

## 16. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 16.1 Introduction

This section considers the potential impact on archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features of a proposed Student Accommodation development at UCD Campus Belfield, Dublin 4. It has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The desk based study and field survey for this Cultural Heritage chapter was undertaken in January 2016 by Aidan O'Connell and August 2017 by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.

#### 16.1.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a total of 3,006 no. residential bedspaces providing an overall gross floor area (GFA) of 98,275 sqm over a partial basement level. The proposed student accommodation will be arranged in a series of 7 no. Residential Blocks, which will vary in height from 5 to 10 storeys. The proposed development includes for the removal of recent additions to Roebuck Castle to the south and east. No other works are proposed to the Protected Structures (Roebuck Castle and Glebe Lodge). The proposed development provides 637 no. basement car parking spaces, 32 no. disabled spaces (at-grade), 225 no. spaces by extending the Little Sisters surface car park; and 100 no. spaces adjacent to the Sutherland School of Law. A new, temporary construction access onto Foster's Avenue and associated construction parking during construction are proposed for the duration of the proposed development.

### 16.2 Receiving Environment

The proposed development is located in Roebuck townland (Rathdown Barny, Taney Parish, OS Dublin Sheet 22). The main application site currently comprises surface parking to the north; 2 no. centrally located training pitches and open space; surface car parking to the south associated with Roebuck Hall Residences; and, a number of buildings centred on Roebuck Castle to the south. The application site has an overall area of 12.95ha.

### 16.3 Method Statement

The aim of the desk-based assessment and walkover survey is to determine the pre-development condition of any cultural heritage features, particularly archaeological sites which may be impacted directly or indirectly by the proposed student accommodation and ancillary services.

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Room G62, Customs House, Dublin 2

- Record of Protected Structures (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Development Plan 2010 – 2016)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography (various collections including National Museum of Ireland, Geological Survey of Ireland and/or Ordnance Survey Ireland)
- Historical maps (including early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and pre-Ordnance Survey held at Trinity College Map Library)
- Reference material (journals, papers, books etc.) held by the National Library of Ireland, local libraries and/or on-line search facilities/collections (e.g. JSTOR etc.)
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; National Roads Authority archaeological database)

## 16.4 Assessment

### 16.4.1 Archaeological Background

The lands of Roebuck, or Rabo, as they were called, which lie between Donnybrook and Dundrum, were the site of a castle, which stood from very early times on the ground now occupied by the modern Roebuck Castle. Roebuck, a townland in the parish of Taney on the road to Enniskerry is located roughly 4 km south of Dublin City Centre was centred on Roebuck Castle built by the Third Baron of Trimlestown, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1534-38, during the reign of Henry VIII, and further enlarged in the late 16th century, by the Fifth Baron of Trimlestown.

In 1641 the castle was badly damaged in a rebellion and appears to have been unoccupied and in disrepair until about 1790 when it was rebuilt by the 13th Lord Trimlestown. Soon afterwards, it was sold on to the Crofton family and changed hands again in 1856 this time to the Westby family, who remodelled the castle in 1874 to its current appearance.

In 1838, the area around Roebuck was described by Samuel Lewis (Topographical Dictionary of Ireland) as “a district chiefly occupied by handsome villas situated in tastefully disposed grounds, many of which command magnificent views of the bay and city of Dublin, the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, and the beautiful adjacent country”.

### 16.4.2 Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act). It is compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) and comprises descriptive lists and maps of all sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential, recorded to date in the country. The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status. A current initiative of the NMS has been the establishment of a publicly accessible website ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) containing details of the recorded holdings of the Archaeological

Survey of Ireland (ASI). It includes recently discovered sites recorded in the course of development-led archaeological assessments and excavations as well as the on-going work of the ASI.

Roebuck Castle (DU022-017) a Recorded monument lies within the boundary of the site. no proposals (other than the removal of recent additions to the Castle to the south and east) are being made for any works to the protected structures. The demolitions proposed to later buildings in the vicinity of the Castle are to buildings or structures which are not protected structures.

Where proposed demolition and construction may take place in proximity to the Castle it is recommended that a programme of test trenching or, if not practical in advance of demolition, monitoring of groundworks be agreed in consultation with the DoAHRRGA.

**Table 16.1 Archaeological Sites in the Area of the Proposed Student Accommodation**

SMR	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance
DU022-017	Castle	Roebuck	718517, 729367	0m
<p>This is an 18th-century castellated building with some 19th-century remodelling that incorporates a 16th-century castle built by the 5th Lord Trimblestown (Bence-Jones 1988, 244-245). It houses administration in the campus of University College, Dublin. The original castle was almost totally destroyed during the 1641 Rebellion (Mc Dix 1897, 129). Austin Cooper in his diaries c. 1781 describes a large L-shaped castle with an inscribed stone in a window of the NW angle. This displayed the Arms of the Trimblestown family and in a later inscription 'in 1509 John the 3rd Baron of Trimblestown was Lord Chancellor of Ireland and resided in the castle here' (Price 1943 58). The castle was re-built c. 1794 by the 13th Lord of Trimblestown with the further addition of a three-storey Victorian Gothic porch with a battlemented gable in 1874.</p>				

#### 16.4.3 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). Relevant historical maps were consulted in the compilation of this assessment (see Table 16.3 below). **No previously unrecorded cultural heritage features were noted in the examination of historical mapping.**

**Table 16.2 Historical Cartographic Sources for the Site**

Map	Date	Description
Rocque	1760	A depiction of the general area is shown as "Rawbuck" with no specific detail of the castle or demesne lands.
Taylor, South	1816	Roebuck Castle is shown to the west of Merville lodge, no archaeological features shown.
Duncan	1821	The demesne lane is shown with wooded areas around the castle, no archaeological features shown.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition	1843	The land around the castle is shown laid out in north/south divisions with what appears to be part of a walled garden associated with Merville Lodge to the south east of the subject site (along the current Owenstown Park road)
Ordnance Survey 25-inch edition	1912	The castle and various lodges and internal roads are shown, the walled garden to the south –east is still depicted.

#### 16.4.4 Aerial Photographs

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. There are a number of available collections including the National Monuments Section, Geological Survey of Ireland (1970–73), Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1995, 2000, 2005), National Museum of Ireland (St Joseph CUCAP Collection) and Air Corps (1950’s–1970’s).

Aerial photography covering the proposed development area was examined. In 1949 the site as a whole appeared much as it does on the six-inch OS maps of 1843 and 1912. It comprises a range of pasture fields to the north of Roebuck Castle with several fields under crop to the west of the site. Owenstown Park road extends partially north from Fosters Avenue, the walled garden to the west of Merville Lodge is visible, there are no possible archaeological features depicted.

In the 1966 Aerial Photograph Owenstown Park road is shown extended north to connect in to the construction of the UCD Campus (see Figure 16.4). **No features of archaeological potential were identified.**

#### 16.4.5 Record of Protected Structures

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social* or *technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed.

The Register of Protected Structures listed in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Development Plan 2010 - 2016 was consulted to see if any protected structures would be impacted by development at this location. Both Roebuck Castle and Glebe are listed as protected structures.

**Table 16.3 Protected Structures**

RPS	Class	Townland	NIAH No.	Distance
DLR 217	Castle	Roebuck	n/a	0m
No description				
DLR 236	Glebe	Roebuck	n/a	0m
No description				

#### 16.4.6 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The excavation bulletin is a database of over 15,000 summary accounts of all the archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2008. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section. There has been limited archaeological investigation in the surrounding area in the past; construction of the National Bioprocess Facility just to the east of the subject site was monitored in 2009/2010 with no archaeology uncovered (see Table 16.4).

**Table 16.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations in the Area**

Licence	SMR No	OS Ref	Townlands	Ex. Bull. Ref.	Author
09E0542	DU022-017	718201, 729598	Roebuck	2009:358	Y. Whitty
<p>Monitoring was carried out at the sports ground soccer pitch within the Belfield campus of University College Dublin between November 2009 and January 2010 at the location of the National Institute for Bioprocess Research and Training Facility (NIBRT).</p> <p>The site of the NIBRT development is within a walled garden which is associated with Merville House. This house is a Georgian country house built c. 1750 by John Foster. Detailed examination of all maps of the area was undertaken at Trinity Map Library. John Barker's estate map from 1762 illustrates clearly the house and gardens at Merville. The site is also located 340m north-east of Roebuck Castle, DU022-017.</p> <p>Prior to groundworks the site was a flat greenfield. It was bounded on three sides by garden walls which were contemporary with the house at Merville and on the fourth side by a ha-ha ditch. Neither of these features was impacted upon by the proposed development. The south-west corner of the site contained the remains of demolished stables which are presumably related to the riding school which was set up at Merville in 1938 by Colonel Hume-Dudgeon.</p> <p>No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed in these areas.</p>					

#### 16.4.7 Toponyms

The area is referred to as "Rabo or Raboge" in the Ordnance Survey note books of the mid-nineteenth century and there is an earlier reference to "Raboe" (Logainim.ie) which is probably a reference to Otho de Rabo who oversaw the lands in this area held in 1315 by Fromund le Brun Chancellor of Ireland (Ball and Hamilton, 1895).

#### 16.4.8 Site Visit

The location of the proposed works was visited by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd in clear, dry conditions on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017.

The central site is composed of existing student accommodation and college buildings in and around Roebuck Castle forming the smaller southern part of the site and extensive playing grounds making up the larger northern portion with a car park along the boundary nearest the core college area (School of Law). Owenstown Park road forms the eastern boundary with housing along the western boundary. The training pitches are flat and open and although having presumably levelled at some point appear relatively undisturbed by previous development. **No potential archaeological features noted during site visit (Plates 1-4).**

##### Site Visit 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 Plate 5-8

This visit took place on a bright dry day in mid August 2017. The site of the proposed works includes an avenue to the south east of the campus. This will become an entrance which joins up and creates a crossroad junction with Fosters Avenue and North Avenue. It is also planned to create a car park and green space at this entrance.

Part of this area is in use as a temporary construction area associated with ongoing development on campus. The remaining area, which will create the entrance, is densely covered in native shrubs, plants and grasses.

Along the border with the road (Fosters Avenue), there is a chain link fence, dense native shrubs and large mature beech, chestnut and ash trees. To the west of Belgrove Student Accommodation is an irregularly shaped, partially green field area, which is also included in the development plan. The northernmost part of this area is currently a road and car park. The green area has been partially stripped and used as a temporary construction area. At the south of this development area there is a green space which is overgrown with native plants. In places, this green space is being used as a store for building supplies. **No potential archaeological features were noted during the site visit.**

#### 16.4.9 Assessment of Impacts

This desktop study and field survey was undertaken as part of the assessment stage for a proposed student residence along with all ancillary services. The main findings of the desktop assessment are as follows:

- No obvious areas of archaeological potential were noted in the course of the site visit.
- There is one Recorded Monument (Roebuck Castle, DU022-017) within the area of the proposed development.
- There are two Protected Structures (Roebuck Castle and Glebe) within the area of the proposed development.
- Archaeological monitoring associated with the Bioprocessing Facility just to the east of the site revealed no archaeological finds or features.
- No areas of archaeological potential were noted in the review of cartographic sources.
- No areas of archaeological potential were noted on or adjacent to the site on aerial photography.

The area to the north of the proposed development (the current training pitches) appear to be relatively untouched and have shown little development since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Development of this area (current training pitches) may impact archaeological finds or features which might exist below ground.

Roebuck Castle is a Recorded Monument,(DU022-017). Development of this area (adjacent to the castle) may impact archaeological finds or features which might exist below ground.

#### 16.4.10 Construction Phase

The greatest threat to unrecorded, buried archaeological sites/ features occur during the construction stage and include all ground disturbance works undertaken at this stage (excavations and other groundworks including the provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machines and storage of material in sensitive areas.

#### 16.4.11 Operation Phase

No potential impacts are identified at this moment during the operational phase as it is anticipated that issues of archaeological and cultural heritage interest will have been resolved prior to or during the construction phase.

### 16.5 Mitigation Measures

Because the training pitches remain relatively undeveloped and because of their proximity to a Recorded Monument, Roebuck Castle test trenching of this area (the northern part of the proposed development area) will take place in advance of construction.

There are limited greenfield areas to the west (south of Belgrove Student Residence) and to the east (south of the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research)

In addition, it is the areas adjacent to Roebuck Castle which may be subject to groundworks will also be the subject of test trenching in advance of construction. If this is not possible (due to upstanding buildings) then a programme of archaeological monitoring of works in the area of the Castle will be put in place.

NOTE: All conclusions and mitigation measures expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRG) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DAHRRG may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

### 16.6 Residual Impact

It is not anticipated that there will be any residual impacts on archaeological features or sites encountered as it is understood that any archaeology encountered will be resolved in advance of the construction stage of the proposed development.

## 16.7 Interactions

Should archaeological features be uncovered on this site and protected as green space then human traffic (walking, cycling or motorised) may degrade the archaeological feature. Careful design of green space to include protective berms, fencing and signage may mitigate this effect.

Surface water drainage has the potential to interact with archaeological features which may be uncovered on this site as drainage measures may dry out or waterlog the features and make them subject to change. Such interactions may be reduced by appropriate monitoring at the construction phase where appropriate.

## 16.8 References

### 16.8.1 Bibliography

Ball, Francis Elrington. A history of the county Dublin. Vol III. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1979. (6 vols, reproduced by photo lithography from the 1st. impression of 1902).

Ball, Francis and Everard Hamilton "The parish of Taney: a history of Dundrum, near Dublin, and its neighbourhood" Dublin, 1895

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Lewis, S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. Dublin.

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### 16.8.2 Other Sources

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Development Plan 2010 – 2016

### 16.8.3 Web References

Online Excavations bulletin [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) [accessed 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017]

Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) [accessed 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017]

## Chapter 16 Figures & Plates