

Cork Line Level Crossing Project, Cos Limerick and Cork

Final Archaeological Monitoring Report

20E0131

Kate Taylor and Damien McCarthy

TVAS Ireland Ltd

J20/01

August 2020

ITM 553311 609784 to 557538 624479

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for

OCB Geotechnical Ltd

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Summary

Site name: Cork Line Level Crossing Project, Cos Limerick and Cork

Townlands: Thomastown, Newtown, Ballycoskery, Imphrick, Creggane

Parishes: Kilbreedyminor, Ballyhay, Aglishdrinagh, Imphrick, Buttevant

Baronies: Coshma, Fermoy, Orrery and Kilmore, Fermoy

Counties: Limerick, Cork

Planning Ref. No: J20/01

Client: OCB Geotechnical Ltd, Unit 1, Carrigogna, Midleton, Co. Cork, P25 PX22

Grid reference: ITM 553311 609784 to 557538 624479

Naturally occurring geology: Glacial till

TVAS Ireland Job No: J20/01

Licence No: 20E0131

Licence Holder: n/a

Report authors: Kate Taylor and Damien McCarthy

Site activity: Monitoring

Date of fieldwork: 17th February to 3rd July 2020

Date of report: 21st August 2020

Summary of results: Monitoring of trial pits excavated in advance of the proposed Cork Line Level Crossing Project, Co. Cork encountered a possible ditch in Creggane townland. The other pits revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The primary records (written, drawn and photographic) are currently held at TVAS Ireland Ltd, Ahish, Ballinruan, Co. Clare.

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Report edited/checked by: Graham Hull √15/08/20

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Kate Taylor and Damien McCarthy

Report J20/01a

Introduction

This report documents the results of archaeological monitoring of trial pits excavated in advance of the proposed Cork Line Level Crossing Project, Cos Limerick and Cork (ITM 553311 609784 to 557538 624479) (Figs 1-5).

The following Government publications set out many of the procedures relating to planning/development and archaeology:

Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (DAHGI 1999a)

Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (DAHGI 1999b)

Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers (ICOMOS 2000)

Review of Archaeological Assessment and Monitoring Procedures in Ireland (Lambrick and Doyle 2000)

The planning background

Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, propose to remove/upgrade seven separate level crossings along the Cork to Dublin rail line. The crossings for the proposed project are located within a 24km section of the line straddling the Cork/Limerick county border. Geotechnical test pits were excavated at these locations by OCB Geotechnical Ltd, Unit 1, Carrigogna, Midleton, Co. Cork, P25 PX22 (Figs 1-5). Archaeological Management Solutions prepared a method statement for archaeological monitoring of the test pits for Jacobs Engineering. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken under licence issued by the National Monuments Service to Kate Taylor of TVAS (Ireland) Ltd.

The proposed project stems from the policy of Córas Iompair Éireann and Iarnród Éireann to eliminate/upgrade where practicable and possible all level crossings on the rail network across Ireland, in order to improve the Irish rail network infrastructure and in particular the safety of the network.

The full hierarchy of national, regional and local policy supports the closure/replacement of level crossings. The following legislation and guidance are relevant:

- Planning and Development Act 2000 2018
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 2019
- Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001, as amended
- S.I. 296 of 2018 European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018
- Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2017)

Key documents that inform the examination of all environmental areas include:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework
- National Development Plan 2018 2027
- National Mitigation Plan (2017)
- Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the South West and Mid West (2010 2022)
- Relevant Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASPs)
- Cork County Development Plan (CCDP) 2014
- Limerick County Development Plan (LCDP) 2010-2016
- Relevant Local Area Plans.

Relevant IE and railway infrastructure plans, and strategies include:

- 2030 Rail Network Strategy Review, 2011
- Draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) 2040
- Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 2021
- Rail Review: 2016 Report
- Commission for Railway Safety Statement of Strategy 2018 2020
- NTA Draft Integrated Implementation Plan 2019- 2024
- Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future: A new Transport Strategy for Ireland 2009 -2020

Location, topography and geology

The works were located along the route of the Cork to Dublin railway line, approximately between the towns of Charleville and Buttevant. The railway line crosses the National Route N20 connecting the towns. The ground investigations focus on fields located adjacent to five of the seven level crossings proposed for upgrade works, in the townlands of Thomastown, Co. Limerick, as well as Newtown, Ballycoskery, Imphrick and Creggane, Co. Cork (ITM 553311 609784 to 557538 624479) (Figs 1-5). Thomastown is located in Kilbreedyminor parish and Coshma barony. Newtown is located in Ballyhay parish and Fermoy barony, Ballycoskery is in Aglishdrinagh parish and Orrey and Kilmore barony, Imphrick is in Imphrick parish, Orrey and Kilmore barony and Creggane is in Buttevant parish and also in the barony of Orrey and Kilmore.

The works involved the excavation of 27 trial pits and 21 boreholes in greenfield pasture sites in the townlands of Thomastown, Newtown, Ballycoskery, Imphrick and Creggane. The trial pits had a minimum base plan dimension of 2m by 1m and the boreholes penetrated to the rockhead/refusal or to a maximum depth of 30m. The following distribution of trial pits and boreholes were planned in the vicinity of Recorded Monuments (RMPs) (Table 1). In the event, the seven test pits in Ballycoskery townland (XC212 TP1-7) were not dug as landowner permission was not granted.

Table 1: Detail of proposed works

Townland	Trial pits	Boreholes	Adjacent RMPs	RMP description
Thomastown	Four trial pits XC201-TP01– XC201-TP04	Four boreholes XC201-CP01–XC201-CP02; XC201-CPRC01–XC201-CPRC02	LI047-045	Enclosure
Newtown	Three trial pits XC211-TP01– XC211-TP03	Two boreholes XC211-CP01– & XC211-CP02	CO008-040	Ringfort-rath

Townland	Trial pits	Boreholes	Adjacent RMPs	RMP description
Ballycoskery	Seven trial pits XC212-TP01– XC212-TP07	Six boreholes XC212-CP01–XC212-CP04; XC212-CPRC01–XC212-CPRC02	CO008-035 CO008-069	Moated site Church
Imphrick	Nine trial pits XC215-TP01– XC215-TP09	Three boreholes XC215-CP01; XC215-CPRC01–XC215-CPRC02	CO007-119002 CO007-12001 CO007-12002 CO007-121	Excavation Graveyard Church Ritual site – holy well
Creggane	Four trial pits XC219-TP01– XC219-TP04	Six boreholes XC219-CP01; XC212-CPRC01–XC212-CPRC05	CO016-211 CO016-212	Ringfort-rath Enclosure

All works were located in pasture fields that are essentially level. The works lie at approximately between 80m and 110m above Ordnance Datum.

The Geological Survey of Ireland shows the development sites to lie on Visean limestone (undifferentiated), dark muddy limestone shale, limestone & dark-grey calcareous shale, yellow & red sandstone & green mudstone and pale-grey massive mud-grade limestone (www.gsi.ie). Observed upper natural geology was seen to be glacial till.

Archaeological and historical background

The assessment was based on the Historic Environment Viewer of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that gives the location of sites listed under the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Zones of Notification and structures that are registered under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The Excavations database and publications (Bennett 1987-2010) were also consulted.

General background

The landscape of the proposed works is predominantly rural located in the Golden Vale region between the towns of Charleville and Buttevant, spanning the Limerick and Cork county boundary.

Thomastown translates to the Irish *Baile Thomáis* meaning 'townland, town, homestead of Thomas'. Newtown translates as *An Baile Nua* meaning 'new townland, town or homestead'. Ballycoskery translates as *Baile Uí Choscraigh* meaning 'townland, town or homestead of O'Coscry'. Imphrick translates as *Imfric* which may relate to the tribal name *Hi mBric* or could mean 'weir or dam of the trout'. Creggane translates as *An Creagán* meaning 'rocky land' (www.logainm.ie).

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1841-2 at 6" t the mile

Thomastown (Fig. 2) is depicted as a large rural townland. The main routes east to west and north to south mirror modern-day routes. Occasional dwellings are scattered throughout. Four sub-circular features are shown, one close to the north-east boundary of the townland; modern-day RMP LI047-047, and three close to the southern boundary; LI047-045, LI047-049 and LI047-050. The railway has yet to be built however the route of the railway line can be discerned in the southern half of the townland, running through nine fields, across two minor roads and across the main road close to the western boundary. A residence surrounded by planted plots is shown south of the route and sub-circular feature LI047-045 is shown at the western edge of the route.

Newtown (Fig. 3) is a narrow elongated townland located further to the south-west. As with Thomastown, the main routes through the townland mirror modern-day routes. The Awbeg River flows along the northern boundary of the townland. Newtown House Demesne is depicted in the northern half of the townland and a bridge, *Furzeford Bridge*, is annotated in the north-west corner. South of the bridge is an area annotated as *Sallows*. Two sub-circular features (CO008-039, CO008-040) are shown west of the main road running through the demesne. The southern part of the townland is shown as poor quality land. The route of the railway line is shown at the northern end of Newtown, running through ten fields including the access road leading to Newtown House. A sub-circular feature, CO008-040, is shown east of the route.

Imphrick (Fig. 4) is a small townland located further to the south-west. Routes through the townland mirror modern-day routes including the N20. The north-west quadrant of the townland contains Imphrick Church (in ruins) (CO007-120002) and a graveyard (CO007-120001). A feature north of the graveyard is annotated as *Tobernadeecla* (CO007-121) and an area to the north-west is annotated as *Glebe*. The route of the proposed works is shown at the northern end of the townland within twelve fields. The northern end of the route runs between the graveyard and Tobernadeecla.

Creggane (Fig. 5) is a small townland located on the northern side of Buttevant town. As with the other townlands, the main routes through the townland mirror modern-day routes including the N20. The Awbeg River flows along the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the townland. A toll gate is marked along the roadway close to the town. The main feature in the townland is an Infantry Barracks (CO017-138) located in its north-east quadrant. A bridge annotated as *Buttevant Old Bridge* (CO017-106) is located on the eastern boundary of the townland and on the western boundary there is a bridge annotated as *Bregoge New Bridge*. The route of the proposed works is shown at the western edge of the townland within eight fields and crossing a local road.

Ordnance Survey 1900-3 at 25" to the mile

In Thomastown (Fig. 2) the sub-circular features shown on the earlier map are still shown and there are additional sub-circular features shown; in the north-west corner (LI047-042) and within the planted area surrounding the residence detailed on the earlier map (LI047-046). The Great Southern and Western Railway has been constructed by this time and cuts through six fields, running north of LI047-046 and cutting through sub-circular feature LI047-045.

Some changes are also notable in Newtown (Fig. 3). Furzetown Bridge is now called *Bealaghanattin Bridge*. The 'Sallows' annotation is no longer shown. Newtown House is still shown but appears much altered. A building along the southern boundary of the townland is annotated as *Newtown-Ballyhay School*. The railway line cuts through nine fields and the access road leading to Newtown House. Monuments CO008-039 and CO008-040 are still shown, along with an additional sub-circular feature; CO008-041; monuments CO008-040 and CO008-041 are shown east of the railway line.

Imphrick (Fig. 4) is essentially unchanged from the 1st Edition map bar the construction of the Great Southern and Western Railway.

Creggane (Fig. 5) townland shows the northwards expansion of Buttevant town. A creamery and quarry are marked close to the town. The toll gate is no longer shown but the Infantry Barracks are still present. The railway runs through four fields and a local road at the western side of the townland.

Modern OSI mapping

Modern mapping (Figs 2-5) shows the townlands as still relatively rural although there has been an increase in single house developments.

Recorded monuments

There are thirty-eight monuments or sub-monuments listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within 1km of the scheme (as shown on the departmental website www.archaeology.ie). These monuments are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Sites and Monuments Record / Record of Monuments and Places monuments within 1km of scheme

No.	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance from scheme
CO007-119001	Castle – unclassified	Ballynageragh	553175 614947	600m NW
CO007-119002	Excavation-miscellaneous	Ballynageragh	553303 614934	500m NW
CO007-12001-	Graveyard	Imphrick	553467 614610	0m NW
CO007-12002-	Church	Imphrick	553462 614615	0m NW
CO007-121	Ritual site – holy well	Imphrick	553563 614656	0m N
CO007-131001-	Fulacht fia	Shinanagh	<mark>55</mark> 3334 615316	900m N
CO007-131002-	Fulacht fia	Shinanagh	5 <mark>5333</mark> 4 615303	900m N
CO008-004	Moated site	Ballynadrideen	553908 618117	900m W
CO008-005	Ringfort-rath	Farran	554519 618299	400m NW
CO008-026	Ringfort-rath	Castlewrixon	554147 617229	700m SW
CO008-033	Ringfort-rath	Ballycoskery	554186 617456	500m SW
CO008-034	Ringfort-rath	Ballycoskery	554656 618092	200m W
CO008-035	Moated site	Ballycoskery	554610 617510	100m S
CO008-036	House – vernacular house	Ballycoskery	554780 617403	200m SE
CO008-039	Ringfort-rath	Newtown	555100 617742	500m E
CO008-040	Ringfort-rath	Newtown	617742 6 18246	300m NE
CO008-041	Earthwork	Newtown	554994 618381	400m NE
CO008-043	Ringfort-rath	Sorrel	555582 618202	800m E
CO008-044	Enclosure	Lisballyhay	554440 614401	900m E
CO008-045	Ringfort-rath	Lisballyhay	554050 614474	500m E
CO008-065	Burnt spread	Lisballyhay	554406 614083	900m SE
CO008-069	Church	Ballycoskery	554437 617719	0m W
CO008-071	Standing stone	Lisballyhay	554101 614927	700m NE
CO016-210	Ringfort-rath	Bregoge	552513 609452	900m SW
CO016-211	Ringfort-rath	Bregoge	552855 609822	500m W
CO016-212	Enclosure	Bregoge	553137 610144	400m NW
CO016-137	Redundant record	Jordanstown	553047 610350	600m NW
CO016-138	Mound	Rathclare	553317 610575	700m N
CO016-139	Moated site	Rathclare	553272 610472	600m N
CO017-032	Earthwork	Rathclare	553705 610255	600m NE
CO017-138	Barracks	Creggane	553958 609627	700m SE
LI047-045	Enclosure	Thomastown	557658 624623	0m E
LI <mark>047-046</mark>	Mound	Thomastown	557971 624736	90m E
LI047-048	Enclosure	Breesheen South	558445 625188	1km NE

No.	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance from scheme
LI047-049	Enclosure	Thomastown	558504 624369	900m SE
LI047-068004-	Ritual site – holy well	Effin	557888 623657	1km S
LI047-068005-	Enclosure	Effin	557886 623668	1km S
LI047-100	Enclosure	Effin	557272 623829	900m SW

The earliest sites in the vicinity of the works are likely to be the *fulachtaí fia* located in Shinanagh townland west of the works. *Fulachtaí fia* are mounds of burnt stone with associated troughs, that were used to heat water for a variety of uses including ritual, domstic and processing and are generally dated to the Bronze Age. A burnt spread also recorded in Lisballyhay could date to any era. A standing stone is recorded in Lisballyhay which could date from the Bronze/Iron Age to the early medieval period. Standing stones functioned as either burial markers, commemorative monuments, boundary markers or indicators of routeways.

Eleven ringforts are recorded; west of the works in Ballycoskery, Farran and Castlewrixon and east of the works in Newtown, Lisballyhay, Sorrel and Bregoge. Ringforts are early medieval semi-defended farmsteads. The examples in the vicinity of the proposed works are generally sub-circular in shape and range in diameter from 24m to 44m. One of the examples in Ballycoskery is located close to the Awbeg River and consists of a circular area enclosed by three earthen banks. The example in Farran, now partially levelled, may have been bivallate. The ringfort in Sorrel is enclosed by two banks and intervening fosse. One example in Newtown is also located close to the river and is quite large, being over 40m diameter. One of the ringforts in Newtown (CO008-040) is located close to the railway line and is described below.

In pasture, on break in NW-facing slope. Depicted as hachured circular enclosure (diam. c. 30m) on 1842 OS 6-inch map; as hachured, nearly circular raised area (diam. c. 20m) on 1905 and 1937 OS 6-inch maps. Field boundary extending N-S bisects enclosure off-centre to E. On W side of field boundary enclosure survives as raised area (diam. 20m) defined by scarp (H 1.6m) S->NNE; external fosse (D 0.6m) to SW. No visible surface trace on E side of boundary fence of remainder of enclosure; according to local information, levelled 1984. Interior slopes down to NW. Railway runs directly outside NW edge of site at a lower level.

There is also a ringfort in Bregoge (CO016-211) close to the proposed works, described below.

In tillage, on gentle NE-facing slope. Depicted as hachured bivallate circular enclosure on 1842 OS 6-inch map; as hachured circular raised area on 1905 and 1937 OS 6-inch maps. Heavily overgrown circular area (diam. c. 30m) enclosed by earthen bank (int. H 1.1m; ext. H 0.4m); external fosse (D 1.1m). Bank heavily overgrown all round; lower on S side (int. H 0.4m). Interior cut into hillslope to S. Triangular depression ($4.1m \times 7m$; D 0.7m) in NE quadrant of interior.

Two earthworks are recorded; east of the works in Newtown and Rathclare. The example in Newtown (CO008-041) is located close to the railway line and may be associated with the railway. The following description is provided.

In undulating pasture, almost immediately E of railway line. Irregular, grass-covered platform (25m E-W; 15.5m N-S; H 2m) bounded by drain on N side. Surface of platform uneven. Site may be result of activities associated with drainage or railway works.

The earthwork in Rathclare is located further to the east close to the Awbeg River and consists of two low mounds of uncertain date.

Nine enclosures are recorded; north of the works in Breesheen South, west of the works in Bregoge, east of the works in Lisballyhay and south of the works in Effin. The enclosure in Breesheen South (LI047-048) is located close to the works. No description is provided. These monuments could date to any era from prehistory onwards. The mound in Thomastown (LI047-046) is located close to the line and could date to any era. No description is provided. The example in Bregoge (CO016-212) is located close to the line and is described below.

Depicted as small roughly square field (c. 18m NNE-SSW; c. 18m WNW-ESE) on 1842 OS 6-inch map, abutting E side of field boundary. In flat marshland, c. 100m SW of Awbeg River. Levelled. To W, low field boundary survives with stream flowing on its W side; N and E sides defined by slight scarp. Interior is dry and used for rough grazing.

The moated site in Ballycoskery (CO008-035) is truncated by the railway line and is likely to be a late 13th/early 14th century Anglo-Norman residence/farmstead. The following description is provided.

In undulating pasture. Rectangular area (39.1m N-S; 28.3m E-W) enclosed by earthen bank (int. H 0.75m; ext. H 0.5m) to N, E and S, with external fosse (D 1.3m); truncated to W by deep wide ditch associated with railway line. Interior partially overgrown. Depicted as hachured rectangular enclosure (c. 55m E-W; c. 45m N-S) on 1842 OS 6-inch map, before building of railway line.

Another moated site is located close to the Awbeg in Rathclare townland. A mound of uncertain date is recorded nearby.

The site of a medieval castle, 'Castle of the Roches', reputedly destroyed in the 17th century, is recorded in Ballynageragh townland west of the railway line. Excavations for the Bruff-Mallow gas pipeline near the castle found an occupation site containing evidence of pits, hearth, postholes, stakeholes and linear features and finds included a rotary quern fragment and bronze and iron objects (CO007-119002). The following description is provided.

Discovered in 1986 during construction of Bruff-Mallow gas pipeline (Gowen 1988, 136-40). Occupation site, possibly related to Rathmore Castle (14287) c. 90m to W. Excavated area (7.5m \times 4m) produced 23 features. Largest feature was shallow depression (F23) (4.6m \times max. 1.2m; D 0.5m); this was filled with large burnt stones overlaid by black soil, possibly burnt in situ; three groups of stake and small post-holes just inside SE edge. Arc of four shallow pits (F6, 8, 10, 14) to E and NE of F23. Feature F14 (1.85m \times 1.5m; D 0.54m), vertical-sided and flat-based, contained some charcoal and burnt clay in fill; F8, immediately to NW, was a sunken hearth (1.8m \times 1.5m; D 0.3m); F10 and F6 to NW (both 2.4m \times 0.7m; D c. 0.2m) had clean uniform fills. Pits cut by at least three phases of linear features at varying alignments which were mostly interpreted as agricultural in origin. Finds included fragment of rotary quern, and corroded bronze and iron.

Religious sites are recorded in Imphrick and Ballycoskery, consisting of churches, graveyards and holy wells. The origin of the church in Imphrick dates back to the 13th century. The adjoining graveyard in Imphrick contains 18th century headstones. The nearby holy well, *Tobernadeecla* (CO007-121) still attracts votive offerings. The following description is provided.

Named 'Tobernadeecla' on 1842 OS 6-inch map. In small field on W side of road. Access to field by gate from road and to well area by stile. Rectangular well enclosed and partially covered by low stone surround. Votive offerings surround well and rags adorn over-hanging bush.

Imphrick Church (CO007-120001) and graveyard (CO007-120002) are also located close to the line. The following description is provided.

In NW corner of graveyard (14583). Ruin of rectangular church (int. greater than 17.3m E-W; int. 4.85m N-S), heavily ivy-clad. West gable with returns of N (int. L 8.3m) and S (int. L 8.3m) walls all that now stand. West gable crowned by bellcote (see photograph Grove White 1905-25, vol. 3, opp. 186). High up on gable is window with single flat-headed light high. Gap in N wall (Wth 1.4m), immediately E of W gable, may mark site of doorway. External projection at W end of S wall may be remains of annexe (church depicted on 1842 OS 6-inch map as irregular 'T-shaped' structure) or may mark buttress (see photograph, ibid.). Also in N wall is ruined doorway covered by segmental arch. Line of S wall continues to E of standing portion as overgrown rise; position of E gable probably marked by similar rise and burial vault, c. 9m E of standing portions of N and S walls. A 1906 account of church (ibid., 186) describes 'three different styles...of architecture', two different in age but ancient, the third 'more recent improvements...executed by the Holmes family, whose monument [dated 1757]...is so conspicuous an object'. Adjoining and parallel to church on S side were 'the foundations and part of the walls of some structure...nearly 30 feet by about 12 feet...[which] appears to be quite as old as the main building itself' (ibid.). Remains of parish church of Imphrick. Reported 'in ruins' in 1615 (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 306). A church here listed in Papal Taxation of 1291 (ibid.).

In pasture, c. 100m N of road. Subrectangular graveyard (c. 40m E-W; c. 30m N-S), enclosed by low earthen bank. Ruin of parish church of Imphrick (14424) in NW corner. Much of graveyard densely overgrown; earliest headstone noted, inside N wall of church, dated 1783; recent burial near entrance to E. Grove White (1905-25, vol. 3, 186) noted monument to Holmes, dated 1757- may be overgrown vault at E end of church. Burials dated 1762 and 1790 have also been recorded (Grove White 1913-16, 241).

The holy well in Effin is known, *Lady's Well*, is located within the enclosure in Effin. The church in Ballycoskery is 19th century in date and located close to the line. The following description is provided.

In village of Ballyhay. Indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as rectangular structure (long axis E-W) with projection at E end, named 'Newtown R. C. Chapel'. Modernised rectangular church with five round-headed windows in each side wall; round-headed window over modern porch on W gable; gabled sacristy at E end; second rectangular structure added to N end of sacristy. Date plaque inscribed 'AD 1831' on W gable. Interior has fine classical reredos with composite fluted columns supporting a segmental pediment behind the altar, flanked by doors into sacristy.

A vernacular house, dating to sometime between the 17th and 20th century, is located close to the moated site in Ballycoskery. The barracks in Creggane townland north of Buttevant town is located on the banks of the Awbeg and dates to the early 19th century.

Previous archaeological investigations

The results of archaeological investigations in Ireland are published in summary form in *Excavations* (Bennett 1987-2010) and online at www.excavations.ie. A search of both sources was made for the townlands of Thomastown, Newtown, Ballycoskery, Imphrick and Creggane and the surrounding townlands of Breesheen South, Tobernea, Kilbreedy, Effin, Castlewrixon, Ballynageragh, Lisballyhay, Rathclare and Clashnabuttry.

One entry is recorded for Ballycoskery townland. Testing in 2006 of a proposed housing development close to ringfort CO008-039 encountered nothing of archaeological significance (Carroll 2006).

Four entries relate to Creggane. Monitoring for the development of three houses to the rear of a Main Street shop premises close to Buttevant Bridge (CO017:106) found nothing of archaeological significance (Lane 2003). Testing in advance of the construction of two houses within the townland

and within the historic town of Buttevant on Ball Alley Terrace found no archaeology (McCarthy 2007). Monitoring of trial holes within the town on Richmond Street and Main Street revealed nothing archaeological (Purcell 2013). In 2014 monitoring associated with the construction of a community college in Creggane found a number of archaeological features which were subsequently excavated. Features included two possible Bronze Age structures, pits, a possible hearth and seemingly associated linear trenches/boundaries. Finds include a stone axehead, flint core and debitage, Bronze Age pottery, clay pipe, bottle glass and post-medieval pottery (Carroll 2014). Three entries relate to Ballynageragh. Monitoring associated with the construction of a house in 2005 and 2006 close to castle site CO007-119 found no archaeological artefacts or features (Cummins 2005; 2006). Excavations in the mid 1980s in Ballynageragh in advance of the gas pipeline identified a probable medieval occupation site (Tarbertt 1986). One entry is listed for Rathclare. Testing here in 2004 in advance of a dwelling construction identified nothing of archaeological significance (Moloney 2004).

Documentary sources

Samuel Lewis, writing in the 1830s, describes Kilbreedy minor parish telling us that it contains 600 inhabitants and that most of the land is meadow or pasture. Only one antiquity is mentioned, 'Near the south bank of the Subtach are the ruins of the old church' (Lewis 1837).

Lewis's description of Ballyhea parish notes 1,591 inhabitants. Most of the land is good and under tillage. The following description is provided of the only gentlemen's seat.

At this place was an ancient castle belonging to the Fitzgerald family, called Castle Dod, which was taken in 1642 by Lord Inchiquin, on which occasion 200 of the Irish was slain...The only seat is Castle Harrison, the residence of Standish Harrison, Esq., erected on the site of Castle Dod (Lewis 1837).

Aglishdrinagh contains 973 inhabitants with land mostly under tillage. Mention is made of 'some vestiges of the ancient parish church' (Lewis 1837). Imphrick contains 1385 inhabitants and the land is chiefly in tillage. The main seat is Velvetstown.

Buttevant parish contains 5,535 individuals, 1536 of which are in the town. The land is good quality and mostly under tillage. Lewis notes that the town was walled and that a priory and nunnery was founded in the late 13th century. In the early 1830s there were 204 houses in the town. Buttevant Castle is described as having been modernised, alongside which is an extensive flour-mill which was not in operation at the time of Lewis writing. The other seats are Castleview, Velvetstown and Temple Mary. The following description is provided of the barracks.

Immediately adjoining, on the north-west, are the barracks, an extensive range of buildings, occupying a spacious enclosed area of nearly 23 statute acres, divided into two quadrangles by the central range, in which is an archway surmounted by a cupola and affording communication between them (Lewis 1837).

There is also a market house and fever hospital and dispensary. The ruins of the abbey and a nearby building (possible nunnery) are described along the banks of the Awbeg. A castle is referred to in the centre of the town and another at Lisgriffin. A burial ground and church are located at Templemary.

The Griffith Valuations of 1855 for Thomastown townland lists the immediate lessors Mrs Blakeney Fitzgerald, Robert Maxwell Esq., Henry Bennett, John Russell, Edward Lloyd, William Saunders Esq. and Thomas McNamara. Twenty-three tenants/occupiers are listed with the surnames Bennett, Clifford, Finn, Foley, Herbert, Howard, Lawrence, McNamara, Moriarty, Naughten, O'Brien, O'Donnell, Russell, Thohy and the Great Southern and Western Railway Company. The area of the

proposed works is located along the railway line (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). The 1901 census lists 105 individuals in Thomastown. The most dominant surnames are MacNamara, Finn, O'Brien, Byron, Clery and Foley. A similar population of 111 is listed for Thomastown in 1911. The dominant surnames are MacNamara, O'Brien and Russell (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

The Griffith Valuation for Newtown townland lists the immediate lessors Eliza Sealy, David Foley, Patrick Brassell and Maurice Foley. The tenants/occupiers are Foley, Finten, Brassell, Driscoll, Histon, Staunton, Somers, Stafford, Sealy, Callaghan and the railway company (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). The 1901 census lists 36 individuals in Newtown. The most dominant surnames are Murphy, McCarthy and Hanan. 25 individuals are listed for Newtown in 1911. The dominant surnames is McCarthy (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

The Griffith Valuation for Ballycoskery townland lists the immediate lessors Standish Harrison Esq., David Power, Michael Roche, James O'Donnell and the railway company. The tenants/occupiers are Ray, McNamara, Connor, Walsh, Cowby, Roche, Murphy, Madigan, O'Brien, Callaghan and the railway company (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). The 1901 census lists 72 individuals in Ballycoskery. The most dominant surnames are O'Brien, Walsh and Meaney. 78 individuals are listed for Ballycoskery in 1911. The dominant surname is Brassil and O'Connell (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

The Griffith Valuation for Imphrick townland lists the immediate lessors Reps. Robert Holmes Esq., William Murphy, Archdeacon Mannsell, Patrick Daly and the railway company. The tenants/occupiers are Murphy, Hannan, O'Connor, Sullivan, Fenton, Daly, Magner and the railway company (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). There is no listing for Imphrick townland in the 1901 census. 20 individuals are listed for Imphrick in 1911. The dominant surnames are Butler and Curtin (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

The Griffith Valuation for Creggane townland lists the immediate lessors Reps. Robert Holmes Esq., William Murphy, Archdeacon Mannsell, Patrick Daly and the railway company. The tenants/occupiers are Murphy, Hannan, O'Connor, Sullivan, Fenton, Daly, Magner and the railway company (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). 193 individuals are listed for Creggane townland in the 1901. Stokes and Duggan are dominant surnames. Some ninety of the inhabitants are associated with the barracks and are of English origin. 86 individuals are listed for Creggane in 1911. The dominant surname is O'Callaghan, Butler and Curtin (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

Architectural heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland (NIAHI) describes structures of architectural heritage value across Ireland (www.buildingsofireland.ie). Buildings gain protection by being listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) within development plans for any given planning authority. There are eighteen NIAH sites located within the general vicinity of the development site (Table 3) and five structures listed on the RPS (Table 4).

Table 3: NIAH sites in the vicinity of the scheme

Reg. No	Townland	Name / description
20803024	Creggane	Post box -early 20 th c.
20803025	Creggane	House – late 19 th c.
20803026	Creggane	Hotel – early-mid 19 th c.
20803027	Creggane	House – mid 19 th c.
20803028	Creggane	House – mid 19 th c.
20803029	Creggane	Outbuilding -early 19 th c.

Reg. No	Townland	Name / description
20803029	Creggane	Outbuilding -early 19 th c.
20803029	Creggane	Outbuilding -early 19 th c.
20803029	Creggane	Outbuilding -early 19 th c.
20803030	Creggane	Barracks – early 19 th c.
20803039	Creggane	Terrace of soldier's houses-late 19 th c.
20803040	Creggane	Store/warehouse – mid-late 19 th c.
20803042	Knockbarry	House -mid 18 th – early 19 th c.
20900805	Ballycoskery	Presbytery /parochial /curate's house – early 20 th c.
20900806	Castlewrixon South	House – mid-late 19 th c.
20900807	Castlewrixon South	House – late 18 th c.
20901712	Rathclare	House – mid-late 19 th c.
21904708	Thomastown	Water pump – late 19 th c.
21904709	Effin	Public house – early 19 th c.

The sites are mostly 19th century in date and consist of dwellings, a barracks, hotel, public house, store/warehouse, outbuildings and a water pump in Thomastown, Effin, Rathclare, Castlewrixon and Creggane. There is also a late 18th century house in Castlewrixon and a mid-18th to early 19th century house in Knockbarry. A presbytery in Ballycoskery dates to the early 20th century as does a post-box in Creggane. Most of the NIAH sites are located in Creggane townland, close to Buttevant town.

The closest NIAH site to the works is the store/warehouse (20803040) in Creggane townland. See description below.

Description

Detached four-bay single-storey railway goods shed, built c. 1870, with lower office projection to south gable, and canopy to west elevation. Now disused. Pitched corrugated-iron roof, and slate roof to projection, latter with brick chimneystack with limestone coping. Coursed rubble limestone walls with limestone voussoirs to segmental-arched openings, latter with multiple-pane fixed timber windows with limestone sills. Metal sheeting to doorway in south gable. Square-headed window to office, with barred six-over-six pane timber sliding sash window. Square-headed door openings to east elevation, with brick retaining arches and remains of sliding timber battened doors. Memorial to train crash at site.

<u>Appraisal</u>

This goods shed forms part of an interesting group of related structures with the former railway station, signal box and platform to the site. It retains much of its original detailing, including the sliding timber battened doors. The site was the scene of a fatal railway accident in 1980, commemorated by a monument.

Table 4: Cork County Council RPS sites in the vicinity of the scheme

RPS No.	Location	Name / description
38	Effin	House
52	Creevagh	Barracks
986	Creevagh	House
987	Creevagh	Barrack wall
988	Creevagh	Farmhouse

The structures sites are predominantly 19th century and mostly located in Creevagh and associated with the barracks.

Summary of archaeological and historical background

An examination of the known archaeological monuments in the area of the scheme indicates that the proposal sites are located in areas with archaeological potential with known monuments /sites ranging in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. In particular, the existing railway line follows the 19th century Great Southern and Western Railway so there are railway cuttings/ embankments and level crossings of archaeological and architectural interest.

Monitoring objectives and methodology

In accordance with the planning condition, archaeological monitoring took place at the proposed development sites in order to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits and features.

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide the legislative framework within which archaeological excavation can take place. The monitoring was licensed by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to Kate Taylor. The licence number is 20E0131.

The monitoring was directed by Kate Taylor and assisted by Graham Hull, Damien McCarthy and Joe McCooey between the 17th of February and the 3rd of July 2020.

The test pits were excavated by a 13 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 6 foot toothless grading bucket. A toothed bucket was used in rocky deposits but these were all within natural geological layers beneath the level of archaeological potential.

The spoil was visually scanned for artefacts. Representative photographs were taken and a written record was made.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made in accordance with the TVAS Ireland Recording Manual (First Edition). The archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Service in due course (Barrett 2012).

Monitoring results (Figs 2-5, Plates 1-12)

Twenty-seven test pits were proposed to be excavated at five locations. As landowner permission could not be obtained at XC212 in Ballycoskery, just 20 test pits were excavated at four locations.

Test pits

Twenty test pits were excavated and archaeological monitored (Table 5). Topsoil, 0.10-0.35m thick, was frequently seen to overlie natural geological deposits that were typically glacial till. Archaeological recording ceased at the top of the geological deposits and the test pits were then excavated to a greater depth in order to examine the geological layers.

A potential ditch was seen in XC219 TP02 but other than this potential feature, no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.

Table 5: Test pit descriptions

Townland ITM	&	Trial Pit	Description	Date
Thomastown 557473.29 624706.323		XC201- TP01	Topsoil 0.00-0.20m Light greyish brown glacial till 0.20m + Length 4.50m Width 2.00m	03/07/20
Thomastown 557456.948 624618.691		XC201- TP02	Topsoil 0.00-0.20m Light greyish brown glacial till 0.20m + Length 4.50m Width 2.00m	03/07/20
Thomastown 557638.445 624415.666		XC201- TP03	Topsoil 0.00-0.20m Light greyish brown glacial till 0.20m + Length 4.50m Width 2.00m	03/07/20
Thomastown 557663.871 624336.308		XC201- TP04	Topsoil 0.00-0.20m Light greyish brown glacial till 0.20m + Length 4.50m Width 2.00m	03/07/20
Newtown 554816.904 617963.846		XC211- TP01	Topsoil 0.00-0.35m Humic red-brown soil. Orange-grey glacial till 0.35-0.45m Length: 4.60m Width: 2.00m	20/02/20
Newtown 554884.223 618089.433		XC211- TP02	Topsoil 0.00-0.15m Dark red-brown humic soil. Orange-grey glacial till 0.15-0.35m. Length: 3.75m Width: 2.00m	20/02/20
Newtown 554939.532 618184.4		XC211- TP03	Topsoil 0.00-0.20m Dark red-brown humic soil. Red-grey glacial till 0.20-0.50m. Length: 4.40m Width: 2.00m	20/02/20
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP01	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP02	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP03	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP04	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP05	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP06	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Ballycoskery		XC212- TP07	Landowner refusal. Excluded	
Imphrick 553382.152 614488.041		XC215- TP01	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.15-0.30m yellow-brown sandy silt. Length: 4.50m Width: 2.00m	18/02/20
Imphrick 553478.842 614548.634		XC215- TP02	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.15-0.50m yellow-brown sandy silt. A fill layer of mid-brown redeposited soil with charcoal was investigated and found to be non-archaeological. Length: 4.50m Width: 2.00m	
Imphrick 553507.728 614663.958		XC215- TP03	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.25m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.25-0.40m orange iron pan. 0.40-0.60m Yellow-brown sandy silt. Modern stone lined field drains to the north. Length: 7.00m Width: 2.00m	19/02/20

Townland 8	Trial Pit	Description	Date
Imphrick 553501.422 614767.212	XC215- TP04	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.10m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.10-0.30m light brown sandy silt. Length: 7.00m Width: 2.00m	19/02/20
Imphrick 553501.818 614855.463	XC215- TP05	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.15-0.30m light yellow-brown sandy silt. Length: 4.50m Width: 2.00m	19/02/20
Imphrick 553504.665 614955.902	XC215- TP06	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.15-0.20m grey sandy silt. Length: 7.00m Width: 2.00m	19/02/20
Imphrick 553516.77 615075.581	XC215- TP07	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.15-0.20m yellow-brown sandy silt. Length: 6.50m Width: 2.00m	18/02/20
Imphrick 553543.865 615173.054	XC215- TP08	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.25m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.25-0.70m yellow-brown sandy silt. Length: 5.00m Width: 2.00m	18/02/20
Imphrick 553478.442 615226.624	XC215- TP09	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.10m dark brown / black peaty soil with reeds. 0.10-0.40m yellow-brown sandy silt. Length: 4.50m Width: 2.00m	18/02/20
Creggane 553103.456 609866.745	XC219- TP01	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m. 0.10-0.30m Yellow-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of small limestone pebbles and stones 0.05- 0.20m. Length: 7.00m Width: 1.80m	03/07/20
Creggane 553224.963 609816.834	XC219- TP02	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.15m. 0.10-0.30m Yellow-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of small limestone pebbles and stones 0.05- 0.20m. Length: 7.00m Width: 1.80m A potential ditch approximately 1.00m wide and oriented from SE to NW was seen. The fill was greyish brown silt. The test pit was not bottomed and a substitute pit dug nearby. The potential ditch was preserved <i>in situ</i> .	
Creggane 553405.278 609803.839	XC219- TP03	Topsoil 0.00-0.10m. 0.10-0.20m Mid-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of small limestone pebbles and stones 0.05-0.20m. Length: 7.00m Width: 1.80m	17/02/20
Creggane 553468.361 609779.238	XC219- TP04	Topsoil (Scraw) 0.00-0.10m. 0.10-0.30m Mid-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of small limestone pebbles and stones 0.05-0.20m. Length: 4.00m Width: 1.80m.	17/02/20

XC219 TP02

A potential ditch was seen in XC219 TP02 in Creggane townland, Co. Cork.

The ditch was seen to be approximately 1.00m wide and oriented from south-east to north-west (Plate 6). The fill was greyish brown silt.

Once the potential archaeological feature was revealed, the test pit was abandoned and the feature was preserved *in situ*. An alternative test pit was excavated nearby.

Finds

No archaeological artefacts were observed during the monitoring.

Samples

No archaeological samples were taken during the monitoring.

Monitoring – Discussion

Monitoring of the test pits did not reveal archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

Archaeological Impact Statement

The documentary research has demonstrated that the proposal sites lies within areas of archaeological potential.

Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits at four of the five locations revealed a single archaeological feature - a potential ditch seen in Creggane XC219 TP02. The footprint of the test pits was small and the limited archaeological findings are therefore not unexpected.

Given that the footprint of the actual developments (i.e. realigned roads and bridges over a railway line) will be much larger and that known archaeological monuments are relatively nearby and that a potential ditch was found in XC219, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring of groundworks be undertaken at construction.

The opinions given in this archaeological assessment report are made subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)

Recommendations and further work

Post-excavation

An accessible archive of primary records will be prepared for long term storage and will be deposited with the National Monuments Service's Archive Unit in Swords in accordance with their guidelines (Barrett 2012).

Publication and dissemination plan

A summary of the findings of the monitoring will be submitted to *Excavations 2020*.

Kate Taylor

TVAS Ireland Ltd 21st August 2020

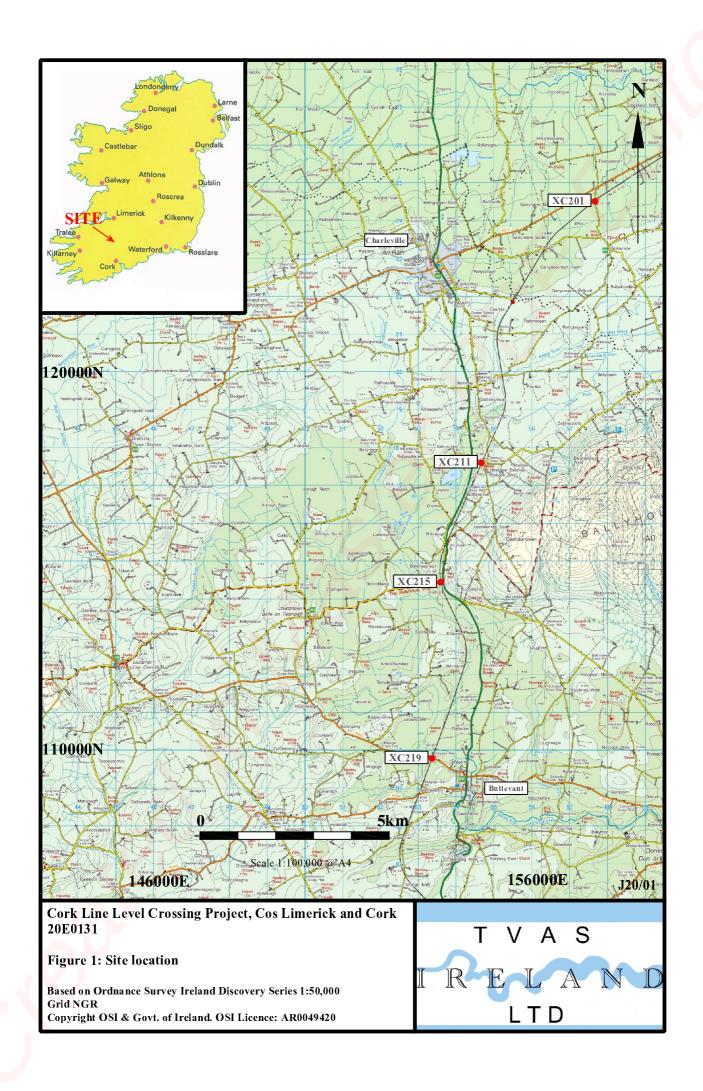
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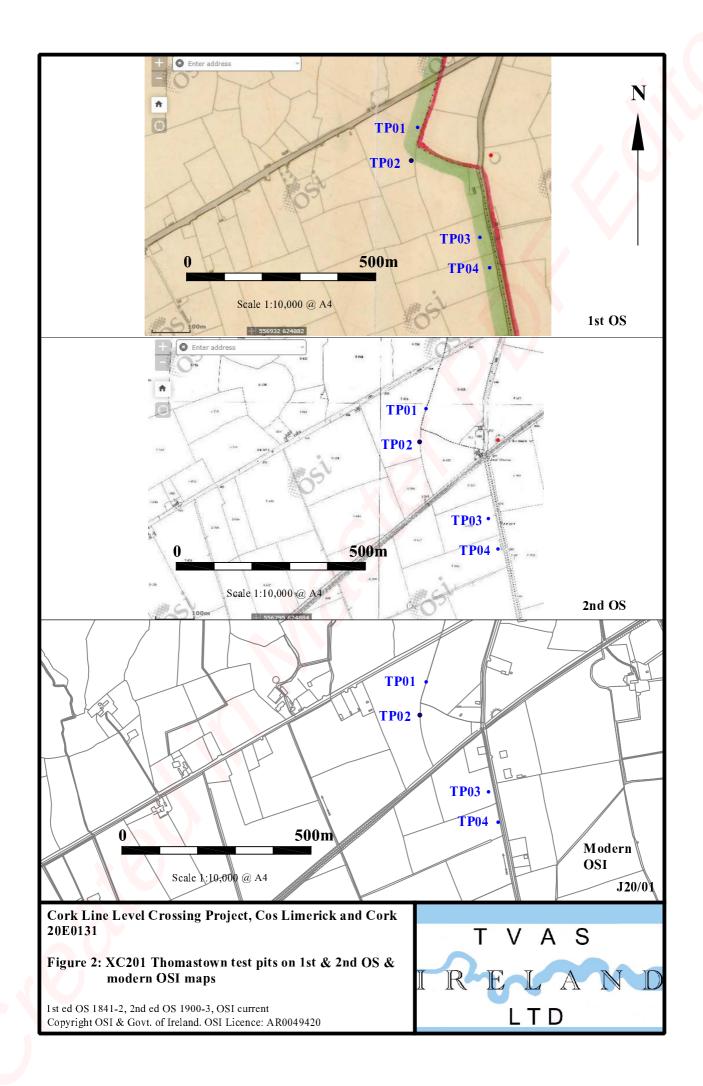
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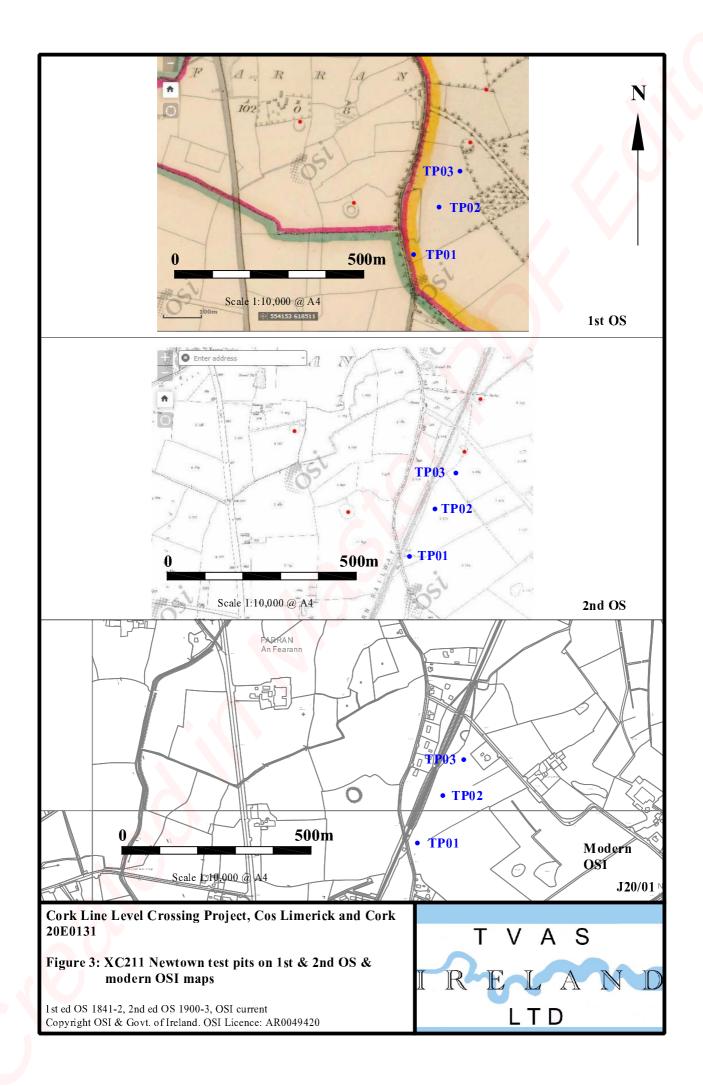
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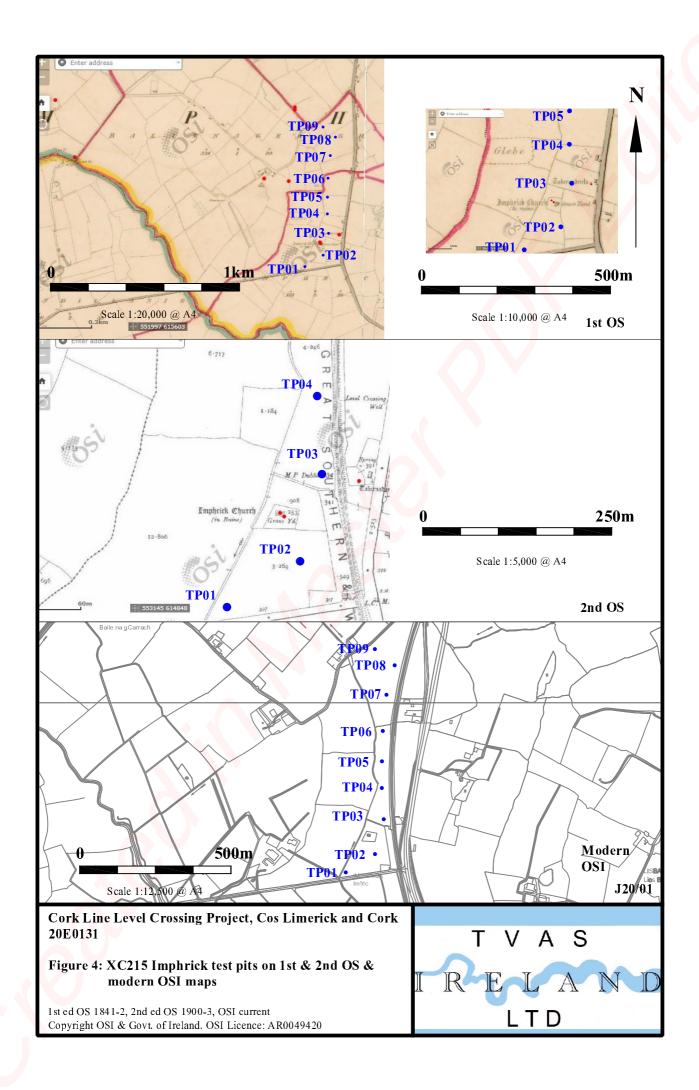
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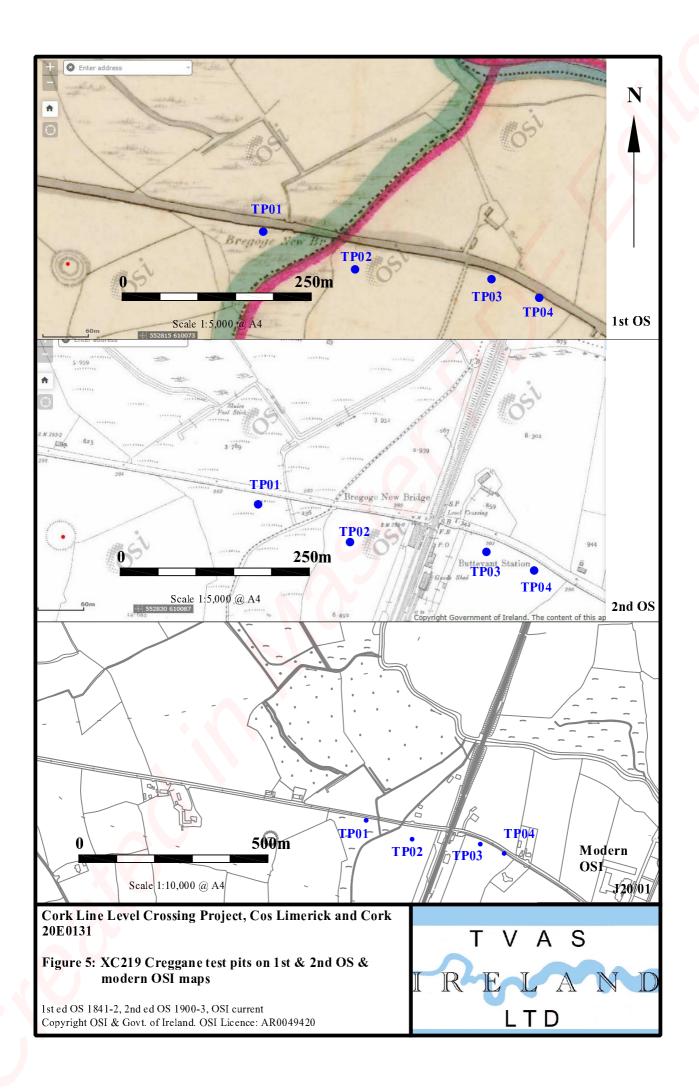




Plate 1: XC201 TP01. Looking north-east



Plate 2: XC201 TP02. Looking south-west



Plate 3: XC211. Landscape. Looking south-west



Plate 4: XC211 TP01. Looking east



Plate 5: XC211 TP02. Looking south-east. Scale 1m



Plate 6: XC215 TP02. Showing possible ditch. Looking south-west, Scale 1m

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Plates 1 - 6





Plate 7: XC215. Imphrick Church CO008-069 Looking north-east



Plate 8: XC215 TP03. Looking south-east. Scale 1m



Plate 9: XC215 TP08. Looking south-west. Scale 1m



Plate 10: XC219 TP02. Looking south-east. Scale 1m



Plate 11: XC219 TP03. Looking south-east. Scale 1m



Plate 12: XC215 TP04. Looking south-east. Scale 1m

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Plates 7 - 12





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