

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Largescale Residential Development, Greenfields, Swords, County Dublin



Prepared by
John Cronin & Associates
3a Westpoint Trade Centre
Link Road
Ballincollig
Cork

On behalf of
Jackie Greene Construction Limited
Verdant House
Fortfield Square
College Drive
Terenure
Dublin 6W

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **Jackie Greene Construction Limited** to undertake an archaeological impact assessment of the known and potential archaeological heritage resource within, and immediately adjacent to, the site of a proposed mixed-use development that constitutes a Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) within the townland of Greenfields, in the north eastern side of Swords, County Dublin (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1: Location of subject site (encircled in yellow) (Source: Bing Maps)

The formal description of development is as follows:

The proposed development consists of a mixed-use development that constitutes a 'Large-Scale Residential Development' (LRD) at this site of 2.22 Ha principally located at Swords Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin. The site is principally bound: to the north by an access road and ancillary car park to serve Swords Business Park; to the east by the M1 Motorway; to the south by Mantua Road; and to the west by an access road to serve Swords Business Park. The application site also extends to include parts of: the access road to the north and west for footpath, landscape and foul drainage connection works; Mantua Road to the west for foul drainage connection works; and the green strip to the south at Mantua Road for a pedestrian and cyclist connection.

Permission is sought for a mixed-use development with a gross floor area of 30,358 sq m and principally comprised in 5 No. blocks (A–E), with heights ranging from 1 No. to 9 No. storeys. The proposed block heights are as follows: Block A is 6 No. to 7 No. storeys; Block B is 6 No. to 7 No. storeys; Block C is 6 No. to 7 No. storeys; Block D is 6 No. to 9 No. storeys; and Block E is 1 No. to 9 No. storeys. The development consists of: 289 No. residential apartments (60 No. 1-bed, 200 No. 2-bed and 29 No. 3-bed); retail/commercial unit (701 sq m); and crèche (418 sq m) with outdoor play area (42 sq m).

Permission is also sought for: new multi-modal site entrance to the west; minor relocation of existing northern site entrance to the east; internal road, cycle and footpath network; 132 No. car parking spaces; 13 no. motorcycle parking spaces; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping, including public open space, communal amenity space (at-grade and as

roof gardens atop Block D and Block E) and incidental open space; private amenity space as balconies and terraces facing all directions; public lighting; bin stores; plant rooms; 2 No. sub-stations; green roofs; rooftop plant, PV panels, telecommunications infrastructure, lift overruns and automatic opening vents; and all associated works above and below ground.

The assessment report has been prepared by John Cronin BA MRUP MUBC and Paul Fingleton MA. The study area for this assessment comprises the area within the red-line boundary of the site, as well as lands within 500m of the site boundary. The assessment firstly outlines the methodology used in its compilation (Section 2) and then provides a brief archaeological and historical context for the study area, including a summary of the relevant legal and planning framework for the recorded and potential elements of the archaeological resource within its environs (Section 3). The results of a site inspection are described in Section 4, an assessment of impact is provided in Section 5, while conclusions and recommendations are outlined in Section 6.

2. Methodology

This report is based on a programme of desktop research assessment as well as a site inspection. The assessment commenced with a desktop study carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for the known archaeological resource were the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Between 1984 and 1992, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) issued a series of county SMRs which lists known archaeological sites and places and this record formed the basis for the statutory RMP, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Similar in format to the SMRs (comprising a list and set of maps), the RMPs were issued for each county in the State between 1995 and 1998. Archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

The *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* (ASI) has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and has developed an online database and web viewer known as the 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This resource facilitates access to the current SMR database of the National Monuments Service as well as the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (Source: www.archaeology.ie).

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded, or partially levelled, features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the first edition of the 1:10,560 (6-inch) Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (the relevant area was surveyed in 1841) and the 1:2500 (commonly referred to as '25-inch map') OS map (the relevant area was surveyed in 1901).
- *Aerial photography* - In parallel with the cartographic study, a review of publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) and Google Earth was undertaken.
- *Development Plans* - The local authority development plan relevant to the study area was consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The relevant development plan for the study area is the *Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029*.
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1969 to present.
- *Placenames Database of Ireland* - The Placenames Branch (Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and placenames research conducted by the State. Its primary function is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them on a public website (www.logainm.ie).

A suitably qualified archaeologist carried out an inspection of the proposed development site in the 8th of April 2026. The study area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites or features. No difficulties were encountered during the survey. The results of the site inspection are detailed in **Section 4**.

3. Context

Location

The subject site is located within the northern portion of the townland of Greenfields, on the northeast side of the town of Swords. The site is located within the administrative area of Fingal County Council. The proposed development area is approximately 2.2 hectares in area and consists of fallow former agricultural lands that is somewhat overgrown. The site (see **Figure 2** below) is bounded by an industrial buildings and land uses to the north and west. The subject site is bound to the south by a local road (the L6310) and the tree-lined M1 Motorway is located to the east.

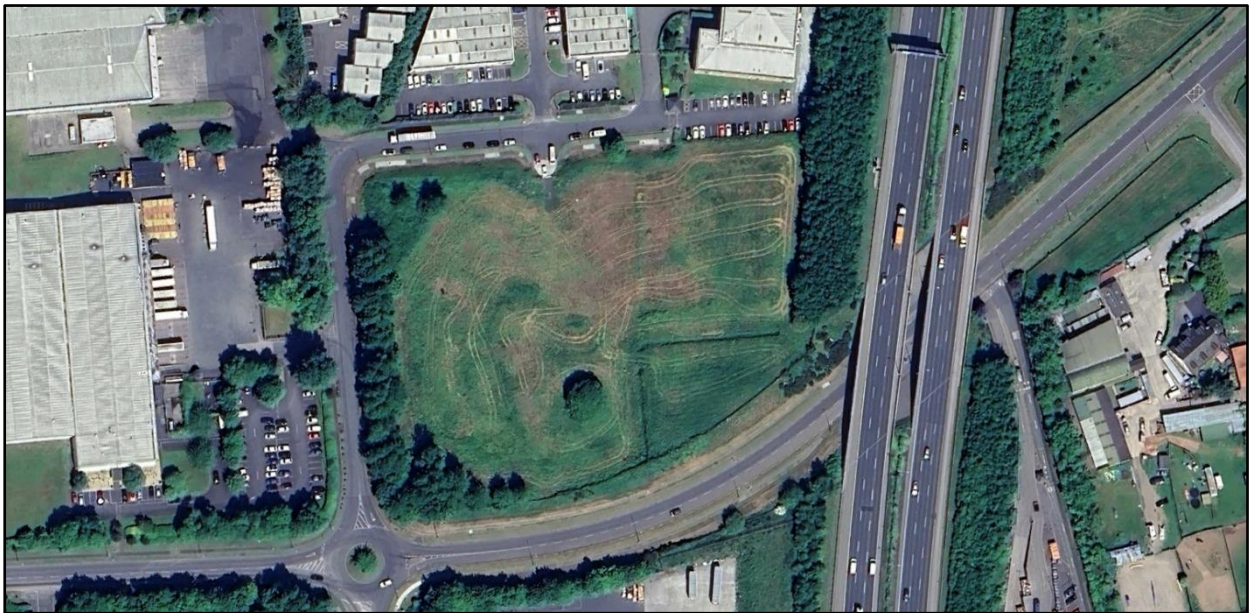


Figure 2: Aerial image centred on the proposed for development (source: Google Earth Pro)

Legal & Policy Framework

On the 13th of October 2023, the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 was signed into law by President Michael D. Higgins. The new Act will repeal existing legislation and institute new provisions equipped to cater for the protection of historic heritage in a modern era.

The Act will repeal the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and replace those Acts with provisions for the protection of historic heritage, provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, provisions for the regulation of certain activities in the interests of such protection and provisions enabling the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions which relate to such protection or regulation; to give effect to the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive in relation to the carrying out of works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of monuments; to give further effect to the Valletta Convention; to consequentially repeal or amend certain other enactments; to make miscellaneous amendments to the Foreshore Act 1933, the Lough Corrib Navigation Act 1945, the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Valuation Act 2001, the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government Rates and other Matters Act 2019 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021; and to provide for related matters.

The Act introduces the following innovative measures:

- newly discovered archaeological sites are afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration;
- a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments;
- a new ‘Register of Monuments’ will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems hitherto in operation;
- “World Heritage Property” is defined for the first time in Irish legislation;
- subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State;
- the Act provides the necessary provisions to allow for the ratification of two important international treaties, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;
- the Act enables the State to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- an integrated licensing system whereby one licence can authorise a range of activities will be introduced and, for the first time, a statutory appeals process will be established to review licensing decisions, and
- a new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings.

The Act defines archaeology as “the study of past human societies of all periods, either as a whole or of various aspects of them, through the material remains of all forms, moveable and immovable, left by those societies and the evidence of their environment, and includes the study of climatological, ecological, geological, geomorphological or pedological factors relevant to understanding the nature or context of those societies or the distribution or nature of their material remains, and “archaeological interest” shall be construed accordingly”.

Until such time as enabling regulation for this new legislation is issued, the National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, remain the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include several provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites. There are **no archaeological sites subject to Preservation Orders or Temporary Preservation Orders within the study area.**

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘*a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance*’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. There are **no National Monuments** (in the ownership or guardianship of the State) **located within the immediate vicinity of the subject site**. The closest National Monument is Swords Castle (Nat. Mon. no. 340), which is located c. 1km to the south-southwest.

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), provides county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP

sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months' notice in advance of any work proposed at their locations.

Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029

The *Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029* includes the following relevant policy requirements objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

Policy HCAP2 – Importance of Archaeological Resource *Recognise the importance of our archaeological resource and provide appropriate objectives to ensure its appropriate retention, promotion and recording.*

Policy HCAP3 – Record of Monuments and Places/ Sites and Monuments Record *Safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), underwater cultural heritage including protected wrecks and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains.*

Policy HCAP4 – Preservation-in-situ *Favour the preservation in-situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.*

Policy HCAP5 – Development Design *Incorporate heritage features into infrastructure design at an early stage in the development planning and management process to protect and promote the cultural heritage resource and create awareness and interpretation.*

Objective HCA01 – Preservation-in-situ *Favour the preservation in situ or at a minimum preservation by record, of archaeological sites, monuments, features or objects in their settings. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage.*

Objective HCA03 – Management of Archaeological Resource *Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds and underwater cultural heritage in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.*

Objective HCA07 – Archaeology and Development Design *Ensure archaeological remains are identified and fully considered at the very earliest stages of the development process, that schemes are designed to avoid impacting on the archaeological heritage.*

Objective HCA08 – Archaeological Impact Assessment *Require that proposals for linear development over one kilometre in length; proposals for development involving ground clearance of more than half a hectare; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery; to include an Archaeological Impact Assessment and refer such applications to the relevant Prescribed Bodies.*

Objective HCA09 – Archaeology in the Landscape *Ensure that in general development will not be permitted which would result in the removal of archaeological monuments with above ground features, protected wrecks and that this will be especially the case in relation to archaeological monuments which form significant features in the landscape.*

Objective HCA011 – Impacts of large-scale development *Ensure that proposals for large scale developments and infrastructure projects consider the impacts on the archaeological heritage and seek to avoid them.*

Archaeological and historical context

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) lists five archaeological sites within 500m of the boundary of the subject site (**Table 1 and Figure 4**). The closest of these, is classified as an earthwork (**DU011-036----**) and located approximately 340m to the west of the subject site, within the townland of Seatown West. The ASI description of this earthwork is as follows:

Shown on Duncan's map 1821 as an earthwork entitled 'moat'. Currently shown as under a housing estate. Not visible at ground level.

An earth work is an anomalous earthen structure, usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, that on field inspection was found to possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards. (National Monuments Service, *Monument Class and Scope Notes*).

This earthwork is one of three such classified archaeological sites within the 500m study area around the subject. There are two further earthworks (**DU012-136----** & **DU012-137----**) in addition to a ring ditch (**DU012-098----**) each of which are located to the east of the subject site in the townland of Seatown East. To the northwest of the subject site a tide mill (**DU012-047**) is recorded within the townland of Lissenhall Great. The full descriptions of all recorded sites located within the study area are presented in **Appendix 1** of this document.

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites within 400m of the proposed development.

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E)	ITM (N)
DU011-036----	Earthwork	Seatown West	718722	747318
DU012-047----	Tide mill	Lisenhall Great	719561	747638
DU012-098----	Ring ditch	Seatown East	719566	746930
DU012-136----	Earthwork	Seatown East	719543	747024
DU012-137----	Earthwork	Seatown East	719620	747234



Figure 3: Recorded archaeological sites within the study area of 500m around the proposed development site (Source: Government of Ireland - archaeology.ie)

Logainm- Placename Database

The name Greenfields (*Na Goirt Ghlasa*) does not give any indication of previously unrecorded archaeological sites. *Gort*, meaning field and *Glas* meaning green related to the topography of the area. The name Greenfields has been recorded as early as 1836 (logainm.ie).

Excavation Database

The Excavation Database (www.excavations.ie) contains summary accounts of archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1969 to present. Since the introduction of the licensing system in 1993, licence holders are obliged to submit a summary to the Excavations Database as a condition of the issuing of the excavation licence. The Database gives access to over 30,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, licence number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author.

There are no entries for townland of Greenfields. However, a number of investigations have been undertaken in the surrounding area. The closest of these is a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out to the north at Seatown West (Licence No. 16E0298) which was undertaken in advance of works associated with the Swords Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Upgrade; no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

Further to the north, testing was undertaken at Lissenhall Great (Site 5) (Licence No. 99E0547), where a possible earthwork identified on the first edition OS mapping was investigated through a series of hand-dug cuttings; no archaeological material was identified, and the feature was not confirmed.

To the east, monitoring associated with works at Seatown East (Seatown Castle) (Licence No. 05E0725) identified post-medieval material in the vicinity of a known late medieval tower house (**DU012-021**), including 18th-century pottery and structural remains associated with later phases of activity at the site.

To the west, monitoring of geotechnical trial pits undertaken as part of the Swords–Lissenhall Water Scheme (Licence No. 03E0104) did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance.

A full description of all entries for the townland of Knockbrogan within the Database of Irish Excavation Reports (www.excavations.ie) is available in **Appendix 2** of this document.

Cartographic and aerial imagery review

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the Down Survey map of c.1655 (**Figure 4**), Roque's map of 1760 (**Figure 5**), the 1:10,560 first edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1837-42) (**Figure 6**), the 1:2500 25-inch OS map (1888-1913) (**Figure 7**).

The Down Survey of Ireland (**Figure 4**) mapping for the parish of Swords within the Barony of Nethercross, depicts the subject site within a broadly defined agricultural landscape situated to the south of the Broadmeadow River. The mapping is schematic in nature and does not provide

detail at townland level. No features of archaeological significance are identifiable within the footprint of the subject site.

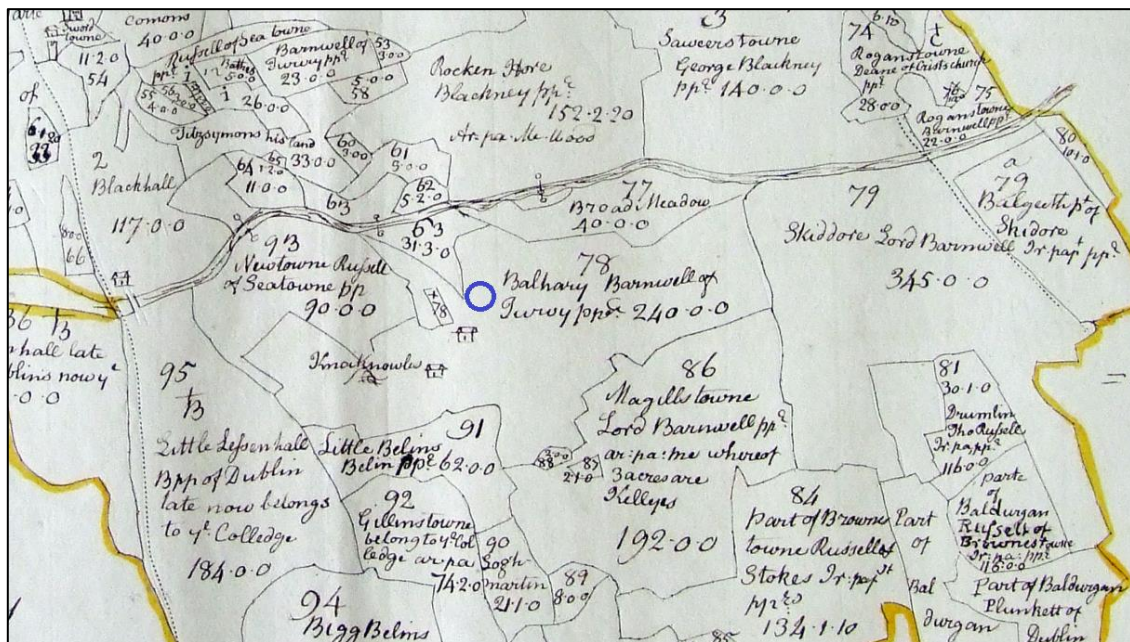


Figure 4: Extract from Down Survey map (c.1655) for the barony of Nethercross (Source: Trinity College Dublin)

John Roque's map of 1760 (**Figure 5**) depicts the subject site within an established agricultural landscape in the vicinity of Seatown, characterised by enclosed fields and an associated road network. The Broadmeadow estuary is shown to the north of the site. No features of archaeological significance are indicated within the subject site.



Figure 5: Extract from John Rocque's map (c.1760) (Source: Dublin Historic Maps)

The subject lands are shown as enclosed within four separate large agricultural fields on the 1st edition 1:10,560 (or '6-inch') OS map (see **Figure 6**). No structures or features of archaeological significance are shown within the footprint of the subject site. Mantua House and its associated demesne are depicted to the west, with the wider landscape characterised by enclosed farmland and dispersed settlement.



Figure 6: Extract from the First Edition 1:10,560 ('6-inch') OS map centred over the general area of the subject site (Source: Government of Ireland - archaeology.ie)

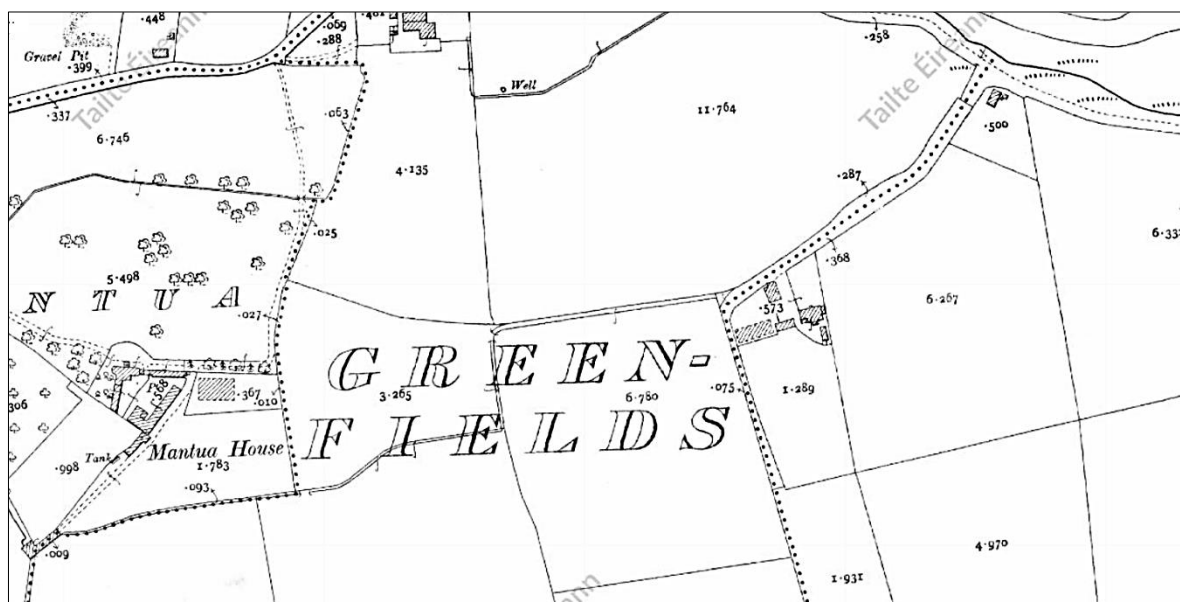


Figure 7: Extract from the 1:2500 OS map centred over the general area of the subject site (Source: Government of Ireland - archaeology.ie)

The field layout in the later 1:2500 OS map (see **Figure 7** above) depicts the subject site as remaining in agricultural use within the townland of Greenfields, with field boundaries broadly consistent with those shown on the First Edition mapping, albeit with some minor regularisation.

Mantua demesne to the west appears more formally defined, while the wider landscape remains predominantly agricultural in character

No potential archaeological or built heritage features were noted on historic maps.

Examination of available aerial imagery (Ordnance Survey Ireland and Google Earth Pro) (**Figures 8 & 9**), including Lidar Imagery (TII) (**Figure 10**) was undertaken as part of this assessment. The subject site is depicted as open ground in earlier aerial imagery and as part of a developed landscape in more recent imagery. The LiDAR data forms part of a wider dataset and does not indicate the presence of any features of archaeological potential within the footprint of the subject site. In fact, the LiDAR data indicates that the subject site has been significantly disturbed (in contrast with agricultural fields located further to the east).

No potential archaeological or built heritage features were noted within the review of aerial imagery.



Figure 8: Aerial image from 1995 showing general area subject site outlined in blue. Image predates the construction of the M1 motorway (Source: Government of Ireland - archaeology.ie)



Figure 9: Aerial image centred on proposed development area from October 2002 with ongoing construction of the M1 motorway visible to west of subject site. (Source: Google Earth Pro)



Figure 10: Extract from Lidar Data Index (TII) at location of the subject site. Blue circle marking centre of subject site. The site is pocked and disturbed. (Source: Geological Survey Ireland (GSI))

4. Description of site

An inspection of the subject site was undertaken by John Cronin on the 8th of April 2026. The site was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites or features. Weather conditions were dry, with intermittent cloud cover at the time of survey with good landscape visibility.



Plate 1: View of the northern boundary of the site. This boundary is formed by a berm of mounded topsoil.

The site is generally level, but it has been clearly subjected to localised ground disturbances. It appears that topsoil has been stockpiled along the northern boundary to form a berm. The land has been disturbed by regrading and by the installation of a drainage culvert (see **Plate 4** below). In localised areas, there is little or no topsoil cover and subsoil is exposed (see **Plate 3** below).



Plate 2: View east across the site



Plate 3: Exposed subsoil within the central area of the site.



Plate 4: Drainage culvert within the central and south-east portion of the development site.

No surface trace of any potential archaeological features was evident during the inspection.

5. Assessment of impact

There are no archaeological sites (as recorded by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*) located within the proposed development site, the closest is a holy well which is c.270m from the site boundary. Consequently, it is predicted that there will be ***no predicted impact on the recorded archaeological heritage resource should the proposed development proceed.***



Figure 11: Proposed development layout overlaid

It is predicted that the proposed development ***will not give rise to impacts*** on known or potential archaeological remains.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

The study area for this assessment comprised the proposed development site along with the lands adjacent to its boundary. Following consultation of the available and relevant datasets and historic documentary and cartographic sources, this assessment has concluded that ***the proposed scheme will result in no direct impacts on the recorded archaeological heritage resource of the area.***

A site inspection has confirmed that significant ground reduction works have been undertaken within the land holding. The site has been subject to previous large scale ground disturbance, including topsoil stripping and truncation of upper subsoil levels. The lands are not suitable for archaeological geophysical survey.

To conclude, no evidence for any potential unrecorded archaeological features was noted during the site inspection, and the heavily disturbed state of the site would lead to the conclusion that the potential for archaeological remains to survive here is ***low to negligible.***

Recommendations

Following a site visit and inspection by an experienced archaeologist (with extensive geophysical surveying experience), it is deemed is wholly unsuited to a geophysical survey and/or a programme of pre-construction archaeological testing. The only areas that appear to be undisturbed are very marginal areas to the east and south of the field.

It is recommended that, in the event of planning permission being granted, that ***site development works within the southern and eastern margins of the site be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring***, under licence from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Should archaeological material be discovered during monitoring, then consultation should take place between Cork County Council, the National Monuments Service and the developer as to the appropriate further mitigation measures.

It should be noted that the above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and Fingal County Council.

7. References/sources

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- The Down Survey of Ireland Project (n.d.) *Down Survey Maps* accessed on 14/04/2026. Available at: <https://www.downsurvey.ie/down-survey-maps/>
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List, accessed on 14/04/2026. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

Appendix 1: Recorded monuments

The following are details of archaeological sites as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The information is gleaned from the Historic Environment Viewer (available at www.archaeology.ie).

DU011-036----

Townland: Seatown

Classification: Earthwork

Description: Shown on Duncan's map 1821 as an earthwork entitled 'moat'. Currently shown as under a housing estate. Not visible at ground level.

DU012-098----

Townland: Seatown East

Classification: Ring-ditch

Description: Located in a large arable field, c. 412m SSW of Seatown Castle (DU012-021----) and c. 500m SSW of the Irish Sea coastline. A ring-ditch is clearly visible on Google Earth imagery (4 July 2008 and 2 June 2016). It consists of a circular feature (ext. diam. c. 11.2m) defined by a ditch (Wth c. 1.5m). There are no indications of an entrance gap across the ditch.

DU012-047----

Townland: Lissenhall Great

Classification: Tide Mill

Description: O'Flanagan (1976, 108) identified the site of a tidal mill in an area known as 'Mill Bank' on the Malahide estuary. Not visible at ground level.

DU012-136----

Townland: Seatown East

Classification: Earthwork

Description: In tillage field. Cropmark of circular-shaped area defined by the cropmark of a ditch visible on Apple Maps orthoimage.

DU012-137----

Townland: Seatown East

Classification: Earthwork

Description: In tillage field. Cropmark of circular-shaped area defined by the cropmark of a ditch visible on Apple Maps orthoimage.

Appendix 2: Relevant Excavations

The following are summary details of licenced archaeological investigations undertaken in the environs of the subject site. The information has been gathered from a review of the Database of Irish Excavation Report (available at www.excavations.ie).

Director: Patricia Lynch

License Number: 99E0547

Results: This site was identified as a possible earthwork on the first edition OS map. There were no surface indications of the earthwork, and it is possible that its remains were incorporated into the garden walls/boundaries of the nearby estate, Lissenhall House. Four hand-dug cuttings measuring 3m x 3m were sited on the very low, east-west ridge within the road-take. Cutting 1 was to the east of the slope. Topsoil measured 0.4–0.5m and overlay the natural subsoil. The cutting contained a modern field drain cut into the subsoil but nothing of archaeological significance. Nothing of significance was found in the other cuttings, Cutting 2, c. 6.5m north-west of Cutting 1, Cutting 3, c. 50m north-west of Cutting 1, and Cutting 4, c. 65m to the west of Cutting 1. Editor's note: The summary of this excavation, which was carried out during 1999, arrived too late for publication in the bulletin of that year.

Director: Martin E. Byrne

License Number: 03E0104

Results: Monitoring of geotechnical trial-pit excavations associated with the proposed Swords–Lissenhall Water Scheme was undertaken from 21 January to 1 February 2003. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered during the course of monitoring.

Director: Kieran Campbell

License Number: 5E0725

Results: Monitoring took place in August 2005 during groundworks associated with the conversion to a dwelling of a two-storey barn attached to the west side of Seatown Castle, a late medieval tower-house at Seatown East, Swords. The buildings at the time of the Civil Survey, 1654–6, were described as 'a small old Castle & an old hall adjoining (both Thatcht) a Barne & Stable Thatcht'. A survey by the writer in 1998 identified four principal phases of construction. Of the tower-house, only the vaulted ground floor survives, to which a first floor was added in the 19th century. A long single-storey house with large brick-framed windows was attached to the west wall of the castle in the early modern period. This was altered and converted into a barn, with the addition of an open-plan loft, probably when the present Seatown House was built in c. 1900.

An assemblage of mid- to late 18th-century pottery recovered during monitoring gave a secure date for the house on the west side of the castle. A glazed roof ridge tile may have come from the castle or the old hall, of which no trace was seen. Limited excavation under the site of a concrete water tank against the north wall of the tower-house uncovered a very rough stony surface. Fragments of pantile and lead window comes from deposits on the stones possibly relate to the demolition of the hall and the upper floors of the tower-house.

Director: Tim Coughlan

License Number: 16E0298

Results: Monitoring was carried out of groundworks associated with the construction of the Swords Waste Water Treatment Plant Outfall Upgrade at Seatown West, Swords. The scheme is located in a marshy, marginal land to the south of Broadmeadow River estuary and c. 1km north-east of the centre of Swords Town. There are three recorded monuments located within 500m of the scheme. The closest of these is an enclosure (DU012-015), located c. 289m north of the scheme. A tide mill (DU012-047), is recorded c. 374m east-south-east of the scheme. An earthwork (DU011-036) located c. 402m south-west

of the scheme. Monitoring took place in August and October of 2017. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified.