

# **FINLAY PARK LRD**

**LANDS LOCATED TO THE EAST OF FINLAY PARK,  
OLD CARRAGH ROAD,  
NAAS,  
(within the townland of Naas West),  
Co. KILDARE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE REPORT**

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**Report Commissioned by  
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C/o John Spain Associates,  
Planning & Development Consultants,  
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**Martin E. Byrne, MA, Dip. EIA Mgmt, MIAI.**  
BYRNE MULLINS & ASSOCIATES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report provides an Archaeological Heritage Assessment of a proposed Residential Development (Finlay Park LRD) on lands located to the east of Finlay Park, Old Carragh Road, Naas (within the townland of Naas West), Co. Kildare. It has been prepared on the behalf of the Westar Homes Ltd c/o John Spain Associates, Planning & Development Consultants, 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2

Archaeology is the study of past societies through their material remains and the landscapes they lived in. “The archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence” (DoAHG 1999, p9).

“Archaeological heritage comprises all material remains of past societies, with the potential to enhance our understanding of such societies. It includes the remains of features such as settlements, burials, ships and boats and portable objects of all kinds, from the everyday to the very special. It also includes evidence of the environment in which those societies lived. The terms “site” or “monument” are used generally to refer to fixed structures or areas of activity, as opposed to particular moveable objects. Historic wrecks are also part of the archaeological heritage” (DHLG&H, 2021, 3).

The report discusses the receiving environment from an Archaeological Heritage perspective. It provides information with respect to previously identified baseline data and assesses the impact of the proposals on identified sites and areas of Archaeological Heritage interest and/or potential.

### **1.1 Definition of Study Area**

The subject development lands (red-line boundary) and an area of 300m surrounding such lands were determined to be the Study Area for Archaeological Heritage. The extent of the Archaeological Heritage Study Area was chosen to reflect an appropriate context for the development, beyond which it was considered that a development of this nature would have no direct/indirect impacts.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

An Archaeological Heritage study comprises the results of a survey and evaluation of selected sites of archaeological heritage interest/potential within, and in the immediate environs of, a proposed development area. In this particular instance, the work consists of the results of a paper survey, field inspection. Geophysical survey and programme of intrusive archaeological investigations (testing).

## 2.1 Paper Survey

As part of a documentary/cartographic search, the following principal sources were examined from which a list of sites and areas of Cultural Heritage interest/potential was compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places – Co. Kildare (RMP)
- Sites and Monuments Record of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (SMR) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin – [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)
- Aerial Photographic & Cartographic Archive of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland – [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)
- GSI Open Topographic Data Viewer (LiDAR information) – [www.dcent.maps.arcgis.com](http://www.dcent.maps.arcgis.com)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) – [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)
- Heritage Council Heritage Database & Maps – [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)
- Placenames Commission – [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)
- Documentary and cartographic source material (see Appendix 1)
- National Folklore Collection (The School's Collection) – [www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie)
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (KCDP)
- Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 (NLAP)
- Draft Kildare County Development plan 2023-2029

## 2.2 Field Inspection

Site specific field surveys were undertaken in early-March 2021 and early-June 2022. These entailed surface reconnaissance of the subject lands and inspections of the surrounding lands, where possible.

An attempt was also made to identify previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage potential within, and in the immediate environs of, the proposed development area.

Sites/features of cultural heritage potential identified on the basis of the paper survey were inspected in an attempt to confirm their locations on the ground and to determine, if possible, their likely extent.

## 2.3 Geophysical Survey

The subject site forms part of a larger landholding in which a high-resolution magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken by Target Archaeological Geophysics in August 2019, under licence (Ref: 19R0168) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Summary results of the survey are described below in Section 5.5.

## 2.4 Archaeological Testing

The subject site forms part of a larger landholding in which a programme of archaeological testing was undertaken by Dr. Clare Mullins, Byrne Mullins & Associates, in February and July 2020, under licence (Ref: 19E0776). Summary results of the testing, particularly with respect to the extent of the subject application lands, are discussed below in Section 5.6,

## 3. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The subject site is located on the northern/north-western outskirts of Naas Town and to the northwest of the town centre area. It is bounded to the north by agricultural lands, to the east by residential properties and agricultural lands, to the south by a canal and to the west by an existing residential development (Finlay Park) a former sewerage farm and agricultural lands – Figure 1; it also incorporates a section of tow path associated with the canal leading in a general south-easterly direction from the main site area.

The subject proposed development lands comprises portions of two fields, which are largely under grass; the western portion of the southernmost field includes a construction compound, construction storage area and spoil heaps associated with the development of the adjacent Finlay Park – Plate 1.. The shared field division comprises a drainage channel, and there is a soil embankment in the northern area of the southernmost field incorporating a pipe system associated with a former sewerage farm to the northwest. Additional drainage channels are positioned in the external lands to the immediate east. There is some tree planting on the external edge of the canal tow path.





Figure 1 Site Location



Plate 1 Satellite View subject development area and immediate environs (March 2022)

## 4. GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The subject lands form part of the townland of Naas West, part of the civil parish of Naas and the barony of Naas North – O.S. 6" Map: Kildare Sheet 19; Parts of the townlands of Naas West and Naas East form the historical extent of Naas Town.

Naas was an important stronghold of the kings of Leinster before the Norman invasions and there are many examples for the placename in Irish literature. In the pre-Norman genealogies of *Laighin* (Leinster), for instance, there are references to the stronghold of *Nás Dún Náis* ('The fort of Naas') is referred to in the Annals of the Four Masters under the year 705 (Placenames Commission – [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)); when the longer forms of the name is written (very occasionally) in Irish literature, ('Naas of Leinster') is used more frequently than *Nás na Ríogh* ('place of the assembly of the kings') with the former, together with *Nás* (without qualification) found in Irish documentation much earlier and more frequently than the latter. With the revival of the Irish language in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, two long forms and one short form of the name were recommended in a bilingual gazetteer of post towns published in 1905 and 1922 - *Nás Laighean*, *Nás na Ríogh* and *An Nás*. The form *Nás na Ríogh* subsequently gained currency as a postal address and through its use in schools. *An Nás* has been the official Irish name since 1969 and is also the legal Irish version of Naas according to the *Placenames (Centres of Population and Districts) Order 2005*, made by the Minister for Communities, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the advice of the Placenames Commission.

The fort (dún) of Naas is first referred to in 705 AD. This was the royal residence and is believed to have been incorporated into the later Anglo-Norman motte. Naas was also the site of an Early Christian monastery known as *Cill Corbhán* or *Cill Náis*. De Burgh (1891-5, 324) notes that "the monastery of *Tulach Fomhair* was at Millbrook, near Corban's Mill...it was founded in the seventh century by St. Fechin of Fobhair and built upon lands given by a king of Leinster. Comerford (1830-3, 107) also states that this was the site of the monastery. However, Bradley (1987, 344) argues that 'despite these suggestions...the precise location of *Tulach Fomhair* cannot be established'.

Following the Anglo-Norman invasions, the Barony of Naas was granted by Strongbow to Maurice Fitzgerald in 1175. This grant was confirmed to his son, William Fitzmaurice, by Henry II in 1177 and reconfirmed by Prince John who, as king, visited Naas in 1206 and 1210 when he held a council in the town. An Augustinian priory was established before the end of the twelfth century and the parish church, dedicated to St. David, was in existence by the early thirteenth century.

Information on Naas in the Later Middle Ages is scanty. The town was apparently burned and plundered by Edmund Bruce in 1316, but it clearly recovered and its importance in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries may be gauged from the fact that at least nine parliaments and thirteen councils were held in Naas between 1355 and 1484. In addition, a Dominican Friary was founded by the FitzEustace family in 1355 and an Augustinian Friary in 1484. Although there are no indications that the town was walled at this period, there are references to town gates as Henry V granted to the Corporation the power to collect tolls at all the entrances to the town in 1413.

In 1534 the Lord-Deputy, Skeffington took the town from the Fitzgeralds as that family were then in open rebellion with the Crown. Naas was incorporated by charter of Elizabeth I in 1568 and in 1577 the town was attacked and burned, during which an estimated 150 houses were burned.

The town maintained its status in the seventeenth century, being described in 1606 as 'the chief corporate town in the county of Kildare' and granted a new charter by James I in 1609. Large garrisons of crown forces were stationed at Naas from the late sixteenth century. In 1648 it was garrisoned by the Earl of Ormonde who surrendered the town the Cromwellian forces under the command of Cols. Hewson and Reynolds in 1650. The population of the town in 1659 is recorded as 303 and a plan of the town and environs (Naas Parish) at this time is illustrated below in Figure 2. The census of 1659 records 273 English and 30 Irish, with the 'titulados' named as Richard Strecklan, Robert Moore, William Foster, Charles Hall, John Birkett, James Sherlocke, Will Dounebabane, Thomas Tate, William Sandes, Richard Horribon and the earl of Stafford; in 1670, the townland of Naas West was owned by Sir William Hamilton and the Lord Chief Baron and comprised 133 acres of 'profitable' land ([www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)). Further charters were granted to the town by Charles I in 1628 and Charles II in 1671.





Figure 2 Extract from the Civil (Down) Survey Map – 1656-8

The most dominant feature in the northern area of the town in the eighteenth century was the de Burgh family estate at Oldtown. This is indicated in Noble & Keenan’s map of 1752 (Figure 3); some of the roads in the area, as well as townlands (e.g. Osberstown, Pluckplate and Oldtown) are indicated, together with a watercourse leading through Osberstown and Oldtown to the north of Naas. Taylor’s map of 1783 (Figure 4) provides more topographical details of the area at that time, including watercourses within and in the immediate environs of the subject site, together with some tree planting; a further watercourse to the east with associated mills (Friar Mill and Flower Mill) is connected to the newly opened Grand Canal to the north while church ruins (*Ch. Rs.*) are indicated to the southeast.



Figure 3 Extract from Noble & Keenan – 1752



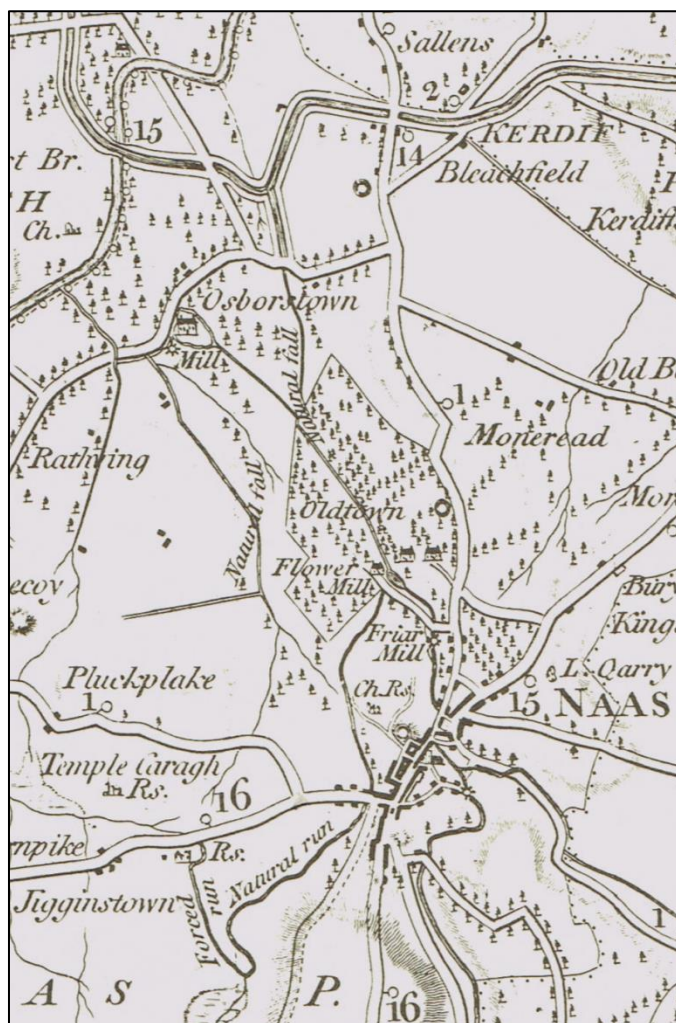


Figure 4 Extract from Taylor 1783 (Sheet 95)

Following the construction of the main line of the Grand Canal to Sallins in 1780, and thence westwards with no connection to Naas, local landlords and businesses in the area were determined that the town should share the commercial benefits of the canal. They subsequently formed the County of Kildare Canal Company to construct a branch canal from the main line near Sallins to Naas. Construction began in 1786 and reached Naas harbour by 1789. This section of canal is located to the east of the subject lands, with the former harbour to the south. However, the company went bankrupt after a few years and the line was taken over by the Grand Canal Company, who subsequently extended the line south-westwards to Corbally – a section of this canal forms the southern boundary to the subject proposed development lands. There were short-lived passenger services in the 1790s and from 1811-2 but these proved to be unprofitable. Initially, cargo traffic was also sparse but subsequently improved and by the 1840s over 5000 tonnes per annum were being handled at Naas harbour. Cargo boats feature on the branch line up to 1959, with the main commodities including coal for the gas works, grain for Leinster Mills, timber for Lendrum's sawmills and merchandise, including porter, for the town itself. When CIE closed the canal in 1961 it quickly became clogged with silt and the locks and gates deteriorated. In 1985-7, new lock-gates were installed, the harbour dredged and the canal was opened as an amenity.

During the rebellion of 1798, the town was attacked on 24<sup>th</sup> May but the insurgents were repulsed by the garrison under the command of Lord Gosford. The insurgents sustained for some time the attack of the Armagh Militia and of Sir W. W. Wynne's 'fencible corps', but retreated after the loss of about 150 men.

The town was governed by the above mentioned charters until 1840 when the Corporation was dissolved by Act of Parliament. The town was governed by a Grand Jury until 1854 when the Town Commissioners was established. This system lasted until 1900 when an Urban District Council, later Naas Town Council, was established. Naas Town Council was abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and its administrative functions are now undertaken by Kildare County Council.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1837 (Figure 5) indicates the layout of the subject site and environs at that time. This indicates that the main site area incorporated three separate fields, with the southern boundary

formed by the Corbally Canal, and associated tow paths. The boundaries along the northern eastern extent of the site had been established by this time, while that to the northwest forms part of a townland boundary with Oldtown. A trackway is indicated leading from the canal to the east, terminating outside the north-eastern extent of the site.

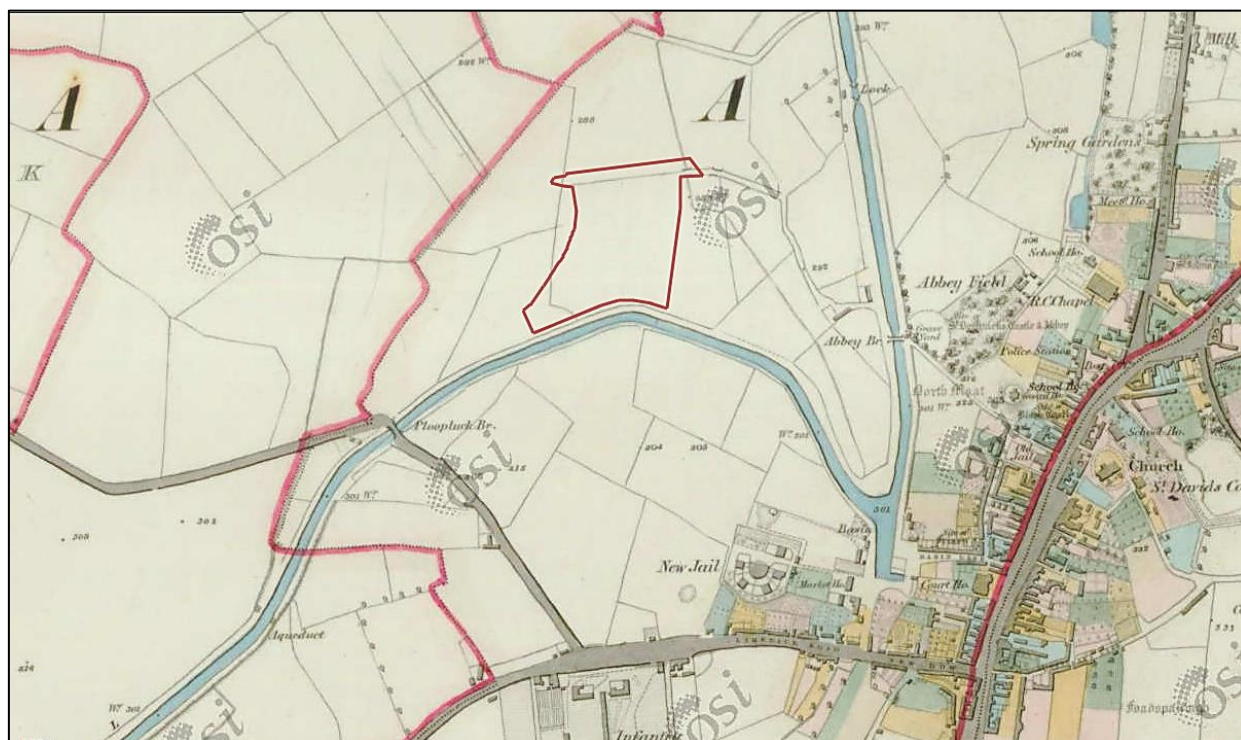


Figure 5 Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1837

Lewis (1839, ii, pp. 417-9) notes that the population of Naas Parish at this time was 4777, of which 3808 lived in the town. He further notes that the “town is pleasantly situated in a fine, open, and fertile tract of country, gently undulating and enriched with wood, and beautifully contrasted on the southeast by the varied outline of the Wicklow mountains”; total number of houses was approximately 600, “of which only a few are handsomely built and the remainder of indifferent appearance; the streets are neither paved nor lighted, but the inhabitants are amply supplied with water from wells”. He also observes that “the principal trade is in corn, which is generally bought by the neighbouring millers; in the neighbourhood are several extensive flour-mills, each capable of producing from 8000 to 10,000 barrels annually. A considerable traffic is also derived from its situation on a great public thoroughfare, and from the influx of persons attending the assizes and quarter sessions. A branch from the Grand Canal, commencing about a mile below Sallins, passes through the town and terminates at Corbally, in the parish of Carnalloway; it was completed in 1789, at an expense of £12,300, and affords great facility of conveyance for corn, coal, culm, and turf, and various articles of merchandise, which are brought to the town in great quantities”. He also notes that the (civil) parish of Naas “which is also called St. David’s, comprises 5027 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act; the land is of good quality, and, with the exception of some extensive pastures, is chiefly under tillage; the system of agriculture is improved and the surrounding district is in a high state of cultivation”.

Griffith’s Valuation (*Primary Valuation of Ireland 1848-64*) of 1854 notes that the southern area of the overall main site was owned by Thomas de Burgh and leased, respectively, to Richard Bird and Richard Blowney, with the canal banks owned by the Grand Canal Company; the northernmost field was owned by William Taylor and leased to Patrick Farrell.

Very little significant topographical changes within, and in the immediate environs of, the site are apparent on the Ordnance Survey map of 1908/9 (Figure 6). The field boundary between the northern and southern filed areas is indicated as a watercourse/drain, with the former curving section of boundary in the southwest having been realigned and straightened; the canal tow paths are named as are houses to the east (Abbeyville, Abbey Cottage and Abbeylodge Cottage). A Gas Works had been established on the eastern bank of the Naas Canal by this time.



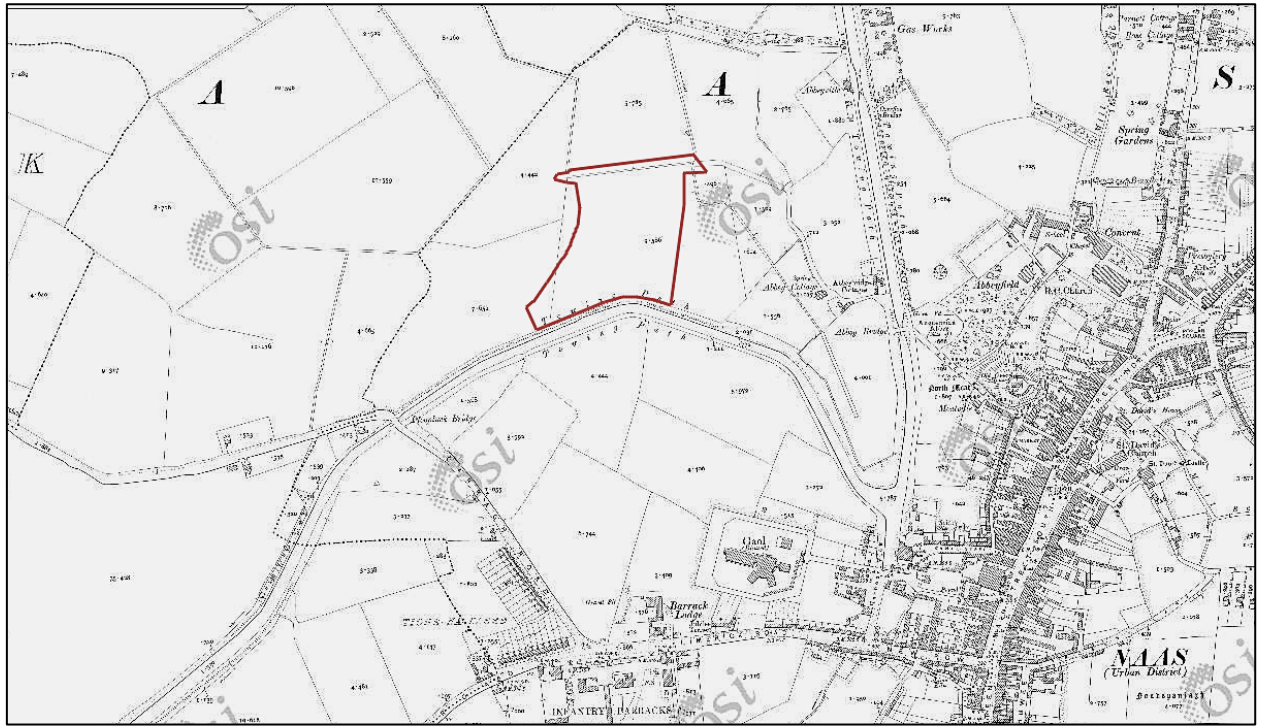


Figure 6 Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1908/9

The Ordnance Survey map of 1939-40 (Figure 7) illustrates the extent of a ‘sewage farm’ to the northwest of the site and 10kV electricity lines to the north and west; a small housing estate (St. Brigid’s Terrace) has been constructed to the south-southwest, along Carragh Road leading from Ploopluck Bridge, and the town gas works, on the eastern bank of the Naas Canal, is still in use, although the Gaol to the south is indicated as being disused.

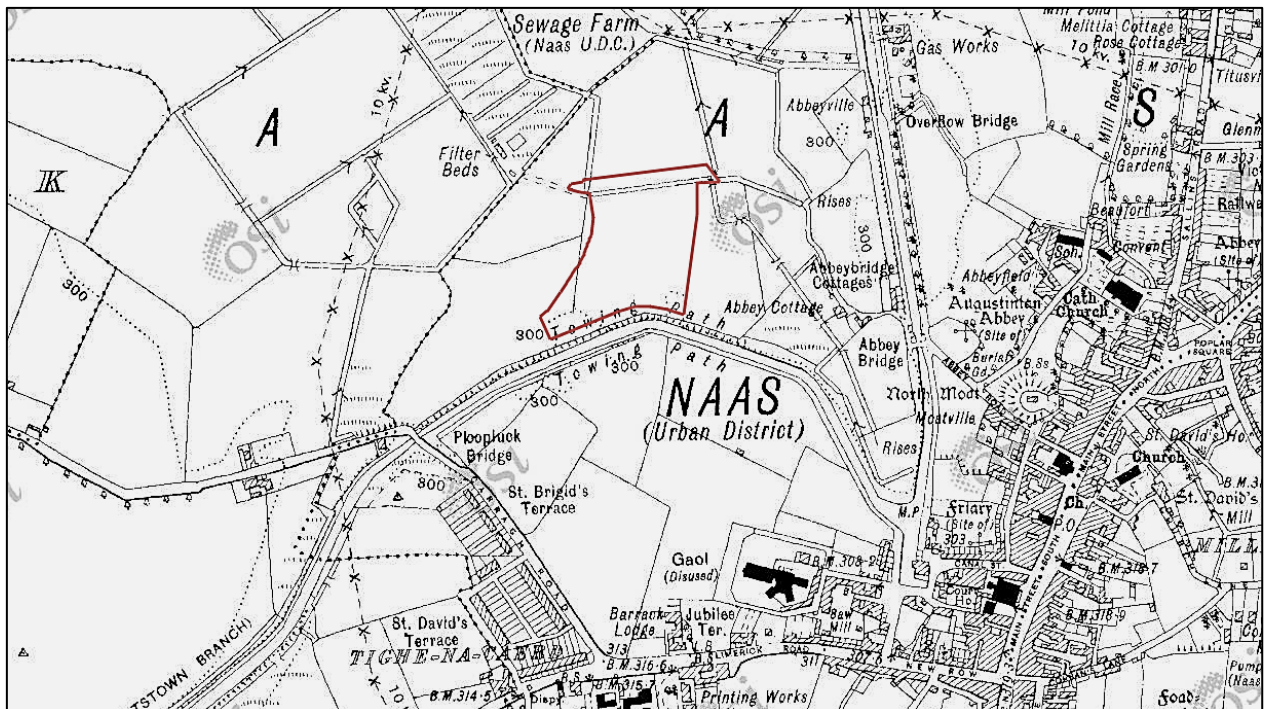


Figure 7 Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1939-40

Further residential developments have been constructed to the south, southeast and west of the subject site in recent years, including Finlay Park, outside part of the southern western/western extent, as indicated above in Plate 1.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

### 5.1 Statutory Protections

The statutory and administrative framework of development control in zone of archaeological potential or in proximity to recorded monuments has two main elements:

- (a) Archaeological preservation and licensing under the National Monuments Acts and
- (b) Development plans and planning applications under the Planning Acts.

#### 5.1.1 National Monuments Acts (1930-2004)

Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 provides that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect to each county of the State. This is referred to as the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP), and monuments entered into it are referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 provides for the protection of monuments and places in the record, stating that

*"When the owner or occupier (not being the Minister) of a monument or place which has been recorded under subsection (1) of this section or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Minister and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence work for a period of two months after having given the notice.*

#### 5.1.2 Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023

The following relevant Archaeological Heritage Objectives are set out in Section 12.9.1 of the Plan:

<b>AH1</b>	Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of the county, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principals for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) or any superseding national policy.
<b>AH2</b>	Have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Urban Archaeological Survey and archaeological sites identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP when assessing planning applications for development. No development shall be permitted in the vicinity of a recorded feature, where it detracts from the setting of the feature or which is injurious to its cultural or educational value.
<b>AH3</b>	Secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest, included in the Record of Monuments and Places and their settings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHG (1999), or any superseding national policy document
<b>AH4</b>	Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

#### 5.1.3 Naas Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027

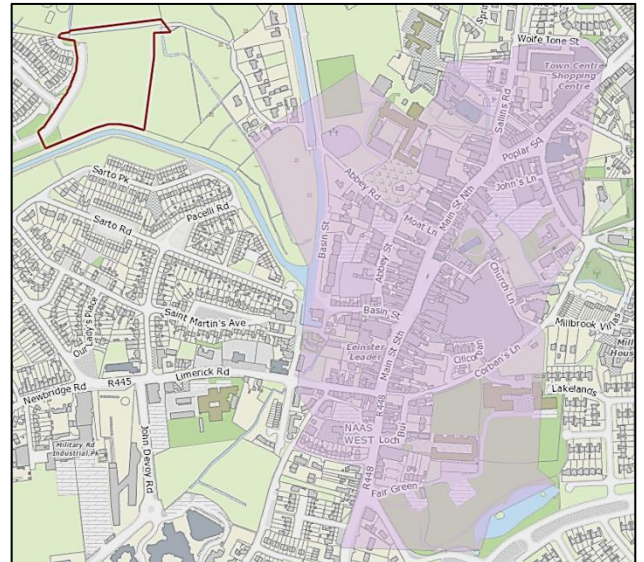
The following relevant Archaeological Heritage Policies and Objectives are set out in Section 8.4 of the Plan:

<b>BH4</b>	It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage in Naas and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.
<b>BH4.1</b>	Protect and preserve in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) items of archaeological interest provided for on the Sites and Monuments Record ( <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> ) from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.



### 5.2 Archaeological Inventory

As outlined above in Section 4, Naas is a significant centre for archaeological and historical research. Consequently, a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP; SMR No: KD19-030; Historic Town) has been established for the town and included in the Record of Monuments and Places. The subject site is located outside the ZAP, the nearest extent of which is approximately 175m from external boundary to the subject site (Site AR-1; Figures 8 & 9).



**Figure 8 Site Location with respect to Naas Town Zone of Archaeological Potential (AR-1)**

The Archaeological Zone includes a number of individual monuments and complexes of monuments; one of these (Site AR-1A; SMR Nos: KD019:030012 & KD019-030-021; Religious House – Dominican Friars & Graveyard; ITM: 689099 719636) is located within the defined Archaeological Heritage Study Area (as defined in Section 1.1) and at a distance of approximately 325m from the closest extent of the subject site, as illustrated in Figure 9.



**Figure 9 Site Location with respect to Site AR-1A**

There are no previously identified individual sites of archaeological interest located within the extent of the site. No features of archaeological potential were noted by cartographic, aerial photographic or satellite imagery research or by an examination of available LiDAR Survey (Figure 10); likewise no surface features/traces of archaeological potential were noted by the surface reconnaissance survey.

Further information relating to the classification of monuments and descriptions of Sites AR-1 and AR-1A are included in Appendix 2 & 3, respectively.



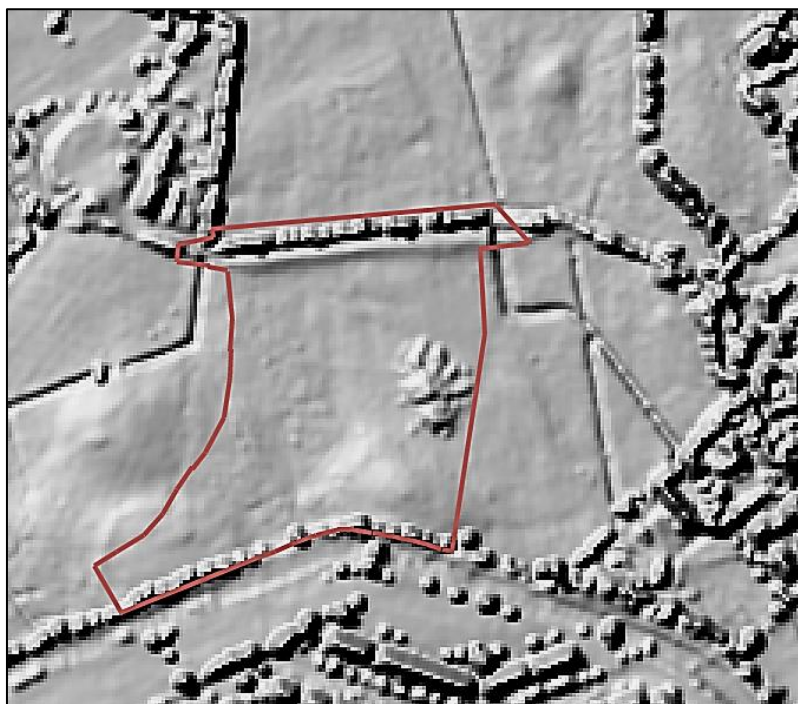


Figure 10 LiDAR Survey

### 5.3 Archaeological Artefacts

The Topographical Registers of the National Museum of Ireland record a number of ‘stray’ finds from within, and in the environs of, Naas; none were discovered within the defined Cultural Heritage Study Area.

### 5.4 Results from previous documented relevant archaeological investigations

A search undertaken of the annual Archaeological Excavations Bulletin ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) indicates that one licensed archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the defined study area, as follows:

- Testing was carried out in the walled garden to the rear of the Convent of Mercy by Dr. Ellen O’Carroll, The Archaeology Company in 2003 (Licence No: 03E1707) and approximately 300m to the east of the subject development site. Five machine-excavated trenches and one test-pit were excavated in the walled garden to the west of the church and south of the Mercy convent. Four of the trenches ran in an east–west direction across the back of the garden, while the fifth ran in a north–south direction.

Ten skeletons, a much degraded wall feature and an area of clay and red brick (possibly dump material) were uncovered in the southern trench. The skeletal remains were quite widely dispersed, averaging 1m apart and appearing to be only one layer deep. They were buried 0.6–0.8m deep in the trench, averaging 90.02m OD. They were all aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, with the head at the southern end. As this was only a testing scenario, it was not necessary to expose the full extent of any of the bodies. Wood staining was noted around the perimeter of Burial No. 1 and an iron nail was uncovered close to the skull. The wood staining is probably associated with the remains of a coffin. There were no archaeological remains uncovered in the northern portion of the garden. Two trenches were also excavated to the front of the convent and to the north of the church. There was nothing of archaeological significance uncovered in this area. The stratigraphy revealed layers of backfill and redeposited material possibly associated with the construction of the church and convent in the 1820s and 1830s.

40 human skeletons were subsequently excavated in 2005. The excavations revealed that nearly all of the skeletons were interred in wooden coffins, which survived as wood fragments, coffins or nails. Orientation of the burials was east–west, with the head resting on the western side of the grave. All skeletons in the graveyard were removed within the footprint of the proposed building, It was concluded that the remains were buried c. 100–140 years ago.

- A programme of unlicensed archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping/general site preparation works associated with the adjacent Finlay Park development was carried out by Martin Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates and nothing of interest/potential was uncovered.

## 5.5 Summary Results of Geophysical Survey

The subject site forms part of a larger landholding in which a Geophysical (Magnetometer) Survey was undertaken by Target Geophysics (Licence No: 19R168) in August 2019. This was largely concentrated in the lands to the immediate north, northeast and east of the subject site; it incorporated a narrow section of the subject site, along its eastern extent but the remainder of the site was not suitable for survey due to existing disturbance and positions of spoil mounds – see Plate 1 above.

An interpretative plan of the results of the Geophysical Survey is illustrated in Figure 11 and these are described below by individual field extents - termed M1 – M4. The subject development site incorporates a narrow strip along the western extent of M3.

### Field M1:

No definitive archaeological patterns of response are indicated by the results from M1. A weakly positive linear anomaly and parallel trends traverse the northern/north-western portion of survey. A concentration of strongly magnetic response is also apparent at the northern survey edge, with small-scale positives and an abundance of weak linear trends, often curvilinear in form, extending from survey centre to the S-SE.

### Anomaly 1 Archaeology??/Trend

Poorly defined linear responses and trends to the W-NW, potentially representing remains of a former boundary or access associated with the former sewer works situated outside the proposed development boundary to the west.

### Anomaly 2 Archaeology??

Zone of strongly magnetic response of possible interest at the northern survey limit, potentially representing burnt/fired debris such as fulacht fiadh remains. Interpretation of Anomaly 2 is cautious given that concentrations of modern ferrous debris can exhibit similar patterns of strongly magnetic response.

### Anomalies 3-7 Archaeology??/ Trend

Poorly defined, weakly magnetic small-scale positives and trends of uncertain origin. These anomalies are often curvilinear in form and mostly apparent from survey centre to the south/southeast. In view of the low-lying nature of the lands the potential that responses 3-7 may represent weakly magnetic responses of archaeological significance should not be ignored. A natural soil/geological origin for Anomalies 3-7 is also plausible.

### Field M2

No definitive archaeological patterns of response have been recorded from survey in M2. A group of small scale positives and weak curving trends are evident in proximity to an area of higher ground at survey centre. Strongly magnetic responses similar in form to Anomaly 2 to the northern area in M1 are evident to the SE in M2.

### Anomaly 8 Archaeology??/ Trend

Group of small-scale positives and curving trends at survey centre in proximity to an area of higher ground. The possibility that responses 8 represent levelled ditch and pit remains should be considered. A natural soil/geological or recent land-use origin for these responses is also plausible.

### Anomalies 9-10 Archaeology??

Zones of strongly magnetic response of possible interest to the southeast, potentially representing burnt/fired debris such as fulacht fiadh remains. Interpretation is cautious considering concentrations of modern ferrous debris can display similar patterns of strongly magnetic response.

### Field M3

A weak negative rectilinear response (11) indicated to the northeast of survey centre in M3 may be significant, potentially representing part of a former building. However, response 11 is of similar orientation to a number of deep drainage ditches which traverse the southern portion of the site.

### Anomaly 11 Archaeology??

Rectilinear response of potential note. The possibility that this anomaly may represent remains of building or foundation trench should not be ignored. However, this anomaly is expected to represent part of network of drainage ditches traversing this southern portion of the proposed development.

### Field M4

No responses of archaeological interest are indicated by the results from survey in M4.

### Summary

The results from survey in M1-M4 demonstrate a low magnetic background throughout. Remnants of past cultivation and former boundaries are evident in M1-M3 on various alignments, and all areas are punctuated by small and large-scale ferrous disturbances.

No responses of definite archaeological character have been recorded from survey in M1-M4. Anomalies of tentative interest are, however, indicated, including linear responses, small-scale positives and weak trends in M1-M3. Interpretation of these anomalies remains cautious give the absence of any clear archaeological context in the results, and it is expected that the majority of responses recorded derive from effects of recent land-use, modern ferrous debris and/or natural soil/geological variation.

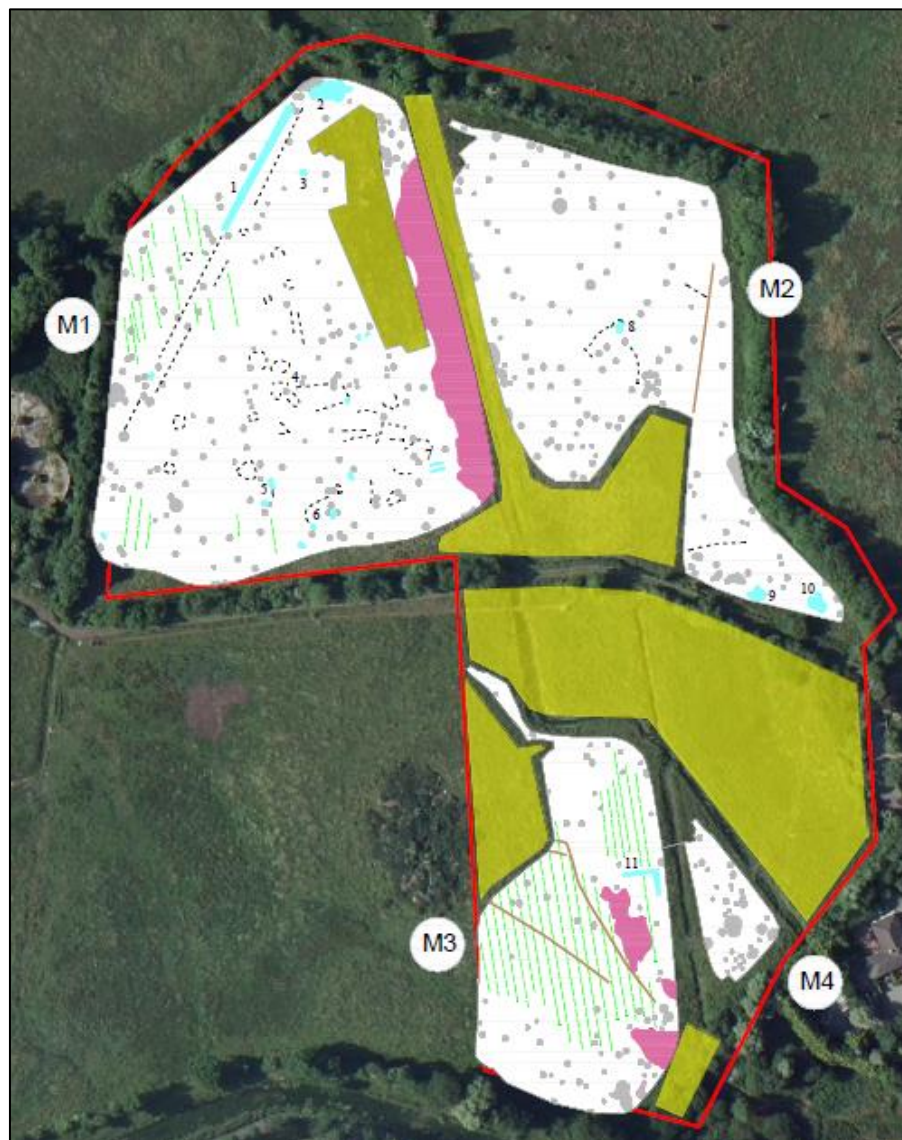


Figure 11 Geophysical Interpretation Plan

### 5.6 Summary Results of Site Specific Programme of Archaeological Testing

A programme of intrusive Archaeological Testing was undertaken within the extent of the larger, overall landholding by Dr. Clare Mullins, Byrne Mullins & Associates in February, March and July 2020, under licence (Ref: 19E0776) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The primary aim of the testing was to determine the archaeological potential of specific anomalies detected by the Geophysical Survey and the archaeological potential of those areas which could not be the subject of such survey (due to electrical overhead lines, previous disturbance, positions of spoil mounds, etc). Such testing included the subject proposed development area, lands to the immediate north, northeast, east and southeast and comprised a total of sixty-six test trenches, the locations of which are indicated in Figure 12.





Figure 12 Locations of Archaeological Test Trenches excavated by Mullins in 2020

A total of seven full-length trenches (T24 – T30), together with the southern lengths of an additional three trenches (T15 – T17) were excavated within the defined extent of the subject site.

All the trenches were excavated by machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (width: 1.5m) and the resultant spoil was raked over to increase the chances of artefact recovery. The trenches were excavated in spits of approximately 10cm depth, with the surface of each spit examined before excavation of the next spit.



**T15 – T17** were positioned to investigate Anomalies 5 & 6 (series of poorly defined, weakly magnetic small-scale positives and trends), as well as more subtle potential features uncovered by the geophysical survey.

The topsoil was up to 270mm in depth and comprised moderately soft, dark brown silty clay, with moderate pebbles and small cobbles dispersed throughout; the soil was a little organic in nature and a number of roots were encountered in the central areas of the trenches. The subsoil comprised largely comprised of gravel (e.g. Plate 2).



**Plate 2 T17 from south**

**T24 – T26** were located in an area which was not suitable for the geophysical survey; T24 measured 50m in length and T25 & T26 each measured 45m.

In all cases, the topsoil comprised moderately loose, light/mid-brown silty, sandy, silty clay with moderate pebbles and small-medium cobbles dispersed randomly throughout; it had a maximum depth of 260mm in the southern ends of T25 & T26.

The subsoil comprised bands of mid-brown or grey sands and gravels, as illustrated in Plates 3 & 4.



**Plate 3 T25 – from south**



**Plate 4 T26 from south**

**T27 – T30** were located in an area which was not suitable for the geophysical survey; T27 measured 70m in length and T28 – T30 each measured 30m.

In all cases, the topsoil comprised moderately loose, light/mid-brown silty, sandy, silty clay with moderate



pebbles and small-medium cobbles dispersed randomly throughout; it had a maximum depth of 280mm in the southern ends of T28 – T30.

The subsoil largely comprised firm, mottled-grey or grey/brown, stony clay (e.g. Plate 5) with some evidence for linear furrows, particularly in T28 – T30 (e.g. Plate 6).



Plate 5 T27 – from east



Plate 6 T30: evidence for agricultural furrows

No subsurface features of archaeological interest/potential were uncovered by the testing process and no artefacts of interest were recovered; the specific testing of the geophysical anomalies indicated that they were associated with past agricultural practices (hand-dug furrows) or related to natural variations in the subsoil, including iron-panning. In addition, evidence for furrows was also uncovered in those areas not subjected to the geophysical survey (e.g. T28-T30).

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will consist of the construction of 134 no. apartments (comprising a mixture of 70 no. 2 storey apartments and 64 no. apartments - 22 no. 1 bedroom apartments, 77 no. 2 bedroom apartments, and 35 no. 3 bedroom apartments) with private open space provided in the form of balconies/terraces as follows:

- A) Block A (4 storey apartment block) comprising 26 no. apartments (6 no. 1 bed units, 16 no. 2 bed units & 4 no. 3 bed units); Block B (part 4 part 5 storey apartment block) comprising 66 no. apartments (10 no. 1 bed units, 33 no. 2 bed units and 23 no. 3 bed units), with a commercial/ health/medical unit (c. 247.6 sq. m) at ground floor; Block C (part 4 part 5 storey apartment block) comprising 42 no. apartments (6 no. 1 bed, 28 no. 2 bed units and 8 no. 3 bed units);
- B) Vehicular/pedestrian and cyclist access from the Old Caragh Road (in new arrangement) along with the provision of 201 no. undercroft and surface car parking spaces as well as 388 no. undercroft and surface cycle parking spaces; internal road and shared surface networks including pedestrian and cycle paths;
- C) Public Open space including proposed plaza, as well as central communal (courtyard) open space including outdoor playground area at podium level;
- D) 1 no. temporary (for 3 no. years) 3-sided signage structure (c. 4.5m in height) at the entrance to the proposed development.
- E) Provision of foul and surface water drainage, including relocation of existing foul main in northern part of site as well as green roofs; linear greenway path, bin stores; plant rooms; public lighting and all associated landscaping and boundary treatment works, site development and infrastructural works,

ESB substations, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development.

A layout plan of the development, as proposed, is illustrated below in Figure 13.

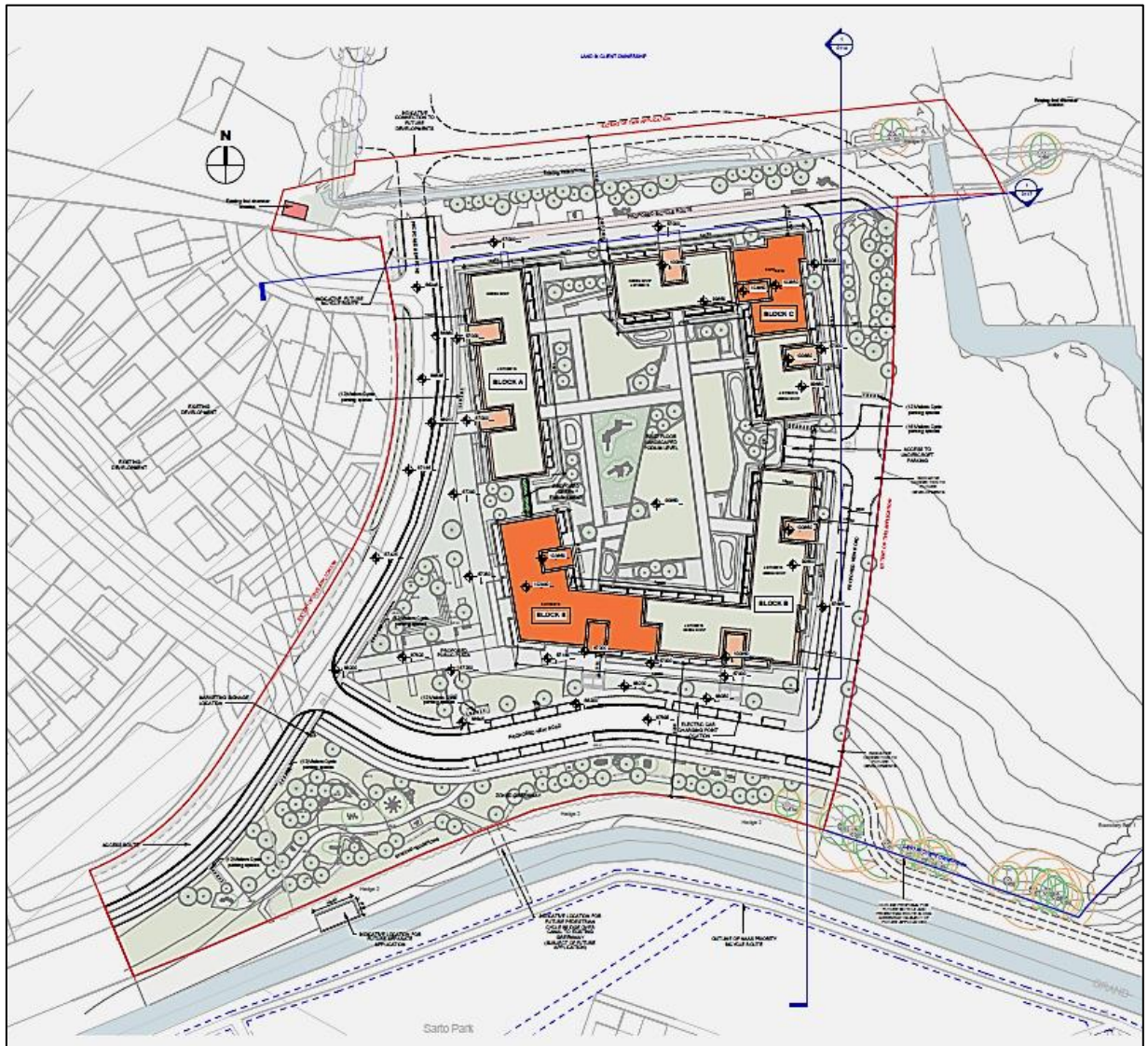


Figure 13 Proposed Layout Plan

## 7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSALS

### 7.1 Assessment of Impacts

The following table (based on NRA, 2003, 21) provides the baseline criteria used to describe the impacts that the proposed development will have on Archaeological Heritage Sites.

	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>
<b>Severe</b>	Archaeological Heritage site is within a proposed development area. Construction work will entail the removal of part or the entire cultural heritage site.	Archaeological Heritage site is within a proposed development area. Construction works will entail the destruction of the visual context of the site or isolate it from associated groups or features.
<b>Potentially Severe</b>	Archaeological Heritage site is adjacent to a proposed development area. There is potential for related remains being affected by development works.	Archaeological Heritage site is adjacent to a proposed development area. Construction works will greatly injure the visual context of the site or isolate it from associated groups or features.

<b>Moderate</b>	Existing access to an archaeological heritage site will be severed. Development works will affect the context of an archaeological heritage site.	N/A
<b>No Predicted</b>	The proposed development will have no predicted impact.	N/A

**Table 1 Criteria for Impact Assessment**

## 7.2 Construction Phase

The general archaeological background to the subject development area was introduced above in Section 5.2. The subject site is located outside the extent of the Zone of Archaeological Potential established for Naas (Site AR-1; Section 5.2) and approximately 325m from the nearest monument (Site AR-1A; Section 5.2) – See Figures 8 and 9 for locations and Appendix 3 for descriptions.

There are no previously identified sites of archaeological interest located within the subject development lands, and no features of archaeological potential were noted as a result of cartographic, aerial photographic or satellite imagery research, examination of available LiDAR survey or by subsequent detailed surface reconnaissance surveys. Furthermore, although an Archaeological Geophysical Survey of the site detected a number of subsurface anomalies in the lands to the north, north-east and east of the subject proposed development area (Section 5.5 above), the subsequent programme of Archaeological Testing (Section 5.6 above) determined that such anomalies were not of archaeological interest/potential and were associated with agricultural land use or with localised geological variations in the underlying subsoils, including evidence for iron-panning.

Given the results of the cartographic and aerial photographic research, the LiDAR survey, the results of the geophysical survey and subsequent intrusive archaeological testing, together with the results of the monitoring of topsoil stripping associated with the existing Finlay Park development, it is considered that the archaeological potential of the proposed development site is of an extremely low or negligible level. Consequently, it is considered unlikely that development of the site will cause any direct impacts to any monuments or features of archaeological heritage interest and/or potential.

## 7.3. Operational Phase

There are no archaeological monuments located within the subject development site. The nearest monument to the subject development lands is the site of a former Dominican Friary (AR-1A), for which there are no extant remains, located within a disused graveyard. This is located approximately 325m to the east of the subject site and cannot be viewed from the site due to existing topographical features (roads, houses and trees).

Consequently, it is not predicted that the visual setting of any archaeological monuments will be impacted upon by the proposed subject development.

## 8. MITIGATION MEASURES

As discussed above in Sections 7.2 and 7.3, it is considered that the development of the subject lands will not cause any impacts (direct, indirect/visual) to any monuments, structures or features of archaeological heritage interest or potential; likewise there are no significant historical events associated with the lands. Consequently it is not considered necessary to offer any mitigation measures.

<b>Character of potential impact</b>	<b>Mitigation measure</b>
<b>Construction Phase</b>	
None in terms of Archaeological Heritage	No mitigation measures considered necessary
<b>Operational Phase</b>	
None in terms of Archaeological Heritage	No mitigation measures considered necessary

**Table 2 Mitigation Measures**



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## APPENDIX 2

### Classification Details of Archaeological Monuments/Features

The following list is based in the Class List Definitions of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland

Classification	Description
<b>Graveyard</b>	The burial area around a church. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries) onwards.
<b>Historic Town</b>	A settlement of pre-AD 1700 date that occupied a central position in the communications network, functioned as a market centre and had an organised layout of streets with a significant density of houses and associated land plots. In addition, examples of one of the following monument classes should be present: town defences; castle/tower house; house (which functioned as a manor house); parish church/cathedral; religious house(s); administrative institution (e.g. town hall, market-house); judicial institution (e.g. courthouse, prison); monuments indicating specialised technological production (e.g. mill, kiln, tannery, ironworking site); bridge; hospital; school; quays. Where only documentary evidence survives to suggest a town was present then the term 'Historic town possible' applies.
<b>Religious House Dominican Friars</b>	A religious house as listed in A. Gwynn and R.N. Hadcock in 'Medieval Religious Houses Ireland' (1970) (Reprinted 1988). Irish Academic Press, Dublin. These date to the later medieval period (12th-16th centuries AD).



## APPENDIX 3

### Descriptions of Monuments listed in Archaeological Inventory (from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

#### SITE AR-1

**SMR No:**

KD019-030

**TOWNLAND:**

Naas East; Naas West

**PROTECTION:**

RMP; KCDP; NTDP

According to Bradley et al (1986 vol. 4, 343-383), Naas was the site of an Early Christian monastery known as 'Cill Corbain' or 'Cill Náis' (KD019-030046), the former's name being preserved in the present day Corban's Lane, whose curving course may preserve the line of a pre-Norman monastic enclosure. However, the precise location of the monastery is uncertain. The town is also known as 'Nás na Rí'/'The assembly place of the Kings', because between the 8th and 10th century it was a seat of the Kings of Leinster. The fort ('dún') of Naas is first referred to in 705 AD, and may subsequently have been incorporated into the Anglo-Norman motte (KD019-030009). A second motte (KD019-030023) may have stood at the S end of the town. After the arrival of the Normans, Naas was granted by Strongbow to Maurice Fitzgerald, and the Augustinian Priory (KD019-030010-) and parish church (KD019-030020) were both in existence by the beginning of the 13th c. There was also a Dominican Friary (KD019-030012) in the town. Naas had been granted a weekly market as early as c. 1186, and it may have originally been held at the N end of South Main Street where the tholsel/townhall (KD019-030008) subsequently stood, before moving to 'the Green of Naas' (presumably the Fair Green at the S-end of the town), probably in the 16th C; and there is a 17th century reference to a market cross (KD019-030047). Naas was reputedly burnt and plundered by Edmund Bruce in 1316. There is little information on the town in the later middle ages but some nine parliaments and 13 councils were held there between 1355 and 1484, while in 1467-8 Naas was described as the 'Key of the County of Kildare in resistance of their Irish enemies'. Increasing instability resulted in a number of murage grants to the town in the 15th century when, in 1415, there is the first mention of town defences (KD019-030001). While there is little, if any, physical evidence that the town was ever walled, archaeological investigations associated with modern building development has uncovered evidence of a town ditch, which was presumably augmented by an earthen rampart. At least six town gates are recorded (North Gate, Watergate Castle, Corban's Gate, Green Gate, West Gate and Iago's Gate), and the town also contained some six tower houses or fortified houses, the precise locations of some of which are uncertain: they include the Black Castle (KD019-030013), Eustace Castle (KD019-030014), Lattin's Castle (KD019-030015), The Rose and Crown/Wheatley's Castle (KD019-030016/KD019-030017), the White Castle (KD019-030018) and St David's Castle (KD019-030019). Naas was incorporated by charter of Elizabeth in 1568. It was burnt again in 1577, when a (probably exaggerated) report by Sir Henry Sidney claimed that between 700 and 800 houses were destroyed. Large garrisons of crown forces were stationed at Naas from the late-16 century, particularly between c. 1598-1601, and during the wars of the 1640's, when the town changed hands on several occasions. Naas did, however, maintain its status in the 17th C: it was described in 1606 as 'the chief corporate town in the County of Kildare' and a new charter was granted by James 1 in 1609. A population of 303 was recorded in 1659. The town has a linear street pattern centred on North and South Main Streets, off which several small lanes run at right angles. South Main Street is wider than North and is reminiscent of 17th century town layout. A burgage plot pattern survives mainly on the W side of North Main Street and on both sides of South Main Street, and the most common dwellings were likely to have been the 'lowe thatched housies' mentioned by Sidney.

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**SITE AR-1A****SMR Nos:**

KD019-030012

KD019-030021

**TOWNLAND:**

Naas West

**PROTECTION:**

RMP; KCDP' NTDP

This monument comprises two individual elements, as follows:

**KD019-030012: Religious House – Dominican Friars**

Although marked 'Augustinian Abbey (Site of)' (KD019-030011) just NW of the motte (KD019-030009) on the latest ed. (1938-9) of the OS 6-inch map, according to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 366-70), this is incorrect and the monument near the motte, 'is almost certainly the site of the Dominican friary', founded by the FitzEustace family between c. 1335 and 1356. Little else is, however, known of its history. An inquisition of 1540 mentions a church and belfry, a chapter house and a hall. In that year also, the priory is described as being, 'by the Mote of Naas'. In 1781, Cooper described the remains as consisting of, 'a small square steeple supported on an arch & adjoining on the north side, are the side walls; of what part I cannot say; but a more ruinous pile, I never yet have seen' (Price 1942, 26). In 1791, Grose (1791, ii, 27) recorded that, 'the belfry is entered by a Gothic arch, on each side of which is a staircase leading up to the rooms, in number three.' The OSL (Herity 2002, 52 (156)) noted that, 'Within this graveyard (KD019-030021-) there formerly stood an Abbey, the tower belonging to which, being popularly called "Abbey Castle" was entirely demolished two years ago' (i.e. 1835). The friars may have moved to a new location (KD019-030039), on the N side of Canal St., c. 250m to the SSE, in the 17th c. (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 228)

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**KD019-030021: Graveyard**

A sub rectangular area (dims. L c. 60m NW-SE; Wth c. 45m NE-SW) contains the site of a Dominican friary (KD019-030012). According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 370), 'There are no pre-1700 memorials nor is there any trace of buildings.'

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Date of upload: 10 June 2011