



12. Site of existing ringfort.

5. Archaeological Assessment

5.1 Background.

A preliminary archaeological report has been carried out by a licensed archaeologist. This report is concerned with the identification of archaeological monuments from a desktop/paper survey of the study area. The key findings of that report are outlined in this section.

The paper survey involved an inspection of the Record of Monument and Places (RMP) (Dúchas, The Heritage Service), cartographic sources and aerial photography. All land which is covered with forestry or a heavy growth of trees is excluded from the report, as an assessment of the presence of archaeological monuments would require an archaeological field inspection.

The lands in the masterplan are located a distance of approximately six kilometres southwest of Keeloghboy Mountain where there are several recorded megalithic tombs. The site is also located approximately five kilometres northeast of the Carrowmore megalithic cemetery. The surrounding fields to the east of the site contain ringforts and a bronze age stone circle. Immediately north of the boundary of the site is a large ringfort. The Garvoge River which forms the southwest boundary of the site contains several possible crannogs.

The demesne concept (Hazelwood Demesne) can be traced to the early medieval tenurial system. Historical continuity is a striking concept of Irish demesnes and the natural parkland often provides ideal conditions for the survival of earlier landscape features.

5.2 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the state register of all known upstanding archaeological monuments and place (where it is believed that there are monuments, i.e., sites of levelled or buried monuments) to date. The RMP includes all extant archaeological sites listed in the non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and any additional sites which have been identified to date.

The RMP does not provide for any yet unidentified archaeological sites and monuments and thus, the archaeological implications of a proposed development should not be determined on the basis of the RMP.

An inspection of the RMP revealed the presence of four known archaeological monuments located within the masterplan. These are as follows and are identified on Figure 9.

TABLE 1: Hazelwood Demesne:

| Monument Number | NGR | Site Classification |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| SLO15-104 | 17131 33644 | Rectangular Enclosure |
| SLO15-105 | 17139 33639 | Enclosure (site) |
| SLO15-106 | 17153 33659 | Enclosure (site) |
| SLO15-107 | 17174 33665 | Enclosure |

There are no known monuments in the RMP for the portion of Ballinode Townland contained within the masterplan.

Any owner, occupier or any person who proposes to carry out work, on or at, a feature recorded in the RMP must give written notice of such intentions to the Commissioners two months prior to the carrying out such work.

5.3 Cartographic Sources/Aerial Photography

The first and second edition of the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey Maps were consulted, dating to 1837 and 1887 respectively.

The aerial photography inspected was a recent vertical photography taken on January 15th, 2000 (refer: 27\00R55 - Co. Sligo NPS). The photography shows the four features described in the RMP (outlined in the above table), as well as three possible archaeological features. These are shown on Plate 1, with archaeological monuments encircled. The four monuments bearing the prefix (15:) are recorded in the RMP. The three monuments bearing the prefix of the townland (BE and HD) are archaeological monuments identified on the aerial photograph but not recorded in the RMP.

TABLE 2: Inventory of Archaeological Monuments

| Monument Number | NGR | Townland | Site Classification | RMP | Aerial Photo | OS 1837 | OS 1887 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----|--------------|---------|---------|
| BE:1 | N/A Field 3 | Ballinode | Circular Enclosure | No | Yes (BE:1) | No | No |
| HD:1 | N/A Field 18 | Hazelwood Demesne | Circular Enclosure | No | Yes (HD:1) | Yes | Yes |
| HD:2 | N/A Field 18 & 19 | Hazelwood Demesne | Enclosure (Possible) | No | Yes (HD:2) | Yes | Yes |
| RMP 15:104 | 17131/33644 Field 17 | Hazelwood Demesne | Rectangular Enclosure Site | Yes | Yes (15:104) | Yes | Yes |
| RMP 15:105 | 17139/33639 Field 17 | Hazelwood Demesne | Enclosure Site | Yes | Yes (15:105) | Yes | Yes |
| RMP 15:106 | 17153/33659 Field 19 | Hazelwood Demesne | Enclosure Site | Yes | Yes (15:106) | Yes | Yes |
| RMP 15:107 | 17174/33665 Field 22 | Hazelwood Demesne | Enclosure | Yes | Yes (15:107) | No | No |

Field divisions have been sourced from aerial photography and these are numbered and shown on Map 9. A possible enclosure is located between Field 18 and 19, in Hazelwood Demesne (HD:2). It appears as a wooded grove, but a surface field inspection may identify this to be an enclosure of archaeological significance.

The identification of three previously unrecorded possible archaeological monuments will require further assessment, possibly leading to their inclusion in the Record of Monuments and Places.

5.4 Recommendations in Relation to Archaeology

The preliminary archaeological report forms the first stage in the identification of archaeological monuments and included a number of recommendations. Having liaised with Dúchas (Archaeological Division), the following recommendations can be made:

1. Prior to any development taking place and on the basis of the presence of ar-

archaeological monuments it is recommended that an archaeological **field inspection** be carried out by a qualified archaeologist in order to identify the nature, extent, location and condition of all the above mentioned archaeological monuments and any additional features which may come to the attention of the field archaeologist.

2. It is recommended that **no sub surface interference take place on site without prior consultation with** the Department of Environment and Local Government, as specified in the National Monuments Act 1994, Section 12 Subsection 3 and the Heritage Act 1995.

On completion of the detailed field inspection it may be recommended by the Department of Environment and Local Government, that a phase of non invasive investigatory archaeological testing in the form of geo-physics is necessary to establish the nature, extent and relationship between the anomalous features on site. This work may also add additional archaeological sites to the known record.

3. **In the event that an archaeological monument will be directly impacted upon by a proposed development, the monument will require to be assessed through archaeological test excavation.** Such conditions can only apply on the recommendation of the Department of Environment and Local Government. In such an event, the archaeological test excavation must be carried out by an archaeologist under license to the State. A report must be forwarded by the archaeologist to both the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service and the National Museum of Ireland detailing the results of the excavation. This report will enable the Statutory bodies to make the necessary recommendations regarding the archaeological monument.

4. It is recommended that **any consideration about excavation of any of the archaeological monuments be taken in consultation with the staff of the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service, Department of Environment and Local Government** and an archaeological consultant. Archaeological excavation is an expensive and time consuming exercise, the costs of which are borne by the developer.

5. Where a monument is to be preserved, it is proposed that no development should occur within 20 metres of its external perimeter so as to maintain a protective buffer.

Note that **two months written notice** is required prior to any development or the carrying out of any work in relation to a RMP site under Section 12 (3) The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

