

Scholarstown Road, Knocklyon, Dublin 16

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Client: Ardstone Homes, 48 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin D02 EF89

Licence No: 18E0458

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Scholarstown Road, Knocklyon, Dublin 16

SITE NAME	Scholarstown Road
CLIENT	Ardstone Homes
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Assessment
LICENCE NO	N/A
PLANNING REF	N/A
TOWNLANDS	Scholarstown
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	712452, 726879 (centre of site)
RMP NO	N/A
RPS NO	N/A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Aidan O'Connell
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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	II
SUMMARY	IV
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	1
2. SITE DESCRIPTION	1
3. METHOD STATEMENT	1
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	2
4.1 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.2 RECORD OF MONUMENTS & PLACES	2
4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	3
4.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	3
4.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS	3
4.6 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	4
4.7 TEST EXCAVATION	5
4.7.1 RESULTS	6
4.7.2 LIST OF TRENCHES	6
4.7.3 LIST OF FEATURES	7
4.7.3 RINGFORT	9
4.7.4 BURIALS	9
4.7.5 INTERNAL FEATURES	10
4.7.6 EXTERNAL FEATURES	10
5. DISCUSSION	11
6. SIGNIFICANCE	13
7. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	14
7.1 CONSTRAINTS ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	14
8. IDENTIFICATION OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS	15
9. RECOMMENDATIONS	16
10. REFERENCES	17
10.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
10.2 WEB REFERENCES	17
11. APPENDIX 1 CATALOGUE OF DISARTICULATED HUMAN BONES	19

List of Tables

Table 1: Archaeological sites in the wider area of the subject site

Table 2: Cartographic sources relating to the site

Table 3: Previous archaeological excavations in Newtown and Scholarstown

Table 4: List of Trenches

Table 5: List of Features

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of site and RMP's

Figure 2: Extracts from early historical maps

Figure 3: Extracts from aerial photographs

Figure 4: Results of geophysical survey, interpretation, with location of test trenches

Figure 5: Testing results (i) location of ringfort overlaid on geophysical survey results

Figure 6: Testing results (ii) plan and section of F1 ringfort

Figure 7: Testing results (iii) Internal features and burials

Figure 8: Testing Results (iv) Agricultural features at west of subject site

Figure 9: Preliminary site layout plan and location of test trenches

Figure 10: Contour survey of site

Figure 11: Testing results in relation to preliminary site layout plan

Figure 12: Detail of proposed development at NE corner of site

List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 3; F1 East Facing Section from south

Plate 2: Trench 1; F1 from north (western side of trench)

Plate 3: Trench 4 from west; F1 ringfort ditch

Plate 4: Trench 1 from west; F1 ringfort ditch with disturbance from sewerage
trench visible in background.

Plate 5: Trench 1a from southwest in the course of archaeological recording

Plate 6: Trench 1a from south; F15 & F17

Plate 7: Trench 1a; F5 from south

Plate 8: Trench 10; F42-F43 from south

Plate 9: Trench 7; F49-F50 bowl furnaces from west

Plate 10: Trench 10; F46 from north

Plate 11: Trench 3; F51 from east

Plate 12: Trench 17; F53, east facing section

SUMMARY

This archaeological assessment undertaken on lands in Scholarstown, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Ardstone Homes. It is proposed to undertake residential development across the site. A total of 411 linear metres of initial test trenching and an additional 120 sq m of trenches were excavated at 19 locations across the testing area. Trench locations had been agreed with the National Monuments Service in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Additional trenches were excavated following the discovery of human skeletal remains in order to define the burial area within the site and following submission of a revised method statement.

The enclosure complex recorded in geophysical survey was confirmed to be an archaeological site. The site would appear to conform to the general morphology of early medieval ringforts or enclosed settlements a corroded iron knife collected from the western ditch section in Trench 1 would appear to corroborate this general dating scheme. However, human skeletal remains were recorded across the south/central quadrant of the enclosure interior. A preliminary assessment would appear to indicate the presence of 15-17 burials with the potential for the survival of more. A small amount of disarticulated human bone was collected in the course of the assessment.

The current development proposal will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site including excavations and other groundworks. This would consist of the construction of houses, roads and sewerage infrastructure across the ringfort/burial location. However the development proposal/preliminary site layout plan is largely dictated by the site topography and existing planning guidelines. Consequently, the proposed development works will have a profound negative impact on the archaeological remains at the site. Avoidance of the archaeological site recorded in this assessment would require a very substantial revision of the layout of the development, which would be difficult if not impossible to achieve at this stage of the design process.

Recommendations

1. Should this development proceed, it is recommended that the archaeological site identified in this assessment be subject to full archaeological excavation in advance of construction and carried out under licence to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.
2. Following mitigation of any impacts to the identified archaeological site, all ground disturbance works across the remainder of the development site should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

3. It is recommended that a sample of disarticulated bone collected in the course of the archaeological assessment be submitted for radiocarbon dating in order to verify the preliminary dating scheme for the site. It is noted that any proposed alteration to and export of archaeological objects is subject to approval and obtaining the appropriate licenses from the National Museum of Ireland.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DCHG may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	DRAFT	30-08-2018	AOC (Archer)	LC(Archer)	CMG
2	Final	07-09-2018	AOC (Archer)	LC(Archer)	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological assessment undertaken on lands in Scholarstown, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 (ITM 712452, 726879; Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Ardstone Homes. The assessment was undertaken in August 2018 by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.

1.1 Proposed Development

Proposals to develop the site as a residential development are well advanced and pending submission as part of the SHD (Strategic Housing Development) process. The current design, as set out, will contain 262 units which will be a mix of apartments and traditional three and four bed houses and all associated site works.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The development site comprises three fields of agricultural grazing lands with a bungalow in the centre, a further residence to the SE and a small stable block to the NW. The two fields which border Scholarstown Road are large square flat fields covered in heavy grass while the third field is a narrow E-W strip bordering the Dargle Wood housing estate to the north. Existing boundaries comprise mature trees along Scholarstown Road with a modern concrete block wall along its length, to the west there are more mature trees while the northern and eastern boundaries are modern boundary walls of the surrounding housing estates. There is a significant fall of ground from the southwest (86.5 m OD) to the northeast corner (78.5 m OD).

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)¹
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

¹ Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Floor 2, Block 6, Irish Life Centre

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

Scholarstown townland formed part of the Manor of Rathfarnham purchased, about 1589, by Adam Loftus. The earliest recorded tenant of Scholarstown House is Henry Jones who fell victim to the rebels during a sustained siege of Rathfarnham in 1641. The records of 1659 show a David Gibson in residence. Following the death of Sir Adam Loftus at the Siege of Limerick (1691), the property passed to his only daughter and, through her, to the Wharton family who dissipated their inheritance. About 1723, Speaker William Connolly acquired most of the land in the area including Scholarstown House. To this day, a part of one of the fields is known as "Connolly's freehold". Known as Schoolers Town, Schollarstone and Scholardstown, is said to derive from the family name Schollard (Ball 1905).

4.2 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie). **There are no recorded monuments located within the site itself; there are a small number of RMP sites in the wider area (Figure 1).**

Townland	RMP	Details	Distance
Knocklyon	DU022-019 Castle - tower house	Located at the foot of the Dublin Mountains off a by road that leads to Castlefield Manor housing estate. Knocklyon Castle was associated with Walter de Ridelesford in the medieval period. In the 16th century the castle was said to be ruinous but was, nevertheless, occupied in the 17th century by Piers Archbold, son of Richard Archbold of Kilmacud. It was subsequently converted into a dwelling house. The tower house rises to three storeys with a slated, hipped roof. The exterior has been pebble-dashed. It has a rectangular ground plan (int. dims. L 8.7m; Wth 5.6m) with angle towers in NE and SW angles that have plain slit opes. There is a spiral stairs in the SW tower. A fireplace has been inserted into the E wall at this level. Two-light windows have been inserted into the main floors. The tower house can also be entered through a modern opening in the SW tower. A cone-shaped roof has recently been added to the later.	1000m NW
Scholarstown	DU022-111	Fulacht Fia – no details	875m W
Scholarstown	DU022-020	Unclassified ringfort - Situated in an area of undulating grassland SE of the Dodder valley. Named on the 1843 OS 6-inch map as a roughly circular, hachured enclosure. The site was excavated in 1985 prior to motorway construction (see Section 4.5 below).	700m W

Table 1: Archaeological sites in the wider area of the subject site

4.3 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded through the eighteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 2 below (Figure 2). **No new archaeological features were recorded within the subject site.**

Map	Date	Description
1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map	1839	The subject site is partially depicted in parklands attached to a house (Sabinefields). There is a gate lodge at the southwest corner. Both structures are still standing. The eastern side of the site is agricultural land albeit lined with deciduous trees at the east. No potential archaeological features or church sites are noted on this map.
3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map	1908	The subject site is depicted as agricultural land with numerous internal divisions. The house is now marked Beech Park

Table 2: Cartographic sources relating to the site

4.4 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google Maps 2016). No potential archaeological sites were noted on the aerial photographic sources consulted (Figure 3).

4.5 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2008. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section. No excavations have been undertaken within the subject site. A limited number of archaeological excavations have taken place in the townlands of Newtown and Scholarstown, including those in advance of the M50/Southern Cross Motorway. Previous excavations have had mixed results with numerous instances of fulacht fia-type sites identified. However, excavations undertaken at RMP site DU022-020 confirmed the presence of a ringfort with an internal D-shaped structure (Table 3, 1985:26).

Licence	RMP No	OS Ref	Townland	Ex. Bull. Ref.	Author
-	DU022-020	712723, 726783	Scholarstown	1985:26	V Keeley
Excavation at Scholarstown 'fairy fort'. The ditch and bank and 3/4 of the interior of the fort were exposed. The enclosure comprised a truncated circular structure (int. diam. 24m) defined by a bank and external fosse. Excavations revealed a D-shaped wooden structure, a hearth and a series of pits and post-holes within the interior. Finds included a flint scraper and a possible loom weight.					
98E0206 98E0518	-	712359, 733373	Balrothery, Firhouse, Scholarstown, Newtown, Edmonstown, Tibradden, Ballycullen, Marley Grange, Taylor.	1998:121 1998:215	C Gracie M Reid
1998:121; Monitoring in advance of Southern Cross Motorway. A hearth and 2 burnt spreads were recorded. One of the spreads was associated with a stake-built tent-like structure. 1998:215; Excavation of burnt spreads in Scholarstown TD. Following on from 1998:121.					
99E0344	-	713326, 725528	Newtown	1999:261 2000:332	N Birmingham M Reid
1999:261; Monitoring in advance Rathfarnham Golf Club. A burnt mound and 2 burnt spreads were recorded. 2000:3323; Full excavation of the burnt mound and spreads. One of the pits/troughs associated with the mound returned a date of 3700±60 BP.					
01E1214 01E1214ext	DU014:013-	713092, 725187	Newtown	2001:456 2002:636	F Rooney M Fitzpatrick
2001:456; Testing at site of destroyed motte. No archaeology recorded. 2002:636; Further testing at DU014:013. No archaeology recorded.					
04E0940	-	712528, 725233	Oldcourt, Ballycullen, Woodtown, Newtown	2004:632	G Dehane
Monitoring followed by excavation in advance of Oldcourt Road/Stocking Lane link road. Elements of truncated fulacht fiadh activity, a pit furnace and two possible medieval ditches were recorded and subsequently excavated.					
15E0516	-	713020, 726687	Scholarstown Road	2015:350	A O'Connell
An assessment was carried out at the site of a proposed residential development on Scholarstown Road in Ballyboden, Dublin 14. Excavation of 1885 linear metres of test trench across the site revealed an elevated laneway and localized concentrations of oxidized clay. No archaeological features were recorded.					

Table 3: Previous archaeological excavations in Newtown and Scholarstown

4.6 Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey was undertaken by J Nicholls of Target Archaeological Geophysics (TAG) under licence 18R0112 (Nicholls 2018). The geophysical survey recorded a probable enclosure site in the north-eastern portion of the proposed development. It was roughly oval in form and measured c.50m N-S by 45m E-W. Extensive ferrous disturbance immediately to the N and E has prevented a more precise archaeological interpretation of the responses recorded from survey in this location. Further potential pit/linear remains were indicated to the NW at survey centre and to the SE. Elsewhere the results from geophysical survey at the site highlight patterns of former cultivation, recent buried service installations, and disturbance from modern sources of interference (Figure 4-5).

4.7 Test Excavation

The aim of test excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of potential archaeological features discovered initially through geophysical survey and to reveal the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. The test excavations were licensed (18E0458) by the DCHG and NMI under National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 and carried out between 5th-13th August 2018. During the course of the works it was established that due to the significant nature of the archaeological strata and in particular, the presence of human remains, it was considered appropriate to excavate additional trenches following consultation with the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland and, submission of a revised method statement. Following discovery of the human remains the Dublin City Coroner and local Gardaí were also notified.

Test trenching confirmed the presence of a ringfort-type enclosure as initially identified in the geophysical survey. Following the identification of archaeological features in the course of the testing and the discovery of human skeletal remains, additional trenches were opened up to better reveal the nature and extent of the enclosure complex and in particular, to better define the extent of human burial across the site. The increase in test trenching across the site was largely confined to the central area of the enclosure.

Test trenches were positioned in order to target or test the geophysical anomalies and potential archaeological sites as identified in the geophysical survey. Careful mechanical excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision, proceeding in level spits no greater than 0.2m to the top of the first archaeological horizon. Each revealed surface was inspected for archaeological remains and features recorded appropriately. All features identified within the trenches were tested to determine their extent, composition and depth and to ascertain potential dating material. An osteo-archaeologist was retained on site to examine all bone remains and to assist in the supervision of topsoil removal. Trenches in the vicinity of the burials were therefore subject to careful mechanical excavation under constant archaeological supervision from the osteo-archaeologist and the site director. All recorded burials were left in-situ and covered with protective membrane of heavy-duty builders plastic covered with sod and topsoil before mechanical re-instatement of topsoil proceeded across the site. A limited amount of disarticulated human bone was collected and retained in the course of the test-excavation.

4.7.1 Results

A total of 19 trenches were excavated across the site. The location, dimensions and stratigraphy of these trenches are outlined in Tables 4-5. Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.4m to 0.5m over the area, although deeper areas of overburden were encountered on the eastern side of the site in the vicinity of existing sewerage infrastructure (surface and foul water sewers). The possible ringfort identified by TAG was identified in the excavated trenches, and confirmed as archaeological. The main archaeological findings from the site are detailed below (see Figures 4-8).

4.7.2 List of Trenches

Trench	Dimensions (m) (LxBxD)	Orientation	Associated features
1	68.5 x 2 x 0.75	E-W	F1, F2-F36
2	18 x 2 x 0.75	NE-SW	-
3	22 x 2 x 0.5	N-S	F1, F51.
4	21 x 2 x 0.4	NW-SE	F1
5	10 x 2 x 0.45	E-W	-
6	10 x 2 x 0.45	E-W	-
7	35 x 2 x 0.4	N-S	F49, F50
8	29 x 2 x 0.45	N-S	-
9	10 x 2 x 0.45	N-S	-
10	18 x 2 x 0.45	E-W	F38-F47
11	10 x 2 x 0.5	E-W	-
12	20 x 2 x 0.5	E-W	-
13	20 x 2 x 0.55	NW-SE	-
14	20 x 2 x 0.45	NW-SE	-
15	20 x 2 x 0.5	NW-SE	-
16	20 x 2 x 0.5	N-S	-
17	20 x 2 x 0.5	NE-SW	F52-F55
18	20 x 2 x 0.45	NW-SE	-
19	20 x 2 x 0.45	E-W	-

Table 4: List of Trenches

4.7.3 List of Features

Feature	Trench	Type	Description
1	1, 3, 4	Ditch	Ringfort ditch. 3.42m wide x 1.61m deep. Enclosing an area of 59m E/W x c. 55m N/S. Ditch appears to have been disturbed by surface water sewer on southern and north-eastern sides. 1 corroded iron knife blade was collected from the upper fill of the ditch on the western side of Trench 1
2	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with redeposited boulder clay fills. 0.8m N/S x 0.66m E/W.
3	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay fill. 1.83m NW-SE x 0.64m wide.
4	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.2m x 0.3m
5	1a	Grave cuts	Irregular area with redeposited boulder clay fills. 1.6m N/S x 2.8m E/W. Human remains recorded on upper surface of this feature including 1 possibly articulated juvenile burial comprising 1 skull and various unidentified bone fragments. Additional bone remains comprised 1 pelvis and 1 humerus to the immediate east of the articulated burial; 2 skull fragments to the west and 1 vertebra, 1 pelvic fragment and 1 long bone (unidentified) at the northwest. This grave may comprise multiple grave cuts.
6	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.88m E/W x 1.05m N/S
7	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.96m N/S x 0.4m E/W
8	1a	?Grave cut	Triangular in plan with rounded corners and grey brown silty clay fill. 3 unidentified human bone fragments recorded on upper surface. 0.73m E/W x 0.58m N/S.
9	1a	Hearth	Irregular patch of oxidised clay. 2.5m E/W x 1.7m N/S. Appears to be cut by (i.e. earlier than) multiple grave cuts.
10	1a	Posthole	Possible posthole with grey brown silty clay fills. 0.2m diameter.
11	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.85m E/W x 0.35m N/S
12	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with redeposited boulder clay fills. 0.55m N/S x 0.5m E/W. Cut by F13.
13	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.35m E/W x 0.75m N/S. Cuts F12.
14	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.8m E/W x 0.5m N/S.
15	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.5m NE/SW x 0.75m NW/SE. 1 unidentified human bone fragment at southwest of cut.
16	1a	Pit	Sub-circular area with grey brown silty clay fills. 0.75m diameter.
17	1a	?Grave cut	Irregular patch of grey-brown silty clay. 1.1m E/W x 1.25m N/S.
18	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 2m E/W x 0.7m N/S
19	-	-	-
20	1a	?Grave cuts	Irregular patch of grey brown silty clay. 4.4m E/W x 1.45m N/S. 4 fragments of unidentified human bone recorded on surface towards north of this feature.
21	1a	Posthole	Circular in plan with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.3m diameter.
22	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.65m E/W x 0.4m N/S. 2 fragments of unidentified human bone recorded on surface to east of cut.
23	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with redeposited boulder clay fills. 0.6m E/W x 0.3m N/S.
24	1a	?Pit	Circular in plan with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.6m diameter.
25	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay fill. 1.52m E/W x 0.6m N/S. 1 unidentified human bone fragment recorded on surface at centre of cut.
26	1a	?Grave cuts	Irregular sub-rectangular areas with grey brown silty clay fill. 2 human long bone fragments recorded on surface of feature at the north.
27	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay

			fill. 1.1m E/W x 0.4m N/S.
28	1a	?Grave cut	Sub-circular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.5m diameter. 1 human meta-tarsal recorded on surface at north of pit.
29	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.4m x 0.4m and extending beyond eastern side of cutting.
30	1a	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with redeposited boulder clay fill. 0.6m E/W x 0.3m N/S. 1 human long bone fragment recorded on surface.
31	1a	?Posthole	Sub-circular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.4m diameter.
32	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.55m E/W x 0.64m N/S.
33	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.15m E/W x 0.5m N/S.
34	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay fill. 1.15m E/W x 0.4m N/S.
35	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and mixed fill comprising grey brown silty clay at the extremities and redeposited boulder clay in the central portion. 1.73m E/W x 0.35m N/S.
36	1a	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.15m E/W x 0.4m N/S. Extended beyond southern excavation cutting.
37	8	Burial	Partial pelvis fragment. No grave cut visible.
38	8	Burial	2 parallel long bones. Most likely femur or tibia; poor condition; 20cm long and aligned E/W. No grave cut visible.
39	10	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay fill. 2.18m E/W x 0.75m N/S. Unidentified human bone fragments recorded on surface.
40	10	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.2m N/S x 0.92m E/W. 2 small fragments of human bone (unidentified) recorded on surface.
41	10	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with rounded corners and redeposited boulder clay fill. 1m E/W x 0.2m N/S. Extended beyond north of cutting. 2 small fragments of unidentified bone recorded at surface.
42	10	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.9m E/W x 0.4m N/S. Extended beyond northern side of cutting. 4 human bone fragments identified at surface, comprising 1 x long bone, 1 femur and 2 unidentified. Appears to cut Ditch F43.
43	10	Drain/Ditch	Ditch/Drain 0.5m wide by 2m long. Grey brown silty clay fill. Cut by F42.
44	10	?Grave cut	Sub oval area with redeposited boulder clay fill. 0.65m E/W x 0.9m N/S. 1 unidentified bone fragment recorded on surface.
45	10	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.1m N/S x 0.5m E/W. 1 fragment of unidentified human bone recorded on surface. Feature extended beyond southern side of trench.
46	10	?Kiln	Irregular figure of eight shape in plan with grey brown silty clay fill. 0.8m NE/SW x 0.6m NW/SE. Some heat reddened/oxidised clay noted along perimeter on western side.
47	10	?Grave cut	Sub rectangular area with grey brown silty clay fill. 1.5m E/W x 0.6m N/S. 1 single adult rib noted on surface.
48	-	-	-
49	7	Bowl furnace	Sub circular feature with central dark fill and iron slag surrounded by a ring of oxidised clay. 0.32m diameter.
50	7	Bowl Furnace	Sub circular feature with central dark fill surrounded by a ring of oxidised clay. 1.2m N/S x 0.54m E/W. Extended beyond eastern side of trench.
51	3	Furrow	Furrow 1.8m long (EW) x 0.46m wide by 0.2m deep. Grey brown silty clay fill.
52	17	Furrow	Furrow. 0.6m long x 0.6m wide.
53	17	Furrow	Furrow. 2m long x 0.6m wide.
54	17	Furrow	Furrow. 1.8m long x 0.6m wide.
55	17	Furrow	Furrow. 1.1m long x 0.6m wide.

Table 5: List of Features

4.7.3 Ringfort

The ringfort ditch was identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 (Figures 5-6; Plates 1-4). A single box section was excavated through the ditch in Trench 3. This confirmed the feature as archaeological with dimensions of 3.42m wide by 1.61m deep. There were 2 recorded fills. These were a 0.25m thick layer of grey brown silty clay overlying compact orange brown clay. Some animal bone was observed in the lower fill of the ditch. Also, a corroded tanged iron knife blade was collected from the upper fill in Trench 1 (western side) and is indicative of an early medieval date. The eastern and north-eastern sides of the ditch appear to have been previously disturbed by the insertion of foul and surface water sewers along the eastern site boundary. Consequently, no trace of the ditch was recorded to the northeast in Trench 2 (Figure 5). The southern side of the ditch may also have been disturbed by the insertion of a foul sewage trench which was detected in the geophysical survey, and constrained the excavation of additional archaeological test trenches in this area. An apparent break in the ringfort ditch at the southwest side was confirmed by test trenching and may mark an entrance to the site.

4.7.4 Burials

Human bone was initially identified in Trench 1 towards the centre of the ringfort (F5; see Figure 7). This comprised a juvenile skull associated with unidentified fragments to the east. Further east a pelvis and humerus were identified. Two additional skull fragments and 1 vertebra were later identified to the west along with 1 pelvic fragment and 1 long bone (unidentified) at the northwest. Subsequently, an area of c. 120 sq. m was stripped around this central area and additional linear test trenches were excavated (Plates 5-8). In total 34 possible grave cuts were identified (F2-F8, F11-F15, F17, F18, F22, F23, F25-F30, F32-F36, F39-F42, F44, F45 & F47). Three of these potential graves are likely to hold multiple burials (F5, F20 & F26). Human skeletal remains were identified within 15 of these features (F5, F8, F15, F20, F22, F25, F26, F30, F39-F42, F44, F45 & F47). Two additional burials (F37 & F38) were identified to the east of the main burial concentration in Trench 8, without any associated grave cut. A further 3 individuals were recognised in the assemblage of disarticulated remains (see Appendix 1). It was not possible to identify each bone to type as excavation/clearance works were restricted in order to limit disturbance to in-situ human remains. It would appear that the greatest concentration of burials is located towards the south/central area of the ringfort enclosure. As no features were recorded in Trenches 5, 6 or 11, it could be suggested that burial is largely confined to this south/central area (Figure 7).

4.7.5 Internal features

A limited number of archaeological features were recorded on the enclosure interior. These included 2 bowl furnaces (F49-F50) on the southern side of Trench 7 (Figure 7; Plate 9). These may be indicative of craft or industrial activity and may pre-date the occupation of the ringfort. An area of in-situ burning (F9) was recorded in Trench 1a and appears to be earlier than some of the burials. One potential kiln (F46) was recorded in Trench 10 and may be associated with early medieval cereal processing (Plate 10). The remaining internal features comprised 3 postholes (F10, F21 & F31) 2 pits (F16 & F24) and 2 linear features/small ditches (F43 & F51; Plate 11) which may indicate settlement within the enclosure interior.

4.7.6 External features

A total of 4 furrows (F52-F55) were recorded at the west of the development site roughly 190m SW of the enclosure in trenches 17-18 (Figure 8; Plate 12). These are probably the result of agricultural activity in relatively recent times.

5. DISCUSSION

A total of 411 linear metres of test trenching and an additional 120 sq m of trenches were excavated at 19 locations across the testing area. Trench locations had been agreed with the National Monuments Service in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Additional trenches were excavated following the discovery of human skeletal remains in order to define the burial area within the site and following submission of a revised method statement.

The enclosure recorded in geophysical survey was confirmed to be an archaeological site. The site would appear to conform to the general morphology of early medieval ringforts or enclosed settlements (generally circular space surrounded by a single bank and fosse with an entrance on the eastern/southeast side; Stout 1997, 14–22). A corroded iron knife collected from the western ditch section in Trench 1 would appear to corroborate this general dating scheme. However, the identification of human burial associated with the enclosure might suggest that the enclosure was initially established before the 7th century AD when burial at formal church cemeteries became more common (see O’Sullivan *et al* 2008).

Ringforts were the farms or homesteads of early medieval farmers and are the most common form of early medieval site recorded in the country at large. These sites were largely constructed in the period 600–900 AD but often have evidence of occupation into the eleventh century or after (for a general discussion see O’Sullivan *et al* 2008). There were no significant archaeological inclusions or waterlogged deposits noted in the excavated ditch section. No domestic structures were noted on the enclosure interior; however, a possible kiln-type feature (F46), 2 bowl furnaces (F49-F50), a large patch of in-situ burning (F9) and a small number of postholes are indicative of settlement activity.

The discovery of human remains on the ringfort interior is notable. In total, 34 possible grave cuts were recorded. In many instances, the identification of grave cuts is a preliminary interpretation which is influenced by the proximity of these features to identified human skeletal remains. Further excavation may indicate that some of these features may constitute pits, postholes and/or other settlement evidence. Skeletal remains were identified within 15 of the identified cuts, and 2 further locations with no apparent grave cuts (Figure 7). Also a further 3 individuals were recognised in the small assemblage of disarticulated remains. A preliminary assessment would indicate that there are a minimum of 17 burials at this location with more potentially surviving.

The burials may be broadly contemporary with the settlement of the ringfort and/or be indicative of re-use of the monument as a burial ground after its abandonment. They were recorded under 0.4-0.5m of

topsoil and appear to be clustered within the south-central portion of the ringfort interior (i.e. Trench 1a, Trench 6 and Trench 10). It is notable that no further burials were recorded within Trenches 5-6 (at the north), Trench 9 (at the east), Trench 11 (at the south) or, Trench 7 (to the west). It could therefore be inferred that burial is confined to the south-central area (circa 670 sq. m; see Figure 5 & 7). The recorded human remains at the site were in generally poor condition. However, these may represent the upper levels of internment with further burials located at lower levels. It was not possible in the course of the current assessment to undertake more extensive or invasive hand excavations.

There is no indication from early cartographic sources or from the Record of Monuments and Places for the existence of a church at the subject site. However, there is evidence from the current testing for an early medieval enclosed settlement with human burial recorded on the enclosure interior. This suggests that the Scholarstown Road enclosure is one of a growing number of enclosed early medieval sites that are not exclusively secular or ecclesiastical in character. These can be termed settlement/cemeteries (O'Sullivan et al 2008) or secular cemeteries (Stout & Stout 2008) and are defined by a large, rounded or oval enclosure, but generally, not circular that contains evidence of burials but also of occupation, or at least non-funerary activity (O'Sullivan et al 2008, 175). O'Sullivan et al list 22 of these sites excavated in the period 1930-2004. These include 2 sites which were previously excavated in advance of development works in the south county Dublin area. For example, at Mount Offaly, Cabinteely, 1553 inhumation burials, 2 charnel pits and additional disarticulated remains were recorded within an enclosure comprising 3 successive ditches. Associated settlement evidence comprised a metal working furnace and cobbled floors. The burials were dated from the fifth-tenth century AD (Conway 1999). At Site 18, Cherrywood, 39 inhumation burials were recorded within an earth-cut enclosure, as was a contemporary domestic structure comprising a sunken area with a U-shaped setting of post- and stakeholes. Burial at this site was dated from the fifth-ninth century AD (O'Neill 2010).

On the basis of the iron knife from the ringfort ditch at the subject site and the excavation evidence from neighbouring sites at Cabinteely and Cherrywood, it is suggested that the Scholarstown Road settlement/cemetery can be broadly dated to the early medieval period (AD 400-1200). However, it should be noted that later burials have been recorded at similar sites in the later- and post-medieval periods and that some sites were re-used as cillín burial grounds (e.g. Johnstown, Co. Meath; Clarke 2008). Also, some early medieval settlements were similarly re-used as formal burial grounds in the post-medieval period. At Alexander Reid, Navan, Co. Meath a burial ground containing 37 individuals was established on the site of an early medieval ringfort in the 17th century (McGlade 2017). No environmental samples were collected from the site. However, a small amount of disarticulated bones were collected and are listed in Appendix 1.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

This assessment of significance follows the criteria listed in Appendix 2 of the Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (Anon. 2006, 51).

Criteria	Description
Existing Status	The site is not listed on the published Record of Monuments and Places and has no current statutory protection.
Condition/ Preservation	There is no visible surface expression of this monument, which was initially identified by geophysical survey. The main elements of the monument (i.e. the enclosure ditch and associated burials) are not visible and yielded no evidence for excellent preservation of ecofacts within the sectioned archaeological deposits or extensive survival of artefacts. However, the enclosure complex is potentially the surviving remains of an enclosed settlement cemetery with surviving human skeletal remains.
Documentation	Not applicable
Group Value	Not applicable
Rarity	Ringforts are the most common type of early medieval monument and the second most common field monument in the country.
Visibility	The site is not visible from the ground.
Vulnerability	The monument is in a Greenfield setting; its location and potential significance is known to the landowner and has been reported to the statutory authorities. There is no immediate threat from its current land use.
Amenity Value	None. The site is privately owned and not visible at ground level.

Table 6: Significance Criteria

Following this examination of the criteria, it is suggested that the identified site is currently of medium-high significance. While it is a good example of its type, it is a commonly encountered monument. However, the initial assessment has identified significant associated archaeological potential in the form of human burial. Future excavations at the site may provide additional information to enable a fuller assessment of its significance.

7. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The development proposal, as currently set out, provides for 262 housing units and a crèche facility, roads, sewerage and water infrastructure, provision of car parking spaces and all associated site works. Proposed housing units at the north, east and western site boundary back onto existing housing developments, with usable open green space interspersed throughout the scheme. Proposed open green space includes an area to the northeast of the subject site, providing connectivity to green space located adjacent to existing housing at Dargle Wood and Scholarstown Park (Figure 9). This north-eastern green space also provides for surface water attenuation and tie-ins with the existing surface- and foul-water infrastructure.

7.1 Constraints on proposed development

There are significant constraints on the design and layout of the development proposal, relating to Planning Guidelines and the physical site topography. These are outlined below.

7.1.1 Site Topography

There is a natural fall in ground levels within the subject site, enabling drainage from the south west to the north east corner. The high point at the southwest side lies at 86.5 m OD. From here the ground falls to 78.5 m at the northeast (Figure 10). This topography is a major constraint on both existing and proposed sewerage infrastructure. Existing foul and surface-water sewers are located along the eastern site boundary. They fall towards the northeast corner, discharging to public drainage infrastructure located below the parkland at the northeast of the site. This is a critical factor in the design of proposed services. These will fall towards the low point at the northeast corner where they can discharge to the existing public drainage infrastructure. This proposed drainage strategy is therefore dictated by the site topography and the location of existing infrastructure.

7.1.2 Planning Guidelines

The subject lands occupy an infill site located within the Dublin City Metropolitan Area. The National Planning Framework² prioritises accommodating new housing on infill and consolidation sites within the Metropolitan Area. This maximises the use of and investment in sustainable transportation modes,

² <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf> [see National Policy Objectives 35 & 68]

existing water services infrastructure, and established community, educational, recreational and employment infrastructure.

The Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas³ set out the principles to be adopted in the provision of public open spaces in new developments. This National policy guidance and best practice establish that open spaces should be centrally located and edged by houses/apartments to maximise passive surveillance, security, and amenity. Therefore, provision of additional open space at the northeast of the subject site would impact significantly on the proposed layout. Consequently, it would not result in well located, usable open space. Furthermore, provision of open green space to the rear of existing housing at Dargle Wood and Scholarstown Park would not be centrally located or recommended from a planning viewpoint.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The current development proposal will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site including excavations and other groundworks (e.g. provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machines and storage of material in sensitive areas. It is noted that there are currently 12 houses proposed either partially or wholly within the footprint of the ringfort (Figure 11). It is also proposed to tie into existing foul and surface water infrastructure at the northeast corner of the site. The proposed service lines are routed under planned public roads, reflecting the site topography and enabling drainage to the northeast corner. The site's proposed surface water attenuation facility is also located in this area. Within the current proposal the proposed service lines will cut through the ringfort interior and the area where human remains were recorded (Figure 12). Insertion of these services would require the excavation of a 4m wide trench and an adjacent works corridor. The extent of disturbance from previous sewerage works as indicated from the results of geophysical survey at the east of the site is illustrated on Figures 11-12.

The potential impact is based on Appendix 4 of the Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (Anon. 2006, 54). It is concluded that the proposed development works will have a profound negative impact on the archaeological remains at the site.

³ <https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,19164,en.pdf> [Sections 4.18 and 4.22 deal with qualitative aspects of open space provision and highlight the importance of passive surveillance of spaces.]

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) outlines the State's general principles in relation to the management and protection of archaeological heritage. This document outlines that avoidance of developmental impacts on archaeological heritage and preservation in situ of archaeological sites and monuments are always the preferred option. However, in this case, there are significant constraints on the design and layout of the proposed scheme from relevant planning guidelines and, in particular, the natural physical topography and the requirements of foul- and surface-water drainage (see above). Avoidance of the archaeological site recorded in this assessment would require a very substantial revision of the layout of the development, which would be difficult to achieve given the nature and type of development proposed.

Recommendation 1

Should this development proceed, it is recommended that the archaeological site identified in this assessment be subject to full archaeological excavation in advance of construction and carried out under licence to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Recommendation 2

Following mitigation of any impacts to the identified archaeological site, all ground disturbance works across the remainder of the development site should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that a sample of disarticulated bone collected in the course of the archaeological assessment be submitted for radiocarbon dating in order to verify the preliminary dating scheme for the site. It is noted that any proposed alteration to and export of archaeological objects is subject to approval and obtaining the appropriate licenses from the National Museum of Ireland.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DCHG may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

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<https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload.19164.en.pdf> [accessed 6 September 2018].



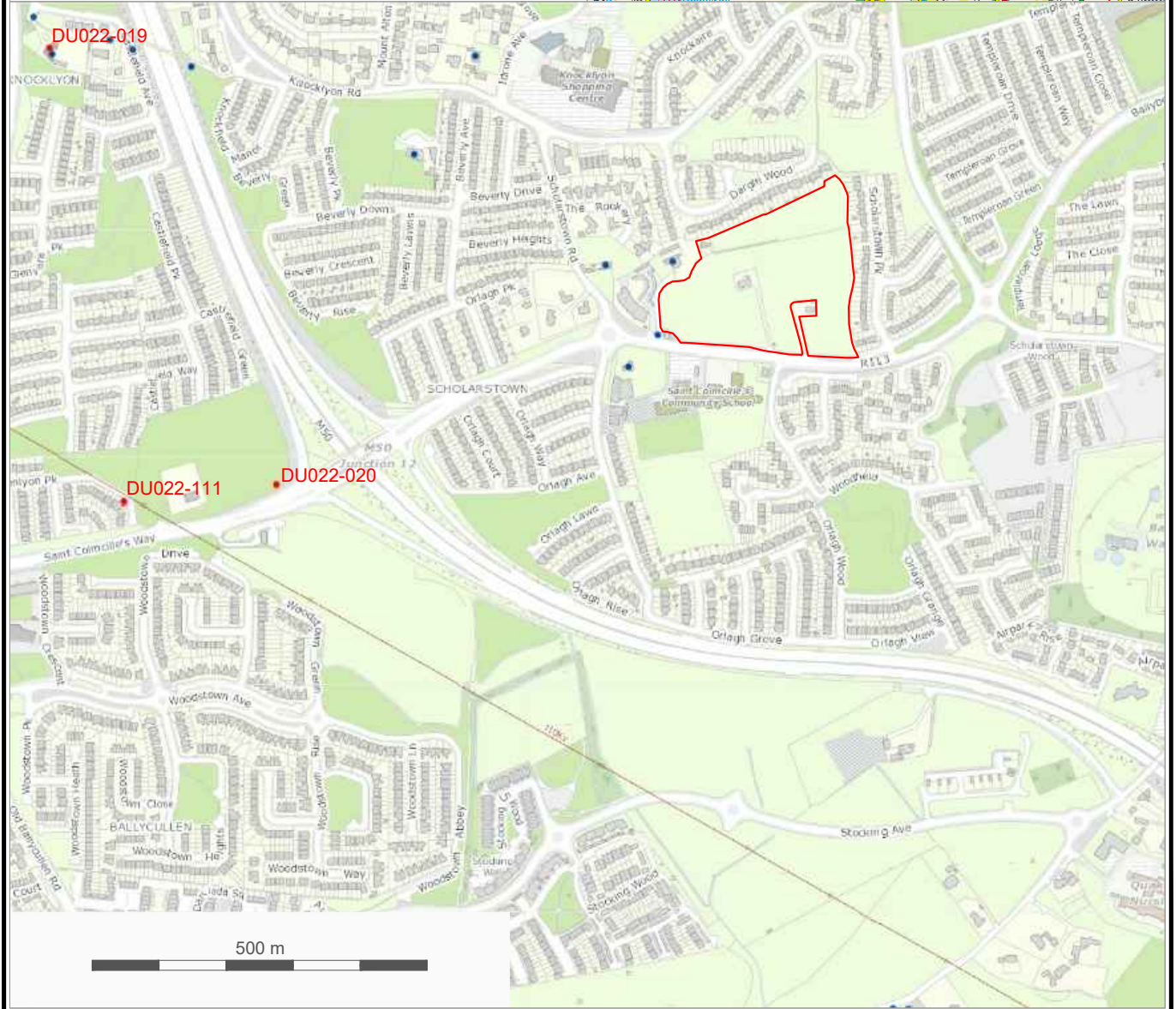
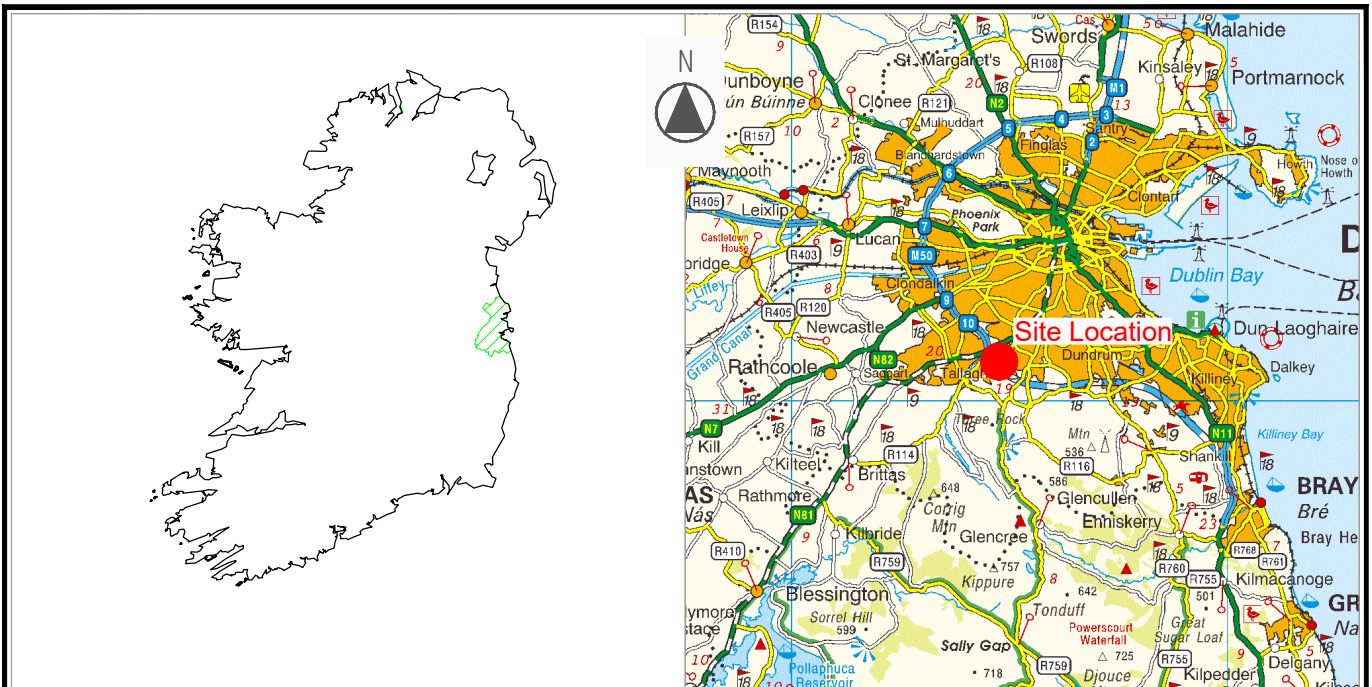
Aidan O'Connell BA

7 September 2018

11. APPENDIX 1 CATALOGUE OF DISARTICULATED HUMAN BONES*Maeve McCormick MSc*

Disarticulated human bone was collected from the surface of Trench 1a and Trench 7. A total of 58 fragments were collected at Trench 1a, representing 2 or more individuals. The dentition, fibula and humerus are all juvenile in age (less than 8 years of age). The phalanx, ulna and metatarsal are all adult in age, based on epiphyseal fusion and size of bone. A further 25 fragments were collected from Trench 7. These appear to represent the remains of a singular adult individual based on epiphyseal fusion and size of bone. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) from the disarticulated assemblage is 3; an adult within Trench 7 and both an adult and juvenile in Trench 1a.

Bone No.	Trench	Description
1	1a	Small Fragment of right maxilla containing juvenile maxillary premolar (pm2) and molar (m1) with unerupted premolar (PM2) within crypt, Juvenile in age (Less than 10yrs of age)
2	1a	Fragment of occipital plate; thickness of bone suggests juvenile
3	1a	Fibula shaft fragment; diameter of bone suggests juvenile
4	1a	Humerus shaft fragment; diameter of bone suggests sub adult/ juvenile; bad condition
5	1a	M1 Proximal phalanx; fused at proximal and distal epiphyses; adult in size, bad condition
6	1a	Left S1 fragment, showing partial (left side) S1 proximal sacrum articular facet and partial transverse process, unable to determine age
7	1a	Fragment of proximal ulnar head; partial articular facet; appears to be fully fused and adult in size; bad condition
8	1a	Right proximal MT4 (proximal third); fully fused epiphysis; adult in size; badly damaged and laminated mid shaft
9	1a	Fragment of unerupted molar (in two parts); completely unworn; roots not yet calcified; most likely from damaged maxilla, possibly relating to #1, Juvenile in age(less than 8 yrs of age)
10	1a	Loose; unerupted maxillary lateral incisor; Not within maxillary bone; Root and enamel not yet fully calcified; completely unworn; most likely relating to damaged maxilla #1, Juvenile in age(less than 8 yrs of age)
11	1a	Loose; unerupted maxillary central incisor; Not within maxillary bone; Root and enamel not yet fully calcified; completely unworn/unerupted; most likely relating to damaged maxilla #1, Juvenile in age (less than 8 yrs of age)
12	1a	Maxillary fragment displaying crypts for unerupted dentition, bad condition; most likely relating to damaged maxilla #1; Juvenile in age
13-17	1a	Unidentifiable long bone fragments x5
18-19	1a	Juvenile rib fragments x2
20-30	1a	Juvenile vertebral fragments x 10, transverse processes
31-39	1a	Unidentifiable flat bone (Skull, pelvis, rib, scapula) fragments x9
40-58	1a	Unidentifiable fragments x 18 (less than 20mm diameter)
59	7	Femur, mid shaft fragment, Adult in size
60	7	Left MT5; Proximal half; fully fused epiphysis; adult in size
61	7	Fibula; shaft fragment; adult in size; bad condition
62	7	Tibia; medial- distal epiphysis fragment; fully fused, adult in size
63	7	Tibia; mid shaft fragment; adult in size; bad condition
64	7	Humerus; Humeral head fragment; adult in size; bad condition
65	7	Fibula; fibula shaft fragment; adult in size; v. bad condition
66	7	Left MT4; Proximal third; fully fused epiphysis; adult in size;
67-70	7	4 unidentifiable long bone fragments
71-83	7	12 unidentifiable fragments (less than 50mm in length)

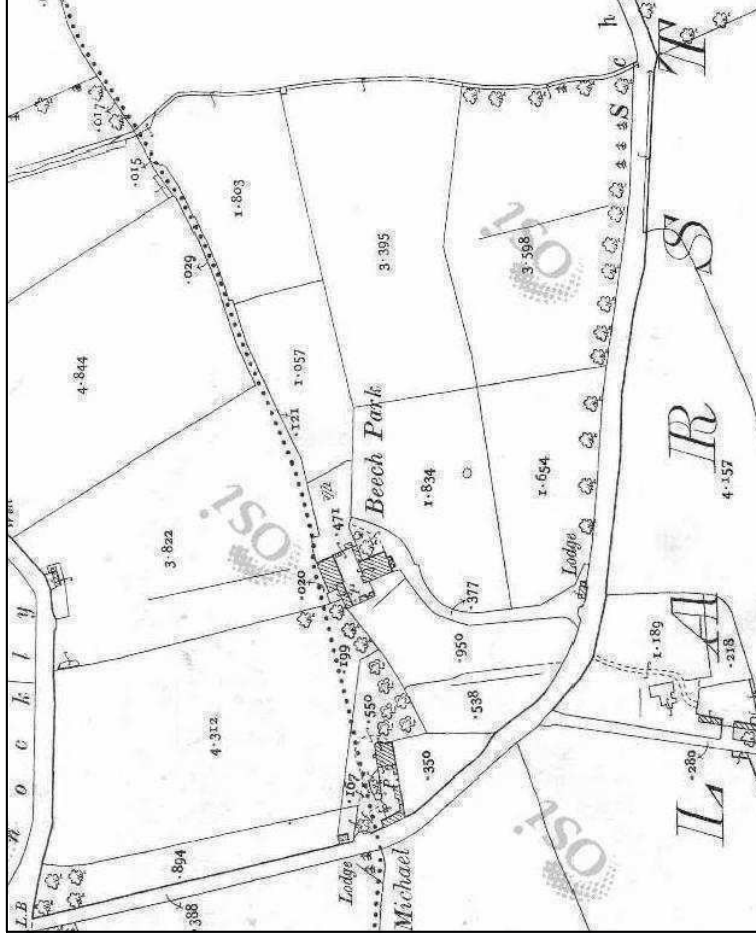
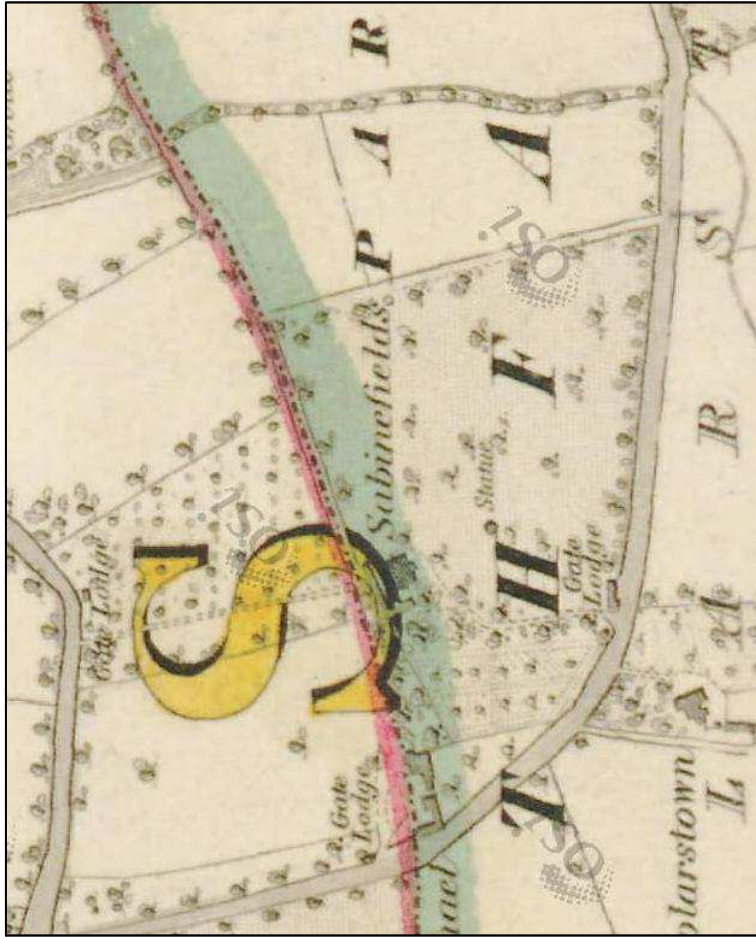


Unit 8 Beat Centre
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 Balbriggan,
 Co. Dublin

Scholarstown Road, Dublin
 Archaeological Assessment
 Client: Ardstone

Scale: 1:10,000 A4
 Date: June 2018
 Origin: archaeology.ie
 Ref: 2018_21_Ass_01

Figure 1: Location of site and RMP's



(l) 1st Edition OS Map (1844)

(r) 3rd Edition OS Map (1906-09)



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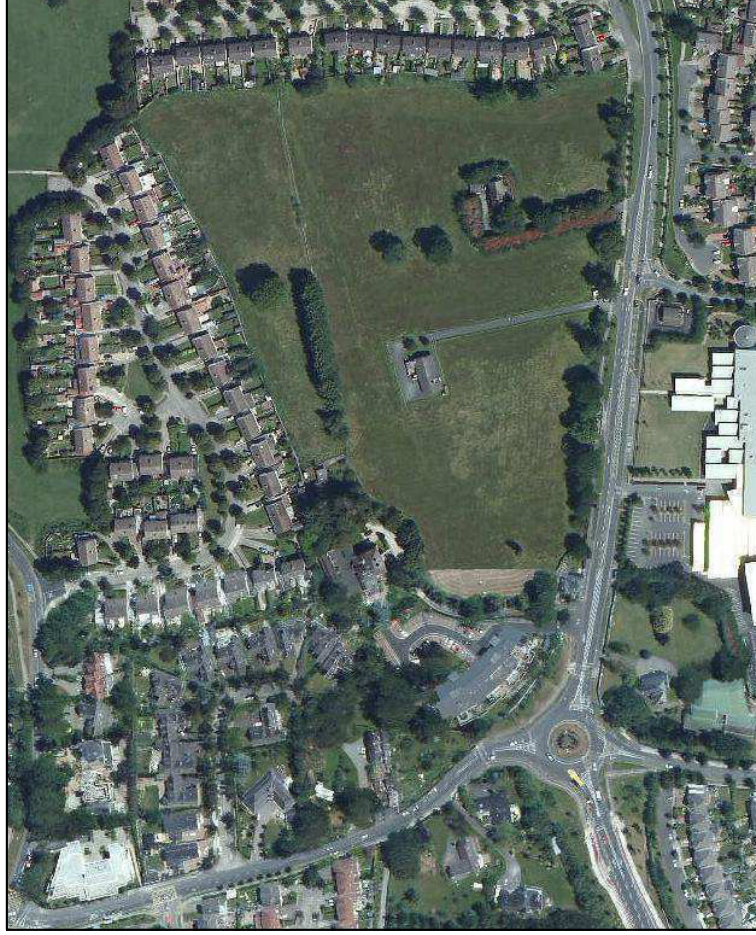
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Date: Aug 2018

Origin: OSI

Ref: 2017_21_Ass_02

Figure 2: Extracts from early historical maps



(l) 1st Edition OS Map (1844)
(r) 3rd Edition OS Map (1906-09)



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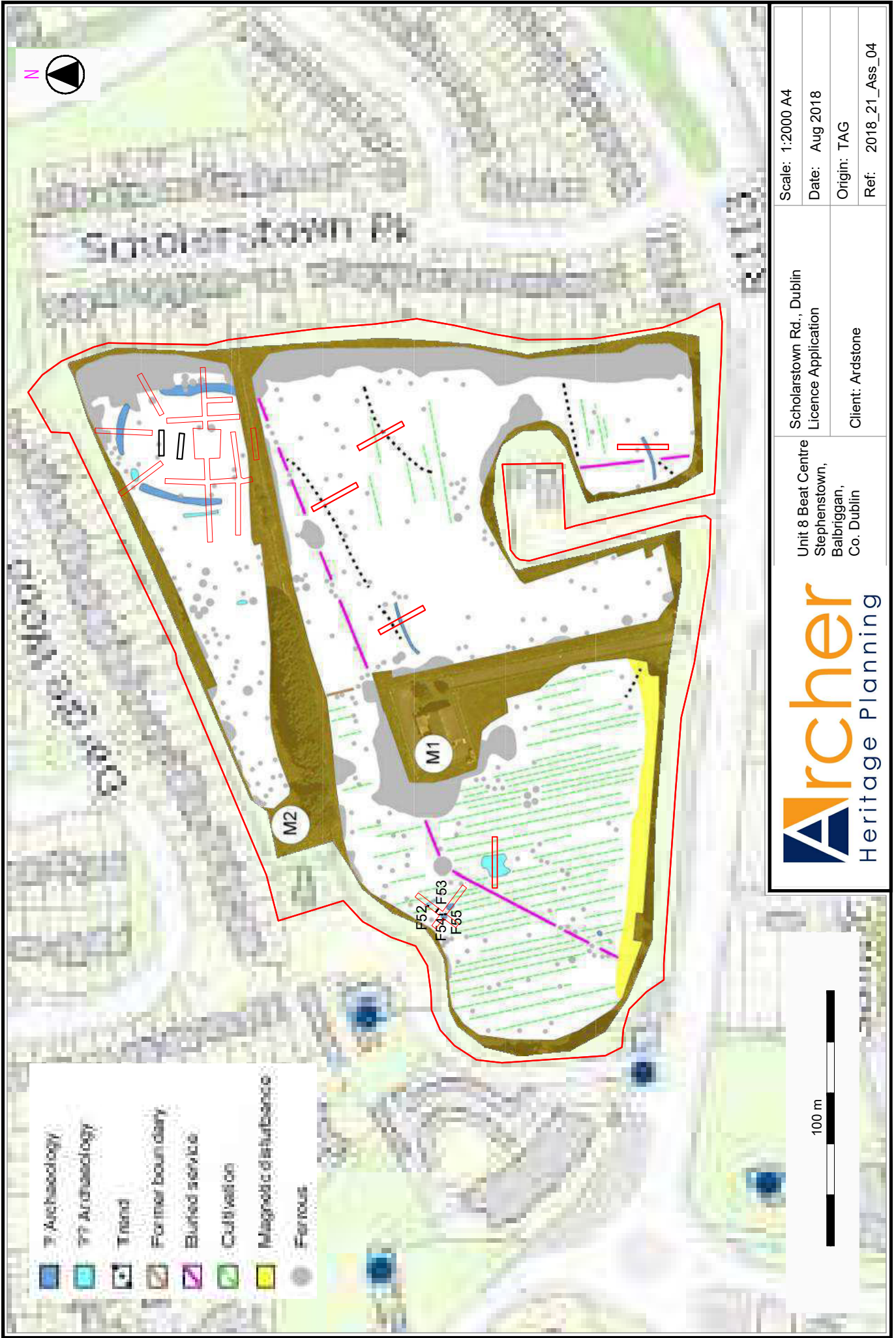
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Date: Aug 2018

Origin: OSI

Ref: 2018_21_Ass_03

Figure 3: Extracts from aerial photographs



Scale: 1:2000 A4
Date: Aug 2018
Origin: TAG
Ref: 2018_21_Ass_04

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Figure 4: Results of Geophysical Survey; Interpretation; with location of test trenches

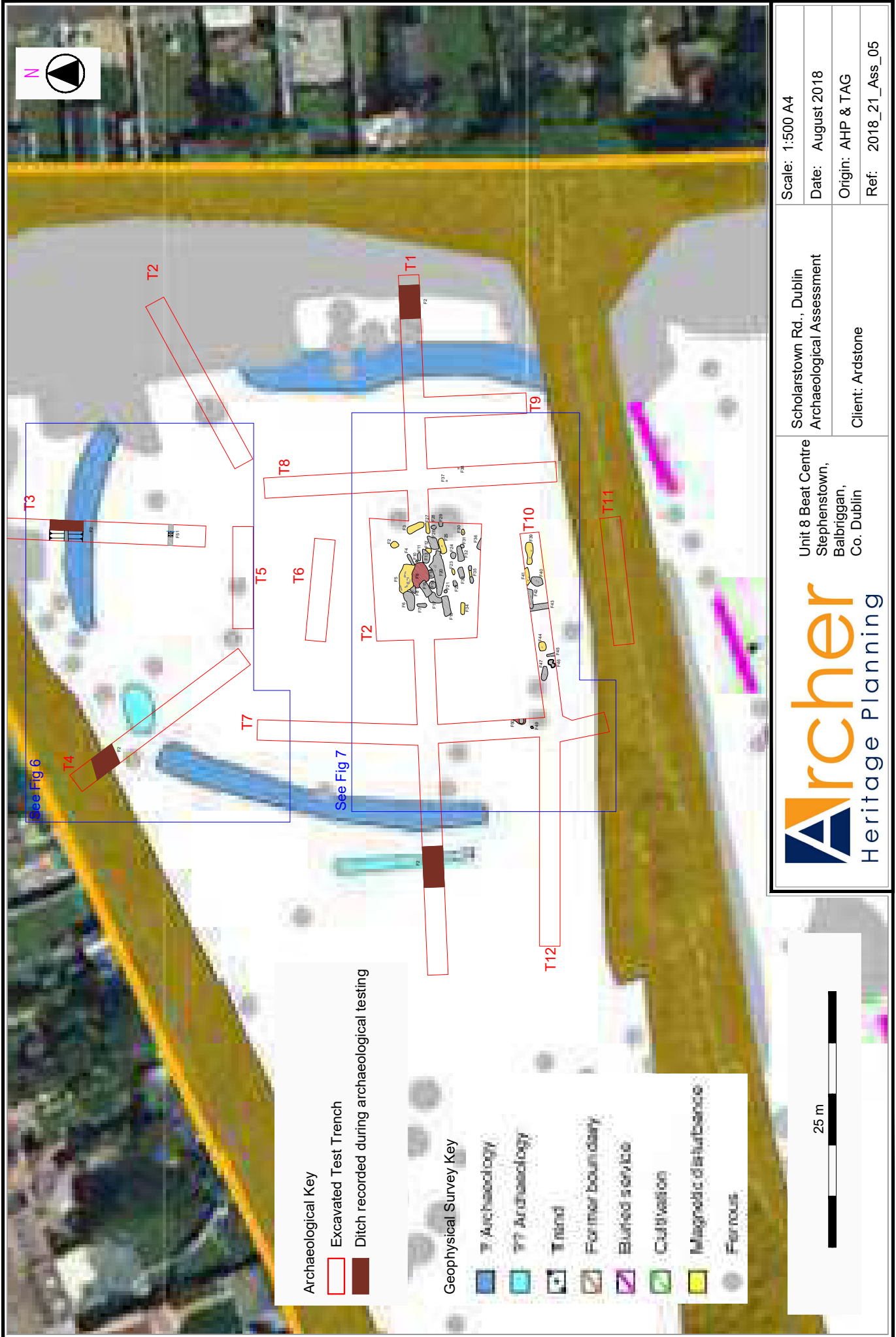


Figure 5 : Testing Results (i): Location of ringfort overlaid on Geophysical survey results

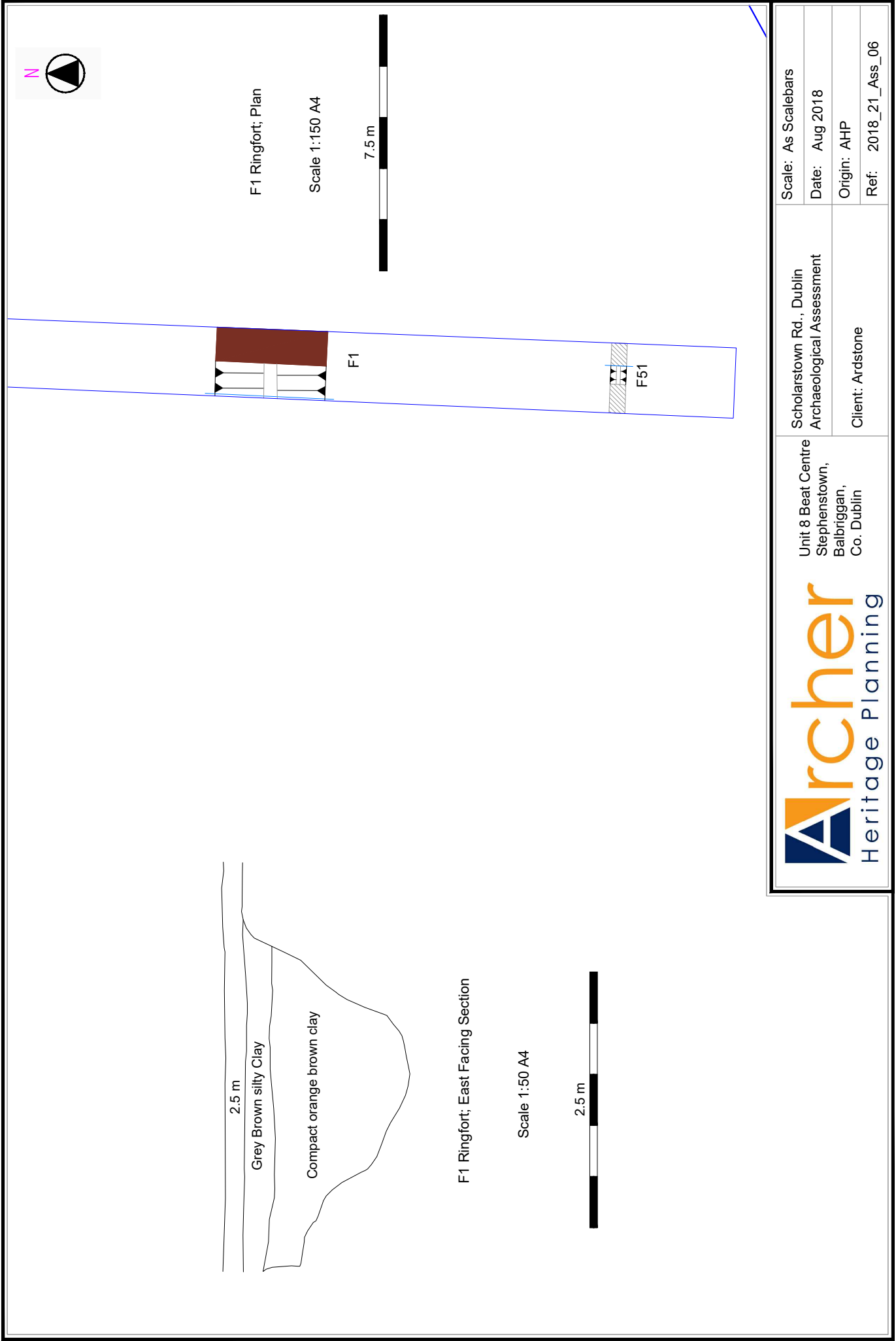
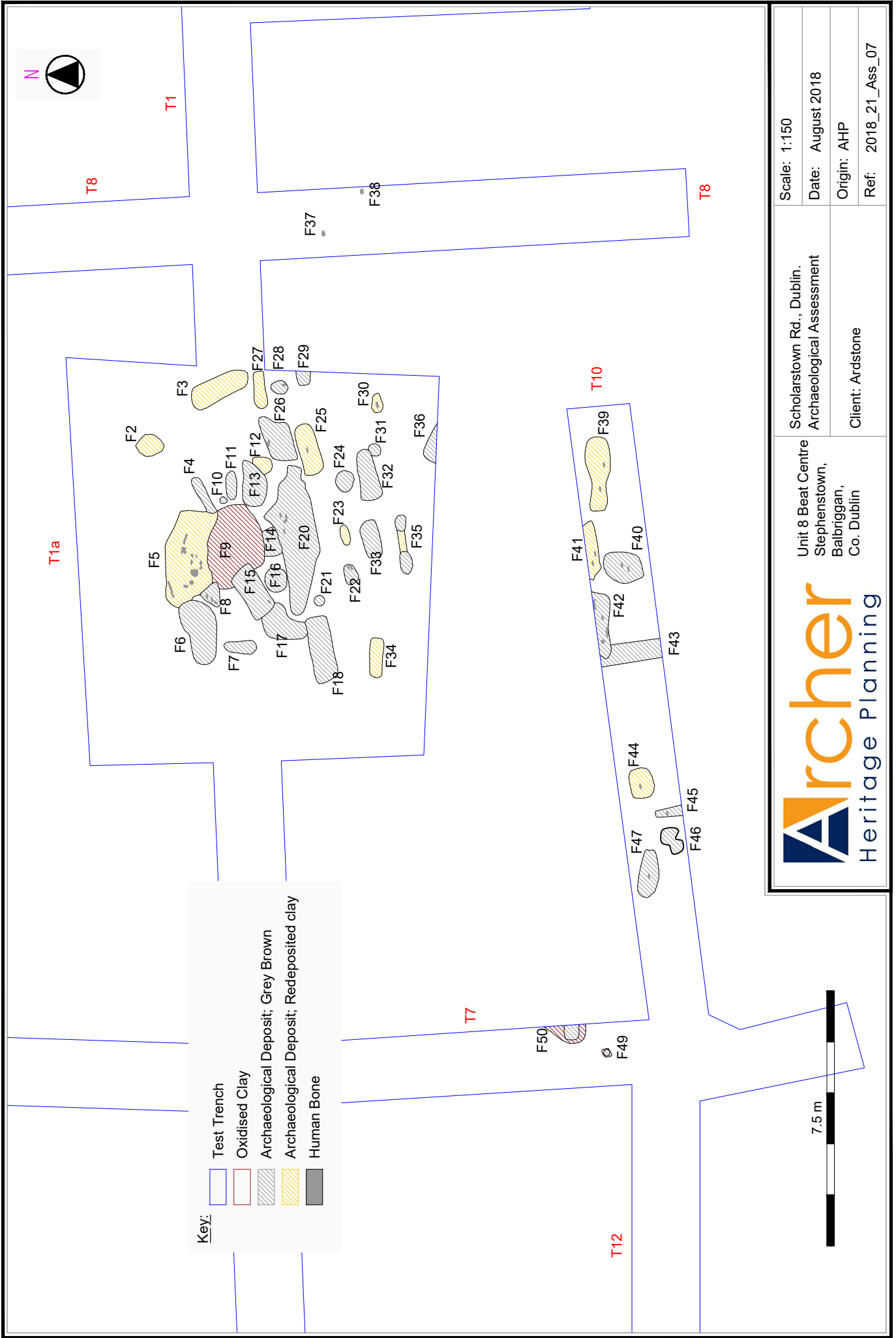


Figure 6: Testing Results (ii): Plan and section of F1 Ringfort.



<p>Archer Heritage Planning</p> <p>Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin</p>		<p>Scholarstown Rd., Dublin. Archaeological Assessment</p> <p>Client: Ardstone</p>	
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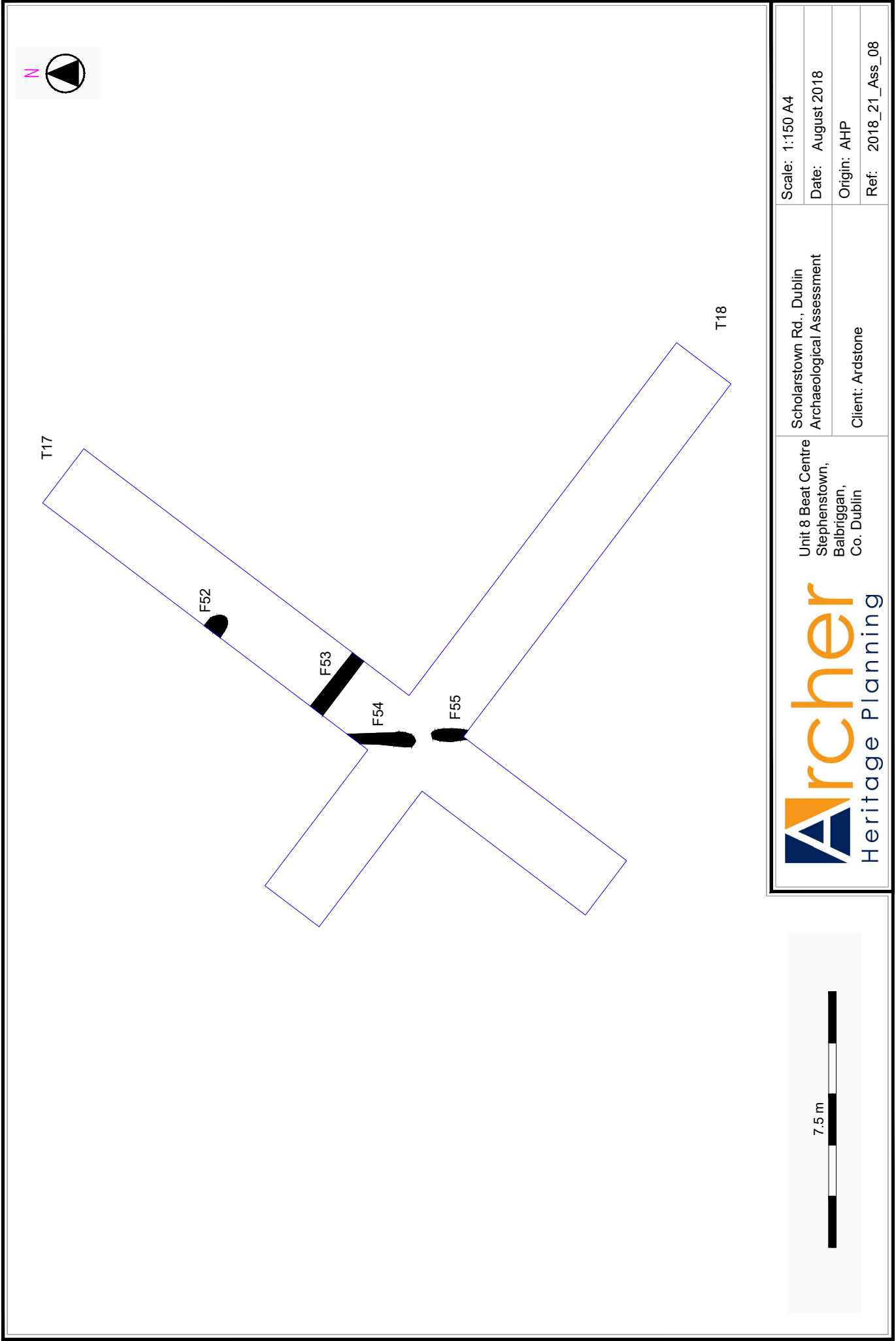


Figure 8: Testing Results (iii): Agricultural furrows at west of subject site



See Figure 10

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 Date: August 2018
 Origin: Ardstone & OSI
 Ref: 2018_21_Ass_09

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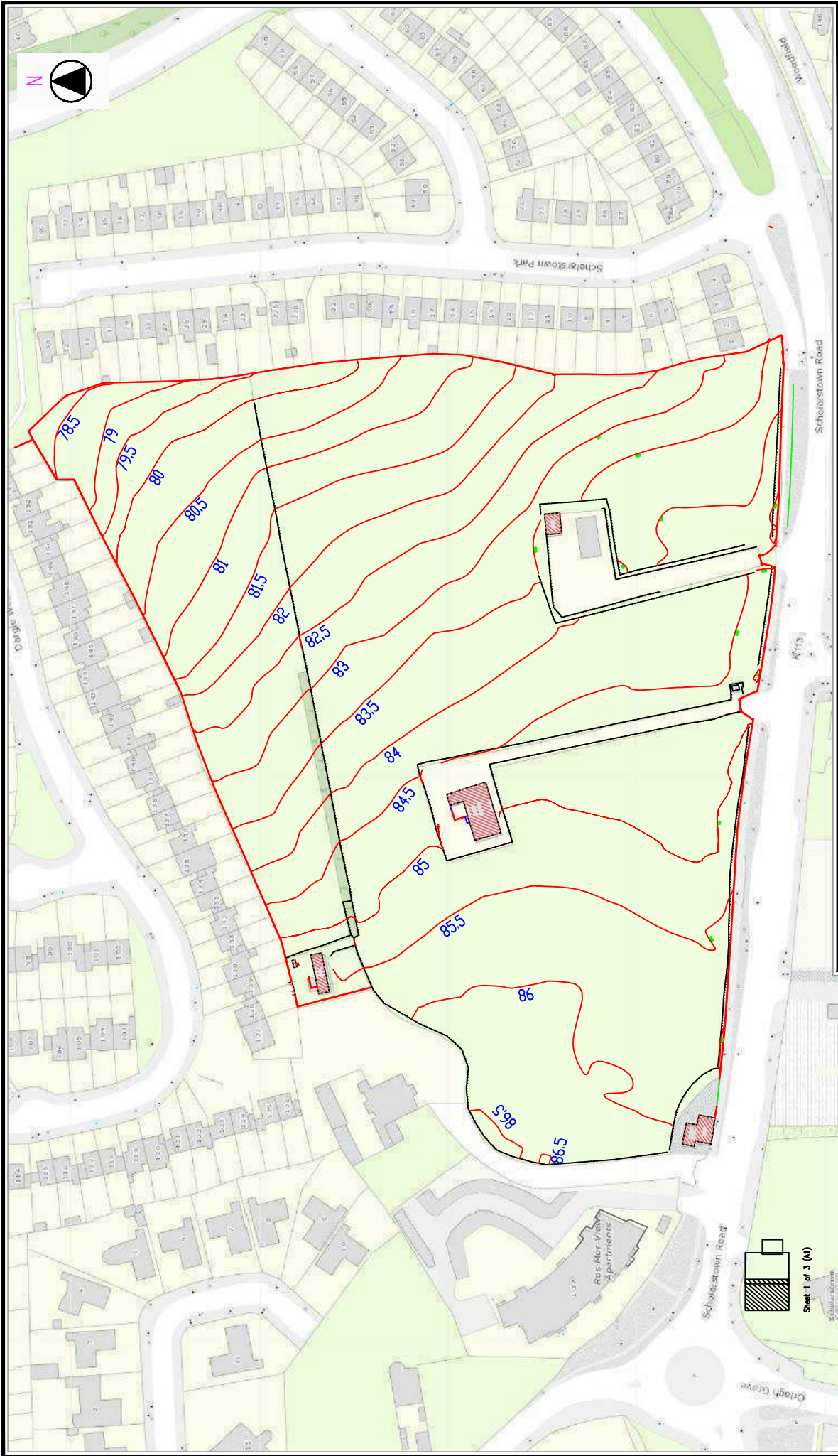
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100 m




Figure 9: Preliminary Site Layout Plan and location of test trenches



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Client: Ardstone		Ref: 2018_22_Ass_10			

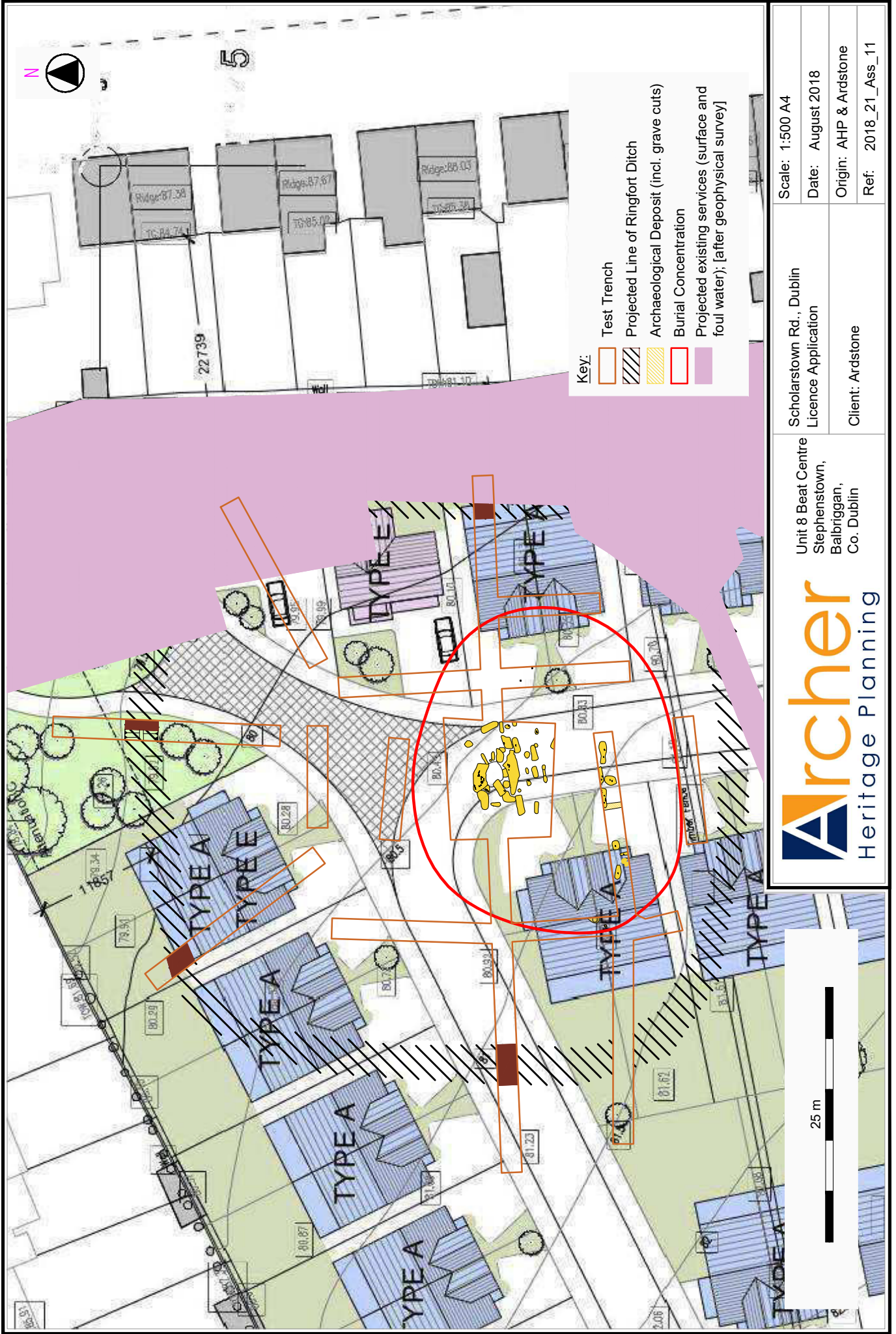


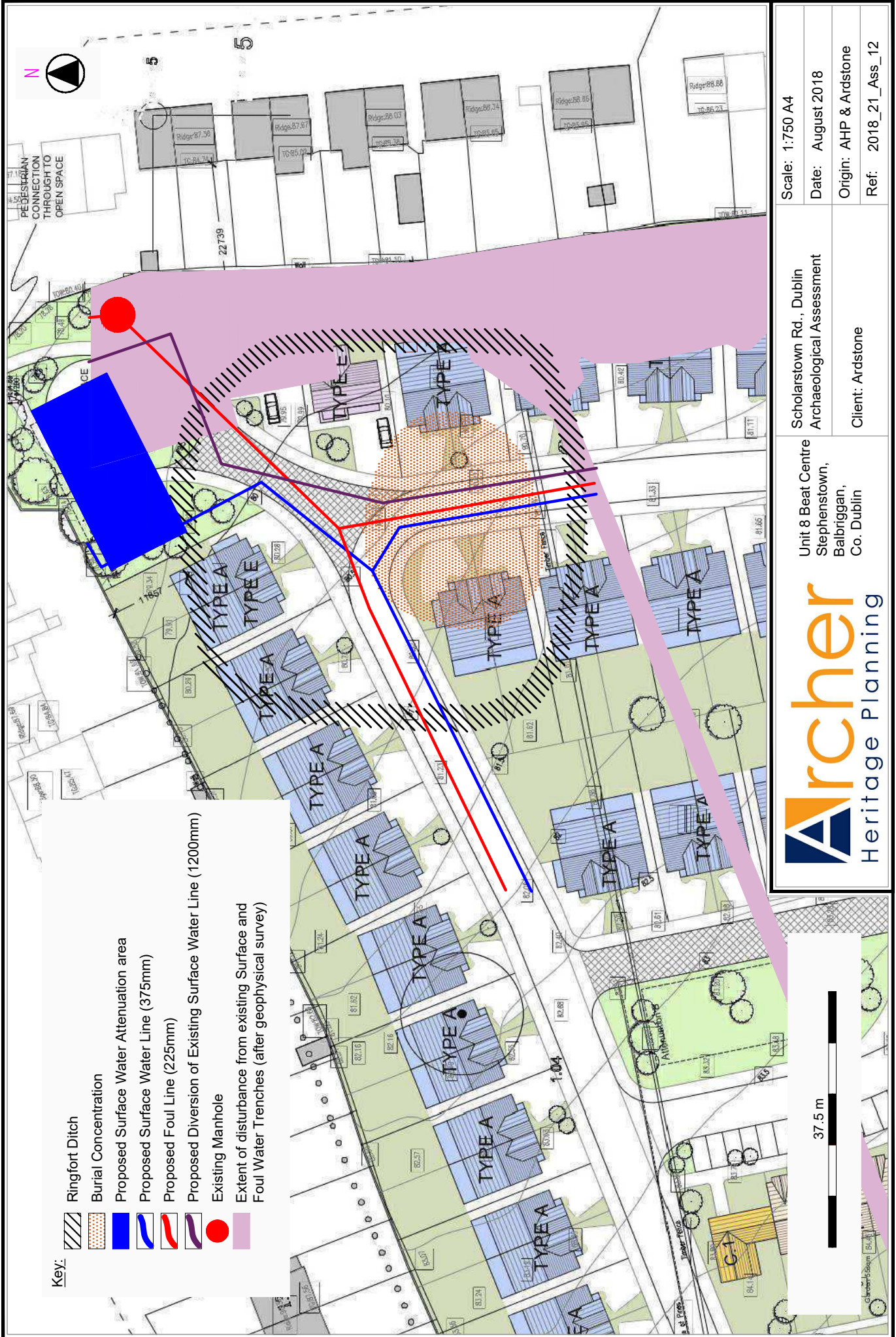
 100 m



 Sheet 1 of 3 (M)

Figure 10: Contour Survey of site





- Key:**
- Ringfort Ditch
 - Burial Concentration
 - Proposed Surface Water Attenuation area
 - Proposed Surface Water Line (375mm)
 - Proposed Foul Line (225mm)
 - Proposed Diversion of Existing Surface Water Line (1200mm)
 - Existing Manhole
 - Extent of disturbance from existing Surface and Foul Water Trenches (after geophysical survey)

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		<p>Client: Ardstone</p>		<p>Scale: 1:750 A4</p>	
				<p>Date: August 2018</p>	
				<p>Origin: AHP & Ardstone</p>	
				<p>Ref: 2018_21_Ass_12</p>	

Figure 12: Detail of proposed development at NE corner of site



Plate 1: Trench 3; F1 East Facing Section from south



Plate 2: Trench 1; F1 from north (western side of trench)



Plate 3: Trench 4 from west; F1 ringfort ditch



Plate 4: Trench 1 from west; F1 ringfort ditch with disturbance from sewerage trench visible in background.



Plate 5: Trench 1a from southwest in the course of archaeological recording



Plate 6: Trench 1a from south; F15 & F17



Plate 7: Trench 1a; F5 from south



Plate 8: Trench 10; F42-F43 from south



Plate 9: Trench 7; F49-F50 bowl furnaces from west



Plate 10: Trench 10; F46 from north



Plate 11: Trench 3; F51 from east



Plate 12: Trench 17; F53, east facing section