

Appendix 13.2

Clonminch Masterplan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Archaeological Assessment

Client: Steinfort Investments Fund

Licence No: 19E0658

Archaeologist: Aidan O'Connell

Author: Aidan O'Connell

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Clonminch Masterplan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

SITE NAME	Clonminch Masterplan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
CLIENT	Steinfort Investments Fund
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Assessment
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PLANNING REF	N/A
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ARCHAEOLOGIST	Aidan O'Connell
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SUMMARY

This archaeological assessment report undertaken for the Clonminch Masterplan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (ITM 634740, 723270) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Steinfort Investments Fund Test excavations were undertaken by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning under licence 19E0658 issued by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study, geophysical survey and test excavation:

- The site is large in scale occupying an area of roughly 9.2 Ha.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries.
- No potential archaeological sites were noted on examination of aerial photo and cartographic sources
- There are no Protected Structures in or adjacent to the site.
- No archaeological excavations have been undertaken previously within the subject site.
- Previous excavations in the wider landscape have uncovered small-scale isolated archaeological sites at Clonminch 1 & Cloncollog 2.
- Numerous anomalies of archaeological potential were recorded in the course of geophysical survey, including a probable fulacht fia at the northwest of the subject site.
- The current assessment recorded the remains of a ploughed out fulacht fia in Trenches 1-3 at the northwest of the subject site.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Should development proceed at this location, it is recommended that suitable mitigation measures be put in place with regards to the fulacht fia located at the northwest corner of the site. In the first instance, it is recommended that the site be preserved in situ. However, in the event that provision of green space is not possible at this location, development works should be preceded by full archaeological excavation undertaken under licence to the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Should development proceed at this location, it is recommended that groundwork's across the remainder of the 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.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	Final	30 October 2019	AOC (Archer)	LC (Archer)	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological assessment report undertaken for the Clonminch Masterplan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (ITM 634740, 723270, Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Steinfort Investments Fund A desk based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in March 2019 by Liam Coen of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It aimed to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The current report presents the results of test excavations undertaken at the site on foot of the desktop report. The test excavations were undertaken by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning under licence 19E0658 issued by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

1.1 Proposed Development

A Masterplan is being produced to inform future development for the site. There are currently no detailed site layout plans available.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is on the south-eastern outskirts of the town of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. It is bounded along the north-east by the Dublin-Galway railway line; along the east by the N52 road; along the south-west by the R443 road; and along the north-west by a series of housing estates at Gayfield. The site is predominantly agricultural land in a mixture of arable and pasture with a cluster of domestic houses along the R443 road. The landscape is gently undulating with mature hedgerows comprising the field boundaries.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

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

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record¹
- 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 ,

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

The site lies less than 1.5km south-east of the centre of Tullamore. Tullamore itself was founded in the late 18th Century by the local landowners, the Moore's, following a fire engulfing an earlier village that lay on the site (Lewis 1837). By 1833, Tullamore now in the hands of the Burys, had become the county town and administrative centre of the county.

Tullamore lies in the ancient district of *Fear Ceall*, translating as 'men of the woods' or 'men of the churches' and in the Early Medieval period there were numerous famous monastic centres in the wider area, including Durrow, Clonmacnoise, Birr and Lynally (Simms & Andrews 1995). The subject site lies in the parish of Kilbride, part of the lands of the monastery of Durrow prior to the Dissolution of 1534 (Lewis 1837).

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 application area. The closest recorded site (OF017-041) is located c. 220m to the east and consists of a metalworking site (of unspecified date) recorded along the route of the N52 Tullamore Bypass. A ringfort (OF017-010) located c. 340m to the NE of the subject site is indicative of early medieval (AD 400-1200) settlement in the surrounding landscape.

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
OF017-009----	Redundant record	Tullamore	634579,724745	980 m to NW
<p>The identification of a 'habitation site' at this location (listed in the SMR (1988) was based on a survey report by Oliver Davies in 1942 who recorded: 'On the sides of the path leading up to the church on S.W. which is the steepest and highest end I found that the natural very fine sand (on loamy clay), interspersed with streaks of lime deposit, is overlain with about 18 inches of humus. At about 6 inches above the till I found pottery fragments and very occasional pieces of charcoal. There was no definite layer, and any finds at this level would have slipped down from a habitation site on top of the hill where there is a wide platform S.W. of the church.' (copy of ITA Survey 1942, SMR file). The church is nineteenth century in date, has no graveyard attached and there was no earlier church located on top of this hill. Archaeological testing in 2004 (licence no. 04E0065) and 2006 (licence no. 05E1198) revealed no evidence for this 'habitation site' (Delaney 2007; Sullivan 2008). An examination of the 'pottery' fragments in the National Museum of Ireland has identified them as 'in fact, mortar or plaster and probably cement-based' (pers. comm. A. Halpin, 8 May 2015). There is no evidential base to support the identification of this site as a monument.</p> <p>Compiled by: Paul Walsh Date of upload: 8 May 2015</p>				

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
OF017-010---	Ringfort-rath	Cloncollog	635928, 723647	340 m to NE
<p>Located on high ground with extensive views in all directions. Poorly preserved oval shaped enclosure (74m E-W by 54m N-S) enclosed by earthen bank (Wth 3 - 1m, int. H 1.5m), fosse (Wth 2 ; int. H 1.5m) and poorly preserved external bank visible at N only. No entrance feature visible. Possible ringfort.</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p> <p>Date of upload: 23 May 2011</p>				
OF017-041---	Metalworking site	Cloncollog	635832, 732492	220 m to E
<p>Cloncollog 2 is located approximately 2.5km east-south-east of Tullamore town centre. The pasture field was irregular in plan and sloped gently from north-east to south-west. A pit was identified (Context 006) in Trench 26 c. 375m from the south-western end of the centre-line trench and was excavated by Linda Hegarty of Headland Archaeology under licence No. E2850 in February 2007. This pit was situated 150m north-east of the building recorded as Cloncollog 1 (see No. 1450 above). The pit was circular in plan measuring 0.45m in diameter and 0.38m in depth. It had sharp breaks of slope on the top with near vertical sides. The base was flat with sharp breaks of slope. Around the surface and sides of the pit was between 0.05 and 0.1m of oxidised clay, suggesting intense in situ heat. It contained two fills. The primary fill consisted of loose black/brown silt with approximately 50% charcoal inclusions. Lumps of highly vitrified slag/conglomerated material and solid metal material (non-magnetic) were identified throughout this fill. This fill was 0.2m deep and covered the base of the pit. Overlying this fill was moderately compact grey/brown silt with approximately 15–20% charcoal inclusions. Lumps of highly vitrified slag/conglomerated material were identified around the edges of this fill, which reached a depth of 0.2m. Due to the high archaeological content of this feature an additional trench (26a) was stripped of topsoil. It was excavated south-west of pit (006) measuring 17.6m, running parallel with the centre-line trench and connecting with Trench 25. Nothing of further archaeological significance was identified (Bennett 2010, 400).</p> <p>Compiled by Caimin O'Brien</p>				

Table 1: Archaeological sites within 1km of the proposed development

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 nineteenth and twentieth century cartography are described in Table 2 below (Figure 3). **No potential archaeological features were recorded within the subject site.**

Map	Date	Description
Historic 6inch	1838	The site is comprised of more numerous smaller fields than currently exist and there are several buildings along the east/west running laneway that bisects the site as well as another cluster in the northern part.
Historic 25inch	1909-10	Some consolidation of the field pattern has taken place with the majority of buildings noted in the earlier map now no longer extant.

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/Bing Maps 2018). No potential archaeological sites were identified within the subject site.

Aerial Photograph	Date	Description
OSi	1995	Black and white photograph. The site is shown in its current layout with some relict field boundaries visible. The housing estates to the north-west are only partially developed with the N52 yet to be constructed.
OSi	2005	The housing estates to the north-west are in their current form, otherwise no change.
OSi Digital Globe	2013	Some relict field boundaries are visible and the N52 has been constructed along the south-eastern boundary.
Google Earth	2019	No change
Google Earth Pro	2018	No change

Table 3: Aerial Photographs

4.5 Previous Archaeological Excavations

There were no previous archaeological excavations within the subject site but several have taken place within the wider landscape. The closest excavations which yielded archaeological material were an isolated pit of unspecified date recorded in Clonminch Townland and a metalworking site at Cloncollog 2.

Excavation No.	RMP	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
99E0152	N/A	629385, 725039	Tullamore/Ballycowan	1999:751	Rob Lynch
Monitoring of SI works for Tullamore Water Supply Improvements. No archaeology found.					
A033, E2493	N/A	633855, 725319	Tullamore	2006:1701	Tom Janes
Test excavations carried out in advance of the proposed N52 Tullamore bypass. Thirteen areas of archaeological potential were identified in the testing. Five of these areas were shown to comprise isolated small features and consequently were fully excavated.					
A033; E2849	N/A	635743, 723279	Clonminch	2007:1450	Linda Hegarty
Cloncollog 1 was excavated in February 2007 in advance of the N52 Tullamore Bypass. The rubble footings of a building (Context 009) were identified 150m south-west of a pit at Cloncollog 2 (see No. 1451 below). Context 009 comprised the corner footing stones of a stone structure. The remains of the house identified consisted of a right-angled corner with both lengths measuring 2.5m. The cut for the foundation was c. 0.45m in width and consisted of moderately compact mid-dark-brown silty clay with inclusions of large sub-angular stones. A house is marked on the first-edition OS map of 1838; it is most likely to be this house identified in the testing.					
A033; E2850	N/A	635793, 723329	Clonminch	2007:1451	Linda Hegarty
Cloncollog 2 is located approximately 2.5km east-south-east of Tullamore town centre. A pit was identified (Context 006) in Trench 26 c. 375m from the south-western end of the centre-line trench and was excavated in February 2007.					

Excavation No.	RMP	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
This pit was situated 150m north-east of the building recorded as Cloncollog 1 (see No. 1450 above). The pit was circular in plan measuring 0.45m in diameter and 0.38m in depth. It had sharp breaks of slope on the top with near vertical sides. The base was flat with sharp breaks of slope. Around the surface and sides of the pit was between 0.05 and 0.1m of oxidised clay, suggesting intense in situ heat. It contained two fills. The primary fill consisted of loose black/brown silt with approximately 50% charcoal inclusions. Lumps of highly vitrified slag/conglomerated material and solid metal material (non-magnetic) were identified throughout this fill. This fill was 0.2m deep and covered the base of the pit. Overlying this fill was moderately compact grey/brown silt with approximately 15–20% charcoal inclusions. Lumps of highly vitrified slag/conglomerated material were identified around the edges of this fill, which reached a depth of 0.2m.					
A033; E2851	N/A	634118, 722682	Clonminch	2007:1454	Linda Hegarty
Clonminch 1 is located c. 1.5km south of Tullamore in gently undulating farmland under pasture at the time of testing. A spread of charcoal-rich silt and oxidised clay was identified 47m from the western end of the centre-line trench and was excavated in February 2007. This was a subcircular deposit of compact charcoal-rich sandy silt with frequent inclusions of burnt clay and an area of oxidation at its centre. It measured 1.5m east–west by 1.4m and was 0.05m deep. An area measuring 4m by 4m was opened around the feature but no further archaeological deposits were identified. A small sample was recovered for environmental analysis.					
E003818	N/A	632654, 722407	Ballard to Clonminch	2008:101	Ross MacLeod
Peatland monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Offaly County Council as part of the advance archaeological works contract for the N52 Tullamore bypass. The work was in the townlands of Ballard to Clonminch, Co. Offaly, 0.25km south of Tullamore town. Monitoring took place on 1.25km stretch of peatland which had previously been under commercial forestry. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of this investigation.					
12E0181	N/A	633841, 723059m	Clonminch	2012:499	Tony Cummins
Test trenching at the site of a proposed distillery and warehouse complex at Clonminch, Tullamore was undertaken as part of an EIS for the development. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.					

Table 4: Previous archaeological investigations in the wider area

4.6 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the development plan is being reviewed.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It is intended to provide a basis for recommendations of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) to Local Authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in Records of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are no Protected Structures or structures recorded on the NIAH located within the subject site.

St Catherine's Cemetery, Clonminch is a Protected Structure; Offaly County Council RPS no. 33-08. This cemetery lies 100m to the south of the Clonminch Masterplan site beyond the N52 road. There are mature hedgerows and road infrastructure, *i.e.* signage and sound-barrier fencing, associated with the N52/R443 roundabout between the cemetery and Clonminch Masterplan site. **There would be no significant impact from development on this Protected Structure.** Structures recorded on the NIAH in the immediate environs of the Clonminch Masterplan site include St. Catherine's Cemetery, NIAH Reg. No. 14917027; Violet Cottage, Reg. No. 14917018; and St. Joseph's Cemetery, Reg. No. 14917017. The details are shown below in Table 5

Reg. No.	Address	Description	Date	Distance from site
RPS 33-08 NIAH 14917027	St. Catherine's Cemetery, Clonminch	Saint Catherine's Cemetery at Clonminch, opened in 1852, is bounded by random rubble wall with tooled capping and cast-iron gates. Varied grave markers and obelisk stone monuments and cast-iron railings throughout graveyard.	1850-1860	100m to south
NIAH 14917018	Violet Cottage, Clonminch	Detached three-bay single-storey house, built c.1860, with attic, extension and outbuildings to rear. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks, gable finials and bargeboards to gable eaves, half dormer windows with bargeboards and timber finial. Timber sash windows with stone sills and flat-headed arch. Red brick above windows. Round-headed door opening with red brick arch surround, timber spoked glazed fanlight and replacement timber double doors. Random rubble front wall with random rubble gate piers wrought-iron railing to driveway and wrought-iron pedestrian gate.	1840-1880	80m to West
NIAH 14917017	St. Joseph's Cemetery, Spollanstown, Tullamore	Cemetery, established c.1860, accessed by gates. Ruled-and-lined render to walls with painted capstones. Pair of tooled limestone gate piers capped with stone crosses on limestone plinth. Cast- and wrought-iron gates. Pedestrian gate to north. Flat, recumbent and standing grave markers. Central cross monument and a large number of high cross style grave markers.	1840-1880	750m to north-west

Table 5: Recorded Structures from NIAH in vicinity of proposed development

4.7 Toponyms

Research into a site or areas place name (or toponym) can provide information relating to an areas heritage or previous land use. Many townland names were anglicised by the time the Ordnance Survey (OS) began in the 1830s and when townland names were standardised in the Townland Index (1851).

- Clonminch translates as *Cluain na mBinnse* meaning Plain of the Benches. *Binse móna* are benches of turf for cutting and perhaps indicates an area where turf was harvested in the past.
- Gayfield gets its title from a personal name.
- Cloncollog translates as *Cluain Colg* meaning meadow or pasture of the sword.

Details were taken from www.logainm.ie.

4.8 Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey was undertaken across the site under detection device consent 19R0209 issued to J Leigh by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Leigh 2019). Some responses of potential interest were recorded in the northern half of the application area. A small area indicative of a burnt spread of material was located towards the northwest of the subject site (1) and is of potential interest. Several linear responses and trends forming a vague rectilinear pattern were also recorded. Although it is possible these may represent former field divisions, it is also possible that they represent archaeological ditch-type features. An archaeological interpretation must be considered. Further linear responses and trends within the data most likely represent former field divisions and are considered most likely agricultural in origin. Modern magnetic disturbance in the south-eastern field results from modern material that has been ploughed through the field. Although former field divisions are discernible in the magnetic disturbance, more subtle responses of potential interest may be masked and remain undetected.

5. TEST EXCAVATION

5.1 Methodology

Test excavation was undertaken from 21-25 October 2019 in mixed conditions. A total of 43 test trenches with a combined length of 4135 linear metres were excavated within the site (8% of the available area, 92447 sq m; Figure 6-7; Plates 1-20). Test trench locations were agreed in advance with the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland and sought to test geophysical anomalies and the general archaeological potential of the site. Trenches were generally positioned 20m apart, although some minor variations inherent in the agreed layout were proposed, in order to test various geophysical anomalies. There were 2 further variations to the agreed trench layout. An additional trench (Trench 2) was excavated in order to better define the nature and extent of a *fulacht fia* recorded in geophysical survey and test excavation. Further trench excavation at the east of this feature was not possible due to the location of an overhead powerline directly east of the excavated test trench. A 15m long trench located towards the west of the site was

not excavated due to its location directly underneath overhead powerlines. All test trenches were excavated with the aid of a 14 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches were excavated as far as the upper subsoil surface or the top of the upper archaeological horizon. Trenches were backfilled following completion of archaeological works.

5.2 Results

A single archaeological site was recorded in the course of test excavation. This was a ploughed-out *fulacht fia* located at the northwest of the site in Trenches 1-3 (Figure 6-7; Plates 1-4). Within the tested area it had overall dimensions of 15m N/S by 10m E/W, but extended to the east under an overhead powerline which hampered further trenching beyond the eastern side of Trench 1. There were six separate features associated with the *fulacht fia*:

- F1 was an area of burnt mound material located in Trench 1. It had dimensions of 10.5m N/S x 2.7m E/W and extended beyond both sides of Trench 1.
- F2 was an area of burnt mound material located at the intersection of Trench 2 and Trench 3. It had dimensions of 4.7m E/W x 1.9m N/S and may mark the location of one or more pits or troughs.
- F3 was the remains of a possible pit located towards the south of Trench 2. It comprised an area of mid-brown peaty silty clay with dimensions of 3.7m N/S x 1.8m E/W. It was cut at the north by a modern land drain.
- F4 was a possible pit or trough filled with burnt mound material located in Trench 2 with dimensions of 2.9m N/S x 1.8m E/W.
- F5 was the possible remains of a pit located at the north of Trench 2. It comprised an area of mid-brown peaty silty clay with dimensions of 3.7m N/S x 1.8m E/W.
- F6 was a thin spread of charcoal enriched staining on the subsoil surface in Trench 3 with dimensions of 2m E/W x 1.7m N/S.

A final potential archaeological feature (F7) was recorded towards the western end of Trench 3 and consisted of a mid-brown peaty silty clay with dimensions of 2.7m E/W x 1.8m N/S. This may be the remains of a pit, cut on its eastern side by a modern land drain.

Further geophysical anomalies throughout the remainder of the site were interpreted as variations in the underlying geology with the exception of a field boundary ditch recorded in Trenches 33-37. No further archaeological features were recorded.

Trench	L x B x D (m)	Orientation	Description
1	55 x 1.8 x 0.22	N-S	Ploughed out fulacht fia. F1
2	30 x 1.8 x 0.32	N-S	Ploughed out fulacht fia. F2-F5
3	20 x 1.8 x 0.35	E-W	Ploughed out fulacht fia. F1, F2, F6, F7.
4	55 x 1.8 x 0.32	N-S	No archaeology found
5	55 x 1.8 x 0.29	N-S	No archaeology found
6	100 x 1.8 x 0.31	E-W	No archaeology found
7	55 x 1.8 x 0.28	E-W	No archaeology found
8	40 x 1.8 x 0.30	E-W	No archaeology found
9	100 x 1.8 x 0.29	E-W	No archaeology found
10	20 x 1.8 x 0.38	N-S	No archaeology found
11	20 x 1.8 x 0.41	N-S	No archaeology found
12	100 x 1.8 x 0.43	E-W	No archaeology found
13	20 x 1.8 x 0.45	N-S	No archaeology found
14	100 x 1.8 x 0.48	E-W	No archaeology found
15	100 x 1.8 x 0.50	E-W	No archaeology found
16	250 x 1.8 x 0.41	E-W	No archaeology found
17	15 x 1.8 x 0.45	N-S	No archaeology found
18	15 x 1.8 x 0.43	N-S	No archaeology found
19	250 x 1.8 x 0.40	E-W	No archaeology found
20	15 x 1.8 x 0.37	N-S	No archaeology found
21	15 x 1.8 x 0.31	N-S	No archaeology found
22	250 x 1.8 x 0.33	E-W	No archaeology found
23	20 x 1.8 x 0.36	NW-SE	No archaeology found
24	15 x 1.8 x 0.38	N-S	No archaeology found
25	250 x 1.8 x 0.35	E-W	No archaeology found
26	20 x 1.8 x 0.41	NE-SW	No archaeology found
27	15 x 1.8 x 0.37	N-S	No archaeology found
28	60 x 1.8 x 0.40	E-W	No archaeology found
29	60 x 1.8 x 0.40	NW-SE	No archaeology found
30	110 x 1.8 x 0.38	E-W	No archaeology found
31	125 x 1.8 x 0.34	E-W	No archaeology found
32	15 x 1.8 x 0.40	N-S	No archaeology found
33	130 x 1.8 x 0.36	E-W	No archaeology found
34	125 x 1.8 x 0.43	E-W	No archaeology found
35	195 x 1.8 x 0.40	E-W	No archaeology found
36	195 x 1.8 x 0.45	E-W	No archaeology found
37	170 x 1.8 x 0.37	E-W	No archaeology found
38	60 x 1.8 x 0.39	E-W	No archaeology found
39	10 x 10 x 0.40	-	No archaeology found. 50 linear meters.
40	170 x 1.8 x 0.39	E-W	No archaeology found
41	200 x 1.8 x 0.36	E-W	No archaeology found
42	220 x 1.8 x 0.35	E-W	No archaeology found
43	240 x 1.8 x 0.32	E-W	No archaeology found

Table 6: Details of excavated test trenches.

6. DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

This Archaeological Impact Assessment report sought to identify and describe known and potential archaeological or cultural heritage constraints within and/or immediately adjacent to a proposed development site at Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The assessment took the form of desktop study, geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching. The following factors were identified in the course of the assessment:

- The site is large in scale occupying an area of roughly 9.2 Ha.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries.
- No potential archaeological sites were noted on examination of aerial photo and cartographic sources
- There are no Protected structures in or adjacent to the site.
- No archaeological excavations have been undertaken previously within the subject site.
- Previous excavations in the wider landscape have uncovered small-scale isolated archaeological sites at Clonminch 1 & Cloncollog 2.
- Numerous anomalies of archaeological potential were recorded in the course of geophysical survey, including a probable fulacht fia at the northwest of the subject site.
- The current assessment recorded the remains of a ploughed out fulacht fia in Trenches 1-3 at the northwest of the subject site.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Should development proceed at this location, it is recommended that suitable mitigation measures be put in place with regards to the fulacht fia located at the northwest corner of the site. In the first instance, it is recommended that the site be preserved in situ. However, in the event that provision of green space is not possible at this location, development works should be preceded by full archaeological excavation undertaken under licence to the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Should development proceed at this location, it is recommended that groundworks across the remainder of the 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.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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Aidan O'Connell BA MIAI

30th October 2019



Archer
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Unit 8 Beat Centre
Stephenstown,
Balbriggan,
Co. Dublin

Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Archaeological Assessment

CLIENT: Steinfert Investments

Scale: 1:7500 A4

Date: Oct 2019

Origin: www.archaeology.ie

Ref: 2019_02_Ass_01

Figure 1: Site Location

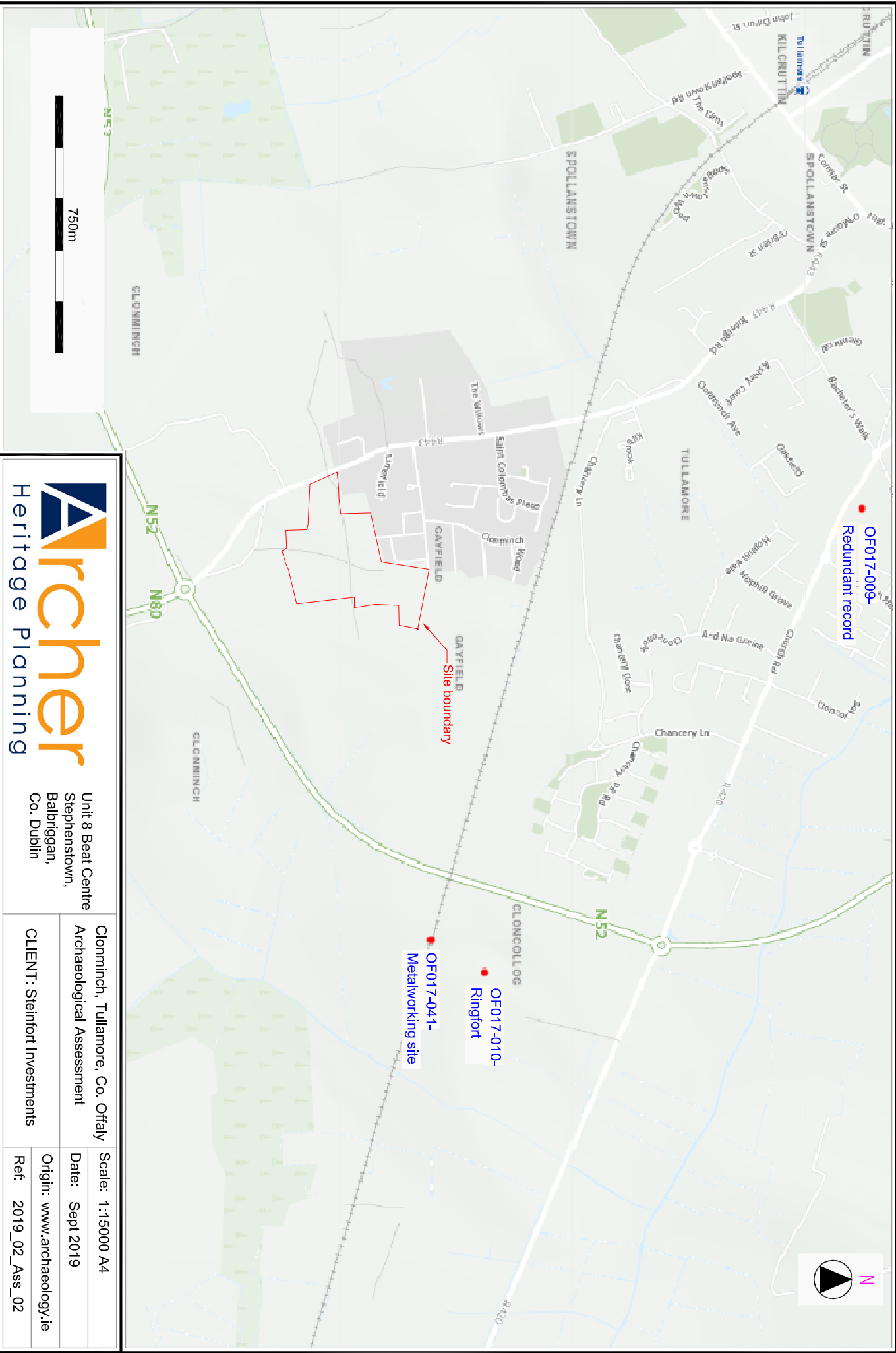
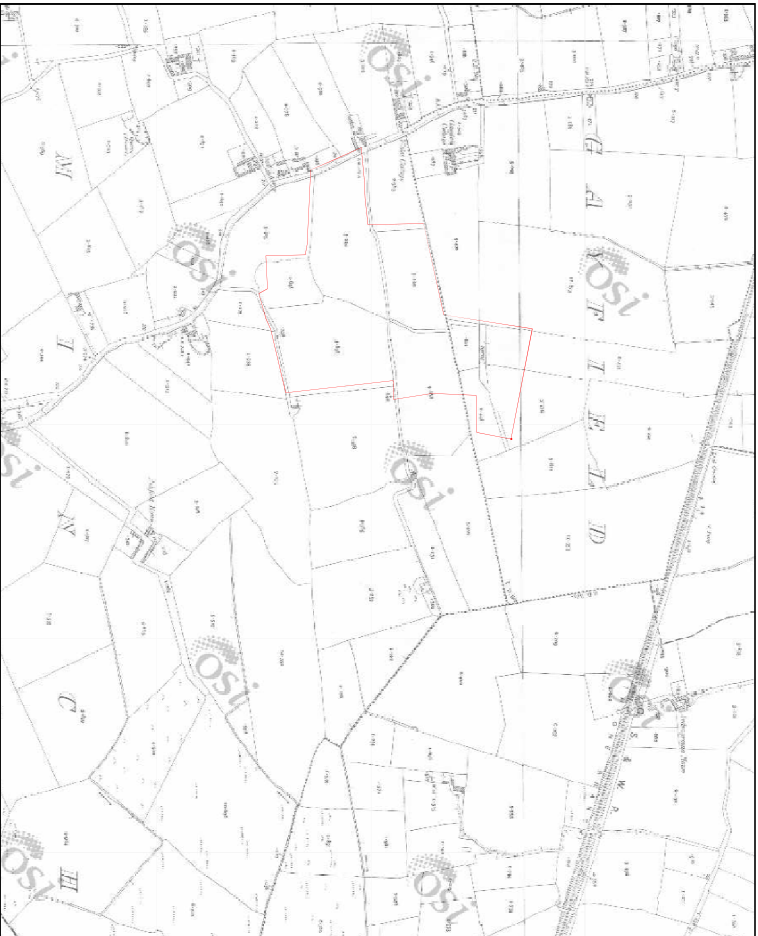
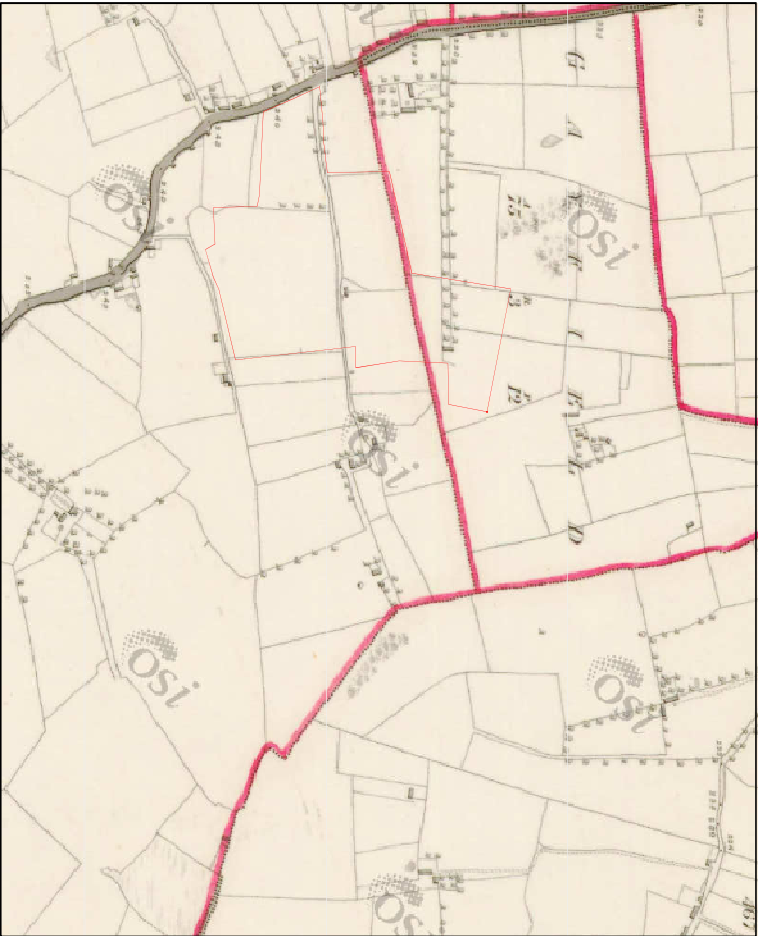


Figure 2: RMP/SMR sites within 1km of site



(l) 1st Edition OS Map (1838)
(r) 25" OS Map (1909-10)



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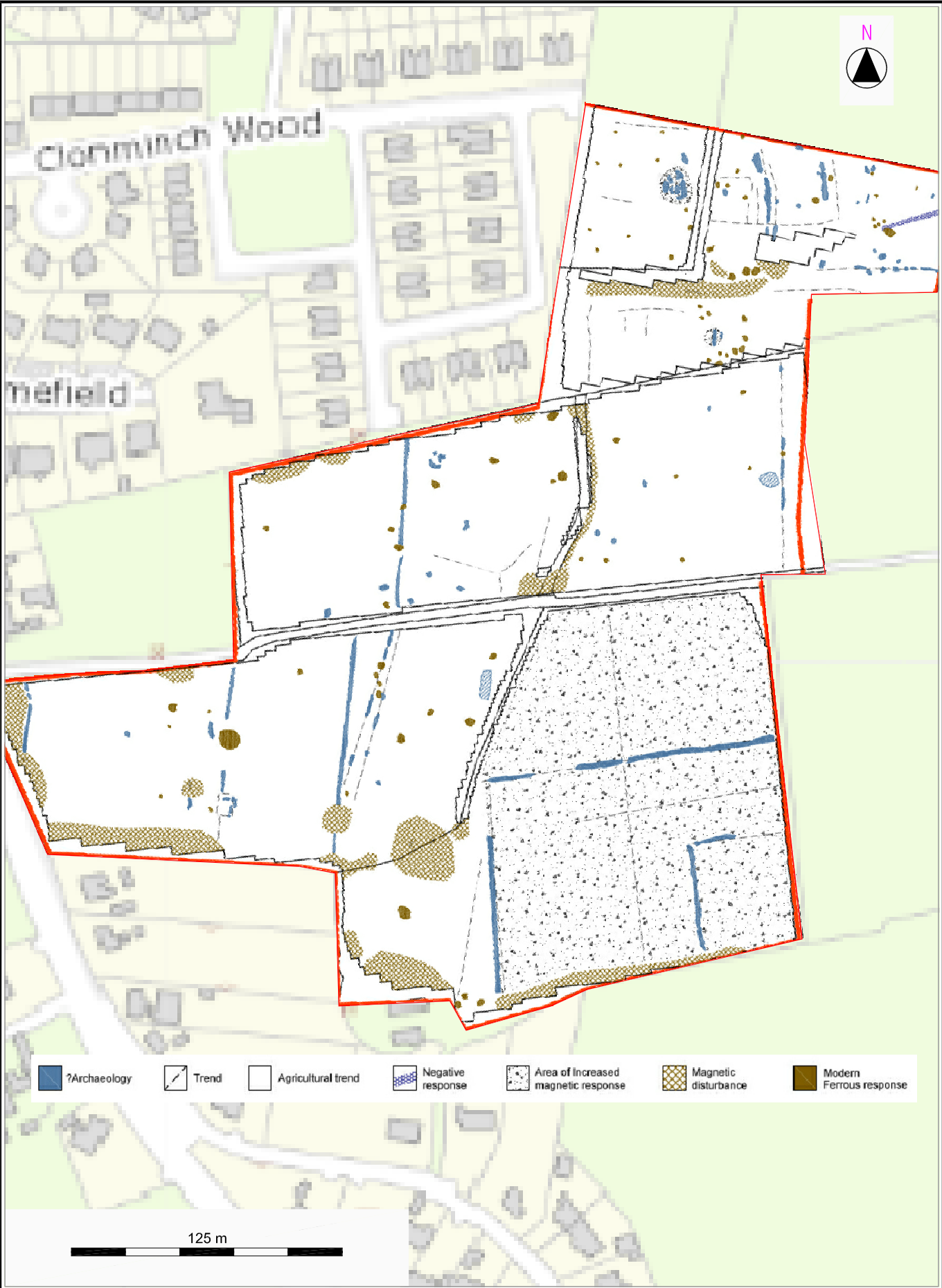
Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	Scale: Not to scale
Archaeological Assessment	Date: Oct 2019
CLIENT: Steinfort Investments	Origin: OSI
	Ref: 2019_02_Ass_03

Figure 3: Extracts from historical maps



(l) 1995 Aerial Photography
(r) 2019 Google Earth

Figure 4: Extracts from aerial photographs



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Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Archaeological Assessment

Client: Steinfort Investments

Scale: 1:2500 A4

Date: Oct 2019

Origin: JML Surveys

Ref: 2019_02_Ass_05

Figure 5: Results of Geophysical survey

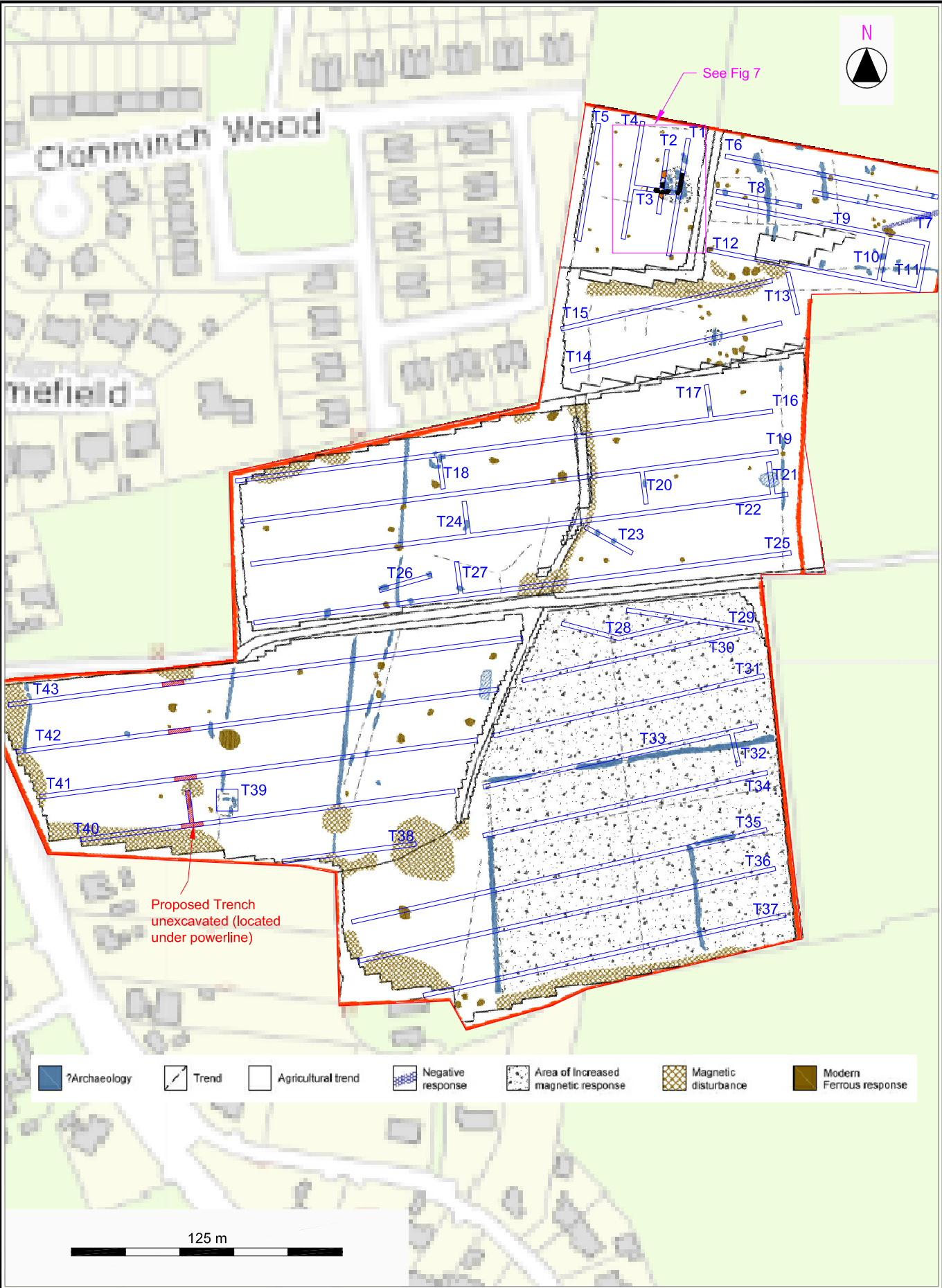


Figure 6: Results of Geophysical survey with location of test trenches

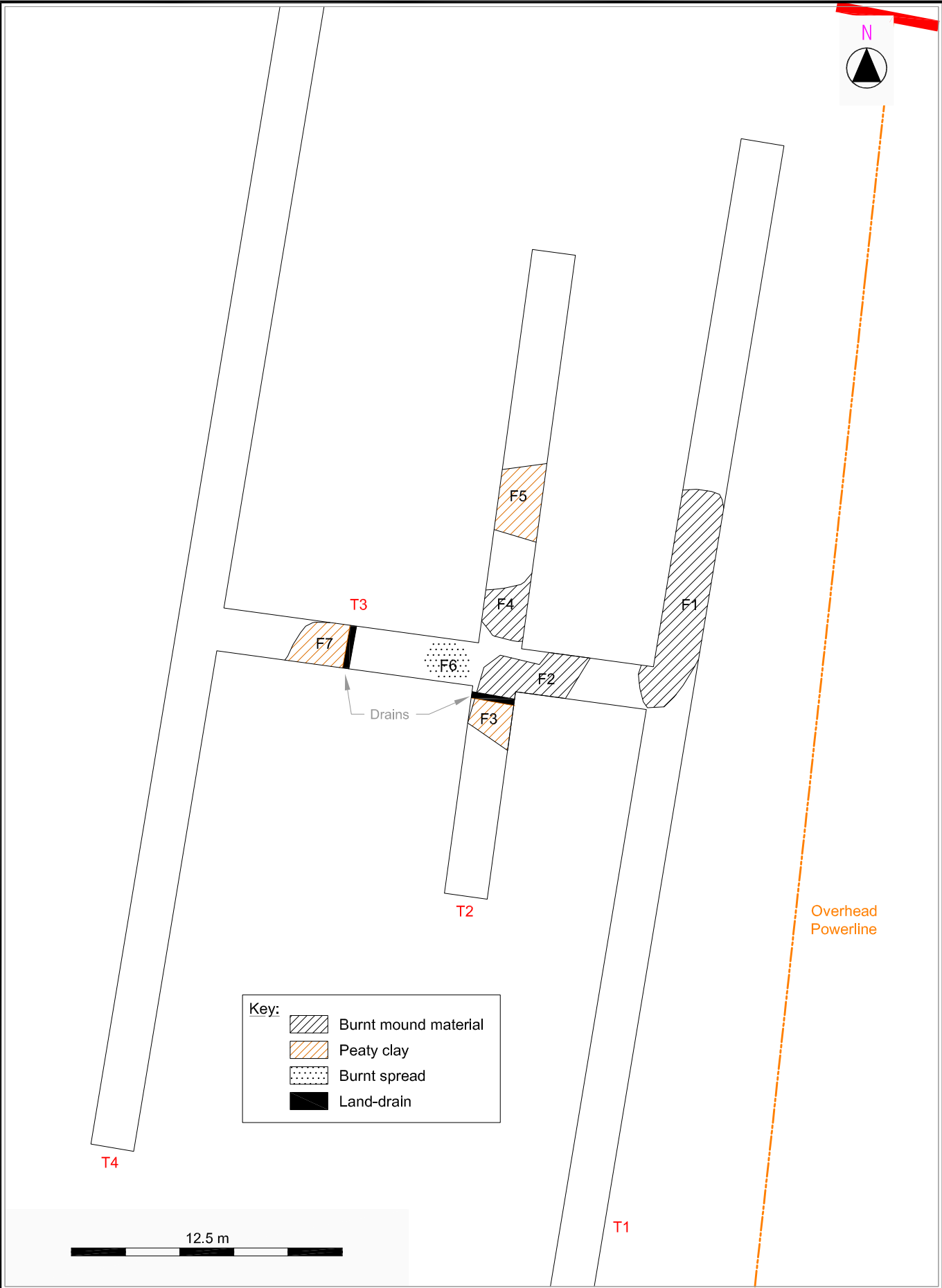


Figure 7: Detail of recorded fulacht fia; T1-T3



Plate 1: F1, Trench 1 from south



Plate 2: Trench 3 from east (F1 in foreground & F2 in background)



Plate 3: Trench 2 from south (F4 in foreground & F5 in background)



Plate 4: Trench 3 from west (F7 in foreground & F6 in background)



Plate 5: Trench 5 from north



Plate 6: Trench 8 from east



Plate 7: Trench 11 from north



Plate 8: Trench 14 from east at location of geophysical anomaly



Plate 9: Trench 17 from south



Plate 10: Trench 18 from north



Plate 11: Trench 21 from north



Plate 12: Trench 25 from west



Plate 13: Trench 26 from west



Plate 14: Trench 29-30 from east



Plate 15: Trench 32 from north



Plate 16: Trench 34 from west showing field boundary ditch at western end.



Plate 17: Trench 37 from west



Plate 18: Trench 39 from south



Plate 19: Trench 42 from east



Plate 20: Trench 43 from east