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Archaeological Impact Assessment at

Proposed development of 74 no. residential units at Craddockstown
Road, Craddockstown Demesne, Naas, Co. Kildare

December 2016

Client: Kildare Co. Co., County Hall, Naas, Co. Kildare

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Appendix I: Photographic Record

Non-Technical Summery

The National Development Finance Agency proposes to construct a new social housing PPP at Craddockstown Demesne, Naas, Co. Kildare. This report outlines an archaeological assessment designed to assess the impact of the works.

The site is to the southeast of the historic town of Naas. A number of archaeological monuments have been recorded in the immediate environs of the development these include a number of fulachta fiadh and a cist. The proposed development is divided into five fields divided by mature hedgerows and are currently in use as pasture. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered as a result of field walking. In order to identify any sub surface remains during the development archaeological monitoring has been recommended.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Section at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs.

1 Introduction

The National Development Finance Agency proposes to construct a new social housing PPP at Craddockstown Demesne, Naas, Co. Kildare. The proposed development will comprise of 74 houses and associated works. This report outlines an archaeological assessment designed to assess the impact of the works.

The site is currently divided into five fields and in use as grassland. John Purcell BA undertook this report on behalf of the National Development Finance Agency.

The report includes a desktop study and a site inspection. The desktop section of the report was compiled using: The Records of Monuments and Places; buildings of Ireland, Excavations Bulletin; historic maps; aerial photographs; place names and historic books and journals.

A field inspection of the proposed site was also carried out as part of the assessment. This was undertaken on a dry day in December 2016.

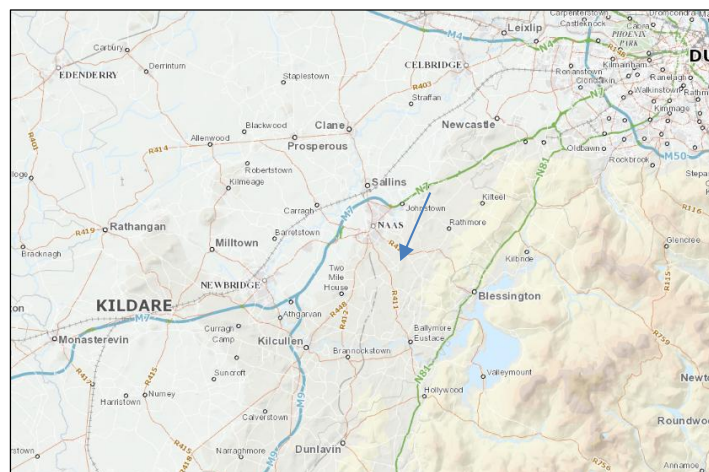


Figure 1: Location of the development in Co. Kildare

2 Assessment Methodology

2.1 Study Methodology

This assessment consists of a paper survey identifying all recorded sites within the vicinity of the proposed development and a site inspection. The methodology has been conducted based on the guidelines from the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG.).

2.2 Desktop Survey

The desktop survey undertaken consisted of a document and cartographic search utilising a number of sources including the following:

- **Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);** The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, the original location of destroyed monuments and the location of possible sites identified through, documentary, cartographic, photographic research and field inspections. The RMP consists of a list, organised by county and subdivided by 6" map sheets showing the location of each site. The RMP data is compiled from the files of the Archaeological Survey
- **County Development Plans;** The Development plan was consulted in order to ascertain if any structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and/or any Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The Record of Protected Structures lists all protected structures and buildings in Dublin. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.
- **Cartographic Sources;** The following maps were examined: 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of the Dublin County (1836-1846) and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map of the Dublin County (1908).
- **Literary Sources;** Various published sources, including local and national journals, were consulted to establish a historical background for the

proposed development site. Literary sources are a valuable means of completing the written record of an area and gaining insight into the history of the environs of the proposed development. Principal archaeological sources include:

The Excavations Bulletin; Local Journals; Published archaeological and architectural inventories; Peter Harbison, (1975). *Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland*; and O'Donovan's *Ordnance Survey Letters*.

A comprehensive list of all literary sources consulted is given in the bibliography.

2.3 Site Inspection

An archaeological field inspection survey seeks to verify the location and extent of known archaeological features and to record the location and extent of any newly identified features. A field inspection should also identify any areas of archaeological potential with no above ground visibility.

3 The Receiving Environment

- 3.1 The proposed development is located in the townland of Craddockstown Demesne, Naas, Co. Kildare. The site is at the southeast of the town in a greenfield site currently in use as pasture. The site is divided into five fields by mature hedgerows. The field are in low lying pasture and the northern most field includes a pond surrounded by mature trees. This is marked as a circular feature on the current edition of the OS map.
- 3.2 The R410 bounds the site at the north and a third class road forms the southern boundary of the development.

4 General Archaeological and Historical Summary

4.1 Prehistory

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of prehistoric sites in the area. These include a number of megalithic monuments, however the commonest are barrows and cists. These are associated with the Bronze/Iron Age burial tradition (c. 2400 BC - AD 400) and are defined by an artificial mound of earth or earth and stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials. These sites vary in shape and scale and can be variously described as bowl-barrow, ditch barrow, embanked barrow, mound barrow, pond barrow, ring-barrow and stepped barrow. The incidence and frequency of these sites in the area attests to the extent of prehistoric settlement in this area from earliest times.

4.2 Iron Age to Early Medieval Period

In late Bronze Age Ireland the use of the metal reached a high point with the production of high quality decorated weapons, ornament and instruments, often discovered from hoards or ritual deposits. The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Political life in the Iron Age seems to have been defined by continually warring petty kingdoms vying for power. These kingdoms, run on an extended clan system, had their economy rooted in mixed farming and, in particular, cattle. Settlement was typically centred on a focal hillfort.

Settlement in the Early Medieval Period is defined by the ringfort. These are the commonest monument across Co. Kildare and the country and have been frequently recorded in the area.

The introduction of Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century had a profound impact on Gaelic society, not in the least in terms of land

ownership and the development of churches and religious houses. A number of early Christian Monuments are located in the vicinity of the site including a settlement in Naas to the northwest. These sites were proto towns with a thriving settlement and a number of religious monuments including churches, Holy Wells and Bullaun stones.

4.3 Historic Period

Naas was a prosperous Anglo Norman town founded in the 14th century and walled by the early 15th century. Remains of a number of medieval castles and other medieval structures remain within the town.

4.4 Archaeological Monuments

The site does not include any recorded archaeological remains, however a number of monuments are located in the environs of the proposed development (all details from archaeology.ie).

KD019-038----

Class: Cist

Townland: TIPPER SOUTH

A cremation-burial accompanied by two large vase food vessels (or possibly vase urns) was found in a cist which fell out of a pit face during sand extraction in 1930. Several years previously, another burial of 'unknown character' had apparently been found in the same area.

KD019-037----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: TIPPER SOUTH

In level, well drained pasture. Described in 1972 as a circular area (diam. 38m) enclosed by a well-defined earthen bank (H1.5m) with an entrance gap at E, and with slight traces of an outer fosse. The site is skirted by a modern field bank and drain SE-SW (SMR file). Visible on a 2005 aerial photograph (OSi Orthophoto).

19-054----

Class: Fulacht fia

Townland: TIPPER SOUTH

One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. A low circular mound (diam. c. 9m; H. 0.4m) is composed of cracked stone and dark soil.

KD019-036001-

Class: Enclosure

Townland: TIPPER SOUTH

Just off the brow of a hill, near the top of a short, steep, NNE-facing slope, in pasture. A fairly poorly preserved, rectangular area (int. dims. L 37m E-W; Wth 29m N-S) is defined by a low, stony, earthen bank (int. H 0.1-0.6m; Wth 0.6m at E-4m at S; ext. H 0.8m), and by the remains of a shallow, outer fosse along S and W (Wth 2m; D 0.4m). The interior may contain a partially robbed-out souterrain (KD019-036002-). Visible on a 2005 aerial photograph (OSi Orthophoto).

KD019-030001-

Class: Town defences

Townland: NAAS EAST, NAAS WEST

According to Bradley et al (1986 vol. 4, 355-9), there are no references to town defences in Naas before 1415, when the King granted the provosts and burgesses the customs of the town for 20 years in order to fortify it. Further murage grants were made by parliament between 1451 and 1468; the latter being a grant for ten years to pay for the immediate walling of the town which was 'like to be destroyed or burned, unless it is walled'. Charters of 1568 and 1609 both granted tolls and customs to the Corporation to pay for the walling of the town, and a further grant was made by Charles 1 in 1629 'towards repairing of their buildings and walls'. De Burgh (1891-5, 319) refers to a feature mentioned in leases as 'The Barrier' or 'North Barrier', the precise location of which is unknown, but which he suggested may have been in the vicinity of St. David's Castle (KD019-030019-). Murtagh (1983-4, 356) suggests it may have formed an inner defensive line, while Healy (1984, 5) regarded it as the original N-boundary of the town. Bradley et al (1986 vol. 4, 358) are sceptical of either suggestion. While there are references to a number of gatehouses (see below), little physical evidence of the presence or course of a town wall is known. However, traces of a defensive ditch have been found. In 1996, archaeological excavation (Licence no. 96E0124: www.excavations.ie) identified part of a possible defensive ditch adjacent to Corban's Lane. In 1998 an archaeological evaluation (Licence no. 98E0468: www.excavations.ie) at a site on Friary Road revealed portion of a linear ditch of substantial dimensions. Its location (ITM 689499 719587) and direction suggested it was part of the town defences. A probable continuation was found to the north when in 2002 during an archaeological assessment (Licence no. 02E1788 www.excavations.ie) in advance of a proposed development on a large site at Poplar Square/Friary Road. Eustace Castle (KD019-030014-) stood at the south-western corner of the site, and the presumed line of the town defences runs roughly northwest-southeast across the eastern portion of the site. A large ditch was found (IG 289570 219589 ITM 689496 719634) and although not fully exposed it was 4-5m wide and 0.9 - c. 1.4m deep and 3m wide towards the base. No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch, but it was interpreted as forming part of the

town defences. Conversely in 1997, archaeological monitoring (Licence no. 97E0151: www.excavations.ie) of the mechanical excavation of pipe trench cuttings along the length of the east-west Canal Street revealed no material of archaeological significance, or any evidence of a stone construction which might suggest the route of a suggested town wall or earthen rampart crossing the site from south to north. In 1999, archaeological testing (Licence no. 99E0111: www.excavations.ie) at the site of a proposed rear extension to a premises on the Dublin Road (ITM 689456 719685) revealed a number of sherds of late medieval pottery together with a wall which had been truncated both by the foundation trench of the existing cottage and a service-pipe trench. The wall, although only 1.5m long, was at least 1.1m wide, although its exact width could not be measured as it appeared to continue into the adjacent property. Two rough courses of stone were revealed, standing to a maximum height of 0.43m. It was interpreted as the basal remains of the town wall defences and was subsequently preserved in situ. An alternative interpretation might associate this wall with the North Gate, which is believed to have stood in this general area.

The variety of sites show a consistent pattern of settlement from the earliest times. Evidence of additional archaeological remains may be preserved below the ground level. Houses constructed in prehistoric times and up to the 11th century AD were generally made of wood once this decayed the remains can only be detected through archaeological excavation. Similarly, burial sites may not have any surface markers and remain undetected below the surface. Ground disturbance may uncover buried archaeological sites, features or artefacts.

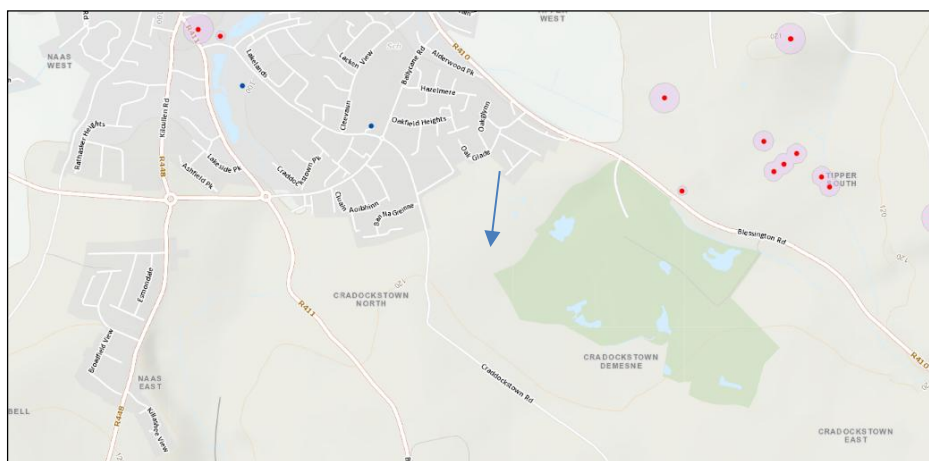


Figure 2: Extract from the RMP for the development with the proposed development marked



Figure 3: Site boundary

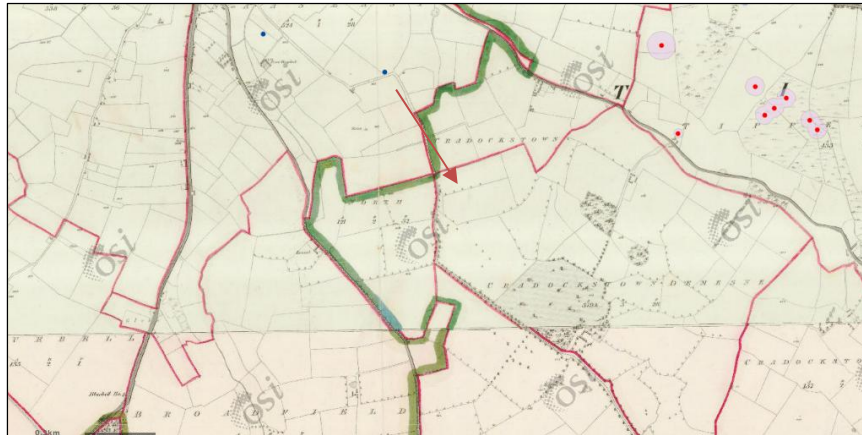


Figure 4: First edition OS map with the development marked

6 Impact on the Cultural Heritage Landscape

6.1 Recorded Monuments

Field walking undertaken in December 2016, has shown that the proposed development does not include any upstanding archaeological remains. The site is currently in use as pasture. A number of archaeological monuments are

located in the wider environs of the site. A cluster of fulacht fiadh are recorded over 100m to the northeast. These monuments are commonly found throughout the country and can be uncovered during excavation works.

6.2 Previous Archaeological Works

Two licenced excavations area excavated for Craddockstown in *excavations.ie*. neither of these studies uncovered archaeological remains.

6.3 Cartographic and Ariel Photographic Evidence

The first edition OS map and the 25" maps do not include any archaeological finds features anomalies that could be interpreted as a features in the study area. Aerial photographs did not uncover any features. The current OS map includes a circular feature at the north of the site. This was visible at ground level as a sub-oval pond with mature trees at the south. There was nothing archaeologically suggestive of this feature.

6.5 Field Walking

Field walking was undertaken in December 2016. The site is divided into five interconnecting fields by mature hedgerows. Visibility in the fields was very good as the grass was tightly cropped. The dividing hedgerows included drains and mature trees. The field at the north included a sub oval pond surrounded by trees at the south. No archaeological remains were visible during field walking.

6.5 Archaeological Potential

The site does not include any archaeological remains however, a cluster of fulachta fiadh are recorded 100m to the northeast. They are most common in low lying areas adjacent to water sources such as streams. These are often not visible at ground level and can only be identified as a result of excavation.

Alternatively associated settlement could extend into the proposed development.

Sub surface features may only be uncovered as a result of excavation works.

7 Mitigation Strategies

Although the site does not contain any visible archaeological remains a number of recorded monuments are located in the wider environs. Sub surface features may exist below the ground level, as a result of this a series of mitigation strategies have been recommended

- It is recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken as part of the development. This will allow any sub surface remains to be identified prior to development. Monitoring has been recommended as opposed to archaeological testing to allow the development to proceed quickly through the planning process quickly.
- Should archaeological features be uncovered the Department of Arts Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs should be contacted.

8 Conclusion

The National Development Finance Agency proposes to construct a new social housing PPP at Craddockstown Demesne, Naas, Co. Kildare. This will include the construction of 74 dwellings and associated works. The site does not include any recorded archaeological remains and none were uncovered as a result of the field walking. A series of fulachta fiadh were uncovered to the northeast, more of these monuments or other features associated with this site may extend into the area.

The site is of moderate archaeological potential and archaeological monitoring has been recommended.

All recommendations are subject to agreement with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Appendix I: Photographic Record



Plate 1: Looking north over the proposed development



Plate 2: Looking northwest over the proposed development



Plate 3: Looking south at the pond at the north of the site



Plate 4: Looking southeast at the south of the proposed development