

**Archaeological assessment**

**Proposed Whitebox Student Campus,  
Groody Road, Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick**



*Prepared by*  
**John Cronin & Associates**  
3a Westpoint Trade Centre  
Link Road  
Ballincollig  
Cork

*For*  
**Carron & Walsh**  
4th Floor,  
The Atrium,  
Maritana Gate  
Canada Street  
County Waterford  
X91 A250

**January 2025**

## ***Document Control Sheet***

<b><i>Client</i></b>	Carron & Walsh on behalf of Groody Developments Ltd.				
<b><i>Project Title</i></b>	Proposed Whitebox Student Campus, Groody Road, Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick				
<b><i>Document Title</i></b>	Archaeological assessment				
<b><i>Document No.</i></b>	04				
<b><i>Document Comprises</i></b>	DCS	NTS	TOC	Pages	44
	Y	N	Y	Appendices	3

<b><i>Rev</i></b>	<b><i>Status</i></b>	<b><i>Author(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Reviewed By</i></b>	<b><i>Approved By</i></b>	<b><i>Office of Origin</i></b>	<b><i>Issue Date</i></b>
01	Draft	Deirbhile Lynch & András Hindli	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	03/09/2024
02	Draft	Camilla Brännström	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	09/10/2024
03	Issue	Camilla Brännström	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	17/10/2024
04	Final	Camilla Brännström	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	28/01/2025

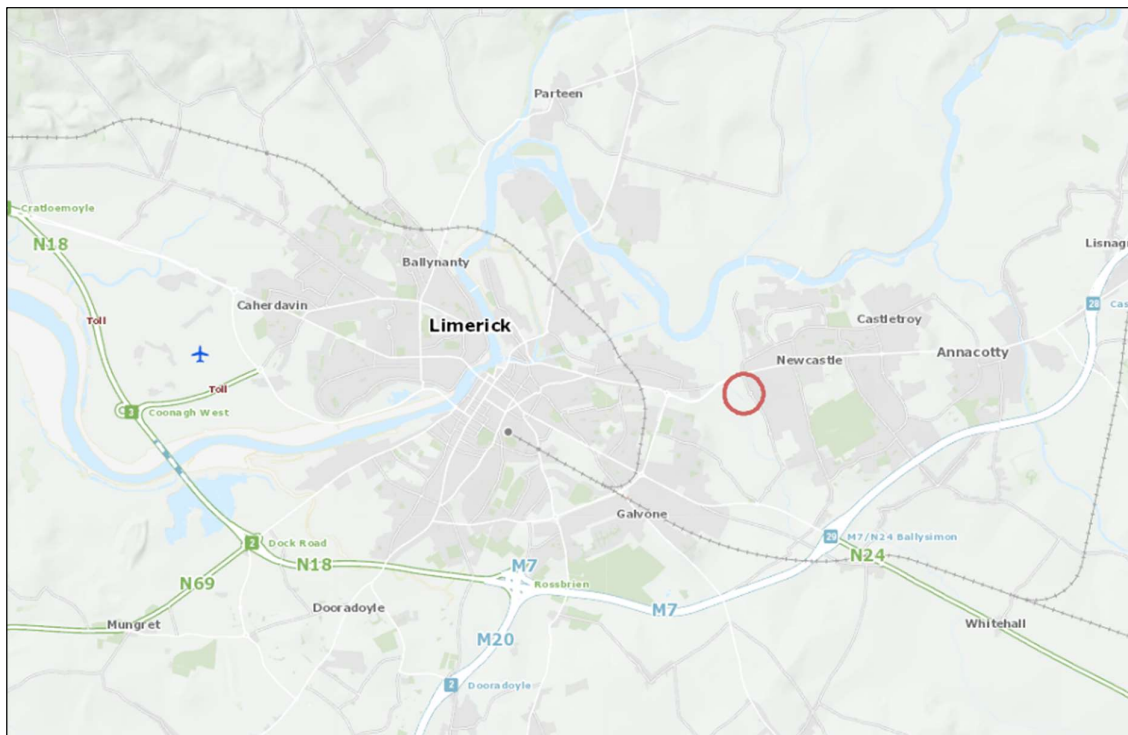
© 2025 Cultural Resource Management and Planning Ltd. “John Cronin & Associates” is a trading name of Cultural Resource Management and Planning Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy. Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of information outlined in this report. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the written permission of Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd.

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Context .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Description of site.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5. Assessment of impact .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6. Conclusions and recommendations .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7. References/sources.....</b>	<b>22</b>
 <b>Appendix 1: Photographic record .....</b>	 <b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory entries .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Excavations Database entries .....</b>	<b>33</b>

# 1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by Carron & Walsh on behalf of Groody Developments Ltd. to prepare an archaeological assessment of lands ahead of the *Proposed Whitebox Student Campus, Groody Road, Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick* (**Figure 1**). The development lands are situated in the townland of Newcastle, and they form part of the Groody Valley. The subject site is located c.2.5km east of Limerick City and c.1km to the southwest of the University of Limerick.



**Figure 1:** General location of subject site within the wider landscape (Source: Government of Ireland & *Taite Éireann*)

This assessment has been compiled in order to examine the potential impacts which development of the subject lands may have on the recorded and potential archaeological heritage resource of the area. The study area for this assessment comprised the footprint of the proposed development site along with the lands extending for 1km from its boundary. The assessment firstly outlines the methodology used in its compilation (**Section 2**) and then provides an archaeological and historical context for the study area, including a summary of the relevant legal and planning framework for the recorded and potential elements of the archaeological resource within its environs (**Section 3**). The results of a site inspection are described in **Section 4**, an assessment of impacts is provided in **Section 5** and conclusions and recommendations are presented in **Section 6**.

## 2. Methodology

This report is based on a programme of desktop research, site inspection and desk-based assessment.

### Desktop study

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

The ASI has continued to record and add entries to the SMR and 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's 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 as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded, or partially levelled, features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the Down Survey (1650s), first edition 1:10,560 (or 'first edition 6-inch') Ordnance Survey (OS) (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) and the 1:2500 (or '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 *Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028* (adopted 17 June 2022) was consulted to review the planning authority's policies and objectives designed for the protection of the archaeological resource.

- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1969 to present.
- *Irish Heritage Council: Heritage Map Viewer* - This online mapping source collates various cultural heritage datasets and includes extracts from the National Museum of Ireland's records of artefact discovery locations as well as datasets provided by, among others, the National Monuments Service, local authorities, the Royal Academy of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. Current data was accessed via [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)
- *Literary Sources* - Publications consulted are listed in **Section 7** of this report.
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List* - UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are two world heritage sites in Ireland and a number of other significant sites are included in a Tentative List (2021) that has been put forward by Ireland for inclusion.

## Field survey

A qualified and experienced archaeologist, Mr Andr  s Hindli, carried out an inspection of the proposed development site on 22 August 2024. The site was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites/features. The results of the site inspection are detailed in **Section 4**, while extracts from the photographic record are presented in **Appendix 1** of this report.



### 3. Context

#### Location

The proposed development site comprises a greenfield site within the townland of Newcastle in the Groody Valley. The site is bound to the west by Groody River, to the north by the R445, to the east by Groody Road and to the south by a mixed-use field (**Figure 2**).



**Figure 2:** Aerial image (2013-18) of the subject site (Source: Government of Ireland)

#### Legal & Policy Framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed none are located within the region of the country which contains the study area.

The national legal statutes and guidelines 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);

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);
- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

### ***Archaeological heritage***

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was signed into law on October 13th, 2023<sup>1</sup>. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage circulated a guidance document in relation to this Act in November 2023 which provides an overview of its current status, and this is summarised hereafter. While the Act is now law most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister has made one or more “Commencement Orders”. This means that Section 7 of the Act (which provides for the repeal of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and related legislation) has not entered into force. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and other legislation which section 7 of the Act will, when it comes into force, repeal, remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October and will continue to do so for the time being. The Act contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 to continue in operation notwithstanding their repeal post-commencement of the Act while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. This includes provisions enabling the Record of Monuments and Places to continue to have effect pending the establishment of the new Register of Monuments (see section 48 of the Act).

The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, therefore, remain the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource and include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites. **Two sites (fortified house LI005-025--- & bawn LI005-025001) within the study area have Temporary Preservation Orders.**

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. **There are no National Monuments located within the study area.** The closest National Monument is Fannings Castle - tower house, located c.3.3km west of the subject site (National Monument No. 383) (LI005-017004-).

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/act/2023/26/eng/enacted/a2623.pdf>



There are **no recorded archaeological sites** (as recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)) located within the boundary of the subject site. There are 19 recorded archaeological sites within the 1km study area. These recorded archaeological sites are listed in **Table 1**, mapped in **Figure 3**. The closest recorded archaeological sites to the proposed development site are fortified house LI005-025--- & bawn LI005-025001 (both have Temporary Preservation Orders), located 380m to the northeast.

The **Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028** includes the following objectives which are most relevant to this project:

**Objective EH 037 Preservation of unrecorded/newly discovered Archaeological Heritage**

*It is an objective of the Council to protect and preserve the preservation in situ (or at a minimum by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.*

**Objective EH 040 Proper procedures during the planning process**

*It is an objective of the Council to:*

- a) Ensure early engagement at preplanning stage is undertaken with the Local Authority Archaeologist to promote the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological remains and settings in development.*
- b) Adopt a policy of archaeological monitoring of developments where the scale and nature of such developments may, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have a negative impact on previously unknown archaeological features/ artefacts.*
- c) Require the preparation of an Archaeological Heritage Assessment in cases where it is deemed that Archaeological Heritage would be affected by a proposed development (due to their location, size or nature). The report shall be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist on the archaeological implications, if any, of the proposed development either prior to a decision on a planning application or prior to commencement of development on site.*

## Archaeological & historical background

There are a total of 19 recorded monuments located within the 1km study area surrounding the proposed development site. These recorded archaeological sites are listed in **Table 1**, mapped in **Figure 3** and their published inventory descriptions are provided in **Appendix 2**.

The monuments within the study area consist of a series of prehistoric features, such as cremation pits, a *fulacht fiadh*, a standing stone, and a corn drying kiln and an enclosure. Several programmes of archaeological excavations were also recorded here, some of which identified Bronze Age pottery, cremation pits, pits and ditches. There is also a pattern of medieval and post-medieval activity within the study area seen through the presence of a ringfort, a castle – unclassified, a bawn, a fortified house, a corn mill, and two wells.

**Table 1:** List of recorded archaeological sites located within 1km of the proposed development site

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Distance</b>
LI005-024----	Castle - unclassified	Reboge	559706, 657618	990m northwest

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Distance</b>
LI005-025----	House - fortified house	Newcastle	561206, 657366	460m northeast
LI005-033----	Well	Singland	560421, 656126	910m southwest
LI005-034001-	Ritual site - holy well	Kilbane	561312, 656089	1km southeast
LI005-034002-	Burial ground	Kilbane	561311, 656091	1km southeast
LI005-035----	Ringfort - rath	Kilbane	561549, 656624	770m southeast
LI005-073----	Fulacht fia	Towlerton	561036, 656054	925m south
LI005-074----	Standing stone	Towlerton	560913, 656164	795m south
LI005-034003-	Excavation miscellaneous -	Kilbane	561359, 656144	985m southeast
LI005-084----	Excavation miscellaneous -	Kilbane	561213. 656296	780m south
LI005-085001-	Excavation miscellaneous -	Kilbane	561378, 656198	830m southeast
LI005-085002-	Enclosure	Kilbane	561322, 656287	840m southeast
LI005-085003-	Excavation miscellaneous -	Kilbane	561351, 656316	840m southwest
LI005-085004-	Cremation pit	Kilbane	561233, 656386	710m southeast
LI005-085005-	Cremation pit	Kilbane	561322, 656293	840m southeast
LI005-085006-	Kiln - corn-drying	Kilbane	561342, 656954	840m southeast
LI005-107----	Pit	Singland	560174, 656954	460m west
LI005-025001-	Bawn	Newcastle	561206, 657366	460m northeast
LI005-118----	Mill - corn	Reboge	559761, 657558	950m northwest



**Figure 3:** Recorded archaeological sites – red dots (as recorded by ASI) within the 1km study area around the subject site (red line) (Source: Government of Ireland)

The following presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record with references to the recorded archaeological sites located within the study area. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service (NMS).

#### *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 County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden 2016, 161). Similarly, re-examination of a reindeer bone fragment discovered in Castlepook Cave near Doneraile, County Cork in 1905 revealed human butchery marks on the bone which was radiocarbon dated to 31,000 BC (Carden 2020), establishing human activity in Ireland more than 20,000 years earlier than previously thought. While these prehistoric settlers did not construct settlements or monuments that have left any above ground traces, their presence can often be identified by scatters of worked flint in ploughed fields.

The Neolithic period (*circa* 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.

The Irish Bronze Age (*circa* 2400–500 BC) commenced with the arrival of metal-working techniques to the island and this technological advance resulted in the introduction of a new artefactual assemblage into the Irish archaeological record. This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, barrows and *fulachta 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, numbering some 7000 recorded examples. Radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (*circa* 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 (Hawkes 2015). A standing stone (LI005-074----), a pit and two cremation pits (LI005-107----), (LI005-085004-, LI005-085005-), four excavations (LI005-085001-, LI005-034003-, LI005-084----, LI005-085003-), a *fulacht fiadh* (LI005-073----), a corn-drying kiln (LI005-085006-) dating or likely corresponding to this period are recorded within the 1km study area.

The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). This period has been traditionally associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’ but this view is no longer widely accepted as recent archaeological evidence points instead to a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe. Relatively little has been traditionally known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of Iron Age sites during schemes such as bog-cutting and road construction projects.

Archaeological investigations (03E1343) in advance of the Castletroy Distributor Road revealed evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity. The discovery of a series of four cremation pits and two possible cremation pits in Field 1 and c. twenty pits, six trenches/drains, five post-pits and eleven stakeholes were recorded within Field 2 along with a circular-shaped trench. along with the presence of four cremation burial pits. Field 3 consisted of six pits and four small concentrations of charcoal deposits. The discovery of these sites demonstrates a significant settlement pattern in the vicinity of the subject site during the later prehistoric period. In particular, there is extensive evidence for cremation pits within the area, with cremation pit LI005-085004- to the south of the subject site and flat cemetery LI005-088005- to the south-southeast of the site.

#### *Medieval and post-medieval periods*

The early medieval period began with the introduction of Christianity and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late twelfth century (*circa* 400–1169 AD). While the medieval period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the larger monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports, the dominant settlement pattern was still rural-based and centred around enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts (earth/timber built) and cashels (stone built). Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape, with some 45,000 recorded examples (Stout 1997, 53). These sites comprise broadly circular enclosures delimited



by one or more concentric banks and ditches in the case of ringforts and drystone walls in the case of cashels. They were formerly known by the names *ráth*/*lios*/*cathair*/*dún*, which still form some of the most common place-name elements within the Irish landscape. The majority of excavated examples have produced evidence for the remains of timber houses, outbuildings and stockades as well as a variety of agricultural and craft activities such as grain processing and metalworking. The Sites and Monuments Record lists a number of recorded sites corresponding to this period within the 1km study area. These are: a ringfort (LI005-035----) likely dated to the early medieval period; two wells (LI005-003----; LI005-034001-), a burial ground (LI005-034002-), a fortified house (LI005-025----), a bawn (LI005-025001-), a corn mill (LI005-118----), a castle (LI005-024----) ranging between late medieval and post-medieval periods.

The area of the proposed development is located in the Barony of South Liberties. It is recorded in the Annals that in AD 744 the *Dál Cais* defeated the *Corcu Modruad*, occupying the latter's strategic lands in Clare which controlled the Shannon. Viking raiders first appeared on the Shannon *circa* AD 825. Although there are some references to a ninth-century settlement in Limerick, the permanent settlement appears to have been established in AD 922 by Tamar MacAilche on the island in the Shannon formed by the Abbey River. This island became known as *Inis Sibhton*, or *Inis an Ghaill Duibh*, later King's Island. The Viking town is still visible in the street pattern of the old city on King's Island. Viking Limerick allied with the Irish in Munster in AD 926 to repel an incursion from the Vikings of Waterford.

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in AD 1169 marks the advent of the late medieval period which continued until approx. AD 1550. This period saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns developed as local or regional market centres. In 1174, Domhnall Mór Ó Briain burned Limerick city to prevent it falling to the Normans. The city was finally captured in 1195, under Prince John and was granted a charter and mayor, Adam Sarvant (1197-98), and bailiffs were John Bambery and Walter White. King John's Castle was erected between 1200 and 1207, along with the original Thomond Bridge.

Prince John and his Norman Chief Justiciar, or solicitor, Myler Fitzhenry conferred 40 ploughlands (*seisreacha*) on the people of Limerick, each with its own castle. Twenty-four of these ploughlands were located south of the Shannon and sixteen to the north. Limerick Corporation Inquisition of 1615 states that, 'they were in the possession of Richard de Clare (of Bunratty) from the Kings of England as tenants of the Mayor and Corporation'. In 1316, Edward Bruce, brother of King Robert I of Scotland, captured Limerick. The occupation was short lived and ended when Edward was killed in 1318 and the Scots were defeated. Construction of the town wall on King's Island, known as Englishtown, began in the fourteenth century and continued until the end of the fifteenth century. Irishtown, which developed on the other side of the Abbey River, was also enclosed by a wall. Limerick prospered as a port and trading centre; farm produce was exported and wine was imported from France and Spain. In 1467 a mint was set up in the city. In 1497 and 1498 there were great famines, followed by plague in 1521.

A 1574 document prepared for the Spanish ambassador attests to the wealth of the city. By 1641, Limerick was the third largest city in Ireland, with a population estimated at about 3,500. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries - in common with other major Irish towns - Limerick became a virtual city-state, due to the breakdown of effective English rule throughout the country. While the city remained loyal to the Crown and conscious of its status as a Royal city, the Reformation



created acute tensions between the citizens' conflicting allegiances to the Catholic Church and the Protestant English monarchy.

Limerick was besieged several times in the seventeenth century. In 1642, Irish Confederates seized King John's Castle. The city was besieged by Oliver Cromwell's army under Henry Ireton in 1651; after a blockade several months long Cromwellian forces retook the castle. Limerick was besieged during the Williamite Wars in 1690 and again in 1691, which ended with the signing of the Treaty of Limerick. These wars decimated both the population and the city. Ballygrennan Castle or Castle Park was built and occupied in 1620 by the O'Brien's of Thomond. In 1782 it became the property of the Ormsbys under the name of Blackland Castle, and lastly, in 1833, it became the property of Christopher Delmege who rebuilt large portions of it.

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 farmhouses became more common in the nineteenth century.

The eighteenth century was a period of growth and expansion for the city and environs of Limerick. The construction of public buildings and infrastructure projects were paid for with local taxes on trans-Atlantic trade. The medieval city walls and its 17 gates were for the most part pulled down in 1760. In 1733, George III approved the repair of the road from the North Liberties of Limerick, to Cratloe and Sixmilebridge.

## The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of archaeological excavations undertaken in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1969 to present. A search of the townland of and the surrounding townlands of Newcastle, Castletroy, Reboge Meadows, Dromroe, Sreelane, Reboge and Kilbane revealed 15 licenced archaeological investigations. No licenced excavations have taken place within the proposed development site.

In 2003, the archaeological monitoring of the topsoil strip carried out ahead of the construction of a large housing development in the townland of Kilbane, to the east of the subject site, revealed three fulacht fiadh, a series of Bronze Age cremation pits (22 recorded and 28 possible cremations) and a series of pits and linear features (03E1382). The site was subsequently excavated. See **Appendix 2** for full summary entries for these excavations.

## Cartographic and aerial review

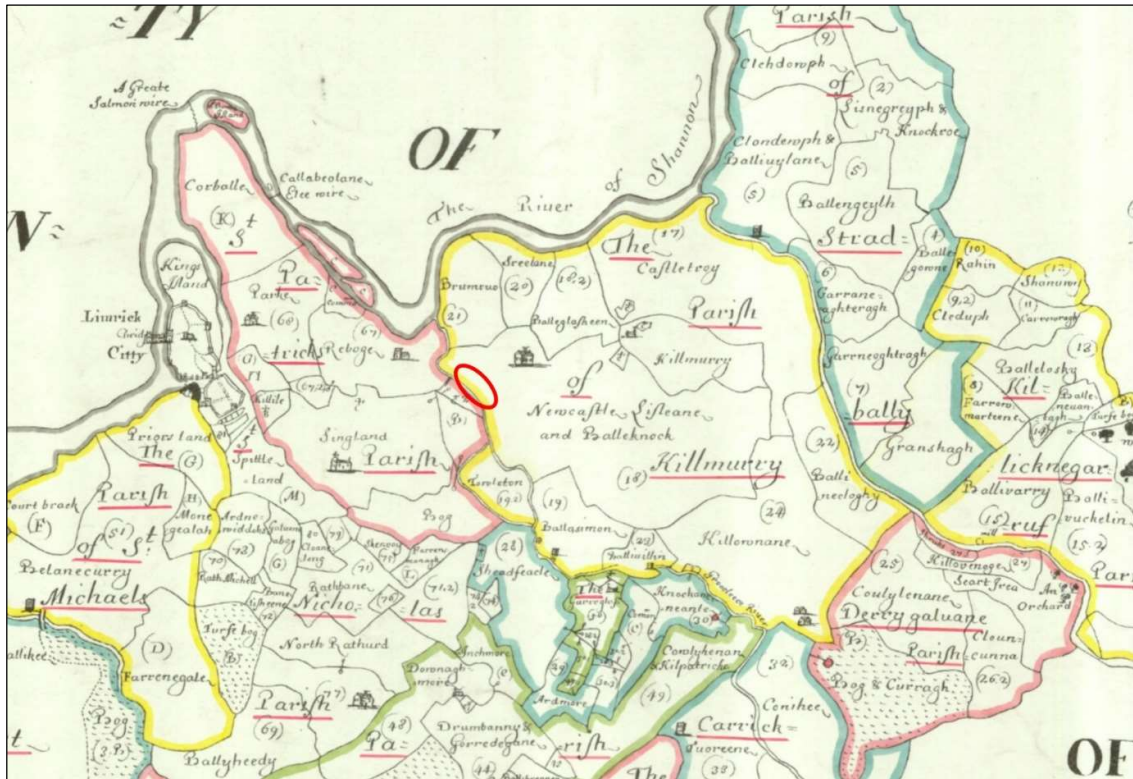
The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the Down Survey map (surveyed in the 1650s) (see **Figures 4 & 5** below), the first edition of the 6-inch OS maps (surveyed in 1840) (see **Figure 6** below) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed in 1893) (see **Figure 7**).

The Down Survey map (c.1655) of the Barony of South Liberties shows the Parish of Kilmurry immediately east of Limerick City, on the south bank of the River Shannon (**Figure 4**). A church

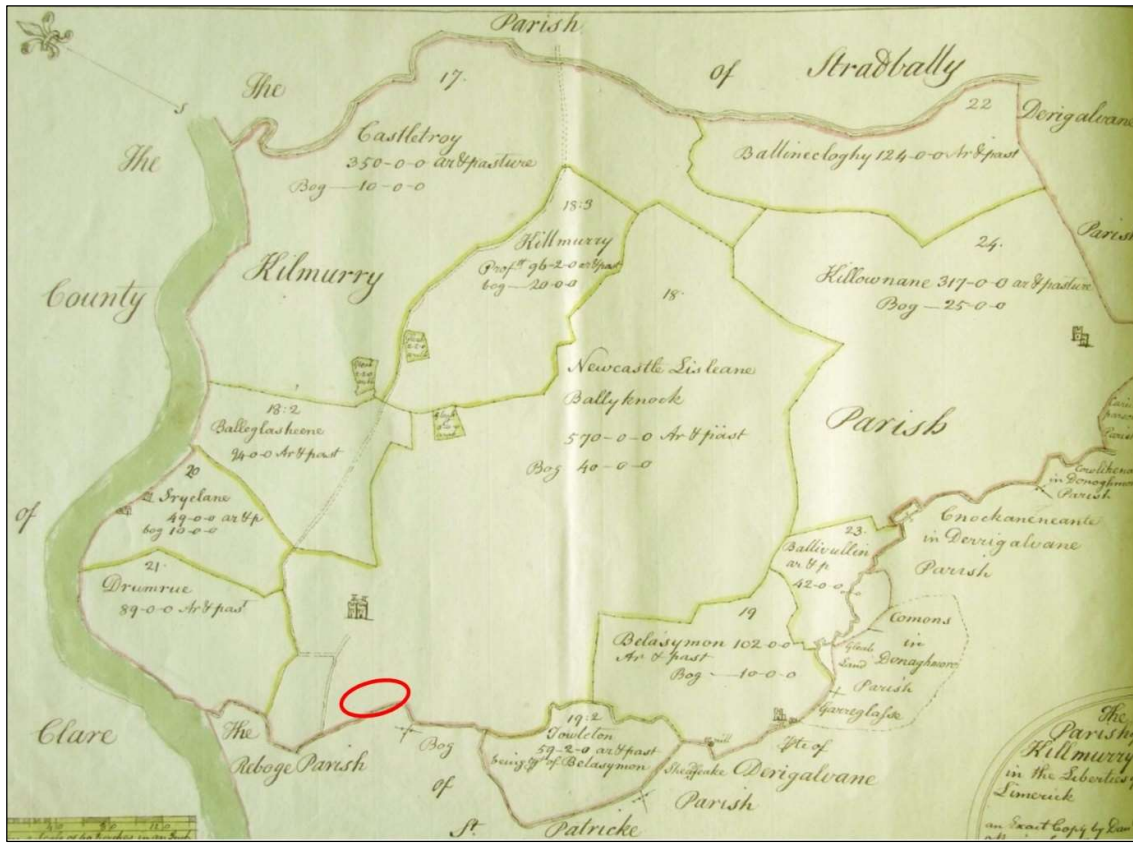
depicted near the centre of the Barony appears to be Kilmurry Parish Church (LI005-026001-). The glebe lands depicted on this map are also depicted on the map of the Parish of Kilmurry (**Figure 5**) and the later first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (**Figure 6**). However, the church itself is not depicted on the map of the Parish of Kilmurry.

The map of the Parish of Kilmurry shows the area in good detail, with some of the main topographical features and many of the townland boundaries clearly depicted. The townland of Newcastle and the surrounding townlands of Reboge [Reboge Meadows], Castletroy, Sryelane [Sreelane], Drumrue [Dromroe], Towleton [Towlerton], Belasymon [Ballysimon], Killownane [Killonan] and Ballinecloghy [Ballyclogh] all existed in roughly their current morphology at that time. This suggests that these boundaries were well-established and manifest in a physical form by the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. When comparing this map to the later – and much more accurately surveyed – first edition OS map, it is clear that a small number of the townlands that currently exist, such as Newtown and Kilbane were established sometime between the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and early-19<sup>th</sup> century. Also evident is that the townland of Balleglasheene, depicted on the map of the Parish of Kilmurry has been subsumed into the townland of Newcastle by the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The townland of Balleglasheene forms the area to the north of the current R445 Road (Limerick to Newport Road) up to the south bank of the River Shannon.

The Down Survey maps depict the Groody River immediately west of the proposed development site. The Limerick to Newport Road is clearly depicted to the north of the proposed development site, along with a large building to the northeast, which appears to be Newcastle Clanwilliam fortified house (LI005-025---). There are no potential archaeological features depicted on the Down Survey maps within the area that contains the proposed development site.



**Figure 4:** Extract from the Down Survey map (c.1655) showing the Barony of South Liberties, with the proposed development site circled in red (Source: Trinity College Dublin)

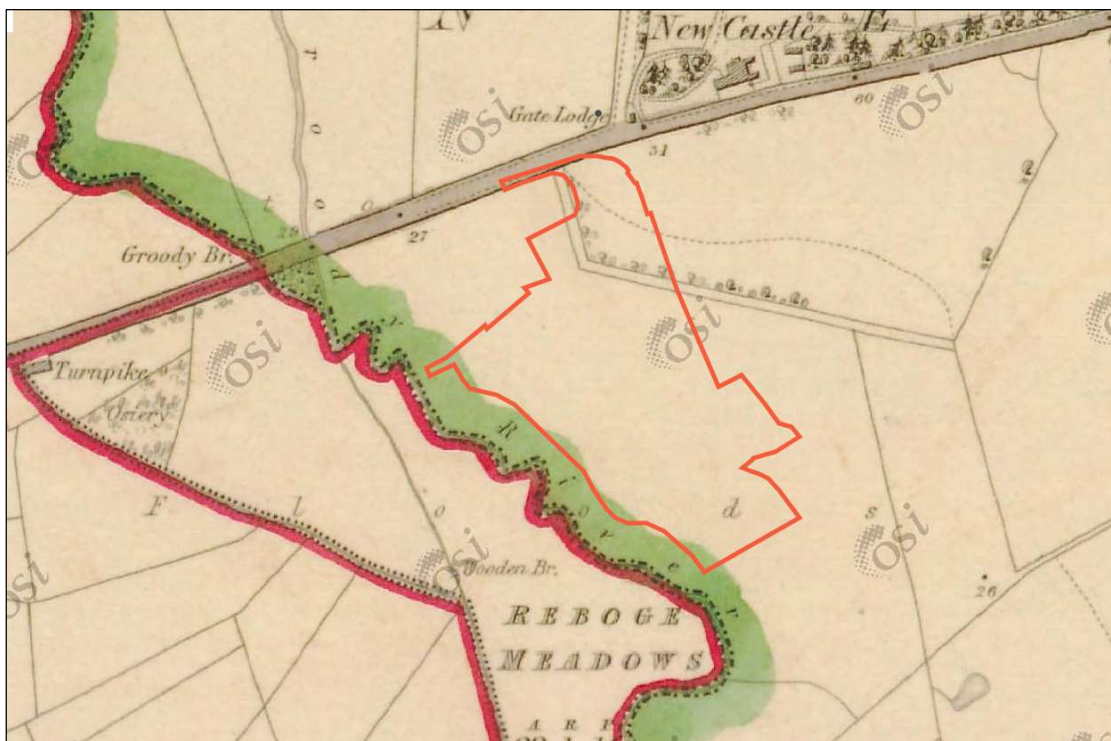


**Figure 5:** Extract from the Down Survey map (c.1655) showing the Parish of Kilmurry, with the proposed development site circled in red (Source: Trinity College Dublin)

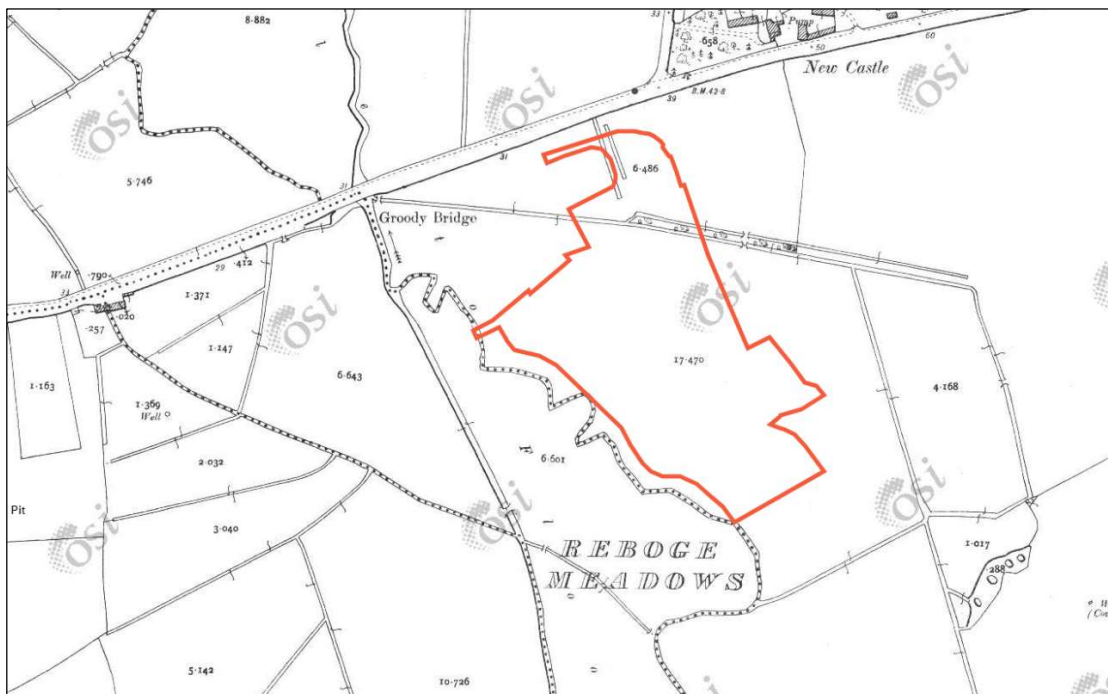
The 6-inch OS map (**Figure 6**) shows the subject site as an undeveloped, irregularly shaped field which is bordered by Groody River, which is the townland boundary for Reboge Meadows and Newcastle. A local access lane is depicted traversing the northeast corner of the site along a roughly northwest to southeast axis. It is partially lined with a deciduous treeline. A stream is also depicted running to the north of this access road along the same axis. New Castle bawn (LI005-025001-) and Newcastle Clanwilliam fortified house (LI005-025---) is already depicted 'in ruins' by this map edition. The public road (Limerick to Newport Road, now the R445), which borders the site to the north is already in existence by this map edition. The land is indicated as likely to flood. A triangular field in the adjacent townland of Reboge Meadows contains the word 'Osiery' [possibly ossuary], suggesting a potential burial site.

The 25-inch OS map (**Figure 7**) shows few changes within the proposed development area. However, the local access road has been amended and is clearly part of a designed drainage system to drain the lands to the east and southeast of the proposed development site. The drains appear to run northwest to the Groody River at Groody Bridge.





**Figure 6:** Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map with the boundary of the subject site outlined in red  
(Source: Tailte Éireann)



**Figure 7:** Extract from the 25-inch OS map with the boundary of the subject site outlined in red  
(Source: Tailte Éireann)

A review of available orthorectified aerial imagery for a variety of years from 1995 to 2022 was undertaken. No potential archaeological features are visible within the site on any of the images reviewed. However, the images demonstrate the levels of modern disturbance along the northern and eastern margins of the site as a result of the development of the lands to the site's immediate north-northwest and the construction of Groody Road to the east of the subject site, (see **Figures 8 – 10**). A LIDAR image of the site shows several areas of ground disturbance, including former hardstands/compounds at the northeastern and southeastern portion of the field (see **Figure 11**).

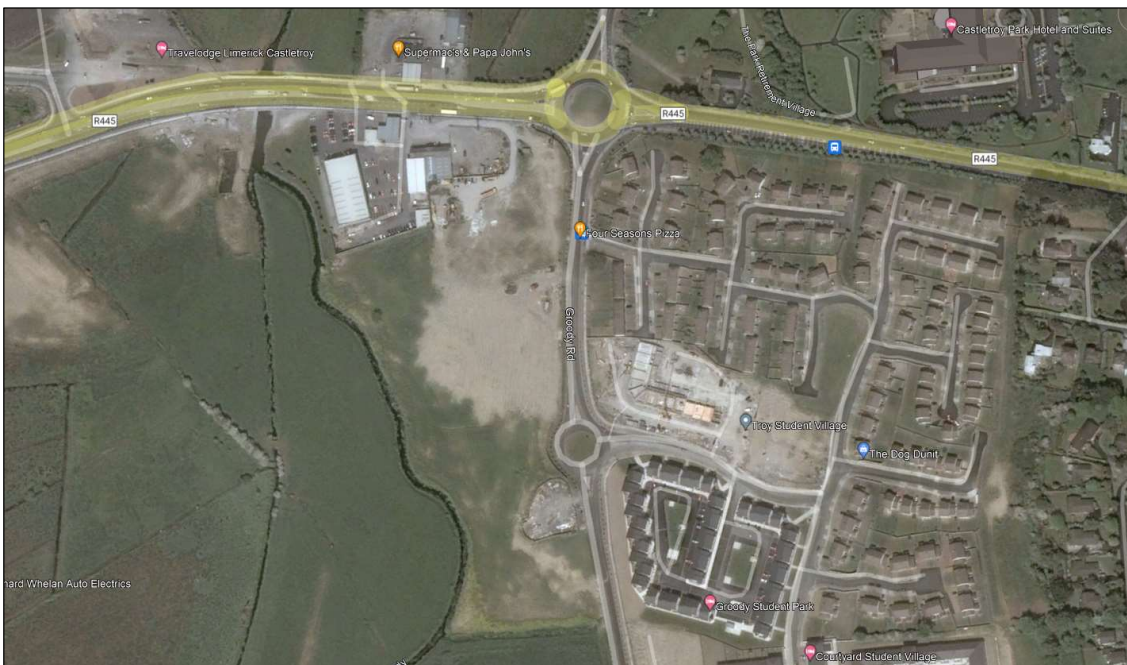


**Figure 8:** Aerial image of the proposed development site c.1995 (Source: Tailte Éireann)

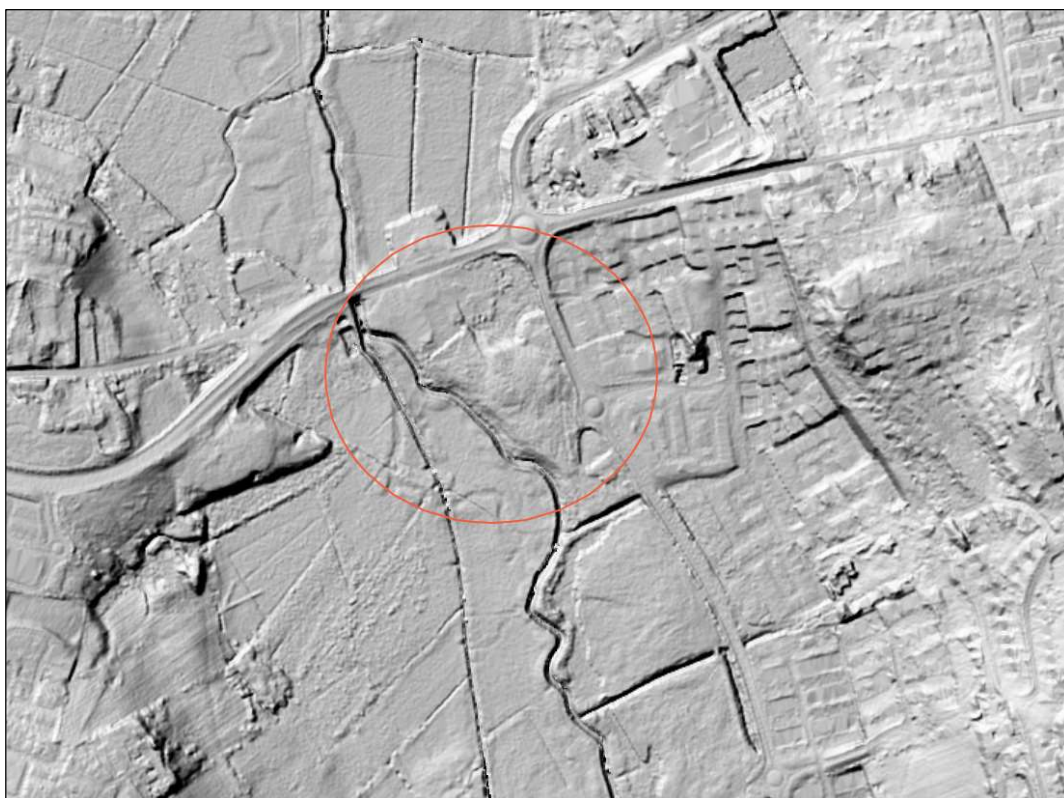




**Figure 9:** Aerial image of the proposed development site c.1996 – 2000 (Source: Tailte Éireann)



**Figure 10:** Aerial image of the proposed development site c.2004 (Source: Google Earth Pro)



**Figure 11:** LiDAR image of proposed development site (Source: Geological Survey of Ireland)

## 4. Description of site

The development consisting of 196 no. Bed Clusters, is distributed across 5 no. separate blocks, ranging in height from 5 - 8 storeys, with a total of 1,400 no. student bedspaces to be delivered in two phases of development including: (i) Block A comprising 8 storeys providing for (a) 28 no. bed clusters and 224 no. bedspaces; (b) Student library; (c) Student union; (d) Plant room; (e) Bin store; (f) Bicycle store; (ii) Block B comprising 7 storeys providing for (a) 52 no. bed clusters and 400 no. bedspaces; (b) Reception & Office; (c) Post room; (d) Laundry room; (e) Student canteen; (f) Maintenance store; (g) Plant room; (h) ESB sub station & switch room; (i) Bin Storage; (j) and Bicycle store; (iii) Block C comprising 6 storeys providing for (a) 51 no. bed clusters and 355 no. bedspaces; (b) Student Gym; (c) Maintenance store; (d) Plant room; (e) ESB sub station & switch room; (f) Bin Storage; (g) and Bicycle store; (iv) Block D comprising 6 storeys providing for (a) 32 no. bed clusters and 211 no. bedspaces; (b) Reception & Office; (c) Post room; (d) Laundry room; (e) Student canteen; (f) Student supply retail unit (60m<sup>2</sup>); (g) Plant room; (h) Maintenance store; (i) Bin Storage; and (k) Bicycle Storage; (v) Block E comprising 5 storeys providing for (a) 33 no. bed clusters and 210 no. bedspaces; (b) Reception & Office; (c) Laundry room; (d) Maintenance store; (e) Bicycle store; and (f) Plant room; and (vi) ancillary site development works including car and bicycle parking provision; boundary treatments; roof plant; public lighting; water supply; foul and surface water drainage infrastructure; signage; and a temporary construction access to facilitate Phase 2. Vehicular access to the site will be from the Groody Road with pedestrian access to the Dublin Road. Extensive landscaping proposals, including (a) landscaped courtyards; (b) pedestrian and cycle connections from the Groody Road to the Groody Green Wedge; (c) natural landscaping and public walkways within the Groody Green Wedge; and (d) a Wetland area adjacent to the Groody River are also proposed. Planning permission is also sought for use of the accommodation, outside of student term time, for short-term letting purposes (**Figure 12**).

An inspection of the subject site was undertaken by a qualified archaeologist on 22 August 2024. The subject site consists of an enclosed relatively flat field, bounded to the west by River Groody. Patches of tall overgrown bushes are scattered throughout the site and evidence of significant ground disturbance was noted mainly along the eastern boundary of the field. Such disturbance was observed in the form of artificially uneven terrain, soil heaps, ground reduction and hardstands. The origin of this disturbance is likely associated with nearby infrastructural developments and was further confirmed by satellite imagery dating between 1996 and 2004. Two hardstands and significant ground disturbance is particularly noted in the 2004 satellite imagery (**Figure 10**) towards the northeastern and southeastern portion of the field. It also appears possible that excess soil from ground excavation was largely spread out towards the middle portion of the field, implying that the subject site might have been landscaped/levelled to a certain extent. A number of horses are being kept within this field; however, no evidence of paddocks or internal sub-divisions were noted. No potential archaeological features were observed on the site.





## 5. Assessment of impact

The proposed development area is located within a large, partially overgrown field, which currently has no signs of agricultural use. The portion of the greenfield to be developed appeared to have been subject to some degree of ground disturbance, either during the construction of the adjacent buildings to the north of Groody Road and the housing development to the east. Satellite imagery from early 2000s (**Figure 11**) shows that significant ground disturbance, in the form of hardstands, probably compounds at the northeastern and southeastern portions of the field, approximately at the area of the blocks 'A', 'B' and 'E' of the proposed development (**Figure 12**). Soil heaps, levelled areas or hardstand surfaces were noted during the site inspection.

There are no recorded archaeological monuments (SMR) within the site boundary and 19 such sites within the wider 1km study area. There will be ***no predicted impact*** from the proposed development on the ***known archaeological environment***. The cartographic review and field survey have not provided any evidence of previously unrecorded archaeological features within the area to be developed. Taking into account the aforementioned portions of ground disturbances, it is considered that the proposed development possesses a ***low to medium archaeological potential***, however, the possibility for previously unrecorded subsurface archaeological features still remains within the less disturbed areas. The nature of the lands (former wet/waterlogged land), close to the Groody River may be a prime location for burnt mounds (*fulacht fia*). As such, it is possible that the construction phase of the proposed development may impose a ***direct impact*** on ***unknown subsurface archaeological features***.



## 6. Conclusions and recommendations

In summary, portions of the field to be developed shows evidence of ground disturbance likely caused by previous developments in the recent past. None of the recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area are located within the subject site. The desktop study and site inspection did not produce any visual evidence of previously unrecorded archaeological heritage; however, the possibility of unknown subsurface archaeological features still remains within the less disturbed areas. Thus, the subject site is considered to possess a ***low to medium archaeological potential***, and as such, ground reduction at construction stage might impose a ***direct impact*** on potential, previously unknown subsurface archaeological heritage.

### Recommendations

Considering the aforementioned ground conditions, it is not feasible to undertake a geophysical survey. As such, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological testing (test trenching) within the viable portions of the site be carried out under licence from the National Monuments Service. These works should be done in advance of any site development works, which will allow for mitigation in the event of unrecorded archaeological features being discovered.

**These recommendations are subject to review and approval from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the planning authority.**

## 7. References/sources

- Carden, R. 2020. *Reindeer bone found in Cork cave shows human activity in Ireland 33,000 years ago*. Available at: <https://www.thejournal.ie/reindeer-bone-cork-cave-5413607-Apr2021/>. [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/> [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Dowd, M. and Carden, R. 2016. First evidence of a Late Upper Palaeolithic human presence in Ireland. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 139, 158–63.
- Geological Survey of Ireland. *Open Topographic Data Viewer – LiDAR data*. Available at: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b7c4b0e763964070ad69bf8c1572c9f5>. [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Google Earth Pro. Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/versions.> [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Government of Ireland. *Historic Environment Viewer*. Available at: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>. [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Government of Ireland & Tailte Éireann. *Geohive Map Viewer*. Available at: <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>. [Accessed 09/10/2024].
- Hawkes, A. 2015. *Fulachtaí fia and Bronze Age cooking in Ireland: reappraising the evidence*. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Archaeology, Culture, History, Literature Vol. 115C. 47-77.
- Limerick County Council. 2022. *Limerick County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as extended)*. Available at: <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/limerick-development-plan/limerick-development-plan-2022-2028>. [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Stout, M. 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- The Heritage Council. *Heritage Map Viewer*. Available at: <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html> [Accessed: 21/08/2024].
- Trinity College Dublin. *Down Survey*. Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>. [Accessed:21/08/2024].

## Appendix 1: Photographic record



*Plate 1: View of subject site, former hardstand area located to the northeast, facing northwest*



*Plate 2: View of subject site, former levelled area and soil heaps located to the southeast, facing west*





***Plate 3:** View of subject site facing north*



***Plate 4:** View of middle portion of subject site, facing west*



***Plate 5:** View of northern portion of subject site, facing northwest*



## Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory entries

<i><b>SMR No.</b></i>	<i><b>Class</b></i>	<i><b>Townland</b></i>	<i><b>ITM E, N</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
LI005-024----	Castle - unclassified	Reboge	559706, 657618	A rectangular-shaped earthwork which is hachured on the OS 25-inch map appears to mark the site of Reboge Castle. This earthwork is depicted on the revised OS 6-inch where it is shown standing immediately S of the reservoir belonging to the Reboge Water Works. The monument depicted on the OS map consists of a rectangular-shaped area (approx. dims. 45m NE-SW x 55m NW-SE) defined by a scarp and external fosse with entrance gap at NNE. William Eyre's 1752 map titled 'A colored draught of the country round Limerick' shows Reboge Castle in roughly the same location as this earthwork (Hodkinson 2007, 51). The 1654-56 Civil Survey of Limerick recorded that Thomas Arthur Alderman and late of Limerick held in Reboge a 'ruinous castle an orchard, and a water Corne Mill' (Simington 1938, 481). Reboge Castle described by Westropp (1906-7, 82) as following; 'T. Arthur at his death owned the C[astle]. of Rebogge or Reibieg (Inq. Exch. 14). 1633 Nic. Arthur held Rebucke C[astle]. (lb., Car. I., 112). 1657 T. Arthur held a ruinous C[astle]. there (C.S. xxix., p. 32, and D.S.A., 13). Duplicate entry with LI005-064----.
LI005-025----	House - fortified house	Newcastle	561206, 657366	Newcastle Clanwilliam described by Westropp (1906-7, 87) as following; '1583 Castelenoo C[astle], held by W. Bourke, also called "Castellano Trylan" and "Nestermoy" (Des. R., 37; Peyton, 257). 1607 Dom. Roche owned Newcastle-Clanwilliam, meared with the water called Griodane on the west, and the Shannon on the north (Inq. Chan., 2a). 1619 H. Holcroft was granted the C[astle]. and bawn of Newcastle (Pat. R.). 1623 1655 Jordan Roche held it, with fifteen acres of orchard (Inq. Chan. II., C.S. xxix., p. 9), granted to Duke of York, and sold, 1703, to Hollow Blades Company. Fabric - A late peel tower; the west wall and a side turret had fallen before 1840; the latter, it is said, in 1800. It is about 50 feet high [15m], and measures 27½ feet [8.4m] by 21 feet 8 inches [6.6m], with large windows and high gables and chimneys. An improbable tradition makes it the residence of King William during the siege of Limerick (O.S.L., 9, 24)'. The 1654-56 Civil Survey

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Description</b>
				of Limerick recorded that in 1640 Jordane Roche late of Limerick of held in New Castle a 'castle and fifteen Acres of an Orchard mearing on the North'(Simington 1938, 465). Castle described in 1840 as following; 'in the townland of Newcastle stands on a rock a Castle of the same name. It is all perfect except the west wall which is entirely destroyed. It is fifty seven feet four inches [17.5m] by twenty one feet eight inches [6.6m] and the people assert that it had a square tower at the south west corner which fell, with the west side about forty years since [c. 1800]. The remaining walls are fifty feet [15.25m] high and five feet six inches [1.7m] in thickness, and have windows and apertures for five stories [OSL Parish of Kilmurry'. A Temporary Preservation Order was placed on the monument in 1984 (TPO 1 of 1984)
LI005-033----	Well	Singland	560421, 656126	Situated on poorly drained grassland with stream to 55m to SE. Area of scrub and trees visible today on Digital Globe orthophotos taken 2011-13. Spring well associated with the 1690 Siege of Limerick and named after King William. Described by Lenihan (1866, 228-9) as following; 'In a field about 50 yards from the high road, and nearly opposite Singland House, on the other side of the road. A stream of pure water runs to the road from the well, and joins another stream from the well of Shesharee, which is some distance off, on another road. King William's well is deep, but covered with a thick coating of leaves and greenish, weedy, deposit, which conceals its waters from the view - at least so it was on the beautiful evening I visited the locality. Tradition says that a large flag or standard lies buried in a field near the well. There are other evidences hereabouts, that it was the site of a camp; and the well is said to have supplied William's troops with water during both sieges'.
LI005-034001 -	Ritual site - holy well	Kilbane	561312, 656089	Ó Danachair (1955, 202) recorded the following details about this holy well; 'Mary Magdalene's Well on 1840 map. In a grove of whitethorn bushes. A masonry cupola over the well has a niche for a life-size statue of the saint. Rounds still made, especially on the feast day (22nd July). Flowers and candles are left at the well'. The following folklore was recorded from Monaleen National School about Mary Magdalene's Well; 'St. Mary Magdalen's is situated in Kilbane near the Groody.

<i><b>SMR No.</b></i>	<i><b>Class</b></i>	<i><b>Townland</b></i>	<i><b>ITM E, N</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
				There is the remains of an old churchyard quite near it. Rounds are made there on 22nd July, the feast of Mary Magdalen. The legend connected with this well is that while some men were haymaking at the spot, they stuck their wooden forks into the ground and went away. When they returned they found the fork grown into a tree which still shelters the well. The water was supposed to cure ailments of the stomach' (The Schools' Collection, Volume 0524, Page 127; accessible online at <a href="http://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922098/4852218/4947111">www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922098/4852218/4947111</a> ).
LI005-034002 -	Burial ground	Kilbane	561311, 656091	In woodland, on a gentle SW-facing slope, c. 25m to E of Groody Road and c. 70m to E of the Groody River. Mary Magdalene's Well (LI005-034001-) is located within. Depicted on the revised 1938 ed. OS 25-inch map as a subrectangular-shaped enclosure (approx.12m NW-SE; 9.5m NE-SW). Obscured by tree cover on Digital Globe orthophotos taken 2011-13 and Google Earth orthoimage taken 02/07/2018. An excavation was carried out on a site consisting of two small pits and a small charcoal-rich deposit in the townland of Kilbane in November 2002. These features were uncovered during monitoring by Tracy Collins of topsoil-stripping along the line of a drainage wayleave in this area (No. 1183 above, 02E1615). The two pits were 100m apart, and the small deposit was 7m to the north-east of the southern pit. All of these features were uncovered on the surface of the boulder clay. The northern pit was subrectangular, measuring 1m by 0.7m, and was 0.1m deep. The boulder clay at the sides and base of the pit was oxidised to a bright red, indicating that it was associated with in situ burning. The black, charcoal-rich fill contained a few tiny fragments of burnt bone but no artefacts. The southern pit appeared to have been truncated; it was 0.3m in diameter and 0.05m deep. The charcoal-rich fill contained a number of small fragments of metal slag, but there was no evidence of in situ burning, and the feature contained no artefacts. The shallow deposit was 0.3m in diameter and 0.02m deep and consisted of a black, charcoal-rich soil, which may form the remains of the basal part of a truncated pit feature. The

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Description</b>
				forthcoming identification and dating of the charcoal and burnt bone samples recovered from these features will allow a fuller interpretation of their date and function.
LI005-035----	Ringfort - rath	Kilbane	561549, 656624	On a gentle W-facing slope, now occupied by three house plots and abutting Golf Links Road and Castletroy Golf Course to E. Depicted on the revised 1938 ed. OS 25-inch map as a suboval-shaped area (approx. 60m NE-SW; 59m NW-SE). No longer visible on Google Earth orthoimage taken 26/05/2004 and Digital Globe orthophotos taken 2011-13.
LI005-073----	Fulacht fia	Towlerton	561036, 656054	On level ground, at the base of a NE-facing slope, leading down to the floodplain of the Groody River, which is c. 220m to E. Standing stone (LI005-074---) located c. 160m to NW. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Discovered during monitoring of topso
LI005-074----	Standing stone	Towlerton	560913, 656164	On level ground, at the base of a NE-facing slope, leading down to the floodplain of the Groody River, which is c. 110m to NE. Fulacht fiadh (LI005-073---) located c. 160m to SE. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Discovered during monitoring of topsoil stripping associated with the construction of the Castletroy distributor road (Cummins 2004). Described in 2004 as an upright stone (H 1.1m; Wth 0.65m; T 0.2m) with its long axis N-S and having no visible traces of packing stones at the base (ibid, 11). Not clearly visible, although marked by a thorn tree evident on Google Earth orthoimage taken 19/11/2019.
LI005-034003 -	Excavation - miscellaneous	Kilbane	561359, 656144	In pasture, on a gentle SW-facing slope, c. 95m to E of Groody Road and c. 140m to E of the Groody River. Mary Magdalene's Well (LI005-034001-) and a burial ground (LI005-034002-) are located c. 66m to SW. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Discovered during archaeological monitoring (License No. 02E1615) and excavated by Tracy Collins (License No. 02E1710) (Collins 2002a and 2002b). A keyhole-shaped feature, consisting of a subcircular-shaped pit (L 1.4m; max. Wth 0.8m; D 0.4m) filled with a deep black deposit mixed with boulder clay and having an oily texture (Collins 2002b). There were small amounts of charcoal inclusions and some organic material and the edge of the pit showed evidence of burning (ibid). A linear flue (L0.8m; Wth 0.2m; D 0.25m) projected



<i><b>SMR No.</b></i>	<i><b>Class</b></i>	<i><b>Townland</b></i>	<i><b>ITM E, N</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
				from the pit to the SW and was filled with a mix of redeposited boulder clay, some stones and flecks of charcoal; Its edges had some evidence of heat exposure (ibid). This feature is likely to have had an industrial function. Area now developed for student accommodation as visible on Google Earth orthoimage taken 26/05/2004 and Digital Globe orthophotos taken 2011-13.
LI005-084----	Excavation - miscellaneous	Kilbane	561213.656296	On a gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 315m to NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified in 2002 during monitoring (License No. 02E1615) along the line of a drainage wayleave (Collins 2002). Excavated (License No. 02E1772) as a small pit, with a small charcoal-rich deposit, c. 7m to NE (Cummins 2002). The circular-shaped pit (diam. 0.3m; D 0.05m) had a charcoal-rich fill, contained a number of small fragments of metal slag and appeared to have been truncated (ibid, 16). The shallow deposit (diam. 0.3m; D 0.02m) consisted of a black, charcoal-rich soil, which may form the remains of the basal part of a truncated pit feature (ibid, 16). A cremation pit (LI005-084004-) lies c. 100m to N.
LI005-085001 -	Excavation - miscellaneous	Kilbane	561378, 656198	On gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 185m E of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified in 2002 during monitoring (Licence No. 02E1787) in advance of a residential development including private houses, student accommodation and support facilities (Hayes 2003, 4). Topsoil stripping in Field 1 uncovered eight pits and one deposit. Five of the pits contained cremated bone and two pits contained fragments of Bronze Age pottery. These were excavated under the same license in December 2002 (Hayes 2003, 4).
LI005-085002 -	Enclosure	Kilbane	561322, 656287	On gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 200m NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Avril Hayes in 2002 during testing (Licence No. 02E1787) in Field 2 in advance of a residential development including private houses, student accommodation and support facilities (Hayes 2003, 4). This uncovered two sections of a ditch, having a U-shaped cut as well as four pits (LI005-085003-). Subsequent monitoring of topsoil stripping carried out by Avril Hayes in Field 2 uncovered the remainder of the

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Description</b>
				ditch that had been identified during testing. It was a circular-shaped ditch (int. diam. 40m) and enclosed a circular-shaped feature (diam. 5m) in the SW quadrant. This levelled monument was further tested and then excavated by Avril Purcell in 2004 when it was recorded as a subtriangular-shaped, double-ditched enclosure (Purcell 2004, 2). The structure within is of probable Bronze Age in date and possible cremation and burial pits are thought to be contemporary (Purcell 2004, 11). Stratigraphic evidence shows that one of the pits predates the enclosure and two sherds of Beaker pottery also suggest earlier activity in the area (ibid).
LI005-085003 -	Excavation - miscellaneous	Kilbane	561351, 656316	On gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 200m NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Avril Hayes in 2002 during testing and monitoring (Licence No. 02E1787) in Fields 2 and 3 in advance of a residential development including private houses, student accommodation and support facilities (Hayes 2003, 4). In Field 2 this uncovered four pits and two sections of a ditch (LI005-085002-). In Field 3 a number of cremations and one bowl furnace were revealed. Fragments of pottery were also recovered from the excavation.
LI005-085004 -	Cremation pit	Kilbane	561233, 656386	On a gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 315m to NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified in 2002 during monitoring (License No. 02E1615) along the line of a drainage wayleave (Collins 2002). Excavated (License No. 02E1772) as a subrectangular-shaped pit (1m N-S; 0.7m E-W; D 0.1m) (Cummins 2002, 16-17). The sides and base were defined by bright red oxidised boulder clay suggesting in situ burning. The black, charcoal-rich fill contained a few tiny fragments of burnt bone but no artefacts. A second pit and a shallow deposit (LI005-084----) are located c. 100m to S.
LI005-085005 -	Cremation pit	Kilbane	561322, 656293	On gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 200m NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified within the interior of enclosure (LI005-085002-) by Avril Hayes in 2002 during testing (Licence No. 02E1787) in Field 2 in advance of a residential development including private houses, student accommodation and support facilities (Hayes 2003, 4). This uncovered

<b>SMR No.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>ITM E, N</b>	<b>Description</b>
				a circular-shaped cremation pit (diam. 5m) which was then excavated (Licence No. 04E1454) by Avril Purcell in 2004 (Purcell 2004).
LI005-085006 -	Kiln - corn-drying	Kilbane	561342, 656954	On gentle W-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 200m NE of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified in the vicinity of enclosure (LI005-085002-) by Avril Hayes in 2002 during testing (Licence No. 02E1787) in Field 2 in advance
LI005-107----	Pit	Singland	560174, 656954	On flat former pasture now under the Parkway Roundabout to Plassey Rd. Junction Realignment Road, 500m W of the Groody River. An archaeological excavation under licence No. 01E0946 (dims. 15m EW x 10m NS) uncovered a small number of pits (Cummins 2001; Cummins 2003, 244-5). The pits were initially discovered during topsoil stripping under licence No. 00E0653 (O'Rahilly 2002, 201-2). Two of the pits were located near the centre of the road. The first was oval (dims. 0.69m NS x 0.4-0.22m D). There were no finds in the charcoal-rich fill and the base was heat-reddened, indicating an in situ burning. This pit was disturbed by a later circular pit (dims. 0.44m W x 0.22m D). The fill contained charcoal and a single sherd of prehistoric pottery (tentatively identified as Neolithic). Another pit was uncovered 5m to the NW (dims. 0.98m EW x 0.7-0.25m D). The eastern side was fire reddened and the fill contained charcoal in quantities indicative of in situ burning. The function of these pits was unclear. The burning may suggest a domestic activity, but no other habitation evidence was identified in the excavation cutting. The excavator suggested a ritual function, such as burial or a votive offering, however no cremated human bone was discovered. The interpretation of the site was hampered by modern activity. A field boundary ditch, tree root activity and cultivation furrows were recorded. Post-medieval field boundaries and buildings are illustrated close to the site of the excavation on the 1840 ed. OS 6-inch map and later 1897 ed. OS 25-inch map.
LI005-025001 -	Bawn	Newcastle	561206, 657366	No surface remains visible of bawn belonging to Newcastle Clanwilliam (LI005-025----) mentioned in a 1619 land grant to H. Holcroft who was granted 'the C[astle]. and bawn of Newcastle' (Westropp 1906-7, 87). A Temporary

<i><b>SMR No.</b></i>	<i><b>Class</b></i>	<i><b>Townland</b></i>	<i><b>ITM E, N</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
				Preservation Order was placed on the monument in 1984 (TPO 1 of 1984).
LI005-118----	Mill - corn	Reboge	559761, 657558	A map of the Limerick area detailing the 1691 siege by Jean de Bodt, ( <a href="https://militarymaps.rct.uk/other-17th-century-conflicts/siege-of-limerick-1691-an-exact-survey-and-ground">https://militarymaps.rct.uk/other-17th-century-conflicts/siege-of-limerick-1691-an-exact-survey-and-ground</a> ) shows a building labelled "(illegible) mill" at a crossroad in the eastern quadrant. The lane running directly to the Shannon is presumably the line of the present day Anglers Walk. The 1654-56 Civil Survey of Limerick recorded that Thomas Arthur Alderman and late of Limerick held in Reboge a 'ruinous castle an orchard, and a water Corne Mill' (Simington 1938, 481).



## Appendix 3: Excavations Database entries

The following summary accounts of licenced archaeological investigations within the study area have been extracted from *The Excavation Database* (Source: [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Clareville-Newcastle	01E1069	Monitoring of a 5km wayleave associated with the laying of the Clareville to Newcastle rising main involved greenfield and roadway digging. The line of the pipe ran near Kilmurry church (SMR 5:26) and a possible barrow (6:59). Monitoring of the stripping of the greenfield site revealed a number of fulachta fiadh, which were excavated under licences 02E1347 (No. 1250, <i>Excavations 2002</i> ), 02E1348 (No. 1124, <i>Excavations 2002</i> ), 02E1403, excavated by Frank Coyne (No. 1125 above), and 02E1424, excavated by Tony Cummings (No. 1241, <i>Excavations 2002</i> ). The trench excavations along the roadway did not reveal anything of an archaeological nature.
Castletroy, Newcastle	22E0056	Archaeological testing was carried out on 8 February 2022. The trenches targeted open green space to fully investigate the archaeological potential of the site. There is one recorded monument on the border of the development boundary, LI006-088 a fulacht fiadh recorded during a previous phase of development and archaeological investigation (Licence No. 02E1402) The current phase of testing revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The results of the test trenching have identified that much of the site has been previously disturbed during adjacent construction works. Evidence of significant infilling and modern disturbance was identified particularly in the west of the site, and it has been advised that services have recently been installed in the eastern side of the site.
Castletroy: Fields I-III, Kilbane II, Limerick	02E1787	Monitoring took place of topsoil-stripping associated with a housing development, realignment of a distributor road and associated site works at Kilbane, Castletroy, Co. Limerick. The development is located within the zones of potential for a holy well and a possible burial ground, SMR 5:34(01, 02). Monitoring was undertaken subsequent to testing across the three fields of the development. Features were encountered in each of the fields, and were subsequently excavated by hand. Stripping in Field 1 uncovered eight pits and one deposit. Five of the pits contained cremated bone and two pits contained fragments of Bronze Age pottery. Stripping in Field 3 revealed four areas containing varying quantities of archaeological features. These comprised a number of cremations, with one bowl furnace. Fragments of pottery were also recovered from the excavation. Stripping in Field 2 revealed a large circular ditched

<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Licence</b></i>	<i><b>Summary</b></i>
		enclosure, measuring 40m in internal diameter, with an inner ditch also noted. This site was cordoned off and was not excavated.
Towlerton	23E0055	Monitoring took place of topsoil stripping associated with the development of a new hospital facility at Towlerton, along Bloodmill Road, Co. Limerick. The area measured 190m by 155m and the topsoil had a depth ranging from 0.25-0.35m across the site. Nothing of an archaeological nature was found during the monitoring.
Towlerton	98E0608	This site, at Towlerton, Kilmurry, was identified during a rewalking of the route for the Limerick Southern Ring Road. It was viewed as a circular mound 8m in diameter and 0.4m high. A trench measuring 5m by 1m was dug by hand in order to test the top of the mound and to see whether there was any enclosing element. It became clear that the site was of natural origin. Nothing of archaeological interest was found.
Towlerton	04E0437	<p>Monitoring of topsoil-stripping in advance of road construction in Fields 1-3 of the Castletroy distributor road was carried out in 2004. This phase of the development is located at the south-west end of the project in the area to the south of the River Groody. Field 1 is in rough pasture c. 2m above the river flood-plain, while Fields 2 and 3 are located in the wet and low-lying flood-plain.</p> <p>The only feature recorded within the road-take was located in Field 1 and consisted of a small oval pit measuring 0.76m long by 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. This pit was cut into the natural subsoil and its vertical sides came to a slightly rounded base. The subsoil around the rim of the pit was oxidised to a bright red, indicating in situ burning. The pit fill was a compact, dark-brown silty clay deposit containing many small flecks of charcoal and some burnt and vitrified stones. The only artefacts recovered from the pit were small fragments of iron slag, which, in combination with the in situ burning, indicate a metalworking function for this feature.</p> <p>A fulacht fiadh was uncovered at the base of the slope leading down to the flood-plain during monitoring of topsoil-stripping in a soil retention area located to the west of the road-take. This fulacht fiadh extended outside the north limit of the stripped area and there was no visible surface trace of this site prior to topsoil removal. The exposed extent of this site measured 9m east-west by 9m and 0.03m in thickness. The absence of an identifiable mound and the thin nature of the burnt material indicated that this fulacht fiadh was levelled by ploughing. The stripped area in the vicinity of this site was inspected and no further features or finds were recorded. Following consultation, it was agreed that the site be reburied and no further archaeological investigation was required.</p> <p>There were no other archaeological features or finds uncovered during the course of this monitoring project.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Licence</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Towlerton	N/A	Fifteen trenches were excavated across the site in advance of the construction of a development. A geophysical survey (20R0034) informed the locations of the trenches. A metal-detection survey was also carried out (20R0065). No archaeological features were noted and geophysical anomalies identified in the survey proved to be either natural or modern. A single fragment of tin-glazed earthenware was recovered (20E0173:9:1).
Towlerton/Garryglass/ Garraun	00E0850 EXT 0080851 EXT 00E0854 EXT	Several features were identified in the pre-construction test-trenching of Towlerton (field 11), Garryglass (field 12) and Garraun (field 17) on the Limerick Southern Ring-Road Project. The largest concentration was located at Garraun, with small isolated deposits in Towlerton and Garryglass. The areas were stripped by machine during testing and subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. The sites were excavated in May 2001. The circular pit at Garraun may have been of archaeological significance but the absence of charcoal or artefacts within its fill prohibits a more precise interpretation of the feature. Many of the features excavated were probably naturally occurring and the remaining features were either circular or irregular in shape. No datable artefacts were recovered during the excavation of the three sites.
Towlerton	19E0523	Test excavations were undertaken across a 5.07ha proposed school site at Towlerton, Castletroy, Co. Limerick. Three monuments were recorded on the site, LI005-074 (Standing Stone), LI005-073 (Fulacht fia) and LI005-090 (Fulacht fia). A total of 10 test trenches with a combined length of 2500 linear metres were excavated within the site. LI005-074 was discovered to be an erroneous duplication of LI005-089, a standing stone located north of and outside the proposed development area. LI005-090 was discovered to be an erroneous duplication of LI005-073. No archaeological material was noted at either of these locations and both of these entries have now been removed from the online SMR database. No archaeology was found at the location of LI005-073. This was a burnt spread discovered during monitoring undertaken in advance of the Castletroy Distributor Road (T Cummins; 04E0437; 2004:1037) which was preserved in situ and the location was subsequently used as a temporary topsoil storage area. Some scraps of terram were noted on the subsoil surface at this location during the current test excavations. It would therefore appear that the site was removed during reinstatement works following construction of the Castletroy Distributor Road. No archaeological material was recorded in the course of the assessment.
Kilbane	02E1541	Test-trenching and subsequent monitoring were undertaken before the construction of a roundabout and distributor road at Kilbane. The development was near a holy well and a possible burial-ground. The trenching revealed a fairly uniform

<b>Location</b>	<b>Licence</b>	<b>Summary</b>
		stratigraphy of topsoil, 0.4–0.6m deep, overlying the natural, grey/brown, clay subsoil. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted.
Kilbane	02E1787	Test-trenching before a large residential development at Kilbane, Castletroy, to the north of a holy well and a possible burial-ground, was undertaken in three fields (Fields 1–3). A number of archaeological features were uncovered, mainly circular pits and a section of a curvilinear ditch. In some cases cremated bone was noted. During the monitoring of the topsoil-stripping, more circular pits were identified. Stripping in Field 2 uncovered the remainder of the circular ditch identified in testing. It measured c. 40m in internal diameter and enclosed a circular feature in the south-west quadrant, measuring c. 5m in diameter. Work is continuing at the time of writing.
Kilbane	02E1772	<p>An excavation was carried out on a site consisting of two small pits and a small charcoal-rich deposit in the townland of Kilbane in November 2002. These features were uncovered during monitoring by Tracy Collins of topsoil-stripping along the line of a drainage wayleave in this area (No. 1183, <i>Excavations 2002</i>, 02E1615). The two pits were 100m apart, and the small deposit was 7m to the north-east of the southern pit. All of these features were uncovered on the surface of the boulder clay.</p> <p>The northern pit was subrectangular, measuring 1m by 0.7m, and was 0.1m deep. The boulder clay at the sides and base of the pit was oxidised to a bright red, indicating that it was associated with in situ burning. The black, charcoal-rich fill contained a few tiny fragments of burnt bone but no artefacts. The southern pit appeared to have been truncated; it was 0.3m in diameter and 0.05m deep. The charcoal-rich fill contained a number of small fragments of metal slag, but there was no evidence of in situ burning, and the feature contained no artefacts.</p> <p>The shallow deposit was 0.3m in diameter and 0.02m deep and consisted of a black, charcoal-rich soil, which may form the remains of the basal part of a truncated pit feature. The forthcoming identification and dating of the charcoal and burnt bone samples recovered from these features will allow a fuller interpretation of their date and function.</p>
Kilbane, Castletroy	03E1382	Monitoring of topsoil-stripping for the construction of a large housing development at Kilbane, Castletroy, was required. The site contains a large flat-topped mound c. 50m in diameter, described as an 'enclosure' in the RMP. This will not be affected by the development. Only the areas for Phases 1 and 2 of the development (the western part of the site) were stripped, along with an access road. The southern part of the site, forming Phase 4, is separated from the main area by the line of a new road that replaces the existing narrow, winding School House Lane. The construction of the road formed a separate contract and was monitored by Limerick County Council archaeologists.



<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>A considerable number of features were found during monitoring: fulachta fiadh, cremation burials and possible cremations, and pits and linear features.</p> <p>Three fulachta fiadh were found, two beneath the line of the access road into the site compound. Only a 6m-wide section of each of these two was exposed. Both had been disturbed and the burnt stone had been spread out, leaving no surface trace of the sites. An area of burnt stone 20m long was uncovered from the eastern fulacht and an area of 9.7m was uncovered from the western one. The burnt material was c. 0.2m deep in both. A distance of 8m separated these two sites. The third fulacht fiadh was located in the adjoining field. This was a recognisable feature before work commenced. Passing machinery had exposed the extreme northern edge. The low mound measured c. 21m north-south by c. 14m. A field boundary next to this site has a small piped stream alongside it. All three fulachta are on the edge of a shallow depression that is likely to have been boggy in antiquity. The two sites uncovered on the route of the access road were covered to await later excavation, as was the other fulacht fiadh.</p> <p>Almost half of the features uncovered were described as probable and possible cremations. The former were areas of charcoal-rich soil containing visible burnt bone, while the latter are similar except no bone was visible on the surface of the features. A total of 22 cremation deposits were recorded, with a further 28 possible cremations present. These were mostly contained in three groups within the section of the field forming the Phase 1 area. At the southern end, adjacent to the new road, was a group of seventeen features containing five probable cremations and two possible ones. The five probable cremations were all close to each other and a single sherd of undecorated, handmade pottery made of a red fabric came from one of them. In the centre of the field is a small group of five features. Of these, four were probable cremations in a tight group. A single large sherd of rough handmade pottery came from one of these.</p> <p>Part of the western boundary of the site is formed by houses and gardens and close to these lay two groups of features. The smaller cluster, towards the north-west, contained a large irregular feature, whose fill contained a small amount of burnt bone but which had several furrows running across it. In the larger cluster, 23 possible features were uncovered, most containing only small amounts of charcoal and being either linear features or possible pits. A possible saddle quern and rubbing stone came from one of these.</p> <p>The greatest number of probable and possible cremations came from a distinct group located in the northern part of the site. A rectangular area measuring c. 30m by 15m contained at least thirteen probable and at least sixteen possible cremations. Some of the former contained tightly packed small or medium-sized</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>stones in the centre of the charcoal- and bone-rich deposits. Two bands of brown silty sand on the north and south of the group may be a delimiting feature of some sort. Two large boulders of decayed stone are on the north-western corner and on the southern edge. Both are mostly below the old ground surface and are not readily visible. What is most apparent about this group is how tightly packed they are, with only a single probable cremation to the east acting as an outlier. Three pieces of rough handmade pottery came from a deposit in the centre of the cluster.</p> <p>It appears as if there are three separate flat cemeteries present on the site. The various features along the western part of the site do not appear to be of a funerary nature and may be domestic. All of the material is prehistoric in date, possibly Bronze Age.</p> <p>Excavation was recommended. As the development was under way, this could be carried out in conjunction with the schedule of construction works. The site was subsequently excavated by Niamh O' Callaghan (No. 1151, <i>Excavations 2003</i>).</p>
Singland	01E0946	<p>A number of small pits were noted during monitoring of the realignment of the N7 from the Parkway roundabout to Plassey Park Road on the eastern outskirts of Limerick City. Following monitoring and initial investigation by Celie O Rahilly (<i>Excavations 2001</i>, No. 801), the writer was contracted to undertake an excavation of several of the features.</p> <p>Two of the pits were located near the centre of the road. The first was oval in plan and measured 0.69m north-south by 0.4m by 0.22m in depth. There were no finds in the charcoal-rich fill and the base was heat-reddened, indicating an in situ burning activity. This pit was disturbed by a later circular pit, which measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. The fill of this pit contained occasional flecks of charcoal and a small sherd of prehistoric pottery, tentatively identified as dating from the Neolithic period. Another pit was uncovered 5m to the north-west. This measured 0.98m east-west by 0.7m by 0.25m in depth. The eastern side had been oxidised and the fill contained frequent amounts of charcoal, which indicated that this pit was also used in a burning activity. A small burnt spread 10m to the north-east was found to be modern in date.</p> <p>The function of these pits was unclear. The burning may suggest a domestic cooking activity but there was no habitation evidence in the stripped areas surrounding the pits. They may also have had some ritual function, such as burial or votive offerings. However, there were no traces of cremated bone in any of the pits and only one contained a possible sherd of pottery. The interpretation of this site was hampered by the fact that it had been extensively disturbed in recent centuries by a field boundary bank and ditch, tree root activity and cultivation furrows.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Licence</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Singland and Reboge Meadows, Limerick	00E0653	<p>The proposed road extends west-east, from a new exit on the Parkway roundabout to the Plassey Park Road roundabout. There are no identifiable archaeological sites on the route line, but the topsoil-stripping of three areas of archaeological potential was monitored.</p> <p>Site A is an area of high ground, with sandpits, located south of Foxhill House. It was thought that this sandy ground could contain burial cists. Originally it was intended to strip the area around Site A to formation level, a reduction of c. 2.6m. However, because of the amount of material to be removed and the unstable nature of the sand, it was deemed to be impracticable to do this and so it was only reduced, in bands, to the level of the natural sand. The removal of the sand to the formation level would be monitored at a later stage.</p> <p>The first band that was stripped was worked north-south across the top of highest point of the hill. This was a total of 12m wide and was worked from north to south along the western side and from south to north along the eastern side of the band. Initially a test-pit was dug in the north-western corner. About 0.3m of black topsoil was removed. This overlay sand, which was initially orange and turned lighter yellow to bright grey the deeper it went. It was fine, dry, pure sand, and the sides kept collapsing. Maximum depth achieved was 3m before backfilling. Over the rest of the band only the black top layer was removed. Early modern pottery and other material lay at the interface of the soil and sand. Occasional sherds of late 17th/early 18th-century pottery were also recovered. At the southern end there was an intervening layer of mixed brown soil and sand in which early modern finds were distributed. This sloped over the total width down towards the southern end. A second test-pit was dug to 4m through this. The intervening layer was c. 0.75m deep and overlay the natural sand.</p> <p>The next band was dug at right angles to the eastern side of the first at the northern end. Here the pit, 18m wide, which is marked on the OS 1:2500 plan, was exposed. This had been backfilled with modern rubbish. Once the eastern edge of the pit was reached, the band was confined to the width of the bucket and was worked eastwards downhill. Six trenches were dug in this way, more or less parallel to each other, all similar in their results. The curving linear feature visible at ground level, which was thought to be the remains of a possible field boundary, turned out to be a ridge of gravel, in which occasional red brick was incorporated. Parallel to it on the eastern side were occasional remains of fence-posts. The only variation was to the east of the linear feature in Band 6, where there was a pocket of natural gravel. To the south of this band, the remaining portion of the area was completely stripped, with no different result. The natural sand continued to slope southwards. At the southern end, projecting from the section at</p>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		<p>the level of the sand, was a collection of animal bones, possibly the remains of a cow. To the north-east of the section was a linear 'pocket' of large stones, with early modern finds, including red brick, incorporated into it. This had the appearance of a backfilled pit. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in any of the bands. It is, however, still possible that there could be features buried below the top of the sand. Monitoring at the construction stage will be necessary.</p> <p>Site C is marked as an osiery on the early OS maps. It is located to the south of the turnpike (Site B—not affected by the proposed road). The northern part of this triangular field is affected by the route line. Site C was stripped east–west parallel to the northern boundary (a drain lined with willow) of this triangular field. Because of the density of the willows, it was not possible to cut right to the edge of the drain. The area was worked in two bands: the first ran east–west, the second west–east. The conditions here were extremely wet, and the whole area was very overgrown with reed-type plants.</p> <p>Once the sod was stripped, the surface water pooled back onto the ground; there was no soakage. Under the sod was a 0.15–0.2m layer of decayed vegetable matter, which overlay solid clay, thus explaining the lack of drainage. At the western end, the band was widened out, as per the road-take, although owing to the lack of definite markers this was narrower than will be required by the road. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.</p> <p>Site D is located on the western bank of the Groody River and Shesharee Stream, where there may be possible fulachta fiadh. It is proposed to widen the Groody Bridge and provide a surface-water filter area. Shesharee Stream runs north–south, parallel to and west of the river from Singland Mill. It was the tailrace for the mill and serves to drain the surrounding low-lying fields (Hannan 1990).</p> <p>The topsoil on all three sites was mechanically stripped in bands by a machine with a 4ft-wide gummy bucket. The bands were c. 8–10m wide, and the sod/topsoil was removed and the spoil piled in a single central heap, 3–4m wide.</p> <p>Site D was worked in north–south bands parallel to the river. The underlying soil was fine, dry, light brown and humic. This overlay a natural clay that varied in colour from rusty to dark grey. The southern end was virtually stoneless, but towards the northern end more stones occurred. Just south of the confluence of Shesharee Stream and the Groody River was a spread of early modern activity, defined by 19th–20th-century pottery, red brick and a red, gritty, sandy material with occasional medium-sized stones. At the confluence of the stream and river, the natural clay was at a higher level. The landowner stated that the river had been drained over the years, and this might explain the rise. About 6m from the southern end of the second band, and approximately</p>



<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Licence</b></i>	<i><b>Summary</b></i>
		central to it, was a spread of what may be burnt material, consisting of a thin layer of fine, sandy soil on grey, hardened, mixed clay and stone with charcoal present. On the remainder of the areas, once the sod was removed, the residual humus was overlying the grey clay, on which occasional sherds of early modern pottery were present. In one instance, conjoining sherds of part of a base of an internally red-glazed earthenware vessel were recovered. This was located 24m from the northern end, more or less central to the second band.
Cromwell's Fort, Singland	96E0200	The site has been designated 'Cromwell's Fort', and the cartographic evidence suggests that a major fortification existed at the location up to the time of the construction of a reservoir in 1825. The designation 'Cromwell's Fort' may be incorrect, as the main fortifications during the Cromwellian period on the west side of Limerick city appear to have been Ireton's in 1651 rather than Cromwell's of 1650. Most of the maps suggest that the fortification was star-shaped, but these may have been more pictorial than an accurate representation of the site. The site was almost totally destroyed by the water reservoir construction. The south-east bastion, which apparently survived up to recently, may have been removed during the levelling of a nearby soccer pitch or the construction of houses to the south-east of the reservoir. The road which was recorded on the north side of the excavation appears to have been on the same line as a road recorded by some of the seventeenth-century maps. It consisted of a cobbled surface bore evidence of repair.