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ACS



**Archaeological Assessment (Test Trenching) at
Huntstown, Co. Dublin**

Licence No.: 23E0872

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES UNIT

ITM: 711800, 740999

RMP/SMR Nos: N/A

Donald Murphy

Report Status: Final

18th October 2023

ACSU Ref.: 2395

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Archaeological Assessment at Huntstown, Co. Dublin
Report Type	Archaeological Test Trenching
Licence No.	23E0872
Site	Huntstown, Co. Dublin
Townland	Huntstown
RMP	N/A
ITM	711800, 740999
Consultant	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
Excavation Director	Donald Murphy
Report Author	Donald Murphy and Billy Sines
Report status	Final
Report Date	18th October 2023
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Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
0	18/10/2023	Archaeological Assessment (Testing Report)	Final	B.S & D.M	L.C	D.M

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological test trenching was carried out in compliance with the method statement approved under licence 23E0872 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The location of the test trenches was informed by the footprint of the proposed development and associated groundworks.

Several phases of archaeological activity were carried out within the application area prior to the current phase of activity. These were carried out in the northwest corner of the site (immediately west of the current phase of works) and north-northeast of the current phase of works. Previous works included a geophysical survey carried out on lands north of the current site by J. M Leigh Surveys Ltd under licence No. 19R0159. This was **not** located within the current site but was carried out as part of the undergrounding of cables project which traverses the current application site. Archaeological features including an enclosure and associated features were identified. Archaeological testing was subsequently carried out on the lands north of the current site following the aforementioned geophysical survey. This was carried out by IAC Ltd under licence No. 19E0645. Again this was **not** located within the current site but was carried out as part of the undergrounding of cables. This archaeological testing confirmed the results of the aforementioned geophysical survey. An Archaeological Assessment was also carried out in the northwest corner of the **current application site** by Cólín Ó Drisceoil of Kilkenny Archaeology under licence 20E0601. No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of this assessment. Archaeological monitoring of the undergrounding of cables **was carried out in the northern and northeastern extent of the current application site** by AMS under licence 21E0185. Human remains were recovered and appeared to be localised. These were discovered during the final stage of trenching for the ESB powerline and were archaeologically excavated in the Autumn of 2023. Further testing and a geophysical survey were also carried out in lands **north of the current site** under licence 21E0185 and 21R0064. A geophysical survey of **the current application site** was carried out by ACSU Ltd. This was carried out under licence 23R0419 and buried archaeological remains were identified.

Under the current phase of works, a total of 24 test trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m in width. In total, 979m of linear trenches were excavated. The test trenches were excavated down to the natural subsoil, which varied throughout the site but was generally comprised of a mid-orangish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Towards the top of the hill near an area previously quarried, the natural subsoil contained a grey sandy gravel and pockets of pebbles and small areas of a compacted light blueish grey clay.

A total of 36 features were identified during test trenching, consisting of linear and pit features. Due to the quantity and extent of these features, interpretation is based on the results listed in Tables 3 and 4 and the results of the geophysical investigation carried out at the site. Of note is C1201, which was orientated east to west and was

previously identified during the geophysical survey. It is interpreted as a ditch that enclosed a possible habitation site located at the summit of the hill.

The linear and pit features found on the southern slope of the hill are considered to be part of potential field systems associated with the enclosed settlement. A section of C1903 (Plate 24) revealed a ditch measuring 4m in width and with a depth of 1.2m. The ditch features a step or shelf measuring 2m in width before dropping off to the base. This feature also appears to be the same as C1902 (Plate 23). The size and location of this feature would suggest a substantially large ditch was used to demarcate the outer boundary of the fields used by the settlement. The features uncovered probably represent a substantial Early Medieval complex.

While no diagnostic artefacts were recovered during testing, the absence of pottery combined with the interpretation of an enclosing ditch at the summit of the hilltop suggests the presence of an early medieval enclosed settlement and associated field systems to the south. The development as proposed will have a direct impact on the identified archaeology and as preservation in situ is not an option, mitigation can only be achieved through archaeological excavation.

It is recommended that all features of archaeological significance should be resolved prior to the commencement of any construction works within the site. It is proposed that the two areas containing archaeological features measuring 316m² and 10118m² be stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and that they are archaeologically resolved and preserved by record. This should be carried out by a licence-eligible archaeologist and in compliance with a method statement approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
 Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
 Department of Housing,
 Local Government and Heritage

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Site Owner:	Rathdrinagh Land Unlimited Company (Trading as Irish Recycling LTD)
Address:	12 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Planning Authority:	Fingal County Council
Planning Reg. No.:	FW23A/0111
Excavation Type:	Test Trenching
Contractor/Developer:	Rathdrinagh Land Unlimited Company (Trading as Irish Recycling LTD)
Site	Huntstown, Co. Dublin

Description of Proposed Development

We Rathdrinagh Land Unlimited Company (Trading as Irish Recycling LTD) intend to apply to the aforementioned Planning Authority for permission for development on lands at Huntstown Townland and Coldwinters Townland, Co Dublin. The development will consist of the construction of a Materials Recovery Facility along with a Food Container Cleaning Plant. The development is phase one of the Huntstown Circular Economy Hub and will include for the following works:

- 1. The development will consist of the erection 2no. separate buildings and associated site area for use as a Circular Economy Hub.*
- 2. The processes to be carried out within the Materials Recovery Facility building include for the sorting of range of wastes into recoverable and recyclable streams. Recoverable wastes to processed will include for potential recyclables. This building will include for an external odour control plant with associated flue.*
- 3. The processes to be carried out in the Food Container Cleaning Plant building will provide a centralised washing/sterilisation facility for large food retailers in the area to facilitate re-use of containers.*
- 4. The 2no. buildings to be constructed will incorporate ancillary office and staff facilities along with solar PV panels and signage.*

5. *The development of associated access roads, turning/loading areas, footways, parking areas, electric vehicle charge points, landscaping, lighting, fencing, bicycle and bin storage facilities and associated site works.*
6. *The provision of an ESB substation.*
7. *The provision of ancillary external storage areas.*
8. *The reprofiling of existing ground levels within the site and associated works to include for infilling and reprofiling of lands within the overall site area.*
9. *The provision of a new site entrance with associated works to facilitate vehicular and pedestrian access along with associated upgrade works to the adjacent public road to include for provision of footpaths and cycle paths.*
10. *The provision of a weighbridge and associated staff building at the entrance.*
11. *The provision of perimeter fencing and security gates.*
12. *The provision of all associated hard and soft landscaping works.*
13. *Provision of attenuation tanks and associated infrastructure as part of the surface water system along with installation of a bypass petrol interceptor.*
14. *All ancillary site development, landscaping and construction works to facilitate foul; water and service networks.*

The Materials Recovery Facility will require an EPA Industrial Emissions Licence. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared and accompanies this application.

Archaeological Condition

The assessment is to be carried out in response to a Further Information Request Item 14h attached to Planning reference FW23A/0111 by Fingal County Council

14h. The applicant is requested to expand the limited study area, with regard to the Archaeological Impact Assessment Report submitted as part of the EIAR, in order to consider the impact of the proposed development on the entire site area and include for geophysical survey and test trenching where features are identified.

Impact Statement and recommendations

The archaeological assessment in the form of test trenching at the site in Huntstown revealed a series of linear features and pits which are suggestive of early medieval settlement at the site. The development as proposed will have a direct impact on the identified archaeology and as preservation in situ is not an option, mitigation can only be achieved through archaeological excavation.

It is recommended that all features of archaeological significance should be resolved prior to the commencement of any construction works within the site. It is proposed that the two areas containing archaeological features

measuring 316m² and 10118m² be stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and that they are archaeologically resolved and preserved by record. This should be carried out by a licence-eligible archaeologist and in compliance with a method statement approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the results of an archaeological assessment (test trenching) at a site at Huntstown, Co. Dublin (ITM 711800, 740999, Figures 1-2).

The assessment was carried out in response to a Further Information Request Item 14(h) attached to Planning reference No. FW23A/0111 by Fingal County Council. The site lies adjacent to and south of the access to the Huntstown Power Station, west of North Road and to the northwest of Junction 5 (M50 with N2). It consists of two fields.

The aim of the test trenching was to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (23R0419; Murphy, 2023) and to assess their archaeological significance and potential. There are no Recorded Monuments and no Protected Structures located within the site.

The site, however, is located within a highly sensitive archaeological landscape. During the recent geophysical survey (23R0419) buried archaeological remains were identified. The southern portion of Field 2 was suitable to survey and an extensive settlement complex that included an enclosure and associated features was recorded. In addition, human remains were uncovered in May 2023 during monitoring (21E0185; Hickey, 2023) of the trenching for redirection of the power lines (permitted under Planning Ref. No. FW21A/0144). The remains were recorded within the southeast portion of Field 2 and are currently being preserved by record. Furthermore, test trenching was carried out in the northwest portion of the site (20E0601; O'Driscoll, 2021) although no features were identified. To the north of the site, a bivallate enclosure and pre-Famine vernacular structure was recorded and since excavated (19E0635; Bailey, 2019; 21E0185; Hickey, 2023).

2. NATURAL & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

2.1 Natural Landscape

The site is located in the townland of Huntstown, Co. Dublin (ITM 711800, 740999; Figures 1 – 2). The site lies adjacent to and south of the access to the Huntstown Power Station, west of North Road and to the northwest of Junction 5 (M50 with N2). It consists of two fields: Field 1 and Field 2. Field 1 was rough terrain and with heavy overgrowth, while Field 2 up until recently, was an agricultural field and features a hill covered with trees covering an area of c.0.291 hectares. The northern slopes of this hill have been previously quarried while the southwestern to southeastern slopes appeared to be relatively undisturbed.

The underlying geology at the site is described as Calcareous shale and limestone conglomerate as part of the Tober Colleen Formation, which was first identified in 1986 and replaced the Rush Slate, which measures 50m to 250m in thickness. (Geological Survey of Ireland).

2.2 Cultural Landscape

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, including the 6-inch (surveyed 1836 – published 1843; Figure 3) and 25-inch (surveyed 1906 – published 1909; Figure 4). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are marked on such maps and provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

The site is located within two large fields on the 1836 map with a strip of trees north of the eastern field. An east to west aligned road runs from the west up as far as the strip of trees to the east. A small laneway runs from the end of the road into the eastern field and stops at a sand pit, roughly one third of the length of the field. There are no structures within the two fields. On the third edition map the laneway down to the sand quarry has gone, suggesting the quarry was abandoned. The rest of the fields remain the same.

2.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located within the county of Dublin, in the townland of Huntstown (Baile an Huntaigh) in the Barony and Civil Parish of Castleknock.

Huntstown townland (<https://www.logainm.ie/17230.aspx>) can be identified as early as c. AD 1550 as Moche Huntyston in the Calendar of Fiants of Queen Elizabeth. Fiants were warrants, grants of land, appointments to offices and other matters directed to the Irish Chancery under the Great Seal.

Prehistoric Period

The earliest known settlements in Ireland can be dated to the Mesolithic period (6000-4000BC). The most common evidence for the presence of Mesolithic activity includes scatters of worked flint and middens (mounds of domestic refuse) which consisted largely of marine mollusc shells. Middens occur most frequently along the coast and near water sources including rivers and lakes. Currently there is no evidence for Mesolithic settlement within the environs of the proposed development site.

In the Neolithic period (4000-2500BC) with the introduction of farming, communities became more settled and less nomadic. Their economy was focused on cereal cultivation and rearing livestock. People changed from being food collectors, scavengers, hunters and fishers to cultivating land, growing crops and managing, breeding and

controlling stock. This required forest clearance and working poorer soils. Pottery was also being produced and is found in significant quantities on archaeological sites. Field boundaries were built and territorial markers were also constructed to allow future prospectors to see that the land is taken. Megalithic tombs acted as both a territorial marker and as a ritual monument within the community. There are four types of tombs, court cairn, portal, passage and wedge. The court, portal and passage style tombs belong solely to the Neolithic period, while the wedge tomb transitions from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Only five prehistoric sites are recorded within the study area, the most significant being the Neolithic enclosure in the townland of Kilshane (DU014-093), located c. 1.5km north of the proposed development site. The large segmented ditched enclosure contained large amounts of cattle bone in its deposits and had no evidence of an internal or external bank (Moore 2004).

The Bronze Age (c. 2400-800BC) is marked by the use of bronze – the first metal in Ireland. Changes in society were visible, especially in burial practices. The megalithic tombs were replaced by individual burials, with cremated or inhumated bones in cists, often with pottery as grave goods. Burials are often found on high ground and frequently megalithic structures were reused in Bronze Age burial practices. Different forms of burial were seen. Barrows were also being constructed during this period, as well as ceremonial monuments such as henges. Fulachta fiadh are Bronze Age cooking sites characterized by a crescent-shaped mound of burnt stone. Groups of these monuments are often found in damp areas where the trough used for cooking would naturally fill with water. Stones were heated on a fire and then thrown into the trough until the water was hot enough to cook with (although alternative uses such as bathing have also been suggested for these monuments). After use, the stones were removed from the trough and placed around its edge until the characteristic crescent-mound was formed.

A Ring-ditch (DU014-100) seen as a cropmark, lies c. 1.1km from the site. This funerary monument, that dated from the Bronze Age right through to the Iron Age, is not visible above ground. It is visible as a cropmark, circular in shape with a diameter of c. 45m.

Two burnt mounds or fulachta fiadh sites are located c. 1.3km west of the proposed development site in the townland of Grange (DU014-050). Discovered during the monitoring of the excavation of the Northeast gas pipeline, they consisted of charcoal rich soil with heat fractured stone (Conway 2000).

Medieval period

The Early Medieval period (AD 400–1169) saw tribal kingdoms, known as túath, of which there were c. 150 in the country. They comprised of inhabitants living in defended homesteads known as ringforts or raths, many of which are still traceable in the fields around Coldwinters and Huntstown today. The number of ditches and banks surrounding a rath is thought to be a testament to the status of the occupiers (Edwards 1996). During this period, the proposed development site was situated in the Tuath of Tuirbe, later known as Fine Gall, a territory controlled by the dynasty of the Ui Chormaic kings (MacCotter 2008). There are a number of possible Ringforts in the

townland of Newtown (DU014-00602, DU014-007 and DU014-053), an enclosure in Coldwinters (DU014-016-), an enclosure in Dubber (DU014-017—) and an enclosure in Cappogue (DU014-029—). An excavation (99E0220) in Kilshane townland revealed a large cemetery (DU014-048--) indicative of a large-scale settlement within the area.

The Late Medieval period (1100-1600) in Ireland saw the invasion of the Normans, which began in 1169, when Diarmait MacMorrrough, the deposed King of Leinster, sought help from Henry II. Henry II permitted some of his subjects to go and help, an advance party of Anglo-Normans arrived in Ireland from South Wales, with followers from France and Flanders. A year later a stronger party arrived under Richard de Clare (Strongbow), Earl of Pembroke. The Anglo-Normans colonized Ireland at an alarming rate. Ireland was designated a lordship and Henry II, assigned the lordship to his youngest son John and from there the outlines of a royal administration were developed (Ryan, 1994).

Henry II made Hugh de Lacy palatinate of the lands of Meath in 1172, which probably included Castleknock (O'Drisceoil 2020). De Lacy then granted Hugh Tyrell the lands of Castleknock on behalf of the king (ibid). Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland was characterised initially by the development of motte and bailey castles. Motte and bailey castles were established along strategic locations overlooking rivers or important routeways (ibid). Mottes consist of a mound of earth, generally circular in plan, with a flat summit where a wooden tower / building (known as a bretésche), was located (O'Sullivan & Downey 2007).

Mottes were often built around natural topographical features, such as rock outcrops, low narrow ridges or eskers. The technique used to construct mottes has been described as ring-and-fill (O'Keeffe 2007). The circumference of the mound was first marked out at ground level with two revetting walls or earthen banks. Within these rings, the motte was built up carefully with alternative layers of soil, turf and deposits such as sand and gravel. Another technique was to pile up soil and other material around a small mound or a pre-existing prehistoric mound (ibid)

There are two motte and bailey castles within the environs of the proposed development; Newtown (DU014-013) situated c. 0.9km northwest and Dunsoghly (DU014-005.003) c. 1.7km northwest of the site. The Motte in Newtown was recorded as a circular platform (100m east to west; 70m north to south), prior to its removal in 1952. An earthwork depicted on the first edition O.S. map in Ballycoolen townland is listed as a moated site (DU014-025), however, an archaeological investigation discovered it was a natural feature (Mount 2012).

Dunsoghly castle (DU0145-005001), situated c. 2km north of the proposed development, is a well-preserved tower house built in the 15th century by Sir Rowland Plunkett. The Plunkett family lived in the castle for 500 years and were known among the great catholic families of the Pale (Tutty 1972). The site of Cappogue Castle (DU014-027-) lies c. 1.7km to the southwest. Cappogue castle, built by The Woodcocke family, was depicted in a drawing

in 1776 by Gabriel Beranger as a three-storey structure. It was demolished sometime prior to 1860 (Ó'Drisceoil 2020).

Post-Medieval Period

Huntstown house is located c.1.4km northwest of the proposed development site. The earliest documented evidence linking a person to Huntstown House was in 1766 when a merchant by the name of Hoxes Cotes was mentioned with an estate map (ibid). On the Rocque map of 1760 the map shows the house is made up of several buildings with a main entrance to the south. A lane links Huntstown House with Kilshane house.

Several quarries and gravel pits are recorded within the environs of the site, including the sand pit within the proposed development site, which probably dates from the post-medieval period. There was an increase in building and the construction of laneways in this period requiring a source for stone and gravel.

2.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

A geophysical survey (23R0419; Murphy 2023) was previously carried out on this site, with buried archaeological remains identified within the south portion of Field 2 (Figures 5-10). The anomalies represent an extensive settlement complex that includes an enclosure and associated features (see below for details.). Furthermore, in 2020, Kilkenny Archaeology test trenched the northern extent of the western field (Field 1). This was carried out under licence 20E0601(Ó'Drisceoil, 2021), with no features identified. Human remains were uncovered adjacent to the site, in May 2023 during monitoring (21E0185; Hickey, 2023) of the trenching for the redirection of the power lines along the north and east side of Field 2 (permitted under Planning Ref. No. FW21A/0144). To the north of the site, a bivallate enclosure and pre-Famine vernacular structure was identified and since excavated (19E0635; Bailey, 2019; 21E0185; Hickey, 2023).

Listed below (Table 1) are the details of these previous archaeological investigations. The information is derived from the Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie).

Table 1: Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the site

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2017:872- Coldwinters, Dublin	17E0436	Ring-ditch	Test trenching
2021:238 – Coldwinters, Dublin	17E0436	Ring-ditch	Archaeological excavation

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2005:409-Coldwinters/Newtown, Dublin	05E0236	Prehistoric/medieval	Archaeological testing
2006:568 -Balseskin, Dublin	05E0063	No archaeological significance	Archaeological testing
2008:384-Dublin Airport Logistics Park, Coldwinters, Dublin	05E0236	Nothing of archaeological significance	Archaeological testing
2017:424-Coldwinters, Dublin	17E0285	Enclosure; Cremation	Archaeological monitoring and excavation
2010:283 – Merryfalls, Dublin	10E0459	Enclosure	Archaeological testing
2018:820- Huntstown, Dublin	18E0561	No archaeology found	Archaeological monitoring
2021:266:Huntstown and Johnstown, Old Ashbourne Road, Dublin	21E0185	Bivallate enclosure and vernacular structure	Archaeological excavation

The site was subject to a geophysical survey (23R0419; Murphy 2023), with buried archaeological remains identified. These are located within Field 2 and appear to represent an extensive settlement complex consisting of the following:

- The partial remains of an oval enclosure slightly offset to the south and surrounding the pre-existing quarry. The enclosure consists of a curving negative anomaly commencing at the south-western edge of the quarry and continuing southeast, east and then curving back to the north along the east side into an area of magnetic interference. A portion of the north-eastern edge of the enclosure appears to return westwards immediately east of the quarry. Overall, the enclosure measures 80m NW-SE by 65m NE-SW. The existing 19th-century quarry has impacted the northwest portion of the enclosure and a significant part of the interior. The southern extent of the enclosure appears to have a gap where it opens into a possible field or annex at the southwest corner.

- A series of linear and curvilinear anomalies that extend southwards from the enclosure and east-west across the gentle south-facing slope of the ridge. These have associated small and larger negative features that could represent pits or kilns. The north-south and east-west aligned linear anomalies probably represent field systems or other rectangular enclosures associated with the main enclosure on the summit of the ridge. The anomalies appear to extend eastwards towards the site where human remains consisting of two individuals were recently identified. There is therefore a possibility that further human burials might be present within the site. The complex to the south of the enclosure measures 125m east-west by 65m north-south approximately.

Test trenching under licence 20E0601 (Ó'Drisceoil, 2021) was carried out in the northwest portion of the site. Seven test trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits, features, structures or objects were identified in any of the trenches. It recommended a structured programme of archaeological monitoring to be carried out.

To the north of the site, a bivallate enclosure and pre-Famine vernacular structure was identified and since excavated (19E0635; Bailey, 2019; 21E0185; Hickey, 2023). One of the sites corresponded with known geophysical anomalies and had been previously tested (19E0635, Bayley 2019). Area 1 was a bivallate enclosure, which proved to be more substantial than initially suspected; the other area (Area 2) was a pre-Famine vernacular structure (Hickey 2023). In May 2023, as part of a separate development, a wayleave for power lines was excavated along the north and east sides of the present development site. Disarticulated human remains were inadvertently disturbed by the groundworks, at the edge of the eastern field. There was a minimum of two individuals represented in the skeletal remains (Mullins 2023). These were recently preserved by record.

2.5 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The site does not contain any Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The following (Table 2) is a list of monuments located within the immediate environs (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 2: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

DU014-122001	Enclosure
This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 09R195) and test excavation (Licence no. 10E0462) as part of the proposed Metro West development. A sub-rectangular enclosure 35m by 25m was	

<p>identified and confirmed through test excavation. Two postholes were located either side of the ditch (0.55m wide and 0.25m deep) suggesting the possibility of a palisade. Two corn-drying kilns (DU014-122002-; DU014-122003-) are situated at the S of the enclosure (O'Donovan 2010, 18).</p>	
DU014-122002	Kiln –corn-drying
<p>This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 09R195) and test excavation (Licence no. 10E0462) as part of the proposed Metro West development. A comma shaped corn drying-drying kiln and the probable flue of a second corn-drying kiln were located to the S of an enclosure (DU014-122001). The former (2.1m wide and 0.51m deep) (O'Donovan 2010).</p>	
DU014-102	Enclosure
<p>A large circular enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). Relatively low-lying field north of M50 and west of N2. No visible remains</p>	
DU014-124	Enclosure
<p>Located in large arable field close to the field's northern boundary, c. 148m north-east of a large crop mark enclosure (DU014-102-_, cropmarks indicate the presence of a subsurface ditch. The cropmarks are visible on Google Earth imagery 24 June 2018.</p> <p>The enclosure is subcircular in plan (diam. C. 32.3m N-S by c. 24.5m E-W). there is no evidence for an entrance gap through the ditch. A linear cropmark, a subsurface ditch, can be seen adjoining the enclosure along its southern perimeter.</p>	
DU014-132	Ring-ditch
<p>Located in large arable field close to the field's N boundary, c. 320m NE of a large cropmark enclosure (DU014-102----), cropmarks indicate the presence of an arrangement of four ring-ditches. The ring-ditches are visible on Google Earth imagery</p>	
DU014-133	Ring-ditch
<p>Located in large arable field close to the field's N boundary, c. 295m NE of a large cropmark enclosure (DU014-102----), cropmarks indicate the presence of an arrangement of four ring-ditches. The ring-ditches are visible on Google Earth imagery</p>	

DU014-047	Inn
The OS 6-inch map shows the Old Red Lion. It is mentioned in the Finglas, County Dublin, Vestry Books for the year 1675 (1916, 33). Site within overgrown uneven pasture beside road. No visible remains.	
DU014-138	Earthworks
In tillage field. Circular-shaped cropmark (diam. c. 45m) with possible outer enclosing ditches visible on Apple Maps orthoimage and Google Earth orthoimages. See attached orthoimage taken from Apple Maps and Google Earth orthoimage	

2.6 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

There are no Protected Structures as listed in the *Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029*, located within the site of the proposed development nor within the environs of the site. Neither are there any structures recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

2.7 Stray Finds

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. No such finds were recorded for the townland of Huntstown.

2.8 Aerial Photography

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating from between 1995 and 2013 and the google aerial imagery dating between 2002 and 2022 were consulted.

The 1995 black and white aerial image shows a roughly cut road meandering from the west and edging to the south and east of the site. The east to west road that stopped at the trees to the north now continues through the trees and meets a northwest to southeast aligned road to the east. A much larger national road is seen to the south and southeast. In the field immediately southeast, a sub-station has been constructed. In the 1999 image the south and east road that edged the site is back under grass. The road to the north of the site breaks in two with vegetation in the centre before merging with the road to the east. In 2005, a new development was being

constructed in a narrow strip of land to the northwest, south of the road. A road runs south of the new development site and cuts along the northwestern corner of the proposed development site. The quarry is visible by the overgrown vegetation.

Google Pro Earth images were also studied. In 2003 the power lines with ESB poles are clearly visible in both fields together with a number of pylons in the eastern field and four pylons outside the southeastern edge of the site. In 2008, the ground is freshly dug up to and around the pylons east of the overgrown sand quarry. On the 2018 aerial, faint crop marks corresponding with geophysical survey anomalies can be seen.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Site Description

The site consisted of a roughly triangular field of neglected rough grassland that sloped downhill from the centre from an old abandoned quarry. The site was bounded on all sides by mature hedgerows and trees and lay to the east of the M50 motorway and N2 junction.

3.2 Methodology

Test trenching was carried out in accordance with the IAI Code of Conduct for Archaeological Assessment Excavation (IAI 2006). The test trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil or where applicable, to the surface of potential archaeological deposits/features. The latter were cleaned by hand to determine their horizontal extent and the spoil from excavated test trenches was examined for finds.

All excavated trenches and archaeological deposits/features were recorded using ArcGIS Survey123 and digital photography. Digital photography images were taken using a high-resolution digital camera with a minimum resolution of 10 Megapixels.

3.3 Previous Investigations carried out within the application site

Several phases of archaeological activity were carried out within the application site prior to the current phase of work. This was carried out in the northwest corner of the site (immediately west of the current phase of works) and north-northeast of the current phase of works.

3.3.1 Geophysical Survey - by J. M Leigh Surveys Ltd (licence No. 19R0159)

A geophysical survey was carried out on lands north of the current site by J. M Leigh Surveys Ltd under licence No. 19R0159. **This was not located within the current site but was carried out as part of the undergrounding of lines.** The geophysical survey identified the probable remains of an oval enclosure (c.42m by 50m). Numerous responses and trends were identified within the enclosure and most likely represent the remains of pits and ditches. A possible outer ditch and associated field system were identified to the east. Two clusters of isolated responses are evident in the southern half of the application area and may represent ploughed-out and damaged archaeology.

3.3.2 Archaeological Testing – by IAC Ltd (licence No. 19E0645)

Archaeological testing was subsequently carried out on the lands north of the current site following the aforementioned geophysical survey. This was carried out by IAC Ltd under licence No. 19E0645. **This was not located within the current site but was carried out as part of the undergrounding of lines.** This archaeological testing across the site confirmed the results of the geophysical survey that indicated the presence of an enclosure and associated linear features and pits.

3.3.3 Archaeological Assessment via Test Trenching - C  il  n    Drisceoil of Kilkenny Archaeology (Licence No. 20E0601)

An Archaeological Assessment was previously carried out **in the northwest corner** of this site by C  il  n    Drisceoil of Kilkenny Archaeology (Figures 8-9) under licence 20E0601. This Assessment involved a desk-based study, a field survey and the excavation of test trenches. A total of seven test trenches were excavated. No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of this assessment.

3.3.4 Archaeological Monitoring and Testing of the undergrounding of cables – by AMS (Licence No. 21E0185)

Archaeological monitoring of the undergrounding of cables was carried out **in the northern and northeastern extent of this site** by AMS (Figures 8-9) under licence 21E0185. Human remains were recovered as a result of archaeological monitoring of the undergrounding of cables in the eastern extent of the site (Figure 8). These were discovered during the final stage of trenching for the ESB powerline and were archaeologically excavated in the Autumn of 2023. Further testing and a geophysical survey were also carried out in lands north of the current site under licence 21E0185 and 21R0064.

3.4 Geophysical Survey of the Application Site

A geophysical survey of the application site was carried out by ACSU Ltd. This was carried out under licence 23R0419; (Murphy 2023) and buried archaeological remains were identified. These are located within Field 2 and appear to represent an extensive settlement complex consisting of the following:

- The partial remains of an oval enclosure slightly offset to the south and surrounding the pre-existing quarry. The enclosure consists of a curving negative anomaly commencing at the south-western edge of the quarry and continuing southeast, east and then curving back to the north along the east side into an area of magnetic interference. A portion of the north-eastern edge of the enclosure appears to return westwards immediately east of the quarry. Overall, the enclosure measures 80m NW-SE by 65m NE-SW. The existing 19th-century quarry has impacted the northwest portion of the enclosure and a significant part of the interior. The southern extent of the enclosure appears to have a gap where it opens into a possible field or annex at the southwest corner.
- A series of linear and curvilinear anomalies that extend southwards from the enclosure and east-west across the gentle south-facing slope of the ridge. These have associated small and larger negative features that could represent pits or kilns. The north-south and east-west aligned linear anomalies probably represent field systems or other rectangular enclosures associated with the main enclosure on the summit of the ridge. The anomalies appear to extend eastwards towards the site where human remains consisting of two individuals were recently identified. There is therefore a possibility that further human burials might be present within the site. The complex to the south of the enclosure measures 125m east-west by 65m north-south approximately.

3.5 Results of Current Investigations within the Application Site

Archaeological test trenching was carried out in compliance with the method statement approved under licence 23E0872 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The location of the test trenches was informed by the footprint of the proposed development and associated groundworks (Figures 8-9).

A total of 24 test trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m in width. In total, 979m of linear trenches were excavated (Figures 8, 9, 11, 12). The test trenches were excavated down to the natural subsoil which varied throughout the site (See Plate 3 for example), but was generally comprised of a mid-orangish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Towards the top of the hill near an area previously quarried, the natural subsoil contained a grey sandy gravel and pockets of pebbles and small areas of a compacted light blueish grey clay.

A total of 36 features were identified during test trenching, consisting of linear and pit features (Figures 8-9, 11-13). Due to the quantity and extent of these features, interpretation is based on a combination of the results listed

in Tables 3 and 4 as well as the results of the geophysical investigation carried out at the site. Of note is C1201 (Plate 15) which was orientated east to west and was previously identified during the geophysical survey. It is interpreted here as a ditch that enclosed a possible habitation site located at the summit of the hill.

The linear and pit features found on the southern slope of the hill are considered to be part of potential field systems associated with the enclosed settlement. A section of C1903 (Plate 24) revealed a ditch measuring 4m in width and with a depth of 1.2m (Figure 13). The ditch features a step or shelf measuring 2m in width before dropping off to the base. This feature also appears to be the same as C1902 (Plate 23). The size and location of this feature suggest a substantially large ditch was used to demarcate the outer boundary of the fields used by the settlement.

Table 3: Trench descriptions

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
1	53.7m	1.8m	0.3m to 0.5m	(Plate 1) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.3m to 0.5m. The natural subsoil was a compact dark blueish-grey and mid-greyish-brown clay with frequent small subangular stones. Several land drains ran along the base of this trench. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
2	32.1m	1.8m	0.2m to 0.4m	(Plate 2) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.2m to 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-greyish yellow and mid-blueish-grey clay with frequent small subangular stones. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
3	80.2m	1.8m	0.2m to 0.4m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.2m to 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-grey and greyish-orange clay with frequent small subangular stones. Some modern ceramic found along the base of the trench. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
4	64.8m	1.8m	0.3m to 1m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.3m to 1m. Located in an area of made-up ground where a pylon once stood. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown clay. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
5	47.15m	1.8m	0.4m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown clay and a mid-grey stoney gravel. Nothing of archaeological significance.
6	30.9m	1.8m	1m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 1m. Located in an area of made-up ground on the surface. There is about 0.6m of made-up ground above about 0.2m of the old topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-yellowish orange clay with frequent small subangular stones. Several archaeological features and potential archaeological features were identified in this trench (Figure 11).</p> <p>C601 was the cut of a possible irregular shaped feature. Filled with a compact mid-blackish grey silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.</p> <p>C602 was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact light to mid-grey clay with occasional small subangular stones.</p> <p>C603 was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-grey clay (like mudstone) with frequent small subangular stones.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				<p>C604 (Plate 11) was the cut of a north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact dark greyish black silty clay with frequent small subangular burnt stones.</p> <p>C605 was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-brownish grey silt clay with frequent small subangular stones.</p> <p>C606 was the cut of a possible irregular-shaped pit. Filled with a compact mid-grey clay with occasional small subangular burnt stone.</p> <p>C607 was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact light greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.</p>
7	33.7m	1.8m	0.6m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.6m. The natural subsoil was a compact, mid-orangish brown sandy clay. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
8	29.3m	1.8m	0.6m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.6m. The natural subsoil was a compact, orange-brown clay for much of the trench. There was a firm, mid-grey stoney gravel natural in the northern end of the trench. This change corresponded with an anomaly that was picked up in the geophysical survey. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
9	22.5m	1.8m	0.4m	(Plate 4) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a firm, mid-

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				<p>grey stoney gravel with sand. One archaeological feature was found in this trench.</p> <p>C901 (Plate 12; Figure 12)) was the cut of a north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact dark greyish brown clay. Fill contained some small subangular stones and animal bone.</p>
10	26.1m	1.8m	0.4m	<p>(Plate 5) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a firm, mid-greyish brown stoney gravel with pockets of sand. Two archaeological features were found in this trench.</p> <p>C1001 (Figure 12; Plate 13) was the cut of a northeast-to-southwest running linear feature. Filled with a compact light brown clay. Contained frequent small subangular stones and animal bone.</p> <p>C1002 (Figure 12; Plate 14) was the cut of an east-west running linear feature Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Contained occasional small subangular stones and animal bone.</p>
11	33.7m	1.8m	0.5m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.5m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-brownish orange clay. Two archaeological features were found in this trench.</p> <p>C1101 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Fill contained some animal bone.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				C1102 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible north-south running linear. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Fill contained some animal bone.
12	19.2m	1.8m	0.4m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orange brown clay and a firm, mid-brownish grey sandy gravel. One archaeological feature found in this trench.</p> <p>C1201 (Figure 12; Plate 15) was the cut of an east-west running linear feature. It was likely the enclosure ditch that encircled the hilltop that was identified on the geophysical survey. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silt clay. Fill contained animal bone and charcoal.</p>
13	43.3m	1.8m	0.6m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.6m. The natural was a compact mid-orangish brown clay with patches of sand and gravel. A number of archaeological features were found in this trench.</p> <p>C1301 (Figure 12; Plate 16) was the cut of a north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. The fill contained some animal bone.</p> <p>C1302 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible northeast to southwest running curvilinear. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Appears to run into C1301.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				<p>C1303 (Figure 12) was the cut of a small oval shaped pit. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, clay. Fill contained some charcoal.</p> <p>C1304 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Contained occasional small subangular stones and animal bone.</p> <p>C1305 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silt clay with occasional subangular stones.</p> <p>C1306 (Figure 12) was a large spread of fill containing charcoal and animal bone. May be the intersection of many intercutting linear features. Compact mid-brownish grey silty clay.</p>
14	80.5m	1.8m	0.4m	<p>(Plate 6) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown clay with pockets of a firm, mid grey stoney gravel. A southeast-to-northwest running field drain was found at the west end of the trench. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in this trench.</p>
15	31m	1.8m	0.5m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.5m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown clay. Several archaeological features were found in this trench.</p> <p>C1501 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible linear feature. Filled with a compact, light greyish-brown clay.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				<p>C1502 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible linear feature Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay.</p> <p>C1503 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible large pit or north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silt clay.</p> <p>C1504 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible east west running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay.</p>
16	48.8m	1.8m	1m	<p>(Plate 7) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 1m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown clay. Several archaeological features were found in this trench.</p> <p>C1601 (Figure 12; Plate 17) was the cut of a linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, silty clay with frequent small to medium subangular stones.</p> <p>C1602 (Figure 12) was the cut of a possible linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, silty clay with frequent small subangular stones.</p> <p>C1603 (Figure 12) was a possible spread of a compact mid to dark blackish grey, silty clay with frequent small subangular stones.</p> <p>C1604 (Figure 12; Plate 18) was the cut of a wide linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				C1605 (Figure 12) was the cut of a linear feature. Filled with a mid-greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.
17	20m	1.8m	0.4m	<p>(Plate 8) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m. The natural subsoil was a firm, mid-grey sandy gravel. Two archaeological features were identified in this trench.</p> <p>C1701 (Figure 12; Plate 19) was the cut of a north south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones.</p> <p>C1702 (Figure 12; Plate 20) was the cut of a possible north south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Contained small subangular stones and some animal bone.</p>
18	27m	1.8m	0.4m to 1m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m to 1m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orange brown clay. Possibly some evidence of hill wash in this trench. One archaeological feature found in this trench.</p> <p>C1801 (Figure 12; Plate 21) was the cut of a southeast to northwest running curvilinear feature Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown clay.</p>
19	151m	1.8m	0.4m to 1m	(Plate 9) The trench was extended multiple times. Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.4m to 1m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-greyish brown and mid-orange brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Several archaeological features found in this trench.

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
				<p>C1901 (Figure 12; Plate 22) was a spread that contained a lot of charcoal. Aligns to a north south running anomaly on a geophysical survey. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silty clay. Very frequent charcoal.</p> <p>C1902 (Figure 12; Plate 23) was the cut of a linear feature that may represent the outer east edge of a rectangular enclosure on the south slope of the ridge. Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown clay. Contained some animal bone. C1903 may be the return of this linear feature.</p> <p>C1903 (Figures 12-13; Plate 24) was the cut of a large possible linear feature, running east to west, which may be the return of C1902. Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown silty clay. A section was dug which revealed a 2m wide shelf at a depth of 0.5m then a further drop to the base of 0.7m.</p> <p>C1904 (Figure 12; Plate 25) was the cut of an oval-shaped pit or the end of a linear feature. Filled with a compact greyish-brown silty clay.</p> <p>C1905 (Figure 12; Plate 26) was the cut of a possible pit, filled with a compact greyish-brown silty clay. Located along the limit of excavation of the trench.</p>
20	19.7m	1.8m	0.8m	<p>Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.8m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orangish brown sandy clay with frequent small subangular stones. Nothing of archaeological significance found in this trench.</p>

Trench	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
21	18m	1.8m	0.3m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.3m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-orange brown and grey clay. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
22	18.8m	1.8m	0.3m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.3m. The natural was a compact mid-orangish brown and mid-grey clay. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
23	22.7m	1.8m	0.3m	Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.3m. The natural subsoil was a compact mid-brownish orange clay and a firm, mid-grey sandy gravel. Evidence of former ESB pylons were found in this trench. Nothing of archaeological significance in this trench.
24	89.6m	1.8m	0.8m	(Plate 10) Sod, topsoil and subsoil measured a depth of 0.8m. The natural subsoil was a mix of a compact mid-orangish brown clay with pockets of grey sand and dark stone. A lot of disturbance from the adjacent quarrying activity.

Table 4: Context Descriptions (Figure 12)

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
C1					Sod and topsoil.
C2					Natural subsoil. Mixed throughout the site. Majority was a compact, mid-orangish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones.

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
					<p>The area located on the slopes of the hill near the area of the quarrying contained a more firm/friable, grey sandy gravel natural.</p> <p>There were also areas with a compact light to mid grey and blueish grey clay.</p>
C601	6	2m	1m avg.		Cut of a possible irregular shaped feature. Filled with a compact mid-blackish grey silt clay with occasional small subangular stones.
C602	6	>1.8m	0.6m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact light to mid-grey clay with occasional small subangular stones.
C603	6	>1.8m	0.8m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-grey clay (like mudstone) with frequent small subangular stones.
C604	6	>1.8m	0.6m		Cut of a north-south running linear. Filled with a compact dark greyish black silty clay with frequent small subangular burnt stones.
C605	6	>1.8m	0.5m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-brownish grey silty clay with frequent small subangular stones.
C606	6	1.5m	0.3m avg.		Cut of a possible irregular shaped pit. Filled with a compact mid-grey clay with occasional small subangular burnt stone.
C607	6	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact light greyish brown, silt clay with occasional small subangular stones.

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
C901	9	>1.8m	1.5m		Cut of a north-south running linear. Filled with a compact dark greyish brown clay. Filled contained some small subangular stones and animal bone.
C1001	10	>2m	1.3m		Cut of a northeast to southwest running linear feature. Filled with a compact light brown clay. Frequent small subangular stones and animal bone.
C1002	10	>1.8m	2.5m		Cut of an east-west running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid greyish brown clay. Contained occasional small subangular stones and animal bone.
C1101	11	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Some animal bone in the fill.
C1102	11	6m	>1.8m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Some animal bone in the fill.
C1201	12	>1.8m	1m	0.6m	Cut of an east-west running linear feature. Likely the enclosure ditch that encircled the hilltop that was identified on the geophysical survey. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silty clay (C1202). Contained animal bone and charcoal (Figure 13).
C1202	12		1m	0.6m	Filled C1201. A compact mid-greyish brown silty clay. Contained animal bone and charcoal (Figure 13).
C1301	13	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Some animal bone in the fill.

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
C1302	13	>2m	1.3m		Cut of a possible northeast to southwest running curvilinear. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Appears to run into C1301.
C1303	13	0.9m	0.65m		Cut of a small oval shaped pit. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, clay/ Some charcoal in the fill.
C1304	13	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Occasional small subangular stones and animal bones in the fill.
C1305	13	>1.8m	1.6m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silt clay with occasional subangular stones.
C1306	13				A large spread of fill containing charcoal and animal bone. May be the intersection of many intercutting linears. Compact mid-brownish grey silty clay.
C1501	15	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a possible linear feature. Filled with a compact light greyish-brown clay.
C1502	15	>1.8m	4m		Cut of a possible linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay.
C1503	15	6m	1.8m		Cut of a possible large pit or north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silt clay.
C1504	15	>1.8m	3m		Cut of a possible east-west running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay.

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
C1601	16	>1.8m	3m		Cut of a linear. Filled with a compact mid greyish brown, silt clay with frequent small to medium subangular stones.
C1602	16	5m	>1.8m		Cut of a possible linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown, silt clay with frequent small subangular stones.
C1603	16	>1.8m	2.5m		Possible spread of a compact mid to dark blackish grey, silty clay with frequent small subangular stones.
C1604	16	>1.8m	4m		Cut of a wide linear feature. Filled with a compact, mid-greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.
C1605	16	>1.8m	2m		Cut of a linear feature. Filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular stones.
C1701	17	>1.8m	1.4m	0.5m	Cut of a north-south running linear feature (Figure 13). Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones (C1703).
C1702	17	>1.8m	2.8m		Cut of a possible north-south running linear feature. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown clay. Frequent small subangular stones and some animal bone in the fill.
C1703	17		1.4m	0.5m	Filled C1701. A compact mid-greyish brown clay. Frequent small subangular stones and some animal bone in the fill (Figure 13).
C1801	18	>2m	0.5m		Cut of a southeast to northwest running curvilinear. Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown clay.

Context No.	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
C1901	19	>2m	3m	0.2m	A spread that contained a lot of charcoal. Aligns to a north-south running anomaly on a geophysical survey. Filled with a compact mid-greyish brown silty clay. Very frequent charcoal.
C1902	19	>4m	3m		Cut of a linear feature that may represent the outer east edge of a rectangular enclosure on the south slope of the ridge. Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown clay. Contained some animal bone. C1903 may be the return of this linear.
C1903	19	>1.8m	4m	1.2m	Cut of a large possible linear feature, running east to west, May be the return of C1902. Filled with a compact dark greyish-brown silty clay (C1906) and redeposited natural subsoil (C1907). A section was dug which revealed a 2m wide shelf at a depth of 0.5m then a further drop to the base of 0.7m.
C1904	19	1.6m	1m		Cut of oval-shaped pit or the end of a linear feature. Filled with a compact greyish-brown silty clay.
C1905	19	> 0.6m	0.8m		Cut of possible pit, filled with a compact greyish brown silty clay. Located along the limit of excavation of the trench.
C1906	19		4m	1.2m	Filled C1903. A compact dark greyish-brown silty clay (Figure 13).
C1907	19		0.30m	1.2m	Filled C1903. Redeposited natural subsoil slumped against south inner slope of ditch (Figure 13).

4. MATERIAL CULTURE

4.1 Finds

No finds of archaeological significance were recovered during testing. However, animal bone was present in many of the features across the site.

5. DATING

No dating evidence was observed in the form of diagnostic artefacts during the course of the archaeological test trenching. Similarly, no soil samples were taken from the site for radiocarbon dating. However, the lack of pottery sherds combined with the observed archaeological features suggests a late iron age/early medieval date to the site.

6. DISCUSSION

The entire application site at Huntstown has now been fully assessed. Parts of the site including the north-west corner, the north side and the north-eastern corner were assessed previously by others (see Section 3 above). The areas not previously assessed were investigated as part of the present contract. The results of the geophysical survey and test trenching at the site in Huntstown suggest a possible enclosure at the summit of the hill, with the linear features running down the slope of the hill to the south representing associated field systems. This type of archaeology is characteristic of early medieval settlement.

Settlement in early medieval Ireland (AD 400-1100) is characterised by enclosed habitation sites such as raths, cashels and crannógs (O'Sullivan et al, 2013). Rathes are more commonly known as ringforts and refer to enclosures with earthen banks and ditches enclosing a habitation site (ibid). The term fort implies a militaristic nature to these settlements as a defensible fortress, however, the archaeological evidence suggests that while being defensible, their primary use was to protect cattle which was the basis of wealth during the period (McCormick and Murray, 2007). Early medieval society was agricultural and while some sites incorporating multiple banks and ditches have been interpreted as royal sites, the majority are better interpreted as enclosed farmsteads (O'Sullivan et al 2012).

The northern slope of the hill at Huntstown has been previously quarried, and habitation evidence may have been disturbed or removed as a result. However, while speculative until the features are excavated archaeologically, the curvilinear feature identified during the geophysical survey at the site suggests this was the enclosure ditch of a settlement based at the summit of the hill with linear features running to the south related to the associated field systems.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The entire application site at Huntstown has now been fully assessed. Parts of the site including the north-west corner, the north side and the north-eastern corner were assessed previously by others (see Section 3 above). The areas not previously assessed were investigated as part of the present contract. The archaeological assessment in the form of test trenching at the site in Huntstown revealed a series of linear features and pits which are suggestive of early medieval settlement at the site. The development as proposed will have a direct impact on the identified archaeology and as preservation in situ is not an option, mitigation can only be achieved through archaeological excavation.

It is recommended that all features of archaeological significance should be resolved prior to the commencement of any construction works within the site. It is proposed that the two areas containing archaeological features measuring 316m² and 10118m² be stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and that they are archaeologically resolved and preserved by record. This should be carried out by a licence-eligible archaeologist and in compliance with a method statement approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

8. POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMME

No post-excavation work is necessary at this time.

9. EXCAVATION BULLETIN

SITE: Huntstown, Co. Dublin

LICENCE: 23E0872

ITM: 711800, 740999

AGE AND SITE TYPE: Ealy medieval

JOB TYPE: Test Trenching

DATE: 18/10/2023

Archaeological test trenching was carried out in compliance with the method statement approved under licence 23E0872 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The location of the test trenches was informed by the footprint of the proposed development and associated groundworks.

A total of 24 test trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m in width. In total, 979m of linear trenches were excavated. The test trenches were excavated down to the natural subsoil which varied throughout the site but generally comprised of a mid-orangish brown clay with occasional small subangular stones. Towards the top of the hill near an area previously quarried, the natural contained a grey sandy gravel and pockets of pebbles and small areas of a compacted light blueish grey clay.

A total of 36 features were identified during test trenching, consisting of linear and pit features. Due to the quantity and extent of these features, interpretation is based on a combination of the results from testing as well as the results of the geophysical investigation carried out at the site. Of note is C1201 which was orientated east to west and was previously identified during the geophysical survey. It is interpreted here as a ditch that enclosed a possible habitation site located at the summit of the hill.

The linear and pit features found on the southern slope of the hill are considered to be part of potential field systems associated with the enclosed settlement. A section of C1903 revealed a ditch measuring 4m in width and with a depth of 1.2m. The ditch features a step or shelf measuring 2m in width before dropping off to the base. This feature also appears to be the same as C1902. The size and location of this feature suggest a substantially large ditch was used to demarcate the outer boundary of the fields used by the settlement.

While no diagnostic artefacts were recovered during testing, the absence of pottery combined with the interpretation of an enclosing ditch at the summit of the hilltop suggests the presence of an early medieval enclosed settlement and associated field systems to the south.

The development as proposed will have a direct impact on the identified archaeology and as preservation in situ is not an option, mitigation can only be achieved through archaeological excavation. It is recommended that all features of archaeological significance should be resolved prior to the commencement of any construction works

within the site. It is proposed that the two areas containing archaeological features measuring 316m² and 10,118m² be stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and that they are archaeologically resolved and preserved by record. This should be carried out by a licence-eligible archaeologist and in compliance with a method statement approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Donald Murphy, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

10. PUBLICATION PLAN

An account of this licenced test trenching assessment and its results will be published online as an excavation bulletin at www.excavations.ie (see Section 9).

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Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906 - published 1909)

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Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1011

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

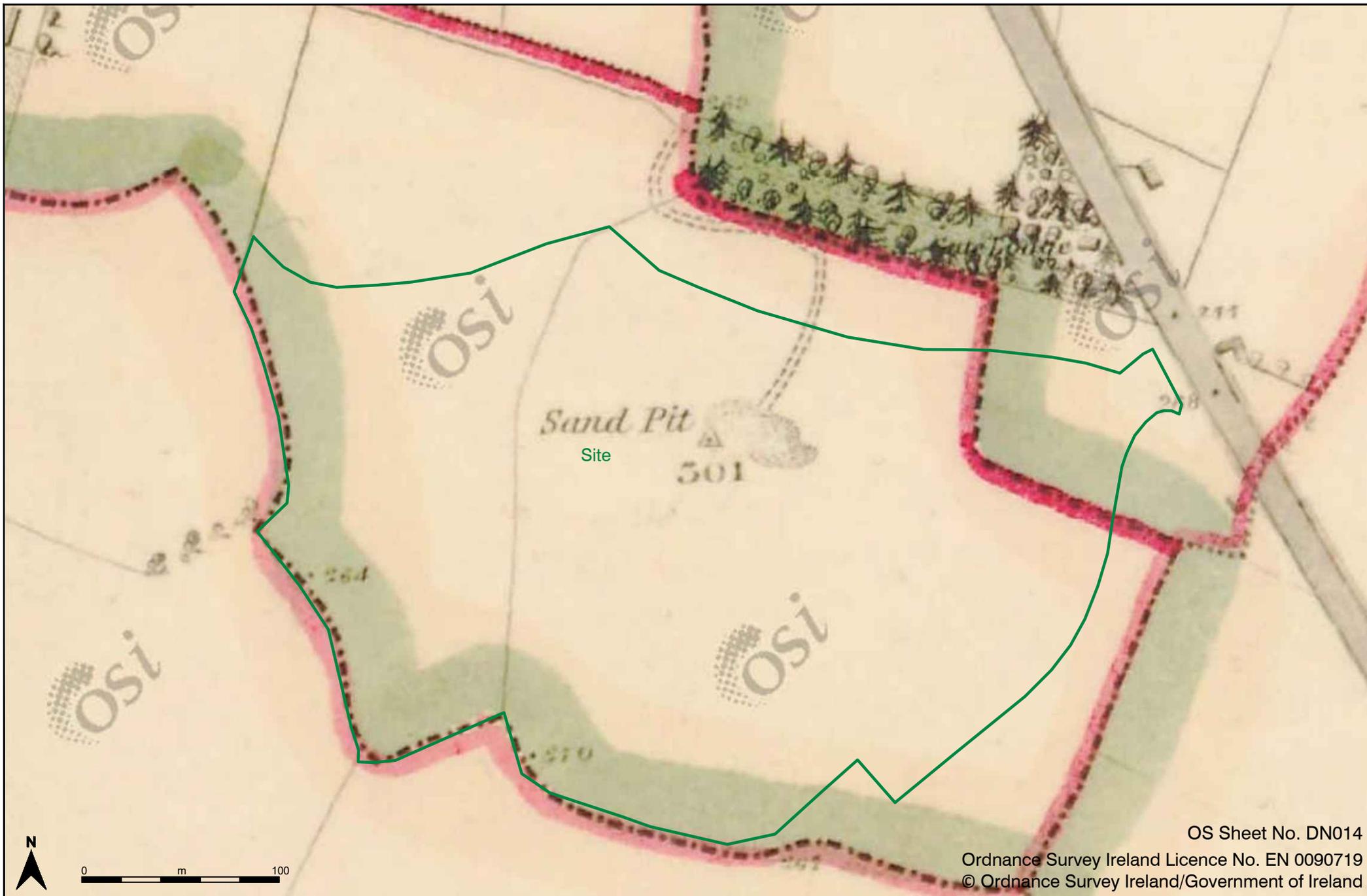
Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_1012

Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites

Scale 1:6,000 @ A4





OS Sheet No. DN014

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Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

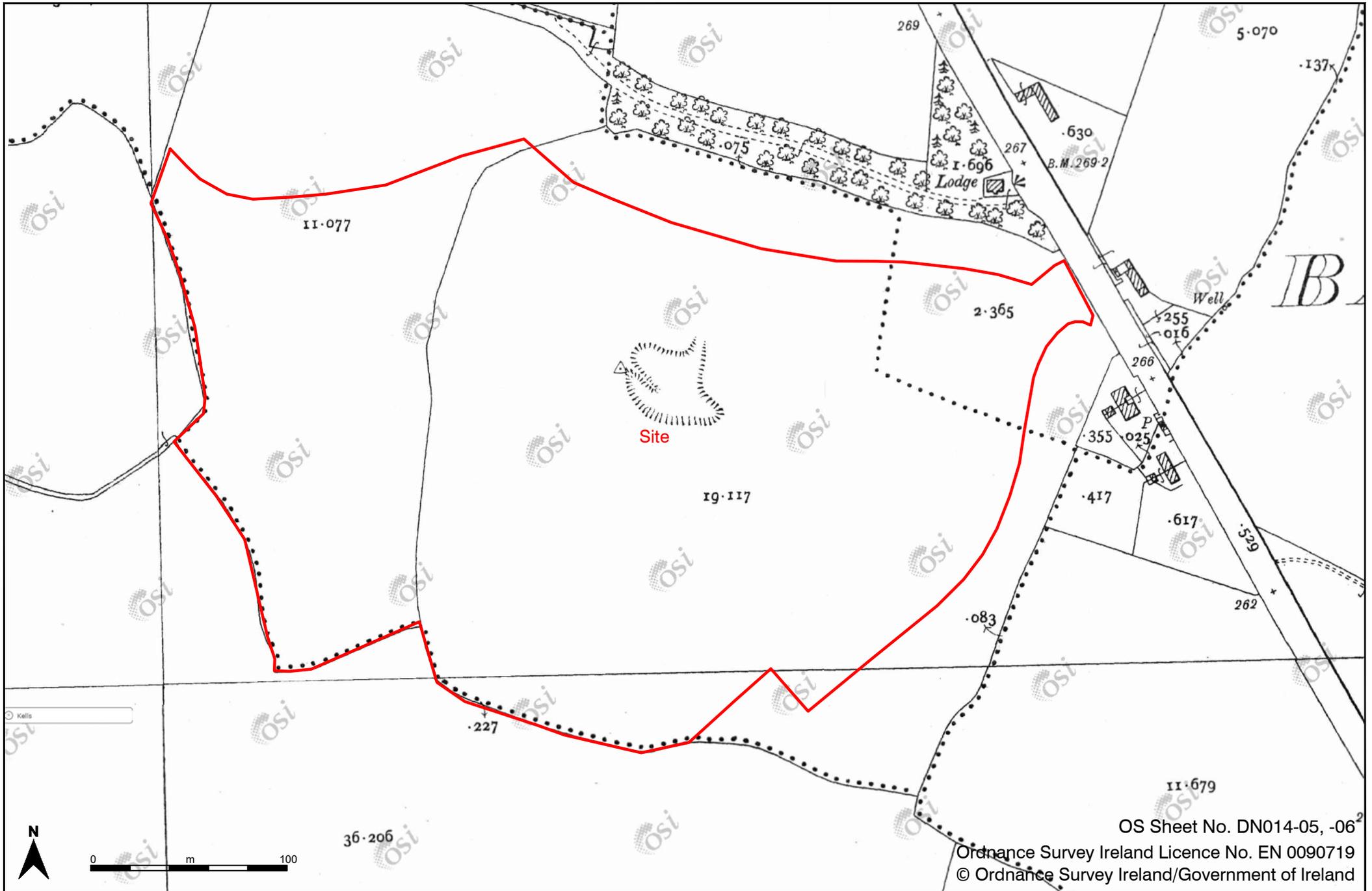
Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1013

Figure 3 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4





Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

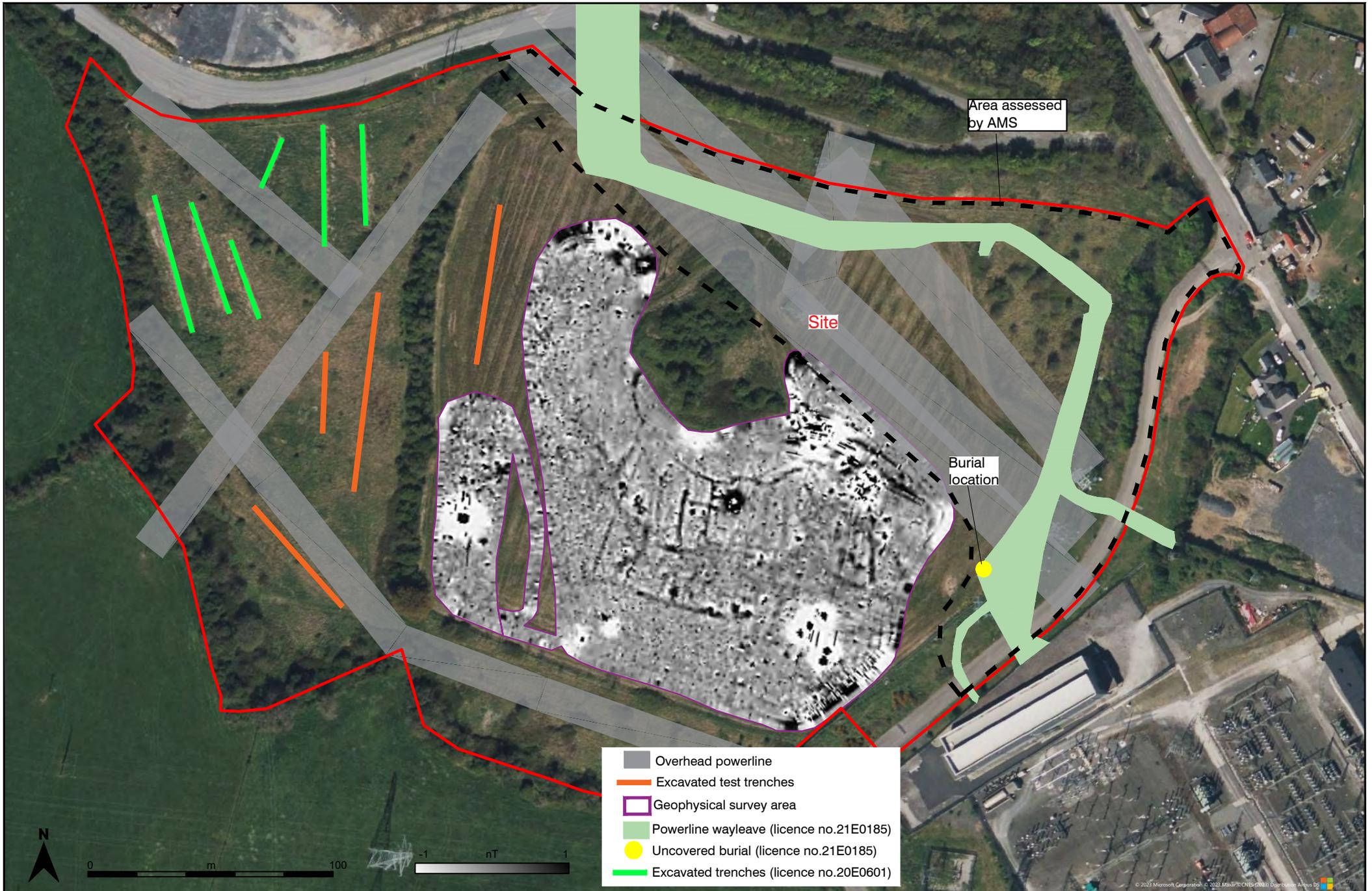
Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1014

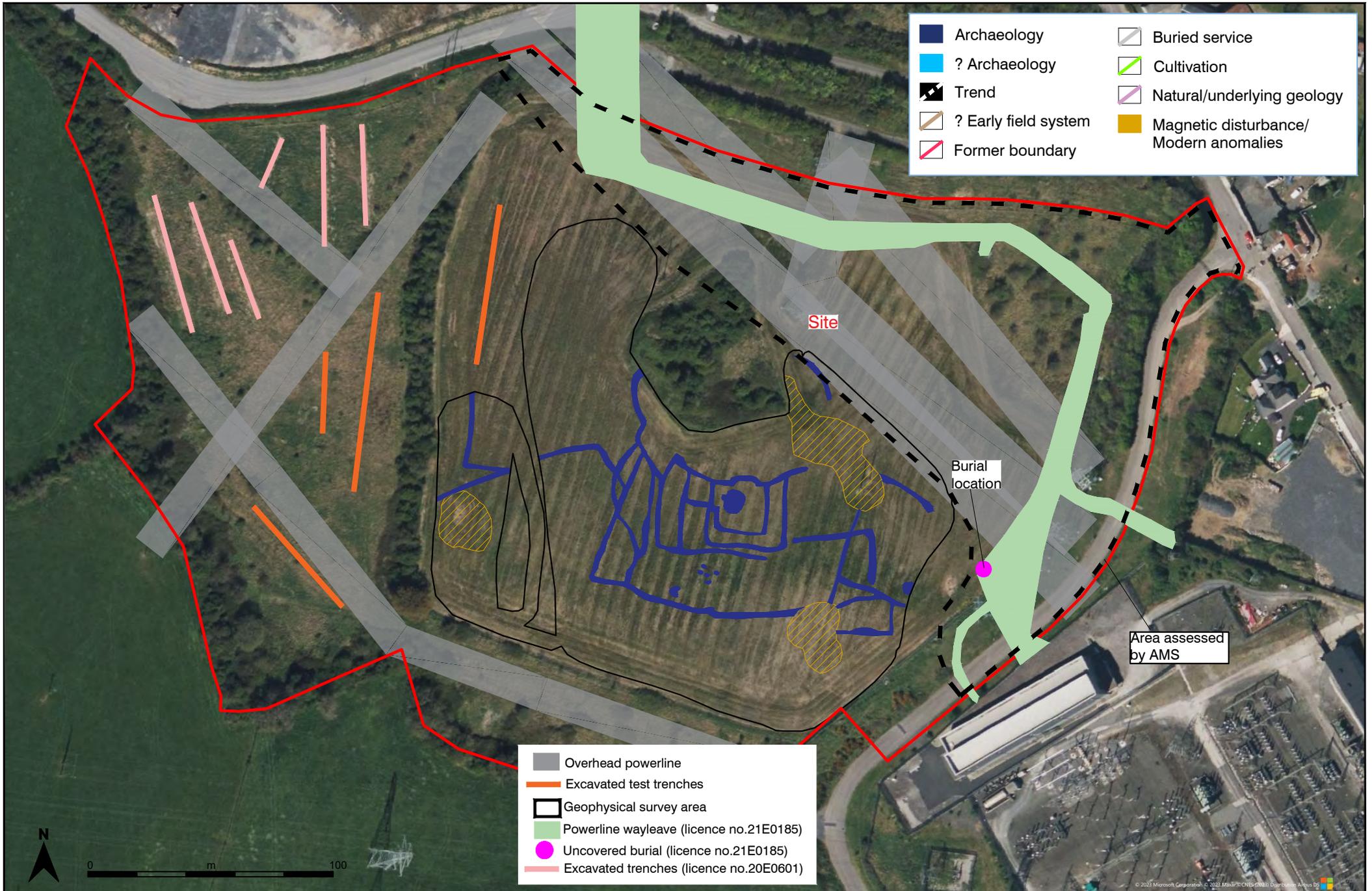
Figure 4 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906 - published 1909), showing location of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4





Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin	Date October 2023	Drawing No. 2395_C1015	
Figure 5 Aerial view of site and geophysical survey results (greyscale image), showing extent of wayleave excavated under licence no. 21E0185 and location of uncovered burial			
Scale 1:2,000 @ A4			



Archaeology	Buried service
? Archaeology	Cultivation
Trend	Natural/underlying geology
? Early field system	Magnetic disturbance/ Modern anomalies
Former boundary	

Overhead powerline
Excavated test trenches
Geophysical survey area
Powerline wayleave (licence no.21E0185)
Uncovered burial (licence no.21E0185)
Excavated trenches (licence no.20E0601)



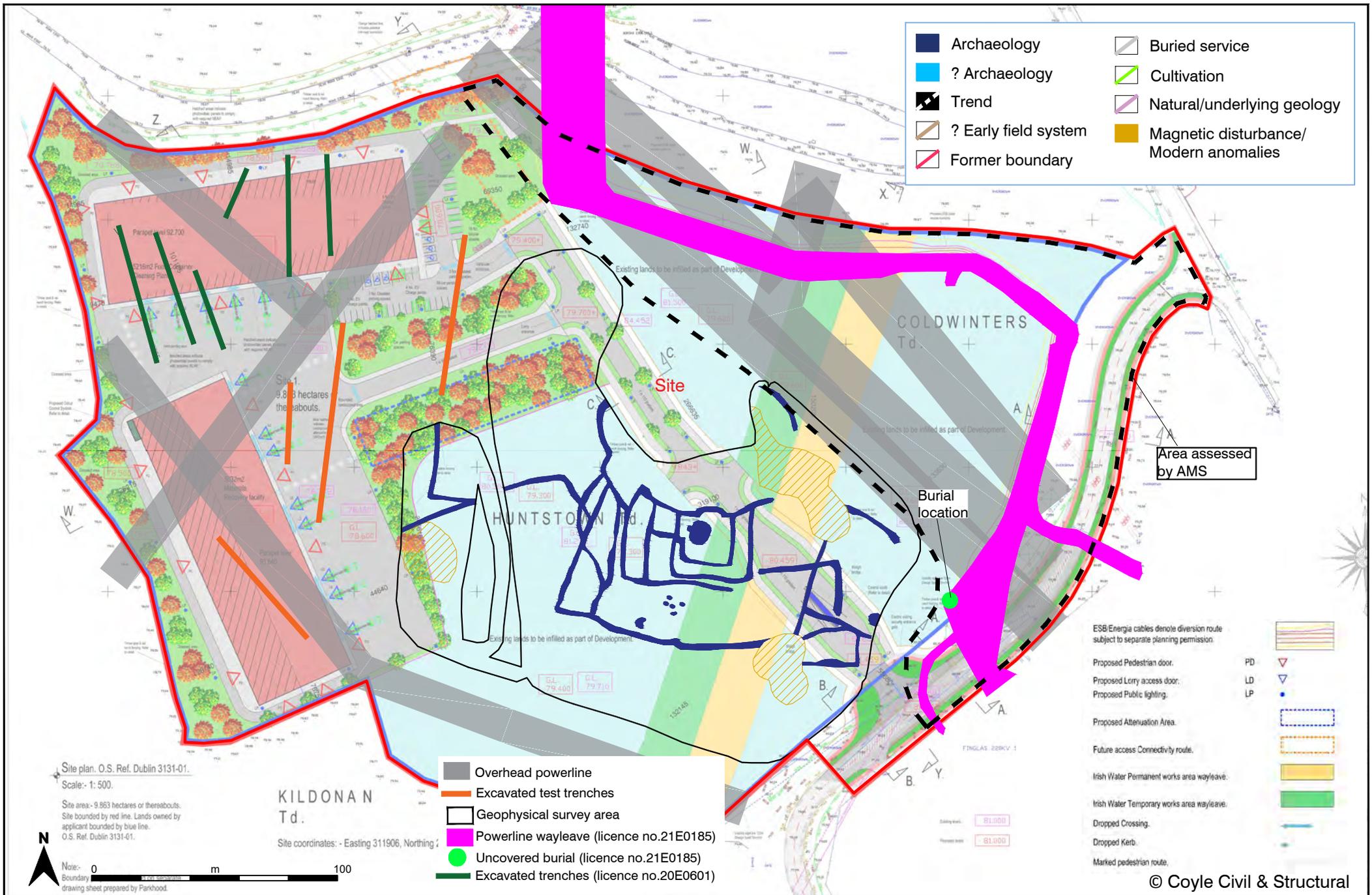
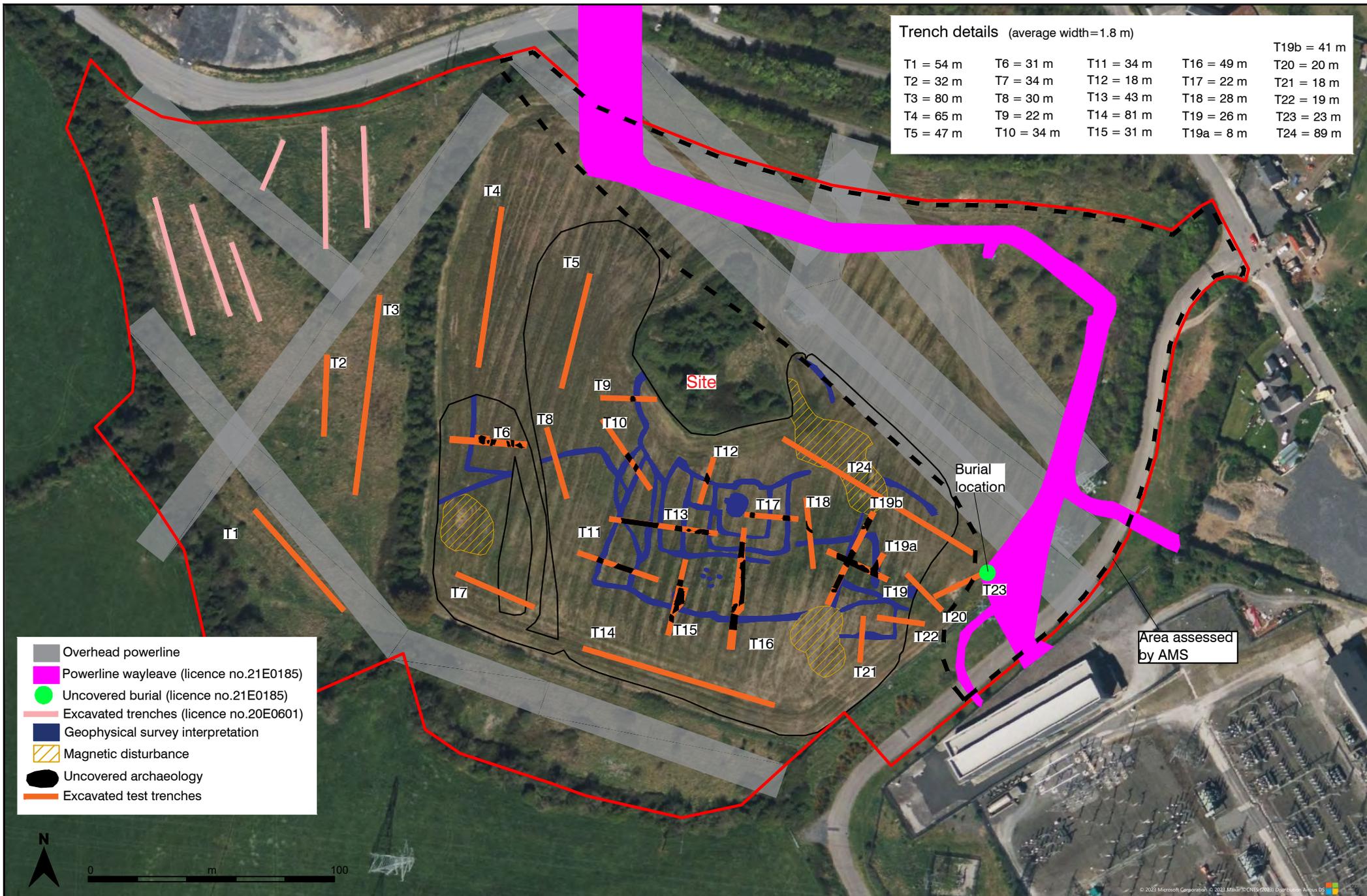
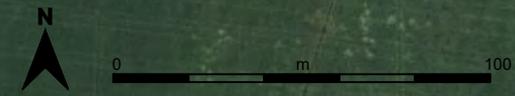
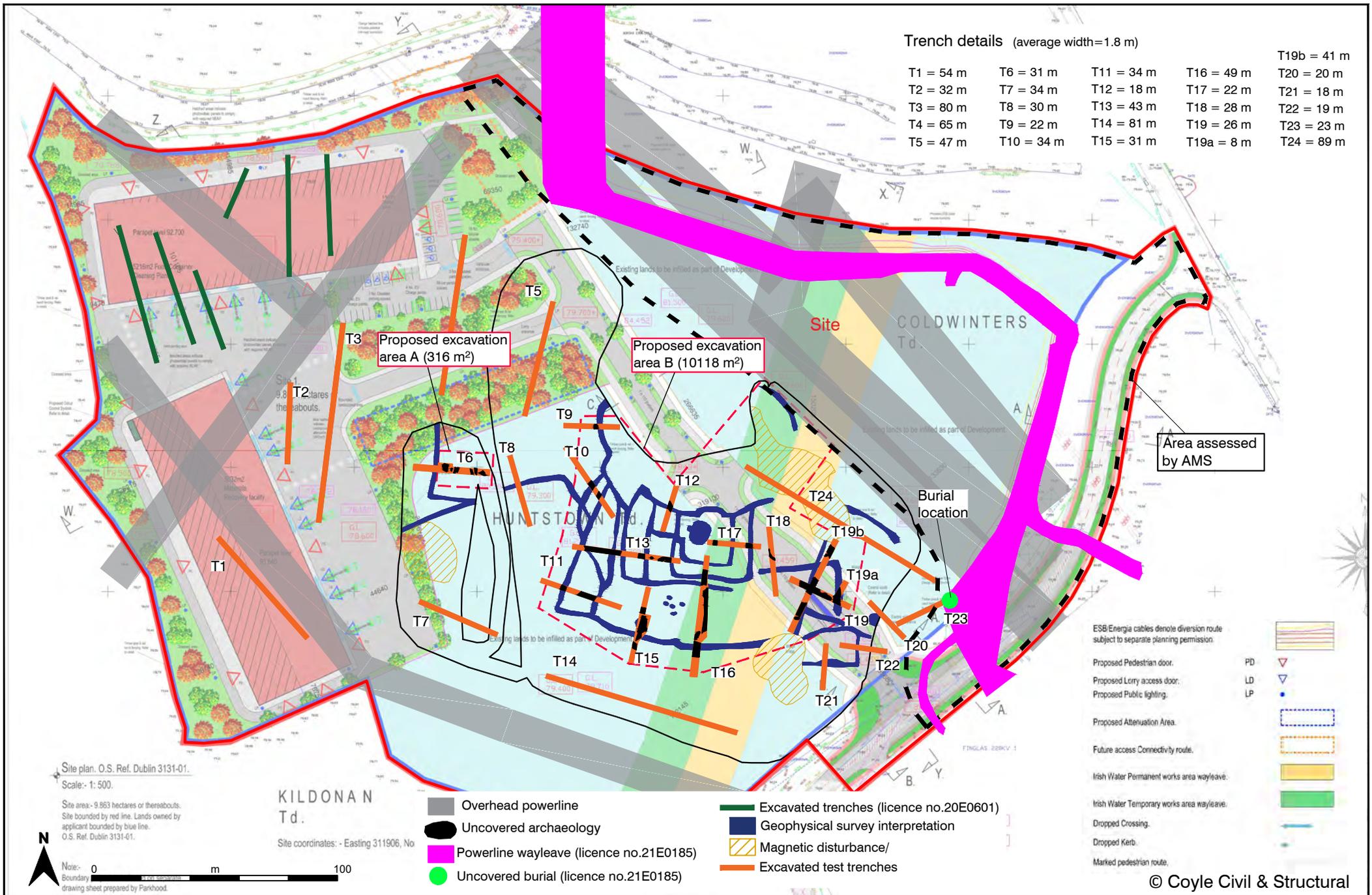


Figure 7 Detail of site development and geophysical survey interpretation, showing extent of wayleave excavated under licence no. 21E0185 and location of uncovered burial



-  Overhead powerline
-  Powerline wayleave (licence no.21E0185)
-  Uncovered burial (licence no.21E0185)
-  Excavated trenches (licence no.20E0601)
-  Geophysical survey interpretation
-  Magnetic disturbance
-  Uncovered archaeology
-  Excavated test trenches

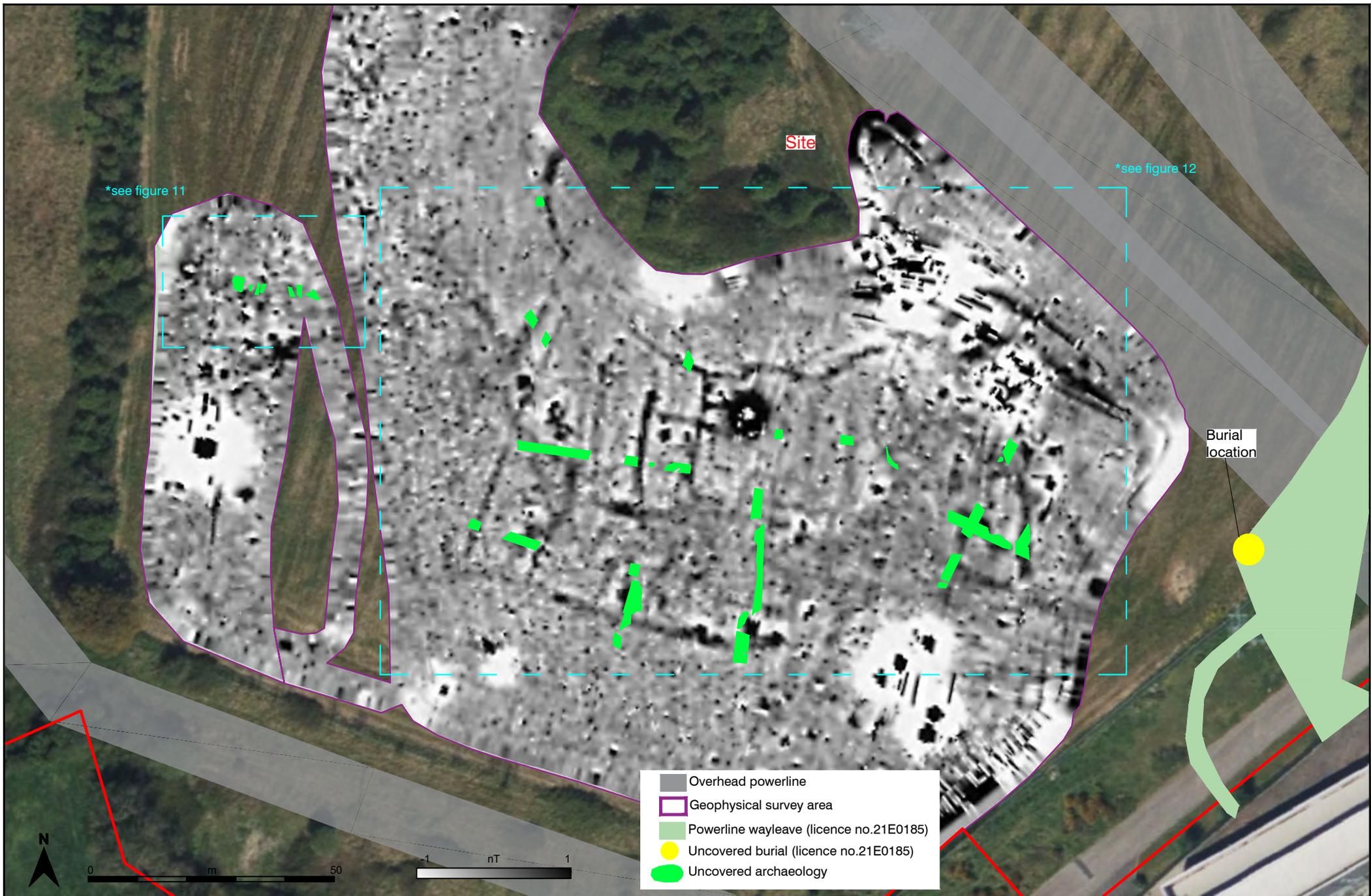




Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin **Date** October 2023 **Drawing No.** 2395_C1019

Figure 9 Detail of site development, showing geophysical survey interpretation, excavated trenches, uncovered archaeology and proposed excavation areas **Scale** 1:2,000 @ A4

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT



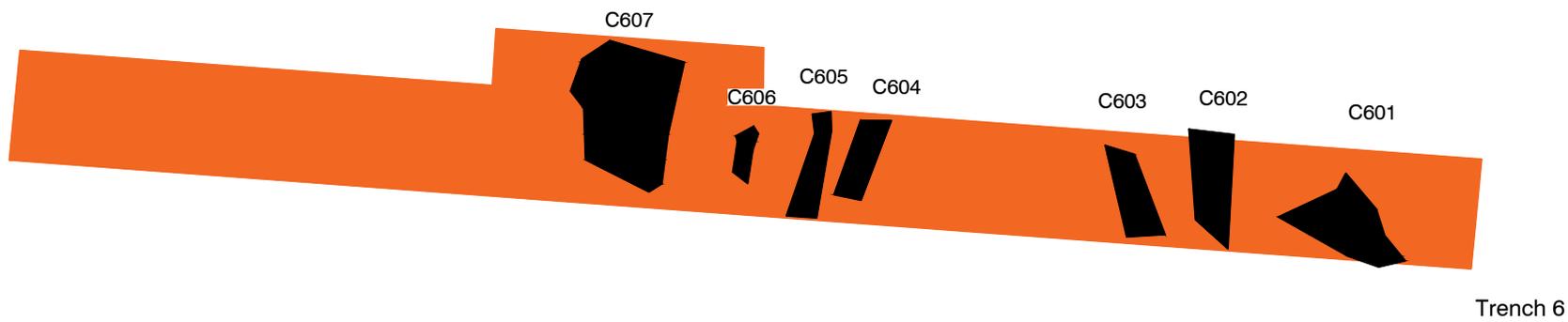
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Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1020

Figure 10 Uncovered archaeology overlaying geophysical survey results (greyscale image)

Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

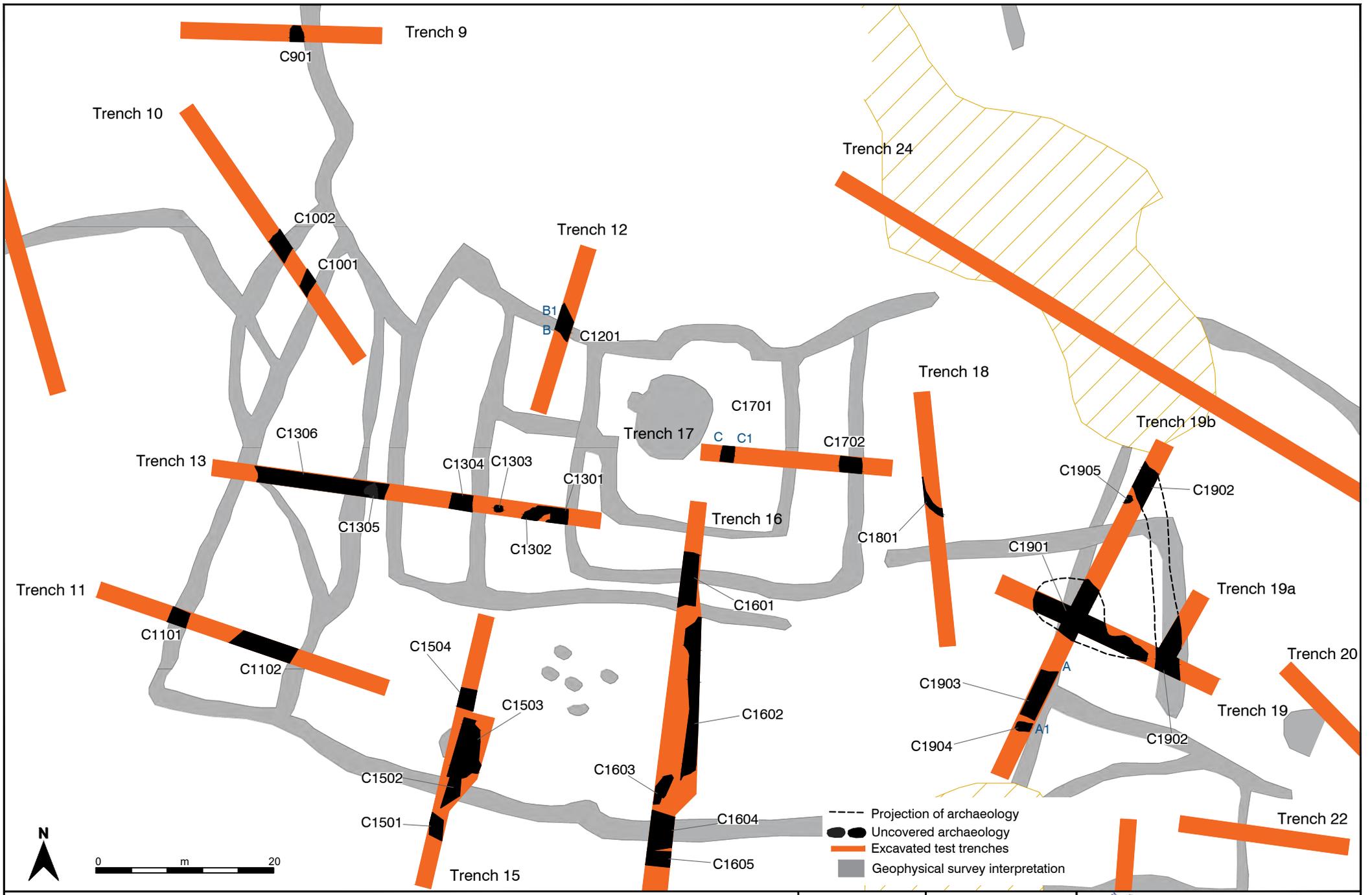
Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1021

Figure 11 Details of archaeological features uncovered in Trench 6

Scale 1:150 @ A4





Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

Date October 2023

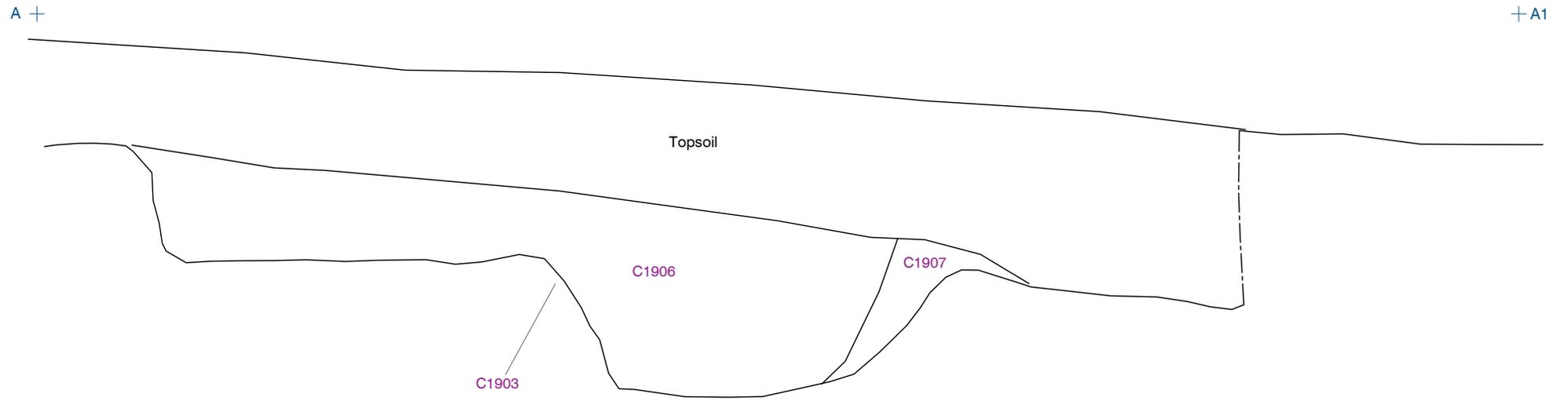
Drawing No. 2395_C1022

Figure 12 Details of archaeological features uncovered in Trench 9 to 13 and Trench 15 to 19

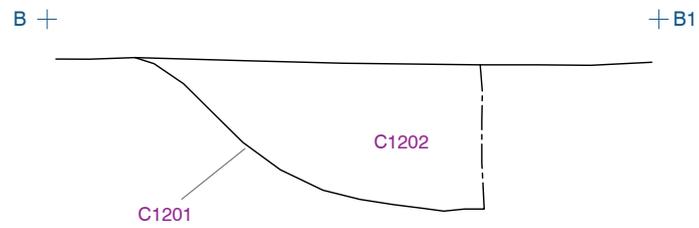
Scale 1:550 @ A4



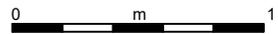
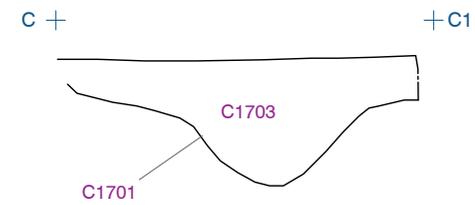
Section of ditch C1903 in trench 19 (northwest-facing)



Section of ditch C1201 in trench 12 (southeast-facing)



Section of ditch C1701 in trench 17 (south-facing)



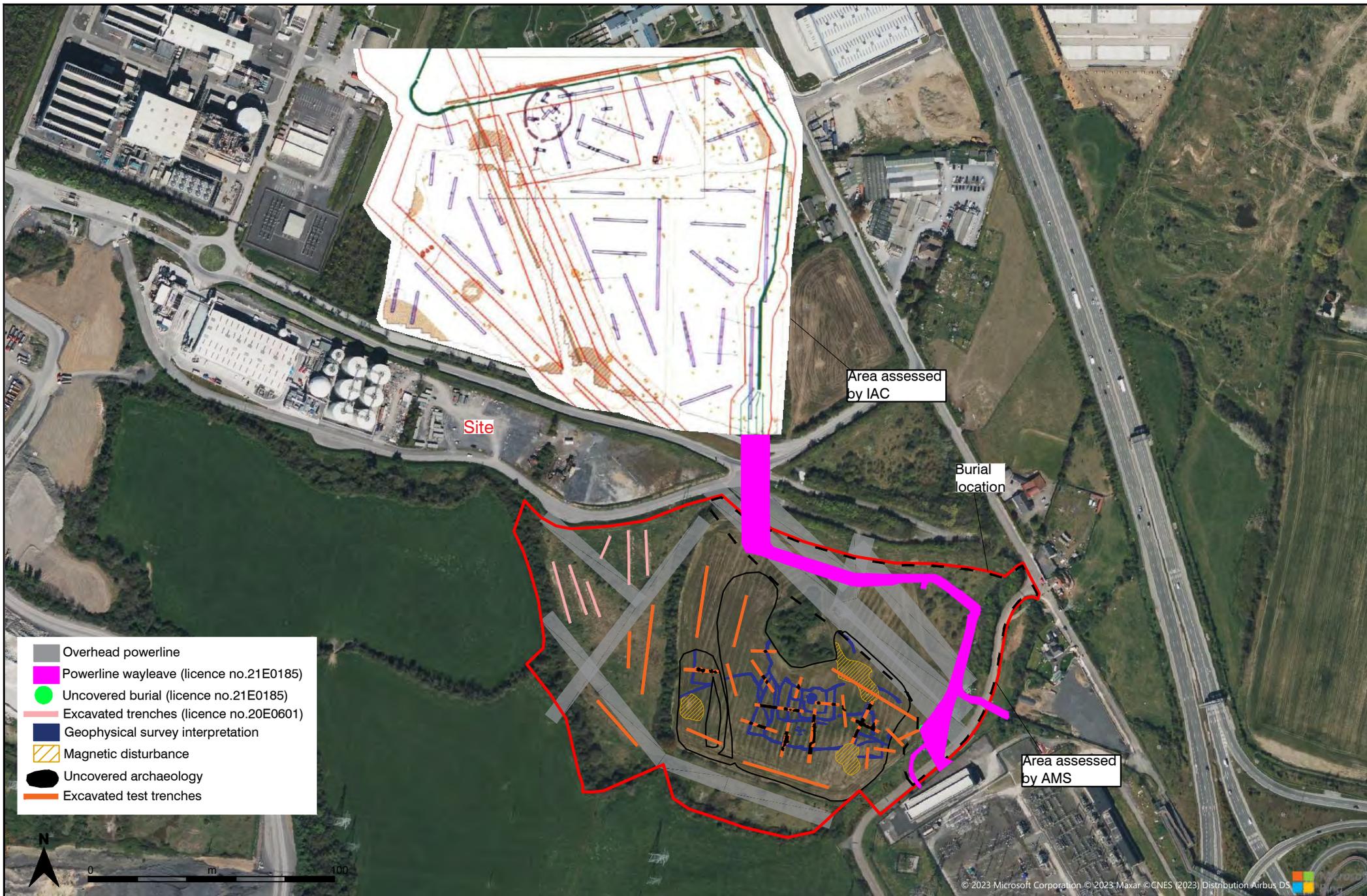
Project Huntstown, Co. Dublin

Date October 2023

Drawing No. 2395_C1023

Figure 13 Details of excavated sections

Scale 1:30 @ A4



- Overhead powerline
- Powerline wayleave (licence no.21E0185)
- Uncovered burial (licence no.21E0185)
- Excavated trenches (licence no.20E0601)
- Geophysical survey interpretation
- Magnetic disturbance
- Uncovered archaeology
- Excavated test trenches



Area assessed by IAC

Burial location

Area assessed by AMS

Site



Plate 1: Trench 1 with modern land drains facing west



Plate 2: Trench 6 facing east



Plate 3: Change in natural subsoil in Trench 8, facing east.



Plate 4: Trench 9 facing east, with summit of hill in background



Plate 5: Trench 10 facing northwest



Plate 6: Trench 14 with field drain, facing southeast



Plate 7: Trench 16 facing north



Plate 8: Trench 17 facing west



Plate 9: Trench 19 facing southeast



Plate 10: Trench 24 facing northwest



Plate 11: C604 facing east



Plate 12: C901 linear facing north



Plate 13: C1001 linear facing southwest



Plate 14: C1002 linear facing southeast



Plate 15: C1201 linear facing east



Plate 16: C1301 linear facing north



Plate 17: C1601 in Trench 16 facing southwest



Plate 18: C1604 linear in Trench 16 facing northwest



Plate 19: C1701 linear facing south



Plate 20: C1702 linear facing north



Plate 21: C1801 curvilinear facing northwest



Plate 22: C1901 spread facing south



Plate 23: C1902 linear facing north



Plate 24: C1903 linear facing southwest



Plate 25: C1904 pit/linear facing east



Plate 26: C1905 pit facing south



Plate 27: Excavated section through C1903 facing East



Plate 28: Overview of archaeology in Trench 19—C1902 to fore facing NW



Plate 29: C1901 spread facing east in Trench 19



Plate 30: C1503 facing north in Trench 13