

# Archaeological Impact Assessment St. Cuthbert's Park Upgrade Works

Deansrath, Dublin 22

In Support of a Part VIII Planning Application

**Developer: South Dublin County Council**

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## SUMMARY

An Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed upgrade works to St. Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, was prepared to accompany a Part VIII Planning Application by South Dublin County Council. St. Cuthbert's Park is a public amenity space of approximately 12.7 hectares, located within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council. The park contains three Recorded Monuments, the ruin of the medieval parish church and graveyard of Kilmahuddrick, RMP references DU017-038001- and DU017-038002- respectively, and an adjoining medieval moated site DU017-038003-, an enclosed settlement type. The three monuments as entered collectively in the RPS as RPS133. Kilmahuddrick church and graveyard is one of eighteen such sites or known locations of sites in South County Dublin; while the moated site is one of eight to be found across County Dublin.

The proposed works will involve ground disturbance, with the installation of new surface treatments, reordering of the paths and existing sports facilities, new play and recreation facilities, event and performance space, biodiversity enhancements, and improvements in access and movement across the landscape of the park. A key part of the upgrade will be the clearance of vegetation in and around the three Recorded Monuments in the park. This will be done to allow better access for understanding, survey and conservation assessments, to inform future conservation works to the monuments, and to enhance their setting and accessibility.

When the results of the previous archaeological assessments in the park, the extensive services that undoubtedly traverse it, the substantial construction traffic required to deposit the artificial mound on the southern part of the site, and the impact of the general house construction activities in the locality over the years are combined, there is a strong indication that St. Cuthbert's Park, apart from the Recorded Monuments, has seen significant disturbance in the past. The areas of highest archaeological potential are the three monuments. They appear to be relatively unscathed, owing most probably to knowledge of their existence. Archaeological supervision of the proposed vegetation clearance works is required, from planning through to execution.

An archaeologist should be retained as part of the Design Team at detailed design stage for the upgrade works to the park, to further advise on archaeological risk of different elements that they evolve to construction drawings.

The potential for undisturbed, unknown subsurface archaeological material in the park, particularly across an area in excess of 12 hectares, cannot be ruled out. Fulltime archaeological monitoring of the groundworks within the Zone of Archaeological Notification for the three monuments is recommended; in particular the spine track as it passes by the southern extents of the moated site. Subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service (NMS), intermittent monitoring of the remainder of the works across the remainder of the park should be sufficient.

It is recommended that a 'no-dig' approach to the new paths be used, whereby at detailed design stage the paths are designed to minimise digging and the potential for subsurface disturbance.

In terms of specifics:

- All vegetation clearance must be conducted in accordance with best practice, with advice of an archaeologist.
- The graveyard is a place of burial and a specialist osteoarchaeologist must be on standby for the graveyard clearance, should any human remains be encountered to advise, in consultation with the NMS and the National Museum of Ireland;
- Following the careful removal of the vegetation the following actions required are:
  - Update of the Archaeological Assessment of the monuments, with mitigation measures to address the conservation measures required;
  - Conservation engineers condition assessment of the church, and the graveyard, its boundaries, and any monuments or gravemarkers it contains;
  - Creation of a topographic and building survey of the church and graveyard, to support the archaeological and conservation assessments;
  - Regular liaison with the NMS on the results of the assessments, for advice and the securing of any required permissions to enact the conservation measures.
- In the longer term, give the archaeological and historical interest of the three monuments, and the educational and interpretational interests of the community, the following actions are suggested, to be enacted when funding and scheduling allow:
  - Detailed topographic survey of the moated site and possible leat once the vegetation is cleared, to provide an accurate record of the monument, and potentially uncover features that are currently hidden;
  - Archaeological geophysical survey of the moated site, to assess remotely the subsurface potential for archaeological features, to shed light on what the interior of the site was like;
- It is recommended that at all times the educational and academic value of the information gathered be borne in mind.
- Funding support opportunities such as the Community Monuments Fund should be explored.

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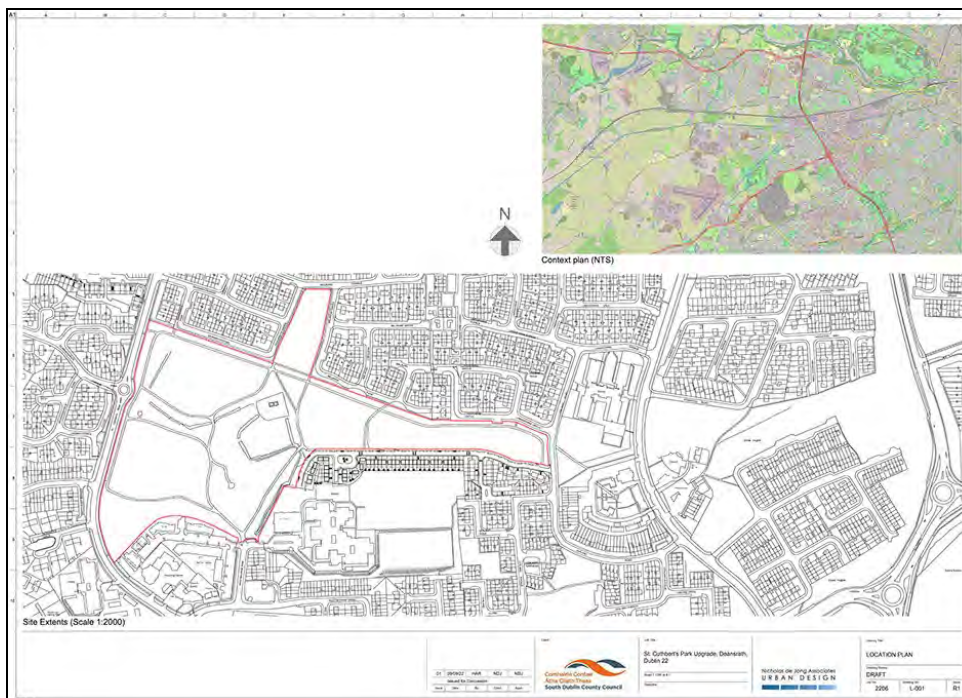
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## 1. Introduction

Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy has prepared this Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed upgrade works to St. Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, to accompany a Part VIII Planning Application by South Dublin County Council (see **Figures 1-3; Drawing 01**).



**Figure 1:** St. Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath. A larger view can be found in **Drawing 01**.

St. Cuthbert's Park in Deansrath is a public amenity space of approximately 12.7 hectares, located within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council. The park is an amenity greenspace for the surrounding community, and contains open grass spaces, a large artificially raised area in the southwest that affords views all-round, home to the local authority provided soccer pitch. The park also contains three Recorded Monuments of archaeological interest – the ruin of the medieval parish church and graveyard of Kilmahuddrick, *Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)* references **DU017-038001-** and **DU017-038002-** respectively, and an adjoining medieval moated site **DU017-038003-**, an enclosed settlement site (see **Figures 4-5**).

The three monuments as entered collectively in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the current *South County Development Plan 2022-2028* as **RPS133**.

South Dublin County Council's intension is to secure Part VIII Planning Permission for upgrade works to the park to improve its amenity to the community. To support this, it is necessary to instigate a maintenance programme of vegetation clearance on the heavily overgrown monuments. The purpose of the vegetation clearance is to allow for a more detailed assessment the monuments, identify the specific conservation issues concerning them, and

guide future conservation, improved access and presentation of the monuments within their setting in the park, and the context of their part in the storey of South County Dublin.

Given the presence of the monuments, and the size of the development area in excess of 12 hectares, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) is appropriate and required to support the Part VIII Planning Application.

This non-intrusive assessment of the park, based on background research and site inspection, was prepared to evaluate the potential for impacts on the archaeological resource, so as to inform the planning process for the proposed upgrade works.

The upgrade works were developed by a multidisciplinary design team, led by Nicholas de Jong Associates, architects.



**Figure 2:** Layout of the proposed upgrade works. A larger view can be found in **Drawing 03.**

## 2. Assessment Methodology

This non-intrusive assessment of the proposed upgrade works and maintenance vegetation clearance activities for St. Cuthbert's Park was conducted through background research into the park and a study area of 750m surrounding it, known archaeological monuments in the locality, previous archaeological assessments, historical resources, and mapping. The research is supported by a detailed site inspection and appraisal of the proposed works. The combined aim of this method is to develop an understanding of the archaeological nature of the site, and the potential for impact on the archaeological resource by the proposed upgrade works, and how to de-risk this through appropriate mitigation.

The sources consulted include the listings of National Monuments, Preservation Orders, Register of Historic Monuments, and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County

Dublin (1998). Historical and Ordnance Survey mapping, and aerial imagery was sourced. The online databases of the National Monuments Service (NMS), and the files of the NMS Archive, and other documentary sources including local histories and antiquarian journals were consulted.

The appraisal incorporates the results of the review of the background research, and site inspection, to form the basis of the impact assessment, and guidance for the recommended mitigation measures.



**Figure 3:** St. Cuthbert's Park outlined in red in this recent aerial view. Source: Google Earth, March 2022.

Note the roughly square shaped form of the tree-lined moated site in the middle, with the church and graveyard to the northeast.

### 3. Proposed Upgrade Works

Pursuant to the requirements of Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, South Dublin County Council proposes to carry out upgrade works to St. Cuthbert's Park.

Full details of the works are contained in the documentation and drawings package prepared for the works to the park. The general plan of the works can be found in **Figure 2** above, and in **Drawing 03** at the rear of this assessment report. The following rational and high level description of the proposed works accompanies the Part VIII Planning application:

*St. Cuthbert's Park is located less than a half a kilometre south of the Grand Canal at Deansrath in the South County Dublin administrative area. The Park area is 12.7 hectares and forms the public open space for the Deansrath, Kilmahuddrick and Bawnogue neighbourhoods. A social housing development at St. Cuthbert's Meadows has recently been completed and overlooks the north-easternmost part of the Park. Deansrath Community College lies to the east and St Ronan's National School to the south.*

Currently the park is largely grassed, with a remnant well-developed hedgerow system and some mature trees surrounding the ruined Church of St Cuthbert's and along the banks of associated drainage channels.

The proposed works are within the curtilage of three Protected Structures - St. Cuthbert's Church (DU017-038001-), the associated graveyard (DU017-038002-), and the moated site (DU017-038003-). The three sites are also collectively entered as one in the Record of Protected Structures, ref RPS133.

The main vehicular maintenance entrance lies to the south off Westbourne Rise. There are a number of pedestrian entrances, fitted with galvanised steel kissing gates. The boundary treatment varies around the park. A high grass mound was created during an upgrade in early 2000's, using inert material from local development sites, providing added interest, shelter and a panoramic viewing point.

Clondalkin Celtic have allocated pitches in the north of the park, with two containers to the south of the pitch for storage/changing. Formal seating is limited to some park benches located near a (modern) stone circle feature in the west of the park. Large pylons and overhead cables extend along the northern boundary, delivering power to Grange Castle Business park.

The park has been subject to anti-social activity such as littering, dumping, illegal use of scramblers and quad bikes and intimidating behaviour. It is failing to meet its potential in terms of amenity, biodiversity and heritage and is not serving the community well in terms of recreational amenity.

A High-Level Taskforce was created to drive local community development and, together with the Local Area Committee, have requested a re-design and upgrade of the park.

Based on comprehensive engagement with community stakeholders, the key Masterplan proposals for the upgrade of the park comprise:

The development will consist of:

- Proposed hard-surfaced primary walking/ cycling route with public lighting; traversing east-west, through the park;
- Proposed hard-surfaced secondary walking/ cycling routes through the park;
- 3 No. Nodal points with seating as required;
- Proposed on-street car parking and pedestrian crossing points (subject to detailed design with SDCC Roads Dept.);
- Proposed vantage point, seating and signage;
- Proposed Teenspace area with equipment, seating and surfacing;
- Proposed outdoor exercise area with calisthenics or similar;
- Proposed natural and equipped playspaces for children;
- Proposed performance/ events area;
- Proposed dogs off-leash area with dog-friendly features;
- Proposed arboretum with edible fruits and nut trees;
- Proposed grass sports pitches;
- Proposed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) with floodlighting;
- Proposed play/exercise trail along the walking / cycling routes;
- Proposed new planting to include: wildflower grassland with drifts of native bulbs; formal avenue trees; informal tree groups; community woodland; informal tree groups with native species; and other planting as required;



- *Vegetation clearance of St Cuthberts Church, Moated Site and Graveyard Site and further assessment of works to conserve the structure as advised; (Monuments of Archaeological Interest and a Protected Structure);*
- *Seating, bicycle parking and signage;*
- *Works to boundaries, accesses and entrances;*
- *All associated landscape design including furniture and planting;*
- *All ancillary works.*

*It is intended that the Masterplan Plan proposals may be delivered in phases, subject to available funding, with priorities identified in conjunction with the High Level Task Force.*

The above listing of works is a high level view of what is proposed, and is subject to review during the Part VIII Planning process, and different scheduling priorities depending on the availability of funding and resources.

What these proposed works will require are part of any initial works will be maintenance works to clear vegetation from in and around the three Recorded Monuments in the park. This will be done to allow better access for understanding, survey and conservation assessments, to inform future conservation works to the monuments, and to enhance their setting and accessibility.

The upgrade works to the park in general will involve ground disturbance, with the installation of new surface treatments, reordering of the existing sports facilities, and improvements in access and movement across the landscape of the park. The works will partially occur within the zones of archaeological notification/potential (ZAP) of the Recorded Monuments. These works will require archaeological mitigation measures to alleviate potential impact on the archaeological resource.

#### **4. Development Control Policies**

##### South Dublin County Council – Archaeology Policy & Objectives

South Dublin County Council's development policies and objectives regarding archaeological heritage, are contained in the still in force *South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028*. The local authorities' policies and objectives apply to the appraisal of the proposed upgrade works to St. Cuthbert's Park and the three Recorded Monuments it contains. The policy and objectives, contained in Chapter 3, Natural, Cultural & Built Heritage, pages 106-108 are:

##### ***Policy NCBH13: Archaeological Heritage***

*Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the Archaeological Heritage of the County and avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.*

**NCBH13 Objective 1:**

*To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.*

**NCB13 Objective 2:**

*To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage including previously unknown sites, features and objects.*

**NCBH13 Objective 3:**

*To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.*

**NCBH13 Objective 4:**

*To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.*

**NCBH13 Objective 5:** *To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.*

The three Recorded Monuments in St. Cuthbert's Park are entered collectively into the Record of Protected Structures in the *South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028*, under reference **RPS133**. Within the plan there is a specific objective relating to the park:

**NCBH19 SLO 2:**

*To prepare a Design Plan for St Cuthbert's Park and to make provision for St. Cuthbert's Church.*

This Part VIII application will form part of the development of a phased Design Plan for St. Cuthbert's Park.

Archaeological Monuments Legislation

The Recorded Monuments in St. Cuthbert's Park are subject to the protection of the *National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)*, as they are entered into the *Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin (RMP)*. Under Section 12(3) of the Act any proposed works to a monument or place entered into the RMP must be notified to the relevant Minister for Heritage (currently the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) at least two months in advance.

In the instance of the Part VIII Planning Application for the proposed upgrade works to the park, this application will be issued to the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and be a de facto notification to the Minister.

Further permissions will be required of the Minister if the Part VIII permission is successfully granted, in particular works that involve ground disturbances. In that instance, either an Excavation Licence granted under Section 26 of the Act, or a Ministerial Consent granted under Section 14 of the Act, will be required. Both of these mechanisms involved liaison with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, agents for the Minister. The type of permission required will be determined by the liaison; and will require the submission of detailed method statements and mitigation measures to address the safeguarding of the archaeological resource and adherence to archaeological best practices.

## 5. Context, Setting & Archaeological Environment

St. Cuthbert's Park straddles three historic townlands, Kilmahuddrick, Deansrath and Clonburris Great; with the majority of the parkland contained in Kilmahuddrick. The townlands of Deansrath and Clonburris Great are situated in the parish of Clondalkin, and Kilmahuddrick is contained in Kilmahuddrick parish (the smallest in metropolitan Dublin); all are in the barony of Newcastle, county of Dublin.

The park gained its name from the ruined medieval parish church of Kilmahuddrick (RMP - DU017-038-----), located within the park, which is dedicated to St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c.634-687). The church is approximately 2km west of the medieval settlement of Clondalkin (DU017-041-----), and circa. 10km from the centre of the historic city of Dublin (DU018-020-----).

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century topographer Samuel Lewis writes this of the parish of Kilmahuddrick (Lewis, 1837):

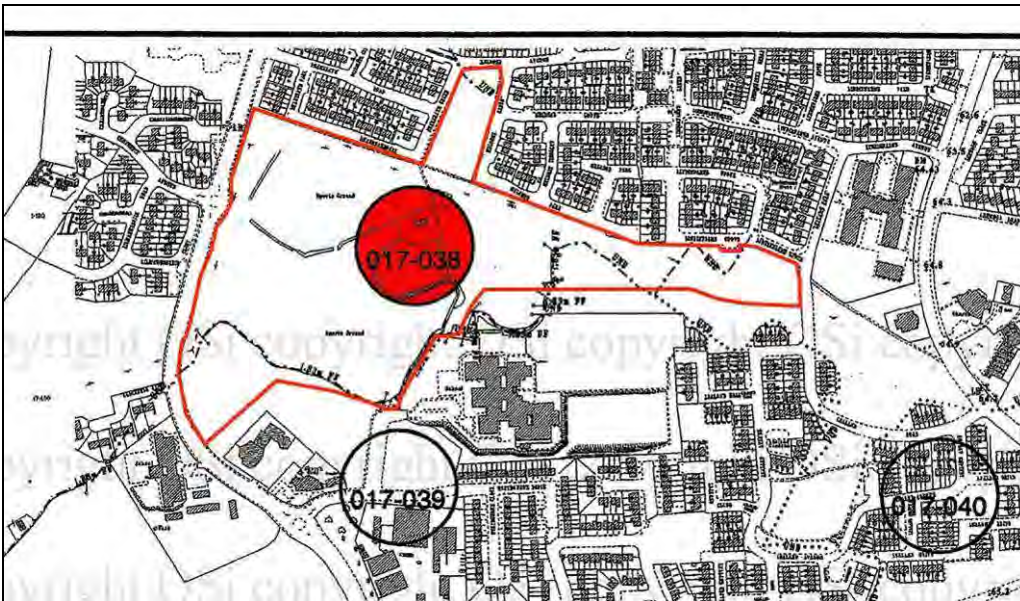
*KILMAHUDDRICK, a parish, in the barony of UPPER CROSS, county of DUBLIN, and province of LEINSTER, 5 miles (S. W.) from Dublin. It is a chapelry, in the diocese of Dublin, forming part of the union of Clondalkin: the tithes amount to £16. 13. 4. In the R. C. divisions it forms part of the union or district of Lucan. There are some remains of the old church, and of a castle at Grange.*

The medieval church Kilmahuddrick is one of eighteen surviving or known examples located in southwest Co. Dublin (Ní Mharcaigh 1997; Murphy & Potterton 2010, 214-216). An enquiry of the Placename Database of Ireland (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/17351/> - accessed 22/08/2022) found that its antecedent name of *Kilmecoldris, Ecclesia de* was known from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The *Kil* element of the name comes the Anglicised *Cill*, the Irish for a monastic cell or church. In the instance of Kilmahuddrick the *madhuddrick* element derives from *Mochuidbhricht*, with the *mo* meaning 'my' and *Cuidbhricht* is an Irish form of Cuthbert (Doyle et al. 2005, 45).

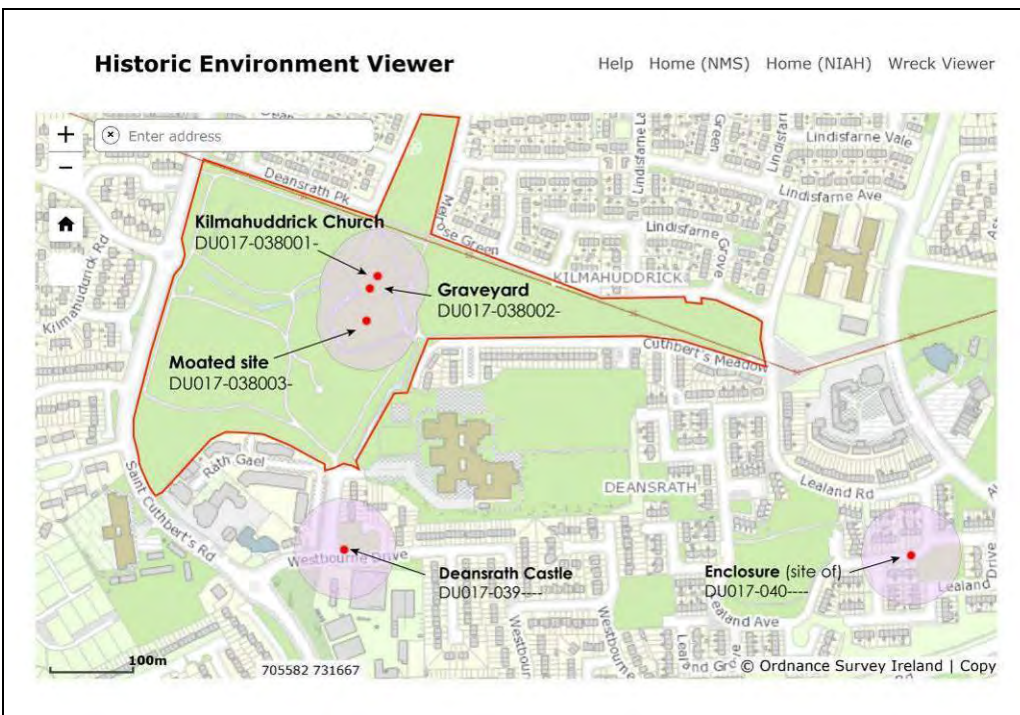
St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne was a much revered and popular saint in the early church in medieval England, and revered for his piety, diligence and obedience. One historical tradition holds that he was born the son of an Irish king, while others maintain that he was born either in Melrose in Scotland or Northumbria in England.

Much of the early church in northern England and Scotland owes its origin to Irish missionary monks; and Lindisfarne was founded by St. *Aodhán* (anglicised to Aidan) and his fellow monks around 635 (Ó Riain 2011, 74). St. Cuthbert was one of Lindisfarne's most prominent saints, trained in the Irish monastic ways, who over time became a revered touchstone saint for all of the church traditions across Ireland, Scotland and England (Brown, 2014, 233). A cult of veneration for St. Cuthbert developed after his death, and became popular the Irish Church through interactions with the English Church sometime in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Known as the 'Cult of the Saint's', the veneration of saintly women and men was a key tenet in early Christianity and remained widespread until the Reformation, when it became a

predominantly Catholic Church practise. The dedication of Kilmahuddrick church to St. Cuthbert is probably as a result of this veneration.



**Figure 4:** Extract the Dublin County Record of Monuments & Places, 1998, Sheet 017, with the extents of St. Cuthbert's Park outlined in red, and the Zone of Notification of the Recorded Monuments shaded.



**Figure 5:** Annotated screengrab of the National Monuments Service's online *Historic Environment Viewer*, showing the ZAP surrounding the three Recorded Monuments within St. Cuthbert's Park.

Further information can be found in **Drawing 03**.

In 1898 Mc Dix (1898, 165-66 – abridged version from Bolton n.d., 5) described the church as:

*Lewis stated in 1837, that there were then existing some remains of this old church, but an examination shows that the remains are considerable. The only part entirely gone is the roof ... the arch measures 10 feet from the base of one jamb to the other, and is pitched high and pointed. The belfry is directly over it, with holes for two, or perhaps three bells. The thick ivy renders exact observation impossible ... Immediately within the chancel, opposite one each other, one in the north wall and one in the south, are wide recesses, with a low arch, a little pointed, but that in the south wall is broken down .. The whole chancel is very much plastered ... The part of this church which has suffered the most is the south wall, at each side of the chancel arch, the top of the window in the nave being gone ... The nave is built against the chancel,*

*not into it. The ivy seems very old on the north wall. There is no cross or font remaining, and the tombstones are not old; one bore the date 1805.*

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the parish of Kilmahuddrick was in the ownership of Cistercians of St. Mary's Abbey in Dublin; having been transferred by deed in 1186 by a Master Osbertus of Clondalkin (Ball 1906, 73-74). With this the parish became part of a larger ecclesiastical estate belonging to St. Mary's Abbey and extending to approximately 17,000 acres across Dublin and Ireland (Bolton n.d., 5). In 1220 the church was in the gift of the Archbishop of Dublin; but the small parish was insufficient to support itself, and in 1540 was united with the parish of Clondalkin (Ball 1906, 73-74). It was after this that the church appears to have been substantially abandoned (Ronan 1941, 32).

The church is enclosed by an associated graveyard, RMP DU017-038002-; and south of the ecclesiastical monuments is the adjoining moated site DU017-038003-.

### Archaeological Survey of Ireland Entries

All three sites are described in the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland's* online database as follows (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> – accessed 22/08/2022):

#### **Church – DU017-038001-**

*Situated in the NE corner of a rectangular disused graveyard close to Deansrath Estate. This is a medieval parish church which served the smallest parish in the county. It is dedicated to St. Cuthbert of Lindesfarne and was held by St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin from 1186 until 1540 when it was re-united with Clondalkin (Ball 1940, 182-183). Comprises a nave and chancel divided by a two-centred chancel arch. Built of undressed random rubble masonry. Entrance is in the W gable through a round arched doorway. There is a rectangular window above the doorway. The door is rebated with draw bar holes. The nave (dims. L 6.60m, Wth 5.10m, wall Wth 0.90m) is lit by narrow slit opes on W and S side, there is a square opening in N wall and a wall press in the S wall. A double bellcote rises above the chancel arch. The chancel (dims. L 5.85m, Wth 5.05m narrowing to 4.42m) is lit by plain pointed lights. The E window is a pointed light in deep widely splayed embrasure, which has a stepped feature. There is a recess under the sill of the E window and on S wall of chancel and a low aumbrey at S end of E wall (Mc Dix 1898, 165-166). To the S of the graveyard is a possible moated site (DU017-038001-; see Ní Mharcaigh 1977, 270-271).*

#### **Graveyard - DU017-038002-**

*Located in a flat, low-lying area. This is a rectangular disused graveyard close to Deansrath Estate. Remains of a medieval parish church (DU017-038001-) stand in the NE corner of the graveyard. Very few gravestones remain visible. It contains some 19th century memorials. Attached to the S side of the graveyard is a possible moated site (DU017-038003-).*

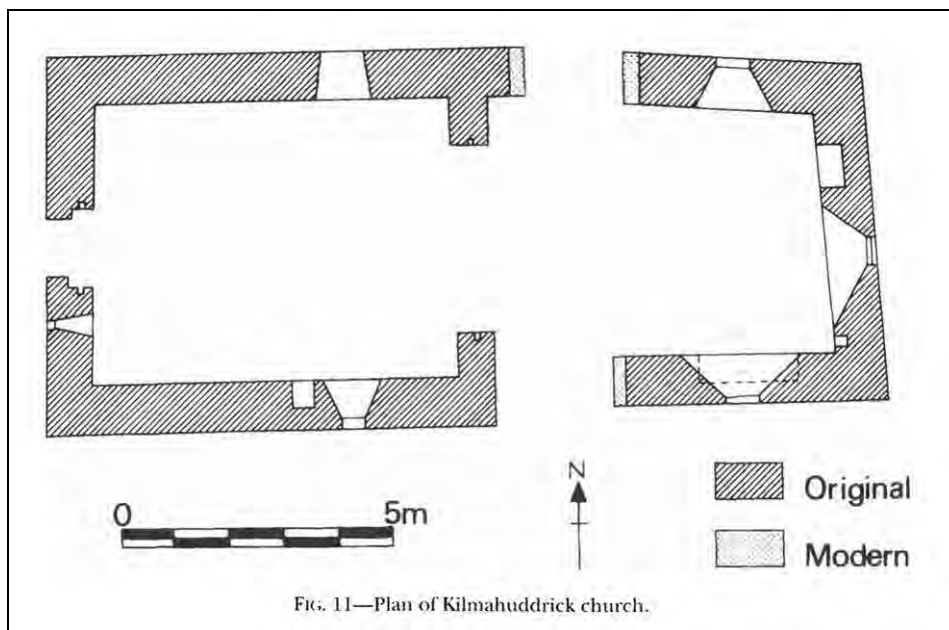
#### **Moated Site - DU017-038003-**

*Located in flat, low-lying land attached to the S side of Kilmahuddrick graveyard (DU017-038002-). A roughly rectangular enclosure (int. dims. L 95m; Wth 50m) which is defined by a flat-topped earthen bank (Wth 4.1m; H 0.5m) and wide outer fosse (Wth 3.5m; D 2.1m). There is a causeway across the fosse in the NE and a corresponding break in the enclosing bank.*

## The Church

The standing remains of the stone-built Kilmahuddrick church are probably a medieval replacement of an initial timber, and then later stone church on this site; and in its current form may date from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century. The current ruined church is rectangular in form, divided by a central chancel arch with double-bellcote above. This division forms the nave to the west and the chancel to the east. The current overgrown state of the monument means that we are reliant on other surveys and inspections of the church. These sources include 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarians (Mc Dix 1898; Ball 1906), site inspection visits by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* (Wheeler 1978; Moore 1986), modern academics (Ní Mharcaigh 1997), other surveys commissioned by South Dublin County Council (Bolton n.d.), and incidental images collated from an internet trawl.

Máirín Ní Mharcaigh's article on the medieval churches of southwest County Dublin is useful in that it contains a measured ground plan of the church (**Figure 6**), and three photographic images of the upstanding remains without the heavy vegetation that is present today.



**Figure 6:** An initial phased ground plan of Kilmahuddrick church, which interprets the church as being single-phase build of nave and chancel, with later concrete rebuilding of end-walls.

Source: Ní Mharcaigh 1997, 285.



Pt. XV—Kilmahuddrick church from the north-east.



Pt. XVI—Kilmahuddrick church, chancel arch from the east.



Pt. XVII—Kilmahuddrick church from the south-east.

**Figure 7:** Photographs of Kilmahuddrick church, from Ní Mharcaigh 1997, 293.

*Plate XV* shows the relatively intact fabric of the chancel end of the church.

*Plate XVI* looks through the chancel arch towards the nave.

*Plate XVII* shows the south of the church, illustrating the two parts to the structure; the nave to the left and chancel to the right. Note the simple form of the door in the gable wall of the nave, and the tall and robust double bellcote on top of the chancel arch gable that divides the church. Also, note the loss of fabric from the gable end of the Nave.



Ní Mharcaigh's (1997, 270-271) detailed inspection of the church fabric suggests that in more recent times there have been minor alterations and changes to the church fabric, even since the site inspection by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* in 1978 (Wheeler 1978). Bolton's conservation assessment builds on the earlier inspections, and provides detail on the condition of the church fabric and makes suggestions as to vegetation clearance strategies, to aid in better deciphering the monument and the conservation of it (Bolton n.d., 32-37).



**Figure 8:** View of Kilmahuddrick church from the southwest, by Patrick Healy, 1988.

Source: South Dublin County Libraries, reference:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10599/8064>



**Figure 9:** View of Kilmahuddrick church from the northwest, photographer unknown, date unknown.

Note the loss of fabric from the gable of the nave, and the view provided of the nave door.

Internet source:

<https://mapio.net/pic/p-40462865/>

Two useful photographic images (**Figures 8-9**) show the church free of vegetation. The 2009 photograph (**Figure 9**) provides a good view of the gable end of the nave, and the Romanesque-style rounded arch head to the door. If the door is of Romanesque date, then the nave of the church may date from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Better access to these features as part of the maintenance works to clear the vegetation will provide for a greater understanding of the church.

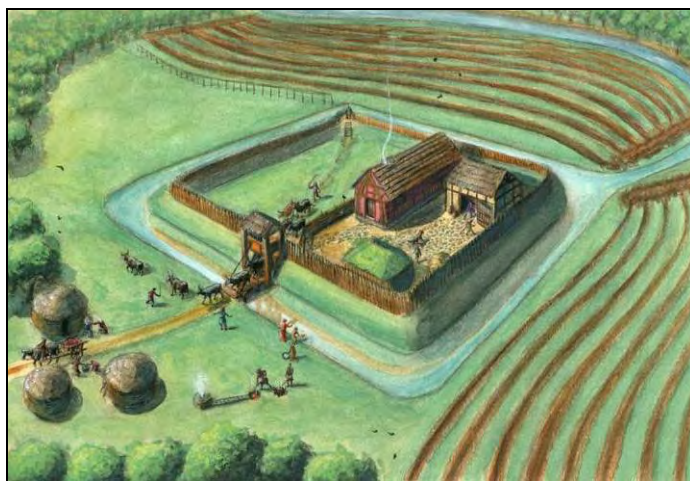
### The Graveyard

The surrounding rectangular graveyard is a feature typical of medieval rural parish churches. Its ground level is raised in the order of 0.5m above the level of the surrounding park to the west, north and east. As with the church, the graveyard is very overgrown, although some grave markers are visible, as found during the site inspection (see the **Site Inspection & Appraisal** below). The previous surveys all remarked on the presence of grave-markers, with those with visible dates being of 19<sup>th</sup> century origin, suggesting that the graveyard was an active place of burial from the closure of the church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century into more recent times.

### The Moated Site

Moated sites are enclosed settlements of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, associated predominately with the Anglo-Normans. Rectangular or square in shape and surrounded by a wide and deep ditch or moat with an internal bank made from the upcast from its digging, the outer moat was designed to be filled with water. The water would have been fed by a diverted water source, via an artificial channel called a leat.

An enquiry of the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland's* online database found that the Kilmahuddrick moated site is one of eight to be found in County Dublin; with half of that number in South County Dublin.



**Figure 10:** Reconstruction drawing of a moated site, based on archaeological evidence, by illustrator J. G. O'Donoghue. Copyright acknowledged.

Note the water filled moat, and the leat feeding it from the top right.

The location of the moated site next to the church site may not be coincidental, as these site-types may have been built as a response to a threat to the Anglo-Norman Colony in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century, from a resurgent native Irish population (O'Sullivan & Downey 2006, 36); particularly in the more peripheral/frontier areas such as Kilmahuddrick.

At Kilmahuddrick, to the immediate west of the monument, an approximately 200m long run of an angled ditch, tree-lined, approximately 4-5m wide and 1.5m deep, may be the leat that brought water to the moat (see the **Site Inspection & Appraisal** below). Ní Mharcaigh's (1997, 270-271) did note...*The remains of steep banks and a deep gapped fosse around the*

edge of the playing fields to the south and west suggest that a larger area was once enclosed, but did not readily recognise its potential to be a leat.

Unfortunately, a Google Earth view of the park from July 2019 (see **Figure 20** below) shows that a significant run of the tree-lined ditch appears to have been scrubbed-out, perhaps leading to infilling of part of the possible leat.

#### Known Archaeological Monuments Within 750m

The following **Table A** contains a listing of the five other known monuments and sites, in addition to the three monuments within that park, that can be found within a 750m radius of St. Cuthbert's Park; as garnered from the the National Monument Service/*Archaeological Survey of Ireland* database ( <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>).

**Table A:** Recorded Monuments within 750m of St. Cuthbert's Park.

RMP No.	Classification	Townland	ASI Description
DU017-035----	Enclosure	Clonburris Little	In field of rough pasture bordering the canal. An aerial photograph (FSI 1971/224-6) shows a horseshoe-shaped enclosure. No visible at ground level.
DU017-039----	Castle - tower house	Deansrath	Situated in flat ground near the roadside. All that survives of Deansrath Castle is portion of a stair tower, which rises to two storeys with a partially vaulted over ground floor. This is built of mortared ashlar blocks of limestone. This appears to be part of a gatehouse shown in a drawing by Beranger in 1773 (Harbison 1998, 166-167). It was part of a larger castle complex described by Austin Cooper in the eighteenth century which was entered through and defended by a deep enclosing fosse (Price 1942, 38-39). The Dean of St. Patrick was proprietor in 1641 (Simington 1945, 307). By 1656 it is described as the 'stump of a castle' (op cit, 292, see Mc Dix, 1897, XXI, 179; Healy 1974, 22; Ball 1906, 112, 117).
DU017-040----	Enclosure	Bawnoges	An aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 224/5/6) shows traces of an enclosure which appears to be defined by a low bank (dims. L 30m; Wth 18m). Not visible at ground level.
DU017-080----	Barrow - ring-barrow	Kilmahuddrick	Geo-physical survey and test trenching in 2000 revealed a ring barrow. This was located in a slightly elevated position. It comprises a ditch (Wth 2.5m, D 1.6m) which encloses a maximum area of 13m. Fragments of a human skull was found in the upper fill of the ditch. A 'cist-like structure' was exposed in the northern quadrant of the ditch. Cremated bone associated with Early Bronze Age pottery and a bead were found within the interior of the enclosing ditch. Soil samples from the ditch contained remains of barley, wheat, oats and evidence for hazel, haw and sloe (Doyle 2002, 75-6).
DU017-084----	Fulacht fia	Nangor	Monitoring of topsoil-stripping in 2000 revealed the remains of a small fulacht fiadh. This consisted of a small pit or trough, a spread of heat-cracked stone and a linear feature to the south-west of the trough. The pit/trough consisted of a subcircular cut into natural, 0.56m by 1.25m. This spread measured 1.92m north-south x 1.18m with a maximum depth of 0.05m. Approximately 6m to the west of the spread a linear gully feature was revealed. This gully consisted of a cut into natural boulder clay measuring 2.57m north-south x 0.28-0.54m. This had a depth of 0.16m with sharply sloping sides and a flat base. The cut was filled with a moderately compact, mid-brown clay containing frequent pieces of oxidised clay and occasional flecks of charcoal. Infrequent fragments of burnt bone were noted in the fill (Doyle, 2001)

## Archaeological Investigations in St. Cuthbert's Park

As part of the development of the recent Cuthbert's Meadow housing scheme, which forms part of the southern boundary of the park and was once part of the parklands, a programme of pre-development geophysical survey (Leigh 2017), follow-up archaeological test trenching (Walsh 2018), and subsequent monitoring of development works (Nelis 2019) were conducted. The three monuments in the park were not directly assessed. The summary results of these activities are contained in **Table B** below. The summaries are collated from the Excavations database (<https://excavations.ie> - accessed 22/08/2022). In addition to the footprint of the Cuthbert's Meadow development, a corridor along the western side of the park, parallel to Saint Cuthbert's Road, was also surveyed and test-trenched.

In brief, these appraisals did not uncover any features or artefacts of archaeological interest in the areas investigated, and concluded that there has been significant disturbance of the parkland assessed, due to the historic housing developments in the area.

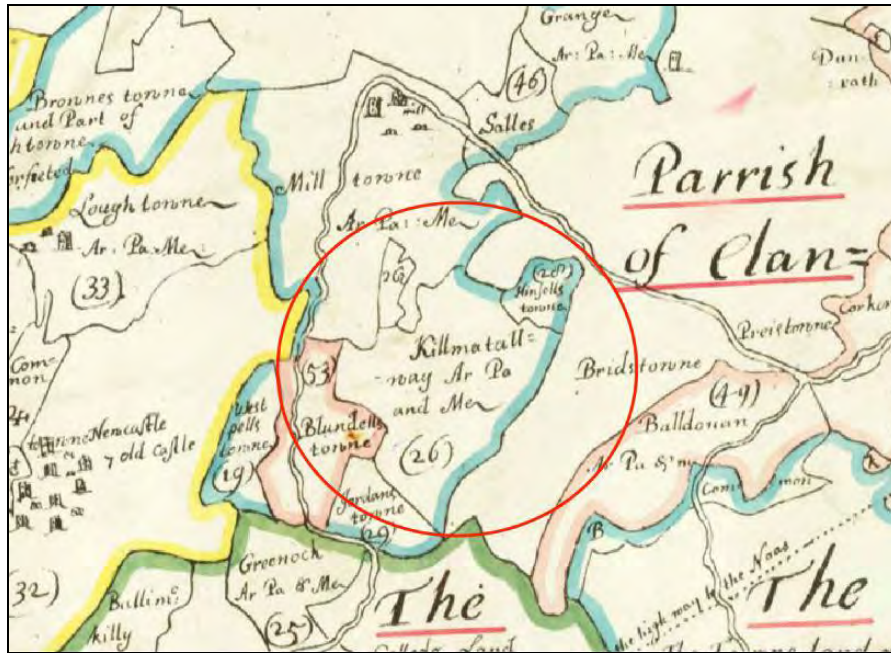
**Table B:** Summaries of the investigations conducted as part of the Cuthbert's Meadow development.

Licence/Reference	Summary Findings
17R0080	<p><i>Summary - A magnetically weak curvilinear trend was detected in Area 1 [Housing Development Footprint]. It is possible that this represents the remains of a ditch-type feature. However, magnetic disturbance is dominant here and it is equally possible that the faint trend results from modern activity.</i></p> <p><i>The data sets are significantly affected by modern magnetic disturbance. Although no clear responses of potential archaeological interest were recorded, the magnetic disturbance from modern soils, landscaping and litter, may mask any subtle responses that may be present. The magnetic disturbance has hindered the effectiveness of the geophysical survey.</i></p>
17E0293/2017:367	<p><i>Summary – Testing was undertaken at the site of a proposed development of social housing, at St Cuthbert's Park, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. The assessment followed on from a geophysical survey of the development area, which was carried out by Joanna Leigh under licence 17R0080. There are no recorded monuments located within the development area, however three recorded monuments are located within the park. These consist of a church, graveyard and moated site (DU017-038001-3).</i></p> <p><i>Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the testing. Large portions of the area tested were found to comprise of 'made-ground' and were heavily disturbed by services and former groundworks presumably undertaken during the construction of the adjacent housing estates.</i></p>
18E0600/2019:061	<p><i>Summary - Development involved construction of a 63-unit infill housing project on undeveloped land at St Cuthbert's Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.</i></p> <p><i>Extensive test trenching, carried out by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. prior to groundworks commencing on site, revealed up to 0.7m of made ground across most of the development area, with the exception of the western end close to the ruins of St Cuthbert's church (DU017-038001), graveyard (DU017-038002) and moated site (DU017-038003). No archaeological features or artefacts were identified as a result of carrying out the test trenching.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring programme confirmed the findings of the test trenching exercise, and uncovered no features or artefacts of archaeological interest.</i></p>

## Historic Mapping Sources

The Down Survey mapping of circa. 1654, does not include the parish of Kilmahuddrick, reinforcing the ruin and abandonment of the church at that time. Had it been in use, it

would have been recorded. The moated is not recorded. Kilmahuddrick appears to have been absorbed into the general extent of the parish of Killmatallway (see **Figure 11**).

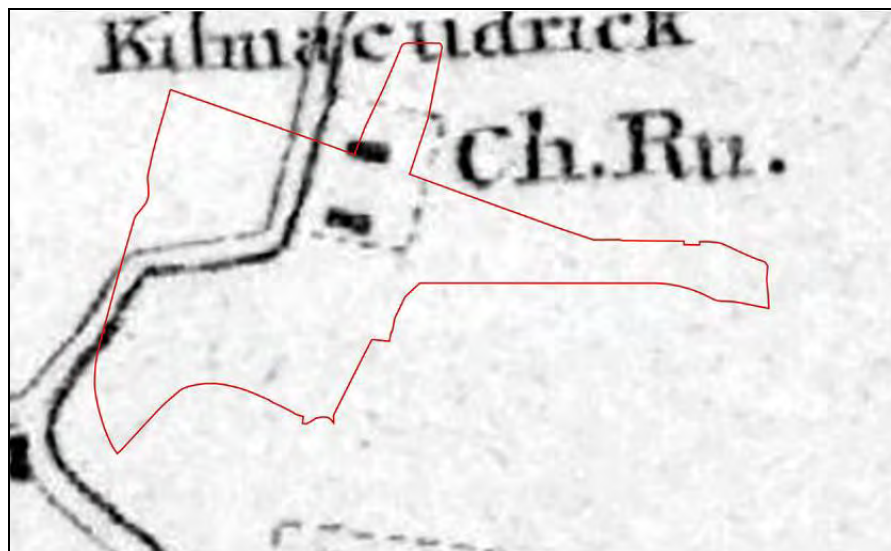


**Figure 11:** Extract from the Down Survey map of the Barony of Newcastle, with the parish of Killmatallway circled.



**Figure 12:** Extract from Rocque's Actual Survey of County Dublin, 1760.

The church is shown as a ruin.

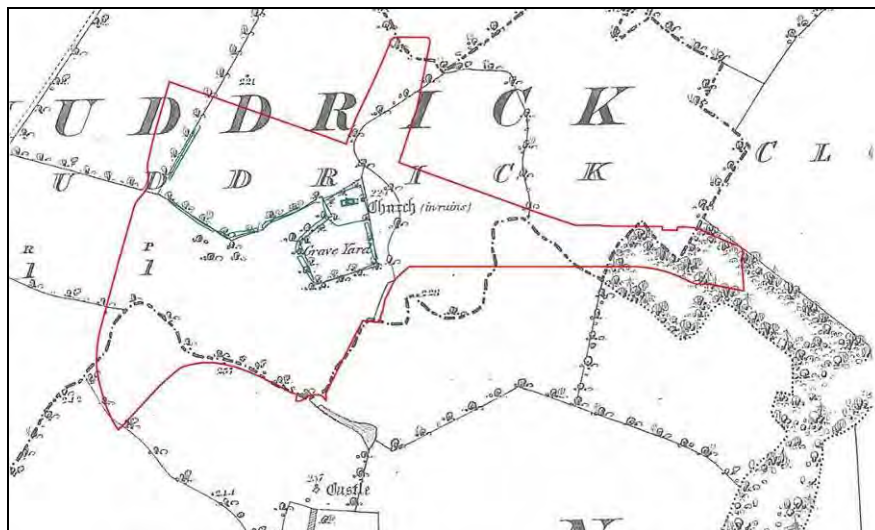


**Figure 13:** Extract from the John Taylor's Map of the environs of Dublin, 1816.



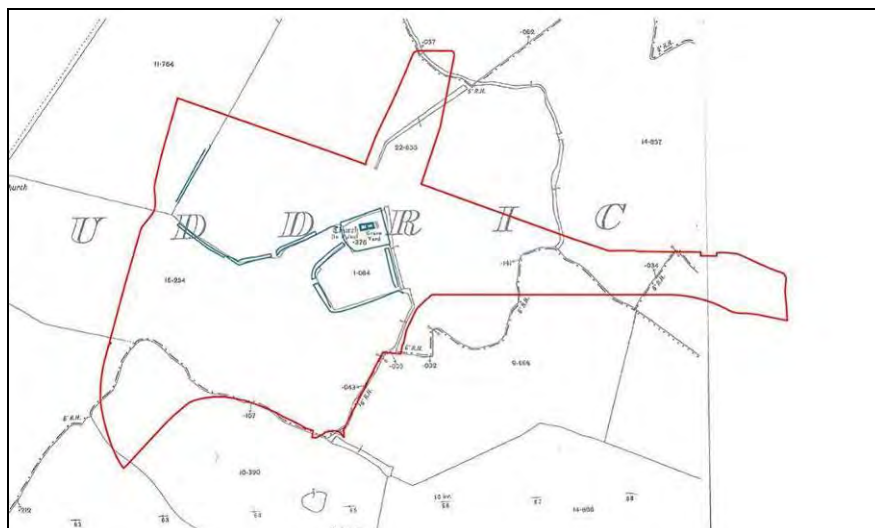
**Figure 14:** Extract from the William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821.

The church is labelled as a ruin. The meandering line of a watercourse is shown running north to south, passed the eastern side of the graveyard. Could this be a water source to the leat to the moated site?



**Figure 15:** Extract from the historic Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 First Edition Dublin Sheet 017, 1843. NTS.

The church and graveyard are shown, along with the moated site, which is interpreted by the cartographers as the graveyard. It also records the ditch/field boundary running westward that may be the leat.



**Figure 16:** Extract from the historic Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping, Dublin Sheet 017-15, 1940. NTS.

The three monuments are recorded, with the moated site and the possible leat well defined. A break in the western side of the moat may indicate an entrance.

## Aerial Photographic Sources

As part of this appraisal, aerial imagery for St. Cuthbert's Park was sourced, through the online Ordnance Survey (<http://map.geoheive.ie/>), Google Earth, Cambridge University Aerial Photographs (<https://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/search/>), and the South County Dublin Libraries Source Digital Archive (<https://source.southdublinlibraries.ie/>). The inspection of aerial imagery did not reveal any evidence for archaeological remains, surface or subsurface in the park, other than the three monuments and the possible leat to the moat.

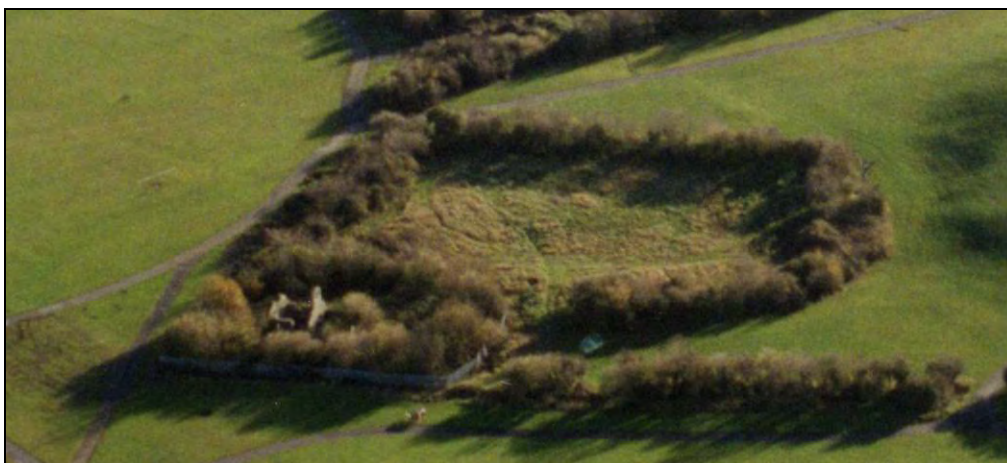


**Figure 17:** Annotated oblique aerial view, image reference 2009-09-07T14:41:22Z, of St. Cuthbert's Park, looking southeast.

The monuments and the leat are indicated; and the artificial mound outlined in red.

Source: South Dublin County Libraires -

<https://hdl.handle.net/10599/892>



**Figure 18:** Enlargement from image 2009-09-07T14:41:22Z, showing the church and graveyard.



**Figure 19:** Extract from image 2009-09-07T14:42:12Z, showing the monuments looking west.

Source: South Dublin County Libraires -

<https://hdl.handle.net/10599/906>

The Google Earth step-back capability to review historical imagery does record the development works associated with Cuthbert's Meadow, showing that the narrow rectangular part of the park shows overall disturbance during construction (**Figure 20**).



**Figure 20:** St. Cuthbert's Park aerial view, Google Earth, July 2019.

Note the level of ground disturbance caused by the construction works for Cuthbert's Meadow, with the park used as a contractor's compound.

Note in blue to the west of the monuments, the possible leat or the ditch/field boundary that marked it has been removed as evidenced by the scarring to the surface.

### Synopsis of Background Analysis

The historical, cartographic and archaeological evidence confirms the presence of three Recorded Monuments within the confines of St. Cuthbert's Park. Kilmahuddrick church and graveyard is one of eighteen such sites or known locations of sites in South County Dublin; while the moated site is one of eight to be found across County Dublin.

Dedicated to St. Cuthbert, the upstanding church ruin in its latest building phase is probably late medieval, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century, in origin; although the possible Romanesque-style door in the gable of the nave suggests that that part of the church may be earlier. The church typical of small rural medieval parish churches. The existing church probably replaced or modified an earlier stone church, which in turn had possibly replaced a timber church associated with the earliest ecclesiastical foundation here in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

The positioning of the moated site next to the parish church is interesting, and future archaeological study of the site may expand on this relationship.

When the results of the previous archaeological assessments of the park, the extensive services that undoubtedly traverse it, the substantial construction traffic across the site required to deposit the artificial mound of surplus material in the southern part of the site, and the impact of the general house construction activities in the locality over the years (as evidenced in **Figure 20**) are combined, there is a strong indication that St. Cuthbert's Park has seen significant disturbance in the past. The areas of highest archaeological potential



are the three Recorded Monuments; as they appear to be relatively unscathed, owing most probably to knowledge of their existence. However, the potential for undisturbed, unknown subsurface archaeological material in the park, particularly in an area of in excess of 12 hectares, cannot be ruled out.

## 6. Site Inspection & Appraisal

As part of this assessment, a walkover of St. Cuthbert's Park was conducted in bright weather conditions on the 09/08/2022. Kilmahuddrick church and graveyard was inspected, although it remains heavily overgrown. The moated site was more accessible. The following photographic essay records the inspection.

St. Cuthbert's Park in the main is a roughly rectangular-shaped site, orientated north to south, with a long, narrow projection to the east. A small rectangular area to the north of the park, between Deansrath Park and Melrose Green, also forms part of the parkland. Saint Cuthbert's Road forms the western boundary of the park, with the remainder surrounded by mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing developments (see **Figure 3** and **Drawings 1-2**).



**Photograph 1:** St. Cuthbert's Park, viewed from the northwest corner. To the rear, left is the complex of archaeological monuments, middle rear is the artificial mound created by construction stockpiling, foreground middle is the location of the soccer pitch, and left foreground is the northward return of the tree-lined ditch that may fossilise the leat for the moated site.

Overall, the park is predominately a flat expanse of grassed parkland, apart from the approximately 10m high artificial mound that dominates the southern part. The mound is 230m east to west by 115m north to south, and has a modern origin; the result of stockpiling of excavated materials overtime, during the historic development of the surrounding housing developments in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The three archaeological monuments are located in the middle of the park, with the church and graveyard, largely obscured by vegetation, encompassing an area of 0.2 hectares. The ground level inside the graveyard is higher than that of the parkland, on average 0.5m. It is heavily overgrown with tree saplings, grass and scrubs. Some rough paths pass through the graveyard, and give access to the church.



**Photograph 2:** View from the top of the artificial mound, looking north, towards the moated site, with the church and graveyard beyond.



**Photograph 3:** View from the west towards the moated site, with the church and graveyard under the tree cover to the left (north).



**Photograph 4:** View from the north towards the church and graveyard under the tree cover. Note the bellcote of the church in the middle.



**Photograph 5:** View from the west towards moated site, and the church and graveyard under the tree cover to the left (north). Note the bellcote of the church.

The stone-built, two stage church of a nave and chancel sits roughly north of centre in the graveyard. It was not possible to measure the extent of the monument, however the accuracy of the previous surveys appears correct. The random-rubble green sandstone wall fabric stands almost intact all-round, although there is a clear modern break in the walls where the nave and chancel meet, and the exposed end-walls appear to have been faced in concrete, potentially obscuring any evidence relating to the relationship between the nave and chancel. The window arrangement in the chancel remains the same as that of the previous surveys, with an off-centre splayed window in the east gable, and one window in each side wall to light the altar space. As mentioned previously, the heavy masonry of the double-bellcote dominates above the central gable housing the two-centred, Gothic style chancel arch between the nave and chancel. The larger nave is heavily overgrown, however the two splayed openings to the north and south can be seen; and the door in the west gable end is best accessed from the outside. Close examination of the door is difficult given the vegetation, and so at site inspection it was not possible to satisfactorily examine it to determine its architectural style. Throughout the church there appears to be modern rebuilding and repairs with non-suitable concrete.

The larger moated site is better defined by its tree-lined ditch and bank, enclosing an area of 0.5 hectares. The reported flat, wide bank (ASI - 0.5m by 4m) and wide and deep outer ditch or fosse (ASI - 3.5m by 2.1m) is present under tree cover, but difficult to measure given the current level of vegetation. Internally, the surface of the mound gently undulates under heavy grass cover and small shrubs; and in the absence of a closer interval topographical survey little else can currently be said of it. It should be noted that to the immediate west of the moated site, an approximately 200m long run of an angled ditch, tree-lined, approximately 4-5m wide and 1.5m deep may be the leat or artificial watercourse built to bring water to fill the moat, and could be regarded as being part of the curtilage of the monument.



**Photograph 6:** The overgrown graveyard.



**Photograph 7:** Fallen headstones.



**Photograph 8:** Composite view of the chancel interior, looking east.



**Photograph 9:** Chancel arch and bellcote, viewed from the south.



**Photograph 10:** Moated site, exterior viewed from the south.



**Photograph 11:** Moated site, interior viewed from the south.



**Photograph 12:** View from the north of the scrubbed-out line of the leat, which forms the southern side of the soccer pitch.



**Photograph 13:** View from the northwest corner of the run of surviving relict field boundary, which may have formed part of the leat.



**Photograph 14:** View from the north looking across the park towards Cuthbert's Meadow, across the area used as a contractor's compound during construction.



**Photograph 15:** View looking northward of the northern extension of the park, between Deansrath Park and Melrose Green.



**Photograph 16:** The White Horse, looking southeast.



**Photograph 17:** St. Cuthbert's Circle, looking north.

A short run of approximately 75m of a relict, tree-lined field boundary survives in the northwest corner of the park, and may fossilise some of the leat associated with the moated site (**Photograph 13**).

A 10m high artificial mound or hillock dominates the southern side of the park, providing good views to all aspects. The park is crossed with compacted gravel & concrete paths. The paths move east to west, follow the footprint of the hillock, up to a view point on its highest summit, and around the perimeter of the soccer pitch, and a path gives north-south access through the park from Deansrath Park/Melrose Green to Ráth Gael/Westbourne Rise.

Overall, during the walkover of the park, apart from the three known Recorded Monuments, no surface indicators of potential subsurface archaeological material were observed.

Two items of Cultural Heritage were observed. At the west end of the park, facing towards St. Cuthbert's Road, on the side of one of the paths is an earth-cut feature, a white horse formed of rounded white limestone. A local resident relayed that this was created approximately 20 years ago as a school project. Approximately 30m north of the white horse, off-set from an east to west running path, is a circle of ten, low, uniform, approximately 1m square, concrete blocks, with insets spelling "St. Cuthbert's". These features are worthy of retention.

## **7. Impact Assessment**

The historical, cartographic and archaeological evidence confirms the presence of three Recorded Monuments within the confines of St. Cuthbert's Park. The Kilmahuddrick medieval parish church and graveyard is one of eighteen such sites or locations of known sites in South County Dublin; while the adjoining moated site is one of eight to be found across County Dublin.

When the results of the previous archaeological assessments, the extensive services that undoubtedly traverse it, the substantial construction traffic required to deposit the artificial mound on the southern part of the site, and the impact of the general house construction activities in the locality over the years are combined, there is a strong indication that St. Cuthbert's Park, apart from the Recorded Monuments, has seen significant disturbance in the past. The areas of highest archaeological potential are the three monuments. They appear to be relatively unscathed, owing most probably to knowledge of their existence.

However, the potential for undisturbed, unknown subsurface archaeological material in the park, particularly across an area in excess of 12 hectares, cannot be ruled out. Therefore, in addition to the archaeological mitigation measures required to support the removal of vegetation from the monuments and detailed assessment and investigation, all ground disturbances require mitigation to safeguard the unknown archaeological that may be present.

The location of the three monuments are well defined in the park. However, the monuments are overgrown with vegetation, and it is not possible to assess the full nature of these monuments, and the conservation and preservation issues they face, without removing the



overgrowth. However, the removal of overgrowth by inappropriate means and without archaeological involvement in the planning and supervision of the works has potential to directly impact on the archaeological resource.

Inappropriate use of machinery to remove vegetation, inappropriate cutting-back and killing off of root systems can all lead to damage and loss of wall fabric of the church. Unsupervised chemical removal of the graffiti on the walls of the church can lead to damage to the wall fabric.

Inappropriate use of machinery to remove vegetation and create access into the graveyard, and to the church, can lead to ground disturbance, and impact on gravemarkers and burials present.

Inappropriate use of machinery to remove vegetation, and thin-out trees across the moated site can all lead to ground disturbance of the interior and the archaeological material present, and damage to the earthworks that form the boundaries of this site, i.e. the low internal bank and wide external ditch.

However, a successful implementation of the proposed upgrade works to St. Cuthbert's Park can be achieved with appropriate archaeological involvement in the planning and execution of the works, through mitigation measures, and help bring about the desired outcomes of improved community access and use of this important amenity site.

## **8. Mitigation Recommendations<sup>1</sup>**

### General Mitigation

An archaeologist should be retained as part of the Design Team at detailed design stage for the upgrade works to the park, to further advise on archaeological risk of different elements that they evolve to construction drawings.

In general, given the presence of the three Recorded Monuments in the park, and the size of the development area, in excess of 12 hectare, full cognisance must be taken of the requirements of the National Monuments Service (NMS), which is a consultative body for the Part VIII Planning process. Dialogue with the NMS will be required to establish what type of permission/attendance control is required for the works, i.e. should they be carried out under Ministerial Consent conditions - issued under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act, or archaeological licence conditions – issued under Section 26 of the Act.

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### **<sup>1</sup> Note on Recommendations**

All mitigation measures are recommendations only and the decision on implementation, amendments, etc. rests ultimately with the Planning Authority – South Dublin County Council, and the National Monuments Service through the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The nature and extent of the monitoring attendance will be subject to the approval of the NMS, through the preparation and approval of agreed method statements. The purpose of archaeological supervision is to ensure the safeguarding of the archaeological resource and adherence to archaeological best practices.

The local authority should recognise the importance of gathering as much information as possible from the site clearance works, to maximise our understanding of the monuments, to guide their future conservation and to add to the knowledge base for them.

Fulltime archaeological monitoring of the groundworks within the Zone of Archaeological Notification for the three monuments is recommended; in particular the spine track as it passes by the southern extents of the moated site. Subject to the agreement of the NMS, intermittent monitoring of the remainder of the works across the remainder of the park should be sufficient and is recommended. The levels of intermittent monitoring can be agreed between SDCC, the NMS and the monitoring archaeologist subject to a review of the knowledge that the park has been significantly impacted by historic ground disturbances associated with surrounding development.

It is recommended that a 'no-dig' approach to the new paths be used, whereby at detailed design stage the paths are designed to minimise digging and the potential for subsurface disturbance. Following removal of the grassed sod, a plastic cellular system or alternative should be laid down and then filled with path make-up material; thereby containing the depth of disturbance to the depth of the sod.

The monitoring attendance must be provided in accordance with archaeological best practice and taking cognisance of the *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* document (Dept. Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 1999) and the *IAI Code of Conduct for Archaeological Monitoring* (Institute of Archaeologist of Ireland 2006).

Written, photographic and drawn records, as required, will be made of the attendance, so as to create an archive of the monitoring activity.

Should archaeological material be encountered during monitoring, works will cease at that location, pending hand investigation to assess its nature and extent; and for notification to South Dublin County Council, the relevant prescribed bodies, the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the National Museum of Ireland, for instruction.

#### Works to the Recorded Monuments

In terms of specifics for the Recorded Monuments, the following are recommended:

- With regard to the vegetation clearance of the three monuments, all works should be done under the supervision of an appropriately experienced and qualified archaeologist, with due care and consideration given to the *Care and Conservation*

of *Graveyards* (1995) document guidance document produced on behalf of the NMS, and the more recent *Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (2011) produced by the Heritage Council;

- All vegetation clearance must be conducted in accordance with best practice, with advice of an archaeologist.
- The graveyard is a place of burial and a specialist osteoarchaeologist must be on standby for the graveyard clearance, should any human remains be encountered. The advice of the osteoarchaeologist with regard to any such findings must be adhered to, in consultation with the NMS and the National Museum of Ireland;
- Following the careful removal of the vegetation, and maintenance of the clearance into the future, an opportunity will be presented to conduct on a phased basis the various surveys and assessments that will inform the conservation, and longer-term management, of these important sites within St. Cuthberts Park.

The more immediate actions required are:

- An update of the Archaeological Assessment of the monuments, with mitigation measures to address the conservation measures required;
- Conservation engineers condition assessment of the church, and the graveyard, its boundaries, and any monuments or gravemarkers it contains;
- Creation of a topographic and building survey of the church and graveyard, to produce a drawn record of them in layout, plan and elevation. This detail will strongly support the foregoing archaeological and conservation assessments;
- Further liaison with the NMS on the results of the assessments, for advice and the securing of any required permissions to enact the conservation measures.

In the longer term, given the archaeological and historical interest of the three monuments, and the educational and interpretational interests of the community, the following actions are suggested, to be enacted when funding and scheduling allow:

- It is suggested that a detailed topographic survey of the moated site and possible leat be conducted, in particular the once the careful clearance of vegetation is completed. Such works will provide an accurate record of the monument, and potentially uncover features that are currently hidden;
- It is suggested that an archaeological geophysical survey of the moated site and the immediate perimeter around could be conducted, to assess remotely the subsurface potential for archaeological features. This may shed light on what the interior of the site was like.

- It is recommended that at all times the educational and academic value of the information gathered be borne in mind.

#### Potential Sources of Funding Supports

- In terms of supports for the heritage-related works to St. Cuthbert's Park, it is recommended that SDCC look to mechanisms such as the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's *Community Monuments Fund*; or what provisions are available from the Heritage Council. For example, the various streams of the *Community Monuments Fund* can cover up to 100% of eligible costs for capital works & conservation repairs, assessments and surveys, and conservation & management plans, and support enhanced access through improved infrastructure and interpretation.

## 9. Sources & References Consulted

- National Monuments Database - [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie);
- *Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin*, 1998;
- National Monuments Service/Archaeological Survey of Ireland Files;
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports – [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie);
- Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping – Geohive - <https://geohive.ie/index.html>;
- Down Survey Mapping – [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie);
- Placenames database - <https://www.logainm.ie>;
- South Dublin County Libraries - Source Digital Archive  
- <https://source.southdublinlibraries.ie/>;
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- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999;
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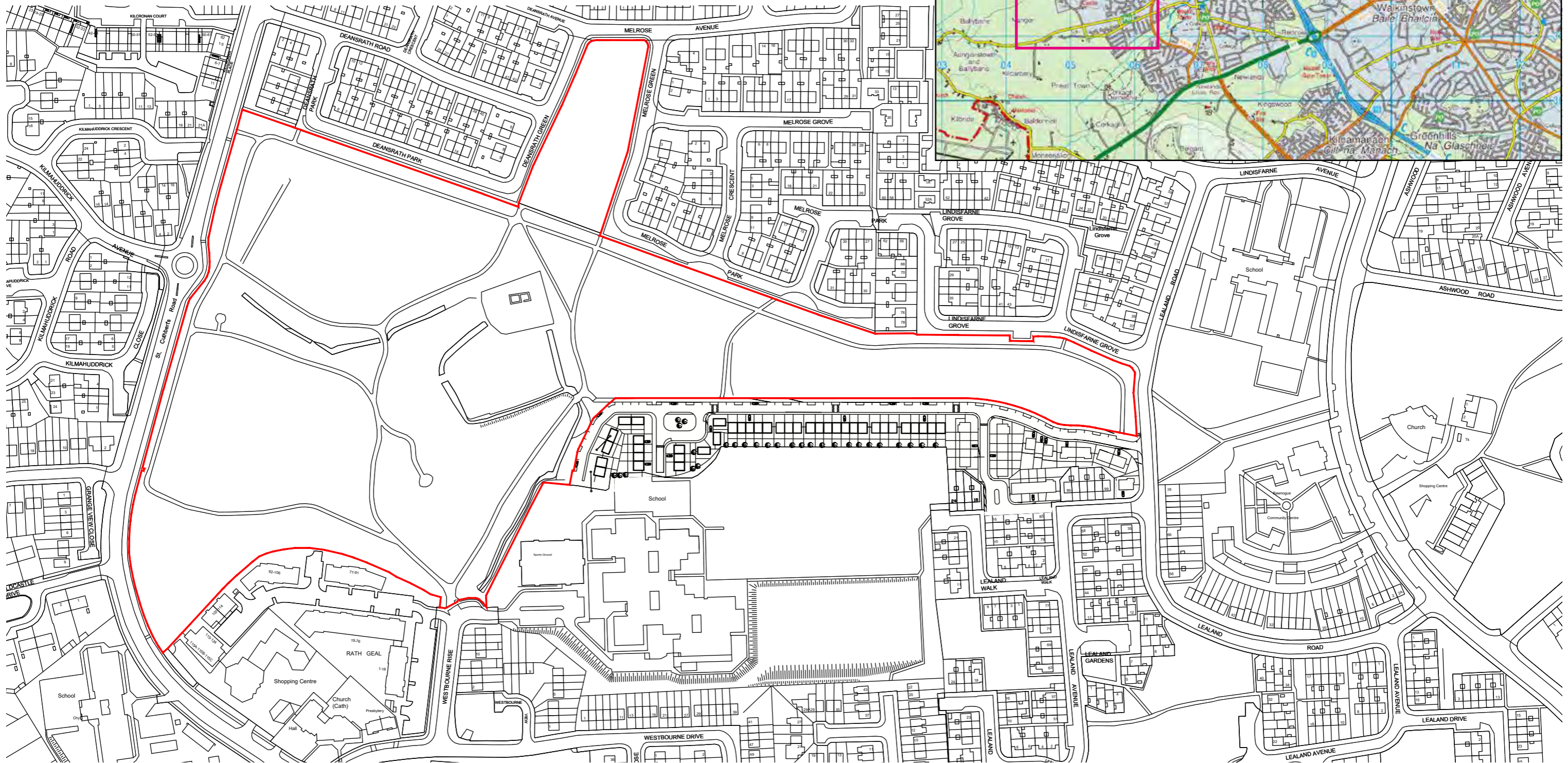
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## ASSESSMENT DRAWINGS



**DRAWING**  
**01 Site Location**

PROJECT  
St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, Assessment of Proposed Upgrade Works

CLIENT  
South Dublin County Council

DRAWN  
RT

CHECKED  
DN

DATE  
9-09-22

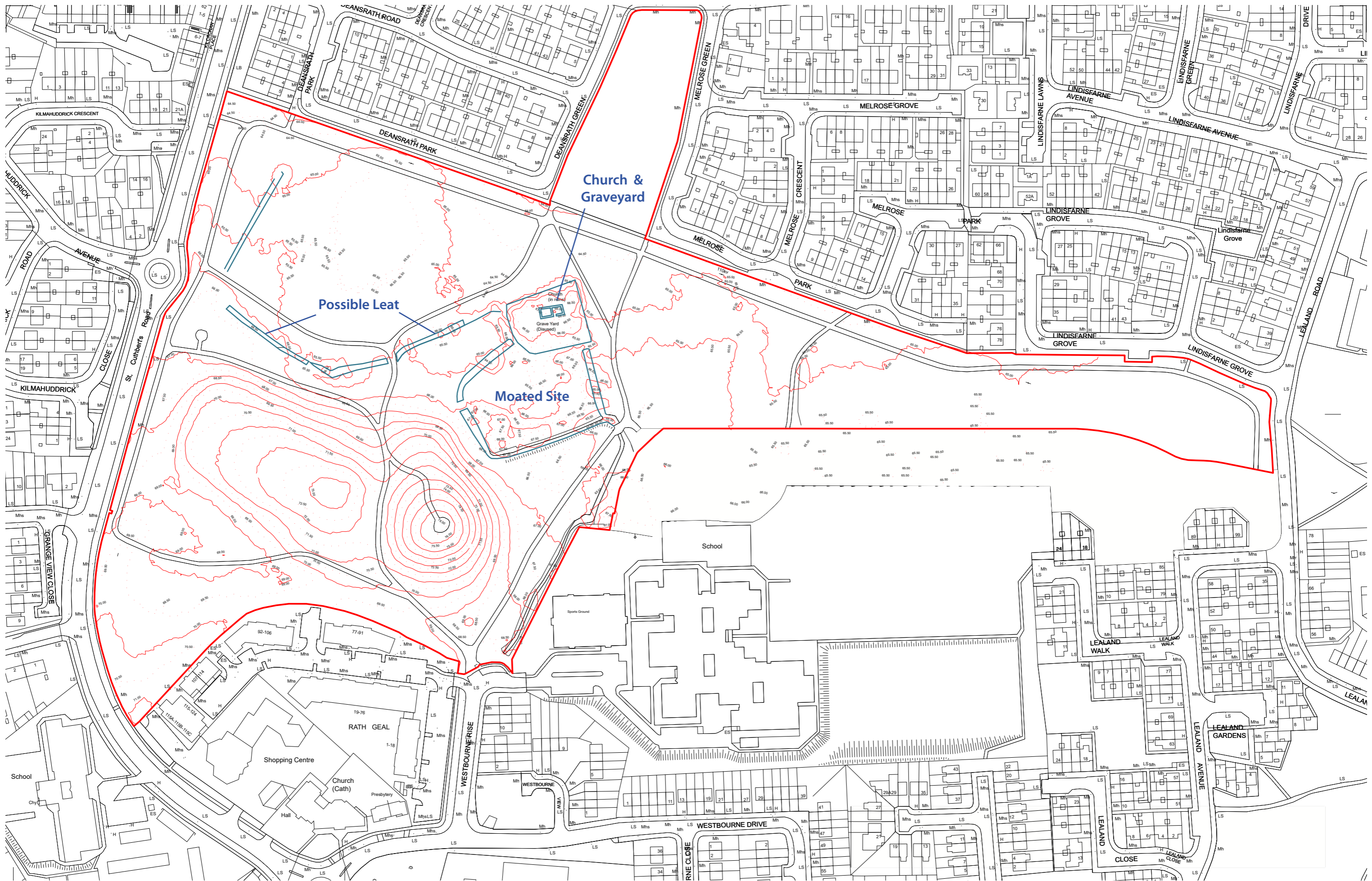
SCALEBAR  
100m

OSI MAPPING LICENSE  
AR 0106622



WWW.DNAC.IE | INFO@DNAC.IE | 024 25922





DRAWING  
**02 Existing Site**

PROJECT  
 St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, Assessment of Proposed Upgrade Works

CLIENT  
 South Dublin County Council

DRAWN  
 RT

CHECKED  
 DN

DATE  
 9-09-22

SCALE  
 Scalebar

SCALEBAR  
 50m

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
 Topographical Survey courtesy of SDCC



Possible on-street parking and pedestrian crossing subject to detailed design and liaison with SDCC Roads Section

Possible pedestrian crossing subject to detailed design and liaison with SDCC Roads Section

KEY

- |  |  |  |  |  |   |                                  |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Site extents approx. 12.7ha (31.4acres)          | MS Moated site and possible leat (ditch) | Spine footpath, with street lights               | Vantage point seating, signage             | P Performance/events area                        | M MUGA with floodlighting                 | Existing kissing gate            |
| Contours at 0.50m interval                       | Scrub vegetation                         | Secondary footpath                               | TS TeenSpace equipped area                 | D Dogs off leash area with dog-friendly features | Woodland pods                             | New kissing gate                 |
| Existing footpaths                               | Existing trees                           | Alternate seating/exercise pods at 100m interval | E Exercise space                           | A Arboretum with edible fruit and nut trees      | Grassland with varying maintenance regime | New maintenance access gate      |
| 110kv overhead cable with 10m Hazard Zone (min.) | General grass areas regularly mown       | Nodal point, seating and signage                 | CA Children's adventure play 8-18 year old | SP Soccer pitch                                  | Formal avenue trees                       | Key views to Church (see Note 1) |
| Site of Church in ruins                          | Existing footpath retained               | Feature entrance, signage                        | CF Children's formal play 3-10 year old    | JP Juvenile pitch                                | Informal tree groups native species       |                                  |

NOTE 1

- Part 8 Archaeological Process:
- Archaeological Impact Assessment of proposed project
  - Liaison with National Monuments Service as required
- Post-Part 8 works on a phased basis:
- Vegetation clearance to allow for structural condition survey of the church and graveyard
  - Topographical survey
  - Detailed condition survey and assessment of church and graveyard
  - Updated Archaeological Assessment
  - Development of interpretation and signage

DRAWING  
03 Proposed Part VIII Upgrade Works

PROJECT St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, Assessment of Proposed Upgrade Works CLIENT South Dublin County Council DRAWN RT CHECKED DN DATE 9-09-22 SCALE Scalebar SCALEBAR 50m ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Upgrade layout by Nicholas de Jong Associates





DRAWING  
**04 Archaeological Environment Within 750m**

PROJECT	CLIENT	DRAWN	CHECKED	DATE	SCALE	SCALEBAR
St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, Assesment of Proposed Upgrade Works	South Dublin County Council	RT	DN	9-09-22	Scalebar	400m



**DRAWING**  
**05 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

PROJECT  
 St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22, Assesment of Proposed Upgrade Works

CLIENT  
 South Dublin County Council

DRAWN  
 RT

CHECKED  
 DN

DATE  
 9-09-22

SCALEBAR  
 50m

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
 Based on reporting by IAC Archaeology & J.M. Leigh Surveys

LEGEND  
 Area of Previous Archaeological Investigations

**DANIEL NOONAN**  
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