

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Auburn and Streamstown

Malahide Road, Co. Dublin

SHD Phase 2 Report

Pre-planning

Excavation Licence No.: 20E0057

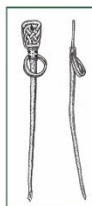
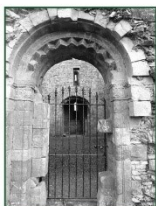
Site Director: Gill McLoughlin

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On behalf of

Kinwest Ltd

24/06/2020



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines the archaeological and cultural heritage potential of lands at Auburn House, Malahide Road, Streamstown, Malahide, County Dublin. It aims to establish the potential significance and sensitivity of the existing archaeological and cultural heritage environment and to identify the issues this potential presents for future development. It describes the results of an archaeological impact assessment including a desk study, geophysical survey and archaeological testing. (Licence No. 20E0057).

The work has been carried out as part of the SHD pre-planning process on behalf of Kinwest Ltd.

The site is located in the townlands of Auburn and Streamstown, in the lands surrounding Auburn House, off the Malahide Road, Co. Dublin (ITM 721000E / 745230N (Figure 1).

There are no RMP / SMR sites located within the subject lands and only two within c. 500m. One is a mound (RMP DU012-028) c. 300m south that was excavated in 1982 and is thought to be the remains of an ornamental feature attached to the grounds of Auburn House (the mound was formed from medieval and post-medieval 'dump' material). The second is an enclosure, also in Auburn townland, c. 275m southwest of the subject lands; the site was identified by Dr Steve Davis as a cropmark on an aerial photograph in 2015 (SMR file DU012-078).

The subject lands are situated in an area where there is known to have been human activity and settlement since the Mesolithic period. Intensive agricultural activity in north County Dublin has resulted in the removal of surface traces of numerous archaeological monuments, many of which are now only visible as crop marks in aerial imagery. Others have been newly identified by geophysical survey and archaeological testing, techniques that have also been used to confirm the presence of enclosures that were previously only known from aerial photographs (e.g. enclosure in Kinsaley townland, DU012-071).

The subject lands form part of the estate associated with the late 18th century Auburn House. In addition to changes to the lands resulting from past agricultural activity, it is likely that landscaping works for the demesne also required some alterations. It is possible, therefore, that previously unknown archaeological sites, features or deposits may be present subsurface.

A geophysical survey and archaeological test excavation were carried out and no features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were identified in any of the trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report examines the archaeological and cultural heritage potential of lands at Auburn House, Malahide Road, Streamstown, Malahide, County Dublin (Figure 1). The assessment comprises a geophysical survey and archaeological testing and cultural heritage desk study. The work has been carried out at pre-planning stage on behalf of Kinwest Ltd and will be used to inform the design process.

The main purpose of the report is to assess the potential significance and sensitivity of the existing archaeological and cultural heritage environment and to identify the issues this potential presents for future development.

The site is located in the townlands of Auburn and Streamstown, in the lands surrounding Auburn House, off the Malahide Road, Co. Dublin (ITM 721000E / 745230N (Figures 1 & 2). The total area of the lands at Auburn and Streamstown is 13.55 hectares and it is zoned as RA – New Residential - under the Fingal County Development Plan.



Figure 1 Site location

1.2. Proposed Development

Planning permission is sought by Kinwest Ltd. for a proposed Strategic Housing Development on lands at Auburn House (Protected Structure), Little Auburn and Streamstown off Malahide Road and Carey's Lane, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

The proposed development will consist of the preservation and protection of the existing Protected Structure of Auburn House as 1 no. residential dwelling; the conversion of the existing stables of Auburn House to accommodate 4 no. dwellings and the construction of 412 no. residential dwellings, apartments and duplexes providing for an overall total of 417 no. residential units (110 no. dwellings, 248 no. apartments & 59 no. duplexes) along with 1 no. childcare facility. The development comprises:

- 1) The preservation of the existing three storey 11 bedroom residential dwelling of Auburn House (Protected Structure). The main house is to remain in single residential use (i.e. 1 no. 11 bed, three storey detached dwelling).
- 2) The conversion of the existing stables to the rear of Auburn House into 4 no. two storey terraced residential dwellings (1 no. 3 bed unit, 2 no. 2 bed units and 1 no. 1 bed unit). Internal and external alterations to the stables of the Protected Structure including minor demolition works are proposed to accommodate same;
- 3) The preservation and protection of the existing woodland of Auburn House;
- 4) The preservation of existing follies and walls associated with the 'side garden' with amendments to the garden proposed to accommodate the proposed development.
- 5) The demolition of the modern bungalow dwelling known as 'Little Auburn' and associated outbuildings;
- 6) The construction of:
 - a. 105 no. residential dwellings (46 no. three bed units, 48 no. four bed units and 11 no. 5 bed units) in detached, semi-detached and terraced dwellings ranging from 2, 2.5 and 3 storey in height;
 - b. 248 no. apartment units (105 no. one bed units, 130 no. two bed units and 13 no. 3 bed units) in 7 no. apartment blocks ranging in height from 3- 5 storeys all provided with balconies/terraces;
 - c. 59 no. duplex units (29 no. one bed units, 21 no. two bed units and 9 no. three bed units) in 6 no. duplex blocks all 3 storey in height and all provided with balconies/terraces;

- 7) The provision of 1 no. childcare facility (located within the ground floor apartment block 4);
- 8) The construction of 1 no. new vehicular entrance off Malahide Road (providing for a new signalised junction with Back Road and Malahide Road) and 1 no. new vehicular entrance off Carey's Lane;
- 9) Utilisation of existing vehicular entrance access and road for pedestrian and cycle route only with vehicular access retained solely for existing residential use;
- 10) Landscaping including playground and boundary treatments;
- 11) 2 no. esb substations, 1 no. new foul pumping station, car parking; bicycle parking; public lighting; proposed foul sewer works along Back Road and Kinsealy Lane including upgrades to existing storage tank to provide pumping station on Kinsealy Lane, and all associated engineering and site works necessary to facilitate the development.



Figure 2 Proposed development layout

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Introduction

The assessment is based on a desk-based study, comprising an examination of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic material, supported by a field survey comprising a geophysical survey and archaeological test excavation.

2.2. Desk-Based Study

The material sources consulted as part of the desk study are as follows:

- National Monuments, Preservation Orders, Register of Historic Monuments lists for County Dublin, sourced from the Department for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG);
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), DCHG;
- The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI);
- Documentary sources (see references section at the end of the report);
- Cartographic sources, including Down Survey barony and parish maps (c. 1656), Rocque's map of County Dublin (1760), Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816), Ordnance Survey mapping 1843, 1906-9, 1939-40);
- Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database (1970-2018), Dublin Excavations GIS project;
- Aerial imagery (OSi 1995, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2013 & Google Earth 2018).

2.3. Field survey

A geophysical survey (Licence Reference 20R0002) was carried out in accessible areas across the proposed development area, this was followed by the targeted archaeological testing of geophysical anomalies identified (Licence No. 20E0057).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1. Prehistoric Activity

The coastal area of north County Dublin has produced quantities of flint artefacts, including sites such as the raised beaches at Sutton, where Mesolithic and Neolithic flint artefacts have been found (Stout & Stout 1992) and at Paddy's Hill overlooking Malahide Estuary, at which flint scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been identified (Keeling et al, 1994).

With the exception of Howth, prehistoric material has historically been relatively rare in this part of Fingal, and Stout and Stout (1992) speculate that centuries of continuous tillage north of the Liffey must have led to the destruction of a large number of archaeological monuments. However, more recent large-scale archaeological work associated with developments such as TII road projects has begun to identify more prehistoric remains in other parts of Fingal.

Overall, there is a significant body of Neolithic (c. 4000–2400 BC) material from north County Dublin. Excavations at nearby Feltrim Hill (DU012-02502), c. 615m to the southwest, revealed settlement evidence from the Neolithic in the form of pottery sherds and worked stones, although there were no apparent remains of houses (Hartnett & Eogan 1964). Stray finds in the area include leaf-shaped arrowheads, scrapers, a tanged arrowhead, a javelin head, two knives, and several polished stone axe heads (NMI Reg. No. 1965:13-16, 22, 55; 1966:63-92, 122-147, 1968:84-119, 172, 173, 1969:22-33).

This whole stretch of coast has a clear view of Lambay Island to the east where there is evidence for the production of Neolithic stone axes and flint tools (Cooney 2000, 196-7). The highest points of Lambay Island also have at least two cairns that may also date to the Neolithic.

A ring-ditch of Bronze Age date was uncovered during archaeological monitoring in Drinan townland, c. 1.3km northwest (SMR DU012-093; Licence No. 04E1066). The ring-ditch was located a short distance northeast of a multi-period site at which the earliest phase comprised of a cremation burial containing over 70 sherds of Western Neolithic pottery, alongside fragments of burnt bone (SMR DU012-094001; DU012-094002 to -094005; Licence No. 04E1604).

3.2. Early Medieval Activity

At the start of the early medieval period (5th – 12th century AD), the plains of north County Dublin, formed part of the over-kingdom of Brega. Though initially the Laigin controlled most of Dublin and north as far as the River Boyne, the extent of their hegemony was pushed south of the River Liffey over the course of the 5th century AD. With the collapse of the Laigin hegemony in the Midlands, the overkingdom of Brega came to be dominated by Síl nÁedo Sláine, a dynasty of the southern Uí Néill (Byrne 1973). North Dublin was controlled by subject peoples—the Gailenga Becca, the Saitne and the Ciannachta (after Bolger 2006).

A holy well site (RMP DU012-016) known as Lady's well, is recorded c. 690m southwest of the subject lands, in Feltrim Quarry, but no known ecclesiastical centre is situated in the vicinity of this well, which was removed during quarrying operations.

The closest known settlement of early medieval date is the site of a recorded cashel on the western summit of Feltrim Hill, c. 900m southwest (DU012-025001). It comprised an oval area (35m E-W; 25m N-S) enclosed by a drystone wall, with an entrance in the east originally protected by an inner and outer timber gate

(Eogan & Hartnett 1964, 21). Excavations in the late 1940s in advance of quarrying produced extensive evidence for an impressive domestic assembly on the site (*ibid.*, 147).

Further settlement is evidenced by ringforts and an enclosure in the neighbouring Broomfield and Grange townlands (DU012-033, DU015-003001 & -003002), and the discovery of a ringfort which initially presented as a cropmark on aerial photography in Kinsaley townland, c. 1km southeast (SMR file DU012-071; pers. comm. T. Condit).

The multi-period site from Drinan townland included a series of enclosures dating to the early medieval / medieval periods (DU012-094002 to -094005; Licence No. 04E1604). The most dramatic feature identified on site was a low-lying artificial mound that was surrounded by a large ditch. It was enclosed by a ditch and it overlay another substantial earlier ditch. It may have been a ringfort or ringwork, with settlement during the 11th or 12th centuries and possibly earlier (Halliday 2005).

Viking raids on the Irish coastline also commenced during the early historic period, and in AD 841–2 the Vikings wintered for the first time at Dublin. According to Ball (1920), the name Fingal— Fine Gall, the territory of the Gall, or strangers— was used to denote the district into which the Vikings made these predatory excursions. The harbour at Malahide—or possibly Baldoyle (Baile Dubh Gaill, or town/settlement of the dark[-haired] foreigners)— is reputed to have played an important part in early Vikings raids and the Danes were resident in AD 897. Evidence of Viking influence in the surrounding region is recorded in early documentary references to Swords, which first appear in the late 10th and early 11th century when the village became the target of the Ostmen or Vikings of Dublin. The Annals of the Four Masters record that in 1012 and 1016, Swords was burned by the Danes. Before the Battle of Clontarf in 1014, Brian Ború is also said to have burned Fingal and the district of Howth.

The Vikings of Dublin began to expand northwards in the mid-11th century, conquering Dublin's northern hinterland. Hamond McTurkill, the last Danish King of Dublin, retired to Malahide in 1171 (Lewis 1837, 337), and after his death, the Talbots are reputed in folklore to have been involved conquering his remaining kin and followers in the Malahide area: supposedly at the cluster of ringforts in Broomfield and Grange townlands, although the former townland name for Yellow Walls to the northwest of Malahide Demesne was Hamonstown or Hamonswood. Viking rule and settlement influenced the region for over 250 years, from the 9th to the 12th centuries. Bradley suggests Viking Dublin should be looked at as part of what he calls 'the rurally settled area of the Dublin Scandinavians' rather than as a number of successful trading settlements strategically located along the coast (Bradley in Simms & Fagan 1992).

3.3. Later Medieval Activity

Malahide village may have been site of pre-Anglo-Norman settlement, perhaps focused on an early church of St Fenweis that may have been located near to St Sylvester's church and adjacent to a holy well (DU012-

023). A possible motte and bailey (DU012-034) at Wheatfields in Saint helens townland to the south of the village, appears likely to have served as the early seat of the Anglo-Norman lord Richard Talbot, who was granted lands at Malahide in the 1170s.

Richard Talbot, and soon after his kinsfolk, presumably began to set up a more permanent base of power rapidly following his land grant, in the 1170s or 1180s. In the absence of other strong evidence for an earlier foundation, the first phase of building at Malahide Castle may therefore probably be located in the 15th century, with a subsequent second major medieval phase— likely to have been accompanied by the initial building at the adjacent church —quickly following the manorial grant of 1475.

Malahide castle (DU012-030) was erected on an elevated situation in the present grounds of the Demesne, c. 755m northeast of the subject lands. Archaeological testing and excavation (Consent no. C451) uncovered a set of steps at the north-west corner of the older part of the castle, an early possible enclosing wall identified below the Butler’s House as well as a substantial ditch (1.7m in width), which was sealed by the likely late medieval courtyard and probably originally enclosed the 15th-century tower house (RMP file description).

By the 16th century, Fingal was emerging as a distinct cultural zone and was known as the breadbasket of Dublin due its fertile agricultural land. Vital also to the medieval, and the later post-medieval economy in Malahide was the harvesting of marine resources— both fish and oysters from the famed beds in the estuary. Control over these resources, through the granting of the customs and admiralty of the port to Thomas Talbot, accompanied the grant of manorial status in the late 15th century (Byrne 1997, 25), and echoes of such conditions persisted in leases for a long time thereafter. By 1547, Malahide was described as one of the chief havens of Ireland because of its very safe harbour.

3.4. Post Medieval Activity

The agricultural land of Fingal was of strategic importance to the city and this was targeted in the 17th century when both royalist Dublin and Confederate forces pursued a scorched earth policy across the north of Dublin County then containing ‘the goodliest haggards of corn that ever was seen in those parts’, to deprive their enemy from this bounty (Smyth 1992). Fishing resources were similarly targeted. The Earl of Ormonde had instructed the town and the Talbot’s at Malahide Castle to take a Dublin garrison of 200 men in March 1641/2 during the Confederate War, but suggested that contrary to instructions for him to raze the villages and towns of Fingal, he should not do so to ‘the fisher towns upon the coast in regard... ye market at Dublin may be prejudiced thereby’ (Byrne 1997, 25).

Prior to the billeting of Dublin troops, Malahide appears to have fared better than many neighbouring areas because of the security provided by an economy spilt between marine resources and agriculture (Ibid.). Even following Cromwell’s invasion, the locality was spared the worst ravages, with the apparent number

of trees at Malahide Demesne a possible indicator of this. Such conditions, along with the ready defensibility of the castle following an undoubted refurbishment of its defences during its 1640s Dublin garrisoning, may have contributed to the confiscation of Malahide Castle by the regicide Miles Corbet in 1652, when the Talbots were forcibly removed to Connaught.

Following Corbet's flight from Ireland at the end of 1659, and his subsequent execution in the wake of Charles II's restoration to the throne, John Talbot managed to regain possession of the manor in the 1660s. John Talbot, and subsequent generations of his family, were obviously concerned to ensure that neither the requisitioning of the castle, nor its confiscation, were ever repeated, and there is a suggestion in surviving estate records (cf. Byrne 1997, 16, 69) that the main concern with renovations and upkeep to the castle and demesne involved not just modifications according to new ideas about polite architecture and landscape design, but also a desire to lessen the military appearance and effectiveness of the site.

By the late 18th century, prosperous Dubliners were leaving the city and establishing small country estates in the surrounding countryside, with coastal locations proving more attractive still. Auburn House ('Auburne') is mentioned as the seat of J. Crawford, Esq. In the mid-18th century, the property belonged to the Crawfords, a prosperous merchant family from Fermanagh. The house was built in about 1779, probably to mark the marriage of its owner, James Crawford, to Frances Vernon of Clontarf Castle in 1776; it is presumed that the courtyard, coach-house and walled gardens also date from this time (www.turtlebunbury.com/published/published_interiors/ireland/pub_int_auburn). Bunbury describes Auburn House as one of the finest residences built at this time, it being 'a golden-brown three-storey mansion located within a wooded demesne adjacent to Malahide Castle' (Ibid.). A more detailed account of the house and demesne is contained in the separate architectural heritage conservation report prepared for the project.

3.5. National Monuments and Recorded Archaeological Monuments (RMP / SMR sites)

There are no national monuments within or in the vicinity of the subject lands.

There are no RMP / SMR sites located within the subject lands and only two within c. 500m (Figure 3). One is a mound (RMP DU012-028) c. 300m to the south that was excavated in 1982 and is thought to be the remains of an ornamental feature attached to the grounds of Auburn House (the mound was formed from medieval and post-medieval 'dump' material). The second is an enclosure (SMR DU012-078), also located in Auburn townland, c. 275m southwest of the subject lands. The site was identified by Dr Steve Davis as a cropmark on an aerial photograph in 2015 (SMR file).

These and other relevant sites in the landscape are described in the context of the archaeological and historical background above.



Figure 3 Recorded archaeological sites within 1km of subject lands

3.6. Stray Finds (National Museum of Ireland Topographical files)

Only three finds are recorded to Auburn townland, all of which are pottery sherds of unknown date (NMI Reg. Nos 1946:410-412). The volume of stray finds recorded to the surrounding townlands, particularly Feltrim Hill to the southwest and Paddy's Hill in Broomfield to the east, indicates significant activity and settlement in the wider area during the prehistoric period.

3.7. Place-Name Evidence

The townland names in this part of north Dublin provide reference to the historical heritage of the area. They are an invaluable source of information not only on the topography, land ownership, and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, the archaeological monuments and the folklore. Where a monument has been forgotten or destroyed, a place name may still refer to it, and may therefore indicate the possibility that remains may survive below the ground surface.

Townland names were recorded by the Ordnance Survey surveyors in the 1830s and 1840s, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. The mapmakers, soldiers and antiquarians who collected the place names and local history varied in their interests and abilities. While most place names were anglicised or translated relatively accurately, some were corrupted virtually beyond recognition. Nonetheless, a variety of place names, whether of Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman, and English origin, appears throughout Dublin, and

the appearance of the different languages is often a good indicator of the cultural heritage, and therefore the archaeological record of the area.

Many of the townland names of this area are English language-derived names, like Auburn, Mabestown, Streamstown and Yellow Walls. There are several that are Irish in origin, largely topographical in nature, such as Drinan (*an draighneán*) which means ‘place of blackthorns’ (O’Donovan *et al.* 1843). The townland name Feltrim refers to ‘the ridge of the wolves’ (*fael druim*) (*Ibid.*), while Kinsaley means ‘the head of the brine’ (*ceann saile*) (Joyce 1910). The neighbouring Malahide Demesne takes its name from the village. Although commonly referred to as *Mullach Íde* in Irish, Joyce notes that it is ‘written in all the old documents as *Baile-atha-Thíd*’ meaning town of the ford of Teud, a man’s name (the transposition of ‘b’ to ‘m’ at the start of the placename is seen elsewhere) (Joyce 1920).

3.8. Cartographic sources

Down Survey

At the time of the mid-17th century Down Survey, the subject area lay within ‘Mabstowne’ (Mabestown), with the townland of Auburn presumably a much later division. Several small dwellings are depicted in the townland, described as ‘foure or five cabbins’ in the parish terrier, with the forfeited land formerly the possession of Chris Fagan of Feltrim. Malahide Castle is depicted as a fortified house surrounded by trees to the northeast, while the windmill on Feltrim Hill is also shown to the southwest.

‘An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin’, John Rocque

John Rocque, on his 1760 map of County Dublin (Figure 4), shows a property already occupying the lands at Auburn. The property comprised a house and outbuildings arranged around a courtyard, with a kitchen garden on the southwest side. The buildings were situated on the south side of ‘Peas Fields Hill’. As now, the property was accessed off the Malahide Road. The present house was built around 1779, presumably replacing the earlier dwelling. Malahide Demesne is depicted, named ‘Malahide Court’. There are small settlement clusters at ‘Streams Town’, ‘Mabes Town’ and Feltrim. Feltrim Hill and the windmill are both depicted and named.

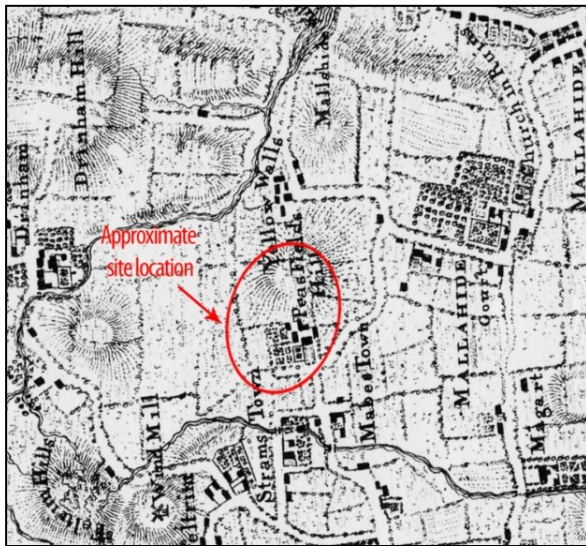


Figure 4 Rocque map of the County of Dublin (1760)

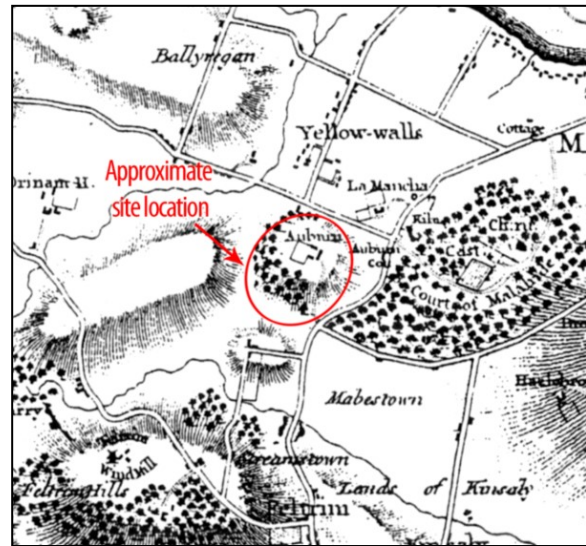


Figure 5 Taylor's map of Dublin (1816)

'Map of the Environs of Dublin', John Taylor

Taylor's map (Figure 5) is less detailed than Rocque's, but it provides some new information. Most notably, the present Auburn House is depicted and named, with woodland shown around it to the north, west and south. The house is shown occupying an elevated site, presumably the hill named on Rocque's map, 'Peas Fields Hill'. Malahide Demesne is named as the 'Court of Malahide', with both castle and church ruins indicated.

Ordnance Survey Mapping

The first edition OS six-inch map (Figure 6) represents the earliest accurate and detailed cartographic source for the study area. It shows Auburn House, with courtyard buildings arranged on its west side, and woodland to the north, west, and south (as on Taylor's map). The house is approached along a carriageway that leads north and westwards from the entrance on the Malahide Road. To the south and west of the carriageway is a group of outbuildings, a walled garden and orchards. These form part of the Auburn estate and are in roughly the location of those depicted on Rocque's map of 1760. The remainder of the estate is divided into fields, with an area of parkland to the front (east) of the house. Mabestown townland is now only one small section on the east side of the Malahide Road (the remainder having been renamed Auburn), where it forms part of the large estate associated with Malahide Castle. The part of the subject lands that fall within Streamstown townland comprise fields outside the boundaries of both Auburn estate and the neighbouring Clairville.

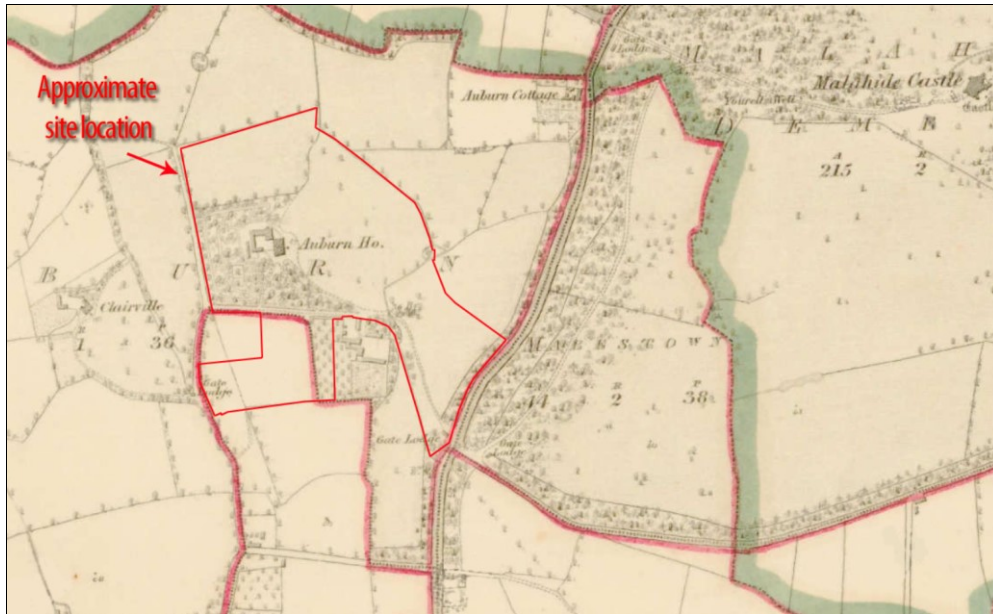


Figure 6 First Edition OS six-inch map, 1843

There are no significant changes on the OS 25-inch map of 1906-09 (not pictured), though the neighbouring Clairville house is indicated as being in ruin by this time. This remains the case on the revised six-inch edition OS map of 1935-38 (Figure 7). By this time, the walled gardens and orchards in the Auburn estate are empty plots.

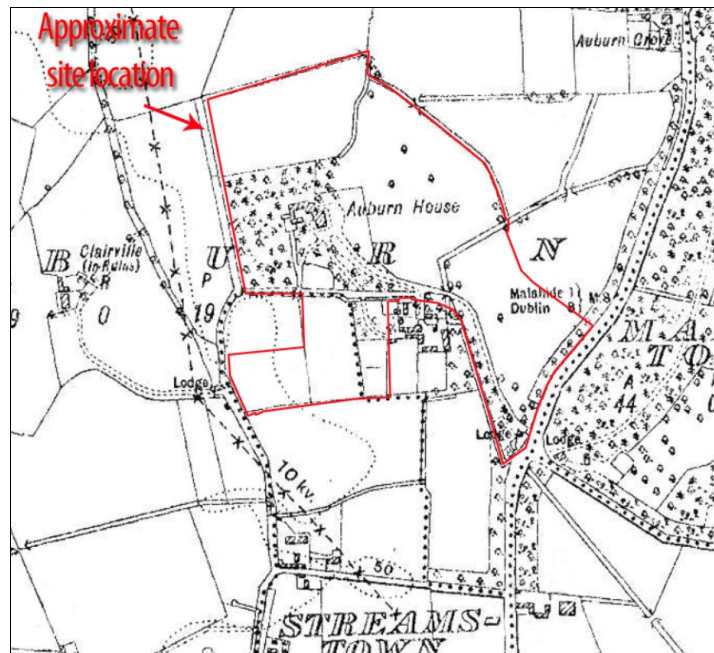


Figure 7 Revised Edition OS six-inch map, 1935-38

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

4.1. Previous investigations

There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the subject lands and only two in the vicinity, one of which is the aforementioned excavation in 1982 of the mound (RMP DU012-028) in Auburn townland. In 2012, archaeological monitoring was undertaken of investigative slit-trenches excavated along the R107 road for a proposed new watermain (St Doolagh's to Streamstown). Nothing of archaeological significance was found (Licence No. 12E0185; Excavations Bulletin Ref. 2012:247).

Of those undertaken in the wider area, the discoveries in Kinsaley townland are particularly notable. A large enclosure (SMR site DU012-071) visible as a cropmark on aerial imagery was confirmed by geophysical survey and archaeological testing (Licence Nos 14R00314 & 14E0165). A second possible enclosure, previously unknown, was identified by geophysical survey and archaeological testing further north (Licence Nos 14R0038 & 14E0162). Another enclosure and two ringforts sites nearby are also visible on aerial imagery (RMP sites DU012-033, -003001 & -003002). This demonstrates both the efficacy of geophysical survey in this landscape and the prevalence of destroyed archaeological sites that survive below-ground.

4.2. Geophysical Survey

A detailed gradiometer survey was carried out in February 2020 by J.M. Leigh surveys Ltd. (Licence Reference 20R0002). Areas available for detailed survey within the application area were limited due to dense tree cover, landscaping, buildings and roadways. Detailed survey was contained within six fields (Areas A-F, Figure 8). Areas A and B are located immediately to the north and east of Auburn House and comprised short pasture. Areas C, D and E are located in the grounds of Little Auburn and constitute its gardens. There was much magnetic disturbance in these areas and Area C comprised overgrown vegetation as well as modern litter and debris. Area F is located to the south of Auburn House and is surrounded by modern housing and ground conditions were similar to those in Area C.

Survey Results Areas A and B (Figures 9 and 10)

Several strong magnetic linear responses correspond to modern services in both Areas A and B. Curvilinear trends in the southeast of Area A were deemed of archaeological potential, although interpretation was extremely tentative. Several discreet positive magnetic responses were indicated across both Areas A and B and archaeological interpretation was tentative as there was no clear pattern. Two linear trends in the north of Area B did not form a coherent pattern and were interpreted as possible modern agricultural activity. Several linear trends and broad negative responses were identified in the southern half of Area B, however there was no clear pattern and they were interpreted as possible natural variations, with the possibility that they could represent plough damaged remains of former landscaped features. The incoherent nature of the responses makes interpretation cautious. Parallel trends in the south eastern

corner of Area B are indicative of ploughing activity. A small area of increased magnetic response was identified in the west of Area B in proximity to the linear trends. This comprises several positive magnetic responses in addition to ferrous responses. Although this could possibly represent a spread of burnt material, an archaeological interpretation was highly tentative given the level of modern ferrous disturbance at the site.

Survey Results Areas C, D, E and F (Figures 11 and 12)

Areas C and E are largely dominated by modern magnetic disturbance with the exception of a possible single isolated response in the north eastern corner of Area C and similar isolated responses are evident in Area F. In both areas there was no clear archaeological pattern and an archaeological interpretation was extremely cautious. Two linear trends were evident in Area D and represent pathways associated with Little Auburn House. A fragmented magnetic linear trend was identified in Area F oriented north-south and may represent a field boundary depicted on the Cassini 6-inch OS mapping. Further linear trends in Area F may be associated with nearby housing. A curvilinear positive magnetic trend in Area F may represent the remains of a curvilinear ditched feature, however an archaeological interpretation is cautious.

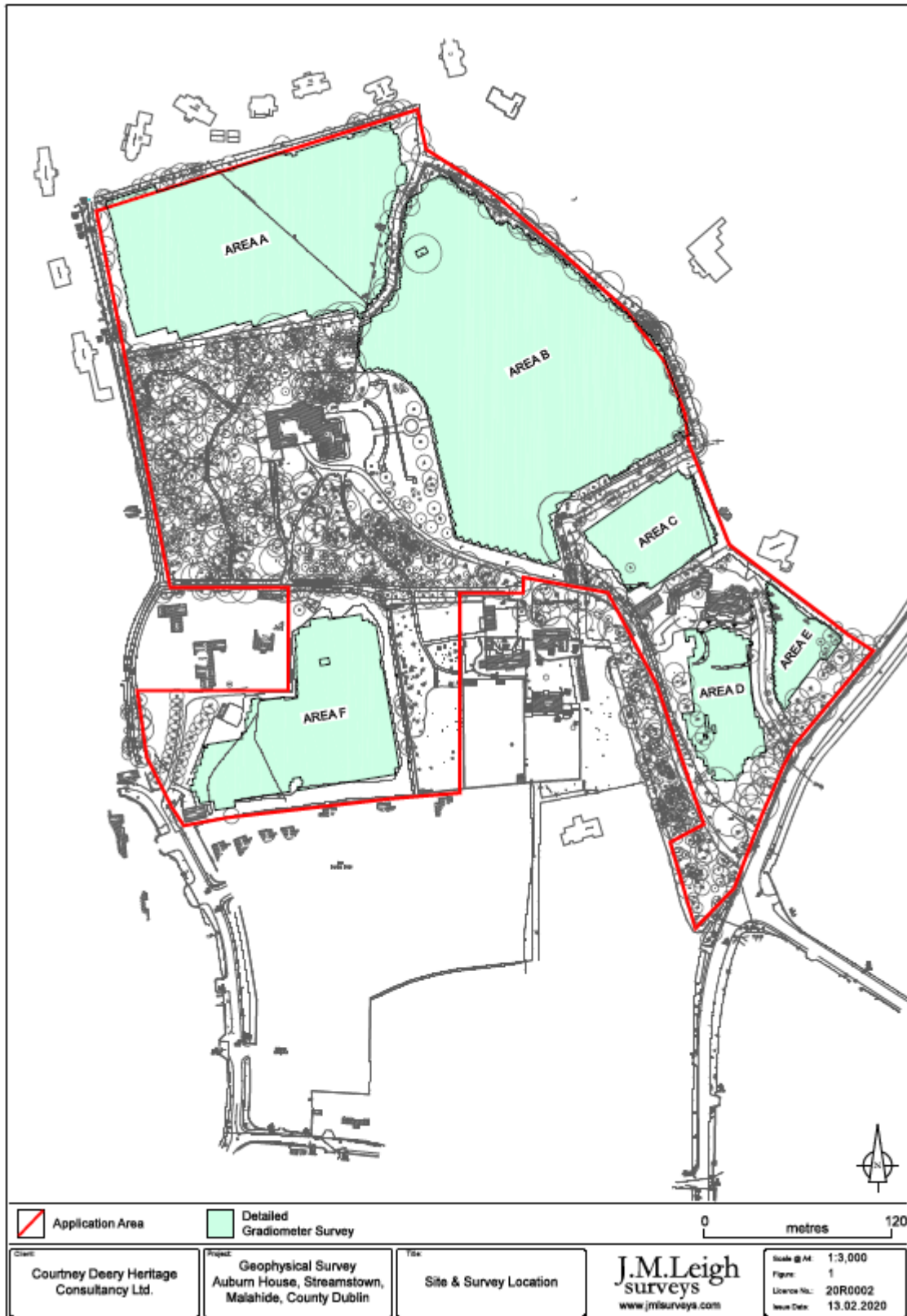


Figure 8 Survey Areas A-F

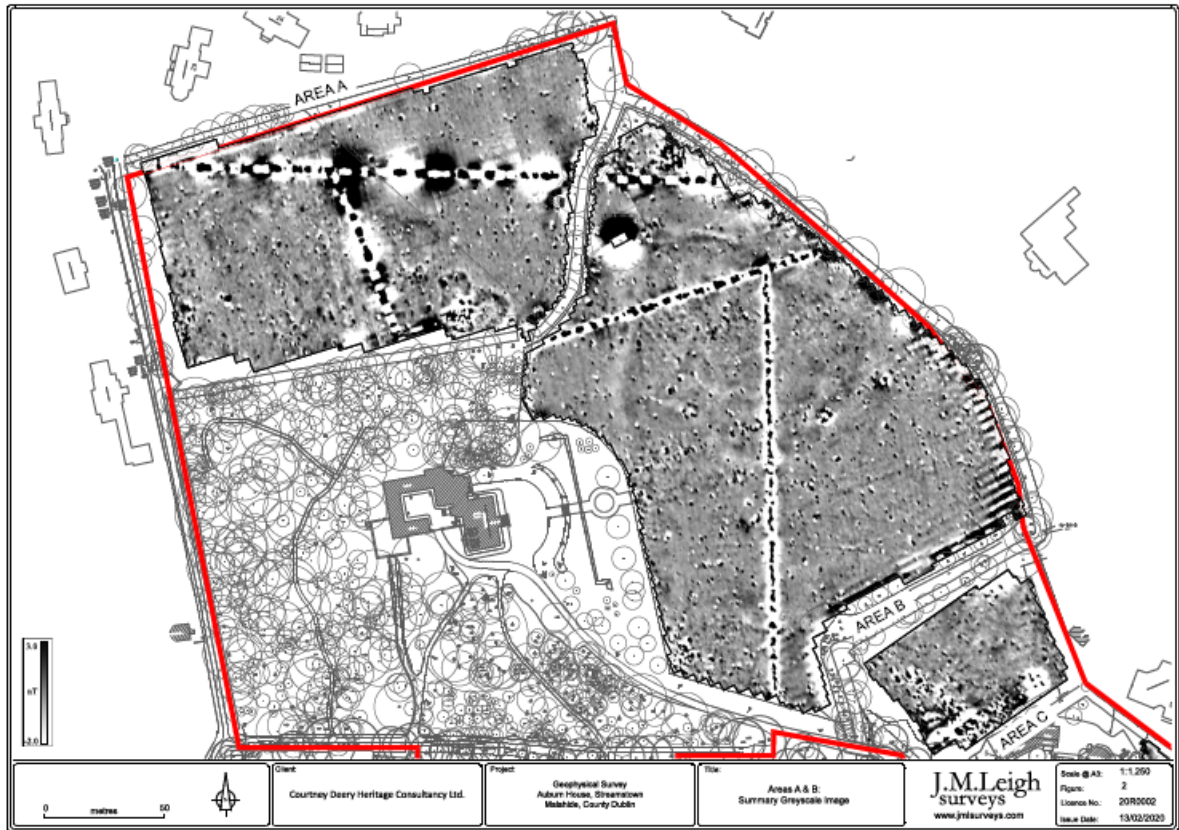


Figure 9 Geophysical survey, summary greyscale, Areas A and B

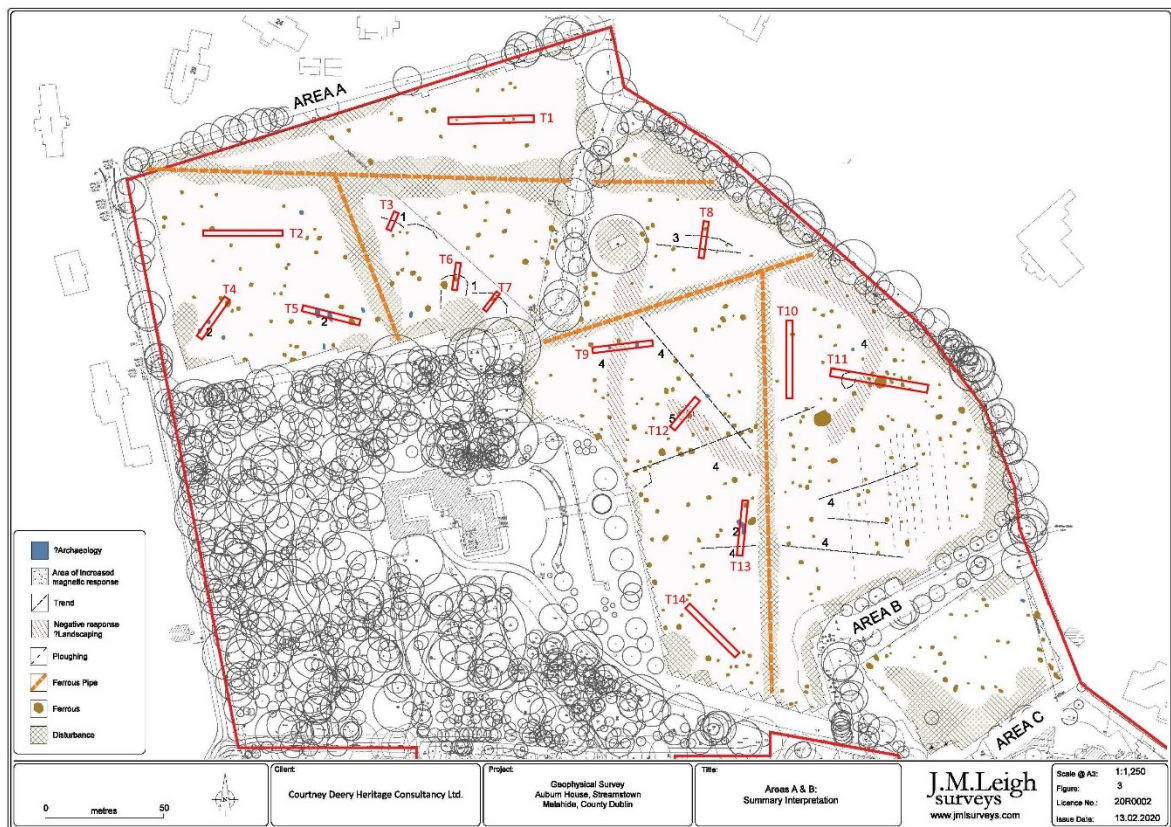


Figure 10 Geophysical survey, summary interpretation, Areas A and B and test trenches 1-14

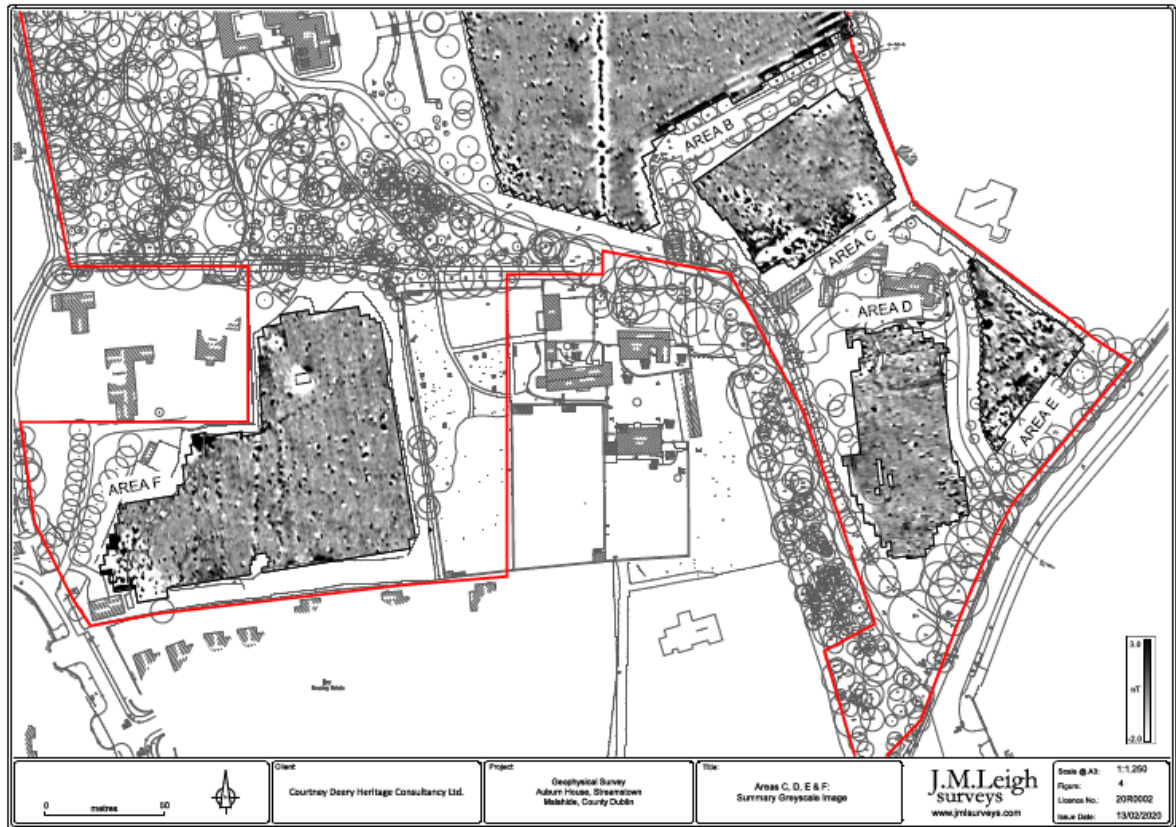


Figure 11 Geophysical survey, summary greyscale, Areas C, D, E and F

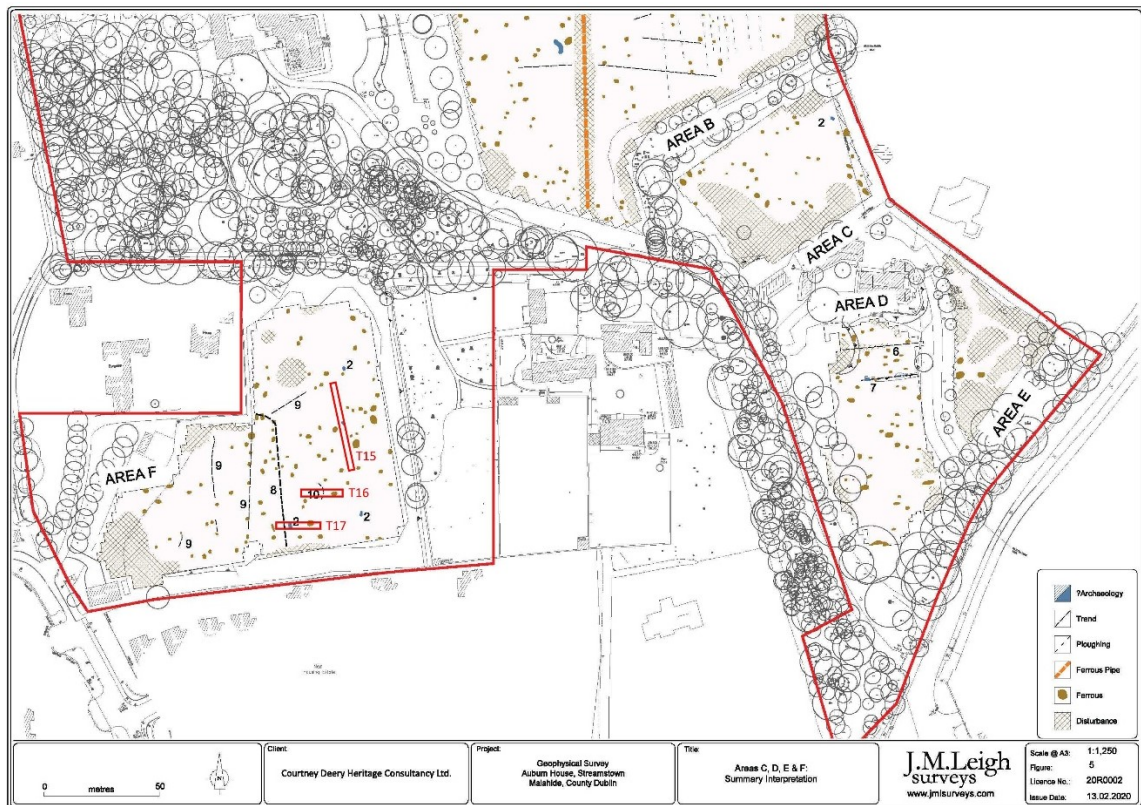


Figure 12 Geophysical survey, summary interpretation, Areas C, D, E and F and test trenches 15-17

4.3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING RESULTS

4.3.1. General

Archaeological testing (Licence No. 20E0057) was carried out over three days from 3rd March 2020. This was carried out using a mechanical tracked excavator fitted with toothless grading bucket. In total 17 test trenches totalling 430m linear metres were excavated and were placed to target anomalies indicated in the geophysical survey as well as control trenches to test areas where no anomalies were indicated (Figures 10 & 12).

4.3.2. Methodology

All trenches were excavated to the surface of archaeological or potential archaeological deposits or to the underlying natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned and sectioned where necessary, to establish their nature, extent and character. Photographs and trench recording sheets were used to record the details of each trench.

4.3.3. Summary of test trenches T1 – T17

The natural subsoil on the site generally comprised, brown-yellow sandy silt, with frequent gravelly and sometimes stony inclusions towards the top of rises and light grey silty clay on lower areas. Trenches ranged in width from 1.2 - 1.8m wide and depths generally ranged between 0.25 – 0.3m.

Trenches 3-9, 11-13 and 16-17 were placed to test a range of anomalies indicated in the geophysical survey and these are detailed below in 4.3.1. Trenches 1, 2, 10, 14 and 15 were placed as control trenches to test areas where no anomalies were indicated in the survey results. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were identified in any of the trenches.

Table 1 Summary of test trenches

Trench #	Area	Orientation	Length	Width	Depth	Results
1	A	E-W	40m	1.5m	0.3m	No archaeology
2	A	E-W	40m	1.5m	0.35m	No archaeology
3	A	SSW-NNE	15m	1.4m	0.45m	No archaeology
4	A	SW-NE	25m	1.5m	0.3m	No archaeology
5	A	NW-SE	25m	1.4m	0.4m	No archaeology
6	A	SSW-NNE	15m	1.6m	0.25m	No archaeology
7	A	SW-NE	10m	1.7m	0.25-0.3m	No archaeology
8	B	SSW-NNE	20m	1.8m	0.25m	No archaeology
9	B	WSW-ESE	20m	1.7m	0.25m	No archaeology
10	B	NNW-SSE	35m	1.6m	0.3m	No archaeology
11	B	E-W	40m	1.7m	0.25m	No archaeology
12	B	SW-NE	20m	1.8m	0.2-0.3m	No archaeology

Trench #	Area	Orientation	Length	Width	Depth	Results
13	B	NNE-SSW	25m	1.8m	0.3m	No archaeology
14	B	NW-SE	30m	1.2m	0.3m	No archaeology
15	F	NNW-SSE	40m	1.5m	0.3m	No archaeology
16	F	E-W	15m	1.5m	0.3m	No archaeology
17	F	E-W	15m	1.5m	0.3m	No archaeology

4.3.4. Geophysical trench results

Trenches 3, 6 and 7 were placed to investigate several curvilinear trends and ferrous responses in Area A. In trench 3 a band of gravel mid-way along the trench may correspond with the geophysical anomaly indicated in that location. In trench 6 a pit filled with mortar, slate and brick, up to 1m deep below the present ground level was identified and represents the dumped remains of a demolished modern structure. This deposit extended beyond the limit of the test trench to the east and west. In trench 7 a band of gravelly soil approximately mid-way along the trench appears to correspond with the anomaly on the geophysical survey.

Trenches 4 and 5 were placed to investigate several discreet positive magnetic responses with no clear pattern in Area A. Nothing corresponding with the geophysical anomalies was noted in trench 4 and gravelly patches were identified in trench 5 that could correspond with the survey results.

Trench 8 was placed to investigate two linear trends with no coherent pattern in Area B. No features were noted in the trench that would correspond with the geophysical survey results.

Trenches 9 and 11 were placed to investigate broad negative responses in Area B. There was no clear pattern and they were thought to possibly represent natural variations or plough damaged remains of former landscape features. In trench 9 changes in the natural subsoil from silty to gravelly natural are likely to correspond with the anomaly on the geophysical survey. In trench 11 the natural subsoil changes from sandy silt to pure silty clay and these variations may correspond with the geophysical survey results.

Trench 12 was placed to investigate another broad negative response, a small area of increased magnetic response and ferrous responses in Area B. This was thought to possibly represent a spread of burnt material, although an archaeological interpretation was highly tentative. Mid-way along the trench and corresponding with the geophysical anomalies a deposit of dark soil with modern inclusions was identified.

Trench 13 was placed to investigate an east-west linear trend and a discreet positive magnetic response in Area B. A shallow linear probable furrow oriented roughly east-west was identified in the trench and variations in the natural subsoil most likely account for the other anomalies in the survey results.

Trench 16 was placed to investigate a curvilinear positive magnetic trend possibly representing a ditched feature in Area F, although an archaeological interpretation was cautious. Nothing corresponding with the geophysical anomalies were identified in the trench.

Trench 17 was placed to investigate an isolated response and a fragmented magnetic linear trend oriented roughly north-south in Area F. Nothing corresponding with the geophysical anomalies were identified in the trench.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no RMP / SMR sites located within the subject lands and only two within c. 500m. One is a mound (RMP DU012-028) c. 300m south that was excavated in 1982 and is thought to be the remains of an ornamental feature attached to the grounds of Auburn House (the mound was formed from medieval and post-medieval 'dump' material). The second is an enclosure, also in Auburn townland, c. 275m southwest of the subject lands; the site was identified by Dr Steve Davis as a cropmark on an aerial photograph in 2015 (SMR file DU012-078).

The desk based archaeological assessment, geophysical survey and archaeological test excavation did not reveal any features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest within the proposed development area. The majority of the geophysical anomalies appear to correspond with variations in the natural subsoil. The archaeological potential of the area is considered low, however, based on the scale of the development, archaeological monitoring of earthmoving works is recommended.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Section of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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Online Resources:

www.excavations.ie

www.libguides.ucd.ie

www.osi.ie

www.heritagemaps.ie

www.tcd.ie/downsurvey

APPENDIX 1 EXTRACTS FROM RELEVANT LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation 1930-2004.

All archaeological sites have the full protection of the national monuments legislation (Principal Act 1930; Amendments 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004).

In the 1987 Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act (1930), the definition of a national monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections,

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position,

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient

(i) tomb, grave or burial deposit, or

(ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site,

and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site...

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930),

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all of the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

- In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act 2004

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

(2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then

- (a) the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister
- (b) subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

PLATES



Plate 1 Trench 1, Area A, looking west



Plate 2 Trench 4, Area A, looking southwest



Plate 3 Trench 5, Area A, looking northwest



Plate 4 Trench 7, Area A, looking northeast



Plate 5 Trench 9, Area B, looking east



Plate 6 Trench 11, Area B, looking east



Plate 7 Trench 13, Area B, looking north-northeast



Plate 8 Trench 15, Area F, looking north-northwest



Plate 9 Trench 17, Area F, looking east

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