the existing car park and Rathfarnham Road to facilitate a new raised table and improved pedestrian crossing point; installation of a new access control gate to the carpark entrance from Rathfarnham Road;
 - vii) The regrading and relevelling of the existing surfaces to facilitate universal access throughout the site

- viii) The provision of new hard and soft landscaping to the existing courtyards;
- ix) The provision of new secure entrance gates to the existing openings between the park and courtyards;
- x) The infilling with masonry construction of an existing unused entrance between the northern courtyard and the park to facilitate the regrading of the courtyard.
- xi) Installation of new drainage, attenuation and site services and associated trenching and reinstatement works.
- xii) Installation of new external site lighting to the car parking areas and courtyard spaces;
- xiii) Repairs and repointing of existing structures throughout, as required.

The former council depot yards and former stable buildings fall within the Zone of Notification for Rathfarnham Castle, a National Monument (RMP DU022-014, Nat. Mon. 628) and a Protected Structure (RPS. 221).

2 METHODOLOGY

A study area, defined as 250m from the boundary of the proposed development area, was analysed in order to inform this assessment. Research was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site. The results of the archaeological monitoring of site investigations are also included in the assessment.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2022–2028);
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025).

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

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

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument. The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

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

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

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

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

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2022–2028) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

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

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2025.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

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

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

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

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located within the townland of Rathfarnham and Parish of Rathfarnham and Barony of Rathdown in County Dublin. The site comprises stables and courtyards adjoining Rathfarnham Castle within the demesne landscape of the Castle. The site is bound to the west by Rathfarnham Road and to the north by Castleside Drive.

Rathfarnham Castle is a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a preservation order (PO No. 2/1986), in addition to being listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (DU022-014). There are three additional individual or groups of recorded archaeological sites within the study area.

Archaeological monitoring of conservation works at Rathfarnham Castle Stables and Courtyards has been carried out recently by Aisling Collins Archaeological Services (Collins 2018, Ministerial Consent C000785). This formed part of the initial Rathfarnham Castle Outbuilding stabilisation works. The overall works were split into phases:

Phase 1: To evaluate and conserve/stabilise the condition of Rathfarnham castle outbuildings and to protect the buildings' fabric in advance of their redevelopment and reuse.

Phase 2: To develop a conservation plan for the restoration of some or all of these buildings/structures to provide appropriate and sustainable use for them with careful integration in these heritage buildings to expand the existing visitor attraction increasing footfall to this site to improve vibrancy and economic activity.

Archaeological monitoring, testing and a building survey carried out during Phase 1 of works revealed the truncated remains of cobbled surfaces/yards at several locations (preserved in-situ). Additionally, during the building survey and conservation works, sections of plaster were removed from the ceiling and upper side walls of the building known as 'Cromwell's Fort', and two of these samples contained high content of wicker, which was then radiocarbon dated to 1525-1574AD and 1578-1618AD, indicating the construction of the building was broadly contemporary with the construction of the castle. This structure is located to the immediate north of the castle and forms the south-eastern part of the range of outbuildings.

Earlier archaeological monitoring in the northern portion of the development area revealed modern material across the monitored area (Nelis 2005, Licence No. 05E1169). No archaeological features or objects were revealed as a result of the monitoring.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)

Recent discoveries may suggest the possibility of a human presence in the southwest of Ireland as early as the Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016); however, the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have led a primarily mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product of the production of flint implements.

While there is no archaeological evidence of Mesolithic activity within the immediate environs of the proposed development area, the wider receiving environment is likely to have been visited by Mesolithic communities who may have used the River Dodder (c. 260m to the northwest) as a routeway and as a food and materials resource.

Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500 BC)

During this period communities became less mobile, and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities expanded and moved further inland to more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared, and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period also provided the megalithic tomb. There are four types of tombs in Ireland, namely the Court Cairn, Portal tomb, Passage tomb and Wedge tomb; of which the latter style straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition.

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic settlement and habitation sites, there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate Neolithic settlement within the immediate environs of the proposed development areas. Two flint scrapers and a flint core have been recovered from the wider environs of the proposed development area (NMI Ref.: 1988:142, IA/129/1996), indicating a Neolithic presence in the wider landscape.

Bronze Age (c. 2500–800 BC)

This period is marked by the use of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megaliths were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel. During the Neolithic period, the high ground of the Dublin Mountains to the south of Tallaght may have been perceived as being sacred and a large number of burial monuments dating to this period are recorded within this landscape.

There are no examples of Bronze Age sites recorded within the study area or wider environs of the proposed development.

Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 500)

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland (Cahill Wilson 2014). Yet this period is distinguishable from the rather rich remains of the preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period, by a relative paucity within the current archaeological record. The Iron Age in Ireland is problematic for archaeologists as few artefacts dating exclusively to this period have been found and without extensive excavation it cannot be determined whether several monument types, such as ring barrows or standing stones, date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. It is likely that there was significant continuity in the Iron Age, with earlier monuments re-used in many cases.

There is no firmly dated evidence for Iron Age activity within the study area or wider environs of the proposed development.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the *túath*, or petty kingdom, with Byrne (1973) estimating that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

The name Rathfarnham derives from the Irish *Ráth Fearnáin*, which means ‘The Rath or Fort of Fearnan’. Some sources explain *Ráth Fearnáin* as the ‘Fort of the Alders’. Whilst the placename indicates the presence of a ringfort within the landscape, the location of this features remains unknown.

The plains along the River Dodder are likely to have been a relatively densely populated area during this period, especially when considering the fertile nature of the land, and the proximity to the coastal area. It is therefore surprising that there is no greater evidence for settlement in the form of ringforts within the area. It is a possibility that there was no need for a large number of defended settlements within the area as Rathdown was out of reach of the constant attention of the Kings of Meath to the north of Dublin City and the Kings of Leinster to the west of the Wicklow Mountains. It is also possible that many of the sites were removed during the medieval period, with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. Their new techniques of warfare would have rendered the ringfort obsolete and indeed their intensified

agricultural practices may have resulted in the physical removal of the sites from the landscape (Corlett 1999, 53).

The establishment of the settlement of Dublin by the Vikings in the 9th century was a transformative event for the area. While Viking settlement focused on the Liffey near modern Wood Quay, Islandbridge and at Clondalkin, rural Viking settlement in the south of the county has been inferred from the presence of 'Rathdown Slabs'. The graveslab (DU022-030003) at Whitechurch, c. 2.4km south of the proposed development area, is recognised as a 'Rathdown Slab' (Corlett 1999). The Scandinavian controlled hinterland around Dublin in this period reached the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Rathdown slabs are believed to be the grave markers of Viking Christians and were influenced by Viking art forms.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. Their presence was strongest in the east of the Country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the newly arrived lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle, a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive surrounding acreage.

The written history of Rathfarnham began at the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion, when the lands around Rathfarnham were granted to Milo le Bret in 1199. These lands were, to some extent, protected from Irish neighbours by the existence of the Royal Forest of Glencree. It was only when this deer park was overrun by the O'Toole Clan in the 14th century that Rathfarnham was exposed to the danger of attack. The road to Rathfarnham, c. 38m to the northwest of the development area, according to many writers, follows the same route as the *Slighe chualann*, which during the early medieval period was used by travellers from Dublin to Wicklow and Wexford (southdublinhistory.ie).

Rathfarnham church (DU022-013001) and graveyard (DU022-013002) are located c. 134m to the northwest of the proposed development area. The earliest reference to this church is in 1225 when it was the subject of a dispute between the Prior and Canons of Holy Trinity and the Archdeacon of Dublin (Breen 1981). It went out of use by 1795 with only the nave and the chancel arch surviving. A graveslab (DU022-013003) within the graveyard has been dated to between the 9th and 12th centuries. The Big Bridge (DU022-044002) at Rathfarnham, c. 564m to the north proposed development area, was first recorded in 1381. Several subsequent wooden bridges had been swept away at this crossing until 1765 when a single arch, stone bridge was built (Ball 1903).

In 1997 workmen uncovered the remains of at least 200 individual skeletons at the site of the Old Orchard public house c. 1.1km southwest of the proposed development area. Human skeletons had been found previously in the area in 1950

(NMI). Test trenching took place in 1997 (Bennett 1997:184, Licence No. 97E0140) and revealed three phases of archaeological activity. An early medieval phase of occupation (DU022-038002-004) was followed by using the site for burial (DU022-038001). The site was subsequently used again for occupation in perhaps the 12th or 13th century. It is suggested that both phases of occupation, Phases 1 and 3, may have been ecclesiastical (DU022-038002). Associated finds included a large hearth, post-holes, and a large amount of Leinster cooking ware of 12th–13th century date. Within the ecclesiastical enclosure a palisade trench produced copper, iron slag, animal bone, a penannular brooch terminal, iron knives and a 'pig fibula' pin (SMR file).

Rathfarnham Castle (DU022-014; Nat. Mon. 628, PO no. 2/1986) was built in the late 16th century by Adam Loftus and re-modelled in the 18th century, when in the hands of Speaker Connolly, the Hoadley's and the Earls of Ely (Ball 1903). Adam Loftus came to Ireland in 1560 and quickly rose to a number of prestigious positions, including the archbishop of Dublin and lord chancellor of Ireland. As archbishop, Loftus deemed the existing palace in Tallaght remote and unsuitable. Following a successful petition to the Crown, he acquired a new estate in Rathfarnham, recently confiscated from Viscount Baltinglass. Loftus was granted the fee farms of these lands at the nominal rent of thirty shillings in 1583. Within two years of acquiring the property he had apparently built the castle. This has since been confirmed when wood from the roof beams was dated by dendrochronology to 1583. He died in 1605, and the Castle remained in the family until 1723.

The original 16th century castle was a large semi-fortified house of enlarged tower house type. It has a rectangular plan with a very thick central spine and four flanker towers. Very little evidence survives of the battlements that would have protected marksmen on the roof, as the parapet, like much of the castle, was de-fortified by successive owners in response to the diminishing threat of attack.

'Cromwell's Fort', is a structure located to the immediate north of Rathfarnham Castle. The name comes from the belief that Oliver Cromwell held council there during his campaign in Ireland in the 16th century before going south to besiege Wexford (Collins 2018, 9). It has also been suggested that this structure represents the remains of an undercroft associated with a pre-16th century castle (Arnold 2000). The structure has been subject to a large number of modifications, including the addition of several upper floors in the earlier 20th century, which were removed in the 1980s. The structure, which retains its original barrel vault, is now covered by a modern flat roof, which will be replaced as part of the proposed development. In 2018 two samples of the internal plaster from the barrel vault (which contained high content of wicker) were radiocarbon dated to AD 1525-1574 and AD 1578-1618, dating the structure to being broadly contemporary with the main castle (Collins 2018, 24). Whilst the building appears to be contemporary with the castle, its original function remains unclear as the barrel vault suggests that a first floor may have been present. It is possible that it was established as a semi-fortified outbuilding (for stock and stores) that also functioned as an additional defence between the castle and the

village to the west. It seems unlikely to have functioned as a gate house, given the plan and position of the structure.

An early 20th century photograph of the structure suggests that at it this it had a steeply pitched roof and was finely tiled, with clay ridge tiles and a small bell tower present above the northern (later) portion of the building.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

The ending of the Williamite Wars saw the beginning of a comparative politically calm era, which allowed the country's landowners the security to experiment with the latest styles of architecture without the need to refer to defensive matters. Initially, constraints on available resources resulted in mansions of a relatively modest scale and relatively plain appearance. However, as the Irish aristocracy's sense of security grew over the following decades, their greater access to wealth helped foster a shift towards more ostentatious buildings.

The 17th and 18th centuries saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be located nationwide. Lands associated with the large houses were generally turned over to formal gardens, which were much the style of continental Europe. Gradually this style of formal avenues and geometric garden designs was replaced during the mid-18th century by the adoption of parkland landscapes – to be able to view a large house within a natural setting. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate.

The proposed development area is located within the demesne associated with Rathfarnham Castle. This was originally formed by extensive gardens and parkland; the northern half and central area of parkland are covered by residential development. The remainder of the parkland is covered by a golf course. A detailed description of the post medieval built heritage resource and the designed landscape is presented within the overall Conservation Management Plan for the site, which has been prepared by Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture (Jan 2025).

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the River Dodder became a focus for local industry, feeding numerous mill races. These mill races were used to power many different industries along the length of the river including Old Mill (DU022-070) located c. 272m to the west of the proposed development area and a mill at Big Bridge (DU022-044001), c. 570m to the north. A further mill site (DU022-099) was located somewhere close to Butterfield Road, c. 131m to the southwest along the Owendoher River.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has revealed that a number of previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area. Site investigation monitored as part of proposed development area described in section 3.8 of this report.

In 2018 archaeological monitoring, test trenching and a building survey was carried out in the area of the outbuildings of Rathfarnham Castle as part of the Rathfarnham Castle Outbuilding stabilisation works (Collins 2018, Ministerial Consent C000785). Several areas of cobbled surfaces/yards were identified within the courtyards. There were no medieval features, structures or artefacts discovered, and the cobbles were preserved in-situ. An extensive building survey was undertaken at Building S1, known as Cromwell's Fort (located to the immediate north of the castle). As a part of this samples of the plaster were removed from the ceiling and walls and sent for radiocarbon dating. The samples returned a date 1525-1574AD and 1578-1618AD, indicating the construction of the building was broadly contemporary with the construction of the castle. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during the excavation of the test pits.

A programme of archaeological work was carried out from 2018-2019 as part of a project to refurbish four rooms at the basement level at Rathfarnham Castle, to the south of the proposed development area (Bennett 2019:724, Licence No. E004468). Excavations outside the castle found no medieval artefacts and no evidence of a moat. The 16th century foundations and surface level coping were exposed around the castle and excavation revealed a 16th century doorway. Monitoring confirmed that much of the area around the castle has been raised in the 18th or 19th century by just over 1m and that little archaeological stratigraphy survives outside the castle due to extensive later disturbance.

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out between June 2014 to January 2015 within the main block, northeast, northwest, southwest and east flanker, as well as outside of the castle (Giacometti and Mac Gowan 2015, Ministerial Consent No. C000562, E004468). Excavations outside of the castle identified 16th to 19th century structural features associated with the castle, but no medieval remains or evidence for a moat. The report stated that they believed that the area surrounding the castle was raised in the 18th or 19th century, resulting in little surviving archaeological stratigraphy surrounding the castle. Finds within the castle comprised several 16th century gun loops, blocked doorways, 16th century ovens, fireplaces, and windows, as well as the original 16th century tower walls and floors and wash pit in the southwest flanker tower. Several artefacts were removed from the wash pit, suggesting a date of AD 1690 +/- 30 years. Several phases of renovation works were also noted throughout.

In 2005 a programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out within the northern extent of the proposed development area (Nelis 2005, Licence No. 05E1169). This revealed modern material across the monitored area. As there was no evidence of a relict ploughsoil or topsoil under the imported topsoil was identified, it

was considered that the site was fully stripped when the modern material was introduced stripping likely truncated the natural subsoil, which would have removed any subtle archaeological features. No archaeological features or objects were revealed as a result of the monitoring.

Excavation was carried out at Rathfarnham Castle in 1986 after a programme of geophysical survey and included three areas within or partially within the proposed development area (Bennett 1986:24; Licence E000341). Excavation revealed a network of drains containing a considerable amount of late 18th/early 19th century pottery. Over 1,800 finds were recovered, mainly from the topsoil. These consisted mainly of pottery sherds, bottle and window glass, iron fragments and pipe stems of 17th/19th century date. Only three small pottery sherds belonged to the 16th century or earlier. Further monitoring took place in 1993 revealing no archaeological features or layers, apart from a small amount of post-medieval pottery (Bennett 1993:100, Licence No. E000341). This was followed by trial excavation in 1994, which discovered the remains of a passageway as well as a probable entranceway (Bennett 1994:098, Licence No. 94E0161), c. 40m south of the proposed development area.

Archaeological trial trenching took place on the tract of land directly across the dual carriageway from Rathfarnham Castle in 1995, c. 58m northwest of the proposed development area (Bennett 1995:107, Licence No. 95E0200). No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed. Archaeological testing (Bennett 1995:086, Licence No. 95E0173) was carried out on a site at Rathfarnham Road c. 99m to the northwest and also failed to reveal features or deposits of archaeological significance.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty, Down Survey: Barony of Newcastle in County Dublin, c. 1655 (Figure 4)

Petty's Down survey represents the first systematic mapping of Ireland on a scale of 40 perches to one inch (the modern equivalent of 1:50,000). It used the previous Civil Survey as a guide and shows many details, such as fortifications, rivers, roads, and structures. The proposed development area lies in between the depicted Rathfarnham Castle (DU022-014) and a 'Chapell' (DU022-013001). To the west along the 'branch of the river Dagher' (Owendohar River) are two mills (DU022-070 and DU022-099).

John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 4)

By the time of this map, the proposed development area is shown as being located to the immediate north of Rathfarnham Castle, within the settlement of Rathfarnham and three rectangular garden plots containing structures. To the east lies Boyles Park with the church and Rathfarnham Bridge is marked to the north. To the immediate west is Rathfarnham Road, which continues north towards Dublin City.

Richard Frizell's 1779 Survey Map

This map shows more detail in relation to the castle and its surrounding estate. The castle is marked and the area containing the proposed development is labelled as 'Castle and Office Yard', 'Hay Yard' and 'Walled Garden next to lodge', from south to north. No structures are shown although buildings are indicated along the main street of the village to the west. The area to the immediate west of the development area is marked as being sub-divided into small plots and are labelled as flower and fruit gardens.

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816 (Figure 5)

This map shows the proposed development area to the north of the castle within 'Ely Demesne'. An L-shaped range of outbuilding is shown in this area, with a range possibly extending further to the north-northeast. A grouping of mills (DU022-044001) is marked in proximity to Rathfarnham Bridge.

William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821 (Figure 5)

This map also shows a scatter of outbuildings within the approximate location of the proposed development area, with the demesne still labelled as 'Ely Demesne'.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 6)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The proposed development area is occupied by the various outbuildings associated with Rathfarnham Castle, with a walled garden located within the northern portion of the site and further walled gardens marked to the west. Several smaller gardens are marked here, which correspond to the smaller fruit gardens shown on the 1779 map. The footprint of the outbuildings is similar to what survives within the site today. The wider demesne landscape is depicted in detail, with the main entrance and drive from Rathfarnham Village located to the immediate north of the proposed development area.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:10,560

There are no significant changes to the proposed development or the surrounding environs by the time of this map.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1910, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 6)

This map shows the proposed development area relatively unchanged, although several smaller outbuildings have been added to the northern part of the proposed development area. A covered vehicular entrance has been established within the structure now known as Cromwell's Fort, which likely facilitated the movement of carriages directly to and from the northern entrance into the castle. Some of walled garden boundaries to the west have been removed and the main entrance from Rathfarnham is still depicted to the north.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2022–2028) recognizes the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites

under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are four groups or individual recorded archaeological sites within the study area (Table 1; Figure 1a; Appendix 1). The nearest recorded monument comprises Rathfarnham Castle (DU022-014), which lies c. 19m to the south, which is a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is also subject to a preservation order (PO no. 2/1986).

TABLE 1: Recorded archaeological sites in the study area

REF NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
Nat. Mon. 628 PO no. 2/1986 RMP DU022-014	Rathfarnham	Fortified house	c. 19m south
RMP DU022-099	Rathfarnham	Watermill site	c. 131m southwest
RMP DU022-013001, 2, 3	Rathfarnham	Church, graveyard and graveslab	c. 134m northwest
RMP DU022-070	Rathfarnham	Water mill	c. 257m west-northwest

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the area; however, no stray finds were noted in the study area.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2005–2024), and Bing Maps has been carried out as part of this assessment. The north-western corner of the site experienced development in the form of a water feature in 2008 (Google Earth, April 2008) and the car park associated with the castle expanded into the proposed development area in 2013 (Google Earth, May 2013). No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted within the coverage.

3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field inspection the proposed development area and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1a/b). All the built heritage elements of the proposed development area are described in detail within the Conservation Management Plan (Howley Hayes Cooney Architecture).

The western extent of the proposed development area is formed by an existing car park, which was once part of the walled gardens. This bordered on the eastern side by

the rear wall to the outbuildings and stables (Plate 1). The proposed development area comprises a number of distinct areas. The northern most yard, which only formerly contained two structures (based on a review of the historic maps) and was likely previously in use as a garden, is now in use as a store by South Dublin County Council. It is surfaced in concrete (Plate 2) and surrounded by masonry walls with modern interventions that are also shown on the historic OS maps.

The central enclosure/ courtyard is located to the immediate south of the compound. This area is surfaced in tarmac and is bordered to the west by a historic wall, reinforced with steel supports (Plate 3). There is an overgrown deposit of rubble in the southwestern corner of this area. In the southern part of the courtyard, a cobble surface is present (Plate 4). One post medieval structure survives along the eastern boundary of this courtyard (Seismograph House), which is a two-storey residential structure, with a small single storey outbuilding. Two small outbuildings also survive in the south-western corner of this courtyard.

The courtyard to the immediate south of the central enclosure, is characterised by stables and byres arranged around the edges of the yard, all of which are present on the 1910 OS map (Plates 5 to 7). These are a mixture of single-storey and two-storey structures, and the yard is surfaced with gravel.

To the south, an archway leads to a second enclosed area, also surfaced in gravel (Plate 8). This area is heavily overgrown and fenced off from the public grounds of Rathfarnham Castle. Cromwell's Fort occupies the eastern side of this area with a single-storey outbuilding to the west.

The northern portion of the proposed development area is formed by a modern landscaped park (Plate 9), featuring water features. This area was formerly in use as a walled garden but has been truncated by the construction of the village bypass and only portions of the southern and eastern boundary walls survive.

The eastern extent of the proposed development area is formed by a narrow area to the immediate east of the outbuildings, which includes lawn and a tarmac footpath (Plate 10).

No previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential were identified within the proposed development area during the field inspection.

3.8 SITE INVESTIGATIONS

A programme of archaeological monitoring and metal detecting was carried out during the course of site investigations. This was undertaken by Faith Bailey of IAC under Ministerial Consent (C000785, W000771, R000748, E005771),

Phase 1 of the site investigations comprised the archaeological monitoring of four Test Pits and two water percolation test pits (Test Pits 1-6, Figure 3a), which was carried out in November 2024. The test pits were excavated within an existing

compound and car park to the north of the post medieval outbuildings associated with Rathfarnham Castle.

Phase 2 of the site investigations comprised the archaeological monitoring of six test pits, which were excavated in order to assess the foundations of the post medieval structures (Test Pits 1-6, Figure 3b). These works were monitored during January 2025.

Phase 1 Results

Test Pit 1

This was excavated within the existing car park for the purposes of assessing water percolation and measured 2m in length and 0.6m wide (Plate 11). The stratigraphy recorded consisted of a layer of tarmac and of 804 stone to a depth of 0.35m. Beneath this was a layer of friable yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of demolition material, including red brick fragments, traces of white mortar and small stones, which had a depth of 0.50m. This layer covered the natural subsoil, which comprised a brown yellowish silty clay with frequent stones. The pit was excavated through the subsoil to a depth of 2m and nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 2

This was excavated in the northeastern corner of the site, which is in use as a compound. The pit measured 1.5m in length and 0.6m wide (Plate 12). The stratigraphy recorded in the pit consisted of a layer of concrete and 804 stone 0.4m in depth. Beneath this a layer of brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Excavation ceased at 0.8m deep and the natural subsoil was not exposed. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 3

This was excavated in the compound area in the northeastern portion of the proposed development area. The pit measured 1.5m in length and was 0.6m wide (Plate 13). The stratigraphy recorded comprised a layer of concrete and 804 stone that was 0.4m deep and this covered a layer of brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Excavation ceased at 1m and the natural subsoil was not exposed. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 4

This was excavated within the compound area for the purposes of assessing water percolation and measured 2m in length and 0.6m wide (Plate 14). The stratigraphy recorded comprised a layer of concrete and 804 stone that was 0.4m deep. This layer covered the natural subsoil, which comprised a brown yellowish silty clay with frequent stones. The pit was excavated through the subsoil to a depth of 2m and nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 5

This was excavated in the northwestern section of the existing car park. The pit measured 1.5m in length and was 0.6m wide (Plate 15). The stratigraphy recorded in

this trench consisted of a layer of tarmac 0.30m in depth, which overlay a deep layer of demolition material, comprises fragments of redbrick and white mortar, which was present to a depth of 1.5m. Natural subsoil was not exposed and nothing of archaeological interest was noted. Buildings are marked immediately adjacent to this area within the 1910 Ordnance Survey map and as such it is likely the deposit relates directly to the demolition of these buildings.

Test Pit 6

This was excavated in the northwestern section of the compound area. The pit measured 1.5m in length and was 0.6m wide. The stratigraphy recorded in this trench consisted of a layer of concrete and 804 stone that was 0.4m deep and this covered a layer of brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Excavation ceased at 0.5m and the natural subsoil was not exposed. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Phase 2 Results

Test Pit 1

This pit was excavated inside a building in the northeast portion of the post medieval courtyard, to the immediate east of entrance into the structure. It was excavated against the western wall of the room. The pit measured 1m by 0.7m and the stratigraphy comprised a concrete floor 0.1m deep which overlay a mid grey silty sand deposit with crushed mortar inclusions (Plate 16). The wall foundation consisted of a continuation of the redbrick wall, running to a depth of 0.3m beneath the concrete surface. Beneath this it consisted of large limestone blocks bonded with a coarse mid grey mortar. The pit was excavated to a depth of 0.95m and natural subsoil was not exposed. With the exception of the foundation wall, nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 2

This pit was excavated within the interior of the post medieval outbuildings, within the northwestern portion of the courtyard. The pit was excavated against the eastern wall of the structure and measured 1m by 0.7m (Plate 17). The floor surface in the room is formed with redbrick, which measured 0.10m in depth. This sealed a mid grey silty sand, which contained frequent mortar inclusions. One sherd of tin glaze ceramic was yielded from this layer, which was 0.25m deep. Beneath this, there was a layer of dark-brown sandy clay, present to a depth of 0.78m. The wall foundation possessed a depth of 0.55m and comprised limestone blocks bonded with a light grey sandy mortar. Natural subsoils were not exposed and with the exception of the foundation wall and post medieval pottery sherd, nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 3

This was excavated within an outbuilding along the eastern side of the courtyard. It was excavated against the southern wall of the room, immediately west of the fireplace in the southeastern corner. The pit measured 0.7m by 0.7m (Plate 18). The floor in this room is formed by a cobbled surface measuring 0.15m thick. Beneath this was a layer of mid-grey gravelly sand with inclusions of redbrick and mortar, 0.2m

deep. This overlay a layer of limestone blocks, which were beneath the wall foundations. Underneath these blocks there was a layer of mid-brown sandy clay, examined to a depth of 0.7m. Natural subsoil was not exposed and apart from the wall foundations, nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 4

This pit was excavated within the courtyard buildings along the western side of the site, to the south of TP2. It was excavated against the western wall of the room. The pit measured 1m by 0.7m (Plate 19). The floor surface in the room is formed by 0.1m of concrete and immediately beneath this was a redbrick surface measuring 0.08m in depth. Beneath the redbrick surface was a layer of mid greyish-brown sandy clay with inclusions of redbrick and mortar. This had a depth of 0.4m and sealed a sterile mid brown sandy clay that was exposed to a depth of 0.82m. Natural subsoil was not exposed. The redbrick wall had a depth of 0.22m beneath the concrete surface and overlay limestone blocks, which stepped out by 0.07m. The stone foundation had a depth of 0.7m and possessed a further step close to the base, which was 0.7m in depth. Apart from the wall foundations, nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 5

This was excavated inside of the southwestern building of the courtyard against the southern wall. The pit measured 1m by 0.7m (Plate 20). The floor is formed by concrete, which had a depth of 0.1m. This sealed a layer of mid greyish-brown silty sand containing redbrick and mortar demolition material, which was present to a depth of 0.85m. Under this was a sterile mid brown silty clay, which was exposed to a depth of 1m. Natural subsoil was not exposed. The redbrick wall foundations had a depth of 0.3m and sat directly over limestone blocks bonded with a mid grey mortar, which stepped out by 0.18m and possessed were 0.85m deep. Apart from the wall foundations, nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 6

This was excavated in the car park area to the north of the courtyard. It was excavated against the western wall and measured 1.5m in length and was 0.6m wide (Plate 21). The stratigraphy comprised 0.45m of tarmac and stone overlying a layer of sterile mid brown clayish sand, which was present to a depth of 1.28m. Natural subsoil was not exposed. The wall foundation consisted of limestone blocks, with a coarse mid grey mortar. The base of the foundations was not exposed but excavated ceased at 1.28m due to water ingress. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

4 CONCLUSIONS

This archaeological assessment has been commissioned by South Dublin County Council in order to provide archaeological context and an impact assessment in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. There are four individual or groups of recorded archaeological sites within the study area with the nearest monument comprising Rathfarnham Castle (RMP DU022-014), c. 19m to the south. This is also a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a preservation order (PO no. 2/1986).

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has shown that previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the development area. In 2018 some cobbled surfaces were revealed during investigations, which were preserved in-situ. No material predating the post medieval period was uncovered, but plaster samples from the barrel vault of Cromwell's Fort were dated and this revealed that the structure is broadly contemporary with the castle.

Monitoring was also carried out within the basement level of the castle, this revealed 16th century foundations and a 16th century doorway. Monitoring confirmed that much of the area around the castle has been raised in the 18th or 19th century by just over 1m and that little archaeological stratigraphy survives outside the castle due to extensive later disturbance.

In 2005 a programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out within the northern extent of the proposed development area (Nelis 2005, Licence No. 05E1169) but no archaeological features or objects were revealed during the monitoring.

A programme of archaeological monitoring and metal detection was also carried out during the course of site investigations, as part of the proposed development. This was undertaken by Faith Bailey of IAC under Ministerial Consent (C000785, W000771, R000748, E005771).

The phase 1 investigations revealed natural subsoils at the centre of the car park and compound area, but natural subsoils were not exposed around the edge of these areas, with sterile deposits present. In the northwest corner of the car park, evidence for the demolition of structures shown adjacent to this location on the 1910 OS map was noted. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the course of phase 1 works.

Phase 2 of the works, within the interior of the post medieval outbuildings, aimed to assess the depth of existing wall foundations. In all instances, the foundations were exposed, and in several cases, the redbrick walls of the buildings overlay limestone block foundations. Natural subsoil was not exposed during the course of the investigations and nothing of archaeological significance was noted that predated the post medieval activity.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area has been occupied by gardens and outbuildings since at least the 18th century, with Cromwell's Fort likely present since the construction of the castle itself, possibly functioning as an early outbuilding. A demesne landscape around the castle was established during the 18th century, when such landscapes became the fashion. The stables and outbuildings that occupy the development area today are typical of ancillary structures established as part of a larger estate and post-date the construction of the castle, with the exception of Cromwell's Fort, which has seen significant modification.

A field inspection has also been carried out as part of this assessment. The inspection confirmed the findings of the baseline analysis and as shown within the review of previous excavations; it is clear that the area as a whole has been subject to a large degree of disturbance. No previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential were noted during the inspection.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

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

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- The proposed development will comprise of the renovation and reuse of all the existing post medieval buildings within the proposed development plan, including Cromwell's Fort. A car park will be constructed in the northern part of the development area and new structures will be constructed in the two northern courtyards (Figure 2a). Services for water, foul water and electricity will be required throughout the development area (Figure 2b, 2c).

Ground disturbances associated with the construction of the new buildings, car park and services have the potential to result in adverse impacts on archaeological features that may be preserved beneath the current ground level, although it is noted from the results of the assessment that the area has been subject to a large degree of disturbance. Features may include post medieval cobbling and remains of post medieval structures that have been removed. Impacts in the northern most portion of the development area are considered less likely due to the presence of extensive landscaping in this area as part of the existing park.

- Cromwell's Fort will be retained within the development multi-purpose event space, but the modern flat roof will be replaced with a pitched roof (zinc finish and rendered masonry gable-end). The existing solid floor to the southern internal room will be removed and replaced with a new insulated floor slab and all infill blockwork within existing openings will be removed and new windows and doors will be inserted within the existing openings (Figure 2d). The proposed alterations, including the removal of the existing floor and block work, have the potential to adversely impact the original fabric of the building, along with any archaeological features that may be present beneath the floor slab.
- The proposed development will see the retention of existing structures and the construction of new buildings with the courtyards to the north-northeast of the National Monument, Rathfarnham Castle. The site slopes gently in a northeast direction and whilst new structures will introduce new roof lines in the northern portion of the site, these will not be greater in height than the

roofs associated with the post medieval structures that are closer to the castle. As such, no indirect adverse impacts are predicted on the setting of the National Monument.

The new pitched roof proposed for Cromwell's Fort replicates the roofline, as shown in a photograph from c. 1900. The roofline for this building will be greater than the surrounding structures and will have a zinc finish. The finish will mark the roof as being modern, rather than trying to replicate its 1900 appearance. The new roof will affect views of the castle from the courtyard area but will not affect the principal views of the structure from the northeast, east, south or west. As such, the presence of the new roofline will have a minor impact on the setting of the castle, which is somewhat ameliorated by the reinstatement of the historic roofline.

5.2 MITIGATION

- It is recommended that all excavations associated with the construction of new buildings, car park and the laying of services be monitored by an archaeologist, under Ministerial Consent, as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH. If archaeological remains are identified during the course of monitoring, further mitigation will be required, such as preservation in-situ or preservation by record. Any further mitigation will require the approval of the DoHLGH.
- It is recommended that all ground disturbances within Cromwell's Fort be subject to archaeological monitoring, along with the removal of block work within the existing openings. This should be carried out under Ministerial Consent, as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH and include a detailed record of any exposed building fabric arising from the removal of open infills. If archaeological remains are identified during the course of monitoring, further mitigation will be required, such as preservation in-situ or preservation by record. Any further mitigation will require the approval of the DoHLGH.

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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- John Taylor's *Map of the Environs of Dublin*, 1816
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- www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- www.geohive.ie – Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013)
- www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery (2005–2023).
- www.apple.com/maps/ – Satellite imagery (2023).
- www.southdublinhistory.ie – History of Rathfarnham Castle.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

SMR NO.	DU022-014
ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS	National Monument, Preservation Order, Protected Structure
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham
PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714412 728910
CLASSIFICATION	House - fortified house
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 19m south
DESCRIPTION	<p>Situated at the foot of the Dublin Mountains SE of Rathfarnham village. Built in the late 16th century by the Loftus family and re-modelled in the 18th-century when in the hands of Speaker Connolly, the Hoadleys and the Earls of Ely (Ball 1903, 117-130). In the 20th-century it was extended and refurbished with a kitchen wing, a Bowe window and a colonnaded front portico added. The original 16th-century castle was a large semi-fortified house of enlarged tower house type. It has a rectangular plan with a very thick central spine and four flanker towers (int. dims. L 20.3m, With 10.4m). A vaulted passage was exposed during excavation in the early '90s, which tapers towards the SW flanker (Carroll 1993, 33). Built of calp limestone which has been plastered over the building rises to three storeys which are offset at each level. The walls are battered. Originally entered at the W end where there is a great stone arch visible in the facade. The site of a dumb waiter shaft adjacent to the W entrance may have been the site of the original stairwell. Ground floor was vaulted. It contains an original fireplace opening. The second floor also contains an original stone built fireplace with early brickwork. These bricks have been compared to examples from Hampton Court Palace. Traces of stone mullioned windows have been exposed during plaster removal throughout the building. The present roof structure incorporated early oak trusses mainly in the N roof where rough adze marks are visible on the woodwork (Ball 1902, 252; Ball 1903, 134-44; O'Carroll 1987, 17).</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-099
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham
PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714234 728897
CLASSIFICATION	Watermill site
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 131m southwest

DESCRIPTION	No description included.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-013001
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham
PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714289 729163
CLASSIFICATION	Church
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 134m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a height above the S bank of the River Dodder. The earliest reference to this church is 1225 when it was the subject of a dispute between the Prior and Canons of Holy Trinity and the Archdeacon of Dublin (Ball 1903, 2, 152-155, Breen 1981, 120-122). It went out of use by 1795. All that survives of the medieval parish church is the nave and the chancel arch. The W gable stands to full height and carries a double bellcote. It is built of roughly coursed limestone masonry with rough dressing on the quoins. The church is entered through a tall narrow partially brick-faced opening in the W gable. At the base of the doorway, on the S side are original chamfered jambs with moulding. Burial has taken place in the interior (dims. L 16.10m, Wth 6.30m, T 0.87m). In the E end of the S wall are the remains of a 16th century window with hammer-dressed jambs which are chamfered. There are bar holes present. The chancel arch is pointed. Formerly, it led into a small chancel (Price 1942, 60).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-013002
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham
PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714289 729163
CLASSIFICATION	Graveyard
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 134m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a height above the S bank of the River Dodder in Rathfarnham village. Entered through an impressive gateway. Encloses the remains of a medieval church (DU022-013001-). A pre-Norman grave-slab of Rathdown type lies in two pieces NE of the church in the graveyard, one under an elder bush, the other on the grass (DU022-013003-).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-013003
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham

PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714295 729150
CLASSIFICATION	Graveslab
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 134m northwest
DESCRIPTION	A pre-Norman grave slab of Rathdown type lies in two pieces to the NE of the church (DU022-013001-). It is formed from granite (Total L 1.72m). It is decorated on one face with a series of six incised lines which radiate from the centre of the slab. Semi-circular loops are placed along either side and the narrow end of the slab. Below the broad end of the slab are two cupmarks placed on either side of a central line. It has been dated between the 9th and 12th-centuries (Breen 1981, 120-122; Swords, K. ed. 2009, 87).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-070
TOWNLAND	Rathfarnham
PARISH	Rathfarnham
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	714125, 729047
CLASSIFICATION	Water mill
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 257m west-northwest
DESCRIPTION	The Down Survey (1655-6) map shows a mill on the E bank of the river Dodder at Rathfarnham. There is a building marked 'Old Mill' on the 1837 OS 6-inch map which was probably the site of this mill. This was demolished late in the 19th century. The mill at Rathfarnham was well documented in medieval times (pers coms. Rob Goodbody).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

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

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

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

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

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

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

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

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

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built

heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2022–2028)

South County Dublin contains a large number of buildings, structures and sites of architectural, historic and/or artistic importance, in addition to numerous archaeological sites. This significant archaeological and architectural heritage is a valuable resource adding to the historical and cultural character of the County. The Development Plan contains policies which are intended to ensure the protection of this heritage. Village Design Statements can be utilised as a tool to guide development in smaller centres. It should be noted that archaeological sites and archaeological zones of interest are identified by a recorded monument reference number on the land use zoning maps. The recorded monument reference numbers are taken from the Record of Monuments and Places for Dublin, published by Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Policy NCBH13: Archaeological Heritage

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 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.

NCBH13 Objective 4:

To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

NCBH13 Objective 5:

To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2022). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

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

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

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

PREDICTED IMPACTS

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

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

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

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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

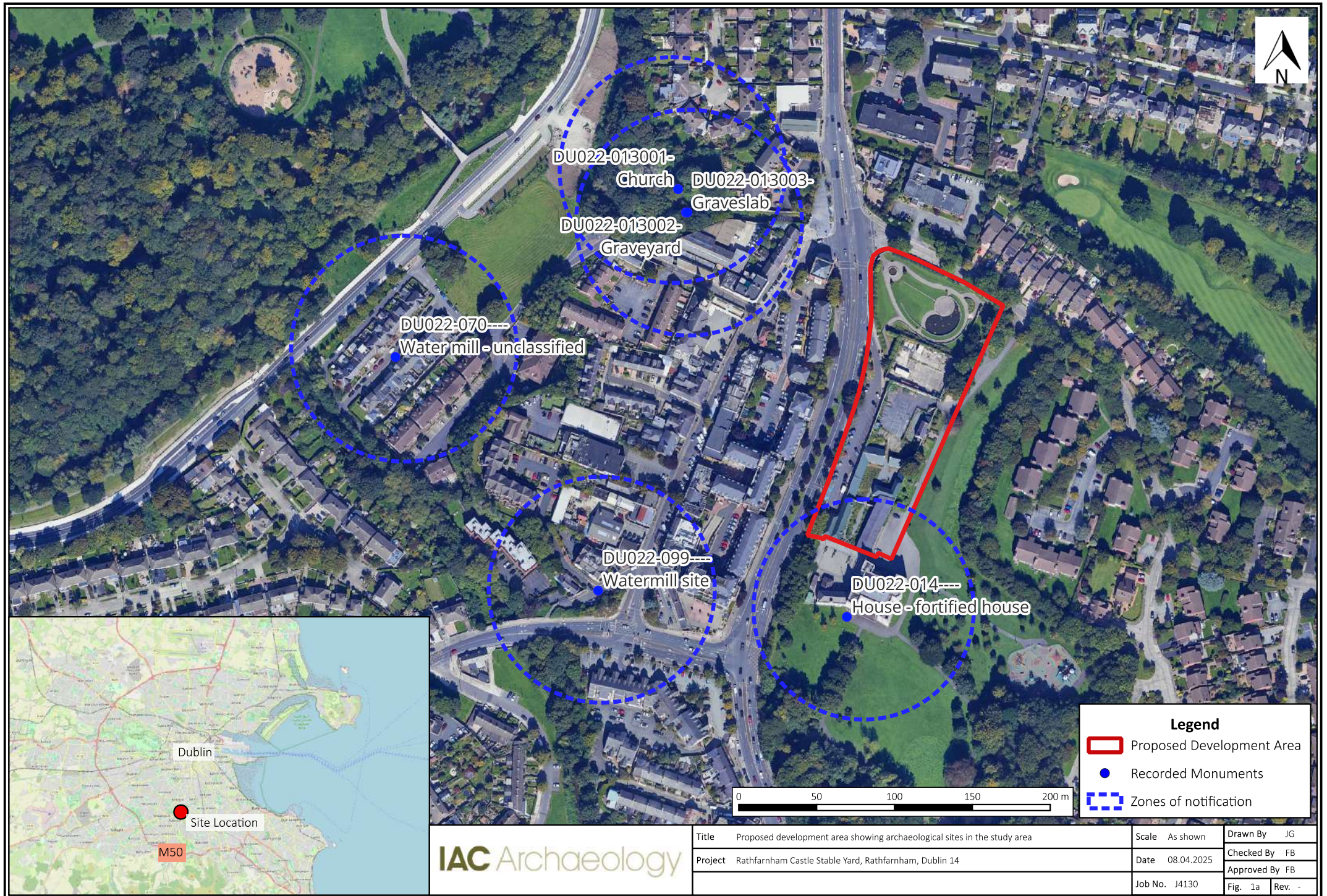
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

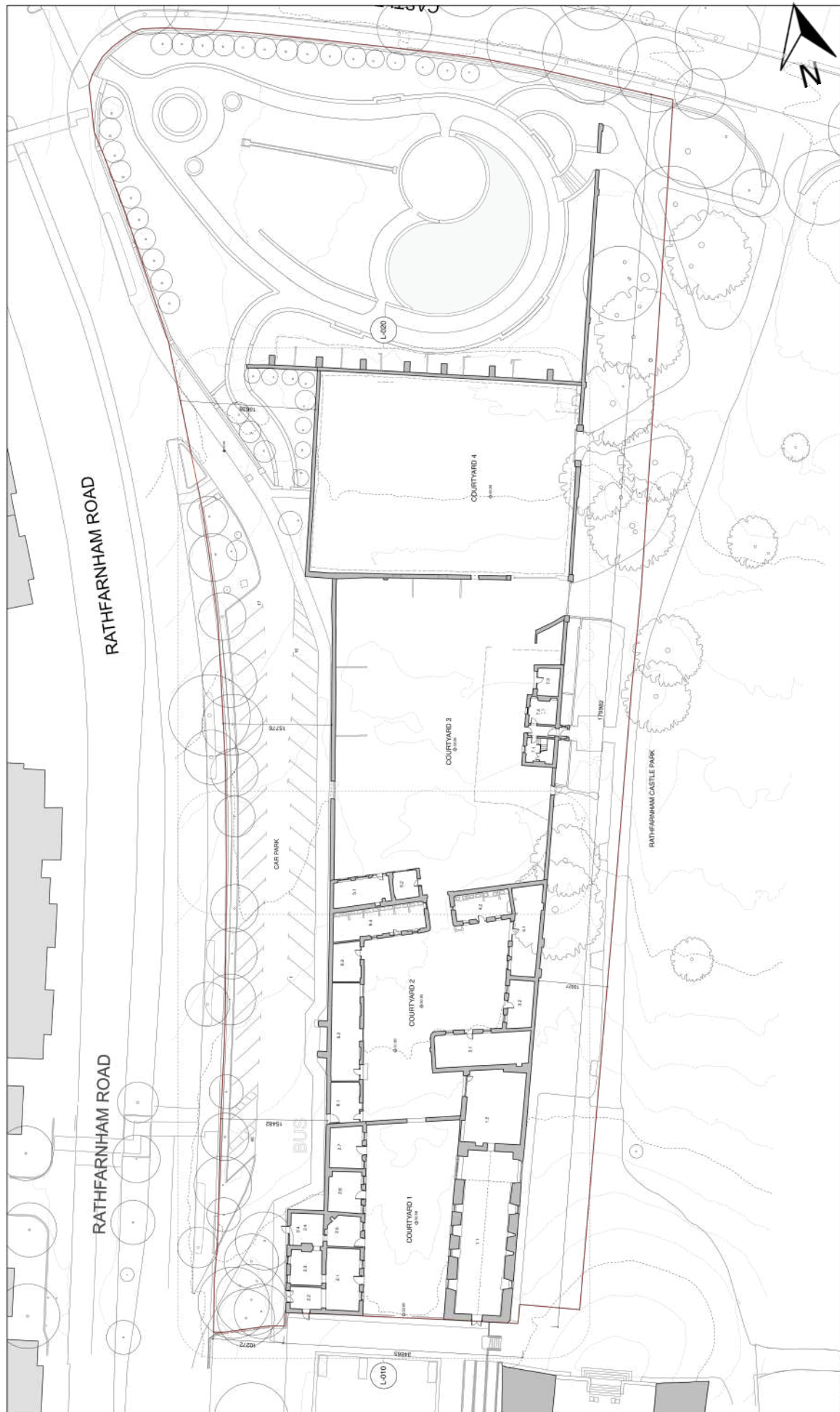
Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020c).

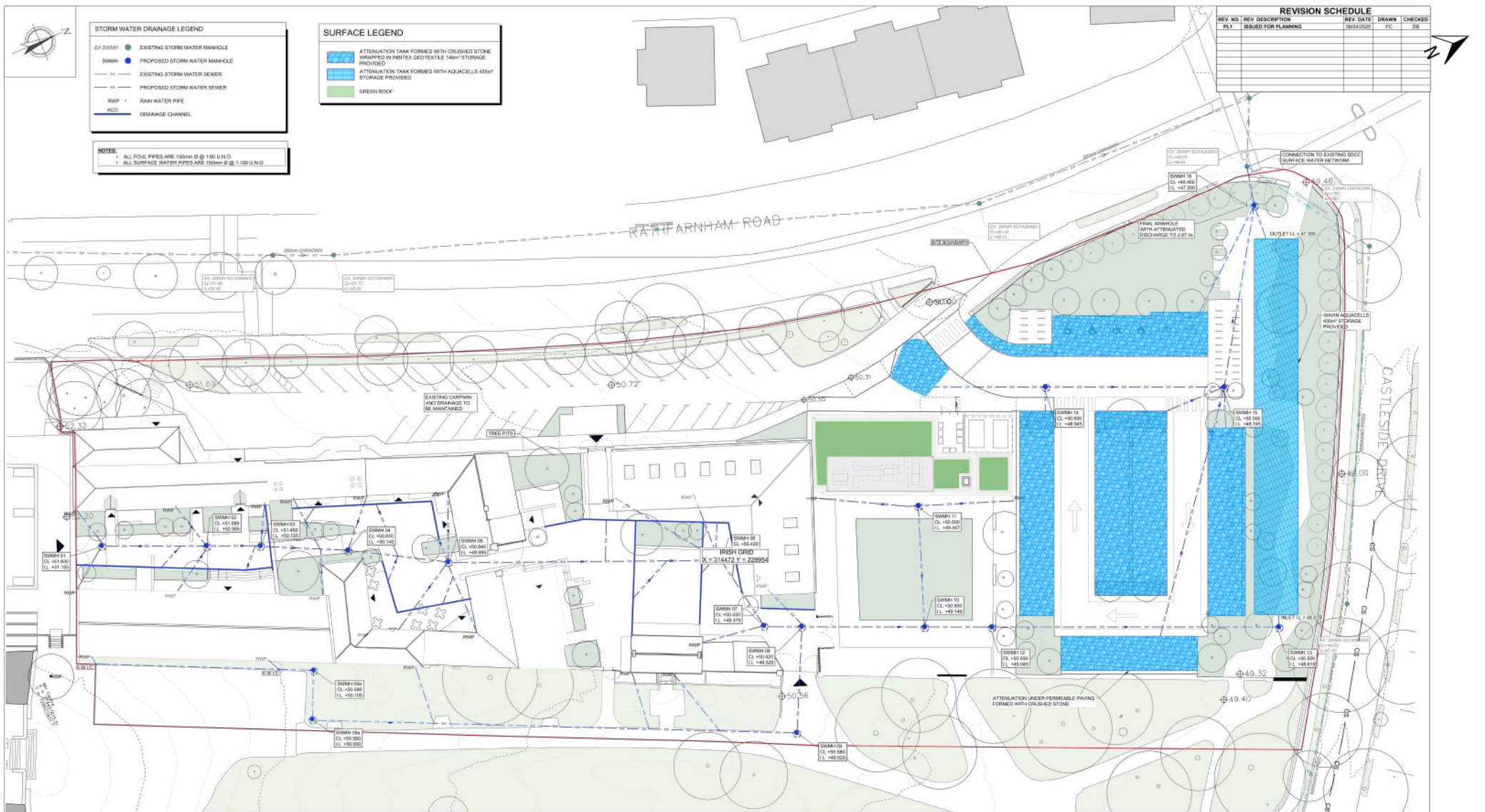
Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.





GENERAL NOTES:
 1. This plan is a reproduction of the original site plan.
 2. The plan is for information only and does not constitute a contract.
 3. The plan is subject to change without notice.
 4. The plan is not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the author.

Project Name	Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard
Client	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Project Number	14/130
Scale	1:250 @ A1
Date	08.04.2025
Job No.	J4130
Fig.	1b
Rev.	-
Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB



Drawing Stage: PLANNING	Project Details:		Notes			Drawn by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:		Behan House, 10 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, D02 HT71				
	Site Address:	RATHFARNHAM CASTLE, D14 K3T6					FC	DB	LE		08/04/2025	Scale 1:250 @ A1		Drawn By	JG
	Client:	SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL					Date		08.04.2025		Checked By		FB		
	Architect:	HHC ARCHITECTS					Job No.		J4130		Fig. 2b		Rev.	-	
	M&E Designer:	HORMAN O'BRIEN													
	Contractor:														

IAC Archaeology

Title Plan of proposed services
Project Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

① Building 1 - West Elevation

② Building 1 - Section AA

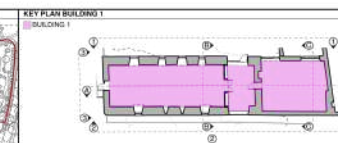
3 Building 1 - East Elevation

BUILDING 1

BUILDING 1

BUILDING 1

Building 1 - South Elevation
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



GENERAL NOTES:

- Drawings to be read in conjunction with Architect's Design Report accompanying this application.
- Drawings to be read in conjunction with Landscape Architect's site plan and reports, Service Engineers' drawings and reports, Civil & Structural Engineers' drawings and reports and all other surveys and reports accompanying the application.
- Method statements and temporary works proposals including sequencing to be submitted by contractor to Structural Engineers and approved prior to construction.
- Most existing structures are unroofed and existing levels may vary in relation to the levels above.
- All existing historic masonry structures will be assessed in detail prior to construction and minor repairs, making out of joints, repointing and lime rendering will be carried out using lime based mortars.

NOTES

- [illegible]

Application Boundary Shown in RED

Proposed interventions
Proposed work shown in BLACK.
Refer to notes for further detail

Existing
FFL 00.00 Proposed Spot Level (metres)





IAC Archaeology

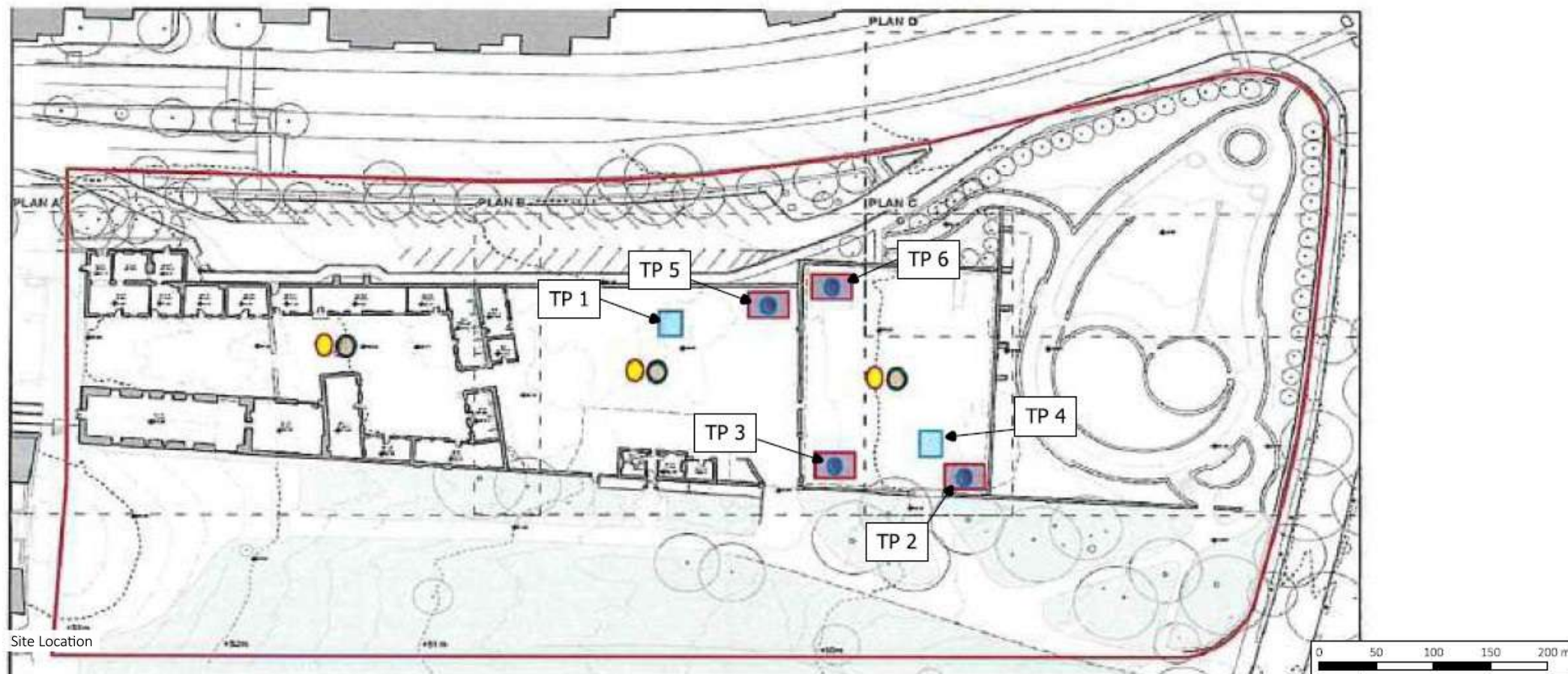
Title	Elevations and sections of 'Cromwell's Fort'
Project	Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

Scale	As shown
Date	08.04.2025
Job No.	J4130

Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 2d	Rev. -

Legend

-  Proposed locations of Dynamic Probes
-  Proposed Locations of Window samples
-  Proposed trial pits circa 900 x 600 x 600 deep
-  Proposed Location of Percolation Test - See attached test sheet



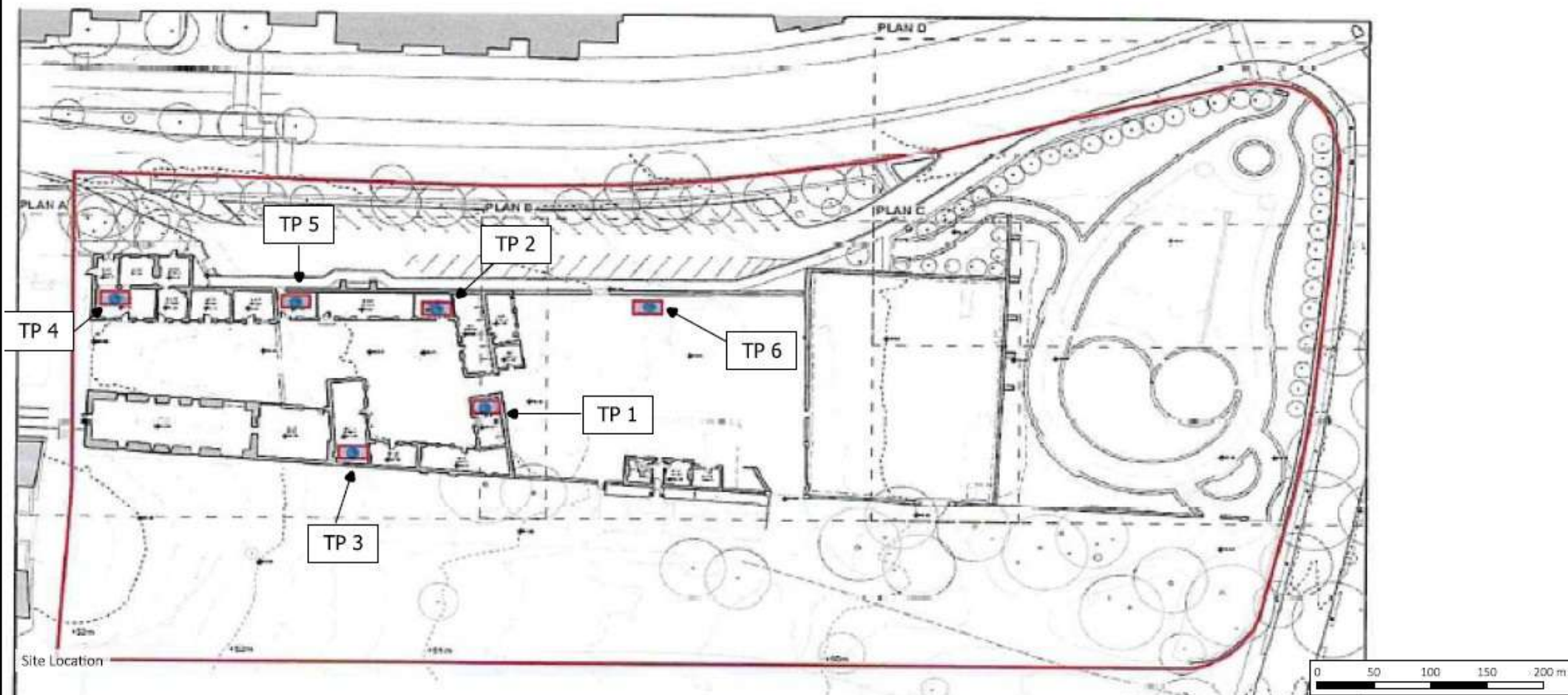
IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan of Phase 1 Site Investigations	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	JG
Project	Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14	Date	08.04.2025	Checked By	FB
		Job No.	J4130	Approved By	FB
				Fig.	3a
				Rev.	-

Legend

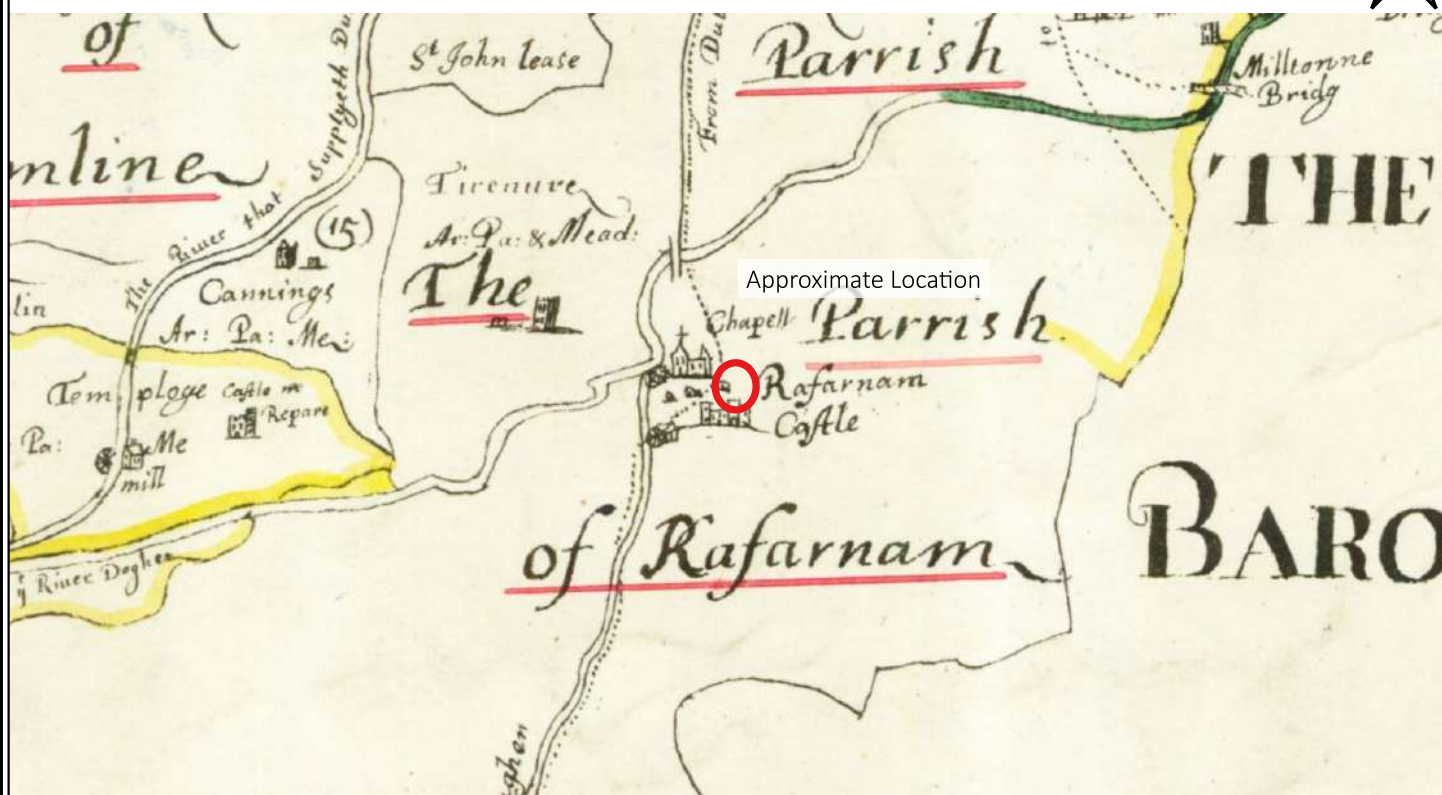


Proposed trial pits circa 900 x 600 x 600 deep



IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan of Phase 2 Site Investigations	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	JG
Project	Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14	Date	08.04.2025	Checked By	FB
		Job No.	J4130	Approved By	FB
				Fig.	3b
				Rev.	-



Ordnance Survey Map, 1843

Rathfarnham

Church

School

Shaw Place

Rathfarnham Castle

0 50 100 m

Ordnance Survey Map, 1910

Rathfarnham

Rathfarnham Castle

0 50 100 m



Plate 1: Car park to west of stables, facing south



Plate 2: SDCC yard, within the northernmost enclosure/courtyard, facing northwest



Plate 3: Central enclosure/courtyard, facing southwest



Plate 4: Original cobbled yard in southern section of the central enclosure/courtyard, facing south



Plate 5: Northeastern side of stable yard, facing northeast



Plate 6: Northwest side of stable yard, facing northwest



Plate 7: Southeast corner of stable yard, facing southwest



Plate 8: Structures south of the stable block (Cromwell's Fort to left), facing south-southwest



Plate 9: Landscaped park in the north of the proposed development area, facing southwest



Plate 10: Rathfarnham Castle, facing south-southwest



Plate 11: Test Pit 1 (Phase 1), facing north



Plate 12: Test Pit 2 (Phase 1), facing north-northeast



Plate 13: Test Pit 3 (Phase 1), facing south-southwest



Plate 14: Trial Pit 4 (Phase 1), facing north-northeast



Plate 15: Test Pit 5 (Phase 1), facing north-northeast



Plate 16: Test Pit 1 (Phase 2), facing west



Plate 17: Test Pit 2 (Phase 2), facing west



Plate 18: Test Pit 3 (Phase 2), facing southeast



Plate 19: Test Pit 4 (Phase 2), facing west



Plate 20: Test Pit 5 (Phase 2), facing south



Plate 21: Test Pit 6 (Phase 2), facing west