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INTRODUCTION

Background

12.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), commissioned by SLR Consulting Ireland on behalf of Anthony D'Arcy Ltd. addresses the impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the application site and the surrounding area of a proposal for continued use and extension of the existing sand pit on land at Ballymacoonoge, Glentire and Ballynamonabeg townlands, Co. Wexford. The site location and study area are indicated in **Figure 12.1**.

12.2 The proposed development will consist of the continued use and extension of the existing sand pit.

12.3 The proposed development is described in detail in EIAR Chapter 2 – Project Description.

Scope of Work / Methodology

12.4 This study which complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022).

Table 12-1: The criteria and definitions for describing effects drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines.

Quality of Effects	**Positive** A change which improves the quality of the environment.
	Neutral No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds or variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment.
Significance of effects	**Imperceptible** An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
	Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.
	Slight effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate effects

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	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
	Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing the extent and context of effects	**Extent** Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions.
Describing the Probability of effects	**Likely effects** The effects can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely effects The effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing the duration and frequency of effects	**Momentary effects** Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	Brief effects Effects lasting less than a day.
	Temporary effects Effects lasting less than a year.
	Short-term effects Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Short-term effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	Long term-term effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	Permanent effects Effects lasting over sixty years.
	Reversible effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
	Frequency of effects Describe how the effect will occur.
Describing the types of effects	**Indirect effects** Impacts on the environment which are not a direct result of the project.
	Cumulative effects

	The addition of minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger more significant effect.
	'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the project not be carried out.
	'Worst case' effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable effects When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible effects When the character distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual effects The degree of environmental change that will, occur after the proposed mitigation measures take effect.
	Synergistic effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.

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12.5 The study involved detailed investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the development site, the landholding and the surrounding area extending 1 km from the development boundary (**Figure 12.1**). This area was examined using information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Wexford, the Sites and Monuments Record, the Wexford County Development Plan, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, lists of excavations and cartographic and documentary sources.

12.6 An impact assessment and mitigation strategy have been prepared. An impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.

12.7 The Application site is in the townlands of Ballymacoonoge, Glentire and Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford, on OS Six Inch Sheet Nos. 27, about 0.8 km to the south of the town of Ballaghkeen and about 0.5km to the west of the R744 road.

12.8 Extracts from the Record of Monuments and Places for County Wexford are presented on a map of the local area around the site in **Figure 12.1**. RMP sites included on the Records of Monuments and Places statutory mapping are identified by black circles. The application area is shown in red.

Contributors / Author(s)

12.9 The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management.

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Limitations / Difficulties Encountered

12.10 No difficulties were encountered during the desktop study, field survey or in the preparation of this report.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

12.11 The following paragraphs set out the regulatory background with regard to cultural impact assessments in Ireland in general and the site-specific planning background relevant to this cultural impact assessment, in particular.

Legislation

12.12 No specific Irish legislation exists governing cultural heritage assessments.

Planning Policy and Development Control

12.13 The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives/policies of the local authority. The plan includes objectives and policies, relevant to this assessment, i.e. regarding cultural heritage.

Built and Cultural Heritage

12.14 Volume 1, Chapter 13 of the Wexford County Development Plan sets out the policies on Heritage and Conservation within the county. The Plan identifies objectives to ensure the protection of the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county and provides the spatial framework and objectives for its protection either directly by the Council, or by supporting its protection through other responsible agencies. The Plan seeks to protect a diverse range of the county's heritage, both designated and undesignated sites, including Natura 2000 sites, geological sites, nature reserves, archaeological sites, protected structures, architectural conservation areas and the county's biodiversity such as hedgerows.

The Council also recognises the need to integrate our built, cultural and natural heritage, which all have intrinsic value in defining the character of urban and rural areas and adding to their attractiveness and sense of place.

12.15 The Council's objectives regarding archaeological heritage are to:

AH01
To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects including those listed or scheduled for inclusion on the Record of Monuments and Places and/or the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.

AH02
To recognise the importance of monuments and sites and protect the character and integrity of these monuments and sites where appropriate. The Council will consult the National Monuments Service where a development is proposed that may impact on an archaeological monument and/or site.

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AH03
To protect the heritage of groups of important archaeological sites and monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.

AH04
To fully consider the protection of archaeological heritage when undertaking, approving or authorising development. In considering such protection the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the principles set out in Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999).

AH05
To require an archaeological assessment and/or investigation by qualified persons for development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have a significant effect upon archaeological heritage and to take appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

AH06
To promote a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and settings when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features. Where preservation in-situ is not possible the Council will consider preservation by record in appropriate circumstances.

AH07
To protect historic and archaeological landscapes, including battlefields, and promote access to such sites provided that this does not threaten the feature.

AH08
To include archaeological landscapes, battlefields and historic landscapes as part of the updated Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be prepared following the publication of a National Landscape Character Assessment.

AH09
To protect historic urban defences (both upstanding and buried) and associated features and safeguard them from inappropriate development in accordance with National Policy on Town Defences (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008).

AH10
To identify appropriate archaeological sites in the county to which public access could be provided, and work to secure public access and the provision of signage and interpretation panels where appropriate in consultation with the landowner and the National Monument Service, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.

AH11
To retain existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from medieval or earlier origin.

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AH12
To protect historical burial grounds within County Wexford and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best practice conservation principles.

AH13
To have regard to the Historic Battlefield sites as listed in Table 13.6 (and those which are not listed thereon but that are, or become, known) and when assessing planning applications in the vicinity of a Historic Battlefield ensure there is no harm to the physical character or setting of these sites. Where development is proposed within the identified battlefields, archaeological assessment and recording may be required.

12.16 The Council's objectives regarding architectural heritage, architectural conservation areas and graveyards are to:

BH01
To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.

BH02
To support targeted investment in the built heritage of our region including the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund to assist owners to maintain our built heritage assets.

BH03
To promote the development of heritage-led regeneration and engage in and promote initiatives to revitalise the historic cores of our towns and villages together with local communities, heritage property owners and other stakeholders.

BH04
To consider, in the preparation of future local area plans, a Town first approach to the revitalisation of historic urban centres, which focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings and their adaptation to new uses with regard to their architectural character and significance.

BH05
To protect our Architectural Heritage in the form of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and identify important groups of buildings/localities suitable for designation as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Wexford County Council will also endeavour to undertake monitoring and review of the RPS and ACAs which may result in recommendations for additions or deletions and enlist measures to prevent dereliction and to support re-use of built heritage.

BH06
To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of, or damage to, the special character of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or attendant grounds of the structure.

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BH07
To ensure development within the curtilage of a Protected Structure is compatible with its character. This does not preclude putting forward innovative contemporary designs that respect the context of the Protected Structure.

BH08
To promote the retention of any original or early building fabric including for example timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, ironmongery, traditional mortars, render and decorative or weather finishes and slate and vernacular architectural details (whether relating to a Protected Structure or not). Likewise, the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features and retention of original ridge heights as appropriate.

BH09
To protect, maintain and enhance the established character and setting of vernacular buildings which are worthy of protection or have architectural heritage value, farmyards and settlements where they make a positive contribution to the built heritage and encourage the re-use and sensitive refurbishment of vernacular buildings using appropriate design and materials and having regard to best practice conservation guidelines.

BH10
To ensure that applications in relation to Protected Structures include an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report where it is considered the proposed development entails extensive or complex works with a potential to have an impact on the architectural heritage. This report should assess the implications of the development on the character of the structure and the area in which it is located. This should be prepared by a suitably qualified person competent to make a qualitative assessment of the potential impact of works on the character and special interest of the Protected Structure and in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011) and any subsequent guidelines.

BH11
To ensure that all applications for Protected Structures are assessed taking into consideration the advice contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011) and any subsequent guidelines.

BH12
To encourage the repair and retention of traditional timber, rendered and/or tiled shop fronts and pub fronts, including those which may not be Protected Structures. There will be a general presumption against the replacement of original shopfronts with emphasis on retention and reinstatement of traditional proportions and details.

BH13
To facilitate the retention of older buildings, the Planning Authority will give consideration to the relaxation of car parking and other development management requirements in appropriate circumstances.

BH14
To ensure that elements of the architectural heritage of the county, such as historic gardens and historic designed landscapes, stone or brick walls, ditches and street furniture that make a positive contribution to the built heritage, are retained.

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BH15
To encourage improvements to energy efficiency in traditional buildings while maintaining the architectural character and significance in line with the Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) and the Advice Series Guide on Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government) and any future guidelines and advice.

BH16
To protect and manage trees in the curtilage of a Protected Structure or in close vicinity that contribute to its special character and setting.

BH17
To support economic development of large country houses in their role as tourist attractions and other commercial uses to ensure their continued survival.

BH18
In the event of catastrophic accidental fire damage the rebuilding of a Protected Structure will not be required. Support and advice will be provided in assisting the repair of damaged Protected Structures to achieve a balance between new works and the remaining original features.

ACA01
To protect and enhance the character of the designated Architectural Conservation Areas in Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross, Gorey and Bunclody, including the views and prospects to and from these areas.

ACA02
To review current Architectural Conservation Areas during the preparation of subsequent local area plans, in conjunction with owners and occupiers and interest groups, with a view to preparing a Management Scheme and guidance on the treatment of structures and the public realm.

ACA03
To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards within the Architectural Conservation Areas.

ACA04
To protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, burial grounds, sites, landscapes and features such as trees, street furniture and paving, (including subsurface areas) which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the Architectural Conservation Area, from demolition or removal and nonsympathetic alterations.

ACA05
To ensure that all new advertising hoardings, signage, awnings, canopies, flagpoles, banners, satellite dishes, masts, pylons, lighting, cctv cameras and car parking provision within an Architectural Conservation Area are designed, constructed and located in a manner that is complementary to the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.

ACA06
To preserve historic street patterns and encourage pedestrianisation on key streets.

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ACA07
To promote public awareness of the character and special interest of the Architectural Conservation Areas and to provide assistance and guidance in preserving these.

ACA08
To ensure that applications in relation to a proposed development within an Architectural Conservation Area that entail extensive or complex works with a potential to have an impact on the character of the architectural heritage and/ or landscape include a Character and Landscape Impact Assessment report and/ or Heritage Impact Assessment. This report(s) should assess the implications of the development on the character of the special area in which it is located. This should be prepared by a suitably qualified person competent to make a qualitative assessment of the potential impact of works on the character and special interest of the Architectural Conservation Area and in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011) and any subsequent guidelines.

G01
To preserve and enhance the county's graveyards through improved management, access and community stewardship, and to promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds.

G02
To provide education and training on the appropriate care and maintenance of our graveyards and burial grounds (including the legislative procedures involved).

G03
To promote the use of Graveyard Plans as a means of identifying the significance of each graveyard and of co-ordinating maintenance and conservation works and the required permissions, as well as any promotional activities desired.

G04
To protect the burial grounds identified in the Record of Monuments and Places in cooperation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

12.17 The Council's objectives regarding cultural heritage are to:

CH01
To support the sustainable development and promotion of our cultural heritage and the associated infrastructure subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.

CH02
To safeguard the cultural heritage of the county and facilitate the expansion and development of appropriate facilities suitably located adjacent to points of interest subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.

CH03
To help to ensure that our cultural heritage and associated facilities are accessible and inclusive subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.

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CH04
To co-operate with the Heritage Council, Arts Council, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant bodies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service to promote and develop the arts, cultural and heritage attractions throughout the County.

CH05
To support the delivery of the Creative Ireland programme that will encourage cultural activity and celebration of our heritage as important factors in the wellbeing of the County's communities and core to the practice of place-making.

Guidelines

12.18 The report format and some of the descriptions of effects are based on the **Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports**, published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2022.

Significant Risks

12.19 There are no known significant risks to human health or environmental effects, which may occur in relation to this cultural heritage assessment.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Study Area

12.20 The overall study area is shown in **Figure 12.1**.

Baseline Study Methodology

12.21 Research has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved the archaeological assessment of the proposed development area.

Paper Study

12.22 This is a document search. The following sources were examined and a list of sites and areas of archaeological potential compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places County Wexford
- The Sites and Monuments Record
- Available aerial photography
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area
- Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The Record of Monuments and Places

12.23 This was established under section 12 (1) of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act and provides that the Minister shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and

places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. The associated files contain information of documentary sources and field inspections where these have taken place. 12 Recorded monuments were noted within the study area. All available information on these sites is provided in Appendix 12-1.

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Cartographic Sources

12.24 This included seventeenth century mapping as well the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey six-inch maps and Documentary sources provide more general historical and archaeological background.

The County Development Plan

12.25 This notes structures listed for preservation.

Field Survey & Testing

12.26 A geophysical survey and test excavation was carried out on the site in August and October 2025 to determine the location, extent and ascertain the significance of any potential archaeological features.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

The Landscape

12.27 The application site is located in the in the townlands of Ballynamonabeg, Ballymacoonoge and Glentire, Co. Wexford on OS Six Inch Sheet Nos. 27, about 0.8 km to the south of the town of Ballaghkeen and about 0.5km to the west of the R744 road. The proposed development would involve extraction of an area of c.11 ha. The soil of the area is sandy stoneless drift overlying a stoneless drift (http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php).

Historical and Archaeological Background

12.28 The following is a brief summation of the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the county along with the historical development of the study area. It is intended as a guide to the types of sites and monuments that might be encountered in the study area.

12.29 The site is situated in the Townlands of Ballynamonabeg, Ballymacoonoge and Glentire, in the civil parish of Killisk and the barony of Ballaghkeen South.

The Prehistoric Period

12.30 There is evidence for prehistoric ritual activity in the study area in the form of burial monuments. There is a cemetery of six ring-ditches (WX027-009001-6) in Slievenagrane townland and another ring-ditch in (WX027-010----) in Ballymacoonoge townland. These ring-ditched indicate activity in the Bronze Age or Iron Age periods. A burnt mound (WX027-058----) in Slievenagrane townland possibly associated with a boiling trough also probably dates to the prehistoric period.

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The Early Medieval Period

12.31 In the Early Medieval period the study area was situated in an area named for the Fir na gCenél, a branch of the Uí Chennselaig, and was later known as the cantred of Farnygenale (MacCotter 2008, 251). Early medieval settlement is often indicated by enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts. However, there no ringforts or generic enclosures known known from the study area.

The Later Medieval Period

12.32 After the Norman capture of Wexford in 1169 and the death of King Diarmait MacMurchade in 1171 and the assumption of the Lordship of Leinster by Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare, the lands of Fernegenal was granted to Maurice de Prendergast. By 1185 Fernegenal had passed to the Roche family (Colfer 1987, 67-9). Sir Herbert or Humphrey de Freyne, who accompanied Strongbow to Ireland, acquired large possessions in the province of Leinster, and settled in Ballymacoonoge, County Wexford. Fulke de Freyne, the descendant of Sir Humphrey, settled his manor of Ballymacoonoge, with remainder to his heirs, with various other remainders, in 1329 (Lodge 1840, v).

12.33 Manorialism describes the organisation of the feudal rural economy and society characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a lord supported economically from his own direct landholding and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. In Ireland, the Lord's manor house was also sometimes enclosed by a rectangular moat and these sites are referred to as moated sites. They are a useful indicator of Anglo-Norman settlement. There is moated site (WX027-008----) in Glentire townland which would have been the centre of this part of the manor of Ballymacoonoge.

12.34 The fifteenth century was characterised by the decline of Anglo-Norman power in Ireland. Part of the response to this was the construction of masonry tower houses which sprang up after King Henry VI introduced a building subsidy of £10 in 1429 (Sweetman 1999, 137). However, there are no tower houses known from the study area.

12.35 In 1461, Murtagh O'Morchoe of Toberlomina, the chief of the sept, was granted a charter of English law by King Edward IV (O'Hart 2000, 113). In 1488, The Annals of the Four Masters noted that: "The son of Murchadha, Lord of Hy-Felimy (Mahon, son of Teige), was treacherously slain by Donough, the son of Art, son of Donough Mac Morogh, Lord of Hy-Kinsellagh." Murtagh O'Morchoe's great grandson Donal Mor O'Morchoe paid the Earl of Kildare a yearly fee for the defence of O'Moroghe Country in 1537 (O'Hart 2000, 113).

The Post-Medieval Period

12.36 The Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I (p. 361) record that in 1618 Ballyclonconocke (Ballymacoonoge) and Clonemctire (Glentire) were held by John Synott. The Down Survey records that in 1641 Ballymacoonoge townland was unforfeited and remained unforfeited in 1670 (downsurvey.tcd.ie). Griffith's Primary Valuation records that 1847-1864 Ballymacoonoge was held by the Earl of Aran (Philip Gore), John Colfer and Ellen Prendergast and Glentire was held by Viscount Valentia (Arthur Annesley) and Laurence Lacy (http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie).

BUILDINGS

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Protected Structures

12.37 The Wexford Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Record of Protected Structures was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR. The review established that there are no Protected Structures in the application area. There are two structures within the study area listed as a Protected Structures (see **Figure 12.1**). The structures are noted below.

Ballymurry House Structure No. WCC1188
Detached four-bay two-storey house, Ballaghkeen or The Ballagh.

Ballymurry church/chapel No. WCC1189
Catholic Church of Saint John the Baptist, Ballaghkeen or The Ballagh.

12.38 The closest structure to the application area, Ballymurry House Structure No. WCC1188, is situated approximately 0.83 km north-west of the application area. This and the remaining Protected Structure are at a great distance to the application area and are considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

Inventory of Architectural Heritage

12.39 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR on 17 July 2019. There are no structures listed in the Inventory situated within the application area. There are three additional structures situated in the study area (see **Figure 12.1**).

Ballymurry graveyard/cemetery No. 15702705
Graveyard with collection of cut-limestone markers, ob. 1821-1953. Set in landscaped grounds with coursed rubble stone boundary wall to perimeter having rubble stone soldier course coping.

Glentire farmhouse No. 15702709
Detached five-bay single-storey lobby entry thatched farmhouse with dormer attic, occupied 1901, on a T-shaped plan centred on single-bay single-storey gabled windbreak. Occupied, 1987. Now disused. Hipped oat thatch roof overhanging lean-to roofs to window openings to dormer attic with exposed bamboo stretchers to degraded ridge having exposed steel or wire scallops, red brick Running bond off-central chimney stack having stepped capping, and exposed bamboo stretchers to eaves having exposed steel or wire scallops. Roughcast battered walls bellcast over rendered plinth. Square-headed central door opening in segmental-headed recess with concealed dressings framing timber boarded or tongue-and-groove timber panelled door. Square-headed window openings with concrete or rendered sills, and concealed dressings framing two-over-two timber sash windows having part exposed sash boxes. Set back from line of road.

Tinraheen farmhouse No. 15702710
Detached three-bay two-storey farmhouse, extant 1903, on a T-shaped plan centred on single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting glazed porch to ground floor; single-bay two-storey side elevations. "Improved", pre-1911, producing present composition. Now disused.

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Hipped fibre-cement slate roof with lichen-covered ridge tiles centred on paired red brick Running bond chimney stacks having stringcourses below stepped capping supporting terracotta octagonal pots, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered slate flagged eaves retaining cast-iron downpipes. Part creeper- or ivy-covered roughcast walls bellcast over rendered plinth. Segmental-headed central door opening into farmhouse. Square-headed window openings with cut-granite sills, and concealed dressings framing six-over-six (ground floor) or three-over-six (first floor) timber sash windows. Interior including (ground floor): central hall retaining timber surrounds to door openings framing timber panelled doors; and timber surrounds to door openings to remainder framing timber panelled doors with timber panelled shutters to window openings. Set in unkempt grounds with roughcast-panelled piers to perimeter having stepped capping.

Field Survey

12.40 On the 2 August 2019, fieldwork was carried out to identify any additional non-designated structures in the vicinity of the application area. This involved assessing all upstanding Structures that are marked on the 1924 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 100m of the application area (see **Figure 12.1**). There are no upstanding structures in this area.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Assessment

Recorded Monuments

12.41 Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places for Co. Wexford indicated that the application area is situated within the area of notification of a Recorded Monument WX027-010---- Ring-ditch. This monument, which is not visible at ground level is described in the RMP as:

WX027-010---- Ballymacoonoge Ring-ditch
Located on a SE-NW spur. Two concentric cropmark rings (max. diam. c. 10m) are visible on aerial photograph (CUCAP, BDP 6). It is not visible at ground level in pasture.

The area of notification of the monument has been the subject of geophysical investigation and archaeological testing (see below). A sufficient buffer zone to this monument (and the geophysical anomalies) was incorporated into the previous site proposal to ensure that the monument will not directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development.

12.42 Externally the closest Recorded Monument to the application area is a redundant record in Glentire townland (WX027-011----, see **Figure 12.1** and Appendix 12-1). This site is described in the RMP as:
WX027-011---- Glentire Demesne Redundant record
Located on a broad E-W ridge. An aerial photograph (CUCAP BDP 87) shows a neglected area in a corner of a field. This is an old quarry or sand pit that is marked as such on the 1839 ed. of the OS 6-inch map.
This non-archaeological feature, which is due for removal from the next revision of the Record of Monuments, is situated c.0.33 km north-east of the application area. The site access road, which has already been constructed, extends through this area (see Plate 12-5).

12.43 The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are situated further from the application area and are considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development.

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Sites and Monuments Record

12.44 Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 15 January 2026 indicated that there are no undesignated monuments included within the application area or the study area.

Cartographic Sources

12.45 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch maps and the 1st edition 25-inch maps of the area were examined. The analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites or features of architectural significance in the application site.

Place Name Evidence

12.46 The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The place names were looked up in the Placenames Database of Ireland at Logainm.ie

Askabeg	small water
Ballyknockan	town of the hillock
Ballymacoonoge	Mac Coonoge's town
Ballymurry	O'Murray's town
Ballymonabeg	little bog town
Glentire	glen of the territory
Knocknavey	hill of the deer
Slievenagorea	mountain of the smooth sides
Slievenagrane	mountain of the trees
Tinraheen	house of the small fort

The placenames refer to natural topographical features, land cover, proprietors and wildlife except for Tinraheen which refers to a ringfort, however there is no ringfort or enclosure known from the townland.

Previous assessment and planning permission

12.47 The existing sandpit was the subject of an EIS carried out by the author in 2019. This assessment identified the archaeology on the site and mitigated the effects of the development.

Archaeological investigations in the study area

12.48 Examination of the Excavations Bulletin at Excavations.ie indicated that there have been no additional archaeological investigations carried out in the study area.

Wexford County Development Plan

12.49 No sites of archaeological importance, National Monuments, or protected structures listed in the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, Tables 13.4 – 13.5 are located within the proposed development area or vicinity.

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Aerial Photographs

12.50 The Ordnance Survey 1995, 1999-2000, 2004-2005 and 2013-14 aerial imagery as well as Google Earth imagery from, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2025 did not indicate any additional cultural heritage sites in the application area or vicinity (see Plate 12-1).

Field Assessment

12.51 A geophysical survey and test excavation was carried out on the site in August 2025 by Ger Dowling (License No. 5R0322) to determine the location, extent and ascertain the significance of any potential archaeological anomalies (see Table 12.2 and Appendix 12-2). The geophysical survey identified two possible enclosures as the principal potential archaeological features, including a large circular enclosure at the northern site boundary measuring approximately 55 m by 52 m with a probable east-facing entrance, and a distinctive subtriangular or plectrum-shaped enclosure near the southern boundary measuring about 63 m by 57 m, within which several pit-type anomalies and magnetic trends may be of archaeological significance; a nearby cluster of strong magnetic anomalies to the northeast of the northern enclosure may represent associated hearths or kilns, while two possible ring-ditches, scattered linear and curvilinear anomalies, and numerous pit-type responses may reflect further archaeological features such as ditches, pits, or activity areas, although some of these could alternatively have modern, agricultural, or natural origins, including a possible lightning strike, and the survey also recorded evidence for relict field boundaries, former cultivation, and several probable historic quarry pits.

12.52 The full survey results are set out below.

Table 12.2: Geophysical Survey Results.

Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
1	Penannular 'ditch-type' anomaly	Archaeology	Large, circular enclosure, seemingly defined by a substantial ditch (width of anomaly up to 3 m), with maximum dimensions of approximately 55 m NNW/SSE by 52 m WSW/ENE. A c. 9 m wide gap in the circuit of the enclosure on the E may mark the position of an entrance. The footprint of the enclosure is well

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Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
			defined on the W, fainter on the SE, and on the N is obscured by magnetic disturbance from an adjacent field boundary. Several 'pit-type' anomalies within the enclosure interior may be of archaeological potential. A relict field boundary oriented NW/SE intersects enclosure [1] on the NW. See Appendix 12-2 Figure 8 for detail.
2	'Plectrum-shaped' positive anomaly	Archaeology	Large, subtriangular/'plectrum-shaped' enclosure, probably defined by a ditch with a relatively weak magnetic signature. Maximum dimensions approximately 63 m NE/SW by 57 m NW/SE. A c. 7 m wide gap on the N may be an entrance. Several 'pit-type' anomalies and positive magnetic trends within the enclosure interior may be of archaeological potential. See Appendix 12-2 Figure 9 for detail.

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Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
3	Circular positive anomaly	Possible archaeology	Annular ring-ditch, approximately 9.7 m N/S by 11 m E/W. Maximum width of anomaly 1.3 m. Potentially the remains of a funerary monument or a building slot-trench.
4	Penannular positive anomaly with central 'pit-type' response	Possible archaeology	Penannular ring-ditch, approximately 6.5 m in diameter, with an opening to the SW (possibly an entrance feature). Well defined 'pit-type' anomaly at centre. Potentially the remains of a funerary monument or a building slot-trench.
5	Cluster of three strong, 'pit-type' anomalies	Possible archaeology	The size and strength of these responses (maximum dimensions c. 2.70–3.20 m; up to 30 nT in magnitude) suggest they may be oven-type features, e.g., hearths or kilns. Located about 47 m NE of circular enclosure.
N/A	Series of slender, positive linear, curvilinear and arcuate anomalies	Possible archaeology / agricultural	Potential 'ditch-type' archaeological features. May include

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Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
			modern agricultural features, e.g., drains.
N/A	Multiple 'pit-type' responses	Possible archaeology / modern / natural	Scatter of possible pits and/or deposits, including several large and well-defined examples. Some may contain archaeological soils/deposits associated with domestic/industrial activities. Interpretation is tentative, as similar anomalies can have a modern/agricultural origin or reflect natural soil variations.
6	Bipolar, positive and negative radiating arms extending from a central point	Possible natural	Possible lightning strike.
N/A	Positive trends	Possible archaeology / agricultural	Possible ditches and/or drains.
N/A	Network of positive–negative–positive linears	Agricultural	Relict field boundaries recorded on historic mapping.
N/A	Multiple positive linears	Agricultural	Possible relict field boundaries, plough trends and/or drains. Likely post-date field

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Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
			divisions recorded on historic mapping.
N/A	Multiple, closely spaced, parallel, positive–negative linear trends	Agricultural	Former cultivation. Various orientations, some overlapping.
N/A	Subcircular areas of weakly enhanced magnetic response	Modern	Possible former sand quarry pits. Tentative interpretation.
N/A	Multiple 'ferrous-type' responses	Modern	Ferrous debris and other weakly magnetised material.
N/A	Areas of increased magnetic response	Modern	Possible ground disturbance and/or modern imported material, some likely associated with former quarrying on the E side of the survey area.
N/A	Amorphous areas of weak, positive magnetic response	Natural	Spreads of enhanced magnetic (top)soils contrasting with a negative background response arising from naturally occurring sand deposits.
N/A	Weak negative background response	Natural	Sand deposits beneath topsoil. Not marked on Appendix 12-2 Figures 7-9.

Anomaly Number	Form/nature of anomaly	Potential source(s) of anomaly	Interpretation
N/A	Areas of magnetic disturbance	Modern	Disturbance from adjacent field boundaries/wire fencing.

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12.53 An archaeological test excavation test trenching was undertaken at Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford, in advance of a proposed 11-hectare sand quarry extension, following a geophysical survey that had identified multiple anomalies of archaeological potential. To test these, 25 trenches totalling 515 m were excavated across the site under licence 25E0913. Archaeological testing at Ballynamonabeg identified four discrete areas of archaeological significance (Areas 1–4). See Table 12-3 for a summary of the archaeology identified, impacts and proposed mitigation (see Appendix 12-3).

Table 12-3: Summary table of Impacts and Archaeological Mitigation Measures

Area	Archaeological Remains	Significance	Nature of Impact	Type	Mitigation	Residual Impact
Area 1	Plectrum enclosure (C5), linear (C4), pit (C6)	High	Partial impact	Direct	Preserve enclosure in situ with 10m buffer. Strip and excavate impacted linears under supervision	Not significant following mitigation
Area 2	Kiln (C8) and pit (C9)	High	Complete loss unavoidable	Direct	Full excavation and recording with 10m buffer stripped	Not significant following mitigation

Area	Archaeological Remains	Significance	Nature of Impact	Type	Mitigation	Residual Impact
Area 3	Circular enclosure (C14)	High	No impact	None	Preservation in situ with 10m fenced buffer	Neutral
Area 4	Kilns C10–C12	High	Complete loss unavoidable	Direct	Full excavation and recording with 10m buffer	Not significant following mitigation

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ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Direct Impacts

12.54 There will be a significant, negative, and permanent effect on archaeological heritage in Areas 2 (Kiln (C8) and pit (C9)) and 4 (Kilns C10–C12). The archaeological heritage identified within Areas 1 (Plectrum enclosure (C5), linear (C4), pit (C6)) and 3 (Circular enclosure (C14)) will be preserved in situ.

12.55 There will be no direct effects on any other known items of archaeology, cultural heritage, or buildings of special architectural significance in the application area or the vicinity.

Indirect Impacts

12.56 There will be no indirect effects on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of special architectural significance in the application area or the vicinity.

Interactions with Other Impacts

12.57 No interaction with other impacts has been identified.

Do Nothing Impacts

12.58 If the proposed development were not to proceed there would be no impact on the cultural heritage.

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Worst Case Impact

12.59 In the worst case scenario, the development might disturb previously unknown deposits or artefacts without preservation by record taking place in areas 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Unplanned Events

12.60 No unplanned events arising from the proposal capable of impacting known cultural heritage within the application area has been identified by the assessment.

Cumulative Impacts

12.61 There is no known cultural heritage material present in the application area, and the application is not considered to have any cumulative effects.

RECOMMENDATIONS / PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Direct Impacts

12.62 The archaeological heritage identified in Areas 2 (Kiln (C8) and pit (C9)) and 4 (Kilns C10–C12) will be preserved by record under license from the national Monuments Service. The archaeological heritage identified in Areas 1 (Plectrum enclosure (C5), linear (C4), pit (C6)) and 3 (Circular enclosure (C14)) will be preserved in situ within 10 m buffer zones.

Indirect Impacts

12.63 No indirect effects on any items of cultural heritage, archaeology or architectures warranting specific mitigation were identified during the course of the cultural heritage assessment.

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FIGURES

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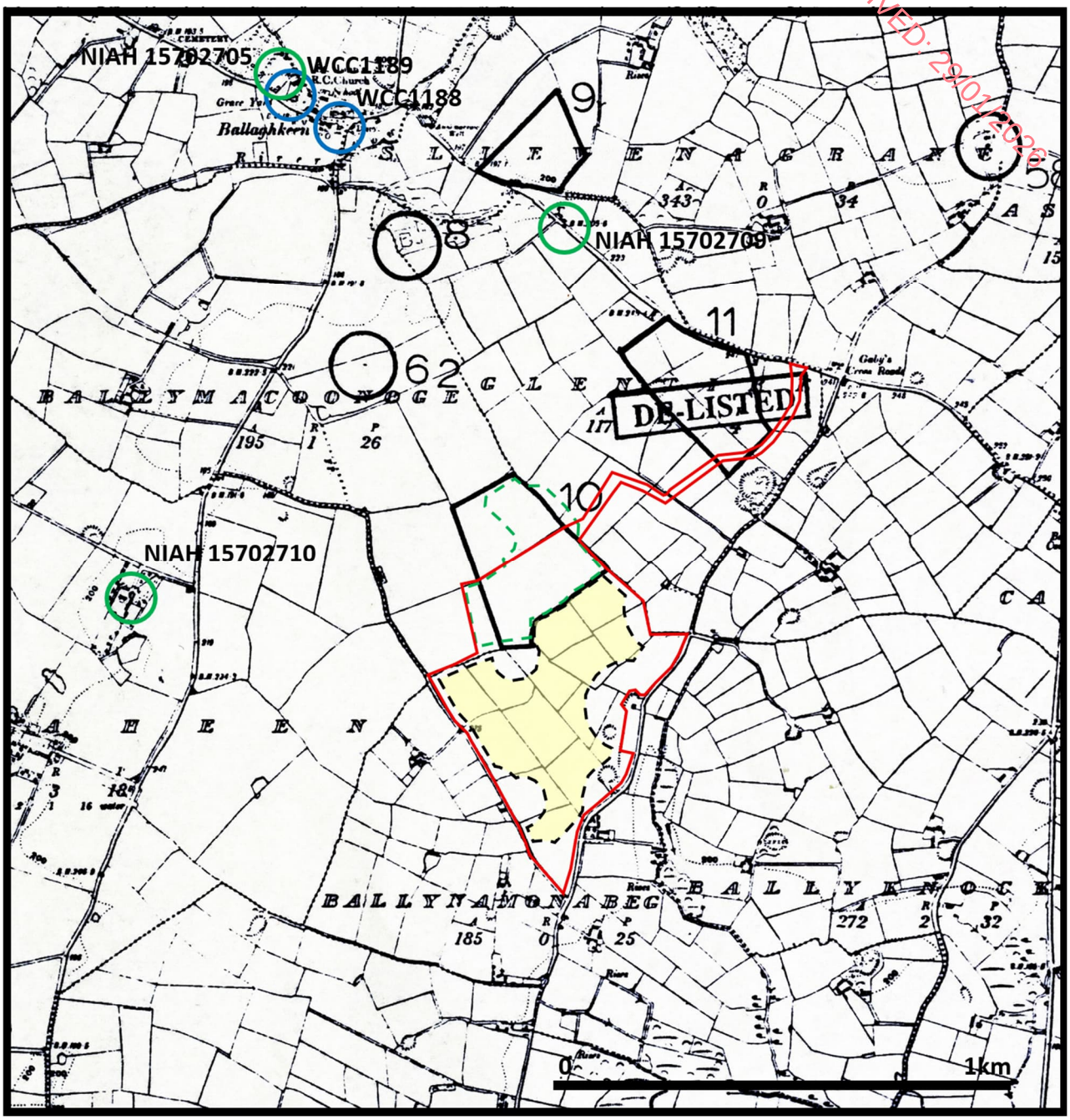


Figure 12.1 **The study area. The black dashed line is the extraction area, the red line is the planning application area, and the green dashed line is the previously permitted area. RMPs are indicated with black circles, Structures in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage with green circles. Structures in the Record of Protected Structures are indicated with blue circles.**

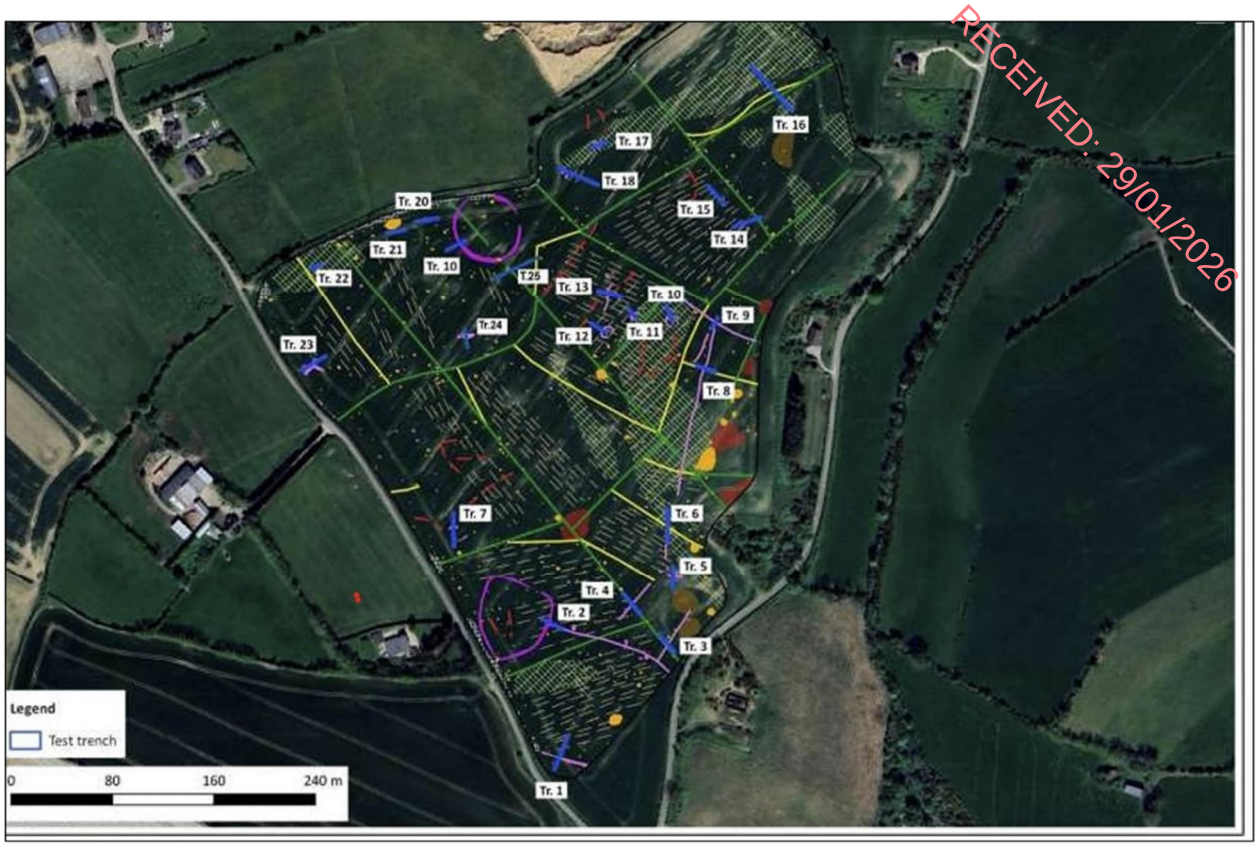


Figure 12.2 Archaeological test trench locations.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 12.1 Sites in the Record of Monuments and Places

WX027-008---- GLENTIRE Moated site
Situated in a hollow in a low-lying landscape. This is an overgrown rectangular area (dims. 29m N-S; 27m E-W) defined by earthen banks (Wth 3 7m; int. H 0.3 1m) and flat bottomed moats (Wth 7-9m; int. D 1.5m; ext. D 0.6m) on all sides except the W.

WX027-009001- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-009002- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-009003- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-009004- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-009005- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-009006- SLIEVENAGRANE Ring-ditch
Located on a low-lying landscape at the bottom of a hill which rises over it to the NE and c. 300m E of the NE-SW River Sow. The cropmarks of at least six circular enclosures (diams c. 10-20m) are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP, BDP 3-5). They are not visible at ground level in pasture.

WX027-010---- BALLYMACOONOGE Ring-ditch
Located on a SE-NW spur. Two concentric cropmark rings (max. diam. c. 10m) are visible on aerial photograph (CUCAP, BDP 6). It is not visible at ground level in pasture. Archaeological testing (09E0564) on an extensive area (dims c. 200m NW-SE; c. 140m NE-SW at NW to c. 190m NE-SW at SE) in Glentire townland and c. 130m to the E at the closest point produced no related archaeological material (Nelis 2009).

WX027-011---- GLENTIRE Redundant record
Located on a broad E-W ridge. An aerial photograph (CUCAP BDP 87) shows a neglected area in a corner of a field. This is an old quarry or sand pit that is marked as such on the 1839 ed. of the OS 6-inch map.

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WX027-058---- SLIEVENAGRANE Burnt mound
Located on a S-facing slope beside a spring. This is a mound of burnt and cracked stones (diam. 18m; H 0.3m) visible when the area is ploughed.

WX027-062---- BALLYMACOONOGE Redundant record

Classified as an enclosure on the basis of an aerial photographs (ASIAP, WX 100, 34-6) but the image is too uncertain and it cannot be substantiated.

Appendix 12-2 Geophysical Survey report

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Geophysical Survey Report
Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford

RECEIVED: 29/01/2026

License No.: 25R0322
SMR/RMP: N/A

ITM: 707600, 636400



Ger Dowling, PhD MIAI
August 2025

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeo-geophysical survey (Licence No.: 25R0322) of lands at Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford. The investigation, comprising high-resolution magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer) survey, was implemented over an area of approximately 15 hectares. The work was conducted as part of a preliminary (pre-planning) archaeological investigation.

The site had not previously been subject to geophysical survey and the present investigation sought to identify and map any subsurface archaeology that may be present.

The survey identified a range of anomalies of archaeological, and potential archaeological, significance, in addition to anomalies of agricultural, natural and modern origin. Newly recorded features include two large enclosures, two possible ring-ditches and an array of small 'ditch-' and 'pit-type' anomalies. Evidence for former land division and cultivation was also recorded.

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Survey details

Site Name: Ballynamonabeg
Townland: Ballynamonabeg
County: Wexford

Parishes: Castle Ellis and Killisk
Barony: Ballaghkeen South

RMP/SMR No.: N/A
ITM (centroid): 707600, 636400

Land use: Tillage
Geology: Dark grey slates with siltstone laminae (Ballyhoge Formation)
Soils: Predominantly sandy, stoneless drift (Seafield Association)

Detection License No.: 25R0322
Planning Reference No.: N/A

Survey Type & Instrumentation: Magnetometer – Seven-channel fluxgate gradiometer system
Sample/Transverse Interval: 0.10m/0.50m

Area Surveyed: *c*.15 ha
Survey Date: 13 August 2025

Licence Holder: Ger Dowling
Report Authors: Ger Dowling & Roseanne Schot
Report Date: 19 August 2025

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Figure 4. The survey area overlaid on the first-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1888–1913)

Figure 5. The survey area

Figure 6. Greyscale image of gradiometry results

Figure 7. Interpretive plan showing principal geophysical anomalies

Figure 8. Detail greyscale image and interpretive plan of circular enclosure [1] and other nearby features.

Figure 9. Detail greyscale image and interpretive plan of 'plectrum-shaped' enclosure [2] and other nearby features.

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List of Plates

Plate 1. The survey area, looking south

Plate 2. Modern sand quarry to north of survey area, viewed from the south

Plate 3. Overgrown former quarry on eastern edge of survey area, looking northeast

Abbreviations

GPS	Global Positioning System
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator
nT	nanoTesla (unit of magnetic measurement)
OS	Ordnance Survey
QGIS	Quantum Geographical Information Systems
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
WX	Wexford

Coordinate System

All GPS coordinates given in this report are in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM)

1 Introduction

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This report details the results of an archaeo-geophysical survey (Licence No.: 25R0322) of lands at Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford. The investigation, comprising high-resolution magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer) survey, was implemented over an area of approximately 15 hectares. The work was conducted as part of a preliminary (pre-planning) archaeological investigation.

The site had not previously been subject to geophysical survey and the present investigation sought to identify and map any subsurface archaeology that may be present.

2 Site Location

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The area targeted for geophysical investigation is in the townland of Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford (**Figure 1**). The site lies approximately 11km southeast of the village of Ballaghkeen, in the Civil Parishes of Castle Ellis and Killisk and the Barony of Ballaghkeen South.[1]

[1] Baile na Móna Beag/Ballynamona Beg | logainm.ie: accessed on 14 July 2025.

3 Survey Background

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The survey at Ballynamonabeg was conducted as part of a preliminary (pre-planning) archaeological investigation.

4 Archaeological Background

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4.1 Recorded/Known Archaeology

There are no recorded (RMP/SMR) monuments or sites within the area targeted for survey (**Figure 2**).[2] However, a cluster of up to six ring-ditches (WX027-001–5 & WX027-001010) was identified by previous magnetometer survey in neighbouring fields to the northwest, in the environs of a large, working quarry. The recorded ring-ditches vary in size and form, with two examples (WX027-001001 and WX027-001004) displaying potential evidence of entrance gaps in their circuits.[3] The only other recorded monument in the locality is the site (cropmark) of a possible ringfort-rath (WX027-062), located about 650m northwest of the survey area.[4]

The target lands are shown as farmland on historic mapping (**Figures 3 & 4**). The maps depict several former quarry pits along the eastern site boundary.

4.2 Previous Investigations

There is no record of any previous archaeological investigations within the subject lands.[5]

[2] Historic Environment Viewer (archaeology.ie): accessed on 14 July 2025.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Https://excavations.ie: accessed on 14 July 2025.

5 Survey Location, Topography and Aims

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The geophysical investigation, comprising high-resolution magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer) survey, encompassed an area of approximately 15 ha (Figure 5).

The subject site occupies a large, irregular field of tillage immediately to the south of a working sand quarry (**Plates 1 & 2**). The terrain is generally flat to undulating, with gently rising ground to the north. The eastern flank of the survey area is somewhat steeper and, as noted above, is the location of several former quarries marked on historic OS mapping (**Plate 3**; see also **Figures 3 & 4**). The target land is bounded by mature hedgerows, with wire fencing in places, and flanked on the southwest and south by local roads. The wider agricultural landscape is predominantly tillage, with dispersed settlement.

The underlying bedrock of the locality comprises dark grey slates with siltstone laminae (Ballyhoge Formation).[6] The soils are dominated by sandy stoneless drift (Seafield Association).[7]

The geophysical investigation aimed to:

- identify any geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological origin within the specified survey area
- accurately locate these anomalies and present the findings in map form
- describe the anomalies and discuss their likely provenance in a written report
- incorporate the above in a report to the Client

[6] Geological Survey of Ireland Spatial Resources, Public Data Viewer Series: https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228 [Accessed 14 July 2025].

[7] Irish National Soils Map, 1:250,000k, V1b (2014): http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php [Accessed 14 July 2025].

6 Survey Methodology and Instrumentation

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The geophysical investigation at Ballynamonabeg comprised high-resolution magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer) survey (**Table 1**). This technique measures variations in the magnetic properties of the soils and is widely used in archaeological prospection due to its ability to detect and map a broad range of sub-surface archaeological remains, including ditches and pits as well as burnt/fired features and deposits associated with domestic and industrial activities.

The survey was conducted using a seven-channel fluxgate gradiometer system, combining a Sensys MAGNETO MXPDA and Sensys FGM650 probes, with cm-precision GPS (Trimble R12 antenna and TSC5 controller) georeferenced to Irish Transverse Mercator and Ordnance Datum. The system, which is mounted on a cart that can be hand pushed or pulled by a quad bike, records geophysical and GPS data simultaneously into a single data file. The data capture strategy involved logging readings at 0.10m intervals along transects spaced 0.5m apart, with a maximum traverse width of 3.5m. The sampling strategy produces a high-resolution dataset, giving clarity to any archaeological features detected.

The highly accurate positioning of the survey data provides strong confidence when integrating the geophysical results with other datasets such as aerial imagery in GIS and ensures repeatability should further investigation of anomalies (e.g., test excavation) be required.

Table 1. Geophysical survey details

Technique	Instrumentation	Sensor spacing	Sample rate	Survey Area	Number of recorded data
Magnetometry	Seven-channel fluxgate gradiometer array	0.5m	100 Hz	*c.*15 ha	3,777,827

7 Data Management, Processing and Interpretation

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Geophysical data was logged to a laptop computer and archived daily to an external hard drive. The collated data was processed using the following methodology:

- Real-time positioning of magnetometer data based on GPS measurements;
- Processing (track correction and equalisation) of collated magnetometer data; and
- Export of georeferenced greyscale images at optimum visual range

The processed data was imported into QGIS for final image production (**Figures 6–8**). Final geophysical datasets have been formatted as raster data models/GeoTiffs (projected to ITM, EPSG:2157) to enable subsequent geospatial analysis. Fieldwork, data processing and reporting adhered to the most up-to-date guidelines for conducting archaeo-geophysical surveys.[8] All geophysical raster datasets will be digitally archived to best practice.[9]

[8] Schmidt A., Linford P., Linford N., David, A., Gaffney C., Sarris A., and Fassbinder J. 2016. *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*: *Questions to Ask and Points to Consider*. EAC Guidelines 2. [Online] Available from: https://f64366e3-8f7d-4b63-9edf5000e2bef85b.filesusr.com/ugd/881a59_fdb1636e95f64813a65178895aea87cf.pdf

[9] Niven, K. 2012. *Raster Images: A Guide to Good Practice*. Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity, Guides to Good Practice. [Online] Available from: http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/RasterImg_Toc; & Schmidt, A. and Ernenwein, E. 2012. *Guide to Good Practice: Geophysical Data in Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxbow.

8 General Considerations and Complicating Factors

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8.1 Access and Ground Conditions

The steep, eastern flank of the site was not suitable for survey. There were no other obstacles to the investigation.

8.2 Modern Interference

Magnetic disturbance ('noise') arising from wire fencing was recorded in places along the edges of the survey area.

Multiple small-scale, 'ferrous-type', dipolar (positive–negative) responses are evident in the results of the gradiometer survey. These are a common occurrence in magnetic surveys and in most cases represent modern metal debris and other magnetised material (e.g., fired brick) within the topsoil.

8.3 Former Land Use

Relict and possible relict field boundaries was identified, in addition to past cultivation. Several possible former quarry pits were also recorded.

8.4 Possible Lightning Strike

The effects of a possible lightning strike were registered in the magnetometry data near the northeast corner of the survey area. The detected anomaly (labelled '6' on Figure 6) is distinct, appearing as bipolar (positive and negative) 'rays' that extend out for about 6–8m from a central point. While an anthropogenic (archaeological or modern) origin for anomaly [6] cannot be ruled out, lightning-induced anomalies are well-attested in magnetometry surveys[10] and the possibility that [6] represents an example of such ought to be considered.

8.5 Natural Soil Variation

There is considerable variation in the magnetic background response across the survey area. Large-scale amorphous zones of low magnetism likely derive from naturally occurring sand deposits just below the topsoil. This is offset by amorphous areas of weakly enhanced anthropogenically-modified (top)soils.

[10] See, for example, Burks, J., Viberg, A. & Bevan, B. 2015. Lightning strikes in archaeological magnetometry data. A case study from the High Bank Works site, Ohio, USA. *Archaeological Prospection* 53, pp256–60.

9 Survey Results

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Table 2. Survey results

Area	Ballynamonabeg		
ITM (centroid)	707600, 636400		
Area surveyed	*c.*15 ha		
Figure Numbers	6–9		
Anomaly Number	***Form/nature of anomaly***	***Potential source(s) of anomaly***	***Interpretation***
1	Penannular 'ditch-type' anomaly	Archaeology	Large, circular enclosure, seemingly defined by a substantial ditch (width of anomaly up to 3m), with maximum dimensions of approximately 55m NNW/SSE by 52m WSW/ENE. A *c.*9m-wide gap in circuit of the enclosure on E, may mark the position an entrance. Footprint of enclosure is well defined on W, but more faint on SE, while on N it is obscured by magnetic disturbance emanating from adjacent field boundary. Several 'pit-type' anomalies within enclosure interior may be of archaeological potential. Relict field boundary, oriented NW/SE, intersects with enclosure [1] on NW. ***For detailed view, see Figure 8***
2	'Plectrum-shaped' positive anomaly	Archaeology	Large, subtriangular/'plectrum-shaped' enclosure, probably defined by a ditch with a relatively weak magnetic signature. Max. dimensions approximately 63m NE/SW by 57m NW/SE. A *c.*7m-wide gap on N may be the location of an entrance feature. Several 'pit-type' anomalies and positive magnetic trends within enclosure interior may be of archaeological potential. ***For detailed view, see Figure 9***
3	Circular positive anomaly	Possible archaeology	Annular ring-ditch, approximately 9.7m N/S by 11m E/W. Max. width of anomaly 1.3m. Potentially the remains of a funerary monument or building slot-trench.

4	Penannular positive anomaly with central 'pit-type' response	Possible archaeology	Penannular ring-ditch, approximately 6.5m in diameter, with opening to the SW (possibly an entrance feature). Well defined 'pit-type' anomaly at centre. Potentially the remains of a funerary monument or building slot-trench.
5	Cluster of three strong, 'pit-type' anomalies	Possible archaeology	The size and strength of these responses (max. dimensions *c.*2.70–3.20m; up to 30nT in magnitude), suggest they may be oven-type features, e.g. hearths or kilns. Located about 47m NE of circular enclosure [1].
	Series of slender, positive linear, curvilinear and arcuate anomalies	Possible archaeology/ agricultural	Potential 'ditch-type' archaeological features. May include modern agricultural features (e.g. drains).
	Multiple 'pit-type' responses	Possible archaeology/ modern/natural	Scatter of possible pits and/or deposits. Includes several large and well-defined examples. Some may contain archaeological soils/deposits associated with domestic/industrial activities. Archaeological interpretation is tentative, as similar anomalies can have a modern/agricultural origin or reflect natural soil variations.
6	Bipolar, positive and negative radiating arms extending from a central point	Possible natural	Possible lightning strike.
	Positive trends	Possible archaeology/ agricultural	Possible ditches and/or drains.
	Network of positive–negative–positive linears	Agricultural	Relict field boundaries. Recorded on historic mapping.
	Multiple positive linears	Agricultural	Possible relict field boundaries, plough trends and/or drains. Likely post-date field divisions recorded on historic mapping.
	Multiple, closely spaced, parallel, positive–negative linear trends	Agricultural	Former cultivation. Various orientations, some overlapping.
	Subcircular areas of weakly enhanced magnetic response	Modern	Possible former sand quarry pits. Tentative interpretation.
	Multiple 'ferrous-type' responses	Modern	Ferrous debris and other weakly magnetised material.
	Areas of increased magnetic response	Modern	Possible ground disturbance and/or (modern) imported material, some likely associated with former quarrying on E side of survey area

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	Amorphous areas of weak, positive magnetic response	Natural	Spreads of enhanced magnetic (top)soils, contrasting against negative background response arising from naturally occurring sand deposits
	Weak negative background response	Natural	Sand deposits beneath topsoil. ***Not marked on Figures 7–9.***
	Areas of magnetic disturbance	Modern	Disturbance from adjacent field boundaries/wire fencing.

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10 Conclusion

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Gradiometer survey of lands at Ballynamonabeg has identified a range of features of archaeological, and potential archaeological, significance, in addition to anomalies of agricultural and modern origin.

Most noteworthy is the discovery of what appears to be the footprint of two large enclosures. Enclosure [1], located at the northern site boundary, is of circular form and measures about 55m northnortwest/southsoutheast by 52m westsouthwest/eastnortheast; it may have an east-facing entrance. About 50m to the northeast, the survey detected a cluster of three strong magnetic anomalies [5] that may represent potentially associated 'oven-type' features, such as hearths or kilns. The second enclosure [2] lies near the southern site boundary and is defined by a distinctive subtriangular or 'plectrum-shaped' ditch with maximum dimensions of approximately 63m northeast/southwest by 57m northwest/southeast. A number of 'pit-type' responses and positive magnetic trends mapped by the survey within enclosure interior may be of archaeological potential, though this is uncertain.

Two possible ring-ditches [3 & 4] were also identified at the site, as was a scatter of positive linear, curvilinear and arcuate anomalies, and multiple 'pit-type' responses, that may represent archaeological ditch-features, pits and/or deposits. The strong magnetic response of some of these putative features suggest they contain archaeological material or residues associated with industrial and/or domestic activities. However, the possibility that the latter anomalies have a modern, agricultural and/or natural origin, cannot be ruled out. Indeed, a bipolar (positive–negative) radial anomaly [6] may reflect a lightning strike, though this is tentative.

Evidence for relict land division and cultivation was also mapped by the survey, in addition to several possible former quarry pits.

10.1 Statement of Indemnity

The geophysical properties of sub-surface features must contrast sufficiently with the surrounding soils/background variation to enable them to be detected and mapped using geophysical methods. As such, the clarity and definition of buried features can vary considerably, with some having well-defined signatures while others are only barely visible, or not discernible, in geophysical imagery. A lack of geophysical anomalies cannot be taken to imply the absence of archaeological features.

The interpretations presented here are invariably provisional and further work (e.g., test trenching) is required to fully assess the nature and archaeological potential of the anomalies identified by the present investigation.

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10 Figures

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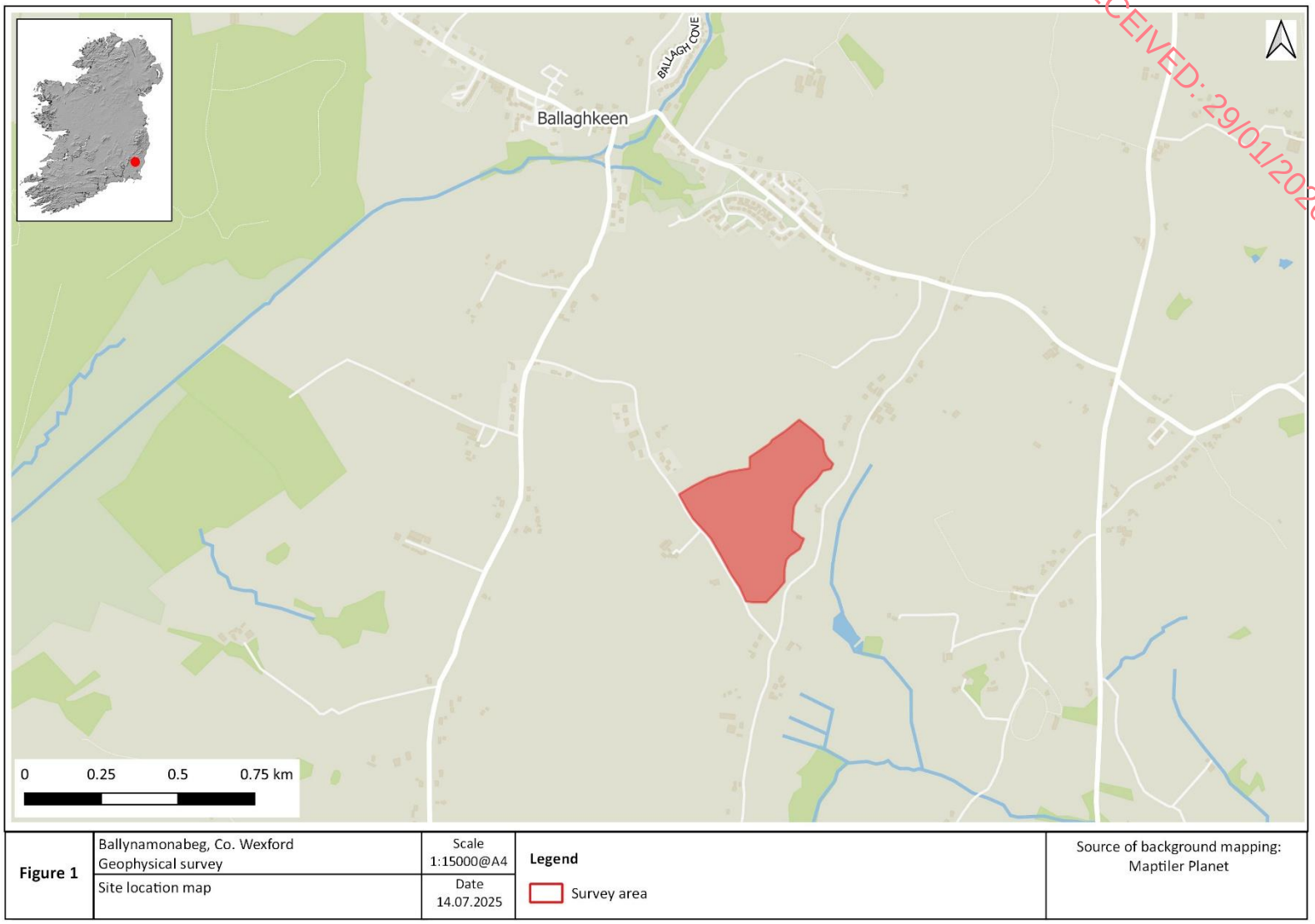


Figure 1. Site location map, showing survey area highlighted in red.

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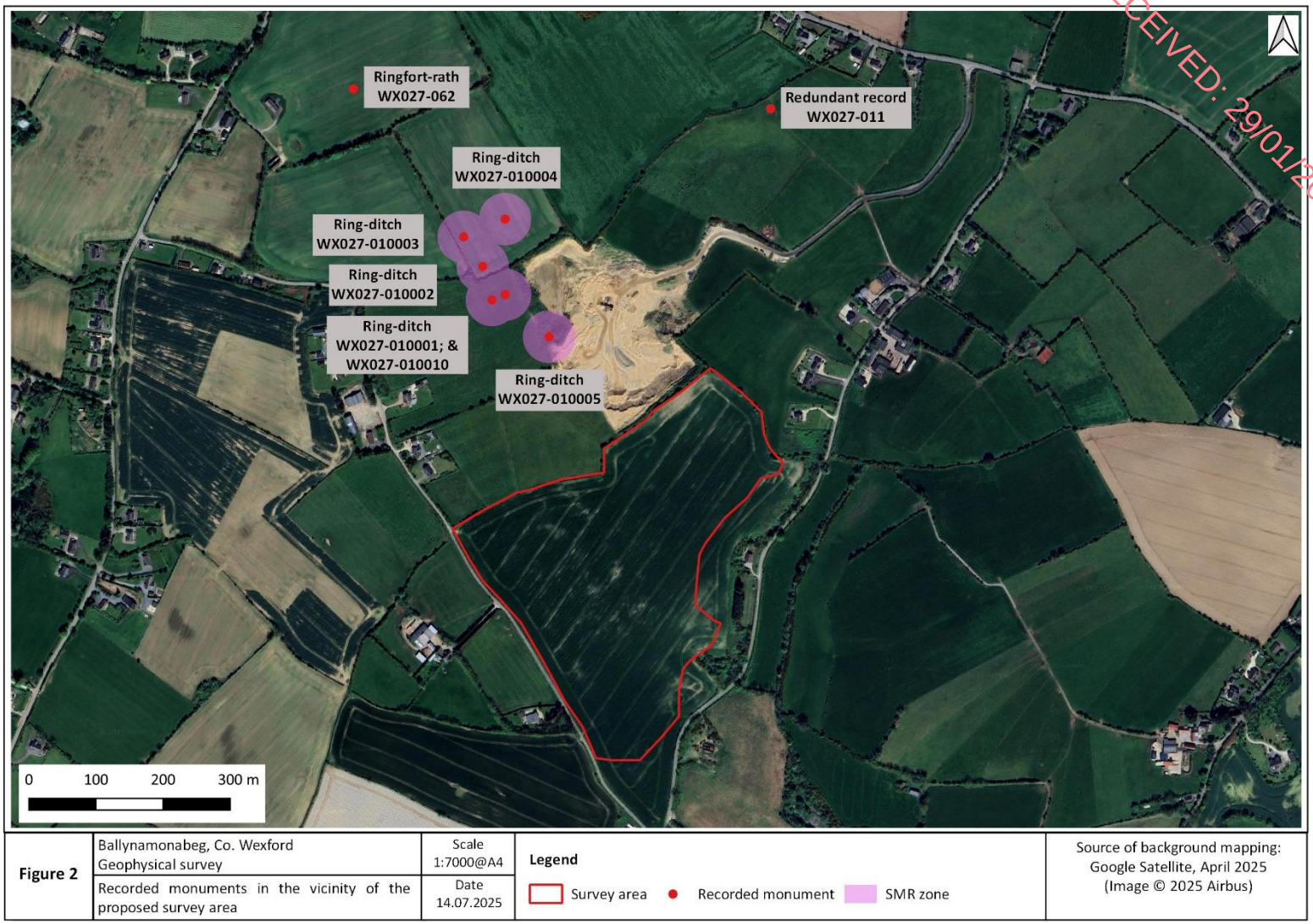


Figure 2. Location of recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the survey area.

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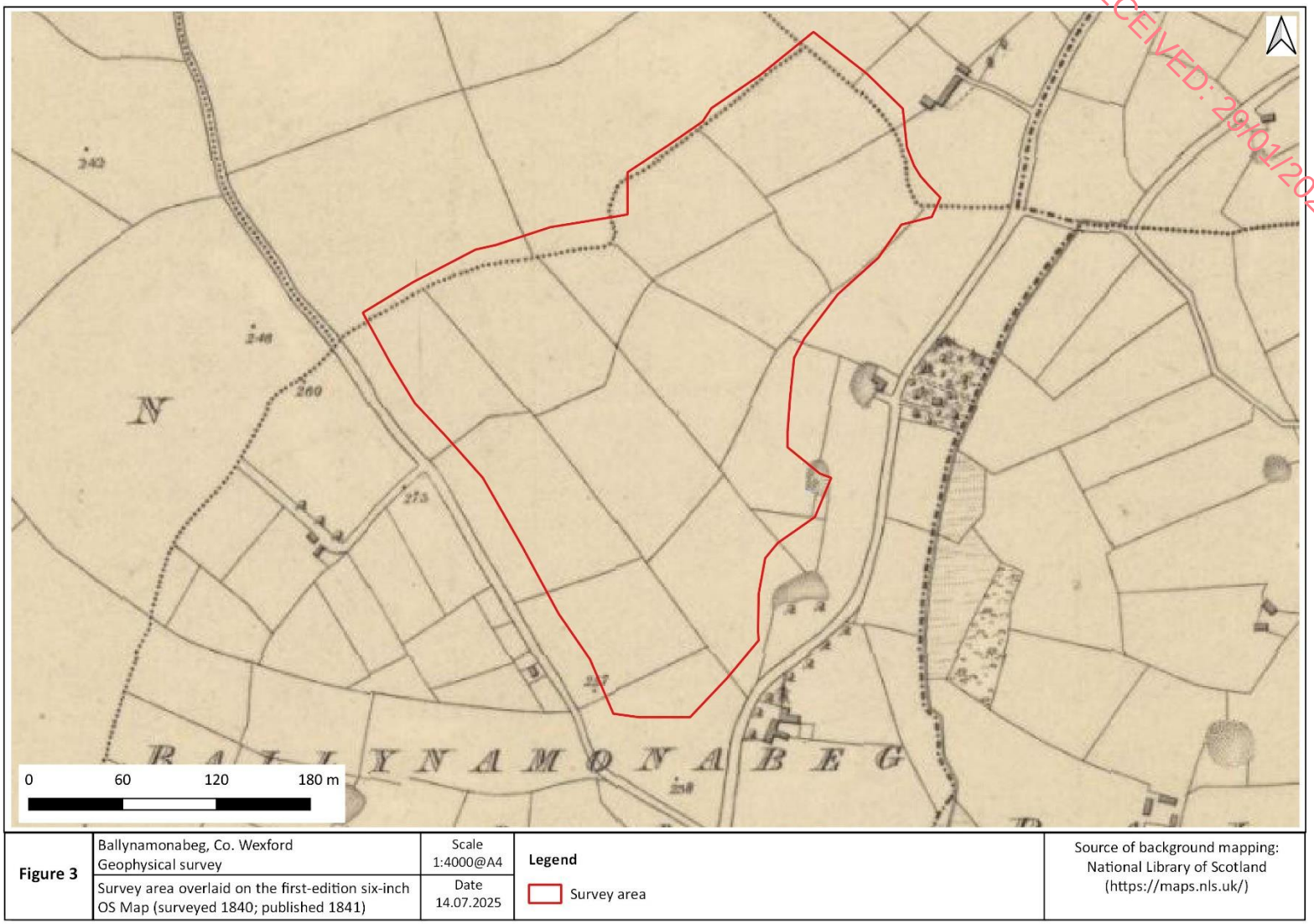


Figure 3	Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford Geophysical survey	Scale 1:4000@A4	**Legend** Survey area	Source of background mapping: National Library of Scotland (https://maps.nls.uk/)
	Survey area overlaid on the first-edition six-inch OS Map (surveyed 1840; published 1841)	Date 14.07.2025		

Figure 3. The survey area overlaid on the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1840; published 1841).

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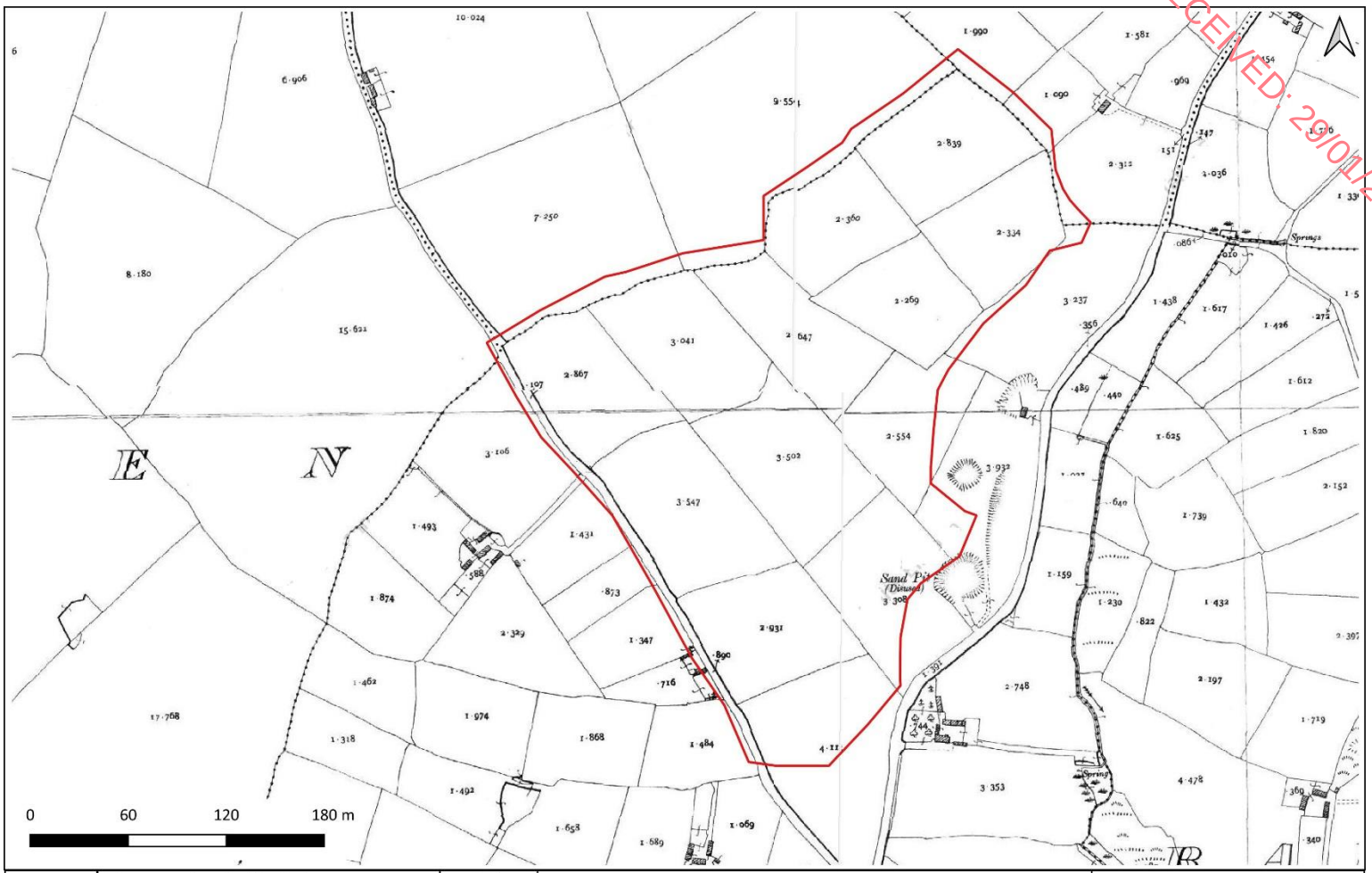


Figure 4	Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford Geophysical survey	Scale 1:4000@A4	**Legend** Survey area	Source of background mapping: Archaeological Survey of Ireland https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com)
	Survey area overlaid on the first-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1888-1913)	Date 14.07.2025		

Figure 4. The survey area overlaid on the first-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1888–1913).

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Figure 5	Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford Geophysical survey	Scale 1:4000@A4	**Legend**	Source of background mapping: Google Satellite, April 2025 (Image © 2025 Airbus)
	Survey area	Date 14.07.2025	Survey area	

Figure 5. The survey area, outlined in red.

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Figure 6. Greyscale image of gradiometry results.

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Figure 7. Interpretive plan showing principal geophysical anomalies.

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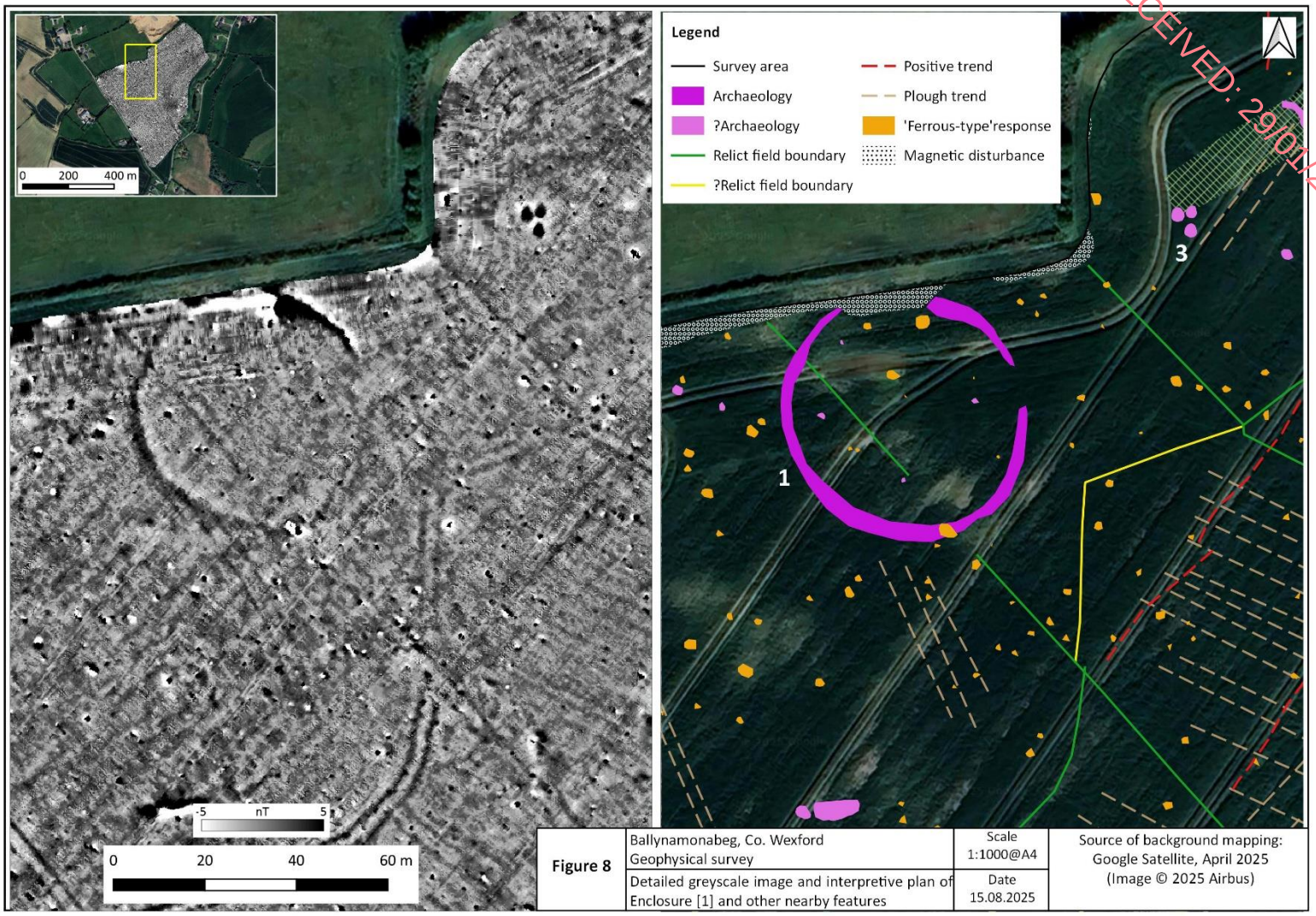


Figure 8. Detail greyscale image and interpretive plan of circular enclosure [1] and other nearby features.

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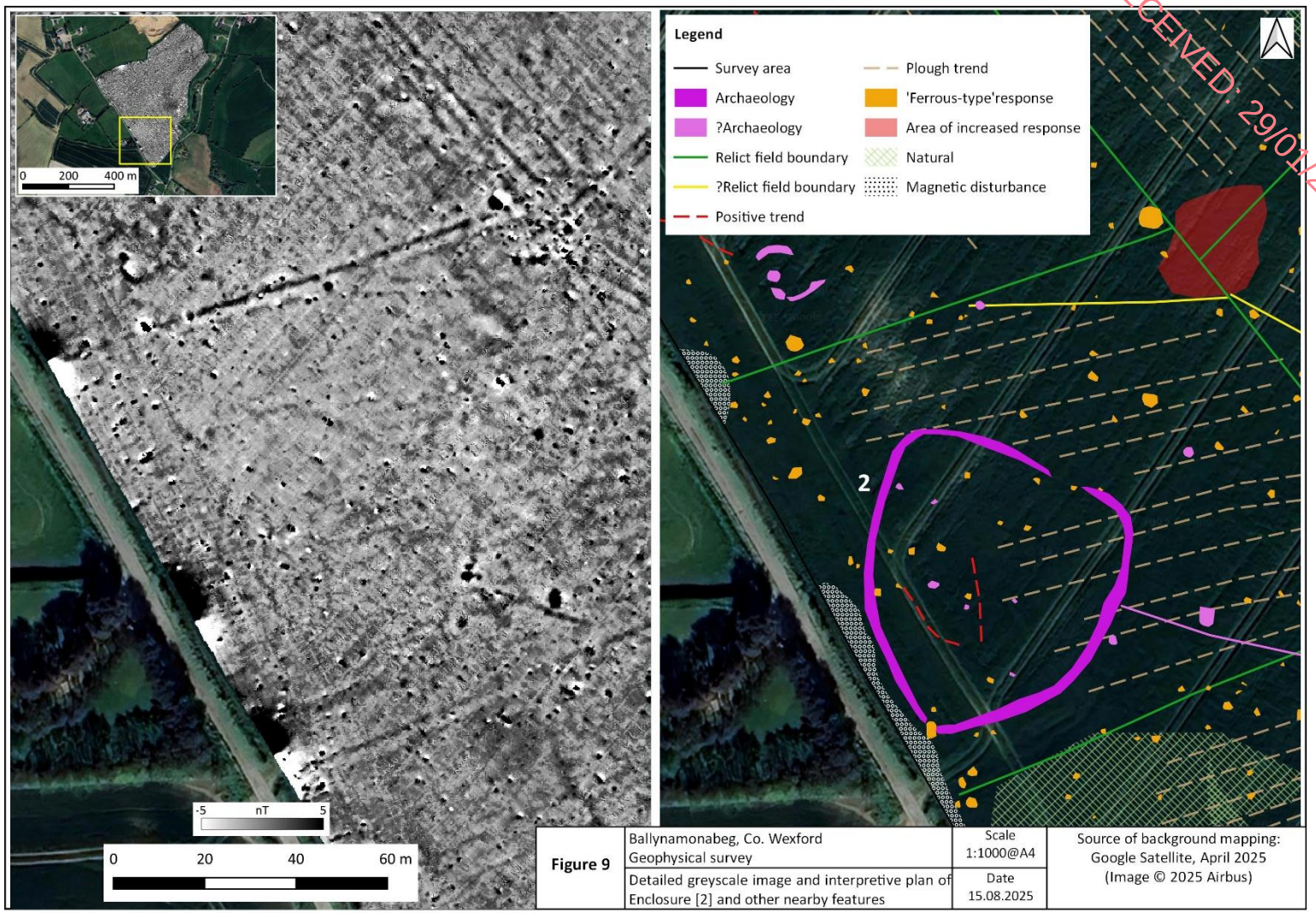


Figure 9. Detail greyscale image and interpretive plan of 'plectrum-shaped' enclosure [2] and other nearby features.

12 Plates

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Plate 1. The survey area, looking south.



Plate 2. Modern sand quarry to north of survey area, viewed from the south.



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Plate 3. Overgrown former quarry on eastern edge of survey area, looking northeast.

Appendix 12-3 Archaeological Testing Report

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Yvonne Whitty Archaeology

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Tinahely,
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(087) 2111153
Licenced Archaeologist

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Final

AIA with Test Trenching

Licence 25E0913

CLIENT: ANTHONY D'ARCY LTD

BALLYNAMONABEG, THE BALLAGH, CO. WEXFORD

PLANNING REF: PRE-PLANNING AIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS REF: N/A

JANUARY 2026

Yvonne Whitty BA, MIAI.

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ABBREVIATIONS

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BGL, bgl	Below Ground Level
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
NMS	National Monuments Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland

1. INTRODUCTION

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Yvonne Whitty has prepared this AIA report on behalf of Anthony D'Arcy to assess the impact, if any, on the archaeological and cultural heritage resource in relation to the development of a sand pit at Ballynamonabeg, The Ballagh, County Wexford.

The work follows a geophysical survey by Ger Dowling (Licence 25R0322), which revealed features of archaeological potential, including two large enclosures, two possible ring-ditches, and multiple pit- and ditch-type anomalies. The survey also identified agricultural features, relict field boundaries, and possible quarry pits. To clarify the significance of the Ballynamonabeg anomalies, a programme of 25 test trenches (total 515 m) were excavated under licence 25E0913.

The work was to inform any further archaeological mitigation. No recorded sites or monuments lie within the survey area itself. Similar sites are known nearby, including a cluster of ring-ditches preserved at Ballymacoonoge. Previous quarry monitoring in that area (Carroll & Quinn 2020) found no additional archaeology associated with these ring-ditches.

This report aims to comprehensively ascertain the archaeological and cultural heritage resources within the designated study area for the proposed development using desk based survey, geophysical survey and test trenching to outline potential impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource. This report also contains a mitigation strategy to avoid, reduce or offset any adverse impacts on archaeological or cultural heritage that will be impacted upon by the proposed development.

2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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The desk-based assessment methodology is in accordance with the most up to date research and best information available. The assessment methodology is defined as a structured examination of the historical environment within the specified area or site, addressing predetermined research and conservation objectives. It involves analysing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information to identify potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints, assess their significance, and understand the overall character of the study area, including considerations of the heritage constraints' settings (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a).

This assessment and analysis are crucial for several purposes:

- Identifying the presence of documented archaeological and cultural heritage sites that could be impacted by the proposed development through targeted test trenching based on geophysical survey results.
- Assessing the likelihood of discovering previously undocumented archaeological remains during the construction phase.
- Determining the potential significant impacts on known or newly discovered archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
- Assessing the potential significant impacts on the settings of known or newly discovered archaeological and cultural heritage sites within the study area.
- Formulating mitigation measures based on the findings of the aforementioned research.

Research for this assessment has been undertaken in a number of phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of publicly available archaeological, architectural, historical, and cartographic sources. The second phase involved test trenching under licence 25E0913 on the 14th and 15th October 2025.

An impact assessment and a mitigation strategy have been prepared. The impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource, while the mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce, or offset any adverse impacts.

2.1.1 Desktop Research – Principal Data Sources

This assessment is guided by relevant legislation, standards, and guidelines in respect of archaeology, built and cultural heritage, as follows:

2.1.2 Legislation:

- National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).
- Heritage Act 1995 (as amended).

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

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2.1.3 Policy:

The following policies were consulted as part of this assessment:

- The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028.

2.1.4 Guidance:

The following guidance documents were consulted as part of this assessment:

- PA Guidelines on information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2022) (EPA, 2022) (the EPA Guidelines)
- Guidance on the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (European Commission, 2017) (the EU EIAR Guidance).
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and Islands 1999).
- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG 2011).
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Handbook (DHLGH 2021).

2.1.5 Principal Data Sources

The following sources (documentary, cartographic and databases) were consulted to a) establish the nature of the receiving baseline environment, b) compile a list of documented archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area of the proposed development and c) to identify any previously unrecorded constraints.

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- National Monuments in State Care Database
- Preservation Orders List.
- Register of Historic Monuments
- Record of Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, and Conservation Areas
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).
- Cartographic and historic photo sources relating to the study area.
- Aerial Photographs.
- Place Name Analysis.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports (1970- 2023).

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Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act (1994 amendment) provides that the MHLGH shall establish and maintain a record of Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs) where it is known that such monuments exist. The record, forming the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and mapping showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each County in the State. Each RMP is identified by its own unique thirteen-digit reference number (e.g., Wexford (WX037-032), for example the historic town of Wexford. Monuments and Places recorded on the RMP all receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act. The record is maintained by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the DHLGH and is available at https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/.

A Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) that defines a large archaeological landscape (such as the historic town of Wexford) are protected as an RMP. Zones of Archaeological Notification (ZON), as indicated around RMPs on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, are not subject to statutory protection. A ZON represents an area in proximity to the RMP that requires two months notification to be issued to the NMS of the e.g., (under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act), if works are proposed within that area. It is not a reflection of the extent of an RMP or its associated ZAP.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database. A National Monument receives statutory protection and is described in Section 2 of the act as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto'.

A list of the National Monuments in the State's guardianship or ownership is available at https://www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/search-by-county. This list is not exhaustive having been published in 2009; National Monument may also be listed in County Development Plans but equally these are not exhaustive as additional monuments may be deemed National Monuments on a case-by-case basis at the MHLGH discretion. Therefore, it remains good practice to write to the MHLGH seeking clarity over a monument's status, particularly when in ownership of an LA. It is important to note that national monument status is not just restricted to the monument itself but encompasses its setting and attendant grounds. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, neither it nor its attendant grounds, may be interfered with without the written consent of the MHLGH. National Monuments in state care are maintained by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of DHLGH in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW)

The Minister for the DoCHG may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

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Preservation Orders List. The Preservation Order List and/or Temporary Preservation Orders can be assigned to a site or sites that are deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction. These are allocated under the National Monuments Act 1930. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1954. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or near sites under Preservation Orders with written consent, and at the discretion of the MHLGH. A list of the Monuments subject to and at the discretion, of the Minister. A list of the Monuments subject to Preservation Orders is available at https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/po19v1-all-counties.pdf.

Record of Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas and Conservation Areas

Archaeological and cultural heritage sites may also be designated as Protected Structures under Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Section 51(1) requires that each Local Authority compiles and maintains a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The purpose of the RPS is to record and protect structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific or technical interest, which are then listed and mapped in each County/City development plan. In accordance with Section 81 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is defined as 'a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve.' (DoAHG, 2011, 40). ACAs have statutory protection. County/city development plans also provide a list of Conservation Areas (CAs) which are established to protect the architectural design and overall setting of an area. A range of uses that do not impact negatively on the architectural character and setting of the area are permitted in such CAs. CAs are non-statutory objectives of LA Development Plans, many having been established prior to the commencement of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

County Development Plan 2022-2028

Archaeological Heritage Objectives:

It is the objective of the Council:

- Objective AH01

To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects including those listed or scheduled for inclusion on the Record of Monuments and Places and/or the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains[9].

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- Objective AH02

To recognise the importance of monuments and sites and protect the character and integrity of these monuments and sites where appropriate. The Council will consult the National Monuments Service where a development is proposed that may impact on an archaeological monument and/or site.

- Objective AH03

To protect the heritage of groups of important archaeological sites and monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.

- Objective AH04

To fully consider the protection of archaeological heritage when undertaking, approving, or authorising development. In considering such protection the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the principles set out in Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands, 1999).

- Objective AH05

To require an archaeological assessment and/or investigation by qualified persons for development that may, due to its size, location, or nature, have a significant effect upon archaeological heritage and to take appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

- Objective AH06

To promote a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and settings when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features. Where preservation in-situ is not possible the Council will consider preservation by record in appropriate circumstances.

- Objective AH07

To protect historic and archaeological landscapes, including battlefields, and promote access to such sites provided that this does not threaten the feature.

- Objective AH08

To include archaeological landscapes, battlefields, and historic landscapes as part of the updated Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be prepared following the publication of a National Landscape Character Assessment.

- Objective AH09

To protect historic urban defences (both upstanding and buried) and associated features and safeguard them from inappropriate development in accordance with National Policy on Town Defences (Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, 2008).

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- Objective AH10

To identify appropriate archaeological sites in the county to which public access could be provided, and work to secure public access and the provision of signage and interpretation panels, where appropriate, in consultation with the landowner and the National Monument Service, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.

- Objective AH11

To retain existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from medieval or earlier origin.

- Objective AH12

To protect historical burial grounds within County Wexford and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best practice conservation principles.

- Objective AH13

To have regard to the Historic Battlefield sites as listed in Table 13.6 and those which are not listed thereon but that are, or become, known) and when assessing planning applications in the vicinity of a Historic Battlefield ensure there is no harm to the physical character or setting of these sites. Where development is proposed within the identified battlefields, archaeological assessment and recording may be required.

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). The 'Topographical File' is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of archaeological investigations/excavations undertaken. The files are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance and may indicate unrecorded areas of archaeological potential within the study area.

Cartographic and photographic sources relating to the study area.

Cartographic and photographic sources are important in tracing land use development and the development (or demise) of sites and structures through time within the study area. Where once documented sites are no longer extant, or where numerous sites are illustrated, they provide important topographical information aiding in the identification of Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) within the proposed development site. The cartographic sources, listed below, were analysed to inform the receiving baseline environment and to identify AAPs:

- Sir William Petty, Down Survey Map, 1654–56.
- Ordnance Survey Mapping 1839 and 1909.
- Wexford Town Plan 1862.

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Aerial photographic analysis is an important source of information regarding the potential location of sub-surface sites and their extent, which can be visible on aerial photos under certain conditions. It is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. Several online sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Google Earth and Bing Maps.

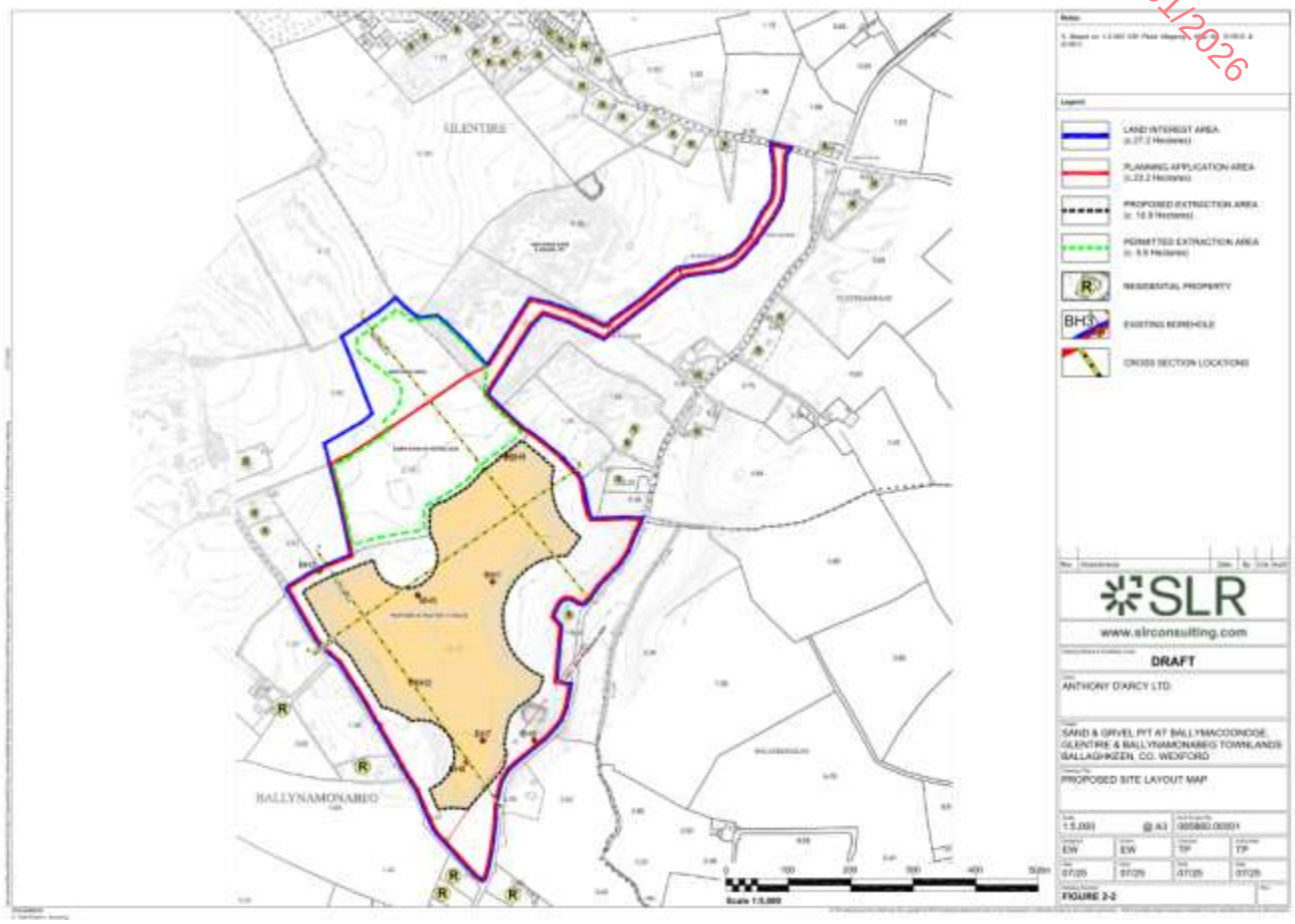
Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology and history of an area. Place names have in some cases have been found to have their root deep in the historical past.

Database of Irish Excavation Reports (1970- 2023). The Database of Irish Excavation Reports ('Excavations Bulletin') is a summary publication that has been produced in hard copy every year since 1970, until 2010. From 2011 onwards, the database has been published exclusively online (www.excavations.ie). The entries into the database provide summarises of every licensed archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland and this information is vital when examining the archaeological context of the landscape. The summaries include a unique reference number, license number, description of works, address and the contact details of the archaeologist who undertook the work.

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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The proposed development is for an extension to an existing quarry which is located to the northwest of the Ballynamonabeg site. The new quarry will be approximately 15 ha in size, and will be undertaken by D'Arcy Sands Ltd.



4. SITE INSPECTION

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Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information. The archaeological field inspection was carried out in October 2025.

The field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development area and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Visually investigating any suspect anomalies to determine the possibility of their origin.

The ground was elevated towards the centre of the site and sloped gently to the northeast. At the time of testing, the field was under crop. There were no features of potential archaeological significance noted.

The site lies in Ballynamonabeg townland, c. 11 km southeast of Ballaghkeen, within the Civil Parishes of Castle Ellis and Killisk, Barony of Ballaghkeen South. The proposed application area is c.1km southeast of the village of Ballaghkeen and just south of the R744. It covers approximately 15 hectares under tillage, bounded by hedgerows and flanked by local roads to the southwest and south. To the north lies a working sand quarry (this application is for an extension of this quarry); the eastern boundary includes disused quarry pits visible on historic OS mapping.

The terrain is generally flat to gently undulating, with a steeper eastern flank. Bedrock comprises dark grey slates with siltstone laminae (Ballyhoge Formation), overlain by sandy stoneless drift soils (Seafield Association).

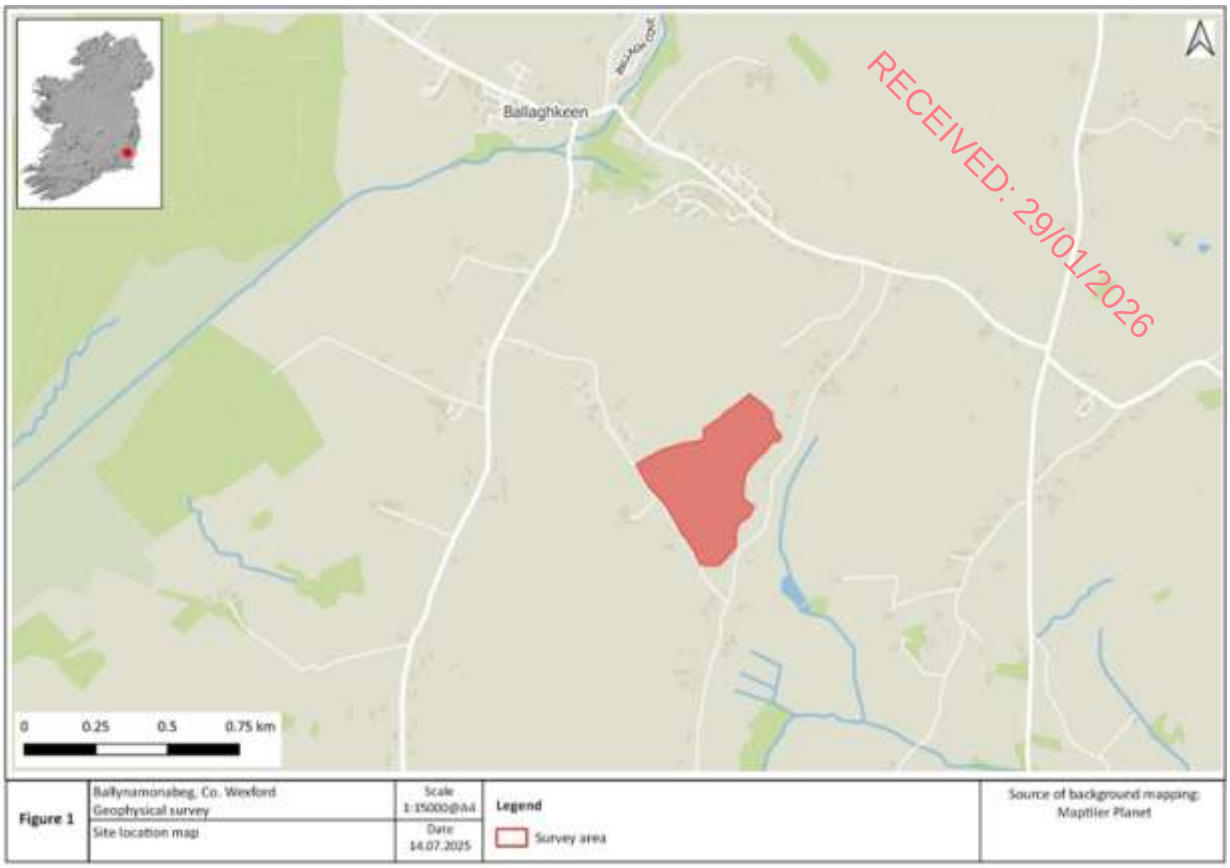


Figure 1: Site location (courtesy of Ger Dowling).



Plate 1: View of proposed development site facing southeast.



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Plate 2: View of proposed development site facing south.



Plate 3: View of existing quarry from proposed development site.

5. PLANNING HISTORY SUMMARY

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The subject site has a history of planning permissions related to residential developments, all of which were refused.

- Reg. Ref. 20090822 Refused ERECTION OF 2 NO. FULLY SERVICED DWELLING HOUSES TOGETHER WITH AUXILIARY AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS
- Reg. Ref. 20044033 ERECTION OF 4 NO. FULLY SERVICED DWELLING HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS
- Reg. Ref. 20041988 ERECTION OF 4 NO. FULLY SERVICED DWELLING HOUSES (WITH COMBINED TREATMENT SYSTEM)

6. STUDY AREA

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The study area comprises an assessment of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource within the footprint of the proposed development and within a 600m radius.

The information contained within this AIA has been compiled from various sources as detailed below and includes a site visit and consultation with the developer and design team. In summary the cultural heritage constraints have been reviewed within a 600m of the proposed scheme:

- Archaeological Survey of Ireland including:

  Register of National Monuments.

  Record of Monuments and Places (RMP); and

  Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports (https://excavations.ie/).
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- Cartographic analysis.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).
- Record of Protected Structures for Wexford Council (WCC).
- The Place name Database (Logainm).

No RMP, NIAH or RPS structures will be impacted by this development. No recorded sites or monuments lie within the survey area itself. No recorded monuments (RMP/SMR) lie within the Ballynamonabeg survey area. A previous magnetometer survey carried out in adjoining fields, approximately 200 m to the northwest near a large working quarry, identified a cluster of up to six ring-ditches (WX027-001–5 & WX027-0010001).

7. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

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7.1 PLACENAME ANALYSIS AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ballynamonabeg is a townland in the barony of Ballaghkeen South, within the civil parish of Killisk (Electoral Division: Bolaboy). It covers c. 75.07 ha (185.5 acres) and lies at approx. 52°27′55″ N, 6°24′53″ W (www.townlands.ie). Place names are an invaluable source of information as they may record a forgotten history or a long-forgotten site which may still survive below the surface of the ground. Although most placenames were anglicised by the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s it is still possible to determine Anglo-Norman or Viking influence. The website www.logainm.ie was searched for the earliest written references.

The place-name Ballynamonabeg derives from the Irish *Baile na Móna Beag*, meaning *"townland of the little bog or peat-moss."* The name reflects the physical character of the area, which likely contained boggy or marginal ground in earlier times. Documentary evidence from *logainm.ie* records numerous historical spellings of the name, illustrating the evolution of both language and administrative record-keeping from the late sixteenth century onward (Table 1). Early references include *Ballnemowne?* (1597) and *Blemony* (1608), followed by a range of seventeenth-century forms such as *Ballinemony-McDavy* (1618), *Ballynemona* (1622), *Ballinemonybeg* and *Ballinmonybeg* (1654), and *Ballimemonebeg* (1685).

These variants reflect shifting orthographies as Irish-language place-names were transcribed phonetically by English administrators. By the early nineteenth century, the form had stabilised as *Ballinamonabeg* and later *Ballynamonabeg*, with the Irish version *Baile na Móna Beag* formally recorded by John O'Donovan during the Ordnance Survey Name Books (1840). The repeated inclusion of the suffix *beag* ("small") suggests that Ballynamonabeg was once distinguished from a nearby larger or main settlement—possibly *Ballynamona More*.

Year	Form of name
1597	*Ballnemowne?*
1608	*Blemony*
1618	*Ballinemony-McDavy*
1621	*Ballyknockan adjoining Ballinamona*
1622	*Ballynemona*

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Year	Form of name
1629	*Ballynemoney*
1654	*Ballinemony / Ballinmonymore*
1654	*Ballinemonybeg*
1654	*Ballinmonybeg*
1660 c.	*Ballemonebegg*
1663	*Ballynemony*
1663	*Ballynemonymore / Ballynemony*
1685	*Ballimemonebeg*
1816	*Ballinamonabeg*
1840	*Baile na Móna / Baile na Móna Beag*
1840	*Ballynamonabeg*
1840	*Ballynamonabegg*

Table 1: Ballynamonabeg from www.logainm.ie.

Ballynamonabeg lies within a rich archaeological landscape in north County Wexford, where numerous prehistoric and early historic sites have been recorded in the surrounding townlands. A previous magnetometer survey undertaken in adjoining fields to the northwest (c. 200m), near a large working quarry at Ballymacoonoge, identified a cluster of up to six ring-ditches (SMR Nos. WX027-010 – WX027-010005) (Gimson et al., 2018). These vary in size from approximately 6 m to 16 m in diameter and exhibit diverse forms, with two examples (WX027-010001 and WX027-010004) displaying possible entrance gaps within their circuits.

The ring-ditches were detected on a low southeast-to-northwest spur overlooking the quarry area. Geophysical survey (Licence 18R0065; Gimson et al., 2018) confirmed their circular plan and, in some instances, the presence of internal pits and linear features extending from the enclosures. Subsequent archaeological testing (Licence 19E0010; Carroll, 2019) and monitoring

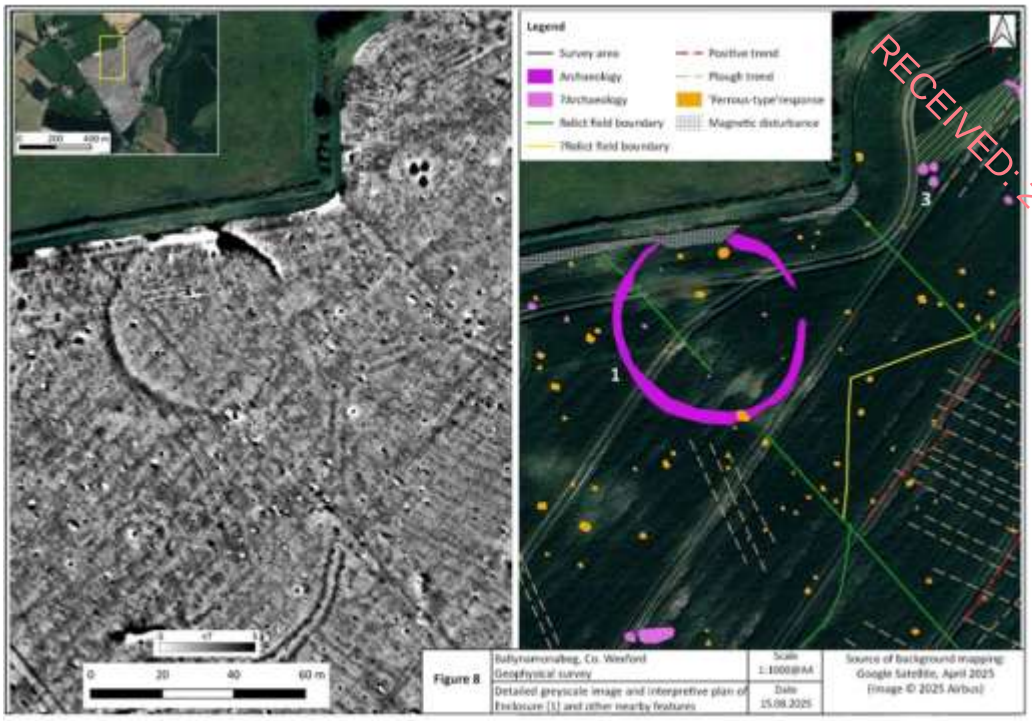
(Licence 20E0204; Carroll, 2020) during quarry development did not reveal any additional features The sites have since been preserved in situ within a buffer zone surrounding the quarry (Excavations.ie, 2019).

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The record at Ballymacoonoge, 200m north west of the proposed development comprises a ring-ditch cemetery, which may date as early as the Bronze Age (c. 2500–500 BC). During the Early Bronze Age, burial practices in Ireland were diverse, encompassing both inhumation and cremation, often placed within simple pits or stone-lined cists (Gimson et al., 2018). Grave goods were sometimes included, typically in the form of small, decorated pottery vessels known as *food vessels*, believed to have contained offerings for the journey to the afterlife. As the Bronze Age progressed, cremation became the dominant funerary rite, with burials frequently contained within small circular barrows or ring-ditches, characterised by a circular ditch surrounding a low mound formed from the upcast material of the enclosing fosse. Such monuments are often found in clusters, forming cemeteries that reflect both familial and community burial traditions (Carroll, 2020). The Ballymacoonoge complex, therefore, represents a typical Bronze Age funerary landscape.

The recently completed magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer) survey at Ballynamonabeg within the proposed development site (Licence 25R0322; Dowling & Schot, 2025) extends this archaeological picture substantially. Covering approximately 15 ha of tillage ground immediately south of the quarry, the investigation detected a suite of anomalies of clear archaeological and potential archaeological significance, alongside traces of former cultivation and quarrying. The most prominent features comprised two large enclosures, two possible ring-ditches (these were not identified in the test trenching), and a cluster of strong pit-type magnetic responses interpreted as hearths or kilns, which were confirmed in the test trenching. A total of four areas of archaeological significance were identified during the course of test trenching as discussed in Section 8 of this report.

The first enclosure [1] is circular, measuring approximately 55 m NNW/SSE by 52 m WSW/ENE, and appears to be defined by a substantial ditch up to 3 m wide with a probable east-facing entrance. Several smaller pit-like anomalies occur within its interior, suggesting associated occupation or internal activity. Test trenching confirmed the presence of this feature (Trench 19).



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Figure 2: Enclosure 1 as depicted in the geophysical survey (Licence 25R0322; Dowling & Schot, 2025).

The second enclosure [2], located near the southern boundary of the survey area, is sub-triangular or "plectrum-shaped", measuring roughly 63 m by 57 m with a potential northern entrance gap, the presence of this feature was also confirmed in Test Trench 2. Both are of a scale and morphology consistent with prehistoric or early medieval enclosed settlements or ceremonial enclosures.

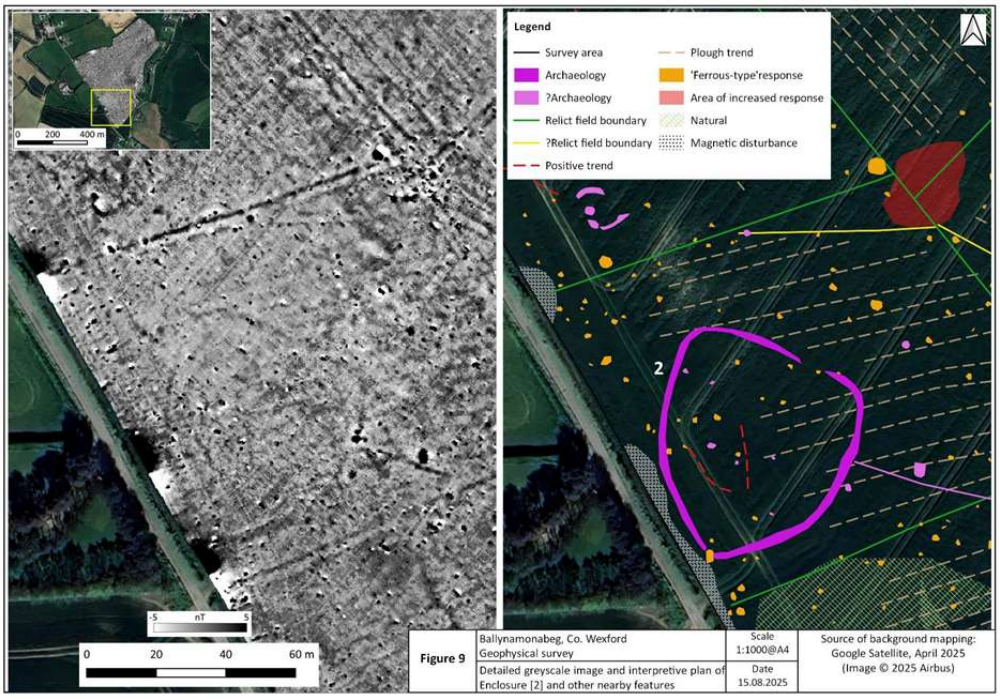


Figure 3: Close up Enclosure 2 Geophysical Survey Report (Licence 25R0322; Dowling & Schot, 2025).

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A discrete cluster of three strong magnetic anomalies [5], located c. 50 m to the northeast of Enclosure [1], likely indicated burnt features such as kilns or ovens, possibly related to food or craft processing, these were confirmed archaeological in test trenching (Trench 18). A fourth kiln and a pit which contained prehistoric pottery was located at the southern boundary (Trench 7).

When viewed alongside the Ballymacoonoge ring-ditch cemetery to the northwest, the Ballynamonabeg enclosures form part of a wider ritual and settlement landscape. The presence of both funerary and possible occupation-type enclosures within 200 m of each other supports a pattern of long-term re-use of favoured terrain, with domestic, agricultural, and ritual functions evident in the archaeological landscape.

By the early medieval period, settlement shifted towards enclosed farmsteads or ringforts, as evidenced by the nearby cropmark (WX027-062) (www.archaeology.ie), while the earlier Bronze Age monuments continued to define the landscape. This continuity of land use—funerary, agricultural, and later domestic—illustrates the long-term occupation of the area surrounding Ballynamonabeg and contributes to the wider understanding of prehistoric and early historic activity within the Barony of Ballaghkeen South.

7.2 RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES (RMP)

The subject site at Ballynamonabeg lies within an archaeologically sensitive landscape in north County Wexford, where a number of previously recorded monuments are located within the wider study area. Data derived from the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) indicates a concentration of ring-ditch monuments and other prehistoric features in the adjoining townland of Ballymacoonoge, situated approximately 200 m to the northwest of the proposed development site.

This cluster of monuments (SMR Nos. WX027-010 to WX027-010005) was initially identified through aerial photography and later confirmed by remote sensing magnetometer survey (Licence 18R0065; Gimson et al., 2018) carried out in advance of quarry development. The survey revealed a group of up to six ring-ditches, varying between c. 6 m and 16 m in diameter, several of which display potential entrance gaps and internal pit features. These have been interpreted as elements of a ring-ditch cemetery, likely of Bronze Age date (c. 2500–500 BC), and are preserved within a designated buffer zone around the quarry (Carroll, 2019; Carroll, 2020; Excavations.ie, 2019).

The closest additional recorded site in the locality is the possible ringfort or rath (WX027-062), visible as a cropmark approximately 650 m northwest of Ballynamonabeg.

A full list of recorded monuments within the vicinity of the proposed development is presented in Table 2 below.

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SMR No	Townland	Monument Class	Web Notes
WX027-010----	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Located on a low SE-NW spur. Two concentric cropmark rings (max. diam. c. 10m) are visible on aerial photograph (CUCAP: BDP 6). It is not visible at ground level in pasture. Archaeological testing (09E0564) on an extensive area (dims c. 200m NW-SE; c. 140m NE-SW at NW to c. 190m NE-SW at SE) in Glentire townland and c. 130m to the E at the closest point produced no related archaeological material (Nelis 2012). A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development confirmed the presence of archaeological features at this location (Gimson et al. 2018, 4, M11), and the possible ring-ditch (WX027-010001-) is c. 10m to the SW. This ring-ditch and five other possible ring-ditches will be excluded from the development, but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the rest of the proposed quarry area produced no related archaeological material (Carroll 2019; excavations.ie 2019: 384). Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.
WX027-010001-	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Situated on a low SE-NW, and c. 7m SW of the ring-ditch (WX027-010----). A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development identified (Gimson et al. 2018, 5, M12) three weak signals forming a subcircular enclosure (diam. c. 14-16m) with a possible entrance at N. Two possible pits are within the enclosure and a linear feature extends NW from its perimeter at N and another extends SE from the perimeter at S. This feature will be preserved within

			a fallow area associated with the ring-ditch (WX027-010----), but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the remaining area produced no related material (Carroll 2019). Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.
WX027-010002-	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Situated on a low SE-NW. A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development identified (Gimson et al. 2018, 4, M5) a circular feature (diam. 6-7.5m) defined by a fosse with a central pit. This will be preserved within a fallow area associated with the ring-ditch (WX027-010----), but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the remaining area produced no related material (Carroll 2019). Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.
WX027-010003-	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Situated on the NE-facing slope of a low SE-NW spur. A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development identified (Gimson et al. 2018, 4, M2) an arc of a ditch (diam. 9.5m E-W) E-S-W around a possible large pit (diam. c. 3m). This feature will be preserved within a fallow area associated with the ring-ditch (WX027-010----), but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the remaining area produced no related material (Carroll 2019). Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.

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WX027-010004-	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Situated on a gentle NE-facing slope of a low SE-NW spur. A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development identified (Gimson et al. 2018, 4, M1) a ditched enclosure (diam. 10-12m) with an entrance gap (Wth 5m) at N and two internal pits. This feature will be preserved within a fallow area associated with the ring-ditch (WX027-010----), but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the remaining area produced no related material (Carroll 2019). Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.
WX027-010005-	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ring-ditch	Situated on a low SE-NW. A remote sensing magnetometer survey (18R0065) in advance of a quarry development identified (Gimson et al. 2018, 5, M15) a circular enclosure (diam. 9-9.5m) with an entrance gap (Wth 1.5m) at NW. There is some evidence of another possible enclosure (diam. c. 19m) defined by a slight possible ditch surviving NE-S-SW just to the SW with a second outer ditch c. 2m distant S-SW. This feature will be preserved within a fallow area associated with the ring-ditch (WX027-010----), but archaeological testing (19E0010) of the remaining area produced no related material (Carroll 2019).Archaeological monitoring (20E0204) by M. Carroll (2020) of topsoil removal in an L-shaped area of c. 3.3 ha to the E and S of the ring-ditches produced no related archaeological material of archaeological features.
WX027-062-----	BALLYMACOONOGE	Ringfort - rath	Originally classified as an enclosure on the basis of an aerial photographs (ASIAP, WX 100, 34-6) but the images are very uncertain. However, an oval enclosure (dims c. 39m E-W; c. 36m N-S) defined by a wide fosse (Wth c. 2-4m) is clearly visible on Google Earth (14/07/2018) as was first reported by Simon Dowling. There could be an entrance gap (Wth c. 3m) at NNE.

Table 2: List of RMP sites within 600m of the proposed development site.

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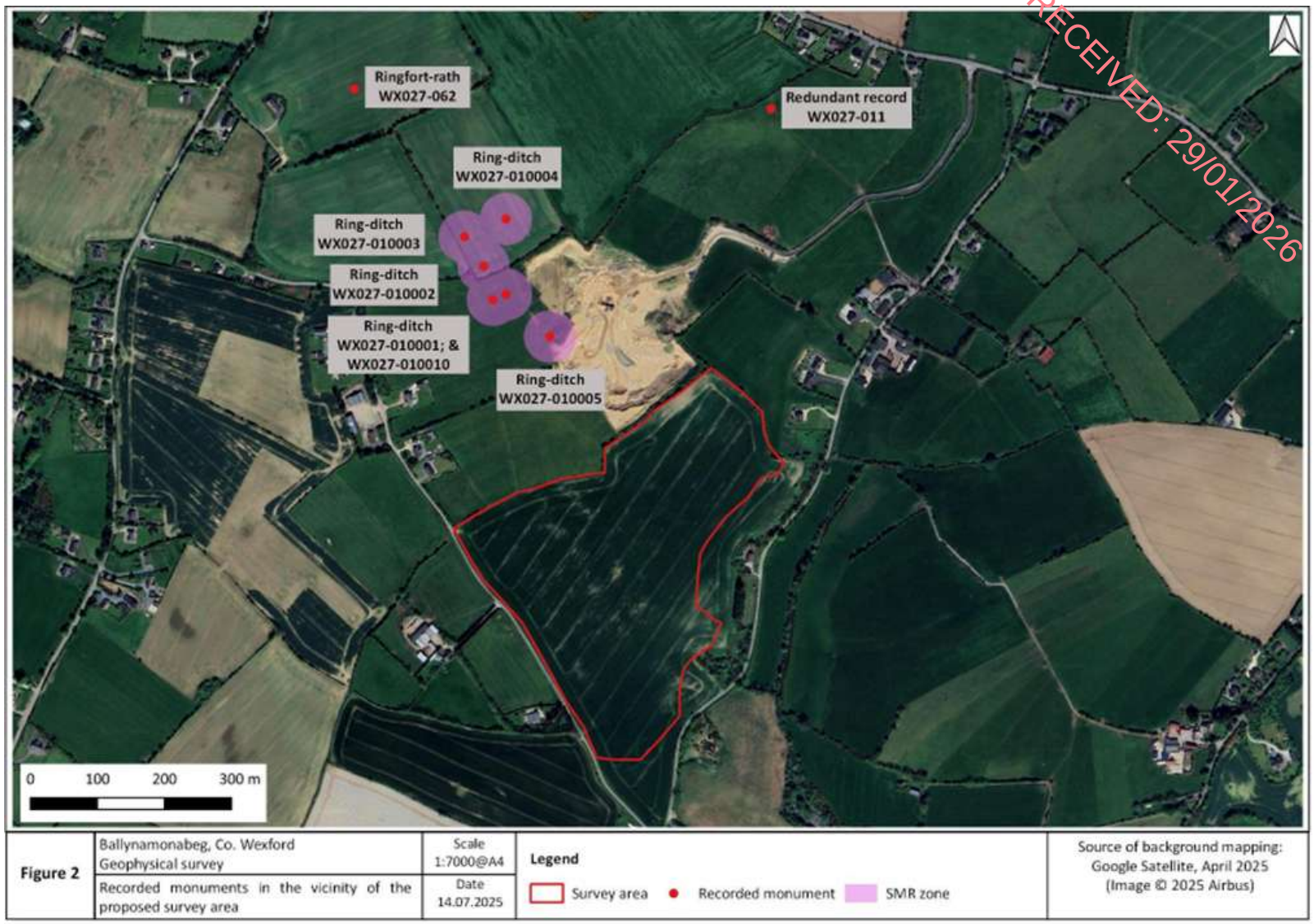


Figure 4: RMP sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area (courtesy of Ger Dowling).

7.3 NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN STATE CARE DATABASE

There are no national monuments within the proposed development site.

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7.4 PRESERVATION ORDERS LIST.

There are no monuments subject to a preservation order within the proposed development site or study area.

7.5 RECORDED PROTECTED STRUCTURES (RPS)

There are no recorded structures within the footprint of the proposed development site.

7.6 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND (NMI).

The topographical files are held in the National Museum of Ireland in Kildare Street. These files identify all recorded finds which are held in archive and have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. There are no recorded files from the townland of Ballynamonabeg.

7.7 CARTOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC PHOTO SOURCES RELATING TO THE STUDY AREA.

Analysis of historic mapping shows the human impact on the landscape and its evolving nature over clearly defined time intervals. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period of time. The following paragraphs detail all the maps that were reviewed for the proposed development site.

At the time of the first edition map in 1840 the subject site comprises 15 fields with quarry pits to the east (Figure 5). The northern boundary of the site is the townland boundary between Ballymonabeg and Ballymacoonoge.

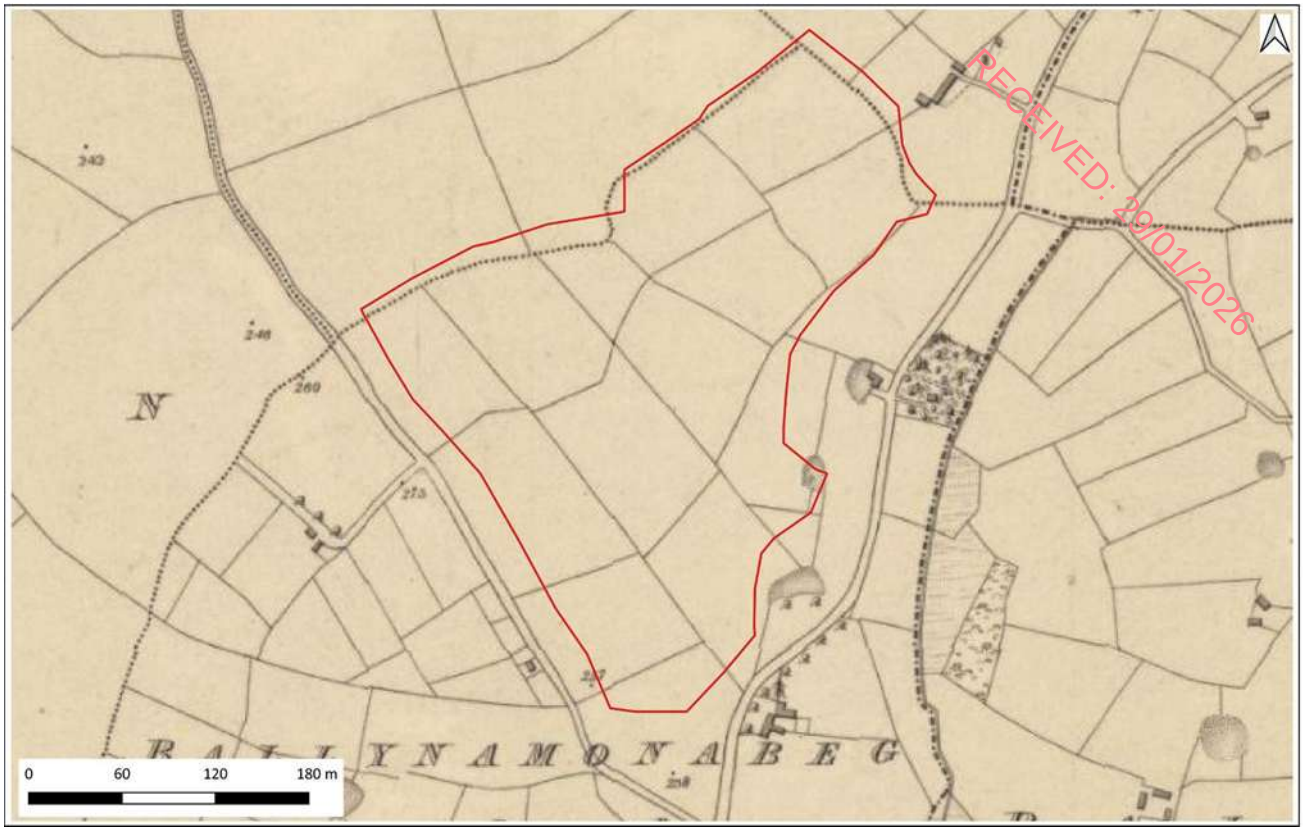


Figure 5: First edition map surveyed 1840 published 1841 (courtesy of Ger Dowling).

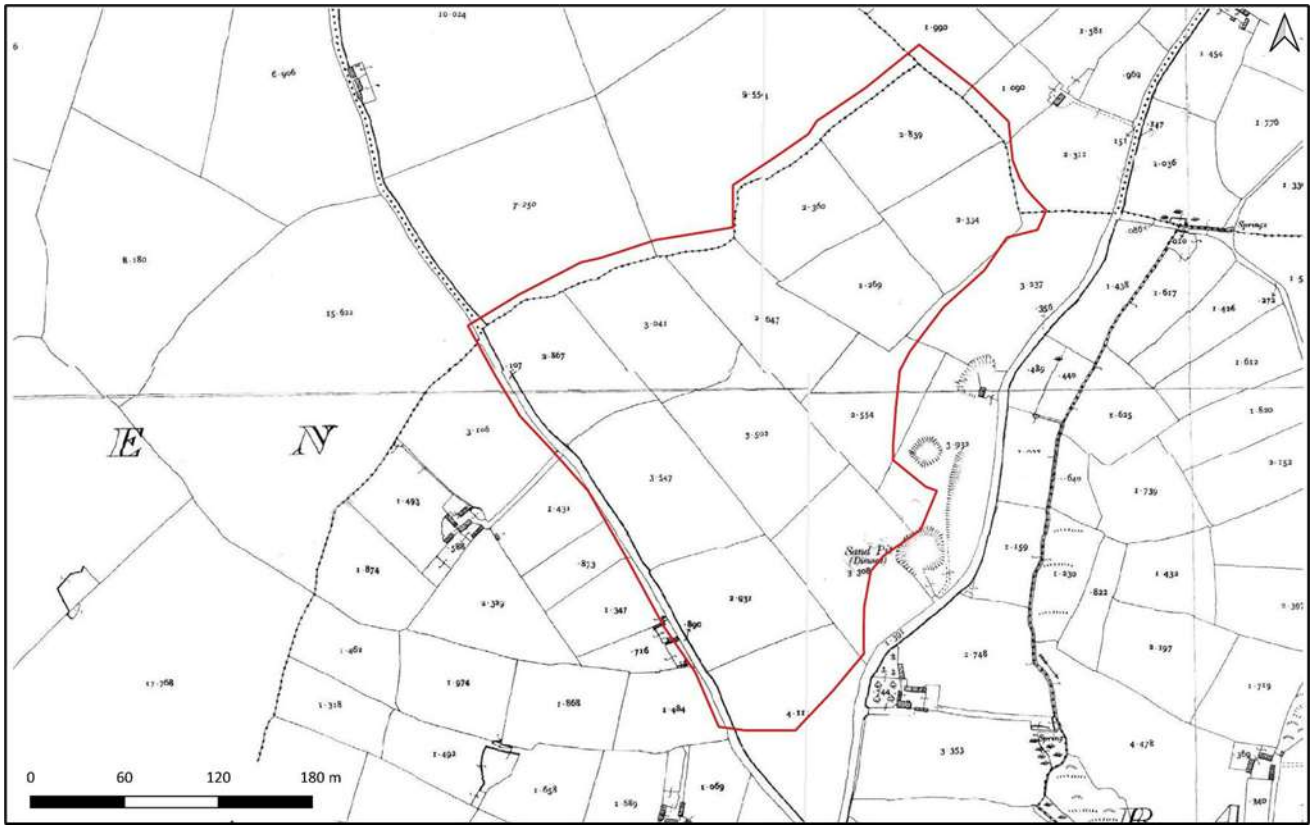


Figure 6: Extract from third edition map 1888-1913 (courtesy of Ger Dowling).

At the time of the 3rd edition map the proposed development site occupies 13 fields (Figure 6). The sandpits to the east of the site are depicted and one is labelled as 'Sand pit' disused.

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7.8 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Ordnance Survey of Ireland online aerial photographs (dated 1995, 2000 and 2005) (www.osi.ie) and Google maps online aerial photographs are available for viewing (www.google.ie). These were examined to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological/cultural heritage significance that may only be visible from the air. Traces of the enclosures were visible on aerial photographs from 2013-2018 (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Aerial photos (2013-2018) www.archaeology.ie.

7.9 DATABASE OF IRISH EXCAVATION REPORTS (1970- 2023).

Previous surveys within the footprint of the proposed development site comprises a gradiometer survey of the Ballynamonabeg lands which revealed a wide range of anomalies, including features of clear or potential archaeological interest alongside others of agricultural or modern origin. The most notable are two large enclosures. Enclosure [1], positioned at the northern boundary, is circular in form, measuring about 55 m northwest–southeast by 52 m southwest–northeast, and may have an east-facing entrance. Roughly 50 m to the northeast,

three strong magnetic anomalies [5] were detected; these may represent 'oven-type' features such as hearths or kilns, possibly associated with the enclosure. Enclosure [2], close to the southern boundary, is defined by a sub-triangular or 'plectrum-shaped' ditch measuring approximately 63 m northeast–southwest by 57 m northwest–southeast. Within its interior, several pit-type responses and magnetic trends may indicate archaeological activity, though their interpretation is not certain.

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The survey also recorded two possible ring-ditches [3 and 4], together with a scatter of linear, curvilinear, and arcuate anomalies and multiple pit-type responses. These could represent archaeological ditches, pits, or deposits, and the strong magnetic signatures of some suggest the presence of archaeological material or residues linked to domestic or industrial activity. However, a modern, agricultural, or natural origin cannot be ruled out. A bipolar (positive–negative) radial anomaly [6], for example, may reflect a lightning strike, although this remains tentative.

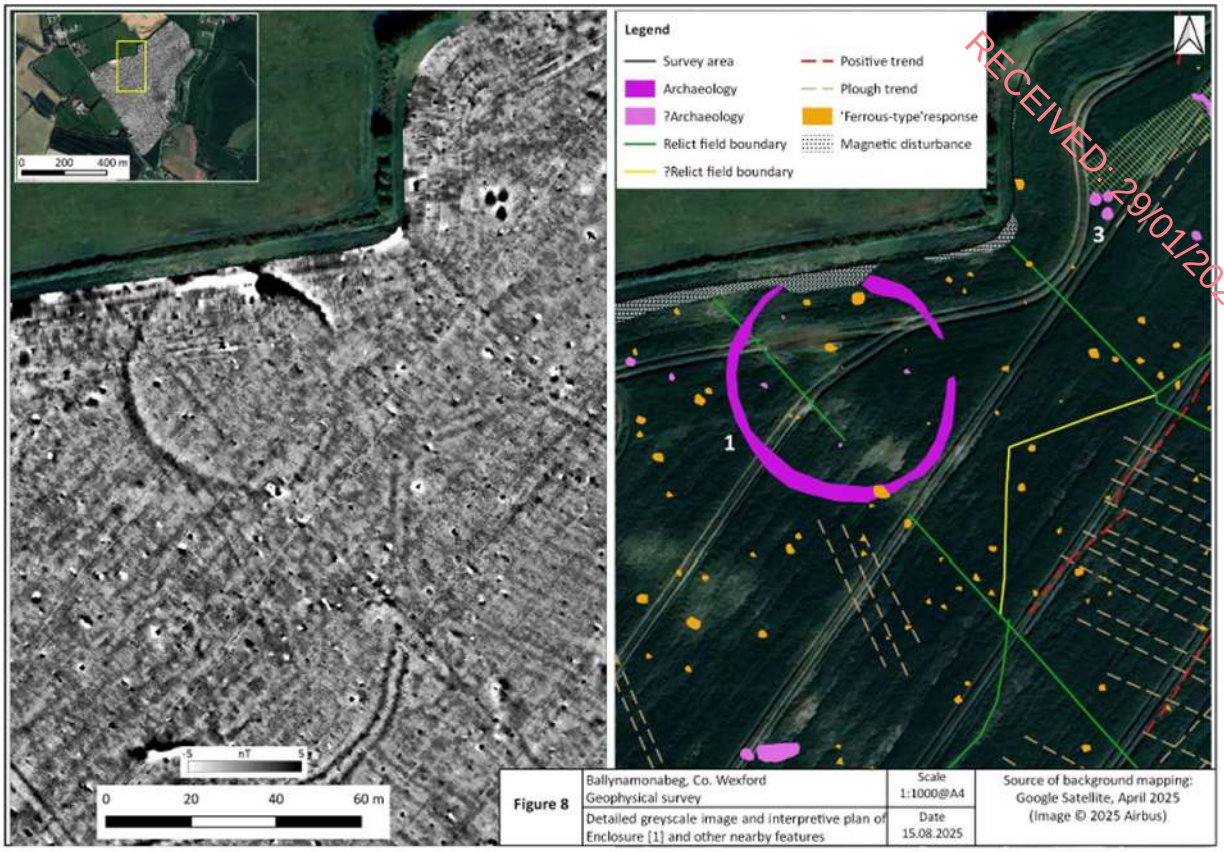
Additional evidence for relict land division and cultivation was observed, along with several possible former quarry pits. The result of test trenching these anomalies are discussed in Section 8 below.

Previous quarry monitoring associated with the monitoring of groundworks associated with the quarry to the north did not find any additional archaeology associated with the ring ditches (Licence 20E0204, Carroll & Quinn 2020).



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Figure 7: Extract from Figure 7, Geophysical survey report (Dowling, 2025).



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Figure 8: Close up Anomaly 1, enclosure, Geophysical survey report (Dowling, 2025).

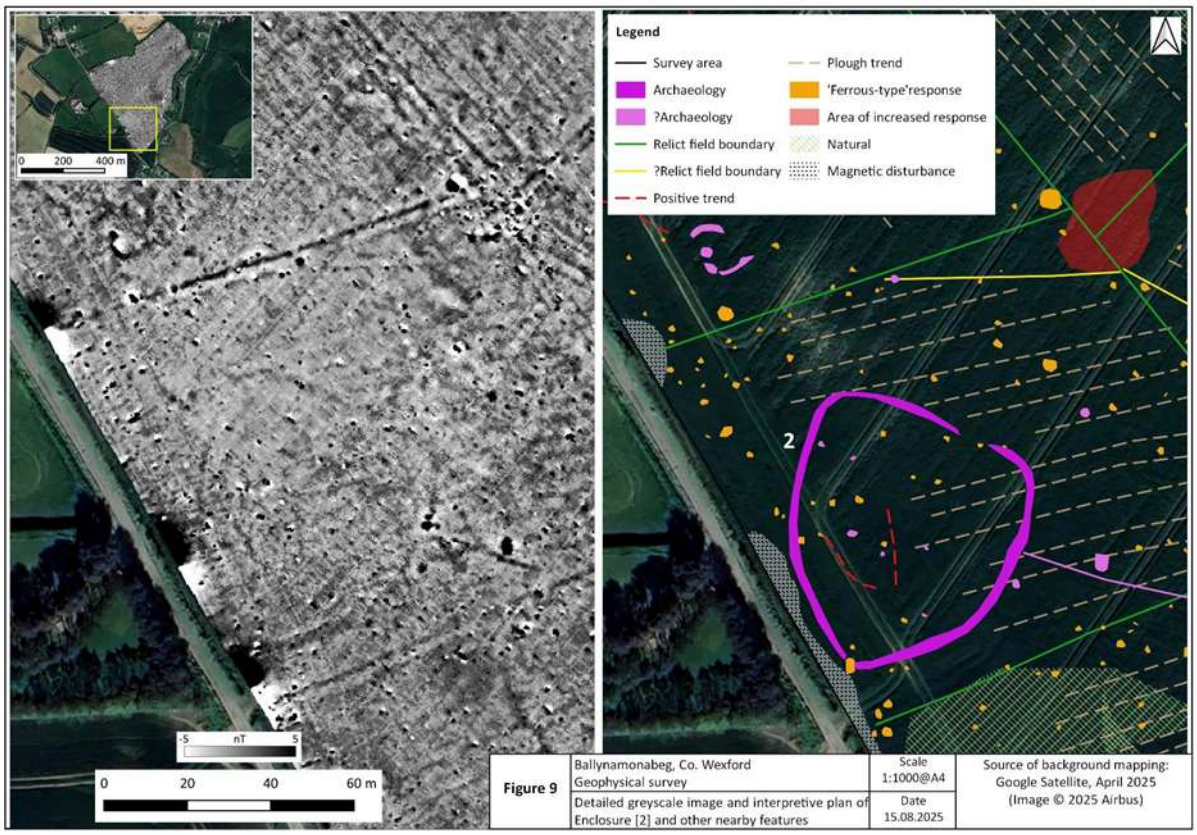


Figure 9: Close up Anomaly 2, Geophysical Survey Report (Dowling, 2025).

8. TEST TRENCHING

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A total of twenty-five test trenches were proposed to be excavated across the development site to assess subsurface archaeological potential. It was not possible to excavate Test Trench 3 due to the presence of overhead wires. The trenches ranged in length from 10.34 m to 49.26 m and averaged 0.35–0.45 m in depth. Archaeological deposits or features were identified in a limited number of trenches (4 areas of archaeological significance were identified), primarily within the western and southern portions of the site. The topsoil was consistent across the site a mid-brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions and the natural was a mid-orange, brown medium sand which was consistent across the site, except at the western end where it was more compact in places with deposits of yellow sand and occasional iron panning. Below is a methodology and summary of the results of test trenching.

A total of 515m of test trenches were excavated across the site. Trench locations were designed to test key anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey. These include Enclosure [1], a circular feature measuring approximately 55 × 52 m at the northern site boundary, and Enclosure [2], a plectrum-shaped ditch measuring about 63 × 57 m near the southern boundary. Trenches also targeted the two possible ring-ditches [3 and 4], as well as a cluster of strong pit-type anomalies [5] interpreted as possible hearths or kilns. Further trenches were excavated to investigate additional linear, curvilinear, and pit-type anomalies, while several control trenches were positioned in "blank" areas to establish a baseline for natural subsoil, ensure representative coverage of the site and confirm the results of the survey that there was no archaeology in this area.

The ground was excavated under the strict archaeological supervision of the licence holder using a tracked machine with a flat grading bucket in carefully controlled increments on the 14th and 15th October 2025. The topsoil was visually inspected for finds retrieval. The trenches were excavated to natural ground or the top of archaeological features whichever were encountered first.

Once the trenches were excavated if archaeological features were identified the ground was hand cleaned and clearly visible for photographic purposes. Limited hand test excavation of the linear potential archaeological features was carried out in order to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains which may be impacted upon by the development. The assessment of the degree of archaeological survival has enabled the formulation of further mitigation strategies designed to reduce or offset the impact of the proposed development which is detailed in Section 9 and 10 of this report.

Below is a summary of the results of test trenching in addition to the results in table format (Table 4). In total four areas of archaeological significance were identified.

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features, the linear anomaly proving non-archaeological in nature.

Trench 2 revealed significant archaeological activity comprising a penannular enclosure ditch (Enclosure 2 as identified in the geophysical survey) (C5) and associated linear features (C4, C6, C7), interpreted as truncating furrows and a possible ditch associated with the enclosure.

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Trench 3 was not excavated due to the presence of overhead electricity wires.

Trenches 4–6 produced no archaeological remains, with anomalies corresponding to agricultural furrows and a possible small pit of uncertain date.

Trench 7 uncovered a dumbbell-shaped kiln (C8/C10) and a pit containing prehistoric pottery (C9).

Trenches 8–15 largely corresponded to geophysical anomalies of agricultural or geological origin, including field boundaries and furrows, with no archaeological deposits identified.

Trench 16 contained two relict field boundaries, but no associated archaeological material.

Trench 17 revealed no archaeology.

Trenches 18 contained three sub-oval kilns (C10–C12).

Trench 19 contained Enclosure 1 as identified in the geophysical survey, it was visible as a large ditch (C14), and a furrow (C15) corresponding with features identified in the geophysical survey.

Trenches 20–24 were excavated to verify the extent of the enclosure and associated anomalies; all were sterile, with no archaeological material identified.

Trench 25 was excavated to confirm the presence field boundary and revealed no additional archaeology.

The archaeological deposits were confined to Trenches 2, 7, 18, and 19, corresponding to the enclosure ditch, kilns, and associated pits. The remaining trenches contained only plough furrows, field boundaries, or geological anomalies. Below is a table of the test trenching results followed by a discussion of the archaeology and a series of photographic plates of each test trench excavated.

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Trench No	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Archaeology Y/N	Description	Plate
1	28.82	0.42	N	Linear was not interpreted as archaeological.	14, 15
2	19.1	0.43	Yes	The archaeology comprised the penannular enclosure C5 a linear possibly associated with this feature C4 and a pit C6. Both the linear C4 and the enclosure ditch C5 were cut by linears C3 and C7 respectively.	5,6 and 16
3			Not excavated under electricity wires		
4	22.56		No	Anomaly was plough furrows 0.80m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled with mid brown sandy clay.	18,19,20
5	18.92	0.45	No	Anomaly was possibly a sand pit hole which was backfilled with a mid brown sandy silt with moderate rounded stone inclusions.	21,22,23
6	27.32	0.5	No	Anomaly was plough furrows 0.80m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled with mid brown sandy clay.	24
7	27.09	0.35	Yes	Possible dumb-bell-shaped kiln C8, 3m long and 1.50m wide and pit which contained prehistoric pottery C9.	7, 8,25
8	16.75	0.3	No	Linears depicted in geophysical survey were agricultural.	26
9	11.06	0.32	No	Linears depicted in geophysical survey were agricultural.	27
10	14.17	0.35	No	Anomaly was non archaeological, geological.	28
11	10.34	0.38	No	Field boundary depicted and anomaly depicted was non archaeology.	29
12	15.54	0.4	No	Anomaly depicted on geophysical survey was non archaeological.	30,31
13	20.34	0.42	No	Anomaly depicted on geophysical survey was non archaeological.	32
14	23.87	0.35	No	Field boundary depicted and anomaly depicted was non archaeology.	33
15	21.08	0.42	No	Furrows depicted on the survey were identified, no archaeology was identified.	34
16	49.26	0.4	No	Two relict field boundaries uncovered, no archaeology was identified.	35
17	14.72	0.4	No	No archaeology uncovered.	36

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18	35.33	0.36	Yes	Three large sub oval kilns exposed C10, C11 and C12. They ranged in size from 3.10m long x 2m wide to 2.80m long and 1.40m wide. A section through C10 indicates depth 0.70m.	11,12,13, 38
19	18.03	0.36	Yes	Large ditch C14 which was depicted on the geophysical survey 3.50m wide and a furrow C15 0.80m wide was also exposed.	9,10, 37
20	19.16	0.36	No	No archaeology uncovered, trench excavated to identify if there was any outlying archaeology associated with the enclosure.	40
21	16.7	0.3	No	No archaeology uncovered trench excavated to confirm the results of the geophysical survey, that there was no outlying archaeology associated with the enclosure.	41
22	10.56	0.34	No	No archaeology uncovered trench excavated to confirm the results of the geophysical survey, that there was no outlying archaeology associated with the enclosure.	42
23	23.67	0.3	No	No archaeology identified, trench excavated at location of possible lightning strike to see if there was any evidence in the natural ground which there wasn't.	43
24	10	0.4	No	Anomaly in survey was not archaeological and there was evidence of tramlines and furrows.	44
25	20	0.4	No	Trench excavated to confirm the presence of the field boundary and to determine that the archaeology did not extend beyond the enclosure.	45

Table 3: Summary of test trenches excavated, those shaded green contained archaeological features.

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Figure 10: Location of Test trenches overlain with geophysical anomalies at Ballynamonabeg.

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Figure 11: Geophysical anomalies identified (Licence 25R0322; Dowling & Schot, 2025).

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Anomaly No.	Form / Description	Approx. Dimensions (m)	Interpretation	Archaeological Potential / Period	Test Trenching Results
[1]	Large, circular enclosure, defined by substantial ditch (up to 3 m wide) with possible east-facing entrance; several internal pit-type anomalies.	c. 55 (NNW–SSE) × 52 (WSW–ENE)	Settlement or ceremonial enclosure; possible habitation or ritual focus.	High — Prehistoric / Early Medieval	Confirmed in Trench 19
[2]	Sub-triangular / plectrum-shaped enclosure defined by weak magnetic ditch; probable northern entrance; internal pit-type anomalies.	c. 63 (NE–SW) × 57 (NW–SE)	Enclosure of uncertain function; potential domestic, agricultural, or ritual use.	High — Prehistoric / Early Medieval	Confirmed in Trench 2
[3]	Small, circular anomaly with annular form.	c. 11 (E–W) × 9.7 (N–S); width ≈ 1.3 m	Possible ring-ditch or small barrow / structure slot-trench.	Medium–High — Bronze Age / Iron Age	Non archaeological
[4]	Penannular ring-ditch with opening to SW; strong central pit-type response.	≈ 6.5 m	Possible funerary monument or building foundation.	High — Bronze Age / Early Medieval	Non archaeological
[5]	Cluster of three strong pit-type anomalies; located NE of Enclosure [1].	2.7–3.2 m each	Possible ovens / kilns / hearths associated with settlement or industrial activity.	High — Prehistoric / Early Medieval	Identified in Trench 18
Various linear & curvilinear trends	Slender positive / negative linear anomalies across site.	Variable	Possible ditches, drains, or field systems; some	Medium — Agricultural / Post-Medieval	Non archaeological

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Anomaly No.	Form / Description	Approx. Dimensions (m)	Interpretation	Archaeological Potential / Period	Test Trenching Results
			correspond with historic mapping.		
Amorphous spreads & magnetic variation	Weakly enhanced magnetic zones and low-response sand areas.	Variable	Anthropogenic topsoil modification and natural soil variation.	Low — Natural / Modern	One feature identified in Trench 7 dumbell shaped kiln and pit with prehistoric pottery.
[6]	Bipolar radial anomaly (positive–negative) extending c. 8 m.	Radius ≈ 8 m	Possible lightning strike (non-archaeological).	None — Natural phenomenon	No sub surface expression visible in Trench 23

Table 4: Geophysical survey anomalies in relation to test trenching results.

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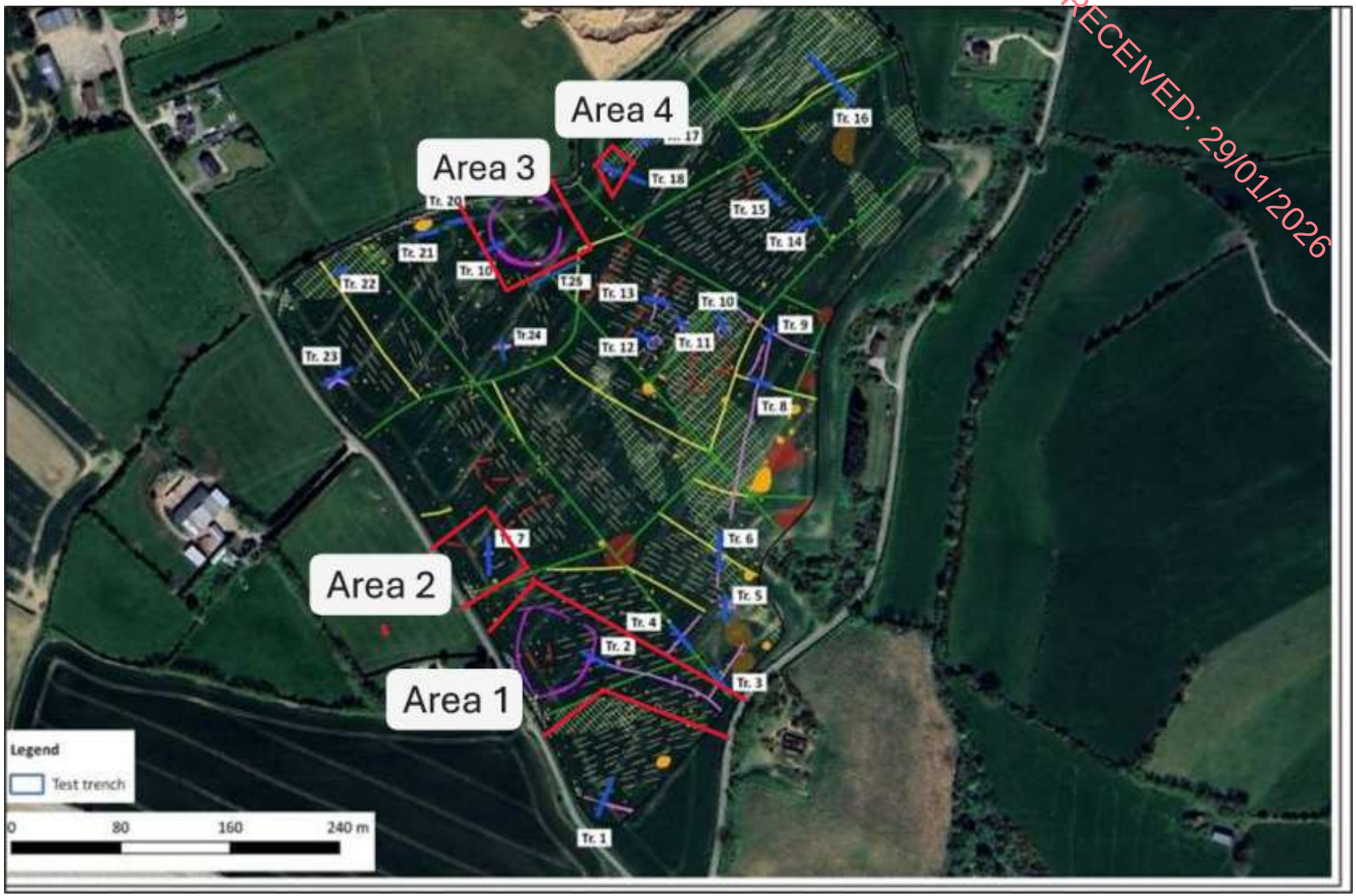


Figure 12: Archaeological Areas 1-4.

In summary a total of four areas of archaeological significance were identified, Areas 1-4 as detailed below.

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Area 1

Context Number	Width(m)	Length(m)	Trench	Description	Interpretation
3			2	Dark brown silty clay which contained occasional angular round stone inclusions.	Furrow which cut linear C4.
4	1.55	Unknown	2	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional medium angular stone inclusions and a charcoal layer was visible at the northeast end of the feature.	Linear feature possibly archaeological, truncated by furrow C3.
5	1.8		2	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions and charcoal inclusions at the western end of the cut.	Sub-triangular / plectrum-shaped enclosure ditch truncated by furrow C7.
6	plus 0.55	0.7	2	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Pit.
7	0.55	Unknown	2	Mid brown sandy clay.	Furrow which truncated enclosure ditch C5.

Table 5: Contexts associated with Area 1 (see Appendix 1 for further information).

In Area 1 (Trench 2) the remains of a sub-triangular or plectrum-shaped enclosure (anomaly 2), with a probable entrance on the northern side, was identified through geophysical survey (Figure 9). Within the interior, several pit-type anomalies were also recorded. The enclosure measures approximately 63 m northeast–southwest by 57 m northwest–southeast. Although its precise function remains uncertain, the feature may represent a domestic, agricultural, or ritual enclosure of prehistoric or early medieval date, and is therefore considered to be of high archaeological potential. The enclosure ditch C5 was 1.8 m in width (Plate 5). A linear feature (C4) that may be associated with this enclosure, and a small pit (C6) were also identified in the trench. Both the linear and the enclosure ditch were truncated by later agricultural features (C3 and C7) (Plate 6).

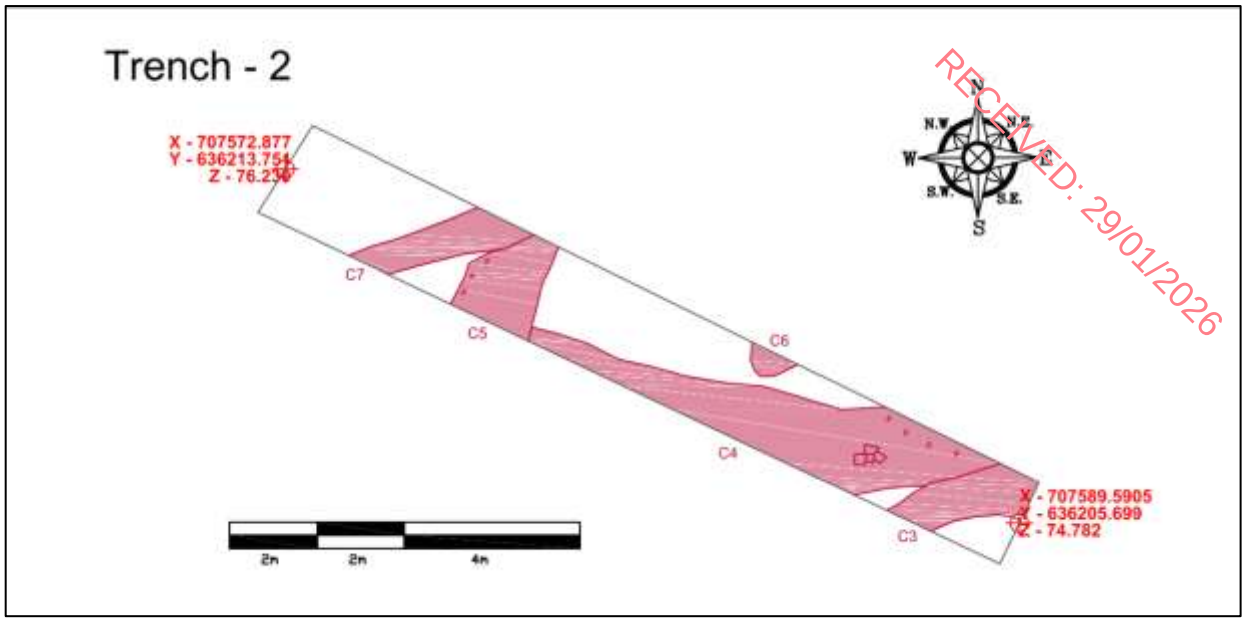


Figure 13: Scale drawing of Trench 2, Area 1.



Plate 5: Sub-triangular / plectrum-shaped enclosure C5.



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Plate 6: Linear feature which may be archaeological C4, cut by furrow C3.

Area 2

Context Number	Width(m)	Length(m)	Trench	Description	Interpretation
8	0.9	3	7	Medium brown sandy clay with occasional large quartz stones 0.20m x 0.23m x 0.15m. A band of charcoal 0.02m in thickness was visible on the southern edge of the cut.	Dumbell-shaped kiln.
9	plus 0.18	0.3	7	Black charcoal rich medium sand with prehistoric pottery visible at the southern edge of the cut.	Pit which contained prehistoric pottery.

Table 6: Contexts associated with Area 2 (see Appendix 1 for further information).

Area 2 (Trench 7) comprised a possible dumbell-shaped kiln C8, 3m long and 1.50m wide and pit which contained pottery C9 (Plate 7 and Plate 8). This was identified as an area of possible archaeological significance in the geophysical survey (Figure 11).

This kiln was probably for drying cereals they generally dating from the later Iron Age through the early medieval period (c. AD 400–1200), with some later examples extending into the high and late medieval periods (13th–15th centuries). They consist of two sub-circular or oval chambers joined by a narrow flue, producing the characteristic "dumbbell" plan. One chamber served as the firing or stoking area, the other as the drying chamber where grain or malt was spread above the flue on a drying floor. These kilns are frequently found in association with settlement or agricultural sites (Monk 1994; 2007; McErlean & O'Sullivan 2002).

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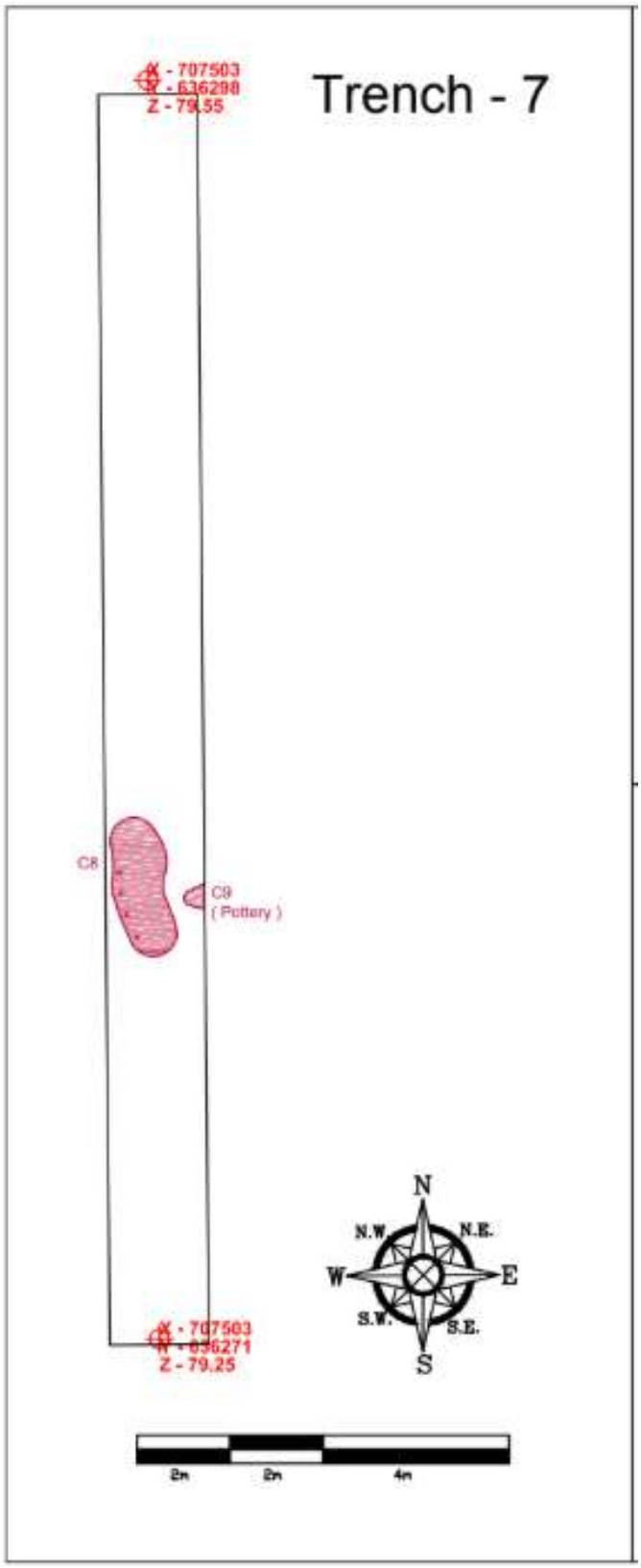


Figure 14: Archaeological features in Trench 7, Area 2.

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Plate 7: Dumbell shaped kiln C8.



Plate 8: Pit C9 which contained prehistoric pottery.

Area 3

Context Number	Width(m)	Length(m)	Trench	Description	Interpretation
14	3.5	-	19	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of enclosure ditch visible on geophysical survey.
15	0.8	-	19	Dark brown sandy clay.	Furrow west of enclosure ditch C14.

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Table 7: Contexts associated with Area 3 (see Appendix 1 for further information).

The geophysical survey identified a large, circular enclosure measuring approximately 55 m (NNW–SSE) by 52 m (WSW–ENE) (Figure 8). It is defined by a substantial enclosing ditch up to 3 m in width, with a possible east-facing entrance and several internal pit-type anomalies. The enclosure is interpreted as a settlement or ceremonial site, potentially representing a prehistoric or early medieval habitation or ritual focus. Area 3 (Trench 19) contained this circular enclosure ditch which was 3.5m in width (Plate 9 and 10). A furrow was also identified in this trench.

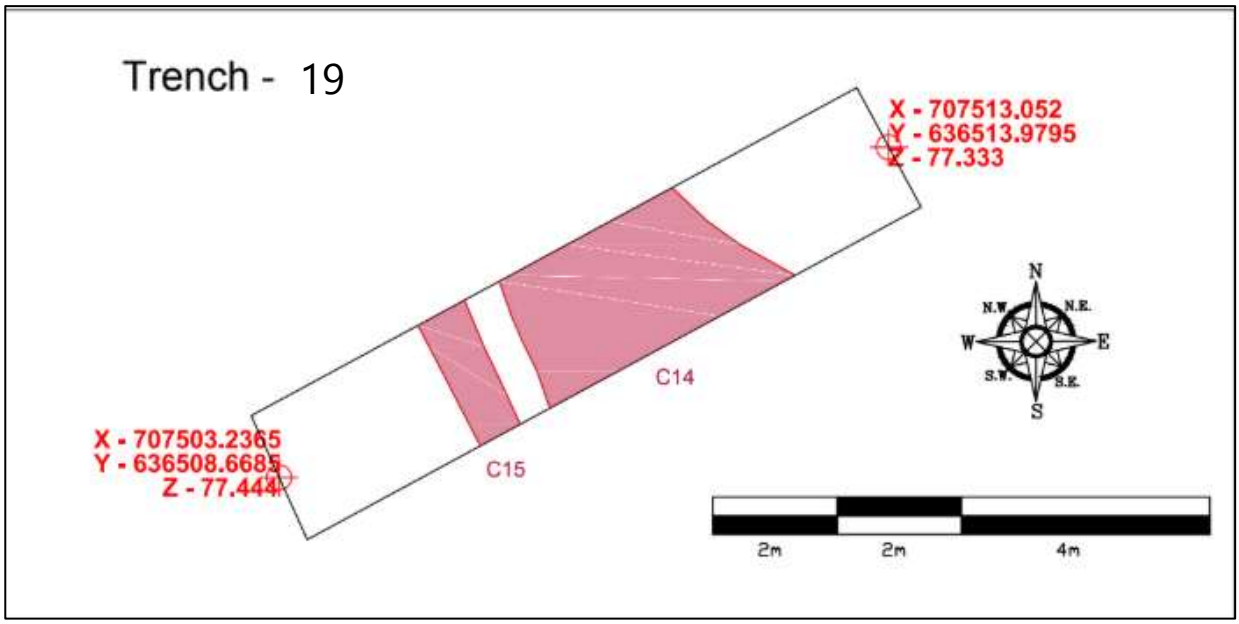


Figure 15: Archaeological features in Trench 19, Area 3.

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Plate 9: Enclosure ditch C14, facing south.



Plate 10: Enclosure ditch C14, and furrow C15 facing north.

Area 4

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Context Number	Width(m)	Length(m)	Trench	Description	Interpretation
10	3.1	2	18	Sub oval kiln, n-s aligned, fill comprises a mid-greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of kiln.
11	2	3.1	18	Cut of kiln, sub-oval cut, sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, the sides steeply sloped and the base concave.	Cut of kiln filled by charcoal layer at the base C16 and uppermost fill is backfilled layer C13.
12	1.4	2.8	18	Fill comprises a mid-greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions at east end of cut.	Uppermost fill of dumbbell shaped kiln.
13	2	3.1	18	A mid greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of kiln.
16	-	-	18	Black medium sand which contained abundant charcoal flecking inclusions, 0.05m deep.	Primary fill at the base of kiln C11.
17	-	-	-	Oxidised clay at the lower side and base of the kiln.	Evidence of in-situ burning at base of kiln

Table 8: Contexts associated with Area 4 (see Appendix 1 for further information).

A cluster of three strong pit-type anomalies, each measuring between 2.7 m and 3.2 m in diameter, was identified to the northeast of the enclosure in Trench 19 (Anomaly 5, Figure 11). These features are interpreted as possible ovens, kilns, or hearths, likely associated with domestic or small-scale industrial activity within a prehistoric or early medieval settlement context.

These three large sub oval kilns were exposed C10, C11 and C12 in Trench 18. They ranged in size from 3.10m long x 2m wide to 2.80m long and 1.40m wide. A section through C10 indicates depth 0.70m. The base fill C16 a charcoal rich layer was 0.05m deep, evidence of in situ burning was also visible at the base of the kiln C17. A small slot through the kiln indicates that its depth was 0.70m and one phase of use as there was a charcoal layer at the base C16 and above this was a single backfill layer C13.

The morphology and evidence of in situ burning indicate a corn-drying kiln or industrial furnace, most likely of early medieval date (c. AD 500–1100). Such features are commonly associated with agricultural processing or small-scale craft activity within settlement complexes of this period (McErlean & O'Sullivan, 2002; Monk, 1994; McCormick & Murray, 2007).

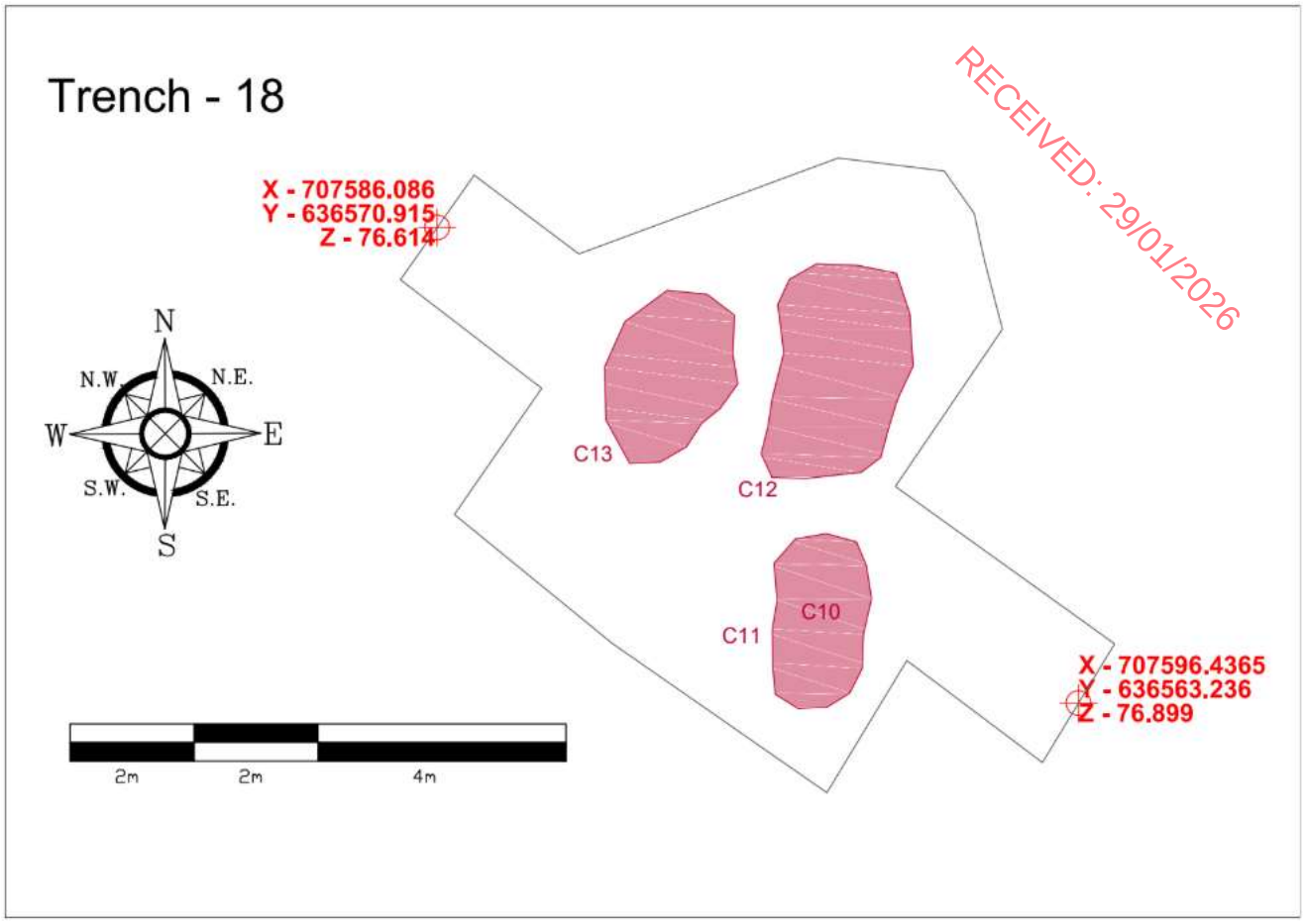


Figure 16: Archaeological features in Trench 18, Area 4.



Plate 11: View of kilns facing northeast, C11, C12 and C13.



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Plate 12: View of kilns facing northeast with section excavated through C11.



Plate 13: Kiln C11 which had a small slot excavated through it.

Archaeological testing at Ballynamonabeg, Co. Wexford (Licence 25E0913) identified four discrete areas of archaeological activity. These comprised a penannular enclosure and associated features (Area 1), a dumbbell-shaped kiln and pit which contained pottery (Area 2), a circular enclosure (Area 3) and three kilns (Areas 4). The features correspond closely with anomalies recorded during geophysical survey and indicate multi-phase occupation and agricultural processing.

Beyond these zones, all other trenches were sterile, containing only natural subsoil or later post-medieval furrows. All anomalies of archaeological and possible archaeological potential were test trenched.

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9. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

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The archaeological and cultural heritage resource within the study area has been assessed in terms of its sensitivity, the type of potential impact, magnitude of same and the potential significance of the effect/impact.

The quality and type of an impact can be classed as one of the following (as per the Draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2017):

- Negative Impact: A change which reduces the quality of the environment, for example a change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological/architectural monument/structure from the landscape.
- Neutral Impact: A change which does not affect the quality of the environment.
- Positive Impact: A change which improves the quality of the environment, for example a change that improves or enhances the setting of an archaeological/architectural monument/structure.

The below terms are used in relation to the archaeological and cultural heritage and relate to whether a site will be physically impacted upon or not:

- Direct Impact: Where an archaeological/cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development and entails the removal of part, or all, of the monument or feature.
- Indirect Impact: Where a feature or site of archaeological or cultural heritage merit or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of a development.

Significance of Effects (as defined by the EPA (draft) 2017 Guidelines):

- Imperceptible: An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
- Not significant: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.
- Slight Effects: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
- Moderate Effects: An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
- Significant Effects: An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

- Very Significant: An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
- Profound Effects: An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics including archaeological features.

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ASSESSMENT AT CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Impacts may range from moderate to profound negative dependant on the nature, extent, and significance of any such identified archaeological remains should they survive within the footprint of the proposed development. The impacts may be caused by ground disturbances associated with the proposed development.

ASSESSMENT AT OPERATIONAL PHASE

There are no predicted impacts to any archaeological assets during the operation of the proposed development provided all archaeological mitigation is followed.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative effects of the proposed development on archaeology have taken other planned, existing, and permitted developments in the surrounding area into account.

There are no predicted cumulative impacts to the archaeological or cultural heritage resource.

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Archaeological testing at Ballynamonabeg identified four discrete areas of archaeological significance (Areas 1–4). The nature, extent, and significance of the impacts vary across the site depending on the proposed sand extraction footprint and associated ground disturbance. Impacts are assessed below in accordance with EPA Guidelines (2017), having regard to the sensitivity of the archaeological resource and the magnitude of the proposed development.

➢ Area 1 – Plectrum-Shaped Enclosure and Associated Linear Features

Description and Significance

Area 1 comprises a sub-triangular or plectrum-shaped enclosure ditch (C5), with a probable entrance on the northern side, and associated features including a linear of uncertain date (C4) and a small pit (C6). The enclosure is interpreted as a prehistoric or early medieval enclosure of high archaeological significance. The linear feature C4 may be archaeological in origin but has been truncated by later agricultural furrows, making its date and function uncertain.

Nature of Impact

The proposed sand pit development will partially impact Area 1. While the core of the plectrum-shaped enclosure will be avoided and retained, associated linear features of uncertain archaeological date will be directly impacted by ground disturbance.

Assessment of Effect

- Impact Type: Direct
- Magnitude: Moderate
- Significance: Moderate negative effect

The principal enclosure will be largely preserved; however, the loss of associated features represents a measurable adverse impact on the archaeological resource.

➢ Area 2 – Dumbbell-Shaped Kiln and Pit with Prehistoric Pottery

Description and Significance

Area 2 contains a dumbbell-shaped kiln (C8) and an associated pit (C9) which produced prehistoric pottery. The kiln is indicative of agricultural activity, most likely dating from the later Iron Age to early medieval period. There was no evidence of cremated bone within the pit however its presence cannot be discounted.

Nature of Impact

The proposed development will directly impact Area 2, and the archaeological features cannot be preserved in situ due to the extent of sand extraction.

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Assessment of Effect

- Impact Type: Direct
- Magnitude: High
- Significance: Significant negative effect

Without mitigation, the development would result in the total loss of these archaeological features.

➢ Area 3 – Large Circular Enclosure

Description and Significance

Area 3 contains a substantial circular enclosure ditch (C14), measuring approximately 55 m by 52 m, with a possible entrance and associated internal anomalies. The enclosure is interpreted as a settlement or ceremonial site of prehistoric or early medieval date and represents a feature of high archaeological sensitivity.

Nature of Impact

The proposed development layout allows for the complete avoidance of Area 3. No direct ground disturbance is proposed within the enclosure footprint.

Assessment of Effect

- Impact Type: None (avoidance)
- Magnitude: Imperceptible
- Significance: Neutral

The enclosure will be preserved in situ and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

➢ Area 4 – Cluster of Kilns

Description and Significance

Area 4 comprises a group of three sub-oval kilns (C10–C12) with clear evidence of in situ burning and associated charcoal-rich deposits. These features are interpreted as corn-drying kilns likely of early medieval date, and form part of a wider settlement and agricultural processing landscape.

Nature of Impact

Area 4 lies within the footprint of the proposed sand pit and will be directly impacted by groundworks associated with extraction.

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Assessment of Effect

- Impact Type: Direct
- Magnitude: High
- Significance: Significant negative effect

In the absence of mitigation, these features would be completely removed.

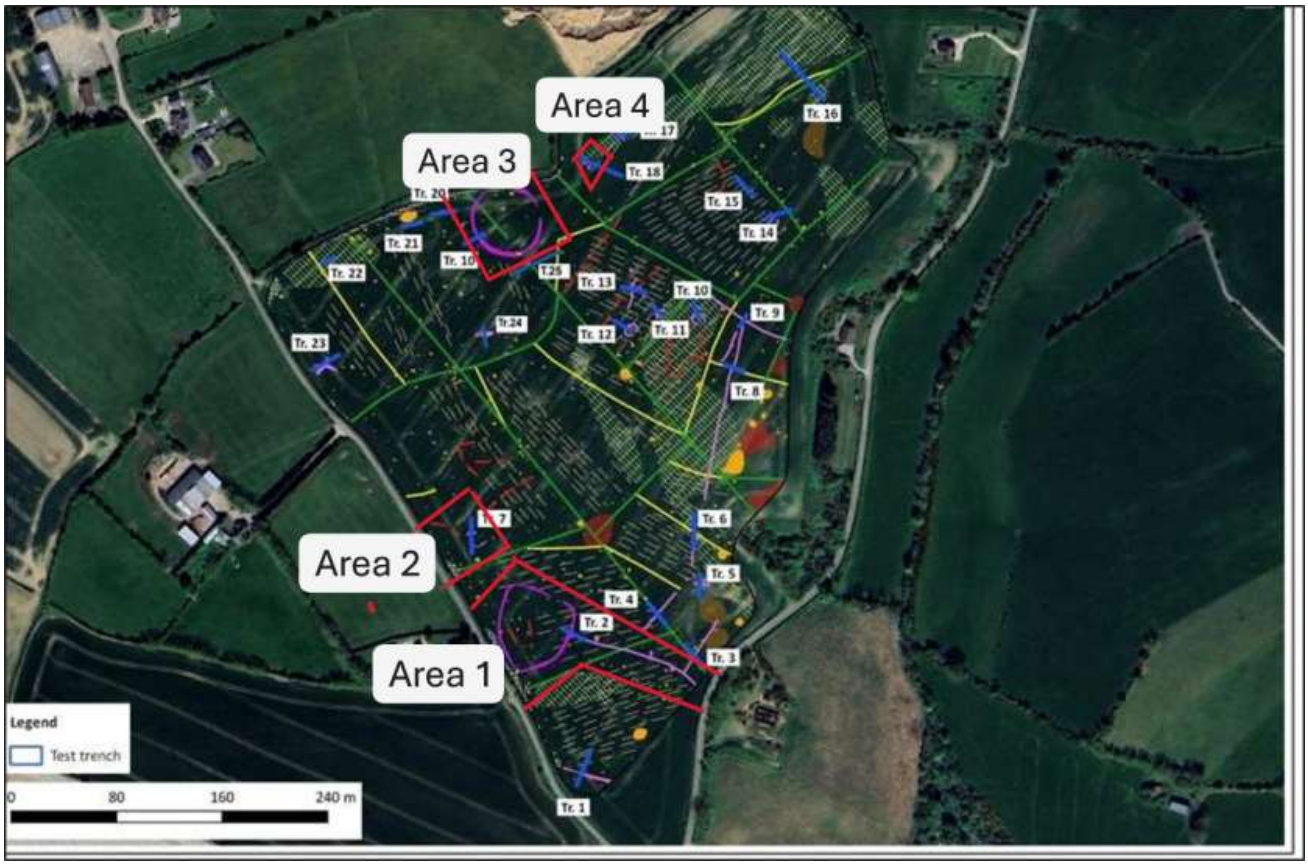


Figure 17: Areas 1-4 where archaeological features were identified.

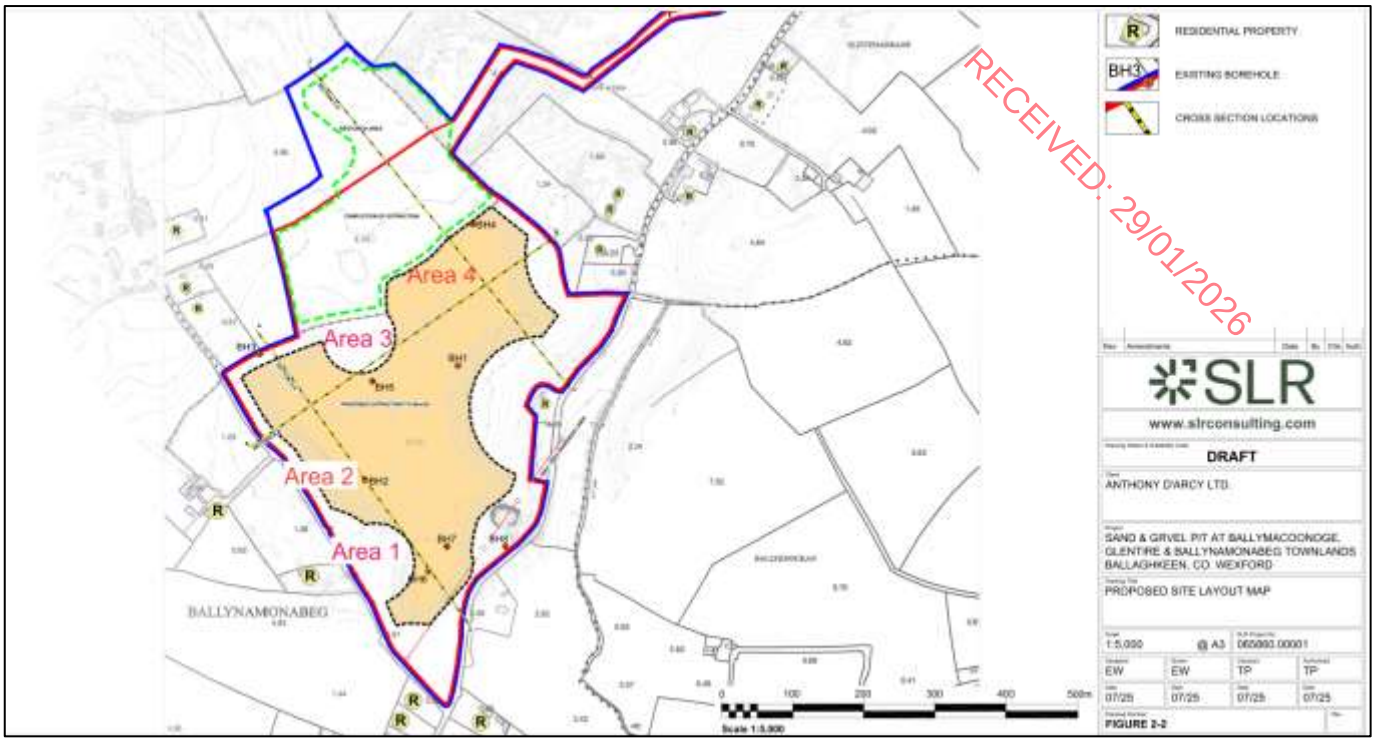


Figure 18: Areas 1-4 in relation to sand extraction pit, shaded yellow.

11. MITIGATION

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The test trenching results demonstrate clear evidence of multi-phase archaeological activity concentrated within the southern and western portions of the site. In summary, the archaeological evidence indicates a core area of prehistoric and early medieval activity, defined by enclosures, kilns and pits, which has been partially truncated by centuries of agricultural cultivation. The site therefore makes an important contribution to the understanding of long-term landscape development and land-use continuity within the locality.

Mitigation measures have been designed in accordance with national policy, best archaeological practice, and the principle of preservation in situ where feasible. Should planning permission be granted, the developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist, licensed under the National Monuments Acts, to monitor all site clearance and ground disturbance works in Areas 1, 2 and 4, and to oversee the implementation of agreed preservation in situ and preservation by record measures associated with the development, as appropriate, following consultation with the National Monuments Service (NMS). These measures are detailed below.

Area 1 – Mitigation

The principal plectrum-shaped enclosure shall be preserved in situ through avoidance.

Linear features of uncertain archaeological date that will be impacted by the proposed development shall be preserved by record through full archaeological excavation, recording, environmental sampling, artefact recovery, specialist analysis and reporting, prior to development.

The enclosure shall be fenced off prior to the commencement of construction works, with a minimum buffer of 10 m established around the identified archaeology. This buffer shall be clearly defined on site and protected from all ground disturbance.

Linear features of potential archaeological significance shall be stripped under archaeological supervision to confirm their nature and extent. Where confirmed as archaeological, they shall be preserved by record in accordance with best practice. These measures will offset the loss of the archaeological resource.

Area 2 – Mitigation

As preservation in situ is not feasible, the kiln and associated pit shall be preserved by record.

Mitigation shall comprise full archaeological excavation, detailed recording, environmental sampling, artefact recovery, specialist analysis and reporting. This area shall be stripped in advance of any ground reduction or extraction works, under archaeological supervision. A 10 m buffer zone shall also be stripped around the identified features prior to their preservation by record, to ensure the full extent of archaeological remains is identified and appropriately mitigated.

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Area 3 – Mitigation

The circular enclosure shall be preserved *in situ*.

A clearly defined 15 m buffer zone shall be established around the enclosure, with fencing erected prior to works, and full exclusion from all construction-related groundworks, plant access, and material storage.

No further archaeological intervention shall be required in this area, subject to full compliance with the avoidance and protection measures outlined above.

Area 4 – Mitigation

The cluster of kilns shall be preserved by record due to unavoidable direct impact arising from the proposed development.

Mitigation shall include full excavation of all kiln features, detailed recording of stratigraphy, recovery of archaeobotanical samples, artefact recovery, specialist post-excavation analysis, and reporting. The results will contribute significantly to the understanding of early medieval agricultural and industrial activity in the area.

This area shall be stripped in advance of any ground reduction works, under archaeological supervision, and a 10 m buffer shall be stripped around the identified features prior to preservation by record.

Appropriate machinery shall be used at all times to facilitate the preservation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains. The developer shall facilitate the archaeologist in the recording of any archaeological material identified during the works.

Any further archaeological mitigation measures specified by the planning authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, shall be complied with by the developer.

Upon completion of all archaeological works on site, and following any required post-excavation specialist analysis, the planning authority and the National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a final archaeological report detailing the results of monitoring and any associated archaeological investigations or excavations undertaken. **All archaeological costs arising from the development shall be borne by the developer.**

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Archaeological Area	Archaeological Remains Identified	Archaeological Significance	Nature of Impact	Type of Impact	Mitigation Strategy	Residual Impact
Area 1	Sub-triangular / plectrum-shaped enclosure ditch (C5); associated linear feature of uncertain date (C4); small pit (C6)	High (prehistoric / early medieval enclosure)	Partial impact arising from sand extraction affecting associated linear features; principal enclosure largely avoided	Direct (partial)	**Preservation *in situ*** of the principal enclosure. Establishment of a **minimum 10m buffer**, set out by **GPS and fenced** prior to works. **No machinery access, ground disturbance or stockpiling** within buffer• Impacted linear features to be **stripped in advance under archaeological supervision** and, if confirmed as archaeological, **preserved by record** through full excavation, recording, sampling and analysis.	Not significant following mitigation
Area 2	Dumbbell-shaped kiln (C8) and pit containing prehistoric pottery (C9)	High (later prehistoric / early medieval agricultural–industrial activity)	Complete loss unavoidable due to sand pit footprint	Direct	Area to be **stripped in advance of any ground reduction works** under archaeological supervision• **Preservation by record** through full excavation, detailed recording, environmental sampling, artefact recovery and post-excavation analysis **10m buffer stripped** around identified features to confirm full extent prior to excavation	Not significant following mitigation

Area 3	Large circular enclosure ditch (C14) with possible entrance and associated internal anomalies	High (prehistoric / early medieval settlement or ceremonial enclosure)	No impact – feature lies outside development footprint	None	**Preservation *in situ*** by avoidance• Establishment of a **minimum 10m buffer**, set out by **GPS and fenced** prior to works• **Exclusion of all machinery, ground disturbance and stockpiling** within buffer	Neutral
Area 4	Cluster of three sub-oval kilns (C10–C12) with evidence of in situ burning	High (early medieval agricultural / industrial activity)	Complete loss unavoidable due to sand extraction	Direct	Area to be **stripped in advance of any ground reduction works** under archaeological supervision• **10m buffer stripped** around identified features to confirm extent. **Preservation by record** through full excavation, recording, environmental sampling and specialist post-excavation analysis	Not significant following mitigation

Table 9: Table of impacts and archaeological mitigation measures.

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12. CONCLUSION

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The Archaeological Impact Assessment with Test Trenching at Ballynamonabeg has established that the proposed development site contains archaeological remains including two enclosures, a series of kilns, and associated pits and linear features. These remains are interpreted as forming part of a broader prehistoric landscape, with activity likely spanning the Bronze Age and possibly extending into later periods.

Archaeological remains were identified in four discrete areas within the site, corresponding closely with anomalies detected during the preceding geophysical survey. The majority of test trenches revealed no archaeological material, confirming that archaeological activity is spatially confined and well defined within the development footprint.

The results of the assessment have allowed for a clear understanding of the extent, character, preservation, and significance of the archaeological resource. Appropriate mitigation strategies have been formulated to address the identified impacts, including preservation in situ where feasible and preservation by record through archaeological excavation where impacts are unavoidable.

All archaeological mitigation measures set out in this Archaeological Impact Assessment Table 9 page 59 of this report in respect of the proposed development at Ballynamonabeg, The Ballagh, Co. Wexford, shall be implemented in full, except where otherwise agreed in writing by the planning authority following consultation with the National Monuments Service (NMS).

These measures shall include, as appropriate, preservation in situ of identified archaeological remains and/or preservation by record through archaeological excavation of areas unavoidably impacted by the development. All archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014 and under the appropriate archaeological licence(s).

Following the completion of all archaeological works on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, a final archaeological report detailing the results of the investigations shall be submitted to the planning authority and the National Monuments Service.

All costs associated with archaeological mitigation, excavation, post-excavation analysis and reporting shall be borne by the developer.

Reason:
To ensure the continued preservation [either in situ or by record] of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

13. PLATES

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Plate 14: Trench 1 facing northeast.



Plate 15: Close up linear feature depicted on geophysical survey which was a furrow in Trench 1.



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Plate 16: Trench 2 Archaeological Area 1 facing southeast (see Section 8 of this report for more detailed images).



Plate 17: Linear feature in Trench 4 as depicted in geophysical survey, agricultural in origin.

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Plate 18: Trench 4 facing northwest.

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Plate 19: Section through linear in Trench 4.



Plate 20: Anomaly in Trench 5, non archaeological.

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Plate 21: Trench 5 facing southeast.



Plate 22: Close up of anomaly material in Trench 5.

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Plate 23: Trench 6 facing northwest.



Plate 24: Trench 7 facing northwest.



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Plate 25: Trench 8 facing west, note the linear which runs across the trench is truncating the furrow, it has a depth of 0.03m see slot at left hand side of photo.



Plate 26: Trench 9 facing northeast, note the linear northeast.

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Plate 27: Trench 10 facing northwest.



Plate 28: Geophysical anomaly in Trench 11.

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Plate 29: Anomaly Trench 12.



Plate 30: Anomaly Trench 12.


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Plate 31: Trench 13 facing southeast.



Plate 32: Trench 14 facing southwest.

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Plate 33: Trench 15 facing southeast.



Plate 34: Trench 16 facing northwest.

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Plate 35: Trench 17 facing northeast.



Plate 36: Trench 19 facing northeast.



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Plate 37: Trench 18 facing east.



Plate 38: Trench 20 facing northeast.



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Plate 39: Trench 21 facing northeast.



Plate 40: Trench 22 facing northeast.

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Plate 41: Trench 23 facing northeast.



Plate 42: Trench 24 facing northeast.



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Plate 43: Trench 25 facing northeast.

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15. APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

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Context Number	Fill of	Filled by	Depth(m)	Width(m)	Length(m)	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1	-	-	0.25	-	-	All	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of small stones.	Topsoil.
2	-	-	-	-	-	All	Mid orangey brown medium sand which was consistent across the site except at the western end where it was more compacy with yellowish sandy patches.	Natural.
3	-	-	0.35			2	Dark brown silty clay which contained occasional angular round stone inclusions.	Furrow which cut linear C4.
4	-	-	-	1.55	Unknown	2	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional medium angular stone inclusions and a charcoal layer was visible at the northeast end of the feature.	Linear feature possibly archaeological, truncated by furrow C3.
5	-	-	-	1.8		2	Mid brown sany clay with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions and charcoal inclusions at the western end of the cut.	Pennanular enclosure ditch truncated by furrow C7.
6	-	-	-	plus 0.55	0.7	2	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Pit.
7	-	-	-	0.55	Unknown	2	Mid brown sandy clay.	Furrow which truncated enclosure ditch C5.
8	-	-	-	0.9	3	7	Medium brown sandy clay with occasional large quartz stones 0.20m x 0.23m x 0.15m. A band of charcoal 0.02m in thickness was visible on the southern edge of the cut.	Dumbell-shaped kiln.
9	-	-	-	plus 0.18	0.3	7	Black charcoal rich medium sand with prehistoric pottery visible at the southern edge of the cut.	Pit which contained prehistoric pottery.
10	11	-	-	2	3.1	18	Sub oval kiln, n-s aligned, fill comprises a mid greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of kiln.
11	-	13	0.7	3.1	2	18	Cut of kiln, sub-oval cut, sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, the sides steeply sloped and the base concave.	Cut of kiln filled by charcoal layer at the base C16 and uppermost fill is backfill layer C13.
12	-	-	-	2.8	1.4	18	Fill comprises a mid greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions at east end of cut.	Uppermost fill of dumbell shaped kiln.
13	11	-	0.65	3.1	2	18	A mid greyish brown medium sand which had occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of kiln.
14	-	-	-	3.5	-	19	Dark brown sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecking inclusions.	Uppermost fill of enclosure ditch visible on geophysical survey.
15	-	-	-	0.8	-	19	Dark brown sandy clay.	Furrow west of enclosure ditch C14.
16	11	-	-	-	0.05	18	Black medium sand which contained abundant charcoal flecking inclusions.	Primary fill at the base of kiln C11.
17				-	-	18	Heat affected natural	Heat affected natural at the base of the kiln

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