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1. Archaeological Impact Assessment

1.1 Introduction
This report assesses the archaeological implications of developing lands in Gorteens townland near Belview Port, Co. Kilkenny. The study area is located on the northern bank of the River Suir, to the west of the confluence of the Suir and Barrow rivers (Figs. 1 & 2). The site is scheduled for development as a milk powder processing facility within a 27 hectare site own by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). The impact assessment was carried out by Margaret McCarthy, MA, MIAI on behalf of Project Management Ltd. and details a desktop study and field inspection of the proposed development site. The main purpose of the report is to provide an assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area and the implications for a proposed development within it. It includes information on sites of archaeological interest within the environs of the proposed development and assesses the overall impact on potential buried archaeological remains. There are no known archaeological sites on the lands in question but its location in a coastal environment close to the historic city of Waterford strongly indicates that previously unrecorded archaeological features or finds may be uncovered during the development of the site.

1.2 Methodology
The report was compiled using the following sources:

- Desk top study
- Field-walking

1.2.1 Desk Top Study
This is a document and cartographic survey utilising a number of sources in order to identify all known archaeological sites and other monuments of historical interest within the area to be affected by the proposed development. The principal sources used for identifying archaeological monuments are listed below.

- Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Kilkenny (RMP)
- Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Waterford (RMP)
- Sites and Monuments Record for Co. Kilkenny (SMR)
- Sites and Monuments Record for Co. Waterford (SMR)
- National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files
- Townland search of the annual Excavations bulletin.
- All three editions of the OS 6" scale sheets
- County Development Plans for Co. Kilkenny and Co. Waterford
- Belview Area Action Plan 1997

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service of the DoAHG with accompanying RMP maps, based on OS 6" Sheets, which indicate the location of each recorded site. The list is based on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) files which are kept in the National Monuments Service and are updated on a regular basis. The Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) are lists with accompanying...
maps and files of all known archaeological sites and monuments mainly dating to before 1700AD. These lists were initially compiled from cartographic, documentary and aerial photographic sources.

The find spots of artefacts can provide valuable information on the archaeological potential of an area. The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the museum and consists of a catalogue of objects reported to that institution since 1928. These files mostly contain information on finds but there are also references to monuments and sites of archaeological significance. A record of all previous archaeological excavations undertaken in Ireland is also available from the National Museum. No information for the townland of Gorteens is recorded in the Topographical Files.

County and City Development Plans are made in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and are an important source for identifying protected structures. The plans set out each council’s policy for the conservation and enhancement of a county’s natural and built environment and lists items of special environmental or archaeological interest. The Development Plans produced by Kilkenny County Council, Waterford City Council and the Belview Port Area were all consulted for this assessment. They include a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which is a list of buildings which may not be altered or demolished without grant of permission under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963-1993.

1.2.2 Field Survey

The field survey was undertaken on April 18th 2012, the primary objective being to walk the 27ha site and inspect the lands for unrecorded visible archaeological monuments and features. An intensive geophysical survey of the subject lands had previously been undertaken (Nicholls 2004) and the results of this investigation were taken into account throughout the field survey. The conditions for site inspection were good in that the vegetation cover was quite low and archaeological sites with little surface expression would have been visible. The proposed development lands extend to the north of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and comprise nine pasture fields which for ease of description and photography were assigned numbers prior to the site inspection (Fig. 3). A brief description of each field is provided below.

Field 1

This field is located in the southwest section of the proposed development site adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Plates 1 & 2). Access was provided by a farm trackway that was formally the main avenue to Springfield House (Plate 3). The original gate lodge survives but this is not within the boundary of the proposed development site and will not therefore be impacted upon during construction (Plate 4). The building is roofless and in an extremely ruinous condition. Field 1 consists of a large relatively flat pasture field bounded to the north and east by mature hedgerows and to the west by woodland which slopes down steeply to a narrow stream. Several anomalies of potential archaeological interest were discovered as a
result of geophysical prospecting including three faint linear features at the northeast corner of the field. No features of archaeological potential were identified during the field survey.

Field 2
This large level field located to the north of Field 1 was under pasture at the time of the field survey (Plate 5). The field boundaries are largely earthen banks with some stones and trees (Plate 6). Several areas of possible archaeological interest were identified in the geophysical survey including two linear features and some possible pits. No traces of these were identified on the surface during the field survey.

Field 3
A large pasture field situated to the north of Field 2 with a gentle slope to the north (Plate 7). The field is enclosed by earthen and stone field boundaries (Plate 8). The geophysical survey identified a faint network of linear features at the southwest corner of the field. The pattern is suggestive of former field boundaries though none are indicated on the OS maps. Isolated pit type features were also identified. No visible features of archaeological significance were noted.

Field 4
This field is located in the northwest section of the proposed development site at the junction of the road leading to Rathculliheen and a minor road to Giles Quay. It consists of a large flat pasture field with a gentle slope to the south (Plate 9). The remains of a former boundary extending NS through the central area of the field were identified in the geophysical survey for this field. Several possible isolated pits were also identified. No traces of these geophysical features were noted during the field survey.

Field 5
Located to the east of Field 4 and bound to the north by the secondary road leading to Rathculliheen. It consists of a large pasture field which was being grazed by cattle at the time of the field survey (Plate 10). The remains of former cultivation furrows and several early land divisions similar to those noted in Field 4 were identified from the geophysical survey. A concentration of pit type features may also be significant. None of these features were visible on the surface during the field inspection.

Field 6
This field was accessed through an overgrown IDA road from the new road providing access to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Plate 11). It consists of a large field under pasture and is enclosed by stone and earthen field boundaries (Plate 12). The geophysical survey identified traces of possible cultivation furrows and some pit-type features. No visible features of archaeological significance were identified during the field survey.

Field 7
This marshland field is located at the northeast corner of the proposed development site close to the entrance gates providing access to the
Waste Water Treatment Plant and newly developed reed beds and boardwalk (Plate 13). No geophysical work was carried out at this site and no visible features of archaeological importance were identified during the field survey.

Field 8
This is a flat wet marshy field adjacent to the new roadway providing access to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Plate 14). No geophysical survey was carried out here and no visible features of archaeological significance were noted on the surface during the site inspection. This field is separated from Field 5 by a wide overgrown farm trackway with a stone gatepost surviving on the edge of the trackway (Plate 15).

Field 9
This field is located at the southeast corner of the proposed development site adjacent to the roadway providing access to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Plate 16). The geophysical survey identified some linear trenches and a few possible pit features but none of these were visible on the surface during the field survey.

1.3 Receiving Environment
The lands scheduled for development are situated in Co. Kilkenny on the northern side of the River Suir close to Belview Port, the main port for Waterford city. The study area encompasses a mixed rural, residential and industrial landscape on the eastern outskirts of the city. The 27ha site is bound to the east by a private road providing access to the Waste Water Treatment Plant for Co. Waterford, to the south by the treatment plant itself, to the north by a secondary road leading to Rathculliheen and to the west by a narrow minor road leading to Giles Quay. The surrounding landscape is largely composed of farmland, most of which is laid out in pasture and a small amount in tillage. The fields in general are quite large and are mostly enclosed by mature trees and ditched hedgerows. The underlying geology derives from Ordovician, Silurian and Cambrian shale and glacial till.

A roofless gate lodge at the original entranceway to Springfield House is located to the southwest of the lands proposed for development. The building is split-level and of red brick and stone construction and the window surrounds and doorway also have red brick details (Plates 17-18). The chimney and fireplace survive in an extremely ruinous condition (Plate 19). The first edition OS map depicts the lodge and the driveway leading to Springfield House which is now located within the grounds of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Fig. 4). The gate lodge is just outside the area of the lands proposed for development and it will not be impacted upon during construction work at the site.

1.4 General archaeological and historical summary
From the initial period of human settlement in Ireland, the coastal regions of Munster offered a plentiful supply of food to the earliest colonists. These earliest settlers or Mesolithic peoples are known to have arrived about 9000 years ago after the last Ice Age when the climate had warmed sufficiently to allow the development of vegetation. The preferred location for Mesolithic settlement was in
coastal and riverine zones where the food resources of both the sea
and inland waterways were available. The coastal regions of
Waterford and the banks of the rivers Suir and Barrow were ideal
locations for exploitation by early hunter-gatherer groups. These early
prehistoric settlements leave little surface trace as the nature of their
economy as hunter-gatherers resulted in transient occupation of a
landscape. Most sites are only discovered during topsoil removal and
trenching for the insertion of service pipes.

The advent of the First Farmers or Neolithic people in Ireland was
around 6000 years ago. These populations were sedentary and after
initial forest clearance, they cultivated the land and kept domesticated
stock. This was also the period when pottery was first used and
elaborate burial sites were constructed. As with the Mesolithic period,
the settlements of this time are difficult to locate as the houses were
invariably made from perishable materials such as timber walled
structures with thatched roofs. The visible remains of these early
populations are the burial sites, which are frequently large stone built
structures or megalithic tombs. The less obvious settlement sites of
this period may exist in the proposed development lands in Gorteens
townland and may be uncovered in those areas scheduled for the
removal of topsoil during the initial phase of groundworks.

The Bronze Age in Ireland began around 2500BC when metal became
common for use in tool and weapon production and the currency of
wealth. As for previous periods, settlements from this period rarely
leave surface traces as the materials used were ephemeral and sites
are only detected when the ground is disturbed. The burials of this
period are frequently cremations, placed below ground either
contained in ceramic vessels or unprotected and like the settlement
sites, are usually accidentally discovered. The Bronze Age period is
probably best known for delicate gold artefacts and elaborate pottery
styles, many of which have been recovered through ploughing and
other ground disturbance.

One of the most frequent monuments of the Bronze Age period is a
site type known as a *fulacht fiadh*. These archaeological features are
most commonly interpreted as ancient cooking-sites, which usually
survive as small horseshoe-shaped mounds of charcoal-enriched soil
packed with fragments of heat-shattered stones. They are also
frequently located close to a water source leading some
archaeologists to suggest alternative uses such as sweat houses or
saunas. Many of the sites have been reduced to level spreads of burnt
stones and charcoal through intensive ploughing activity. Undisturbed
sites located in pastoral land have a characteristic horseshoe-shaped
mound. A similar type of monument can be found in Scotland, Wales
and the Isle of Man, where they are referred to as ‘burnt mounds’. The
dating evidence available at present indicates that this site type has a
long tradition, spanning the period from the Early Bronze Age to early
historic times, but there appears to be a concentration of sites in the
Middle to Late Bronze Age. Their presence is a strong indicator of
Bronze Age activity and previously unknown examples may be
encountered beneath the surface when topsoil stripping occurs during
the construction phase. Archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal
for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the immediate south of the proposed development site revealed the site of a *fulacht fiadh* at the edge of one of the temporary access roads (Scully 2007). There are also numerous *fulachta fiadh* recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Kilkenny in the environs of the development site in the townlands of Kilmurry (KK044073), Abbeylands (KK046-009001; KK009002; KK046008; KK046010; KK046011; KK046012; KK046030) and Christendom (KK046014; KK046015). Large-scale topsoil removal at the proposed development site in Gorteens townland may also expose previously unknown burnt mounds.

With the advent of Christianity, written documents record various historic events and people and information on the Early Christian/Early Historic period of Irish archaeology is augmented by written sources. The most common site type of this period is the ringfort which is one of the most widespread archaeological field monuments in Ireland. They are usually known by the names *rath* or *lios* and are circular or sub-circular areas enclosed by a single or multiple earthen bank(s) formed of material thrown up from a concentric fosse (ditch) on its outside. Variations on the enclosing element include stone facing or stone banks (*caher*). Archaeological investigation has shown that the majority of ringforts were enclosed farmsteads, built in Early Christian times. Although comparatively few ringforts have been excavated, it is accepted that they have a long period of use, from about 600-900 AD. There are no ringforts recorded within or in the vicinity of the subject lands in Gorteens and the geophysical survey did not reveal any circular features that would indicate the former existence of such monuments in the area.

The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in the middle of the twelfth century marked a significant change in the social structure of the island with the colonisers introducing new types of fortifications, buildings and language. The rich land along the east and southeast coasts of Ireland was initially chosen for settlement. Gorteens townland is described in the Down Survey as having two castles and four dwellings although the only surviving remains are of a somewhat ruinous gatehouse c.200m to the northeast of the proposed development lands. The earlier medieval history of the site is unclear but in the 16th century and first half of the 17th century the FitzGeralds held the ‘manor, town and lands of Gurtins’ (Carrigan 1905). John FitzGerald forfeited the lands of ‘Gurteens’ under the Cromwellian regime and it would appear that the land was then divided up between various English settlers. Little is known of the new owners of Gorteens in the late 17th century. In the early 18th century Gorteens became the site of one of the earliest glass-making factories in Ireland and may have provided the origins for the Waterford Glass factory (King 1993). There is no written or cartographic evidence for the exact location of the early 18th century glassworks at Gorteens, but it was assumed that they were located somewhere in the vicinity of Glass House (Hurley 2002). It has been suggested that the glass furnace was located downslope from the house possibly close to the old quay (ibid). The glass-making factory was established by John Head with the produce sold by John Morris in nearby Waterford City.
The lands proposed for development originally formed part of the Springfield House demesne. Springfield House was occupied by the Waring family from about 1740 to 1860 (Walsh 2001). It is now in an extremely ruinous condition but stood originally as a double-bayed structure with associated outbuildings. It was purchased in the 1920s by the Barton family and eventually sold to the IDA in 1975 (Scully 2007). The house now stands within the grounds of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the original gate lodge survives in a very poor state adjacent to although not within the lands proposed for development. The house but not the gate lodge is listed in the Record of Protected Structures for Co. Kilkenny (C482). Other recorded protected structures in the vicinity of the site include Kilmurry Castle (C435), Glass House (C483), Belview House (C480), Prospect House (C481) and Rockland House (C473).

1.4.1 Previous archaeological work undertaken in the environs of the proposed development site
The area surrounding the proposed development lands is extremely rich in archaeological monuments and excavations during the construction of the adjacent Waste Water Treatment plant and road widening works associated with the development of Belview Port have revealed a number of previously unknown archaeological features. Further afield, recent archaeological evidence emerging from the NRA road scheme projects identified a highly significant Viking encampment outside Waterford in Woodstown townland. Brief summaries of the archaeological excavations carried out in Gorteens and Kilmurry townlands in recent years are provided below.

1.4.1.1 Gorteens Townland
Excavation Licence No. 93E0012
A six week excavation was undertaken beside Gorteens Castle in 1993 during construction work on the new Belview Port road to link the Slieveroe bypass with the new Waterford port on the River Suir (King 1994). Excavation revealed the foundations of two houses together with a contemporary field system. Parts of the bawn wall around the castle were also exposed. A number of trenches and drains, two small spreads of charcoal, a cobbled surface and a concentration of postholes were located, together with a large deposit of slag, burnt stones and burnt clay which appeared to suggest iron working on the site. The archaeological evidence indicated that the site was occupied from the second half of the 16th century into the first half of the 18th century.

1.4.1.2 Gorteens Townland
Excavation Licence No. 01E0269
Archaeological testing of the environs of Glass House was undertaken in April 2001 prior to the restoration of the dwelling house. The test trenches were placed along the line of drainage trenches. Very little was found in the way of domestic debris despite the link to early glass making in this area of the River Suir. There was no evidence for wasters, furnaces, slag or any other indication of glass making in the tested areas and as a result it has been suggested that the glass-making facility was located closer to the quay in the former hamlet of Gorteens (Hurley 2002).
1.4.1.3 **Gorteens Townland**  
**Excavation Licence No. 00E0105**  
Testing prior to development in Gorteens townland produced numerous post medieval finds including glazed print ware, porcelain ware and a single sherd of Leinster cooking ware. Stone-filled drainage features and early cultivation furrows were also identified (Kelleher 2001). In another area a large hearth site was exposed that spanned the width of the test trench. The hearth was clay-lined and the excavator has suggested that it may be associated with the former Springfield House estate to the immediate south of the proposed development site.

1.4.1.4 **Gorteens Townland**  
**Excavation Licence No. 03E0255**  
Testing was undertaken in the vicinity of Gorteens Castle in advance of a road realignment project (Walsh 2004). The excavation of 22 test trenches revealed the presence of numerous medieval features and deposits including the remains of stone walls which seemed to define the walls of out-buildings associated with the castle. The remains of a north-south oriented ditch and associated features were uncovered close to the castle.

1.4.1.5 **Gorteens Townland**  
**Excavation Licence No. 01E0959**  
Monitoring of groundworks during the construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the immediate south of the proposed development site revealed two features of archaeological significance; a *fulacht fiadh* and a drying kiln (Scully 2002). The *fulacht fiadh* was uncovered during the laying of a temporary roadway leading to the new treatment plant. The burnt mound was not disturbed during groundworks and it was sealed and covered with earth. The kiln was exposed in the area for the tanks and after recording it was covered with a protective membrane and backfilled with topsoil as there were no plans to build on the area. The kiln lay to the southeast of the original farmhouse, Springfield House.

1.4.1.6 **Gorteens Townland**  
**Excavation Licence No. 07E0874**  
Archaeological testing was undertaken at the site of the proposed SUPRAM site in the IDA Business Park. A previous geophysical survey had identified a number of potential archaeological features but the subsequent test excavation indicated that these were natural and no features or finds of archaeological merit were uncovered (Kyle 2007).

1.4.1.7 **Kilmurry Townland**  
**Excavation Licence No. 06E0856**  
Test trenches were opened on the site of a single house near Slieverue within the constraint zone of Kilmurry stone alignment. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered apart from a post-medieval/modern drainage ditch.
1.4.1.8 **Kilmurry Townland**
*Excavation Licence No. 99E0210*
Archaeological excavation within and around Kilmurry Castle uncovered a range of archaeological features associated with the post-medieval occupation of the building (Murtagh 1999).

1.4.1.9 **Kilmurry Townland**
*Excavation Licence No. 03E1097*
Test excavations were carried out on a proposed development site at Belview, Kilmurry. Testing was carried out within four areas of archaeological potential identified through geophysical prospecting. A levelled *fulacht fiadh*, a large circular enclosure and a smaller circular enclosure were exposed and subsequently excavated.

1.5. **Recorded archaeological sites (RMP) in the vicinity of the proposed development**
There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development area. The only monument within a 1km radius of the site is Gorteens castle (KK047001) which is located c.200m to the northeast of the subject lands as shown on Fig. 5. The property is described in the Down Survey as having two castles and four dwellings although the gatehouse in the farmyard is now the only surviving part of the demesne (Plate 20). Excavations in the vicinity of the castle in 1993 revealed the foundations of two houses as well as parts of the bawn wall. A large deposit of slag, burnt stones and burnt clay appeared to suggest intensive iron working on the site (King 2007). The site was further investigated in 2004 when the excavation of 22 test trenches as part of a road alignment project revealed the presence of numerous medieval features and deposits including the remains of stone walls which seemed to define out-buildings associated with the castle (Walsh 2004). The archaeological evidence indicated that the site was occupied from the second half of the 16th century into the first half of the 18th century.

1.6. **Impact assessment**
There are a number of recorded archaeological monuments within the vicinity of the proposed development site in Belview but since none of these are on or near the subject lands, the impact on the existing archaeological heritage is limited. It is anticipated that the greatest potential impacts on archaeological heritage will arise during the removal of topsoil for the construction of the new facility. The area of the proposed development is on the northern bank of the River Suir adjacent to Little Island and the confluence of the Suir and the Barrow. Both these rivers were used as transportation routes during prehistoric and historic times and the potential for uncovering previously unknown early coastal settlements as well as later medieval farming complexes within the development site is high. Waterford was of particular importance to the Anglo-Norman colony in Ireland and many rural settlements were located in areas surrounding the town. Some of these settlements have no surface trace but may be uncovered during topsoil removal. A review of recent archaeological investigations has indicated that settlement was widespread in this area during the medieval period.

1.6.1 **Construction Phase Impact**
The proposed development is likely to involve the removal of large amounts of topsoil during site preparation as well as the excavation of access roads, service and drainage trenches. The greatest impact is likely to be caused by earthworks in the form of cutting and filling to produce level sites suitable for development. Although there are no recorded archaeological monuments within the proposed development lands, it is possible that hitherto unknown sites will be uncovered during groundworks associated with construction. In particular, the uncovering of a *fulacht fiadh* and a drying kiln during construction work at the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the immediate south of the subject lands indicates that there is a considerable risk of previously unknown archaeological remains being exposed during topsoil removal. While no above ground features of archaeological significance were identified within the development site during the field inspection, buried archaeological remains may exist below the surface and could range from small-scale sites such as early hunter-gatherer camps and isolated burials to extensive evidence for later prehistoric and medieval habitation. The geophysical survey has identified a number of areas of potential archaeological interest and targeted archaeological testing will establish whether or not these are of real significance.

1.6.2 Operational Phase Impact
No remedial measures are to take place in relation to archaeology during the operational phase of the development.

1.6.3 ‘Do nothing’ scenario
In the ‘do nothing’ scenario, there would be no impact on the archaeological heritage as there would be no opportunity to establish the nature and extent of potential sub-surface archaeological features.

1.7 Mitigation Measures
In order to prevent accidental damage to the archaeological landscape, including any potential sub-surface archaeological finds or features, the following mitigation strategies are proposed:

1.7.1 Pre-construction Phase Mitigation
The geophysical survey has indicated that a considerable number of potential archaeological features are present below the surface in most of the areas investigated. It is recommended that targeted archaeological testing be carried out in those areas where significant anomalies were identified. In particular, the remains of a former boundary extending NS through the central area of Field 4, several early land divisions in both Field 4 and Field 5 and areas where possible pits and surface burning were noted should be investigated. The test excavation should be carried out under licence prior to the commencement of any development works at the site and the results should be submitted to the National Monuments Service, DoAHG and the National Museum of Ireland for review.

1.7.2 Construction Phase Mitigation
The greatest potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage of the surrounding landscape will be during the removal of topsoil. Throughout the development site it is possible
that buried archaeological features may exist below ground level and it is therefore recommended that large-scale topsoil removal operations be fully monitored by a qualified archaeologist. The archaeologist will require an excavation licence for this work to be issued by The National Monuments Service, Department of the Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht (DoAHG) and approved by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). The time-scale for the construction phase should be made available to the archaeologist at an early stage with information on where and when topsoil stripping will take place.

The monitoring archaeologist should be empowered to halt the development if buried archaeological features or finds are uncovered. If archaeological remains are encountered, these sites become an archaeological site and are protected by the National Monuments legislation. Further work on the site will require consultation with the archaeological staff of The National Monuments Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Provision, including financial and time, should be made to facilitate any excavation or recording of archaeological material that may be uncovered during the developmental works. The excavations should be undertaken in compliance with any measures that the DoAHG and the National Museum of Ireland deem appropriate.

1.7.3 Operational Phase Mitigation
No remedial measures are to take place in relation to archaeology during the operational phase of the development.

1.8 Residual Impacts
The greatest potential impact of the proposed works on the archaeological heritage of the area is to hitherto unknown archaeological features. The proposed works will have a negative archaeological impact on undisturbed areas of ground where topsoil removal will be required for the construction of the production facility. Pre-development archaeological testing and subsequent monitoring of all large-scale topsoil will ensure the full recognition and recording of any buried finds or features therefore it is envisaged that there will be no residual impacts on the archaeological heritage of the area.

1.9 Bibliography
1.10 Non Technical Summary

This report has assessed the archaeological implications of developing IDA industrially zoned lands in Gorteens townland near Belview Port, Co. Kilkenny. A number of sources were consulted in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of the area that will be impacted upon during the construction of a milk powder processing facility. Field walking was carried out to assess the likely impact of the works on recorded archaeological monuments in the area and to inspect the subject lands for unknown visible archaeological sites. The site inspection did not reveal any traces of previously unrecorded archaeological monuments or features. The proposed development site is within an area where there are abundant Bronze Age fulacht fiadh and medieval settlements. The discovery of a previously unknown fulacht fiadh and a drying-kiln during construction work on the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the immediate south of the proposed development site is a strong indicator of the archaeological potential of the area. While there is no direct impact on the recorded archaeological monuments within the environs of the subject lands, as yet unknown archaeological monuments may be impacted upon during large-scale topsoil removal. A number of mitigation measures are recommended in order to prevent accidental loss or damage to archaeological finds or features that lie below the present surface and have no visible surface traces.
Fig. 3: Fields 1-9 within proposed development site

Fig. 4: Springfield House and Belview House on 1st Edition OS map
Plate 1: Field 1 – facing E

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