

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
RATHFARNHAM CASTLE STABLE YARD,  
RATHFARNHAM,  
DUBLIN 14**

**MINISTERIAL CONSENT: C000785, W000771,  
R000748, E005771**

**ON BEHALF OF:  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ITM: 714436, 729008**

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## ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology has prepared this report on behalf of South Dublin County Council to present the results of archaeological monitoring of site investigation associated with the proposed redevelopment of the Rathfarnham Castle Stable Yard, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 (ITM 714436, 729008). The programme of works was carried out by Faith Bailey and Chris Coxon, under Ministerial Consent Tef.: C000785, W000771, R000748, E005771.

The area subject to investigation comprises the post medieval courtyard, car park and compound located to the northeast of Rathfarnham Castle, which were originally established as part of the outbuildings and gardens within the demesne associated with the castle. The area falls within the Zone of Notification for Rathfarnham Castle (DU022-014), which is located c. 19m to the south. The castle is a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a Preservation Order (PO no. 2/1986). There are a further five recorded archaeological sites within the wider study area.

Archaeological monitoring and metal detection was carried out during the course of site investigations, which were conducted over two phases in November 2024 and January 2025. Six test pits were excavated during phase 1, which were located in the northern part of the development area, within a car park and compound. During phase 2, a total of five test pits were excavated within the interior of the post medieval outbuildings within the courtyard, in order to inspect wall foundations. A further pit was excavated in the car park to the north of the outbuildings.

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. One sherd of tin glazed pottery was recorded during the course of the works. The western wall foundation of the car park was also investigated, and the foundation was over 1.28m in depth. The wall foundations of the outbuildings retain an archaeological potential given their proximity to Rathfarnham Castle and Cromwell's Fort, which occupies the southeastern corner of the courtyard. It is clear from the results, and an analysis of the historic mapping, that the courtyard area has been subject to ongoing development throughout the post medieval period.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring of Site Investigations (SI), which have been undertaken at Rathfarnham Castle Stables, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 (Figure 1, ITM 714436, 729008). The monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Faith Bailey and Chris Coxon of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of South Dublin County Council and 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).

Ministerial Consent is required for these works as the stable yard is associated with Rathfarnham Castle, which is a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a Preservation Order (PO no. 2/1986). This is in addition to the site being listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP DU022-014).

Archaeological monitoring ‘involves an archaeologist being present in the course of the carrying out of developments’ and has been defined as being carried out ‘so as to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects which may be uncovered or otherwise affected by the works’ (Department of Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and Islands, 1999b).

## 1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

South Dublin County Council have commissioned a design team to produce redevelopment plans for the stable yard. Site investigation works are required as part of the overall design process, which is ongoing. Figures 2a and b show the location of the site investigations that were monitored in two phases within the stable yard. Monitoring was carried out in November 2024 and January 2025.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

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 north by Castleside Drive. The site falls within the zone of notification for the Rathfarnham Castle (DU022-014), located c. 19m to the south, which is a National Monument in State Care (Nat. Mon. 628) and is subject to a Preservation Order (PO no. 2/1986). Additionally, there are a further five recorded archaeological sites within the wider study area (200m). A watermill site (DU022-099) is located c. 131m southwest; a redundant record comprising ecclesiastical remains (DU022-0130) is located c. 134m to the northwest; finally, a church with graveyard and a recorded grave slab (DU022-013001, DU022-013002, DU022-013003) are located c. 134m northwest.

There is no prehistoric settlement activity recorded within the study area of the proposed development. Two possible Neolithic 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.

The name Rathfarnham comes from the Irish *Ráth Fearnáin* which means ‘The Rath’ or ‘Fort of Fearnan’. Some sources explain *Ráth Fearnáin* as the ‘fort of the alders’, a species that can be found growing along the Dodder.

Rathfarnham Castle was built in the late 16th century by Adam Loftus and remodelled 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, which had been confiscated from Viscount Baltinglass. 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.

### 2.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has revealed that previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area.

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 work samples of the plaster were removed from the ceiling and walls and sent for radiocarbon dating. The samples returned a date of AD 1445-1486 and AD 1439-1517, 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. 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 few pieces 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).

## **2.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

### **William Petty, Down Survey: Barony of Newcastle in County Dublin, c. 1655**

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' (Owendoher River) are two mills (DU022-070 and DU022-099).

### **John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760**

By the time of this map, it appears that the proposed development area is 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 found to the north. To the immediate west is Rathfarnham Road, which continues north towards Dublin City.

### **John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816**

By the time of this map in 1816, the proposed development area is still situated within garden plots to the north of the castle and south of the church within 'Ely Demesne'. A grouping of mills (DU022-044001) is found in proximity to Rathfarnham Bridge.

### **William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821**

This map depicts how demesne landscapes dominated the wider region around this time. The only notable change from the previous mapping is the inclusion of at least four structures within the proposed development area.

### **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 5)**

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. Within the site's footprint, a large structure is evident making up most of the southern portion, likely the stables and courtyard of Rathfarnham Castle. The site is also shown to be within the Rathfarnham Demesne, made up of lawn fields, gardens and pathways. In the wider area, the church (DU022-013001) and graveyard (DU022-013002) are depicted to the northwest. A further church (Rathfarnham Church of Ireland) and a school are found to the west along with the Old Mill (DU022-070) and Shaw Place. To the north, Castle Lodge and a Pigeon House are shown.

### **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**

By the time of this map, the structures within the proposed development area have expanded and made up most of the southern portion of the site. There has been little change to Rathfarnham Demesne from the previous first edition Ordnance Survey map. A notable change within Rathfarnham town, to the west, is the formation of a tramway that followed the trajectory of Rathfarnham Road located c. 38m to the northwest.

## **2.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2005–2025), and Bing Maps has been carried out. 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 was expanded into the proposed development area in 2013 (Google Earth, May 2013).

## **2.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES**

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. Although, no stray finds were noted in the close environs of study area 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.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

#### **3.1 GENERAL**

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 2a), 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 2b). These works were monitored during January 2025.

#### **3.2 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 1). 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 though 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 2). 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 3). 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 4). 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 5). 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.

### **3.3 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 6). 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 7). 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 subsoil was 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 8). 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 9). 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 10). 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. 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.

## **3.3 CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological monitoring and metal detection was carried out during the course of site investigations, which were conducted over two phases in November 2024 and

January 2025. Six test pits were excavated during phase 1, which were located in the northern part of the development area, within a car park and compound. During phase 2, a total of five test pits were excavated within the interior of the post medieval outbuildings within the courtyard, in order to inspect wall foundations. A further pit was excavated in the car park to the north of the outbuildings.

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. One sherd of tin glazed pottery was recorded during the course of the works. The western wall foundation of the car park was also investigated, and the foundation was over 1.28m in depth. The wall foundations of the outbuildings retain an archaeological potential given their proximity to Rathfarnham Castle and Cromwell's Fort, which occupies the southeastern corner of the courtyard. It is clear from the results, and an analysis of the historic mapping, that the courtyard area has been subject to ongoing development throughout the post medieval period.

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- South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028.

### CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- William Petty, Down Survey: Barony of Newcastle in County Dublin, 1654–56
- John Rocque's Map of the County of Dublin, 1760
- John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816
- William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821
- Griffiths Valuation Map, 1871
- Ordnance Survey Maps of County Dublin 1843 - 1910

### ELECTRONIC SOURCES

- [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2025.
- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.
- [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- [www.geohive.ie](http://www.geohive.ie) – Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013)
- [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery (2005–2025).

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-014
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714412 728910
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	House - fortified house
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 19m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<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>
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-099
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714234 728897
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Watermill site
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 131m southwest



<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	There was a mill at the junction of Butterfield Avenue and Rathfarnham village until its demolition late in the 19th century. Its proximity to the village and Rathfarnham castle suggests that it may have been one of the early mills in Rathfarnham (pers coms Rob Goodbody).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-013
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714289 729163
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Redundant record (ecclesiastical remains)
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 134m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This record was formerly classed as 'ecclesiastical remains'. This is an obsolete broad or group term that is not currently used by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-013001
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714289 729163
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Church
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 134m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	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).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-013002
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<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714289 729163
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Graveyard
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 134m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	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-).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	DU022-013003
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>PARISH</b>	Rathfarnham
<b>BARONY</b>	Rathdown
<b>I.T.M.</b>	714295 729150
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Graveslab
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c. 134m northwest
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	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).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> 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.





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



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



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



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



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



Plate 6: Test Pit 1 (Phase 2), facing west





Plate 7: Test Pit 2 (Phase 2), facing west



Plate 8: Test Pit 3 (Phase 2), facing southeast





Plate 9: Test Pit 4 (Phase 2), facing west



Plate 10: Test Pit 5 (Phase 2), facing south





Plate 11: Test Pit 6 (Phase 2), facing west