



CourtneyDeery

ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Monitoring

Kishoge school site,

Balgaddy, Co. Dublin.

ITM: 705104/732944

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Planning Ref.: SDZ22A/0011, South Dublin County Council

An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL24.248413

Excavation Licence No. 23E0278

Director: Siobhán Deery

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For

AFEC International on behalf of Dept. of  
Education & Skills

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10<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of the lands proposed for an approved school development at Balgaddy, County Dublin. It was carried out in response to Condition 12 of An Bord Pleanála grant of planning ref. PL24.248413, (SDZ22A/0011, South Dublin County Council). These works were carried for AFEC International on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills.

There are no recorded archaeological monuments (RMP / SMR sites) within the development site, the nearest site, an enclosure with no visible expression (DU017-036) is located over 700m to the southeast of the permitted development. No previous archaeological investigations had been carried out within the site. Archaeological monitoring during site construction and development works was issued as a condition of planning (An Bord Pleanála Condition 12).

No archaeological features, finds or soils were encountered as a result of the on-site archaeological investigations. Given the findings of the archaeological monitoring programme, no further investigation is envisaged.

This final report is submitted in fulfilment of Condition 12, planning ref. PL24.248413.

**The recommendations of this report are subject to review and approval from the Planning Authority and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring of the construction groundworks associated with the development of a school at Balgaddy, Co. Dublin. Monitoring of the groundworks took place under licence no. 23E0278 issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). Monitoring was done in fulfilment of a condition (Condition 12) of the grant of planning permission for the school development (SDZ22A/0011, South Dublin County Council). This monitoring report comprises of a desktop survey of available resources and details of the monitoring results.

The following is the condition relating to archaeology in the An Bord Pleanála order under ref. PL24.248413:

*12. Archaeological Monitoring.*

*The applicant/developer shall employ a qualified archaeologist, licensed to carry out Archaeological Monitoring of all sub-surface works carried out within the proposed development site. This will include the archaeological monitoring of the removal of topsoil, the excavation of trenches for foundations, services, access roadway, etc. associated with the proposed development.*

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

### 1.2. Site description

The site for the school development lies within the townland of Balgaddy, Co. Dublin, within a greenfield area, immediately south of the Thomas Omer Way (L1059). The site is bound to the west by the Kishoge Community College. Balgaddy is in the Civil Parish of Ballyfermot and the Barony of Uppercross.

The permitted development site is surrounded by greenfield areas to the south and to the east (Figure 1). The western boundary of the permitted development runs along the townland boundary between Kishoge and Balgaddy which at this point is also the parish boundary between Ballyfermot and Esker and the Baronial boundary between Uppercross and Newcastle. While the development area is primarily located in the townland of Balgaddy, a small portion extends into the townland of Kishoge to provide a link-in with the adjacent Kishoge Community College. The field boundaries to the west and south are in the same location as depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey of the 1840's.

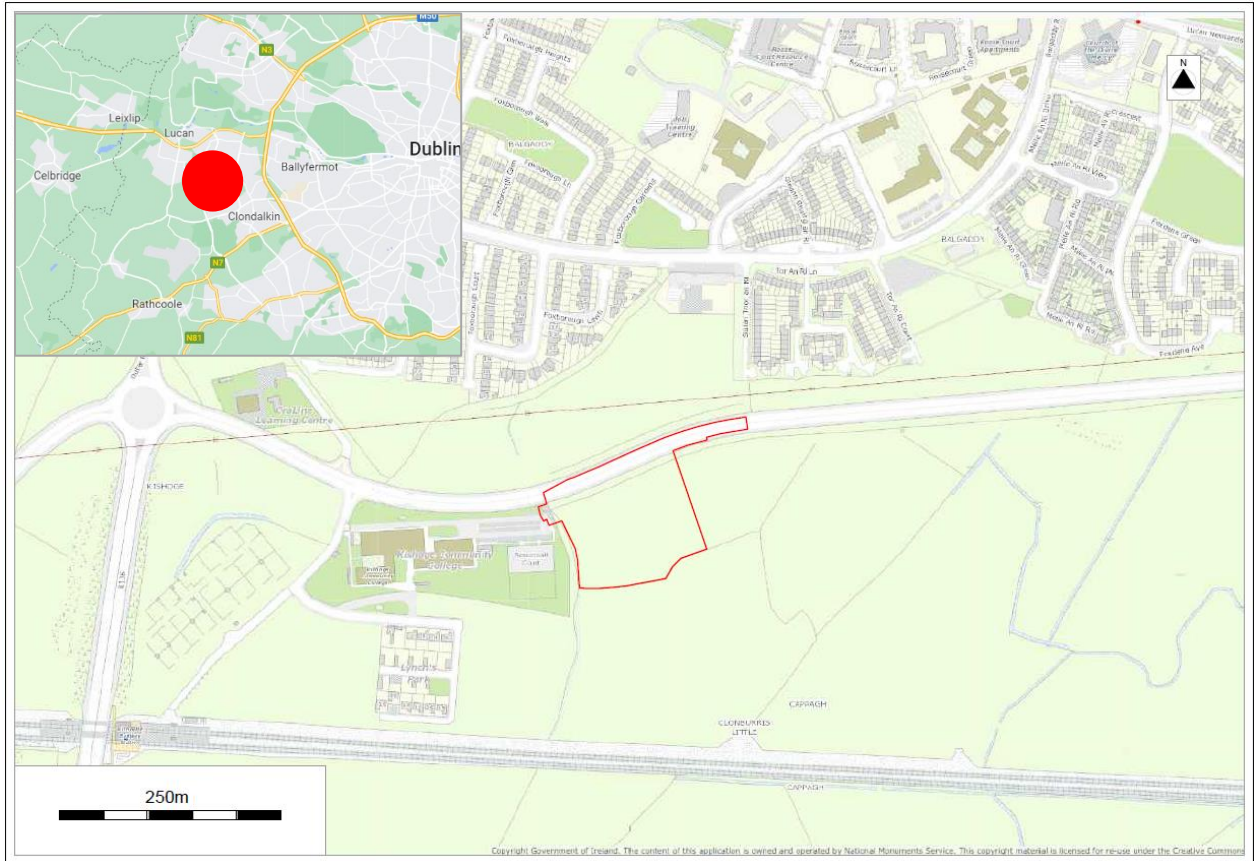


Figure 1 Site location

### 1.3. Methodology

Archaeological assessment of the site is based on a desk-based study, comprising an examination of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic material, supported by a field survey. A review of the following information took place in order to inform the report:

- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders and Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland;
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e., Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponomy (loganim.ie);
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSi Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2022, Bing 2022) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.

## 2. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

The permitted development for the primary school will extend to c. 3,355sq.m will be two-storeys in height and will comprise 16 no. classrooms with an additional 2 classroom Special Educational Needs Unit; a General Purpose Hall and all ancillary teacher and pupil amenities and facilities (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The permitted development also provides for hard and soft play areas, including 2 no. outdoor ball courts, bicycle parking, staff car parking, vehicle drop off and set down areas. Photovoltaic Panels (PV) are proposed on roofs in addition to EV Charging Points and a packaged Biomass heating plant. It will also provide for all landscaping and boundary treatments and all associated site development works.

Access to the site will be via a new junction and access road off Thomas Omer Way. The new access road will run south off Thomas Omer Way and then west into the site. The proposed access road is in accordance with the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Planning Scheme and incorporates public lighting, footpaths, and cycle tracks. A further pedestrian / cycle only connection to Thomas Omer Way is also proposed along the western green corridor, west of the proposed school building.

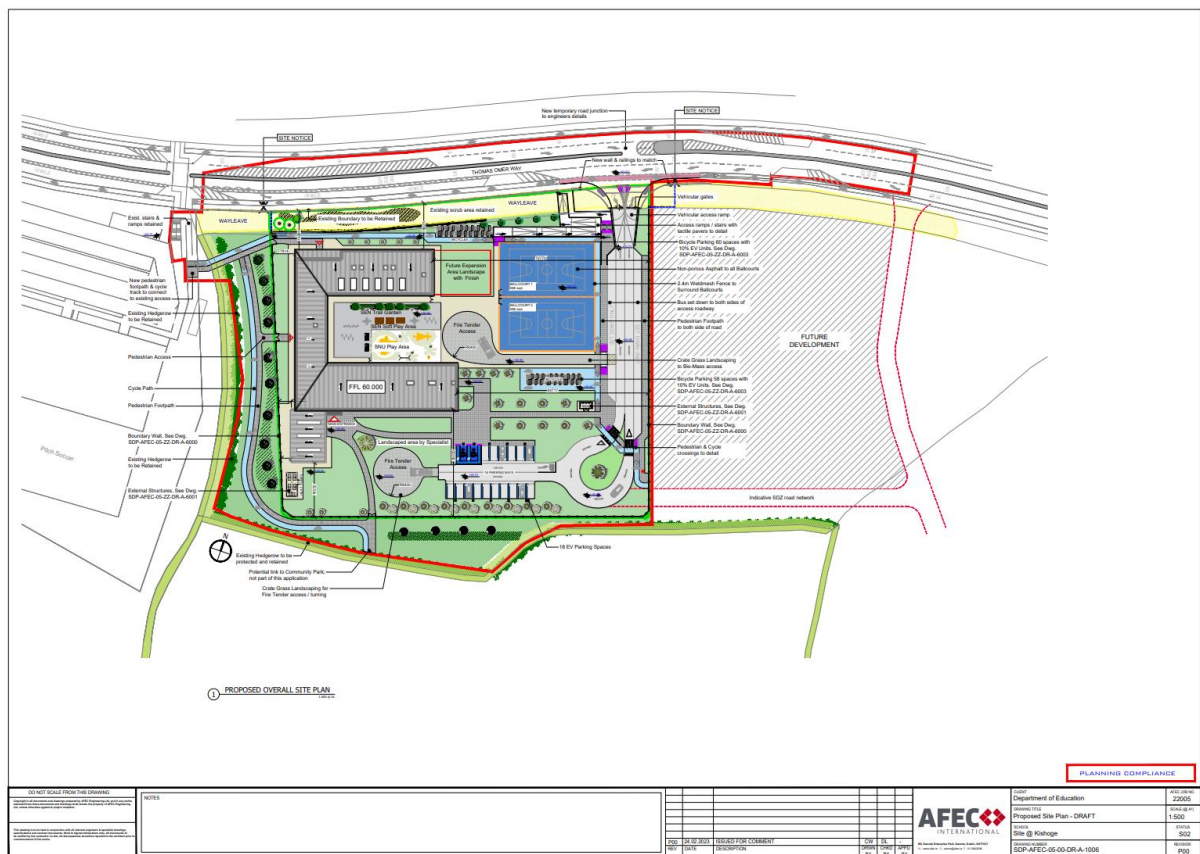


Figure 2 Site layout



### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1. Prehistoric Period

Earlier traces of human occupancy in the wider area have been discovered during archaeological investigations carried out in Grange Castle Business Park to the south-west of the permitted development. In the townland of Kishoge, the remains of a Neolithic house (Licence No. 01E0061, Bulletin Ref. 2011:438) were discovered during works for an attenuation lake. Rectangular in plan, with slightly curved walls at the south-western end, it had been truncated by ploughing activity in antiquity. The archaeological remains consisted of foundation trenches cut into the glacial boulder clay and bedrock. The house walls and the support for the building's superstructure were constructed from timber posts augmented by planking. All of the posts and planks identified in the house were of oak. Only two features were identified in the interior of the structure: the truncated remains of two internal timber roof supports, suggesting some kind of internal division within the house into two spaces at the north-east and south-west ends. The house appeared to have burnt down in antiquity, with little evidence for repair or reoccupation. Rough flint scraping tools and flint waste flakes were retrieved from the features excavated on the site, but none of these were obviously diagnostic. The complete absence of prehistoric pottery from the house is curious.

The morphological comparison with other Neolithic houses excavated in Ireland suggests that the structure dates from this period. This was confirmed by the results of the radiocarbon dating programme which indicated that the house was built and occupied between 3941 and 3659 BC. However, a Middle Bronze Age date (GrN-26772, 3120±75 BP) was returned from charcoal from a large pit to the south of the house (1595–1131 BC), suggesting that not all of the peripheral archaeological activity was contemporary with the main rectangular structure.

A ring-barrow (SMR DU017-080) located c. 1.4km to the south-west of the permitted development site and discovered during a programme of geophysical survey and archaeological testing (Licence No. 00E0263, Bulletin Ref. 2000:0223) attests to a continuous human occupation of the area during the Bronze Age. The ring-barrow, excavated the same year (Licence No. 00E0448, Bulletin Ref. 2000:0225), is located in a slightly elevated position. It comprises a ditch, which encloses a maximum area of 13m. Fragments of a human skull was found in the upper fill of the ditch. A 'cist-like structure' was exposed in the northern quadrant of the ditch. Within the circular area enclosed by the barrow ditch, several deposits of cremated bone were visible. A small spread of cremated bone was initially apparent, and this may indicate disturbance. Upon excavation this was found to seal a shallow depression filled with frequent inclusions of powdered cremated bone fragments. The cremated remains were associated with Early Bronze Age pottery, specifically Beaker or Food Vessel type, and a bead were found within the interior of the enclosing ditch. Soil samples from the ditch contained remains of barley, wheat, oats and evidence for hazel, haw, and sloe (Doyle 2001).

Two undated pits were excavated adjacent to the barrow. A series of linear features was also revealed in the area surrounding the ring-barrow. These are interpreted as the remains of field boundaries and were found to enclose the ring-barrow in a sub-rectangular field system. These remain undated.

Further traces of Bronze Age activity in the area are represented by the discovery of three *fulachtaí fia* or burnt mounds. One of these, located c. 1.3km to the south-west of the permitted development site (Licence No. 00E0718, Bulletin Ref. 2000:0224), was discovered during monitoring of topsoil-stripping in Nangor townland. It consisted of a small pit or trough, a spread of heat-cracked stone, and a linear feature to the south-west of the trough. To the south

of the *fulacht fia*, a backfilled field boundary was revealed by topsoil-stripping. The second area comprised a cluster of three burnt mounds, located c. 2km to the south-west, and has been discovered during archaeological investigations carried out during works on the Griffeen River realignment, part of ongoing infrastructure works within the precincts of the Grange International Business Park (Licence No. 04E0299, Bulletin Ref. 04E0299). Topsoil-stripping revealed the locations of three burnt mounds. Of these three features, two were excavated, as the development was likely to have a total impact on them. The third mound was preserved in situ, as it was located outside the development area. A possible *fulacht fia*, identified by geophysical survey (Licence No. 16R0070) is located c. 2.2km to the west of the permitted development site.

A slag-pit furnace, radiocarbon-dated to the early Iron Age has been uncovered during a programme of Archaeological monitoring of a proposed central carriageway at Grange Castle Business Park (Licence Nos. 13E0435, bulletin ref. 2013:043 and 2013:521). The features identified comprised a small bowl furnace filled with charcoal rich soil and slag, and a shallow oval charcoal clamp. These features were located approximately 35m apart and it was initially thought that they could have been associated, however the dating evidence has indicated otherwise.

The furnace pit contained 1.26kg of metalworking residues and constituted the base of a typical slag-pit furnace. A sample of oak charcoal from fill C3 of the furnace pit returned a radiocarbon date of 2403+/-30 BP (UBA 25347), which was calibrated to 732-400 BC (2 Sigma) dating this feature to the early Iron Age. This radiocarbon date is one of the earliest to come from an Irish iron smelting context to date. A sample of oak charcoal from fill C7 in the charcoal clamp returned a radiocarbon date of 1256+/-32 BP, calibrated to 671-867 AD dating this deposit to the early medieval period.

### **3.2. Early & late medieval periods (AD 500 – 1600)**

A rich early medieval and medieval archaeological and historical landscape characterises the surrounding environment.

The early medieval period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles, and free farmers. There was an increase in settlement during these times, and the ringfort, otherwise known as the 'rath' or 'fairy fort', is the best-known native monument of this period (Stout 1997), together with enclosures, often what remains of former ringforts. Ringforts are essentially enclosed farmsteads, formed by an earthen bank and an external fosse or ditch, defining an internal area on which dwellings and ancillary buildings would have been constructed. Ringforts were not simple isolated homesteads, and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, route ways, and natural resources. These monuments have a tendency to cluster in the landscape and in some cases several enclosures may have operated as a community, with different activities focusing on different enclosures.

Two enclosures are located within c. 700m of the permitted development site: enclosures can be denuded ringforts. One enclosure (RMP DU017-035), situated in a field of rough pasture bordering the canal c. 680m to the south, was identified in an aerial photograph (FSI 1971/224-6) as a horseshoe-shaped enclosure. The other one (RMP DU017-036) is situated in rough pasture on fairly level ground c. 740m to the south-east and to the north of a stream and was identified in an aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 206/5/4). The photograph shows a cropmark of an elongated oval enclosure. They are both not visible at ground level (as described in the RMP record).

A third enclosure is located c. 1.6km to the southeast, and like the previous two monuments was identified through aerial photography (1971, FSI 224/5/6), which shows traces of an enclosure defined by a low bank. For this enclosure, there are no visible traces at ground level.

An ecclesiastical complex, comprising a church (RMP DU017-038001) and a graveyard (DU017-038002) is located c. 1.1km to the south of the permitted development site, in the townland of Kilmahuddrick. This is a medieval parish church which served the smallest parish in the county. It is dedicated to St. Cuthbert of Lindesfarne and was held by St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin from 1186 until 1540 when it was re-united with Clondalkin (Ball 1940, 182-183). The building comprises a nave and chancel divided by a two-centred chancel arch. The church is situated in the north-eastern corner of a rectangular disused graveyard close to Deansrath Estate. Located in a flat, low-lying area. Very few gravestones remain visible, and it contains some 19th century memorials.

Attached to the south side of the graveyard is a possible moated site (DU017-038003). Located in flat, low-lying land, the moated site is formed by a roughly rectangular enclosure defined by a flat-topped earthen bank and wide outer fosse. There is a causeway across the fosse in the northeast and a corresponding break in the enclosing bank.

Three tower houses complete the medieval landscape surrounding the permitted development site. Deansrath Castle (RMP DU017-039), as described in the RMP record, is located in flat ground near the roadside, c. 1.4km to the south of the permitted development site. All that survives of Deansrath Castle is a portion of a stair tower, which rises to two storeys with a partially vaulted over ground floor. This is built of mortared ashlar blocks of limestone. This appears to be part of a gatehouse shown in a drawing by Beranger in 1773 (Harbison 1998). It was part of a larger castle complex described by Austin Cooper in the 18th century which was entered through and defended by a deep enclosing fosse (Price 1942). The Dean of St. Patrick was proprietor in 1641 (Simington 1945). By 1656 it is described as the 'stumpe of a castle' (Healy 1974; Ball 1906).

Grange Castle, a tower house in the townland of Grange (RMP DU017-034), is attached to a farmhouse in flat, low-lying ground and located c. 1.6km to the southwest. Shown as a castle on the Down Survey (1655-6) map, is a rectangular tower house with a square tower that's projects to the north in the north-eastern corner. The tower house is three storeys high. The walls are plastered but where stonework is visible it is coursed limestone with roughly dressed quoins. A drawing by Beranger in 1773 shows stepped crenellations at parapet level (Harbison 1998). In 1997 monitoring and excavation were undertaken in the vicinity of the castle, in advance of the construction of an access road and the excavation of foul sewers for a Business Park at Grange Castle (Licence No. 97E0116ext, Bulletin Ref. 1997:087). A curving ditch was identified orientated north-east/south-west. A decorated bone comb, stick-pin, and knife gave the later ditch phase a terminus ante quem of from the 12th to the 13th century AD. A stone causeway, 0.5-0.6m wide and 0.06-0.1m deep, crossed the ditch. The evidence suggests that extensive early medieval and post-medieval activity survives in this area; the ditches can be interpreted as medieval field boundaries (from the RMP records).

The third tower house is located in Adamstown, c. 2.2km to the west of the permitted development site (RMP DU017-029). As described on the RMP record: located on flat ground between the canal and the railway, it was a three-storey tower house, oblong in plan with a projecting turret and stepped crenellations. It was demolished in the 1960s and there are no visible traces at ground level. (McDix 1897; Ball 1906; Healy 1974).

Further traces of medieval activities were found during programmes of archaeological investigations at the Grange Castle International Business Park. A cluster of cobbled surfaces, pits, and gullies, associated with medieval pottery, was revealed, as well as a trench containing a series of linear ditches directly associated with medieval ceramics (Licence No. 00E0263, Bulletin ref. 2000:0223). To the west, c. 840m of these remains, a complex of intercutting medieval ditches and gullies was excavated. Some 1500 sherds of locally manufactured medieval pottery (Dublin-type wares, Leinster cooking ware) were recovered, and a complete iron sickle was found in a ditch associated with sherds of medieval pottery (Licence No. 00E0754, Bulletin Ref. 2000:0226).

### 3.3. Post Medieval Period

The several archaeological excavations carried out in the wider area also uncovered the later traces of the human occupancy in the landscape such as an 18th century mill (Licence No. 03E1210, Bulletin Ref. 2003:0604), in the townland of Grange, c. 2km to the west of the permitted development site. The site was excavated because it was directly threatened by the realignment of the Griffeen River within the precincts of the Grange Industrial Park. Surface evidence for the mill was in the form of the north wall, surviving as part of the boundary fence separating the Beattie farm from the Grand Canal towpath. Some 19th-century pottery was found on the surface and some fragments of floor tiles from an industrial drying kiln. The flanking walls show evidence for wheel wear in the stonework, and this suggests that the wheel had a diameter in the region of 3m. The wheel was breast shot fed from a headrace to the south. The headrace either emanated from a penstock to the south or was linked back to the Griffeen further upstream. There was no evidence for a race in the field south of the mill site. The confluence of the headrace and the wheel pit is again lined with red brick in a rough English bond pattern. Within the mill structure, the pit for the pit wheel was identified. No machinery was present on the site. Artefacts within the mill structure were largely of 19th-century date, although some sherds of post-medieval imported ware were found in the topsoil but do not appear to be contemporary with the mill. It is possible that the mill has its origin in the later 18th century and served as a gristmill for flour milling. The general water supply would make such a mill difficult to operate. With the inauguration of the Grand Canal, a constant head of water became available and so the mill relocated to the Lock area at Adamstown. It is likely that the machinery was taken from the old mill and tweaked to function within the new mill. The old mill may well have served a later function as a cereal-drying kiln, as suggested by the quantities of kiln tiles found on the northern part of the site.

Three archaeological investigations (Licence Nos. E004883, 03E0025, and 03E0643) found traces of post-medieval activity, all located within the Grange Castle International Business Park, c. 1.9km to the southwest of the permitted development site. Monitoring of topsoil-stripping for a pharmaceutical plant and associated services located at Grange Castle International Business Park uncovered dated to recent times. These consisted of refuse pits, field drains and areas of burning. The field boundary and watercourse that were revealed had been backfilled in the 19th century. All the finds recovered were either post-medieval or modern in date (Licence No. 03E0025, Bulletin Ref. 2003:0607).

Occasional red bricks fragments dating from the 18th to the 19th century were identified during monitoring of topsoil stripping for the extension of a dual carriageway (Licence No. 03E0643). A large burnt deposit was found during the same monitoring programme, together with two parallel field drains. These findings have been interpreted as possible traces of the expansion works of Grange Castle in the 128<sup>th</sup> century, for which brick manufacture with 'brick clamp process' would have been required. The process could have led to the origin of the above-mentioned deposits (O'Donovan 2001).

Archaeological monitoring and excavation were carried out during the contractor's works on the site of Grange Castle, situated within Grange Business Park (Licence No. E004883, Bulletin Ref. 2019:763). While most of the trenches revealed nothing of archaeological significance, a number of features and walls associated with the outbuildings surrounding the castle were recorded. These included the remains of two outhouses or farm buildings to the north-east of the tower-house, an outhouse or farm building and three cobbled surfaces to the immediate east, fragments of two stone walls to the immediate west of the eighteenth-century Georgian house, the remains of five further stone walls, a brick wall, a well, and fragments of brick and cobbled surfaces to the north of the tower-house, as well as a possible paved canal or fishpond structure within the stream also to the north of the castle. The remains of buildings to the north-east of the tower-house appear to be those represented on the 20th-century O.S. maps while the walls and floor surfaces of the outbuilding depicted on Gabriel Beranger's map of 1773 were uncovered to the immediate east of the tower-house. Monitoring to the west of the Georgian house revealed fragments of two east-west orientated stone walls in a north-south ducting trench while ground works to the north of the site uncovered a stone-lined well and a number of walls and surfaces associated with the farm buildings and outhouses surrounding the castle.

While the walls and cobbles and well were features related to normal everyday activity in the early modern/modern period, one feature which was very unusual was a culvert/drain/pond feature at the north of the monitored area. The stream in this area was culverted below a stone structure with a brick-lined window. The nature of this culvert structure, from the north-western corner of the castle grounds to the eastern edge of the paved floor is unclear. It may have constituted a paved canal or fishpond. These were common features in castles, monasteries, manor houses and country houses from the medieval right through to the post-medieval and modern period.

Where structural remains were discovered, these were largely left in situ or rebuilt and ultimately incorporated into the overall landscaping project. All finds including pottery were identified as post-medieval in date and there were no medieval features or artefacts discovered.

Previous archaeological investigations in the area have also uncovered few archaeological features which remain undated to this time. Human remains were located within the road-take of the Adamstown link road (ALR) at the rear of the old Lucan train station adjacent to the Ascon compound in Adamstown, c. 1.9km to the west of the permitted development site (Licence No. 05E1295, Bulletin Ref. 2005:379). The investigations involved the excavation of human remains uncovered during the course of topsoil-stripping in advance of the construction of the ALR. They appeared to represent 43 adults and one infant. A single find uncovered with a burial was a fragment of plastic rosary beads found in the pelvic region of Skeleton 10. This find may not suggest a modern date for the burials, as they were disturbed and truncated by the railway wall, which appears to date to the 1950s. It is possible that the rosary beads were interred when the burial was disturbed during the demolition of Lucan station or the construction of the wall that divided the site from the Dublin/Kildare railway line.

A programme of archaeological testing at Grange Castle Business Park, identified a pit filled with charcoal-rich soils (Licence No. 13E0459, Bulletin Ref. 2016:495). Subsequent monitoring of the Phase 2 development area in late 2016 identified an additional six archaeological areas all of which are individual pits/spreads similar to the first feature.

Finally, there are 15 more previous archaeological excavation in the area, within 2km radius of the permitted development site, which did not recover any feature or find of archaeological interest.

### 3.4. Cartographic Sources

#### 3.4.1. Down Survey map

The Down Survey was undertaken in Ireland between 1656-58 to facilitate the transfer of lands from Catholic owners to those rewarded by the victorious Cromwellian side in the aftermath of the conflict between the King and Parliament that had occurred in Britain and Ireland in the previous few years. No meaningful detail about the subject site can be gleaned from the maps that were produced on a county, baronial and parish level however, the name of Kishoge is depicted on them. There is no reference to Balgaddy, though large portions in the area were designated as lands not due to be transferred, i.e. 'unforfeited lands' and Balgaddy may have been in this area and not considered necessary to detail.



Figure 3 Down Survey map, Newcastle Barony (1656); Kishoge is circled in red

### 3.4.2. Rocque's map of County Dublin (1762)

While no detailed information about the subject site can be gleaned from this map, it's approximate location can be established in relation to known features. Large farm or estate houses with buildings and cultivated gardens are named as Balgaddy and Kishoge. They are set in a patchwork of fields, presenting a rural, agricultural environment. The Grand Canal is depicted, termed the New Canal, while the road, known as Lynch's Lane in modern times, is also depicted branching off from the main Lucan to Clondalkin road and terminating at the Grand Canal.



Figure 4 Rocque's map of County Dublin (1762); approximate location in red; north is to the right of the map

### 3.4.3. First edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1843)

This is the first map that shows reliable detail about the subject site. It can be seen that the site is still located in an agricultural milieu and many of the surrounding field boundaries from this map are still readily discernible in the modern landscape. The estate houses for Balgaddy and Kishoge are depicted (though not named) suggesting that perhaps the townlands may have been cultivated as single farms.

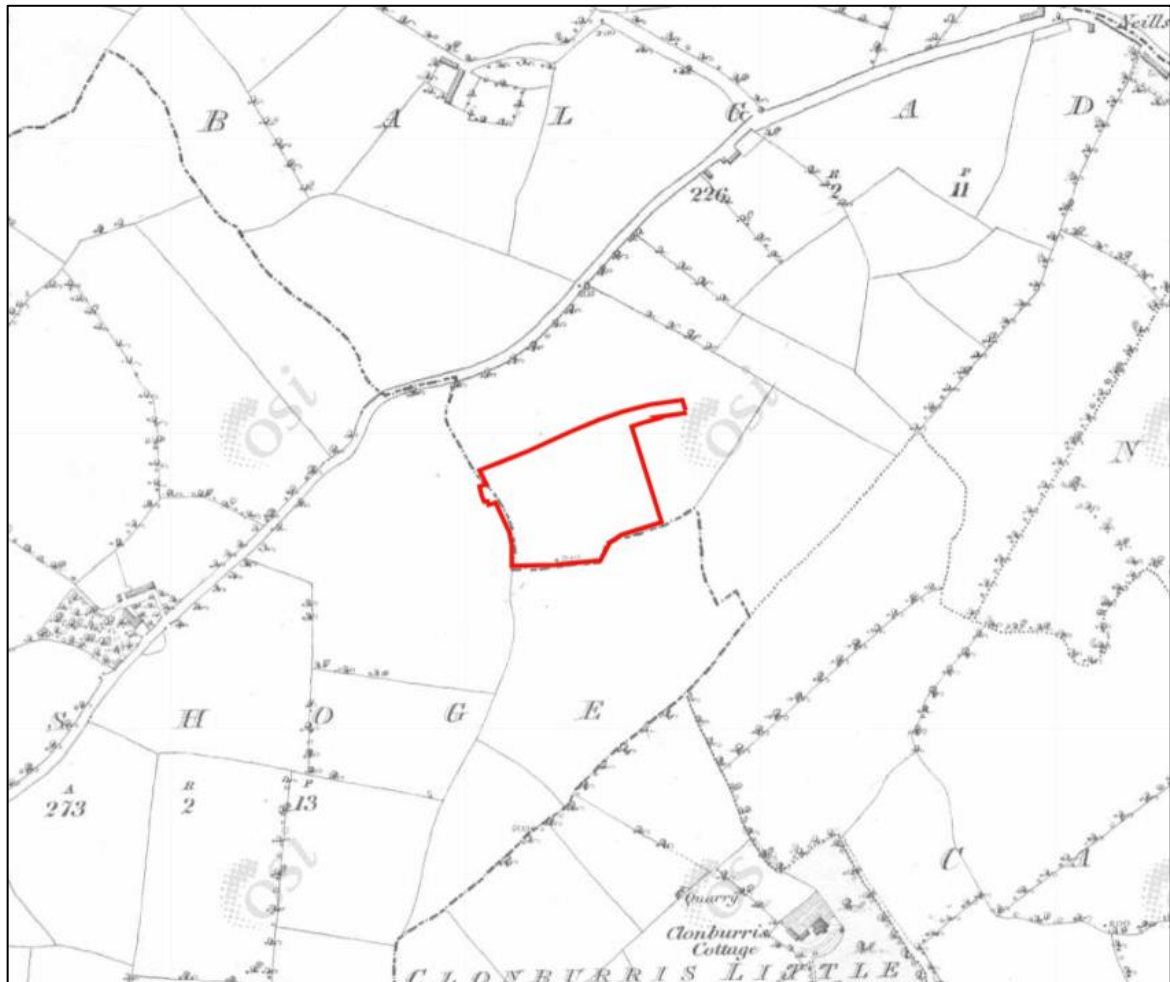


Figure 5 First edition OS map (1843)



### 3.4.4. Historic 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (1910)

Little has changed from the earlier map. Some field consolidation has taken place in the surrounding area while the railway line has been constructed to the south. Estate or large farmhouses at Balgaddy and Kishogue are now annotated. The property named as Springfield is the earlier of the two, now depicted in the townland of Kishoge.

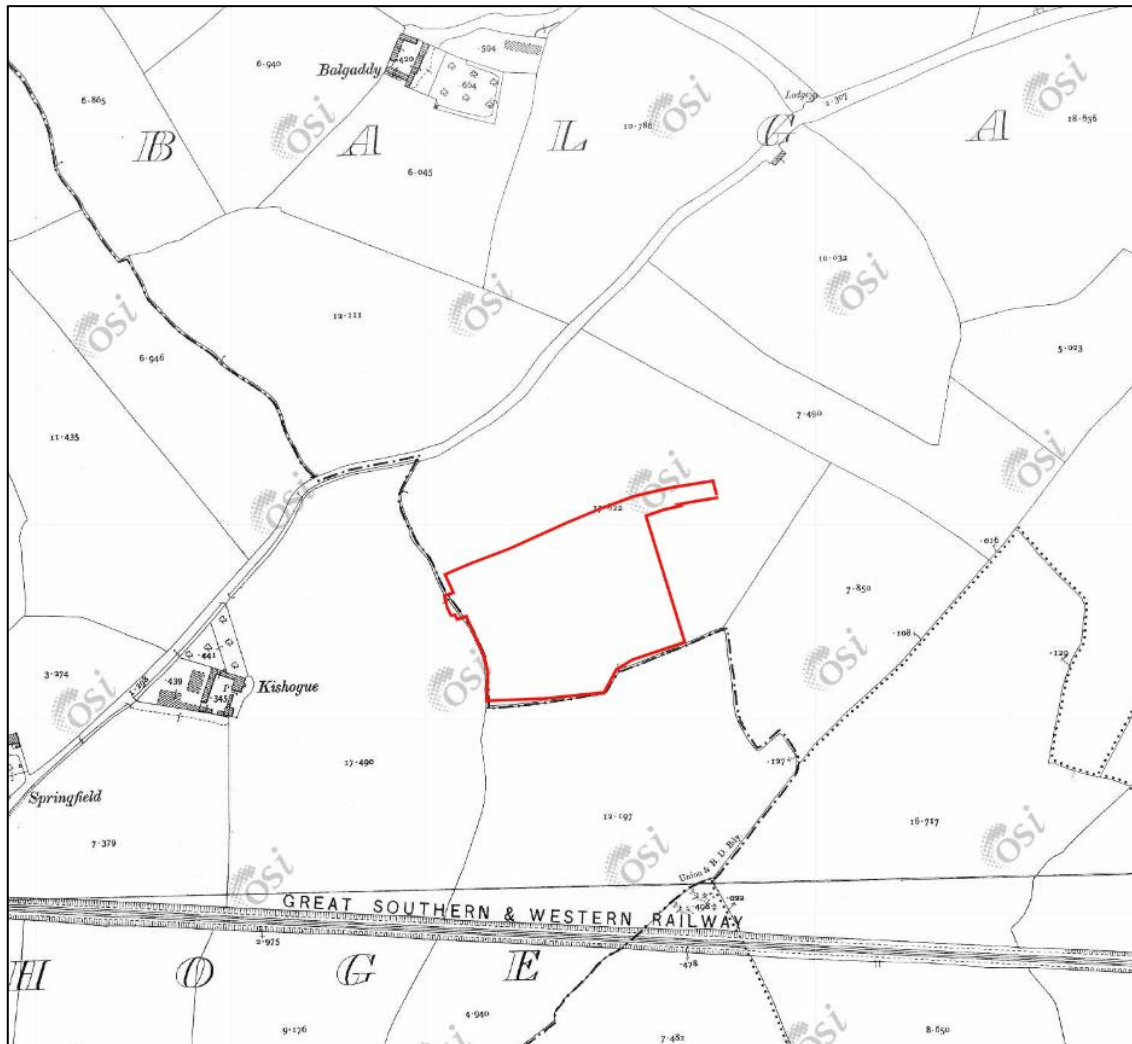


Figure 6 Historic 25" OS map (1910)

### 3.4.5. Last edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1940)

There is no discernible change from the earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. The permitted development is shown as part of a green field



Figure 7 Final edition 6" OS map (1940)

### 3.5. Aerial imagery

A study of aerial imagery (OS 1995, 1996-2018, Google Earth) did not identify any previously unknown archaeological sites or monuments or increased archaeological potential. The permitted development area is shown as a green field. The aerial images from 1995 until now show the transformation of the surrounding area from rural farmland to suburban lands. As shown on the 1995 aerial photograph (Figure 8), the lands to the southeast and outside the proposed development area are shown to be under allotments, these allotments have disappeared by the 2013-2018 aerial image (Figure 9). In recent years, part of the former allotment area was used for the casual dumping of rubbish and construction spoil, this has now been cleared and landscaped.



Figure 8 Aerial image OS (1995)



Figure 9 Aerial image Digital Globe (2013-18)

### 3.6. Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland was consulted. It contains a record of stray finds in the Museum usually categorized by townland. No stray finds are recorded from the townland of Balgaddy while a single entry is recorded for Kishoge. This is a flat bronze axehead, ref. 1994:20, possible Derryniggin type.

### 3.7. Recorded Archaeological Monuments (RMP / SMR sites)

There are no Recorded Monuments within or immediately adjacent to the subject site. The closest site is an enclosure (DU017-036) in Cappagh townland over 700m to the southeast of the permitted development. This site was revealed as a result of aerial photography which identifies an elongated/ oval shaped enclosure cropmark measuring 34m x 22m. This site is not visible at ground level.

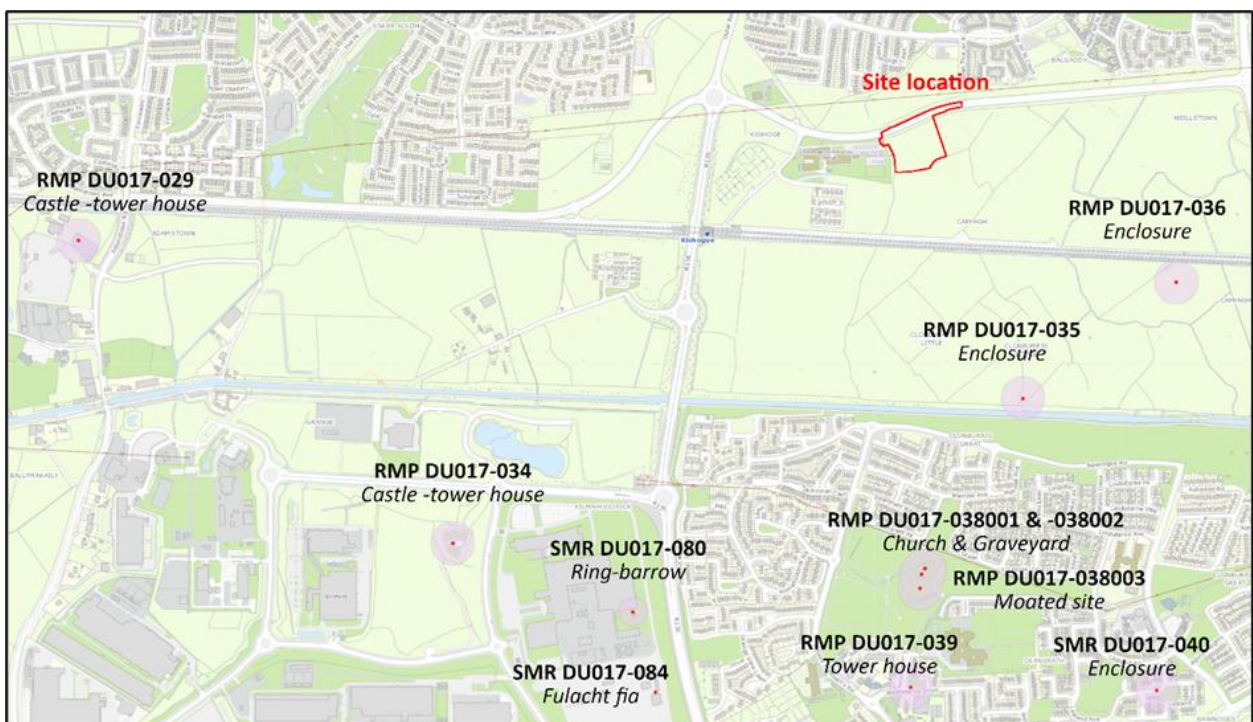


Figure 10 Recorded Monument Site Location

### 3.8. Previous excavations

No previous excavations have taken place within the subject site. However, several have taken place in the wider landscape, principally those associated with the development of the Grange Castle Business Park to the south-west. Of those that have taken place in the immediate vicinity, most were undertaken in advance of the development of the area as part of the Clonburris Special Development Zone (SDZ). The results of these archaeological investigations are tabled in Appendix 1.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, LICENCE NO. 23E0278

### 4.1. Methodology

Archaeological monitoring of the construction groundworks took place in fulfilment of a grant of planning permission. Following the IAI Code of Conduct for archaeological monitoring (2013), the objectives of archaeological monitoring are to:

- provide a watching brief during top-soil stripping and other earthwork excavations,
- identify any finds, features or deposits of archaeological potential,
- establish the character, condition and extent of any finds, features or deposits of archaeological potential,
- isolate and protect any identified finds, features or deposits of archaeological potential, and
- report the discovery and extent of identified archaeological remains and outline the impact of the development on these remains.

In the event that archaeological remains are discovered during topsoil removal or groundworks, construction works will cease in the vicinity of the remains and the areas will be fenced off until a licensed archaeologist has resolved the archaeological issues in consultation with the Department, who will advise on any remedial action it considers appropriate. The excavation of any archaeological remains uncovered will be the subject of an amended method statement.

### 4.2. Results

Monitoring took place from Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 when the site was prepared with the construction of an access route and the permitted school development area was topsoil stripped. An additional site visit took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January where a small area, previously buried under a spoil heap, was cleared and investigated. The final area where proposed drainage channels are proposed was inspected on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September topsoil stripping for the placement of a spoil heap along the western boundary of the site revealed modern animal remains that had been buried and dumped in black plastic bags. These bones were found at a depth from 210mm to 370mm below the current ground level. The first remains to be encountered were visible in the balk and associated with a black plastic bag. When investigated vertebrae and other small bones fell loose from the section face. Two similar clusters of disarticulated animal bones were encountered in the balk, all associated with black plastic bags. The remains of what appeared to be a horse from analysis of the teeth and jawbone and a possible leg bone that was pulled free by the machine from the black plastic bag was revealed in the central area of the topsoil stripped area (see Plates 3 to 5).

The area for the school building, ballcourts, set down areas, carparking, fire access and landscaping areas were all stripped and archaeologically monitored. Drainage and utilities trenches were also investigated archaeologically and monitored. Throughout the site the subsoil varied in depth from 200mm to 450mm. A stoney subsoil was overlain by a stiff brown sticky clay in places which in turn was covered by a light brown soil with modern pottery and plastic inclusions.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of archaeological monitoring.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The development site lies within an area that remained in use as agricultural land until now. There are no recorded archaeological monuments (RMP / SMR sites) within the development site, the nearest archaeological feature is an enclosure (DU017-036) located in Cappagh townland over 700m to the southeast of the permitted development.

Prior to the archaeological monitoring undertaken for this development, no previous archaeological investigations had been carried out within the site.

As per the An Bord Pleanála condition (No. 12) archaeological monitoring during site clearance works took place to establish the archaeological potential of the lands.

*12. employ a qualified archaeologist, licensed to carry out Archaeological Monitoring of all sub-surface works carried out within the proposed development site.*

Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping throughout the lands for this permitted school development did not reveal any features, soils and or finds of an archaeological nature.

No features, finds or deposits of an archaeological interest were identified as a result of the archaeological monitoring programme and all archaeological monitoring associated with the development is now complete. This report will be submitted to the NMS in fulfilment with the licensing requirements and to the planning authority, namely South Dublin County Council in compliance with Condition 12, planning ref. ABP- PL24.248413.

## 6. REFERENCES

### 6.1. Bibliography

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[www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)

**PLATES**



Plate 1 Investigation took place of excavated pits for fence posts



Plate 2 Monitoring of access route to the permitted development





Plate 3 Animal bones associated with black plastic bin liner bags found during stripping



Plate 4 Looking north at the find spot of modern animal bones



Plate 5 Animal bones left in the bank at the western side of the site beside the retained hedgerow



Plate 6 Archaeologically monitored topsoil stripped area



Plate 7 Stripping of topsoil for utilities and drainage

## APPENDIX 1 TABLE OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

| Excavation Bulletin ref.  | Excavation Licence no. | Location  | Author       |
|---|------------------------|---|--------------|
| 2001:427  | 00E0061                | GRANGE CASTLE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PARK, Grange and Kishoge, Dublin | Ian Doyle    |
| <p>Test-trenching was carried out at Grange Castle International Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, on a site owned by South Dublin County Council, during February 2001. The greater part of this site is currently under development as a business park by Wyeth Medica Ireland.</p> <p>The assessment was concerned with the area immediately south of the Grand Canal in Grange and Kishoge townlands. It is intended to construct an attenuation lake in this area, which will aid drainage. The lake structure will measure approximately 250m north-west/south-east by 90m. An underground 110kV electricity cable will run through this area and towards the west for a length of approximately 1.5km. The terrain in the areas to be affected is relatively low-lying and the land has been used for agricultural purposes. The centre of the area intended for the attenuation lake was subjected to ground disturbance in the recent past. This disturbance appears to have been associated with the diversion of a stream and ground was stripped to bedrock in places.</p> <p>Sixteen trenches were opened by mechanical excavator. These were placed in the areas which would be subjected to disturbance by the attenuation lake and the electricity cable way-leave.</p> <p>Trench 1 was located at the western end of the lake and associated roadway. It revealed a long linear feature cutting natural subsoil. Where sectioned, the cut for this feature, which measured 2.6m east–west by 16.5m with a depth of 0.35m, comprised a sloping-sided flat-bottomed gully. The upper fill consisted of a moderately compact light brown clay silt with occasional inclusions of mollusc shells and small pebbles. The lower fill comprised a moderately compact grey clay with occasional mollusc shell inclusions. A small undated hearth was revealed in Trench 4, which was also located to the west of the lake.</p> <p>Trench 13 was opened on the line of the electricity cable way-leave, at a point where a mound and masonry wall were observed in the extreme north-eastern corner of the field. What is likely to be a modern agricultural feature was revealed, comprised of a mound, a stone wall and a metallised surface. This is likely to represent a watering-hole for livestock formed by excavating a depression, placing the upcast to the west into a mound, which was then revetted with a low masonry wall. A metallised surface was then placed at the point of animal access.</p> <p>Monitoring of topsoil-stripping was recommended and was later carried out (see <i>Excavations 2001</i>, No. 428).</p> |                        |   |              |
| 2001:429  | 01E0718ext.            | GRANGE CASTLE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PARK, Grange and Kishoge, Dublin | Ian Doyle    |
| <p>The archaeological assessment carried out in this area during February 2001 (see <i>Excavations 2001</i>, No. 438) recommended that an archaeologist be present to monitor the stripping of topsoil.</p> <p>The initial recognition of archaeological features was compromised somewhat by the contractor stripping a quantity of topsoil before informing the archaeologist. However, several metallised surfaces, field drains, pits and gullies of post-medieval and modern date were recognised during the stripping when an archaeological presence was maintained.</p> <p>In Kishoge townland, to the south-west of the area intended for the attenuation lake, the remains of a subrectangular structure, which appears to have burnt down, were detected. This consisted of what appeared to be the remains of slot-trenches cut into natural boulder clay with a fill of oxidised clay and charcoal. The feature measured 5.8m east–west by 4.6m and appeared to have been truncated through intensive ploughing. Access to this area was not available at the time of the assessment owing to dumping and storage of building materials. This area was later excavated by Edmond O’Donovan (see <i>Excavations 2001</i>, No. 438).</p>   |                        |   |              |
| 2001:438  | 01E0061                | Kishoge, Dublin   | Ed O’Donovan |
| <p>The remains of a truncated burnt Neolithic wooden house were identified in Kishoge, Dublin 22, halfway between Clondalkin and Newcastle. Ploughing in antiquity had led to the truncation of the structure, and no occupation surfaces survived. However, cut features, such as post-holes, pits and foundation trenches, were identified at the site.</p> <p>The house was originally roughly rectangular in shape, although the walls were slightly curved at the south-western end. The structure measured 6.05m (north-east/south-west) by 4.5m. The archaeological remains consisted of foundation trenches cut into the glacial boulder clay and bedrock. The house walls and the</p>  |                        |   |              |

| Excavation Bulletin ref.  | Excavation Licence no. | Location                                      | Author          |
|---|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <p>support for the building's superstructure were constructed from timber posts augmented by planking. All of the posts and planks identified in the house were of oak. The foundation trenches varied between 0.25m and 0.3m in width and were excavated to a depth of 0.08–0.21m. The foundation trenches at the north-eastern end of the house originally housed upright timber planks that formed the house walls. A break in one of these linear features (house wall) was visible in the north-eastern foundation trench; this was interpreted as an entrance. The south-western end of the house was predominantly post-built. The south-western house walls curved, with an open entrance at the southern end of the building.</p> <p>Only two features were identified in the interior of the structure: the truncated remains of two internal timber roof supports, suggesting some kind of internal division within the house into two spaces at the north-east and south-west ends. The house appeared to have burnt down in antiquity, with little evidence for repair or reoccupation.</p> <p>Pits and charcoal were identified both to the south and north-west of the house. These features are likely to represent contemporary domestic activity around the dwelling. A small number of artefacts were retrieved from these features, including a number of crude round scrapers, waste flint and a single poorly preserved fragment of prehistoric pottery.</p> <p>Rough flint scraping tools and flint waste flakes were retrieved from the features excavated on the site, but none of these were obviously diagnostic. The complete absence of prehistoric pottery from the house is curious. The morphological comparison with other Neolithic houses excavated in Ireland suggests that the structure dates from this period. This was confirmed by the results of the radiocarbon dating programme. The Centrum voor Isotopen Onderzoek, Groningen, processed three samples to date the house (GrN-26770, 4880+40 BP; GrN-26771, 5020+40 BP; and GrN-26789, 4990+50 BP). The 2-sigma-calibrated results indicate that the house was built and occupied between 3941 and 3659 BC. A fourth Middle Bronze Age date (GrN-26772, 3120+75 BP) was obtained from a large pit to the south of the house (1595–1131 BC), suggesting that not all of the peripheral archaeological activity is contemporary with the structure.</p> |                        |   |                 |
| 2002:0612   | 02E1808                | Kishoge, Dublin                               | Georgina Scally |
| <p>Monitoring before the construction of a temporary haul road associated with the construction of the South Dublin Outer Ring Road was undertaken in November and December 2002. The temporary haul road is in the vicinity of Lynch's Lane, in the townland of Kishoge, west Dublin. All subsurface works associated with the construction of the road were monitored, and no finds, features or structures of archaeological significance were uncovered. The licence has since been extended to include monitoring of the full length of the roadway, which will extend c. 5.7km from Kingwood in Tallaght to Lynch's Lane. This work will continue in 2003.</p>  |                        |   |                 |
| 2016:049  | 15E0551                | Gollierstown, Aungierstown, Ballybane, Dublin | Billy Quinn     |
| <p>MOORE GROUP undertook a programme of archaeological testing at two sites in West Dublin as part of the development of a 220/110 kV Substation in a green field site at Ballybane/Aungierstown and the development of an interface compound at nearby Kishoge, South County Dublin. Earthsound Archaeological Geophysics carried out surveys of the proposed development works at both sites in October 2015 (detection Device no. 15R0116). At the interface site in Kishoge dipolar anomalies detected suggested that the land has been used for the deposition of debris or imported soils, causing the magnetic interference. This interference appeared to be truncated by a number of possible ditches which, it was suggested, relate to underlying features or may be an artefact of the deposition of the debris or imported soils. At Ballybane, the proposed sub-station site, a series of circular and sub-circular trends were detected across the northern survey area. These were interpreted as representing archaeological ditches or geological trends. Testing involving the mechanical excavation of twelve trenches was carried out from 22-24 February 2016 in bright and dry conditions.</p> <p><b>Ballybane Site</b></p> <p>The proposed substation site was accessed via a new business park access road south of the New Nangor Road (R134). The site consists of an improved tillage field to the north, cut by a ditch to the south. The field was originally subdivided into a smaller sub-triangular plot, the boundary of which has in recent years been cleared away. Due to regular ploughing the site was relatively even underfoot. The test trenches were excavated by a 15-tonne backhoe excavator using a 1.2m-wide ditching bucket. All the test trenches were deliberately sited to target sub-surface anomalies identified during the geo-physical survey. These anomalies were variously interpreted as possible pits, ditches or relict boundaries. Trench 1 was located in the north-west corner of the site in relatively even ground. The trench measured 24m in length and was dug to an average depth of 0.5m. The topsoil was a rich humic material and the subsoil contained a high inclusion of angular stones. The only</p>   |                        |   |                 |

| Excavation Bulletin ref.  | Excavation Licence no. | Location   | Author       |
|---|------------------------|--|--------------|
|   |                        |  |              |
| notable feature was a drainage channel at the west of the trench and was orientated north to south.<br>Kishoge Site   |                        |  |              |
| The proposed interface compound at Kishoge is located to the south-east of a roundabout at the junction of the R136 and the Ninth Lock Road. The field contains a high voltage tower with power lines overhead; the ground is of rough pasture with evidence of previous infill. This infilling was confirmed by the geophysical results, frequent 'iron spikes' were interpreted as relating to the importation of soils/debris. Three trenches were excavated across this area. Groundworks exposed a disturbed stratigraphy of imported builders' rubble and topsoil that had been dumped on the site. Subsoil, a boulder clay, was exposed at 1m in depth. There were no finds or features of archaeological potential.   |                        |  |              |
| 2019:511  | 19E0318                | Kishogue Rail Station, Dublin 22, Dublin               | Jean O'Dowd  |
|   |                        |  |              |
| Topsoil was stripped across the proposed car park and the access road leading in from the Outer Ring Road. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in these areas.   |                        |  |              |
| 2020:413  | 20E0390                | Clonburris Little, Cappagh, Kishoge and Grange, Dublin | John Ó Néill |
|   |                        |  |              |
| Testing was undertaken within the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in the townlands of Clonburris Little, Cappagh, Kishoge and Grange, Dublin 22. The assessment incorporated a programme of metal-detecting under licence 20R0168.  |                        |  |              |
| Archaeological testing was carried out over the course of four weeks in August and September 2020. The trenches targeted open green space within the proposed infrastructure for the Clonburris SDZ identifying 6 areas of archaeological significance (AA1-AA6). These comprise evidence for brick manufacture (AA1, AA2 and AA3) and charcoal kilns and related activity (AA4, AA5 and AA6).  |                        |  |              |
| A total of 82 trenches were excavated across the site measuring 7,106 linear metres across five different townlands, which were (from west to east): Adamstown (Trenches 1-9 and Trench 101), Grange (Trenches 10-22), Kishoge (Trenches 23-33), Clonburris Little (Trenches 34-43) and Cappagh (44-82).  |                        |  |              |
| The topsoil was relatively consistent across the area investigated with between around 0.3m and 0.4m of mid-brown silty clay present. This overlay a series of compact clays, varying in colour from orange to grey, with some limestone bedrock in places. In some locations a grey-yellow fine silty clay was exposed when the topsoil was removed and found to be present to a depth of up to 0.2m overlying the subsoil. This appears to have a natural origin but was generally removed during testing to ensure it had not formed over the top of deposits of archaeological significance.  |                        |  |              |
| It should be noted that evidence for past agricultural activity across the whole site was not particularly intensive with little evidence for agricultural furrows. Attempts at land drainage were present in a number of locations but former farmers and landowners and others familiar with the area have indicated that the ground can be seasonally very wet. While the construction of the Grand Canal to the south in the 1760s and 1770s likely improved drainage, even subsequently the ground may often have been too marginal for many forms of agricultural activity. During testing, a limited assemblage of material was identified within the topsoil. Mainly this consisted of a very small number of sherds of nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery, often cream wares, with very occasionally sherds of pottery such as Black Ware that may be eighteenth century in date. As farmhouse rubbish was generally retained in a midden which was scattered on fields as fertiliser, the limited manuring also suggested that the area had not been intensively farmed. Similarly there was a singular absence of any earlier artefactual evidence, or introduced and unmodified materials that would be indicative of the proximity of sustained human activity. This is borne out by the archaeological features identified in testing. |                        |  |              |
| Most of the field boundaries in the area appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps and would appear, then, to pre-date the 1830s. The layout of the small demesne around Clonburris Cottage, in Clonburris Little townland, is clearly cut by the line of the Grand Canal and indicates that the field boundaries have their origins well before 1750.   |                        |  |              |
| AA1: Substantial evidence of previously unrecorded brick manufacture was found in Trench 14 and some of the surrounding trenches in the same field as Trench 14, in particular the south-eastern end of Trench 13. Trench 14 was widened to establish the full extent of the brick manufacturing and an area of 10m by 10m was identified. While a series of small structural features were identified within this area, it may represent a single large brick kiln and other similar structures may be present in the vicinity.  |                        |  |              |
| AA2: Further evidence of previously unrecorded brick manufacture was found in a number of trenches laid out beside each other in the field to the south of AA1. These included the eastern half of Trenches 17 to 20 and all  |                        |  |              |



| Excavation Bulletin ref.   | Excavation Licence no. | Location | Author |
|--|------------------------|----------|--------|
| <p>of Trenches 21 and 22, within an irregular area measuring 150m by 150m.</p> <p>AA3: Further evidence of previously unrecorded brick manufacture was found in Trenches 27 and 28 in Kishoge, in the fields just to the east of the R136.</p> <p>AA4: Three pits, with evidence for burning and charcoal, were identified in Trench 55 in Cappagh just to the east of the R113.</p> <p>AA5: A single large pit, capped in clay and containing charcoal, was identified in Trench 57 in Cappagh just to the east of the R113.</p> <p>AA6: A single large pit, capped in clay and containing charcoal, was identified in Trench 68 in Cappagh in the fields to the west of the R113.</p> <p>In Clonburris Little and Cappagh, a number of features exposed by the test trenches corresponded to field boundaries indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps but no longer visible on the ground.</p> <p>In Clonburris Little, the boundaries around Clonburris Cottage as indicated on early edition Ordnance Survey maps correspond to features noted in Trenches 42 and 43. These were collapsed limestone and brick walls incorporating significant amounts of modern debris. The suggestion, from the absence of references to the cottage on site in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century newspaper rental adverts, is that the cottage itself was, at the earliest, nineteenth century in date. There was nothing noted to suggest earlier activity at the site although, given the nature of the landscape, it is likely that buildings were constructed within the driest areas of the surrounding lands and so were the repeated focus of occupation over the years (making them the likely locations for in situ archaeological materials).</p> <p>In Cappagh, in demesne lands to west of Cappagh House, Trenches 72 and 76 exposed linear boundary features that correspond to field boundaries indicated on earlier edition Ordnance Survey maps but that are no longer visible on the ground.</p> |                        |          |        |