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Archaeological Impact Assessment

At Collins Avenue, Co. Dublin

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Client: NDFA and DCC

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1 Introduction

A pre planning archaeological impact assessment was undertaken by John Purcell Archaeological Consultancy to assess the cultural heritage impact of a development at Collins Avenue, Co. Dublin. This report is being undertaken on behalf of the National Development Finance Agency and Dublin City Council. The report has impact of the site on the archaeological and historical landscape.

The report is based on documentary and cartographic research from all available sources including but not limited to the Record of Monuments and Places, the Sites and Monument Records, the topographical files of the National Museum, the Development Plan, local sources, and other literary and documentary references. Previous excavation in the immediate vicinity should also be reviewed.

This report was compiled by John Purcell of John Purcell Archaeological Consultancy.



Figure 1: Location and layout of development

2 Receiving Environment

The proposed development is located at a brownfield site to the north of Collins Avenue in the north of Dublin City. The site is currently in use as DCC depot and

recycling centre. The site includes a number of modern structures and the entire site has a concrete surface.

3 Methodology

This report has been prepared having regard to the following guidelines;

- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, 2018)
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Commission, 2017)
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022)
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023.
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Bill, 2006
- Heritage Act 1995
- Frameworks and Principles for the protection of Archaeological Heritage 1999
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023.

3.1 Study Methodology

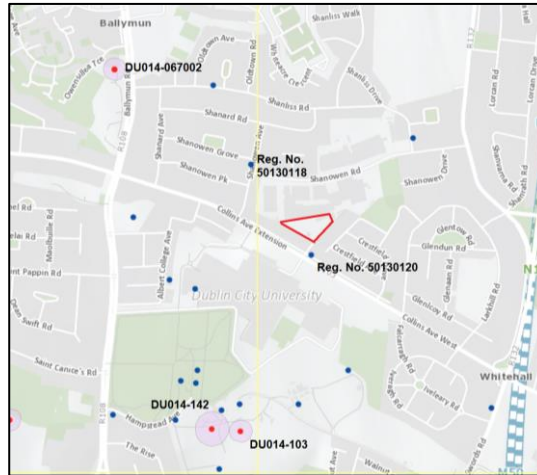
This assessment consists of a paper survey identifying all recorded sites within the vicinity of the proposed development, a site inspection and the results of archaeological test trenching.

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.

- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage; The inventory of architectural heritage lists all post 1700 structures and buildings in the country. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.
- County Development Plans; The county development plans were consulted to ascertain if any structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and/or any Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) were to be impacted by the proposed development.
- Cartographic Sources; the following maps were examined: Down Survey (1656-1658), 1st edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1836-1846) and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Maps (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: Local Journals; Published archaeological and architectural inventories; Peter Harbison's Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland; and O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters.
- Previous archaeological assessments and excavations for the area were also reviewed.
- Topographical files are located at the National Museum of Ireland and detail stray finds across the country.

Figure 2: Site boundary with archaeological monuments marked



4 General Archaeological and Historical Summary

4.1 Brief Archaeological Background Dublin

The proposed development is located to the north of Dublin City. The city's origins trace back to the 9th century when it was founded by Viking settlers on the banks of the River Liffey. The name "Dublin" is derived from the Irish "Dubh Linn," meaning "black pool," which referred to a dark tidal pool where the River Poddle met the River Liffey. Archaeological excavations have revealed Viking longhouses, burial sites, and artifacts, underscoring Dublin's significance as a Viking trading and military hub. By the late 11th century, there was a suburb of Dublin north of the Liffey centred around Smithfield and Stonybatter.

Following the Norman invasion of Ireland in the late 12th century, Dublin underwent significant transformation. The Normans established Dublin Castle as a seat of power. In 1152, the Bishop of Dublin was made an Archbishop. Between 1172 and 1191, the Cathedral of Christchurch was rebuilt. In 1213, the parish Church of St. Patrick was also made a cathedral. In the early 13th century, a stone wall was constructed to protect the settlement. In 1229, Dublin gained its first mayor. Dublin grew rapidly and may have had a population of 8,000 by the 13th century. The street pattern from this period survives in parts of the city's current layout.

During the late medieval period, Dublin continued to grow as a commercial center. The city saw the establishment of numerous religious institutions, such as

monasteries and abbeys, which played vital roles in education and healthcare, extending the city's wealth and influence. The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII led to the transfer of this wealth to a new ruling elite.

In the 16th century, Dublin expanded outside the walled town. In 1591, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter for a new university, Trinity College. The first students were admitted in 1594. In 1621, a Custom House was built. In 1662, Phoenix Park was laid out as a deer park. The 17th and 18th centuries marked continued expansion of Dublin. The city saw the construction of Georgian buildings, wide streets, and public squares. Developments include the construction of St. Stephen's Green, the Four Courts, and several hospitals. The 17th century also saw an influx of Huguenot settlers expelled from Catholic France. Many of these settled in the Newmarket area of the city.

The 19th century brought industrialization, further urban expansion, and social changes. Dublin's port facilities were modernized, facilitating increased trade. The development of the canal, railway networks, and improved road networks connected Dublin more efficiently with the rest of Ireland.

4.2 Collins Avenue

Originally, the area surrounding Collins Avenue was primarily rural, with expanses of farmland and large estates. As Dublin began to expand, these lands were gradually subdivided and sold for residential development. The avenue itself started taking shape in the early 1900s as Dublin's suburbs expanded. During the interwar period, Collins Avenue saw substantial residential development. Many of the houses built during this time were typical of suburban Dublin architecture: two-story semi-detached homes and terraced houses. After World War II, the area experienced further growth. New housing estates and amenities were developed to accommodate the growing population and the area developed into a major residential area.

4.3 Archaeological Monuments

A number of archaeological monuments are located in the environs of the proposed development. The details of these sites have been taken from archaeology.ie and are outlined below.

DU014-067002-

Class: House - 16th/17th century

Townland: STORMANSTOWN

There are 17th century references to a sizeable dwelling and cottages. These may be on the site of Stormanstowne House. There are playing fields on the site.

DU014-142----

Class: Castle - unclassified

Townland: HAMPSTEAD SOUTH

Building annotated 'Hampstead Castle' on 1837 ed. OSi 6-inch map may have been built on site of or incorporated fabric of a 17th-century fortified house or manor house which was called 'Hampstead Castle'. This building depicted on the 1837 ed. OSi 6-inch map was demolished c. 1869 and the stone from the demolition was used in the construction of Elmhurst House located 125m to the S

(<https://www.highfieldhealthcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/history.pdf>).

According to the Eustace family history; 'The earliest records relating to the land go back to 1709 when the land to the south and west of Hampstead House was owned by Sir John Rogerson, of Rogerson Quay fame. The deeds refer to two houses on this land, one which Sir John Rogerson built and the other 'has a court walled in with stone before it'. This latter house refers to Hampstead Castle which in the old maps of this time is actually sketched in. 16 acres of the land directly south of the castle was leased, in 1775, to Sir Richard Steele of Bettyville, Co. Carlow. This is the land on which Elmhurst was later built' (ibid.).

The Building annotated Hampstead Castle is depicted on Rocque's 1756 Map of Dublin where it is shown as a rectangular structure aligned N-S on its long axis with a flanking building possibly a wing either side of the central structure overlooking a designed front entrance to the E with large walled garden to the W. The building and walled garden is annotated 'Hampstead Cas.' on Taylors 1816 map of Dublin.

DU014-103----

Class: Ring-ditch

Townland: HAMPSTEAD SOUTH

A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit).

4.3 Previous Archaeological Works

The archaeological excavation database (excavations.ie) was searched for archaeological excavations and reports in the environs of the proposed development. One excavation is listed in the environs of the study area, this was for archaeological monitoring in 2005. No archaeological remains were recorded.

4.4 Cartographic Evidence

The first edition OS map and the 25" map shows the site as an open area with a townland boundary between Wad and Santry forming the northern boundary of the site. . By the last edition OS map the DCU campus had been constructed and marked as University College Dublin (Albert Agricultural College and Experimental College). No structures are located at the site in the 25" map. Current aerial photographs show the site containing a number of modern structures and a concrete surface covering the entire site. No features indicative of archaeological remains were identified.

Figure 3: First edition OS map for the site



Figure 4: 25" map for the site

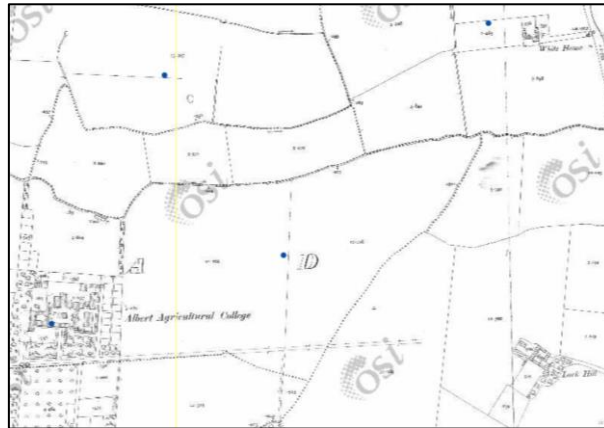
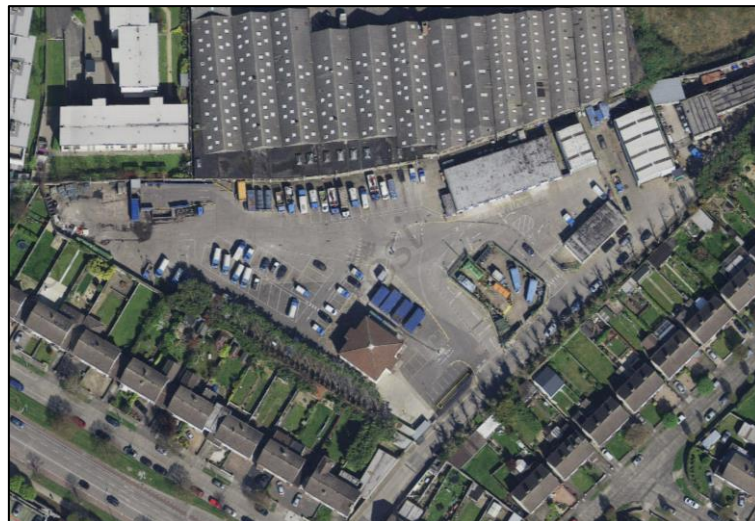


Figure 5: Aerial Photograph for the site (taken from geohive.ie)



4.5 Protected Structures

The study area does not include any structures listed in the RPS or the NIAH. The closest protected structures are post boxes listed in the NIAH for the area. These will not be impacted on by development at the study area.

4.6 Topographical Files

The topographical files are a record of stray finds and artefacts reported to the National Museum of Ireland. A database is available for research and the artefacts are listed by townland. An examination of the topographical files did not reveal any stray finds for the townland of Hamstead North.

5 Cultural Heritage Assessment

The proposed development does not encompass any recorded archaeological monuments, and no sites are located within the immediate environs of the site. The nearest recorded monument is over 700 meters to the south (DU014-103). Additionally, there are no protected structures within the site or its immediate surroundings.

A review of cartographic evidence for the site did not reveal any notable features or anomalies, indicating that the site was used as agricultural land until the mid-20th century. The site covers an area of 1.72 hectares and is currently used as a recycling centre, with the ground covered in concrete. The works involved in laying this surface would have included topsoil stripping and widespread disturbance, which significantly reduces the likelihood of sub-surface archaeological remains.

While the potential for unrecorded sub-surface remains at the site is low due to past disturbances, the scale of the site and the Dublin City Council (DCC) requirements necessitate mitigation measures.

6 Mitigation And Conclusion

A review of the archaeological evidence for the area has shown that the site does not include any historic structures or archaeological remains. The site has been largely disturbed and is covered with a concrete surface. As per Dublin City Council (DCC) requirements for sites over 0.5 hectares, archaeological testing is recommended.

All recommendations are subject to agreement with the Department of Housing, Heritage, and Local Government, as well as the office of the City Archaeologist.

References

References

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 1999, Policy and Guidelines on archaeological excavation.

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