

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
AT  
HILL STREET,  
DUNDALK,  
COUNTY LOUTH**

**ON BEHALF OF: CABRIZ GROUP**

**AUTHOR: MATT BROOKS**

**MAY 2024**

**IAC PROJECT REF.: J4199**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

DATE	DOCUMENT TITLE	REV.	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
26.05.2024	Archaeological Assessment at Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth	0	M. Brooks	J. Fowler	M. Tobin

## ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Cabriz Group, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed residential development at Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth (ITM 704712, 806306). It was carried out by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology.

The proposed development area comprises an undeveloped greenfield area to the west of the Student Accommodation Mourne View Hall. The northern, western, and southern perimeters are defined by residential properties and gardens, while parts of the western extent are also defined by Dublin Road. The Blackwater River runs east–west across the northern portion of the site, connecting with the Rampart River, an artificial watercourse which bisects the site on a north–south axis. The Rampart River and associated Rampart was likely constructed in the 18th century as a drainage for the marshes, but may follow the course of an earlier mill race.

There are no recorded monuments located within the development boundary or its immediate environs. The closest comprise a holy well (LH007-114), situated c. 100m southeast and a cist burial (LH007-089) located c. 250m west. The proposed development boundary is c. 390m south of the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Dundalk (LH007-119). No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area; with no archaeological remains identified by any nearby investigations. Field inspection noted that the site is heavily overgrown with previous ground disturbances evident in the west. No features of previously unrecorded archaeological potential were identified during the course of this site inspection.

While no evidence for archaeological remains were identified within the area of proposed development by this assessment it is a large greenfield open space, within the wider setting of a rich archaeological landscape. As such there is potential for previously unrecorded features or deposits of archaeological origin to survive beneath the current ground surface. If present, ground works associated with the proposed development will have a direct negative impact on any such remains.

It is recommended that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out within the footprint of the proposed development area as a condition of planning. Testing should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

---

## CONTENTS

<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>I</b>
<b>CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>II</b>
List of Figures.....	iii
List of Plates .....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 General .....	1
1.2 The Development .....	1
<b>2 METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1 Paper Survey.....	2
2.2 Field Inspection.....	4
<b>3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background .....	5
3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	11
3.3 Cartographic Analysis .....	11
3.4 Development Plan .....	13
3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.....	13
3.6 Aerial Photographic Analysis .....	13
3.7 Field Inspection.....	13
<b>4 CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY</b> .....	<b>16</b>
5.1 Impact Assessment.....	16
5.2 Mitigation .....	16
<b>6 REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>17</b>

### FIGURES

### PLATES

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1 Site location showing nearby recorded monuments
- Figure 2 Proposed development plan
- Figure 3 Extracts from historic maps (c. 1655 and 1777) showing approximate location of proposed development area
- Figure 4 Extracts from ordnance survey maps (1834 and 1888) showing the proposed development area

### **LIST OF PLATES**

- Plate 1 Proposed development area, facing northeast
- Plate 2 Concrete pad, facing west
- Plate 3 Rampart River channel, facing northeast
- Plate 4 Northern border of proposed development site, facing east
- Plate 5 Pedestrian route within the proposed development area, facing south
- Plate 6 Lady's well (LH007-114) to the south of the site, facing southwest

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth (Figure 1; ITM 704712, 806306). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. It was undertaken by Matt Brooks IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Cabriz Group.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development area and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Louth, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

## 1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will consist of 193 no. apartments in 8 no. distinctive blocks (Ato H) ranging in height from one to five storeys together with all associated public, communal and private open space, car parking, cycle parking, roads infrastructure and site services (Figure 2). The development will be supported by a childcare facility within Block C with allocated car parking and outdoor play area.

The site will be accessed from a new vehicular entrance onto Hill Street and via the existing access road onto Hill Street at Mourne View Hall. There is an existing pedestrian/cycle route through the site from Hill Street to Avenue Road which will be maintained and integrated into the landscape masterplan for the site.

The application site is at flood risk and a site-specific flood risk assessment has been undertaken. The development will include an overflow area for the Blackwater River as one of the flood risk mitigation measures. This overflow area connects to the riparian zone which forms the central public open space for the development focused along the Blackwater River which flows north and then east through the application site. Buildings are set back by 10-meters along the river creating a riverside walk featuring play zones and informal kick about spaces with opportunities for sitting/passive recreation.

A pedestrian/cycle crossing point is proposed over the Blackwater River to the existing greenway increasing permeability and providing the most direct route to the retail area to the north centered around Tesco and Lidl supermarkets to sustainable modes of transport.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

A study area, defined as 250m from the boundary of the proposed development area, was assessed to inform this report. Research was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

### 2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Louth;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Louth;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- Dundalk And Environs Development Plan 2009-2015;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024).

**Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)** is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

**Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)** holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). *Please note, that at the time of this assessment the online historic environment view was down, and therefore, inaccessible for the assessment.*

**National Monuments in State Care Database** is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

**Preservation Orders List** contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

**The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland** are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

**Cartographic sources** are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

**Documentary sources** were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

**Development Plans** contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 were consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

**Aerial photographic coverage** is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

**Excavations Bulletin** is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970–2024.



## **2.2 FIELD INSPECTION**

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

---

## 3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Townparks and Marshes Upper, Parish of Dundalk and Barony of Upper Dundalk in County Louth. The site comprises an undeveloped area of greenfield surrounding Mourne View Hall Student Accommodation. The northern, eastern, western, and southern extents are defined by residential properties and gardens while parts of the western extent are also defined by the Dublin Road. The Blackwater River runs east–west across the northern portion of the site, connecting with the Rampart River, an artificial watercourse which bisects the site on a north–south axis. This section of the Rampart River and associated Rampart was likely constructed in the 18th century as a drainage for the marshes (Thomas 1992, 94).

There are no recorded monuments located within the proposed development boundary, with the closest consisting of a holy well (LH007-114), located c. 100m southeast of the development area. The proposed development area is c. 390m south of the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Dundalk (LH007-119).

#### 3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

##### Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)

Recent discoveries may suggest the possibility of a human presence in the southwest of Ireland as early as the Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016), however; the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have led a primarily mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product of the production of flint implements.

Although Mesolithic shell middens have been discovered around the town, the archaeological evidence suggests the area around Dundalk was not densely settled until the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, after 3200 BC, when rock art along with numerous worked flints were deposited on Ballybarrack Hill.

Perhaps the most well-known example of Mesolithic archaeological remains in County Louth is located at the raised beaches at Rockmarshall (LH008-026) located just over c. 7km to the northeast of the development site, suggesting that the first settlers of Louth were exploiting coastal and river resources (Buckley and Sweetman 1991). Two middens of possible Mesolithic date (LH012-056 and LH012-070) have also been recorded within Haggardstown, located c. 4.2km to the southwest of the development area.

##### Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500 BC)

During this period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was

marked by major social change. Communities had expanded and moved further inland to more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period also provided the megalithic tomb. There are four types of tomb in Ireland, namely the Court Cairn, Portal, Passage and Wedge; of which the latter style straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition. The primary evidence for the Neolithic Period in Louth is recorded from megalithic tombs, the majority of which are in the north Louth area at the foot of the Cooley Mountains. There is a concentration of megalithic tombs in the Flurry Valley to the north of the proposed development area with the nearest example located at Faughart Lower (LH004-062), c. 5.6km to the north.

A number of sites of Neolithic date were identified during excavations prior to the construction of the Dundalk Western Bypass. This included, now recorded sites LH007-132, located c. 2km southwest, and LH007-172, located c. 3km north of the proposed development area (Bennett 2003:1285, Licence No. 03E0114) A middle Neolithic to late Neolithic/early Bronze Age Beaker habitation site was identified at Donaghmore (Bennett 2002:1305, Licence No. 02E1330) located c. 3km west of the proposed development area.

A possible Neolithic rectangular house was identified overlooking what is now a pond, during testing of a site c. 3km north of the proposed development area (Bennett 2009:AD14, Licence No. 09E0156). A Neolithic date was inferred by several fragments of Neolithic pottery found in association with the structural evidence. The structural evidence consisted of a slot trench with post-holes in and alongside it, a slot trench partially dividing the interior and a hearth in the northeast corner of the interior.

### **Bronze Age (c. 2500–800 BC)**

This period is marked by the use of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megaliths were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel.

There was a relatively dense settlement of Dundalk and environs in the Bronze Age with groups of cist burials, pit burials, standing stones, and rock art (LH007-191, c. 1.8km northwest) coupled with the cutting back of woodlands and establishment of grains and cereals suggesting the establishment of a larger population in the area. A cist burial (LH007-089) is located c. 250m west of the development site. A possible henge or ceremonial enclosure (LH007-012), is located c. 3.7km north of the proposed development area (CUCAP, BGL 40; Bennett 1996:281, Licence No. 96E0321). This type of monument can date from any time from the Neolithic to the Iron Age, though the majority are believed to be Bronze Age in date.

A ring barrow was identified during a geophysical survey (Licence No. 09R0006) and testing (Bennett 2009:AD14, Licence No. 09E0156) in the townland of Lisdoon, c. 3km north of the proposed development. In addition, 5-6 roundhouses of possible Bronze Age date were discovered as part of the same investigation. At least some of these features showed evidence of intercutting and therefore were not all contemporary. There is also a possibility that these features could date to the early medieval period.

One of the most common archaeological sites attributed to the Bronze Age are burnt mounds/*fulacht fia*. Normally interpreted as temporary cooking sites, these sites could also have been used for other industrial or even recreational functions. Located near water sources, they generally survive as low mounds of charcoal-enriched soil mixed with an abundance of heat-shattered stones. Even when levelled by an activity such as ploughing, they are identifiable as burnt spreads in the landscape. Radiocarbon dates for this monument type have generally placed them in the Bronze Age (Brindley and Lanting 1990), a chronology which has more recently been refined (Hawkes 2018). Several *fulacht fia* sites have been recorded in the wider area; the closest of which (LH007-064001-003) are located c. 1.3km southwest, and another (LH007-182) located c. 1.3km southeast.

### **Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 500)**

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as LIARI (Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland). Yet this period is distinguishable from the rather rich remains of the preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period, by a relative paucity within the current archaeological record. The Iron Age in Ireland is problematic for archaeologists as few artefacts dating exclusively to this period have been found and without extensive excavation, it cannot be determined whether several monument types, such as ring barrows or standing stones, date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. There was likely significant continuity in the Iron Age, with earlier monuments re-used in many cases. Within the study area, an Iron Age house (LH004-145) was excavated as part of the Dundalk Western Bypass Development scheme (Bennett 2002:1329, Licence No. 02E1326) in the townland of Balriggeran (c. 4.5km north).

### **3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)**

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the *túath*, or petty kingdom, with Byrne (1973) estimating probably at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

Before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1185, Dundalk was within the territory of the *Uí Chonaill Mhuirthemne*, which was closely linked with the Ulster kingdoms in Antrim and Down (Gosling 1991). A late prehistoric/early medieval site at Castletown, also known as *Dún Dealgan*, became an Anglo-Norman castle in the 12th century (LH007-118007), c. 1.2km to the northwest. There are literary references to *Dún Dealgan* in early medieval texts such as the *Mesca Ulad* ('The Intoxication of the Ulstermen'), where it is described as one of the chief places of assembly in Ulster during the festival of Samhain, second only to *Emain Macha* (Navan Fort, County Armagh).

The ringfort or *rath* is the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period. One of the studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O'Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). One of the most common indicators of settlement during this period is the ringfort (Stout 1997). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant. The nearest of which is located c. 1.2km to the south (LH007-076). An enclosure site, often thought to be ploughed-out ringforts or remains of an early medieval ecclesiastical site, is also located c. 1km southeast.

The occupation of the general area in the early medieval period is well attested to by the large number of souterrains (or underground passages) that have been recorded throughout the vicinity of the proposed development area. In Louth, over 300 are known, with over 50 per cent of these being found between the Castletown and Fane Rivers (Murphy 1998). Quite often souterrains are found in association with ringforts and a detailed study of ringforts in Louth indicates that the majority lie beyond the boundary of the Pale. Souterrains are generally regarded as having had a defensive or protective function, as evidenced by the complex construction of many of the sites, with narrow winding passages, deliberate obstructions, and small chambers. Raiding was endemic during the early medieval period and souterrains may have served to house portable valuables and non-combatants during a raid. Several potential ringforts, souterrains and areas of early medieval activity have been identified in the landscape surrounding the proposed development area. While there are numerous more in the wider Dundalk area, there are three souterrains recorded within close proximity to the development area: LH007-065/066 and LH007-091001, located c. 900m northwest and c. 1km southeast, respectively.

### **3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)**

*Orgial*, an independent principality, consisted of a portion of the Province of Meath and the entire of Armagh and Monaghan. The O'Carrolls were Princes of *Orgial* and the Barony of Louth was referred to, particularly as their country. In 1183, John de Courcy conquered *Orgial*, and it was afterwards known by the English variously as Uriel and Oriel. The followers of de Courcy and de Lacy settled the portion of *Orgial*, called it English Oriel and in 1210 the County of Louth was formed from it by King John. Many

castles were erected to enable the settlers to continue in possession. The motte and bailey at Castletown (LH007-118007), located c. 2.5km northwest of the proposed development area, represents the initial phase of Anglo-Norman activity in the area. Although there are some suggestions that John de Courcy was responsible for this development, it is generally accepted that it represents the initial headquarters of the de Verdon family. The Anglo-Normans were responsible for a network of towns throughout the country, with Louth being the most urbanised county (Orpen 1908).

Dundalk developed as the major urban centre during this period, which was due to its market centre and port, in addition to its more strategic siting on the major routeway linking Dublin with Ulster. Another factor influencing the movement of the de Verdons may have been the nature of the topography of the general area. The unsatisfactory nature of the river at the Castletown location would have made it inaccessible to shipping even in the late 12th century. The new town also had the advantage of considerable natural defences. The site of the new town, which was to grow into the modern town of Dundalk, was thus better situated than Castletown from a commercial as well as a defensive point.

As Dundalk developed and became the focus of Anglo-Norman settlement in the area, Castletown fell into decline and Dundalk became the economic heart of the Lordship. The precise date for the foundation of the "Newtown" of Dundalk is unclear. However, by the late 13th century surviving property deeds make the distinction between the late 12th century settlement at Castletown and the Newtown or 'nove ville de Dundalc'. As a result of the low-lying nature of the surrounding landscape and the form of the gravel ridge on which Newtown (Dundalk) was located, the town developed a markedly north-south linear aspect, which is still apparent today.

Several religious communities established themselves within the town, including the Franciscans, who established a friary in 1245 (LH007-119021), c. 1.2km to the northeast of the proposed development area. The Priory of St. Leonard, Fratres Cruciferi (LH007-119018) was founded by Bertram or Nicholas de Verdun in the 12th century and is situated on the grounds of the present county library, c. 1.1km to the north. The discovery of human remains at this location resulted in archaeological investigations (Campbell 1997) during the 1990s.

Although the town was growing and becoming an important trade centre for the area, it is possible that completing the walled defences (LH007-119027) was not a high priority due to the inaccessibility of the surrounding boggy terrain, which would have made assault difficult. In 1315, Edward Bruce, brother of the Scottish King, on condition that he should aid them in driving the English out, was offered the Kingdom of Ireland by the Ulster Chiefs. Having landed with an army of 6,000 men, he soon became master of Ulster and was crowned on the 2nd of May 1316. Toward the close of the following year, he was killed and his army was defeated by the English (Gosling, 1993).

During the 13th century, the earliest town defences were called the "wall of the vill" and were situated on the western side of the town. In 1458, a law was passed mandating the construction of a sea trench encircling the town. This moat

encompassed the western walling, extending from the Castletown River, continuing south along De La Salle Terrace and the Long Walk, and finally reaching Clanbrassil Street in the Bachelors Walk junction area (c. 1km north). These defensive measures aimed to safeguard the town and its residents from potential threats.

The town's walls underwent further reinforcement during the 16th and 17th centuries. According to Robert Richardson's Map of 1680, the walls featured six gates including the Water Gate at Dundalk Bridge and the Blind Gate at the north end of Linenhall Street. During the 16th century, the area encompassing these gates was referred to as Newtown, while the region comprising south Clanbrassil Street and Market Street was known as Upper End. However, in 1748, as part of the town's redevelopment works, the walls and gates were demolished. The proposed development area is considered outside of the town walls within open commons, as of the late 17th century.

In 1429 a subsidy was given to encourage the King's 'liege men' to build towers in Louth, as well as the rest of the Pale, which was so successful that 20 years later a limit was imposed on their construction. In County Louth, as well as Kildare and Meath, the towers were mostly concentrated along the borders of the Pale. The de Verdon estate passed onto the Bellew family upon his death and two tower houses were constructed by that family. The later castle most likely functioned as the centre of the Bellew manor of Dundalk during the 15th century. There are several tower houses located within the wider area surrounding the proposed development site, particularly within Dundalk town, the closest of which is 'Mortimer's Castle' (LH007-119024), located c. 800m north.

#### **3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)**

The 17th century witnessed the concentrated and systematic reduction of all of Ireland to English authority, largely through conflicts and the forced settlements known as 'The Plantations'. In the Parliamentary War of 1641, some fighting occurred in the northern and southern portions of the county. Cromwell entered from Dublin at the head of 10,000 men in 1649, and having captured Drogheda, after two days' siege, marched through to Dundalk and received its surrender.

In 1642, Sir Henry Tichbourne laid siege to Dundalk, eventually breaching the inner town of Newtown by entering through Warren's Gate. This siege caused significant damage and turmoil. Following the warfare of the 1689-90 period, the town continued to experience a decline. However, in the 18th century, the town began to recover, and its economic situation improved. As a result, building and renovation work commenced. One notable project was the reconstruction of St. Nicholas Church (LH007-119008) c. 1.5km to the north of the proposed development area, which had been set on fire during the Williamite wars by the Jacobites. This rebuilding effort contributed to the town's revitalization and restoration after the period of conflict.

During the early 18th century, the town's walls and gates remained intact and there were 8-10 tower houses present along Church Street and Clanbrassil Street. These tower houses were identified as RMPs LH007-119007, LH007-119009, LH007-119011, LH007-119012, LH007-119016, LH007-119022, and LH007-119024; however, these



structures were eventually demolished. In 1725, a new harbour was constructed and the South Marsh area was reclaimed by building a sea rampart using the stones from the demolished medieval buildings. At the southern end of Clanbrassil Street, a new road network was established, connecting to Market Square, and extending to Roden Place and Jocelyn Street in the east. By the later part of the 18th century, the town experienced economic prosperity, with linen production, tanning, and brewing emerging as the primary industries.

The 18th century also witnessed a more pacified Ireland and the political climate settled; this saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable construction effort went into its creation. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion in, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland. Multiple demesne landscapes and large houses were established throughout County Louth during this period. Nearby, Fairhill House, and Lisnawully House, were located c. 780m southeast and 1.6km northwest, respectively.

It was at this time that the marshes to the south of the town were intensively reclaimed and drained. It is considered that the artificial watercourse, known as the Rampart River, was cut at this time to improve the surrounding land (Thomas 1992, 94); although it is possible that this formed an earlier mill race .

### **3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024) has revealed that no previous investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area. A number of investigations have taken place within the wider study area and these are summarised below.

Archaeological test trenching was carried out at Avenue Road (Bennett 2022:050, Licence No. 22E0159) in 2022, c. 190m to the northeast of the proposed development area. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified. The prevalence of a large number of land drains suggested that local flooding was an issue. Test trenching was carried out at Connolly's Field (Bennett 2010:463, Licence No. 10E0343) c. 160m to the northwest of the proposed development area. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified. Further testing on Ramparts Road (Bennett 1998:460, Licence No. 98E0139) c. 230m to the northwest also failed to reveal features of archaeological significance.

### **3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

#### **Down Survey of the Barony of Upper Dundalk, 1655-56**

This map shows no detail of individual townlands within the approximate location of the proposed development, which is placed within 'forfeited lands' to the south of the



'Dundalk Towne'. The site of 'A Great Bog' is marked to the west while the town is depicted as an enclosed settlement, aligned north-south with a gate to the south, which may be Warren's Gate. It is possible that the map depicts a smaller settlement than what existed at the time, especially when considering the layout of the town depicted in the slightly later 1680 map.

### **Matthew Wren's Topographical Survey of County Louth, 1766 (Figure 3)**

This map shows minimal detail of the proposed development area, which lies within open land in proximity to the Rampart River that travels north towards 'Parliament Square'. Dublin Road is found to the immediate west of the proposed development area as is 'Bleach Green' and 'Gallows Hill'. To the immediate north, is the likely, Long Avenue, which at this time was tree-lined and ran eastwards towards the coast. Further to the south is Cambrick Hill. Although the precise location of the proposed development area is not determined the town is defined by a criss-cross pattern of roads with fronting structures. Bridge Street is indicated along with the main street network, but no indication of the town defences is shown.

### **Taylor and Skinners Map of County Louth, 1778**

This map shows slightly more detail than Wren's earlier map, but there are no major changes of note within the proposed development area or layout of Dundalk Town. The site is placed within the labelled Dundalk parish and 'Merches'. Cambrick Hill shown in the previous mapping has changed to Cambrickville in proximity to Fairhill.

### **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1834, scale 1:10560 (Figure 4)**

This is the first detailed depiction of the landscape containing the proposed development area, which is placed within two fields. The townland boundary between Townparks and Marshes Upper travels through the proposed development area. This boundary also defines the trajectory of the 'Rampart' River. At the site's northern extent, the road (Long Avenue) is flanked by rectangular parcels of land that contain trees and shrubs. Lady's Well is also depicted to the immediate south of the proposed development area. To the southwest, Fairhill House, the demesne landscape and Cambrickville Brewery are depicted as well as several quarries.

### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1888, scale 1:1560 (Figure 4)**

This map shows that the proposed development area is now within three fields with watercourses running north-south through the site including the extant Rampart River. The site's northern and northwestern boundaries are now solely defined by residential properties and associated back gardens, as well as the gardens associated with Richmond House. In the local area a 'Manse' is now depicted to the south in proximity to Lady's Well. Dublin Street at this time is named Hill Street.

### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, scale 1:2,500**

There were no notable changes to the proposed development area by the time of this map in 1909. In the wider area, a Pork Factory is depicted to the north and Richmond House to the northwest. Further to the north is the position of the Great Northern Railway line, built in c. 1876.

### 3.4 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are no recorded monuments located within the development boundary or its immediate environs. The closest comprise a holy well (LH007-114), situated southeast of the site and a cist burial (LH007-089) located west. The proposed development boundary lays c. 390m south of the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Dundalk (LH007-119).

**TABLE 1:** Recorded archaeological sites in proximity to the study area

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE *
LH007-114	Marshes Upper	Ritual Site-Holy Well	c. 100m southeast
LH007-089	Townparks (Upper Dundalk By.)	Cist	c. 250m west

### 3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Louth has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. No stray finds are recorded from within the proposed development area or its immediate environs. A cluster of flint flakes/worked flint (NMI 1978:249 A-B, 1978:250, 1978:254-5 and 1978:256) are found in the townland of Priorland c. 400m to the southwest.

### 3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2023) and Bing Maps revealed that a structure to the west of Mourne View Hall within the proposed development area was visible on imagery from 1995-2005 (Ortho) but was demolished thereafter. Mourne View Road also found within the proposed development area and was constructed in 2007 (Google Earth, November 2007). No further changes are evident leading to the present day and no previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted within the coverage.

### 3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1).

The proposed development area is a heavily overgrown parcel of open land, situated to the north and west of the Mourne View apartment block (Plate 1). To the west of

the existing apartment block, a concrete pad or floor surface of a now demolished building is evident (Plate 2). The Rampart River passes north-south through the centre of the proposed development area within a deep channel, bordered on both sides by a flood defence banks (Plate 3). This feature is shown on the first edition OS map as a 'rampart' (Figure 4). This bank continues to the north, turning to extend to the east as the Blackwater River, along the northern boundary of the proposed development area (Plate 4). An established pedestrian routeway parallels the Rampart River to the west (Plate 5) providing access from the Dublin Road to the Long Avenue. To the east of the proposed development area, there is a narrow laneway which leads to a holy well (LH007-114), known as Lady's Well on the historic mapping. This feature is contained within a fenced enclosure (Plate 6).

No evidence for previously unidentified features of archaeological significance were noted within the proposed development area during the field inspection.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

This archaeological assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological features in advance of a proposed residential development at Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth. The site is crossed by the Blackwater River and the Rampart River, and the latter is associated with a pedestrian right of way. The Rampart River is an artificial watercourse that seems to have been constructed in the 18th century to facilitate land improvement, however this may follow the course of an earlier mill race.

There are no recorded monuments located within the proposed development boundary, with the closest consisting of a holy well (LH007-114), located c. 100m southeast of the development area. The proposed site is c. 390m south of the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Dundalk (LH007-119).

No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area, however test trenching in the wider locale has not identified any features or deposits of archaeological significance to date. The prevalence of a large number of land drains suggested that local flooding was an issue in the area.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area was historically within forfeited lands to the south of the walled town of Dundalk. The Rampart River, is shown on the 18th century mapping, leading north to connect with a former mill race which follows the line of the medieval walls in part, and connects with a corn mill 2km to the west. In the late 18th century, the site was within land known as the Merches to the east of Cambrick Hill. Ordnance Survey mapping depicted the proposed development within two plots with the Rampart River also used as the townland boundary between Townparks and Marshes Upper. Long Avenue and Dublin Street (previously Hill Street) were also visible at this time. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the proposed development area was with three fields to the immediate north of Lady's Well and Manse House. In the wider area a Pork Factory, Richmond House and the Great Northern Railway line were constructed.

Analysis of aerial photographic record available for the area failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features in the area. A structure to the west of Mourne View Hall, within the proposed development area, was visible on imagery from 1995-2005 but was demolished thereafter. Mourne View Road also found within the proposed development area was constructed in 2007. No further changes were evident leading to the present day.

No evidence for previously unidentified features of archaeological significance were noted within the proposed development area during the field inspection.

## 5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

### 5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- While no evidence for archaeological remains were identified within the area of proposed development by this assessment it is a large greenfield open space, within the wider setting of a rich archaeological landscape. As such there is potential for previously unrecorded features or deposits of archaeological origin to survive beneath the current ground surface. If present, ground works associated with the proposed development will have a direct negative impact on any such remains.

### 5.2 MITIGATION

- It is recommended that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out within the footprint of the proposed development area as a condition of planning. Testing should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoH/LGH.

*It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.*

**Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.**

---

## 6 REFERENCES

- Bennett, I. (ed.) 1987–2010. *Excavations: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Bray. Wordwell Ltd.
- Brindley, A. L., Lanting, J.N. and Mook, W. G. 1990 Radiocarbon dates from Irish fulachta fiadh and other burnt mounds *Journal of Irish Archaeology* **5**, 25–33.
- Buckley, V. and Sweetman, P. 1991. *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*. Dublin. Stationery Office.
- Campbell, K. 1997. Rampart Road, Dundalk. In I. Bennett (ed.), *Excavations 1996: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland*, 81 (No. 289). Bray. Wordwell.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020a. Standards & Guidance for Field Evaluation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020b. Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020c. Standards & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Monitoring).
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999a. *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999b. *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Dowd, M. and Carden, R.F. 2016. First evidence of a Late Upper Palaeolithic human presence in Ireland. *Quaternary Science Reviews* **139**, 158-163.
- Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015.
- Environmental Protection Agency. 2017. *Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Environmental Protection Agency. 2022. *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Gosling, P. 1993. *From Dún Delca to Dundalk: the Topography and Archaeology of a Medieval Frontier Town*. Dundalk: Co Louth Archaeological and Historical Society.
- Hawkes, A. 2018. *The Archaeology of Burnt Mounds in Ireland*. Oxford. Archaeo Press.
- Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Murphy, D. 1998. Archaeological Excavation of a Souterrain at Farrandreg, Dundalk, County Louth. *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, **24**, 261-280.
- National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *Sites and Monuments Record*, County Louth.
- National Museum of Ireland. *Topographical Files*, County Louth.
- Orpen, G.H. 1908. Mottes and Norman castles in County Louth. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* **38**, 241-69.
- O'Sullivan, A., McCormick, F., Kerr, T.R., Harney, L. 2014. *Early Medieval Ireland, AD 400-1100: The Evidence from Archaeological Excavations*. Dublin. Royal Irish Academy.

- O'Sullivan, H. 1963. Rothe's Castle, Dundalk, and Hugh O'Neill: a Sixteenth Century map. *County Lough Archaeological and Historical Society Journal*, **15** (3), 281-91.
- Stout, M. 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin. Four Courts Press.
- Stout, G. and Stout, M. 1997. Early Landscapes: from Prehistory to Plantation. In F.H.A. Aalen et al. (eds), *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape*. Cork. Cork University Press.
- Thomas, A. 1992. *The Walled Towns of Ireland (Volume 2)*. Dublin. Irish Academic Press.
- Wright, T. 1758. *Louthiana: or an introduction to the antiquities of Ireland*. London.

### **CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

- Down Survey of the Barony of Upper Dundalk, 1655-56
- Matthew Wren's Topographical Survey of County Louth, 1766
- Taylor and Skinners Map of County Louth, 1778
- Ordnance Survey Maps, 1834-1909

### **ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

- [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2024.
- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.
- [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- [www.geohive.ie](http://www.geohive.ie)– Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013).
- [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery (2005–2023).
- CUCAP - Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs. Unit for Landscape Modelling, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

<b>SMR NO.</b>	LH007-114
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Yes
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Marshes Upper
<b>PARISH</b>	Dundalk
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Dundalk
<b>I.T.M.</b>	704762, 806103
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ritual site-holy well
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c.100m southeast
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Marked on the 1835 'OS 6-inch' map as 'Lady's Well' and on the 1938/9 edition as 'Lady's Well (Disused)'. Patron was held here on 9th September each year. It is covered by a small rectangular structure with a gabled roof. Above the doorway is an alcove c
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	LH007-089
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Yes
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Townparks (Upper Dundalk By.)
<b>PARISH</b>	Dundalk
<b>BARONY</b>	Upper Dundalk
<b>I.T.M.</b>	704273, 806349
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Cist
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	c.250m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The following description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file



---

## **APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION    PROTECTING    THE    ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

### **PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes 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’ (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

### **OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

### **REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS**

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months’ notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

### **PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS**

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months,

after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

### **RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES**

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

### **THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000**

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

## Louth County Development Plan, 2021-2027

It is a policy of the plan:

**BHC 1** To protect and enhance archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and/or the Register of Historic Monuments and seek their preservation (i.e. presumption in favour of preservation in situ or in exceptional cases, at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process and having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the principles as set out in the 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999).

**BHC 2** To protect the built heritage assets of the county and ensure they are managed and preserved in a manner that does not adversely impact on the intrinsic value of these assets whilst supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.

**BHC 3** To protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, monuments, structures and objects, having regard to the advice of the National Monuments Services of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**BHC 4** To promote awareness and knowledge of the archaeological resources of the County and support initiatives where appropriate that provide better access to the historic built environment.

**BHC 5** To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional circumstances, at a minimum preservation by record) having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**BHC 6** To ensure any development, either above or below ground, adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument or a Zone of Archaeological Potential (including formerly walled towns) shall not be detrimental to or detract from the character of the archaeological site or its setting and be sited and designed to protect the monument and its setting. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.

**BHC 7** To require applicants seeking permission for development within Zones of Archaeological Potential and other sites as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and the Council may require that an on-site archaeological assessment is carried out by trial work, prior to a decision on a planning application being taken.

**BHC 8** To protect and preserve in situ all surviving elements of medieval town defences (both upstanding and buried) and associated features in accordance with the Conservation and Management Plans as applicable and with 'National Policy on Town Defences' (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008).

**BHC 9** To retain the surviving medieval street pattern, building lines and burgage plot widths in historic walled towns.

**BHC 10** To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical surveys, test excavations and monitoring, as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length or for developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery, as identified by a licensed archaeologist.

### **Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015**

It is an objective of the councils to secure the preservation in-situ or by record of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally.

### **Policy CH7**

Safeguard the archaeological heritage of Dundalk and its environs by protecting designated archaeological sites, Local Archaeological Heritage Site, and Special Archaeological Interest areas and requiring that applicants for planning permission for development in areas known to contain archaeological features, carry out an archaeological assessment of the site.

---

## **APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE**

### **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS**

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2022). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

*Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.*

### **PREDICTED IMPACTS**

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

---

## **APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE**

### **POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS**

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

### **DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

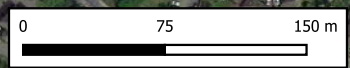
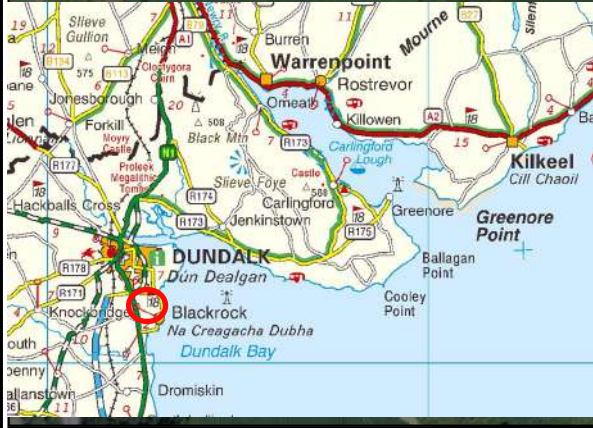
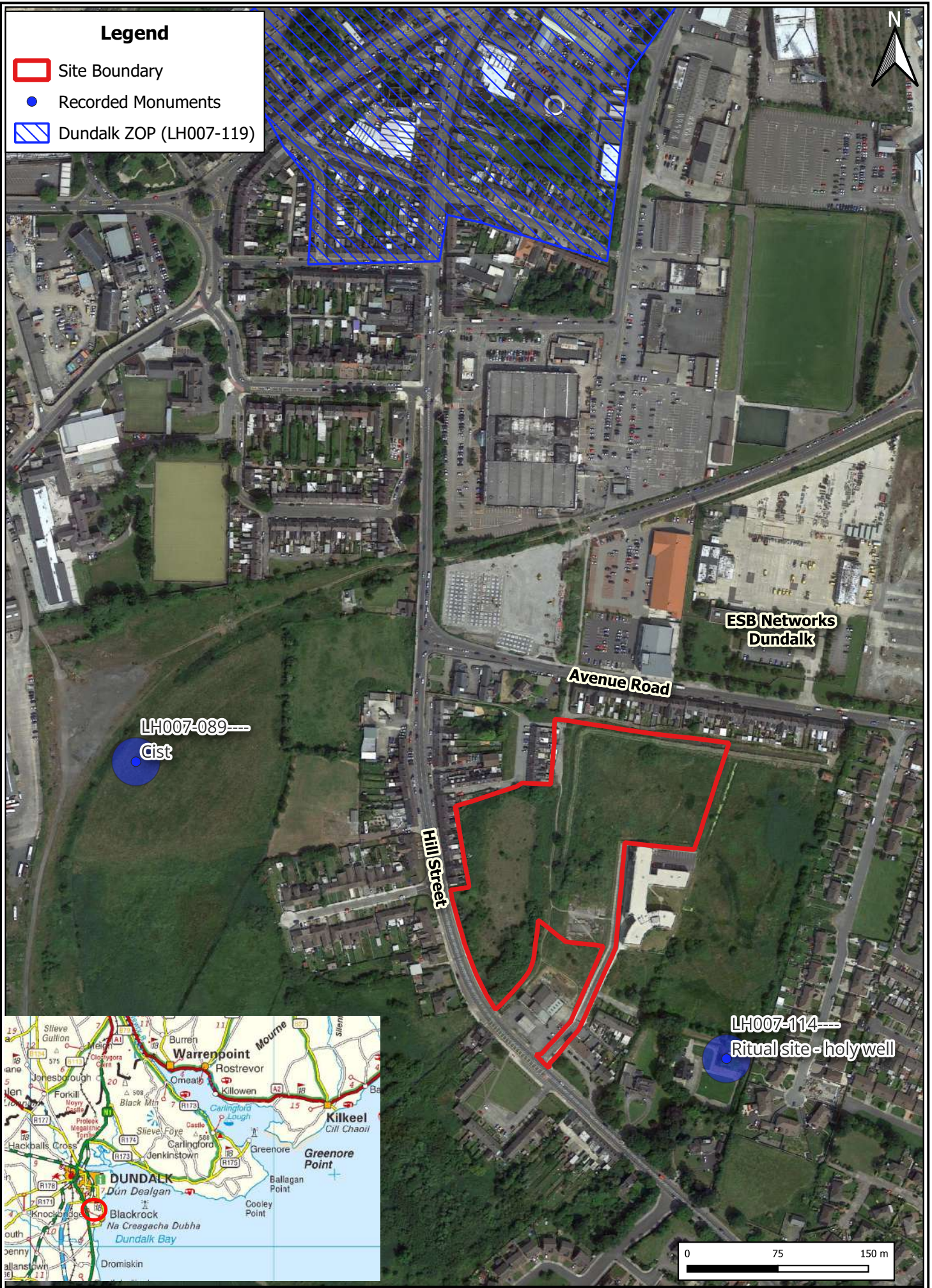
*Archaeological Test Trenching* can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

*Full Archaeological Excavation* can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

*Archaeological Monitoring* can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive’ (ClfA 2020c).

*Underwater Archaeological Assessment* consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.





	Title	Site location showing nearby recorded monuments	Scale	1:4000@A4	Drawn By	JF
	Project	Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth	Date	05.09.2023	Checked By	FB
			Job No.	J4199	Approved By	FB/MT
				Fig. 1	Rev. -	

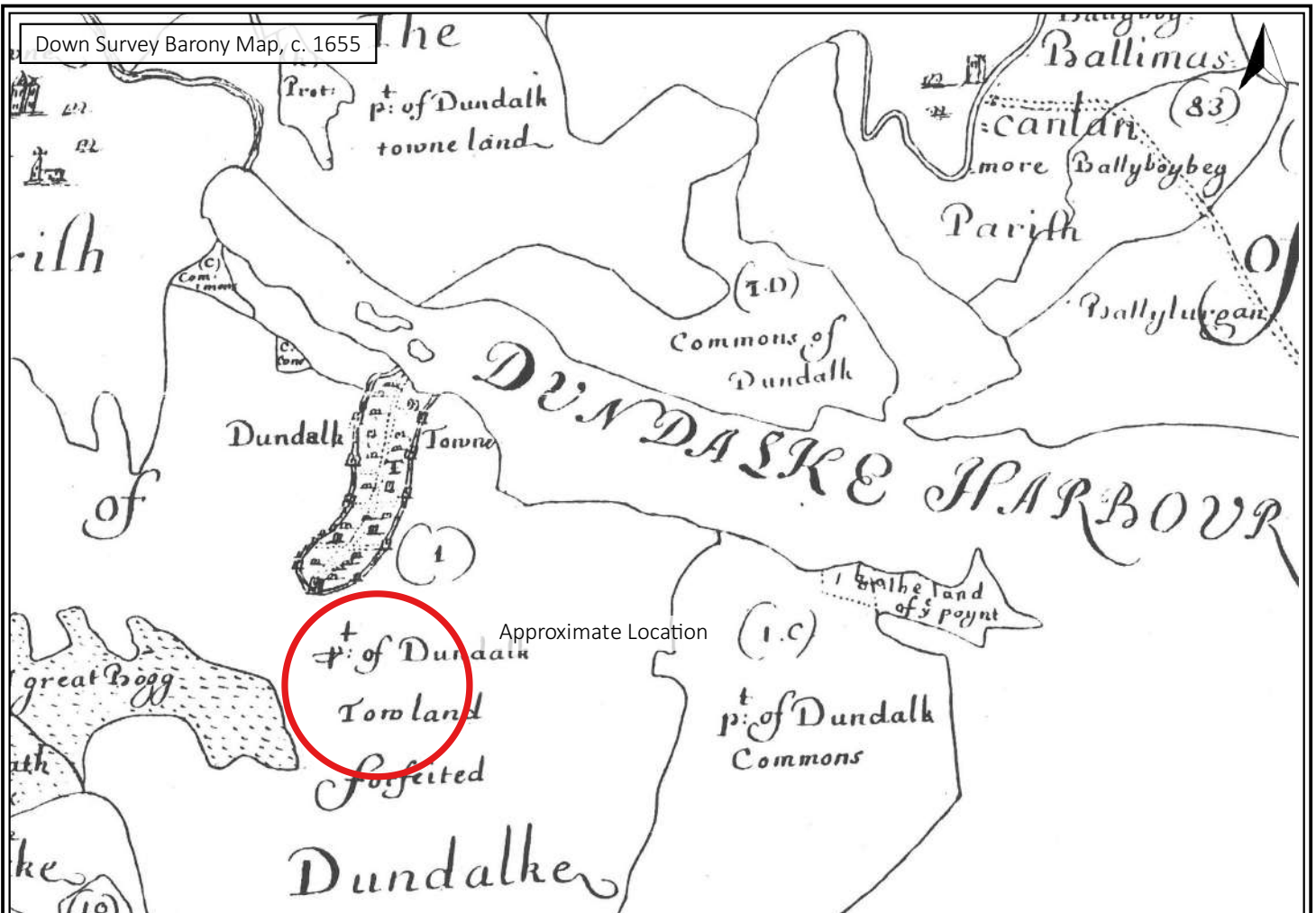




Title	Proposed development plan	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	JF
Project	Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth	Date	06.09.2023	Checked By	FB
		Job No.	J4199	Approved By	FB/MT
				Fig. 2	Rev. -

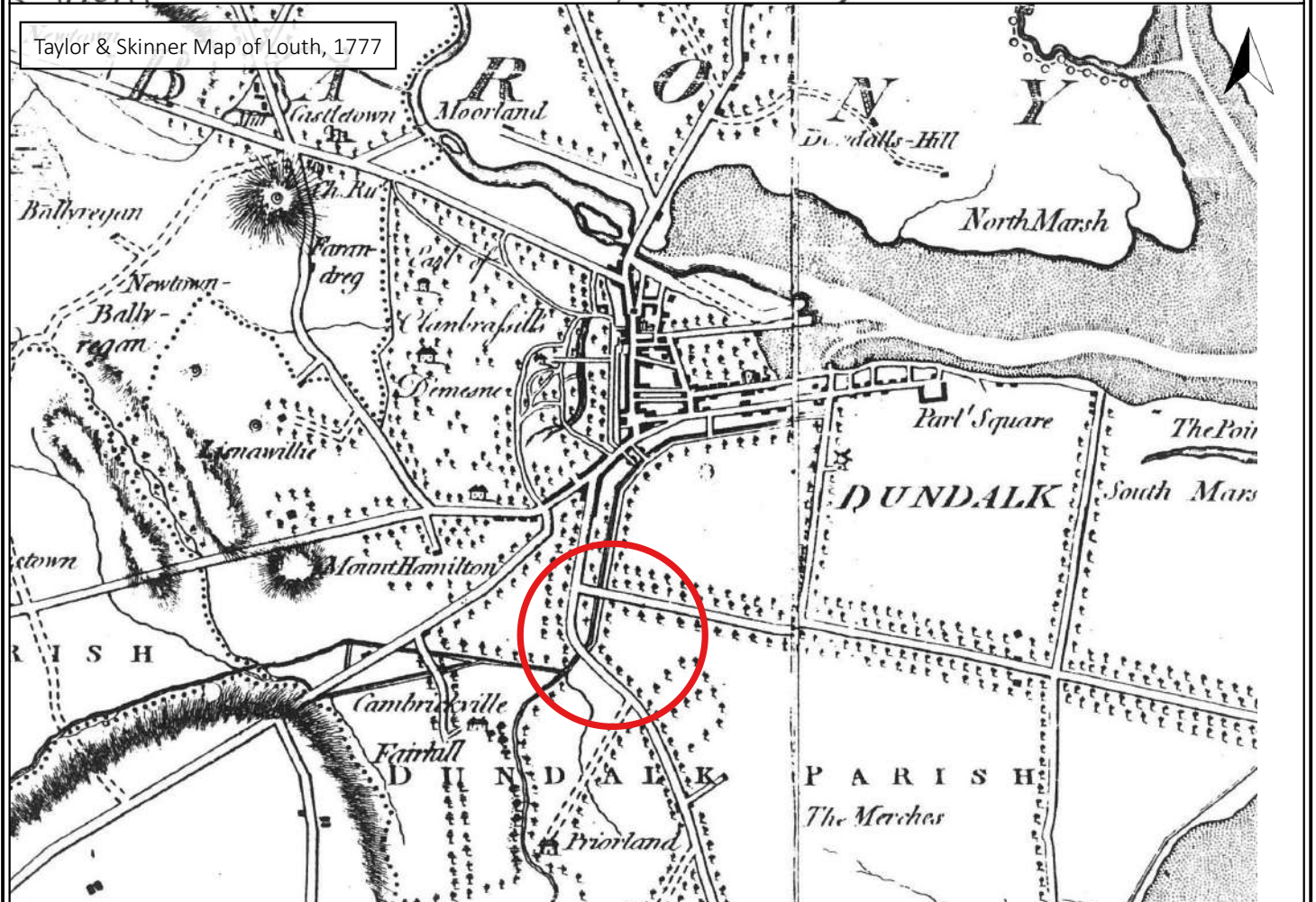


Down Survey Barony Map, c. 1655



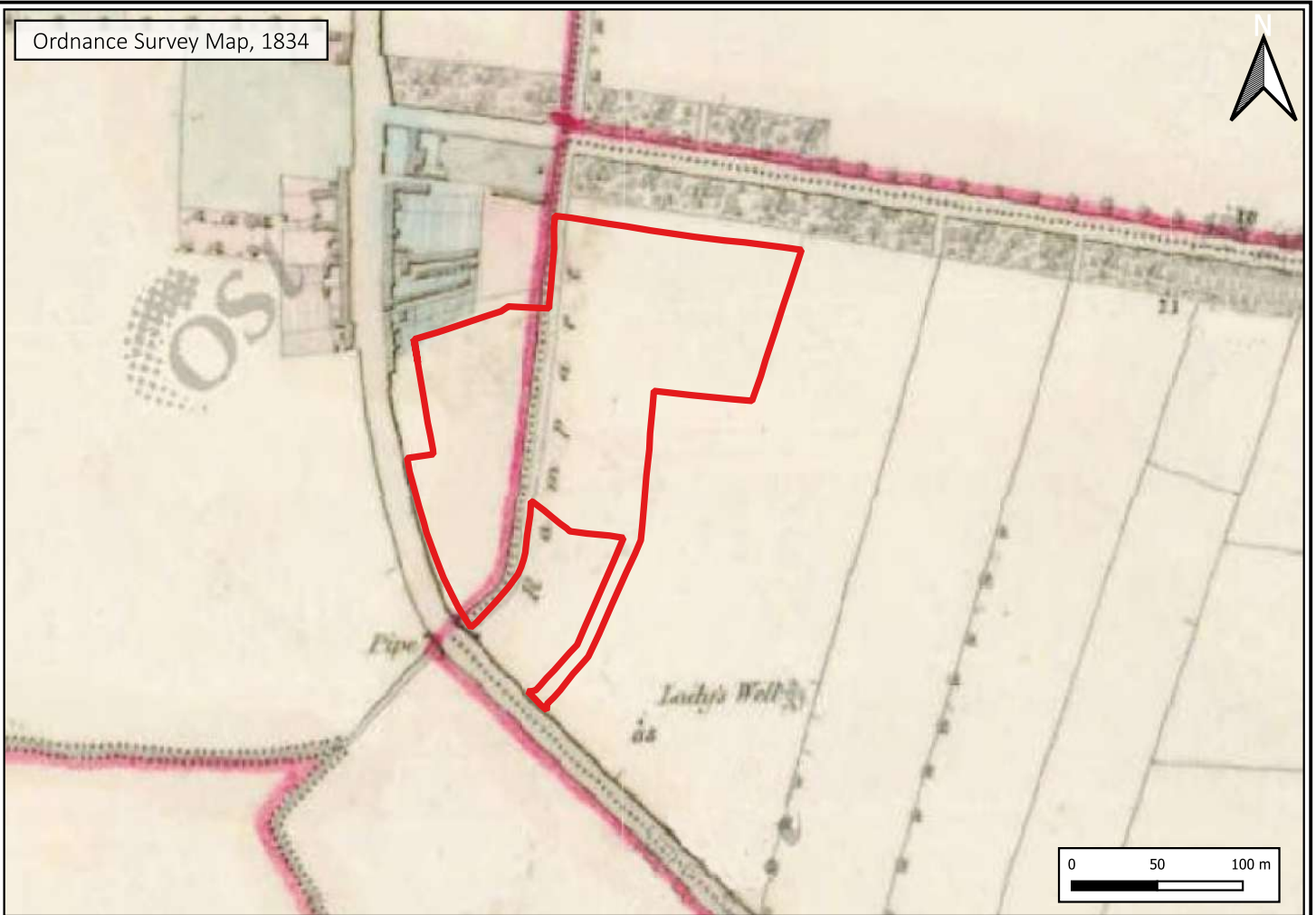
Approximate Location

Taylor & Skinner Map of Louth, 1777

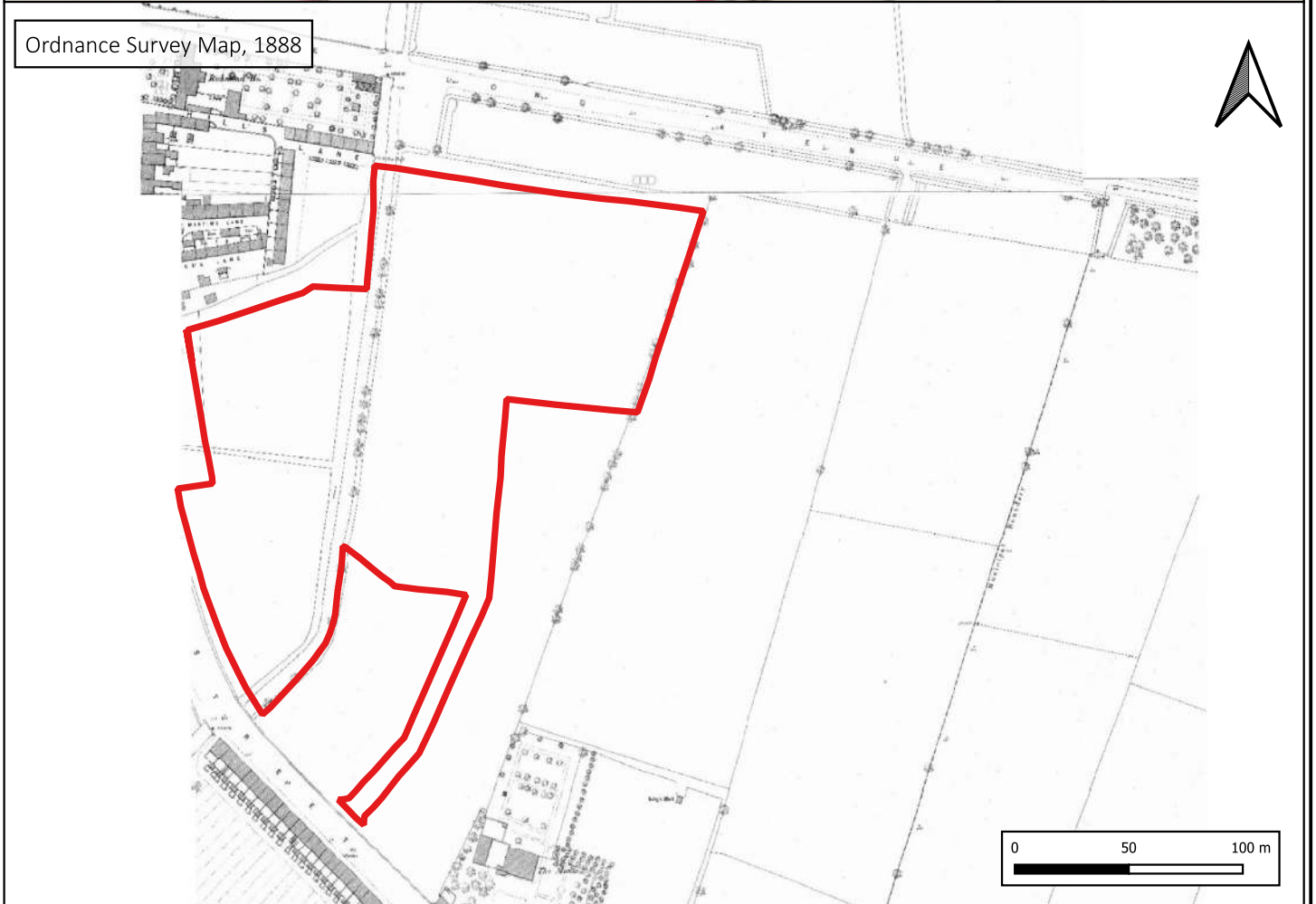


Title	Extracts from historic maps (c. 1655 and 1777) showing approximate location of proposed development area	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	MT
Project	Hill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Date	08.09.2023	Checked By	MB
		Job No.	J4199	Approved	FB/MT
				Fig. 3	Rev. -

Ordnance Survey Map, 1834



Ordnance Survey Map, 1888



Title	Extracts from ordnance survey maps (1834 and 1888) showing the proposed development area	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	JF
Project	Hill Street, Dundalk, County Louth	Date	06.09.2023	Checked By	MB
		Job No.	J4199	Approved By	FB/MT
				Fig. 4	Rev. -





Plate 1: Proposed development area, facing northeast



Plate 2: Concrete pad, facing west



Plate 3: Rampart River channel, facing northeast



Plate 4: Northern border of proposed development site, facing east





Plate 5: Pedestrian route within the proposed development area, facing south



Plate 6: Lady's well (LH007-114) to the south of the site, facing southwest