Housing Development, Maple Woods, Ballynacorra, Midleton, County Cork
Archaeological Assessment

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by Glenveagh Homes Limited, to assess the potential archaeological impact of a proposed housing development in lands at Maple Woods, Ballynacorra, Midleton, County Cork. The proposed development is a Strategic Housing Development for a 7-year consent, for the construction of 176 residential units, two storey creche facility circa 632.75m², open spaces and play areas, associated internal roads, pedestrian and cycle paths, landscaping, lighting, car parking, connection works, infrastructure and site services, access from the existing Maple Woods entrance off the R630 and all ancillary site works. The proposal provides for pedestrian and cycle way improvements on the R630 from the entrance to the existing Maple Woods estate to the Ballincurra junctions to the north. Traffic calming measures are proposed along the spine road of the existing estate. The residential element of the application has a site area of 5 hectares. The area subject to the road improvement works on the R630 has an area 0.6 hectares.

In pre-planning consultation with Cork County Council, the issue of archaeological potential of the subject was raised by the planning authority; this report fully appraises the archaeological character (or lack thereof) of the subject site.

The study area for this assessment comprised the internal area of the proposed development combined with the lands extending for c.1km from the outer boundaries of the site. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the lands comprising the proposed development area. The surrounding c.1km wide study area contains eleven recorded archaeological monuments (Figure 2). A previously unrecorded enclosure is evident in various aerial images c.20m south of the southern boundary of the site. This cropmark presents as a circular feature measuring c.60m in diameter and centred at ITM 588262, 571153 within Loughatalia townland (Figures 5 & 6).
2. Methodology

This assessment commenced with a desktop survey which identified all known archaeological, architectural and other cultural heritage sites within the study area. The desktop survey also endeavoured to identify any hereto now unrecorded features or areas of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance.

Desktop study
A desktop survey of archaeological sites within the study area was carried out in order to assess potential archaeological constraints. This assessment is based on a desktop survey which identified all known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the study area. The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the files and records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). Between 1984 and 1992, the ASI issued a series of county Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs). These county SMRs, revised in the light of further research and fieldwork, formed the basis for the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (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. Monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as ‘Recorded Monuments’.

Since the publication of the original county SMRs and RMPs, the ASI has continued to record and add entries to the Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the ASI has developed an online database and web viewer known as ‘Historic Environment Viewer’. This has been developed to “enhance the user’s experience by facilitating access to the database of the National Monuments Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one stop point of access for both data resources” (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). In addition, the following sources were consulted:

- **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 areas include the 1st edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913).

- **Aerial photography** – In parallel with the cartographic study, a review publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google and Bing Maps was undertaken.

- **Development Plans** - The local authority development plans 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 County Development Plan 2014*. 
• **Database of Irish Excavation Reports** - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1970 to 2015.

• **Placenames Database of Ireland** - The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and placenames research conducted by the State. Its primary function is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them on a public website (www.logainm.ie).

• **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage** - The function of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (“NIAH”) is to record built heritage structures within the Republic of Ireland and to advise local authorities in relation to structures of interest within their areas. The NIAH commissions surveys of sites of architectural significance to assist in evaluating structures to be included in the RPS. Listing on the NIAH does not necessarily carry any statutory protection but does highlight the culturally significant aspects of the structure which ought to be conserved.

**Types of impact**

Impacts are generally categorised as either being direct, indirect or of no predicted impact. The criteria for determining the nature of impacts are based on the following:

- **Direct Impact** – where a cultural heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the scheme, which will result in its complete or partial removal.
- **Indirect Impact** – where a cultural heritage site or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of the scheme.
- **No predicted impact** – where the potential scheme will not adversely or positively affect a cultural heritage site.

A significance rating for these impacts is then applied; whether profound, significant, moderate, slight, or imperceptible

- A **profound** impact applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects that arise where a cultural heritage site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- A **significant** impact applies when an impact, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. It applies where part of a cultural heritage site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature/site.
- A **moderate** impact applies when a change to a cultural heritage site is proposed that, though noticeable, does not compromise the integrity of the site and which is reversible. This arises where a cultural heritage site can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and where all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- A **slight** impact causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect a cultural heritage site.
- An **imperceptible** impact applied where an impact is capable of measurement but does not carry noticeable consequences.
Field survey
An archaeological inspection of the landholding of the proposed development site was undertaken on the 23rd of February 2018 in clear weather conditions that provided generally good landscape visibility. This survey entailed the field walking of the lands that contain the layout of the proposed development and encompassed all areas to be impacted by the proposed development. All areas were accessible, and the site was assessed in terms of landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence or lack of both known and potential archaeological sites. A photographic record of the site inspection was compiled, and extracts are presented in Appendix 2 to this report.
3. The existing environment

Environmental context
The proposed development site extends across a generally flat terrain located on the southern margins of Midleton town. The development is situated within the townland of Ballynacorra and extends over a brown field site situated to the west of the R630 road. A housing estate, built during the 2000s, adjoins directly to the north and it appears from aerial images and field inspection that substantial ground works, including topsoil stripping, the excavation of foundations, and partial house construction, were carried out within the subject site at the same time, resulting in extensive ground disturbance (Figure 7). Aerial photographs also show that commercial sand/gravel extraction occurred within a portion of the site about the year 2000.

![Site Location](image)

**Figure 1: Location of the proposed development**

Legal context
The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of international conventions and national laws and policies (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 2004, 2011, 35). This framework was established in accordance with the provisions of the ‘European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage’ (the Valletta Convention) and ‘European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage’ (Grenada Convention). Cultural heritage can be divided loosely into the archaeological resource covering sites and monuments from the prehistoric period until the post-medieval period and the architectural heritage resource, encompassing standing structures and sites of cultural importance dating from the post-medieval and modern period. In addition, local placenames, folklore and traditions are considered part of our cultural heritage. In summary, the national policy statements, guidelines and advice notes relevant to this assessment include:
• National Monuments Act 1930 (and amendments in 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004);
• Heritage Act (1995);
• National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
• Policy for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999);
• Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and National Monuments Act (1999);
• Local Government (Planning and Development) Act (2000); and

Relevant archaeological legislation

The National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004, the Heritage Act 1995 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which are deemed to include all man-made structures, of whatever form or date, except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as ‘a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto’ (Section 2, National Monument Act, 1930). There are a number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP - formerly the Sites and Monuments Record), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites. The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (formerly the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs).

The State may acquire or assume guardianship of national monuments by agreement with site owners or under compulsory order. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister. **There are no monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State within the study area.**

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment and maintenance of a RMP deemed to have cultural heritage potential. The record replaced the earlier SMR and provides a list of monuments and relevant places with accompanying maps. All sites recorded on the RMP receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and any work undertaken at these sites must be done so under licence (Section 12 (3)). **The Archaeological Survey of Ireland lists eleven recorded archaeological sites within a c.1km radius of the boundaries of the proposed site.** These sites are listed in **Table 1**, which also provides their locations in ITM format, and mapped on **Figure 2** below. There are **no recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed development.**

Relevant architectural heritage legislation

Protection of the architectural/built heritage resource is provided through a range of legal and policy instruments. The Heritage Act, (1995) protects all heritage buildings owned by a local authority from damage and destruction. The Architectural Heritage Act, 1999, requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify; record and evaluate the architectural heritage of the country. The function of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (“NIAH”) is to record built heritage structures within the Republic of Ireland and to advise local authorities in relation to structures of interest within their areas. **There are 19 NIAH structures within c.1km of the proposed development.**
The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, requires all Planning Authorities to keep a “Record of Protected Structures” (“RPS”) of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. As of the 1st January 2000, all structures listed for protection in current Development Plans, have become ‘protected structures’. Since the introduction of this legislation, planning permission is required for any works to a protected structure that would affect its character. There is a total of five structures included on the list of protected structures for County Cork within c.1km of the site. These include Ballynacorra House, which is both a RMP and a protected structure, located c.300m to the north. These sites are listed in Table 3 below.

Archaeological and historical context
There are eleven recorded archaeological sites within a c.1km radius of the boundaries of the proposed development site. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is Ballynacorra House (CO076-043----) located c.300m north of the site bounds. All of these monuments are located to the north and east of the site beyond previously built up areas.

Table 1: List of recorded archaeological sites within c.1km of proposed development site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMR No.</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Townland</th>
<th>ITM Easting</th>
<th>ITM Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO076-042001-</td>
<td>Mound</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
<td>588018</td>
<td>571747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-042002-</td>
<td>Graveyard</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
<td>588065</td>
<td>571749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-042003-</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
<td>588051</td>
<td>571765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-043----</td>
<td>Country house</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
<td>588056</td>
<td>571657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-044----</td>
<td>Country house</td>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
<td>588711</td>
<td>571654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-045----</td>
<td>Kiln - lime</td>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
<td>588720</td>
<td>571384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-046----</td>
<td>Souterrain</td>
<td>Ballynacorra East</td>
<td>589254</td>
<td>571516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-074----</td>
<td>Maltings</td>
<td>Castleredmond</td>
<td>588321</td>
<td>571911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-075----</td>
<td>Maltings</td>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
<td>588849</td>
<td>571728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-080----</td>
<td>Maltings</td>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
<td>588305</td>
<td>571798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO076-111----</td>
<td>Warehouse</td>
<td>Castleredmond</td>
<td>588230</td>
<td>572231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early Prehistoric

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates 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 Co. Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Paleolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden, 2016, 161). While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or shell middens adjacent to the coastline. **There are no recorded sites dating to the Mesolithic period within the study area.** 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. **No archaeological monuments dating from this period are recorded within the study area.**

Late Prehistoric periods

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c. 2400–500 BC). This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and *fulacht fia*. *Fulacht fia* translates as cooking places of the wild (or of deer), they are often interpreted as the remains of cooking sites and are the most numerous archaeological...
site type in Ireland, radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (c.2400-500BC). A number of alternative interpretations have been forwarded as to the function of these archaeological sites, such as their potential uses as bathing, saunas, garment washing and dyeing, leather processing and even brewing sites. The development of new burial practices saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The later first millennium BC and the early centuries AD comprise the Irish Iron Age, which is the most obscure period in the Irish archaeological record. While there is general agreement that the introduction of an iron technology was a significant factor in the eventual demise of bronze working on a large scale, but how, why and when this came about in Ireland is far from clear. **There are no recorded monuments dated to the later prehistoric periods located within the c.1km wide study area.**

**Early Medieval**

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12th-century (c. 400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural-based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by roughly circular earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape and the early medieval terms for these sites – rath/lios/dun these still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that the majority of ringforts were early medieval farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems. **The study area contains a Souterrain, which likely dates to the early medieval period.**

**Late and Post Medieval**

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th-century broadly marks the advent of the Irish late medieval period, which continued up until the beginning of the post-medieval period in c.1550. Within the late medieval period, towns, markets, and fairs were established and change and reform was attempted in the Irish church. By the 15th-century the native Irish chieftains and lords began to establish tower houses and smaller castles as centres of territorial control. **There are a number of recorded late-medieval sites within the study area, including a mound possibly representing the remains of a motte, a church and a graveyard.** The post-medieval period (1550+) saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish country. During this period any given settlement cluster is likely to have consisted primarily of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farm houses became more common in the 19th-century. In the latter half of the 20th-century, there was a radical change in the nature and character of Irish domestic architecture manifested by the replacement of older stone-built structures with modern bungalows of concrete blockwork construction. **A number of features dated to the post-medieval period are recorded within the study area, including a number of country houses, a lime kiln, maltings buildings and warehouses.**

The site of the proposed development site is located adjacent to Midleton town; described as follows during the 19th century (Lewis 1837):

**MIDLETON, an incorporated market and post-town, and a parish, in the barony of IMOKILLY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 13 miles (E.) from Cork, and 137 1/2 (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 6599**

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inhabitants, of which number, 2034 are in the town. This place, called anciently Chore Abbey and Castrum Chor, derived both its origin and ancient name from the foundation of a Cistercian monastery, in 1182, by Barry Fitzgerald, who placed in it monks from the abbey of Nenay or Magio, in the county of Limerick. The abbey, from its position near a ford, was called the "abbey of St. Mary de Chore;" and the village which afterwards arose near it was for the same reason called Bally-na-Chore, (now Ballinacurra), or "the town on the ford," which, previously to the incorporation of the town, was also the name of the parish. The present town, deriving its name from its situation on the road from Youghal to Cork, at a nearly equal distance from each place, is pleasantly situated at the head of the vale of Imokilly, in a healthy and fertile country, screened by lofty hills and embellished with handsome seats; and on an inlet of the north-eastern angle of Cork harbour, which is navigable for vessels of 300 tons' burden to Ballinacurra: it consists principally of one main street, from the centre of which another branches off to the east, and contains 247 houses, most of which are uniformly built and of handsome appearance. The inhabitants are amply supplied with excellent water from springs; and there are two rivers, the Avannachora, or Midleton river, which bounds the town on the west and falls into the inlet about a mile below it; and the Rocks-borough river, which skirts its southern part and flows into the former. Both rivers abound with salmon and trout, and over each is a handsome stone bridge. Great improvements have been made since the year 1824, and others are in progress; several new buildings have been erected in the town and along its approaches, and a new line of road has been opened, forming a handsome western entrance. There are two news-rooms; and races are held in February. In addition to the traffic which this place derives from its situation on a great public thoroughfare, it possesses, by means of its creek from Cork harbour, which extends to the rear of the town, all the advantages of a sea-port. At Bailick, about a quarter of a mile below the town, are very commodious quays, accessible to vessels of 300 tons' burden, which may lie alongside and load and unload in security; also some extensive store-houses, where coal, timber, iron, slate, and other heavy goods are landed and warehoused: and within a mile of the town is the convenient port of Ballinacurra. At both these places are very spacious stores for grain, and large quantities of wheat and oats are annually shipped for Liverpool and Bristol. The port of Ballinacurra is a member of that of Cork, and a deputy-water-bailiff is placed there to collect the dues claimed by the Harbour Board, and the Foundling hospital of that city. An attempt to introduce the woollen manufacture was made some years since by Marcus Lynch, Esq., a merchant of Cork, who erected spacious buildings, which he furnished with requisite machinery for conducting it on a very extensive scale. The enterprise, however, was not attended with success, and the buildings and site were purchased by government for 20,000 and converted into a military station, chiefly for regiments preparing for embarkation. On the breaking up of this latter establishment, the premises became the property of Lord Midleton, from whom they were purchased, in 1825, by Messrs. Murphy and Co., who converted them into a very extensive distillery and malting establishment, at present producing 400,000 gallons of whiskey annually, and affording employment to 180 persons. On the Midleton river are the distillery and malt-works of Messrs. Hackett, erected in 1824, producing annually 200,000 gallons of whiskey, and employing 60 persons. On the same river are the boulting-mills of Messrs. Allin, which have been much enlarged, and are now, in addition to their water-power, worked by a steam-engine, erected in 1835; they manufacture about 3000 bags of flour annually. There are also two very large breweries and two extensive malting establishments. The produce of these several works is exclusively for home consumption, and the amount of duty paid to Government by their proprietors collectively exceeds 100,000 per annum. At Bailick are the extensive lime-works of G. Swayne, Esq.; and within two miles of the town are Milltown mills, lately erected by Messrs. Swayne and Leech, at an expense of 3000, and manufacturing annually 12,000 barrels of fine flour. The market is on Saturday, but, from its proximity to the markets of Cork and Youghal, is confined chiefly to the sale of butchers' meat, poultry, dairy produce, and potatoes. The chartered fairs are on May 14th, July 5th, Oct. 10th, and Nov. 22nd; and two fairs recently established are held on Feb. 14th and Sept. 10th. The market-house is a handsome building, surmounted by a turret, in which is the town clock, and crowned with a cupola; it was erected in 1789, and is the property of Viscount Midleton, who is lord of the manor; the lower part contains the shambles, weigh-house, and accommodations for the market; and the
upper part contains an elegant assembly-room, and council-chambers for the use of the corporation; but they are now used principally as news-rooms. A chief constabulary police force is stationed in the town.

The town received a charter of incorporation from Chas. II., in the 22nd of his reign, dated June 10th, 1670, which granted to Sir John Brodrick, Knt., that his estate should be constituted the manor of Midleton, with a seneschal, a court baron, and a court of record with jurisdiction within the manor to the amount of 200; and that the town, with the castle and lands of Castle-Redmon and Corabby, part of the said manor, should be a free borough and corporation, under the designation of the "borough and town of Midleton."

By this charter the corporation consists of a sovereign, two bailiffs, twelve free burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen, assisted by a recorder, town-clerk, and other officers. The sovereign, who is a justice of the peace within the borough, and the two bailiffs, are annually chosen from the burgesses by a majority of that body, by whom also freemen are admitted by favour only. The recorder, who is also town-clerk and seneschal of the manor, is appointed by the lord of the manor. The limits of the borough comprise an area of 100 acres encircling the town. Under the charter the corporation continued to return two members to the Irish parliament till the Union; when the borough was disfranchised. The manorial court of record, formerly held by the seneschal every three weeks, for the recovery of debts not exceeding 200 late currency, has not been held since 1832. The general quarter sessions for the East Riding of the county are held here in June and November. The court-house is a neat and commodious edifice of hewn limestone, situated at the western entrance into the town; and adjoining it is a small but well-arranged bridewell.

The parish, which is also called Castra-na-chore, comprises 5320 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act; the soil, though in some parts light, is fertile, and the system of agriculture greatly improved; there is neither waste land nor bog. The substratum is generally limestone, which is quarried for agricultural and building purposes; and the surrounding scenery is pleasingly diversified, and in many points highly picturesque. The principal seats are Cahirmore, the property of Lord Midleton, at present occupied by his lordship's agent, T. Poole, Esq.; Bally-Edmond, the residence of R. Courtenay, Esq.; Broomfield House, of D. Humphreys, Esq.; Killeagh Farm, of W. Welland, Esq.; Charleston, of the Rev. R. Deane Freeman; Ballinacurra Lodge, of T. H. Rumley, Esq.; and Lake View, of S. Fleming, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the tithes amount to 897. 16. 7. The glebe-house, a large and handsome residence, is pleasantly situated; and the glebe comprises 15 acres of good land. The church, erected in 1823 at an expense of 3000, a loan from the late Board of First Fruits, is a handsome structure, in the later English style, with an embattled tower crowned with pinnacles, and surmounted by a light and elegant spire, erected after a design and under the immediate superintendence of Messrs. Pain: it was recently repaired by aid of a grant of 202 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. In the churchyard is a mausoleum of grey marble, in the Grecian style, having in front a pediment resting on two lofty pillars, between which is a tablet of white marble, inscribed to Charles Brodrick, D.D., Archbishop of Cashel, and formerly rector of the parish, fourth son of George, Viscount Midleton; and to his wife, the Hon. Lady Brodrick, second daughter of R. Woodward, D.D., Bishop of Cloyne, by their seven surviving children. In the R. C. divisions the parish is the head of a union or district, comprising also the parishes of Ballyspillane, Inchynebacky, Mogeeshy, and Ballyouteragh; the chapel, near the eastern extremity of the town, is a spacious edifice, and there is also a chapel at Ballintoretis. A convent of nuns of the order of the Presentation has been recently completed; it is a handsome building on the road to Ballinacurra, and consists of a centre and two wings, one of which forms the domestic chapel, and the other a school-room for girls, who are gratuitously taught by the ladies of the convent. This is one of the institutions of that order, for the erection of which Miss Gould, a sister in the Presentation convent of Doneraile, bequeathed 10,000. A college was founded here, in 1709, by Lady Elizabeth Villiers, afterwards Countess of Orkney, who endowed it with lands in the baronies of Kinnalea, Kerrycurrihy, and Carbery, in this county, vested in trustees, with power to appoint the master. These estates were let by the trustees in perpetuity at a reserved rent of 200 per annum, of which 100 is paid as a salary to the master; in this school have been educated several eminent men, among whom was the Rt. Hon. John Philpot Curran; it is now a seminary of very high character. Nearly 500 children are taught in four public schools, of which the parochial male and female
schools are supported by Lord Midleton, who provided both school-rooms, and a residence each for the master and mistress, and by the rector. There are a dispensary and a fever hospital, the latter a handsome building. At Bailick are some remains of Castle Redmond, built by Redmond Fitzgerald, or Fitz-Edmund in the reign of Hen. VIII., and in which the last R. C. Bishop of Cloyne, prior to the Reformation, was born. There are at Cahir-more some remains of the castle built, in 1579, by R. Fitzgerald, or Barry, from which the seneschal of Imokilly was driven out by Capt. Raleigh, in 1580, and obliged to take refuge in Chore abbey, which was formerly in the churchyard of Midleton, whence he was also compelled to retreat by the same assailant. The abbey, which was a stately edifice of great strength, was built by the Knights Templars in 1298, and the last remains of it were taken down to afford a site for the present church. At Coppingerstown are the ruins of a castle of the Fitzgeralds; on the south side of the town are some very slight remains of an hospital, founded by Edw. I. at Ballinacurra are the ruins of the old parish church, and at Ballyannan are the remains of the mansion built by the first Lord Midleton. A large belt and the horns of a moose deer were found in a bog on Lord Midleton’s estate; and on Killeagh Farm were found numerous silver coins of the reign of Elizabeth. Midleton gives the title of Viscount to the family of Brodrick.

The excavations database

Nine archaeological excavations are recorded as having taken place within the townlands that fall within c.1km of the proposed development. These excavations have resulting in the identification of sites, deposits and finds dating from the prehistoric through to the modern era (see Appendix 1).

Cartographic evidence

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and also highlights 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 areas include the 1st edition of the 6-inch OS maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (see Figure 3 below) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (see Figure 4 below). The site of the proposed development is shown as enclosed farmland on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map within the demesne land of Ballynacorra House. On the 25-inch OS map the area is shown as having retained it agricultural character but some field boundaries have been removed to consolidate fields into larger units. Industrial scale sand or gravel extraction was undertaken across a portion of the development site, as evident on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) orthophoto imagery from the year 2000. Development during the mid-2000s has resulted in significant ground disturbance within the site, as evident on various aerial images (Figure 7). A previously unrecorded enclosure is evident in various aerial images c.20m south of the southern boundary of the site (Figures 6 & 7). A monument report form relating to this previously unrecorded monument has been submitted to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
Figure 3: Extract from 1st edition O.S map showing general location of proposed development site

Figure 4: Extract from 2nd edition O.S. Map showing general location of proposed development site
Placenames

The proposed development is located in Ballynacorra townland, Midleton, County Cork. The c.1km wide study area surrounding the proposed development extends into a further six townlands (see Table 2). Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The boundaries and
nomenclature of the Irish townlands were recorded and standardised by the Ordnance Survey in the 19th-century. The Irish roots of townland names often refer to natural topographical features but some 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 following table provides the available translation of the Irish origins of the townland names from within the study area.

**Table 2: Translation of townland names within study area (Source: www.logainm.ie)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Irish</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
<td>Baile na Cora</td>
<td><strong>baile</strong> townland, town, homestead <strong>cora</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(also: coraidh, corann) <strong>weir, stone-fence, ford</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballynacorra East</td>
<td>Baile na Cora Thoir</td>
<td><strong>baile</strong> townland, town, homestead <strong>cora</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(also: coraidh, corann) <strong>weir, stone-fence, ford</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
<td>Baile na Cora Thiar</td>
<td><strong>baile</strong> townland, town, homestead <strong>cora</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(also: coraidh, corann) <strong>weir, stone-fence, ford</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loughatalia</td>
<td>Loch an tSáile</td>
<td><strong>loch</strong> lake; inlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘lake of the brine or salt-water’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bawnard West</td>
<td>An Bán Ard Thiar</td>
<td><strong>bán</strong> white; lea-ground, grassy <strong>ard</strong> height; high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘field of the barn’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castleredmond</td>
<td>Caisleán Réamainn</td>
<td><strong>caisleán</strong> castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyannan</td>
<td>Baile Uí Ainnín</td>
<td><strong>baile</strong> townland, town, homestead <strong>cora</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;O'Hannon's Homestead&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Architectural heritage context**

The NIAH [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage] lists a total of 19 structures within c.1km of the proposed development. **There are a total of five structures included on the list of protected structures for County Cork within c.1km of the site. These include Ballynacorra House, which is both a RMP and a protected structure, located c.300m to the north.** Listed below are the protected structures within 1km of the proposed development (Table 3):

**Table 3: Record of Protected Structures within c.1km of the proposed development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RPS No.</th>
<th>Name/Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00517</td>
<td>Grain Store</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPS No.</td>
<td>Name/Type</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00520</td>
<td>Rosehill House</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00521</td>
<td>Ballick Mills</td>
<td>Castleredmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00522</td>
<td>Ballynacorra House</td>
<td>Ballynacorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00523</td>
<td>Industrial Buildings, Maltings</td>
<td>Ballynacorra West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Description of subject site

An archaeological inspection of the landholding of the proposed development site was undertaken on the 23rd of February 2018 in clear weather conditions that provided generally good landscape visibility. This survey entailed the field walking of the lands that contain the layout of the proposed development and encompassed all areas to be impacted by the proposed development. All areas were accessible, and the site was assessed in terms of landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence or lack of both known and potential archaeological sites. A photographic record of the site inspection was compiled, and extracts are presented in Appendix 2 to this report.

The ground level across the site had been reduced and all topsoil removed, leaving glacial sand and gravels exposed. This is most apparent by the townland boundary forming the southern boundary of the site, where the ground level in the adjoining lands to the south is c.2m higher than that to the north side of the bank. Some colonisation of the site by scrubby weed and gorse is evident and numerous rabbit burrows were noted across the site. A concrete foundation pad was also present along the north side of west end of the site. At the east side of the proposed site irregular low mounds of clearance and demolition rubble was evident.
Figure 7: Site area highlighted (red) over 2009 aerial image showing extent of ground disturbance across the entire proposed development site (Source: Google Earth)
5. Assessment of impacts

Construction phase
The proposed site extends over a relatively large area and will entail extensive sub-surface ground disturbance. However, given the extensive ground disturbance caused by previous development at the site, including sand/gravel extraction and the removal of topsoil, excavation of foundations and partial construction of a number of buildings, the potential to reveal hitherto unknown sub-surface archaeological remains within the site is deemed negligible. Therefore, there will be no predicted impact from this development upon the cultural heritage resources within the study area during construction.

![Figure 8: Proposed development layout](image)

Operational phase
It is predicted that no direct operational phase impacts in terms of known archaeological sites will arise.

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Housing Development, Maple Woods, Ballynacorra, Midleton, County Cork
Archaeological Assessment
6. Conclusions and recommendations

There are no known archaeological monuments within the proposed development site. The site has been heavily disturbed in the recent past, as evident during site inspection and from aerial images of the area. The potential for archaeological remains to survive is therefore negligible. The proposed development will not give rise to impacts upon any archaeological sites or deposits.

Consultation with the Local Authority Archaeologist, Mary Sleeman, regarding this development was undertaken on the 29th March 2018. The lack of archaeological potential associated with the subject site was outlined and discussed.

**Recommendation**

As the proposed development site has been subjected to extensive disturbance and ground reduction, and as no original soil cover is present on the site, it is recommended that the development can proceed without further archaeological intervention.
7. References


Websites consulted
http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php (Soil)
http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html
http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer/#V2,591271,743300,1,10 (Maps)
http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie/imf/imf.jsp?site=GSI_Simple (Bedrock)
www.archaeology.ie
www.excavations.ie
www.logainm.ie
## Appendix 1: Summaries of archaeological excavations (www.excavations.ie)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Licence</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballynacorra West 1</td>
<td>08E0295</td>
<td>Excavation was carried out along the route of the East Cork Gas Pipeline on behalf of Bord Gáis Éireann. Monitoring of the topsoil-stripping along the pipeline route between March and April 2008 revealed a spread of burnt-mound material at Ballynacorra West 1, Co. Cork. The features were subsequently resolved in March 2008. Radiocarbon analysis of the burnt-mound spread revealed that it dated to the Late Bronze Age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballynacorra West 2</td>
<td>08E0296</td>
<td>Excavation was carried out along the route of the East Cork Gas Pipeline on behalf of Bord Gáis Éireann. Monitoring of the topsoil-stripping along the pipeline route between March and April 2008 revealed a linear spread of burnt-mound material at Ballynacorra West 2, Co. Cork. These features were subsequently resolved in April 2008. Radiocarbon analysis of the burnt-mound spread revealed that it dated to the Early Bronze Age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curraleigh West to Midleton</td>
<td>09E0059</td>
<td>The BGE Curraleigh West to Midleton gas pipeline route measured c. 47km in length. The pipeline corridor was generally 30m in width, but it was wider in some locations, such as river and road crossings. The pipeline route traversed a varying landscape in terms of the topography and underlying geology and was carefully selected to avoid direct impact on known archaeological sites. Thirty-seven previously unidentified sites were identified during monitoring of topsoil-stripping along the route. These ranged in date from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period. Twenty-one of these sites were excavated under this monitoring licence and the remainder (16) were excavated under a separate licence number. The sites excavated under the monitoring licence are described in brief below. Curraleigh West, Co. Tipperary (189720 111750). Truncated remains of a fulacht fiadh. Coolapreaven, Co. Tipperary (189055 111370). Post-medieval well. All the following sites are in Co. Cork. Ballard (187855 106790). Truncated remains of a fulacht fiadh. Macroney Lower (186490 102560). Isolated pits. Ballynalackan (186590 100615). Charcoal-production pits. Curragh Upper (186510 99015). Isolated pit. Curragh Upper (186585 97790). Scattered settlement activity. Coole Upper (186780 96190). Isolated pit. Coole Upper (E186815 N95905). Isolated pit. Coole Lower (186930 95035). Remains of burnt Broomfield East (189197 76309). Kiln.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyannan</td>
<td>04E0912</td>
<td>Test-trenching was carried out as part of the planning schedule for a single house development adjacent to a country house and associated sites (SMR 76:1-5) at Ballyannan, Midleton. A series of trenches were excavated by mechanical digger at the house site, entrance and...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Baneshane 06E0065  Test-trenching was carried out before construction of two dwelling houses in a greenfield site located immediately to the west of an oval enclosure, which measures 120m north–south by 90m. The east boundary of the development site is formed by the curved earthen bank delimiting the west side of the enclosure. The earthen bank in this area measures 0.6–1m high by 0.4m thick and is colonised by mature trees. This feature will not be impacted on by the proposed development and there was no visible surface trace of an enclosure ditch. The eastern line of the enclosure bank was removed during land improvement works in 1975. A programme of test-trenching and monitoring was previously carried out by Eamonn Cotter in the interior of the enclosure prior to, and during, the construction of a dwelling house within the north-west quadrant of the site (Excavations 1995, No. 24, 95E0128). There were no archaeological features or finds uncovered during those site investigations.

The stratigraphy encountered in the eleven test-trenches excavated in the proposed development site to the west of the enclosure consisted of the topsoil layer directly overlying the natural subsoil. There was no trace of an enclosure ditch recorded in the test-trenches extending outwards from the enclosure bank. Given the absence of any archaeological deposits or artefacts in the excavations both inside and outside the enclosure, this site may be the remains of a landscaped demesne feature, perhaps associated with Ballyannan House, an 18th-century country house located c. 600m to the south. Due to the proximity of the development to the enclosure, it was recommended that the proposed construction of the two dwelling houses be carried out under archaeological supervision.

Castleredmond NA  Cleary et al., 1987, 49-50.

Castleredmond, Midleton 01E0356  Three test-trenches were excavated in June 2001 in the area most likely to expose the remains of the 15th-century Castleredmond Castle. A 1m-long section of north–south wall was exposed. The wall was 0.6m wide and 0.7m high and was constructed of limestone blocks using lime mortar. The rubble fill of the fissures exposed in the limestone bedrock in the vicinity of the wall contained several large stones with mortar and may represent wall collapse. A second series of test-trenches excavated in December 2001 exposed the limestone bedrock close to the surface over a large area of the development site. Much of the remainder of the site had been filled with stone in the recent past. There was no remaining trace of Castleredmond Castle.

Castleredmond 03E1686  Test excavation in advance of development was carried out to the east of the site of Castleredmond Castle. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Castleredmond 05E1113  A series of test-trenches were excavated across the site of a proposed housing development in a number of fields surrounding the 19th-century Lakeview House. The topsoil layer in all the test-trenches
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Licence</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>consisted of a dark-brown silty clay, ranging between 0.2 and 0.5m deep, and contained moderate amounts of 19th/20th-century pottery, bottle glass, plastics, etc. The topsoil layer in the east end of the site was intermixed with builder’s rubble that appeared to have been introduced when soil from a construction site to the south was dumped in the east end of the proposed development site. The natural subsoil layer was composed of a red/brown silty clay and was cut by a number of field drains and ploughmarks throughout the development site. There were no archaeological features or finds recorded during testing at this site and the proposed development will exclude Lakeview House and its associated garden and boundary features.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: Photographic record

Plate 1 Exposed glacial gravels within site, looking northeast

Plate 2 Building and waste materials at southwest end of site, looking south
Plate 3 Ground reduction evident against townland boundary to south, looking west

Plate 4 Rabbit burrow in glacial sand by southern boundary, looking west
Plate 5 Example of concrete slab foundations at north side of west end, looking south

Plate 6 Site of unrecorded levelled enclosure in adjoining field to the south, looking northeast towards site boundary