

Archaeological Impact Assessment

**Large Residential Development (LRD),
Farrandahore More, Wilton, Cork City**



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1. Introduction

The Land Development Agency (LDA) intends to apply to Cork City Council for permission for a Large Residential Development with a total application site area of c. 2.61ha, on lands adjoining the ESB Networks DAC Office, at Farrandahadore More, Sarsfield Road, Wilton, Cork City. The development will provide 348 no. residential units and a 138 sqm childcare facility, revised access arrangements to Sarsfield Road and all associated development above and below ground.

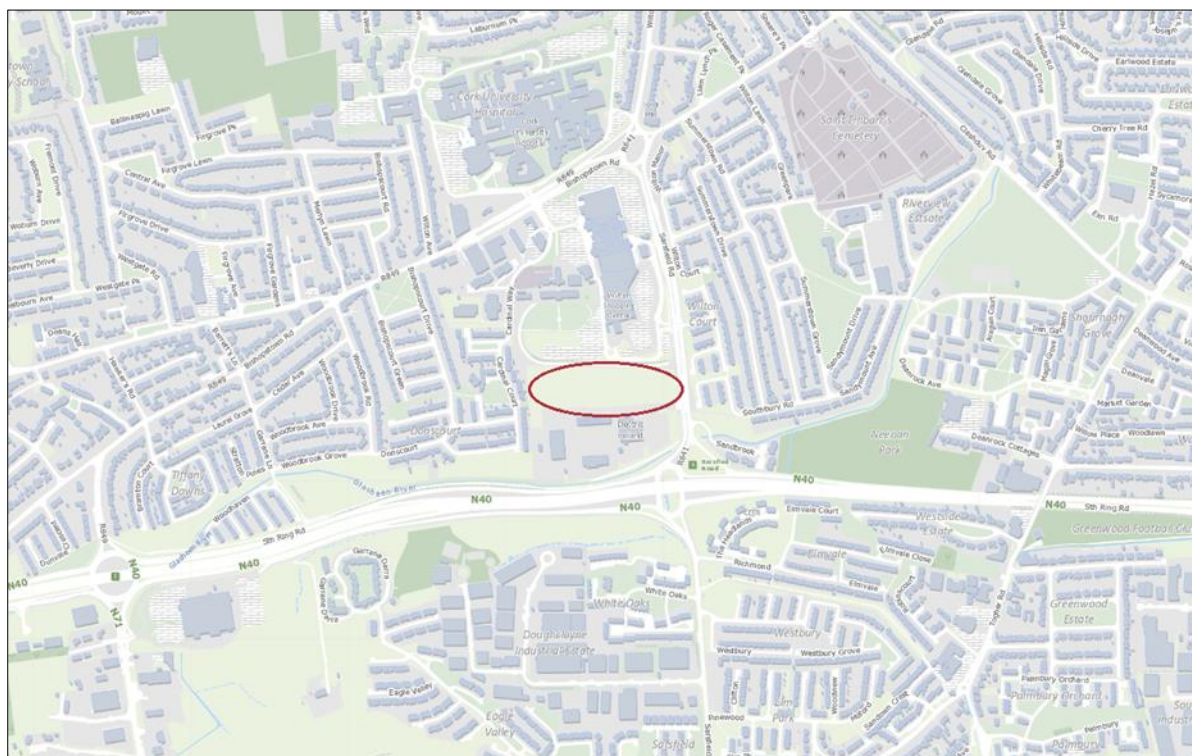


Figure 1: Location of proposed development site (site circled in red) within the wider landscape (Source: Government of Ireland: Historic Environment Viewer)

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by Reddy Architecture & Urbanism on behalf of the LDA to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the known and potential archaeological heritage resource within, and immediately adjacent to, the site of the proposed Large Residential Development (LRD) (for site location, see **Figure 1**). The land is currently in the ownership of ESB Networks. This assessment will accompany a planning application to be submitted to Cork City Council. The assessment has been prepared by Paul Fingleton, Deirbhile Lynch and John Cronin; all of whom are qualified and experienced archaeologists.

The study area for this assessment comprises the area within the red-line boundary of the site, as well as lands within 1km of the site boundary. The assessment firstly outlines the methodology used in its compilation (**Section 2**) and then provides a brief archaeological and historical context for the study area, including a summary of the relevant legal and planning framework for the recorded and potential elements of the archaeological resource within its environs (**Section 3**). The results of a site inspection are described in **Section 4**, an assessment of impact is provided in **Section 5**, while conclusions and recommendations are outlined in **Section 6**.

2. Methodology

Desktop study

The assessment commenced with a desktop study carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for the known archaeological resource were the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Between 1984 and 1992, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) issued a series of county SMRs which lists known archaeological sites and places, and this record formed the basis for the statutory RMP, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Similar in format to the SMRs (comprising a list and set of maps), the RMPs were issued for each county in the State between 1995 and 1998. Archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

The *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* (ASI) has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and has developed an online database and web viewer known as the 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This resource facilitates access to the current SMR database of the National Monuments Service as well as the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (Source: www.archaeology.ie).

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded, or partially levelled, features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the first edition of the 1:10,560 (6-inch) Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (the relevant area was surveyed in 1841) and the 1:2500 (commonly referred to as '25-inch map') OS map (the relevant area was surveyed in 1901).
- *Literary Sources* - Various published literary sources were consulted in order to assess the archaeological and historical record of the study area.
- *Aerial photography* - In parallel with the cartographic study, a review of publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) and Google Earth was undertaken.
- *Development Plans* - The local authority development plan relevant to the study area was consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The relevant development plan for the study area is the *Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028*.
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1969 to present.
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List* - There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites have been included in a Tentative List (2022) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion. None of these sites are located within the environs of the study area.

Site survey

A suitably qualified archaeologist (Paul Fingleton) carried out an inspection of the proposed development site on 10th of July 2024. The study area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites or features. No difficulties were encountered during the survey. The results of the site inspection are detailed in **Section 4** and extracts from the photographic record are presented in the **Appendix 1** to this report.

3. Context

Location

The subject lands comprise a greenfield area within the townland of Farrandahadore More, on the southwest outskirts of Cork City and encompass a total of 2.7 ha. The redline planning boundary of the site is bound by Wilton Shopping Centre and the St. Joseph's Parish Church, Wilton to the north, by ESB Networks to the south, the Cardinal Court housing estate on its western boundary and the Sarsfield Road on its eastern boundary (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2: Aerial image centred on the proposed development area (Source: Google maps)

Legal and planning policy context

On the 13th of October 2023, the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 was signed into law by President Michael D. Higgins. The new Act will repeal existing legislation and institute new provisions equipped to cater for the protection of historic heritage in a modern era.

The Act will repeal the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and replace those Acts with provisions for the protection of historic heritage, provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, provisions for the regulation of certain activities in the interests of such protection and provisions enabling the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions which relate to such protection or regulation; to give effect to the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive in relation to the carrying out of works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of

monuments; to give further effect to the Valletta Convention; to consequentially repeal or amend certain other enactments; to make miscellaneous amendments to the Foreshore Act 1933, the Lough Corrib Navigation Act 1945, the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Valuation Act 2001, the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government Rates and other Matters Act 2019 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021; and to provide for related matters.

The Act introduces the following innovative measures:

- newly discovered archaeological sites are afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration;
- a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments;
- a new ‘Register of Monuments’ will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems hitherto in operation;
- “World Heritage Property” is defined for the first time in Irish legislation;
- subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State;
- the Act provides the necessary provisions to allow for the ratification of two important international treaties, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;
- the Act enables the State to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- an integrated licensing system whereby one licence can authorise a range of activities will be introduced and, for the first time, a statutory appeals process will be established to review licensing decisions, and
- a new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings.

The Act defines archaeology as “the study of past human societies of all periods, either as a whole or of various aspects of them, through the material remains of all forms, moveable and immovable, left by those societies and the evidence of their environment, and includes the study of climatological, ecological, geological, geomorphological or pedological factors relevant to understanding the nature or context of those societies or the distribution or nature of their material remains, and “archaeological interest” shall be construed accordingly”.

Until such time as the relevant provisions are commenced, the 1930 Act, and its Amendments, remain the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include several provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites. There are **no archaeological sites subject to Preservation Orders or Temporary Preservation Orders within the proposed development area**. There is one archaeological site (as recorded by the ASI) located within 1km of the proposed development site boundary (see **Table 1** and **Figure 3**).

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘*a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance*’. The State

may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. There are **no National Monuments** (in the ownership or guardianship of the State) **located within the immediate vicinity of the subject site OR within the site itself.**

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), provides county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months' notice in advance of any work proposed at their locations.

The *Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028* was also consulted and includes the following relevant objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage resource:

Objective 8.1: Strategic Archaeology

- a. *To protect and preserve archaeological monuments as listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database (WIID). All sites can be accessed on the Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie). The National Monuments Service will be informed of all development proposals which relate to Sites and Zones of Archaeological Interest.*
- b. *Cork City Council will have regard to the relevant national statutory policies and guidelines, including Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage and to best practice guidance documents published by the Heritage Council and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.*
- c. *To preserve the character and setting of the medieval city wall and defences, which is a National Monument, according to the recommendations of the Cork City Walls Management Plan (2007) and the National Policy on Town Defences (2008).*
- d. *To promote the retention, reuse, and enhancement of buildings and other elements of architectural, archaeological and other significance*
- e. *To ensure that development reflects and is sensitive to the historical importance and character of the city and its hinterland, in particular the street layout and pattern, plot sizes, building heights and scales.*
- f. *To improve and encourage access to and understanding of the architectural and archaeological heritage of the city.*

Objective 8.2: Protection of the Archaeological Resource

- a. *Cork City Council will protect and enhance the archaeological value of the sites (and their settings) listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Historic Environment Viewer.*
- b. *Cork City Council will ensure that development proposals will protect and preserve archaeological sites discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).*
- c. *To ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ, in accordance with national policy (and in the interests of sustainability), impacts on the buried archaeological environment should be avoided where possible.*

Objective 8.7: Industrial Archaeology:

Cork City Council requires that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an archaeological assessment of the building(s) and their surrounding environment. Retention and/or incorporation of industrial buildings will be encouraged. Where in exceptional circumstances demolition is permitted, a detailed building report will be required.

Archaeological context

The subject site is located on the south-western outskirts of Cork City, in the suburb of Wilton. There are **no recorded archaeological sites located within the proposed development site**, however, there is one recorded archaeological site (as recorded by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*) within the 1km study area. This site, a Country House (C0074-076----) is located c.935m to the northeast of the subject site; the house is known as Peterborough House. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland describes the building as follows:

Eighteenth century gable-ended house; indicated in SW suburbs of Cork on 1842 OS 6-inch map. Front (SE) of 5 bays, 2-storey; central door at 1st floor level with flight of steps giving access. Early features include slim 8-lighted sash windows with shallow reveals; steeply pitched roof and attic windows on gable end.

Additionally, there is evidence of earlier archaeological activity to the west and southwest of the site. A series of *fulacht fiadh* (C0074-129---- & C0073-111----) and a burnt mound (C0074-128--), located to the southwest of the site were excavated ahead of the construction of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass in 2002. These were all located in the townland of Ballinaspig More.

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites located within 300m of the proposed development site

Monument No.	Classification	Townland	ITM (E, N)	Distance
C0074-076----	Country House	Huggarts-land	565552, 570574	935m northeast



Figure 3: Outline of subject site (red line) with 1km study area (yellow shaded area) and recorded archaeological sites marked (blue dots) (Source: Government of Ireland: Historic Environment Viewer)

Early Prehistoric Period

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dated to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island. However, recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in Alice and Gwendoline Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal. BC (Dowd & Carden 2016, 161). The Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces although their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields. The Neolithic period (4000–2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. **There are no recorded sites dating to the early prehistoric period within the subject site or within the 1km study area for this assessment**

The Bronze Age

The Irish Bronze Age (2400–500 BC) commenced with the arrival of metal-working techniques to the island and this technological advance resulted in the introduction of a new artefactual assemblage into the Irish archaeological record. This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, barrows and *fulachta fiadh*. The development of new burial practices meant that the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and tumuli or cists also became common during this period. **There are no recorded sites dating to this period located within the subject site or within the 1km study area established for the purposes of this assessment.**

The Iron Age

The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). This period has been traditionally associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’, but this view is no longer widely accepted as recent archaeological evidence points instead to a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe (O’Brien 2012, 233). Relatively little has been traditionally known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of Iron Age sites during bog-cutting and road construction projects. **There are no recorded Iron Age sites located within the subject site or within the 1km study area established for the purposes of this assessment.**

Early medieval period

The early medieval period began with the introduction of Christianity and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century (c. 400–1169 AD). While this period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the larger monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports, the dominant settlement pattern was still rural-based and founded on a small-scale agricultural economy centred around enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts. These comprise circular enclosures delimited by concentric banks and ditches and are the most widespread archaeological field monuments in the Irish landscape. They were formerly known by the names *rath*/*lios*, which still form some of the most common Irish place name elements. **There are no recorded early medieval period sites within the subject site or within the 1km study area established for the purposes of this assessment.**

Late medieval (AD 1169 – 1550)

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century marks the advent of the late medieval period. This period saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns developed as local or regional market centres. By the 15th century the native Irish chieftains and lords began to construct tower houses as centres of territorial control. **There are no late medieval monuments/sites recorded within the subject site or within the 1km study area established for the purposes of this assessment.**

Post-medieval to early modern

The centuries following 1550 AD are referred to as the post-medieval period, which is generally considered to continue until the development of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. This period saw the development of both high and low status rural housing stocks and dispersed agricultural settlements consisting of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings, which began to be replaced by two-storey farmhouses during the late 19th century. **Peterborough House, a Country House (C0074-076---) located in the study area dates to this period. The country house is located over 900 metres to the north-east of the subject site. The house will not be impacted by the proposed development.**

Excavations Database

The Excavation Database (www.excavations.ie) contains summary accounts of archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1969 to present. Since the introduction of the licensing system in 1993, licence holders are obliged to submit a summary to the Excavations Database as a condition of the issuing of the excavation licence. The Database gives access to over 30,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, licence number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author.

The closest recorded entry on the Excavation Database, to the proposed development site is located *circa* 840m to the southwest. A programme of archaeological testing here, ahead of an upgrade to the N25 South Ring Road was carried out by Sheelagh Conran (Reference Number: A057/000 - <https://excavations.ie/report/2010/Cork/0021338/>) in 2010. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during these test excavations. Deep peat deposits were identified and suggest that the area was marginal bogland up until the late 18th century with evidence of reclamation works recorded.

During the construction of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass, in 2001, the excavation of a *fulacht fiadh* was completed by Donald Murphy (License Number 01E05460). This site was heavily truncated by modern agricultural processes, and dating material from the deposits was not possible.

Northeast of the subject site test excavations within the grounds of a recorded site (C0074-076-- - Country House) was carried out by Avril Purcell (License number 17E0311) in 2017 but nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

A full summary of all entries within each of the townlands within the study area is provided in **Appendix 2.**

Cartographic and aerial 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 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (1837-42) and the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (1888-1913).

The proposed development site is shown on the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map as encompassing portions of three agricultural fields within the Wilton Estate, which was in the possession of Charles H. Leslie at that time (Landed Estates). An access track is indicated in the central portion of the site. The northern field shows the sporadic location of deciduous trees as does the southwestern field, and the fields are bordered or partially by deciduous treelines as part of estate layout.



Figure 3: Extract from 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (1837-42) (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

By the time the 1:2500 OS map was surveyed (c.1900), no changes to the lands within the subject site are evident, save for the removal of the access track, although the field boundaries remain intact. Immediately outside the proposed development site, several changes are notable, indicative of new ownership and changes in use. Wilton House is now St Joseph's College, with a R.C. Chapel now depicted to the north of the house, while the parterre walled garden has been transformed into a kitchen garden for the college. The landscape, as evident by the simplified boundaries has a more utilitarian and agricultural feel, with the formal tree-lined avenues that both linked the adjacent Summerstown House (now demolished) to the east with Wilton and formed a robust division between the two country houses now removed. There is no indication of any previously unrecorded archaeological features within the subject site on any of the historic cartographic sources reviewed.

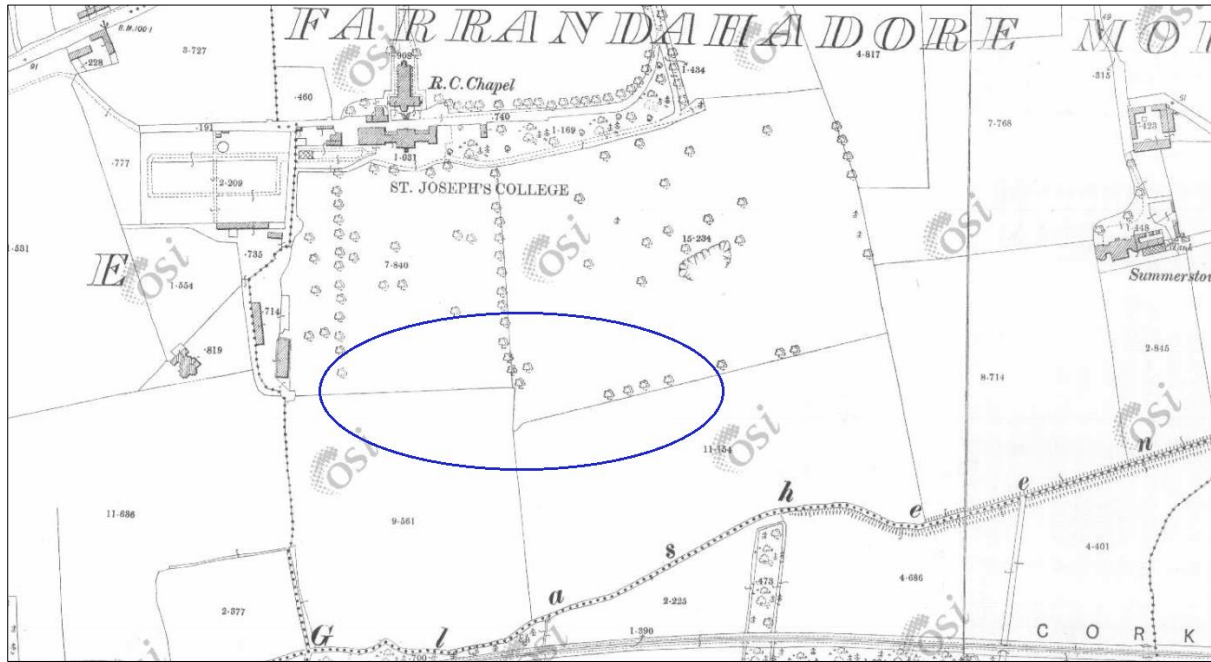


Figure 4: Extract from 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (1888-1913) (Source: Government of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer)

A review of recent aerial photographic images shows that the subject site is set between an ESB facility to the south, built prior to 1995 and a supermarket and carpark to the north, built c.2003 (Figure 5). Nothing of archaeological potential is visible on any of the aerial sources reviewed.



Figure 5: Aerial photography of the subject site, 2013-18 (Source: Government of Ireland: Historic Environment Viewer)

Placenames

The proposed development is located within the townland of Farrandahadore More and there are a further nine townlands within the c.1km wide study area. Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout and nomenclature of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the 19th century. The Irish translations of the townlands names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland, e.g. dun, lios or rath indicate the presence of a ringfort while temple, saggart, termon or kill record an association with a church site. The Irish origins and translations for the townlands within the study area were sought from the Placename Database of Ireland (logainmn.ie).

Table 2: Translation of townland names

Townland	Irish root	Translation	Earliest historical Reference
Farrandahadore More	Fearann an Dathadóira Beag	Beag 'big' Fearann 'land'	Farrendahadorebeg '1841'
Ballinaspig More	Baile an Easpaig Mór	Baile 'townland, town, homestead' Mór 'great, big'	1584 'Ballinaspick'
Ballinaspig Beg	Baile an Easpaig Beag	Beag 'big' Baile 'townland, town, homestead'	Ballinspeckbeg '1641'
Huggartsland	Fearann Hogaird	Fearann 'land'	1654 'Parkruckard'
Deanrock	Carraig an Deagánaigh	Carraig 'rock'	1655 'Carrigdiggainge'
Farrandahore Beg	Fearann an Dathadóira Beag	Fearann 'land' Beag 'big'	1841 'Farrendahadorebeg'
Doughcloyne	Dúchluain	N/A	1586 'Doghclone'
Lehenagh More	Leitheanach Mór	Leath 'half, side' Mór 'great, big'	1301 'Lethnath'
Garranedarragh	Garrán Darach	Dair 'oak' Garrán 'grove'	1577 'Garranedarragh'
Clashduff	An Chlais Dubh	Clais 'trench, ravine' Dubh 'black'	1628 'Clasdown alias Clasduff'

4. Description of site

A walkover inspection of the subject site was undertaken by an experienced field archaeologist, Mr Paul Fingleton of John Cronin & Associates, on 10 July 2024. The site was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites or features. Weather conditions were dry and sunny at the time of survey with excellent landscape visibility. No difficulties were encountered during this field survey. Please consult **Appendix 1** of this report for extracts from the photographic record.

The proposed development area is accessible from Sarsfield Road, via the main gate of ESB Networks. The site is bounded by trees lined with a metal fence on the north, east and west sides. To the south, a footpath and roadway give unfettered access to the wider working ESB Networks site.

On the eastern side of the site there is a disused access road, demarked by concrete kerbing in addition to the remains of concrete hardstands located within the northeast corner (**Appendix 1: Plates 1 – 2**). The area to the east of site contained a heavy concentration of mature trees and appeared to have been used as some form work yard. A very overgrown and disused access gate within boundary leads directly to the Sarsfield Road. Directly south of this area, and within the red line boundary of the site, is a flat area of grassland containing some younger trees, which forms part of the area immediately northwest of the main entrance.

Beyond the concentration of mature trees located within the northeast corner, the site slopes gradually from north to south and undulates from the centre westwards. This area contains two lines of mature tree located in the centre and west of the site (**Plate 7**). The western side of the site is currently in use a training area by ESB Networks and contains large spar poles (**Plate 6**). Uneven ground conditions, likely associated with this training were observed in addition to other ground disturbance (**Plate 5**).

No evidence for any potential unrecorded archaeological features was noted during the site inspection.

5. Assessment of impact

There are no archaeological sites (as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland) located within the proposed development site, the closest is a Country House, which is c.935m from the site boundary. Consequently, there will be no predicted impact on the recorded archaeological heritage resource should the proposed development proceed.

Notwithstanding the lack of recorded archaeological monuments within the environs of the proposed development, there is a ***moderate potential*** for the existence of previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be present below the topsoil within greenfield sections of the development site. The level of potential is based on the observation that the greenfield areas of the site appear to be relatively undisturbed.

Should the proposed development proceed, the anticipated level of ground disturbance and site development works are likely to directly impact any such sub-surface remains and therefore archaeological mitigation measures, outlined in **Section 6**, should be carried out to identify any such remains and ameliorate impacts on same.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

A desktop review and a site survey were carried out on lands proposed for a large residential development at Farrandahadore, Wilton, Cork City. This study, based on desktop research and a site inspection, did not identify any archaeological or architectural heritage constraints within the area proposed for development, either previously recorded or unrecorded. The proposed development ***will have no impact on the known archaeological resource in the area.***

Given the level of disturbance evident on site, the overall level of tree coverage and the fact that proposed development area was/is a working site within the grounds of the ESB Networks Facility, it was adjudged by the report authors that a geophysical survey at this site would be very restricted in its potential to identify any potential subsurface archaeology and is therefore considered ***unviable.***

It is considered that there is ***moderate potential*** for the existence of unrecorded archaeological remains to be present below the topsoil. Should the proposed development proceed, it would likely directly impact any such remains and therefore archaeological mitigation measures, outlined below, should be carried out to identify any such remains prior to construction.

Recommendations

A programme of pre-development archaeological test trenching, under licence from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage should be undertaken post grant of planning permission. It is recommended that such a programme of work should be made a condition of grant of planning permission. Prior to submitting an application to undertake a programme of archaeological testing, a test trenching plan should be submitted to Cork City Council's Executive Archaeologist for agreement.

Should significant archaeological material or deposits be discovered during these pre-development investigations, then consultation should take place between Cork City Council, the National Monuments Service and the developer as to the appropriate further mitigation measures.

7. References/sources

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Appendix 1: Photographic record



Plate 1: *Hardstand area at northeast corner of subject area, facing north*



Plate 2: *Disused access road and kerb line demarked by mature tree lines in northeast corner of subject site.
View facing west from the disused access gate at this position*



Plate 3: *Eastern side of subject site taken from approximate centre, facing east*



Plate 4: *Northern boundary of site. Photograph taken from the northwest corner of site. Note the tree lines on right of view*



Plate 5: Area of ground disturbance towards centre of subject site, facing north



Plate 6: Western end of site containing training area. Note ground disturbance on right of view, likely caused by heavy machinery associated with the erection of spar poles at centre of view



Plate 7: *Photograph taken from west of centre, along the southern side of the subject area. View facing west, showing the two lines of mature trees located within the centre and eastern side at this position*

Appendix 2: Excavation Database summaries

The following table lists each of the entries for every townland within the study area from the Database of Irish Excavation Reports viewable at excavations.ie

Site	Licence and Author	Description
Ballinaspig More, Cork	08E0895 & 08R296 Máire Ní Loingsigh	Fourteen test-trenches were excavated at this proposed development site on the south-west outskirts of Cork city. A partially levelled ringfort in the north-east of the site will not be affected by the proposed development. The area containing the monument will be excluded from the development within a 20m buffer zone that will extend from the outer edge of the monument. The stratigraphy on the site consisted generally of mid-brown stony topsoil 0.2–0.3m deep, over orange/brown to yellow/grey clay subsoil. There was evidence for drains and/or plough furrows throughout the site. Two small pits (F1, 0.23m north–south by 0.2m by 0.1m deep and F2, 0.39m east–west by 0.36m by 0.18m deep and 0.4m south-west of F1) were recorded 100m south-west of the ringfort and 6.3m north of the south site boundary. They were filled with a mixture of topsoil and blackened soil with some charcoal. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded in the vicinity of the ringfort or elsewhere.
Ballinveiltig/Ballinaspig More and Gourtagoulane, Cork	08E0663 Maurice F. Hurley	An area within the Ballynora to Lehenaghmore gas pipeline route was identified as being of archaeological potential due to proximity to a circular enclosure (CO085–119) apparent in aerial photographs. No surface anomalies were apparent in the field at the time of inspection. The area is located in agricultural land close to the summit of an east–west ridge at an altitude of c. 75m OD. The area of archaeological potential extends over a distance of c. 50–70m in two townlands, Ballinveiltig and Ballinaspig More; i.e. at either site of the townland boundary. A 1.6m-wide trench was excavated in 5m segments, each of 10m with 5m intervals over a length of 75m. The field had been subject to regular modern cultivation and plough soil of c. 0.4m deep overlay yellow boulder clay and shale rock. Many modern items such as plastic and drink cans were found in the plough soil but no anomalies were apparent in the topsoil/subsoil interface or in the subsoil.
Ballinaspig More, Cork	01E0546 Donald Murphy	Test-trenching was undertaken in advance of construction of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass. During this process an area of black, charcoal-stained clay, with substantial inclusions of heat-cracked stone fragments, was noted. The surrounding area was stripped of topsoil, hand-cleaned and the extent of the deposit established. The deposit was irregular and separated into distinct parts. Overall maximum dimensions were 10m by 5m with a maximum depth of 0.4m. The irregularity of the deposit would suggest that it has been heavily truncated by ploughing. Excavation revealed that the spreads only survived in natural depressions within the prehistoric ground surface. No pits or associated features were discovered. The excavated deposits were poor in charcoal and no samples suitable for dating purposes were obtained.
Ballinaspig More, Cork	01E0546 Donald Murphy	In the process of test-trenching along the proposed route of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass, a deposit of loose, black silt/sand was noted. The deposit contained large quantities of heat-cracked stone and was typical of a fulacht spread. Subsequently the surrounding area was stripped of topsoil and the extent of the deposit and associated features was established. The maximum dimensions of the deposit

<i>Site</i>	<i>Licence and Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
		were 4.5m by 2.75m and it sat within a cut with a maximum depth of 0.21m. The cut had gently sloping sides and a bowl-shaped base. To the south of the fulacht spread was a deposit of dark orange silty clay with charcoal inclusions, measuring 1.4m by 0.8m and within a cut 0.1m deep. It seems probable that this was a hearth associated with use of the fulacht. A shallow depression lay further to the south and was filled with fulacht material. Measuring 1.5m by 0.7m and with a depth of 0.05m, the depression could never be identified as a trough even though the site had been truncated by ploughing. No finds were recovered and the excavated deposits were too poor in charcoal for adequate dating samples to be obtained.
Ballinaspig More, Cork	01E0546 Donald Murphy	In the process of test-trenching along the proposed route of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass an area of dark brown sand containing burnt stone was identified. The surrounding area was stripped of topsoil and the full extent of archaeological deposits was established. The principal fulacht deposit measured 8m by 2m and the maximum depth was 0.2m. Underlying the deposit was a subrectangular pit with dimensions of 2.5m by 2m and a maximum depth of 0.4m. The sides of the pit were generally gently sloping, although on the southern side the edge was close to vertical. The base was flat and the fill consisted of fulacht material. It seems probable that this pit would have functioned as a trough during usage of the fulacht. No finds were recovered and no deposits produced samples capable of providing radiocarbon dates.
Ballinasig More 4, Cork	02E0947 Ed Danaher	Excavation of archaeological deposits exposed during the monitoring programme for the N22 Ballincollig Bypass Scheme revealed an area represented by three main phases of activity dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. The site was in the townland of Ballinaspig More, west of the Twopot River. This river divides the site from Ballinaspig More 5 (No. 215, Excavations 2002, 02E1033), which revealed evidence of Bronze Age and post-medieval settlement activity, and a ringfort is situated c. 120m south of the latter site. Topsoil-stripping in the area of Ballinaspig More 4 revealed a possible cremation pit and a series of unrelated features. These were distributed over an area measuring c. 30m north-south by 120m. They were identified as being the product of post-medieval farming activity, represented by rectilinear cultivation furrows aligned north-south at the southern extent of the site, by two linear drainage ditches, one of which was oriented east-west and the other north-south, and by a number of isolated pits and post-holes. Two large pits and a charcoal-rich spread were revealed at the northern extent of the site, with an average diameter of 2.4m. The spread possibly represented a single episode of burning, owing to the black, charcoal-rich deposit that overlay the subsoil but did not cut into it. The adjacent pit had a similar appearance before excavation, but this feature was cut into the subsoil. It contained three fills and a heavily oxidised base, suggesting more prolonged use. The rectilinear drainage ditch, which traversed the site in an east-west direction, had one fill, which contained a moderate quantity of charcoal and stone inclusions. The other, isolated pits were positioned sporadically across the site and appeared to be disparate features that did not form part of any structures. The three features initially discovered were possibly the remains of one cremation pit and two post-holes, all of which were probably truncated by modern agricultural activity. These were situated c. 50m east of the main concentration of activity on the site. One of the post-holes accommodated the remains of a post burnt in situ, and

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		the other contained evidence of stone packing. The possible cremation pit was subcircular, 0.56m long, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill of moderately compact, dark brown/black, silty clay. Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery and an extremely small quantity of poorly preserved cremated bone, with individual fragments measuring no greater than 5mm in diameter, were also present in this deposit. The bone was found to the south of the deposit, near the surface.
Ballinaspig More 5, Cork	02E1033 Ed Danaher	<p>Monitoring, carried out as part of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass Scheme in the townland of Ballinaspig More, revealed settlement activity spreading possibly over four millennia, from the Bronze Age to the 1800s. The pre-development works for the construction of a large interchange in this townland unearthed a large number of archaeological features. Bronze Age activity was best represented, and, in an area measuring c. 400m east-west by 150m, two fulachta fiadh (Nos 216 and 217, Excavations 2002, 02E1230 and 02E1233), a possible truncated cremation pit (No. 214, Excavations 2002, 02E0947) and two possible Bronze Age structures and associated features (this report) were unearthed.</p> <p>The site measured 130m east-west by 30m, and excavation revealed a possible multi-phased settlement with at least four structures present. The site was on a slight ridge west of the Twopot River, on good agricultural land. The most recent of the four structures identified was a rectangular dwelling from the 1800s. Associated with this building were a stone yard and a number of drainage ditches. The structure measured just under 12m east-west by 5m; its remains consisted of shallow foundation trenches excavated into the silty clay subsoil, each containing a single course of a stone wall. Finds from these foundation trenches were all relatively modern, mainly comprising what would be expected from a domestic context. This structure appeared to be the remains of a farm cottage with an entrance to the north-west. Its presence was not noted on any of the Ordnance Survey maps.</p> <p>To the south-east of this was a discontinuous circular alignment of post-holes with a diameter of 7.4m. These eleven post-holes would have housed stout posts and had an average diameter of 0.4m and depth of 0.36m. No hearth, occupational layers or internal features were uncovered during the excavation of this structure, which suggests that it may not have been used as a dwelling. However, it is possible that natural erosion truncated a number of these post-holes, possibly removing a few altogether, particularly along the north and north-east. The location of this structure on the eastern edge of the ridge may have led to occupational evidence being scoured away by water action, a process that was observed during the excavation of this site. Soon after this feature was exposed, rainwater formed a channel through its interior.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no diagnostic finds were recovered from this structure, but charcoal was retrieved from a number of the post-holes.</p> <p>A smaller, shallow, post-built structure, which possibly post-dates the previous one, was present to the south-west of it. The post-holes of this structure contained iron nails and fragments of slate, and their fills were completely different from those of the larger circular structure.</p> <p>Evidence of the fourth structure, which was circular, with a diameter of c. 5m, comprised a small slot-trench, post-holes and a hearth. The slot-trench contained the burnt remains of split timber planks. This slot-trench existed only in the south-west of the structure, possibly</p>

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		<p>acting as a windbreak from the prevailing south-westerly winds. The rest of the structure may have been constructed of wattle and daub, and a small central post may have helped to support a roof structure. It appears that this hut was of flimsy construction, and the split planks within the slot-trench were unlikely to be load bearing. The hearth was present within the south-eastern quadrant of the structure. It is quite possible that this structure may not have had a domestic function and alternatively may have been used as a working or storage area. Numerous sherds of possible Bronze Age pottery were found within the hearth.</p> <p>Further settlement evidence was present south-west of this structure over an area of 20m². A large number of pits and post-holes containing occupational debris in the form of dark, rich soils with numerous sherds of prehistoric (Bronze Age) pottery and stone tools were present. It is possible that the features and structures excavated within this site lay on the northern periphery of a larger settlement site, the nucleus of which would be south of the road-take.</p>
Ballinaspig More 6, Cork	02E1230 Ed Danaher	<p>Monitoring was carried out as part of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass Scheme in the townland of Ballinaspig More. This revealed a spread of burnt-mound material, which on excavation was identified as a fulacht fiadh. It was situated less than 50m west of a second fulacht fiadh, Ballinaspig More 7 (No. 217, Excavations 2002, 02E1233), and c. 240m north-west of a possible Bronze Age settlement, Ballinaspig More 5 (No. 215, Excavations 2002, 02E1033), in an area of relatively flat land with slightly higher ground to the south. The nearest water source (Twopot River) was over 400m east of the site. An area measuring 14m east-west by 11m was cleaned back by hand to establish the nature and extent of any deposits present. Removal of the burnt-mound spread (maximum dimensions: 9.72m east-west by 7.08m and 0.28m deep) revealed a series of stake-holes to the south and east of the site, a sub-oval trough pit to the north-west of it and a metalled surface overlying part of this pit. The stake-holes consisted of a linear alignment running north-east/south-west along the periphery of the site. This alignment of stake-holes may have acted as screening, and there was a further cluster of stake-holes to the north-west of it; however, these latter features did not form any discernible pattern.</p> <p>The pit of the trough measured 1.78m east-west by 0.77m and was 0.7m deep. The base of this feature was cut into a natural gravel layer, suggesting that it would not have contained water naturally. Therefore some kind of lining would have been necessary to make it functional as a water container. Above the base a flat, evenly spread layer of pinkish sand was present, which may have acted as a platform for such a waterproof lining.</p>
Ballinaspig More 7, Cork	02E1233 Ed Danaher	<p>Monitoring was carried out as part of the N22 Ballincollig Bypass Scheme in the townland of Ballinaspig More. This revealed a spread of burnt-mound material, which was identified on excavation to be a multi-phased fulacht(a) fiadh with a well-defined stratigraphical sequence. It was less than 50m east of a second fulacht fiadh, Ballinaspig More 6 (No. 216, Excavations 2002, 02E1230), and c. 200m north-west of a possible Bronze Age settlement, Ballinaspig More 5 (No. 215, Excavations 2002, 02E1033), in an area of relatively flat land with slightly higher ground to the south. The nearest water source, Twopot River, was c. 350m east of the site. An area measuring 20m east-west by 10.3m was cleaned back by hand. Removal of the burnt-mound spread (maximum dimensions: 11.72m east-west by 8.59m by 1.47m deep) revealed at least three</p>

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		<p>phases of activity and possibly two distinct fulachta fiadh. The first phase, and consequently the earlier fulacht fiadh, was represented by a sub-oval trough and a series of stake-holes. The burnt-mound material that had been generated by this fulacht fiadh was used to cover these features, having been spread out evenly throughout much of the site.</p> <p>Sealing this layer was a spread of redeposited natural, which appeared to have derived from the construction of the second fulacht fiadh, particularly the trough. This trough, the second of three on the site, was to the north-east of Trough 1, and there was a hearth directly north of it. This second trough was excavated into impermeable clay subsoil and held water naturally, without the aid of any lining. Stake-holes were present to the east and west of it, indicating that a structure may have been placed over it. The stake-holes to the west of this structure were inserted in the above-mentioned redeposited natural. Both this layer and the underlying burnt-mound material formed the upper levels of the western side of this trough.</p> <p>The third identifiable trough was directly south of Trough 2, truncating its southern extent; this was the largest of the three, measuring 2.51m north-south by 1.26m. Like Trough 2, this pit was cut into impermeable clay, with stake-holes both east and west of it, which may have formed part of a possible superstructure overlying this feature. A drainage feature appears also to have been associated with this pit, possibly as an additional means of getting water into the trough.</p>
Sheares Villa, Glasheen Road, Huggarts-Land, Cork	17E0311 Avril Purcell	Three test trenches were excavated in the garden and grounds of the country house in advance of conservation and extension and demolition of 20th-century extensions. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.
Doughcloyne/Garrindarragh/Ardarostig	<i>Sites and Monuments Record No.: A057/000</i> Sheelagh Conran	On 23–30 August 2010 testing was carried out on behalf of Cork City Council in advance of a proposed upgrade to the N25 Cork South Ring Road, specifically between the Sarsfield Road roundabout and the Bandon Road roundabout. None of the test-trenches investigated revealed any material of archaeological significance. The strata from the various box trenches proved relatively consistent and findings indicated the presence of deep to marginal peat formations over glacial outwash. The presence of a potential early Holocene alluvial fanning from the Glasheen River is suggested by the presence of substantial deposits of fine silt/clay inwash in several of the trenches. The tested remains suggest the area was poor marginal bogland from the early Holocene period up until possibly as late as the 18th century, when deep deposits of sterile stony clay were introduced over the bog in an apparent effort to level off and dry out the land to become agriculturally productive. In fact severance, caused by the construction of the existing N25 Cork South Ring Road, led to the area reverting back to marshland.
Douglas Flood Relief Scheme - Togher Road, Doughcloyne and Lehenagh More, Cork	20E0148 Kate Taylor	Monitoring was required for ground disturbance associated with service diversions in a small portion of advance works for a flood relief project. A single trench was monitored adjacent to a 19th-century cottage. No archaeological material was observed. The cottage was protected during the works.
Cork: Lehenagh More, Kinsale Road	04E0510 Avril Purcell	Seven test-trenches were excavated across the site in advance of construction. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Licence and Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
Lehenagh More, Togher, Cork	22E0521 Avril Purcell	Seven trenches were mechanically excavated across the proposed site of a residential development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.