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Report on Archaeological Testing at lands in Cappaghfinn, Cappagh Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.

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Licence No: 19E0142X
Planning Reference: In advance of planning
Co-ordinates (ITM): 711296, 739799

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological excavation of test trenches and test pits that was undertaken at a proposed development site at Cappaghfinn, Finglas, Dublin 11 (ITM: 711296, 739799). The site was divided into three areas:

- Area 1 - the eastern section of the proposed development area.
- Area 2 - the north-western section
- Area 3 - the south-western section.

These works were undertaken for Fingal County Council. In advance of an application for planning permission.

A detailed development design has not yet been finalised, however, the general plan for the site is to develop a housing scheme with associated roads, services and amenity space. The total proposed development area measures approximately 7.8 ha. The development area encompasses RMP DU014-029 an unclassified ringfort which will be preserved *in situ*.

A total of 16 test trenches and eight test pits were excavated for the purposes of the investigations. The exposed subsoil was examined for archaeological features and topsoil for artefacts. Excavation ceased at the first significant archaeological level or at natural sub-soil. Due to constraints on access it was not possible to excavate all the trenches as originally planned. The proposed test trenches in the south western section of the proposed development site, Area 3, were investigated by the insertion of test pits rather than test trenches. A further six test trenches were proposed for Area 2 in the north western section of the proposed development area and these could not be excavated due to constraints on access.

Three archaeologically significant features were identified during the test trenching programme. Therefore, it is possible that construction of the development may impact on any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts not yet identified.

Construction of the proposed development is likely to require the removal of topsoil across the site. In addition, deeper excavation would be required within the footprint to accommodate the foundations as well as localised deeper excavation across the proposed route to facilitate drainage connections. Given the proximity of RMP DU014-029 and the potential to uncover features of archaeological significance, archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal is recommended to be undertaken in conjunction with the proposed development.

The following mitigation measures proposed:

1. A 20 m wide exclusion zone to be established from the known extent of the upstanding ringfort (DU014-029) within which no development works will take place. This exclusion zone should incorporate the archaeological features identified in Trenches 15 and 16.
2. This exclusion zone would be fenced off for the duration of all construction works and would not be used for temporary site accommodation (e.g. construction compound), site storage or the transit of construction vehicles during the construction phase.
3. Subject to agreement on design and methodology with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG), this area could then be incorporated into an amenity green space within the finished development. Any landscaping design would have to take account of the requirement for the preservation *in situ* of both upstanding and sub-surface remains and be sympathetic to the upstanding ringfort.

4. A management plan for the long-term maintenance and protection of the site should be prepared for approval by National Monuments Service (DoCHG). Development of this management plan may require additional archaeological studies such as the development of a digital terrain model for the site. This management plan should be drafted in advance of any construction works at the site so as to ensure that the management and coordination of the construction programme is consistent with the policies and procedures for the protection and management of the site.
5. All ground reduction across the remainder of the development site, including any enabling works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
6. If archaeological material is encountered then it will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
7. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of Fingal County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological test trenches and test pits for the purposes of a future planning application associated with a proposed housing development at Cappaghfinn, Cappagh Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 (ITM: 711296, 739799) (Figure 1). The proposed works were carried out for Fingal County Council.

The proposed site comprises three distinct areas (Figure 6);

- Area 1 - The eastern area, a greenfield area consisting of relatively level scrub/heath lands measuring approximately 3.2 ha. This part of the site also contains an RMP, Ringfort DU014-029 which will be preserved in situ.
- Area 2 - The north-western area consisting of an overgrown former halting site, measuring approximately 2.8 ha.
- Area 3 - The south-western area consisting of an existing halting site and a significant area of made-up ground located to the west of the halting site measuring approximately 1.8 ha.

Fingal County Council requested that a geophysical survey and an archaeological impact assessment of the site be undertaken in order to inform the design of housing development, facilitate preservation in-situ of the RMP, including the establishment of appropriate buffer zones around the monument and implement an appropriate mitigation strategy for any other archaeological features identified at the site.

In January 2019 Rubicon Heritage undertook a geophysical survey (Fluxgate Magnetometry) across the accessible lands at Cappaghfinn (O'Flaherty 2019; Licence No 19R0019). The inaccessible and overgrown nature of the north western area meant this area were unsuitable for geophysical survey. A sample of the south western area of the proposed development site was subjected to a fluxgate magnetometry survey; the results however revealed that this land was most likely comprised of redeposited/dumped spoil and as such it was deemed unsuitable for further survey. As such the only area subject to survey was the eastern area, an area measuring approximately 2.28 ha.

The results of the fluxgate magnetometry geophysical survey undertaken across the eastern area of the lands at Cappaghfinn identified geophysical anomalies that have a high potential to represent buried archaeological features within the environs of the extant ringfort (O'Flaherty 2019). The test trenching programme consisted of a methodical array of trenching across the accessible areas of the site, targeting the identified geophysical anomalies and providing as much coverage as possible across the remaining parts of development area to assess the potential for subsurface archaeological remains.



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1 SITE LOCATION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological test trenches and test pits undertaken at a site at Cappaghfinn, Cappagh Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 (ITM: 711296, 739799) (Figure 1).

The archaeological test trenching and test pit excavation programme at the site took place between 19-22 March 2019 in accordance with Licence No 19E0142.

1.1 Site Location

The proposed development site is located in the townland of Cappoge, in the Parish of Castleknock, in Co. Dublin (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the south by Heathfield housing estate and to north by the M50. The nearest urban settlement is the village of Finglas, the centre of which is less than 2 km southeast of the proposed development site. The proposed development site covers an area of 7.8 ha, with the entirety of this area being subjected to archaeological testing (Figure 1).

The topography of the proposed site comprises three distinct areas (Figure 6);

- The north-western area, an overgrown former halting site, sloping gently from west to east at 76-75 m OD measuring approximately 2.8 ha.
- The south-western area, an existing halting site with a significant area of made ground located to the west of the halting site. In total, this area measures approximately 1.8 ha and slopes gently from east to west at 77-78 m OD.
- The remaining eastern area consists of relatively level scrub/heath lands sloping gently from west to east at 74-73 m OD and measuring approximately 3.2 ha. This part of the site also contains an extant Ringfort, RMP DU014-029, which comprises a circular platform measuring 34 m in diameter by 1 – 1.80 m in height (Figures 8–10). The bank has not survived and there are no traces of an external fosse.

1.2 Previous Investigations at the site

In January 2019 Rubicon Heritage undertook a geophysical survey (Fluxgate Magnetometry) across the accessible lands at Cappaghfinn (O’Flaherty 2019; Licence No 19R0019). The inaccessible and overgrown nature of the north western area meant this area were unsuitable for geophysical survey. A sample of the south western area of the proposed development site was subjected to a fluxgate magnetometry survey; the results however revealed that this land was most likely comprised of redeposited/dumped spoil and as such it was deemed unsuitable for further survey. As such the only area subject to survey was the eastern area, an area measuring approximately 2.28 ha.

The results of the fluxgate magnetometry geophysical survey undertaken across the eastern area of the lands at Cappaghfinn identified geophysical anomalies that had a high potential to represent buried archaeological features within the environs of the extant ringfort (O’Flaherty 2019). The test trenching programme consisted of a methodical array of trenching across the accessible areas of the site, targeting the identified geophysical anomalies and providing as much coverage as possible across the remaining parts of development area to assess the potential for subsurface archaeological remains.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *General Background (after McQuade 2010)*

The earliest evidence for human activity recorded in the surroundings of the site was a Neolithic settlement. The site, which is listed on the RMP (DU014:028), was excavated in advance of the insertion of a gas mains pipe (Gowen 1984).

Many of the other prehistoric sites recorded in the area date to the Bronze Age and include a fulacht fiadh and several possible burial sites. The fulacht fiadh (DU014:050) lay to the west of the site under discussion: along Cappagh Road in the townland of Grange. A Bronze Age barrow or burial mound (DU014:077) was identified on an aerial photograph in 1965 (BKS AP 71080), near Finglas Bridge. Further Bronze Age monuments are recorded less than 3km to the west of the development site at Dunsink. There a possible ring-ditch (DU014:026) and two mounds (DU014:032 and DU014:033) are recorded. Investigations of the possible ring-ditch (DU014:026) and mound (DU014:032) were carried out in advance of construction of the M50 motorway but produced no archaeological evidence (Keeley 1992a, b). The mound (DU014:033) lay within the Dublin Corporation dump complex and was excavated by Paddy Healy in the early 1970s. The remains of Bronze Age food vessel cist burials were recovered, and the site was interpreted as a multiple cist cairn. Two more possible burial mounds are recorded just over 3km to the northwest of the development in Corduff townland (DU013:012 and DU013:014).

Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the area comes from a number of stray finds recovered from the environs of Finglas. These include at least three bronze axeheads (of Early to Middle Bronze Age date), two palstaves (Middle Bronze Age) and a spearhead (Late Bronze Age).

The name Cappoge or Cappogue probably derives from Ceapach Oge meaning the little plot (Joyce 1951). This more than likely refers to a plot of land laid out for tillage farming.

It is highly probable that a sizeable population had settled in the area during the early medieval period since a number of sites dating from that time are recorded in the general environs of the site. These sites include a series of ringforts at Cappogue (DU014:029), at the site under discussion, as well as two at Corduff (DU013:015 and DU013:016) to the west and another at Balcurris (DU014:022), approximately 2km to the northeast of Finglas and at Coldwinters (DU014:016) and Newtown (DU014:006; DU014:007) further to the northeast. A possible souterrain (DU014:033-01) is recorded to the southwest of the development site at Dunsink.

A crop mark complex in Cloghran (DU014:014-01, -02, -03, -04) may also indicate contemporary settlement in the area to the north of the site under discussion. This complex was identified from a series of aerial photographs taken between 1968 and 1970, which show three probable enclosures. The northern enclosure in the group was roughly oval in shape and measured c.30m by 40m. Immediately west of this, was a sub-circular enclosure within which there appeared to be a souterrain. The third enclosure lay further to the west and appeared to be oval in shape.

A small number of possible early medieval ecclesiastical sites are located in the vicinity, including the church and graveyard (DU014:031) within Abbotstown townland 1.65km to the southwest of the development site and a monastery in Finglas (DU014:066). Little is known of the origins of the ecclesiastical site at Abbotstown but it is dedicated to St Coemhin, or St Kevin and hints of an earlier earthwork were noted beneath the site of the present graveyard (Healy 1974).

The monastery in Finglas was founded by St. Canice in AD 560 and it was around this monastery (DU014:066-09-10) that the town developed. Finglas went on to become one of the earliest and most important parishes in Dublin. Its name is an anglicised form of *fionn glaiss*, meaning clear stream, referring to the stream that flows through the village and into the Tolka River, and possibly also referring to the holy well (DU014:066-02) on Mellows Crescent.

The arrival of the Vikings off the coast of Ireland in the late 8th and early 9th century and their raids on the hinterland of Dublin must have been a threat to the monastery at Finglas. However, within a few years of their arrival the Vikings had an extensive settlement at Áth Cliath. Their presence in the Finglas area was attested by the recent discovery of a decorated Viking burial at 4-8 Church Street (Kavanagh 2007, 139).

Following the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169, the parish of Castleknock, within which Cappogue lies, was granted by Hugh de Lacy to Hugh Tyrrell and the neighbouring lands of Finglas passed to Strongbow. In 1171 Dublin was besieged by Roderick O'Connor, king of Connacht, who set up camp in Finglas. The camp was successfully attacked two months later by a body of 600 Anglo-Normans aided by Irish allies. The following year King Henry II set up a base for his archers in Finglas. Under the Anglo-Norman settlement, the monastery lands at Finglas, like those of Tallaght and Clondalkin, were confirmed to the Archbishop of Dublin. They formed part of one of his most valuable manors (Ball 1920).

In the 12th century the monastery at Finglas became a parochial church and throughout the Hiberno-Norse period and during the Anglo-Norman period the settlement at Finglas emerged as important manor town (DU014:066). In 1228 the Archbishop set up residence there. During his time there were nineteen burgesses in Finglas, and it became a favourite location for big house dwellers such as Dublin's merchant aldermen and legal families. However, the borough status of Finglas was never confirmed and is only recorded among the Archbishop's boroughs in historical records, like those of Tallaght, Clondalkin or Swords (Bradley 1998, 129).

An Anglo-Norman motte is recorded in Castleknock (DU017:01-201) and a stone castle (DU017:012 02) was later built on that site by Hugh Tyrrell. A number of archaeological excavations have been carried out within the town of Finglas. These have recorded evidence for medieval settlement in the form of ditches and gullies (McConway 1997, 33; Halpin 1998, 56; Hayden 2003, 159). Further medieval remains in the area include that of a (now destroyed) field system in Goddamendy (DU013:007) to the northwest of the site under discussion.

Two castle sites are recorded within Finglas. A towerhouse (DU014:066-06) is recorded on Church Road to the northwest of the old St Canice's church (DU014:066-09) and 'Cardiff Castle', is recorded to the west of the village on the Cappagh Road (DU014:066-03). The latter may have been removed as early as 1700 (Maher 1932) and it is marked on the 1837 OS six-inch map as 'Cardiff Castle ('Site of') (Fig. 6). Cappogue Castle (DU014:027) (see below) is one of several castles recorded in the surroundings of Finglas. Another castle is also recorded in the townland of Dubber (DU014:018) c.2km to the northeast of Finglas, the site of a castle is recorded at Cardiffsbridgepark (DU014:074) to the southwest of Finglas, and a there was a 16th-century castle structure at Meakstown (DU014:020) c. 1km to the northeast of the town, where evidence for 12th-14th-century occupation was recently recorded (McQuade 2007).

A church and graveyard in Cloghran townland (DU013:008-1-2/DU014:046-1-2) dates to at least the 14th century. The Irish place name is derived from *clochrán*, a diminutive of *clochar*, literally a 'stone house' but also a term for a convent or community house. This name suggests that it may have been a pre-Norman foundation; but the original dedication of the church is now lost. However, when

Cloghran was confirmed among the possessions of the dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in 1429 it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary (MacNeill 1950, 239).

2.2 *Cappogue Castle (After Myles 2006)*

There are no standing remains of Cappogue Castle, but the 'Site of' the castle (DU014:027), which is described on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as a tower house, is recorded on the southern side of Ballycoolin Road, to the south of the road realignment corridor. Tower houses are a type of castle which date from 1400 (Cairns 1987, 9; Barry 1996, 140). The construction of tower houses was undoubtedly encouraged by the 1429 Pale Statute of King Henry VI, which offered a subsidy of £10 towards the construction of such castles and the majority of these structures were built after 1430 (O'Keefe 2000, 46). The minimum dimensions for tower houses were stipulated at 28 feet in length, sixteen feet in width and 40 feet in height and a later act laid down the minimum internal dimensions as fifteen feet by twelve feet (Leask 1973, 77). Tower houses were constructed by Gaelic Irish and colonial settlers alike and although they do display considerable architectural diversity those, like Cappogue, that were located within the area of the Pale generally had a consistency of form (O'Keefe 2000, 47). The standard plan of these buildings was an entrance lobby leading to a stairway in one of the corners of the building giving access to all floors of the building (typically four). Roof walks were also typical features of these castles (Leask 1973, 77).

Very little research has been carried out on Cappogue castle, its builders or its occupants over the years. Most of the evidence cited in the secondary sources is based on family histories. The Woodlock family appears to have had possession of the lands of Cappogue, and by the 13th century John Woodlock, sheriff of Dublin and constable of Dublin Castle, was in residence at Cappogue. However, another source states that the lands were originally granted to the Keppock family, at a date unknown. The tower house probably dates to the early 15th century, when many castles of this type were constructed. A description of the castle written some time later, records the castle wall as standing 30 feet high and three feet wide. A staircase in the tower led from a vaulted ground floor, whose west side was believed to be older than the remainder of the tower, to the roof. The square shaped gateway stood about 20 yards to the northeast. There was an entrance doorway and two windows on the ground floor; one in the south wall and the other in the west. Another doorway led to the staircase where sixteen steps led to the first floor, where there was a large fireplace. There were seventeen steps from the first floor to the second, and fifteen steps from the second floor to the roof, the total height of the tower being 49 feet. On the upper floors, as well as on the ground-floor, there were doorways of plain Gothic shape leading from the staircase to the rooms (Ball 1920).

The gateway stood about 20 yards to the north-east of the castle, and was a square building with a large arch, of which the bond stones had been removed before the description was written. The earliest known documentary reference to the castle is from 1506, when a Catherine Owen secured her property from her sick bed in the castle for her daughter, on the death of her husband, the last male heir of the Woodlock family. The castle passed through Rose Woodlock onto the Dillon family, who by the close of the 16th century were among the men of name in Dublin. The castle was fortified by Rose Woodlock's great-greatgrandson, Bartholomew Dillon in 1641 and was seemingly in ruins before the Restoration of 1660. At the time of the Restoration, 26 inhabitants were listed for the village of Cappogue (four of English and 22 of Irish descent) (Ball 1920). The chief inhabitants on the lands after the Restoration were Captain Knowles and Henry Wood, whose house was assessed for two hearths.

Rocque in his map of 1760 depicted the castle within the bawn. The bawn is depicted in the form of a straight-sided quadrilateral enclosure, with a field boundary closing the space to the northwest (Fig. 4). The castle itself is on a hummock and it appears to have a cruciform shape, with the gatehouse on the

roadside to the northeast. Although the scaling cannot be said to be absolute, the relationship of the site with the obvious bend in the road would position it more towards the 19th/20th century farmyard complex than its location on the RMP map.

The best source for the building is Beranger's drawing of 1766 (NLI MS 1958 TX), which has been reproduced by Harbison (1998). The drawing indicates the existence of an extensive castle complex. Cappogue castle presents as a ruined threestorey tower within a bawn with a gatehouse. What appears to be a second ruined structure is situated between the tower and the gate, with a smaller structure, possibly with a thatched roof located just inside the gate. Of possible significance is a pond in the foreground of the drawing, at the base of a slope which may have had the bawn wall running along it (as evidenced by the stump of wall in the right foreground and the loose stone scattered around).

The accompanying text states that the tower was thirty feet high and located at the southeastern corner of a walled enclosure. Beranger noted that Cappogue 'was a strong fortress formerly flanked by towers of which only one remains' (NLI Ms 1415, 9). Two walls of the tower are evident, presumably the northern and eastern walls. Myles postulated that the pond on the site developed as Premier Business Park, was likely that pond depicted by Beranger and with the description of the tower being at the south-eastern corner of the bawn the recorded 'Site of' the castle, suggests that the bawn encompassed the pond to the north with the bawn extending out towards the pre-existing field boundary to the west (Myles 2006). No evidence for the castle was recovered in the test trenches or the geophysical survey carried out on the development site in the area to the south of the pond (Leigh and Myles 2006). A thorough examination of the standing remains of the farmyard did not reveal any early or obviously reused building fabric and further monitoring of this area, once the farmyard had been levelled, did not reveal any medieval structures. Furthermore, no evidence for the castle was uncovered during the excavation carried out on the site of Premier Business park and the location of the castle cannot be confirmed (McQuade 2009a). The evidence therefore confirms Healy's claim that the castle was quarried out in order to facilitate the construction of the 19th-century farm buildings on the northern end of the site (Healy 1974).

Late 18th-century evidence for the castle includes Austin Cooper's record of a large crack down the southern side of the building in 1778. That crack is not shown on Beranger's drawing and likely postdates it. The castle is depicted on Taylor's 1816 map (but not as much detail is given as that on Rocque's earlier map. By the early 19th century, according Healy (1974), the owner of the castle had apparently used it as a quarry to build the complex of 19th-century farm buildings shown on the OS maps. On the first edition (1843) a large quarry is marked on the northern end of the site adjacent to the 'site of' Cappogue Castle and series of quarries are shown in the wider area. The 19th-century buildings were demolished to make way for the development of Premier Business Park.

2.3 Recent archaeological investigations

A search of the excavations bulletin www.excavations.ie for the results of archaeological investigations undertaken in the townland of Cappogue and the surrounding townlands of Cardiffcastle, Cardiffsbridge, Kildonas, Huntstown, Grange, Ballycoolin, Snugborough and Sheephill revealed that archaeological excavation has been carried out in the townlands of Ballycoolin, Cappogue and Sheephill. A brief summary of those investigations is provided below;

Cappogue and Ballycoolin townlands A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the vicinity of the site under discussion. As noted earlier, a Neolithic settlement (DU014:028) was excavated to the south of the road realignment (Gowen 1988).

A small shallow pit was excavated at Ballycoolin prior to the insertion of the Brownsbarn to Kilshane gas pipeline. The pit had a charcoal-rich fill which produced a significant cache of plant remains. The pit had not been dated at the time of publication, but the excavator believed it was likely to have been medieval in date (Doyle 2001).

Several other testing and monitoring jobs carried out in the vicinity did not find any archaeological remains. These include archaeological investigations carried out on the site of a recorded Mound/"Moat" (DU014:025) in Ballycoolin Industrial Park, Blanchardstown: (94E130), which proved that it was a natural feature (Gowen 1995). No archaeological remains were uncovered during archaeological testing undertaken on the site of a proposed quarry in the townlands of Cappogue/Ballycoolin and Grange (Murphy 1996), which lie to the north and west of the site, or during monitoring along the route of a water pipeline which ran through the townland of Cappogue (Moore 2006, 100).

2000:0214 - Ballycoolin Road, Cappogue, Dublin

No archaeological features were identified in test-trenches excavated in the field on the opposite side of the road to the recorded 'Site of' Cappogue Castle (DU014:027), the plough-soil was rich in pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments. These finds spanned from the late medieval period to the present (Myles 2001).

2008:376 - Cappogue, Dublin and 2007:437 - Cappogue, Dublin

An archaeological assessment, monitoring and excavation were undertaken at the castle site DU014:027 prior to the construction of Premier Business Park, which now occupies the land to the south of Ballycoolin Road (NGR: 23980.0 / 31073.0). No evidence for the castle was recovered (Leigh and Myles 2006; McQuade 2009a). However, archaeological excavations (06E0228ext.) carried out on an area (190m by 160m) to the south of the road realignment uncovered evidence for occupation during the Middle Bronze Age, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval periods. The Bronze Age activity was characterised by a series of cooking pits. During the early medieval period a small burial ground occupied the site, and this was surrounded by a broadly contemporary field system. There was also evidence for medieval settlement in the form of a large boundary ditch, the remains of a possible property plot, a possible structure and a series of smaller contemporary ditches dating from the 12th-14th centuries prior to the construction of the tower house. A single burial of 17th/18th century date was interred on the site and other contemporary features related to settlement and agricultural activity from the 16th through to the 20th centuries (McQuade 2009a).

2008:377 - Cappogue, Dublin

Monitoring along the Ballycoolin Road realignment to the north and north-east of the recorded site of Cappogue Castle (DU014-028) identified an area of archaeological significance (c. 140m by 10m). The subsequent excavations uncovered evidence for medieval and post-medieval settlement consisting of the remains of a circular ditched enclosure 14m in diameter on the western end of the site, to the east of which were two linear ditches, a series of pits, gullies and a stone-lined drain. Further evidence for settlement activity was uncovered c. 30m to the east, where a series of intercutting linear ditches and stone-lined drains represent the northern extent of the site excavated on the southern side of Ballycoolin Road (see above No. 376, 06E0228 ext., and Excavations 2007, No. 437). Thus, the remains of a large prolonged medieval settlement (c. 210m by 120m) have now been recorded on either side of Ballycoolin Road, around the site of the castle. Post-medieval activity was concentrated on the eastern end of the site. Here a stone bank was constructed along the southern edge of the medieval wall foundation and extended for 13m along the southern edge of excavation. It was orientated north west/south-east and was a maximum of 1.5m wide and 0.5m high. Two east-west-orientated post medieval ditches were located to the north of the bank, where they cut through the medieval features on the south-eastern end of the site (McQuade 2009a).

Sheephill Townland

2013:198 - Sheephill, National Sports Campus, Dublin.

Excavation was undertaken at Sheephill, Co. Dublin on behalf of the National Sports Campus Development Agency from 5 February and 1 March 2013. Two areas of archaeological significance were excavated comprising of a burnt mound (Area A) and a medieval farmstead (Area B).

Area A comprised of three burnt mound deposits associated with three troughs and three small pits. Dating of charcoal from each of the three troughs returned date ranges in the Early Bronze Age. Area B comprised of a medieval farmstead which was located on a flat plateau adjacent a small stream. The core settlement consisted of a number of small enclosing gully-like features, small pits and a possible hearth. To the south of the core settlement an area was enclosed by a series of ditches creating a small field or pen. Two fields were created as annexes to this field enclosed by a further series of ditches. A number of smaller features (deposits, pits and cistern) were recorded across the site that have been dated to the medieval period either on the basis of their stratigraphic relationship or because they produced medieval pottery, or both. The pottery assemblage suggests a date range of mid- to later 13th century and is typical of a medieval farmstead of the period with locally produced pottery jugs, cooking and storage jars and a bowl.

The excavated features had been identified during test trenching reported on under **2012:195 - Deanestown and Sheephill, Dublin.**

2018:300 - Sheephill, Abbotstown, Dublin

The archaeological remains recorded comprised a cluster of possible Bronze Age pits associated with burnt mound activity adjacent to a cluster of short curvilinear slot trenches of unknown function, an earlier pit and a charcoal-rich spread. To the south of the development a possible waste pit and a large hearth/pit feature that may be associated with the pit were identified. Other features included three modern ditches/field drains. A small fulacht fiadh was previously identified c. 100m west of the site in 2013, during the development of GAA pitches. This was dated to the early Bronze Age and has since been added to the SMR as DU013-147.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The objective of the test trenching and test pit programme was:

- to determine the nature, extent, date and significance of presently unknown archaeological deposits by means of machine excavated test trenches.
- to record any archaeological features or deposits encountered.
- to assess the impact of the development on any surviving archaeological deposits, as well as assessing the relative significance of any such deposits.
- to present possible mitigation measures in relation to any surviving archaeological deposits.

All results are compiled in this report which includes a detailed impact statement and proposes mitigation measures where appropriate.

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the conditions associated with an excavation licence. In addition, it complies with the following:

- *The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.*
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999).*
- *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999).*
- *Guidelines for Archaeologists, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (2013).*

The excavation of all test pits and test trenches was undertaken under archaeological supervision. All trenches were excavated using a machine excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation ceased at the first sign of archaeological deposits, features or layers. Each trench was archaeologically recorded and photographed

Recording

All recording was by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd standard method and was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Photographic recording was in digital format.

Samples and artefacts

Samples were taken from primary contexts where results were likely to inform the project team on the use of a particular structure/feature. No finds were recovered during the excavation works.

4 THE RESULTS

A total of 16 test trenches and eight test pits were excavated (Figures 6-7). The exposed subsoil was examined for archaeological features. Excavation ceased at the first significant archaeological level or at natural sub-soil.

4.1 Test Trenches

T1 (Figures 6-7)

0.30-0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T1 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 39.84 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNW/SSE (Figure 6-7; Plate 2). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.30-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T1.

T2 Part 1 (Figures 6-7)

0.33-0.41 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.41 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T2 Part 1 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 30.18 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.41 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7; Plate 3). T2 was excavated in two parts (T1 Part 1 and T1 Part 2) as a fence bisected the trench. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.30-0.41 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T2 Part 1.

T2 Part 2 (Figures 6-7)

0.32-0.44 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.44 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T2 Part 2 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 106.21 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.44 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7; Plate 4). T2 was excavated in two parts as a fence dissected the trench at its NE end. The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomalies H06 and H07. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for these anomalies was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.44 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T2 Part 2.

T3 Part 1 (Figures 6-7)

0.29-0.38 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.38 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T3 Part 1 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 22.08 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.38 m deep, it was oriented roughly N/S (Figure 6-7; Plate 5). T3 was also excavated in two parts (T3 Part 1 and T3 Part 2) as a fence bisected the trench. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.29-0.38 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T3 Part 1.

T3 Part 2 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.41 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.41 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T3 Part 2 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 32.76 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.41 m deep, it was oriented roughly N/S (Figure 6-7; Plate 6). T3 was excavated in two parts as a fence dissected the trench at its northern end. The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomaly H05. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for this anomaly was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.41 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. A possible worked stone was noted in the topsoil at the extreme northern end of the trench and two further possible worked stones were recovered from the grass which was trampled by horses also at the northern end of the trench. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T3 Part 2.

T4 Part 1 (Figures 6-7)

0.33–0.41 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.41 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T4 Part 1 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 30.59 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.41 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). T4 was also excavated in two parts (T4 Part 1 and T4 Part 2) as a fence bisected the trench. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.33-0.41 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T4 Part 1.

T4 Part 2 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.39 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.39 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T4 Part 2 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 28.71 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.39 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). T4 was excavated in two parts as a fence dissected the trench at its northern end. The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomalies H03 and H04. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for these anomalies was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.39 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige

in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T4 Part 2.

T5 Part 1 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.43 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.43 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T5 Part 1 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 37.47 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.43 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNE/SSW (Figure 6-7; Plate 7). T5 was also excavated in two parts (T5 Part 1 and T5 Part 2) as a fence bisected the trench. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.43 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T5 Part 1.

T5 Part 2 (Figures 6-7)

0.31–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T5 Part 2 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 23.25 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNE/SSW (Figure 6-7; Plate 7). T5 was excavated in two parts as a fence bisected the trench. The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomaly H03. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for this anomaly was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.31-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T5 Part 2

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T6 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T6 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 83.11 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. Two possible worked stone pieces were recovered in the topsoil at the NE end of the trench. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T6.

T7 (Figures 6-7)

0.29–0.43 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.43 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T7 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 59.47 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.43 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNW/SSE (Figure 6-7; Plate 8). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.29-0.43 m. The natural

sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T7.

T8 (Figures 6-7)

0.31–0.41 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.41 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T8 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 39.40 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.41 m deep, it was oriented roughly NW/SE (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.31-0.41 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T8.

T9 (Figures 6-7)

0.30–0.41 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.41 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T9 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 36.15 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.41 m deep, it was oriented roughly NW/SE (Figure 6-7; Plate 9). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.30-0.41 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. An area of disturbance was noted in the central area of the trench which appeared to be a dump of modern material such as metal rebar. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T9.

T10 (Figures 6-7)

0.33–0.42 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.42 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T10 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 42.26 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.42 m deep, it was oriented roughly N/S (Figure 6-7). The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomaly H02. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for this anomaly was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.33-0.42 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T10.

T11 (Figures 6-7)

0.29–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T11 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 34.68 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly N/S (Figure 6-7; Plate 10). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.29-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. A modern stone drain was noted

along the length of the trench (Plate 10). This drain was orientated NW/SE and appeared to be running in the direction of a storm drain to the east of the trench. This trench was positioned to intersect with geophysical anomalies H10, H11 and H12. No corresponding archaeological features were identified; possibly the anomalies reflect the drainage features identified. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T11.

T12 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T12 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 42.57 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T12.

T13 (Figures 6-7)

0.31–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T13 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 64.49 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly N/S (Figure 6-7). The trench was positioned so as to intersection with geophysical anomalies H09 and H10. No corresponding archaeological feature or other source for these anomalies was identified. The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.31-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. The modern stone drain which was noted in T11 also cut through the central section of T13 containing in the direction of a storm drain to the east of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T13.

T14 (Figures 6-7)

0.32–0.40 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.40 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T14 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 34.20 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.40 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNW/SSE (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.32-0.40 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within T14.

T15 (Figures 6-7)

0.30–0.39 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
0.19 m	Large circular shaped pit with sharp breaks in slope to the top and steeply sloped sides which broke sharply onto a slight concave base (007)

0.19 m	Softly compacted light-dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks, heat fractured stone with occasional inclusions of animal bone fragments and burnt bone fragments (008)
0.30 (min)	Large, irregular/sub-circular shaped feature (009) which extended beyond the edges of the trench
0.10 (min)	Firm but softly compacted light-mid grey gritty clayey silt (010) upper fill of feature (009)
0.02	Charcoal rich lens (011) forming divide between fills (010) and (012).
0.20 (min)	Lower most fill uncovered in small test pit to side of (009). Fill comprised of a Loosely compacted water logged light grey clayey silt grit with occasional inclusions of small charcoal flecks and animal bones. Lower fill of (009).
0.69 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T15 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 27.64 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.69 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7; Plates 12-13). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.30-0.39 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. Two features were identified within this trench. The first was a large pit (007) containing waste material. It was a circular shape in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and steeply sloped sides which broke sharply onto a slight concave base. It measured 1.02 m (L) x 0.82 m (W) x 0.19 m (D). Pit (007) was filled by (008) - a softly compacted light-dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks, heat fractured stone. It contained occasional inclusions of animal bone fragments and burnt bone fragments. The second feature (009) identified within T15 was located to the NE of (007) and east of RMP DU014-029 and corresponded to the location of geophysical anomaly H08. It was a large, irregular/sub-circular shaped feature which extended beyond the edges of the trench and possibly to the west. It measured 1.95 m (L) x 1.80 m (W) x 0.30 m (min D). It is possibly a pond/well or a water associated feature/pit as fills are all grey coloured and generally loosely compacted. It contained very frequent animal bone in its upper (010) and lower fills (012) which are separated by a charcoal lens (011). Groundwater quickly seeped into the feature during the investigation process. The full extent of (009) was difficult to establish as other redeposited natural deposits covered the edges. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T15.

T16 (Figures 6-7)

0.30–0.39 m	
0.47 m	Linear cut (003) which was orientated north/south having sharp breaks in slope to the top to western side, gradual breaks in slope to eastern side and gentle sloped sides which broke gradually on to a concave base
0.47 m	A softly compacted mid-dark grey gritty silty clay with frequent inclusions of animal bone fragments Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001), charcoal flecking, angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and stones (004)
0.40 m	A small sub-circular shaped pit (005)
0.40 m	A softly compacted light grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks and heat fractured stones (006)
0.86 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

T16 was located in the eastern area of the proposed development site in Area 1. It measured 44.14 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 0.86 m deep, it was oriented roughly NW/SE (Figure 6-7; Plates 14-15). The topsoil (001) depth varied along the length of the trench varying from 0.30-0.39 m. The natural sub soil (002) was light brown/beige in colour with frequent medium to small stone

inclusions and occasional plough furrows were visible along the length of the trench. Two features were identified within this trench. The first was a linear cut (003) which was orientated north/south having sharp breaks in slope to the top to western side, gradual breaks in slope to eastern side and gentle sloped sides which broke gradually on to a concave base. It measured 2.60 m (L min) x 0.49 m (W) x 0.15 m (D). It contained a single fill (004) which consisted of a softly compacted mid-dark grey gritty silty clay with frequent inclusions of animal bone fragments, charcoal flecking (concentrated to top), angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and stones. Also, occasional inclusions of burnt bone fragments. It was orientated roughly N/S. The second feature identified within T16 was a small pit contained heat fractured stone (005). This pit was sub-circular shape in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and gentle sloped sides which broke gradually onto a concave base and measured 0.45 m (L) x 0.38 m (W) X 0.06 (D) it possessed a single fill (006) which consisted of a softly compacted light grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks (concentrated to top) and heat fractured stones (av. 10cm). It is possible that these features could relate to the geophysical anomalies H04 and H05. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified within T16.

4.2 Test Pits

TP1 (Figure 6-7)

0.15-0.21 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
3.49 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.70 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP1 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 23 It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.70 m deep, it was oriented roughly NW/SE (Figure 6-7; Plate 16). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.15-0.21 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP2 (Figure 6-7)

0.14-0.21 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
3.39 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.60 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP2 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.60 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7; Plate 16). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.14-0.21 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP3 (Figure 6-7)

0.16-0.25 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
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3.35 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.60 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP3 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.60 m deep, it was oriented roughly NNE/SSW (Figure 6-7; Plate 17). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.16-0.25 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP4 (Figure 6-7)

0.15-0.22 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
2.58 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
2.80 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP4 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 2.80 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.15-0.22 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP5 (Figure 6-7)

0.17-0.24 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
2.46 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
2.70 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP5 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 2.70 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.17-0.24 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP6 (Figure 6-7)

0.15-0.24 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
2.91 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.15 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP6 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.15 deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7;

Plate 18). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.15-0.24 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP7 (Figure 6-7)

0.17-0.27 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
3.03 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.30 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP7 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.30 m deep, it was oriented roughly NW/SE (Figure 6-7). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.17-0.27 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

TP8 (Figure 6-7)

0.18-0.27 m	Mid-dark brown loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions - historic topsoil (001)
3.03 m	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble (013)
3.30 m +	Natural/Boulder clay (002)

TP8 was located in the north western area of the proposed development site in Area 3. It measured 5 m long by 2 m wide and was a maximum of 3.30 m deep, it was oriented roughly NE/SW (Figure 6-7; Plate 19). The topsoil (001) depth varied slightly along the length of the test pit varying from 0.18-0.27 m with light beige/grey coloured boulder clay (002) with very occasional small stones inclusions visible. Below the topsoil and above the natural/boulder clay was (013), a loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this test pit.

5 DISCUSSION

The results of the investigations have indicated that there is sub-surface archaeological remains present within the areas tested as part of the footprint of the proposed development area at Cappaghfinn, Finglas, Dublin 11. The site also incorporates an upstanding ringfort (RMP DU014-029) which is located in Area 1. This site comprises a circular platform (diam. 34m; H 1-1.8m). The bank has not survived and there are no traces of an external fosse. The entrance may have been in the west where farm machinery has damaged the site.

A total of four features were identified and investigated during the testing programme, three of these were archaeological features, all of which were located within 20 m of the out outer edge of the rampart of the ringfort (RMP DU014-029) in Area 1. They may represent ancillary activity associated with the ringfort. The presence of worked chert within the topsoil is also clear evidence of activity in the immediate vicinity of the ringfort. One of the archaeological features—well/pond (009)—clearly corresponds to geophysical anomaly H08. With that exception, none of the other geophysical anomalies proved to have a clear archaeological origin, so it does not appear that they represent sub-surface archaeological features.

Due to constraints on access it was not possible to excavate all the trenches originally planned. The proposed test trenches in the SW section of the proposed development site, Area 3 were investigated by the insertion of test pits rather than test trenches which confirmed that the entire area appears to be infilled to approximately 3.50 - 4 m in depth with modern topsoil and construction waste.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 *Summary of archaeological findings*

Archaeological testing of advance works has identified three archaeological features and eight possible worked chert artefacts. These are located in proximity to RMP listed site DU014-029 and it is possible that further archaeological features, deposits or artefacts remain *in situ* in this general area. The development site as a whole is an area of archaeological potential. There is a potential that construction groundworks could uncover previously unknown archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

6.2 *Recommendations*

The current policy of the Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of all affected archaeological material.

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by Fingal County Council, the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

1. A 20 m wide exclusion zone to be established from the known extent of the upstanding ringfort (DU014-029) within which no development works will take place. This exclusion zone should incorporate the archaeological features identified in Trenches 15 and 16
2. This exclusion zone would be fenced off for the duration of all construction works and would not be used for temporary site accommodation (e.g. construction compound), site storage or the transit of construction vehicles during the construction phase.
3. Subject to agreement on design and methodology with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG), this area could then be incorporated into an amenity green space within the finished development. Any landscaping design would have to take account of the requirement for the preservation *in situ* of both upstanding and sub-surface remains and be sympathetic to the upstanding ringfort.
4. A management plan for the long-term maintenance and protection of the site should be prepared for approval by National Monuments Service (DoCHG). Development of this management plan may require additional archaeological studies such as the development of a digital terrain model for the site. This management plan should be drafted in advance of any construction works at the site so as to ensure that the management and coordination of the construction programme is consistent with the policies and procedures for the protection and management of the site.
5. All ground reduction across the remainder of the development site, including any enabling works in advance of construction should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, under licence, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
6. If archaeological material is encountered then it will be investigated and fully recorded. However, if significant archaeological material is encountered then Fingal County Council will be notified. Resolution of any such significant material will be determined by the Fingal County Council in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).

7. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

8 ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Context Sheets	13
Plans	-
Sections	-
Photographs	40
Registers	2
Notebooks	-

Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd., Unit 2, Europa Enterprise Park, Middleton, Co. Cork.

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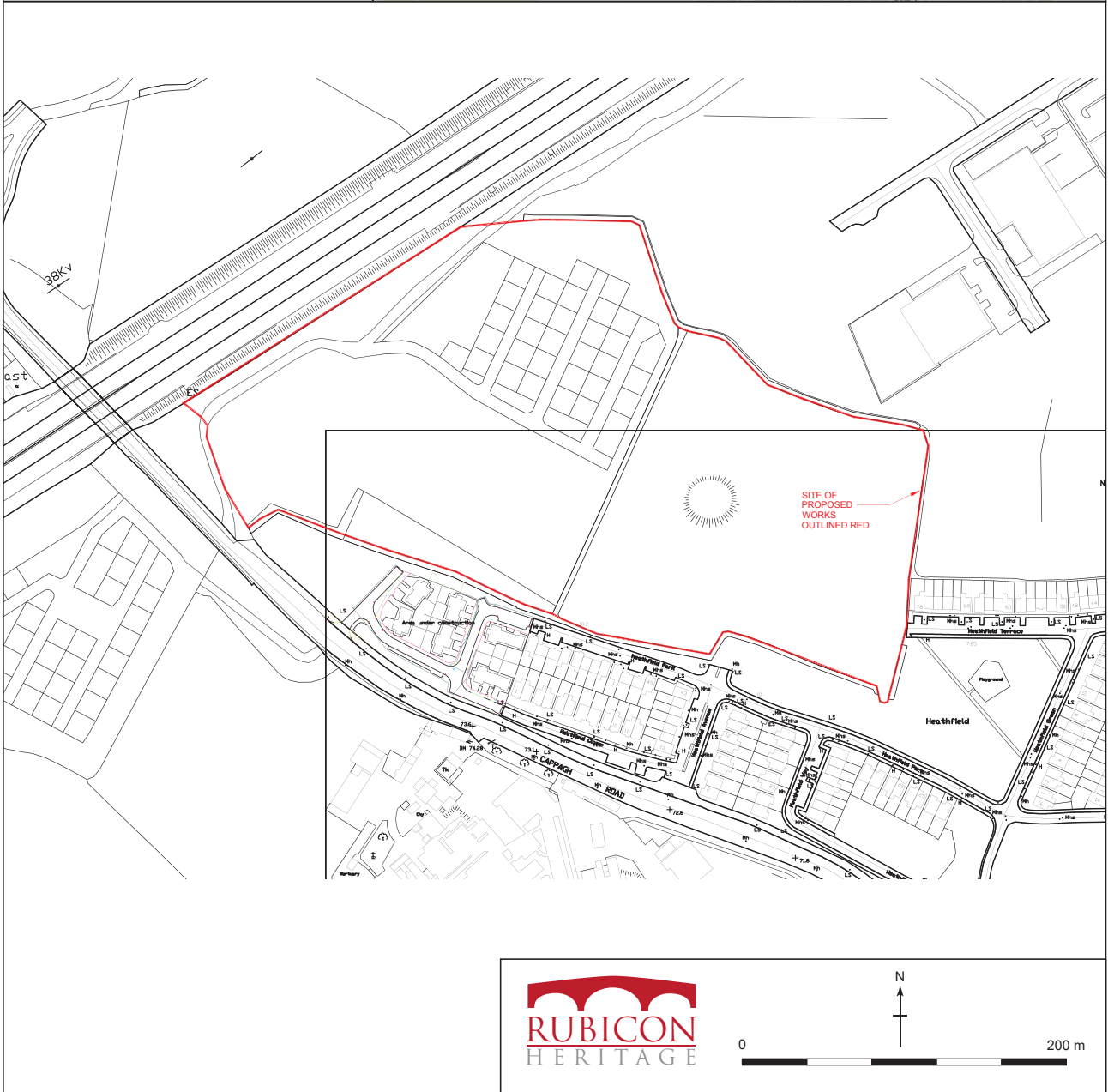
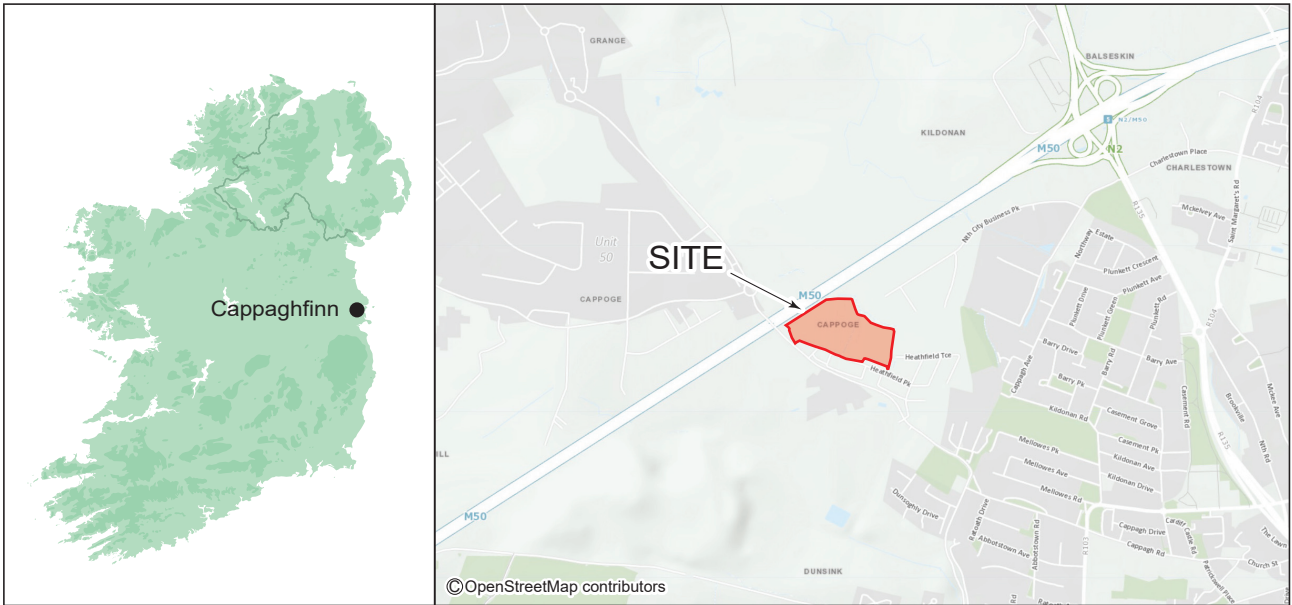


Figure 1 - Cappaghfinn, Finglas, Dublin 11: Site location and Survey extents.

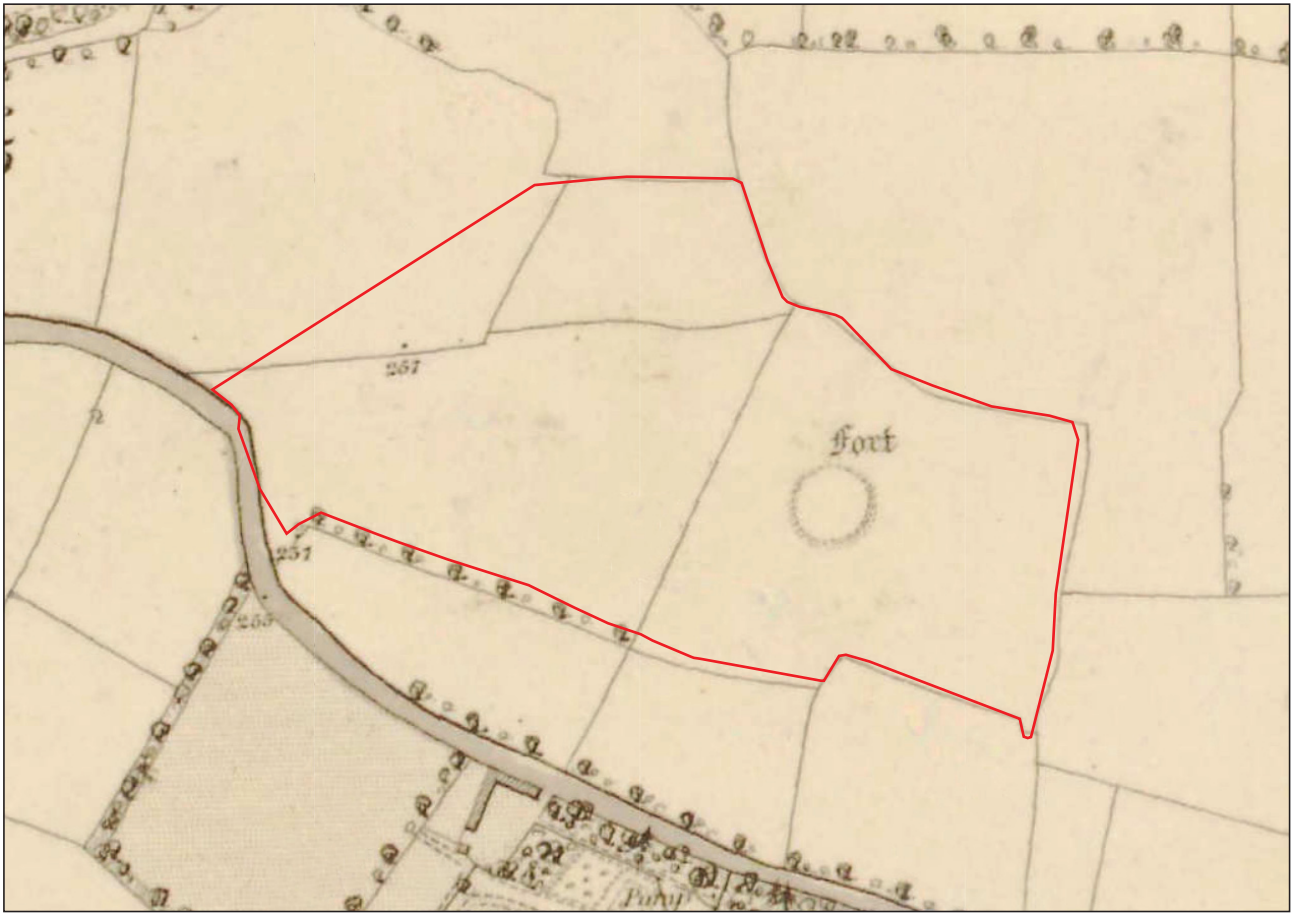


Figure 2 - First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet.

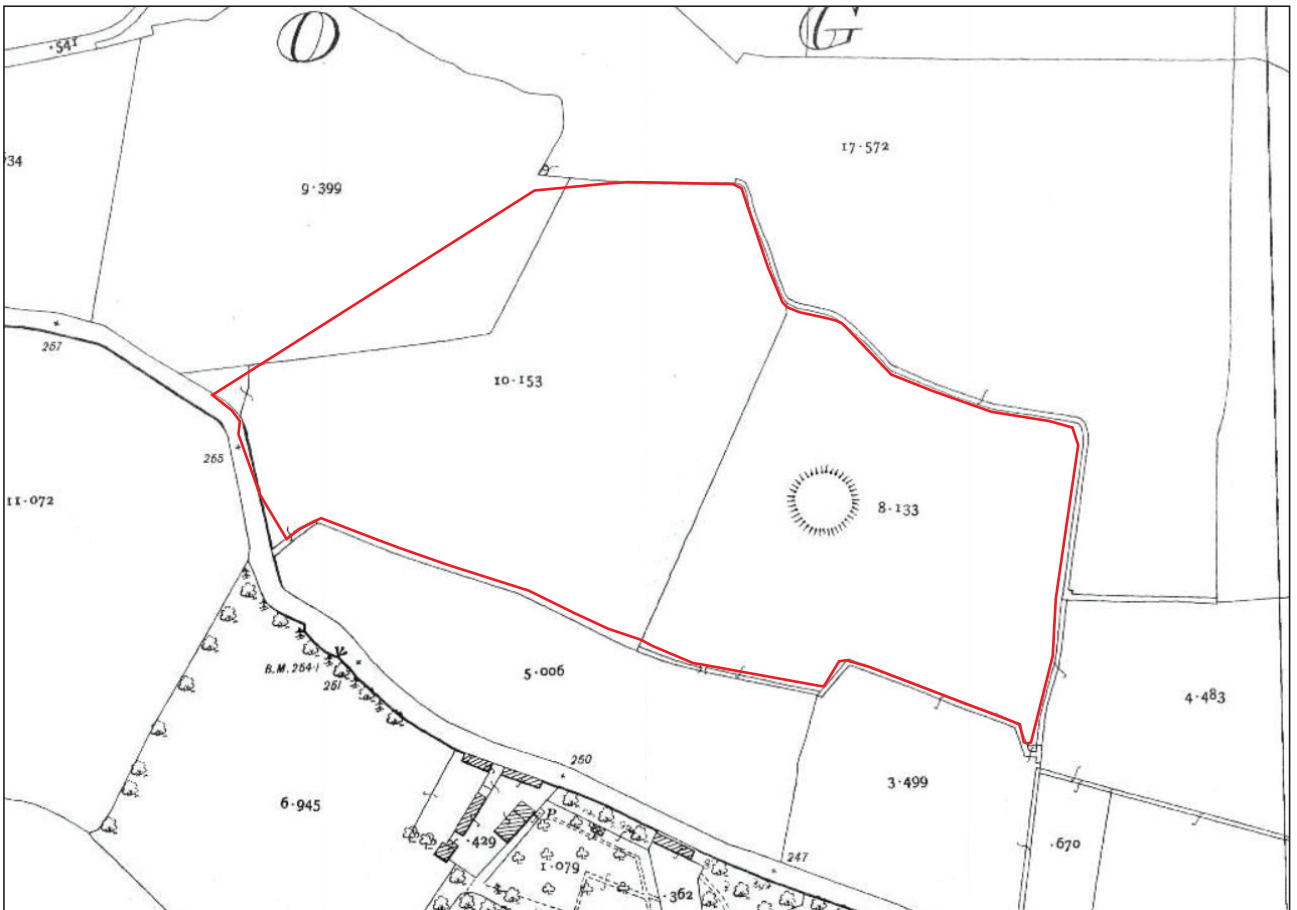
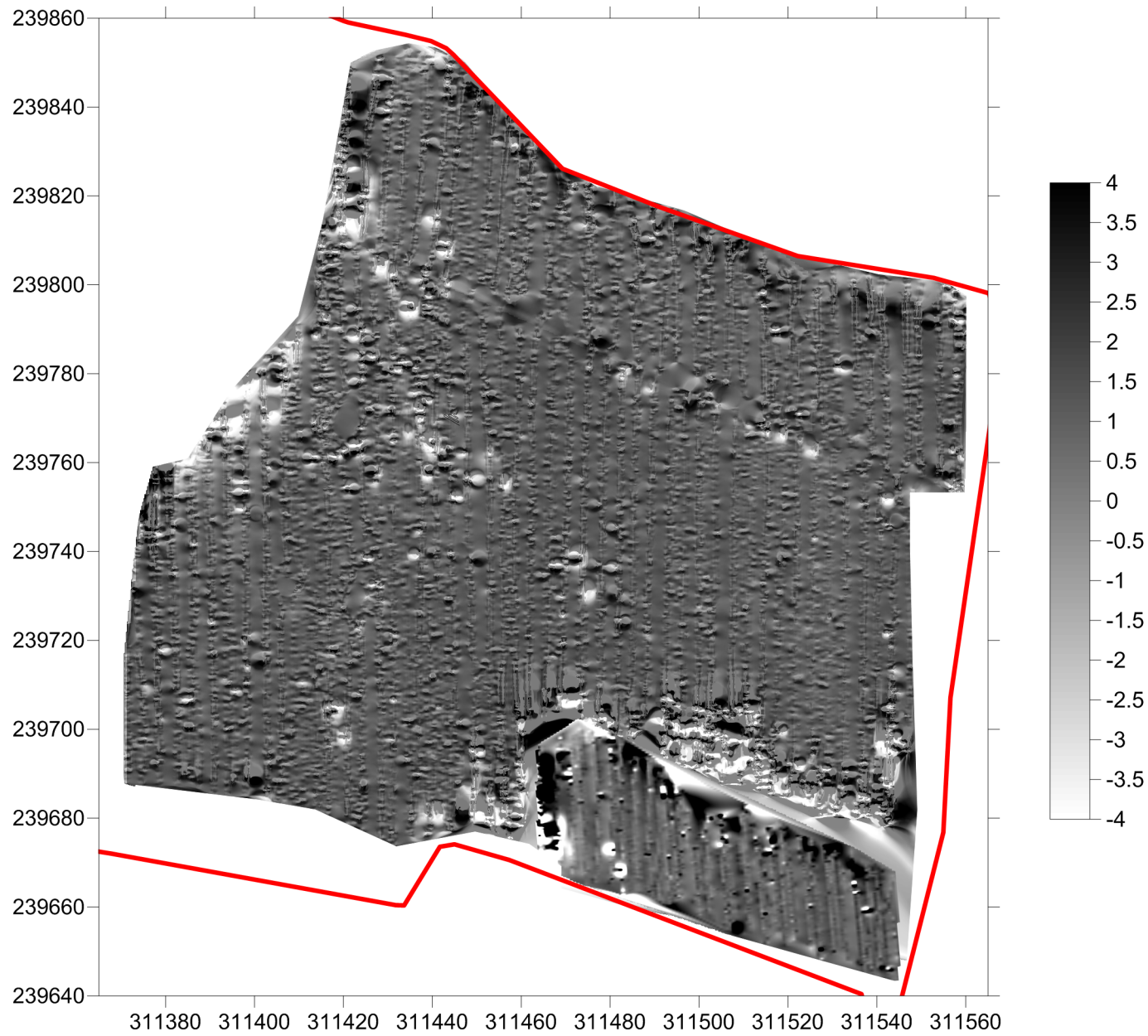



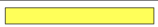


Figure 3 - First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet.



Key

Previously Known Feature	
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Moderate Potential to represent archaeology	
Low Potential to represent archaeology	



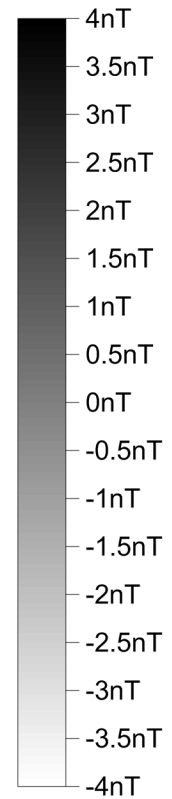
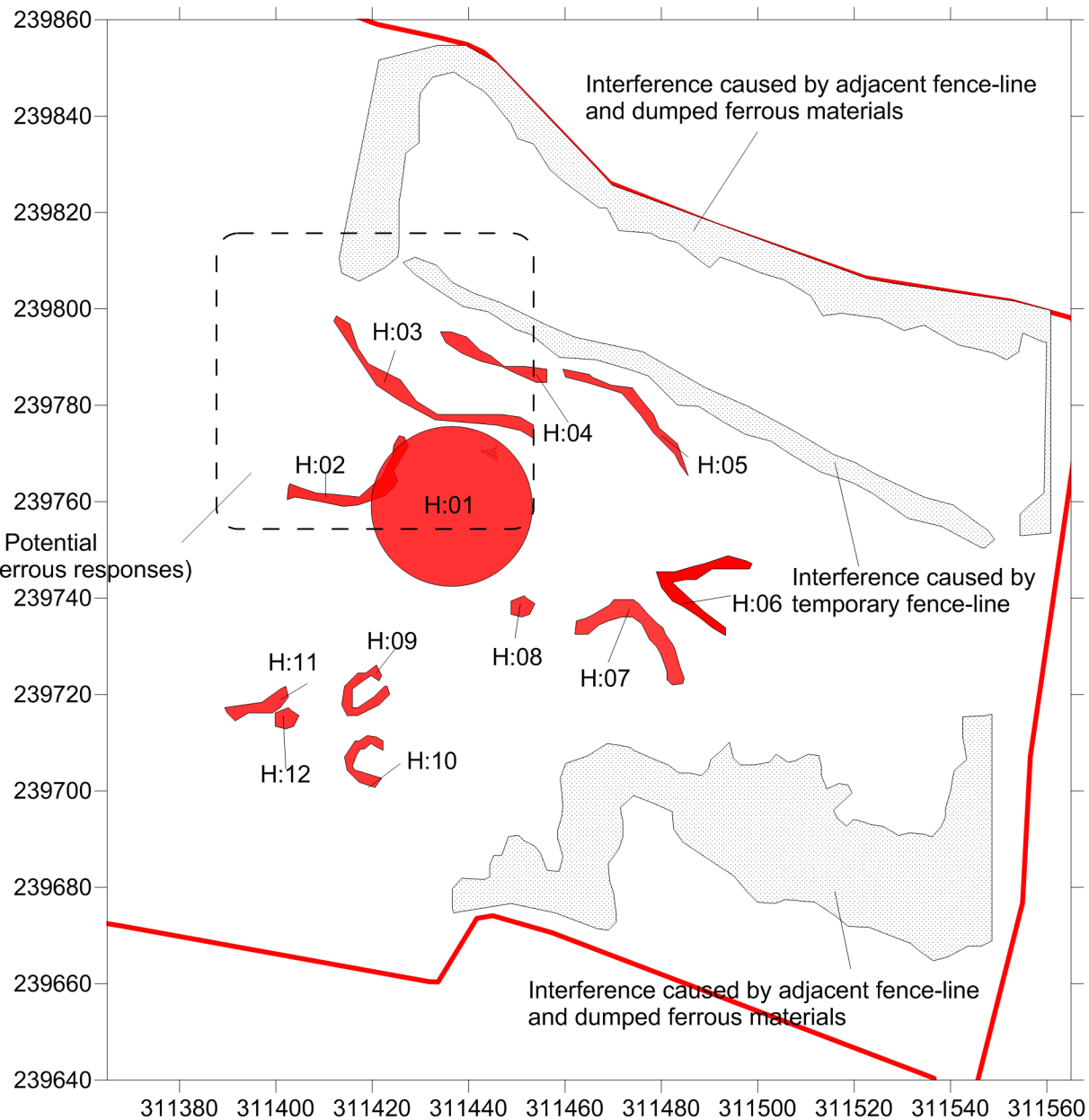
Project Name:
 Cappoge, Fingal, Co. Dublin
 Geophysical (Fluxgate Magnetometry)
 Survey
 Project Code: CAFD19



Figure 4 - Cappoge, Fingal, Co. Dublin
 Geophysical (Fluxgate
 Magnetometry) Plot

Drawn by:	1st edit by:
2nd edit by:	Signed off:

Zone of High Archaeological Potential
(heavily disturbed, frequent ferrous responses)



Key

Previously Known Feature	
High Potential to represent archaeology	
Moderate Potential to represent archaeology	
Low Potential to represent archaeology	

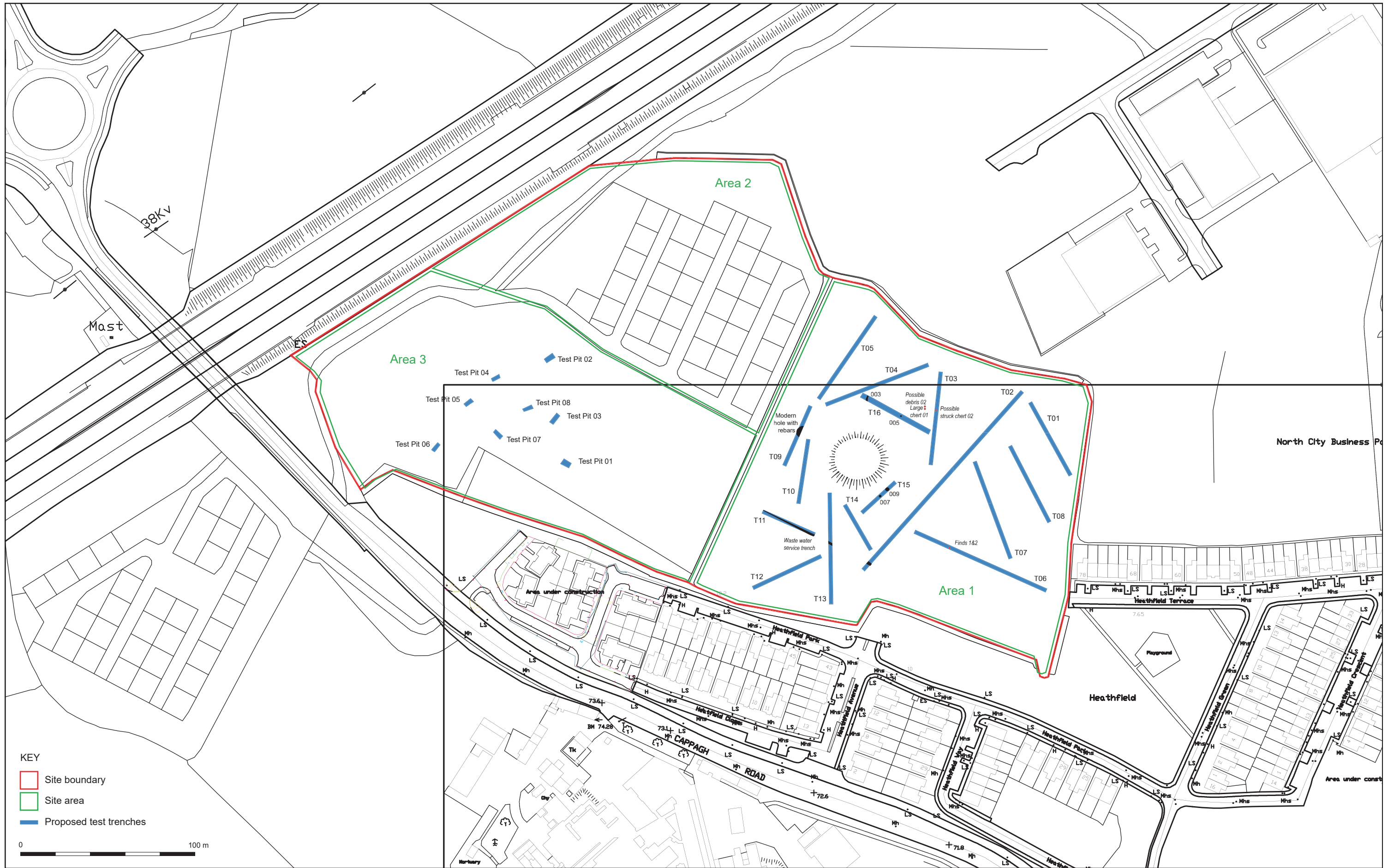


Project Name:
Cappoge, Fingal, Co. Dublin
Geophysical (Fluxgate Magnetometry) Survey
Project Code: CAFD19



Figure 5 - Cappoge, Fingal, Co. Dublin
Geophysical (Fluxgate Magnetometry) Interpretation

Drawn by:	1st edit by:
2nd edit by:	Signed off:



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

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No.	DATE	REVISION

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DATE:-	22.11.2018
DRAWN:-	CB

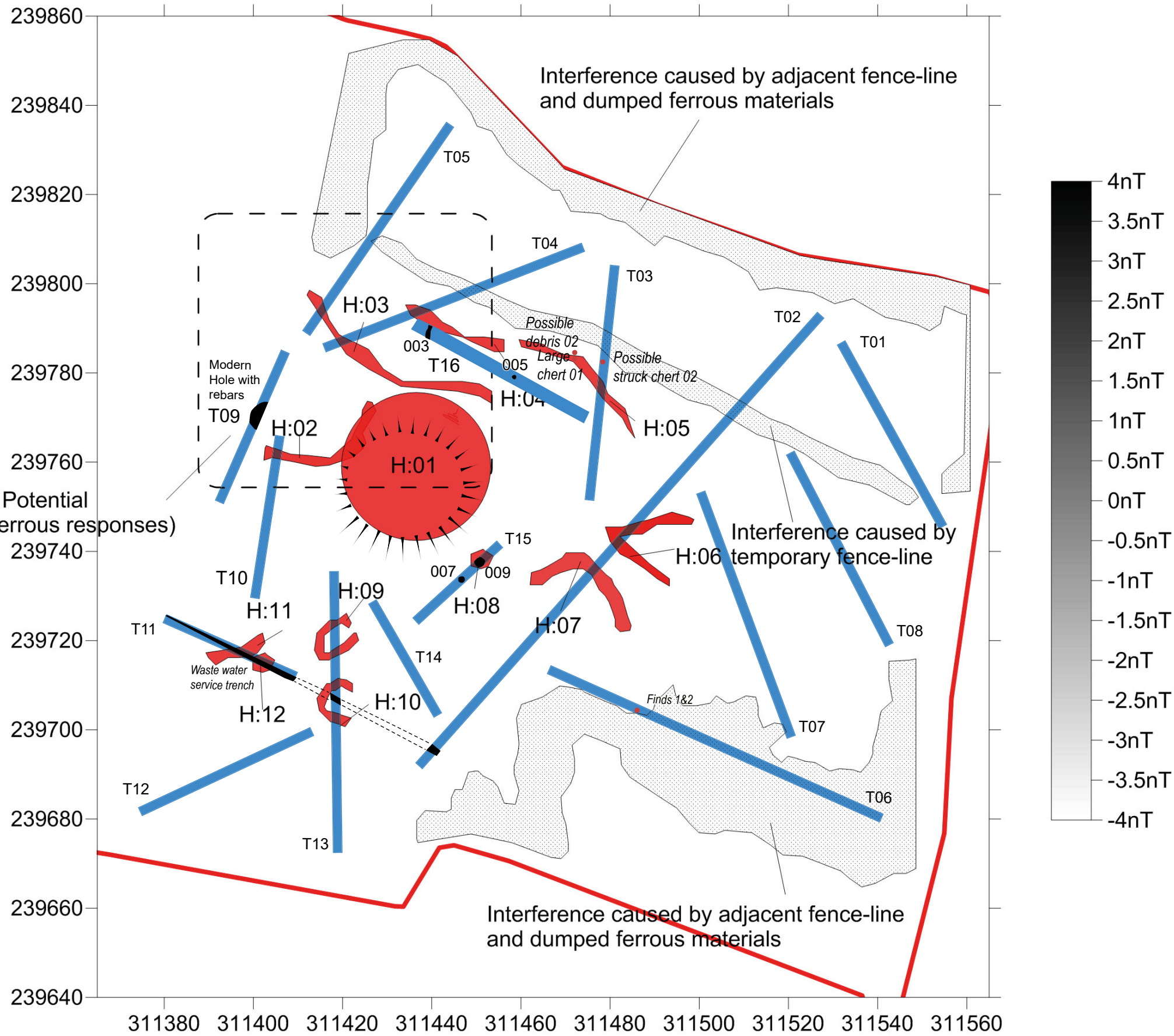
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DRAWING TITLE:	SITE LOCATION MAP
SENIOR ARCHITECT:	

PROJECT ARCHITECT:	Carmel Brennan
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DRAWING NO:	REV.
18-362-F-1000	

Figure 6 - Test trench layout.

Zone of High Archaeological Potential
(heavily disturbed, frequent ferrous responses)



KEY
 Site boundary
 Proposed test trenches

Key

Previously Known Feature	
High Potential to represent archaeology	
Moderate Potential to represent archaeology	
Low Potential to represent archaeology	



Project Name:
 Cappoge, Fingal, Co. Dublin
 Geophysical (Fluxgate Magnetometry) Survey
 Project Code: CAFD19



Figure 7 - Targeted test trenches across geophysical anomalies and RMP DU014-029.

Drawn by:	1st edit by:
2nd edit by:	Signed off:



Plate 1 - Pre-excavation shot looking towards DU014-029, looking looking W



Plate 2 - Trench 1 overview looking SE



Plate 3 - Trench 2 Part 1 overview, looking SW



Plate 4 - Trench 2 Part 2 overview, looking SW



Plate 5 - Trench 3 Part 1 overview, looking S



Plate 6 - Trench 3 Part 2 overview, looking S



Plate 7 - Trench 5 Part 1 overview, looking SW



Plate 8 - Trench 7 overview, looking SSE



Plate 9 - Trench 9 overview, looking S



Plate 10 - Trench 11 overview, looking WNW



Plate 11 - Trench 13 overview, looking N



Plate 12 - View of feature (009), looking SW



Plate 13 - View of feature (009), looking NE



Plate 14 - Trench 16 linear feature (003), looking S



Plate 15 - Trench 16 small sub-circular pit (005), looking SE



Plate 16 - Overview Test Pit 1, looking NW



Plate 17 - Overview Test Pit 3, looking SW



Plate 18 - Overview Test Pit 6, looking SW



Plate19 - Overview Test Pit 8, looking SW

Appendix 1 – Context Register

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	-	-	0.42 (max)	Mid brown light loamy topsoil soil with occasional medium and small stone inclusions	Topsoil
002	Deposit	-	-	-	Natural/Boulder clay	Natural Geological Strata
003	Cut	2.6 (min)	0.49	0.15	Trench 16. Linear cut orientated north/south having sharp breaks in slope to the top to western side, gradual breaks in slope to eastern side and gentle sloped sides which broke gradually on to a concave base	Linear feature extending from southern edge of trench (closest to recorded monument) northwards and appears to end just before northern edge of trench.
004	Deposit	2.6 (min)	0.49	0.15	Softly compacted mid-dark grey gritty silty clay with frequent inclusions of animal bone fragments, charcoal flecking (concentrated to top) angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and stones. Occasional inclusions of burnt bone fragments	Fill of linear (003)
005	Cut	0.45	0.38	0.06	Trench 16. Sub-circular shape in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and gentle sloped sides which broke gradually onto a concave base	Cut of small pit contained heat fractured stone
006	-	0.45	0.38	0.06	Softly compacted light grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks (concentrated to top), heat fractured stone (av.10cm)	Fill of pit (005)
007	Cut	1.02	0.82	0.70 (max)	Trench 15. Large circular shape in plan with sharp breaks in slope to the top and steeply sloped sides which broke sharply onto a slight concave base	Large circular pit containing waste material
008	Deposit	1.02	0.82	-	Softly compacted light-dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks, heat fractured stone. Occasional	Fill of pit (007)

Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
					inclusions of animal bone fragments and burnt bone fragments.	
009	Cut	1.95	1.8	0.30 min (not bottomed)	Trench 15. Large sub-circular shape in plan which extends beyond the edges of this test trench	Irregular shaped featured located just east of the recorded monument. Possible pond/well or a water associated feature/pit as fills are all grey coloured, generally loosely compacted. Lots of animal bone to upper and lower fill which are separated by a charcoal lens. Groundwater quickly seeped into test pit to side of feature. Full extents hard to establish as other redeposited natural deposits cover edges. It extends beyond edge of trench to east and probably west
010	Deposit	1.95	1.8	0.10 min (not bottomed)	Firm but softly compacted light-mid grey gritty clayey silt upper fill of feature (009) containing frequent inclusions of small stones and charcoal flecks. Occasional inclusions of animal bones and burnt bone fragments	Upper fill of feature (007), somewhat water logged
011	Deposit	-	-	0.02	Charcoal rich lens forming divide between fills (010) and (012). Soft compaction	Charcoal lens
012	Deposit	-	-	0.20 min (not bottomed)	Lower most fill uncovered in small test pit to side of (009). Fill comprised of a loosely compacted water logged light grey clayey silt grit with occasional inclusions of small charcoal flecks and animal bones.	Lower fill of feature (007), very waterlogged.
013	Deposit	-	-	3.70 (max)	Loose mid-dark brown coloured clay/modern backfill including modern waste, stone and rubble	Modern backfill

Appendix 2 – Photo Register

Photo No.	Trench No./Test Pit No.	Looking	Description
001	-	NW	Pre-excavation overview in Area 1 eastern section of proposed development site
002	-	WNW	Pre-excavation overview in Area 1 eastern section of proposed development site
003	-	N	Pre-excavation overview in Area 1 eastern section of proposed development site
004	-	N	Pre-excavation overview in Area 1 eastern section of proposed development site
005	-	NNE	Pre-excavation overview in Area 1 eastern section of proposed development site
006	Trench 1	SE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
007	Trench 2 (Part 1)	SW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
008	Trench 3 (Part 1)	S	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
009	Trench 4 (Part 1)	WSW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
010	Trench 5 (Part 1)	SSW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
011	Trench 6	SE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
012	Trench 7	SSE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
013	Trench 8	S	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
014	Trench 2 (Part 2)	SE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
015	Trench 3 (Part 2)	SW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
016	Trench 4 (Part 2)	NNE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
017	Trench 5 (Part 2)	NNE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
018	Trench 16	SE	Pre-excavation shot of small sub-circular pit (005), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
019	Trench 10	N	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site

Photo No.	Trench No./Test Pit No.	Looking	Description
020	Trench 11	WNW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
021	Trench 11	ESE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
022	Trench 12	ENE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
023	Test Pit 1	NW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
024	Test Pit 2	SW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
025	Test Pit 3	SSW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
026	Test Pit 8	SW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
027	Trench 16	S	Mid-excavation shot of linear feature (003), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
028	Test Pit 6	SSW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
029	Test Pit 7	NNW	Post-excavation shot, Area 3, south western section of proposed development site
030	Trench 16	N	Pre-excavation shot of small sub-circular pit (005), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
031	Trench 9	N	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
032	Trench 13	N	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
033	Trench 13	S	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
034	Trench 14	NW	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
035	Trench 16	NW	Pre-excavation shot of linear feature (003), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
036	Trench 16	S	Mid-excavation shot of linear feature (003), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
037	Trench 15	NE	Pre-excavation shot of irregular shaped feature (009), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
038	Trench 15	NE	Pre-excavation shot of irregular shaped feature (009), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
039	Trench 16	SE	Post-excavation overview, Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site
040	Trench 16	NW	Pre-excavation shot of small sub-circular pit (005), Area 1, eastern section of proposed development site