

Archaeology and Built Heritage Assessment
for proposed development of an Integrated
Constructed Wetland (ICW)

at

Griffeen Valley Park

on behalf of

Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) Project
(Agreement number: LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281)

South Dublin County Council/ Dún Laoghaire-
Rathdown County Council

by

Dr. Eoin Sullivan, Gort Archaeology



Contents

Executive Summary

Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Receiving Environment -
2.1	Historical/Archaeological background
2.2	Known Archaeological Monuments
2.3	Cartographic Sources
2.4	Aerial photography
2.5	Provenanced Artefacts
2.6	Previous Archaeological Excavations
2.7	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
2.8	Record of Protected Structures
Section 3	Receiving Environment - Site description
Section 4	Proposed development
Section 5	Conclusion and advice

Plates

Plate 1	General site location
Plate 2	Ordnance Survey map showing known archaeological monuments
Plate 3	John Rocque's Plan of the City and Environs of Dublin dating to 1756
Plate 4	Taylor's South map dating to 1816
Plate 5	William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin dating to 1821
Plate 6	First Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1843
Plate 7	3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1912
Plate 8	4th Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1938
Plate 9	View of River Griffeen bank along eastern site boundary looking north
Plate 10	View of southern end of site from mid point looking south east
Plate 11	View of site from south east corner looking north
Plate 12	View of site from south west corner looking north east
Plate 13	View of external land to south of site looking north
Plate 14	View of playing pitches at south eastern exterior looking south west
Plate 15	View of external land to west of site looking south west
Plate 16	View of northern portion of site from western exterior looking east
Plate 17	View of site from northern end looking south

Executive Summary

South Dublin County Council was awarded EU funding for the Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) project (Agreement number: LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281) that requires the construction of an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) within Griffeen Valley Park, south of Lucan Village. As part of the planning process the County Council is applying under Part VIII for permission to construct an ICW within a greenfield portion of the middle section of Griffeen Valley Park, adjacent to an existing pedestrian bridge over the Griffeen River. As part of the planning application South Dublin County Council commissioned Dr. Eoin Sullivan (Gort Archaeology) to undertake an Archaeological and Heritage Assessment of the site of the proposed ICW.

The Archaeological and Built Heritage Assessment is based upon a desk-study of available published historical and documentary sources and complimented with a walk-over survey. The site of the proposed ICW is located south and upriver of the three known archaeological monuments of King John's Bridge and St. Finian's Church and associated graveyard, 400m and 500m to the north of the site respectively. An inspection of known archaeological monuments showed that these are the only known archaeological monuments within a one kilometre radius of the site of the proposed ICW.

The available cartographic sources show the site of the proposed ICW was originally open agricultural land with occasional land divisions and tree lined roads indicated in the late eighteenth century. The land was subsequently subdivided so that by the early nineteenth century, the land within the vicinity of the site was enclosed by agricultural field boundaries, the produce of which was used in the mills along the Griffeen River supplying Lucan and the Dublin market.

The Ordnance Survey maps indicate that one and subsequently two field boundaries stretched from east to west across the site to the edge of Griffeen River and that they were present until at least the late 1930's. There is no surface expression of the boundaries within the footprint of the site, but they have a visible surface expression on the higher ground to the western exterior of the site. The land of the site was agricultural land probably associated with the farmhouse, located a short distance to the south west exterior of the site. The house is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The house was subsequently removed and there are no visible surface expressions of the structures. It is advised that the contractor be made aware of the location of the nineteenth century farm house to ensure no direct impact upon potential sub-surface remains of the structures due to construction traffic.

Previous pre-development archaeological assessments beside St. Finian's Church and graveyard showed that the land was heavily disturbed in the past and there were no surviving archaeological features. Similar disturbance of the original ground was also shown in excavations close to King John's Bridge, undertaken as part of the River

Griffeen River Flood Alleviation Scheme. No artefacts or features were discovered during an underwater archaeological survey of the River Griffeen from King John's Bridge to Lucan. No artefacts are provenanced in the files of the National Museum of Ireland to the site or the vicinity of the site of the proposed ICW.

Based upon the results of the desk based research and the site surface inspection, the proposed development will have no direct impact on any known archaeological monument or protected structure and is considered to have a low potential for direct impact on previously unidentified features of archaeological or heritage significance.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Archaeological and Built Heritage Assessment outlines the results of the desk based study and walk-over field inspection of the site of the proposed Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) within Griffeen Valley Park, Lucan, South County Dublin. The site is located within Esker South townland, Barony of Newcastle, Civil Parish of Esker, South County Dublin.
- 1.2 This report forms part of the Part VIII application for the construction of the ICW as part of the Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) Project. The DURL Project (Agreement number: LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281) has received funding from the European Union. This funding was awarded to South Dublin County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Dr. Eoin Sullivan (Gort Archaeology) was engaged to undertake an Archaeological and Built Heritage Assessment of the site and adjacent lands as part of the planning application process. The report reflects only the author's view and the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained within this assessment report.
- 1.3 Griffeen Valley Park takes its names from the River Griffeen that flows from the site towards the village of Lucan, some 1.2km to the north west of the northern extent of the park. The park extends southwards close to the rail line near Adamstown, along the Kildare/Heuston line (Plate 1).
- 1.4 The site of the proposed ICW is an elongated site nestled between the banks of the River Griffeen to the east and slightly raised parkland that borders the Arthur Griffith Park estate to the west. This area is described as the enclosed third section of Griffeen Valley Park in the publication about the park (2000, 4). There is a modern pedestrian footbridge over the River Griffeen at the southern most point of the ICW. Bridges play an important part of the archaeological and built heritage of rivers and a surviving medieval bridge, dating to the thirteenth century is the nearest known archaeological monument to the site of the proposed ICW.
- 1.5 The proposed ICW is located within a cut grass area in Griffeen Valley Park and will consist of construction of two cells. The construction will require ground reduction of 900mm with the resultant excavated ground, where possible, being reused within the area of Griffeen Valley Park.

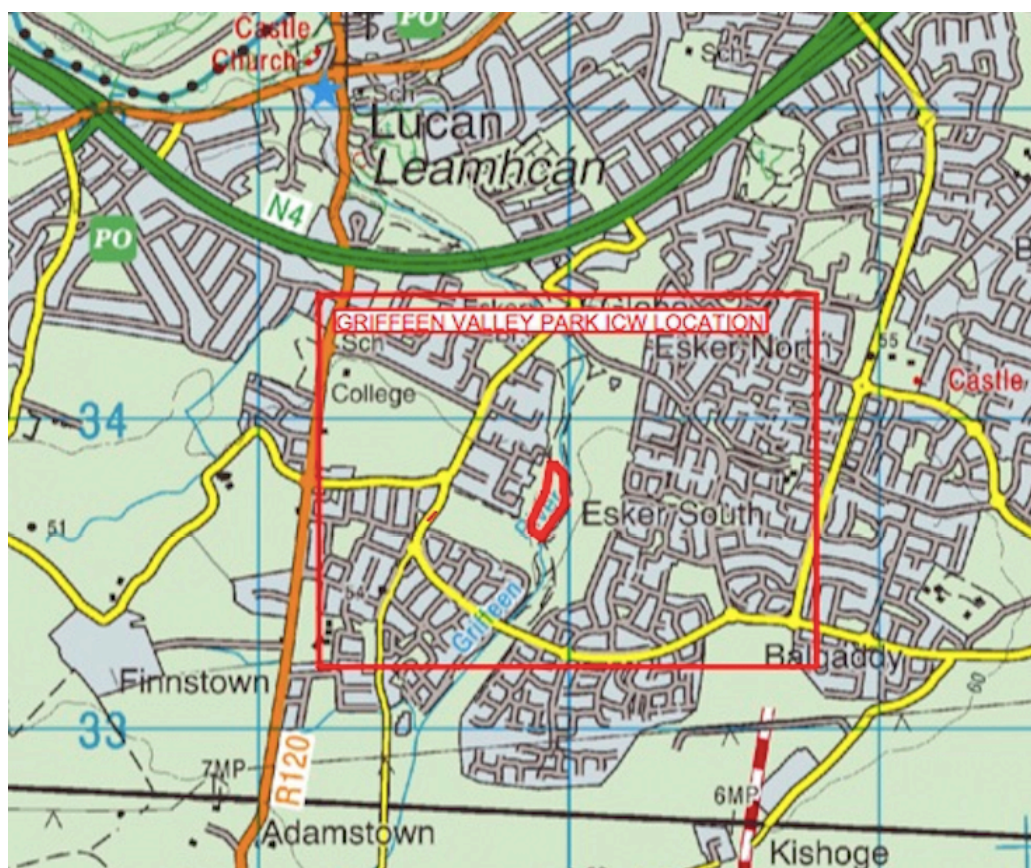


Plate 1 General Site Location (Source: South Dublin County Council)

2 Receiving Environment

2.1 Historical/Archaeological background

2.1.1 The area of Esker townland (Gaelic *Eiscir*) is identified on the landscape by a line of low hills, produced by glacial deposition of sands and gravels from the last Ice Age. Such eskers stretched across the county, notably Eiscir Riada and Slíge Mór, facilitating movement through wild native woodland and wetland areas. In Irish mythology the dividing line formed by the Eiscir Riada formed the territory demarcation between the lands of Conn and Eoghan.

2.1.2 During the *early medieval period* (A.D. 500-1200) the most common settlement form was dispersed farmsteads known as ringforts. Stout (1997) identified spatial associations between ringforts and early ecclesiastical sites. A ringfort with subterranean passage (souterrain) is located in Vessey Park in Lucan, further north along the Griffeen River. It is one of eight ringforts in South Dublin County Council's administrative area (Minogue 2015, 23-24)

2.1.3 By the *medieval period* (A.D.1200-1550) the district of Esker was part of the Crown Demesne in the Vale of the Liffey, which was added to Crown Land by King Henry II in 1171/'72. The entire Manor (an enclosed nucleated settlement similar to a village) was leased to one person, until it was

reorganised by King John. In 1248 the manor was granted to Peter De Bermingham, whose descendant retained ownership for another century (South Dublin Co Co 2003, 10). An extant copy of it's extent mentioned 'a messuage and garden, two dovecots, a fishpond, a rabbit warren and 120 acres of land 'in burgager' (Minogue 2015, 32).

- 2.1.4 A Manor house was located close to the Church of Esker (DU017-02201). In 1229 King Henry conveyed two acres of his lands at Esker, called Liscayllagh or Liscaillah, near the Church to William Fitz Guido, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Revenue from the four ancient Royal Manors of Dublin paid towards the defence and maintenance of the Pale (South Dublin County Council 2003, 11).
- 2.1.5 In 1315 the land in Lucan/Esker became a medieval manorial borough. Between then and 1547, and probably until the eighteenth century the lands of Esker were divided and leased to various tenants directly from the Crown (South Dublin County Council 2003, 12). By 1550 the Royal Manor of Esker consisted of 1800 acres under the management of a Seanchal, Sir William Sarsfield being one such Seanchal during the time of Queen Elizabeth I. Under King John's reign many bridges were constructed to ease access over important fording points on rivers. It was during the reign of King John (A.D 1199-1216) that King John's Bridge over the River Griffeen was constructed, falling into disuse between 1760-1815 based upon cartographic sources.
- 2.1.6 The medieval parish church and graveyard associated with St. Finian is located on high ground above King John's bridge. In the early part of thirteenth century King John gave St. Finian's church to St. Patricks Church in Dublin. Subsequently when St. Patrick's church became a Cathedral, the Dean had a right to the church in Esker, which he dedicated to St. Finian. Medieval Esker was a thriving settlement based upon linen or cotton, but this dwindled after the Act of Union in 1800 (South Dublin County Council 2003, 12).
- 2.1.7 In the 1830's a private boys school was located near the church (2003, 13). There is a local tradition of cure for eyes, whereby people would wash their eyes from water in walls of the ruin, that people called a chalice. In addition another cavity in the wall ruin was know as the 'Devil's Foot' , and that anyone putting either a hand or foot into the hole would be unable to remove it (South Dublin County Council 2003,13).
- 2.1.8 The lands of the present Griffeen Valley Park were acquisitioned in 1972 by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order for recreational, amenity and housing needs (South Dublin County Council 2003, 5).

2.2 Known Archaeological Monuments

2.2.1 Within the footprint of the proposed ICW

2.2.1.1 There are no known Archaeological monuments or features shown to be present within the footprint of the proposed ICW as recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places (R.M.P).

2.2.2 Within a 500m radius of the proposed ICW

2.2.2.1 The Record of Monuments and Places show three known archaeological monuments, located within a radius of 500m of the site (Plate 2). The monuments are all located at the northern perimeter and exterior of Griffeen Valley Park.

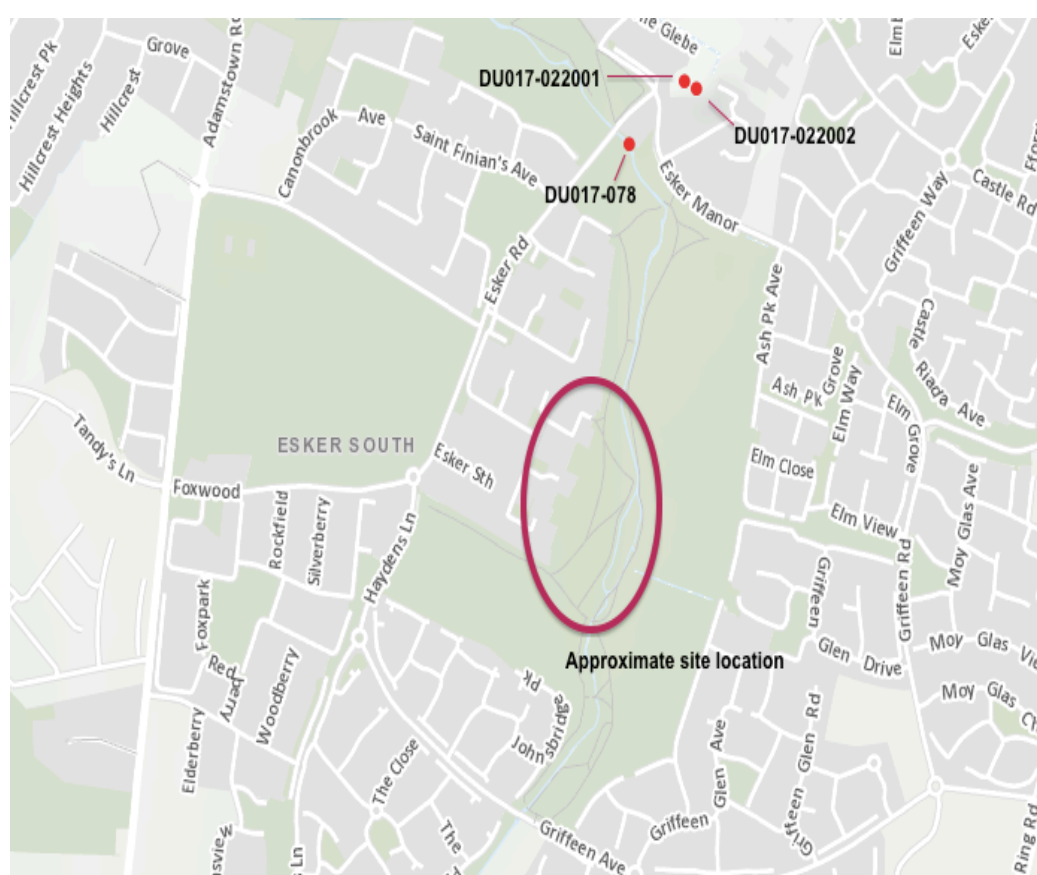


Plate 2 Ordnance Survey map showing known archaeological monuments

2.2.2.2 The descriptions of each monument as recorded on the Record on Monuments and Places are listed in Appendix i. For the purposes of this section of the report we can describe the monuments as consisting of originally a three arched bridge (DU017-078) dating to between A.D. 1199 and A.D. 1216, today survives a ruined hump backed bridge upriver of Esker Bridge recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The bridge has evidence of wicker centering on the north side of the arch and went out of use between

sometime between 1760 and 1837, the dates of Rocque's map and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.

2.2.2.3 A large, rectangular shaped, roughly coursed masonry medieval parish church associated with St. Finian (DU017-02201). It was extensively rebuilt in the sixteenth century when it was re-roofed in timber, but it was considered ruinous by the seventeenth century (Ball 1906, 82-3). The church is surrounded by a masonry graveyard wall defining the associated graveyard that contains eighteenth century memorials (DU017-022002).

2.2.3 Within a 500-1000m radius of the proposed ICW

2.2.3.1 The Record of Monuments and Places shows no known archaeological monument between 500-1000m radius of the site of the proposed ICW.

2.3 Cartographic Sources

The cartographic extracts in this section were sourced from South Dublin Historical Maps and the red outlined areas represent the approximate location of the proposed ICW's.

2.3.1 Downs Survey of Dublin dating to 1656 - shows the site of the proposed ICW marked as 'unforfeited land'. The general outline of the parish boundary is shown but no features associated with Esker South townland are indicated. The exception is the 'highway' shown that links Dublin to Lucan.

2.3.2 John Rocque's Plan of the City and Environs of Dublin dating to 1756- shows the site of the proposed ICW and surrounding area consisting of open agricultural fields. 'King John's bridge' is shown clearly as a bridge over the River Griffeen and the medieval parish church of St. Finian, indicated as 'Church in Ruins' is located to the north west. The land immediately adjacent to the River Griffeen is hachured and this may indicate land that was liable to flood (Plate 3). The map shows two structures, perpendicular to each other on the western side of the bridge within an enclosed area of land.

2.3.3 Taylor's South map dating to 1816 - shows the site of the proposed ICW and surrounding area consisting of open, presumably, agricultural land. The land is indicated as 'Esker', but King John's Bridge is not indicated but the medieval parish church of St. Finian is shown as 'Ch. Ruins'. The map shows two structures to the east side of the River Griffeen, and the buildings are staggered, yet their long axis are parallel with each other. Further to the south at the curve in the road, two buildings are shown. On the eastern side of River Griffeen, the maps shown two separate Mills (Plate 4). The River Griffeen is shown to split into a smaller tributary/ millrace, at the southern mill and join further downriver past the northern mill.

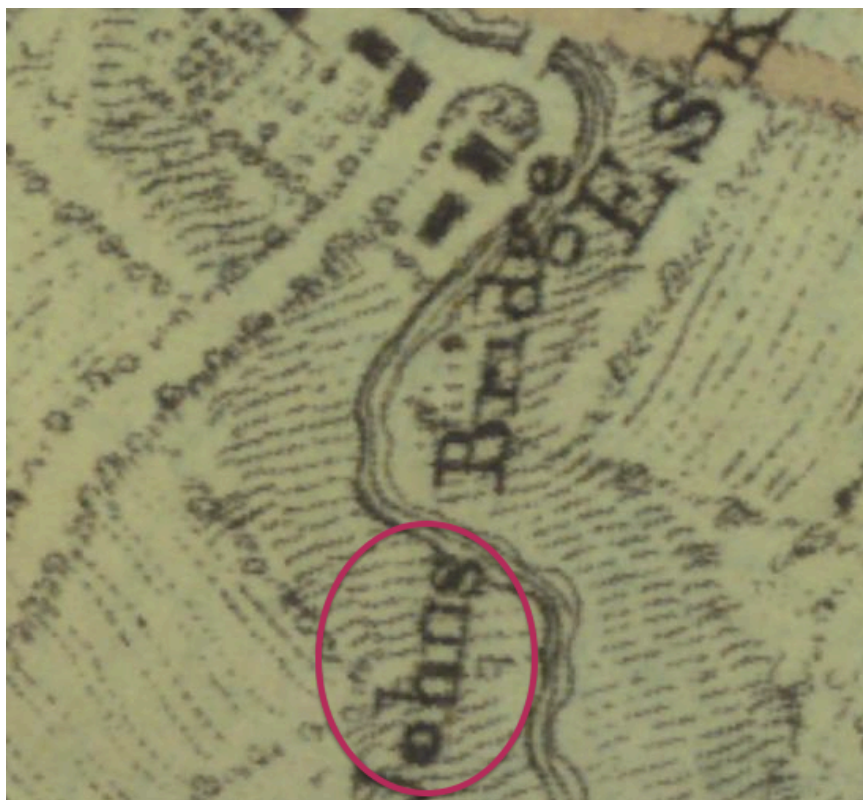


Plate 3 John Rocque's Plan of the City and Environs of Dublin dating to 1756



Plate 4 Taylor's South map dating to 1816

2.3.4 William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin dating to 1821 - shows the site of the proposed ICW as open agricultural land, shown as 'Esker Land'. The map shows the medieval parish church of St. Finian as a elongated unroofed single story building with a high steeple bellcote at one end and depicted as 'Ch. in Ruin'. There are two buildings indicated to the east of the River Griffeen. The River Griffeen is shown to split into a smaller tributary/millrace. Two separate buildings are shown on the eastern bank of the River Griffeen, both with their long axis perpendicular to the river (Plate 5). The southern building has a second building, separate to, but on the same line as the first. There are a series of nine buildings shown to be located along the southern side of the road, away from the site of the proposed ICW.

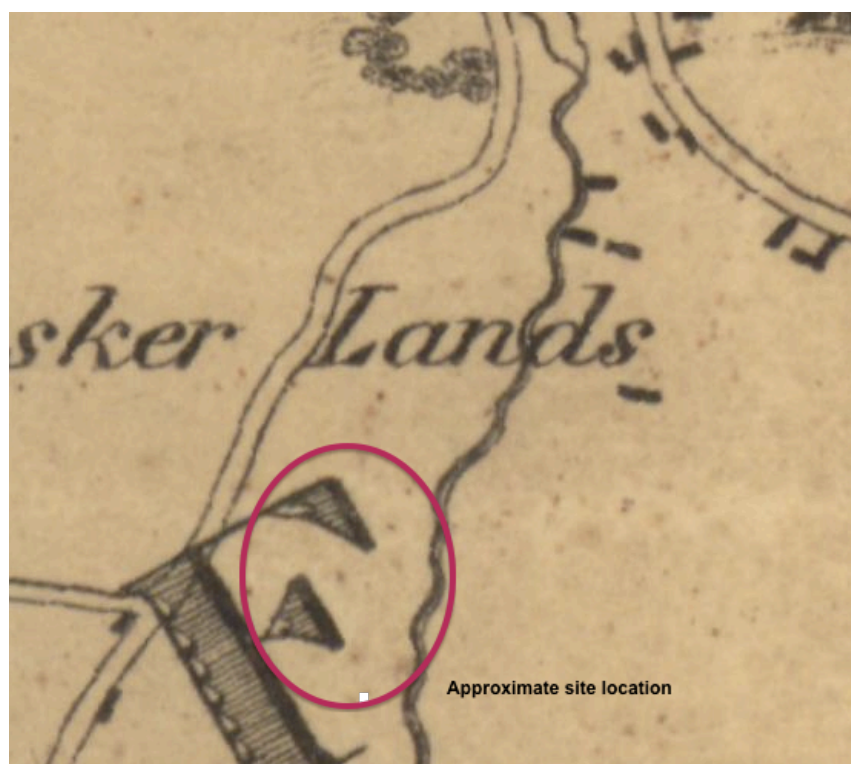


Plate 5 William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin dating to 1821

2.3.5 First Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1843 - shows Esker Bridge crossing the River Griffeen and second bridge is indicated a short distance downstream that enables access between the the land along the western side of the River Griffeen and Esker Villa located on the eastern side of the River Griffeen (Plate 6).

Approximately 700m along the road south of Esker Bridge, a tree lined avenue is indicated that leads to a building with two if not three smaller outhouses to the rear. This building, presumably early nineteenth century, is located close to the perimeter of the site of the proposed ICW. Immediately to the rear of the building there is a elongated linear field that runs towards the

River Griffeen and is met by the line of another field boundary on the eastern side of the river. The northern boundary of this field is similar in so far as the line of it extends on both sides of the river. The field to the north is an elongated field with a curving western field boundary, the River Griffeen forms its eastern perimeter. A weir is shown on the River Griffeen mid way along the length of the field. The agricultural fields to the rear and north of the building with an avenue to access the main road, are the receiving environment of the proposed ICW.



Plate 6 First Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1843

2.3.6 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1912 - shows Esker Bridge crossing the River Griffeen and second bridge is indicated a short distance downstream that enables access between the the land along the western side of the River Griffeen and Esker Villa located on the eastern side of the River Griffeen (Plate 7).

Approximately 700m along the road south of Esker Bridge, a tree lined avenue is indicated that leads to a building with a single outbuilding to the south. This building is located close to the perimeter of the site of the proposed ICW. There is a small footpath leading to small structure at the

north western corner of the field to the rear of the house. Immediately to the rear of the building there is a elongated linear field that runs towards the River Griffeen and is met by the line of another field boundary on the eastern side of the river. The northern boundary of this field is similar in so far as the line of it extends on both sides of the river. The field to the north is a shown as a small rectangular field indicated as being damp ground. The field to the north is an elongated field with a curving western field boundary, the River Griffeen forms its eastern perimeter. The weir indicated on the 1st Edition OS 6inch map of 1843 is not names or indicated. The agricultural fields to the rear and north of the building with an avenue to access the main road, are the receiving environment of the proposed ICW. Further upstream on the western side of the River Griffeen, behind Esker Villa a waterfall is indicated.



Plate 7 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1912

2.3.7 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1938 - shows Esker Bridge crossing the River Griffeen. It also shows a waterfall and what appears be a channel for managing water, with a windpump written beside the channel. The windpump is to the north of the site of the proposed ICW. The farm buildings located close to the perimeter of the site of the proposed ICW have additional

walls around the structures (Plate 8). The field boundaries that are located within the footprint of the site of the proposed ICW are unaltered, but the field further north is indicated as wet with probable rushes.

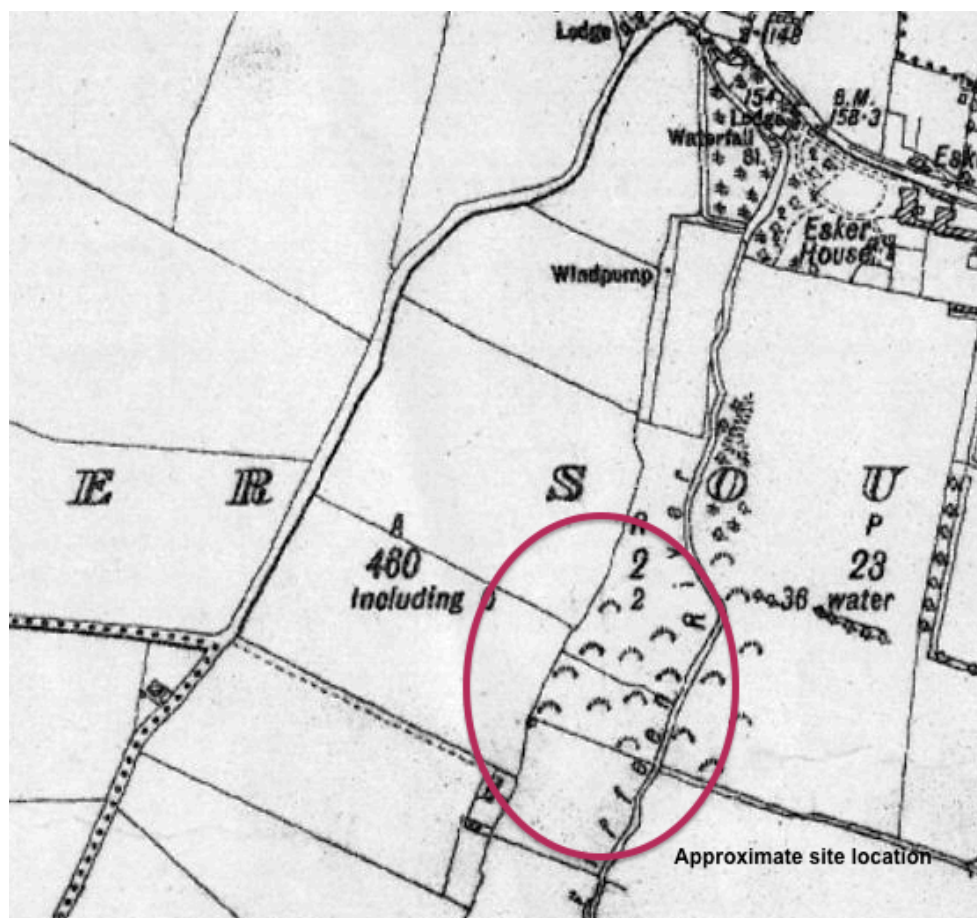


Plate 8 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 6inch map dating to 1938

2.4 Aerial photography

An inspection of available aerial photographs did not reveal any surface evidence of unknown features of archaeological or built heritage significance within the footprint of the proposed ICW.

2.5 Provenanced Artefacts

There are no known artefacts provenanced to the site of the proposed ICW. The Topographical Files in the National Museum of Ireland provenance a polished stone axehead to the townland Esker South (1986:7), however according to the NMI files it is polished jadeite, which is not native to Ireland. It was possibly sourced outside Ireland as a souvenir from the C18-C19th century.

There is a published description of what is described as a Hammer Stone that was found at Lucan, which is outside the 500m radius of the site. The stone measured 2 3/4 inch by 1 7/8 inch and weighed 11 ounces (JRSAI 1899, 428-9).

2.6 Previous Archaeological Excavations

A series of development driven archaeological excavations and investigations have taken place within Lucan Village and around the area of Adamstown within the last 30 years. For the purposes of this report and identifying the Archaeological and Built Heritage Assessment of the site of the proposed ICW in Griffeen Park, we shall look at Archaeological excavations and assessments that took place within a 500m radius of the site.

A desk based study of archaeological excavations taken place within a 500m radius of the site using the online source www.dublincountyheritage.ie and www.excavations.ie revealed that no archaeological excavations or assessments have taken place within the footprint or immediate environment of the site of the proposed ICW. A series of three sub-surface archaeological investigations have taken place within 500m of the northern portion of the site. They are as follows:

- 2.6.1 Archaeological Appraisal and Impact Assessment, Esker, Lucan, Dublin (02E0037) by Bernice Molloy, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. in February 2013. The site, situated south and east of St. Finian's Church and Graveyard (DO017:022), was assessed on the basis of ten excavated trenches. The results revealed little of archaeological potential, only a land or field drain was identified, along with a cut for a field boundary the fill of which produced eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery.
- 2.6.2 Archaeological Test Trenching at King John's Bridge, Lucan, River Griffeen (02E1018) by John Kavanagh, Judith Carroll & Co. Ltd. in June 2003. A single archaeological test trench was within close proximity on the western bank of King John's Bridge, a stone bridge dating to the medieval period. The test trench was required as part of the River Griffeen Flood Alleviation Scheme in advance of construction. The poorly preserved remains of a limestone wall were uncovered running parallel to the riverbank. The area around the test trench had been subjected to high levels of modern disturbance. An underwater archaeological survey was undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd as part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme from King John's Bridge to the confluence with the River Liffey (2002:0620). No features or archaeological significance were discovered. In 2002 the same author undertook a test excavation within the grounds of Vesey park, further downstream along the River Griffeen as part of the River flood alleviation scheme. The site was located south of a known ringfort and souterrain (under ground man-made passage) (DU01702101/ DU01702102). No archaeological remains or features were identified.

- 2.6.3 Archaeological Test Trenching and Monitoring at Colaiste Cois Life, Lucan (04E16100) by Tim Coughlan (testing) and David Bailey (monitoring). The initial assessment revealed that significant amounts of dumping had been carried out on the site in the recent past. The upper natural levels of the natural subsoil may have been previously removed. The features that were identified were a number of stone filled ‘french drains’, a series of shallow plough furrows and modern pits and linear features. The portion of the site closest to the church and graveyard (DU017-022) was greatly disturbed. Subsequent archaeological monitoring did not identify any features or soils of archaeological significance.
- 2.6.4 Although located 600m to the south west of the proposed ICW, it is interesting to note that archaeological testing within the walled garden and footprint of a new building at Finnstown House (RPS 112), Lucan (04E0522) by Ellen O’Carroll did not reveal any soils or features of archaeological significance.
- 2.6.5 Prior to the construction of the Luas F1 line (Lucan-Blackhorse, Dublin) a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2010 (Geophysical Licence No. 10-R-9) by Jo Leigh at the north western extent of Griffeen Valley Park. A total area of 0.46 hectares were surveyed, to the south of the King John’s Bridge (RMP DU017-078; RPS 103), a medieval bridge dating to the thirteenth century. The results of the geophysical survey revealed that the land surface was disturbed, probably associated with modern landscaping. The survey revealed possible rectilinear patterns of significant quantities of rubble material and the possibility of these being structural remains, albeit with a caution of this archaeological interpretation. The southern remainder of the area of the geophysical survey showed nothing of archaeological significance.

2.7 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

There are no known buildings recorded on National Inventory of Architectural Heritage within the footprint of the site of the proposed ICW.

A series of four semi-detached four bay single-storey cottages are located along Esker Road. The buildings all front the main road and are part of sixteen local authority semi-detached cottages built in the 1930’s (NIAH 11204026; 112040027; 11204028; 11204029). The buildings are located in excess of 250m from the western side of the proposed ICW with modern houses between them and the site.

A stone single segmented arched road bridge crosses over the Griffeen River, upriver of the medieval King John’s Bridge. The bridge, indicated on Ordnance Survey maps as Esker Bridge, dates to the early nineteenth century (NIAH 11204023).

2.8 Record of Protected Structures

There are no Protected Structures located within the footprint of the proposed ICW or within the 100m buffer around the site. There are three protected structures within a radius of 500m of the site, namely King John's Bridge (RPS 103) described as 'Bridge (Recorded Monument); Esker Church (RPS 100) described as 'Stone Church (Ruin), Monument and Graveyard (Recorded Monument) and Esker House, Esker Bridge, Lucan (RPS 101) described as 'Detached Five-Bay Two-Storey Farmhouse and Outbuildings.

The Recorded Monuments are described in Section 2 and in Appendix i.

Section 3 Site Inspection

The site of the proposed ICW was visited on Monday 3 September 2020. The land within the footprint of the proposed ICW and land adjacent a distance of 100m from the exterior of the site, where permissible, was walked at a 25m interval to identify any previously unknown surface indications of low visibility features of archaeological or built heritage significance.

The site consists of relatively level ground, adjacent to western bank of the Griffeen River. The banks of the river contain mature broadleaf trees and the southern portion on the western side has a metal railing (Plate 9) that stretches to the modern pedestrian footbridge (Plate 10).



Plate 9 View of River Griffeen bank along eastern site boundary looking north



Plate 10 View of southern end of site from mid point looking south east



Plate 11 View of site from south east corner looking north



Plate 12 View of site from south west corner looking north east



Plate 13 View of external land to south of site looking north



Plate 14 View of playing pitches at south eastern exterior looking south west



Plate 15 View of external land to west of site looking south west



Plate 16 View of northern portion of site from western exterior looking east



Plate 17 View of site from northern end looking south

The footprint of the proposed ICW is demarcated by the present pedestrian tarmac footpath. The southern portion of the site consists of well maintained urban parkland grass and is relatively level and dry ground (Plate 11 & 12). The land was walked and there were no visible surface indications of any identifiable features of archaeological or built heritage.

The land to the south of the proposed ICW consists of a triangle shape piece of grassland with seating, behind which is located a field containing a dog run (Plate 13). The land was walked and there were no visible surface indications of any identifiable features of archaeological or built heritage.

The land to the south west of the proposed ICW consists of a field of grass used as amenity grassland, that was apparently landscaped, as evidenced by the linear earthen embankments around the pitches (Plate 14). The grass was low with resultant good visibility. The land was walked and there were no visible surface indications of any identifiable features of archaeological or built heritage.

The land to the west of the proposed ICW consists of a sloping field of grass. The higher ground demarcated by a line of mature broadleaf trees located to the rear of neighbouring houses (Plate 15) overlooks the site of the proposed ICW (Plate 16). The grass was low with resultant good visibility. The land was walked and low visibility surface impressions were identified as possible disused field boundaries, oriented east/west. No other features of archaeological or built heritage were identified during the walk-over survey.

The southern portion of the site of the proposed ICW consists of well maintained grass and is wet to foot (Plate 17). The land was walked and there were no visible surface indications of any identifiable features of archaeological or built heritage.

Section 4 Proposed development

The proposed ICW is located within a cut grass area in Griffeen valley Park. The proposed development will consist of temporary access works and a total potential work area of 6,500m². The ICW will consist of two cells. Cell 1 has a total area of 1750m² and an average depth of 655mm and Cell 2 has a total area of 1342m² and an average depth of 235mm. The construction will require ground reduction of 900mm with the resultant excavated ground, where possible, being reused within the area of Griffeen Valley Park. There will be a new surface water manhole and flow controller with approximately 100m of pipework to bring water to the ICW (20m between the two cells and 20m of pipework to discharge to the river).

Conclusion and Advice

This assessment has shown that there are no known archaeological monuments within the footprint or 100m buffer around the proposed ICW. No archaeological excavations have taken place within the footprint or 100m buffer around the proposed ICW. No known archaeological objects are securely provenanced to within the footprint or 100m buffer around the proposed ICW. The available aerial photographs do not show any identifiable archaeological features within the footprint or 100m buffer around the proposed ICW.

The cartographic sources show the existence of a farm building and outhouses located within 100m of the perimeter of the site. These buildings appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map and were built some time in the early nineteenth century. They were removed above ground level at some time after the first decade of the twentieth century. The location of these buildings, outside the perimeter of the site and within the area of amenity grassland will not be directly impacted upon by the proposed ICW. The area should be avoided by any construction traffic to avoid indirect impact upon any surviving sub-surface remains.

The northern extent of Griffeen Valley Park, as expressed through the survival of the medieval bridge (King John's Bridge) indicates the heritage role of the river and the need to cross the river. The results of the geophysical survey in the area of King John's Bridge and the separate archaeological excavations close to King John's Bridge, indicate that the area has seen notable level of disturbance over the years. In addition the test excavations and subsequent monitoring close to St. Finian's church and graveyard revealed extensive ground disturbance in the past. The landscaping associated with the creation of the Griffeen Valley Park since the 1970's and the construction of the modern metal footbridge across the River Griffeen near the site, may have caused disturbance to the original ground surface, hence the lack of a surface expression of the field boundaries perpendicular to the river and matching those at the high external ground to the west.

The walk over survey identified two nineteenth century field boundaries on the higher ground to the western exterior of the site, as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps. The boundaries have no visible surface expression with the site of the proposed ICW.

Based upon the results of the desk based research and the site surface inspection, the proposed development will have no direct impact on any known feature of archaeological or heritage significance. It is advised that no archaeological mitigation is required for the groundworks associated with the construction of the ICW.

Consultation on the proposed development with the staff of the National Monuments Service is advised at the earliest stage in the planning process, to enable them make appropriate recommendations at a pre-planning stage of the planning process.

Dr. Eoin Sullivan
September 2020

Select References:

Anon 1899. Throwing Stone or Hammer stone? Miscellanea. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* Vol.9 (5th Series) pp.428-429

Ball, E.F. 1906 (Reprint 1979) *A history of the County Dublin*, 6 vols. Dublin. Gill and Macmillan.

Coughlan, T 2004. Archaeological Monitoring at Colaiste Cois Life Primary School, Castle Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin (04E16100) for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Unpublished excavation report

Curran, L 2008. *The Manor of Lucan in Medieval Ireland* in Aspects of Lucan, edited by Patricia Donohoe. Beta Print, Dublin

Kavanagh, J 2003. *Trial Testing at King John's Bridge, Lucan, River Griffeen* (02E1018) for Judith Carroll & Co. Ltd. Unpublished excavation report

Leigh, J 2010. *Geophysical Survey Summary, Luas F1 Line, Lucan-Blackhorse, Co. Dublin (10-R-9)* Unpublished report.

Minogue & Associates. 2015. *Landscape Character Assessment of Dublin South County*. Unpublished draft report, South Dublin County Council

Molloy, B 2002. *Archaeological Appraisal and Impact Assessment, Esker, Lucan, Co. Dublin (02E0037)* for Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd. Unpublished excavation report

O'Carroll, E 2004. Archaeological Testing at Finnstown House, Lucan, Co. Dublin (04E0522) for the Archaeology Company. Unpublished excavation report.

O'Flynn J 1991. *A History of Lucan*. Leinster Leader Ltd, Nass Kildare

O'Flynn J 1996. *'Lucan and Lucanians' A Revised History of Lucan*. Leinster Leader Ltd, Nass, Kildare

South Dublin County Council, 2003. *Griffeen Valley Park*. Dublin South County Council, Dublin

Stout, M 1997. *The Irish ringfort*. Four Court Press, Dublin

Appendix i

**Entries from the
Record of Monuments and Places
for known Archaeological Monuments**

RMP sites within a 500m radius of the site of the proposed ICW

RMP Number: DU017-078

Classification: Bridge

Townland: Esker South

Description:

Upriver or the later bridge named as Esker Bridge on the First Edition of the OSi 6 inch maps, this partially ruined hump-backed masonry bridge crosses the Griffeen River from SW to NE. According to O' Keeffe and Simington (1991, 134-6), the bridge is clearly marked on Rocque's map as 'King John's Bridge', placing its construction between 1199 and 1216. Esker was part of a demesne in the Liffey valley which Henry II annexed to the crown and which was organized under King John as a royal manor. The bridge probably fell into disuse between 1760 - the date of publication of Rocque's survey map of the County of Dublin and the 1837 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map when the road is shown as re-aligned and Esker Bridge constructed. Originally a three arched structure, what survives is a partially intact central arch and accompanying piers, a short length of the NE arch and the demolished remains of the SE arch. The overall length of the visible remains is 7.7m and is 4.3m wide including cutwaters. The surviving central segmental arch is formed of narrow voussoirs set on edge rising from straight-sided piers. The keystone is wedge-shaped and was slightly too large to fit perfectly. The bridge spans an opening 2.1m wide and is approximately 3.8m in length. At its narrowest width it measures .80m surviving better at the upstream end to the SE where it measures 2.10m. The piers are composed of well-made coursed rubble masonry up to five courses high. In overall height the piers measure 1.5m from the river bed to the arch springing point with evidence for some rebuilding of on the inner edge of the N pier. Two triangular cutwaters project .50m upstream at 45 degrees each side the arch opening. Just beyond the intrados of the SE arch the imprint of a short length of wicker centering can be seen at the N side of the arch.

RMP Number: DU017-02201

Classification: Church

Townland: Glebe (Newcastle By., Lucan ED)

Description:

This is a long, rectangular building, built of roughly coursed masonry and aligned E-W. It is all that remains of the medieval parish church, associated with St. Finian. It was extensively re-built in the 16th-century when it had been re-roofed in timber but by the 17th century it had been considered ruinous (Ball 1906, 82-3). The W gable is heavily buttressed and may originally have held a belfry. The church (int. dims. 26.5m; Wth 5.8m, wall Wth 0.73m) is entered through opposed doorways, now headless. There is a double light, cusped window on the S side with a repaired mullion and a central spandrel. The jambs are punch dressed in a late 15th/early 16th-century fashion. There is a narrow slit ope with rough transom set in a deep embrasure in the W gable and a double light cusped window on S side with later repairs and additions. The E end of the church survives to foundation level. It is lit by a round headed window on the S side.

RMP Number: DU017-02202

Classification: Graveyard

Townland: Glebe (Newcastle By., Lucan ED)

Description:

This roughly rectangular graveyard encloses the remains of a large medieval church (DU017-022001-). It contains 18th century memorials. It is enclosed by a masonry wall and townland boundary.