

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
ASSESSMENT**

**AT
SAGGART,
COUNTY DUBLIN**

ON BEHALF OF: CAPE WRATH HOTEL UNLIMITED

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ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Cape Wrath Hotel Unlimited, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological, architectural and historical resource of a proposed cemetery at Citywest, Saggart, County Dublin (Figure 1; ITM 703795, 727682). The assessment was carried out by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology.

The proposed development area consists of a part of an existing golf course to the north of Saggart village and bound to the north by the N7. There are no archaeological sites within the development area or within the 300m study area. The nearest archaeological site consists of a burnt mound (DU021-099), located c. 351m to the northwest.

There is one built heritage site within the 300m study area, listed on the Record of Protected Structures, Saggart House (RPS 290), located c. 268m to the south. There are no structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage building survey within the 300m study area. The closest record consists of an outbuilding associated with Saggart House (NIAH 11214008) located c. 313m to the south. The area under assessment is partially within Saggart (Tassagart) demesne (NIAH Garden Survey 2221); however, the northern extent of the designed landscape has been altered by the construction of the golf course while the southern extent has been impacted by industrial development. Some elements remain adjacent to the principal structure, such as specimen planting and augmented tree belts.

It is highly likely that the previous ground works (associated with the construction of the golf course) would have led to the removal of any potential archaeological features or deposits that may have once been present. As such, there is no predicted impact on the archaeological resource as a result of groundworks associated with the proposed development. No archaeological mitigation is deemed to be necessary.

Saggart House (RPS 290) is well screened by dense tree cover and vegetation and is not visible from the proposed development area. There are no negative impacts predicted upon the setting of the structure or the overall architectural resource and as such, no mitigation is deemed necessary.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	I
CONTENTS.....	II
List of Figures	iii
List of Plates	iii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 General.....	1
1.2 The Development.....	1
2 METHODOLOGY.....	2
2.1 Paper Survey.....	2
2.2 Field Inspection	4
3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT	5
3.1 Historic Background	5
3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork	10
3.3 Cartographic Analysis	11
3.4 County Development Plan.....	12
3.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	13
3.6 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland	13
3.7 Aerial Photographic and lidar Analysis	13
3.8 Field Inspection	14
4 CONCLUSIONS	16
5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY	17
5.1 Impact Assessment.....	17
5.2 Mitigation	17
6 REFERENCES	18
APPENDICES	I
Appendix 1 Architectural Sites within the Surrounding Area	i
Appendix 2 Legislation Protecting the Archaeological Resource.....	ii
Appendix 3 Legislation Protecting the Architectural Resource	v
Appendix 4 Impact Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Resource.....	x

FIGURES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location showing nearby architectural sites (Google Earth 2022)
- Figure 2 Plan of proposed development
- Figure 3 Extracts from historic maps (1760 and 1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area
- Figure 4 Extracts from hisotirc OS maps (1843 and 1871) showing the proposed development area

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1 Proposed development area, facing northeast
- Plate 2 Proposed development area, facing east

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological and architectural assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed cemetery at Citywest, Saggart, County Dublin (Figure 1; ITM 703795, 727682). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological, architectural and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Cape Wrath Hotel Unlimited.

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

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The development will consist of a cemetery including: 8,047 No. traditional burial plots; Columbarium walls; 1 No. single storey reception building (214.7m² Gross Floor Area (GFA)) comprising a reception, 1 No. office, 1 No. reception store, WC, kitchenette with photovoltaic (PV) solar panels at roof level; and the provision of an ancillary maintenance shed, bin and battery storage structures.

The development includes a new vehicular access road from Garters Lane to the N7/M7 Naas Road, with 2 No. vehicular access points serving the proposed cemetery; 110 No. car parking spaces (25 No. spaces to the east of the reception building and 85 No. within overflow car park areas to the south of the development); 8 No. bicycle parking stands; and all associated hard and soft landscape and boundary treatment works including the reshaping of an existing lake and provision of a footbridge; provision of SUDS measures, associated lighting, associated signage, site services (foul and surface water drainage and water supply); and all other associated site excavation, infrastructural and site development works above and below ground (Figure 2).

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

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

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

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

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2022.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a state initiative established under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 tasked with making a nationwide

record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH has also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

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

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

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

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located within the townland of Saggart, Parish of Saggart and Barony of Newcastle, County Dublin and comprises part of a golf course to the north of Saggart village, which is bound to the north by the N7. There are no archaeological sites within the development area or within the 300m study area. The nearest archaeological site consists of a burnt mound (DU021-099), located c. 351m to the northwest. The zone of notification for the deserted medieval settlement at Saggart is located c. 502m to the south.

There is one protected structure within 300m, Saggart House (RPS 290), located c. 268m to the south (Figure 1). There are no structures listed on the NIAH building survey within the site or within 300m. The closest record consists of an outbuilding associated with Saggart House (NIAH 11214008) located c. 313m to the south. The area under assessment is partially within the former Saggart (Tassagart) demesne (NIAH Garden Survey 2221) (Figure 1). The northern extent of the landscape has been altered by the construction of the golf course while the southern extent has been impacted by industrial development. Elements remain such as the principal buildings, woodlands, and formal gardens. The house itself is well screened by dense tree cover and vegetation and is not visible from the proposed development area.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)

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

The current archaeological evidence suggests that the environs around Dublin were first inhabited towards the latter part of this period. At this time people made crude flint tools known as Larnian (or Bann) Flakes. Small numbers of these flakes have been found along coastal areas of County Dublin such as Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey Island and Loughlinstown and may indicate small-scale transient settlement along the riverbanks and seashores (Corlett 1999). There are no known Mesolithic sites located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area; however, archaeological excavation, c. 919m to the north recovered a flint scrapper (Licence Ref.: 01E0210, Bennett 2001:454).

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During this period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities expanded and moved further inland to form more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period coincides with the emergence of the megalithic tomb tradition. There are four main types of megalithic tomb in Ireland, namely the court cairn, portal tomb, passage tomb and wedge tomb; of which the latter style straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition. There are two megalithic passage tombs on Saggart Hill, c. 4.1km to the southwest at Crockaunadreenagh and Slievethoul (DU024-005001/2).

A Neolithic polished stone axe was recovered c. 617m north of the development area during excavations associated with Mountpark Baldonnell Phase 1 logistics development (Licence Ref.: 18E0223; Duffy and McIlreavy 2019).

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

This period is marked by the use of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megaliths were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel. A cist (DU021-028) is recorded c. 1.9km west of the proposed development area within Greenogue townland, where ploughing exposed a cist-like structure in 1944 (SMR file). More recently, a large probable Bronze Age trivallate barrow was excavated c. 700m west of the proposed development area, which contained multiple phases of use along with 15 skeletal burials and 66 cremation deposits (Bayley, 2021a).

Over 7,000 burnt mounds or *fulacht fia* sites have been recorded in the country and c. 1,500 examples excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 2022, 164). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practised from the Mesolithic to the present day, the Bronze Age has long been believed to have seen the peak of this activity. Dating evidence from a growing number of burnt mounds, suggests activities resulting in burnt mounds were carried out over a span of 3,500 years in Ireland (Hawkes 2018). They are typically located in areas where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river or stream, or in places with a high water table. In the field, burnt mounds may be identified as charcoal-rich mounds or spreads of heat-shattered stones; however, in many cases, the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity and are no longer visible on the field surface. Nevertheless, even disturbed spreads of burnt mound material often preserve the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies, intact.

Multiple burnt mound sites have been excavated to the north and west of the proposed development area during the development of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of a large scale warehouse development (c. 500-600m west and north). These sites indicate Bronze Age activity within the wider landscape, which focused on the River Camac that today runs to the north of the N7 (Bayley 2021a and Site 2 (Licence Ref.: 17E0382), Site 3 (Licence Ref.: 17E0382), Site 5 (Licence Ref.: 18E0184), Site 11 (Licence Ref.: 18E0244) and Site 12 (Licence Ref.: 18E0247).

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

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

A ring barrow (DU024-008) was excavated c. 2.9km to the south of the proposed development area in Lugg townland. This revealed a burial site overlying a habitation site. The cremation burials were accompanied by early Iron Age pottery (NMI E74:8-560).

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

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

The ringfort or *rath* is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period. One of the most recent studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O'Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the

division of land and the status of the occupant. Many sites recorded as enclosures may represent denuded ringforts.

The remains of an enclosure is located c. 408m to the north of the proposed development area. This was formerly listed as DU021-021 in the RMP but was made redundant after two programmes of archaeological testing failed to identify the extent of the feature (Licence Ref.: 09E0420). The site was subsequently identified during additional investigations during the Mountpark Baldonnell Phase 1 logistics development in 2018. The site was subsequently subject to archaeological excavation and revealed a probable early medieval ringfort with evidence for at least two interior structures (Bayley, 2021b).

This period was also characterised by the introduction of Christianity to Ireland and the foundation of many ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland. These early churches tended to be constructed of wood or post-and-wattle. Between the late 8th and 10th centuries, mortared stone churches gradually replaced the earlier structures. Many of the sites, some of which were monastic foundations, were probably originally defined by an enclosing wall or bank. An early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure is recorded, c. 1.5km to the south of the proposed development area (DU021-034001-9). The remains of this feature, which borders a graveyard, may be associated with the religious foundation established here by St Mosacra during the 7th century. This was known as *Teach Sacra* (House of Sacra) and for many years Saggart was known by the derivative of this 'Tassagard' or 'Tassagart'.

Many holy wells are often found in association with early ecclesiastical sites. Well veneration was not confined to Ireland or even to Europe and at least some holy wells in Ireland were important venues of pre-Christian ritual activity. Many holy wells are actually fed by springs, although even a stone that collects water may be revered as a holy well. There is a holy well associated with St Bridget (DU021-030004), located c. 1.8km to the southwest of the proposed development area in Rathcoole.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. The Anglo-Norman presence was strongest in the southeast of the country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the Anglo-Norman lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle, a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive surrounding acreage. During the 14th to 16th centuries, tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry and are a common feature in the Irish landscape.

The settlement of Saggart itself is recorded as a deserted medieval settlement (DU021-034) c. 502m to the south of the proposed development. After the Anglo-Norman invasion, Saggart was retained as property of the Crown, becoming a royal manor. Nevertheless, it bordered the lands of the Gaelic Irish, and as such was

exposed to regular attacks. In 1272, as a result of frequent incursions by Irish tribes, the King's sergeant Robert Owen recommended that lands at Saggart 'near the land of war' be exchanged for lands at Newcastle Lyons, 'near the land of peace' (southdublinhistory.ie). The Crown vigilantly guarded its property in Saggart, but in 1311 the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles invaded the area. Around 1323, the lands around Saggart became the property of St Patrick's Cathedral and were assigned by the Dean and Chapter to the Economy fund. At the time, it seems that Saggart was enclosed by walls as reference is made to a gate in an old deed. The settlement was also administered by a portreeve, which was a position that was held in 1432 by Richard Aylmer.

In 1472, it is recorded that ditches were dug around Saggart to deter invasion from the native Irish clans. In 1494, further strengthening of Saggart's defences took place, with an order to the inhabitants of the Pale to build a 'double ditch of six feet high above ground' for their protection (southdublinhistory.ie). The threat of attack from the Irish of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains was constant throughout the following centuries. The resultant political conditions precipitated the construction of a large number of tower houses and fortified buildings within the South Dublin and Rathdown area. There are two later medieval tower houses recorded within Saggart (DU021-034010/11), which are located c. 744m and c. 976m and to the south respectively. The settlement was captured and burnt in 1580 by Fiach McHugh O'Byrne (SMR file).

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

Saggart was described as 'a village containing two castles in repair and the remains of another castle as well as some thatched houses and cabbins' in the mid-17th century (SMR file). During the second half of the 17th century the village was affected by the Cromwellian Restoration and Williamite land settlements. Prior to 1641, the confiscation was aimed primarily against the Gaelic Irish. After that date, all Catholic proprietors comprising mainly Irish and Old English found their lands subject to forfeiture unless they could prove 'constant good affection' to the English parliament (Goff 1987). The village of Saggart was burned a number of times during this turbulent period. In January 1642, the village was defended by 500 Irish soldiers to prevent further incidents. Following their transfer to Drogheda the village was burned by Crown forces, under the command of Sir Thomas Armstrong (southdublinhistory.ie).

With the onset of the 18th century, the political climate settled and this saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause and the effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable construction effort went into their creation. Major

topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland.

A large number of demesne landscapes and large houses were established throughout County Dublin during this period, due to the proximity of the city. The proposed development area is partially within the former Saggart (Tassagart) demesne (NIAH Garden Survey 2221). The northern extent of the landscape has been altered by the construction of the golf course, while the southern extent is altered by industrial development. Elements remain such as the principal buildings, woodlands, and formal gardens. The principal house is a protected structure (RPS 290) along with associated outbuildings (RPS 292, 422) further to the south. The demesne wall survives along much of the eastern boundary of the landscape and forms a boundary between the demesne and Garters Lane.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that no archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area. A number of investigations have taken place within the vicinity of the proposed development area, which are summarised below.

Archaeological testing was undertaken in advance of the construction of the Saggart/Rathcoole and Newcastle Drainage Scheme c. 275m to the north. No archaeological features or deposits were identified extending southward from the nearby ringfort (DU021-021) and no artefacts were recovered (Licence Ref.: 00E0316, Reed 2000).

Pre-development test trenching was carried out at Collegeland c. 291m northwest of the proposed development area in 2019 as part of the Mountpark Baldonnell Phase 2 works. Testing followed a geophysical survey carried out in 2019 under licence 19R0015. The survey identified multiple responses of potential archaeological significance including field boundaries and potentially contemporary ridge and furrow cultivation ditches. The eleven trenches targeted geophysical anomalies identified by the previous survey and revealed four areas of archaeological significance comprising two burnt mound features, a trivallate barrow and possible unrecorded field system activity (Licence Ref.: 19E0210, Bayley and Murtagh 2021). The archaeological sites were subject to excavation in 2020 under an extension of the 2019 licence. The trivallate barrow was found to contain a large number of cremation deposits and a number of burnt mounds were also excavated across the site (Bayley 2021a).

Excavations were conducted at Baldonnell Site 1–3 (Moneenalion Commons Upper, Brownsbarn and Collegeland), c. 300–600m to the north of the proposed development area in 2018 (Licence Ref.: 17E0382, Duffy and McIlreavy 2019). Investigations across the site followed a programme of testing and geophysical survey undertaken in 2000 and 2009 around the potential ringfort site DU021-021 (O’Neill 2000; Harrison 2009, Licence Ref.: 09R0161; Moriarty 2009, Licence Ref.: 09E0420). These investigations failed to identify evidence of archaeological remains corresponding to the ringfort and record DU021-021 was declared redundant. The

ringfort was later identified and subject to archaeological excavation in 2020 (Bayley 2021b).

Five archaeological sites considered to be burnt spread features were identified to the west of investigations centred around the site of DU021-021. The five sites (DU021-98-99, 100, 101, 102; Moriarty 2009, Licence Ref.: 09E0420) were part of the same activity.

Monitoring works were conducted in 2017 across the site by IAC (Duffy and McIlreavy 2019, Licence Ref.: 17E0382) which revealed a significant concentration of possible archaeological features (Site 1). These features included a section of a curvilinear enclosure feature, additional curvilinear enclosure features, metalled surfaces, a number of burnt spreads, possible pits and post-holes. Ten other archaeological sites were discovered as a result of monitoring across the development site. Eight of these sites were categorised as burnt spreads, and two as deposition areas. All ten sites were subsequently excavated (Licence Ref.: 18E0183, 18E0184, 18E0185, 18E0186, 18E0187, 18E0223, 18E0244 and 18E0247).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty's Down Survey Map, Barony of Newcastle, 1654-56

The Naas Road to the north of the development area is marked and annotated as 'the high way to the Naas'. Saggart is described as 'The Tonne Land of Sagard good arable land and pasture'. Sagard village is marked clearly on this map, with three castles annotated and drawn as '2 Castle' and 'Stump of a castle'. Six other small houses are depicted surrounding the castles.

John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 3)

The proposed development area is depicted within open fields to the immediate south of the Naas Road. One roadside structure is noted within proximity to the site. To the northeast lies the 'Royal Garter' (Browns Barn) containing two structures. 'Saggart House' (RPS 290) is shown to the southeast, consisting of a group of four structures. The town of Saggart is located to the south with a number of buildings labelled, such as the 'Church in ruins' (DU021-034001), a 'Chaple' (DU021-034002) and 'The Castle' (DU021-034011). The lands surrounding Saggart are labelled as 'Commons'.

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816 (Figure 3)

On Taylor's map, there is little change to the immediate environs of the proposed development, which lies between the 'Great Southern Road' (Naas Road) and Saggart town. Saggart House and parkland (NIAH Garden Survey 2221) is located to the southeast to the west of the 'Lands of Fortunestown'.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4)

This map is the first to accurately depict the proposed development area, which lies within six fields, a number of them being tree lined. The townland boundary between Collegelands and Saggart enters the proposed development area at its north-western

extent. The demesne landscape of Saggart House is defined as a shaded area and a small section of it is located in the southern-most section of the proposed development area. The house and its associated outbuildings are depicted to the south fronting on to Garter Lane. An driveway or path that leads to the the house traverses the footprint of the proposed development area, terminating at Naas Road.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4)

On this map the demense landscape of Saggart House has been extended and covers a large portion of the proposed development area. A 'Gate Lodge' is now shown for the first time at the northwestern extent of the demense. The avenue or driveway, mentioned above, has changed position from the previous mapping to the east and is now tree lined.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1910, scale 1:2,500

By the time of this map there has been relatively little change within the proposed development area and its immediate environs. The site is still within a number of open fields. A water channel is also depicted within the site's footprint at this time. The 'Gate Lodge' remains present to the immediate northwest of the proposed development area marking the entrance to the avenue from Naas Road.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.4.1 Record of Monuments and Places

The South Dublin County Development Plan (2022–2028) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are no archaeological sites within the development area or within the 300m study area. The nearest archaeological site consists of a burnt mound (DU021-099), located c. 351m to the northwest. The zone of notification for the deserted medieval settlement at Saggart is located c. 502m to the south.

3.4.2 Record of Protected Structures

The South Dublin County Development Plan (2022–2028) recognises the value of the built heritage to the city and is committed to the protection and enhancement of this heritage by providing measures for the protection of architectural heritage. These include the establishment of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

There is one built heritage site within the 300m study area listed on the RPS consisting of Saggart House (RPS 290) located c. 268m to the south (Figure 1; Appendix 1). The house itself is well screened by dense tree cover and vegetation and is not visible from the site. The structure is not listed on the NIAH Survey.

3.5 NATIONAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

3.5.1 Building Survey

A review of the architectural survey was undertaken as part of this assessment and included buildings within 300m of the development area. There are no structures listed on the NIAH building survey within the study area. The closest record consists of an outbuilding (NIAH 11214008) associated with Saggart House, located c. 313m to the south.

3.5.2 Garden Survey

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Dublin (1843) shows the extent of demesne landscapes as shaded portions of land within the study area. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry.

The area under assessment is partially within Saggart (Tassagart) demesne (NIAH Garden Survey 2221). The northern extent of the landscape has been altered by the construction of the golf course while the southern extent has been impacted by industrial development. Elements remain such as the principal buildings, woodlands, and formal gardens. The principal structure is Saggart House (RPS 290), located c. 268m to the south.

3.5.3 Architectural Conservation Areas

An Architectural Conservation Area is defined in the South Dublin County Development Plan (2022–2028) as; *a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of Protected Structures.*

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas within the study area of the proposed development area.

3.6 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

There are no recorded stray finds within the study area of the proposed development area.

3.7 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC AND LIDAR ANALYSIS

Inspection of the available LiDAR coverage and aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the GSI, Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2022) and Bing Maps (2022) revealed that the proposed development area remains largely unchanged since 1995. The site itself has been heavily disturbed