

# Archaeological Test Excavation Report in advance of a proposed Residential Development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16

**CLIENT:** Ardstone Homes Ltd

**DATE:** 09.08.19



## Scholarstown Road, Knocklyon, Dublin 16

### Test Excavation in advance of proposed Residential Development

<b>SITE NAME</b>	Scholarstown Road
<b>CLIENT</b>	Ardstone Homes
<b>INVESTIGATION TYPE</b>	Archaeological Assessment
<b>LICENCE NO</b>	18E0458
<b>PLANNING REF</b>	N/A
<b>TOWNLANDS</b>	Scholarstown
<b>IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR</b>	712452, 726879 (centre of site)
<b>RMP NO</b>	N/A
<b>RPS NO</b>	N/A
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT</b>	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
<b>ARCHAEOLOGIST</b>	Aidan O'Connell
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## SUMMARY

This archaeological assessment undertaken on lands in Scholarstown, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Ardstone Homes. The test trench assessment was undertaken in August 2019 by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. in advance of an application to An Bord Pleanála to develop the site for residential purposes under the SHD process. Test trenching was carried out under licence (18E0458ext) issued by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. This assessment follows previous walkover survey, geophysical survey, targeted test trenching, full excavation and test excavation of proposed enabling works which have been carried out at the site in advance of the proposed residential development.

Testing was carried out on 6-7 August 2019 in order to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of any potential archaeological features within the development footprint and to reveal the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. Test trenches were targeted on areas of greatest proposed ground disturbance. A total of 1135 linear meters of test trenches amounting to 2043 sq m were excavated across the site. No features of archaeological significance were recorded.

## Recommendations

Should development proceed at this location, it is recommended that all groundwork's should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

**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	FINAL	9-08-2019	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 test trench assessment was undertaken from 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It was carried out under licence (18E0458ext) issued by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. This assessment follows previous geophysical survey, targeted test trenching, full excavation and test excavation of proposed enabling works (Nichols 2018; O'Connell 2018; O'Connell 2019a; O'Connell 2019b) which have been carried out at the site in advance of a proposed residential development. The current assessment was undertaken in advance of an application to develop the site for residential purposes under the SHD Directive.

### 1.1 Proposed Development

Ardstone Homes Limited intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a strategic housing development at this 5.35 hectare site located north of Scholarstown Road incorporating dwellings known as 'Beechpark' and 'Maryfield', Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16.

The development will principally consist of: the demolition of all existing structures on site which include 1 No. single story dwelling known as 'Beechpark' (172 sq m) to the west of the site and 1 No. two storey dwelling (182 sq m) known as 'Maryfield' to the east of the site; and the provision of a 594 No. unit residential development comprising 482 No. Build-to-Rent apartment units and 112 No. Build-to Sell duplex units and apartments (total residential gross floor area 49,607 sq m). The 482 No. 'Build-to-Rent' units will be provided in 7 No. six storey blocks (Blocks B1 – B5 and C1 – C2) and 1 No. 4 – 5 No. storey block (Block C3) and will comprise 2 No. studio units, 199 No. one bed units and 281 No. two bed units. The 112 No. 'Build-to-Sell' units will be provided in 9 No. three storey blocks (Blocks A1 – A9) and will comprise 56 No. two bed units and 56 No. three bed units.

The development will also consist of the provision of a two storey ancillary amenity block (Block D1) (500 sq m) within the central open space including gymnasium, lobby, management office, post room and parcel store at ground floor level and lounge and kitchenette at first floor level in addition to a roof terrace (facing all aspects) to serve the Build-to-Rent residents only; a two storey retail/café/restaurant building (Block D2) (656 sq m); and a crèche (430 sq m) located within Block C2 at ground floor level.

The development provides a vehicular access off Scholarstown Road between Blocks C1 and C3; a separate pedestrian access and emergency vehicular access off Scholarstown Road between Blocks

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A9 and C2; a potential future pedestrian connection from the subject site to Dargle Wood to the north-east of the site; 480 No. car parking spaces (182 No. at basement level and 298 No. at surface level); bicycle parking; bin storage; boundary treatments; private balconies and terraces; hard and soft landscaping; plant; sedum roofs; PV panels; substations; lighting; and all other associated site works above and below ground.

The proposed development has a gross floor area of 51,193 sq m above ground over a basement measuring 5,890 sq m. (Figure 2)

### **1.2 Archaeological Requirement**

An application to An Bord Pleanála to develop the site for residential purposes under the SHD process is pending (ABP-304381-19). The current assessment was undertaken in advance of the application in order to define the archaeological potential of the site in areas of greatest anticipated ground disturbance and to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of potential archaeological features within areas of the subject site not previously subjected to test trench assessment.

## **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)<sup>1</sup>
- 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).

### 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](http://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).**

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

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 pebbledashed. 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	<b>Fulacht Fia</b> – no details	875m W
Scholarstown	DU022-020	Unclassified <b>ringfort</b> - 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 3). **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 4).

#### ***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 (600m west of subject site) 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

## 5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

### 5.1 Introduction

Numerous archaeological assessments have been undertaken at the subject site in advance of development. These are outlined below and described and summarised in Sections 5.2-5.6:

- Walkover survey
- Geophysical survey
- Test excavation of geophysical anomalies
- Archaeological excavation of settlement/cemetery
- Test excavation of areas impacted by enabling works

### 5.2 Walkover Survey

The initial field survey was undertaken on 22 May 2018 and comprised a visual inspection of the subject site. The objective of the field survey was to inspect the study area and assess potential impacts of proposed development works at this location and to inform future assessment methodologies. No specific areas of archaeological potential were noted.

### 5.3 Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey was undertaken by J Nicholls of Target Archaeological Geophysics (TAG) on 25 June 2018 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 5).

### 5.4 Phase I Testing; Test Excavation of Geophysical Anomalies

Test excavations were undertaken at the site from 5th-13th August 2018 under licence (18E0458; O'Connell 2018) to the DCHG in consultation with the NMI (Figure 5; Plates 1-2). 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. Test trenching confirmed the presence of an earth-cut 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. An osteoarchaeologist was retained on site to examine all bone remains and to assist in the supervision of topsoil removal. A limited amount of disarticulated human bone was collected and retained in the course of the test-excavation.

A total of 19 trenches were excavated across the site. The enclosure ditch was identified and had dimensions of 3.42m wide by 1.61m deep. An apparent break in the ditch at the southwest side was, at this stage, interpreted as an entrance to the site. Human skeletal remains were identified across the south-central area of the ringfort interior. In total, 34 possible grave cuts were recorded. Skeletal remains were identified within 15 of the identified cuts. Two additional possible burials were identified with no apparent grave cuts. Also a further 3 individuals were recognised in the small assemblage of disarticulated remains. A preliminary assessment, following test trench assessment indicated a minimum of 17 burials at this location with more potentially surviving. A limited number of archaeological features were recorded on the enclosure interior. These included 2 bowl furnaces, an area of in-situ burning, a potential kiln, 3 postholes, 2 pits and 2 linear features/small ditches. These are indicative of settlement within the enclosure interior. Four furrows recorded at the west of the development site roughly 190m SW of the enclosure are probably the result of agricultural activity in relatively recent times.

The archaeological site, as recorded in the course of test trenching consisted of an early medieval enclosed settlement with human burial recorded on the enclosure interior. As it is not exclusively secular or ecclesiastical in character, it can be termed a settlement/cemetery (O'Sullivan et al 2008) or secular cemetery (Stout & Stout 2008). This site type can be 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). A sample of disarticulated human bone collected in the course of test trenching has been dated to AD 617-688 (95% probability; D-AMS 030531; 1365±27 BP).

### **5.5 Full Archaeological Excavation**

Following submission of the report on test excavation (O'Connell 2018) and subsequent consultation with the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht, full archaeological excavation was undertaken within a c. 5300 sq. m area at the northeast of the subject site, encompassing the settlement/cemetery area (Figure 6; Plates 3-6). The excavation was undertaken from 05.11.2018 to

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29.03.2019 under licence 18E0458ext issued to Aidan O'Connell by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

The enclosing ditch was 1.8-2.3m wide by 1.5m deep (max) and would have originally enclosed an area of c.1700 sq m. A considerable portion of the enclosure ditch between the south-western and eastern side were either substantially disturbed or completely removed by previous sewerage infrastructure works prior to the current development. Preliminary post-excavation analysis of the ditch stratigraphy suggests three phases of activity. The initial two phases are currently undated but samples for radiocarbon dating are being prepared. An early medieval period date (AD 400-1200) is expected for these initial phases, based on the morphology of the site and the initial radiocarbon dating carried out on a sample of disarticulated human bone during test excavation (AD 617-688 95% probability; D-AMS 030531; 1365±27 BP). The third ditch phase may date to the late Medieval (Anglo-Norman) period (AD 1200-1600). Two sherds of green glazed medieval pottery were collected from the upper levels of the ditch. Additional artefacts found in this ditch phase included a bone pin, a possible whetstone and a possible iron knife fragment. This outline chronology is expected to be refined as the results of the on-going post-excavation analysis are completed.

Eighty-three articulated inhumation burials were recorded within the enclosure interior. The main concentration of graves was a dense cluster of 78 inhumations in the southern/central part of the enclosure interior. A further 5 burials were located c. 15 m to the northwest. They were generally supine and extended and aligned west east, although some minor variations were noted in the body positions. Of the 83 burials, there were 49 adult, 2 sub-adult, 16 juvenile, 2 infant and 2 perinate skeletons. The remaining 12 skeletons have not yet been aged and are pending full examination. Preliminary field observations on sex indicate that 4 of the adults may be male. This data will be expanded and refined in the course of post-excavation analysis. As a result of physical truncation by later burials, and acidic soil conditions at the site, the skeletal remains were in a poor state of preservation. Many graves contained very little or no human bone. Typically for sites of this nature, disarticulated human bone was found in topsoil, and was also found in grave fills. In a number of cases, disarticulated bone was collected and reinterred with later burials or in dug pits. Burials were placed in simple earth-cut graves. Evidence for possible lining did not survive, although possible ear-muff stones and/or pillow stones were recorded in 19 instances.

There was no evidence uncovered for an additional enclosing element (e.g. a palisade or fence) immediately surrounding the burial area other than the main enclosure ditch. There were no direct stratigraphic relationship between the burials and the enclosure ditch. In advance of radiocarbon dating, it is assumed that the burials and enclosure are broadly contemporary. Additional features within the

interior included pits, postholes, and hearths. These potentially suggest settlement activity. A collection of postholes southwest of the main cemetery area may be the remains of a rectangular structure with associated hearths.

Full excavation at Scholarstown Road involved the systematic removal of all archaeological layers, deposits and their associated archaeological objects (including human remains) from the excavation cutting at the northeast corner of the subject site in order to preserve a complete and meaningful record of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphical sequence. Post-excavation processing and analysis of this material is ongoing off-site in a controlled environment. The archaeological excavation thus reduced ground levels across the site to the exposed natural subsoil surface, including the emptied 'cuts' of archaeological features (ditches, pits, postholes and stakeholes). A programme of post-excavation works has been submitted with the preliminary excavation report (O'Connell 2019a) with the final excavation report expected to be submitted to the relevant authorities by February 2020.

#### ***5.6 Phase II Testing; Test Excavation in advance of Enabling Works***

A second phase of test excavations was undertaken on the site in response a Request for Additional Information (SD19A/0088) in relation to proposed enabling works to be carried out in advance of full development. Testing was carried out on 14 June 2019 under licence 18E0458ext issued to Aidan O'Connell by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The aim of test excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of any potential archaeological features within the boundary of the enabling works areas and to reveal the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of any archaeological stratigraphy. Test trenches were targeted on areas of proposed ground disturbance (Figure 7; Plates 7-8). Two trenches (T1-T2) were targeted on areas south of the existing bungalow which have been set aside for a site compound and storage area. The remaining trenches (T3a-3d) were excavated within the proposed works corridor for the sewage pipe diversion. It was necessary to leave some portions of the proposed trench unexcavated in order to avoid damage to existing sewage pipes, a buried power-line and the existing tree-line at the north of the site. Topsoil was recorded at 0.4-0.5m deep and overlay a compact orange natural subsoil. No archaeological features were recorded in the course of the works. A modern refuse pit containing red brick, mortar and concrete (1.8m E-W x 0.85m N-S) was recorded in Trench 2 at ITM 712436, 726852. This may be contemporary with the construction of the existing bungalow, which is located 12.5m to the north. A second feature was recorded c. 115m to the northeast. This was a linear feature (9m WNW-ESE x 0.7m wide x 0.15m deep). It was filled with soft carbonised clay. A body sherd of black glazed red earthenware was collected from the surface of this feature, indicating that it is post-medieval in date.

## 6. PHASE III TESTING; TEST EXCAVATION OF PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 6.1 Methodology

The aim of test excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of potential archaeological features located within the footprint of the proposed development 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 (18E0458ext) by the DCHG and NMI under National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 and carried out between 6th-7th August 2018. Some minor variations were made to the trench layout agreed in advance with the DCHG. Trenches 12 and 18 were staggered in order to avoid tree constraint zones. The southern section of Trench 9 and an additional trench to the south of the existing 2-storey house (Maryfield) were left unexcavated in order to avoid damage to an existing septic tank and water pipe. Finally a 5m gap was left unexcavated between Trenches 13 & 14 in order to preserve site access (Figures 7-8; Plates 9-16).

Test trenches were excavated with a 9-tonne tracked excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation proceeded 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.

### 6.2 Results

No archaeological features, structures or objects were recorded in the course of this phase of test excavation. Topsoil was relatively uniform across the site and recorded at depths of c. 0.3-0.4m. It overlay a compact orange clay subsoil. The only recorded feature was the upper levels of an existing foul sewer trench to the north of the house at the centre of the site (Beechpark). Details of the excavated trenches are listed below in Table 4.

Trench	Dimensions (m) (LxBxD)	Orientation	Details
1	70 x 1.8 x 0.39	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found
2	40 x 1.8 x 0.34	ESE-WNW	No archaeology found
3	43 x 1.8 x 0.32	ESE-WNW	No archaeology found
4	25 x 1.8 x 0.32	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found
5	25 x 1.8 x 0.36	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found
6	15 x 1.8 x 0.38	ESE-WNW	No archaeology found
7	31 x 1.8 x 0.37	ENE-WSW	No archaeology found
8	128 x 1.8 x 0.3	N-S	No archaeology found
9	90 x 1.8 x 0.28	NNE-SSW	No archaeology found
10	71 x 1.8 x 0.34	NNE-SSW	No archaeology found
11	70 x 1.8 x 0.35	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found
12	108 x 1.8 x 0.4	ENE-WSW	No archaeology found; Trench staggered to avoid tree constraint zone
13	64 x 1.8 x 0.29	ENE-WSW	No archaeology found
14	45 x 1.8 x 0.30	ENE-WSW	No archaeology found; Upper level of existing foul sewer trench recorded at western side of trench
15	38 x 1.8 x 0.45	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found; Upper level of existing foul sewer trench recorded at northern side of trench
16	48 x 1.8 x 0.38	ESE-WNW	No archaeology found
17	104 x 1.8 x 0.43	ESE-WNW	No archaeology found
18	34 x 1.8 x 0.40	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found; Trench staggered to avoid tree constraint zone
19	42 x 1.8 x 0.38	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found
20	44 x 1.8 x 0.36	NNW-SSE	No archaeology found

**Table 4:** Test excavation results



## 7. IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 Description of Potential Impacts

The greatest threat to unrecorded, buried archaeological sites/ features occur during the construction stage and include all ground disturbance works undertaken at this stage. The proposed development will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site through extensive groundwork's, movement of heavy plant and storage of spoil. However as no archaeological features were recorded in the course of test trenching, the potential impact of the proposed development (residential development and associated site works) on buried archaeological deposits is imperceptible. However, due to the previous discovery of the settlement/cemetery at the northeast of the subject site, there is low-moderate potential for the survival of further buried archaeological remains across the remainder of the site.

### 7.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that any future groundwork's across the subject site be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

**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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## 8. REFERENCES

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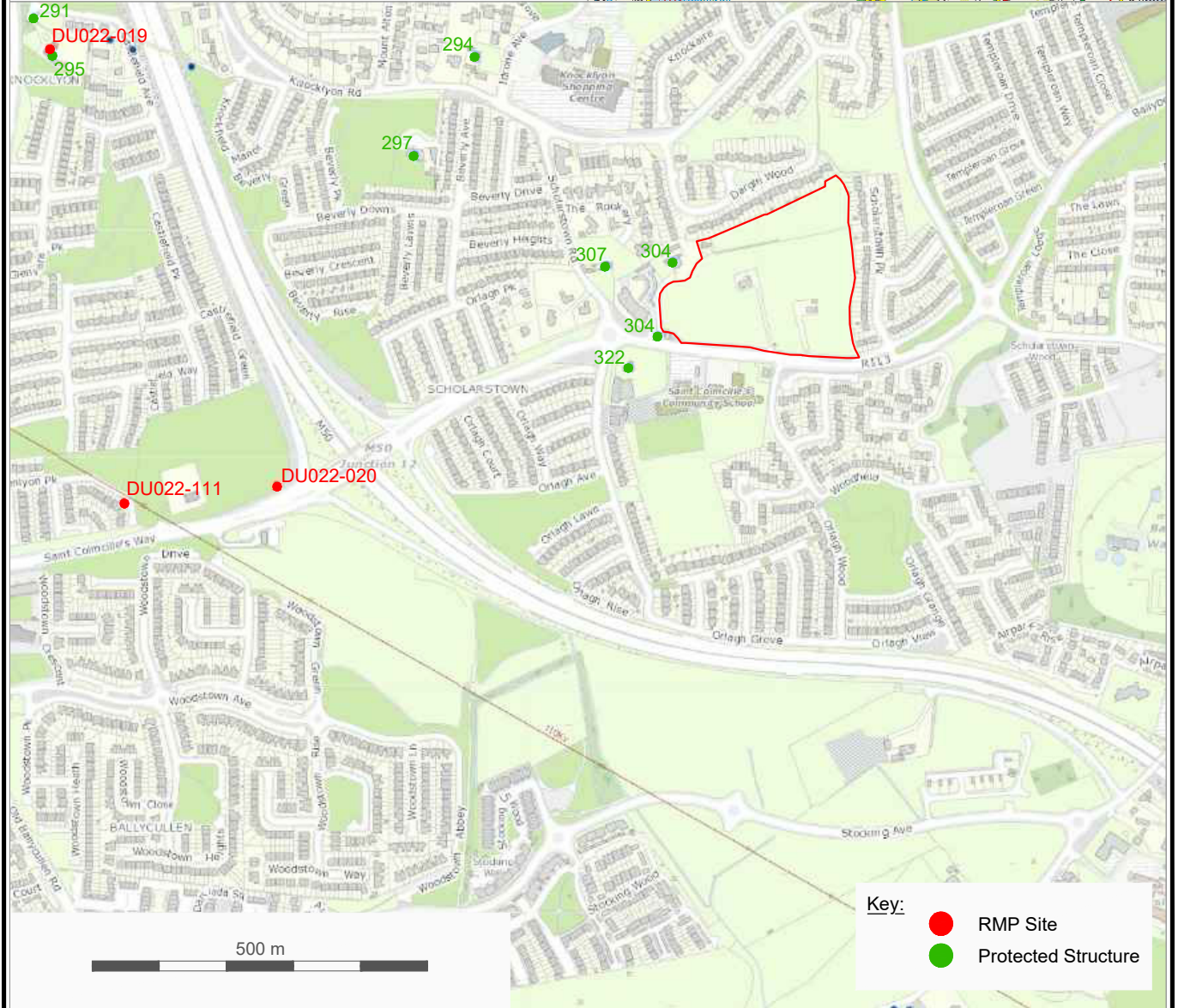
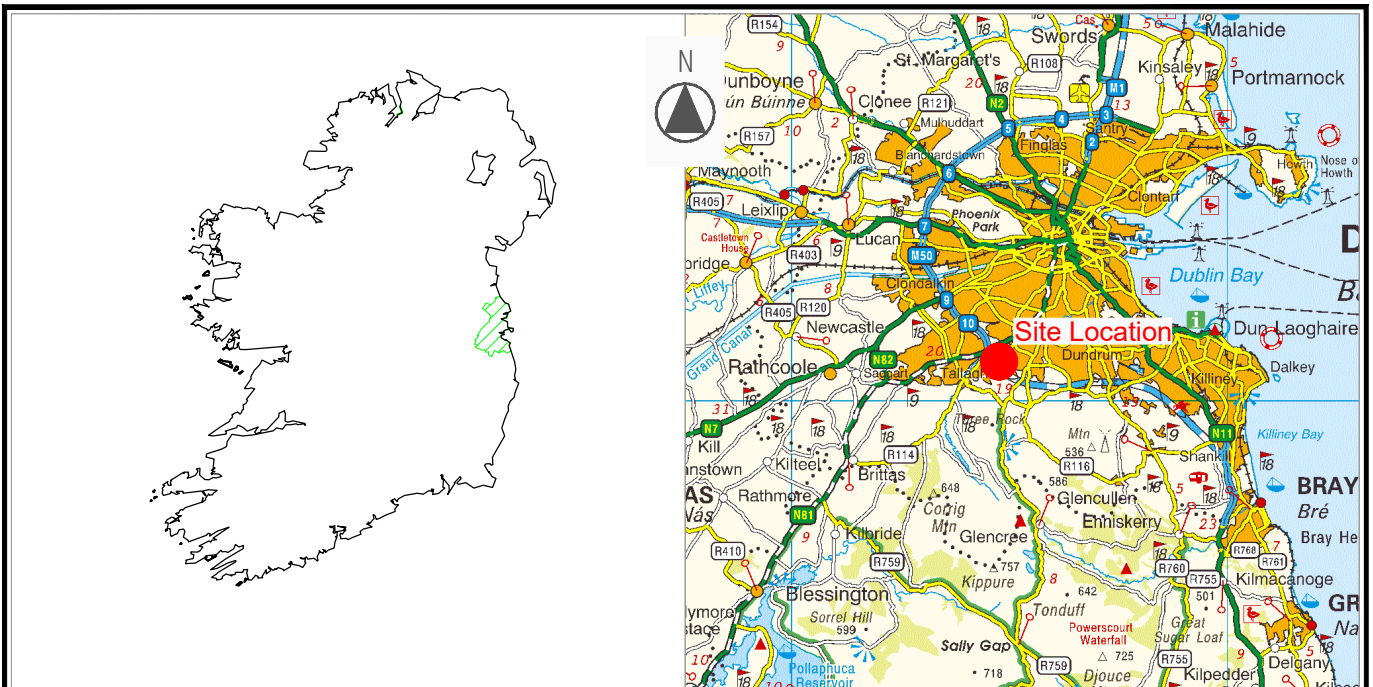
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- Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019]
- Online Excavations bulletin [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) [accessed 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019]
- Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) [accessed 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019]



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Aidan O' Connell BA MIAI

9 August 2019



**Archer**  
Heritage Planning

Unit 8 Beat Centre  
Stephenstown,  
Balbriggan,  
Co. Dublin

Scholarstown Road, Dublin  
Archaeological Assessment

Client: Ardstone Homes

Scale: 1:10,000 A4

Date: August 2019

Origin: archaeology.ie

Ref: 2018\_21\_ASS\_01

Figure 1: Location of site and RMP's





Scale: 1:2000 A4  
 Date: August 2019  
 Origin: Client  
 Ref: 2019\_21\_Ass\_02

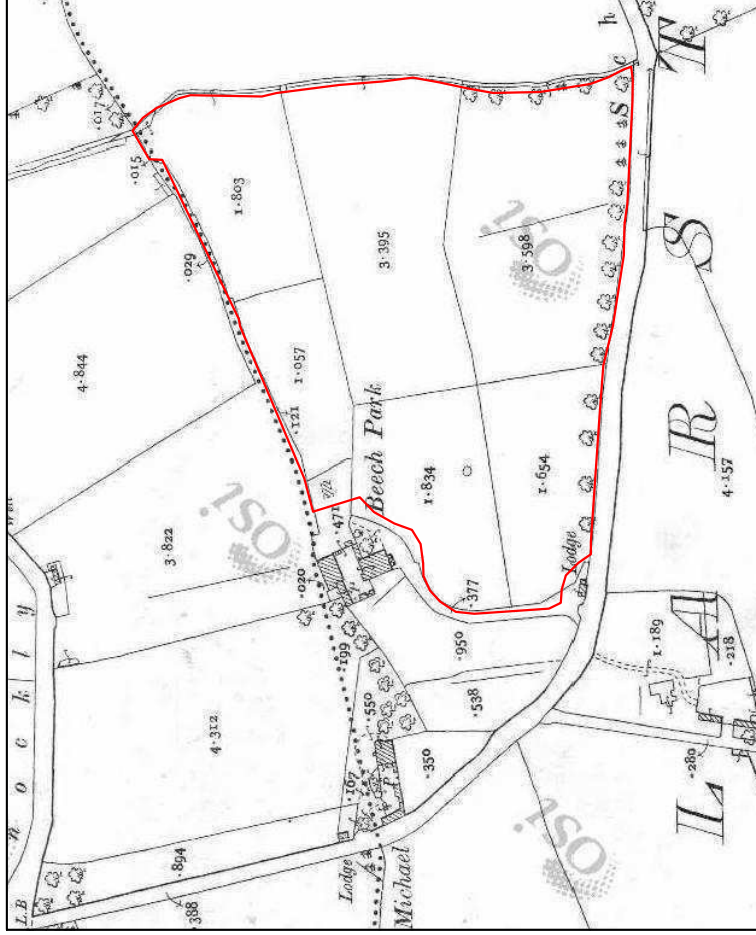
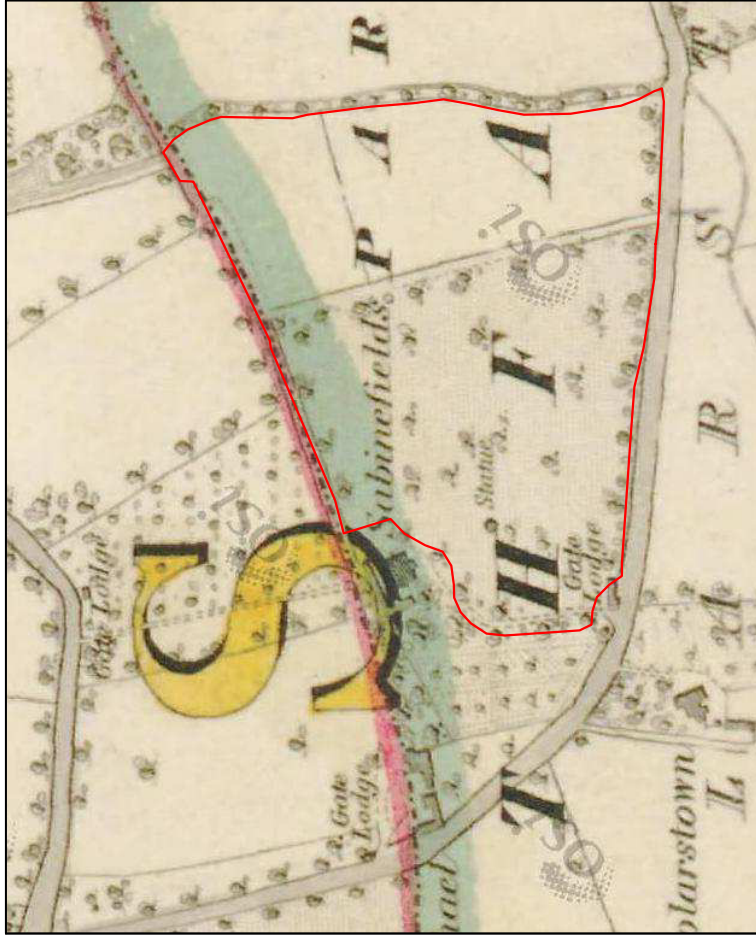
Scholarstown Road, Dublin  
 Test Excavation  
 Client: Ardstone Homes

Unit 8 Beat Centre  
 Stephenstown,  
 Balbriggan,  
 Co. Dublin

**Archer**  
 Heritage Planning

100 m

Figure 2: Proposed Site Layout Plan



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

	Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Scholarstown Rd., Dublin Archaeological Assessment	Scale: Not to scale Date: August 2019 Origin: OSI Ref: 2018_21_ASS_03
	Client: Ardstone Homes		

Figure 3: Extracts from early historical maps





(l) OSI 1995

(r) Digital Globe



Unit 8 Beat Centre  
Stephenstown,  
Balbriggan,  
Co. Dublin

Scholarstown Rd., Dublin  
Archaeological Assessment

Client: Ardstone Homes

Scale: Not to scale

Date: August 2019

Origin: OSI

Ref: 2018\_21\_ASS\_04

Figure 4: Extracts from aerial photographs



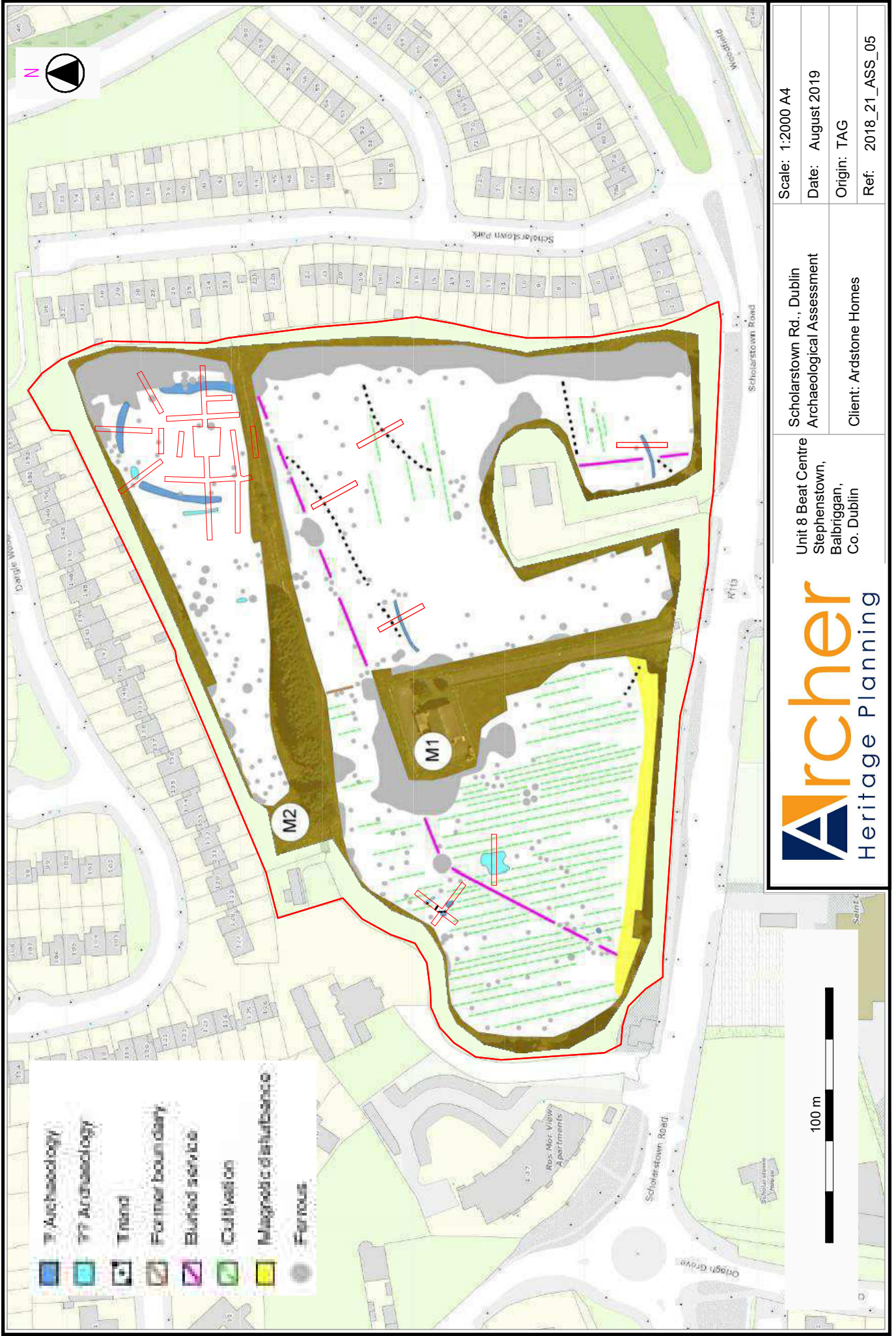
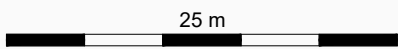
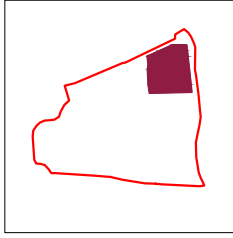


Figure 5: Results of Geophysical Survey; Interpretation; with location of Phase I Test Trenches

Location key:



Unit 8 Beat Centre  
Stephenstown,  
Balbriggan,  
Co. Dublin

Scholarstown Road, Dublin  
Archaeological Assessment

Client: Ardstone Homes

Scale: 1:500 A4

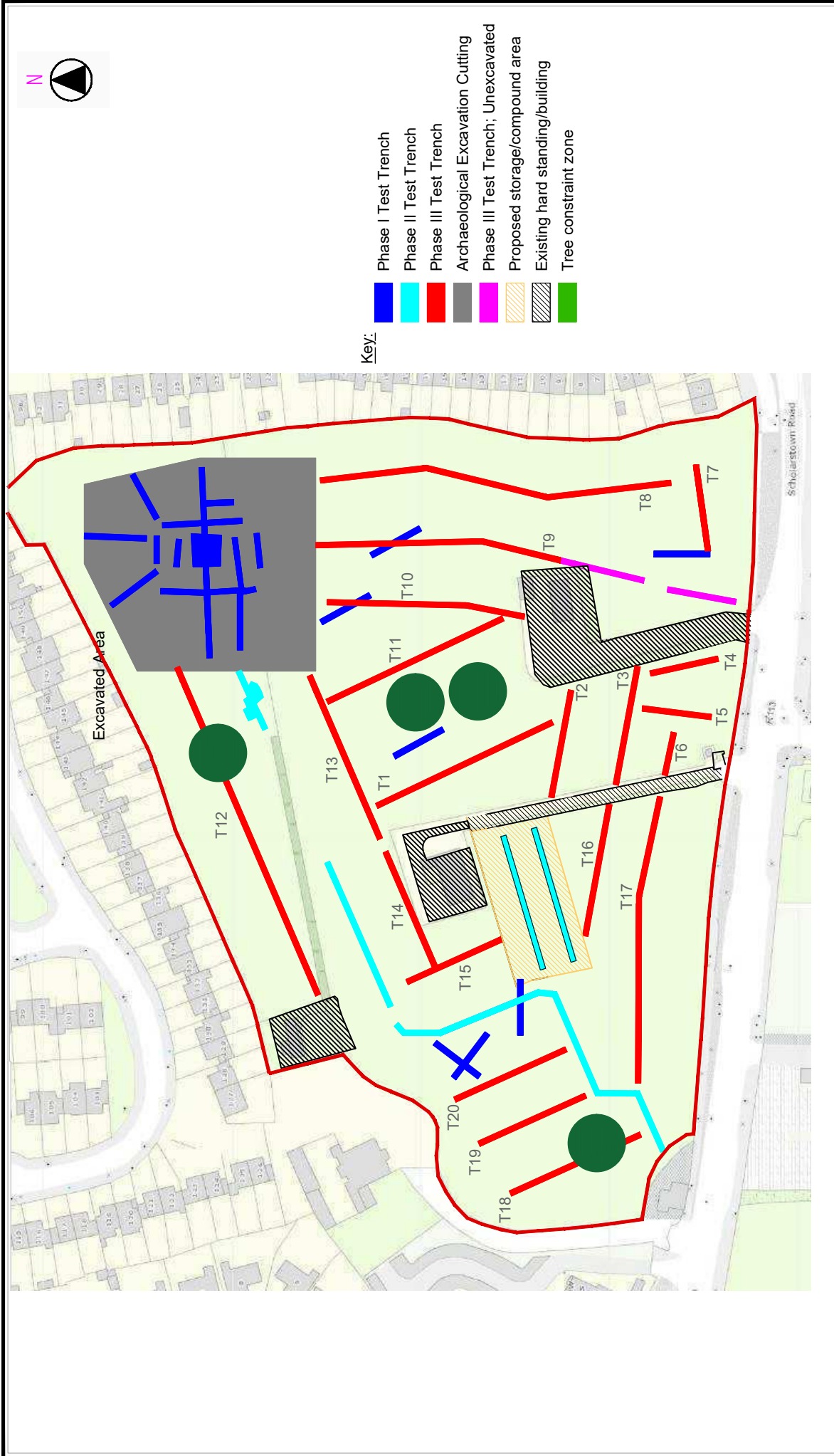
Date: August 2019

Origin: AHP

Ref: 2018\_21\_Ass\_06

Figure 6: Post-excitation plan of settlement/cemetery





Scholarstown Road, Dublin		Scale: 1:2000 A4
Archaeological Assessment		Date: August 2019
Client: Ardstone Homes		Origin: AHP
		Ref: 2019_21_Ass_07
<b>Archer</b> Heritage Planning		Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

Figure 7: Location of Phase I - Phase III Test Trenches



Scholarstown Road, Dublin		Scale: 1:2000 A4
Archaeological Assessment		Date: August 2019
Client: Ardstone Homes		Origin: Client
Unit 8 Beat Centre Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin		Ref: 2019_21_Ass_08



Figure 8: Location of test trenches and proposed site layout plan





Plate 1: Phase I Testing; burial area from southwest in the course of archaeological recording



Plate 2: Phase I Testing; pre-excitation view of enclosure ditch



Plate 3: Aerial view of site under excavation from west



Plate 4: Excavation; West facing section through enclosure ditch at north of site





Plate 5: Excavation; Burial 2 from east



Plate 6: Excavation; Burial 43 from east



Plate 7: Phase II Testing; Aerial view of excavated trenches from NE



Plate 8: Phase II Testing; Trench 3 from W





Plate 9: Phase III Testing; Trench 1 from SE



Plate 10: Phase III Testing; Trench 5 from N



Plate 11: Phase III Testing; Trench 7 from E



Plate 12: Phase III Testing; Trench 8 from N





Plate 13: Phase III Testing; Trench 10 from N



Plate 14: Phase III Testing; Trench 12 from E



Plate 15: Phase III Testing; Trench 14 from E



Plate 16: Phase III Testing; Trench 20 from NW