Archaeological Testing

Barry's Field, Douglas, Cork

Licence Number 17E0200 &17R0074

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Job Ref. LPA1255

on behalf of

Barry's Field Ltd.

Abstract

Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a Large-Scale Residential Development located at Carrigaline Road and Churchyard Lane, Douglas, Cork, comprising the construction of 124 no. residential apartments, a cafe unit and two office units and all associated development works. The proposed development site is locally known as Barry's Field.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development site. The nearest archaeological sites are two graveyards in Douglas located 50m and 100m to the southwest along Churchyard Lane.

Archaeological testing accompanied by licensed metal detector survey was carried out on the site in 2017 when it was proposed to construct a retail food-store and associated site works on the site. Three trenches were mechanically excavated across the site. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified in the investigations.

No further archaeological intervention is recommended.

1 Introduction

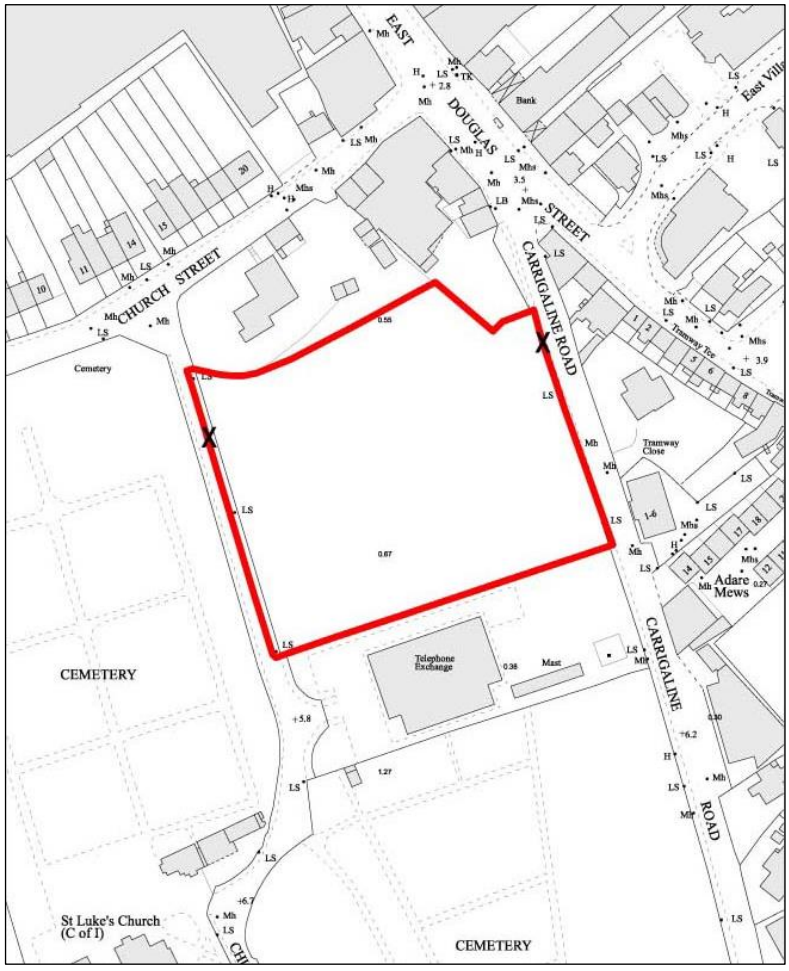
1.1 The proposed development site is situated in the townland of Douglas, in the parish of Carrigaline and barony of Cork, approximately 3km southeast of Cork city centre (ITM 569955 569432) (Figs. 1 and 2). The proposed development site is locally known as Barry's Field.



Figure 1: Ordnance Survey of Ireland site location map

Figure 2: Urban place map showing site outlined in red

1.2 Planning permission is being sought Barry's Field Ltd for the construction of a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) located at Carrigaline Road and Churchyard Lane, Douglas, Cork, comprising the construction of 124 no. residential apartments, 1 no. cafe unit and 2 no. office units, in a development ranging in height from 1 to 5 storeys and all associated site development works including footpaths, car and bicycle parking, drainage, bicycle and bin stores, lighting, fencing, landscaping/amenity areas, ESB substation/switchroom and plant room. Site development works including 2 no. new pedestrian crossings and footpath improvements and a connection and construction of a new storm water and foul sewer along Carrigaline Road. Access to the site will be via a new vehicle access point and a new pedestrian connection from Carrigaline Road and 2 new pedestrian



connections onto Churchyard Lane. The new vehicular access requires the removal of 4 no. existing car parking spaces (Fig. 3).

1.3 Archaeological testing accompanied by licensed metal detector survey was carried out on the site by the author in May 2017 under licence numbers 17E0200 and 17R0074. It formed part of a response to a Request for Further Information from Cork County Council for an application for the construction of a retail food-store and associated site works. The site at the time comprises a sub-rectangular overgrown, tree-lined field between the Carrigaline Road and Churchyard Lane. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified in the investigations. Planning permission was subsequently rejected.

1.4 There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development site. The nearest archaeological sites are two graveyards in Douglas located 50m (CO074-098) and 100m (CO074-097) to the southwest along Churchyard Lane.

1.5 This report was compiled by Avril Purcell, Lane Purcell Archaeology, 64 Fr Mathew Road, Turner's Cross, Cork on behalf of Barry's Field Ltd.



Figure 3: Proposed development layout (after O'Mahony Pike)

2 Archaeological and Historic Background

2.1 Douglas village is located approximately 3km south of Cork City and has in the last decades become one of the city's largest suburbs. The Douglas River, after which the village is named, flows south through the village, joining the Tramore River, before discharging into the Douglas Estuary in the inner reaches of Cork Harbour. The name Douglas or Dúglas means darkish stream (logainm.ie). The village, which developed in the early 18th century, grew up around the establishing textile industries. Power, which could be harnessed from the rivers, and proximity to Cork city and harbour-were contributing factors in attracting these industries to Douglas. By the mid 19th century the village had a post office, court house and police barracks and continued to grow through the 20th century. Lewis described the settlement in favourable terms in 1837, noting the numerous country houses in the area (Cadogan 1998, 221-2).

2.2 There are no known archaeological sites in the proposed development site; the nearest are two graveyards in Douglas located 50m (CO074-098) and 100m (CO074-097) to the southwest along Churchyard Lane. The two graveyards are adjacent to each other and are associated with two churches, one Church of Ireland (St Luke's) and the other Roman Catholic (St Columba's). St Lukes is also included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH No. 20871042). St Columbas is included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH No. 20871046). Although churches and graveyards can date to a multitude of periods, both are post medieval in date. Douglas was part of Carrigaline Parish during the medieval period, but appears to have become a parish, probably in 1752, when a church was built near Grange Cross. No visible remains of this church now survive (Foley 1991, 39-40).

2.3 Both graveyards are described in the Archaeological Inventory of Co Cork (Power et al. 1994) as follows: *CO074-097 - In Douglas, on W side of road to graveyard (CO074-098---). Shown on 1842 OS 6-inch map as square yard (c. 55m N-S; c. 60m E-W) with rectangular 'church' on N side; on 1900 OS 6-inch map extended to N and S to form sub-rectangular area (c. 260m N-S; c. 95m E-W); present plan as 1900 OS 6-inch map. St Lukes C of I Church in centre; built 1785; rebuilt 1875 (Foley 1991, 42) into present cruciform plan.*

CO074-098 - In Douglas, on E-side of road to graveyard (CO074-097---). Shown on 1842 OS 6-inch map as subrectangular area (c. 65m N-S; c. 30m E-W) with Watch House on E periphery. Now extended to E to form rectangular area (c. 65m N-S; c. 130m E-W) enclosed by stone wall. Bishop Dive Downes, in 1699 (Lunham 1909, 169) records 'a burying place in an open field 'where the foundations of a church could still be seen. According to Foley (1991, 39) this church was at the W side of the graveyard where some carved stones were found. Present R.C. Chapel (St Columbas) is c. 70m to S; extended 1907 (Foley 1991, 39).

2.4 Looking at the broader landscape, there are 20 recorded archaeological sites within a 2km radius the proposed development site (Table 1 and Fig. 4). These sites are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Co. Cork and/or the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The RMP lists all archaeological monuments and places known to be of archaeological importance in the county and affords them statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004 (1994 amendment). The SMR database is a working database of all known archaeological monuments in the state and is continually updated. These sites indicate human activity in the landscape from the Bronze Age (*circa* 2500-500 BC) when both the fulacht fia in Curraghconway (CO086-107) and the standing stone in Ballinlough (CO074-066) were in use (although the erection of standing stones in the landscape extends into the later prehistoric period and even up to the modern era). A number of the archaeological sites within the 2km study area date to the early medieval or Early Christian period (c. 500 to 1100 AD) such as the ringfort in Douglas (CO086-014), possible ringfort in Castletreasure (CO086-012001-) and the possible souterrain (CO086-012002-) associated with the latter. The main period of activity

represented in the 2km study area dates to the post medieval period. During this period, the medieval defensive walls of Cork city were removed and the suburbs expanded, becoming attractive to the emerging merchant classes. In the 18th century Douglas was one of the favoured areas, where the city's merchant princes choose to locate their new, more spacious homes mixing them with the existing country houses and estates of the wealthy farming community. Five country houses are listed in the RMP within the study area. Two are in Castletreasure (CO086-060 and CO086-102) and one each in Maryborough (CO074-089), Curraghconway (CO074-060) and Ballinure (CO074-077). The latter has an associated ice house (CO074-051). Industrial development also expanded during this period and there are two mills included in the RMP within the study area; St Patricks Woollen Mills (CO074-095) and Douglas Woollen Mills (CO086-100).

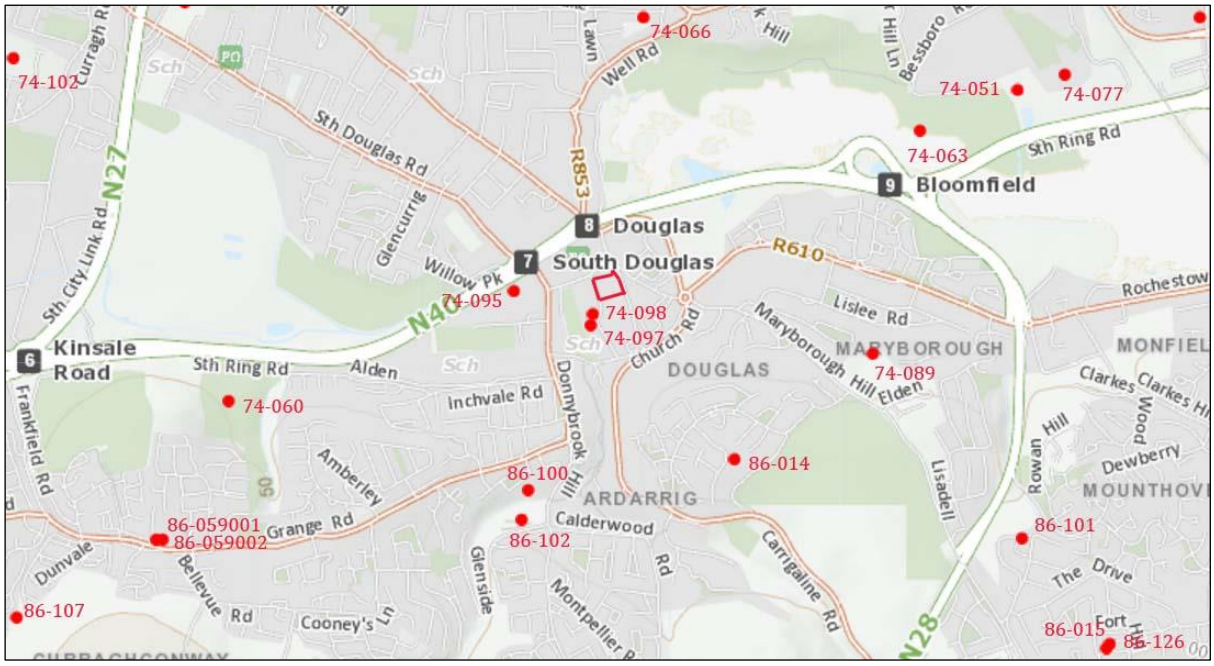


Figure 4: Proposed development site on OS RMP map showing recorded archaeological sites within a 2km radius of the development site (www.archaeology.ie)

RMP No.	Townland	Site Type
CO086-059001-	Curraghconway	Graveyard
CO086-059002-	Curraghconway	Church
CO074-060	Curraghconway	Country house
CO086-060	Castletreasure	Country House
CO086-012001-	Castletreasure	Possible Ringfort
CO086-012002-	Castletreasure	Possible Souterrain
CO086-013	Castletreasure	Castle (site of)
CO086-014	Douglas	Ringfort
CO086-100	Grange	Flax Mill
CO086-102	Castletreasure	Country House
CO074-095	Grange	Woollen Mill
CO074-097	Douglas	Graveyard
CO074-098	Douglas	Graveyard
CO074-066	Ballinlough	Standing stone
CO074-089	Maryborough	Country House
CO074-063	Ballinlough	Midden

CO074-051	Ballinure	Ice House
CO074-077	Ballinure	Country house
CO086-107	Curraghconway	Fulacht fia
Co074-102	Spittal-Lands	Grave yard

Table 1: List of archaeological sites within 2km of the proposed development site

2.5 The village of Douglas is depicted on the 1842 OS 6-inch map (Fig. 5) as a sprawling settlement centred around two churches, one catholic and named R.C. Chapel (now St Columba's) and the other protestant and named Church (now St Luke's). Each has its own graveyard. The Church lies on a bend on the west side of a north-south road and its graveyard is shown and named as a small area to the south. Directly across the road, on the other side of the bend there is a roughly rectangular area lined and planted with trees and a watch house is named and depicted on its eastern edge. The R.C. Chapel lies c 100m to the south of this area and it is likely that this was the burial ground to this chapel. Other than the two churches, there are no other structures shown on this road. Approximately 100m to the east and west of the churches, two other north-south roads are lined with structures of varying sizes and shapes. The road to the east forks into two at its southern end and it is at this side of the village that a police barracks, court house and post office are depicted and named. A number of fields separate the two roads and there is a mill pond on the westernmost edge of the westernmost of these fields. The area of the proposed development site is depicted as sections of two fields on the north side of the burial ground with the watch house.

By the turn of the 20th century when the 25-inch OS map was compiled Douglas had grown to a much larger settlement (Fig. 6). There are more structures on both sides of the village and the graveyards have both been extended. The graveyard to St Luke's has extended to both the north and south of the church and the burial ground to the R.C. chapel has been named as such and is larger in size than the tree-planted area of the 1842 OS map. The area of the proposed development remains the same comprising the larger part of two small fields.

2.6 By the mid 20th century, although the village has continued to grow the proposed development site remains undeveloped and now is a single field (Fig. 7). Both the graveyard and burial ground are now labelled 'cemeteries' and the burial ground to the catholic church has been extended to the east.

2.7 As Douglas and the surrounding area have continued to develop and expand, leaving very little trace of its rural roots, the proposed development site has somehow remained undeveloped throughout this period surviving as a small pasture field within the suburban landscape. Aerial images from the late 20th century show the proposed development site as a green field partially overgrown on its eastern side within the suburban environment (Fig. 8).

3.8 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the area as outlined in the excavations database (www.excavations.ie) as follows:

Excavations.ie Reference	**Location**	**Details**
2014:093	Maryborough House, Douglas, Cork	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks for an extension to Maryborough House (CO074-89) was carried out and revealed a large slate dump in the area to the west of the house and a buried sill. No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered during monitoring (Quinn 2014).
2017:259	Barry's Field, Douglas, Cork	Three test trenches were excavated across the site (the current application site). No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed on the site (Purcell 2017).

2020:156	Castletreasure, Douglas, Cork	Archaeological testing was undertaken at a proposed development site in Castletreasure. The testing programme sought to investigate a number of areas of limited archaeological potential identified during a programme of geophysical survey (20R0043). Testing identified a pair of possible post-holes, a hearth and a possible pit. Topsoil was metal detected (20R0087), and aside from modern metal waste and a 1963 penny, no finds were recovered during this survey. In parallel with the testing a licensed metal detection and visual survey of a stream crossing in the northern portion of the site was carried out (20D0019). The survey did not result in the identification of any features or finds of an archaeological nature within the stream or its vicinity (Chambers 2020).
2023:474	Castletreasure, Douglas, Cork	Twenty-two trenches were excavated across the proposed development site following geophysical survey and in advance of the construction of a proposed residential development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified in the trenches (Purcell 2023). During subsequent archaeological monitoring in 2024 several pits were identified at the south of the site a number of which contained cremated bone (Purcell forthcoming).
Ballincurrig, South Douglas Road, Cork	2024:024	Eleven test trenches were excavated across the proposed development site. The majority of the test trenches targeted anomalies that had been identified from a geophysical survey of the site. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified (Looney 2024).

Table 2: Archaeological investigations previously undertaken in the area

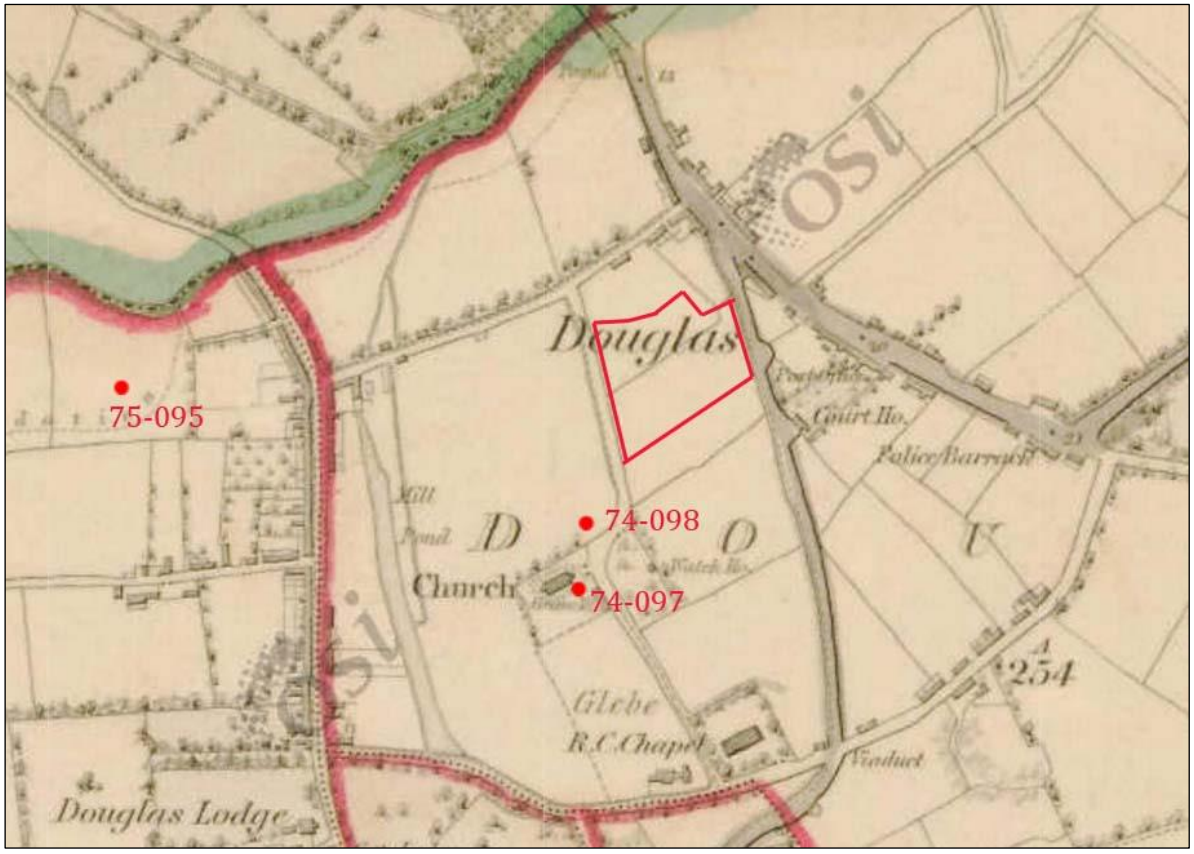


Figure 5: Extract from OS 6-inch map (1842) showing site outline in red (www.archaeology.ie)

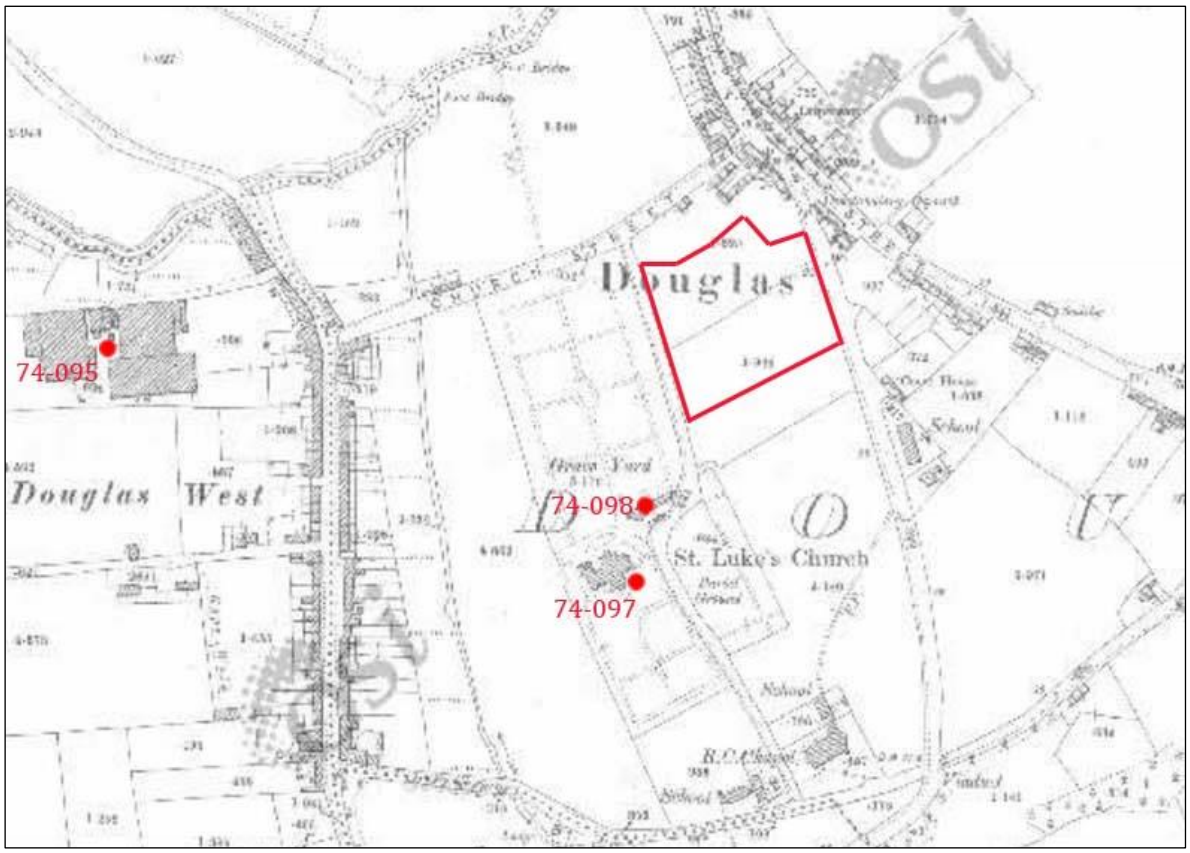


Figure 6: Extract from OS 25-inch map (circa 1900) showing site outline in red (www.archaeology.ie)

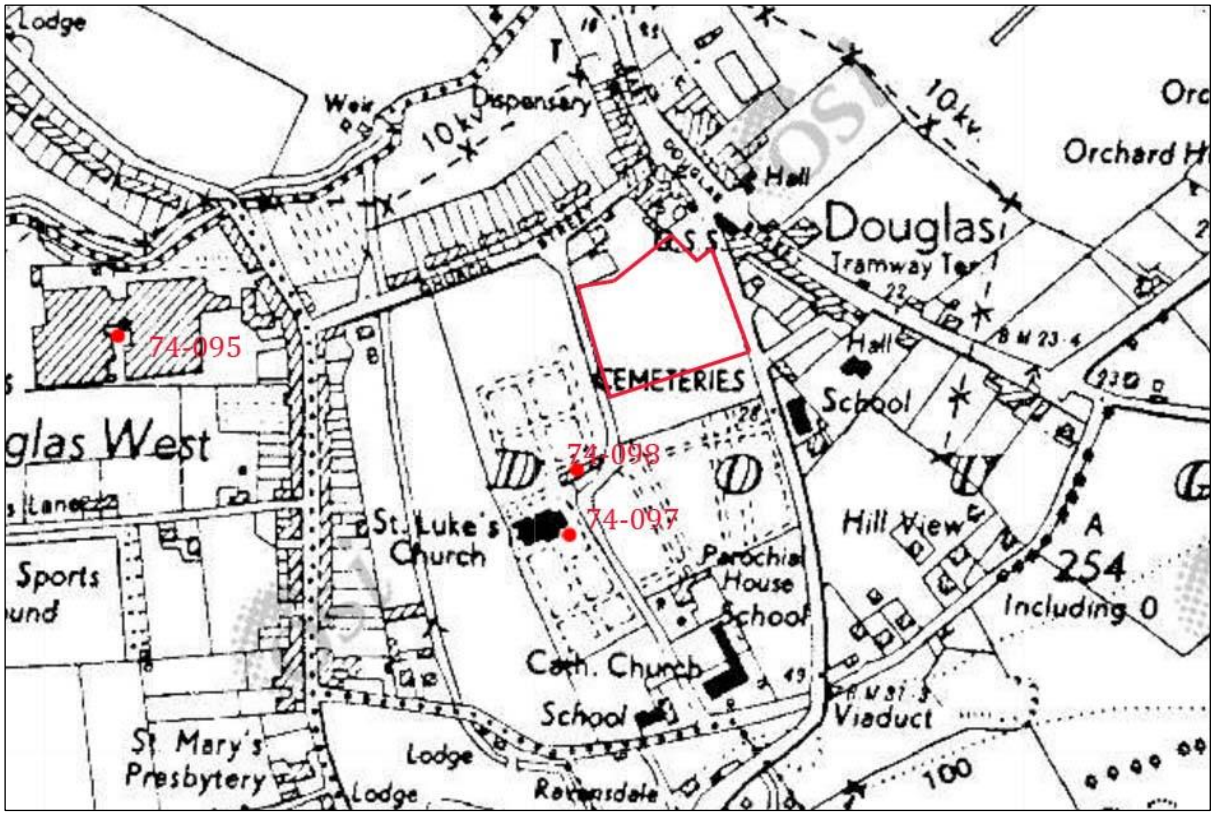


Figure 7: Extract from OS 6-inch map (circa 1940) showing site outline in red (www.archaeology.ie)



Figure 8: Extract from MapGenie Digital 2011-2013 (www.archaeology.ie)

4 Test Trenches

4.1 Three archaeological test trenches were excavated across the proposed development site by the author on the 24th and 25th May 2017 under licence number 17E0200 (Fig. 9). A fourth trench could not be excavated due to the presence of the invasive species Japanese Knotweed and a buffer zone had to be retained around it to prevent further contamination on the site. The soil from the trenches was spread and metal detected under licence number 17R0074. The three trenches were oriented roughly north-south.

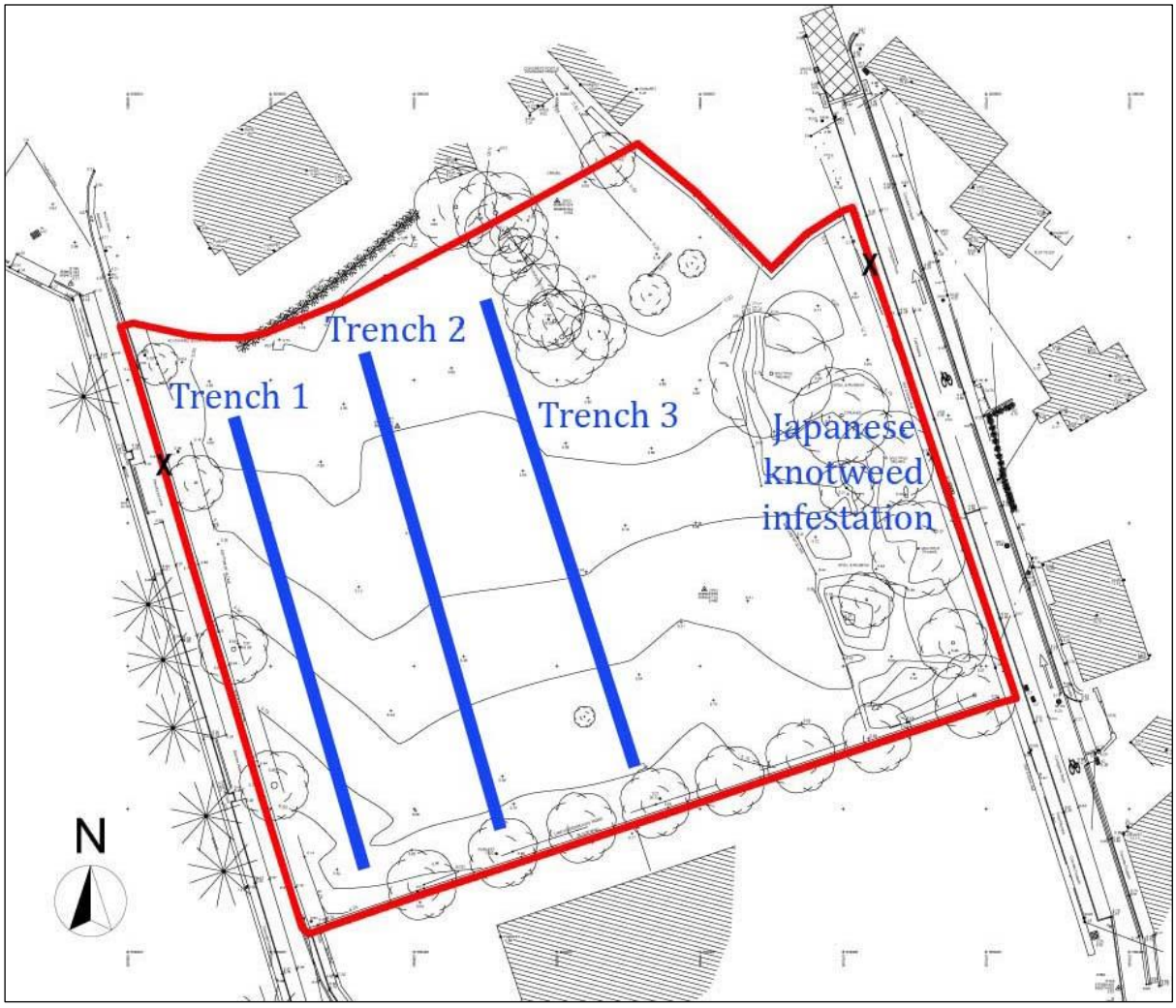


Figure 9: Test trenches excavated across the site

4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 65m long, 1.35m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 9 and Plate 1).

Section

0 – 0.35m Topsoil

0.35 – 0.56m Mid-brown loamy clay which is slightly gritty/sandy

0.56 – 0.7m Mid-orange sandy stoney clay

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south

4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 72m long, 1.35m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 9 and Plate 2).

Section

0 – 0.45m Topsoil

0.45 – 0.58m Mid-brown loamy clay which is slightly gritty/sandy

0.58 – 0.7m Mid-orange brown sandy stoney clay

The topsoil was very deep at the northern end of the trench but became shallower at the southern end, reaching a depth of 0.25m. At the southern end a lead pipe (approximately 0.1m diameter) was revealed running east-west across the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in the trench.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north

4.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 75m long, 1.35m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 9 and Plates 3).

Section

0 – 0.45m Topsoil

0.45 – 0.65m Mid-brown loamy clay which is slightly gritty/sandy

0.65 – 0.8m Mid-orange-brown sandy stoney clay, particularly stoney at the southern end of the trench

As in Trench 2, the topsoil was very deep at the northern end and became shallower at the southern end. No features of archaeological significance were revealed in the trench.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north

4.5 Three trenches were excavated across the site. The deposits revealed in the three were quite consistent. Topsoil was quite deep, particularly at the northern end of the site. Below this mid-brown slightly gritty/sandy loamy clay was revealed and below this mid-orange brown sandy stoney clay subsoil was revealed. No features or finds of archaeological significance were found.

4.6 All material from the trenches was metal detected under licence No 17R0074 no finds of archaeological significance were identified,

5 Conclusion

5.1 It is proposed to construct a Large-Scale Residential Development at Carrigaline Road and Churchyard Lane, Douglas, Cork, comprising the construction of 124 no. residential apartments, a cafe unit and two office units and all associated site works on the site. The proposed development will require largescale ground reduction across the site.

5.2 Three archaeological test trenches were excavated under licence across the proposed development site in May 2017. The deposits in the trenches were very similar throughout and no features or finds of archaeological potential were revealed. The eastern edge of the site could not be investigated due to the presence of the invasive species Japanese Knotweed which required a buffer zone to avoid further contamination of the site. Metal detection of the material excavated from the trench revealed no finds.

5.3 No further archaeological intervention is recommended if development proceeds. All recommendations are subject to the approval of the local authority and the National Monuments Service.

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