



Archaeological Impact Assessment Report Proposed Residential Development at Forest Road, Forrest Great, Swords, Co. Dublin

Magda Lyne
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Report Status: Final


ACSU Ref.: 24198



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	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 2 of 22


PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Proposed Residential Development at Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin
Report Type	Archaeological Impact Assessment
Planning Ref. No.	Pre-planning
Townland(s)	Forrest Great
RMP/SMR No.	N/A
RPS Id./NIAH Reg. No.	N/A
ITM Ref.	716555, 745222
Consultant	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
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	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 3 of 22

VERSION CONTROL

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1.0	18.11.2024	Archaeological Impact Assessment	Final	M.L	L.C	D.M

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 4 of 22

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY


This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment prepared in relation to the site located at Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin (716555, 745222). The site is positioned along Forest Road and consists of a portion of grassed fields. This assessment was carried out to accompany the planning application for a proposed residential development. It is based on the findings of a study of available archaeological, historical, cartographic, and photographic sources as well as a site visit. It aims to identify and describe the known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs and, where present, offer recommendations for mitigation measures.

The site contains no monuments listed in the *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) or the *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR). The nearest such site is a Ring Ditch (DU011-119), identified as a cropmark and registered in an adjacent field, c. 110m to the southwest of the site. The site does not contain any Protected Structures, as listed in the *Fingal County Development Plan 2023–2029*, nor any structures listed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (NIAH).

Cartographic and aerial imagery were examined, and a site visit was carried out. No features of archaeological interest are visible on examined cartographical and aerial imagery. The site visit was carried out in November 2024 by Glenn Gibney of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (ACSU). The site is grassed, in places overgrown, with the northern boundary consisting of a wet ditch, mature hedges and trees.


As mentioned previously, the site consists of a grassed field and is in proximity to an archaeological monument, Ring Ditch (DU011-119); these types of monuments often occur in groups. Hence, the site has the potential to contain previously unknown subsurface archaeological remains. In line with national policy, *there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage*; appropriate measures to allow for preservation in situ of archaeological features/materials cannot be established without an adequate definition of the location and extent of any potential sub-surface remains hence further archaeological assessment is required.

It is therefore recommended that an assessment, including a geophysical survey and testing, should be carried out in advance of any development of the site. This must be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Archaeological material identified may necessitate further mitigation, including preservation *in situ*/or preservation by record (excavation) following consultation with the National Monuments Service.

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 5 of 22

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	7
2. THE DEVELOPMENT	7
3. METHODOLOGY.....	8
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	9
4.1 Archaeological & Historical Background	9
4.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations.....	12
4.3 Recorded Monuments	13
4.4 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).....	16
4.5 Finds listed within the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland	16
4.6 Cartographic Evidence	16
4.7 Aerial Photography	17
4.8 Field Inspection	17
5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....	18
6. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	18
7. REFERENCES.....	20

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 6 of 22

List of Figures


Figure 1	Location of site
Figure 2	Location of site, previous excavations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites
Figure 3	Extract from Down Survey map of the County of Dublin, Barony of Nethercross (1656), showing approximate location of site
Figure 4	Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - northeast sheet (1760), showing approximate location of site
Figure 5	Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site
Figure 6	Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906 - published 1908), showing location of site
Figure 7	Aerial view of site
Figure 8	Detail of site development

List of Plates

Plate 1	View of site facing east from centre
Plate 2	View of site from northwest corner facing east
Plate 3	View from entrance facing west
Plate 4	View of site facing south at west end

List of Tables

Table 1	Previous archaeological investigations within the environs of the site
Table 2	Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 7 of 22

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment prepared in relation to a site located at Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin (Dublin (716555, 745222; Figures 1 – 2). The site is positioned along Forest Road and consists of a portion of a grassed field.

The site contains no monuments listed in the *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) or the *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR). The nearest such site is a Ring Ditch (DU011-119), identified as a cropmark and registered in an adjacent field, c. 110m to the southwest of the site. The site does not contain any Protected Structures, as listed in the *Fingal County Development Plan 2023–2029*, nor any structures listed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (NIAH).


This assessment was carried out to accompany the planning application for a proposed residential development. This impact assessment is based on the findings of a study of available archaeological, historical, cartographic, and photographic sources. It aims to identify and describe the known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs and, where present, offer recommendations for mitigating any potential impacts.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

The assessment was carried out in advance of the proposed Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD), on lands at Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.

The proposed development will consist of a total of 104 no. residential units (42 no. duplex units; 36 no. apartments; 26 no. houses) as follows:

- (i) *42 no. duplex units within 3-storey buildings comprising 1 bed units at ground level and 3 bed units over first and second floor levels with balconies/terraces and private open space;*
- (ii) *36 no. apartments within 2 blocks. Block A will be a 5 storey building with 18 no. apartments (5 no. 1 bed and 13 no. 2 bed units) with balconies/terraces to the north, east, south and west elevations, and bin, bicycle parking and plant at ground floor level and plant at roof level; Block B will be a 5 storey building with 18 no. apartments (5 no. 1 bed and 13 no. 2 bed units) with balconies/terraces to the east and west elevations and bin, bicycle parking and plant at ground floor level and plant at roof level;*
- (iii) *26 no. houses (comprising 5 no. 2 bed, 2 storey houses; 10 no. 3 bed, 2 storey houses; 11 no. 4 bed, 3 storey houses) in a mix of terraced and semi-detached house types;*

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 8 of 22


- (iv) Surface car parking as well as bike parking stores and bin stores;
- (v) 1 no. ESB substation;
- (vi) Landscaping, new footpath and cycle path to Forest Road, boundary treatment and all associated site works necessary to facilitate the proposed development.

3. METHODOLOGY

This assessment comprises a literature review and consultation of various written, cartographic and photographic sources. This included the *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) and *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR), compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (see below). The last published RMP for County Dublin is dated 1998, and as such, many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list on a townland basis all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also considered in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area. This was primarily achieved by searching the *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* (www.excavations.ie), which contains summaries of all investigations carried out under licence from 1970 to the present.

Historical maps, including Griffith's Valuation, those held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) were also consulted, as well as aerial photography and imagery from the Geological Survey of Ireland and Google Earth. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, crop marks and soil marks, and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance. Griffith's Valuation, for example, is a property tax survey with accompanying mapping that includes lists and

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 9 of 22

details of every taxable piece of agricultural land or built property in Ireland (published county by county between 1847 and 1864).

The *Fingal County Development Plan 2023–2029* was also consulted as this contains, among other things, a Record of Protected Structures. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included in the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (NIAH). The NIAH was developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and identifies, records, and evaluates the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland.

A site visit was also carried out as part of the assessment. The aim of this was to assess whether or not the site contained any visible or subsurface evidence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT


4.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The site is located in Forrest Great townland in the Barony of Nethercross and the Civil Parish of Swords. Forrest Great from Irish *An Fharaois Mhór* was recorded in the 13th century as *Werhewell in the manor of Swords* and in the 15th century as Little Farrow, an abbreviation of the name noted frequently in historical sources in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

The site is located to the southwest of the zone of archaeological potential associated with the historic town of Swords (DU011-035-), and the nearest monument to the site is a Ring-Ditch (DU011-119), identified as a cropmark and registered in an adjacent field, c. 110m to the southwest of the site.

SWORDS

Swords is a large town located 13 km north of Dublin City Centre, off the N1 road to Belfast. Swords, which derive from Sord meaning pure, is said to relate to the water of the holy well on Well Road (DU011:034/013). This is perhaps a pre-Christian well, but it is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille (d. AD 597). Although Colmcille is the most widely credited, there are divided opinions about the identity of the person responsible for Sword's foundation. Nevertheless, the town's history began in the Early Christian period when it became a monastic settlement whose first abbot is said to have been St. Fionnan Lobhar. A church named after St. Fionnan survived in Swords until the close of the Middle Ages (Bradley and King 1988).

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 10 of 22


Swords is first mentioned in the annals when, in the year AD 965, the bishop of Swords and Lusk, Ailill Mac Manach died. In AD 994, the monastery of Swords was burned by Maelseachlainn and suffered a similar fate several more times between AD 1020 and 1166. In AD 1035, Swords was raided by the king of Meath in revenge for an attack carried out by the Dublin Norse on Ardbracan. This suggests that Swords at that time was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyfflinarskiri. It seems likely that Dublin Vikings (Ostmen) were living in Swords up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century. As late as 1326, there is a reference to “sixteen foreign burgesses” in the manor of Swords and there is evidence that these particular ‘foreigners’ were of Scandinavian origin. Swords, it seems, was a Viking settlement as well as a monastic one (Bradley and King 1988).

By the late twelfth century, the lands attached to Swords monastery were part of the see lands of Dublin and were confirmed to Dublin’s archbishop, Laurence O’Toole, in 1179. The archbishops had established a borough at Swords before the end of the twelfth century, which made it a particularly early one. Borough status conferred upon the citizens of Swords privileges such as the right of self-government and gave them trade protection from outside merchants. In 1193, the borough was granted the right to hold an eight-day fair centred on the feast of its founding saint, Colmcille (Bradley and King 1988).

The standard building plot of towns and villages in the Middle Ages was known as a burgage. In most towns, the burgage was a narrow deep plot of land with a house at one end fronting the street with a space behind used as a garden. Another grant of 1181–1212 confirmed the burgesses (townspeople) of Swords in their burgages and allowed them privileged liberties and free customs in Dublin (Bradley and King 1988).

Swords was one of the largest boroughs established by the archbishops of Dublin with an extent of the manor taken in 1326 recording more than 120 burgesses. The borough was also one of their most enduring and continued to function into the sixteenth century. In 1578, the town was granted a new charter by Queen Elizabeth I that established Swords as a parliamentary borough with the right to return two members to parliament (Bradley and King 1988).

The zone of archaeological potential for Swords was determined by Bradley and King in their Urban Archaeology Survey for County Dublin. This zone is based on the location of the medieval borough and the early monastic settlement. The medieval town was mainly arranged along a single linear street, Main Street, which was referred to as High Street in medieval times. The focus of settlement, as today, was the gates of the archbishops’ palace. A fourteenth-century document refers to another street in Swords called Le Camerothe, which Bradley and King suggest could relate either to Seatown Road or to Well Road. In 1395, a weekly market was confirmed to the archbishops of Dublin to be held in Swords. This is likely to have been a

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 11 of 22

confirmation of a grant issued during the reign of King John (1199–1216). The marketplace was located in Main Street and is still apparent today where the street was widened to accommodate it (Bradley and King 1988).


Historical documents (for example, Archbishop Alen’s register) include many references to individual burgage plots and properties in medieval Swords. A number of the houses of this period seem to have even survived into the nineteenth century as D’Alton, writing in 1838, referred to the “ancient aspect” of some of the inns. Swords also possessed a number of mills, the first reference to them dating to 1191. The extent of the manor of 1326 referred to them as watermills and valued them at 100 shillings (Bradley and King 1988).

D’Alton also mentioned that Swords was one of the walled towns of County Dublin in 1578, though there is no trace of town defences in existence today. However, the course of these walls can be suggested. The long linear boundary delimiting the properties on the eastern side of Main Street seems an obvious line. The location of the southern boundary is unclear, but on the west, the boundary was probably formed by the Ward River, a stream known in medieval times as Reynen. The parish church was probably outside the defences but could have been protected by the Early Christian enclosure. The Early Christian monastery had been established on the prominent ridge of high ground overlooking Main Street from the west. It was bound on the east and south by the stream and the monastic enclosure and is still preserved today by the curving line of Brackenstown Road, Church Road and Rathbeale Road (Bradley and King 1988).

Swords Castle was one of the principal residences of the archbishops of Dublin and there are references to a constable of the castle during the time of Archbishop John Comyn, suggesting that it was built around 1200. Some writers have suggested that Swords was abandoned around 1324 in favour of Tallaght but there is no evidence for the construction of a castle at the latter location around this time. Architectural evidence suggests that Swords Castle was still occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries when it was being sublet to members of the Fitzsimon and Barnewall families (Bradley and King 1988).

Ring-Ditches and barrows

Towards the end of the Neolithic and the beginning of the Bronze Age, features known as ‘barrows’ emerged and these can be defined as earthen or earth/stone construction mounds with a surrounding ditch or ditches, sometimes with a low external bank, typically less than 30 metres in diameter and most commonly associated with cremation burials (O’Sullivan and Downey 2012). The example in Forrest Great was recorded as a cropmark (DU011-119). Historic Environment Viewer records 189 monuments classed as ring-ditch in County

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 12 of 22

Dublin. Three such monuments were recorded within 1km or less of the site (DU011-162, DU011-114 and DU011-047) and all, including DU011-119, have no surface impression and were identified via aerial imagery. In 2002, in advance of the gas pipeline works from North Dublin to Limerick, ring-ditches/barrows were excavated at Flemingtown, Co. Meath, Dalystown 1, Co. Westmeath, Knockuregare, Co. Limerick and Rath, Co. Dublin (Grogan et al. 2007). All of these sites had substantial ditches, the largest having an external diameter of 38.75m. The excavations provide evidence for this type of funerary site occurring throughout the Bronze Age (2450–800 BC) and highlighted the significance of liminal space for death and burial in the form of ceremonial enclosures. McGarry (2009) states that of all the barrows excavated in Ireland, about half of them have produced the remains of a single person, most commonly found under the mound and central to the barrow. Almost all sites, however, produce cremated human remains spread throughout the fill of the barrow ditches; as can be seen at sites such as Ballybeen, Co. Antrim (Mallory 1984) and Ballydribbeen, Co. Kerry (Dunne 2003). Another interesting feature of barrows is the presence or absence of an ‘entrance’ or break in the ditch, which provides a causeway into the monument. Entrances are present in a number of ring-ditches and ring-barrows and although the entrance may be orientated in any direction there is a clear preference for them facing either east or south-east. It must be noted, however, that there are also many instances where entrances are not present, such as Donacarney, Co. Meath (Stirland 2017).

4.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The site was not subject to archaeological investigations previously. However, assessments in the environs were carried out and resulted in archaeological remains being exposed and subsequently excavated. These include a burnt mound, a bivallate enclosure and archaeological complex (09E0466; Hession 2009) identified to the southeast of the site during test trenching in relation to the Metro North light rail project and prehistoric activity and early medieval settlement (15E0334; McGlade 2016) to the northwest of the site identified during test trenching in relation to Ridgewood development.

Listed below (Table 1) are the nearest previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the environs of the site (see Figure 2), which further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site and its surrounding townlands. The following information was taken from the *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* (www.excavations.ie).


	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 13 of 22

Table 1: Previous archaeological investigations within the environs of the site

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
2016:052 - Rathingle, Swords, Dublin	15E0334	Prehistoric activity and early medieval settlement	Testing Monitoring Excavation
2009:337 - FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH, Dublin	09E0466	Burnt mound, bivallate enclosure, archaeological complex	Geophysical Survey Testing
1996:141 - OLD VICARAGE, Swords, Dublin	95E0035	No archaeology found	Testing


4.3 Recorded Monuments

The site contains no monuments listed in the *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) or the *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR). The nearest such site is a Ring Ditch (DU011-119), identified as a cropmark and registered in an adjacent field, c. 110m to the southwest of the site.

Below (Table 2) is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the site (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Table 2: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

DU011-119----	Ring-ditch	FORREST GREAT
<p>A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). The site is located in a relatively low-lying field within a gently undulating landscape. No visible remains at ground level.</p> <p>Compiled by: David O'Connor</p> <p>Updated by: Christine Baker</p> <p>Date of upload: 09 January 2015</p> <p>Six-Inch First Edition:</p>		

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 14 of 22

Six-Inch Latest Edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 716208, 745254

Latitude and Longitude: 53.444541, -6.250687

DU011-163----

Enclosure

RATHINGLE

First identified by Leo Swan and provided to the ASI by the Discovery Programme (copyright of the images vested in the National Museum of Ireland) this bivallate crop-mark enclosure was identified in oblique aerial photographs (LS_AS_35CT_00022_34m, LS_AS_35CT_00022_35m, LS_AS_67BWN_00001_05, LS_AS_67BWN_00001_07, LS_AS_67BWN_00001_11). The crop-mark consists of a central circular area (approximate diam. 20m N-S) enclosed by a fosse with an outer oval enclosure (approximate diam. 50m E-W). Faint traces of an earlier small sub-rectangular crop-mark enclosure can be seen beyond the NE quadrant truncated by the outer ditch. The enclosure is situated S of the ring-ditch of DU0110-162----

Compiled by: Margaret Keane

Uploaded on: 4 March 2017

Six-Inch First Edition: Not indicated

Six-Inch Latest Edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 716176, 745754

Latitude and Longitude: 53.449039, -6.250984

DU011-114---

Ring-ditch

FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH

A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. To the southeast a sub-circular enclosure is also visible within the same field (DU011-113----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). The site is located on low-lying land that rises steeply to the south. No visible remains at ground level.


Compiled by: David O'Connor

Updated by: Christine Baker

Date of upload: 09 January 2015

Six-Inch First Edition:

Six-Inch Latest Edition: Not indicated

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 15 of 22

ITM Coordinates: 717035, 745052

Latitude and Longitude: 53.442544, -6.238320

DU011-162----

Ring-ditch

RATHINGLE

First identified by Leo Swan and provided to the ASI by the Discovery Programme (copyright of the images vested in the National Museum of Ireland) the ring-ditch was identified in oblique aerial photographs (LS_AS_678BWN-00001_07, LS_AS_678BWN-00001_11). The cropmark consists of a small circular ring-ditch (approximate diam. 12m N-S) lying just to the N of the bivallate crop-mark enclosure of DU0110-163----

Compiled by: Margaret Keane

Updated on: April 13 2017

Six-Inch First Edition: Not Indicated

Six-Inch Latest Edition: Not Indicated

ITM Coordinates: 716186, 745830

Latitude and Longitude: 53.449720, -6.250806

DU011-044----

House - 16th/17th century

FORREST GREAT

The Civil survey (1654-6) mentions a fair stone house at the Great Forrest held by Lord Ranelagh (Simington 1945, 113). This is probably the building shown on the 1840 OS 6-inch map. as 'Forrest House in ruins'. In the 1992 report there were foundations of this building present at the rear of a large farmhouse. Now a yard. No visible remains.

Compiled by: Geraldine Stout

Updated by: Christine Baker


Date of upload: 09 January 2015

References: Simington, R.C. (ed.) 1945 The Civil survey, AD 1654-1656. Vol. VII: county of Dublin. Dublin. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

Six-Inch First Edition:

Six-Inch Latest Edition: 'Great Forrest'

ITM Coordinates: 715745, 744780 Latitude and Longitude: 53.440385, -6.257828

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 16 of 22

4.4 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

A Protected Structure is a structure that a planning authority think is of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. The structured is recognised as important and is protected from harm under legislation. Every local authority in Ireland must keep a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in their development plans.

The NIAH identifies, records, and evaluates the post-1700 architecture of Ireland in order to protect and conserve our built heritage. It is under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It also forms the basis of a list for structures that should be included in the Record of Protected structures compiled by local authorities.

The site does not contain any Protected Structures, as listed in the *Fingal County Development Plan 2023–2029*, nor any structures listed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (NIAH). The nearest such site is World War II Pillbox (RPS ID 952) located c. 0.5km to the south of the site, in the grounds of Forrest Little Golf Course. Described as *Mid-20th century (built circa 1941), flat-roofed, square-plan concrete WWII pillbox/machine-gun post to defend Collinstown Aerodrome (now Dublin Airport). Currently used as pumphouse for golf course.*


4.5 Finds listed within the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland list all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references.

A number of finds are listed in the environs of the site, including a polished basalt axe head (NMI Reg. No. 1959:13) from Fosterstown North and a retouched flint flake (NMI Reg. No. 2004:117) retrieved from Windmill Lands.

4.6 Cartographic Evidence

A review of available historical mapping for the area was carried out to include the Ordnance Survey (OS) of Ireland 6-inch (1836) and 25-inch (1906) maps (Figures 5 – 6), as well Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Nethercross (1656) and An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - northeast sheet

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 17 of 22

(1760) maps (Figures 3 – 4). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are often marked on such maps. They can provide a helpful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

The 1656 (Figure 3) map labelled the area of the site as ‘Unforfeited’ with no more detail given. On the 1760 map (Figure 4), the site is shown as a part of a field adjacent to an established road lined by trees; that road is roughly within the footprint of the current Forest Road.

On the ordinance survey, mapping examined the site, which is depicted as agricultural land with no buildings on illustrated, and the northern boundary is a wet ditch and a townland boundary. The site is shown as a portion of two fields on the 1836 map (Figure 5), and by the 1906 map (Figure 6), the field boundary was removed.

No features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest were noted on the examined maps.

4.7 Aerial Photography


A review of available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2018 from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSi) were assessed, alongside Google Earth imagery dating between 2006 and 2023. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field, particularly during periods of drought, such as those experienced in the summer of 2018.

By the time of the 1995 aerial, the eastern portion of the site was subject to some groundworks with access and a structure present, removed by the time of the 2002 aerial with the associated footprint at the location of the access and building apron still noticeable. The site is grassed and overgrown in places on the 2024 aerial imagery.

No features of archaeological significance were recorded on examined aerial imagery.

4.8 Field Inspection

A site inspection was carried out in November 2024 by Glenn Gibney of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU) Ltd (Plates 1–4).

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 18 of 22

The site consists of a grassed field, overgrown with shrubs in places. Access to the site is from the east off Forest Road.

No features of archaeological significance were noted during this field inspection.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this impact assessment was to establish whether the site contained any evidence of previously unrecorded areas or features of historical, built heritage, or archaeological significance.

The site contains no monuments listed in the *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) or the *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR). There are no Protected Structures or sites listed in the *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* (NIAH) within or adjacent to the site.

The site consists of a grassed field and is in proximity to an archaeological monument, a Ring Ditch (DU011-119); these types of monuments often occur in groups. Hence, the site has the potential to contain previously unknown subsurface archaeological remains.


In line with national policy as set out in the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) *there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage* (Part III, pages 23-25). Appropriate measures to allow for preservation in situ of archaeological features/materials cannot be established without an adequate definition of the location and extent of any potential sub-surface remains. Hence further archaeological assessment is required.

6. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS


This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment prepared in relation to a site at Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin (Figures 1–8; Plates 1–4).

The site consists of a grassed field and is in proximity to an archaeological monument, Ring Ditch (DU011-119); these types of monuments often occur in groups.

In line with national policy, as set out in the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999), *there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage* (Part III, pages 23-25). Appropriate measures to allow for preservation in situ of archaeological features/materials cannot be established without an adequate definition of the location and extent of any potential sub-surface remains. Hence further archaeological assessment is required.

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 19 of 22

It is therefore recommended that the assessment, including geophysical survey and testing, should be carried out in advance of any development of the site. This must be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Archaeological material identified may necessitate further mitigation, including preservation in situ/or preservation by record (excavation) following consultation with the National Monuments Service.

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 20 of 22


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Extract from the Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Nethercross (1656)

	No:	PM-SF-113	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
	Title:	AIA: Forest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin				Page 21 of 22

Extract An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - northeast sheet (1760).

Extract from the First edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1836)

Extract from the Rocques map of County Dublin

Extract from the Third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (1906)

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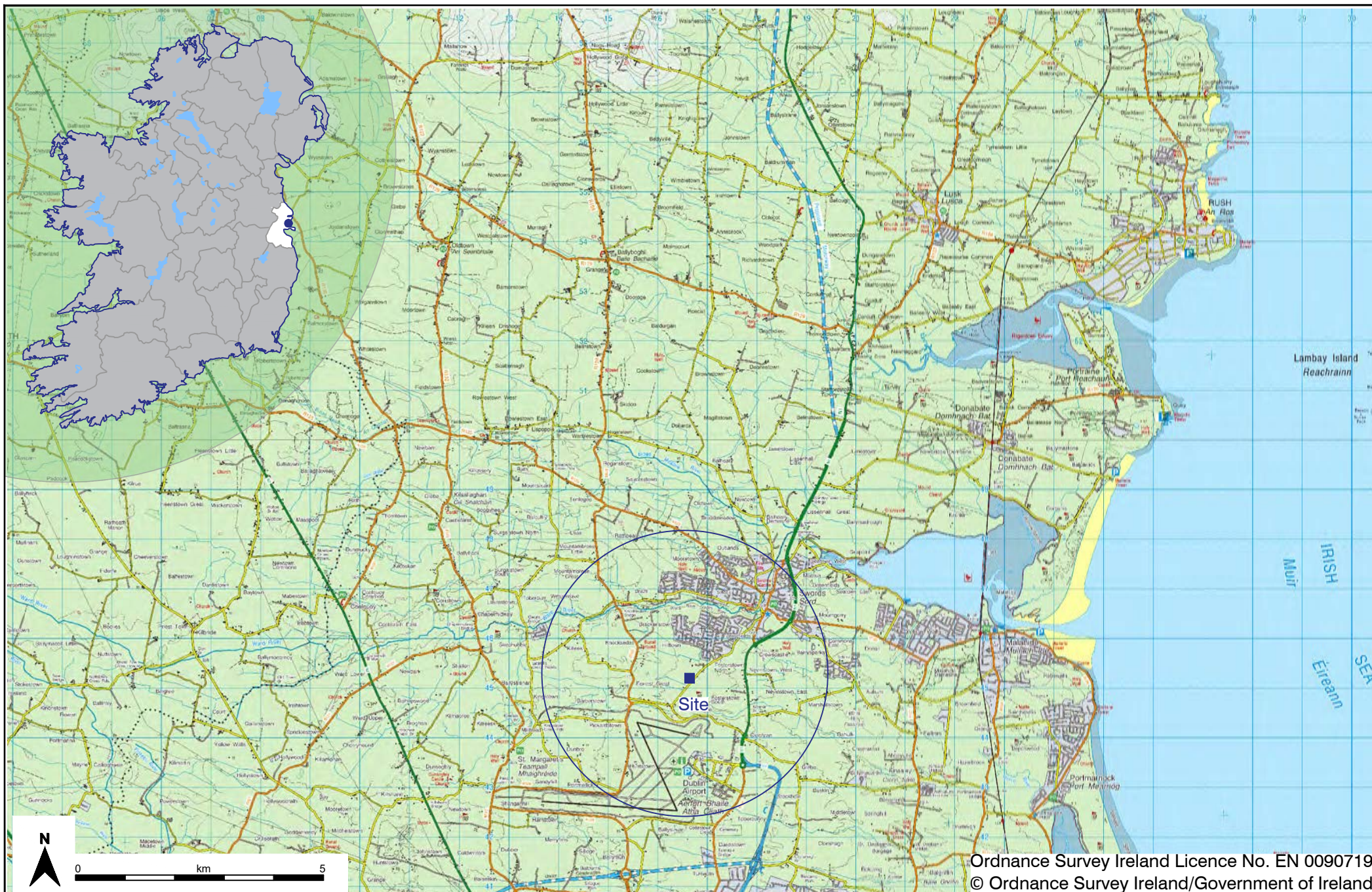
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Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.



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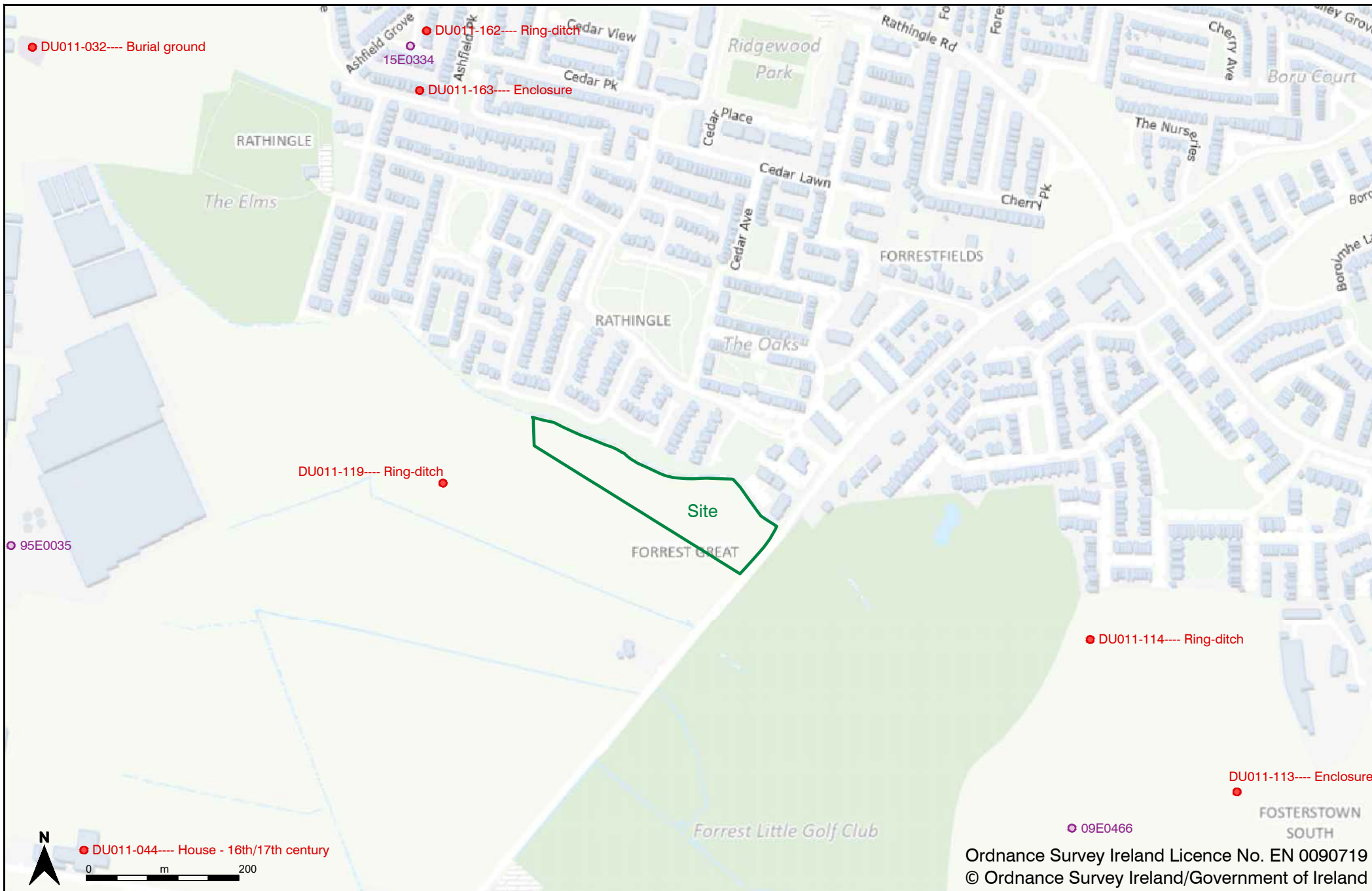
Date November 2024

Drawing No. 24198_C0001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





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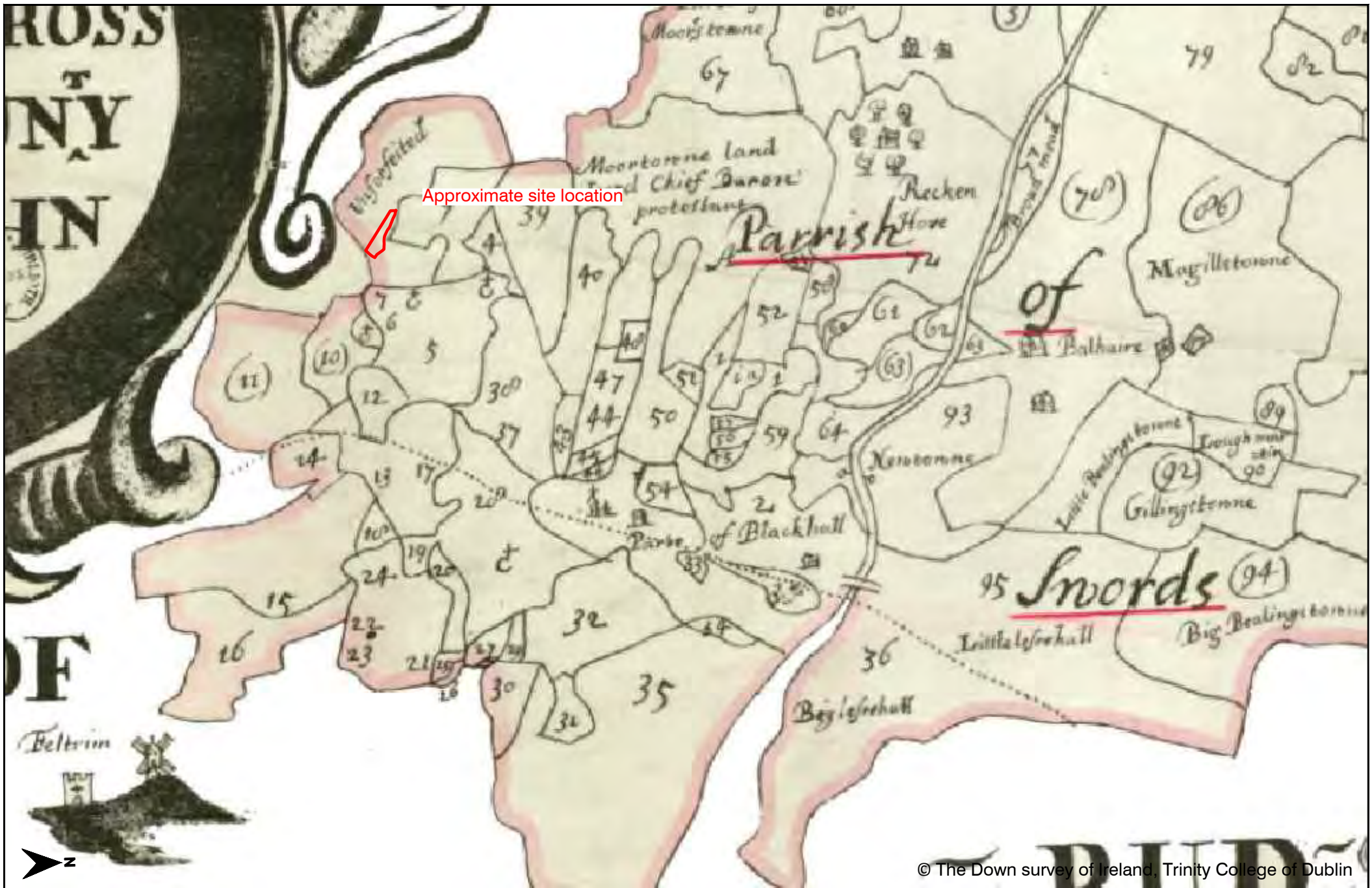
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Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby *Sites and Monuments Record* sites

Scale 1:6,500 @ A4





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Project Forrest Road, Swords, Co. Dublin	Date November 2024	Drawing No. 24198_C0003	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 3 Extract from Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Nethercross (1656), showing approximate location of site		Scale Not to scale	



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Figure 4 Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - northeast sheet (1760) , showing approximate location of site

Scale Not to scale





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Figure 5 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



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Figure 7 Aerial view of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4





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Drawing No. 24198_C0008

Figure 8 Detail of site development

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4





Plate 1: View of site facing east from centre



Plate 2: View of site from northwest corner facing east



Plate 3: View from entrance facing west



Plate 4: View of site facing south at west end