

JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES

ARCHAEOLOGY | CONSERVATION | HERITAGE | PLANNING

Archaeological Assessment

Proposed retail store development site, Main Street, Newcastle, County Dublin



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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **Lidl Ireland GmbH** to assess the potential archaeological impacts associated with the development of a proposed Lidl retail store at a site off Main Street, Newcastle, County Dublin. The proposed development site comprises a mixed brownfield and greenfield land parcel which is located within the townland of Newcastle South to the south of Main Street, Newcastle.



Figure 1: General location of subject site (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

This report presents summary details on the locations of recorded elements of the archaeological resource within the environs of the subject site and aims to identify any previously unknown archaeological constraints. The study area for this assessment comprised the internal area of the subject lands combined with the lands extending for approximately 250m from its boundary. The assessment firstly outlines the methodology used in its compilation (**Section 2**) and then provides an 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 impacts is provided in **Section 5** and conclusions and recommendations are presented in **Section 6**. Extracts from the photographic record of the site inspection are provided in **Appendix 3** to this report.

2. Methodology

This report is based on a programme of desktop research, site inspection and desk-based assessment. The methodology used for assessing the types and significance of impacts is informed by the EPA (2015) *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing an EIS* and (2017) *Draft Guidelines for Information to be Contained in EIAR*.

Desktop study

A desktop study assessment has been carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are 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 ASI has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and has developed an online database and web viewer known as 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This has been developed to enhance the user's experience by facilitating access to the database of the National Monuments Service's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one stop point of access for both data resources (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 Down Survey maps (1654-6), Roque's Map of Dublin (1760), Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816), the first edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s), the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) and the Cassini 6-inch maps (c.1940).
- *Aerial photography* - In parallel with the cartographic study, a review publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google, Bing Maps and the National Library of Ireland 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 *South Dublin County Council Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028*.

- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1960s to present.
- *Irish Heritage Council: Heritage Map Viewer* - This online mapping source collates various cultural heritage datasets and includes extracts from the National Museum of Ireland's records of artefact discovery locations as well as datasets provided by, among others, the National Monuments Service, local authorities, the Royal Academy of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. Current data was accessed via www.heritagemaps.ie
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List* - UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites are included in a Tentative List (2010) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion.

Field survey

A suitably qualified archaeologist carried out a field survey of the subject site on Monday 30 May 2022. The study area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, and potential for undetected archaeological features. The results of the site inspection are detailed in **Section 4** and extracts from the photographic record are presented in **Appendix 3**.

3. Context

Location

The subject site consists of the proposed Lidl retail development at Newcastle, County Dublin. The site, which is located to the south of Main Street, Newcastle, within the townland of Newcastle South, comprises a mix of brownfield and greenfield land. The northern portion of the site has been used as a hardstanding surface in recent times and there is evidence of substantial ground truncation within the site. The soil profiles of this area, where present, consist of fine loamy drift with limestones, while the underlying geology is composed of Carboniferous dark limestone & shale of the Dinantian formation (gis.teagasc.ie).



Figure 2: Location of subject site (red outline) (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

Legal & policy framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992*) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003*, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed and none are located in the area surrounding the subject site. The nearest World Heritage Site is that of Brú na Bóinne which is located c.45km to the north.

The national legal statutes and guidelines relevant to this assessment include:

- National Monuments Act (1930) (and amendments in 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004);
- Heritage Act (1995);
- National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);
- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

Archaeological heritage

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), 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.

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 located within the study area.** The nearest National Monument to the subject site is Oughterard Round Tower (KD015-007003-) (Nat. Mon. No. 190), which is located approximately 5km southwest of the subject site.

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. There are **no** recorded archaeological sites within the subject site. There are **nine** archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 250m radius study area which surrounds the subject site. These recorded archaeological sites are listed in **Table 1**, mapped in **Figure 3** and their published inventory descriptions are provided in **Appendix 1**.

The *South Dublin County Council Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028* includes the following relevant policies and objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

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.

Archaeological & historical background

There are **no** recorded archaeological sites within the subject site, however, there are **nine** archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 250m radius study area which surrounds the subject site (**Table 1** and **Figure 3**). The nearest of these recorded sites is a well (DU021-017001-) which is located in the adjoining land-holding to the west. Newcastle was first mentioned as a royal manor in 1215 and had borough status by the late 15th century. The motte and castle (DU020-003001-), dated to c.1200 AD (O'Keefe 1986, 44-5), is evidence of the first stages of Norman settlement in the town. The settlement was a linear one based on a single street, running east-west. The settlement contained a number of urban tower houses with three of these recorded within the study area (DU020-003004-; DU020-003006-; DU021-017002-). The marketplace was located in the roughly sub-triangular space in front of the church (DU020-003002-).

Table 1: List of recorded archaeological sites within the 250m radius study area

Monument No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)	Distance
DU020-003001-	Castle - motte	Newcastle North	699534, 728806	c. 229m NW
DU020-003002-	Church	Newcastle North	699602, 728824	c. 135m NW
DU020-003003-	Cross	Glebe	699591, 728797	c. 169m NW
DU020-003004-	Castle - tower house	Glebe	699599, 728770	c. 162m W
DU020-003006-	Castle - tower house	Newcastle South	699521, 728668	c. 246m W
DU020-003008-	Settlement deserted - medieval	Newcastle South, Cornerpark, Glebe,	699566, 728792	c. 193m NW

Monument No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)	Distance
		Newcastle Demesne, Newcastle Farm		
DU020-003010-	Graveyard	Grange	699597, 728812	c. 133m NW
DU021-017001-	Well	Newcastle South	699750, 728767	c. 11m W
DU021-017002-	Castle - tower house	Newcastle North	699853, 728806	c. 50m NE



Figure 3: Recorded archaeological sites (as recorded by the ASI) within 250m of the subject site
(Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

The following section presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service.

Early prehistoric

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (c.7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island, however recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in Alice and Gwendoline Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden, 2016, 161). However, in 2021, re-examination of a reindeer bone fragment discovered in Castlepook Cave near Doneraile, County Cork in 1905 revealed human butchery marks on the bone which was radiocarbon dated to 31,000 BC, proving human settlement in Ireland at a much earlier stage than previously thought. While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave

any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or shell middens adjacent to the coastline. There are no recorded sites dating to the Mesolithic period within the study area.

The Neolithic period (c.4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. There are no recorded sites dating to the Neolithic period within the study area, however, there is a barrow site (DU020-006---) recorded c.1km to the southwest of the subject site. Furthermore, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland record the finding of a flint axe head in the area of the junction of the Athgoe and Hazelhatch roads, *circa* 250m west of the subject site.

Late prehistoric periods

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c.2400–500 BC). This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and *fulachta fia*. *Fulachta fia* translates as cooking places of the wild (or of deer), they are often interpreted as the remains of cooking sites and are the most numerous archaeological site type in Ireland, radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (c.2400-500BC). The development of new burial practices saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The later first millennium BC and the early centuries AD comprise the Irish Iron Age, which is the most obscure period in the Irish archaeological record. While there is general agreement that the introduction of an iron technology was a significant factor in the eventual demise of bronze working on a large scale, but how, why and when this came about in Ireland is far from clear. There are no recorded sites from the late prehistoric period within the study area, however, there is a recorded *fulacht fia* site (DU021-095---) located c.645m to the east of the subject site.

Early medieval

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the twelfth century (c.400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by roughly circular earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape, with some 45,000 recorded examples (Stout 1997, 53). The early medieval terms for these sites – *ráth/lios/dún* these still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that many ringforts were early medieval farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems.

In the early medieval period, the subject site was part of the territory of the Uí Dúinchada, a division of the *Uí Dúnlainge* of *Laigin*. By the 10th-century, the kingdom (*trícha cét*) was in place,

ruled by Lorcán Liamna – from *Liamhain*, which gave its name to the future barony Newcastle Lyons. By the 11th-century, the territory was overtaken by the *Uí Briúin Chualann*.

Later and post-medieval

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late twelfth-century broadly marks the advent of the Irish late medieval period, which continued up until the beginning of the post-medieval period in c.1550. The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in AD 1169 marks the advent of the late medieval period which continued until approx. AD 1550. This period saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns developed as local or regional market centres.

At the time of the Anglo-Norman conquest in 1169, Mac Giolla Mo-Cholmóc of *Uí Briúin Chualann* was in possession of Newcastle. He succeeded in retaining the district of *Liamhain* until 1215, when Henry II took the demesne manor for himself (Sweetman 1875, 88). In 1228, the King bestowed a grant upon 'mother church of the King's manor of Newcastle de Leuan' (ibid., 241), which survives as the local Church of Ireland, dedicated to St. Finian (DU020-002002-). It was one of the prebends of St. Patrick's Dublin until 1469, when it merged with the parish of Glendalough (Ball 1905, 137). A well (DU021-017001-), close to the subject site, is associated with this church.

The motte and castle (DU020-003001-), dated to c.1200 AD (O'Keefe 1986, 44-5), is evidence of the first stages of Norman settlement in the town. However, in 1294, King Edward I granted an armed force to Saggart and Newcastle to ward off attacks by 'the Irish of the mountains, felons and rebels' (Sweetman 1881, 83). The skirmishes did not relent, as the town possessed six castles by the 16th century (Ball op. cit., 130), including DU020-003004-, DU020-003006-, DU021-017002- within the study area.

The post-medieval period (1550+) saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish country. During this period any given settlement cluster is likely to have consisted primarily of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farmhouses became more common in the nineteenth century. In the latter half of the twentieth century, there was a radical change in the nature and character of Irish domestic architecture manifested by the replacement of older stone-built structures with modern bungalows of concrete blockwork construction.

In 1613, James I granted a charter to Newcastle, elevating it into a parliamentary borough, with a market, twelve burgesses and a chief magistrate (Edwards *et al* 1983, 358). The 1654-6 Civil Survey of Dublin (Simington 1945, 292) described: "seven old Castles on New Castle Lands and the Ruins of a Church on the parcel of Glebe" (**Figure 4**).

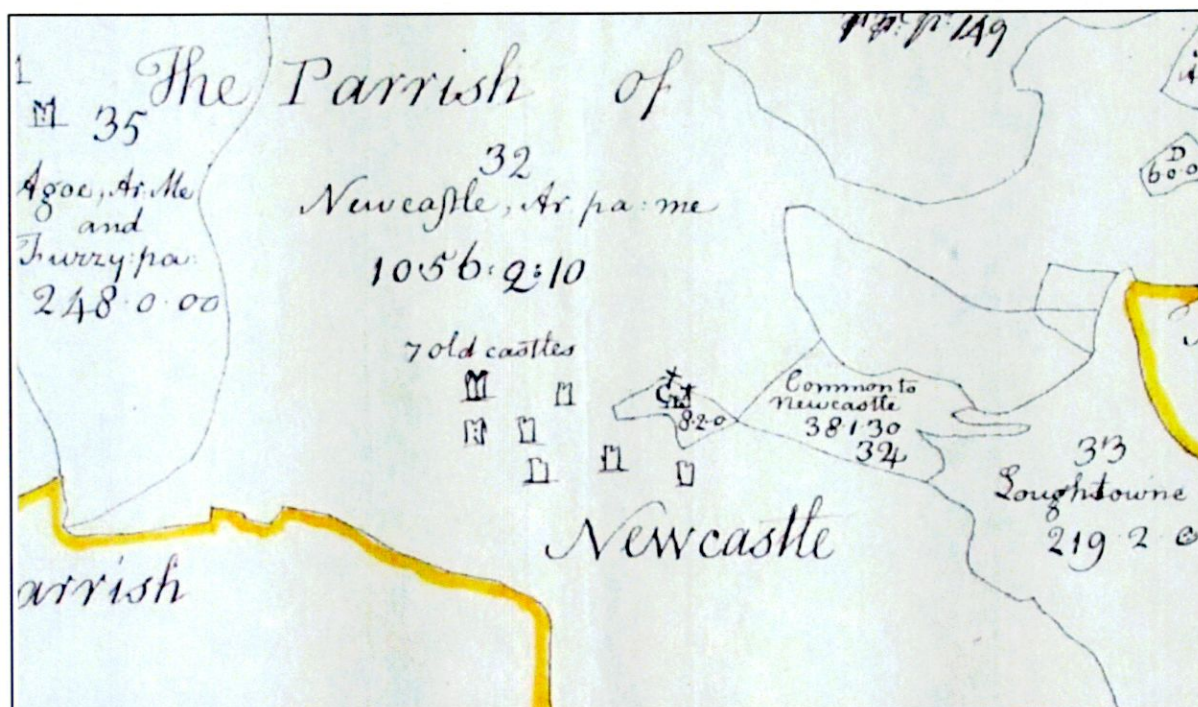


Figure 4: Segment of William Petty's Down Survey map of Newcastle Parish circa 1654-6 (Source: Down Survey)

Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837, 425) described Newcastle as follows:

A charter, dated March 30th, 1613, was granted to this place by Jas. I. whereby it was erected into a corporation, consisting of a portreeve, 12 free burgesses, and a commonalty, with power to appoint inferior officers; to hold a court of record for pleas to the amount of five marks, and to be a guild mercatory and the portreeve to be clerk of the market. In 1608, a grant was made to Jas. Hamilton, Esq., to hold a market here on Thursdays, and fairs on the feasts of St. Swithin and All Saints, and the day after each; and in 1762 the portreeve and burgesses obtained a grant of a market on Mondays, and fairs on May 9th and Oct. 8th. All of these markets and fairs are discontinued. The borough also sent two members to the Irish parliament, but it was disfranchised at the Union. There is a dispensary in the village, and it is a constabulary police station, Agriculture is in a high state of improvement: the principal crops are wheat, oats, and potatoes. There are good quarries, the stone of which is used for building and repairing the roads. The Grand Canal passes through the parish...

The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from the 1960s to present. 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, license number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author.

There are **no** archaeological excavations recorded within the subject site. The Database records **five** licensed archaeological investigations as having taken place within the 250m radius study area which surrounds the subject site. These excavations uncovered a number of kilns and clamps, among other features, which appear to indicate both medieval and possible prehistoric activity. The results of these excavations are provided in **Appendix 2** to this report.

Cartographic 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 maps (1654-6) (**Figure 4**), Roque's Map of Dublin (1760) (**Figure 5**), Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816) (**Figure 6**), the first edition of the 6-inch OS map (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (**Figure 7**) and the 25-inch edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (**Figure 8**).

The Down Survey maps (1654-6) drawn by William Petty, though not depicting the medieval settlement in detail, shows Newcastle and '7 old castles', the church and its associated lands and the commons to the east of the settlement. Roque's Map of Dublin (1760) shows the settlement of Newcastle in a ribbon pattern along the curving road, which remains the main thoroughfare of the village. The main enclosure trend is a series of square and rectangular fields, apparently bounded by trees and hedges. There is some evidence for long, rectangular strips divided by mearings to the north and south of the road and these appear to have been formalised on later mapping. The hashed reverse S-shaped linear features depicted in the large diamond-shaped field to the east of subject site may reflect ridge and furrow cultivation, similar to that described in 1776 by Arthur Young at Luttrellstown to the north. Young notes that the main crops cultivated at Luttrellstown are wheat, oats and potato and describes the potato ridges as '7 feet broad (Hutton 1892, 22). Newcastle Commons are shown to the east of the village.

Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816), though less detailed than Roque's map, shows few changes, including the labelling of a church to the north (St Finian's Church of Ireland) and a 'New Chapel' (St Finian's Roman Catholic church) to the east of the subject site. The Roman Catholic church, a pre-emancipation church built in 1813 dominates the junction with the R120 Lucan Road. The well labelled close to the subject site may be the same well recorded in the archaeological record (DU021-017001-).

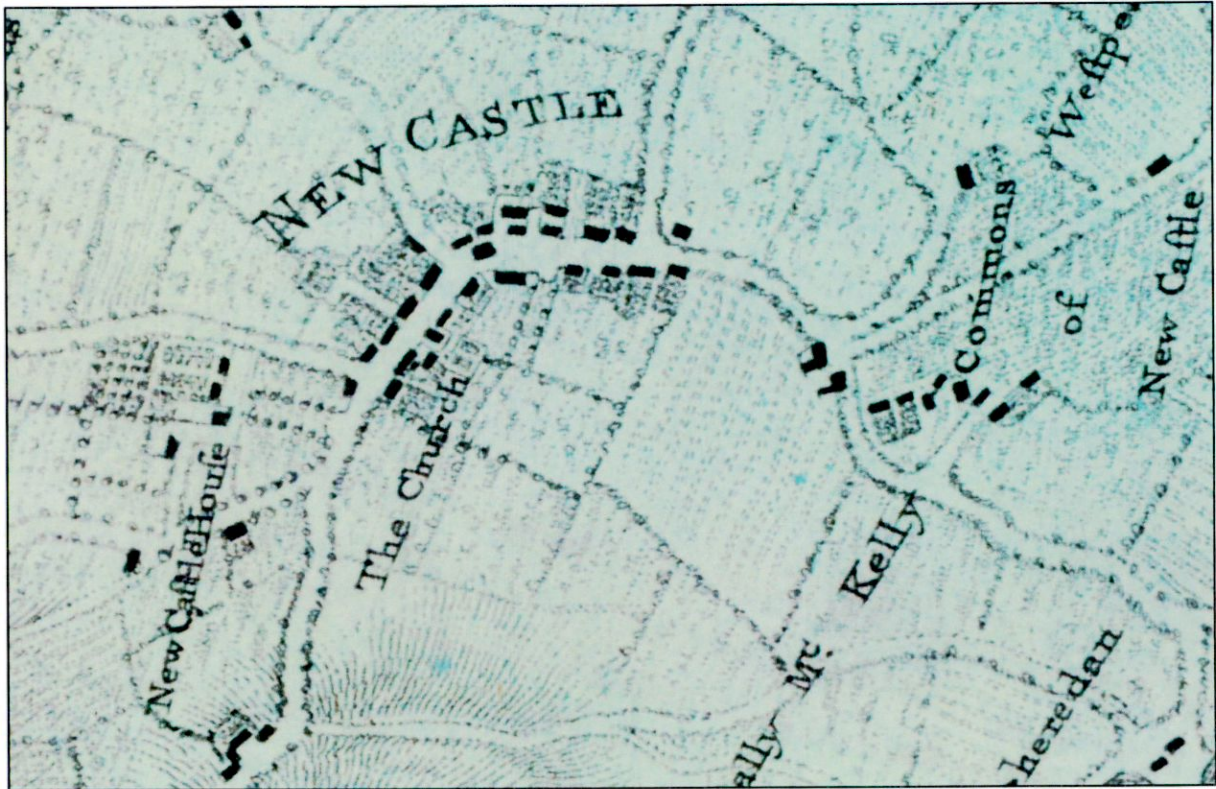


Figure 5: Extract from Roque's 1760 map showing the subject site circled in red (Source: South Dublin Historic Mapping)

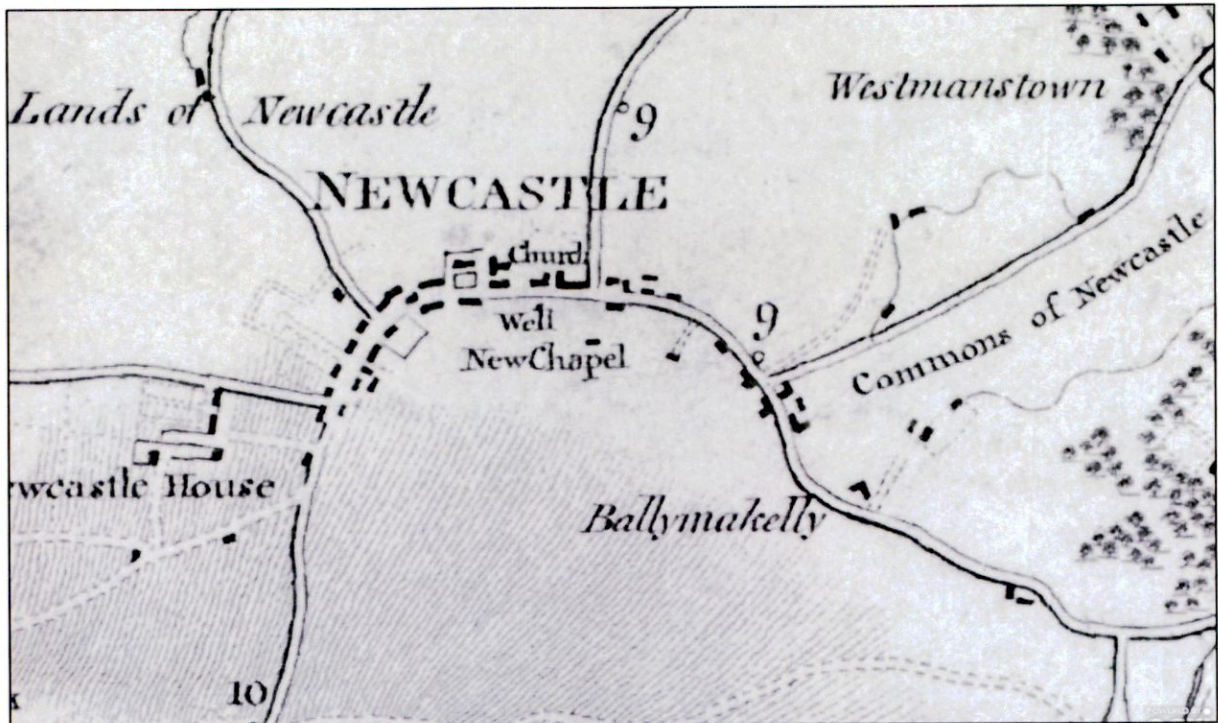


Figure 6: Extract from Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin 1816 (Source: South Dublin Historic Mapping)

The first edition 6-inch and 25-inch edition OS maps depict the subject site within a landscape of enclosed gardens which run from north to south. These narrow, elongated fields correspond with the shape of medieval burgage plots. Newcastle contains a deserted medieval settlement (DU020-003008) and was recorded as a royal manor from 1215 and had borough status by the late 15th-century (Archaeological Survey of Ireland). Remnants of the three-field system, including the commons to the east are apparent on the 6-inch and 25-inch maps, though the narrow strips are not clearly shown on earlier maps. According to Aalen *et al* (2011, 205), this area was subject to a local Enclosure Act in 1818, although this may refer to the surrounding agricultural landscape rather than the elongated village plots. To the north of the site a number of houses are depicted along the main road.

No potential previously unrecorded archaeological features are depicted within the subject site on any of the reviewed historic cartographic sources.



Figure 7: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map depicting the area surrounding the subject lands, approximate site boundary defined in red (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

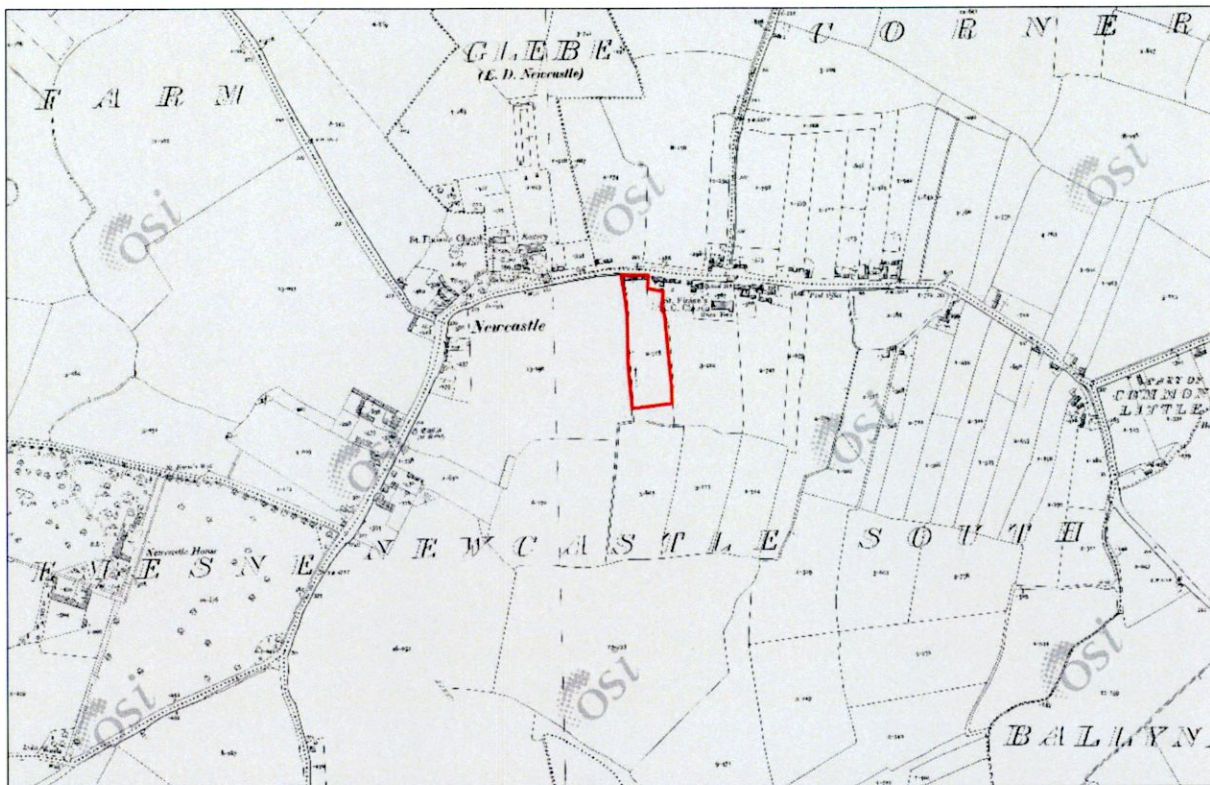


Figure 8: Extract from the 25-inch OS map depicting the area surrounding the subject lands, approximate site boundary defined in red (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

Aerial photography

An examination of orthorectified aerial photography images provided by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) from 1995 to 2018 and Google aerial image from 2022 (**Figures 9 to 12**) was undertaken. These images show no indication of unrecorded archaeological features. Several of the buildings seen on the OS maps are extant and appear derelict. The land has been used for dumping, and possible ground reduction and the introduction of a hard stand surface is apparent in the northern three quarters of the site. Only the southernmost portion of the site appears to retain an undeveloped greenfield appearance.



Figure 9: Segment of 1995 OS aerial survey image of subject site (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)



Figure 10: Segment of 2000 OS aerial survey image of subject site (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)



Figure 11: Segment of 2011-13 OS aerial survey image of subject site (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)

4. Description of site

An inspection of the subject site (**Figure 12**) was conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist on Monday, 30th of May 2022 (a selection of photographs from the site inspection are included in **Appendix 3** of this document). The site was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites/features. Weather conditions were dry and bright at the time of the inspection, and this provided excellent landscape visibility. No difficulties were encountered during the inspection.



Figure 12: Outline of the subject site (Source: Google Maps)

The subject site is located to the south of the western end of Main Street, Newcastle, County Dublin. The site inspection clearly demonstrated that the northern portion of the site consisted of a concrete yard and hardstanding area, with evidence of previous ground reduction and soil bunding (see **Appendix 3, Plate 1**). The southernmost third of the site appears to retain relatively undisturbed soil profiles and presently comprises fallow grassland.

The northern boundary of the site contains the single-storey remnants of the front facades of former street frontage buildings, with blocked up openings, slightly recessed from the current road carriageway. The eastern and western boundaries of the site are formed by well-established plot borders comprising thick, mature hedging and appear to have been *in situ* since the early 19th-century. The site is presently unbounded to the south. No upstanding archaeological features were visible on the site during inspection.

5. Assessment of impact

The proposed development entails the construction of a new Lidl retail store at Newcastle, County Dublin (**Figure 13**). There are **no recorded archaeological sites** (as recorded by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*) located **within the boundary of the subject site** and no potential unrecorded features of archaeological interest were identified within the site during site inspection undertaken as part of this assessment. As such, should it proceed, the proposed development will have **no direct, negative impacts on the recorded archaeological heritage resource of the area**. The subject site is, however, situated within the *Zone of Notification* for the medieval deserted settlement of Newcastle (DU020-003008-).

The subject site has been heavily disturbed across its northern two-thirds, with evidence that substantial ground reductions have taken place across this area. Resultingly, this **northern portion** of the site can be considered to possess a **low archaeological potential**. However, the southern third of the site appears to have been unaffected by modern disturbance and retains undisturbed soil profiles. Consequently, it can be considered that there remains **moderate potential** for the survival of unrecorded archaeological remains within the **southern third** of the proposed development site. As such, without the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (see **Section 6** below), **there is potential for direct, negative impacts on unrecorded archaeological resource during the construction phase of the project**.

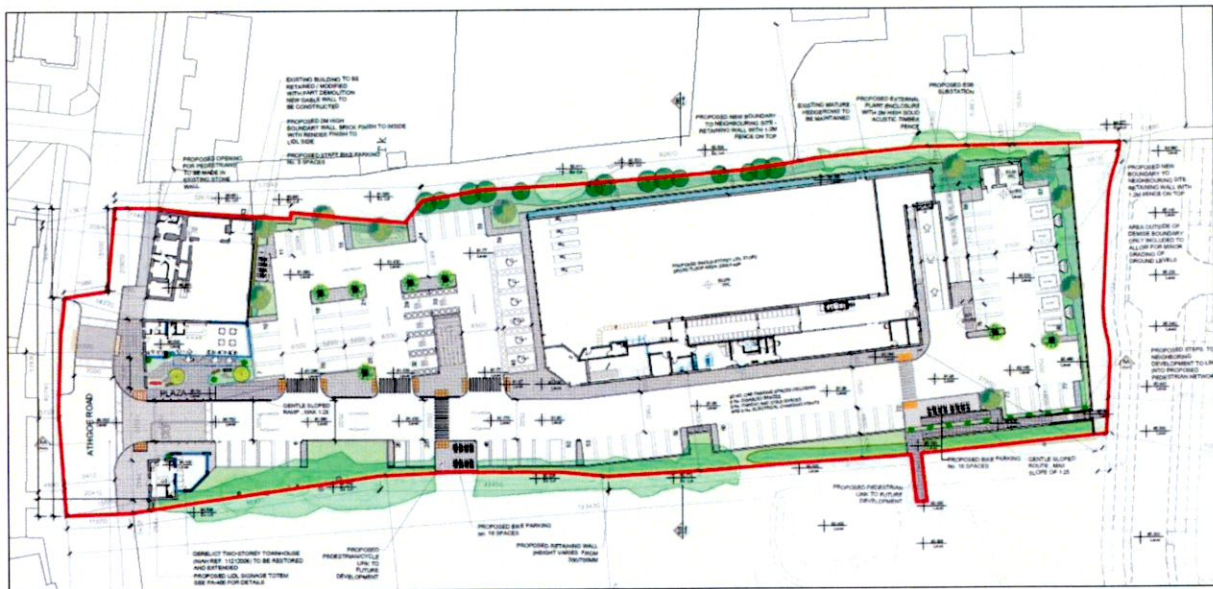


Figure 13: Project drawing detailing the proposed development site boundary

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

This assessment has been compiled in order to examine the potential impacts which the proposed development of a new Lidl retail site at Main Street, Newcastle, County Dublin may have on both the recorded and potential archaeological heritage resource of the area. The study area for this assessment comprised the proposed development site along with the lands extending for 250m from its boundary.

The assessment has revealed that there are **no recorded archaeological sites** located within the boundary of the proposed development site, however, the subject site is situated within the *Zone of Notification* for the medieval deserted settlement of Newcastle (DU020-003008-). There are **nine** archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 250m of the proposed development site boundary. The nearest of these is a well (DU021-017001-) which is located *circa* 10m west of the north-western corner of the site.

The proposed development comprises a mixed brownfield and greenfield land parcel, the northern two-thirds of which has been subject to substantial disturbance and ground truncation. This portion of the site has been assessed as retaining a low archaeological potential. The southern portion of the site appears to have been largely unaffected by modern disturbance and has been assessed as retaining a moderate archaeological potential.

Due to the ground reduction that has occurred across two thirds of the site and the existence of modern debris, including ferrous materials the site is largely not conducive to geophysical survey. As such, the most appropriate and effective method to assess the archaeological potential of the overall site would be through a programme of archaeological testing.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a programme of **archaeological testing** be undertaken across the proposed development site in order to inform its archaeological potential. The archaeological testing should be undertaken well in advance of the commencement of construction works at the site.

It is further recommended that the existing eastern and western site boundaries, which date to at least the early 19th century should be retained in both plan and current form if design allows. These boundaries are of historic character and serve to screen views to and from the site, ameliorating potential visual impacts.

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Appendix 1: Relevant inventory entries

DU020-003001-

Class: Castle - motte

Townland: Newcastle North

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: Located in a level field of pasture W of the medieval church in the village of Newcastle (DU020-003005-). This is a broad flat-topped mound (diam. of base 26m; diam. of top 14m; H 5m). There is no evidence for a bailey. It was constructed c. 1200 AD (O'Keefe 1986, 44-5). Austin Cooper writing in 1780 describes a very deep, wide fosse which is no longer apparent (Price (ed.) 1942, 27).

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Uploaded on: 9 June 2016

References:

1. Price, L. (ed.) 1942 An eighteenth-century antiquary: the sketches, notes and Diaries of Austin Cooper, 1759-1880. Dublin.

DU020-003002-

Class: Church

Townland: Newcastle North

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description:

References:

1. Leask, H.G. 1960 (Reprint 1971, 1978 and 1985) Irish churches and monastic buildings, vol. III. Medieval gothic the last phases. Dundalk. Dundalgan Press.

2. O'Keefe, T. 1986 Medieval architecture and the village of Newcastle Lyons. In P. O'Sullivan (ed.), Newcastle Lyons: a parish of the Pale, 45-61. Dublin. Geography Publications.

DU020-003003-

Class: Cross

Townland: GLEBE (Newcastle By., Newcastle ED)

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: S of the medieval church (DU020-003002-) is a Latin cross carved from granite and set into a granite base. It narrows from the base to the top. There is a Latin Cross in relief on its S face and a worn cross-in-circle on N face (dims. H 1.64m, Wth 0.62m, T 0.18m-0.30m; see Swan 1986, 80).

Compiled by Geraldine Stout

References:

1. Swan, D.L. 1986 Newcastle Lyons: the prehistoric and Early Christian periods. In P. O'Sullivan (ed.), Newcastle Lyons: a parish of the Pale, Dublin, 2-4. Dublin. Geography Publications.

DU020-003004-

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: GLEBE (Newcastle By., Newcastle ED)

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: Situated in level ground SE of church yard (DU020-003008-). It is a square tower, which rises to two storeys and is built of coursed limestone blocks with dressed quoins. Formerly entered from the S,

now blocked, the present entrance is on E side. There is a vault over the ground floor (int. dims. L 4.7m; Wth 4.55m). The interior has been partitioned in more recent times. The stairwell in the SW corner is entered through a plain pointed doorway and is lit by slit opes. There is a stepped embrasure on the S side before entering the stairs which is an original feature. First floor is totally overgrown. There are remains of chamfered jambs on the E side of the entrance. This is probably the remains of the castle held by the Canons of St. Patrick's in 1547 (Ball 1905, III, 138). According to O'Meara (1903, 63) there is mention made of this castle in a list of ecclesiastical buildings presented to Henry VIII on the dis-establishment of the monasteries. A building attached to the N end of the tower house contains a limestone tablet on which is the inscription T. M. S. Anno 1727. According to Austin Cooper writing around 1780, this building served as a stable attached to the parsonage (Mc Dix 1898, 40, 85; Price 1942, 47).

References:

1. O'Meara, Rev. C.P. 1903 Notes on Newcastle Lyons. Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society 4, 63.
2. Cooper, A. 1942 (ed. L. Price) An eighteenth-century antiquary; the sketches, notes and diaries of Austin Cooper (1759-1830). Dublin. J. Falconer.
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6. McDix, E.R. 1898b The lesser castles in the Co. Dublin. 35th article. Irish Builder, 40, No. 35, 57.
7. McDix, E.R. 1898c The lesser castles in the Co. Dublin. 38th article: Newcastle. Irish Builder, 40, No. 85.
8. Price, L. (ed.) 1942 An eighteenth-century antiquary: the sketches, notes and Diaries of Austin Cooper, 1759-1880. Dublin.

DU020-003006-

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: Newcastle South

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: In level ground immediately E of bend in Athgoe Road between two other tower houses is the possible site of another marked in 1980s by the foundations of mortared walls (O'Keefe 1986, 55, Fig.4.1:3). Not visible at ground level.

Compiled by Geraldine Stout

DU020-003008-

Class: Settlement deserted - medieval

Townland: Newcastle South, Cornerpark, Glebe (Newcastle By., Lucan Ed), Newcastle Demesne, Newcastle Farm

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: Newcastle was first mentioned as a royal manor in 1215 and had borough status by the late fifteenth century. The settlement was a linear one based on a single street, running east-west. The marketplace was located in the roughly sub-triangular space in front of the church.

Compiled by Geraldine Stout

DU020-003010-**Class:** Graveyard**Townland:** GRANGE (Newcastle By.)**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** Situated at the W end of Newcastle village. It encloses a medieval parish church (DU020-003002-). In the graveyard is a granite cross (DU020-003003-) and there are 18th and 19th century memorials in the graveyard.**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout**Date of upload:** 24 November 2011**DU021-017001-****Class:** Well**Townland:** Newcastle South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** Situated in the NW corner of a long narrow holding opposite the medieval parish church at Newcastle Lyons. It is bounded on the E by a patch of spade cultivation. Traces of mortared wall protruding from beneath the sod were interpreted as a possible site of a tower house (O'Keefe 1986, 55, No. 5). Recent clearance has revealed that the mortared wall was actually a covering for a well.

Compiled by Geraldine Stout

DU021-017002-**Class:** Castle - tower house**Townland:** NEWCASTLE NORTH**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes**Description:** The site is located in a level field of tillage W of the road that leads N to Lucan and opposite the present RC church. According to O'Keefe (1986, 55, No. 6) a tower house was indicated in manuscript form on an old copy of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch sheet of the area held by Mr Paddy Healy, Dublin. There are no visible remains at ground level.

Compiled by Geraldine Stout

Appendix 2: Relevant archaeological excavations

The following are extracts from the Database of Irish Excavation Reports (www.excavations.ie). The table contains details of licensed archaeological investigations/excavations undertaken within one kilometre of the subject site.

Site name	Licence and author	Summary
Newcastle	05E0920 John Kavanagh	A test excavation was carried out during August 2005. The development site was located within the zone of archaeological potential of the historic village of Newcastle. Five trenches were excavated across the greenfield site. Nothing of any archaeological significance was found.
St. Finian's National School, Main Street, Newcastle, Co. Dublin	13E0348 Antoine Giacometti	<p>An archaeological excavation took place in advance of groundworks for a new school building in a field to the west of the existing school in 2014. This followed programmes of test-trenching (05E1376) and geophysical survey (03R003) that identified archaeological remains. The excavation identified a series of medieval burgage properties that would have fronted onto Newcastle Main Street. Three burgage plots were found, each measuring about 20m wide and 70m long. They appear to have been defined in and around the 13th century AD. Two of the plots contained medieval kilns that were located at the back of the properties, cut into the banks of the burgage plots. One of these was very well preserved and the archaeologists were able to identify a drying chamber and raking and firing surface, and to suggest that the kiln was used for drying grain.</p> <p>The animal bone assemblage from the site was analysed by Jonny Geber who noted that it 'represents domestic refuse comprising primarily of food and butchery waste. A high proportion of dog bones indicate specific depositions of either complete deceased dogs, or more likely partial skeletons/carcasses. Dogs were clearly kept on the site, as gnaw marks are observed on some of the cattle and pig remains. It is also evident that goose and fowl contributed to the diet, and that cats were present'.</p> <p>Archaeobotanical remains were analysed by Susan Lyons who noted that they 'reflect domestic and industrial waste, fuel resources and potentially building materials being used at the site'. Wheat, barley and oat grains were identified around one of the kilns. The presence of whole grains was considered unusual, as large-scale flour production is generally confined to mills, so this may suggest the drying of grain for animal fodder, which would fit with the identification of vetch and dock/sorrel seeds. Susan adds that 'none of the grains from Newcastle displayed evidence for sprouting, a feature that develops during the malting process.' 'The charcoal assemblage seems to represent a deliberate wood selection for kiln fuel and possible construction activities at the site', Susan noted, adding that the presence of cherry and pomaceous woods as well as</p>

Site name	Licence and author	Summary
		more typical ash, willow and hazel may suggest local orchards and gardens, which becomes more common in the later medieval period. The full report can be downloaded from www.archaeologyplan.com/projects .
Primrose Cottage, Main Street, Newcastle	15E0041 Martin E. Byrne	Monitoring of site preparation/trench excavation works associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the southern gable of a residence known as Primrose Cottage, Newcastle, Co. Dublin was undertaken in compliance with the Grant of Planning. The development plot is located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential established for Newcastle (DU020-003) and to the immediate north of a possible tower-house site (DU020-00306). No subsurface features or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered, and no artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the works. In addition, it was noted that the entire development area had been the subject of extensive ground disturbance/reduction works associated with the construction of the existing house.
Newcastle South, Newcastle	19E0116 David Bayley & Fergal Murtagh	Excavations at Newcastle South follow on from a programme of testing undertaken in February 2019 also under licence 19E0116 which followed on from geophysical survey carried out in 2018 (18R0042) by IAC Archaeology. Seven trenches were excavated across the site and identified one area of archaeological potential consisting of charcoal-rich pits and three linear features which were identified within Trenches 1 and 2 within three smaller sub-areas. Excavations consisted of three separate cuttings, designated Cuttings A-C. Cutting A contained evidence of probable industrial activity in the form of a kiln (C4) and a curvilinear slot trench (C6) towards the south of the cutting. The kiln was interpreted as having served as a cereal-drying kiln (Plate 1). The curvilinear slot trench was located immediately to the south of the kiln and probably formed a wind-break type structure that provided shelter for the kiln. A deposit/dump of charcoal-rich silty clay, most likely waste material from the kiln, was recorded in the northern part of the cutting. In Cutting B, a roughly north-south oriented linear gully (C14), possibly a drainage feature, and a roughly north-north-east/south-south-west oriented agricultural furrow (C24) were the only features identified. The gully was shown to be the stratigraphically earlier of the two features, as the furrow cut the gully at the point of intersection between the two. The furrow appeared to terminate just to the north of the intersection between the features. An isolated pit (C31) was identified at the northern end of Cutting C. Due to the nature of the fills, it was interpreted as a waste pit. At the southern end of the cutting, a linear ditch (C8), interpreted as a subdivision of a burgage plot, and six agricultural furrows (C10, C12, C16, C18, C20 & C22), were recorded. One of the furrows cut across the ditch and other furrows were also intercutting, indicating at least

<i>Site name</i>	<i>Licence and author</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>two phases of activity. Nothing was recovered during the excavation to indicate a date for the activity .</p> <p>The current interpretation of the phasing of the activity on site is based on stratigraphic relationships and typological similarities between features. It is hoped that post-excavation analysis will further inform the preliminary interpretation of the activity on site.</p>
Newcastle South, Newcastle	20E0024 David Bayley & Fergal Murtagh	<p>Archaeological excavations were undertaken in advance of a construction compound and haul road and followed on from testing carried out in January 2020 by David Bayley of IAC Archaeology, also under licence 20E0024, and following on from a series of previous investigations including geophysical survey, site testing and desktop study.</p> <p>The excavation works carried out were centred on two main areas of activity. The first of these was at the location of the proposed compound and car park for the construction works. The features here could be further sub-divided into four clusters, A-D.</p> <p>Cluster A was comprised of a curvilinear ditch and the various pits, stake-holes and spreads that were found in association with it. Three features to the south and west of the curvilinear ditch consisted of a pit with basal charcoal layers, a possible trough and a spread of materials from which some lithics were recovered (Plate 1). The remaining features in this cluster were located to the east of the curvilinear ditch and consisted of shallow pits and a stake-hole.</p> <p>Cluster B was located south of Cluster A. The main features in this group were two kilns. The first kiln was disturbed by modern agricultural activity, including a modern stone drain cutting through the middle of the kiln. There were at least two phases of use of this kiln as a recut was evident immediately to the south of the modern drain. The second kiln was located to the south-east and had a charcoal-rich basal fill. Two stake-holes in close proximity to the north-west of this feature were likely associated with the use of the kiln. The exact date and function of these kilns cannot be determined at this time and post-excavation analysis is ongoing.</p> <p>Cluster C consisted of a charcoal-production clamp and spread of material that were located at the eastern end of the site. Pit C34 has been interpreted as a charcoal-production clamp. These were a common feature throughout much of history and prehistory. The charcoal produced from these clamps could have had several uses but was most likely associated with metalworking activities. The spread of material comprised of fire-reddened clay. It was quite shallow and may represent the remains of a hearth that has been disturbed by modern agricultural activity such as ploughing. An east-west oriented linear ditch was also excavated in this area. Nothing to indicate a date was recovered from this ditch, but it has been interpreted as a land drainage feature.</p> <p>The fourth group of features, Cluster D, were located in the western part of the compound/car park area and comprised three pits. The</p>

<i>Site name</i>	<i>Licence and author</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>charcoal-rich nature of the fills of two of these features means they have been interpreted as being charcoal clamps, while the similarity of the fill of the third pit to material found in burnt mounds has led to it being interpreted as a small trough or "pot boiler"-type feature where small amounts of water could be heated quickly.</p> <p>The second area of archaeological features was located in the north-west of the site area, where the proposed haul road will exit the site. This area was in close proximity to tower-house DU020-003007. The features excavated in this area could be divided into two categories (medieval and post-medieval). The medieval features comprised a deep, circular pit that contained numerous sherds of medieval pottery in its fills, and the remains of two structures. One structure was sub-rectangular in plan with a cobbled surface on the interior that was sealed by an organic deposit. The second structure comprised the remains of a wall. It was not possible to determine if this wall had been part of a larger structure.</p> <p>The post-medieval features in this area appear to have functioned as land drains with one probable former field boundary. These features all produced post-medieval pottery or red brick.</p>

Appendix 3: Photographic Record



Plate 1: View of northern portion of the site showing concrete surface, previously stripped area and associated topsoil bund, facing south



Plate 2: Middle portion of site facing southeast. This portion of the site has been reduced in level and now presents as rough hard-standing. Overgrown topsoil bund seen here bisects site with hardstanding to the north and grassland to the south



Plate 3: View to south-southeast, showing the southern portion of the proposed development site, which comprises fairly level, dry grassland between two long-established hedgerow boundaries to east (left) and west (right)



Plate 4: View to south-southeast towards eastern boundary of subject site