

## **Appendix 5.4.5 – Legislation Protecting the Archaeological Resource**

### **Protection of Cultural Heritage**

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

### **The Archaeological Resource**

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

### **Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments**

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

### **Register of Historic Monuments**

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being

undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

### **Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders**

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

### **Record of Monuments and Places**

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice'.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

### **The Planning and Development Act 2000**

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

### **Dublin City Council Development Plan 2016-2022**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council;

CHC9: To protect and preserve National Monuments.

1. To protect archaeological material in situ by ensuring that only minimal impact on archaeological layers is allowed, by way of the re-use of buildings, light buildings, foundation design or the omission of basements in the Zones of Archaeological Interest.
2. That where preservation in situ is not feasible, sites of archaeological interest shall be subject to 'preservation by record' according to best practice in advance of re-development.
3. That sites within Zones of Archaeological Interest will be subject to consultation with the City Archaeologist and archaeological assessment prior to a planning application being lodged.
4. That the National Monuments Service will be consulted in assessing proposals for development which relate to Monuments and Zones of Archaeological Interest.
5. To preserve known burial grounds and disused historic graveyards, where appropriate, to ensure that human remain are re-interred, except where otherwise agreed with the National Museum of Ireland.

6. That in evaluating proposals for development in the vicinity of the surviving sections of the city wall that due recognition be given to their national significance and their special character.
7. To have regard to the Shipwreck inventory maintained by the DAHG. Proposed developments that may have potential to impact on riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments shall be subject to an underwater archaeological assessment in advance of works.
8. To have regard to DoCHG policy documents and guidelines relating to archaeology

## **Policies for Archaeology**

### **Zones of Archaeological Interest**

#### **POLICY H33**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council that sites within Zones of Archaeological Interest be subject to an archaeological assessment in consultation with the City Archaeologist prior to a planning application being lodged.

### **Protection of Archaeological Material in situ**

#### **POLICY H34**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to protect archaeological material in situ by ensuring that only minimal impact on archaeological layers is allowed, by way of the re-use of buildings, light buildings, foundation design or the omission of basements in the Zones of Archaeological Interest.

### **Archaeological Investigations and Recording**

#### **POLICY H35**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council that, where preservation in situ is not feasible, sites of archaeological interest shall be subject to archaeological investigations and recording according to best practice, in advance of redevelopment.

### **Promotion and dissemination of findings**

#### **POLICY H36**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to ensure the public dissemination of the findings of archaeological investigations and excavations.

### **Underwater Archaeology**

#### **POLICY H37**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to acknowledge the importance of underwater archaeology. Proposed developments that may have implications for the underwater heritage shall be subject to an underwater archaeological assessment in advance of works.

## **National Monuments**

### **POLICY H38**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council that the National Monuments Advisory Service will be consulted in assessing proposals for development which relate to Recorded Monuments and Places.