



Archaeological Impact Assessment: Test Excavation Report Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth

Part 1 – Archaeological Information

Licence Number: 25E0571

Donald Murphy
July 2025
Report Status: Final

ACSU Ref.: 2531



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PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth
Report Type	Archaeological Test Excavation
Licence No.	25E0571
Detection Device Licence No.	25R0179
Townland(s)	Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown
RMP/SMR No.	LH021-014
RPS Id./NIAH Reg. No.	N/A
ITM Ref.	707980, 783365
Consultant	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
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VERSION CONTROL

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1.0	18.07.2025	Archaeological test excavation report	Final	D.M	L.C	D.M

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report details the results of test excavations carried out at Kellystown Windfarm (ITM 707980, 783365). The proposed development and associated works are located 8.3km north of Drogheda, and 23.6km south of Dundalk. In its entirety, the development and associated works cover 64.5 hectares, predominantly situated in a rural setting with low-density housing. The site comprises 25 fields within the townlands of Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown.

The proposed test trenching is being carried out in response to a further information request attached to Planning Ref. No. 2460766 by Louth County Council.

The site contains one monument as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). LH021-014 relates to a standing stone at Drumshallon. There are no Protected Structures as listed in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 or sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site. The nearest such structure is Stonehouse Estate (NIAH Ref: 13902113), located c. 700m from the site.

Cartographic sources and aerial imagery were examined as part of the site assessment. No features or anomalies of archaeological significance were noted

A geophysical survey was conducted within the proposed development area, specifically in the fields deemed suitable (25R0179; Murphy, 2025). The survey identified potential archaeological features within Fields 9 and 16, consisting of a series of curvilinear features (**M1 – M2**) that may represent the remains of enclosures. Scatters of other anomalies are also labelled as potential archaeology (?Archaeology). These include a concentration of anomalies, as well as curvilinear and linear responses, and small responses that could represent archaeological features such as pits, postholes, spreads, and kilns, but could also be of natural origin. Features depicted on the examined Ordnance Survey mapping were also detected, including linear anomalies corresponding with former field boundaries. Linear anomalies that are not recorded field boundaries were also detected, and they likely represent pre-OS field systems, drains or paths/access routes. The geophysical report recommended that a 20m buffer zone be established around LH021-014- Standing stone and that the anomalies identified be targeted during a programme of test trenching.

Test trenching was carried out by Donald Murphy under licence 25E0571. All of the identified archaeology was contained within Field 9, which was located towards the centre/southern extent of the proposed development. Archaeology was identified in **Trenches 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 100 and 101** and consisted of the following;

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Trench 36 - An arc of 8 postholes (C3601). The arc or line of 8 postholes extended east to west at the western extent of Trench 36. They extended over a length of 9m. The postholes were all filled with brown clay and charcoal. They varied in diameter from 0.50 to 70m and were all circular or oval in shape. They appeared to arc slightly, suggesting they are on the northern side of a circular feature that extended further south.

Trench 39 - A cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907), a stakehole (C3905), and an area of burning (C3903) were visible toward the northern end of Trench 39. The postholes were circular and measured 0.20m by 0.20m/0.15m by 0.15m, and the stakehole measured 0.06m by 0.06m, and all surrounded the area of burning (C3903) which measured 0.50m by 0.60m.

Trench 41 – A significant area of burning (C4101) was located halfway down Trench 41, in close proximity to the location of the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42. It was filled with frequent charcoal fragments and burnt stones. It measured 2m in length and 1.8m in width and likely extends beyond the trench.

Trench 42 - A linear (C4201), aligned NW to SE, and filled with grey brown clay, was identified. It measured 1m in width. A fragment of red brick was recovered from the fill, which was very loose and soft. This was interpreted as an agricultural feature and was not archaeological. A burnt stone spread (C4202) was also identified. It measured 9m in length north-south and extended beyond the trench to the east and west. It consisted of lots of charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone. The depth of spread, where tested, was 0.30m.

Trench 43 - Three burnt spreads (C4301-C4301), which were possibly related to the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42, were identified. C4301 measured 2m in length by 1m in width. It was located at the northern end of the trench. It was a possible continuation of the burnt spread (C4202) recorded in Trench 42. C4302 measured 1.3m by 0.6m in width. It was located close to the burnt spread C4303 at the southern end of Trench 43. C4303 measured 2.7m in length by 0.50m in width. It was located at the southern end of Trench 43. All three spreads consisted of a black sandy clay, burnt stones, charcoal fragments and a black sandy clay.

Trench 100 – The trench was excavated south from the very top of the east-west running ridge. Four features, including two ditches (C10001, C10002) and two pits (C10003, C10004), were identified. The trench sloped gradually to the south from the top. Features identified on the geophysical survey were detected (C10001, C10002), along with additional archaeological features (C10003, C10004).

The ditch C10001 measured 1.2-1.5m in width and ran east-west through the trench but curved northwards at the east end. It was filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. This feature aligned with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10101 in Trench 101.

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The ditch C10002 measured 2.2m in width and was aligned east-west. It was aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey that appears to represent a rectangular shaped enclosure. There appears to be at least two fills. Along the north side, a light brown clay measuring 0.80m in width was identified along the north edge. The remaining part of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clay with lots of stone and charcoal.

The large circular pit C10003 was located on the upper break of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.8m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay and charcoal. It was located 8m south of the outer ditch of a rectangular enclosure shown on the Geophysical survey (C10002).

The large circular pit C10004 was located at the base of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.95m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay, charcoal, and some burnt sandstone. It is very likely that other features occur outside the trench.

Trench 101 – Three linear features (C10102, C10103, C10104) and a ring -ditch (C10101) were identified in this east-west running trench.

The ditch C10101 measured 1.2-1.5m in width and ran north-south through the trench. It was filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. This feature aligned with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10001 in Trench 100.

The ditch C10102 measured 2.2m in width and was aligned north-south. It was aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey that appears to represent a rectangular shaped enclosure. It corresponds with C10002 in trench 100.

Ditches C10103 and C10104 appear to represent a double ditched feature which aligns with the geophysical anomaly previously identified which appears to return westwards just south of the test trench.

The proposed development has the potential to impact all the aforementioned features if not appropriately mitigated. No additional features were found throughout the remainder of the development, where tested, and there will be no archaeological impact. A significant number of areas within the development still remain to be surveyed through geophysics and tested at a future date once crops etc. are harvested.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of test excavations carried out at Kellystown Windfarm (ITM 707980, 783365; Figures 1-2). The proposed development and associated works are located 8.3km north of Drogheda and 23.6km south of Dundalk. In its entirety, the development and associated works cover 64.5 hectares, predominantly situated in a rural setting with low-density housing. The site comprises 25 fields within the townlands of Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown.

The proposed test trenching is being carried out in response to a further information request attached to Planning Ref. No. 2460766 by Louth County Council.

The site contains one monument as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). LH021-014 relates to a standing stone at Drumshallon. There are no Protected Structures as listed in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 or sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site. The nearest such structure is Stonehouse Estate (NIAH Ref: 13902113), located c. 700m from the site. Cartographic sources and aerial imagery were examined as part of the site assessment. No features or anomalies of archaeological significance were noted.

A geophysical survey was conducted within the proposed development area, specifically in the fields deemed suitable (25R0179; Murphy, 2025). A number of areas were not available for either geophysical survey or test trenching due to the presence of crops. The geophysical report recommended that a 20m buffer zone be established around LH021-014- Standing stone and that the anomalies identified be targeted during a programme of test trenching.

Test trenching was carried out by Donald Murphy under licence 25E0571.

1.1 Project Background

The site covers an area associated with the proposed development of Kellystown Windfarm (ITM 707980, 783365; Figures 1-2). The development and associated works cover 64.5 hectares, predominantly within a rural setting and low-density housing. The site comprises 25 fields within the townlands of Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown

A geophysical survey was conducted within the proposed development area, specifically in the fields deemed suitable (25R0179; Murphy, 2025) (Fig. 7 – 17). The survey identified potential archaeological features (Fig. 18 – 33) within Fields 9 and 16, consisting of a series of curvilinear features (M1 – M2) that may represent the remains of enclosures. Scatters of other anomalies are also labelled as potential archaeology (?Archaeology). These include a concentration of anomalies, as well as curvilinear and linear responses, and small responses

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that could represent archaeological features, such as pits, postholes, spreads, and kilns, but may also have a natural origin. Features depicted on the examined Ordnance Survey mapping were also detected, including linear anomalies corresponding with former field boundaries. Linear anomalies that are not recorded field boundaries were also detected, and they likely represent pre-OS field systems, drains or paths/access routes. The geophysical report recommended that a 20m buffer zone be established around LH021-014- Standing stone and that the anomalies identified be targeted during a programme of test trenching.

2. SOILS, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The survey covers 64.5 hectares, primarily located within a rural setting and characterised by low-density housing. The site comprises 25 fields within the townlands of Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown (Fig 5 – 6).

The site has an elevation of between 90m to 130m Ordnance Datum (OD). The underlying geology consists of a calcareous greywacke which is part of the Clogherhead Formation and lies very close to the surface.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

There is no evidence of human activity within the footprint of the development from the early prehistoric periods (Mesolithic, 7000-4000 BC; Neolithic, 4000-2400 BC). The nearest evidence to the project as a whole comes from an excavated multi-period site at Waterunder, Mell, Co. Louth (Licence No. 05E0072), which yielded dates from the early Neolithic period, Bronze Age, and Iron Age periods, although these are well outside the survey area. It should also be noted that the southwestern portion of the site is located approximately 12.5km to the northeast of the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne and 7.6km north of the associated Buffer Zone. This landscape holds high cultural significance, being part of the Neolithic passage tomb complex, which includes the sites of Newgrange, Knowth, and Dowth.

The earliest archaeological evidence within the site appears to date back to the Bronze Age (2400-500 BC). As the name suggests, this period saw the introduction of metalworking in Ireland, with the alloyed metal of copper and tin bringing a new assemblage of artefacts to the archaeological record. New monument types also appear in this period, including standing stones, new burial practices such as the cist burial, and the most common type of field monument from this period, the burnt mound (otherwise known as *Fulachta Fiadh*).

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Within the Boyne Valley, embanked enclosures were constructed close to passage tombs (Stout and Holloway, 1991). Around the town of Drogheda, ring barrows were constructed with urn-burials inserted in the centres of the barrows. At Tullyallen Co. Louth, a ring barrow with central urn-burial was excavated in 2000 (Chappel, 2002). Another example of such a barrow was one excavated by Derek Gallagher in 2019 in the townland of Yellowbatter, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The ring ditch measured c. 8.3m in diameter by a maximum 1.04m depth. Two cremations, which were located roughly in the centre of the ring ditch, were contained within funerary vessels. The site also produced a further eighty-five sherds of pottery, representing at least four Late Bronze Age pots (Gallagher and Gibney, 2020).

Standing stones are purposefully placed megaliths that served a variety of functions in the prehistoric period. Some function as burial, territorial or commemorative markers. Others are grouped together in pairs or rows, which is thought to be associated with astronomical alignments. Due to their nature, precise dating of these features often relies on additional contexts, such as an associated burial. A single standing stone, LH021-014- --- is situated within the site boundary at Drumshallon (See below).

Burnt mounds are the most common archaeological feature uncovered in Ireland. They are also known as fulacht fiadh, which can be roughly translated to 'meat cooking place'. Over 4,500 examples were recorded in 1997, primarily by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, but by 2007 this had increased to over 7,000 examples (Grogan et al, 2007), many of which had been identified as a result of extensive survey work and excavation in advance of developments. Burnt mounds are usually located where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river, stream or in wetland fringes. They are largely identified as heat-shattered stones in charcoal-rich mounds or spreads; however, in many cases, the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity, particularly ploughing, and are no longer visible on the field surface. Disturbed spreads will nonetheless often preserve the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies. Burnt mound sites are most commonly dated to the Bronze Age, often to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, although there are also an increasing number of sites dated to the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age (Brindley et al, 1989–90; Corlett, 1997; Hawkes, 2018).

Excavations have demonstrated the complexity and varying morphology of these sites, which, as detailed by Hawkes (2018), represent a wide range of site types, some of which employ different pyrolithic applications. The basic principle of pyrolithic technology involves transferring heat using hot stones, and where a trough/pit is present, it is likely that this involved the boiling or heating of water, while some other pit features may suggest that roasting, steaming, baking and steam bathing also took place (ibid., 53). O'Kelly (1954) and Lawless (1990) both demonstrated how meat could be cooked in troughs of boiling water, using hot stones to heat the water. A bathing or sauna function has also been suggested as an alternative (Lucas, 1965; Barfield

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and Hodder, 1987). A more recent demonstration by Quinn and Moore (2007) showed that troughs could also have been used for brewing. This theory has, however, been criticised due to the absence of cereal remains from most burnt mound sites (McClatchie et al, 2007). Given their plentiful nature, it is perhaps best to see them simply as water heating sites, with as many possible uses for the hot water as we have today. Thus, a specific function will largely depend on the environmental samples taken, any finds retrieved, and the morphology of the features uncovered in relation to the burnt mound. In addition, fulacht fiadh/burnt mounds are also a reflection of prehistoric activity in general and often suggest the presence of settlements in the nearby vicinity, usually in a drier location.

Managing water at burnt mounds was also important and this was often achieved through features such as overflow channels, which allowed excess water to be directed away from a trough and working area, and inlet channels, which connected a trough or pit to a supply of water, with the latter sometimes found in association with springs, deep pits and wells (Hawkes, 2018). The latter usually helped to supply water either from a natural spring, a nearby river/stream or by using the fall of a slope to collect rainwater, with just six examples identified by Hawkes (ibid).

Evidence for early medieval activity within the area is also found in the form of a ringfort (LH021-016001) and three souterrains (LH021-016002, LH018-043 and LH021-023). Ringforts, as the name suggests, imply a circular enclosure with a minimum of one ditch and possibly accompanying banks. They were generally circular, measuring c. 24–60 metres in diameter. Early Irish laws stated that circularity was a feature of the model ringfort (Stout 1997). With an increase in development-led excavations, however, more non-circular enclosures have also come to light, and these are largely between 50m and 70m in diameter. For this discussion, therefore, all ringforts and enclosures will be discussed under the category 'ditched enclosures'.

The majority of early medieval ditched enclosures date to the sixth to ninth centuries AD, and we see a significant decline in their use in the tenth century (O'Sullivan and Nicholl 2010). Though a site in Laytown, Co. Meath could have a fourth-century date (McConway 2002), other sites such as Ballynacarriga, Co. Cork (Noonan 2004) and Raystown, Co. Meath (Seaver 2005), were probably occupied from the fifth century well into the eleventh century.

Ditched enclosures are generally regarded as enclosed farmsteads, and at some sites, at least, the defences are thought to have been built to protect against cattle raids (Stout 1997). Some sites have provided little evidence for structures, suggesting the enclosure was used for storing cattle, known as a 'bodun', though the majority provide evidence to suggest they were inhabited settlements, with houses, farmyards, outbuildings and animals (O'Sullivan and Nicholl 2010). Excavated items retrieved from ringforts are largely of a domestic,

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craft or agricultural nature, with the ditches sometimes allowed to naturally silt up, but at other times they were filled with dumped refuse (Monk 1995). Layers of slag were dumped into the ditch at Lisleagh, Co. Cork, for example (ibid.). Some larger sites, such as Raystown, Co. Meath, fulfilled many functions, such as providing evidence for animal husbandry, cereal and grain processing, milling, burial and metal-working (Seaver 2016). Evidence from excavations shows that enclosing ditches were, in some cases, allowed to silt up and had refuse deliberately dumped into them.

Ditched enclosures are the commonest field monuments in Ireland. The majority of ditched enclosures were univallate with one bank and fosse. In many cases, the banks do not survive. There are also bivallate enclosures, for example, Cloonaboy, Co. Mayo (Gillespie and Kerrigan 2010), and multivallate enclosures, such as Garranes, Co. Cork (Ó Ríordáin 1942). Ditched enclosures tend to be situated on sloping or well-drained hilly ground with good views (Stout, 1997), and they are usually found in clusters within a townland (Edwards, 1990).

Ditched enclosures usually have an entrance at the southeast. This is to avoid the prevailing cold westerly and northerly winds that the enclosure would be exposed to (Stout 1997). The entrance passage at Rath II at Ballypalady, Co. Antrim, ranged from 0.76m at the outer end to 1.5m at the inner opening, suggesting it was not intended for keeping large livestock (O'Sullivan and Nicholl 2010). Many other sites, like at Lissachiggel, Co. Louth, had either cobbles or paving stones, providing a dry passage into the enclosure. These entrances were known in early Irish literature and legal sources as the 'airdrocht' and were to be kept clean and dry, with often observed ditches and gullies aiding such drainage (ibid.). It was also not unusual to see pathways laid within the interior, to steer movement in a particular direction and 'upon entering the site, a person was often persuaded by laid pathways to move directly and immediately to the house doorway' (ibid.).

Early medieval houses within ditched enclosures tended to be circular or round, and these would have been constructed of stone or post-and-wattle walls. The roofs were likely thatched with reeds, turf or straw. According to the eighth-century law text Críth Gablach, a typical farmer's house was 6–8 metres in diameter. Archaeological evidence shows that the majority were 4–5 metres in diameter, and some were significantly larger at 6–10 metres in diameter (O'Sullivan and Nicholl 2010). As pointed out by McCormick et al. (2011), because of the basket-like construction, any recuts or changes to these early medieval houses are rarely seen in the archaeological record. It was likely that the lifespan of a medieval house would have lasted for just a short period (20 to 30 years); however, with good maintenance, a house could have stood for 50 to 60 years (O'Sullivan and Nicholl 2010).

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Associated with enclosures and often found in their environs are fire pits, storage pits, refuse pits, cooking pits and cereal-drying kilns. O'Sullivan and Nicholls (2010) wrote that pits are 'one of the more enigmatic elements to be found within the enclosure...their function...difficult to discern. They would have been used for a variety of purposes; probably reused and cleaned out many times and countless, no doubt, had multiple functions over their lifetime' (ibid.). According to McCormick et al. (2011), cereal-drying kilns are generally not associated with ditched enclosures. However, since that study, several examples have come to light, such as at Johnstown 1, Co. Meath, Gortygrigane, Co. Tipperary and Camlin, Co. Tipperary.

Often associated with the ringforts are curvilinear field systems. At Cush, Co. Limerick, a line of rectangular fields were excavated by O Riordain (1940) that were located along the west-facing slopes of the Slieve Reagh hillside, with many of the field boundaries respecting the ringfort ditches. The field enclosures are generally long and thin, and run down the hillslope, while those at the northern end appear square in plan.

Excavations at Lough Gur in Limerick, again by Ó Ríordáin (1949), uncovered field systems associated with hut sites known as the 'Spectacles'. Each unenclosed house site was situated in a small rectangular field overlooking Lough Gur. The fields were only half an acre in size, and the field boundaries comprised double-stoned walls with rubble fills, ranging in width between 1m and 3m, except for one which was made from earth. Their close proximity to the houses and small size suggest they were probably used for tillage. Another field bank was situated up the hillside and was probably part of a wider field system used for pasture (Ó Ríordáin, 1949).

A field system of banks and ditches preceded the construction of ringforts I and II at Lisduggan North, Co Cork. Twohig (1990) suggested, however, that the older linear trenches provided the building material for a series of contemporary field banks. A third ringfort, located to the west of ringforts I and II, also postdated a series of linear banks and ditches, which were likely utilised for the construction of the early medieval field banks. The building material was used in a series of banks which enclosed a range of fields on part of Knocknass Hill. The pattern of field systems at Lisduggan North was very irregular, and Twohig (1990) has suggested that they most clearly resemble the field systems uncovered at Cush, Co. Limerick.

At Ballyutoag, Co. Antrim, a group of curvilinear enclosures, representing field systems, were associated with three smaller curvilinear enclosures which enclosed a number of hut sites. The series of curvilinear fields (Williams 1984) covered an area of approximately twenty-four acres and were formed by low earthen banks. A group of fields to the west of Enclosures I and II contained cultivation ridges. Ballyutoag was likely an upland transhumance settlement where cattle grazed during the summer months and small-scale crop husbandry was practised. Excavation of some of the hut sites produced a meagre collection of artefacts which ties in with

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the evidence from the historical sources stating that booleying was the work of the impoverished classes and mainly women and children (Patterson 1994). The finds and radiocarbon dates from the excavations confirm an early medieval date for the settlement and field systems (ibid).

A ringfort, associated with curvilinear field systems, was situated on the townland boundary between Glebe and Laughanstown, Co. Dublin. Two small ditches, radiating from the south of the enclosure, represented early medieval field enclosures. The ditches probably had low banks topped by hawthorn or blackthorn, and both species were represented in the charcoal samples. The curving hedgerow of the townland boundary complemented one of the field enclosures, suggesting an extensive, elongated field system attached to the south of the ringfort. Radiocarbon dates confirmed an early medieval date, between the seventh and ninth centuries, for one of the field boundaries (Seaver 2005).

By far the closest example of a similar site type excavated to date is the early medieval field complex at Boyerstown, Co. Meath, which was excavated in advance of the M3 motorway project. Here, five circular enclosures and an array of sub-rectangular and curvilinear enclosures were excavated. The earliest enclosure (60m x 30m) consisted of three internal divisions, and it contained no internal features or finds, except for small amounts of animal bone. One of the internal divisions cut an earlier ditch, dated to AD 460-650, so Enclosure 1 postdated this period. Enclosure 2 (45m x 25m), also sub-rectangular, cut through the S-SE extent of Enclosure 1 and was dated to AD 700-900. An annexe was visible to the north and was dated to AD 630-780. Two additional radiocarbon dates were recovered from ditch features. One ran into or was cut by Enclosure 1, which was dated to AD 580-680. A small curvilinear ditch, the function of which is unclear, was cut by Enclosure 2 and dated to AD 620-700. It is likely to have been associated with Enclosure 1. It is likely that all features on this site represent successive phases of enclosure activity and were broadly contemporary. All of the ditches probably functioned as animal enclosures, as there is an almost total absence of finds, and only a small amount of animal bone was recovered. Based on the geophysical evidence, what appears to be a ringfort is located to the northwest of the field systems and is likely related to them.

The Boyerstown field systems display a range of rectangular, sub-rectangular and curvilinear fields. It is common to find ringforts, or open settlements, from the early medieval period associated with these types of fields (see examples above), but what is unusual about the Boyerstown evidence is that the clustering of fields occurs away from the main settlement. The first and most challenging question that has to be asked is what the field systems at Boyerstown were used for. Only a tiny number of artefacts, five knives, were uncovered from the ditches at Boyerstown. No evidence of plough marks, such as ridges or furrows, was detected on either site. Animal bone was retrieved only in tiny quantities at Boyerstown, so what we are essentially dealing with are a number of successive field systems, annexes, and ditches that have returned radiocarbon dates

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between AD 460 and AD 900. It appears most likely that the fields enclosed livestock and that although the radiocarbon dates for the majority of the features, including Enclosures' I and II, the annex to Enclosure II and the small curvilinear ditch that was cut by Enclosure II, demonstrate broad contemporaneity, the geophysical signatures suggest various phases mainly concentrated within a 200-year period between the seventh and eighth centuries. It, therefore, appears that the archaeological evidence at Boyerstown represents successive phases of land enclosure where the purpose was to enclose livestock. The lack of animal bone from the ditches is not surprising, as the majority of animals were slaughtered within or close to the settlement during the early Middle Ages. Consequently, the standard retrieval of large quantities of cattle, sheep, and pig bone from the vast majority of ringfort enclosing ditches is not unexpected.

Evidence for the later medieval period is found in the area of the proposed development in the form of a deserted medieval settlement (LH021-027001) and a motte (LH021-027002), which dates to at least the 13th century. However, the Motte may have a late 12th-century date. This period is associated with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. This period saw the establishment of towns and villages, many of which still share a connection to the original placenames. Stone-built castles begin to appear in the Irish landscape, along with tower houses and an increase in stone-built churches and associated burial sites. These types of sites are primarily located in the northern part of the proposed development site.

The post-medieval period (after 1550 to the mid-19th century) in Ireland witnessed numerous upheavals, including the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland in the mid-1600s, the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, and the Great Famine in the mid-1800s. The proposed development lies c.5km outside of the northernmost site associated with the Battle of the Boyne. Changes in the agricultural landscape were evident in the form of field divisions and works aimed at improving their lands, including levelling and reclamation projects, field drainage, and other similar initiatives. These are typically evident during archaeological excavations within rural settings, presenting as stone-filled drains or backfilled ditches that represent older field boundaries. Large stone-built houses were constructed to symbolise the status of the landowner, while smaller single-story buildings were built for the lower classes. The ruins of these are often found in rural landscapes caused by depopulation during the famine, while the larger, high-status houses often remain, such as Rokeby Hall and Piperstown House.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The site was subject to a geophysical survey of the fields found suitable (25R0179; Murphy 2025, see details below). Several excavations have been conducted within the vicinity of the site (Fig. 2). To the north, in the

area in which the proposed survey is to be carried out, most of these investigations found no archaeological significance, with the apparent exception of Barry's excavations of the deserted medieval settlement mentioned above, and two which identified prehistoric pit features (Licence Nos. 03E1142 and 22E0655).

To the south, excavations associated with the construction of the M1 motorway have identified Bronze Age sites, including fulachta fiadh and enclosures, as well as an early medieval souterrain site (00E0631). Additionally, the multi-period site mentioned above, located in the present-day M1 Retail Park (05E0072), included material dating from the early Neolithic period to the Iron Age.

Listed below (Table 1) are the nearest previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the environs of the site (see Figure 2), which further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site and its surrounding townlands. The following information was taken from the *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* (www.excavations.ie), and associated reports were accessed through the National Monuments Service's (NMS) Virtual Reading Room.

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

Excavations.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
1987:38 - PIPERSTOWN, Piperstown, Louth	N/A	Settlement deserted medieval	Excavation
1995:219 - GALLSTOWN, Louth	N/A	Cultivation ridges	Monitoring
2000:0694 - MELL (1), Louth	00E0946	Fulacht Fia	Excavation
2000:0695 - MELL (2), Louth	00E0430	Burial ground and Cremation pit	Excavation
2000:0696 - MELL (3), Louth	00E0631	Souterrain and Field Boundary	Excavation
2000:0697 - MELL (5), Louth	00E0945	Fulacht Fia	Excavation
2000:0698 - MELL (6), Louth	00E0940	Prehistoric - Pit	Excavation
2000:0715 - TULLYALLEN (1), Louth	00E0429	Barrow - ring-barrow	Excavation
2000:0716 - TULLYALLEN (2), Louth	N/A	No archaeology	Test Excavations

Excavations.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
		found	
2000:0719 - TULLYALLEN (6), Louth	00E0944	Enclosure and Furnace	Excavation
2000:0717 - TULLYALLEN (4), Louth	00E0832	Burnt pit and Enclosure	Excavation
2001:869 - MELL 2, Louth	00E0430 ext.	Ring-Ditch and Enclosure	Excavation
2001:871 - MELL 4, Louth	01E0067	Fulacht Fia	Excavation
2003:1249 - DRUMSHALLON: Gallstown Quarry, Louth	02E1766 ext.	No archaeology found	Monitoring
2003:1287 - PIPERSTOWN, Louth	03E1142	Prehistoric - Pit	Excavation
2005:1084 - WATERUNDER, Mell, Louth	05E0072	Settlement cluster and Industrial site	Excavation
2016:010 - Piperstown, Louth	15E0441	No archaeology found	Monitoring
2016:316 - Piperstown, Ballymakenny, Louth	16E0114	No archaeology found	Test Excavations
2020:529 - Tullyallen, Mell, Louth	20E0088	Enclosure and Furnace	Test Excavations
2022:502 - Drumshallon, Louth	22E0655	Prehistoric - Pits	Test Excavations
2023:200 - Mell, Drogheda, Louth	23E0781	No archaeology found	Test Excavations

3.3 Geophysical survey (25R0179; Murphy 2025)

The geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy, Robert Breen, and Jeanne Rochford of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) under licence 25R0179 (see Figures 6 - 33), issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. A complete, detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the application area using a SENSYS MAGNETO MXV3 8-sensor fluxgate gradiometer cart system.

The survey identified potential archaeological features within Fields 9 and 16 that consist of a series of curvilinear features (**M1 – M2**) that may represent the remains of enclosures. Scatters of other anomalies are also labelled as potential archaeology (?Archaeology). These include a concentration of anomalies; curvilinear and linear responses, and small responses that could represent archaeological features such as pits, postholes, spreads and kilns, but could also be of a natural origin.

Features depicted on the examined Ordnance Survey mapping were also detected, including linear anomalies corresponding with former field boundaries. Linear anomalies that are not recorded field boundaries were also detected, and they likely represent pre-OS field systems, drains or paths/access routes.

Below is an extract from the report (Murphy 2025) detailing survey results and anomalies identified:

Table 2: Geophysical survey results

Anomaly No.	Form/Nature of Anomaly	Possible Source(s) of Anomaly	Description
M1	?Archaeology	Curvilinear ditch/enclosure?	A faint positive curvilinear feature in Field 16 that may represent the remains of a possible enclosure ditch. It measures 43m in width east-west. The anomaly is situated in the northwest of the field in close proximity to an annotated well or 'tobertheorin' (well of the boundary) on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map and may represent changes in underlying geology. (Figure 26).
M2	?Archaeology	Enclosure/early field system	Partial remains of a number of positive linear and curvilinear features along the southwestern boundary of Field 9 that may represent the remains of a possible settlement or enclosure site. An L-shaped ditch extends beyond the survey limits to the north and west. This features two adjoining

Anomaly No.	Form/Nature of Anomaly	Possible Source(s) of Anomaly	Description
			curvilinear ditches to the east and west that also extend beyond the survey limits. (Figure 24).
-	?Archaeology	Small to medium anomalies: pits, posts, spreads, kilns, cut features	A series of positive anomalies occur sporadically across the survey area. These might represent cut features such as pits, postholes, spreads, kilns, or other types of archaeological features. May also be natural in origin.
-	Linear features	Former field boundaries	Positive linear anomalies throughout the survey area that correspond with former field boundaries depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map, surveyed 1836, and the third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map, surveyed 1910.
-	Linear features	Early field systems	Positive linear anomalies across the survey area that may represent former field divisions that are not depicted on OS mapping.
-	Buried service	Linear trends	Dipolar linear trends that likely represent buried services such as water pipes, gas, electric etc; Fields 16, 17, 20, and 21.
-	Magnetic disturbance	Modern disturbance	Increased magnetic disturbance occurring along field boundaries and occasional scatters of increased dipolar responses.
-	Ferrous	Magnetic disturbance from modern debris	Bipolar anomalies sporadically occurring that are associated with magnetic interference from modern ferrous material, either in the topsoil or the surface of the survey area.
-	Natural/underlying geology	Natural/changes in the underlying geology	Sporadically occurring bands of dipolar anomalies that likely correspond to changes in underlying geology.

3.4 Recorded Monuments

The *Record of Monuments and Places* (RMP) and *Sites and Monuments Record* (SMR) are compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service. The RMP comprises manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county, accompanied by maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) that locate these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer. The last published RMP for County Louth is dated 1997, and as such, many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

There is one recorded archaeological monument, as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), located within the proposed development site boundary: LH021-014 - A standing stone at Drumshallon - LH021-014.

Below (Table 3) is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the site (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Table 3: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

LH018-042	Enclosure	Stonehenge
<p>Marked as a large enclosure on a hilltop on Taylor and Skinner's map of 1777. No visible surface trace.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 706658, 784975</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.803371, -6.380778</p>		
LH018-043	Souterrain	Rokeyby
<p>Local tradition of a 'cave' in a tree-ring. Now destroyed. (IFC Schools MSS 674, 157).</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 708358, 785645</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.809038, -6.354746</p>		

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LH021-009	Standing stone	KEARNEYSTOWN
<p>A small standing stone (max. dims. H 1.2m; 0.6m by 0.2m in section).</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 707098, 784206</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.796373, -6.374368</p>		
LH021-010	Mass-rock	KEARNEYSTOWN
<p>The W edge of a piece of rock outcrop, on the N edge of a hillock, has a carving of a small cross with the foot expanded to depict a possible chalice. Also carved on the rock is a name (C. Dolan) and date (1866). In addition, there is what appears to be a word in Irish. According to local information in the 1930's, Oliver Plunkett is supposed to have said mass here.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 707458, 784535</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.799254, -6.368792</p>		
LH021-011	Ritual site – holy well	GALLSTOWN
<p>Marked on the 1912 'OS 6-inch' map as 'Toberanelshy'. Also referred to as 'Tober an Eleshy'</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Toberanelshy'</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 707683, 784237</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.796531, -6.365482</p>		
LH021-012	Burial ground	CARTANSTOWN
<p>Local tradition of a graveyard to S of Cartanstown Lough.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition:</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition:</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 707597, 783460</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.789569, -6.367058</p>		
LH021-014	Standing stone	DRUMSHALLON

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Situated on lower S slope of broad E-W ridge called 'Carnanbreaga'. Large slab of shale (max. dims. H 2.3m, 1.3m by 0.2m in section) orientated E-W.

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.

Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Standing Stone'

ITM Coordinates: 707992, 783542

Latitude and Longitude: 53.790224, -6.361037

LH021-015

Standing stone

DRUMSHALLON

Situated on the upper E slopes of a high outcrop ridge called 'Carnanbreaga'. The stone is roughly rectangular in plan (H 1.6m, 0.9m by 0.4m in section) with the narrow sides orientated E-W. There are some recent scored marks at the NE corner but also the weathered remains of what may be an ogham inscription at a height of 0.5-1.25m.

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.

Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Standing Stone'

ITM Coordinates: 708341, 783887

Latitude and Longitude: 53.793250, -6.355622

LH021-016001

Ringfort - rath

BRITTAS

Sub-circular area (int. dims. 33m E-W, 31.5m N-S) enclosed by earthen bank (Wth 10.5m, H 1.7m internally, 4m externally) with traces of external U-shaped fosse (Wth 10m, D 1.5m). Fosse replaced by modern lane from SSW-W. The degraded bank has many gaps, but the gap to NNE is probably the original entrance (Wth 3.7m). Tradition of souterrain (LH021-016002-) at site.

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.

ITM Coordinates: 709538, 784500

Latitude and Longitude: 53.798506, -6.337244

LH021-016002

Souterrain

BRITTAS

Local tradition of a 'cave' in ringfort (LH021-016001-).

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.

ITM Coordinates: 709537, 784499

Latitude and Longitude: 53.798497, -6.337260

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LH021-018001	Church	DRUMSHALLON
<p>Undivided nave and chancel (int. dims. c. 17.25m by c. 6.80m), built of uncoursed limestone slabs, boulders and greywacke. The building has been heavily buttressed on all four corners and along the S wall. It has a doorway in the S wall (W end) and a window in the E gable, but is otherwise featureless. The doorway is still intact but is obviously rebuilt since it has a straight joint c. 50cm to the E of the E jamb running the full height of the wall. There is a reveal on each side of the doorway and the jambs are constructed with a hard grey sandstone. The arch is two-centred, built of limestone slabs, and has a keystone.</p> <p>When the church was inspected and recorded in 1966 by the Archaeological Survey the remains of a three-light E window could be seen, but when visited in 1985 this had collapsed outwards and had been partly covered by large stones from field clearance. It was apparently a single-light lancet window with a two-centred arch of sandstone with a blocked light on each side. It seems originally to have had a large three-light window with hard grey sandstone, chamfered and diagonally tooled, possibly of late thirteenth-century date. Little remains of the featureless N and W walls. The remains are probably basically of a sixteenth-century date, but parts of the doorway and E window indicate some late thirteenth-century building.</p> <p>The church had the remains of a graveyard around it and part of a low earthen bank to its E which may have been the remnants of an early enclosure (LH021-018002-), but this has now been levelled. Holy Trinity Priory, Dublin, had a cell of three canons of the Church of St Mary's, Drumshallon, but it was suppressed in 1240-6 and became parochial.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: 'Church' (in ruins)</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Church' (in Ruins)</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 709290, 783589</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.790375, -6.341330</p>		
LH021-018002	Ecclesiastical enclosure	DRUMSHALLON
<p>The remains of an irregular shaped low earthen bank around the church (LH021-018001-) was visible when inspected by ASI in 1966 (ASI field note 28 June 1966). The SE segment was faced with stone. This bank may have been the remnants of an early enclosure, but has since been levelled.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 709293, 783586</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.790347, -6.341286</p>		

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LH021-018003	Graveyard	DRUMSHALLON
<p>Irregular shaped graveyard (map dims. max. L 80m; max Wth 50m) with church remains (LH021-018001-) in N half. Only one possible graveslab was visible in graveyard when inspected by ASI in 1966, however there were two graveslabs inside church, one dating to 1675 and the other dating to 1760.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Graveyard'</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 709296, 783578</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.790275, -6.341243</p>		
LH021-018004	Graveslab	DRUMSHALLON
<p>Graveslab dedicated to Walter Eccleston of Drumshallon and dated 1675, located inside church (LH021-018001-).</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 709298, 783591</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.790391, -6.341208</p>		
LH021-023	Souterrain	CARTANSTOWN
<p>Local tradition of a 'cave' to N of Cartanstown House.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 707608, 783306</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.788183, -6.366945</p>		
LH021-024	Standing stone	PIPERSTOWN
<p>Situated in flat pasture. Large block of limestone (max. dims. H 2.5m, 1.7m by 1.5m in section) with long axis orientated NNW-SSE. The ENE face of the stone is covered by small depressions resembling cup marks, but these appear to be natural solution-holes.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Standing Stone'</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 708051, 782797</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.783519, -6.360403</p>		

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LH021-027001	Settlement deserted - medieval	PIPERSTOWN
<p>Locally known as 'Mullavilla', situated on high ground which falls away to the N and S, and consisting of a complex of irregular platforms and enclosures. The site covers c. seven acres in extent and has been disturbed by the cutting of a modern trackway across its central portion. Five irregular platforms can be identified. Most are rectangular or sub-rectangular (Wth c. 5m, L 5-15m) and some have slight evidence for enclosing banks. The enclosures vary considerably in size, shape and form, the smallest being almost 14m square with enclosing banks, others being large sub-rectangular sunken areas. There is no regular pattern or scheme, such as the association of platforms with the enclosures, and no obvious evidence for a sunken way. Motte LH021-027002- is situated just to the E, giving credence to the interpretation of this site as a deserted medieval village. However, an archaeological excavation of a limited area of the site in 1987, directed by T.B. Barry, indicated that it may be a post medieval rather than a medieval desertion.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition:</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition:</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 708508, 782566</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.781349, -6.353553</p>		
LH021-027002	Castle - motte	PIPERSTOWN
<p>A small, almost oval, flat-topped mound (dims 18m N-S; 31m E-W at base; H 4.5m) which has been quarried extensively at the NNE side and disturbed at the W and S by the building of a modern boundary wall. There is no evidence for a fosse or bailey and the immediate area around the mound has been intensively cultivated. A possible deserted medieval village (LH021-027001-) lies just to the W of the motte.</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 708596, 782549</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.781178, -6.352224</p>		
LH021-052	Fulacht fia	PIPERSTOWN
<p>Area of burnt stones and charcoal uncovered during ploughing, 100m NE of standing stone (LH021-024----).</p> <p>Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.</p> <p>ITM Coordinates: 708108, 782846</p> <p>Latitude and Longitude: 53.783948, -6.359521</p>		
LH021-084	Excavation - miscellaneous	PIPERSTOWN

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A pair of conjoined pits in a figure-of-eight form, were identified while excavating drains in advance of plantation (Excavation Licence No. 03E1142). Pit 1, (Wth 0.95m NW/SE; D 0.13m) was lined with large stones and contained charcoal rich soil with fragments of burnt bone, the base was fire-reddened. Pit 2 (Wth 0.72m NW/SE; D 0.08m) contained occasional stones and charcoal rich soil. A small flue fed into both pits.

Six-Inch First edition: Not indicated.

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated.

ITM Coordinates: 708198, 782556

Latitude and Longitude: 53.781324, -6.358258

3.5 Record of Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) identifies, records, and evaluates the post-1700 architecture of Ireland in order to protect and conserve our built heritage. It is under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It also forms the basis of a list for structures that should be included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) compiled by local authorities.

A Protected Structure is a structure that a planning authority think is of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. The structure is recognised as important and is protected from harm under legislation. Every local authority in Ireland must keep an RPS in their development plans.

The site contains no protected structures. However, the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 lists seven protected structures located within 1km of the survey area (Figure 2). These structures comprise buildings from Rokeby Hall demesne including:

- Rokeby Hall (RPS Ref: Lhs018-019; NIAH Ref: 13901802) which is given a National Rating by the NIAH; Rokeby Hall Gates and Railings (RPS Ref: Lhs018-035; NIAH Ref: 13901801), Coach House RPS Ref: Lhs018-018; NIAH Ref: 13901803) and Gate Lodge (RPS Ref: Lhs018-035; NIAH Ref: 13901809).
- Stonehouse Estate (RPS Ref: Lhs021-006; NIAH Ref: 13902110) and a thatched Cottage at Stonehouse RPS Ref: Lhs021-005).
- Cartanstown House (RPS Ref: Lhs021-007; NIAH Ref: 13902111).
- Piperstown House and Gate Lodge (RPS Ref: Lhs021-015; NIAH Ref: 13902112).

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3.6 Finds listed within the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland 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 other physical remains or documentary references.

There are nine finds listed for Piperstown, including seven flints (NMI Reg. No. 2015C1:28.1-7), a tinned copper alloy button (1991C1:146), and a silver sixpence coin (NMI Reg. No. 1991C1:157).

Details of these finds are outlined in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Stray finds

Register Number	Simple Name	Material	Details
1991C1:146	Button	Tinned copper alloy	Composite tinned copper alloy button. Featuring harp on front, stamped 'Gaunt London' on reverse.
1991C1:157	Coin	Silver	Silver sixpence. Elizabeth I, 1592. Containing box found to be conflicting with file regarding findplace, originally recorded as Piperstown, Co. Louth with accompanying OS location map. Box findplace was given as Ballyduagh, Co Tipperary, no evidence in files to support this.
2015C1:28.1	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Sub-circular in shape. Upper surface is smooth. Underside is rough. From surface of the flint nodule. No shaping on edges. Flint is orange in colour. Three facets on upper surface. White cortex visible on edges. Dimensions: L: 5.0 M W: 4.9 M T: 0.9. Rynne Collection.
2015C1:28.2	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Sub-rectangular. Surfaces are smooth. White cortex visible on underside. Concave on lower edge. Bottom edge is sharp from the break. Flint is orange in colour. Dimensions: L: 3.7 M W: 2.5 M T: 0.7. Rynne Collection
2015C1:28.3	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Flint artefact. Flake. Triangular in shape. Smooth on both surfaces. Ripples of percussion evident on underside. Edges are sharp. Flint is orange in colour. Dimensions: L: 3.3 M W: 1.8 M T: 0.4. Rynne Collection.

Register Number	Simple Name	Material	Details
2015C1:28.4	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Circular in shape. Surfaces are smooth. Underside is curved. Cortex visible. White/black in colour. No sign of shaping. Flint is grey in colour. Dimensions: L: 3.2 M W: 2.7 M T: 1.4. Rynne Collection
2015C1:28.5	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Sub-rectangular in shape. Upper surface is smooth. Small bit of white cortex on right edge. Two facets on upper edge. Left side of surface is uneven. Underside is curved. White cortex visible. No sign of shaping. Flint is orange in colour. Dimensions: L: 2.7 M W: 1.6 M T: 1.0. Rynne Collection
2015C1:28.6	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Sub-rectangular in shape and concave. Upper surface rough. Underside is curved. Red and white cortex visible. Cortex also visible on edges. No signs of shaping. Flint is orange in colour. Dimensions: L: 2.5 M W: 1.6 M T: 0.8. Rynne Collection.
2015C1:28.7	Flint	Flint	7 Flints. Os6sheetNo. 21. Flint artefact. Sub-circular in shape. Upper surface is flat and smooth. Evidence of rippling. Underside is curved and smooth. Black and white cortex visible. Flint is black/dark grey in colour. Dimensions: n: 2.3 M W: 2.0 M T: 1.1. Rynne Collection.

3.7 Cartographic Evidence

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include the Ordnance Survey (OS) of Ireland (now Tailte Éireann) 6-inch (surveyed 1834 - published 1836) and 25-inch (surveyed 1908 - published 1910) maps (Figures 3 - 4). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are often marked on such maps, and they can provide a helpful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

No archaeological or cultural heritage features are visible within the proposed development site on the examined mapping, beyond those previously discussed in the previous sections.

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3.8 Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2018 from Tailte Éireann were assessed, along with Google Earth imagery dating between 2005 and 2024. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field, particularly during periods of drought, such as those experienced in the summer of 2018. While in built-up or urban areas, such as towns and cities, aerial images can help trace changes in the layouts of buildings and roads.

No archaeological or cultural heritage features are shown within the proposed development site on the examined mapping.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Test Excavation

Test excavation was carried out in accordance with the *IAI Code of Conduct for Archaeological Assessment Excavation* (Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland 2006a). All trenches were excavated to natural by a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist (Donald Murphy).

All spoil from the trenches was also examined for artefacts.

4.2 Conditions

Weather throughout the duration of the on-site works was mainly sunny, hot and dry, but with occasional showers. However, a safe means of access to the site was maintained at all times. Cattle were present in the field(s) during the test trenching.

4.3 Constraints on Methods

Rocky outcrops were evident throughout this site. This marginally impacted the length of some trenches (Trench 70), but particularly impacted Trench 92. A large outcrop of rock was potentially identified as an archaeological feature. This was not the case, and it was not possible to excavate a test trench through this feature as the rocks were too large. Two separate trenches were excavated in close proximity and were

labelled Trench 92a and Trench 92b. The presence of the gas pipeline also impacted the location/length of some trenches. The GNI inspector insisted that the trenches needed to be 50m from the gas pipeline. This resulted in changes to Trenches 45, 46 and Trench 88. Trench 36 was shortened due to the presence of gorse. Trenches 23-28 were all located under an area of imported material (up to 4m in places) and couldn't be excavated without first removing the fill which wasn't practical given the available programme.

5. TEST EXCAVATION RESULTS

Table 5: Trench descriptions

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
1	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
2	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
3	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
4	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to a very steep gradient and was located at the entrance point to a field.
5	36	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-brown boulder clay with lots of stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 1)
6	40	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 2)
7	41	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 3)
8	39	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-brown boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 4)
9	59	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-brown boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 5)

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Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
10	41	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-brown boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 6)
11	39	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 7)
12	83	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 8)
13	102	0.40	The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. Stone filled land drain found. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 9 & 10)
14	100	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 11)
15	102	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. Stone filled land drain found. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 12 & 13)
16	38	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 14)
17	40	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 15)
18	41	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-brown natural boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 16)
19	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
20	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
21	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
22	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
23	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
24	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
25	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
26	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
27	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
28	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large mound of earth, gravel etc. Clay pigeon shooting range located here. (Pl. 119 & 120)
29	40	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.22m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 20)
30	40	0.40	The topsoil had a depth of 0.33m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. Rock outcrop at the centre. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 21)
31	40	0.60	The topsoil had a depth of 0.41m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. Rock outcrops were visible throughout. Trampled by cows. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 22)
32	40	0.40	The topsoil had a depth of 0.22m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 23)
33	22	0.45	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. Rock outcrops were visible throughout. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 24)
34	38	0.80	The topsoil had a depth of 0.4m and was removed onto a black bog 0.4m onto rock. It started to flood, so the trench was abandoned due to the risk of a waterlogged backfilled trench.

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Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
			No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 25 & 26)
35	40	0.35	The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a yellowish-orange boulder clay, mottled with coarse gravel. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 40)
36	21	0.50	The topsoil had a depth of 0.50m and was removed onto a yellowish-orange boulder clay, mottled with coarse gravel. Eight postholes were identified (C3601) (Fig. 25). C3601 – Arc or line of 8 postholes extending east to west at the west end of the trench. Extended over a length of 9m. The postholes were all filled with brown clay and charcoal. They varied in diameter from 0.50 to 70m and were all circular or oval in shape. They appeared to arc slightly, suggesting they are on the northern side of a circular feature that extends further south. (Pl. 41)
37	40	0.45	The topsoil had a depth of 0.45m and was removed onto a yellowish-orange boulder clay, mottled with coarse gravel. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 42)
38	N/A	N/A	Trench not excavated due to being located at the entrance point to several fields.
39	130	0.50	The topsoil had a depth of 0.50m and was removed onto a yellowish-orange, coarse, gravelly clay at the southern end, changing to a light, bluish-grey marl in the centre and returning to a yellowish-orange, coarse, gravelly clay at the northern end. A cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907), a stakehole (C3905), and an area of burning (C3903) were visible toward the northern end of the trench (Fig. 28). C3901 - Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. Part of a cluster of 5 potholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). C3902 - Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. Part of a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). C3903 - Area of burning measuring 0.50m in length by 0.60m in width, surrounded by a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) and a stakehole (C3905). C3904 - Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. Part of a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903).

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
			<p>C3905 - Cut of a stakehole measuring 0.06m by 0.06m. Part of a cluster of postholes surrounding an area of burning (C3903).</p> <p>C3906 - Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.15m by 0.15m. Part of a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903).</p> <p>C3907 - Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. First in a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). Upper deposit consisted of a mid-brownish black with occasional pebbles and charcoal fragments. (Pl. 43 & 44)</p>
40	130	0.40	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed to a yellowish-orange gravelly clay at the end of the trench. As the trench sloped down the ridge to the Northern end, it changed to a light, bluish-grey marl.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 45 & 46)</p>
41	217	0.40	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.40 m and was removed onto a yellowish-orange boulder clay, mixed with coarse gravel and occasional outcrops. An area of burning (C4101) was identified (Fig. 27).</p> <p>C4101 - A significant area of burning was located halfway down the trench, in close proximity to the location of the burnt spread in Trench 42. It was filled with frequent charcoal fragments and burnt stones. A bout 1m by 1m in size. (Pl. 47 & 48)</p>
42	221	0.40	<p>The trench extended from near the top of an E-W ridge at the Northern end to a low-lying area in the centre and back up to a lower E-W ridge at the Southern end. The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m, and it was removed onto an orange-brown boulder clay at the northern end, outcropping rock marks in the centre, and boulder clay at the southern end. A burnt stone spread (C4202) and a linear (C4201) were identified (Fig. 26 & 27).</p> <p>C4201 – NW to SE linear filled with grey brown clay. Measured 1m in width. Fragment of red brick recovered from fill, which was very loose and soft. Interpreted as agricultural.</p> <p>C4202 - Burnt stone spread measuring 9m in length north-south and extending beyond the trench to the east and west. Consisted of lots of charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone. Depth of spread where tested was 0.30m. (Pl. 49 & 50)</p>

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
43	106	0.40	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a yellow gravelly clay. 3 separate burnt spreads were identified (C4301-C4303) (Fig. 26 & 27).</p> <p>C4301 - Cut of burnt spread measuring 2m in length by 1m in width. It was located at the northern end of the trench. It was a possible continuation of the burnt spread (C4202) recorded in Trench 42.</p> <p>C4302 - Cut of a burnt spread measuring 1.3m by 0.6m in width. Located close to the burnt spread C4303 at the Southern end of Trench 43. Filled with burnt stones, charcoal fragments and a black sandy clay</p> <p>C4303 - Cut of a sub-circular burnt spread measuring 2.7m in length by 0.50m in width. The upper deposit consisted of a black, sandy clay with frequent charcoal fragments and numerous burnt, medium-sized, subangular pebbles. Located at the Southern end of Trench 43.</p> <p>(Pl. 51 & 52)</p>
44	N/A	N/A	Trench could not be excavated due to land access issues.
45	51	0.20	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 53)</p>
46	71	0.29	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 54)</p>
47	101	0.15	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.15 m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange-brown, sandy boulder clay interspersed.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 55)</p>
48	124	0.50	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.50m and was removed onto an orange-grey boulder clay.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 56)</p>
49	130	0.30	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto an orange-grey boulder clay.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 57)</p>
50	228	0.40	<p>The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed onto an orange-grey boulder clay.</p> <p>No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 58)</p>

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
51	200	0.15	The topsoil had a depth of 0.15 m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange-brown, sandy boulder clay interspersed. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 59)
52	125	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange brown sandy boulder clay interspersed. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 60)
53	116	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange brown sandy boulder clay interspersed. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 61)
54	44	0.15	The topsoil had a depth of 0.15 m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange-brown, sandy boulder clay interspersed. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 62)
55	36	0.15	The topsoil had a depth of 0.15 m and was removed onto a limestone shaly bedrock with some pockets of orange-brown, sandy boulder clay interspersed. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 63)
56	14	0.40	The topsoil had a depth of 0.40m and was removed onto an orange brown sandy boulder clay. The trench was located at the south base of a small, low ridge of bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 64)
56a	33.6	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a grey-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 65)
57	13	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a grey-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 66)
58	16	0.40	The topsoil had a depth of 0.40 m and was removed onto an orange-grey clay. No evidence of M1 as identified in the geophysical survey. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 67)

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
59	16	0.10	The topsoil had a depth of 0.10m and was removed onto a brownish-grey boulder clay. No evidence of M1 as identified in the geophysical survey. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 68)
60	14	0.20	The topsoil had a depth of 0.20 m and was removed onto an orange-brown boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 69)
61	26	0.30	The topsoil had a depth of 0.30 m and was removed onto a greyish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 70)
62	40	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay at the N end and a yellowish-grey clay at the S end. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 71)
63	32	0.50	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.50m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. Rock outcrop at the S end. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 72)
64	48	0.30	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.30m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 73)
65	25	0.50	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.50 m and was removed onto a mottled, orangish-blue marl. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 74)
66	15	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 75)
67	40	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 76)
68	43	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 77)

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
69	45	0.50	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.50m and was removed onto a brownish-orange boulder clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 78)
70	15	0.30	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.30m and was removed onto an orangish-brown boulder clay. Trench 70 was split into two (Trench 70a) due to a hedgerow/field boundary. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 79)
70a	25	0.42	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.25m and was removed onto a brownish-orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 80)
71	40	0.48	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.28m and was removed onto a brownish-orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 81)
72	50	0.50	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.22m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 82)
73	40	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.42m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 83)
74	40	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a compact, orange clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 84)
75	40	0.42	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.25m and was removed onto a compact, orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 85)
76	40	0.42	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.25m and was removed onto a grey clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 86)
77	91	0.55	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay, shale, and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 87)

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
78	91	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40-0.50m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay, shale, and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 88)
79	91	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.50m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay, shale, and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 89)
80	91	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.50m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay, shale, and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 90)
81	39	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.20-0.40m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay, shale and decayed stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 91)
82	27	0.60	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.30m and was removed onto an orange clay. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 92)
83	40	0.50	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.30m and was removed onto an orange sandy clay and rock outcrops. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 93)
84	N/A	N/A	Not excavated due to presence of rock outcrops and overhead electricity wires.
85	23	0.10	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.10m and was removed onto shale and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 94)
86	34	0.10	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.10m and was removed onto shale and rock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 95)
87a	35	0.20	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a very compact orange clay and stone. Concrete and possibly gravel were visible. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 18)
87b	12	0.80	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.60m and was removed onto a very compact orange clay and stone.

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Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
			No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 19)
88	40	0.30	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.20m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and rock. Very rocky terrain. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 17)
89	25	0.45	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.36m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 27)
90	20	0.30	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.22m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 28)
91	15	0.10	The topsoil was just sod sitting on natural shale and rock outcrop. Difficult to excavate. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 29)
92	-	-	Not excavated as it was located across a stone circle feature. Two trenches were excavated and recorded as Trench 92a and Trench 92b.
92a	24	0.45	Dug to the north of the stone circle feature. The topsoil had a depth of 0.45m and was removed onto a compact orange clay and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 30)
92b	20	0.42	The topsoil had a depth of 0.42m and was removed onto a compact orange clay, shake and stone. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 31)
93	50	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.27m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 32)
94	24	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.27m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 33)
95	30	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.25m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 34)

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
96	15	0.45	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 35)
97	24	0.40	The topsoil had an average depth of 0.35m and was removed onto a compact mixture of orange clay, shale, and bedrock. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 36)
98	74	0.50	The topsoil had a maximum depth of 0.50 m and was removed onto a grey, creamy, natural marl over the NE end of the trench and outcropping rock at the SW end. The trench was located in a low-lying area. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 37 & 38)
99	68	0.40	The topsoil had a maximum depth of 0.40 m and was removed to reveal a grey marl throughout, with some outcropping rock visible in places. The trench was located in a low-lying area. No archaeology was identified. (Pl. 37)
100	90	0.50	The trench was excavated south from the very top of the east-west running ridge. The trench sloped gradually to the south from the top. The topsoil had a maximum depth of 0.50m onto the natural orange boulder clay and shattered bedrock/shale at the very top. Features identified on the geophysical survey were detected (C10001, C10002), along with additional archaeological features (C10003, C10004) (Fig. 29 & 30). C10001 – Ditch. It measured 1.2-1.5m in width and ran east-west through the trench but curved northwards at the east end. Filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. Aligns with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10101 in Trench 101. C10002 – Ditch. It measured 2.2 m in width and was aligned east-west. Aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. There appears to be at least two fills. Along the north side, a light brown clay measuring 0.80m in width was identified along the north edge. The remaining part of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clay with lots of stone and charcoal. C10003 - Large circular pit on upper break of southern slope of east-west running ridge. It measured 0.8m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay and charcoal. Located 8m south of the outer ditch of a rectangular enclosure shown on the Geophysical survey (C10002). C10004 - Large circular pit at base of southern slope of east-west running ridge. It measured 0.95m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay,

Table 5Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
			<p>charcoal, and some burnt sandstone. Highly likely that other features occur outside the trench.</p> <p>(Pl. 38)</p>
101	45	0.40	<p>The trench was aligned east-west along the top of the ridge through a geophysical anomaly. Testing results confirmed the geophysical survey. The topsoil had a maximum depth of 0.40m and was removed onto a natural orange boulder clay. Several north-south linear features were identified (Fig. 29).</p> <p>C10101 – Linear feature. Ran north-south through the trench and was aligned with a geophysical anomaly - what looks like a circular ring ditch. Corresponds with C10001 in Trench 100. Measures 1.2m in max width and was filled with brown clay containing stone.</p> <p>C10102 – Ditch. North-south aligned ditch that corresponds with a geophysical rectangular anomaly and also with C10002 in Trench 100. Filled with brown clay and contained a large flat stone in its upper fill. Ditch measures 1.80m in max width.</p> <p>C10103 – Linear feature. North-south aligned linear filled with brown clay and small stones. Measures 1.10m in max width.</p> <p>C10104 – Linear feature. Ran north-south through the trench. Very close to linear C10103. Filled with a mid-greyish brown clay and small stones. Measures 1.10m in max width.</p> <p>(Pl. 39)</p>

Table 6: Context descriptions

Context	Trench	Field	Basic Description
C1	-	-	Topsoil
C2	-	-	Natural
C3601	Trench 36	9	<p>Arc or line of 8 postholes extending east to west at the west end of the trench. Extended over a length of 9m. The postholes were all filled with brown clay and charcoal. They varied in diameter from 0.50 to 70m and were all circular or oval in shape. They appeared to arc slightly, suggesting they are on the northern side of a circular feature that extends further south. (Pl. 97)</p>

Context	Trench	Field	Basic Description
C3901	Trench 39	9	Cut of a pothole measuring 0.2m in length by 0.2m in width. Part of a cluster of 5 potholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). (Pl. 98)
C3902	Trench 39	9	Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. Part of a cluster of postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). (Pl. 99)
C3903	Trench 39	9	Area of burning measuring 0.5m in length by 0.6m in width, surrounded by a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) and a stakehole (C3905). (Pl. 100)
C3904	Trench 39	9	Cut of a circular posthole part of a cluster at the northern end of the trench. Measured 0.20m by 0.20m. Part of a cluster of postholes surrounding (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) an area of burning (C3903). (Pl. 101)
C3905	Trench 39	9	Cut of a stakehole measuring 0.06m by 0.06m. Part of a cluster of postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). (Pl. 102)
C3906	Trench 39	9	Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.15m by 0.15m. Part of a cluster of postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). (Pl. 103)
C3907	Trench 39	9	Cut of a circular posthole measuring 0.20m in length by 0.20m in width. First in a cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907) surrounding an area of burning (C3903). Upper deposit consisted of a mid-brownish black with occasional pebbles and charcoal fragments. (Pl. 104)
C4101	Trench 41	9	A significant area of burning was located halfway down the trench, in close proximity to the location of the burnt spread in Trench 42. It was filled with frequent charcoal fragments and burnt stones. Measures about 1m by 1m. (Pl. 105)
C4201	Trench 42	9	NW to SE linear filled with grey brown clay. Measured 1m in width. Fragment of red brick recovered from fill, which was very loose and soft. Interpreted as agricultural. (Pl. 110)
C4202	Trench 42	9	Burnt stone spread measuring 9m in length north-south and extending beyond the trench to the east and west. Consisted of lots of charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone. The depth of spread, as tested, was 0.30m. (Pl. 106)

Context	Trench	Field	Basic Description
C4301	Trench 43	9	Cut of burnt spread measuring 2m in length by 1m in width. It was located at the northern end of the trench. It was a possible continuation of the burnt spread (C4202) recorded in Trench 42. (Pl. 107)
C4302	Trench 43	9	Cut of a burnt spread measuring 1.30m by 0.60m in width. Located close to the burnt spread C4303 at the Southern end of Trench 43. Filled with burnt stones, charcoal fragments and a black sandy clay. (Pl. 108)
C4303	Trench 43	9	Cut of a sub-circular burnt spread measuring 2.7m in length by 0.50m in width. The upper deposit consisted of a black, sandy clay with frequent charcoal fragments and numerous burnt, medium-sized, subangular pebbles. Located at the Southern end of Trench 43. (Pl. 109)
C10001	Trench 100	9	Ditch. It measured 1.20-1.50m in width and ran east-west through the trench, but curved northwards at the eastern end. Filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. Aligns with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10101 in Trench 101. (Pl.111)
C10002	Trench 100	9	Ditch. It measured 2.2m in width and was aligned east-west. Aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. There appears to be at least two fills. Along the north side, a light brown clay measuring 0.80m in width was identified along the north edge. The remaining part of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clay that contained numerous stones and charcoal. (Pl. 112)
C10003	Trench 100	9	Large circular pit on the upper break of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.80m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay and charcoal. Located 8m south of the outer ditch of a rectangular enclosure shown on the Geophysical survey (C10002). (Pl. 113)
C10004	Trench 100	9	Large circular pit at base of southern slope of east-west running ridge. It measured 0.95m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay, charcoal, and some burnt sandstone. Other features likely occur outside the trench. (Pl. 114)
C10101	Trench 101	9	Linear feature. Ran north-south through the trench and was aligned with a geophysical anomaly - what looks like a circular ring ditch. Corresponds with C10001 in Trench 100. Measures 1.2m in max width and filled with brown clay containing stone.

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Context	Trench	Field	Basic Description
			Linear feature. North-south aligned linear filled with brown clay and small stones. Measures 1.10m in max width. (Pl. 115)
C10102	Trench 101	9	Ditch. North-south aligned ditch that corresponds with a geophysical rectangular anomaly and also with C10002 in Trench 100. Filled with brown clay and contained a large flat stone in its upper fill. The ditch measured 1.8m in maximum width. (Pl. 116)
C10103	Trench 101	9	Linear feature. North-south aligned linear filled with brown clay and small stones. Measures 1.10m in max width. (Pl. 117)
C10104	Trench 101	9	Linear feature. North-south aligned linear filled with a brown clay with frequent small subangular stones. Corresponds with an anomaly present on the geophysical survey that appears to return westwards just south of the trench. Measures about 1.10m in width. (Pl. 118)

6. MATERIAL CULTURE

No archaeological objects or finds were recovered, and no palaeo-environmental samples were taken.

7. CHRONOLOGY/DATING

No artefacts were recovered from this site to date, and therefore, precise dating of all the features identified within the site was not possible. The only generally dateable feature identified was the burnt stone spreads (Trench 42 and Trench 43). Burnt spreads are usually indicative of a burnt mound / fulacht fiadh. The type of archaeological feature suggests Bronze Age activity (2500 BC to 500 BC). Burnt mounds are a characteristic feature of the Bronze Age; the vast majority of excavated burnt mound sites date from between 1800 BC and 800 BC. However, some do appear to have been used later. The remaining features are considered on present evidence to be of prehistoric date due to the absence of later artefactual material and animal bone but this suggestion is very tentative.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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All of the identified archaeology was contained within Field 9, which was located towards the centre/southern extent of the proposed development. Archaeology was identified in Trenches 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 100 and 101 (Fig. 25 – 30) and consisted of the following;

Trench 36 - An arc of 8 postholes (C3601).

Trench 39 - Five postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907), a stakehole (C3905), and an area of burning (C3903).

Trench 41 - An area of burning (C4101).

Trench 42 - A linear (C4201) and a burnt spread (C4202).

Trench 43 - three burnt spreads (C4301-C4301), which were possibly related to the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42.

Trench 100 – Two ditches (C10001, C10002), and two pits (C10003, C10004).

Trench 101 – Three linear features (C10102, C10103, C10104) and a ring ditch (C10101).

The proposed development has the potential to impact all the aforementioned features. No additional features were found throughout the remainder of the development, and there will be no archaeological impact. Further areas that were not available due to the presence of crops do however require geophysical survey and test excavation at a future date.

9. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This report details the results of test excavations carried out at Kellystown Windfarm (ITM 707980, 783365). The proposed development and associated works are located 8.3km north of Drogheda, and 23.6km south of Dundalk. In its entirety, the development and associated works cover 64.5 hectares, predominantly situated in a rural setting with low-density housing. The site comprises 25 fields within the townlands of Drumshallon, Gallstown, Kearneystown, Stonehouse, Swinestown and Piperstown.

Test trenching was carried out by Donald Murphy under licence 25E0571. All of the identified archaeology was contained within Field 9, which was located towards the centre/southern extent of the proposed development. Archaeology was identified in **Trenches 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 100 and 101** (Fig. 25 – 30) and consisted of the following;

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Trench 36 - An arc of 8 postholes (C3601). The arc or line of 8 postholes extended east to west at the western extent of Trench 36. They extended over a length of 9m. The postholes were all filled with brown clay and charcoal. They varied in diameter from 0.50 to 70m and were all circular or oval in shape. They appeared to arc slightly, suggesting they are on the northern side of a circular feature that extended further south.

Trench 39 - A cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907), a stakehole (C3905), and an area of burning (C3903) were visible toward the northern end of Trench 39. The postholes were circular and measured 0.20m by 0.20m/0.15m by 0.15m, and the stakehole measured 0.06m by 0.06m, and all surrounded the area of burning (C3903) which measured 0.50m by 0.60m.

Trench 41 – A significant area of burning (C4101) was located halfway down Trench 41, in close proximity to the location of the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42. It was filled with frequent charcoal fragments and burnt stones.

Trench 42 - A linear (C4201), aligned NW to SE, and filled with grey brown clay, was identified. It measured 1m in width. A fragment of red brick was recovered from the fill, which was very loose and soft. This was interpreted as an agricultural feature and was not archaeological. A burnt stone spread (C4202) was also identified. It measured 9m in length north-south and extended beyond the trench to the east and west. It consisted of lots of charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone. The depth of spread, where tested, was 0.30m.

Trench 43 - Three burnt spreads (C4301-C4301), which were possibly related to the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42, were identified. C4301 measured 2m in length by 1m in width. It was located at the northern end of the trench. It was a possible continuation of the burnt spread (C4202) recorded in Trench 42. C4302 measured 1.3m by 0.6m in width. It was located close to the burnt spread C4303 at the southern end of Trench 43. C4303 measured 2.7m in length by 0.50m in width. It was located at the southern end of Trench 43. All three spreads consisted of a black sandy clay, burnt stones, charcoal fragments and a black sandy clay.

Trench 100 – The trench was excavated south from the very top of the east-west running ridge. Four features, including two ditches (C10001, C10002) and two pits (C10003, C10004), were identified. The trench sloped gradually to the south from the top. Features identified on the geophysical survey were detected (C10001, C10002), along with additional archaeological features (C10003, C10004). The ditch C10001 measured 1.2-1.5m in width and ran east-west through the trench but curved northwards at the east end. It was filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. This feature aligned with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10101 in Trench 101. This ditch C10002 measured 2.2m in width and was aligned east-west. It was aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. There appears to be at least two fills. Along the

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north side, a light brown clay measuring 0.80m in width was identified along the north edge. The remaining part of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clay with lots of stone and charcoal. The large circular pit C10003 was located on the upper break of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.8m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay and charcoal. Located 8m south of the outer ditch of a rectangular enclosure shown on the Geophysical survey (C10002). The large circular pit C10004 was located at the base of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.95m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay, charcoal, and some burnt sandstone. It is very likely that other features occur outside the trench.

Trench 101 – Three linear features (C10102, C10103, C10104) and a ring ditch (C10101).

The proposed development has the potential to impact all the aforementioned features in this field as they lie along proposed internal access roads any other areas to be developed. No additional features were found throughout the remainder of the development (where tested) and there will be no archaeological impact. Further test trenching is needed on the areas that were unavailable due to the presence of crops at a future date.

It is recommended that an appropriate mitigation strategy be developed in consultation with the National Monuments Service that will mitigate the potential impacts on the archaeological features identified through either redesign in certain areas thereby achieving preservation in situ of the archaeology or alternatively preservation by record through full archaeological excavation in advance of construction.

10. POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMME

No finds were recovered or samples taken and no post excavation analysis is required.

11. EXCAVATION BULLETIN

County: Louth

Site name: Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth

Sites and Monuments Record No.: LH021-014

Licence number: 25E0571

Author: Donald Murphy

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Site type: Burnt spreads, postholes

Prehistoric?

ITM: 707980, 783365

Date of completion: July 2025

Summary:

Test trenching was carried out by Donald Murphy under licence 25E0571. All of the identified archaeology was contained within Field 9, which was located towards the centre/southern extent of the proposed development. Archaeology was identified in **Trenches 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 100 and 101** and consisted of the following;

Trench 36 - An arc of 8 postholes (C3601). The arc or line of 8 postholes extended east to west at the western extent of Trench 36. They extended over a length of 9m. The postholes were all filled with brown clay and charcoal. They varied in diameter from 0.50 to 70m and were all circular or oval in shape. They appeared to arc slightly, suggesting they are on the northern side of a circular feature that extended further south.

Trench 39 - A cluster of 5 postholes (C3901, C3902, C3904, C3906, C3907), a stakehole (C3905), and an area of burning (C3903) were visible toward the northern end of Trench 39. The postholes were circular and measured 0.20m by 0.20m/0.15m by 0.15m, and the stakehole measured 0.06m by 0.06m, and all surrounded the area of burning (C3903), which measured 0.50m by 0.60m.

Trench 41 – A significant area of burning (C4101) was located halfway down Trench 41, in close proximity to the location of the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42. It was filled with frequent charcoal fragments and burnt stones.

Trench 42 - A linear (C4201), aligned NW to SE, and filled with grey brown clay, was identified. It measured 1m in width. A fragment of red brick was recovered from the fill, which was very loose and soft. This was interpreted as an agricultural feature and was not archaeological. A burnt stone spread (C4202) was also identified. It measured 9m in length north-south and extended beyond the trench to the east and west. It consisted of lots of charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone. The depth of spread, where tested, was 0.30m.

Trench 43 - Three burnt spreads (C4301-C4301), which were possibly related to the burnt spread C4202 in Trench 42, were identified. C4301 measured 2m in length by 1m in width. It was located at the northern end of the trench. It was a possible continuation of the burnt spread (C4202) recorded in Trench 42. C4302 measured 1.3m by 0.6m in width. It was located close to the burnt spread C4303 at the southern end of Trench

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43. C4303 measured 2.7m in length by 0.50m in width. It was located at the southern end of Trench 43. All three spreads consisted of a black sandy clay, burnt stones, charcoal fragments and a black sandy clay.

Trench 100 – The trench was excavated south from the very top of the east-west running ridge. Four features, including two ditches (C10001, C10002) and two pits (C10003, C10004), were identified. The trench sloped gradually to the south from the top. Features identified on the geophysical survey were detected (C10001, C10002), along with additional archaeological features (C10003, C10004).

The ditch C10001 measured 1.2-1.5m in width and ran east-west through the trench but curved northwards at the east end. It was filled with a stony, grey, brown clay. This feature aligned with a geophysical anomaly - a circular ring ditch at this location and C10101 in Trench 101.

This ditch C10002 measured 2.2m in width and was aligned east-west. It was aligned with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. There appears to be at least two fills. Along the north side, a light brown clay measuring 0.80m in width was identified along the north edge. The remaining part of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clay with lots of stone and charcoal.

The large circular pit C10003 was located on the upper break of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.8m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay and charcoal. Located 8m south of the outer ditch of a rectangular enclosure shown on the Geophysical survey (C10002).

The large circular pit C10004 was located at the base of the southern slope of the east-west running ridge. It measured 0.95m in diameter. It was filled with a dark brown clay, charcoal, and some burnt sandstone. It is very likely that other features occur outside the trench.

Trench 101 – Three linear features (C10102, C10103, C10104) and a ring ditch (C10101).

The proposed development has the potential to impact all the aforementioned features. No additional features were found throughout the remainder of the development, and there will be no archaeological impact.

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

12. PUBLICATION PLAN

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An account of this archaeological assessment and its results will be published online as an excavation bulletin for the *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* (see Section 11).

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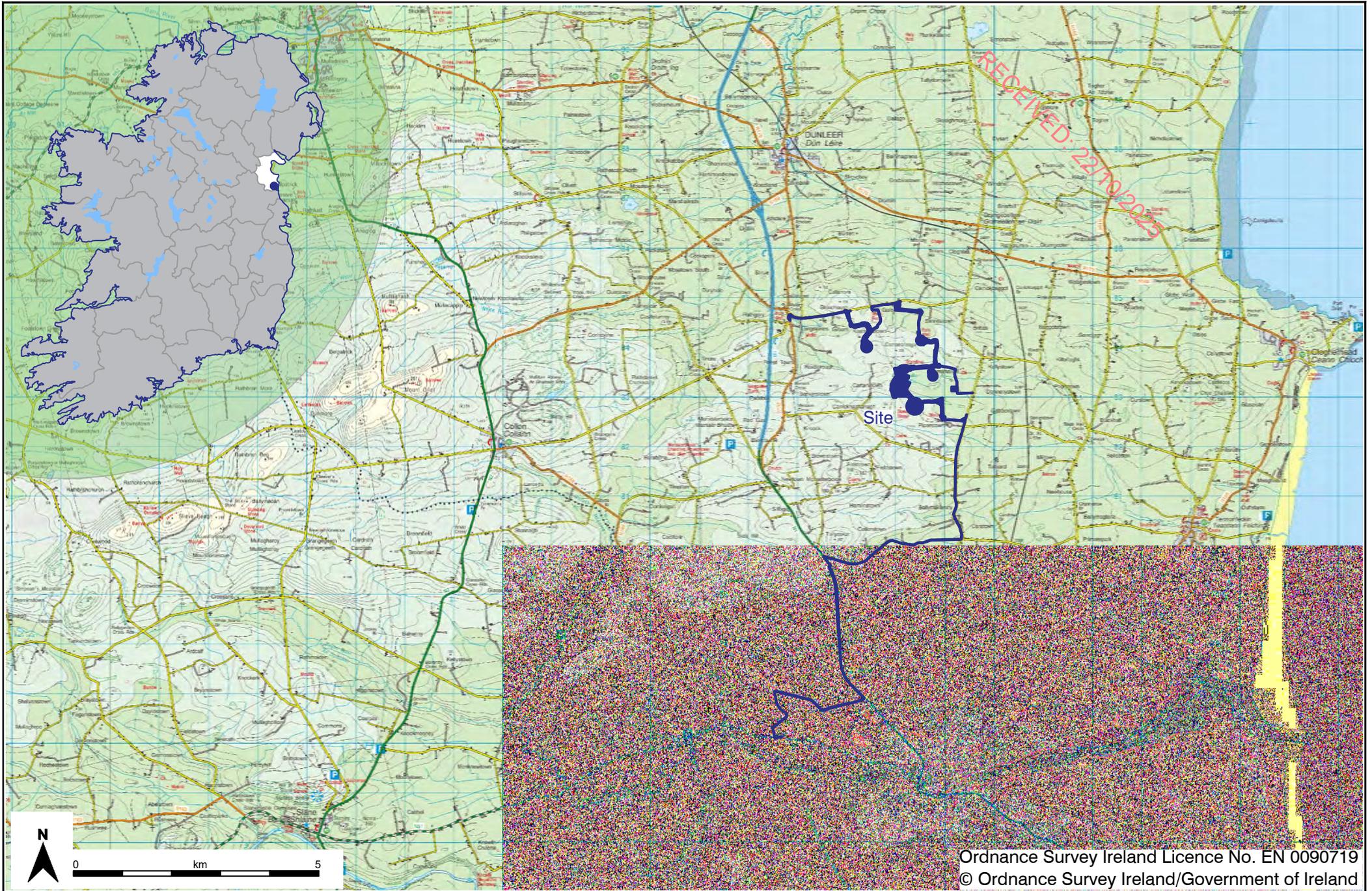
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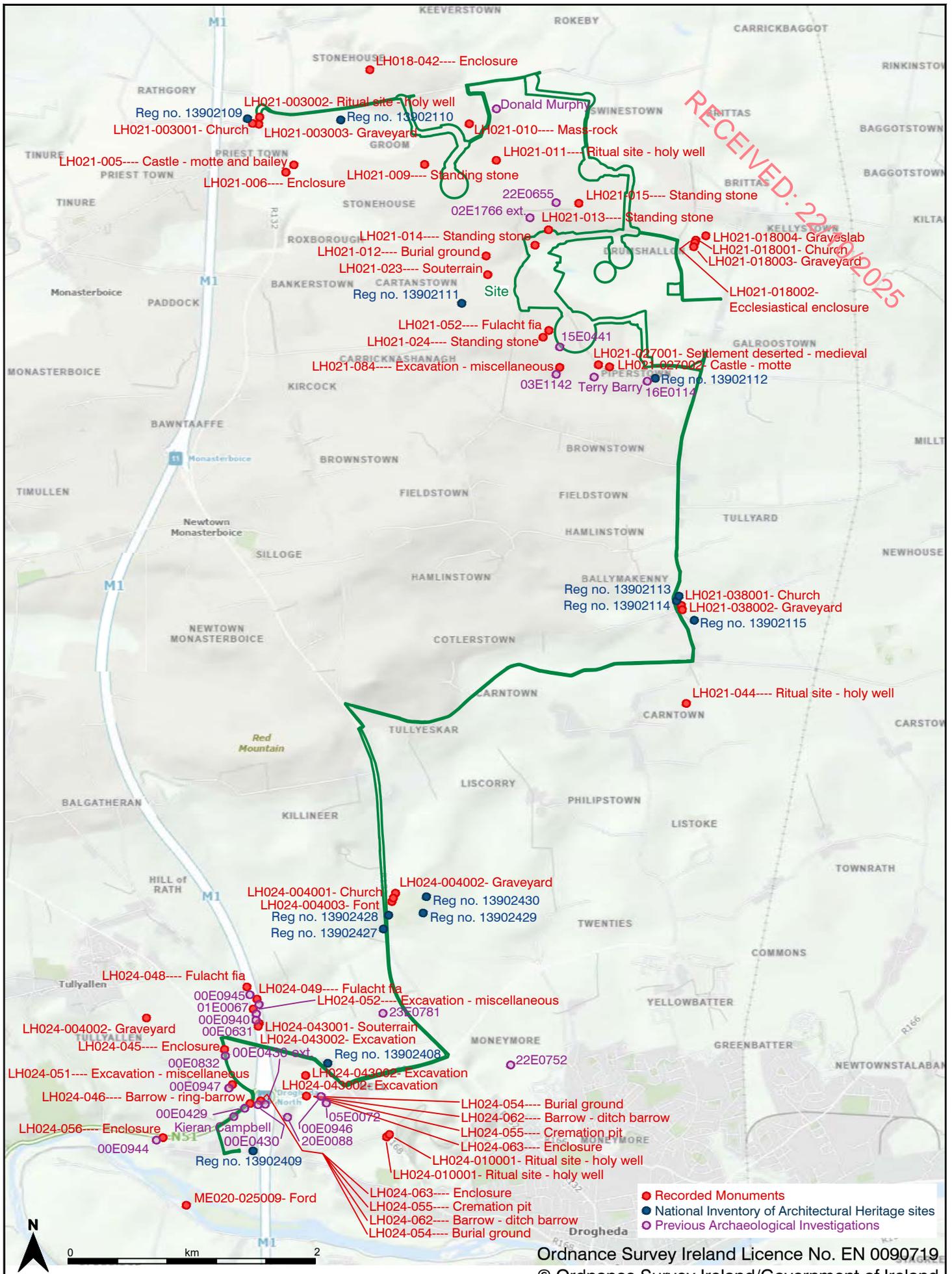
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Drawing No. 2531_C1011

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





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- Recorded Monuments
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites
- Previous Archaeological Investigations

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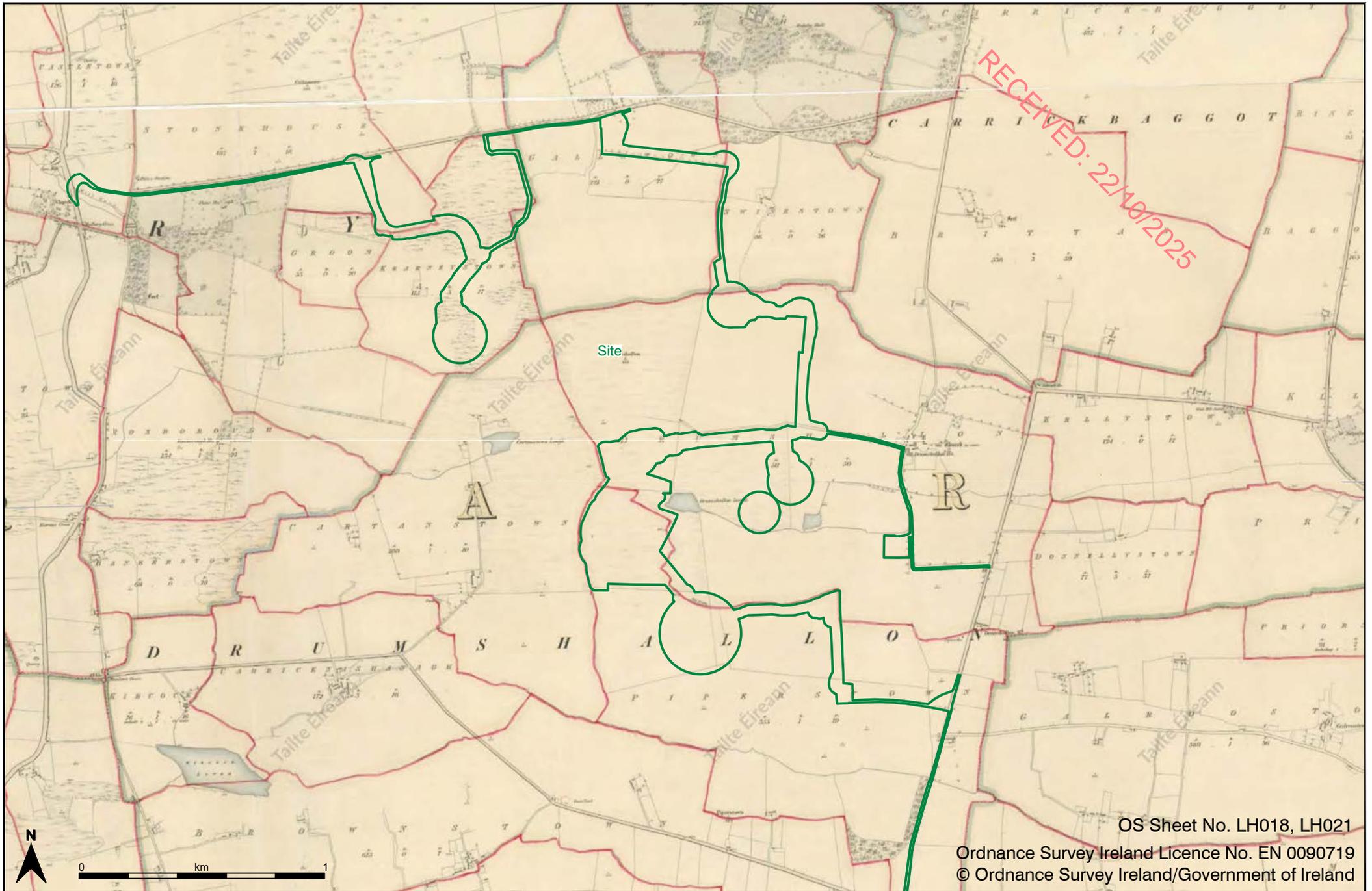
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Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites



Scale 1:40,000 @ A4 Drawing No. 2531_C012



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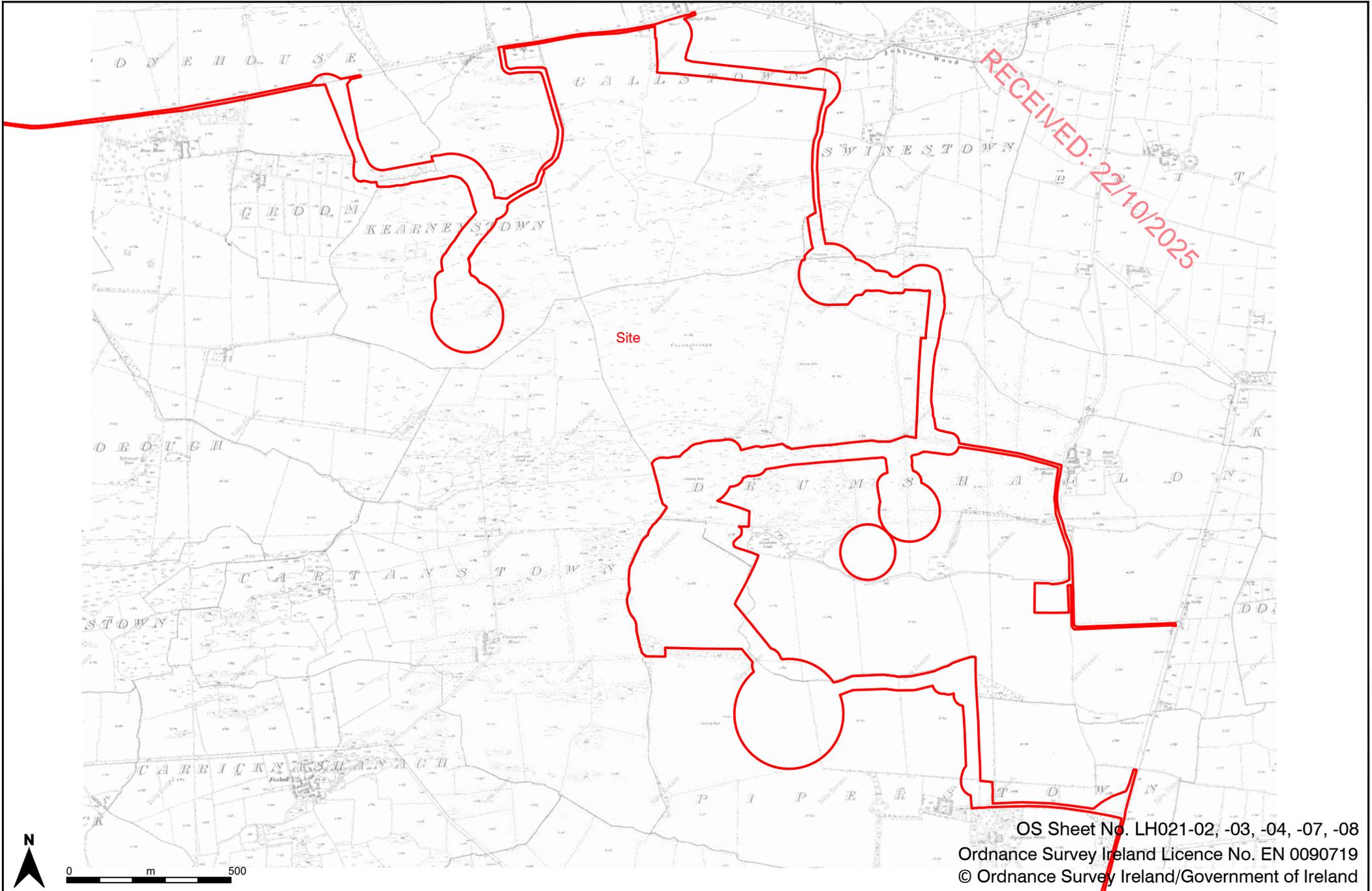
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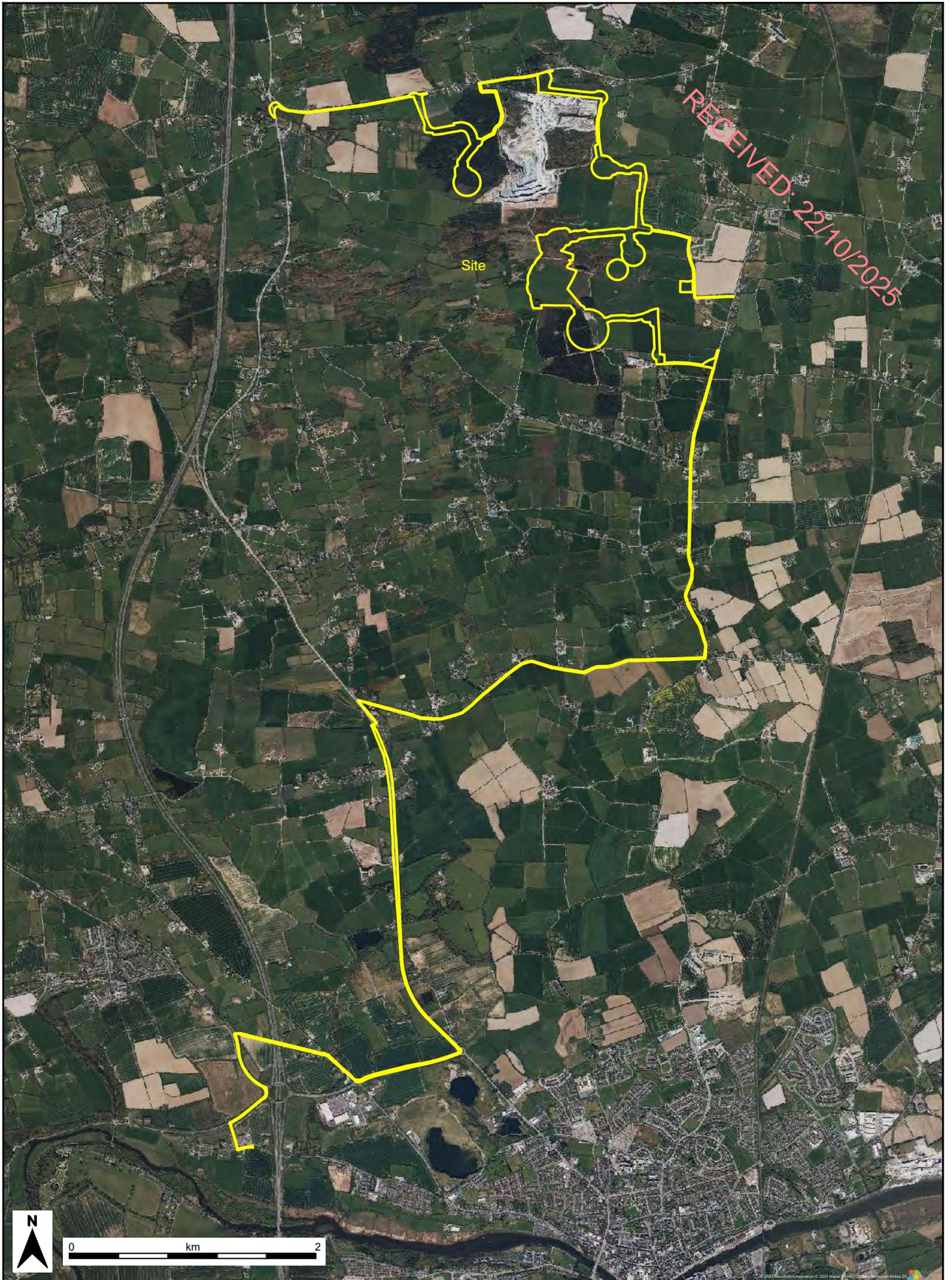
Figure 3 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1834 - published 1836), showing location of site

Scale 1:20,000 @ A4





Project Kellystown Wind Farm, Co. Louth	Date July 2025	Drawing No. 2531_C1014	
Figure 4 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1908 - published 1910), showing location of site		Scale 1:15,000 @ A4	



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Site



0 km 2

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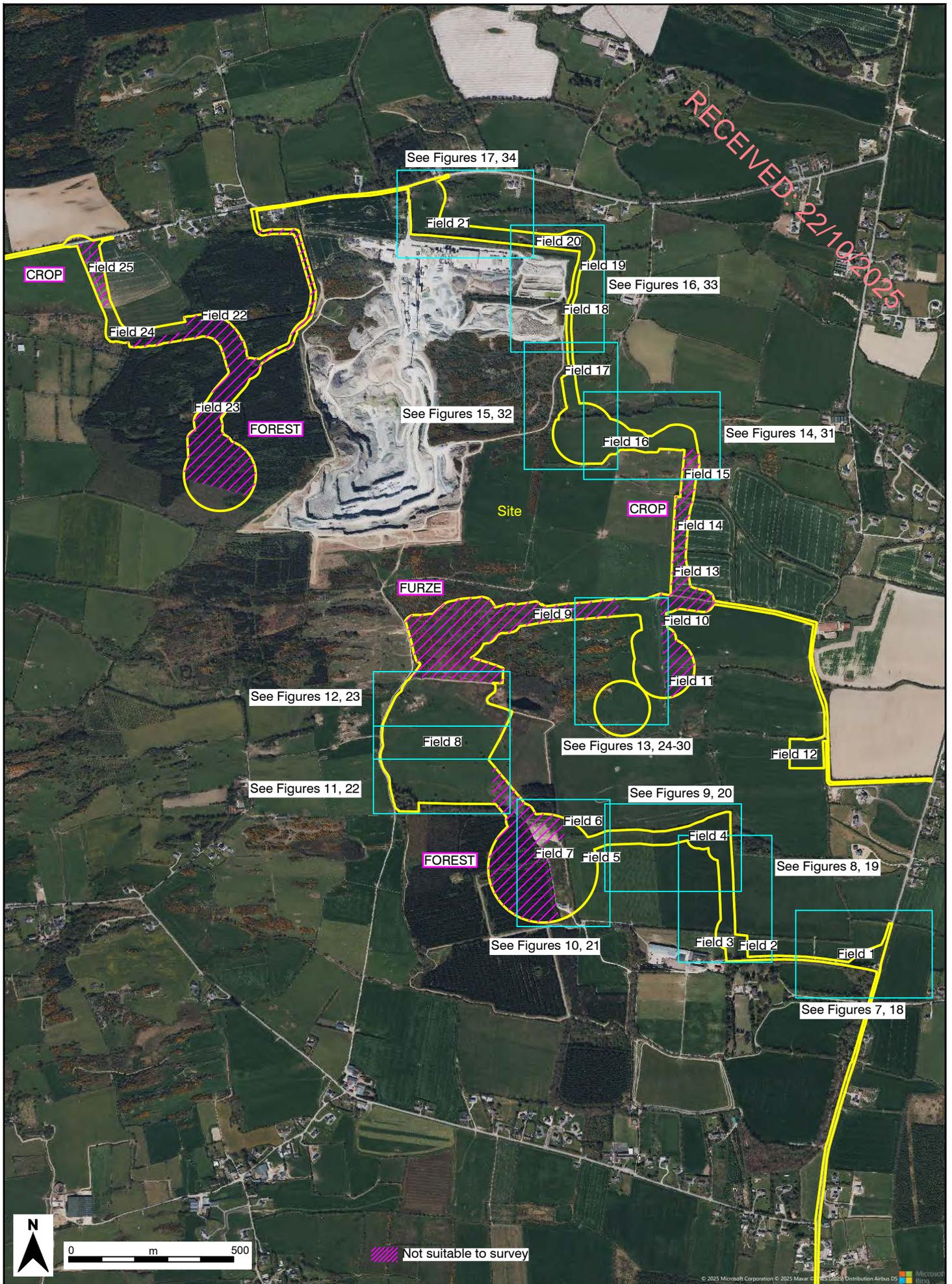
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Figure 5 Aerial view of site



Scale 1:40,000 @ A4

Drawing No. 2531_C1015



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Figure 6 Aerial view of site, showing field numbers of geophysical survey areas

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Scale 1:15,000 @ A4 Drawing No. 2531_C1016



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Field 1

Site



0 m 50

-1.5 nT 3

Geophysical survey area

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Figure 7 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Field 1 (greyscale images)		Scale 1:1,500 @ A4	

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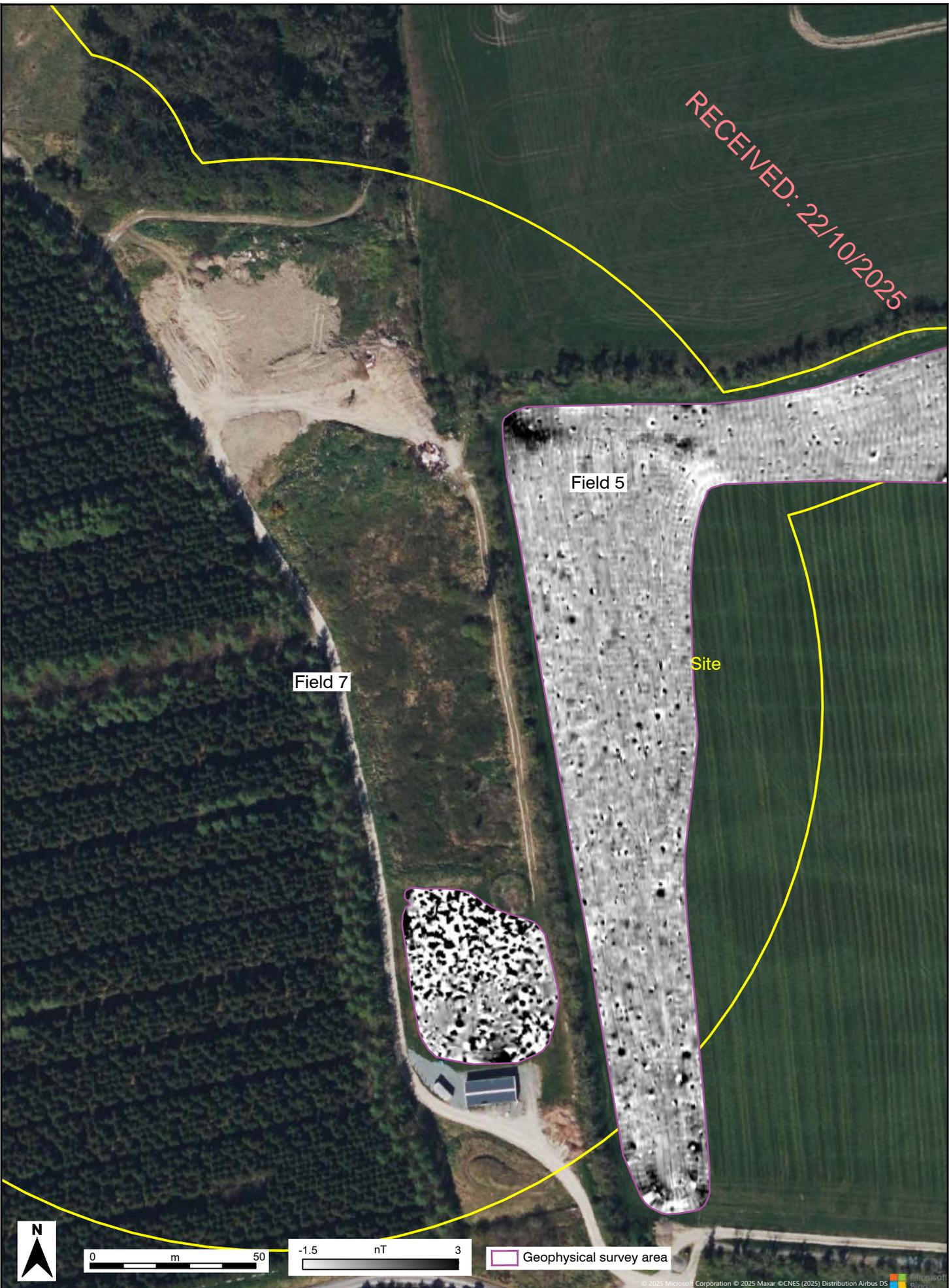


Project Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth	Date July 2025	
Figure 8 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 2, 3 and 4 (greyscale images)		
		Drawing No. 2531_C1018

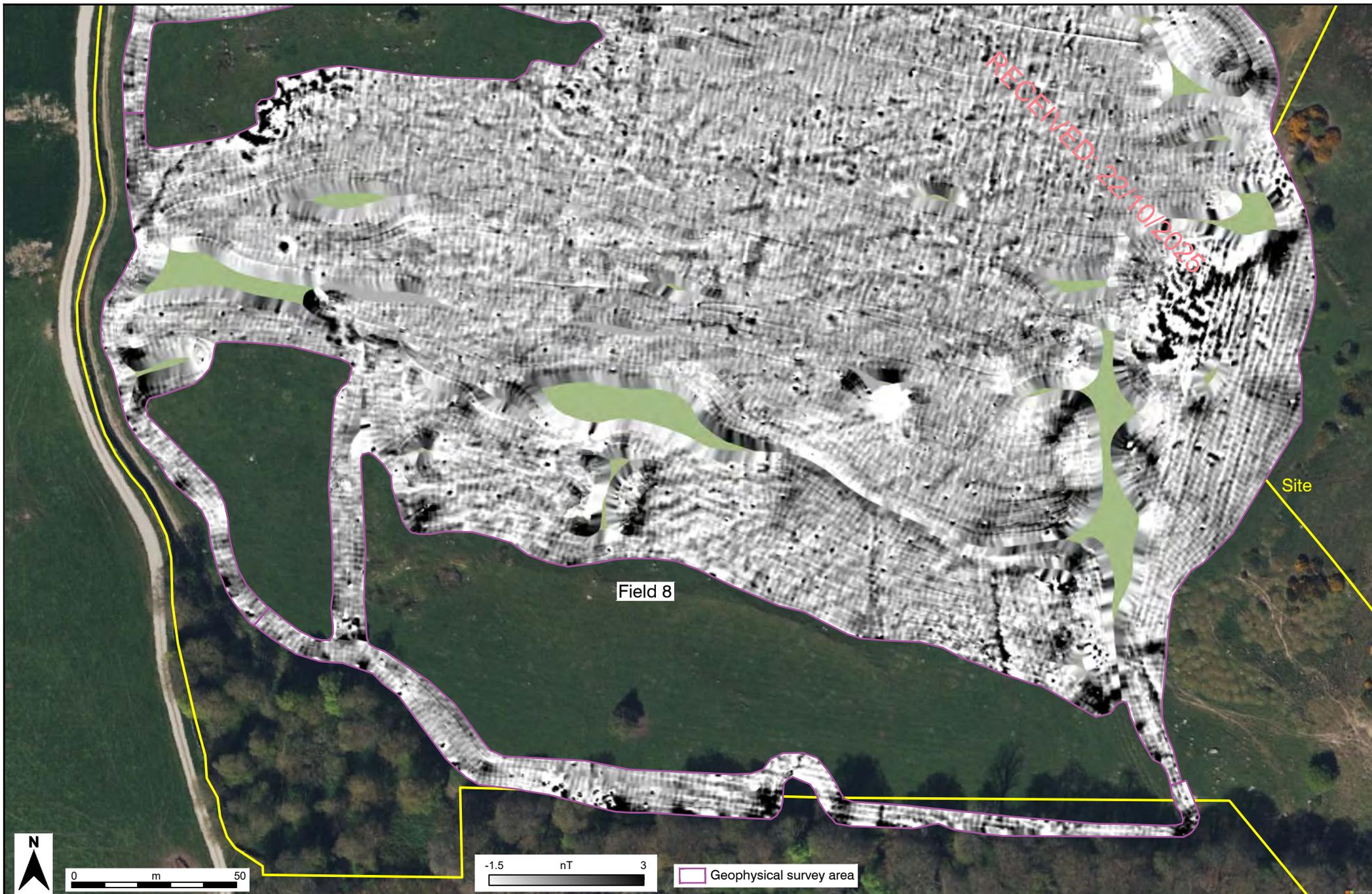


Project Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth	Date July 2025	Drawing No. 2531_C1019	
Figure 9 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 4 and 5 (greyscale images)	Scale 1:1,500 @ A4		

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Figure 10 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 5 and 7 (greyscale images)		Scale 1:1,500 @ A4	Drawing No. 2531_C1020



0 m 50

-1.5 nT 3

Geophysical survey area

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Drawing No. 2531_C1021

Figure 11 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Field 8 (greyscale images)

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



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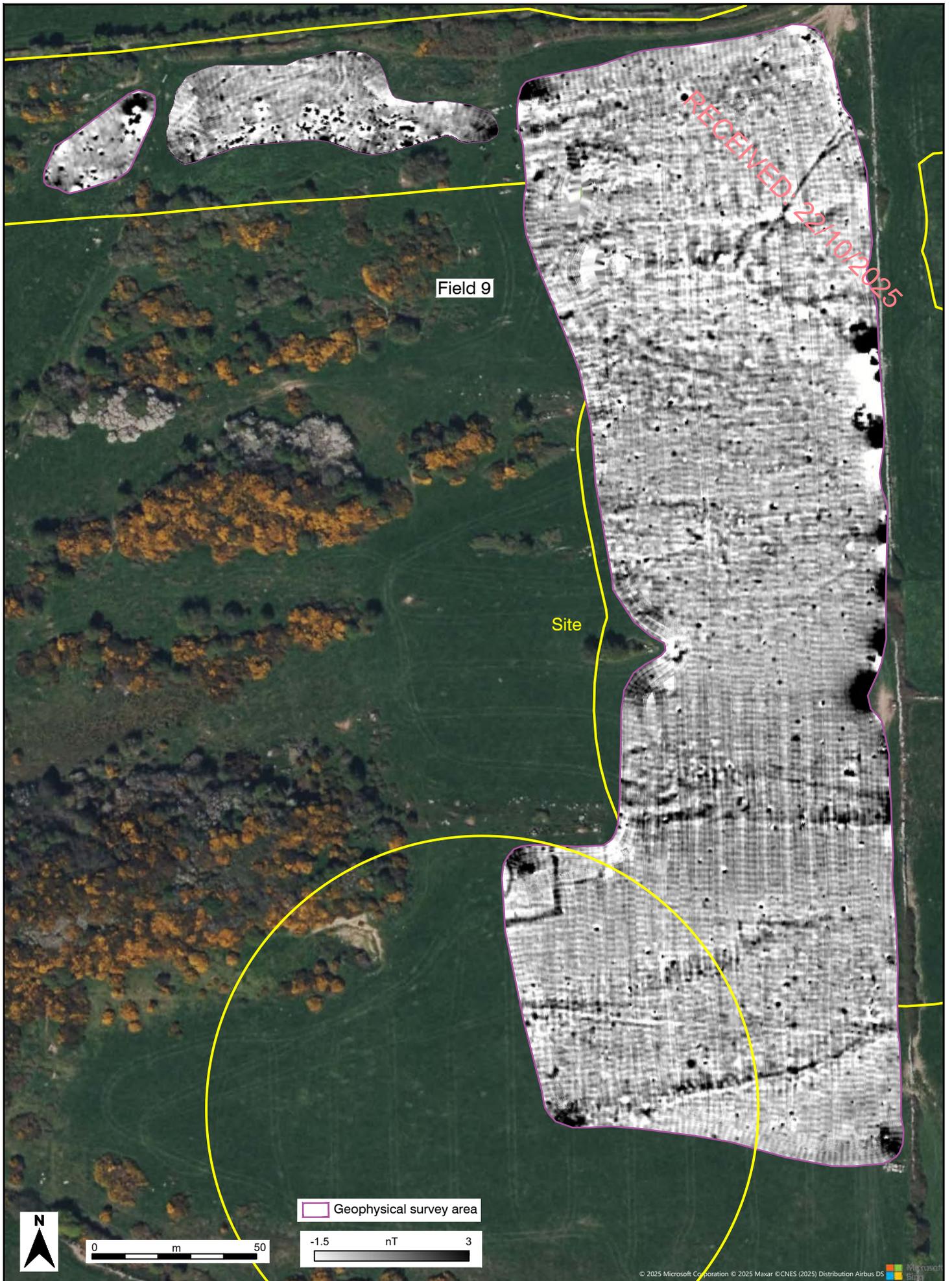
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Drawing No. 2531_C1022

Figure 12 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Field 8 (greyscale images)

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



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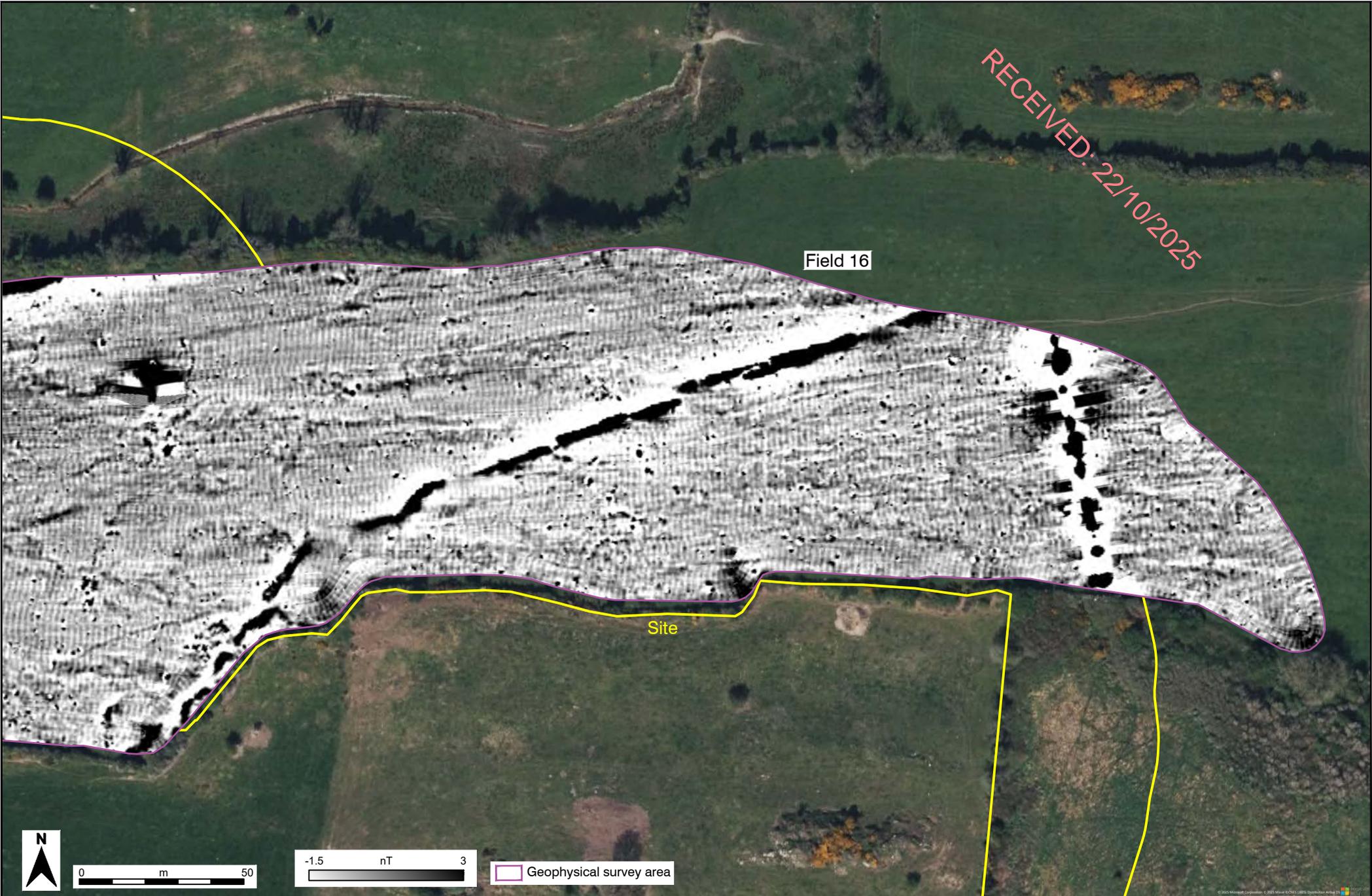
Figure 13 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Field 9 (greyscale images)



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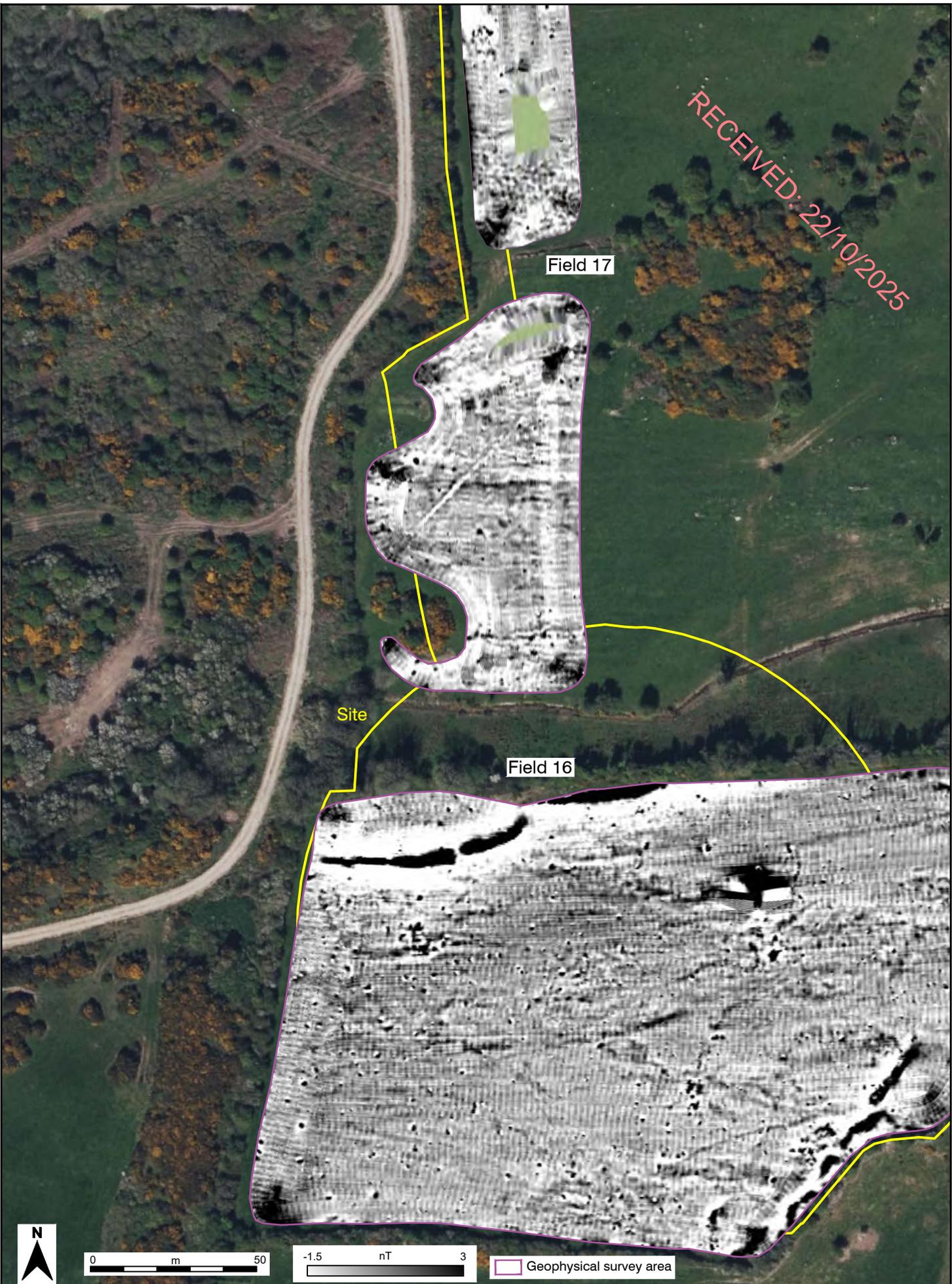
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Figure 14 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Field 16 (greyscale images)

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

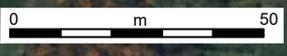
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Field 17

Site

Field 16



Geophysical survey area

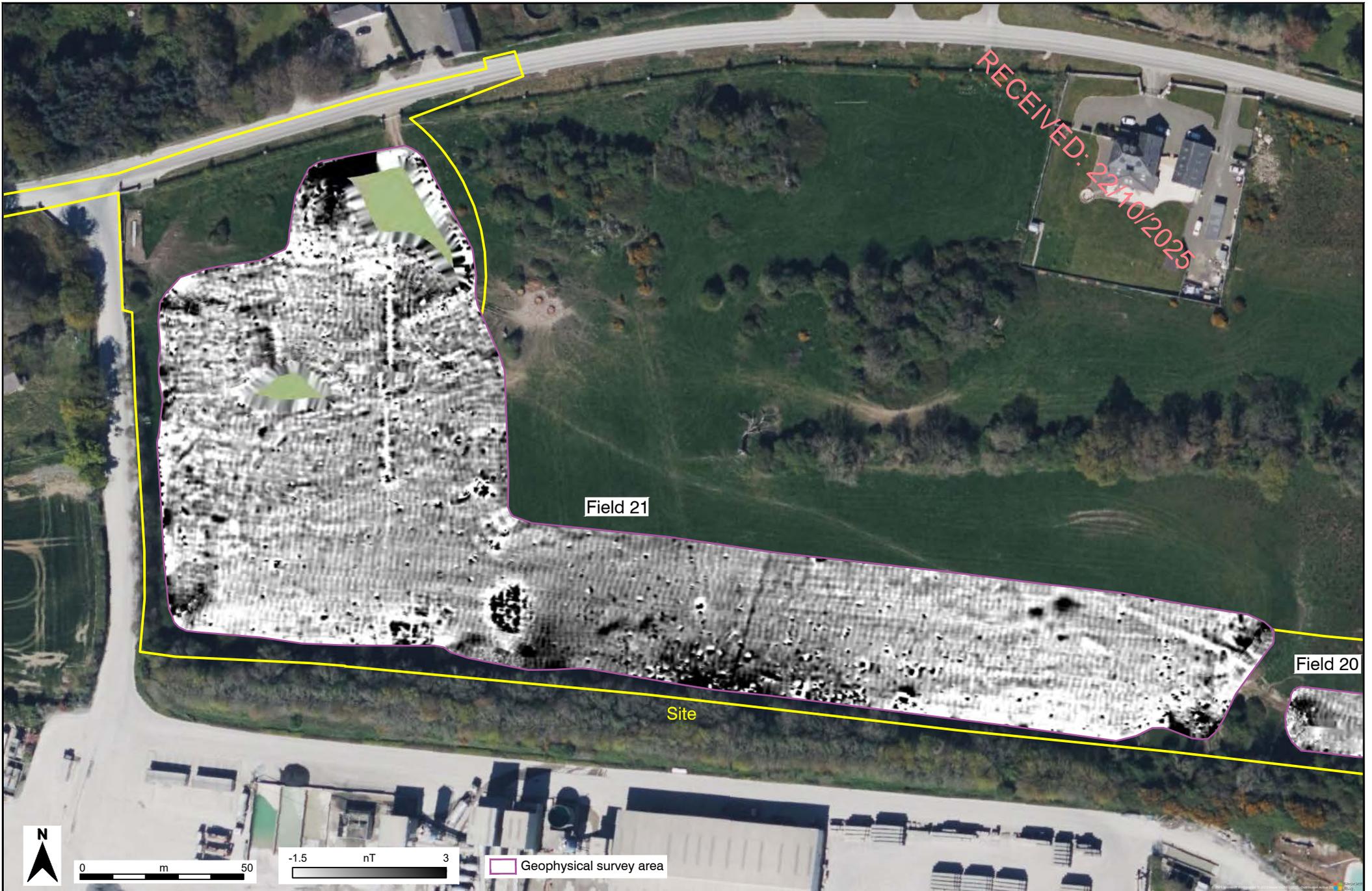
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Figure 15 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 16 and 17 (greyscale images)			



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Figure 16 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 17 to 21 (greyscale images)



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Figure 17 Aerial view of site, showing geophysical survey results in Fields 20 and 21 (greyscale images)		Scale 1:1,500 @ A4	

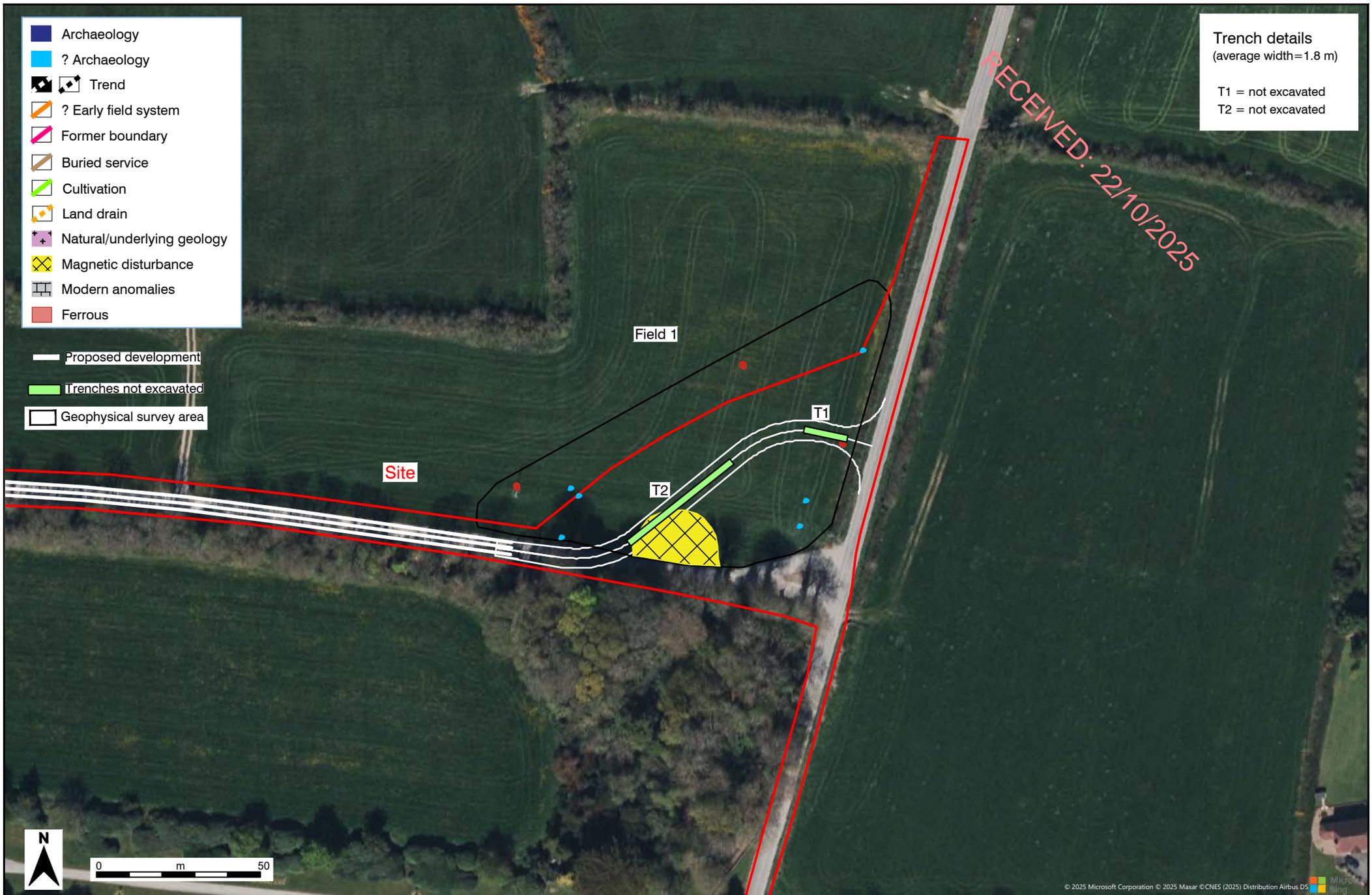
- Archaeology
- ? Archaeology
- Trend
- ? Early field system
- Former boundary
- Buried service
- Cultivation
- Land drain
- Natural/underlying geology
- Magnetic disturbance
- Modern anomalies
- Ferrous

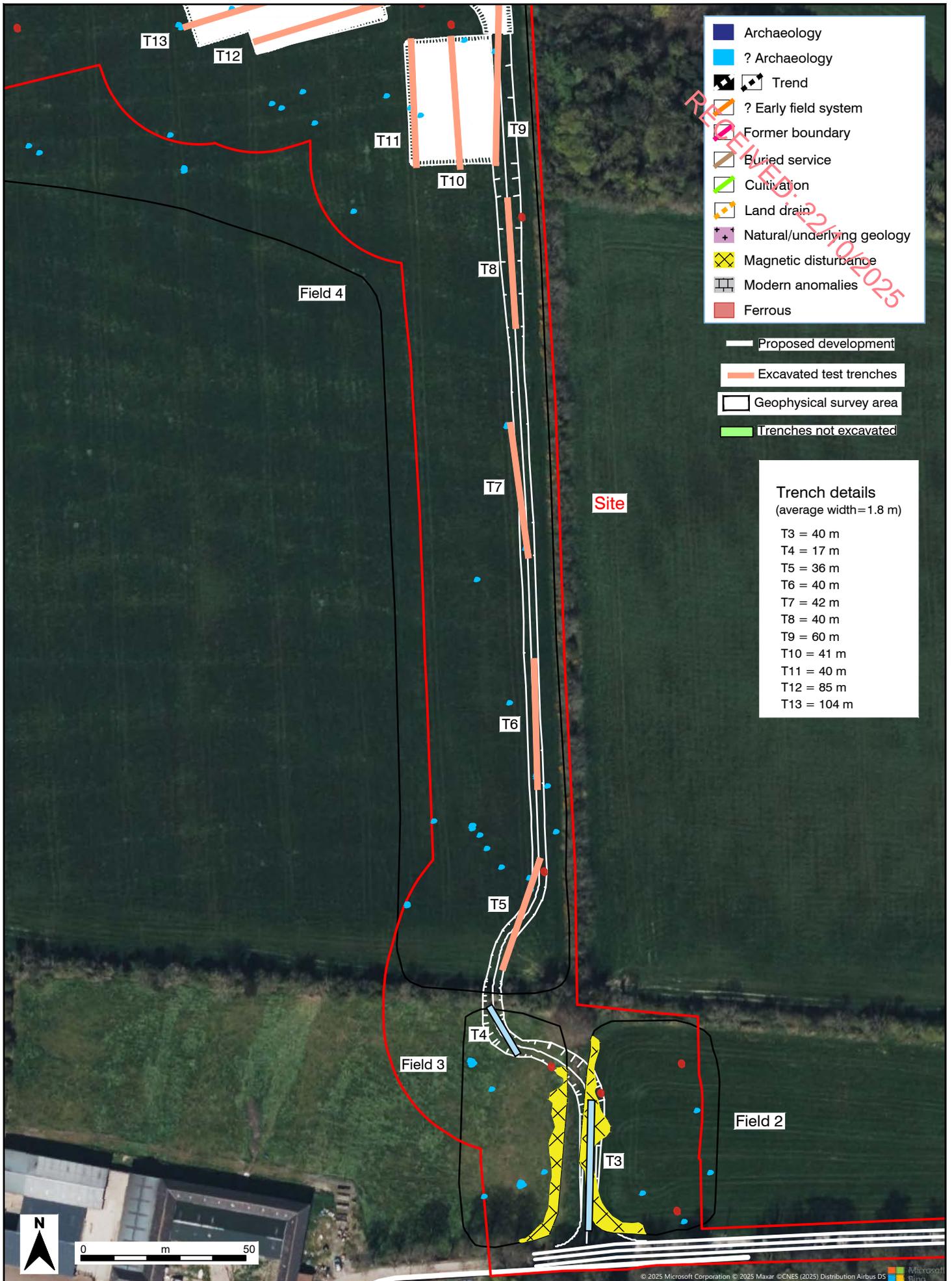
- Proposed development
- Trenches not excavated
- Geophysical survey area

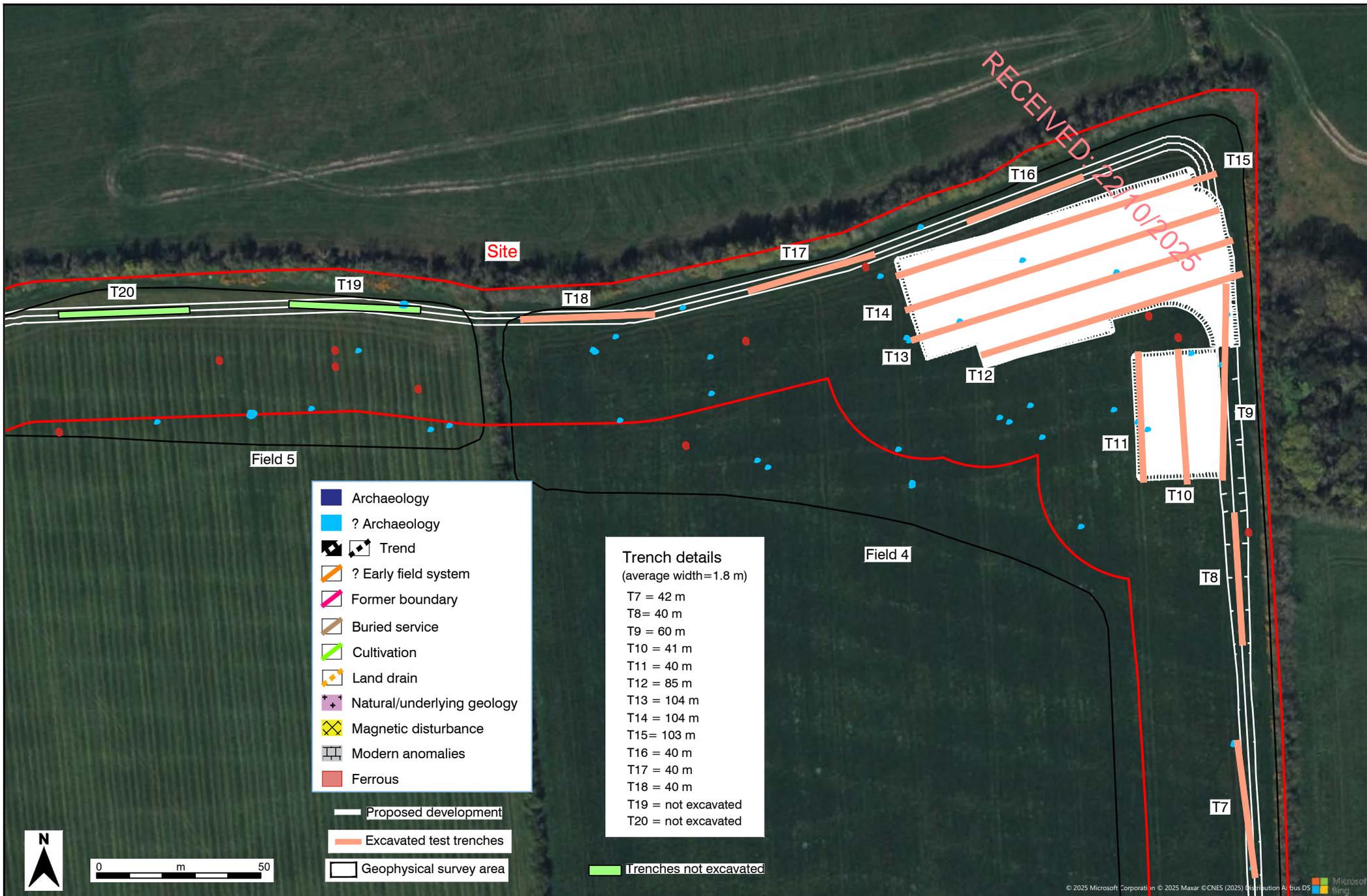
Trench details
(average width=1.8 m)

T1 = not excavated
T2 = not excavated

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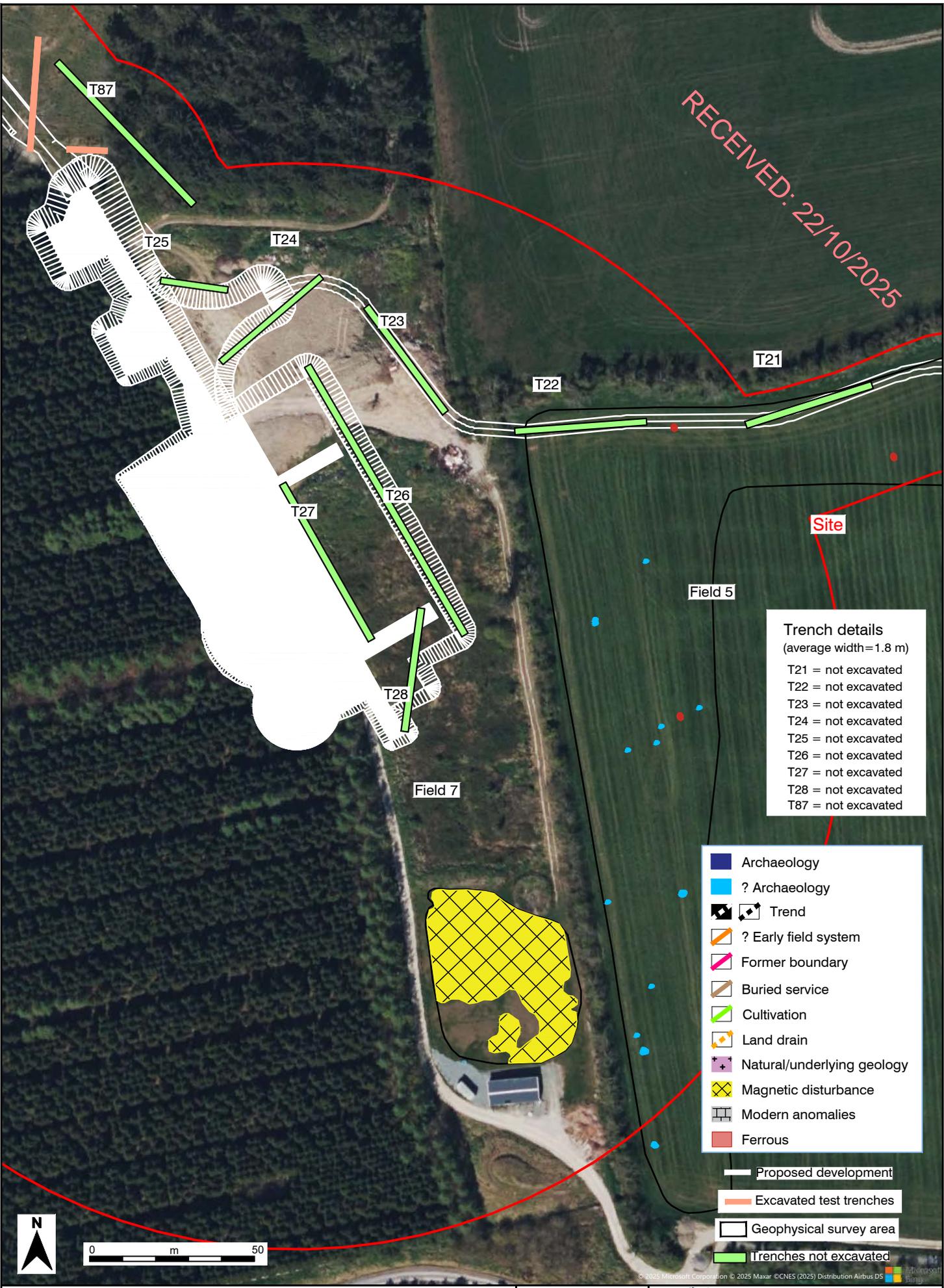
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Drawing No. 2531_C1030

Figure 20 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Fields 4 and 5

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

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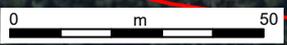


Trench details
(average width=1.8 m)

T21 = not excavated
 T22 = not excavated
 T23 = not excavated
 T24 = not excavated
 T25 = not excavated
 T26 = not excavated
 T27 = not excavated
 T28 = not excavated
 T87 = not excavated

- Archaeology
- ? Archaeology
- ▣ Trend
- ▣ ? Early field system
- ▣ Former boundary
- ▣ Buried service
- ▣ Cultivation
- ▣ Land drain
- ▣ Natural/underlying geology
- ▣ Magnetic disturbance
- ▣ Modern anomalies
- ▣ Ferrous

- ▬ Proposed development
- ▬ Excavated test trenches
- ▬ Geophysical survey area
- ▬ Trenches not excavated



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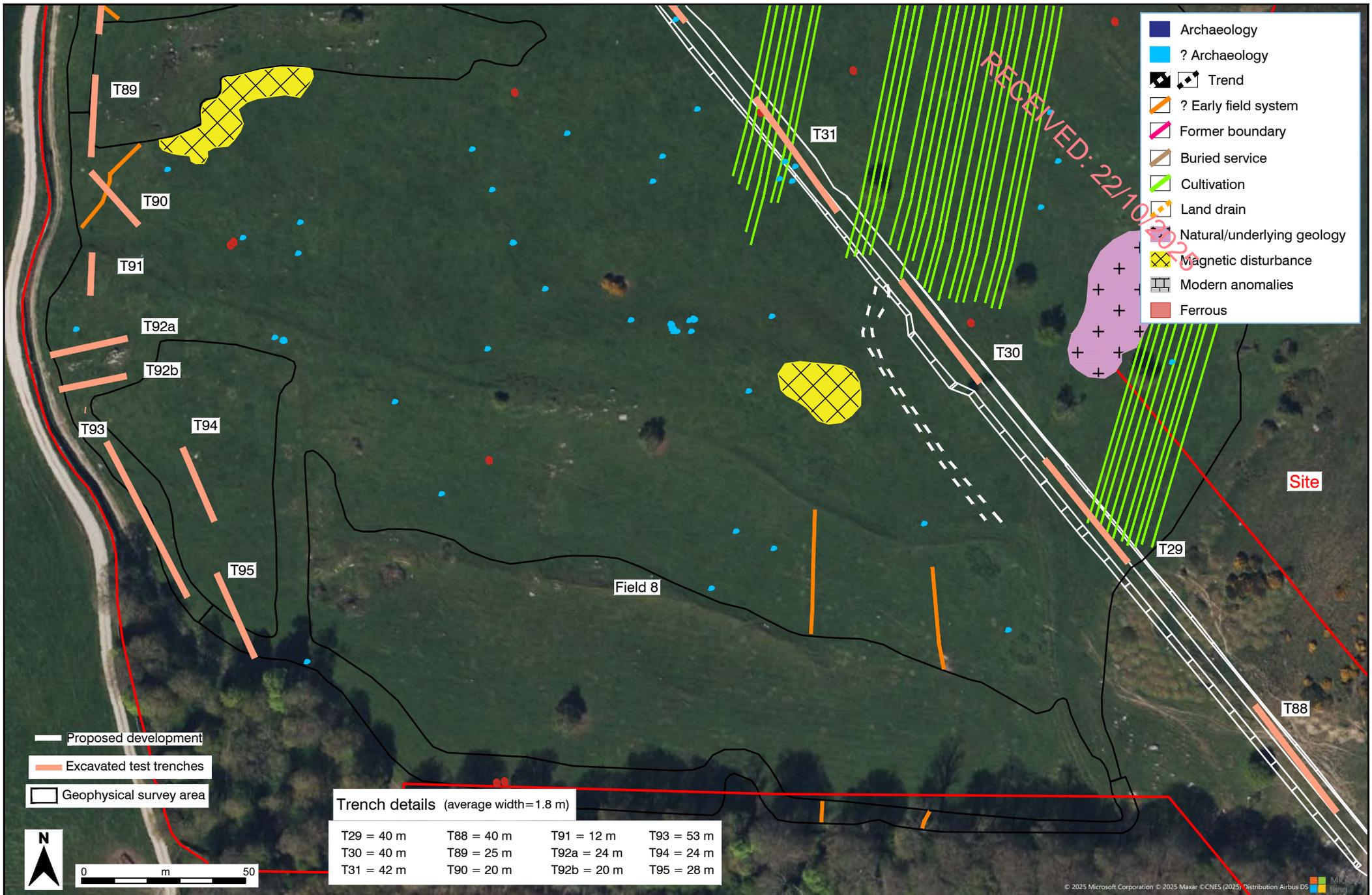
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Figure 21 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Fields 5 and 7



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

Drawing No. 2531_C1031



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Date July 2025

Drawing No. 2531_C1032

Figure 22 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Field 8

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



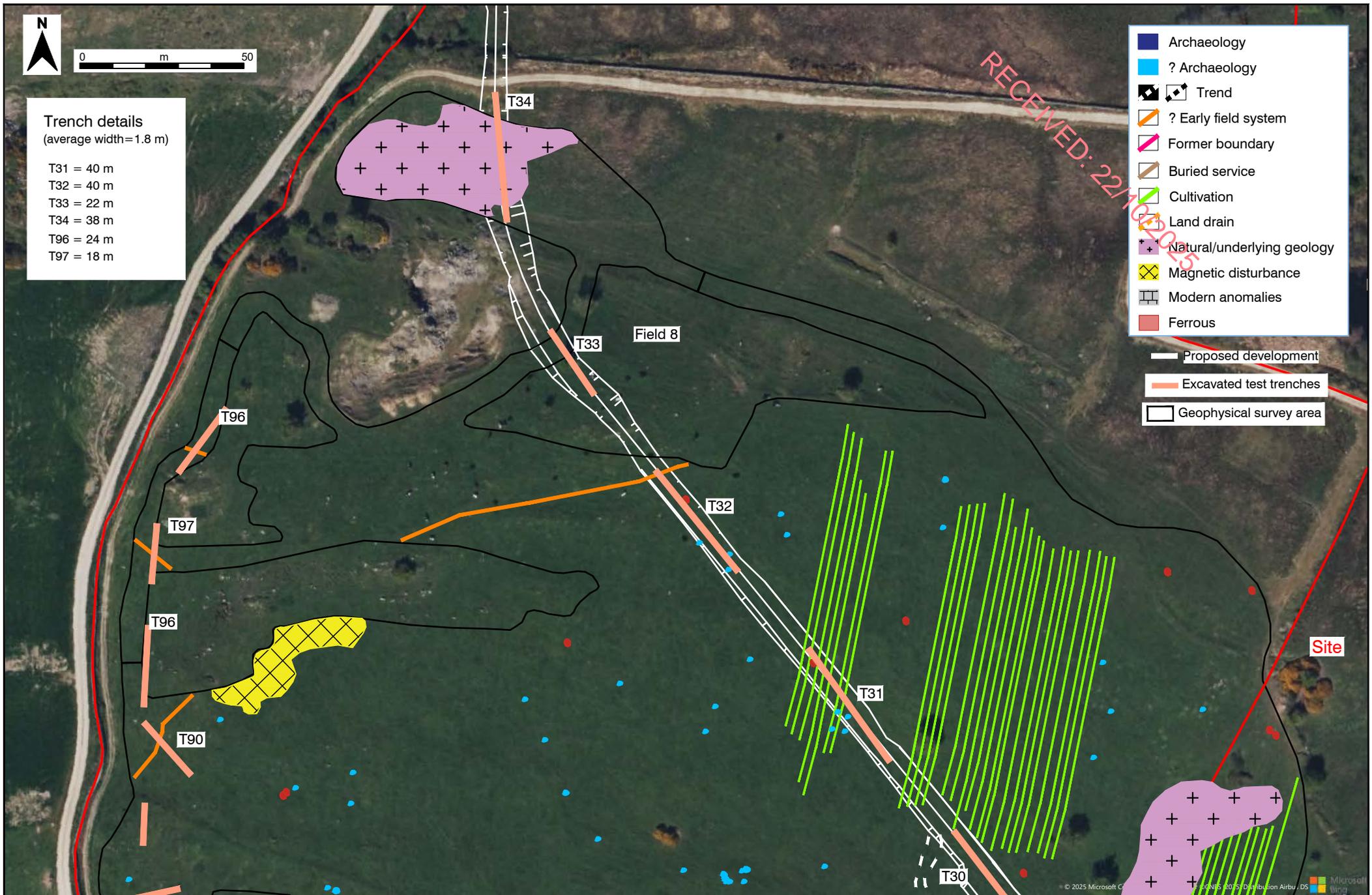
Trench details
(average width=1.8 m)

- T31 = 40 m
- T32 = 40 m
- T33 = 22 m
- T34 = 38 m
- T96 = 24 m
- T97 = 18 m

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

- Proposed development
- Excavated test trenches
- Geophysical survey area



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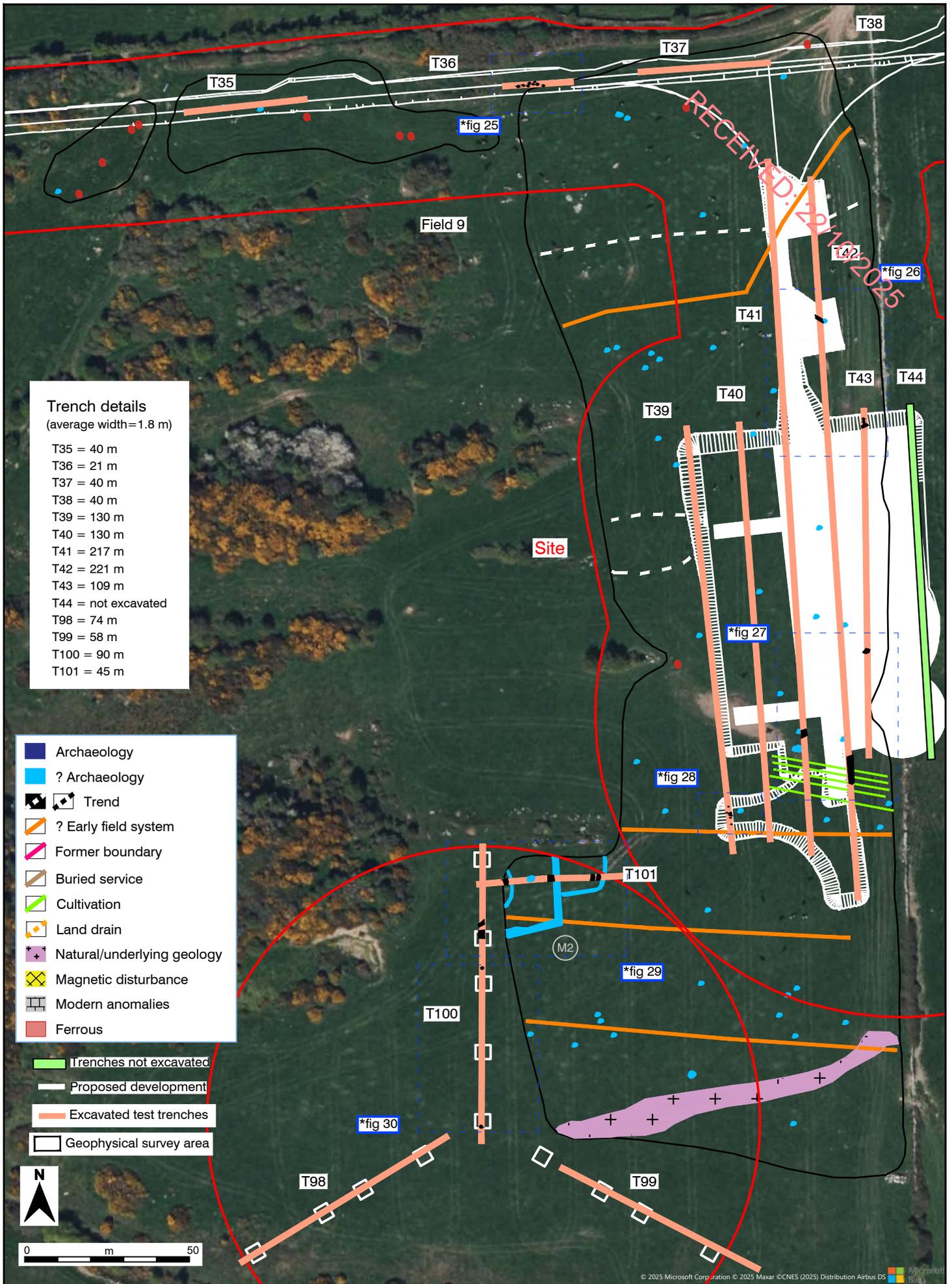
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Drawing No. 2531_C1033

Figure 23 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Field 8

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4





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Drawing No. 2531_C1035

Figure 25 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 36

Scale 1:100 @ A4





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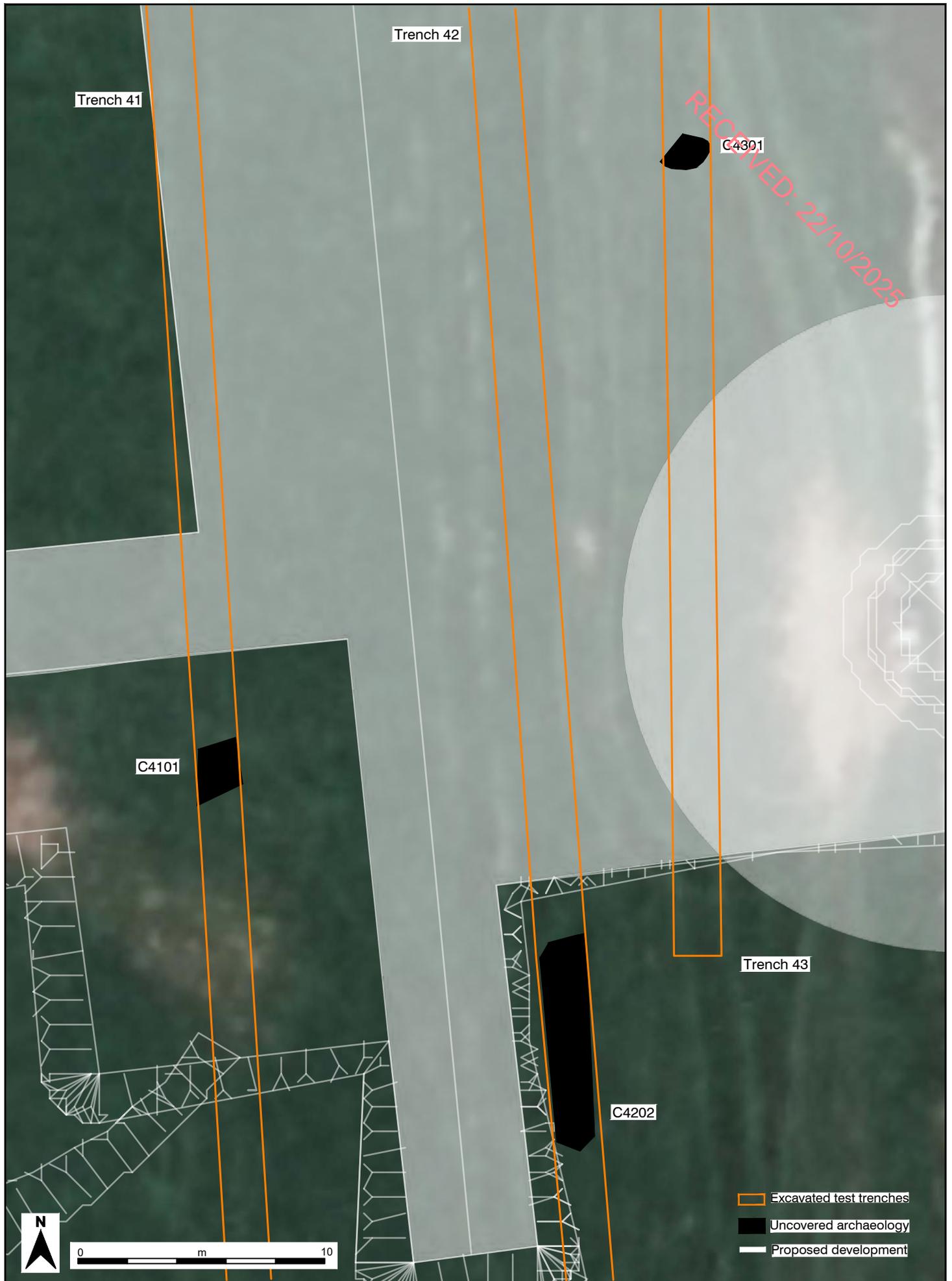
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Figure 26 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 41, 42 and 43



Scale 1:200 @ A4

Drawing No. 2531_C1036



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Figure 27 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 41, 42 and 43



Scale 1:200 @ A4

Drawing No. 2531_C1037



Project Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth

Date July 2025

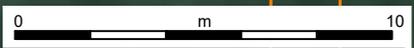
Drawing No. 2531_C1038

Figure 28 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 39

Scale 1:70 @ A4



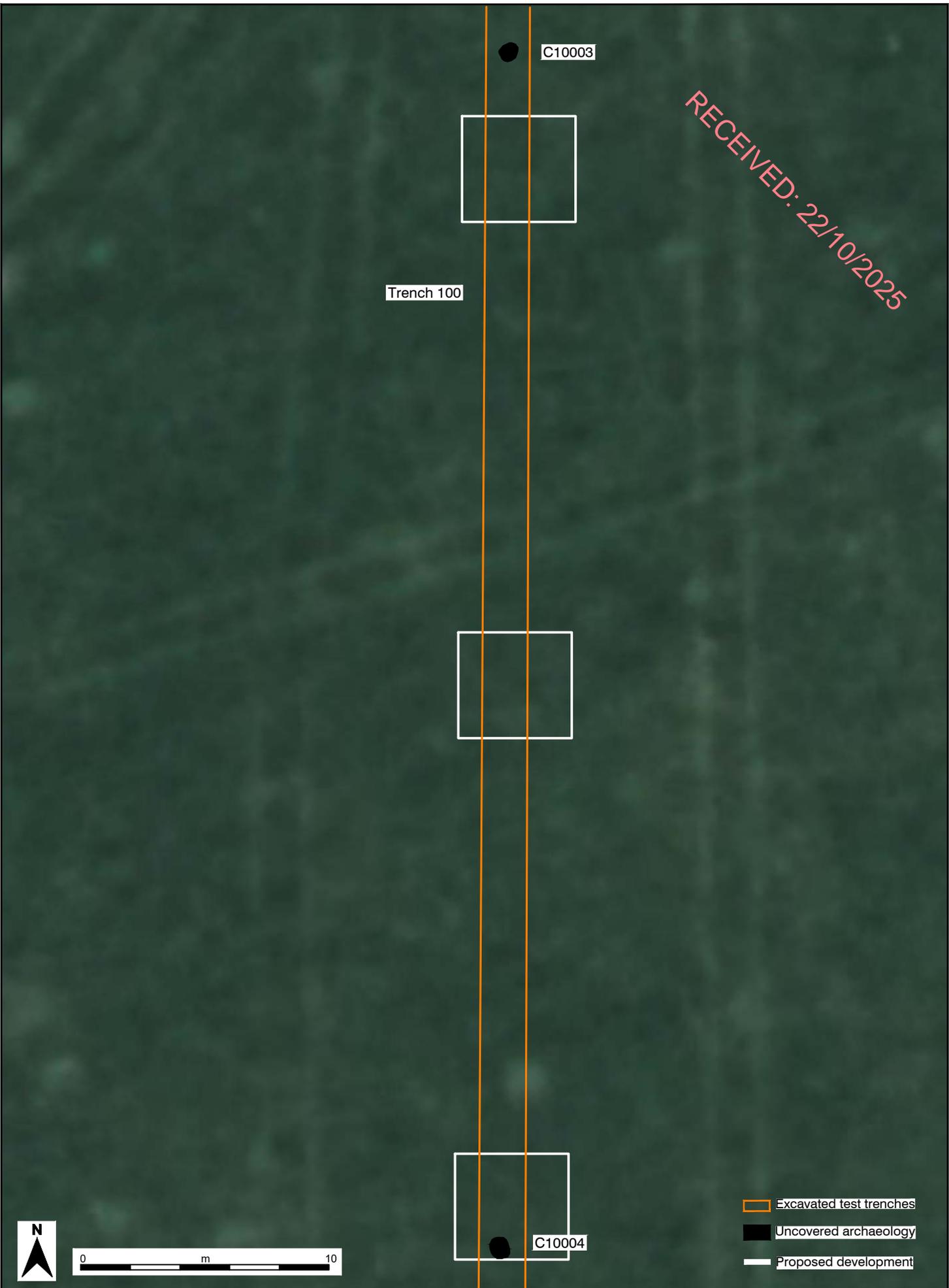
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- Excavated test trenches
- Uncovered archaeology
- Proposed development

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Figure 29 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 100 and 101		Scale 1:200 @ A4	

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Trench 100

C10003

C10004



0 m 10

- Excavated test trenches
- Uncovered archaeology
- Proposed development

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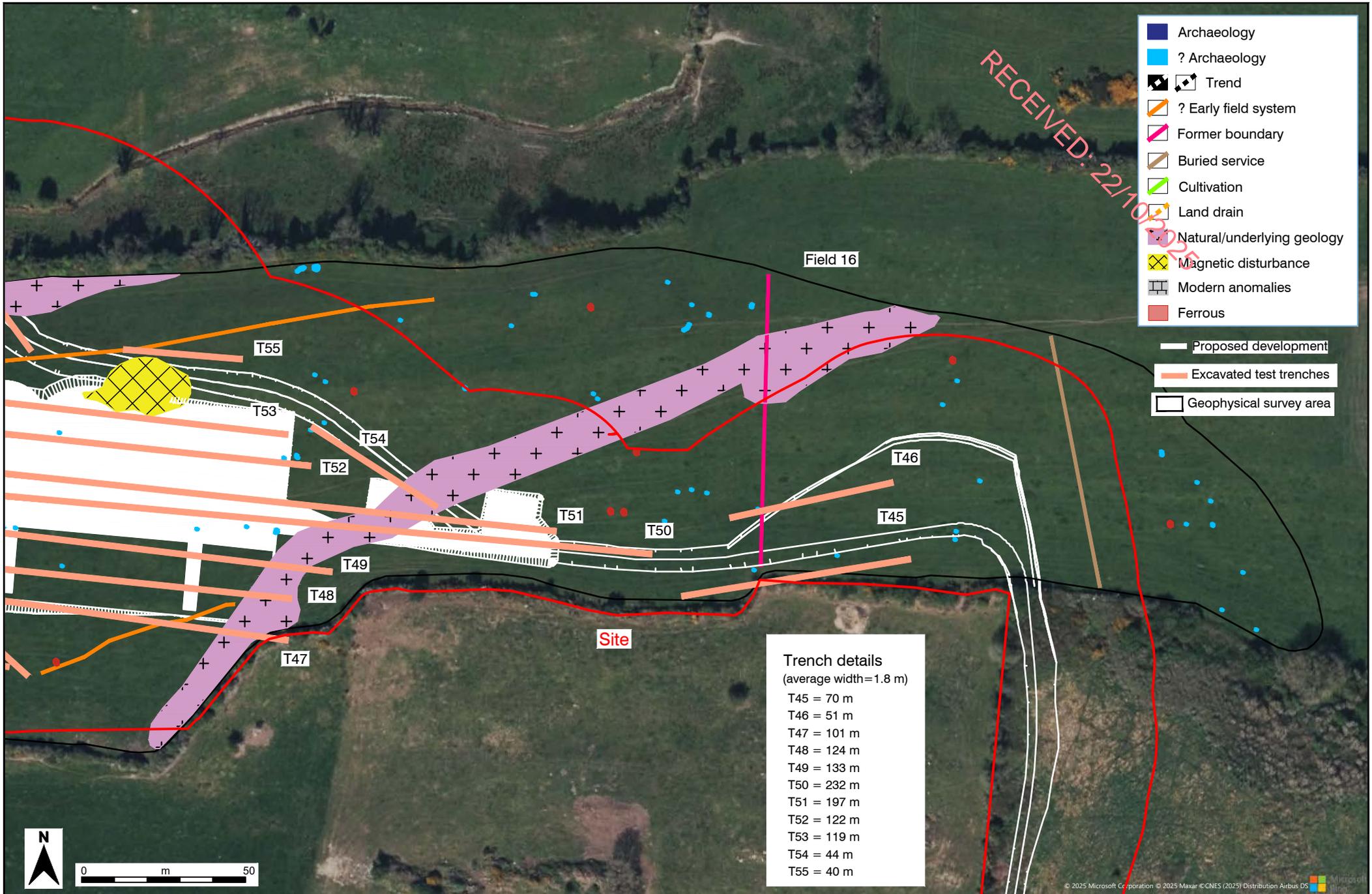
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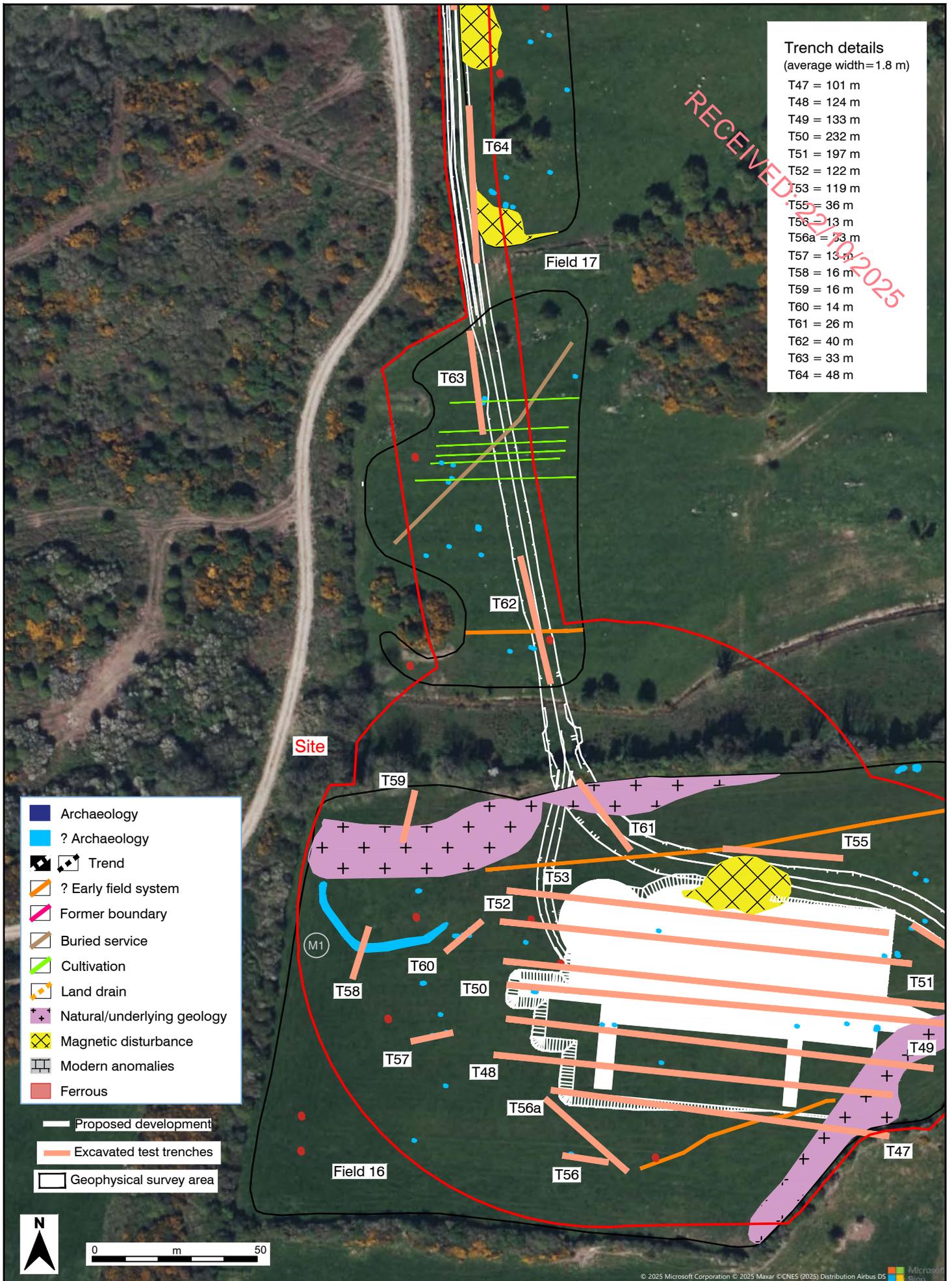
Figure 30 Aerial view of site, showing detail of archeological features uncovered in Trench 100



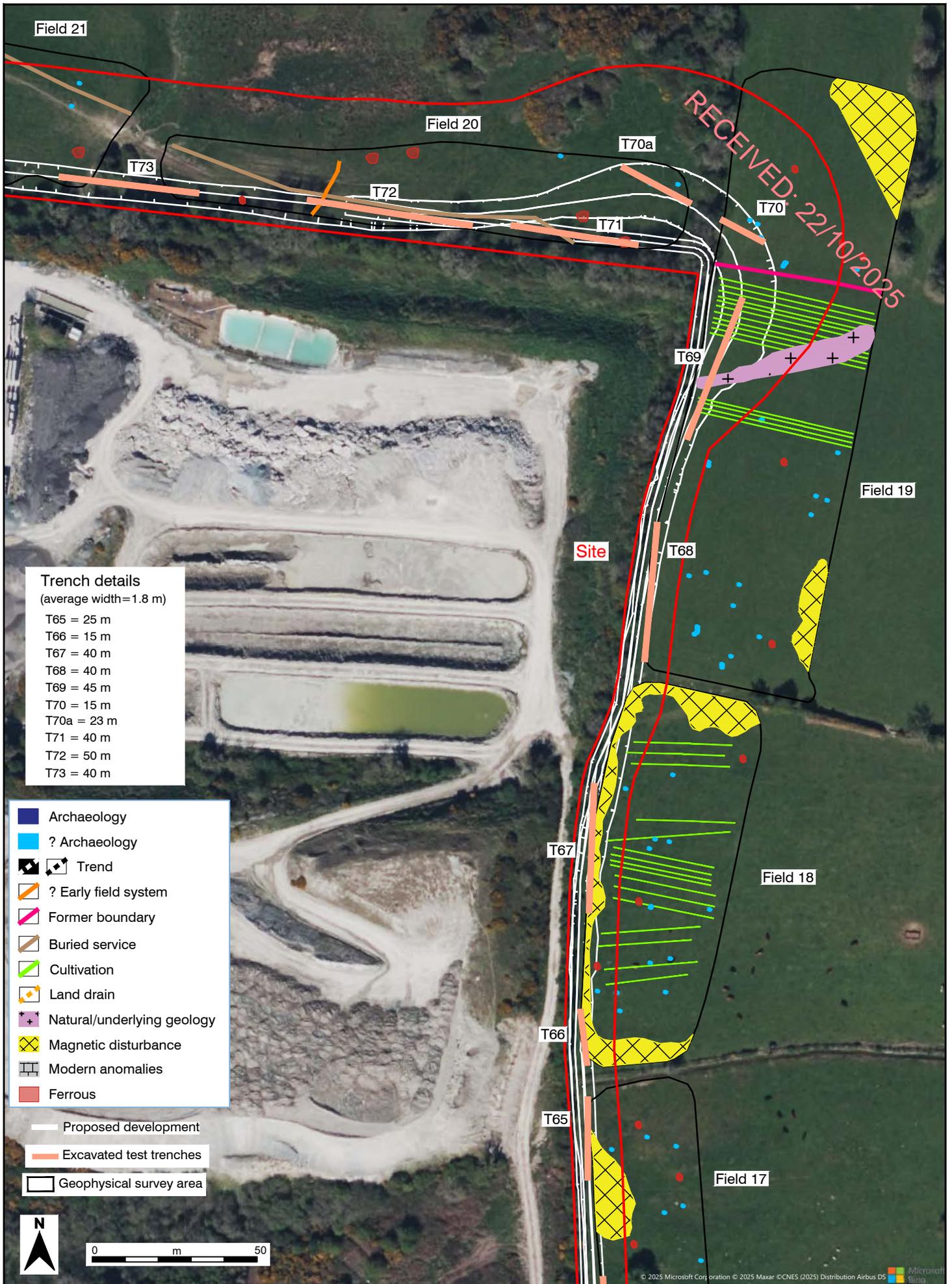
Scale 1:200 @ A4

Drawing No. 2531_C1040





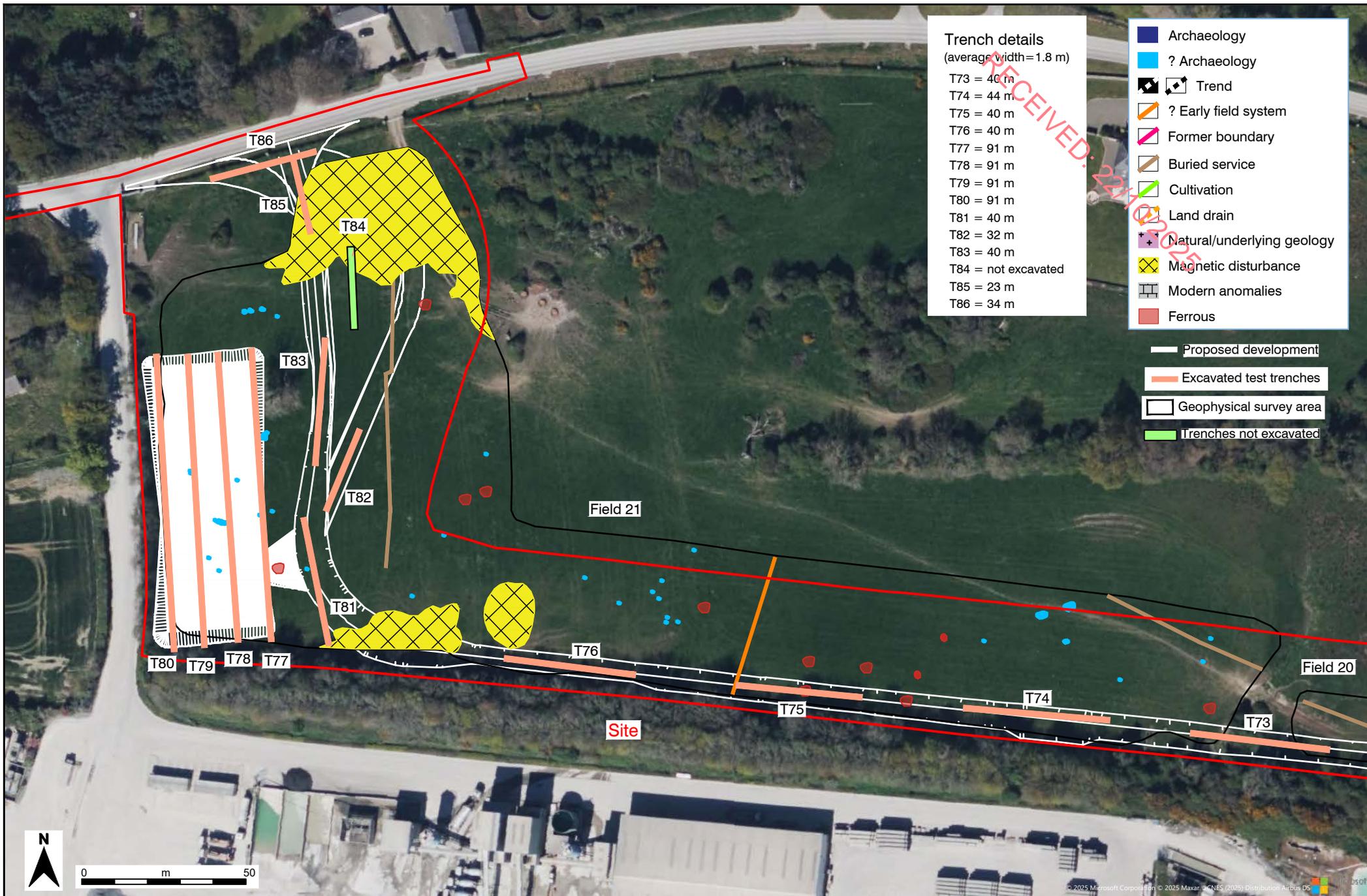
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Project Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth

Date July 2025

Figure 33 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Fields 17 to 21



Project Kellystown Windfarm, Co. Louth **Date** July 2025 **Drawing No.** 2531_C1044

Figure 34 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches in Fields 20 and 21 **Scale** 1:1,500 @ A4

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