

# JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES

ARCHAEOLOGY | CONSERVATION | HERITAGE | PLANNING

**Method Statement:**  
**Amendment to Archaeological Excavation Licence**  
**22E0840**  
**Proposed Lidl store, Newcastle, County Dublin**

Prepared by

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## Summary

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **Lidl GMBH Ltd.** to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks and excavation of potential features identified during archaeological testing on the site of a proposed new Lidl store at Newcastle South, County Dublin.

The archaeological works will entail a) archaeological monitoring of all site clearance works, topsoil stripping and groundworks within the greenfield portion of the site and b) excavation of previously identified features. The site has previously been subject to a programme of archaeological testing (Licence No. 22E0840) undertaken by Mr Martin McGonigle of John Cronin and Associates as part of an archaeological impact assessment. The testing identified a number of potential archaeological features at the northern end of the greenfield portion of the site. All potential features identified during testing remain *in situ*. It is proposed that these features are mitigated through preservation by record.

The development has been granted planning (Ref. no. SD22A/0312) subject to a number of conditions, Condition 12 relates to archaeology and states the following:

### *12. Archaeological Monitoring.*

*Prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer/applicant shall discharge the following conditions:*

*(i) The developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist to monitor (as an extension of Licence No. 22E0840 under the National Monuments Acts) all site clearance works, topsoil stripping, groundworks and/or dredging within the greenfield portion of the development site. The use of appropriate machinery to ensure the preservation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains shall be necessary.*

*(ii) Provide an updated Method Statement for the licensed archaeological monitoring, to be approved by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, will include methodology for the preservation of features that were discovered during testing under Licence No. 22E0840.*

*(iii) Should additional archaeological remains be identified during the course of archaeological monitoring, all works shall cease in the area of archaeological interest pending a decision of the planning authority, in consultation with this Department, regarding appropriate mitigation [preservation in-situ/excavation].*

*(iv) The developer shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any remains identified. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the planning authority, following consultation with this Department, shall be complied with by the developer.*

*(v) Following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, the planning authority and this Department shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.*

*REASON: To facilitate the recording and protection of any items of archaeological significance that the site may possess.*

This method statement is being submitted in support of an extension to Licence No. 22E0840 by the licensee Mr Martin McGonigle to monitor topsoil stripping of the greenfield portion of the site and for the excavation of the archaeological features that will be uncovered during this topsoil stripping.

## Location

The subject site is located in the townland of Newcastle South, on the southern side of the main thoroughfare through the village of Newcastle, County Dublin (Figure 1).



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

## Historical and archaeological background

There are **no** recorded archaeological sites within the subject site. There are **nine** further archaeological sites recorded by the ASI within the 250m radius study area which surrounds the subject site (Table 1 and Figure 2), and their published inventory descriptions are provided in Appendix 1.

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

| SMR Number    | 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 (Newcastle By., Newcastle ED)                                                             | 699591, 728797 | c. 169m NW |
| DU020-003004- | Castle - tower house           | Glebe (Newcastle by., Newcastle ed)                                                             | 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 (Newcastle By., Lucan Ed), Newcastle Demesne, Newcastle Farm | 699566, 728792 | c. 193m NW |
| DU020-003010- | Graveyard                      | Grange (Newcastle By.)                                                                          | 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 2:** Recorded archaeological sites (as recorded by the ASI) within 250m of the subject site  
(Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

## Archaeological excavations

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 27,000 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. There are **five** archaeological projects which have 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.

A programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Mr Martin McGonigle of John Cronin and Associates in November 2022 under licence no. 22E0840. The testing programme identified a small number of linear features of potential archaeological consequence at the northern end of the greenfield portion of the site. These features were cleaned back by hand but were not excavated. A section was excavated through a modern cultivation furrow and an exploratory sondage was excavated into one other large possible drainage ditch, but no archaeological features or deposits were removed. A small number of sherds of possible late or post-medieval pottery, early modern pottery, clay pipe fragments, sherds of glass, burnt limestones, animal bone – some of with had butchery marks -, ferrous slag, modern metal items, and plastics were found in the topsoil excavated from the trenches.

## 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), Roque's Map of Dublin (1760) (Figure 3), Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816) (Figure 4), the first edition of the 6-inch OS map (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (Figure 5) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (Figure 6).

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.



Figure 3: Extract from Roque's 1760 map showing the subject site circled in red  
(Source: South Dublin Historic Mapping)

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-).

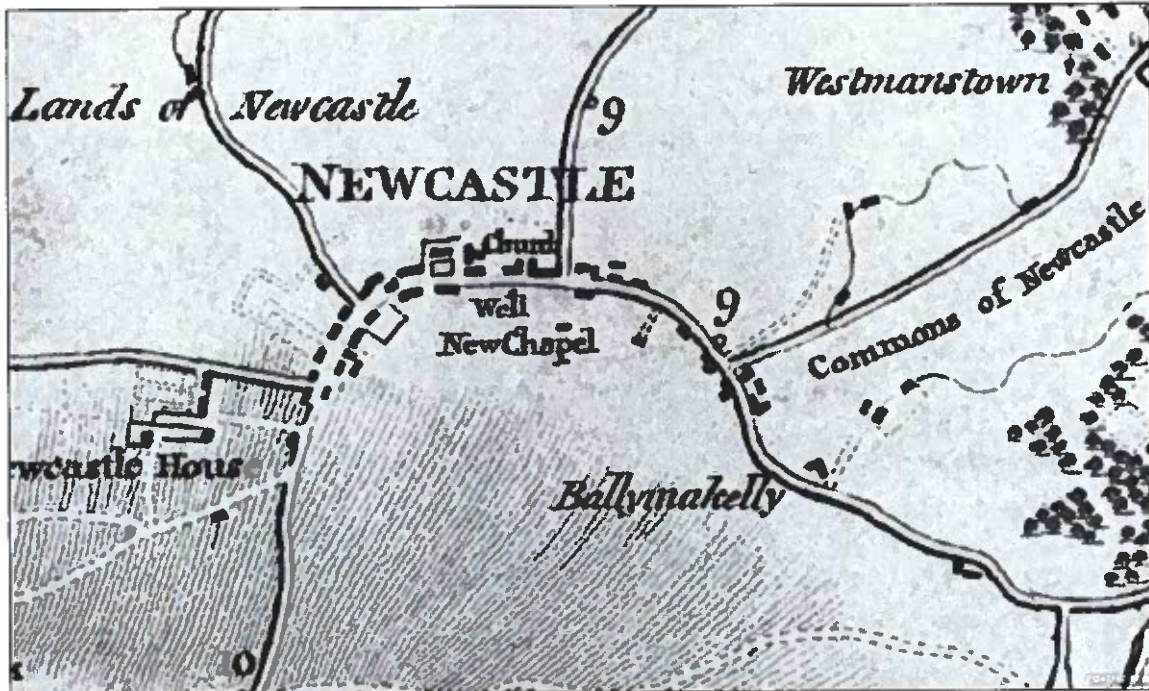


Figure 4: Extract from Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin 1816 (Source: South Dublin Historic Mapping)

The 6-inch and 25-inch 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 fifteenth 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 historic cartographic sources reviewed.



**Figure 5:** 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 6:** 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)

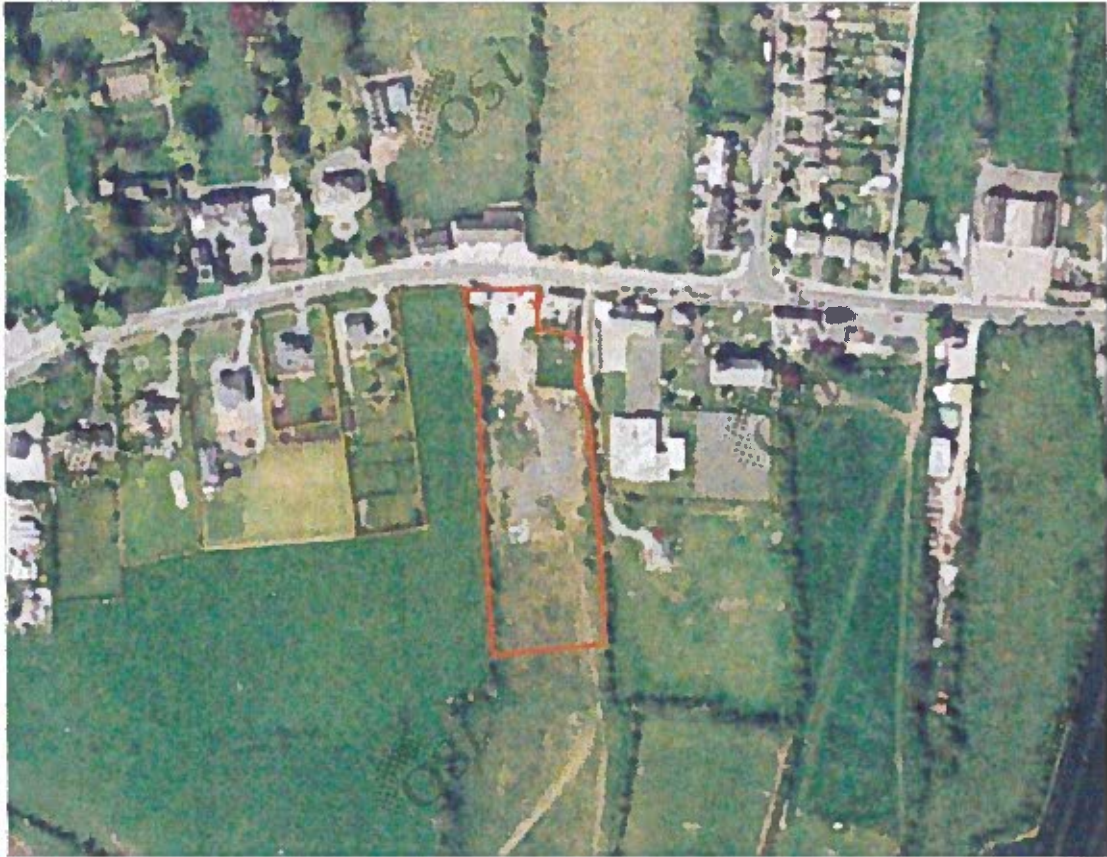
## **Aerial photography**

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 7-9**) 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 7: Segment of 1995 OS aerial survey image of PDS (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)*

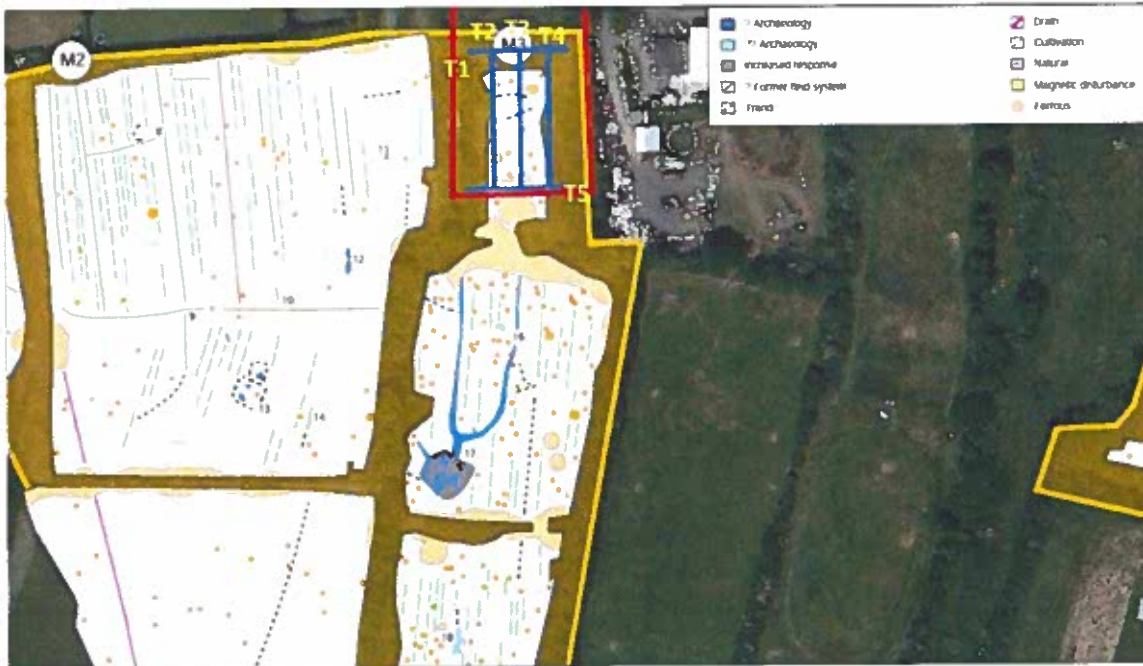




*Figure 8: Segment of 2000 OS aerial survey image of PDS (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)*

### **Geophysical survey**

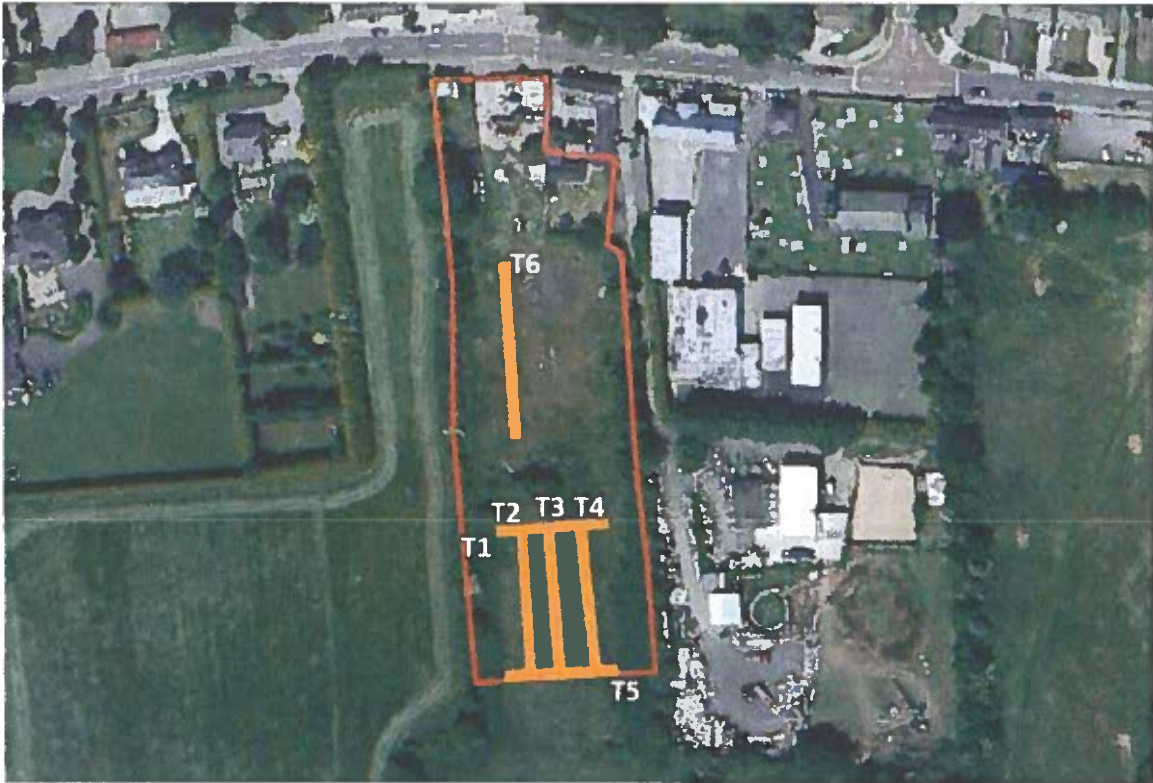
A geophysical survey of a larger development that included the greenfield portion of the subject site was carried out by Target Archaeological Geophysics in 2018 under Detection License 18R0042. This survey for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Cairn Homes Plc. was carried out for an EIAR for a proposed housing development. The interpretative plan (see **Figure 9** below) depicts several areas of ferrous disturbance, and two linear trends but does not include any potential archaeological features within the subject site.



*Figure 9: Extract from geophysical survey (Source: Target Archaeological Geophysics 2018), with the subject site outlined in red and trenches 1-5 (excavated under licence 22E0840) superimposed in blue*

## Description of development

The subject site consists of the proposed Lidl retail development to the south of the main thoroughfare of Newcastle, County Dublin (**Figure 8**). The northern three quarters of the site has the appearance of having been used as a hardstand surface since at least 1995 (**Figure 7**) and only the southernmost portion of the site retains an undeveloped greenfield appearance. The site inspection, conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist on 9 March 2022 clearly showed that the northern portion of the site consists of a concrete yard and hardstand area with evidence of previous ground reduction and soil bunding (see **Plate 1**). The northern boundary of the site comprises the single-storey remnants of the front facades of former street frontage buildings, within their openings blocked up, slightly recessed from the current road carriageway. The east and western boundaries are formed of well-established plot borders made of thick, mature hedges, dating to at least the early nineteenth century.



**Figure 10:** Location of subject site (red outline) showing location of excavated trenches under licence no 22E0840. The greenfield portion of the site includes the location of Trenches T1 to T5 (Source: Ordnance Survey of Ireland)

## Aims

The aim of the proposed archaeological monitoring is to identify the existence, location, significance and extent of any features, finds, deposits, structures or buildings of archaeological consequence located within the area of the proposed development site. This programme of archaeological works shall form part of an overall strategy to mitigate the risk to archaeological heritage through the entire landholding and detail appropriate mitigation measures for same. It is also proposed that the small number of potential archaeological features identified during the testing programme are excavated in order to allow for their preservation by record.

## Project Strategy

It is proposed that a programme of archaeological monitoring and excavation shall take place within the greenfield portion of the proposed development site, comprising the monitoring of all site clearance works, topsoil stripping and groundworks within the greenfield portion of the development site and the excavation of the potential features identified during the testing programme. In the event that additional potential archaeological features are identified during the monitoring the licensee will consult with NMS regarding their mitigation.

### Archaeological Works

The following is a **written scheme and programme** outlining the proposed archaeological works to be undertaken at the proposed development site.

1. In order to undertake archaeological works at the site, a Licenced Archaeologist will be present on-site at all times during ground clearance/topsoil removal. A timescale for works will be agreed by John Cronin & Associates and the client in advance.
2. Upon receipt of an archaeological excavation licence from National Monuments Service (NMS), a programme of archaeological monitoring will be carried out within the greenfield portion of the granted site under the direction of the Licenced Archaeologist.
3. Topsoil removal will be undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Topsoil removal will be archaeologically monitored. Any potential archaeological features identified during topsoil removal will be cleaned by hand to identify their nature and extent.
4. Should any archaeological features, deposits or other discoveries be made, the archaeologist will have the authority to take the necessary time to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the character of the find (by hand). During this time the area will be cordoned off and access will be denied until the investigations have concluded. The archaeologist will also be afforded a suitable amount of time to undertake the appropriate level of recording, which will ultimately depend on the nature and extent of the find. A pre-meeting with the Client will be arranged to discuss and agree on the obligations that both the developer and the archaeological consultant must uphold throughout the planning process.
5. All archaeological features will be photographed and planned on site. A written record will be made of all potential features, including pro-forma recording sheets; photographic record; drawing record, etc. All archaeological drawings will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and their location recorded by survey grade GPS. The location of any small finds will be surveyed by GPS and recorded as appropriate.
6. Recording will be by means of Best Archaeological Practice. All archaeological features will be recorded using context sheets and scaled field illustrations. A photographic record will also be maintained which will show the work-in progress and any archaeological features or finds.
7. The appropriate specialists will be consulted as required and the potential for the future requirement of specialists will be addressed as part of the assessment of the results of this project. In the event that any human remains are encountered, the services of an osteoarchaeologist (John Cronin & Associates have previously retained the services of Dr. Denise Keating) will be engaged to advise on their treatment and assessment. The relevant authorities will be informed if any human bone is identified during the course of works. Onsite and post-excavation conservation and storage facilities will conform to the guidelines issued by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) and the Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI). Linda Langford will act as finds conservator for this project.
8. The preferred option for archaeological mitigation is preservation by record.
9. Should preservation in situ of features not be viable, a separate application for their preservation by record will be submitted to NMS.

10. Results of the archaeological programme shall be presented in an archaeological report which will be submitted to the NMS and Client (for issue to the Planning Authority) within four weeks of the completion of site works. This report will include:

- The planning background/mitigation measures advised by the Planning Authority
- A description of the development scheme
- The archaeological evaluation methods
- An overview of all archaeological sites/features within the area
- Results of the archaeological programme
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Maps, plans and photographs of the site

## **Constraints on archaeological methods**

The safety and wellbeing of the archaeologists conducting the archaeological monitoring will be of the utmost importance, thus every possible precaution will be taken to provide safe conditions and proper equipment to the archaeologist in order to conduct the test excavation. Health and safety concerns overrule the methods employed in the archaeological testing, thus if a health and safety concern arises during the works, the methodology may change or indeed be abandoned entirely. The archaeological works will endeavour to adhere to the intended programme as much as is feasible. Any major changes will be discussed in advance with the National Monuments Service.

## **Project Team**

A Licensed Archaeologist will be present on site at all times during the archaeological works and will be assisted by a qualified and experienced archaeological assistant. A backup team of qualified archaeologists from John Cronin & Associates will be available on standby should their assistance be required.

## **Finds retrieval strategy**

Any archaeological artefacts encountered during the monitoring programme shall be retrieved. The location and circumstances of the find will be recorded, the find will be stored in sympathetic material; sensitive packaging and removed to John Cronin and Associates project office located at Burnside, Saint Oran's Road, Bunrana, County Donegal, where remedial curatorial work and proper storage facilities are available. Post-fieldwork, all materials/artefacts shall be secured and retained at the offices of John Cronin & Associates until such time that adequate storage facilities are available at the National Museum of Ireland.

## **Human remains**

In the event that any human remains are encountered during the course of works, the licensee will inform the relevant authorities (An Garda Síochána and County Coroner) immediately along with an osteoarchaeologist (John Cronin & Associates have previously retained the services of Dr Denise Keating) who will be engaged to advise on their treatment and assessment. The NMI, the

NMS and the Client will also be notified directly. The applicant has experience in the treatment of human remains and is familiar with the IAI's Code of Conduct for the Archaeological Treatment of Human Remains (2006) in the context of an archaeological excavation, Treatment of Human Remains: Technical Paper for Archaeologists (IAI 1999, updated 2004) and the Heritage Council's guidelines: Human Remains in Irish Archaeology (2003). The licensee shall not enter into any agreement or arrangement regarding human remains without consulting with, and agreement from, the National Museum of Ireland.

## Mitigation strategy

It is proposed that the potential archaeological features identified during the testing programme are excavated and if proven to be archaeological in nature, preserved by record. Furthermore, it is proposed that if any additional remains of archaeological significance, in the form of artefacts or sub-surface features, are identified during the programme of archaeological monitoring of site clearance and topsoil stripping, consultation on the appropriate method of mitigation will be sought from the National Monuments Services.

## Sources

- Database of Irish Archaeological Excavations. Available at: <http://www.excavations.ie/>. [Accessed 02/06/2023].
- Google Earth Pro. Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/versions>. [Accessed 02/06/2023].
- Government of Ireland. 2021. *Historic Environment Viewer*. Available at: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>. [Accessed 02/06/2023].
- Heritage Council. 2021. *Heritage Map Viewer*. Available at: <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html> [Accessed 02/06/2023].
- Hutton, A. W. 1892. (Editor) *Young's Tour In Ireland (1776-1779) vol. 1*, Arthur Young
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland. 2021. *Geohive*. Available at: <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>. [Accessed 02/06/2023].
- Target Archaeological Geophysics. 2018. *Geophysical Survey Report Lands in Newcastle South Co. Dublin - Detection License 18R0042*. Unpublished report for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Cairn Homes Plc.

## Reporting

It is envisaged that a full archaeological assessment report including historical and archaeological background research, testing data & results, mapping, photographs, aerial photographs and illustrations as required are compiled according to the National Monuments Service standards. Full and detailed mitigation recommendations shall be outlined within the assessment report. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service and the Client (for issue to the Planning Authority).

## Illustrations

A selection of illustrations will accompany the archaeological assessment. The following will be included: detailed plans of the proposed development, trench section drawings where appropriate; trench survey plans where archaeological remains are evident (as appropriate);

survey photographs, aerial photograph of the proposed development site, RMP map and all relevant historical mapping.

## **Health and safety**

All on-site staff shall be equipped with personal protection equipment, including: high-visibility vests/jackets; hard-hats; steel toe cap boots etc. and personal hygiene facilities. An Accident Record shall also be maintained on-site together with a complete First Aid kit. All employees of John Cronin & Associates shall have due regard to the Company's Health & Safety Statement and to COVID-19 protocols.

## 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

### **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 it's 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

### **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).



**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.

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**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.

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**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](http://www.excavations.ie)). The table contains details of archaeological investigations/excavations within one kilometre of the subject site.

| Site name                                                        | Licence and author            | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Newcastle                                                        | 05E0920<br>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<br>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 more typical ash, willow and hazel may suggest local orchards and gardens, which becomes more common in the later medieval period.</p> |

| <i>Site name</i>                         | <i>Licence and author</i>                | <i>Summary</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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|                                          |                                          | The full report can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.archaeologyplan.com/projects">www.archaeologyplan.com/projects</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Primrose Cottage, Main Street, Newcastle | 15E0041<br>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).<br>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<br>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.<br>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.<br>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.<br>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 two phases of activity. Nothing was recovered during the excavation to indicate a date for the activity. |

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|                                   |                                                      | <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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Newcastle South, Newcastle</p> | <p>20E0024<br/>David Bayley &amp; Fergal Murtagh</p> | <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 charcoal-rich nature of the fills of two of these features means they have been interpreted as being charcoal clamps, while the similarity</p> |

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|                              |                             | <p>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>                         |
| Main Street, Newcastle South | 22E0840<br>Martin McGonigle | <p>A total of six test trenches were excavated across the site of a proposed retail store development site at Newcastle South, County Dublin on 17 and 18 November 2022. Nothing archaeological was identified in the northern two thirds of the site. A small number of linear features of potential archaeological consequence were identified at the northern end of the southern greenfield portion of the site. These features were cleaned back but were not excavated. A section was excavated through a modern cultivation furrow and an exploratory sondage was excavated into one other large possible drainage ditch, but no archaeological features or deposits were removed. A small number of sherds of possible late or post-medieval pottery, early modern pottery, clay pipe fragments, sherds of glass, burnt limestones, animal bone, some of with had butchery marks, ferrous slag, modern metal items, and plastics were found in the topsoil excavated from the trenches.</p> <p>Further archaeological work will be required in the area containing the possible archaeological linear features at the northern end of the greenfield portion of the site.</p> |

### Appendix 3: Photographic Record



*Plate 1: View to the green portion of the site, facing south*



*Plate 2: Small feature near the eastern end of Trench 1, containing charcoal, animal bone and teeth*



**Plate 3:** Possible linear feature near the centre of Trench 1, with irregular edges, containing animal bone (some butchered), charcoal, flat stones and a sherd of glazed possible late medieval pottery



**Plate 4:** Sherd of glazed possible late medieval pottery from surface of feature in T1



**Plate 5:** Post-medieval and early modern pottery from topsoil in T1



*Plate 6: Possible linear feature near west end of Trench 1, showing 2m x 2m extension at junction of Trench 1 and Trench 2, facing north*