

Planning Ref.: N/a
Licence Nos: 25E0568 (testing); 25R0237 (detection device)
ITM: 497066/591366
RMP No: N/a
ÆGIS Ref.: 836-1

Archaeological Test Trenching and Impact Assessment Report at Ardshanavooly townland, Killarney, Co. Kerry.



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Client:	Wrightwood Developments Ltd.
Report Status:	Final
Date:	19 December 2025

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Client: Wrightwood Developments Ltd.
Others—Licencing Section, DCHG and National Museum of Ireland to comply with conditions of archaeological licence (in a special two-part format to comply with NMS instructions)

Please note...

That the archaeological recommendations, mitigation proposals and methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit National Monuments Service, Room G50, Custom House, Dublin 1 The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, The Planning and Development Act 2002 (plus any amendments) and the most recent EPA guidelines were consulted. Guidelines and Plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory bodies have also been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report (Dúchas 1999; 1999a; EPA 2015; 2015a; IAI 2006; NMS 2006). A geophysical survey was undertaken in advance of the testing 23R0008.

The testing dimension has been undertaken under licence which required an approved method statement. Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. However, ÆGIS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from the data supplied by any third party, for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions made or actions taken on the basis of facts and opinions expressed in this report, (and any supplementary information), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as the result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

Acknowledgements

ÆGIS acknowledges the information supplied by the client and information gathered from the RMP and SMR maintained by the ASI and NMS.

Report Design and Template

ÆGIS Archaeology Limited; following guidance on reports (NMS 2006); and condition 11(1) a-f and 11(2) appended to application for a licence to excavate Form NMS 1—2019.

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Cover Image

Testing in progress, from E.

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I. Abstract

This report details archaeological test trenching undertaken by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED on behalf of the client, within the subject site in Ardshanavooly townland, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

The test trenching was carried out on 13 October 2025.

Fifteen trenches were opened across the subject site. A geophysical survey (25R0107) has previously been carried out which identify some small anomalies which might be of archaeological potential. No archaeological features were encountered in the test trenching. .

The spoil from the trenches was metal detected (licence no. 25R0237). A Victorian coin dated 1895 was recovered.

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III. Abbreviations and Terms Used

ABP	An Bord Pleanála
ACP	Architectural Conservation Professionals
ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland, a division of the DCHG
Barony, Parish, Townland	These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500)
CH	Cultural Heritage Feature Number
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
E	East
Façade	The front or face of a building
First Edition	This relates to editions of the OS 6-inch maps for each county. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the 'First Edition'
IHTA	Irish Historic Towns Atlas
ITT	Institute of Technology Tralee
KM	Kilometre
M	Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre, unless otherwise stated
Monitoring	Archaeological Monitoring refers to the requirement to have an archaeologist(s) on site during the earth moving/construction works to undertake a watching brief in case archaeological material is revealed
N	North
NGR	National Grid Reference
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, see www.buildingsofireland.ie
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service. Regulatory body with responsibility for archaeological heritage. A division of the DCHG
NPM	Natural parent material (subsoil).
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSI	Ordnance Survey of Ireland
Pers. Comm.	Personal Communication
Plinth	The projecting base of a wall
PO	Preservation Order
PS	Protected Structure
Quoin	The dressed stone at the corner of a building
Recessed	Architectural term for a section of a wall or side of a building that is set back from the front
Refs	References
RFI	Request for further information
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places. A paper record on which all known archaeological sites at the time of the record are marked and listed in an accompanying list. The sites marked are afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number prefixed by KE for Kerry.
RMP Number	This code is the number of the site on the RMP constraint map. It begins with the county code, for example, WA, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological monument on that sheet
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
S	South
Sheet	This relates to the 6-inch map for each county, which is divided into sheets
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record. It relates to the archive files and on-line database relating to known archaeological monuments, maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). It can be viewed at http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/
TB	Townland Boundary
W	West. Width where used with dimensions

1. Introduction

1.1 Archaeological background

The subject site at Ardshanavooly townland consists of a large field under grass. The ground on the northern side of the field is higher, part of a natural east-west running ridge.

1.2 Locational data (figs 1-3)

The subject site is situated in the townland of Ardshanavooly, the barony of Magunihy and the civil parish of Killarney.

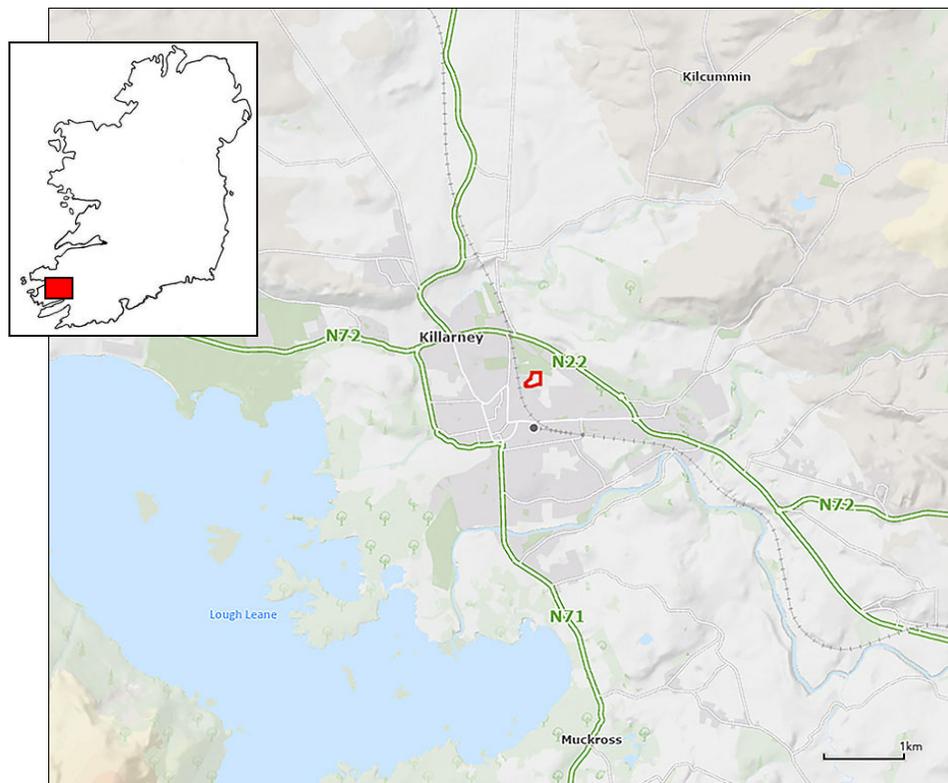


Figure 1. Location map showing subject site indicated in red (www.archaeology.ie). North to top.

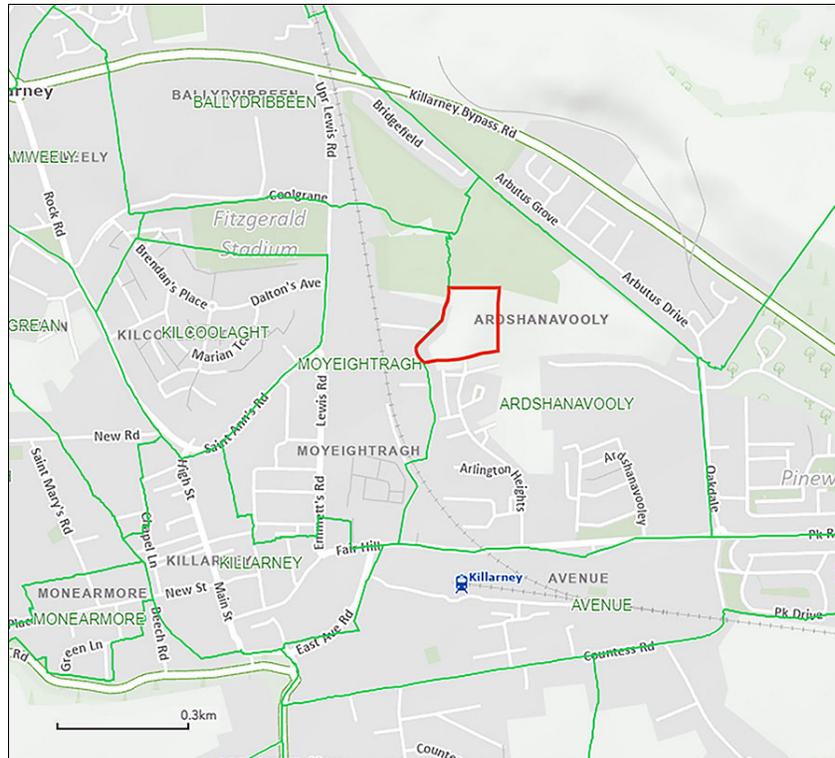


Figure 2. Detailed location of subject site in townland (after www.archaeology.ie). North to top.



Figure 3. Map Genie aerial photo 2013-2018, subject site in red (after www.archaeology.ie).

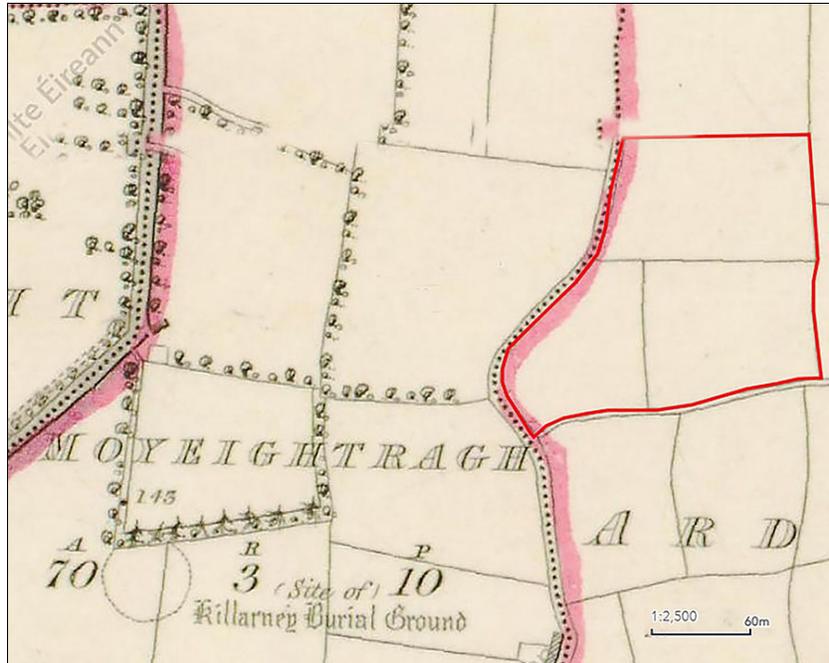


Figure 4. Subject site in red on OS First Edition (c. 1840) 6-inch map (after www.archaeology.ie). North to top.

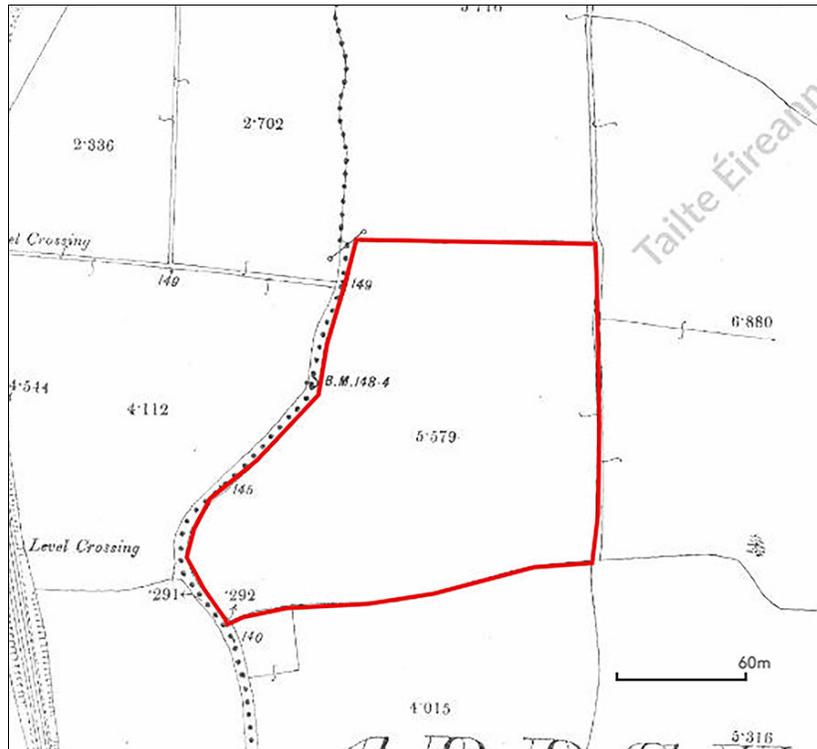


Figure 5. Subject site in red on 25-inch OS map, c. 1895 (after www.archaeology.ie). North to top.

The First Edition OS six-inch map, dated c. 1840 shows a series of three fields. The later OS 25-inch map (c. 1895) shows one large field.

1.3 Summary of previous archaeological work

No archaeological work has previously been carried out on the subject site.

1.4 Planning particulars.

Planning permission has not been applied for. This report forms part of an LRD application.

2. The Test Trenching(Descriptions)



Figure 6. Location of test trenches.

Table 1. List of proposed trenches and their details.

Trench	Dimensions (all 1.8 m wide)	Research question to be addressed
1	50	General testing of site.
2	50	General testing of site.
3	50	General testing of site.
4	50	General testing of site.
5	25	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
6	50	General testing of site.
7	50	General testing of site.
8	50	General testing of site.
9	50	General testing of site.
10	50	General testing of site.
11	25	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
12	25	General testing of site.
13	25	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
14	25	Testing of geophysical anomalies
15	50	General testing of site.

2.1 1 Archaeological description

Testing was undertaken to ascertain the archaeological potential of the subject site.

2.2 Methodology

Fifteen trenches were excavated across the area of the proposed development. No archaeological features were noted). A single context method (amended for testing) was employed.

2.3 Record of excavation (test trenching)

Table 2 lists the information for each trench arranged by trench number. References to plates for each are listed in the table, these illustrations follow after. Location of trenches all shown in figure 6.

Table 2. Record of test trenching undertaken.

Trench No.	Dimensions (all trenches 1.8m wide.)	Description of Stratigraphy	Archaeological Features (numbered according to trench no. & feature no. within that trench). All cut into the NPM unless otherwise stated.	Artefacts (finds registration No: trench No.: find number within that trench)	Plate Nos
1	50m x 0.35m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	1-3
2	50m x 0.40m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	4-6
3	50m x 0.35m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	7-9
4	50m x 0.40m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	10-12
5	25m x 0.30m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered. Geophysical anomalies were patches of gravel and stone.	Victorian coin 25E0568:1.	13-15
6	50m x 0.35m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	16-18
7	50m x 0.40m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	19-21
8	50m x 0.35m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	22-24
9	50m x 0.40m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	25-27
10	50m x 0.35m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	28-30
11	25m x 0.30m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered. No archaeological features were encountered. Geophysical anomalies	No artefacts were recovered.	31-33

			were patches of gravel and stone.		
12	25m x 0.30m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	34-36
13	25m x 0.30m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered. No archaeological features were encountered. Geophysical anomalies were patches of gravel and stone	No artefacts were recovered.	37-39
14	25m x 0.30m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered. No archaeological features were encountered. Geophysical anomalies were patches of gravel and stone	No artefacts were recovered.	40-42
15	50m x 0.40m deep	Silty loam removing off onto gravels and boulder clay.	No archaeological features were encountered.	No artefacts were recovered.	43-45

2.4 Summary of phases, stratigraphic character, key features, and significant finds

No archaeological features were identified on the subject site. All anomalies identified in the geophysical survey were geological in origin. The field boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (c. 1840) was identified by the geophysical survey. It was visible in the trenches as a compact line of gravel.

2.5 Post-excavation proposals

No post excavation works are necessary.



Plate 1. Trench 1, from W.



Plate 3. Trench 1, from E.



Plate 2. Trench 1, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 4. Trench 2, from W.



Plate 5. Trench 2, S facing section, from SE.



Plate 7. Trench 3, from W.



Plate 6. Trench 2, from E.



Plate 8. Trench 3, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 9. Trench 3, from E.



Plate 10. Trench 4, from E.



Plate 11. Trench 4, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 12. Trench 4, from E.



Plate 13. Trench 5, from NW.



Plate 15. Trench 5, from SE.



Plate 14. Trench 5, SW facing section, from W.



Plate 16. Trench 6, from W.



Plate 17. Trench 6, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 19. Trench 7, from NE.



Plate 18. Trench 6, from E.



Plate 20. Trench 7, NW facing section, from N.



Plate 21. Trench 7, from SW.



Plate 22. Trench 8, from W.



Plate 23. Trench 8, S facing section, from SE.



Plate 24. Trench 8, from E.



Plate 25. Trench 9, from W.



Plate 27. Trench 9, from E.



Plate 26. Trench 9, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 28. Trench 10, from E.



Plate 29. Trench 4, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 30. Trench 10, from W.



Plate 31. Trench 11, from N.



Plate 32. Trench 11, E facing section, from NE.



Plate 33. Trench 11, from S.



Plate 34. Trench 12, from E.



Plate 35. Trench 12, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 36. Trench 12, from W.



Plate 37. Trench 13, from E.



Plate 39. Trench 1, from W.



Plate 38. Trench 13, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 40. Trench 14, from NE.



Plate 41. Trench 2, SE facing section, from S.



Plate 43. Trench 15, from W.



Plate 42. Trench 14, from SW.



Plate 44. Trench 3, S facing section, from SW.



Plate 45. Trench 15, from E.



Plate 46. Trenching in progress, from NW, from E.



Plate 47. Trenching in progress, from NW, from E.

3. Discussion and Conclusions

Table 3 lists the test trenches excavated, the archaeological reason for excavating them, and the findings of the testing. A total of 625 linear metres (1,125 square metres) were excavated. The testing has established that there are **no archaeological features** in the trenches excavated within the subject site. A Victorian coin was recovered from the metal detection of the spoil.

Table 3. Results of testing.

Trench	Dimensions (all 1.8m wide)	Result of Test Trenching	Research question to be addressed
1	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
2	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
3	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
4	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
5	25	No archaeological features encountered	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
6	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
7	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
8	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
9	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
10	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
11	25	No archaeological features encountered	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
12	25	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.
13	25	No archaeological features encountered	Testing of geophysical anomalies.
14	25	No archaeological features encountered	Testing of geophysical anomalies
15	50	No archaeological features encountered	General testing of site.

4. Project References

This is a list of references consulted during the project. Not all are necessarily directly cited in the text.

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www.logainm.ie
www.myplan.ie
www.nli.ie
www.osi.ie

Last accessed October 2025

5. Signing-Off Statement

Archaeological Firm: ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

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Client: Wrightwood Developments Ltd.

Signed:



For ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Report status: Final

Dated: 19 December 2025

Annex 1

Data for summary to www.excavations.ie

Date Excavation Completed:	31 October 2025
Site Name, as per licence Townland or address	Ardshanavooly townland, Co. Kerry
Site Type: Period and Type or 'No Archaeology Found'	No archaeology found.
ITM, E, N	497066/591366 (centre point)
SMR No (if appropriate)	N/a
Excavations No	25E0568 (testing); 25R0237 (detection device)
Description	Fifteen trenches were opened across the subject site. A geophysical survey (25R0107) has previously been carried out which identify some small anomalies which might be of archaeological potential. No archaeological features were encountered in the test trenching. The spoil from the trenches was metal detected (licence no. 25R0237). A Victorian coin dated 1895 was recovered.
Images: 1 map and one image per licence	
Licence Holder	Frank Coyne
Date on Licence	21/10/2025 to 13/11/2025
Aegis ref.	836-1
Upload date	27 November 2025

6. Planning Background

6.1 Site particulars

The subject site comprises an open field under grass.

6.2 Description of proposed development

The development will consist of the development of a 2.23 hectare site comprising:

The proposed development comprises of:

1. Construction of a 124 no. dwellings in a mix of duplex, maisonette and apartment typologies comprising 16 no. 1 bed apartments, 6 no. 2 bed apartments, 16 no. 1 bed duplex apartments, 16 no. 2 bed duplex maisonettes, 33 no. 2 bed duplex apartments, 33 no. 3 bed maisonettes and 4 no. 3 bed terrace houses, all in building heights ranging from 2 to 4 storeys.
2. A total of 143 no. surface car parking spaces, including 4 no. car-share parking spaces, 6 no. visitor spaces, and 5 no. assigned Part M/accessible spaces.
3. Bicycle parking comprising of 272 no spaces in total, comprising 118 no. spaces within the private open space of ground floor residential units and 102 no. spaces within secure sheltered structures and designated secure bicycle parking areas, and 52 no. short stay/visitor spaces.
4. 3,636 sq.m of public open space, including arrival pocket park, central pocket park and amenity landscape areas (including 117 sq.m of play), grass lawns, kickabout areas, picnic areas and seating areas;
5. 956 sq.m of communal external open space, including seating areas, nature trails, and amenity grass lawns.
6. Additional environmental open space of 1,790 sq.m, including landscape buffers, protection and enhancement of existing hedgerows and trees.
7. A new vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist access from the existing estate road adjoining the site to the south.
8. Infrastructure works to serve the proposed development to include the internal road and footpath network, ESB cabinets/substations/switchrooms, site and external building lighting, site

drainage works, hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, communal bin stores, and all ancillary site services and development works above and below ground.



Figure 7. Proposed site layout.

6.3 Impact assessment

6.3.1 Existing environment

The subject site is situated in the townland of Ardshanavooly, the barony of Maguniht and the civil parish of Killarney.

6.3.2 Descriptions of recorded monuments

There are no recorded monuments on the subject site. The closest recorded monument is 190m from the subject site. The closest monument is listed in Table 1 below;

Table 4. List of recorded archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the subject site (data after ASI).

RMP/SMR	Class	Townland	Summary Description	Distance from subject site
KE066-068002-	Burial ground	ARDSHANAVOOLY	There are no visible remains of the circular burial ground (diam. c. 50m) which is indicated on the 1846 OS 6-inch map by a dotted line and is named '(site of) Killarney Burial Ground'. Compiled by: Elizabeth Byrne, Ursula Egan and Sheila Ronan, Archaeological Survey Unit, University College, Cork. Date of upload: 31 January 2011	190m

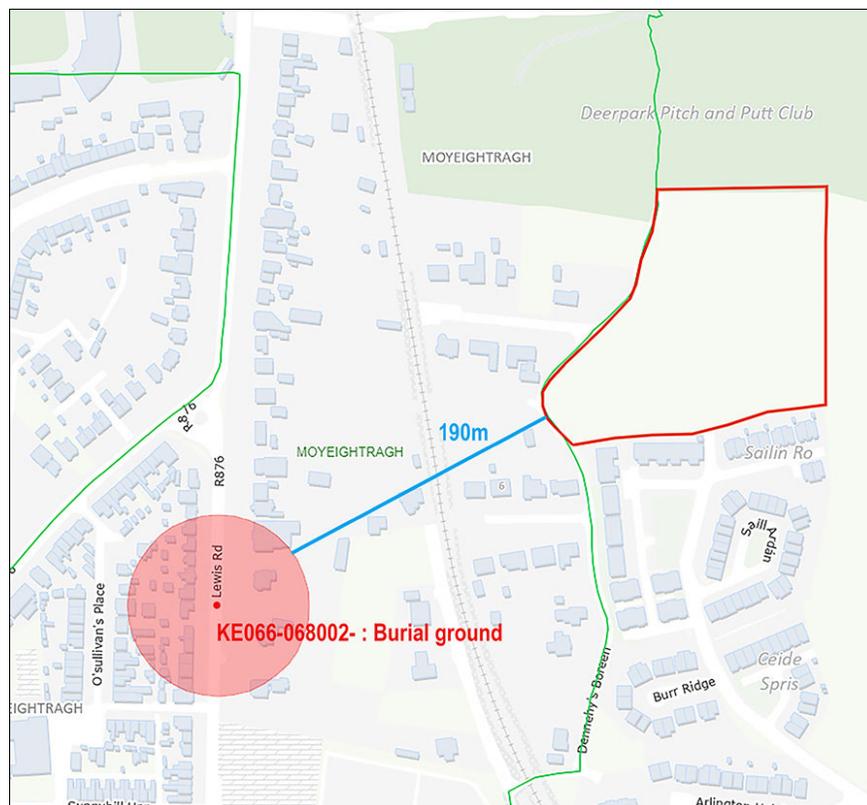


Figure 8. Subject site outlined in red (ASI www.archaeology.ie). Closest archaeological monuments indicated.

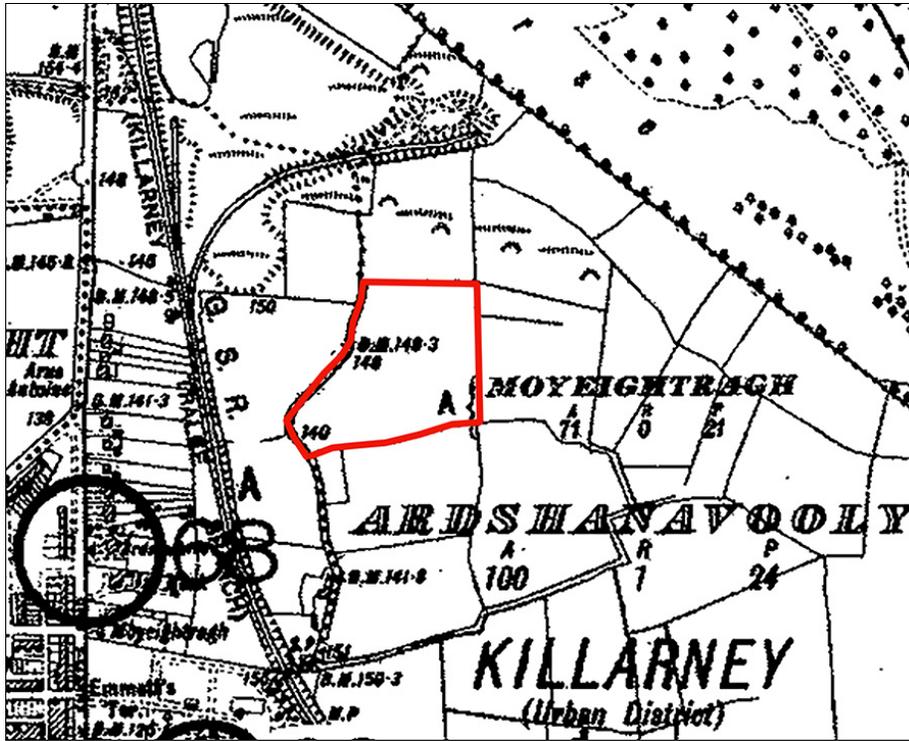


Figure 9. Kerry Sheet 66, SMR 1997 detail on 1939 ed Subject site in red.

6.3.3 Physical impacts

No archaeological features were encountered. Therefore, there will be no physical impacts on archaeology.

6.4 Mitigation

No further archaeological mitigation measures are suggested.

While the exercise of targeted test trenching can identify sub-surface archaeological remains (which it has not done in this case) and can also significantly reduce the likelihood of encountering archaeological remains at later project stages; it can never *entirely* eliminate the risk of finding small isolated artefacts or features. In light of this, the attention of the client, client agents, and the developer is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments Acts (1930–2014) which describes the responsibility of the site owners and procedures to report the finding of archaeological items, should any be discovered during construction works, to the National Museum of Ireland, and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The client's and client's agents' attention is also drawn to two current policy documents in regard to the archaeological heritage in the Republic of Ireland, available at:

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf>;

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-policy-and-guidelines.pdf>.

Please note that this report can only report on the facts discovered during the project and make suggestions on suitable archaeological mitigation should it be required. It is the remit of the National Monuments Service, sometimes through the Local Authority, to legally recommend archaeological mitigation on a site-by-site basis, which may differ from the mitigation suggested above.



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