

**Appendix 17.7 - Archaeological Test Excavations Report Plot 2**

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ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

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**Archaeological Test Excavation Report**

**Porterstown & Kellystown townlands, Dublin 15**

**Excavation Licence No. 24E0430**

**Centre of site ITM: 711160, 737500**

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For

Castlethorn Construction

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Author: Liam Coen

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological test excavation took place on 15th-17th April 2024 at lands in Kellystown and Porterstown townlands to inform future planning applications. The subject site is comprised of two land plots, a largely greenfield area to the south-west and a brownfield area to the north-east. The purpose of the programme of archaeological testing was to establish if there were any archaeological remains on the site and if so, the nature and extent of any such remains. Geophysical survey under licence no. 23R0523 had been conducted on most of the lands and test trenches were located to investigate the survey results and also evenly spread to assess the general archaeological potential of the site.

Eight trenches were excavated in the available area by a mechanical excavator fitted with a grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Testing revealed no evidence for one of the geophysical sites of archaeological interest (Site 3) and that the features of the other site of archaeological interest (Site 2) was largely of modern origin. Testing also revealed that that the grounds surrounding the playing pitches in the north-eastern plot had been previously disturbed, principally in the form of construction compounds related to surrounding developments.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of testing.

### Recommendations

Given that the southern part of the site has been assessed in the form of geophysical survey, test excavations and partial archaeological monitoring, it is deemed that there is only a low to negligible risk for the survival of undiscovered archaeological remains within the site. No further archaeological works are recommended for this area.

Large parts of the northern land block have been disturbed by its former use as a construction site compound and other construction works. As such, these previously disturbed areas contain a negligible potential for the survival of archaeological remains. However, given the large dimension of the playing pitches, if any development involving significant groundworks is planned for these pitches, then it is recommended that the pitches should be further assessed prior to development in the form of licensed test excavations.



### 1.3. Methodology

A review of the following information took place in order to inform the test excavation report:

- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders and Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland;
- A review of artefactual material held in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey and other historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e., Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponymy (loganim.ie);
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSi Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2022, Bing 2022) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1. Prehistoric Activity (c. 7000 B.C – A.D. 400)

While no archaeological monument lies within the development boundaries, the surrounding landscape contains a number of sites of archaeological importance which point to a rich cultural heritage.

No standing monuments of Neolithic date occur in the area. However, a stone axe and hollow flint scraper of that date was recovered, and several ephemeral features of possible Neolithic date were revealed during monitoring of topsoil removal during gas pipelaying in the neighbouring townland of Diswellstown.

Evidence for settlement during the Bronze Age occurs in Porterstown, where excavation by Claire Cotter of a cropmark enclosure (Excavations 1990, 27), probably a levelled ringfort, yielded a sherd of Bronze Age pottery which indicated an earlier phase of activity on the site (SMR 017:005). A Bronze Age ring-barrow complex in Kellystown (SMR 013:018), just south of the canal near Clonsilla adds to this picture. A mound at Astagob (SMR 017:007) could date from either the Neolithic period or the Bronze Age.

## 2.2. Medieval Period (c. 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

Around the 5th century AD Christianity was first introduced to Ireland and spread rapidly, fuelled by the establishment of early medieval churches and ecclesiastical centres. Ecclesiastical remains (mostly of Medieval date) occur in a number of nearby localities such as Clonsilla (SMR 013:017) and Coolmine (SMR 013:019). The church of 'Culmyn' is mentioned in the list of churches for the diocese c. 1275 ('Archbishop Allen's Register 1172-1534', MacNeill, 1950). Also, at Diswellstown, a holy well of unknown date is located (SMR 017:011).

A number of castles of medieval date are located in the area, most notably Luttrellstown Castle (SMR 0017:004). Some are documented in historical sources (see below), including one at Porterstown, but no remains of this castle exist today. Much of the recorded history of the area is associated with the Anglo-Norman period. The surrounding area was greatly favoured by the new settlers and was extensively settled. Castleknock gave its name to the whole barony, and one of the most important sub-tenancies within the barony of Castleknock was that of the Luttrell family. An early representative of this family, Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, was a favourite of King John and accompanied the latter to Ireland in 1210. Robert Luttrell was treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Chancellor of Ireland. Luttrellstown Castle (SMR 017:004), was built by his descendents which in due course was replaced by that family's great house. This certainly incorporated much of the original structure, although later rebuilding has made it difficult to identify the medieval portions (Bence-Jones 1988). Porterstown, nearby, derives its name from other English settlers of this period.

## 2.3. Post-Medieval Period (c.16<sup>th</sup> century-1800 AD)

A lot of destruction and damage was done to the lands and castles of the entire parish of Castleknock during the turbulent years of 1630–1670. In the Civil and Down Survey of 1657, the castle at Porterstown is described as small but surrounded by a good orchard, garden and plantation (preserved in the Royal Irish Academy). During the Commonwealth period Symon Luttrell had, apparently in addition to Luttrellstown House, a "greate mantion house" at Clonsilla, with buildings valued at £1, 000. The main proprietor in Castleknock was Christopher Barnewall, who also held lands in Diswellstown and Carpenterstown (Civil Survey, VIII, 230ff, 241), both located south and east of the demesne.

After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1664, Porterstown and Luttrellstown were described as the most important dwellings in Castleknock parish. Porterstown was occupied by Roger, First Earl of Orrey, while acting as Lord Justice. The castle, or possibly a more modern house erected near it, was assessed for nine chimneys. Towards the end of the eighteenth century an arched gateway testified to its former importance, but by that time all other traces of the house had disappeared (Austin Cooper's Notebook, cited in Ball VI 1920).

Two archbishops of note were born in the general area. Archbishop Patrick Fitzsimmons was born in Clonsilla in 1699 and died in 1769. He reigned in the area during penal times. Archbishop John Thomas Troy

was born at Annefield in 1739. He became a Dominican first and then Bishop of Ossory, and on the 3rd of December 1789, he became Archbishop of Dublin. He presided over the Catholic Church as it emerged from penal law and was responsible for the building of the Pro Cathedral and was the first bishop to be buried in its vaults. He died in 1825.

By the nineteenth century much of the lands in the locality had been acquired by wealthy Dublin families, each landholding centring on the houses of Luttrellstown, Diswellstown, Porterstown, Oatlands and Summertown giving the area much of its present character. The earliest surviving mapping of the region is the Down Survey (see section below), a mapped survey dated to 1654-6 which uses the aforementioned Civil Survey as a guide. The Civil Survey, ordered by the Civil Authority, was taken from 1654-6 in order to value the lands in Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught assigned to satisfy the claims of soldiers for their arrears of pay during the Civil War. It also served to appease claimants who were promised land in Ireland in exchange for military funding in the 1640s.

Teams of surveyors, mainly former soldiers, were sent out under the direction of William Petty to measure every townland to be forfeited to soldiers. The resulting maps, made at a scale of 40 perches to one inch (the modern equivalent of 1:50,000), were the first systematic mapping of a large area on such a scale attempted anywhere. The primary purpose of these maps was to record the boundaries of each townland and to calculate their areas with great precision. The maps are also rich in other detail showing churches, roads, rivers, castles, houses and fortifications.

## 2.4. Cartographic Sources

### 2.4.1. Down Survey Map (1656)

The County map of Dublin from the Down Survey (1656) (Figure 2) records Porterstown between Luttrellstown and Clonsilla as is the case today and depicts a probable fortification or tower house in its location. No trace of this fortification in Porterstown survived into modern times. The barony of Castleknock and parish map give no details for Kellystown or Porterstown as no lands were to be forfeited in this area.



Figure 2: Down Survey (1656)

#### 2.4.2. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1843)

The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1843 was surveyed in 1836 (Figure 3) and shows the site in a rural setting with the Royal Canal constructed to the north. The proposed development site can now be reliably located and is shown as being occupied by fields often lined with trees. The townland boundary between Kellystown and Porterstown passes through the south-western land block and is marked by a field boundary.

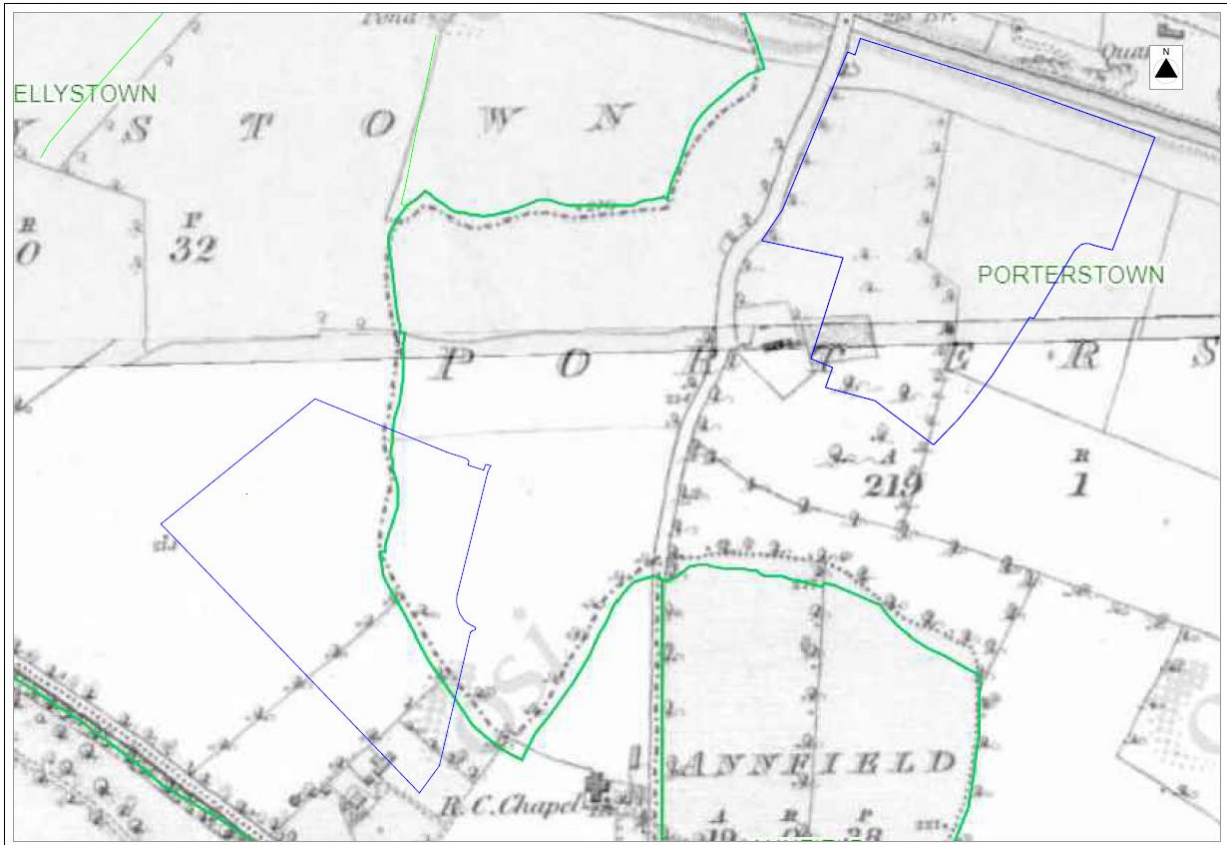


Figure 3 1st edition OS map (1843)

### 2.4.3. Historic 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1909/1910)

The historic 25" to the mile maps showing the site were published in 1909 and 1910 but surveyed in 1906 and 1908. The railway line has been constructed along the southern side of the Royal Canal. Some field consolidation had taken place. Porterstown House is shown as a complex of buildings either side of Porterstown Lane. Otherwise, there is little significant change from the earlier map.

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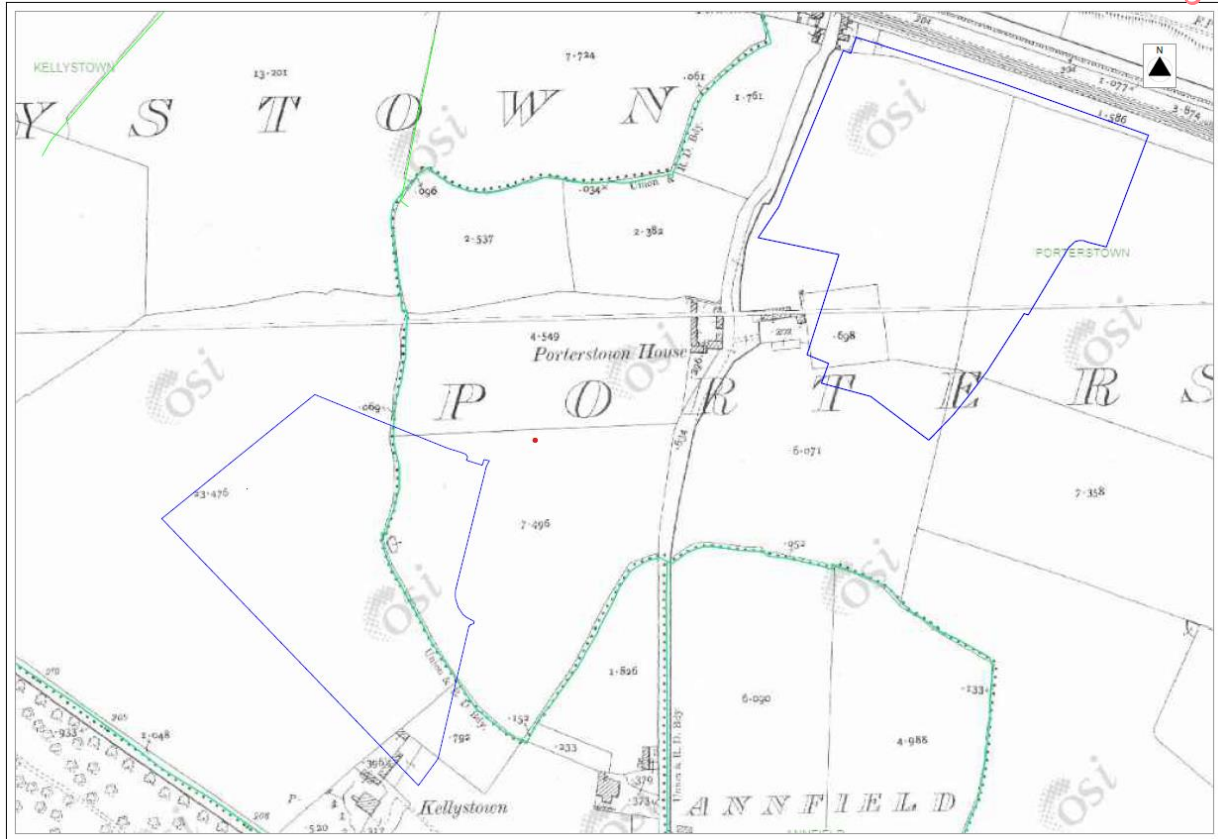


Figure 4 25inch OS map (1910)

## 2.5. Recorded Monuments

There are no Recorded Monuments (RMP/SMR sites) within or immediately adjacent to the site. The closest Recorded Monument is DU017-0005- Ringfort-unclassified in Porterstown and lies over 500m to the south-east.

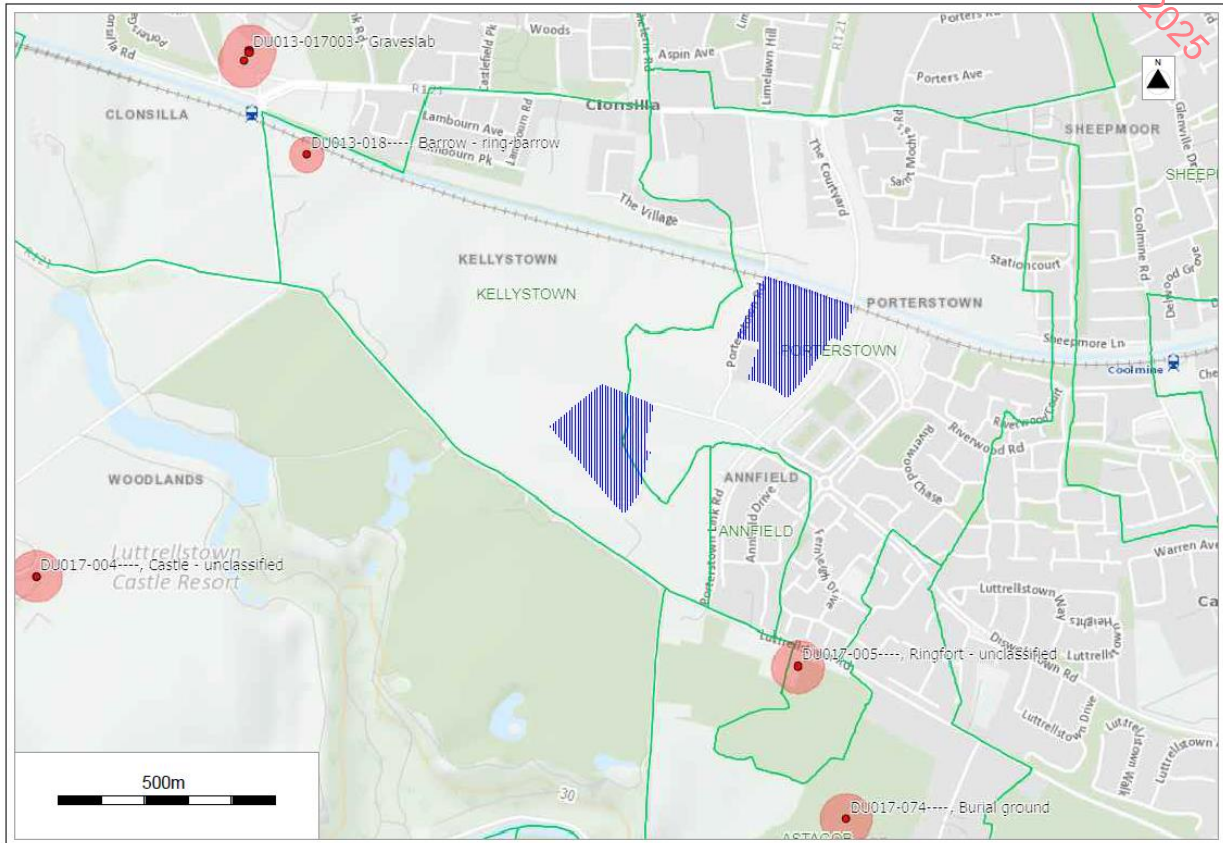


Figure 5 Surrounding RMP / SMR sites

## 2.6. Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A polished stone axehead, NMI ref. 1979:104, has been found in the townland of Kellystown while another polished stone axehead, NMI ref. 1980:30, was also found in the townland of Sheepmoor to the east. These artefacts are usually considered to date from the Neolithic (c. 4000-2500 BC) period.

## 2.7. Aerial photography

The study of aerial photography can be useful in identifying archaeological sites, especially in the form of crop- or parch-marks showing enclosure ditches or earlier field systems in arable fields. In the case of the subject site, no increased archaeological potential was identified from the study of aerial photography. The development of the site and evidence for earlier construction impacts can be discerned from the aerial imagery. The southern plot has largely remained as farmland with only the nearby schools and access roads

changing this rural landscape prior to the recently started residential development. The northern plot has been laid out as playing pitches for several decades with the Porterstown Link Road constructed in the early 2000's.



Figure 6 1995 aerial (L), 2013-18 aerial (R), southern plot



Figure 7 1995 OS aerial (L), 2011-13 Digital Globe (R), northern plot

## 2.8. Summary of Previous Investigations

Several investigations have taken place in the vicinity of the subject site. While some have not produced any archaeology, three excavations have produced significant findings. The first revealed the remains of a ringfort in the south of the townland of Porterstown, the second confirmed the identification of prehistoric ring-barrows in Kellystown while the most recent, by the author, is detailed separately below. Summaries of the other excavations that took place in the vicinity of the subject site are presented in the Table below. The distance is calculated from the closest block of land to be developed to the archaeological excavation/ investigation area.

Table 1 Previous excavations in vicinity of site

Location	Licence No./ Bulletin Ref.	Summary	Distance
Porterstown	n/a / 1990:039	Test excavation, led to discovery of RMP site DU017-005 Ringfort	905m to the south east of the western block
Kellystown	06E0348/2006:583	Test excavation to further investigate RMP site DU013-018 Ring-barrow. 3 trenches were dug and it was confirmed that the features revealed represented the remains of a ring-barrow.	745m to the northwest of the western block
Porterstown	098E0537/2009:579	Excavation of trial pits and boreholes for a Metro project were archaeologically monitored. No features, deposits or material of archaeological significance were identified during the monitoring of the works in Porterstown	Diswellstown Link Road. Adjacent to eastern block
Porterstown	09E0096/2009:299	A small link road in the Porterstown link scheme, measuring 420m in length, was tested. No archaeological remains were found.	126m south of the eastern block
Porterstown	21E0320/2021:202	Test excavations took place on 10 June 2021 in dry, sunny conditions. Seven trenches 340 linear metres in total, were excavated. Topsoil was 0.43-0.56m in depth. Below that lay a light brown/yellow ploughzone or transitional horizon 0.1-0.2m in depth overlying the subsoil. Subsoil comprised a brown and grey silty-clay with occasional limestone. No archaeological remains were found.	115m to the north of the eastern block

### 2.8.1. Geophysical Survey, 23R0523

A geophysical survey of lands in Kellystown and Porterstown townlands took place under detection device consent no. 23R0523 by TerraDat UK in two phases. The first phase principally comprised of the area associated with an approved residential development under planning ref. ABP 312318-21. The second phase concerned other lands adjacent to the first phase lands. Three areas of archaeological interest were identified from the geophysical survey, Sites 1, 2 and 3. Details of the areas of archaeological interest are

reproduced below and the greyscale image and interpretation results of the survey data is shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9. Site 1 is located within the permitted development lands, while Sites 2 and 3 are within the lands being investigated for this proposal.

#### **Site 1**

This area is outside the lands under consideration for the present proposal and located within permitted development lands for a residential development. The geophysical survey detected anomalies that are suggestive of a medieval settlement and field system, and this was confirmed by test excavation. This area with the agreement from the National Monuments Service will be excavated as an archaeological exercise and a report will be submitted to the authorities and all findings will be recorded and archived in the National Museum of Ireland.

#### **Site 2**

This area includes two lengths of divergent irregular, narrow positive magnetic anomalies. They leave the southern site boundary at [705684, 737423], passing to [705679, 737469] and [705713, 737472]. The eastern branch may swing NW to [705697, 737478] and possibly context with the end of the western branch around the NW of the area anomaly interpreted above a field pond, although this section is at background levels. These anomalies may constitute an irregular enclosure of approximately 58m x 32m. The location of the 'pond' with the NW corner of this potential enclosure may be significant or may be a coincidence.

A broad sinuous positive magnetic anomaly extends south-eastwards for about 75m from the southern tip of this potential enclosure. It terminates after a short section of parallel ditches in what appears, possibly, to be a gateway at [705742, 737373].

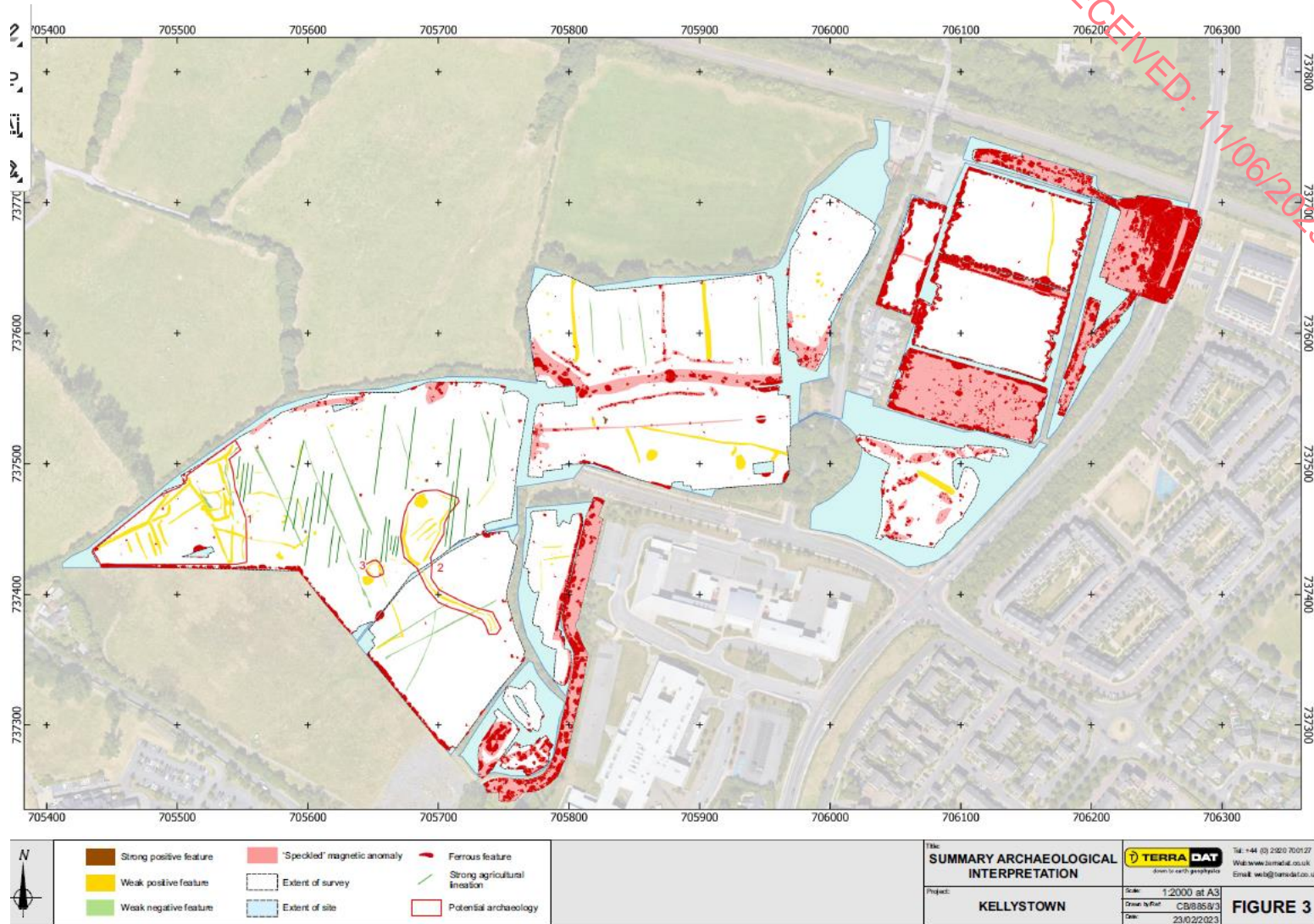
#### **Site 3**

This site covers a possible ring ditch (centred upon [705651, 737419]), marked by a very low amplitude positive annular magnetic anomaly. The anomaly is barely above background variation, and the identification of this as a potential ring ditch must be considered very tentative. If it is a circular anomaly, it is 9m in diameter with a ditch 1m to 1.5m wide, possibly open to the SSE.

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Figure 8 Greyscale results of Geophysical Survey 23R0523



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Figure 9 Geophysical survey interpretation results, 23R0523

### 2.8.2. Test excavations, Licence no. 24E0045

Test excavations took place on 16th-19th January 2024 in Kellystown and Porterstown townlands, Dublin 15. Conditions were clear and dry. Nine trenches were excavated in undisturbed greenfield parts of the site that were in use as pasture fields. Trenches were located to investigate the results of a geophysical survey (Licence no. 23R0523) and also were evenly spaced to assess the general archaeological potential of the site. The underlying subsoil was a grey and brown mottled stoney clay with minor variations such as an area of increased stone content near a modest high point in the ground near the centre of the site. Some minor variations in the agreed Method Statement trench layout were made in response to on-site conditions, e.g. to preserve access tracks or to avoid underground water-pipes and overhead powerlines.

The principal result was the discovery of archaeological remains in the south-western corner of the site in Trenches 1-3. These trenches had been placed to investigate an area termed **Site 1** in the geophysical survey that recorded numerous weak or minor positive anomalies interpreted as a sub-rectangular enclosure within a field system with other associated features. Test slots in several of the features identified late medieval pottery and while all the features may not be from this period, the identified evidence indicates the presence of a significant medieval settlement in this location.

### 2.8.3. Archaeological Monitoring, Licence no. 24E0045ext.

Archaeological monitoring of the construction phase of the approved residential development took place under an extension to the original testing licence 24E0045. This is ongoing. During the initial phases, topsoil has been removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision. To date more than 50% of the site has been topsoil stripped including areas for compounds, access roads, house foundations and for services like drainage etc.

No features of archaeological significance have been identified but stray finds of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery sherds have been retrieved from the topsoil. A haul road with pedestrian access was recently constructed through the lands subject to the current test excavations. The topsoil strip was monitored for this haul road and nothing of archaeological significance was identified.

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### 3. TEST EXCAVATION, LICENCE NO. 24E0430

#### 3.1. Introduction

Archaeological testing was carried out on 15<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Test trenches were mechanically excavated using a 13-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket (either 1.5 or 1.8m wide) under strict archaeological direction. Trenches were set out using GPS. Trenches were located to both investigate the geophysical survey results and evenly spaced to assess the general archaeological potential of the site.

#### 3.2. Methodology

All trenches were excavated in c. 0.2m spits to the surface of archaeological or potential archaeological deposits or to the underlying natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. Any potential archaeological features were assessed by the licensed archaeologist, then cleaned and if deemed necessary, a hand-dug test slot was excavated to establish their archaeological nature, extent, and character. Photographs, plans and written recording sheets were used to record the trenches and any features of potential archaeological interest.

#### 3.3. Results

In total, 8 trenches were excavated during the test excavations. Several minor amendments to the agreed Method Statement layout were made due to on-site conditions. However, all the geophysical survey results were still investigated. Details of the test trenches are presented in the table below with a brief narrative of each of the trenches afterwards. While the geophysical survey was generally reliable, with sub-soil cut features frequently corresponding to the recorded anomalies, no evidence for the potential ring-ditch at Site 3 was identified. With the use of a GPS device on-site to accurately locate the anomalies recorded from the geophysical survey, comprehensive cleaning of the subsoil and test slots in the locations did not identify any deposits or features that may have given rise to the anomalies for Site 3. Ditches were identified corresponding to the location of the recorded anomalies for Site 2 but were deemed non-archaeological after assessment.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of testing.

Table 2 Test trench details 24E0430

Trench No.	Dimensions (L X B X D in metres)	Orientation	Comment
1	113 x 1.8 x 0.35-0.7	NE/SW – NNE/SSW	Located to investigate geophysical sites 2 and 3. No evidence for Site 3, modern rubble-filled drains C03 & C06 corresponding to Site 2 anomalies: non-archaeological.
2	100 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	NE/SW	Located to investigate geophysical Site 2. Undated field ditches C04 & C05 corresponding to Site 2 anomalies: non-archaeological.
3	57 x 1.8 x 0.5-0.7	NE/SW	Located to investigate elements of Site 2 & to assess the general area. Undated ditch C07 corresponding to geophysical anomaly: non-archaeological.

Trench No.	Dimensions (L X B X D in metres)	Orientation	Comment
4	50 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.7	NE/SW	Located to investigate elements of Site 2 & to assess the general area. No features or archaeology found
5	73 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.5	NE/SW	Located to assess the general area. No features or archaeology found
6	62 x 1.8 x 0.1-0.0.6	N/S	Located to assess the general area. Modern crushed stone or cobbled surface & bedrock seams encountered under sod layer. No archaeology found
7	42 x 1.5 x 0.35-0.75	N/S	Located in former site compound area, no archaeology found
8	31 x 1.5 x 0.45-0.7	NNE/SSW	Located in former site compound area, no archaeology found
8 trenches: 528 linear metres, 907 sq. metres			

Table 3 Context Register, 23E1061

Context No.	Trench	Feature type	Description
F01	All	Topsoil	0.4-0.6m in depth. Brown sandy clay with occasional stones
F02	All	Subsoil	Mottled brown stoney clay
F03	1	Field drain	Linear in plan; U-shaped profile; 1.8m in width, >0.8m in depth; filled with friable brown silt with >50% stone content in lower half of cut; not bottomed
F04	2	Ditch	Linear in plan; V-shaped profile; 1.65m in width, 0.65m in depth; filled with upper fill of friable light brown silty clay and basal fill of light brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions, 0.35m depth
F05	2	Ditch	Linear in plan; 2.0m in width, 0.4m in depth; concave sides, uneven base; filled with upper fill of friable brown silty clay & basal fill of friable grey silty clay with stone & snail shell inclusions, 0.2m in depth
F06	1	Field drain	Linear in plan; 1.15m in width, 0.60m in depth; V-shaped profile; filled with friable brown silt with stone inclusions.
F07	3	Ditch	Linear in plan; 0.9m in width, 0.3m in depth; U-shaped profile; filled with friable brown silty clay with stone inclusions
F08	6	Metalled surface	Orientated E/W, 3m in width; small & medium sized stones with brick inclusions, possible farm track, 0.1m below sod

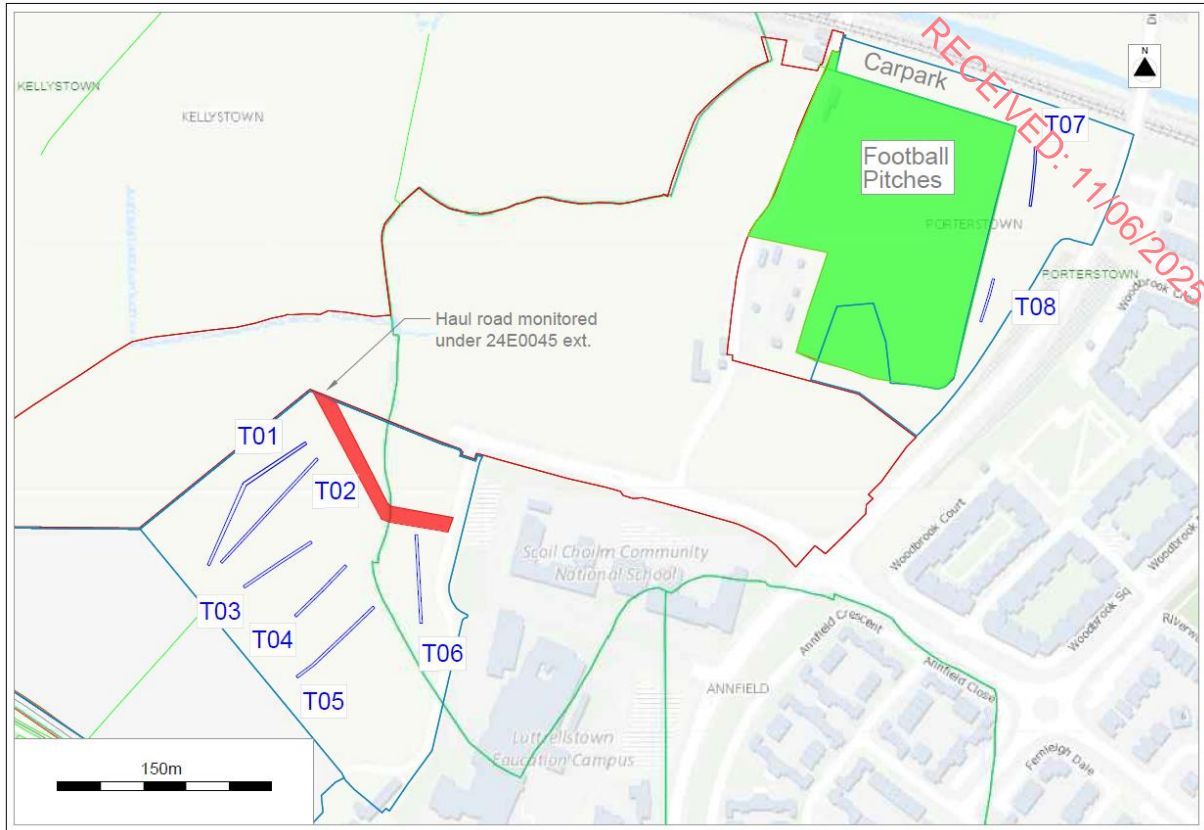


Figure 10 Test trench layout 24E0430

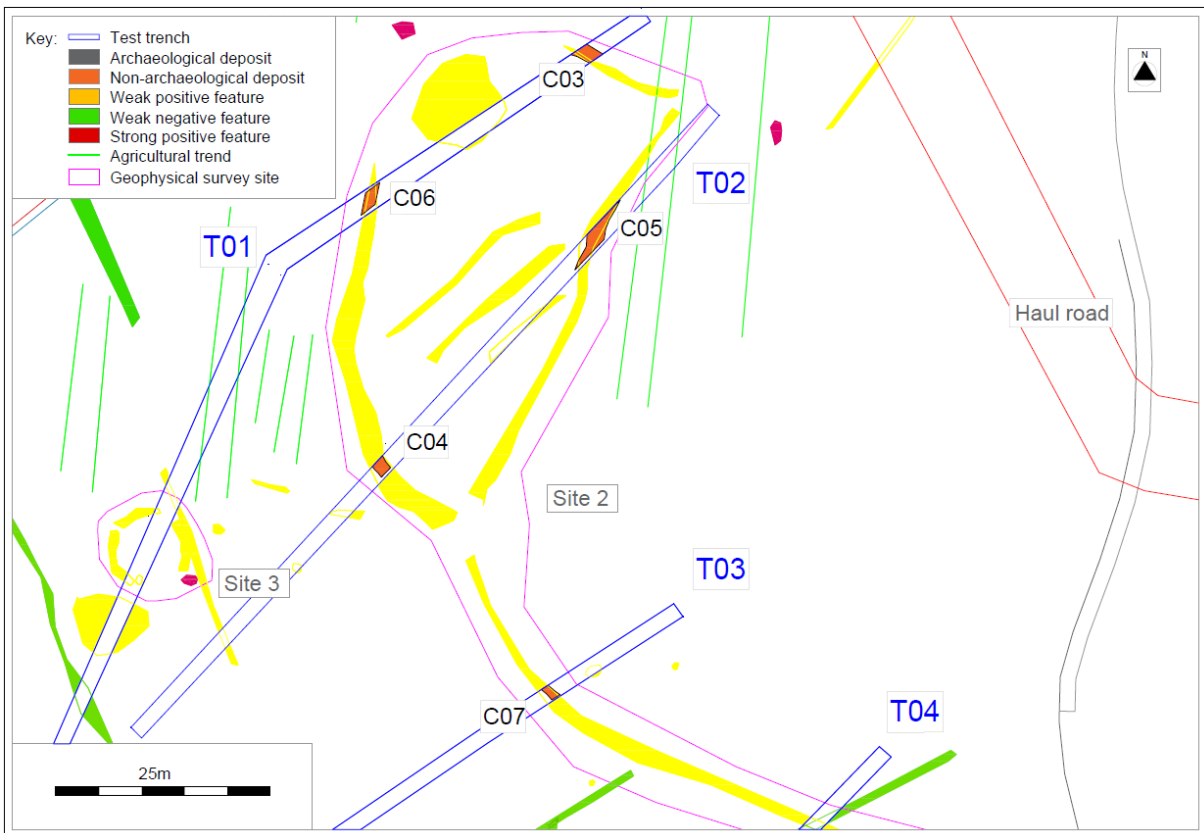


Figure 11 Test trench details over geophysical survey results

#### *Trench 1, Geophysical Site 2 & 3*

This trench was located to investigate **Site 2**, a possible enclosure, and **Site 3**, a possible ring-ditch. The layout of the trench was adjusted slightly from its agreed Method Statement orientation in order to better intercept the geophysical anomalies. Two ditches, **C03** and **C06** were identified corresponding to the geophysical anomalies that formed the potential D-shaped enclosure of Site 2. Upon excavation of test slots, it was determined that they represented field drains with large amounts of small (<0.1m maximum dimension) and medium sized (0.1-0.2m maximum dimension) stones in the fills of the ditches, especially near the base of the ditch cuts.

No evidence for the potential ring-ditch of **Site 3** was identified. Test slots were excavated in the location of the geophysical anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey though nothing could be discerned that produced the magnetic response recorded in the geophysical survey.

#### *Trench 2, Geophysical Site 2*

This trench was located to investigate **Site 2**, a possible enclosure. Two ditches, **C04** and **C05**, were identified corresponding to the geophysical anomalies recorded in the survey. Between 1.65-2.00m in width and 0.4-0.65m in depth, no artefacts were retrieved from the silty fills of the ditches. They are deemed not to be of archaeological significance.

#### *Trench 3, Geophysical Site 2*

This trench was located to investigate a sinuous linear anomaly emanating from the potential D-shaped enclosure of **Site 2** as well as to assess the general archaeological potential of the lands. A ditch, **C07**, was identified corresponding to the geophysical anomaly. Measuring 0.9m in width and 0.3m in depth it contained a single brown silty fill with stones. No artefacts were retrieved from the feature to assist in dating it and it is deemed not to be of archaeological significance.

#### *Trench 4, Geophysical Site 2*

This trench was located to investigate a sinuous linear anomaly emanating from the potential D-shaped enclosure of **Site 2** as well as to assess the general archaeological potential of the lands. No features were identified in the trench.

#### *Trench 5*

This trench was located to assess the general archaeological potential of the lands. No features were identified in the trench.

#### *Trench 6*

This trench was located to assess the general archaeological potential of the lands. It was relocated to the south from its agreed Method Statement position to avoid a recently constructed haul road. Bedrock was exposed at points in this trench. Near the central part of the trench, a metallised surface was exposed that lay only 0.1m below the sod at its shallowest point. Orientated east/west and measuring 3m in width, it comprised of small and medium sized stones with some brick inclusions. Lying on the summit of a low ridge, it appears to be the remains of a farm track. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.

#### *Trench 7*

This trench was located in an area that was formerly a construction site compound to the east of playing pitches for a sports club. Some light vegetation had become established over the former crushed stone surface. A shallow compressed brownish grey clay layer underlay the crushed stone layer before clear subsoil was exposed between 0.35-0.5m below the current ground level. A deeper point at the southern end of the trench was not fully excavated beyond a depth 0.75m as it appeared that the ground had been previously disturbed with deep deposits of crushed stone introduced to level the ground. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in the trench.

#### *Trench 8*

This trench was located to the south of Trench 7 in the former compound area. It had a similar stratigraphy as the trench to the north and did not contain any archaeology.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1. Summary

Archaeological test excavation took place on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at lands in Kellystown and Porterstown townlands, Dublin 15 to inform future planning applications. The subject site is comprised of two land plots, a largely greenfield area to the south-west and a brownfield area to the north-east. The purpose of the programme of archaeological testing was to establish if there were any archaeological remains on the site and if so, the nature and extent of any such remains. Geophysical survey had been conducted on most of the lands and test trenches were located to investigate the survey results and also evenly spread to assess the general archaeological potential of the site.

Eight trenches were excavated in the available area by a mechanical excavator fitted with a grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Testing revealed no evidence for one of the geophysical sites of archaeological interest and that the other site of archaeological interest was largely of modern origin and not deemed to be of archaeological significance. Testing also revealed that that the grounds surrounding the playing pitches in the north-eastern plot had been previously disturbed, principally in their use as construction site compounds related to surrounding developments.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of testing.

### 4.2. Recommendations

Given that the southern part of the site has been assessed in the form of geophysical survey, test excavations and partial archaeological monitoring, it is deemed that there is only a low to negligible risk for the survival of undiscovered archaeological remains within the site. No further archaeological works are recommended for this area.

Large parts of the northern land block have been disturbed by its former use as a construction site compound and other construction works. As such, these previously disturbed areas contain a negligible potential for the survival of archaeological remains. However, given the large dimension of the playing pitches, if any development involving significant groundworks is planned for these pitches, then it is recommended that the pitches should be further assessed prior to development in the form of licensed test excavations.

**Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Section of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

## 5. REFERENCES

### 5.1. Bibliography

Ball, F. E. 1905 *History of County Dublin. Volume 3.* Alex Thom and Co. Ltd, Dublin.

Lewis, S. 1837 *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*

Simington, R. C. 1945 *The Civil Survey A.D. 1654-56 Vol VII, County of Dublin*, The Stationery Office, Dublin

### 5.2. Online Resources:

Previous excavations [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

Cartographic sources [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

[www.libguides.ucd.ie](http://www.libguides.ucd.ie)

Placenames [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

Recorded Monuments [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

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PLATES



Plate 1 View of test slot in field drain C03 in Trench 1 looking east



Plate 2 View of test slot in field drain C06 in Trench 1 looking south-west



Plate 3 View of test slot in location of Site 3 'ring-ditch' anomaly in Trench 1



Plate 4 View of test slot in ditch C04 in Trench 2 looking north-east



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Plate 5 View of test slot in ditch C05 in Trench 2 looking south-west



Plate 6 View of test slot in ditch C07 in Trench 3 looking west



Plate 7 Trench 4 looking south-west



Plate 8 Trench 5 looking south-west



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Plate 9 Trench 6 looking south



Plate 10 Trench 7 looking north



Plate 11 Trench 8 looking north



Plate 12 Aerial view of topsoil stripping for haul road, 24E0045ext.

## APPENDIX 1 NATIONAL MONUMENTS LEGISLATION AS AMENEDDED.

All archaeological sites have the full protection of the national monuments legislation (Principal Act 1930 and Amendments).

In the 1987 Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act (1930), the definition of a national monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections,

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position,

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient

(i) tomb, grave or burial deposit, or

(ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site,

and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site...

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),  
or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930),

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all of the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

- In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

*The National Monuments Amendment Act 2004*

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

(2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then

- (a) the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister
- (b) subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.