

past | present | future

ACS



**Archaeological Assessment (Test Trenching) of a  
Proposed Development at Newtown, Marsh Road, Drogheda,  
Co. Louth**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES UNIT

**Client**

J. Murphy Developments,  
Bryanstown Centre,  
Drogheda  
Co. Louth

ITM: 710451, 775062

Planning Ref.: ABP-302215-18

Licence No.: 19E0017

Linda Clarke & Derek Gallagher

15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

ACSU Ref.: 1837

HEAD OFFICE

Unit 21  
Boyne Business Park  
Greenhills, Drogheda  
Co. Louth  
Tel: 041 9883396  
Tel: 041 9835422  
Fax: 041 2130310  
info@acsu.ie  
www.acsu.ie

# **PART A: PROJECT DETAILS**

## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	Archaeological Assessment (Test Trenching) at Newtown, Drogheda, Co. Louth
<b>Licence No.</b>	19E0017
<b>Townland</b>	Newtown
<b>RMP</b>	N/A
<b>ITM</b>	710451, 775062
<b>Client</b>	J. Murphy Developments, Bryanstown Centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth
<b>Planning Ref. No.</b>	ABP-302215-18
<b>Consultant</b>	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
<b>Excavation Director</b>	Linda Clarke
<b>Report Author</b>	Linda Clarke & Derek Gallagher
<b>Report status</b>	Final
<b>Report Date</b>	15 February 2019



# **PART B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment (test trenching) was carried out in advance of the potential development of a site at Newtown, Drogheda, Co Louth. The testing was carried out in response to a request for same from the National Monuments Service on foot of a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application (Ref.: ABP-302215-18). The site is located in the townland of Newtown, to the south of the River Boyne and southeast of the town of Drogheda (ITM 710451, 775062). The area is currently a greenfield site, consisting of two fields currently under crop. The southern boundary of the site fronts on to McGraths Lane, while the southwest corner of the site is adjacent to an existing house and garden. The site is separated from the Dublin–Drogheda railway line by McGrath’s Lane. The nearest recorded monument to the development is LH024-039 (mound), which is located c. 0.7 km to the southwest, and hence will not be affected.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment report was carried out in May 2018 by Ed Lyne of ACSU. This was undertaken on behalf of the client and is based on the findings of a desk-top study and fieldwork. It aimed to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts. The report recommended that the site should be archaeologically assessed by means of geophysical survey followed by test trenching. The test trenches were set out to investigate potential archaeological features identified in the geophysical survey as well to give a good spatial layout.

The work consisted of the excavation of nine test trenches to investigate a potential enclosure ditch identified in the geophysical survey and to provide a general assessment of the investigation area. The work was undertaken between 24 and 30 January 2019. There were restrictions to the test area. Firstly, there was a crop in the field that prevented the excavation of offsets to the roughly north–south orientated trenches and thus reduced the number of test trenches excavated in the fields. Secondly, there were overhead ESB cables orientated roughly east–west through the test area, which necessitated gaps in the linear test trenches.

This investigation exposed an enclosure ditch with a diameter of 28m. This was found at the eastern side of the test area on a flat plateau overlooking the River Boyne to the north. The ditches had a width of circa 2m and a depth of circa 1m. A large pit and linear features within a 20m exclusion zone around the enclosure were also identified in Trench 1. These were all located in Field 2. Field 1 had a scattering of features located along Trenches 5 and 6. Trench 5 had a number of linear features, a post-hole and a cremation pit. Trench 6c had a keyhole-shaped kiln at its southern end. These features demonstrate that the area of investigation has the potential for more archaeological elements to be uncovered during topsoil stripping.

All features identified during the testing will be impacted by the proposed development and/or access road. Due to the presence of the crop it was not possible to open up additional areas around the features identified and



therefore the full extent of these features has not been determined. It is therefore recommended that, in the event of a grant of permission, the following mitigation measures be carried out prior to construction:

1. A full archaeological excavation of the enclosure and associated features exposed to the west must be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service.
2. Adequate areas should be stripped around the remaining identified features in order to identify their full extent and significance. All features thus exposed should then be subjected to full archaeological excavation under licence to the National Monuments Service in order to preserve the features by record. This work should also be carried out well in advance of construction.
3. All topsoil stripping associated with the development should be monitored on a continuous basis by a licensed archaeologist. Should further archaeological features be identified, work must cease in those areas until a decision on how best to deal with the archaeology has been agreed with the National Monuments Service. It should be noted that there is significant potential for further features to be identified given the overall potential of the site and the limited testing carried out. As such, sufficient time and resources should be provided for in the construction programme to allow for the full excavation of any additional features uncovered.



## CONTENTS

PART B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION .....	i
1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Project background .....	1
1.2 Site location.....	1
2. NATURAL & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE .....	1
2.1 Topography .....	1
2.2 Cultural landscape.....	2
2.3 Archaeological background .....	2
2.4 Recorded Monuments .....	9
2.5 Previous archaeological investigations .....	12
2.6 Cartographic Review.....	19
2.7 Aerial Photography .....	20
2.8 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Protected Structures.....	20
2.9 Field Survey .....	21
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT .....	21
3.1 Site description.....	21
3.2 Methodology .....	22
3.2.1 Finds retrieval .....	22
3.2.2 Sampling strategy .....	22
3.3 Results.....	22
3.3.1 List of Contexts.....	25
4. MATERIAL CULTURE .....	28
4.1 Artefacts.....	28
4.2 Samples .....	30
4.3 Animal bone.....	30
5. DATING .....	31
6. DISCUSSION.....	31
7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS .....	32
8. EXCAVATION BULLETIN.....	33
9. REFERENCES .....	34
APPENDIX 1: ANIMAL BONE REPORT .....	36



## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: List of contexts

Table 2: List of artefacts

Table A1.1: Illustrating element representation within the assemblage

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of site

Figure 2: Location of site and nearby Recorded Monuments

Figure 3: Extract from Down survey (1654–56), showing approximate location of site

Figure 4: Extract from first edition OS 6-inch map (1835), showing location of site

Figure 5: Extract from 25-inch OS map (1907–9), showing location of site

Figure 6: Geophysical survey results (grey scale image)

Figure 7: Plan of test trenches and features uncovered, overlaid on geophysical survey interpretation

Figure 8: Plan of excavated test trenches overlaid on proposed development

Figure 9: Detail of uncovered features

Figure 10: Detail of enclosure (Trench 2c) and features uncovered in Trench 1

Figure 11: Detail of features uncovered in Trenches 5a, 6b and 6b

Figure 12: Detail of features uncovered in Trenches 6c and 7c

Figure 13: Detail of excavated sections

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north

Plate 2: Pit C30 in Trench 1, looking north

Plate 3: Linear C31 in Trench 1, looking south

Plate 4: Trench 2a, looking south

Plate 5: Trench 2b, looking south, along the flat plateau at top of hill

Plate 6: Pre-excavation, southern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c, looking north

Plate 7: Pre-excavation, northern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c, looking north

Plate 8: Northeast-facing section of southern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c

Plate 9: West-facing section of northern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c

Plate 10: Trench 2d, looking north, downhill towards the River Boyne

Plate 11: Trench 3a, looking south

Plate 12: Trench 3b, along the flat plateau

Plate 13: Trench 4c, looking south

Plate 14: Trench 4d, looking north

Plate 15: Trench 4e, looking north





Plate 16: Trench 5a, looking south

Plate 17: East-facing section through linear C19 in Trench 5a

Plate 18: Trench 5b, looking north, with C21, C24 and C27 covered

Plate 19: Features in Trench 5b, linear C21, post-hole C27 and pit C24

Plate 20: East-facing section through linear feature C21 in Trench 5b

Plate 21: Post-hole C27 in Trench 5b, looking south

Plate 22: Pit C24 in Trench 5b, looking south

Plate 23: Section through pit C24 in Trench 5b

Plate 24: Trench 5c, looking north

Plate 25: Trench 6a, variation in natural from stone to clay deposits

Plate 26: Sterile grey sand C29 filled depression in Trench 6b, facing south

Plate 27: Possible keyhole-shaped kiln C28 in Trench 6c, looking west

Plate 28: Possible keyhole-shaped kiln C28 in Trench 6c, looking south

Plate 29: Trench 7a, looking north

Plate 30: Trench 7b, looking north

Plate 31: Trench 7c, looking north

Plate 32: Trench 8a, looking north

Plate 33: Trench 8b, looking north

Plate 34: Trench 8c, looking north

Plate 35: Trench 8c, looking south

Plate 36: Trench 9, looking east





## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report details the results of an archaeological assessment (test trenching) carried out at Newtown, Drogheda, Co Louth (ITM 710451, 775062; Figures 1–2). The site is located in the townland of Newtown, to the southeast of the town of Drogheda. The nearest recorded monument to the development is LH024-039 (mound), which is located c. 0.7 km to the southwest, and hence will not be affected. This archaeological assessment (test trenching) was carried out in response to a request for same from the National Monuments Service on foot of a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application (Ref.: ABP-302215-18).

### **1.1 Project background**

Test trenching was carried out under licence number 19E0017, and was informed by a program of geophysical survey carried out from 2 to 9 January 2019 under licence number 19R0005.

The nearest recorded monument to the development is LH024-039 (mound), which is located c. 0.7 km to the southwest and will not be affected. An Archaeological Impact Assessment report was carried out in May 2018 by Ed Lyne of ACSU. This was undertaken on behalf of the client and was based on the findings of a desk-top study and fieldwork. It aimed to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts. The report recommended that the site should be archaeologically assessed by means of geophysical survey followed by test trenching.

The test trenches were set out to investigate potential archaeological features identified in the geophysical survey as well to give a good spatial layout. The test trenching was carried out between 24 and 30 January 2019.

### **1.2 Site location**

The site of the proposed development is located in the townland of Newtown, southeast of the town of Drogheda, Co Louth (ITM Ref. 710451, 775062; Figure 1). Newtown is located in the civil parish of Colp, and in the Barony of Duleek Lower. The area is currently a greenfield site consisting of two fields (Fields 1 and 2; see Figure 6), which are currently under agricultural tillage. The southern boundary of the site fronts on to McGraths Lane, while the southwest corner of the site is adjacent to an existing house and garden. The site is separated from the Dublin–Drogheda railway line by McGrath’s Lane.

## **2. NATURAL & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

### **2.1 Topography**

The study area at Newtown is located on an elevated ridge to the south of and overlooking the River Boyne. The underlying geology is dominated by dark limestone and calcareous shale, while there is also a localised



deposit of quartz monzogranite. Topsoil consisted of a layer of humic clay, 0.4–0.8 m thick and overlying a mottled orange-brown boulder clay. The soils here are classed by Teagasc as mineral poorly drained (mainly acidic).

## 2.2 Cultural landscape

The study area is located in the townland of Newtown (*An Bhaile Nua*), literally ‘the new town’. The townland is clearly defined on the first edition OS map of 1835 and was bisected by the Dublin–Drogheda railway line prior to the drawing of the 25-inch map (1907–9) – the train station in Drogheda was first opened in 1844.

## 2.3 Archaeological background

### General background of the Boyne Valley

The overall landscape of the Boyne Valley area has developed upon a geological base of rock formation formed by the folding and development of the Caledonian phase of mountain building. The physical landscape we associate with the Boyne Valley area today has, however, been largely modelled by the blanket covering of glacial deposits during the last Ice Age. Lower Palaeozoic sedimentary slates are the oldest rock type within the Boyne landscape. The lower Palaeozoic slates form two ridges located to the east and west on the northern edge of the valley. Located to the north of the valley is carboniferous limestone. Stratigraphically, above the lower Palaeozoic rock formations are carboniferous sedimentary rock formations. The lower Boyne Valley landscape is built upon this carboniferous syncline, which is aligned on a northeast–southwest axis. This syncline consists of Namurian shale and sandstone deposits (Stout 2002).

The undulating landscape of the Boyne Valley has been moulded by glacial movement and deposition. It appears that during the last Ice Age two glaciers would have influenced the development of the landscape. One formed in the north central midlands and the other formed in the Irish Sea basin. It would appear that a large ice sheet developed somewhere in the northwest and in the centre of Northern Ireland and that this moved over the Boyne Valley and the Drogheda area in a northwest–southeast direction. The Boyne Valley landscape contains frequent deposits of glacial tills, gravels and silts (Stout 2002).

### General prehistoric background

The earliest evidence for human presence in the Boyne Valley was found by archaeologists working at Newgrange and Knowth, where stone tools associated with the Mesolithic were discovered, such as a broad blade or Bann flake from Newgrange (Stout 2002) and two unusual ‘butt-trimmed forms’ from Knowth (Warren & Little 2017). If we consider the landscape of the Boyne Valley and compare it to the pattern of currently-known Mesolithic sites in Ireland, the Boyne Valley has all the suitable characteristics to suggest a possible location for Mesolithic activity. There is every reason to believe that there may have been a sizeable Mesolithic community within the Boyne Valley area.



In recent years, a number of development-led excavations have located evidence of Early Neolithic activity within the surrounding landscape of the Boyne Valley, dating to approximately 4000 BC. Early Neolithic settlers may have been drawn to the landscape of the Boyne Valley because of the rich fertile soil and the river itself, which would have provided food and a method of communication. Early Neolithic settlement patterns appear to form an impression of scattered individual farmsteads, each perhaps containing one extended family. The Middle and Later Neolithic farming communities created a longer lasting impression on the landscape of the Boyne Valley. Although they probably differed very little in their daily activities to the Early Neolithic population, it is possible that the distribution density of settlements became larger and that the size of the population also grew. The lasting remainders of this period's activity are, however, the megalithic tombs located within the Boyne Valley landscape, centred around the three mega mounds of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth.

The end of the Neolithic and the beginning of the Bronze Age (2500–700 BC) would have seen the first appearance of metal working within the landscape of the Boyne Valley. The megalithic tombs were being replaced by new types of monument (standing stones, timber circles and henges) as different and diverse burial practices were developed. The landscape of the Boyne Valley would have seen organised into field systems, which was accompanied by large-scale deforestation and a growth of the human population. Generally, from the archaeological evidence found in the Boyne area, settlement patterns still appeared to be dispersed.

### **General historic background**

During the Early Medieval period (c. AD 400–1100), rural settlement patterns were dominated by the presence of protected enclosed farmsteads (ringforts), many of which are still traceable in the fields around the Boyne landscape today. Unfortunately, most have been levelled and appear only as cropmarks on aerial photographs. A feature often associated with ringforts is the souterrain. These underground passageways are usually built of dry stone and are sometimes found apparently independent of any enclosure. They may have been used as places of refuge and possibly also for storage. In the Early Medieval period, the lower Boyne Valley formed part of the kingdom of Brega, a territory that comprised much of the present county of Meath and north County Dublin. In AD 688, the territory was split into two kingdoms: Northern Brega and Southern Brega.

### ***Medieval Town of Drogheda***

The medieval town of Drogheda was established in the 12th century as a distinct plantation town. In 1172, the tithes of land in the modern counties of Meath, Westmeath, and parts of Longford and Offaly, together with lands in Dublin, were granted by Henry II to Hugh de Lacy's favoured house of Llanthony, situated on his estates in the valley of Ewyas in Wales. The establishment of two urban parishes in 1186, and the importation of clergy to fill them, shows that Drogheda was being considered as a town site in the 1180s (Bradley 1978). This would indicate that de Lacy made a decision to establish a town and therefore Drogheda did not develop organically. The earliest surviving archaeological feature from this period is the Millmount motte, probably established by de Lacy before 1186 (Orpen 1911–20). He also seems to have been instrumental in setting up the



parish churches of St Mary and St Peter, and this connection shows him to be founder of the town on both sides of the River Boyne. The earliest charter is from 1194 and the offer of an internationally recognised set of burgess rights emphasises the notion that colonists were being sought out. The walled area of medieval Drogheda enclosed 113 acres, making it one of the largest walled towns in medieval Ireland (Bradley 1978).

### ***Streets and Street Pattern***

On the north side of the River Boyne, the plan of the medieval town of Drogheda appears to have survived almost completely intact into modern times. The street plan forms a chequered pattern made by four pairs of streets running parallel to the river: Dyer Street and Bessexwell Lane, West Street and Laurence Street, Fair Street and William Street, and finally Rope Walk and Upper Magdalen Street. These streets are intersected by one main north–south route, Shop Street and Peter’s Street. They are also intersected by a series of cross streets, of which Scholes Lane, Bolton Street, Stockwell Lane, Duke Street, Patrickswell Lane, Dominick Street, Mayoralty Street, and Freeschool Lane are the most obvious examples. West Street is the broadest of the streets and it is evident that it was intended to function as the main market place on the north side of the river.

The earliest reference to a street on the north side of the river is to Bothe (Shop) Street, mentioned in 1214. The name is derived from the booths or shops that would have been found along this street. Towards the end of the 13th century the Llanthony canons were receiving dues from a placea (plot) on the west side of Shop Street, perhaps to be identified with the plot held by the Llanthony canons in 1355 (Bradley 1978).

The names of tenants for six plots on the east of Shop Street and five on the west are known during the 14th century, some of which can be located exactly. On the south side of the junction between Batchelor’s Lane and Shop Street (where the open area in front of the Augustinian friary lies) stood two Preston properties, to the south of which lay a tenement of le Boweneyes and next to that, one belonging to the Cosyns. Unfortunately, all traces of these were removed during the construction of the present friary. On the south side of the junction with Bessexwell Lane lay another Preston property, next to which on the south was another belonging to le Boweneyes. The Prestons also held a house across from this, on the south side of the junction with Dyer Street, with the Llanthony canons directly to the south of them. These latter plots still survive (Bradley 1978).

The Tholsel (an important public building) stood at the northwest end of Shop Street and the tenement of the parish church of St Mary, mentioned in the extent of 1381, probably lay to the south of it, since the Prestons held the property on the west. There were also cellars beneath the Tholsel, which were held by the Llanthony canons of St Mary’s. The Tholsel was occasionally referred to as the Guildhill. It is shown on Newcomen’s plan as a tower house.

The change in name from East Street to St Laurence Street seems to have occurred about 1350, but the existence of the street may be inferred from a charter of c.1206 mentioning the East Gate of the town. The street is not



specifically named until the middle of the 13th century when both stone and timber houses are mentioned there. A plot belonging to the Hospital of St John the Baptist, Dublin, is referred to in 1298 as located along St Laurence Street and the names of nine tenants on the north side of the street and of eleven on the south side survive from the 14th century. Only one of these can be tentatively identified – the plot of John FitzRobert, which would appear to have been the final plot on the south side of the street and separated from the town wall by the lane leading to St Elena's well.

The house of John Jordan is mentioned in 1396 and was perhaps connected with the clothier of the same name two generations before. Two plots are referred to in the 15th century, of which that belonging to Joneta Swayne on the west side of Freeschool (Frumboldes) Lane may still be identified. Frobolles Inn also stood in this street. Indeed, in view of the similarity between the names it may have been located on the east end of Frumboldes Lane. There is also the possibility that the 'particularly skilled goldsmith' who repaired the cross of Michael Tregury, archbishop of Dublin, had his workshop in this area. All of the medieval burgage plots along Laurence Street are of a long narrow nature, except where they form the junction with Shop Street and Peter's Street (Bradley 1978).

Peter's Street, known as Great North Street, is first mentioned in 1331. The Prestons held four properties here during the mid-14th century and the house of St Mary d'Urso had at least one property (Bradley 1978).

On the south side of the River Boyne, much of the original street pattern of Drogheda has been changed and interfered with. Only by studying the maps of Newcomen and Ravell can the original street pattern be revealed. Barracks Street and Mary Street are post-medieval additions. The original plan was composed of two north-south streets, Pitcher Hill and Cornmarket Hill, and one east-west route, James Street and John Street. Curry's Hill ran immediately inside the east wall and Newcomen's survey indicates that a road ran westwards behind John Street to the Butter Gate.

### **Archaeological background of nearby townlands**

A number of recent excavations in the vicinity of Colp village to the east have shown the area was an important Early Medieval centre (Gowen 1989; Clarke & Murphy 2001; O'Hara 2008), while also exposing a largely unrecognised prehistoric heritage, particularly a hidden Bronze Age landscape (Clarke 2001; Clarke & Murphy 2001; O'Hara 2003a, 2003b). Bronze Age activity was recorded at a number of locations in the townland of Colp West during 2001 and 2003. A total of four disturbed burnt mounds or *fulachtaí fia* were excavated, three of which were radiocarbon dated to the mid-third millennium BC (2585–2205 BC, 2470–2120 BC, 2580–2200 BC; Clarke 2001; O'Hara 2003b), with a fourth dated to the mid-first millennium BC (780–390 BC; Clarke 2001). A disturbed burnt mound (ME021:016) located in the townland of Colp West, adjacent to the site under discussion, joins other excavated Bronze Age features in that townland, including a D-shaped enclosure (1520–1310 BC), a circular structure (1428–1046 BC) and a linear ditch that may have functioned as a boundary feature



that was potentially still visible in the Early Medieval period, as enclosures of that date appeared to avoid it (Clarke & Murphy 2001). A post-built circular structure from the period 1020–790 BC (O’Hara 2003a) also provides evidence for unenclosed Late Bronze Age settlement in the area, possibly contemporary with some of the burnt mound sites noted above (Clarke 2001). Other features, primarily isolated pits and post-holes, were identified across the townland and dated broadly from the tenth to the third centuries BC (Clarke & Murphy 2001).

Various Iron Age features were also recorded in Colp West, predominantly cereal-drying kilns and pits but also a circular structure (50 BC–AD 210) and a semi-circular enclosure (Clarke & Murphy 2001). The nature and extent of Iron Age settlement around Colp remains unclear however. Early Medieval historian, Thomas Charles-Edwards (2000), has suggested a Roman trading settlement may have been located in the area but there is as yet no concrete evidence for this. It is plausible, however, given the prominence of the Boyne River and its navigability inland. The current understanding, albeit limited, of a site at Drumanagh, Co. Dublin, suggests it was a Roman trading colony, or emporium, during the second century AD (Raftery 1994). Contemporary Roman accounts highlight intercourse across the Irish Sea in the early centuries AD; Tacitus recorded that Agricola, the Roman governor of Britain (AD 78–84), had acquired knowledge of the approaches and harbours of the east coast of the island from traders and merchants. *Inbher Colpdai*, the port of Colp, is mentioned in the 8th-century AD text, the *Lives of St Patrick*, as the place where Patrick disembarked before making his way to confront King Loeguire at Tara. The area also formed the setting for an earlier myth involving the legendary Sons of Mil, one of whom, Colpa, reputedly drowned at the mouth of the Boyne and was buried locally, reputedly within a flat-topped mound in Colp East (ME021-012007) known as Rath Colpa, which may be an Early Medieval raised rath.

The archaeological evidence of a curving field boundary suggesting a circular enclosure, as well as a decorated cross head and base, suggest an Early Medieval monastic site existed at Colp (Bradley 1985). This ecclesiastical settlement may have been affiliated with a bishop, St Aithechain (or Aithcain), who is listed in the late 8th-century Martyrology of Tallaght but otherwise unknown. An unprovenanced church site, *Cluainaithechain*, may bear this saint's name (though this was disputed by Lanigan (1829), and the text in which it occurs, the *Calendar of Cashel*, was probably compiled in the 12th century AD. Colp was well positioned to be among the first ecclesiastical sites to develop during the initial structured Christian mission following the dispatch of Palladius ‘to the Irish believing in Christ’, by Pope Celestine in AD 431, to safeguard the orthodoxy of existing Irish Christians and provide active leadership in the conversion of the island (Charles-Edwards 2000). Orthodox bishops, Palladius, Auxilius, Isernius, and perhaps Secundinus, were sent from Gaul and seem to have been most active along the east coast where they were actively ministering and proselytising, a generation or so before the Patrician mission. Secundinus is accredited with establishing a cell at Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath, and his obit was recorded in the mid-5th century at this church (Hughes 1966; de Paor 1993). Dunshaughlin would later develop as a monastery in the 7th century, but the relationship between the early and later site is not clear.





Perhaps a similar model can be applied to Colp, and the early foundation may not have been extant when the monastic settlement was operating there in the 8th or 9th centuries AD.

A substantial cemetery (ME021-011001) and an enclosure (ME021-011002) were partially excavated in Colp West in 1988, where the remains of over 100 individuals were buried over several generations. The presence of B-ware and E-ware pottery suggested settlement from at least the 5th to 7th centuries (Gowen 1989). In 2001, an extensive Early Medieval site was excavated in advance of the Grange Rath housing development in Colp West. A small ringfort with eight additional enclosures, cereal-drying kilns and other related features, were the surviving indicators of an extensive and prosperous settlement radiocarbon dated to the 7th century AD date (AD 598–684; Clarke & Murphy 2001). Artefacts included metal objects such as iron hooks, nails and knives and a copper-alloy pin, as well as a whetstone and bone/antler handles. Pottery identified as Normandy ware in the excavation report was probably E-ware, as it is a similar type fabric but belongs in the 7th century. Contemporary features exposed within the ringfort included a robbed-out souterrain, a hearth and two pits. Annexed enclosures associated with this ringfort contained further E-ware sherds and were also radiocarbon dated to the 7th century AD (AD 569–679). At least four cereal-drying kilns out of a total of 17 identified within the excavation area returned dates that extended from the 3rd into the 7th century (AD 400–650; AD 240–610; AD 400–640; AD 240–610) and may have been contemporary with the Early Medieval settlement.

### **The River Boyne and the Marsh Road; post-medieval Drogheda**

Regular navigation of the River Boyne between Drogheda and the sea began in 1761 by Thomas Omer. This led to the issue of stock, by the Boyne Navigation Company in 1789, of a canal upriver to Navan. An iron foundry and breweries were soon founded on the South Quays. The textile industry was by far the most important industry in the town between 1780 and 1820. It was the leading factor in the growth in size and wealth of Drogheda in the late 18th century. Industrialisation in the early 19th century drew Drogheda ever more firmly into the wider economy. The foundry and engineering works of Thomas Grendon and Son, the Drogheda Chemical Manures Co., Frederick Smyth's shipyard, McCann and Hill's flour mills and the Drogheda Oatmeal Company were all important sources of employment. A gas works was set up as early as 1832 and the Drogheda–Dublin railway connected the town to the capital city in 1844, including the building of a viaduct spanning the River Boyne. A large pool of skilled labour, especially weavers, became available. Archaeological evidence of the textile manufacturing is scarce, however, Bradley (1988–89) suggests that ‘the water-logged soils adjoining the River Boyne contains organic deposits which will yield an answer to questions such as this’. By the 1850s, five linen mills were in operation and local entrepreneurs had developed larger and more efficient units of production in numerous small industries, such as shoe making, milling, brewing and distilling.

Along the Marsh Road, which lies c. 100 m north of the site under discussion, mudflats fringed the river, hence it was shallower and wider than at present. Today the mudflats or slob-lands are still evident at Queensboro and Baltray and bordering the Mornington Road. The quays were constructed along the shoreline to confine the



course of the river into a much narrower and deeper channel, scouring it and facilitating the passage of ships to their berths at the quayside. The southern shore was reclaimed to provide additional quayside facilities and accommodation for housing and industrial use. This was a gradual process, accomplished over several centuries. Along this river bank the first edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the riverside was lined with mud-flats in 1835. People traversing the roadway that runs parallel to the south bank of the river seemingly had difficulty picking their way along the swampy terrain, and hence named it the 'Marsh Road'.

These mud flats were filled in after 1835 and Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of 1837 states that a 'very extensive mill for spinning flax has recently been erected by the company of proprietors'. The recovered ground space on the south bank has been utilised over the years to accommodate a wide variety of industrial enterprises, from ship building to a foundry, gas works, chemical manures, edible and technical oils, brewing, linen-processing and also printing, footwear and margarine-manufacturing. These large mills provided employment to almost 2,000 workers when Drogheda was at the forefront of the linen industry. St. Mary's Mills was located west of the viaduct. The area was once one of the most important industrial districts of the town.

The Marsh Road area has been an important location for the importing and exporting of goods from medieval times to the 20th century. A number of important buildings and industries have made an enormous impact on the history of the South Quays. A coasting steamer service was established along the east coast of Ireland in 1905 and on arrival the ships docked at the Foundry Wharf adjacent to the South Quay, where varied cargo was off-loaded for the local merchants and factories in the vicinity. This service was withdrawn in August 1907, despite requests from the Drogheda Chemical Manure Company to continue the service. Grendon's Foundry and Engineering Works was established in 1835 at the South Quay. According to the *Irish Times* in 1921, 'In 1845 when the first locomotive was built, the Drogheda Foundry was one of the most famous of its kind in the Three Kingdoms, employing between 600 and 700 workers turning out ships, locomotives, weighing machines and all classes of ironworks'. The facility was also used for repairing ships. The lane which led from James's St to the shipyard was called Graves Lane. Some sources say that the street was named after a former inhabitant, Mr. Graves, however graving is a nautical term that describes the cleaning of a ship's hull and the application of a pitch coating. There was also a graving slip for repairing barges at Ship St, east of the site under discussion.

In the 19th century, due to a cholera and typhoid epidemic, a separate fever hospital was located on the Marsh Road as a temporary expedient. It was reported in the *Drogheda Conservative Journal* on 16 October 1847 that 'Disease is on the increase, with 170 patients in the Marsh Fever Hospital and there is no more room for applicants.

Domestic dwellings are also an important element of the cultural heritage of the area. An area of the riverbank remained untouched allowing access to the shore until recent times and housewives living on the Marsh Road and Scotch Hall (the original Scotch Hall which comprised a series of abject tenements) would pick their way



across the muddy foreshore with their baskets of clothes for laundering at the riverside; the flowing tide of the River Boyne continued to be their only ‘running water’. Along with tenements, houses were constructed on Ship St. to accommodate industrial workers. The south riverbank was later a recreational area.

### **The 20th century**

Drogheda was a strategically important town during ‘the Emergency’, which existed in the state of Ireland during the Second World War. Precautions were taken to safeguard the town in the event of an invasion. This included the removal of Drogheda from the title names of factories and businesses such as the Drogheda Gas Works and the Drogheda Chemical Manures Company. After the war, Drogheda was in a better position than many other towns as it was more industrialised. Factories such as the Irish Oil and Cake Mills and the Cairnes Brewery, however, failed to fully absorb the available workforce and a combination of rationalisation and external competition saw the gradual demise of each of these industries. In contrast to the North Quays, the South Quays remained unscathed from the re-developments undertaken during the 1970s and 1980s. In later times, the area hosted much smaller self-contained companies concentrated in industrial units situated in the former Oil and Cake Mills facility. Today, many of its factories lie empty and have fallen into a state of decay. Scotch Hall, a 257,000 sq. ft retail centre was constructed in 2005 on a plot of land bordered by the Dublin Road, South Quay and New South Quay.

### **2.4 Recorded Monuments**

The site contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places and there are no recorded monuments located in close proximity to the site (Figure 2). The following is a list of the nearest recorded monuments that demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site of the proposed development and its surrounding townlands. These descriptions are derived from the published *Archaeological Inventory of County Louth* (Buckley 1986), *Archaeological Survey of County Louth* (Buckley & Sweetman 1991) and *Archaeological Inventory of County Meath* (Moore 1987), but in some instances have been revised and updated (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

#### **LH024-041**

**Townlands:** Yellowbatter, Ballsgrove, Lagavooren, Moneymore

**Site Type:** Historic Town

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** These defences enclosed an area of c. 45 hectares and had a circumference of 2.35km. The best cartographic evidence of the defences takes the form of a 16th-century plan of Drogheda on which the main medieval features are represented although this must be treated with some caution. The town is divided east–west by the River Boyne which also acted at one time as the county boundary between Louth and Meath.



There appear to have been ten gateways: six in the northern sector of the town and four in the south. The remains of only two survive: St Laurence's Gate and the Butter Gate. Besides the gateways, there were also a number of towers along the walls and the northern bank of the river. Six or seven of the mural towers were south of the river, while in the northern sector there appear to have been between seven and ten. No remains of these can be seen on the ground and the only surviving portions of the wall are a large stretch at the western side of the town, a short fragment close to St Laurence's Gate, and a long section to the south of St Mary's Church. A subsidy was conceded in 1279 for a stone enclosure and another in 1316 for the repair of the wall and town, so we can safely assume that the town walls and towers were built by the end of the 13th century.

**LH024-030004-****Class:** Cross**Townland:** YELLOWBATTER**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** A gargoyle was noted lying beside the N wall of the mortuary chapel when inspected by ASI in 1966, it may originally have belonged to the church (LH024-030001-). Composed of sandstone (L 0.88m; Wth of face 0.32m; D of channel 0.22m), only the upper part of the face remains and the underneath side has human arms carved on it.

**LH024-030001-****Class:** Church**Townland:** YELLOWBATTER**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** The church is almost entirely levelled with only the E gable in any way complete. It contains the remains of a large window which has a two-centred arch of moulded sandstone springing from decorated imposts. The jamb stones are also of sandstone, are chamfered and contain glazing grooves. The wall is constructed of poorly coursed blocks and boulders of limestone and greywacke. There is a small rectangular ope immediately above the centre of the arch. There are no remains to indicate the number of lights in the window and there is no evidence of tracery. Some of the sandstone blocks clearly show the remains of diagonal tooling, indicating that the building is early medieval. It was reportedly founded c. 1206 and was the hospital priory of St Lawrence and Martyr. A gargoyle (LH024-030005-) lying beside the N wall of the mortuary chapel may have belonged to the church. In the N return of the E gable there is a fragment of limestone (0.44m by 0.40m by 0.24m) which is thought to be part of a market cross (LH024-030004-) and could be of late medieval date. There is a portion of a large granite memorial slab (LH024-030003-) with a date of 1613 lying on the ground immediately to the S of the standing remains. It has a cross with a stepped base and crosslets on the arms. There is a skull and cross-bones in each of the upper angles of the cross, and scrolls and triangles near its broken base. There is lettering and the date around the remaining margin of the slab.

**LH024-039****Class:** Mound**Townland:** BRYANSTOWN**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Situated in a field on the S outskirts of Drogheda. Circular mound (max. diam. c. 35m, H 4m) truncated to the N by a modern laneway and to the W by a paddock. The mound bears the popular title of 'Cromwell's Mount' and is traditionally the site of a Cromwellian artillery bastion. However, the site is shown as a cairn with external fosse on the 1835 ed. of the OS 6-inch map. Owing to its prominent position with extensive views over the River Boyne to the N, coupled with its unlikely strategic value as an artillery bastion, this site has been reclassified as either a barrow or a denuded passage grave.

**ME020-006****Class:** Church**Townland:** STAGRENNAN**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Situated on a rise on a slight N facing slope with the W–E estuary of the River Boyne c. 400m to the N. 'Stagrennan of St. James' is a possession of the Augustinian priory of Llanthony in Gloucestershire at the Suppression in 1540 (White 1943, 315), and a church is represented at Stagrennan on the Down Survey (1656–8) barony map of Duleek while the terrier or commentary records 'an old church at Stagrennan' (D'Alton 1844, vol. 2, 447). However, Stagrennan is not recorded in the visitations of Ussher (1622) or Dopping (1682–5) as a church in the Duleek deanery (Erlington 1847–64 1, lxi-lxviii; Ellison 1971, 33–7). Sixty acres at Stagrinan were held by John Bellew of Stammeen in 1640 (Simington 1940, 3).

The remains of a rectangular building (ext. dims c. 9m E–W; c. 6m N–S) can be traced within a rectangular graveyard (dims c. 50m NE–SW; c. 30m NW–SE) with some 19th century headstones and deciduous trees. The E gable survives but the cut stone from its pointed window arch is robbed.

**ME020-006001****Class:** Graveyard**Townland:** STAGRENNAN**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** The church at Stagrennan (ME020-006) is within a rectangular graveyard (dims c. 50m NE–SW; c. 30m NW–SE) with some 19th century headstones and deciduous trees.



## 2.5 Previous archaeological investigations

Within the wider landscape a number of archaeological assessments have been carried out previously, some of which were associated with the development of housing estates and retail units to the south of Drogheda (Figure 2). They demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site under discussion and its surrounding townlands. The following information was taken from the Database of Irish Excavation Reports ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

### **2000:0661 - MARSH ROAD / SOUTH QUAY, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** 24:41

**Licence number:** 00E0729

**Author:** Billy Quinn, Archaeological Services Unit Ltd, Purcell House, Oranmore, Co. Galway

**Site type:** Urban medieval

**Description:** Testing took place of a proposed development on the site of the properties currently occupied by Lakeland Dairies and McGowan's Engineering on the South Quay/Marsh Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The site contains a section of the medieval town wall.

Pre-development testing as agreed with Dúchas, The Heritage Service, consisted of the mechanical excavation of eight trenches, three on the McGowan's site and five in the Lakeland Dairies site. The trenches were dug by a 12-tonne Hymac Excavator with a toothed bucket (owing to ground conditions a grading bucket was unsuitable).

The trial-trenches demonstrated the presence of an upper rubble layer overlying deposits containing medieval finds throughout the site. More specifically, the testing programme was able to confirm the line of the medieval town wall that would have extended north from St James's Gate to the river's edge.

In terms of composition, the upper deposits varied considerably from trench to trench, though they all generally consisted of redeposited material dating from the modern to the post-medieval period (red brick, metal fragments, modern pottery). These disturbed fills represent the industrial and commercial development of the site's history, as well as the structural changes (extensions and demolitions) that the site has undergone.

The lower deposits (c. 1m below the surface level) had an inconsistent profile; however, testing did produce externally green-glazed pottery of medieval aspect and fragments of worked leather. Other than the town wall, no features contemporary with the lower fills were in evidence.

### **2001:846 – THE MARSH ROAD, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 01E0337

**Author:** Billy Quinn, Archaeological Services Unit Ltd, Purcell House, Oranmore, Co. Galway

**Site type:** Urban

**Description:** Pre-development testing of a site currently occupied by McDonnell's on the Marsh Road, Drogheda, was carried out over a three-day period between 23 and 29 May 2001. The site is located immediately outside the medieval town wall to the east, along the line of the archaeological constraint zone for RMP 24:41.

The proposed development involves the construction of a multi-unit retail/commercial and residential centre occupying a block stretching west to east from the McGowan's site at the South Quay through the present Lakeland Dairies Site and along the Quayside to the rear of McDonnell's. Prior to testing the site consisted of a disused open concrete yard fronting on to the river.

Three trial-trenches were excavated through the site. Trenches 1 and 2 were side by side and ran parallel to the river; they measured 30m and 40m respectively. The third trench measured 25m and was located to the west of Trench 2. All were dug to an average depth of 1.5m and contained a number of rubble fills and composite charcoal-rich layers under a concrete slab.

All the finds recovered were of modern date and included white ware, pipe fragments, red brick and slate. The only feature of note was a wall foundation, first exposed to the north of Trench 3 along its east-facing section. The wall, orientated north-south, was built of squared limestone blocks and was exposed along its length for 7.4m. All the layers exposed during the excavations consisted of redeposited fills with modern inclusions. Flooding caused problems on site and limited the depth of excavation; however, on the evidence of the above, the upper levels of the site to a depth of 1.5m contain a mix of relatively modern deposits.

**2001:848 – SOUTH QUAY, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 01D077

**Author:** Niall Brady, 2 Vale Terrace, Lower Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, for The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd

**Site type:** Medieval warehouse and quay wall

**Description:** Intertidal survey in advance of the proposed Lakelands/Marsh Road Development Schemes, Drogheda, Co. Louth, indicated that the development area retains two sites of interest: a medieval riverfront warehouse (previously unrecorded), and a long area of existing quay walls on South Quay, Lagavoreen.

**2002:1315 - MARSH ROAD, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** 24:41

**Licence number:** 02E1510

**Author:** Elizabeth Connolly, Glenbonniv, Feakle, Co. Clare.

**Site type:** Urban medieval/post-medieval



**Description:** Monitoring of engineering boreholes and trial-pits took place in October 2002 on the site of the proposed Scotch Hall 2 development, which involves the construction of a hotel, a cineplex, a multi-storey carpark and apartments. The boreholes and trial-pits were excavated in the Campbells and McDonnells sites on the south side of the River Boyne, to the north of the Marsh Road, Lagavoreen.

Eight trial-pits and six boreholes were excavated. They revealed a fairly uniform stratigraphy throughout the site, with several layers of mixed rubble fills overlying a mixed brown clay fill. Beneath the clay was a natural orange clay that lay on an alluvial silt. Beneath this was bedrock. The rubble fills were c. 1m deep, as was the mixed brown clay fill. Finds from the mixed clay included shell, animal bone, clay-pipe fragments, modern glass and modern delft. In Trial-pit 6, c. 25m north of the back wall of Campbells Soups, the possible rubble foundation of a wall was found, 0.8m deep and 0.5m wide. In Borehole 6, near the Marsh Road entrance to McDonnells, a concentration of red brick was recorded, indicating the presence of a wall or a wall foundation.

### **2003:1239 - LAKELANDS DAIRY, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**Site name:** Lakelands Dairy, Drogheda

**RMP No.:** 24:41

**Licence number:** 03E0688

**Author:** Thaddeus C. Breen, 13 Wainsfort Crescent, Dublin 6W, for V.J. Keeley Ltd

**Site type:** Urban medieval

**Description:** Between May and December 2003, investigations were carried out on a large site in the centre of Drogheda as part of the planning conditions for a mixed-use development. The site consisted of the former Campbell's, Lakelands Dairy, and McGowan's Engineering properties and included a short street called Graves' Lane. It was situated on the south bank of the River Boyne to the east of South Quay, between the river and Marsh Road. The development was to have piled foundations, which would leave much of the archaeology of the site undisturbed. For the most part, therefore, only the areas to be disturbed were investigated. The one exception was the town wall.

The excavation was carried out as a joint venture between V.J. Keeley Ltd and ADCO. Niall Brady, on behalf of the latter company, which undertook the underwater component of the work, had carried out previous work on the site (01D077). Because previous investigations on the site by Billy Quinn had shown that a substantial length of the town wall appeared to be present (01E0337), Dúchas requested that the full extent of the remains should be established by exposing the wall for its entire length, investigating at intervals the depth of the surviving wall and the stratigraphy on either side.

The total length of the wall within the site was 72m. Of this, a 17m stretch lay under modern grain silos and had not yet become accessible by the end of the year. However, it was obvious that the foundations of the silos would have destroyed most of the wall. The remainder was intact and, for the most part, in good condition. Over





most of the site it survived to within 0.5m of the surface. It ranged in thickness from 1.8m at the northern end to 1.4m at the south.

The wall was built of limestone, roughly squared on the faces, with unshaped rubble within the core. Most of the fabric was bonded with a yellowish-white mortar containing shell fragments, but the lower courses were bonded with sticky orange clay. For most of its length, only the upper courses were exposed, but, where the depth was investigated, the wall was found to survive to a height of 1.8m above its base.

The ground surface on which the wall was built varied. Near its southern end, it was built directly on bedrock; in the middle of the site, it was built on stony clay; near the river, it appeared to have been dug into the river silt. At another point, also in the middle of the site, it was built on a wide footing of loose rubble revetted by timber.

Surviving stretches of wall elsewhere in the town have a walkway on the inner face carried on arches supported by buttresses. The bases of similar buttresses were found in an earlier excavation to the south of the present site. With the exception of one buttress found near the southern edge (1.3m square), there was no trace of this internal arcading on the Lakeland site. However, the ground on either side was not dug to its full depth, except in a few locations. Over much of the site the material on either side had suffered recent disturbance, with a preponderance of slag and other foundry waste near the river. Where medieval layers were found, they were 1.25m below the top of the surviving wall. A number of brick culverts were found, some of which crossed the wall. Channels had also been cut through the top of the wall for iron pipes and plastic conduits carrying electrical cables.

At the northern end of the wall, where it met the river, the base of a circular tower was found. It was slightly over 4.5m in diameter. It was not centrally placed on the wall but extended to the east (outside) of it. The east face of the wall proper continued within the masonry of the tower, suggesting that the latter was a later addition. The northern side of the tower had been truncated and a rough straight face had been left in the masonry. A stone wall ran northwards from this, joining it to the present quay wall.

The previous excavations to the south of the site had suggested the presence of a rock-cut fosse outside the wall. A deep cutting near this area showed that, while the wall was built on bedrock, which was only about 2m below the surface in this area, on the east side of the wall the bedrock formed a narrow shelf, 1.6m wide, beyond which was an abrupt drop of over 4m. The area immediately east of the wall at this point was the mouth of a deep valley called The Dale. The Dale Stream, which flowed at the foot of this, may have cut into the rock here, but the size and width of the cutting suggest that it was used as a quarry, probably when the wall was being built. It was filled with a thick black deposit containing organic debris, leather, textile and pottery of 13th-century type, so it appears to have been used as a dump for town refuse from an early period.

Two features of medieval date were found adjoining the wall: an area of cobbling and a small structure of unknown use. The cobbling consisted of two levels, of which the lower, earlier, one was of better quality, with a straight edge or kerb along one side. An area 2m by 2.3m was exposed.



The other feature was a small subrectangular structure, 3.7m by 2m, oriented north-south, abutting the town wall. It was divided into two smaller chambers. The town wall served as the eastern wall; the remaining walls were 0.22-0.38m thick, of rubble masonry which was mostly clay-bonded but with mortar pointing used in places. The walls sloped inwards towards the base at an angle of up to 22°. The chambers were floored with flat stone flags. They filled up with water at high tide, and the fill suggested that they had gradually silted up. In the upper fill of the southern chamber, a human burial was found. It had been disturbed by later building, but the presence of post-medieval pottery and animal bones, above 0.7m of fill, suggests that it was an unofficial and perhaps clandestine burial which took place when the structure had long gone out of use.

At the western end of the site, between Graves' Lane and South Quay, the remains of a medieval house were excavated. The exterior of this building had been identified in the course of the previous ADCO intertidal survey. The northern wall of this house was on the edge of the river and had survived to a height of 1.68m above ground level as part of the river wall. A central round-headed doorway gave access to the river. At either end of this wall was a garderobe in a curved alcove. When the south wall of the house was excavated, a garderobe chute, perhaps from an upper floor, was found, discharging into a lintelled drain which sloped down to meet one of the garderobe chutes in the north wall. The west wall had been subjected to numerous alterations and repairs, but patches of original masonry survived above ground level, including three chamfered stones which probably originally formed the side of a window.

The overall dimensions of the house were c. 20.5m by 7.5m. A number of putlog holes were visible, and one of the stone corbels which would have held the soleplates for the first floor survived. The foundations of two walls aligned with either side of the central doorway were found, and in places there were remains of a floor consisting of cobbles with a thin plaster or mortar layer over it; this appeared to be contemporary with the doorway. Behind this house were the remains of a later stone extension and some more recent brick structures, including brick floors with a thick layer of coal dust.

To the south of this house, further inland from the present river edge, a post-and-wattle fence was found, forming a revetment behind which was a thick deposit of black organic soil containing wood chips and fragments of rope, textile, leather and pottery. To the north of the revetment was grey silt mixed with black organic material alternating with layers of pure silt. This revetment was not found in another trial-trench to the west, where the ground level was higher, so it must have been a small, local feature straightening irregularities in the riverbank.

In the area between the town wall and Graves' Lane, fourteen trial-pits were dug on the proposed locations of pile caps. Stone walls of probable medieval date were found in three (two were probably related); an area of paving was found in another. Small patches of wicker matting and timber were found in further pits. Some engineer's trial-pits dug in this area uncovered the pre-1870 stone quay wall, 7m back from the modern equivalent.

At the eastern end of the site, outside the town wall, three large trial-trenches were mechanically excavated. A number of engineer's trial-pits and boreholes dug in the area between this and the town wall were monitored.



The foundations of some demolished portions of the 19th-century brewery were found, and the uppermost deposits consisted of recent rubble. Below this were layers of silt and mud deposited by the river. There was little archaeological material in these, apart from occasional random sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

A series of slot-trenches across the Marsh Road were monitored, but they revealed only recent pipes and cables.

### **2003:1240 - RIVER BOYNE, LAKELANDS / SCOTCH HALL, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 03D037; 03R052

**Author:** David A. McCullough, 41 The Orchard, Kilkenny, for The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd

**Site type:** Riverbed deposits and quayside features

**Description:** An underwater, intertidal archaeological and metal-detector survey of the South Quay at the former Lakelands Dairies and Scotch Hall sites in Drogheda, Co. Louth, made a detailed record of the quay wall and associated areas of riverbed as part of the archaeological requirement for the enabling works associated with the development of this site. The landside was resolved under the direction of Thaddeus Breen (No. 1239 above) as a joint venture between ADCO and V.J. Keeley Ltd.

The riverbed has been subject to dumping from both the quayside and from the vessels using this area over time and is covered with modern debris. Continuous metal-detector readings were encountered throughout the surveyed area, and, while most of the targets identified were of modern date, several archaeological items were recovered as stray finds. These objects were concentrated on the riverside of a medieval waterfront building on South Quay discovered by Niall Brady in a previous assessment (01D077), at the upstream end of the works area. The survey identified the extension of the medieval town wall to the modern waterfront and concluded that the larger area of present-day riverfront is not ancient, and dates mainly from the 19th century.

### **2005:1054 - MARSH ROAD, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 05E0396

**Author:** Fintan Walsh, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 8 Dungar Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

**Site type:** Urban medieval

**Description:** The site of the proposed development is located c. 150m outside and to the east of the medieval town of Drogheda and is outside the constraint zone for the town (SMR 24:41). The area has experienced considerable industrial development since the mid-19th century. There are no known medieval sites in the immediate area.



Test-trenching took place on 11 and 12 June 2005. Three test-trenches were excavated, where possible, in the yard area to the south of the main mill building. The northern half of the site was unavailable for testing, due to the presence of a 19th-century mill building.

Trenches 1 and 3 failed to produce any material of archaeological significance. Both trenches consisted of fill (dump) material overlying sterile silty clays. Trench 2 contained possible garden soils, which, although they did not produce any medieval finds, may equate well with the possible garden soils discovered by Archaeological Projects Ltd during the monitoring of Test-pit 10, located c. 10m to the south of Trench 2. In this test-pit a dark-green/brown clay with shell, bone and medieval pottery was encountered between 1m and 2.8m below present ground level. These garden soils may be the same deposit as the clays in Trench 2.

It was recommended that additional test-trenches be excavated in the south-west of the site after the demolition of the buildings fronting onto Marsh Road. It is envisaged that this work will take place sometime in 2006.

## **2005:1060 - SCOTCH HALL, LAGAVOOREN, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** 24:41

**Licence number:** 03E0688

**Author:** Thaddeus C. Breen, for Valerie J. Keeley Ltd, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

**Site type:** Urban

**Description:** A small amount of additional monitoring took place at this site this year, when service trenches were being dug (see Excavations 2003, No. 1239, for earlier work on this site). One trench ran parallel to the riverbank and then turned southwards to meet the Marsh Road. This mostly cut through disturbed layers with demolition rubble, probably of 19th–20th-century date, but three stone walls were encountered. Further stone walls were found in a trench which followed the line of James's Street to the Bull Ring junction. These ran at right angles to the line of the road. Here, grey silt with medieval pottery was found at c. 1.5m depth. At the Bull Ring itself, nothing of archaeological significance was found; the fill was very recent.

A programme of assessment and testing was carried out at the site of Caffrey's Monumental Works, the former Edible Oils Ltd and Drogheda Chemical Manure Company on the Marsh Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The proposed development entails the construction of mixed retail, office, leisure, hotel and approximately 470 residential units. Testing concluded that the site was not developed until the 19th century. Since then, the site evolved from ornamental gardens to an industrial use. The entire development area could not be tested; however, five test-trenches were excavated; these did not reveal the presence of any archaeological features or deposits. Although the proposed development on the subject site is large, testing and assessment appeared to indicate that much of the area has previously been developed. These former developments appear to have impacted on and removed any archaeological material which may have been present.



## **2011:424 - MARSH ROAD, DROGHEDA, LOUTH**

**RMP No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 11E0002

**Author:** Edmond O'Donovan

**Site type:** Urban post-medieval

**Description:** Monitoring was carried out at Marsh Road in Drogheda in response to the construction of a car park for Irish Rail. The work was carried out for Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy. The monitoring revealed that the site was used extensively during the construction of the Boyne Viaduct between 1851 and 1855. A series of engineering test pits were excavated to assess the soils and locate potential services. Seventeen test pits were excavated at regular intervals throughout the site. Four trenches were also excavated to expose existing services. The test pits measured approximately 1.5m in length, 0.5m in width and were generally 0.9m in depth. A soil profile across the site, based on the test pits, shows a varying amount of modern dumped construction material, e.g. concrete, stone and redeposited clays, spread over the site, up to 0.9m in depth at Marsh Road but thinning out to the south of the Boyne Viaduct embankment.

### **2.6 Cartographic Review**

The earliest mapping of the area is the Down Survey of 1654–56, where the approximate area of the proposed development does not contain any features of an archaeological nature, although it does illustrate the townland of Newtown (Figure 3). Ordnance Survey maps of the area were also examined (County Louth, sheet 24) in order to identify any possible archaeological features and to trace the development of the site during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The cartographic evidence shown on these maps does not reveal any features of an archaeological nature located within the area of the proposed development.

The cartographic review of the Ordnance Survey maps including the first edition historic 6-inch map dated 1835 (Figure 4), and the 25-inch OS map dated 1907–09 (Figure 5), shows that since the early 19th century there has been some alteration to the field systems within which the site of the proposed development is located, although the overall layout is largely the same. The first edition 6-inch map shows that the southern boundary of both Fields 1 and 2 was moved slightly after 1835, as a result of alterations made during the construction of the railway line. Indeed, the southwest corner of the western field (Field 1) was clearly acquired by the railway company and had the new railway line constructed across it.

The larger western field was originally subdivided by a WSW–ENE oriented field boundary, extending roughly across the middle of the field. This boundary was already removed prior to the 25-inch map in 1907–09 (Figure 5). The narrower eastern field (Field 2) was originally larger, as its eastern boundary did not continue all the way to the north but opened out eastwards, encompassing what by 1907–09 was already a separate adjacent field.



Already evident in the first edition OS map of 1835 was a pair of buildings, quite possibly a small farmyard, located roughly in the middle of southern end of Field 2 (Figure 4). These are located within a small angular enclosure and a road or track is depicted leading southwest from the buildings, towards the southwest corner of the field. These structures are still apparent on the 25-inch map of 1907–09, although the surrounding enclosure appears to be gone (Figure 5). Instead, a sub-oval feature is depicted to the northwest of the buildings and represents the pond that is still visible on the site today. Aerial photography shows this area to be somewhat overgrown in recent times, suggesting the possible remains of this relict farmyard, along with the pond. The road or track leading from the possible farmyard appears to be visible on the Ordnance Survey 2005 Ortho aerial photograph as a faint cropmark.

It is also apparent from the historic mapping that the north-western boundary of Field 1 backed on to the rear of the property associated with Weirhope House. The map of 1907–09 shows a well situated on the southern boundary of Field 2 (Figure 5), beside the road now known as McGrath's Lane and west of Newtown Lodge.

## 2.7 Aerial Photography

Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2013 from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland were also reviewed. These revealed two possible cropmarks, near the north end of both fields, that may represent archaeological features (Figure 7). One consists of a possible sub-rectangular enclosure in Field 1, measuring 100m east–west by 75m north–south (identified on OSI ortho photo 2005). It appears to have a sub-circular or rounded annex at its southeast corner and may contain a smaller rectangular enclosure with a circular annex to the west. A second, smaller rectangular enclosure measuring 50m east–west by 38m north–south may be visible in Field 2 (OSI ortho photo 1995). Both cropmarks are very faint and do not necessarily represent archaeological features. It was anticipated that the geophysical survey of the area would help to determine whether or not these were of archaeological significance.

## 2.8 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Protected Structures

There are no structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site of the proposed development.

A protected structure listed within the *Louth Development Plan 2015–2021* as DB 345 Stone Borough Boundary Marker, is located c. 100 m northwest of the potential development area on the Marsh Road. The following is a description of the Stone Borough Boundary Marker, which is also listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) as follows:



## **Marsh Road, Drogheda, County Louth**

**Reg. No.:** 13620021

**Date:** 1840–1845

**Townland:** Newtown (Louth By.)

**Rating:** Regional

**Description:** Limestone marker, erected 1843. Tooled rectangular slab with half-round head, inscription partially eroded "BOROUGH BOUNDARY 1843 SAINT LAWRENCE GAATE WARD THOS CARTY ESQR" set in footpath against south parapet of bridge.

**Appraisal:** This stone marks the historical boundary of St. Lawrence Gate Ward. This interesting artefact charts the changing divisions of land in Drogheda and is a piece of street furniture which adds to the diversity of the Marsh Road streetscape.

### **2.9 Field Survey**

A site inspection was carried out on 16 May 2018 in good clear conditions. The site contains two fields that rise gradually from the south to the top of an east–west ridge that extends to the south side of the Marsh Road, overlooking the River Boyne. Both fields were in crop at the time of inspection. The only feature of note within the development consisted of the overgrown pond indicated on the 1907–09 OS map (see Figure 5). A small farmyard or buildings are also shown at this location on both the 1835 and 1907–09 maps and there may be traces of their foundations left in the overgrown area. These buildings are unlikely to be of archaeological significance. No features of archaeological potential were noted in the field survey and the only ploughsoil finds visible consisted of clay pipe fragments, black glazed earthenware and modern ceramics.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **3.1 Site description**

The licensed test trenching was carried out by Derek Gallagher and Linda Clarke of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU) between 24 and 30 January 2019. A total of nine test trenches were excavated (Figures 7 and 8, Plates 1–36) under licence number 19E0017.

An enclosure ditch with a rough circumference of 28m was found at the eastern side of the test area, on a flat plateau overlooking the River Boyne to the north. The ditches had a width of c. 2m and a depth of c. 1m. A pit and linear features within a 20m exclusion zone around the enclosure were also identified in Trench 1. These were located in the eastern field (Field 2). The western field (Field 1) had a scattering of features located along the trench lines. Trench 5 had a number of linear features, a post-hole and a cremation pit. Trench 6C had a keyhole-shaped kiln at its southern end.



## 3.2 Methodology

The test trenches were orientated NNW–SSE and were excavated until sterile boulder clay or archaeology was reached. There were a number of restrictions imposed on these trenches. Due to the presence of a crop in the field, off-sets from the trenches were not possible, thus the number of trenches overall was reduced. The fields contained overhead ESB cables that ran in a roughly east–west direction that cut across the line of the trenches. Machines were not able to excavate under these electric wires. The line of a proposed test trench was broken to accommodate these gaps and they are numbered ‘Trench 2a, Trench 2b, Trench 2c...’, etc. In addition, there were tractor runs that had to be maintained, which restricted the number of trenches excavated within the proposed development area.

### 3.2.1 *Finds retrieval*

All finds recovered from this site were cleaned/washed, labelled accordingly, bagged and boxed immediately by an appointed member of staff. The location of the finds and the context from which they were obtained was also recorded. None of the items recovered required urgent conservation. Materials including acid free paper, acid free boxes, airtight containers and silica gel were available on site in case metal finds were recovered. A comprehensive finds list has been compiled (see Section 4.1). All finds have been removed from the site to the ACSU head office where they will be drawn (if necessary), catalogued and stored until they are transferred to the National Museum of Ireland’s Collection Resource Centre, Swords.

### 3.2.2 *Sampling strategy*

All appropriate environmental samples, dating samples, animal bone and metallurgical samples were bagged and labelled on site (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3). All have been removed from the site to the ACSU head office for storage. The palaeo-environmental samples will be processed in due course in order to extract plant macro-remains, charcoal, bone and any other environmental residues suitable for analysis and / or radiocarbon dating. The animal bone has been fully analysed (Appendix 1) and the metallurgical samples have been catalogued and will be retained pending a potential full excavation.

## 3.3 Results

**Trench 1** measured 29m in length and 1.80m in width (Figures 7–10), and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 1). Trench 1 contained evidence of a pit C30 and a linear feature C31 (Figure 10; Plates 2–3). There were two other linear features that intersected C31. These were possibly agricultural furrows (C32 & C33) but not enough of them was exposed to say for certain. Given the proximity to the enclosure (c. 12m to the east) the pit C30 and the linear C31 should be considered archaeological.





**Trench 2** was divided into four sections a, b, c and d (Figures 7–10). Trench 2c was excavated across the enclosure identified in the geophysical survey conducted by ACSU in January 2019 (Figure 10; Murphy & Breen 2019).

Trench **2a** measured 27m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 4). A break in the trench occurred here because of overhead ESB cables and wet ground. There were no archaeological features identified in this trench.

Trench **2b** measured 48m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40–0.60m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 5). A break occurred at the northern end of the trench for the tractor run. The alignment here shifted 5m to the east. There were no archaeological features identified in this trench.

Trench **2c** measured 37m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plates 6 and 7). At the northern and southern end, where the enclosure ditch (C03) was exposed, Trench 2C was extended to the east in order to allow sections of the enclosure to be hand excavated. Sections excavated in to the northern and southern ends of the enclosure ditch indicated that the ditch had similar dimensions and form in both areas, measuring c. 2m in width and under 1m in depth (Figures 10 and 13; Plates 6–9). There appeared to be one re-cut of the ditch but this can be investigated at a later stage. Once it was confirmed that the enclosure was present, the interior of the trench was topsoil stripped with the machine but only down to 0.4m in depth. The remainder was left for hand excavation or preservation *in situ*, depending on development decisions.

Trench **2d** measured 46m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 10). There were no archaeological features identified in this trench.

**Trench 3** was divided into two sections, a and b (Figures 7 and 8).

Trench **3a** measured 32m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 11). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **3b** measured 138m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m, on to a mottled greyish, brown to orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 12). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

**Trench 4** was divided in to three sections, a, b and c (Figures 7 and 8).

Trench **4a** measured 28m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 13). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **4b** measured 48m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 14). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of



trench, although an agricultural furrow can be seen in Plate 14, extending parallel to the western side of the trench.

Trench **4c** measured 153m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m, on to a mottled greyish, brown to orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 15). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench. A field boundary ditch, C34, was identified in this trench and appears to be agricultural in nature; it was orientated in a roughly east–west direction.

**Trench 5** was divided in to three sections, a, b and c (Figures 7–9 and 11).

Trench **5a** measured 43m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 16). A linear feature, C19, orientated roughly east–west was identified 15m from the northern end of the trench. C19 was cut along the southern side by a second linear, C20, which extended along the same alignment (Figures 11 and 13; Plate 17).

Trench **5b** measured 38m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 18). A linear, C21, a post-hole, C27, and a probable cremation pit, C24, were identified at the southern end of this trench (Figures 11 and 13; Plates 19–23). Overhead power cables prevented the extension of the trench to the south to see if C21 and the linear C19 from Trench 5a are related. It is likely that more archaeological features would be found around this cluster.

Trench **5c** measured 144m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 24). A field boundary ditch, C34, was identified in this trench and appears to be agricultural in nature; it was orientated in a roughly east–west direction.

**Trench 6** was divided in to three sections, a, b and c (Figures 7–9, 11 and 12).

Trench **6a** measured 33m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 25). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **6b** measured 37m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02). A sterile grey sandy deposit C29, which appeared to be geological in nature, identified in this trench (Figure 11; Plate 26).

Trench **6c** measured 131m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02). A keyhole-shaped kiln, C28, was identified at the southern end of this trench (Figure 12; Plates 27 and 28). Overhead power cables prevented further investigation to the south. A field boundary ditch, C34, was identified in this trench and appears to be agricultural in nature; it was orientated in a roughly east–west direction (Figure 12).



**Trench 7** was divided in to three sections, a, b and c (Figures 7–9 and 12).

Trench **7a** measured 28m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.48m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 29). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **7b** measured 22m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 30). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **7c** measured 112m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m, on to a mottled greyish, brown to orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 31). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench. A field boundary ditch, C34, was identified in this trench and appears to be agricultural in nature; it was orientated in a roughly east–west direction (Figure 12).

**Trench 8** was divided in to three sections, a, b and c (Figures 7–9).

Trench **8a** measured 28m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 32). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **8b** measured 22m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, on to a mottled orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plate 33). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench.

Trench **8c** measured 112m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m, on to a mottled greyish, brown to orangey, brown boulder clay (C02; Plates 34 and 35). There were no archaeological features identified in this section of trench. A field boundary ditch, C34, was identified in this trench and appears to be agricultural in nature; it was orientated in a roughly east–west direction.

**Trench 9** was orientated east–west and measured 46.5m in length and 1.80m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m, on to a mottled greyish, brown boulder clay (C02; Figures 7 and 8; Plate 36). There were no archaeological features identified in this trench.

### 3.3.1 List of Contexts

Context	Description
C01	Topsoil depth range 0.40–0.80m.
C02	Boulder clay.
C03	Cut of enclosure ditch located to the east of the investigation area. It had a width of 1.95m and a depth of 0.80m. It had a V-shaped profile with a wide flat base. It had five fills in the northern section and five fills in the southern section (C04–C08 in the west-facing section of the northern part of the ditch and C09–C13 in the northeast-facing section of the southern part of the ditch) with at least one re-cut within the ditch.



Context	Description
C04	Compact greyish brown silty clay with frequent animal bone and moderate amounts of small angular stones. It measured 1.60m in width and 0.30m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the northern section.
C05	Compact medium brown silty clay with occasional animal bone inclusions and infrequent small angular and rounded stones. It measured 0.70m in width and 0.35m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the northern section.
C06	Compact grey silty clay with occasional animal bone and moderate amounts of angular stones. It measured 1.60m in width and 0.65m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the northern section.
C07	Compact greyish brown silty clay with frequent small and medium angular stones and moderate amounts of animal bone. It measured 0.70m in width and 0.22m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the northern section.
C08	Compact light brown silty clay with occasional animal bone inclusions and occasional small stones. It measured 0.60m in width and 0.40m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the northern section.
C09	Compact greyish brown silty clay with frequent animal bone and moderate amounts of small angular stones. Probably the same as C04. It measured 1.50m in width and 0.65m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the southern section.
C10	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional animal bone and charcoal flecks inclusions and moderate amounts of small angular stones. It measured 0.62m in width and 0.40m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the southern section.
C11	Compact mottled greyish brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular stones. It measured 0.70m in width and 0.25m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the southern section.
C12	Compact yellowish grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. It measured 0.45m in width and 0.10m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the southern section.
C13	Compact greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and three fragments of burnt bone. Two unworked pieces of flint were also found in this deposit. It measured 0.90m in width and 0.13m in depth. A fill of enclosure ditch C03 from the southern section.
C14	Loose mid-brown silty clay. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.25m in depth. An upper deposit within linear feature C19 in Trench 5a.
C15	Compact mottled greyish brown silty clay with moderate small angular stones. It measured 1.50m in width and 0.19m in depth. A secondary deposit within linear feature C19 in Trench 5a.
C16	Compact grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones. It measured 1.40m in width and 0.25m in depth. A basal deposit within linear feature C19 in Trench 5a.
C17	Compact orangey grey silty clay with occasional small and medium angular stones. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.05m in depth. A deposit within linear feature C20 in Trench 5a.
C18	Compact mottled greyish brown silty clay. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.25m in depth. An upper deposit within linear feature C19 in Trench 5a.
C19	Cut of a linear feature in Trench 5a. It had four fills, C14–C16 and C18, and was cut by linear C20 on the southern side. It had a shallow U-shaped profile and was orientated roughly east–west. It had a width of c. 2.12m and was 0.40m in depth.
C20	Cut of a linear feature with the same orientation as C19 in Trench 5a. It measured 0.42m in width and 0.21m in depth and contained one fill, C17. It cut the southern side of linear C19.



Context	Description
C21	Cut of a linear feature in Trench 5b. It had two fills, C22 and C23. It had a U-shaped profile and was orientated northeast–southwest. It had a width of c. 0.95m and was 0.45m in depth.
C22	Compact mid-grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional red rounded stones. It measured 0.95m in width and 0.45m in depth. An upper deposit within linear feature C21, above C23.
C23	Compact orange to light grey silty clay with infrequent rounded stones. It measured 0.75m in width and 0.34m in depth. A deposit within linear feature C21, under C22.
C24	Cut of a probable cremation pit located at the southern end of Trench 5b. It contained two deposits, C25 and C26. It was not fully exposed and a quarter section was excavated into the visible part. It had an oval appearance and measured c. 1m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.24m in depth, though this may only be a small part of a larger pit. It was located close to post-hole C27 and linear C21 to the north. As the testing trenches were restricted to an NNW–SSE orientation, no offsets were available to establish the full extent. Overhead ESB cables to the south prevented the investigation of linear C21, to see if it was part of a circular ditch with implications of the feature being a barrow, enclosure, etc., possibly in association with C19 / C20 in Trench 5a to the south.
C25	Loose grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional burnt bone fragments. It measured c. 1m in width and 0.22m in depth. An upper deposit in probable cremation pit C24, above C26.
C26	Loose greyish black silty clay with frequent charcoal and burnt bone inclusions. It measured 0.14m in depth. A lower deposit in probable cremation pit C24, below C25.
C27	Post-hole located at the southern end of Trench 5b. It was represented by a compact dark grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. It was oval in plan and measured 0.30m in length and 0.20m in width.
C28	Keyhole-shaped kiln at southern end of Trench 6c. Not all of the kiln was exposed due to the restrictions on testing. Comprised a dark grey silty clay deposit with frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional burnt stone fragments. It measured 2.40m in length with the oval end measuring 1.15m by 1.10m. The narrowest part of the flue was 0.35m in width.
C29	Sterile grey sandy deposit located in Trench 6b. This was investigated and thought to be geological in nature.
C30	Oval-shaped pit within Trench 1. It measured 0.9m in length east–west and 0.69m in width. Comprised a mid-brownish grey clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. It is located within the 20m exclusion zone around the enclosure (C03). It was also located north of a northeast–southwest aligned linear feature (C31).
C31	Linear feature orientated northeast–southwest within Trench 1. Comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay measuring c. 0.30m in width.
C32	Linear feature orientated roughly north–south, located to the south of C31 and along the western edge of the test trench. This had the look of an agricultural furrow but there was only a portion exposed within the trench. It was parallel with C33.
C33	Linear feature orientated north–south, located to the south of C31 and along the eastern edge of the test trench. This had the look of an agricultural furrow but there was only a portion exposed within the trench. It was parallel with C32.
C34	Linear feature that appears to be a field boundary ditch. It was seen in trenches 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c and 8c. It was c. 2m in width and 0.70m in depth with a shallow U-shaped profile. It was not picked up in the geophysical survey and is not recorded in the historic maps.

Table 1: List of contexts



## 4. MATERIAL CULTURE

### 4.1 Artefacts

The majority of the finds recovered during test trenching were retrieved from the topsoil (C01). These generally consisted of flint (potentially prehistoric), ceramics (mostly medieval) and clay pipe fragments (post-medieval). Two flint nodules (potentially prehistoric) were also recovered from C13, a fill within the enclosure ditch C03.

All finds have been removed from the site to the ACSU head office where they will be drawn (if necessary), catalogued and stored until they are transferred to the NMI Collection Resource Centre, Swords.

The following are a list of finds recovered during the program of test testing:

Context No.	Find No.	Material	Description	Measurements
(C01)	19E0017:01:01	Flint	Flint nodule	12.68cm x 7.32cm x 3.67cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:02	Flint	Flint nodule	4.13cm x 2.27cm x 1.57cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:03	Flint	Flint nodule	3.11cm x 1.83cm x 1.13cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:04	Flint	Flint nodule	2.66cm x 1.79cm x 1.64cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:05	Flint	Struck flint	2.67cm x 2.05cm x 1.39cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:06	Flint	Struck flint	4.40cm x 2.91cm x 1.64cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:07	Flint	Struck flint	2.85cm x 2.01cm x 0.94cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:08	Flint	Flint debitage	1.79cm x 1.12cm x 0.37cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:09	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	3.57cm x 1.96cm x 0.43cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:10	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	3.39cm x 2.52cm x 0.40cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:11	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	3.77cm x 1.92cm x 0.36cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:12	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	2.56cm x 1.61cm x 0.41cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:13	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	3.06cm x 1.89cm x 0.40cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:14	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	2.84cm x 1.98cm x 0.56cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:15	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	3.65cm x 1.42cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:16	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	5.32cm x 0.78cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:17	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.96cm x 0.74cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:18	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	3.05cm x 0.83cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:19	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	3.84cm x 0.70cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:20	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment (decorated)	3.58cm x 0.69cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:21	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment (decorated)	4.04cm x 0.71cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:22	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	4.50cm x 0.76cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:23	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.76cm x 0.60cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:24	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	3.62cm x 0.75cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:25	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.30cm x 0.62cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:26	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.92cm x 0.66cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:27	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.51cm x 0.62cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:28	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.96cm x 0.51cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:29	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	0.94cm x 0.72cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:30	Pottery	Brown/green glazed medieval pottery sherd	5.79cm x 3.86cm x 1.14cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:31	Pottery	Brown/green glazed medieval pottery sherd	2.57cm x 1.01cm x 0.74cm



Context No.	Find No.	Material	Description	Measurements
(C01)	19E0017:01:32	Pottery	Brown/green glazed medieval pottery sherd	4.19cm x 3.24cm x 1.31cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:33	Ceramic	White glazed ceramic sherd	3.88cm x 2.49cm x 0.28cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:34	Ceramic	Brown glazed stoneware base sherd	4.41cm x 2.17cm x 0.85cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:35	Flint	Flint debitage	5.94cm x 2.58cm x 1.63cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:36	Flint	Flint debitage	4.15cm x 2.84cm x 2.53cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:37	Flint	Flint debitage	3.40cm x 3.15cm x 0.70cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:38	Flint	Flint debitage	2.90cm x 2.72cm x 1.87cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:39	Flint	Flint debitage	2.90cm x 1.93cm x 1.11cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:40	Flint	Flint debitage	2.18cm x 1.29cm x 1.26cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:41	Flint	Flint debitage	1.54cm x 0.97cm x 0.61cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:42	Flint	Flint nodule	3.66cm x 1.86cm x 1.21cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:43	Flint	Flint nodule	3.39cm x 2.66cm x 1.62cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:44	Flint	Flint nodule	3.19cm x 2.11cm x 1.15cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:45	Flint	Flint nodule	2.32cm x 1.90cm x 1.25cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:46	Flint	Flint nodule	2.70cm x 2.59cm x 2.20cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:47	Quartz	Possible quartz	2.39cm x 2.09cm x 0.79cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:48	Stone	Possible water-rolled stone	4.55cm x 3.92cm x 1.90cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:49	Stone	Red stone, possibly burnt	3.79cm x 2.89cm x 1.43cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:50	Chert	Chert	3.63cm x 1.97cm x 1.32cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:51	Chert	Possible burnt chert	2.87cm x 2.64cm x 0.70cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:52	Chert	Possible burnt chert	2.99cm x 2.21cm x 0.69cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:53	Chert	Possible burnt chert	2.79cm x 2.39cm x 0.87cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:54	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	2.89cm x 0.73cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:55	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	3.02cm x 0.74cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:56	Clay pipe	Clay pipe stem fragment	1.58cm x 0.56cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:57	Clay pipe	Clay pipe bowl fragment	1.93cm x 1.82cm x 0.41cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:58	Iron	Corroded iron nail	5.65cm x 1.38cm x 0.89cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:59	Lead	Lead object	5.04cm x 1.80cm x 1.12cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:60	Burnt clay	Burnt clay	6.10cm x 4.26cm x 2.30cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:61	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	7.20cm x 5.33cm x 1.19cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:62	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	5.43cm x 4.65cm x 1.30cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:63	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	5.03cm x 4.01cm x 0.95cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:64	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	6.86cm x 3.14cm x 0.92cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:65	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	2.84cm x 2.06cm x 0.54cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:66	Pottery	Blackware glazed pottery sherd	2.56cm x 2.07cm x 1.12cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:67	Pottery	Unglazed medieval pottery sherd	4.55cm x 4.27cm x 0.78cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:68	Pottery	Unglazed medieval pottery sherd	4.07cm x 2.76cm x 1.28cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:69	Pottery	Yellow glazed medieval pottery sherd	2.44cm x 2.29cm x 0.70cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:70	Pottery	Brown glazed medieval pottery sherd	5.31cm x 3.94cm x 1.11cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:71	Pottery	Brown glazed medieval pottery rim sherd	6.50cm x 2.77cm x 1.25cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:72	Pottery	Green glazed medieval pottery handle sherd	5.72cm x 3.90cm x 1.79cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:73	Ceramic	Blue & white ceramic sherd	6.11cm x 5.12cm x 0.50cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:74	Ceramic	Blue & white ceramic sherd	4.08cm x 2.79cm x 0.44cm



Context No.	Find No.	Material	Description	Measurements
(C01)	19E0017:01:75	Ceramic	Blue & white ceramic sherd	3.11cm x 2.29cm x 0.39cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:76	Ceramic	Blue & white ceramic handle sherd	1.99cm x 1.70cm x 0.80cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:77	Ceramic	Yellow glazed ceramic sherd	7.04cm x 5.63cm x 0.61cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:78	Ceramic	Yellow glazed ceramic sherd	2.83cm x 2.14cm x 0.38cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:79	Ceramic	Brown glazed ceramic sherd	3.37cm x 3.27cm x 0.77cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:80	Ceramic	Brown glazed ceramic rim sherd	3.11cm x 2.04cm x 0.72cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:81	Ceramic	White glazed ceramic base sherd	4.04cm x 3.29cm x 0.51cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:82	Ceramic	White glazed ceramic sherd	4.36cm x 2.15cm x 0.49cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:83	Ceramic	White glazed ceramic sherd	2.20cm x 1.61cm x 0.33cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:84	Ceramic	White & brown glazed ceramic sherd	2.98cm x 1.25cm x 0.30cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:85	Ceramic	White & brown glazed ceramic sherd	3.22cm x 2.14cm x 0.28cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:86	Ceramic	Cream glazed ceramic sherd	5.31cm x 2.59cm x 0.46cm
(C01)	19E0017:01:87	Ceramic	Brown glazed ceramic sherd	7.22cm x 6.77cm x 0.72cm
(C13)	19E0017:13:01	Flint	Flint nodule	2.96cm x 2.62cm x 1.48cm
(C13)	19E0017:13:02	Flint	Flint nodule	2.41cm x 1.84cm x 0.90cm

Table 2: List of finds

## 4.2 Samples

Two samples of metallurgical waste (slag) were taken during test trenching. These were both taken from the topsoil (C01). These samples will be retained pending a potential full excavation.

One palaeo-environmental sample (c. 20 ltrs) was taken during the testing phase. This was taken from C25, an upper fill of a possible cremation pit in Trench 5b. This has yet to be processed but contains charcoal, burnt bone and possible charred seeds. The bone remains may reveal the pit was used for the placement of a cremation, and if so, potentially some information can be gained regarding the individual/s represented in the cremation burial. Material suitable for radiocarbon dating can also be retrieved, either in the form of charcoal, charred seeds or burnt bone.

## 4.3 Animal bone

One hundred and thirty-one fragments of animal bone were retrieved on site, from three different contexts, all of which were fills of the enclosure ditch C03. Analysis of these has been undertaken and is detailed in Appendix 1. Unless needed for radiocarbon dating, it has been recommended that this assemblage can be discarded as the remains are of low grade and will not provide any further information in relation to the human and animal interactions at this site. This recommendation may, however, be superseded if full excavation of the site is undertaken.





## 5. DATING

Only two artefacts were recovered from secure contexts and these consist of flint nodules. If these are deemed to have been worked, then they would be likely to date to the prehistoric period. Animal bone samples taken from the enclosure ditch fills could potentially be used to obtain a radiocarbon date if deemed appropriate.

## 6. DISCUSSION

An archaeological assessment (test trenching) was carried out at pre-planning stage, in advance of the potential development of a site at Newtown, Drogheda, Co Louth. The nearest recorded monument to the development is LH024-039 (mound) which is located c. 0.70 km to the southwest, and hence will not be affected. An Archaeological Impact Assessment report was carried out in May 2018 by Ed Lyne of ACSU. This was undertaken on behalf of the client and is based on the findings of a desk-top study and fieldwork. It aimed to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts. That report recommended that the site should be archaeologically assessed by means of geophysical survey followed by test trenching. A program of geophysical survey was carried out between 2 and 9 January 2019, under licence number 19R0005 (Murphy & Breen 2019). The test trenching was undertaken from 24 to 30 January 2019, under licence number 19E0017. The test trenches were set out to investigate potential archaeological features (including an enclosure) identified in the geophysical survey, as well to give a good spatial layout. All site investigations were carried out at a pre-planning stage.

The work consisted of the excavation of nine test trenches in order to investigate the potential enclosure ditch (C03) identified in the geophysical survey, as well as a general assessment of the investigation area. The area is currently a greenfield site consisting of two fields (Field 1 to the west and Field 2 to the east). There were some restrictions to the test area. Firstly, there was a crop in the field that prevented the excavation of offsets to the roughly north–south orientated trenches and thus reduced the number of test trenches excavated in the fields. Secondly, there were overhead ESB cables orientated roughly east–west through the test area, which necessitated gaps in the linear test trenches. In addition, there were tractor runs that had to be maintained.

This investigation exposed an enclosure ditch (C03) with a rough circumference of 28m. This was found at the eastern side of the test area on a flat plateau overlooking the River Boyne to the north. The ditches had a width of c. 2m and a depth of c. 1m. Two flint nodules (19E0017:13:01–02) of potentially prehistoric date, and three small fragments of burnt bone, unidentifiable to species, were recovered from the basal fill (C13) within the southern section through the enclosure ditch and 128 fragments of animal bone was recovered from the upper fills (C04 and C09) of the enclosure in both sections, with a least one cow and one sheep/goat represented (see



Appendix 1). A large pit (C30) and linear features (C31–C33) within a 20m exclusion zone around the enclosure were also identified in Trench 1. These were all located in Field 2.

Field 1 had a scattering of features located along Trenches 5 and 6. Trench 5 had a number of linear features (C19–C21), a post-hole (C27) and a probable cremation pit (C24). Trench 6c had a keyhole-shaped kiln (C28) at its southern end.

The features uncovered during testing may range in date from prehistory through to the early medieval or possibly high medieval period, prior to full excavation and or scientific dating it is difficult to be more precise.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The features uncovered during test trenching show that the area of investigation contains some significant archaeological remains, and has potential for more archaeological elements to be uncovered during topsoil removal. All features identified during the testing will be impacted by the proposed development and/or access road. Due to the presence of the crop it was not possible to open up additional areas around the features identified and therefore the full extent of these features has not been determined. It is therefore recommended that, in the event of a grant of permission, the following mitigation measures be carried out prior to construction:

1. A full archaeological excavation of the enclosure and associated features exposed to the west must be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service.
2. Adequate areas should be stripped around the remaining identified features in order to identify their full extent and significance. All features thus exposed should then be subjected to full archaeological excavation under licence to the National Monuments Service in order to preserve the features by record. This work should also be carried out well in advance of construction.
3. All topsoil stripping associated with the development should be monitored on a continuous basis by a licensed archaeologist. Should further archaeological features be identified, work must cease in those areas until a decision on how best to deal with the archaeology has been agreed with the National Monuments Service. It should be noted that there is significant potential for further features to be identified given the overall potential of the site and the limited testing carried out, and sufficient time and resources should be provided for in the construction programme to allow for the full excavation of any additional features uncovered.



## 8. EXCAVATION BULLETIN

### Louth

### Newtown, Drogheda

### 19E0017

### I.T.M. 710451, 775062

An archaeological assessment (test trenching) was carried out at pre-planning stage, in advance of the potential development of a site at Newtown, Drogheda, Co Louth. The site was located in the townland of Newtown, to the south of the River Boyne and southeast of the town of Drogheda. The area is a greenfield site consisting of two fields, which are currently under crop.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment report was carried out in May 2018 by ACSU. This was based on the findings of a desk-top study and fieldwork and aimed to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area. It was recommended in this report that the site should be archaeologically assessed by means of geophysical survey followed by test trenching.

A program of geophysical survey was carried out in January 2019, under licence number 19R0005. The test trenches were set out to investigate potential archaeological features identified in the geophysical survey, as well to give a good spatial layout.

The work consisted of the excavation of nine test trenches to investigate a potential enclosure ditch identified in the geophysical survey, as well as a general assessment of the investigation area. The work was undertaken between the 24 and 30 January 2019.

This investigation exposed an enclosure ditch with a rough circumference of 28m. This was found at the eastern side of the test area on a flat plateau overlooking the River Boyne to the north. The ditches had a width of c. 2m and a depth of c. 1m. A large pit and linear features within a 20m exclusion zone around the enclosure were also identified in Trench 1. These were all located in Field 2.

Field 1 had a scattering of features located along Trenches 5 and 6. Trench 5 had a number of linear features, a post-hole and a cremation pit. Trench 6 had a keyhole-shaped kiln at its southern end. These features show that the area of investigation has potential for more archaeological elements to be uncovered with further topsoil removal. The results of test trenching will allow informed decisions to be made to mitigate the archaeological impact on the site or move towards archaeological preservation by record.



## 9. REFERENCES

- Bradley, J. 1978. The topography and layout of medieval Drogheda. *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society* 19, 98–127.
- Bradley, J. 1985. Urban Archaeological Survey of County Meath. Unpublished report prepared for the Office of Public Works.
- Bradley, J. 1988–89. The medieval towns of County Meath. *Ríocht na Mídhe* Vol. 8, No. 2, 30–49.
- Buckley, V. 1986. *Archaeological Inventory of County Louth*. The Stationery Office. Dublin.
- Buckley, V. & Sweetman, P.D. 1991. *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*. The Stationery Office. Dublin.
- Charles-Edwards, T.M. 2000. *Early Christian Ireland*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Clarke, L. 2001. Report on Archaeological Excavation at Colp West, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for ACS Ltd.
- Clarke, L. & Murphy, D. 2001. Report on the Archaeological Resolution of a Multi-Period Settlement Site at Colp West, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for ACS Ltd.
- D'Alton, J. 1844. *The History of Drogheda and its environs* (2 vols). D'Alton, Dublin.
- de Paor, L. 1993. *Saint Patrick's World: The Christian Culture of Ireland's Apostolic Age*. Four Courts Press, Dublin.
- Ellison, C.C. 1971–5. Bishop Dopping's Visitation Book 1682–5, *Ríocht na Mídhe* Vol. 5, No. 1, 28–39; Vol. 5, No. 2, 3–13; Vol. 5, No. 3, 3–11; Vol. 5, No. 4, 98–103; Vol. 6, No. 1, 3–13.
- Erlington, C.R. (ed.). 1847–64. *The whole works of the most Reverend James Ussher* (17 vols). Hodges and Smith, Dublin
- Gowen, M. 1989. Colp west, Co. Meath. In I Bennett (ed.), *Excavations 1988: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland*. Wordwell, Dublin.
- Hughes, K. 1966. *The Church in Early Irish Society*. Methuen, London.
- Lanigan, J. 1829. *Ecclesiastical History of Ireland: from the first introduction of Christianity among the Irish to the beginning of the thirteenth century* (4 vols). Dublin.
- Lewis, S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (2 vols). S. Lewis & Co., London.
- Moore, M. 1987. *Archaeological Inventory of County Meath*. The Stationery Office. Dublin.
- Murphy, D. & Breen, R. 2019. Geophysical Survey of a Proposed Development at Newtown, Marsh Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Unpublished report prepared by ACSU Ltd.
- O'Hara, R. 2003a. Report on Archaeological Excavation (House A) at Colp West, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for ACS Ltd.



O'Hara, R. 2003b. Report on Archaeological Excavation (Fulacht 4) at Colp West, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for ACS Ltd.

O'Hara, R. 2008. Report on Archaeological Excavation at Colp Cross, Painestown, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for ACS Ltd.

Orpen, G.H. 1911–20. *Ireland under the Normans* (4 vols). Oxford.

Raftery, B. 1994. *Pagan Celtic Ireland: The enigma of the Irish Iron Age*. Thames & Hudson, London.

Simington, R.C. (ed.). 1940. *The Civil survey, AD 1654–1656. Vol. V: county of Meath*. Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin.

Stout, G. 2002. *Newgrange and the Bend of the Boyne*. Cork University Press, Cork.

Warren, G. & Little, A. 2017. Stone tool assemblage from Knowth. In G. Eogan & K. Cleary (eds), *Excavations at Knowth 6: The Passage Tomb Archaeology of the Great Mound at Knowth*, 471–485. Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

White, N.B. 1943. *Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540–1541*. Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin.

### **Other Sources**

Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

1836 Ordnance Survey first-edition six-inch map.

1907–11 Ordnance Survey third-edition twenty-five-inch map.

Ordnance Survey Ortho (aerial photography) series, 1995, 2000, 2005.



## APPENDIX 1: ANIMAL BONE REPORT

**Arlene Coogan, MA, MSc**

The animal bone discussed in this report was recovered during test trenching at Newtown, Drogheda, Co. Louth between 28 and 30 January 2019. The remains from this site were analysed in order to establish what species of animals were present at the site and to gain an insight into the human animal relationships. Just 131 animal bone elements were recovered from two contexts:

- (C04): Upper fill from the northern section through the enclosure ditch (C03).
- (C09): Upper fill from the southern section through the enclosure ditch (C03).

Fragments of burnt bone were also recovered from the basal fill (C13) in the southern section through the enclosure ditch (C03).

Of the 131 bone elements recovered, just 23 were identifiable to both species and element; 14 cattle (*Bos Taurus*) bone elements and 9 sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) bone elements. Thirty bone elements were identified to element but could not be identified to species, while 78 fragments were unidentifiable to both species and element due to the level of fragmentation. The MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) within the assemblage is one cow and one sheep/goat. Three small fragments of burnt bone were also recovered from the site. These were unidentifiable to either species or element.

	<b>Bos Taurus</b>	<b>Ovis/Capra</b>	<b>Non-countable</b>	<b>Total</b>
Burnt bone	-	-	3	<b>3</b>
Cranium	-	-	5	<b>5</b>
Femur	1	2	-	<b>3</b>
Humerus	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Mandible	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Metacarpal	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
Metapodial	-	2	-	<b>2</b>
Pelvis	1	2	-	<b>3</b>
Radius	2	-	-	<b>2</b>
Rib	-	-	19	<b>19</b>
Sacrum	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Scapulae	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Tarsal	1	-	2	<b>3</b>
Tibia	1	1	-	<b>2</b>
Ulna	1	1	-	<b>2</b>
Non-countable	-	-	78	<b>78</b>
Vertebrae	3	-	1	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>131</b>

Table A1.1: Illustrating element representation within the assemblage



Due to the level of fragmentation, ageing and sex determination could not be carried out in this instance. There was no evidence of any pathological markers on the bones within the assemblage. Due to the small number of bone fragments from the restricted excavation areas of the site, the information gained is extremely limited.

Unless needed for radiocarbon dating, it is recommended that this assemblage can be discarded as the remains are of low grade and will not provide any further information in relation to the human and animal interactions at this site. This recommendation may, however, be superseded if full excavation of the site is undertaken.

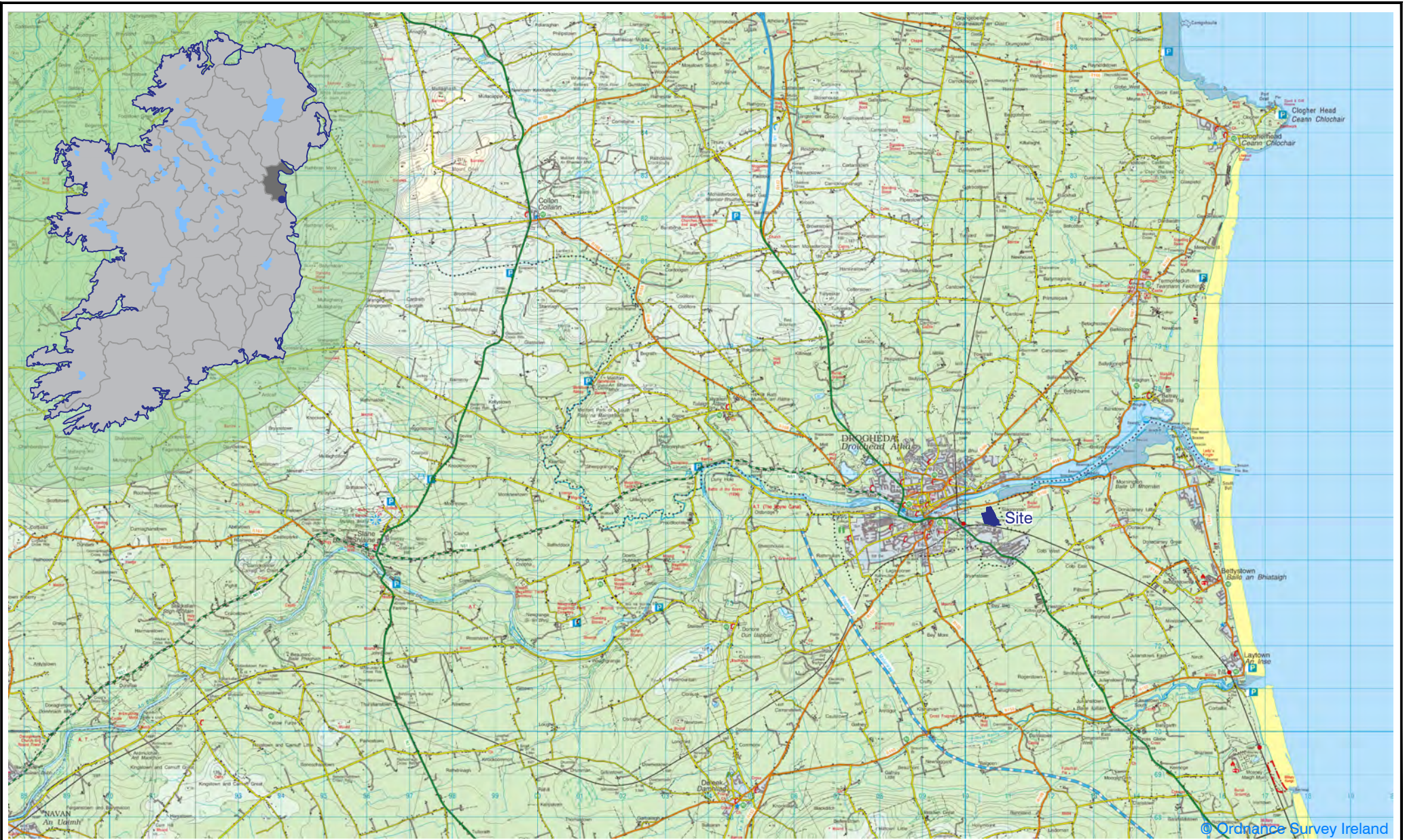
### **Bibliography**

- Beisaw, A.M. 2013. *Identifying and Interpreting Animal Bones: A Manual*. Texas A&M University Press, Texas.
- Hillson, S. 2005. *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*. University College London Institute of Archaeology, London.
- O'Connor, T. 2013. *The Archaeology of Animal Bones*. Sutton Publishing Limited, Sutton.



<b>Report Status:</b>	Final
<b>Issue/Revision:</b>	1
<b>Issue/Revision Date:</b>	15 February 2019
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Derek Gallagher
<b>Signed:</b>	<i>Derek Gallagher</i>
<b>Approved by:</b>	Linda Clarke
<b>Signed:</b>	<i>Linda Clarke</i>



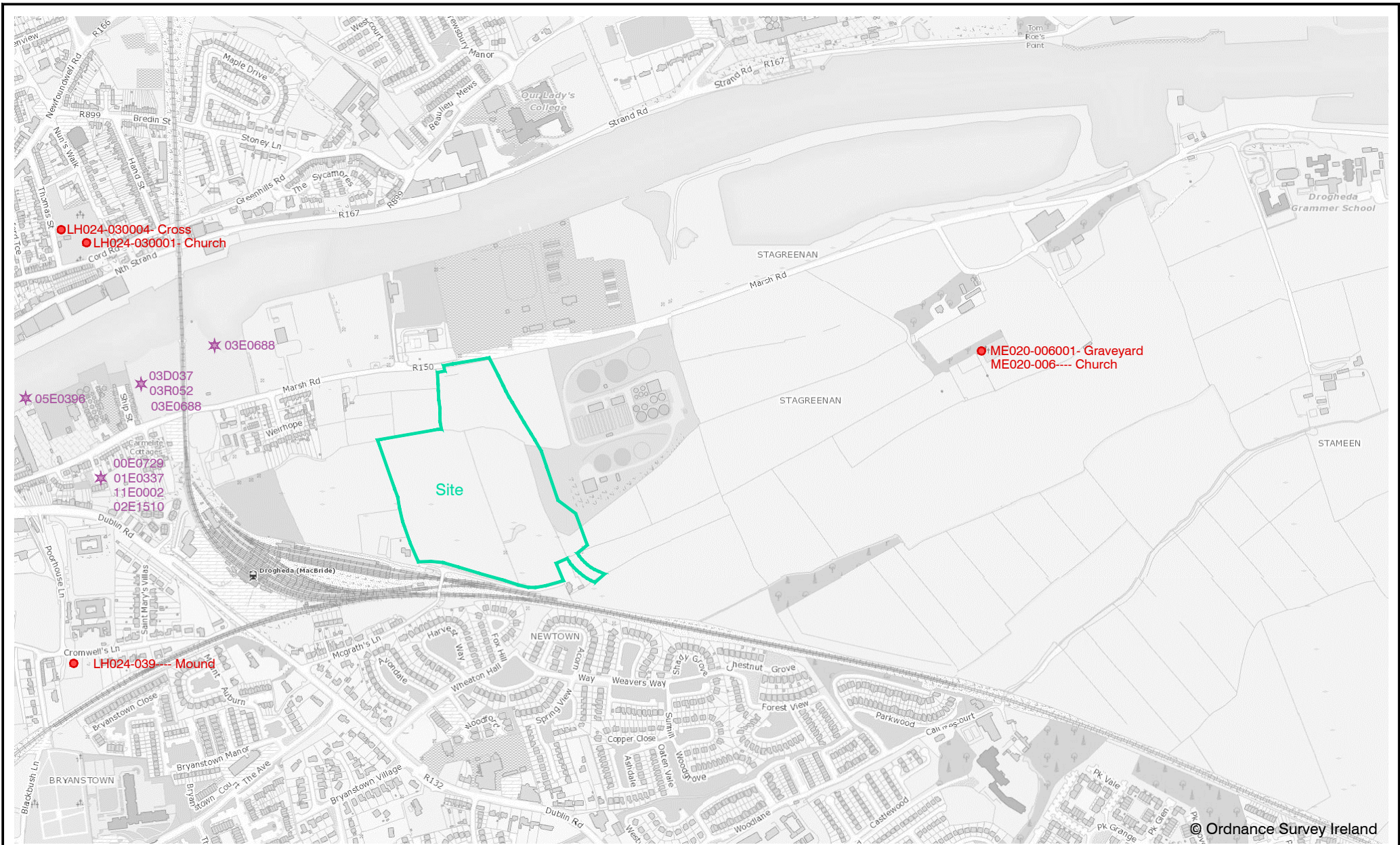


**Archaeological Consultancy  
Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing number: 1837_C1051	
Date: February 2019	Scale: 1:120,000 @a4

Figure 1: Location of site



© Ordnance Survey Ireland

- National Monuments Service site
- ★ Previous Archaeological Excavations

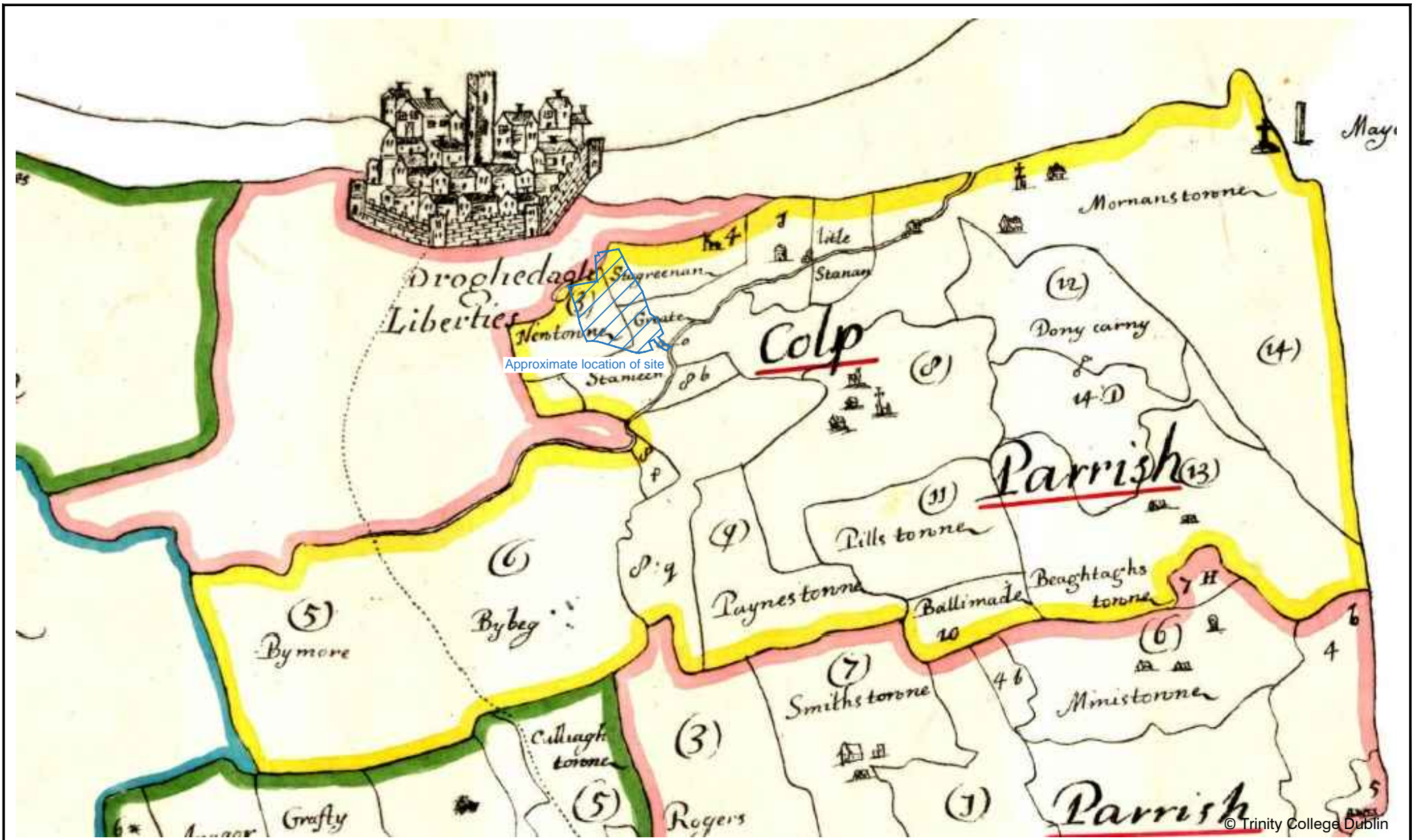


**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing number: 1837_C1052	
Date: February 2019	Scale: 1:10,000 @a4

Figure 2: Location of site and nearby Recorded Monuments



© Trinity College Dublin

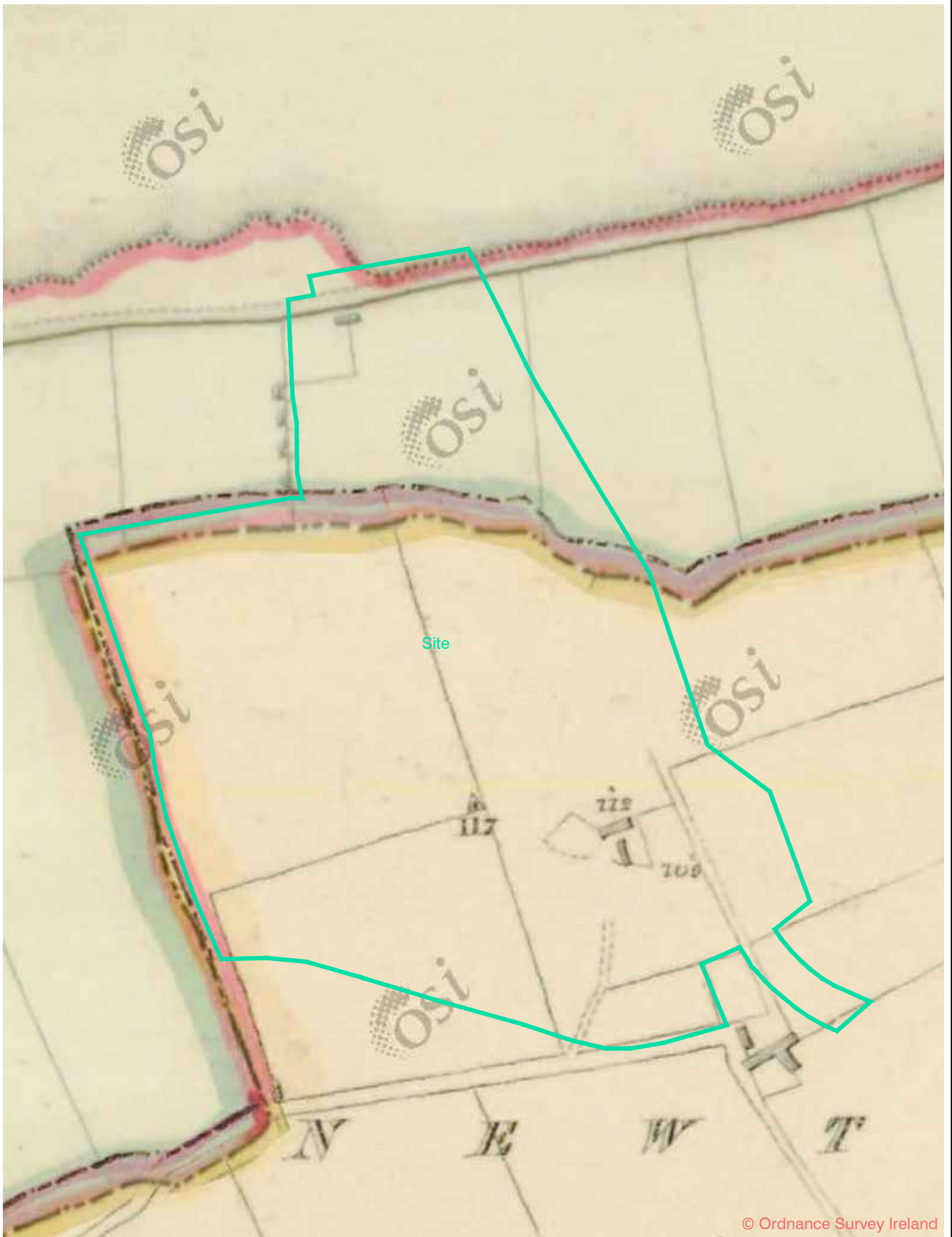


**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit**  
**acsu.ie**

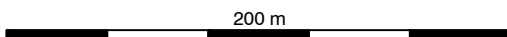


Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing number: 1837_C1053	
Date: February 2019	Scale: Do not scale

Figure 3: Extract from Down survey (1654-56), showing approximate location of site



© Ordnance Survey Ireland



**Archaeological Consultancy  
Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



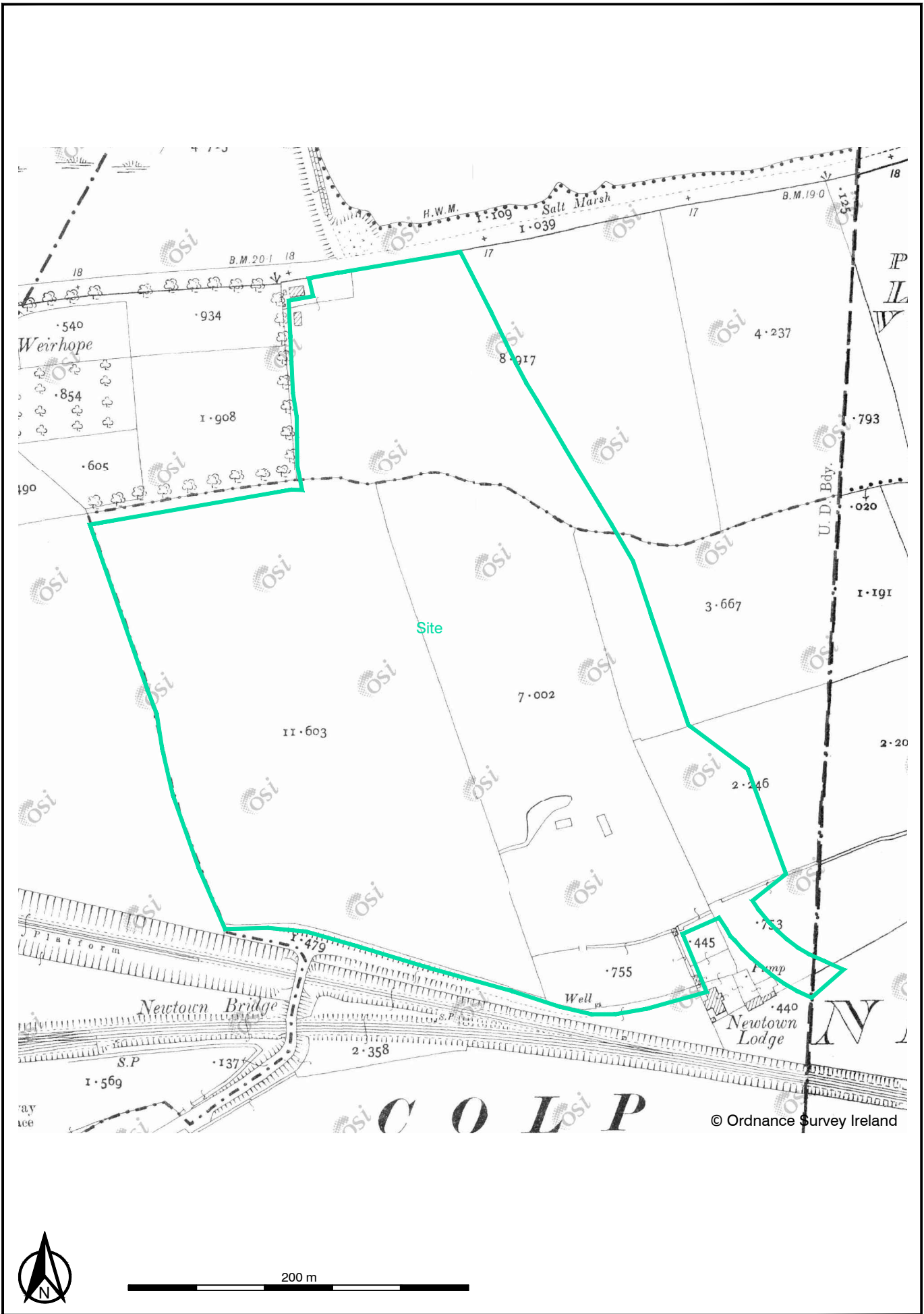
Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report

Drawing Number: 1837\_C1054

Date: February 2019 Scale: 1:3,000 @A4

Figure 4: Extract from first edition OS 6-inch map (1835), showing location of site



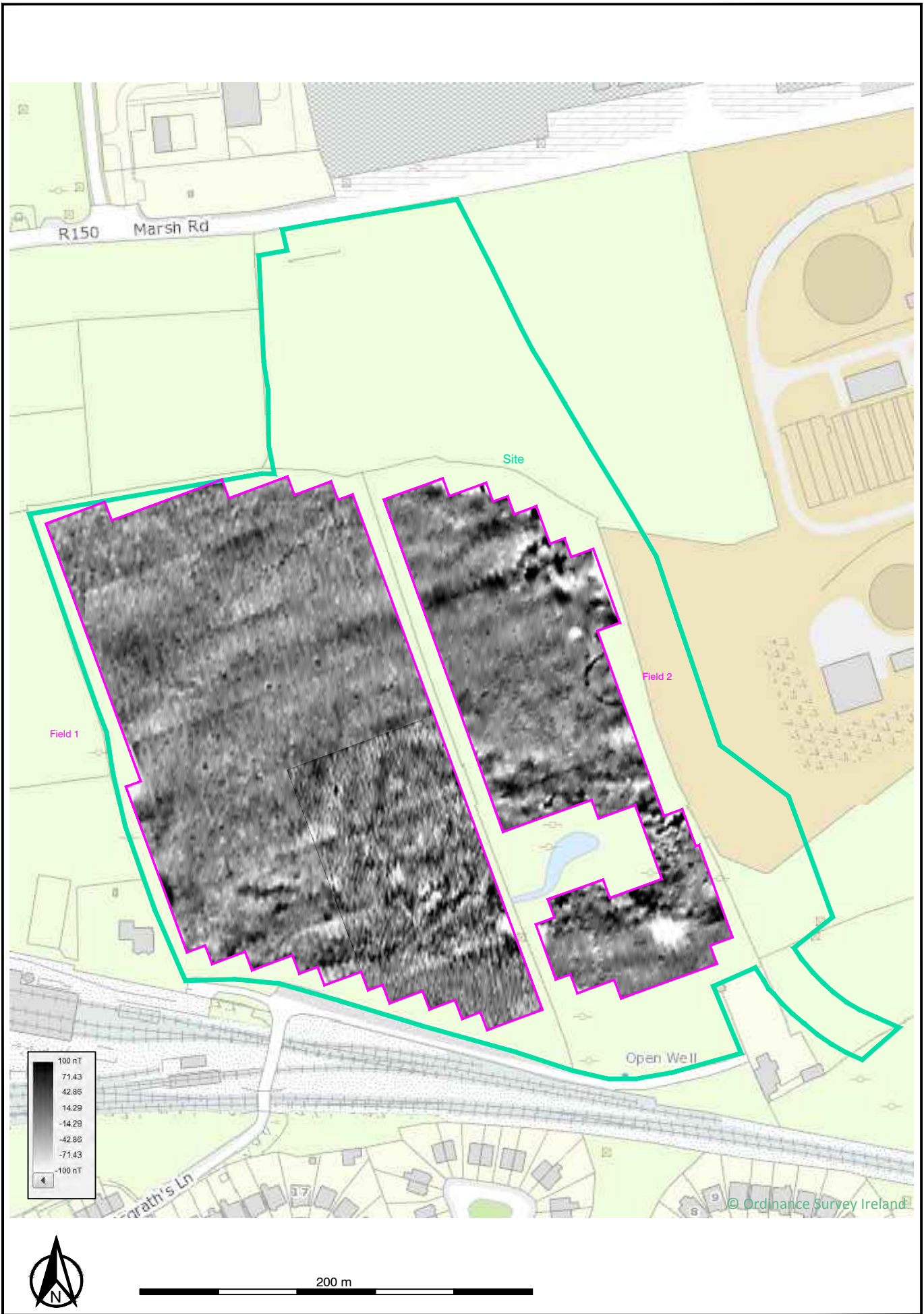
© Ordnance Survey Ireland

**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit**  
[acsu.ie](http://acsu.ie)



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
 Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report  
 Drawing Number: 1837\_C1055  
 Date: February 2019 | Scale: 1:3,000 @A4

Figure 5: Extract from 25-inch OS map (1907-9), showing location of site



© Ordnance Survey Ireland



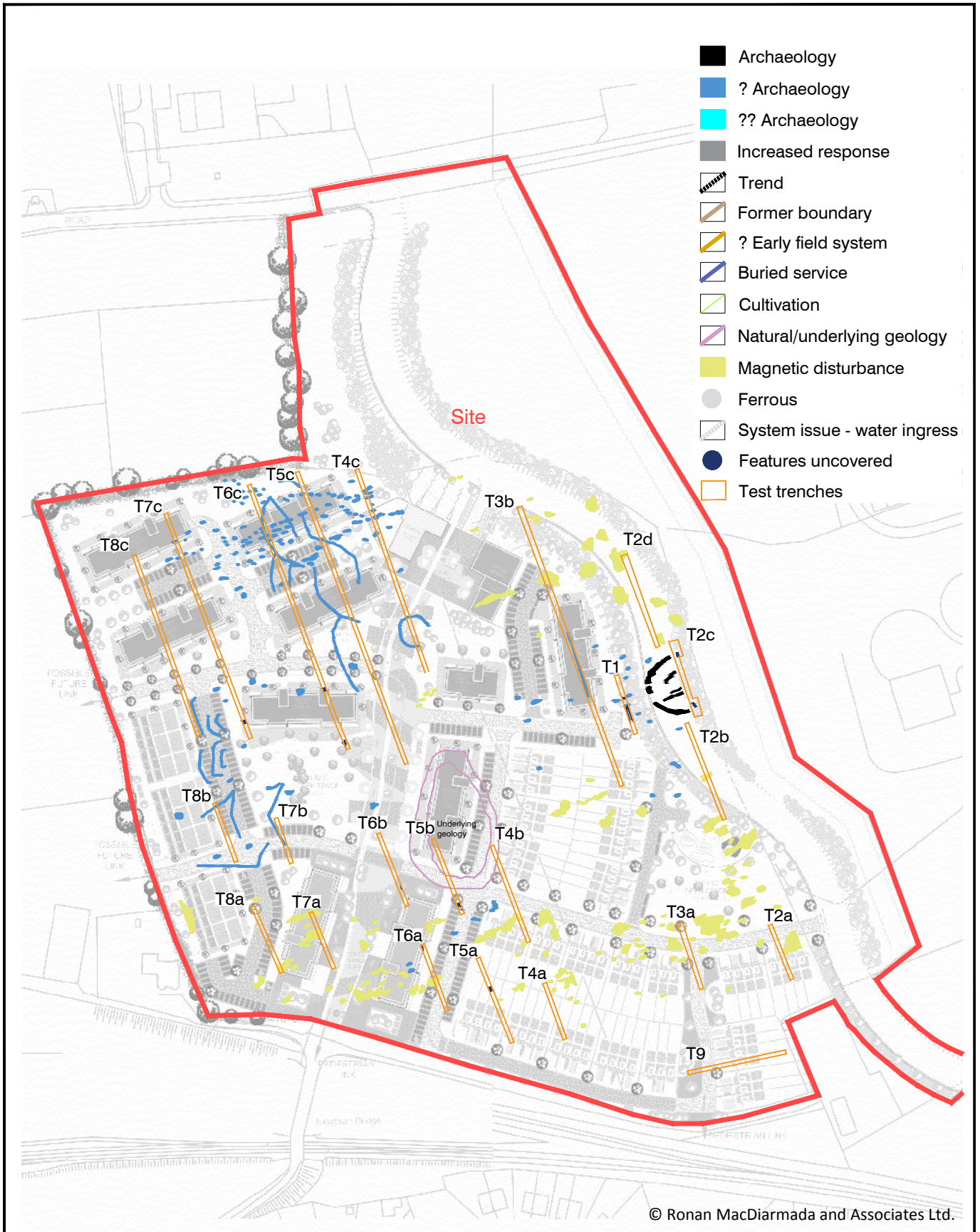
200 m

**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing Number: 1837_C1056	
Date: February 2019	Scale: As scalebar

Figure 6: Geophysical survey results (grey scale image)



100 m

**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit**  
[acsu.ie](http://acsu.ie)



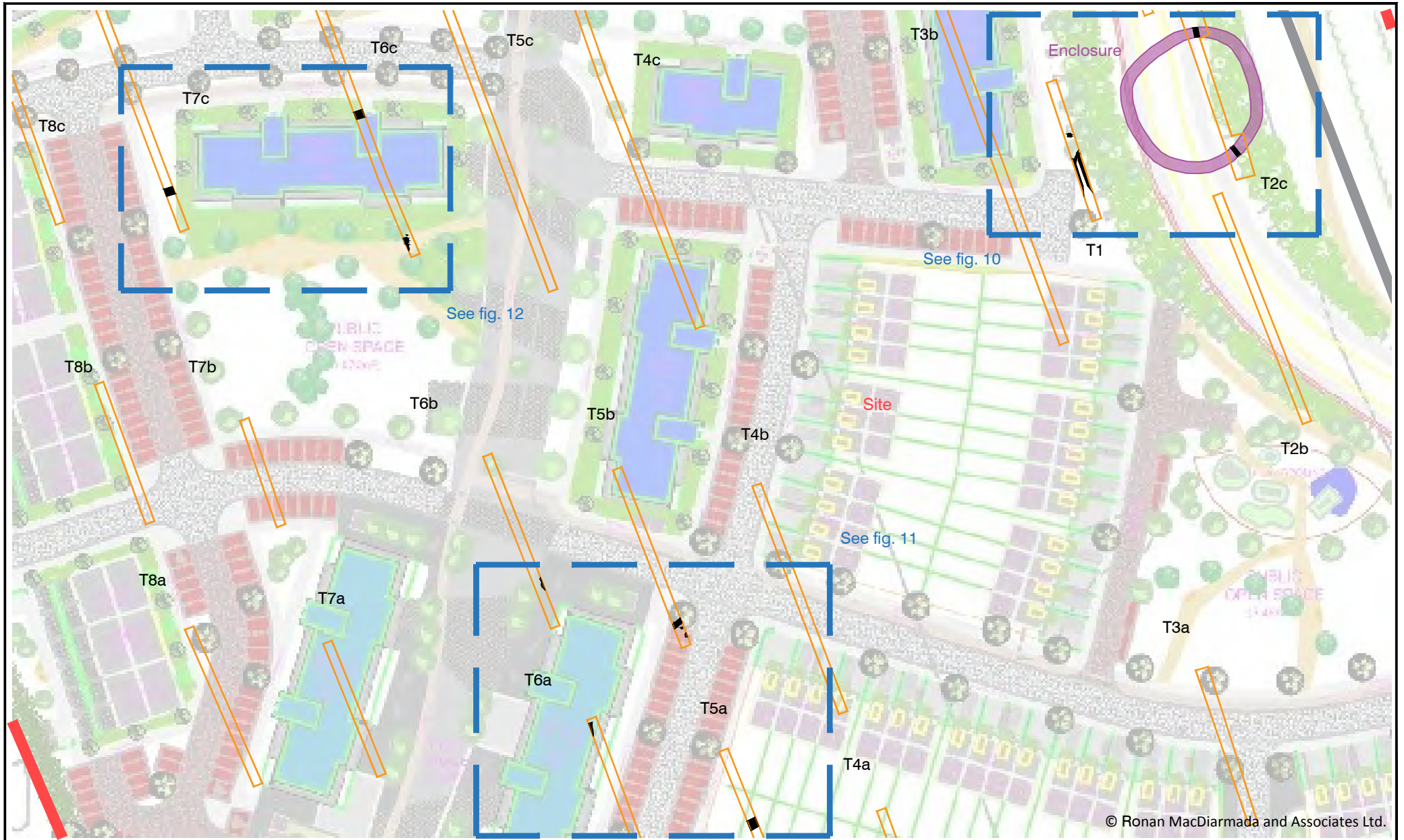
Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
 Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report  
 Drawing Number: 1837\_C1057  
 Date: February 2019 | Scale: 1:2,500 @A4

Figure 7: Plan of test trenches and features uncovered, overlaid on Geophysical survey interpretation



Figure 8: Plan of excavated test trenches overlaid on proposed development





© Ronan MacDiarmada and Associates Ltd.

50 m



**Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing number: 1837_C1059	
Date: February 2019	Scale: 1:1,000 @A4

Figure 9: Detail of uncovered features

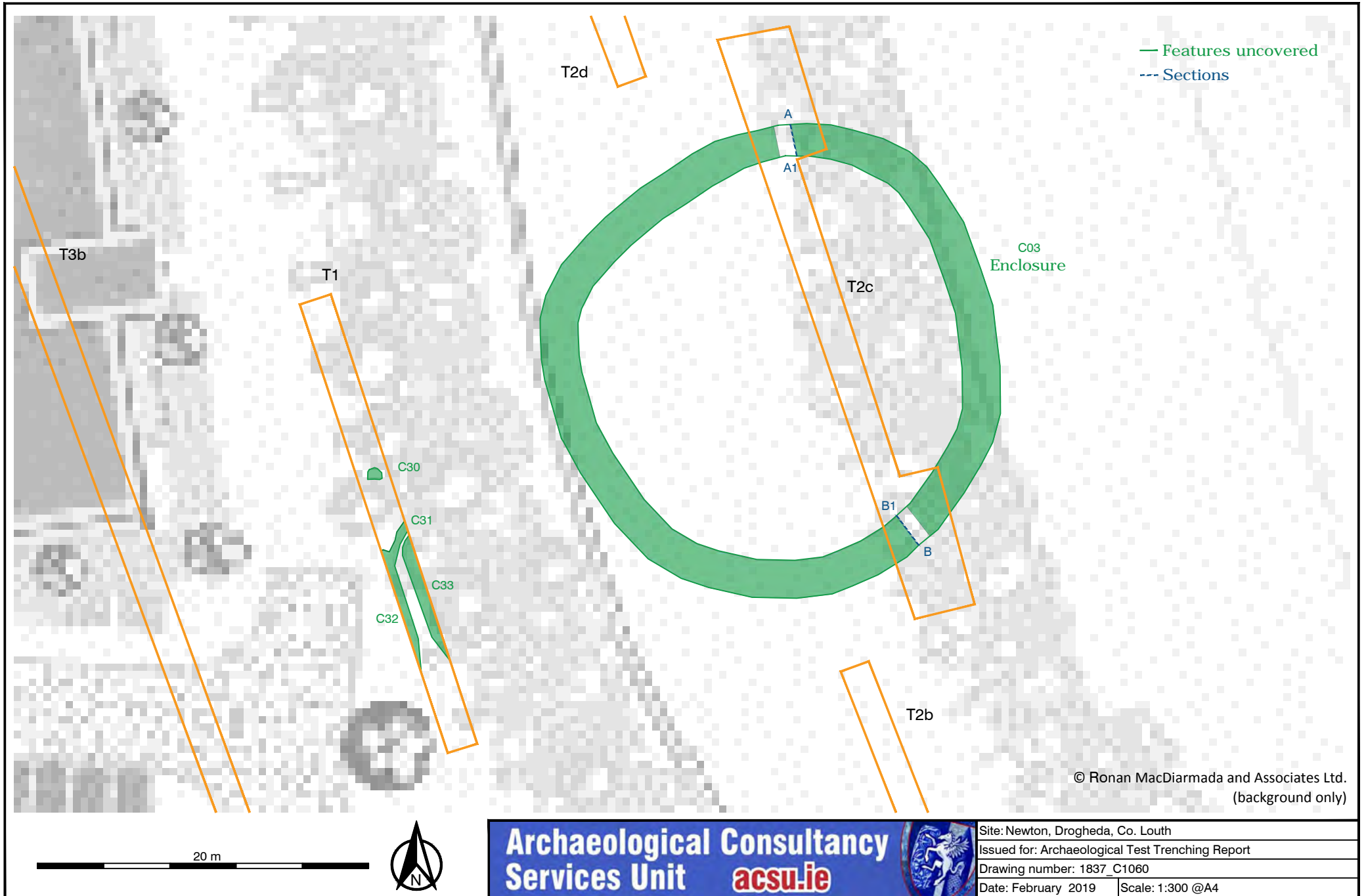


Figure 10: Detail of enclosure (trench 2c) and features uncovered in trench 1



20 m

© Ronan MacDiarmada and Associates Ltd.  
(background only)

**Archaeological Consultancy  
Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Newton, Drogheda, Co. Louth	
Issued for: Archaeological Test Trenching Report	
Drawing Number: 1837_C1061	
Date: February 2019	Scale: 1:300 @A4

Figure 11: Detail of features uncovered in trenches 5a, 5b and 6b

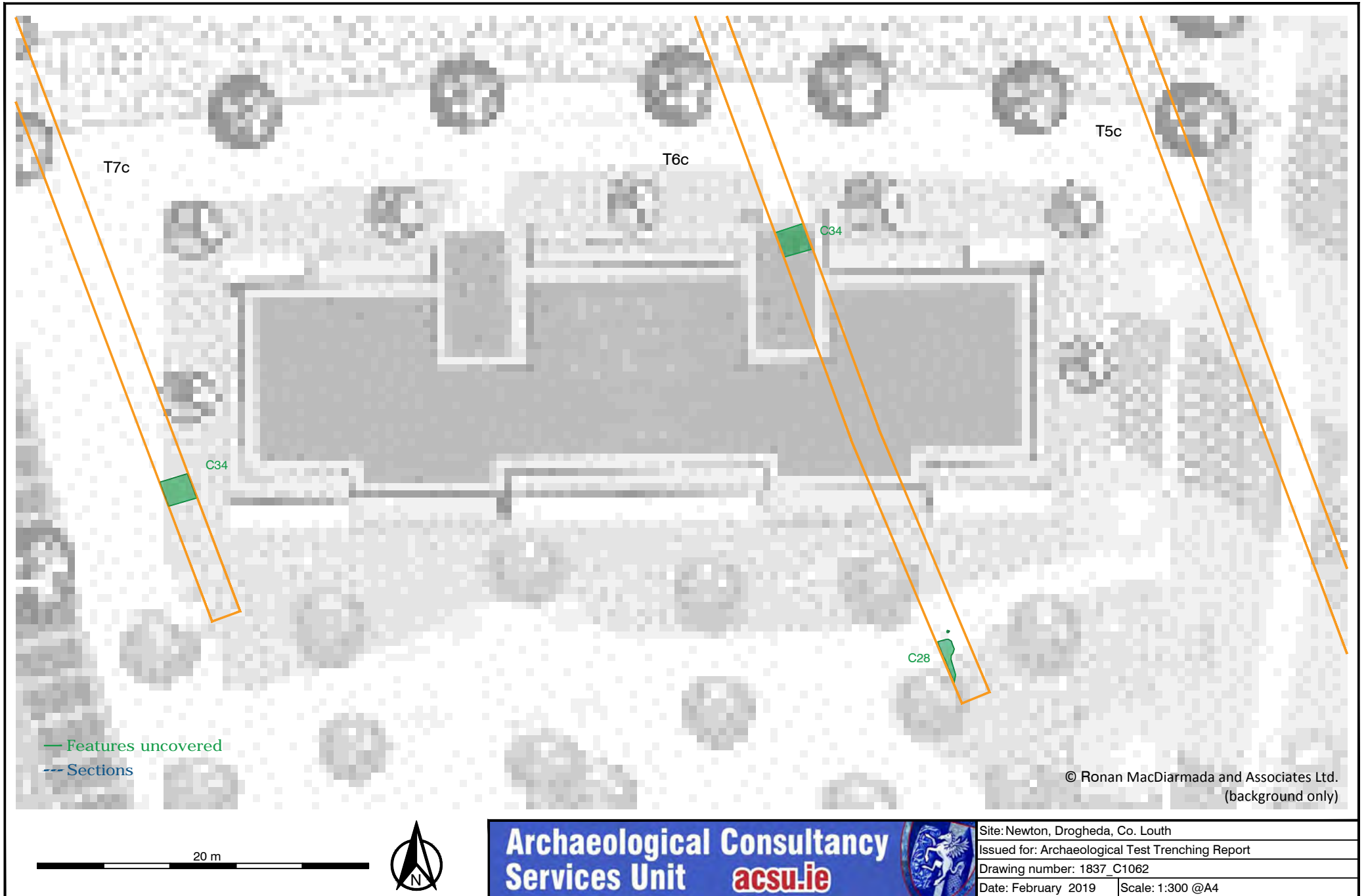


Figure 12: Detail of features uncovered in trenches 6c and 7c

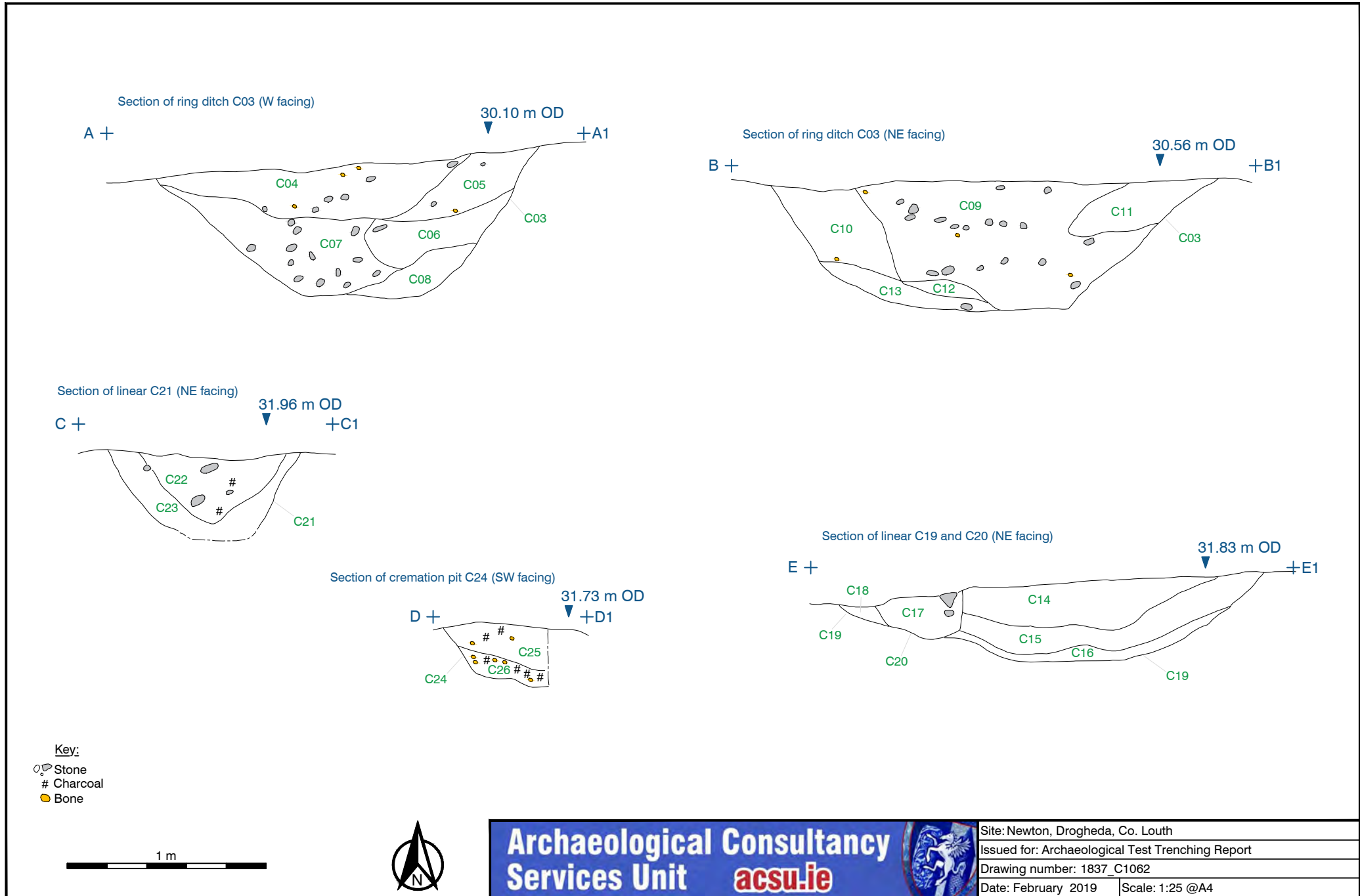


Figure 12: Detail of excavated sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Pit C30 in Trench 1, looking north



Plate 3: Linear C31 in Trench 1, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 2a, looking south



Plate 5: Trench 2b, looking south, along the plateau at top of hill



Plate 6: Pre-excavation, southern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c, looking north



Plate 7: Pre-excavation, northern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c, looking north



Plate 8: Northeast-facing section of southern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c



Plate 9: West-facing sec of northern end of enclosure ditch C03 in Trench 2c



Plate 10: Trench 2d, looking north, downhill towards the River Boyne



Plate 11: Trench 3a, looking south



Plate 12: Trench 3b, along the at plateau





Plate 13: Trench 4a, looking south



Plate 14: Trench 4b, looking north



Plate 15: Trench 4c, looking north



Plate 16: Trench 5a, looking south



Plate 17: East-facing sec through linear C19 in Trench 5a



Plate 18: Trench 5b, looking north, with C21, C24 and C27 covered



Plate 19: Features in Trench 5b, linear C21, post-hole C27 and pit C24



Plate 20: East-facing sec through linear feature C21 in Trench 5b



Plate 21: Post-hole C27 in Trench 5b, looking south



Plate 22: Pit C24 in Trench 5b, looking south



Plate 23: Section through pit C24 in Trench 5b



Plate 24: Trench 5c, looking north



Plate 25: Trench 6a, variable in natural from stone to clay deposits



Plate 26: Sterile grey sand (C2) filled depression in Trench 6b, facing south



Plate 27: Possible keyhole-shaped kiln C28 in Trench 6c, looking west



Plate 28: Possible keyhole-shaped kiln C28 in Trench 6c, looking south



Plate 29: Trench 7a, looking north



Plate 30: Trench 7b, looking north



Plate 31: Trench 7c, looking north



Plate 32: Trench 8a, looking north



Plate 33: Trench 8b, looking north



Plate 34: Trench 8c, looking north



Plate 35: Trench 8c, looking south



Plate 36: Trench 9, looking east