

Chapter 4:  
Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

## **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the findings of an archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment on the site of the proposed development on lands at Fosterstown North townland, Swords, Co. Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630; Figure 4.1). The main purpose of this section is to assess the impact of the proposed development on the existing archaeological and cultural heritage environment.

The site was subject to a number of archaeological assessments (Figures 4.1, 4.3, 4.4) carried out in relation to the site, both invasive and non-invasive. These include Geophysical Survey (19R0011; Murphy, Breen, 2019 – Included as Appendix 4.1 herewith), Archaeological Assessment (Lyne, 2019 – included as Appendix 4.2 herewith) and test trenching (19E0034; Clarke, Lyne, 2020 – included as Appendix 4.3 herewith).

This chapter encompasses the results of all archaeological investigations undertaken in order to de-risk the site and allow appropriate mitigation measures to be employed.

The proposals for the site comprise of a residential development associated with Fosterstown North Strategic Housing Development (SHD). A full project description is presented in Chapter 2 of this EIAR.

This chapter has been carried out by Donald Murphy and Magda Lyne of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. Donald holds a Master's Degree in Archaeology from University College Dublin (NFQ Level 9). In 2018, he received an NFQ Level 6 award in Co-ordinating Construction Stage Health & Safety. He is a Member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. Donald is the founder and Managing Director of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. He has over 30 years of post-graduation experience carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments, archaeological assessments and excavations. In addition, he is skilled in archaeological and geophysical surveying and geophysics and has undertaken many magnetic gradiometry and topographic surveys. He has also completed excavations on behalf of the National Monuments Service at Knowth, the Hill of Tara, Clonmacnoise, Mellifont Abbey and Newgrange. As Project Manager/Senior Archaeologist, Donald has led on some of the largest infrastructural schemes undertaken in Ireland, including road projects such as the N52 Nenagh Bypass Link Road (2000); M1 Northern Motorway Project (2001–2002); N22 Ballincollig Bypass (2001); M4 Kinnegad–Enfield–Kilcock Motorway (2001–2004); N25 Waterford Bypass (2003–2007); M3 Clonee to North of Kells Motorway (2005–2010); M7/M8 Motorway (2005–2008) and the N5 Westport to Turlough (2015–2020).

Magda holds a Master's Degree in Archaeology from the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan, Poland (NFQ Level 9). She is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has been excavation licence eligible since 2019. She has over 12 years of post-graduation experience working in Poland, Ireland, Denmark and Norway. She excavated sites on a variety of large scale infrastructure projects (e.g. M3, N9/10, N18 and N22 road projects in Ireland, Copenhagen Metro Project, Kriegers Flak Project in Denmark). She has worked with ACSU since 2019 and specialises in archaeological desktop assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments.

### **4.2 STUDY METHODOLOGY**

#### **DOCUMENTARY SOURCES**

For the purposes of this report, archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage is considered to include the following elements:

- Sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- National Monuments in State Care

- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Archaeological sites listed on the National Monuments Service website
- Cartographic sources and Aerial Imagery
- Sites reported in the Excavations Database
- Tangible Cultural Heritage Sites and Features
- A list of protected monuments
- List of architectural heritage structures – the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- List of protected structures (Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023)
- Reports on archaeological assessment of the site carried out to date
- Irish placename database

The following sources were consulted in order to identify and map archaeological sites within and adjacent to the proposed development site:

### **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)**

A primary cartographic source for baseline data for the assessment was the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Dublin (See Figure 4.1). All known recorded archaeological monuments are indicated on 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and are listed in this record. The SMR/RMP is not a complete record of all monuments, as newly discovered sites may not appear in the list or accompanying maps. In conjunction with the consultation of the SMR and RMP the electronic database of recorded monuments which may be accessed on the National Monuments Service website ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)), was also consulted.

### **National Monuments in State Care Database**

List of National Monuments in state care, including in the ownership/guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

National Monuments in the ownership/guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage are listed on the Department's website by county ([www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/search-by-county](http://www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/search-by-county)). The list for County Dublin was reviewed.

The term 'National Monument' is defined by the National Monuments Act (1930) as being '*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto*'.

The aforementioned Act states that the consent of the Minister is required for archaeological works at or near a national monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or to which a preservation order applies. The Minister is required to consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland in relation to such an application for consent.

### **Excavation Database**

The excavations database ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database includes excavations from 1970 to present. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this assessment to establish if any archaeological excavations had been carried out on or near to the proposed development area.

### **Topographical files, National Museum of Ireland**

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland contain information pertaining to archaeological finds (mainly artefactual) and excavations in numerous townlands throughout the country which were reported to the museum from the 1920s. While many of these find spots are not recorded monuments, they can provide an indication of archaeological activity in a townland and consequently add to the archaeological potential of an area.

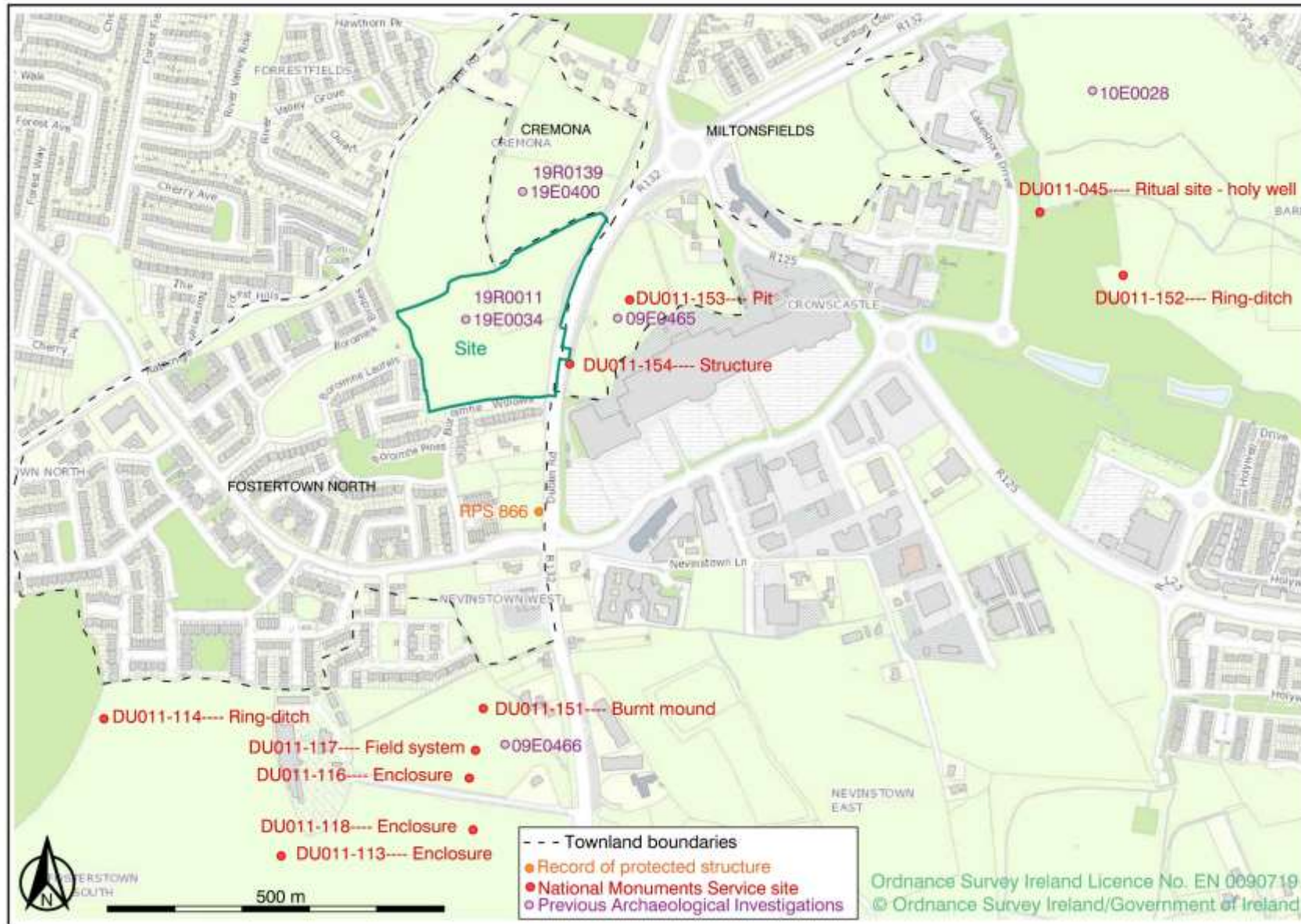


Figure 4.1 Location of site and nearby Recorded Monuments, Excavations, Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites.

## **Cartographic Sources and Aerial Imagery**

A number of cartographic sources were also consulted as part of the assessment, namely the Roque map of 1760, Taylor and Skinner's Maps of 1777, the first (1836) and second edition (1906) OS maps.

Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are marked on such maps and provide a useful resource in identifying sites particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2013 from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and in addition, Google Earth imagery dating between 2009 and 2020 were examined.

Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field.

## **Tangible Cultural Heritage Sites and Features**

Cultural heritage is a broad term encompassing aspects of archaeology as well as architecture. Both elements can be expressed in landscape and can relate to designated landscapes, historic places, monuments, and settlements, including buildings and structures.

Townland boundaries are considered tangible cultural heritage features. The townland system is of Gaelic origin, pre-dating the Norman invasion, and many townlands have names of Irish Gaelic origin. Some townland names and boundaries, however, come from Norman manors, plantation divisions, or later creations of the Ordnance Survey when many Irish names were translated into English. The confiscations of the mid-17th century saw the townland boundaries first recorded and described in the surveys. The townland boundaries were first depicted on the Down Survey Map of 1656-58, and the work of the Ordnance Survey saw them depicted on the mapping in more detail. Townland boundaries recorded for the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the nineteenth century were then utilised as formal administrative units for the census and as the basic framework for Griffith's Valuation. These are often laid along wet ditches, rivers, streams, roads, walls or topographical features. The boundaries can take a variety of forms and may consist of hedgerows and/or trees, earthen and stone banks, and/or ditches, stone walls.

## **Protected Structures**

The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 was consulted as it contains the list of Architectural Conservation Areas and the Record of Protected Structures. These contain a list of Architectural Conservation Areas and a Record of Protected Structures for the County. The Record of Protected Structures lists cultural heritage sites, buildings of historic, architectural, -cultural, scientific and/or artistic interest ([www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017-2023\\_dev\\_plan\\_record\\_of\\_protected\\_structures.pdf](http://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017-2023_dev_plan_record_of_protected_structures.pdf)).

These are protected by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Part IV Architectural Heritage)

## **Architectural Heritage Sites**

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)) database was consulted.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin was consulted to determine if any architectural heritage sites were present within the proposed development site. It contains a record and evaluation of the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It provides the basis for recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

## Archaeological Assessment Reports

The following reports were also consulted in order to inform the assessment of all aspects of the archaeological resource within the proposed development site and to ensure that the assessment is cognisant of all relevant policies and objectives:

- Geophysical Survey of a proposed development site (Fosterstown North SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (Licence Number 19R0011) by ACSU (Murphy, Breen, 2019);

Geophysical Survey, in the form of magnetic gradiometry, is a non-intrusive method that is used in Irish Archaeology. It is a method for rapidly mapping archaeological objects, structures, deposits and other features, including geological anomalies, that survive beneath the ground surface. The results are presented as a grey-scale map of anomalies detected that are interpreted by an experienced archaeologist. A licence to carry out work is required and is granted by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage following submission of the licence application for the site in question (in this case Licence Number 19R0011 was granted on the 7th of January 2019 to Donald Murphy). Upon completion of the work, a report detailing the results of work carried out is submitted to the department the National Museum of Ireland (in this case, the report was submitted in February 2019).

- Archaeological Assessment (Desktop) for Fosterstown North SHD, Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin by ACSU (Lyne, E, 2019);

Archaeological Assessment Report includes the results of non-intrusive desktop research and site inspection, with the results designed to identify at an early stage any potential constraints to the development and the impact that the proposal will have on the cultural heritage. It includes the results of assessments carried out to date, and offers recommendations for the mitigation of any potential impacts.

- Archaeological Assessment (test trenching) of a proposed development site (Fosterstown North SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (Licence Number 19E0034) by ACSU (Clarke, Lyne 2020);

Archaeological test trenching is carried out in advance of construction, and is undertaken across the footprint of a development. Test trenches are excavated to facilitate the early identification of archaeological deposits and features. If test trenching is carried out following a geophysical survey, the trenches are placed to target anomalies detected in order to assess their significance, extent and depth. The results allow for an informed decision on how best to deal with any discovered archaeological finds or features prior to works on site commencing. A licence to carry out work is required and is granted by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage following submission of the licence application for the site in question (in this case Licence Number 19E0034 was granted on the 15th of January 2019 to Jon Stirland, and transferred to Linda Clarke). Upon completion of the work, a report detailing the results of work carried out is submitted to the department and the National Museum of Ireland (in this case, the report was submitted in March 2020).

## Irish Placename Database

Irish Placename Database (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/>) was consulted for the meaning of the placenames within and surrounding the proposed development site. The database was created by Gaois, Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge in collaboration with The Placenames Branch of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It contains archival records and placenames research conducted by the State. The vast majority of Ireland's geographical names are of Irish origin; while other derive from English, with a small number from Old Norse. The anglicisation process included name standardisation carried out largely in the 19th century and recorded in the Ordnance Survey's work.

## Field Survey

In addition, and as a part of previously carried out assessments of the site, a field survey was carried out, its results are included in Archaeological Assessment (Lyne, 2019). The purpose of the field survey is to assess whether or not the site contained any evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

## Policies, Standards and Guidelines

This chapter has been prepared in compliance with all relevant EIAR legislation and guidance. This chapter's methodology is guided by a legislative framework that governs how aspects of archaeological, cultural and architectural heritage are protected.

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland are achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015. These three are the key international conventions aiming to protect cultural heritage. The provisions made in these have been transcribed into Irish law through the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, the Heritage Act 1995, The Cultural Institutions Act 1997, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (and its provisions) Act 1999 and Planning and Development Regulations 2000-2013. These legal frameworks and national policies combined are the primary means of governing how cultural heritage in Ireland is protected and managed.

Legislative protection afforded to the archaeological and architectural heritage resources is considered here and is defined by the statutory guidelines. The following is a list of standards and guidelines considered and consulted for the purpose of this chapter.

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000;
- DAHGI (now DHLGH) (1999), Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation.
- Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) (now DHLGH) (2011), Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands (DAHGI) (now DHLGH) (1999), Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage DHLGH) (2018) Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Directive 2014/52/EU;
- Directive 2011/92/EU;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2017) Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports, (Draft);
- EPA (2015), Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, Draft September 2015;
- EPA (2015), Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements Draft September 2015;
- EPA (2002), Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements;
- Joint ICOMOS – TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes 2011;
- EPA (2003), Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements);
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 (as amended);
- National Monuments Act, as amended;



- National Roads Authority (now TII) (2006), Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes;
- NRA (now TII) (2006), Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes;
- Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended;
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2021;
- The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999;
- The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999;
- The Heritage Act, 1995
- The Heritage Council (2010), Proposals for Irelands Landscapes;
- The Heritage Council (2013), Historic Landscape Characterisation in Ireland: Best Practice Guidance;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (2021), Project Management Guidelines;

Policies in relation to Archaeological and Architectural Heritage are set out in Chapter 10, Cultural Heritage of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. The Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023, contains a list of recorded archaeological monuments (sites listed in Record of Monuments and Places and Sites and Monuments Record), the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for the county and a list of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA).

### **Significance Criteria**

The following significance criteria have been taken from Appendix 2 of the Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Impact of National Road Schemes 2006. These guidelines are being currently revised, and the revisions were also consulted.

They are not presented in any ranking order and can be used to evaluate the significance of an archaeological site, monument or complex. They should not, however, be regarded as definitive but rather as an indicator that contributes to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of each feature.

### **Existing Status**

The level of protection associated with a monument or complex is an important consideration.

### **Condition/Preservation**

The survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is an important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. Well-preserved sites should be highlighted; this assessment can only be based on a field inspection.

### **Documentation/Historical Significance**

The significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or contemporary documentation supported by written evidence or historic maps. Sites with a definite historical association or an example of a notable event or person should be highlighted.

### **Group Value**

The value of a single monument may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments or with monuments from different periods indicating an extended time presence in any specific area. In some cases, it may be preferable to protect the complete group, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within that group.

## **Rarity**

The rarity of some monument types can be a central factor affecting response strategies for development, whatever the condition of the individual feature.

## **Visibility in the Landscape**

It is important to recognise sites that have a limited distribution. Monuments that are highly visible in the landscape have a heightened physical presence. The intervisibility between monuments may also be explored in this category.

## **Fragility/Vulnerability**

It is important to assess the level of threat to archaeological monuments from erosion, natural degradation, agricultural activity, land clearance, neglect, careless treatment or development.

## **Amenity Value**

The nature of the archaeological evidence cannot always be specified precisely, but it may still be possible to document reasons to justify the significance of the feature. This category relates to the probability of monuments producing material of archaeological significance as a result of future investigative work. Regard should be taken of the existing and potential amenity value of a monument.

## **Impact Characterisation**

Cultural heritage sites (encompassing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage) are a non-renewable resource and are commonly considered to be location receptive. Consequently, any change to their environment, including works associated with any development, have an impact on these if such are present within the site or in its immediate environs.

Three categories of predicted/potential impact include:

- Direct physical impact – any activities associated with the development that will cause direct damage; encountered mainly during the construction phase;
- Indirect physical impact – any activities associated with the development that will trigger damage;
- Impact on setting – changes to the environs of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage sites and features; for example visual, might be positive or negative; encountered at all stages.

In addition, two types of impacts are listed in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2017) Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports:

- Indirect impacts are referred to as secondary impacts; these occur as a consequence of the project; in the Draft EPA (2017); these are defined as 'Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away' from (the site) or as a result of a complex pathway.'
- Cumulative impacts – the addition of many minor or significant impacts (including other projects) to create larger, more significant impacts.

The quality of impacts of the proposed development on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage can be described in terms of:

- Positive – a change that improves the quality of the cultural heritage environment (e.g. increasing amenity value of a site in terms of managed access, signage, presentation etc. or high-quality conservation/restoration and re-use of an otherwise vulnerable derelict structure).
- Neutral – no change or impact that are imperceptible, within the normal bounds of variation for the cultural heritage environment.
- Negative – a change that reduces the quality of the cultural heritage resource (e.g. visual intrusion on the setting of an asset, physical intrusion on features/setting of a site etc.)

The significance of these can be described as imperceptible, not significant, slight, moderate, significant, very significant and profound. It necessitates an assessment of the value of Cultural Heritage Assets specified in ICOMOS 2011 as very high, high, medium, low and negligible.

### **4.3 THE EXISTING RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT (BASELINE SITUATION)**

Archaeology is considered here to include all recorded monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), National Monuments (i.e. those in the ownership/guardianship of the state), previously unrecorded sites, sites reported in the Excavations Database if not included in the RMP and find spots or sites listed in the Topographical Files.

#### **Archaeological And Historical Background**

The proposed development site (Figure 4.1) is located in the townland of Fosterstown North just to the south of the town of Swords, in the parish of Swords and the barony of Nethercross. Swords is a large town located 13 km north of Dublin City Centre off the N1 road to Belfast. Swords, which derives from Sord meaning pure, is said to relate to the water of the holy well on Well Road (DU011:034/013). This is perhaps a pre-Christian well, but is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille (d. AD 597). Although Colmcille is the most widely credited, there is divided opinion about the identity of the person responsible for Sword's foundation. Nevertheless, the town's history began in the Early Christian period when it became a monastic settlement whose first abbot is said to have been St. Fionnan Lobhar. A church named after St. Fionnan survived in Swords until the close of the Middle Ages (Bradley and King 1988).

Swords is first mentioned in the annals when, in the year AD 965, the bishop of Swords and Lusk, Ailill Mac Manach died. In AD 994, the monastery of Swords was burned by Maelseachlainn and suffered a similar fate several more times between AD 1020 and 1166. In AD 1035, Swords was raided by the king of Meath in revenge for an attack carried out by the Dublin Norse on Ardrahan. This suggests that Swords at that time was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyfflinarskiri. It seems likely that Dublin Vikings (Ostmen) were living in Swords up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century. As late as 1326, there is a reference to "sixteen foreign burgesses" in the manor of Swords and there is evidence that these particular 'foreigners' were of Scandinavian origin. Swords, it seems, was a Viking settlement as well as a monastic one (Bradley and King 1988).

By the late twelfth century, the lands attached to Swords monastery were part of the see lands of Dublin and were confirmed to Dublin's archbishop, Laurence O'Toole, in 1179. The archbishops had established a borough at Swords before the end of the twelfth century which makes it a particularly early one. Borough status conferred upon the citizens of Swords privileges such as the right of self-government and gave them trade protection from outside merchants. In 1193, the borough was granted the right to hold an eight-day fair centred on the feast of its founding saint, Colmcille (Bradley and King 1988).

The standard building plot of towns and villages in the Middle Ages was known as a burgage. In most towns, the burgage was a narrow deep plot of land with a house at one end fronting the street with a space behind used as a garden. Another grant of 1181–1212 confirmed the burgesses (townspeople) of Swords in their burgages and allowed them privileged liberties and free customs in Dublin (Bradley and King 1988).

Swords was one of the largest boroughs established by the archbishops of Dublin with an extent of the manor taken in 1326 recording more than 120 burgesses. The borough was also one of their most enduring and continued to function into the sixteenth century. In 1578, the town was granted a new charter by Queen Elizabeth I that established Swords as a parliamentary borough with the right to return two members to parliament (Bradley and King 1988).

The zone of archaeological potential for Swords was determined by Bradley and King in their Urban Archaeology Survey for County Dublin. This zone is based on the location of the medieval borough and the early monastic settlement. The medieval town was mainly arranged along a single linear street, Main Street, which was referred to as High Street in medieval times. The focus of settlement, as today, was the gates of the archbishops' palace. A fourteenth-century document refers to another street in Swords called Le Camerothe which Bradley and King suggests could relate either to Seatown Road or to Well Road. In 1395, a weekly market was confirmed to the archbishops of Dublin to be held in Swords. This is likely to have been a confirmation of a grant issued during the reign of King John (1199–1216). The marketplace was located in Main Street and is still apparent today where the street was widened to accommodate it (Bradley and King 1988).

Historical documents (for example, Archbishop Alen's register) include many references to individual burgage plots and properties in medieval Swords. A number of the houses of this period seem to have even survived into the nineteenth century as D'Alton, writing in 1838, referred to the "ancient aspect" of some of the inns. Swords also possessed a number of mills, the first reference to them dating to 1191. The extent of the manor of 1326 referred to them as watermills and valued them at 100 shillings (Bradley and King 1988).

D'Alton also mentioned that Swords was one of the walled towns of County Dublin in 1578, though there is no trace of town defences in existence today. However, the course of these walls can be suggested. The long linear boundary delimiting the properties on the eastern side of Main Street seems an obvious line. The location of the southern boundary is unclear but on the west, the boundary was probably formed by the Ward River, a stream known in medieval times as Reynen. The parish church was probably outside the defences but could have been protected by the Early Christian enclosure. The Early Christian monastery had been established on the prominent ridge of high ground overlooking Main Street from the west. It was bound on the east and south by the stream and the monastic enclosure and is still preserved today by the curving line of Brackenstown Road, Church Road and Rathbeale Road (Bradley and King 1988).

Swords Castle was one of the principal residences of the archbishops of Dublin and there are references to a constable of the castle during the time of Archbishop John Comyn, suggesting that it was built around 1200. Some writers have suggested that Swords was abandoned around 1324 in favour of Tallaght but there is no evidence for the construction of a castle at the latter location around this time. Architectural evidence suggests that Swords Castle was still occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries when it was being sublet to members of the Fitzsimon and Barnewall families (Bradley and King 1988).

## **Recorded Monuments**

No recorded archaeological monuments, as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and shown on the associated maps, are located within the proposed development site boundary. There are two monuments located in the immediate environs of the site, structure DU011-154 and pit DU011-153--- located 32m and 100, east of the site, respectively. Both were subject to a geophysical survey 08R1117 and test trenching 09E0465.

Structure DU011-154 was found to consist of a metallised surface measuring 7.25 by 5.9m associated with three U-shaped channels, postholes and pits, based on morphology interpreted as medieval structure, while pit DU011-153--- was found to be a sub-circular in shape measuring c. 1.2m in diameter with charcoal rich fill with heat shattered stone and interpreted as Bronze Age in date (Frazer, Fagan, Leinihan, Hession, 2010).

Furthermore, the site is located c. 0.7 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035).

There are 16 monuments listed as located within a 0.8km radius of the proposed development site (See Table 4.1; Figure 4.1); six of these are located in the townland of Fosterstown South to the south of the subject lands.

**Table 4.1 Recorded monuments located within a 0.8km radius of the site.**

SMR/RMP	CLASS	TOWNLAND	ITM E	ITM N
DU011-153----	Pit	MILTONSFIELDS	717808	745679
DU011-154----	Structure	MILTONSFIELDS	717723	745598
DU011-035----	Historic town	MILTONSFIELDS, SWORDS DEMESNE, WINDMILL LANDS	718167	746786
DU011-034013-	Ritual site - holy well	TOWNPARKS (Nethercross By.)	718035	746569
DU011-037----	Ritual site - holy well	FORRESTFIELDS	717848	746371
DU011-045----	Ritual site - holy well	CROWSCASTLE	718421	745820
DU011-047----	Ring-ditch	NEVINSTOWN WEST	717867	744881
DU011-090----	Burial	WINDMILL LANDS	717862	746528
DU011-101----	Burial ground	TOWNPARKS (Nethercross By.)	718252	746494
DU011-113----	Enclosure	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717222	744857
DU011-114----	Ring-ditch	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717035	745052
DU011-116----	Enclosure	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717581	744990
DU011-117----	Field system	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717593	745028
DU011-118----	Enclosure	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717579	744895
DU011-151----	Burnt mound	FOSTERSTOWN SOUTH	717603	745076
DU011-152----	Ring-ditch	CROWSCASTLE	718546	745725

### National Monuments In State Care

No National Monuments are located on or within immediate environs to the proposed development site. The nearest National Monument (Guardianship) is located c. 1.3 kilometres (km) to the northeast in Swords town centre and consists of an Anglo-Norman masonry castle (Nat. Mon. No. 340, RMP DU11-34001-). The castle is described in detail on the National Monuments Service website, a summary of which is transcribed below:

*‘Situated on rising ground at the NE end of Swords Village. Built c. 1200 as the manorial residence of the Archbishop of Dublin (Anon 1914, 260-261). The curtain wall forms an irregular polygon in plan enclosing an area of one and one third acres. The entrance is in the S through a barrel-vaulted archway, which provides access to a range of buildings in the E and W.*

*To the E is the chapel with a residential tower that rises to three storeys with a vaulted ground floor. There is a double-light, trefoil-headed window with transom in the S wall of the 2nd floor of the tower. The chapel is entered from the E wall of the tower and through round-headed doorways in the N wall of the chapel. Fourteenth century tiles were found during excavations of the chapel in the 1970's (Fanning 1975, 47-82). In the SE angle of the curtain wall are traces of a two-storey building with four plain windows and a fireplace in the E wall. This is thought to have been an oratory. A medieval tile pavement came to light in this building during excavations (Fanning 1975, 61ff). Along the E section of curtain wall is a three storey tower immediately S of a building referred to as the 'Great hall' (Anon 1914, 260-261). It has a vaulted ground floor and a stairwell in the NE angle. The first floor is lit by a large window with red sandstone moulding and tracery. There is a domestic range W of the entrance to the castle. The curtain wall is battlemented with parapet walks defended by towers in the E, N and SW sections.*

*The impressive N tower is three storeys high with a stairwell in the SW angle. Sandstone has been used in the windows. The SW tower projects beyond the line of the curtain wall. At the SW angle is a turret on a stepped squinch arch and corbels. The buildings to the W of the entrance are made up of three compartments, all barrel-vaulted at ground floor level. The first floor of one of them carries over the gateway. This has a pointed arched window on the S side formed with Dundry stone and red sandstone.*

*Archaeological monitoring along the southern boundary of the castle in 1993 revealed a large rock cut ditch c. 2.2m out from the base of the wall. This is thought to be the line of the outer castle moat (Swan 1994, 33). Further test-excavation along the same boundary to the east revealed a minimum depth of 2m of medieval deposits (Licence no. 02E1279). Internally the removal of overburden immediately north of the Knights and Squire's chamber (Licence no.01E002) and monitoring of service insertions (1996-97) in front of Constable's tower revealed the presence of archaeological activity such as wall footings, surfaces and drains, which are preserved under geotextile. In 2009 monitoring (Consent E004376) of service insertions took place outside the gateway arch uncovering two parallel walls traversing the exterior of the castle. Excavations in 2014 within the gatehouse in advance of proposed stabilisation uncovered burials that appear to predate the construction of the gatehouse. As part of the preparation of the Conservation Plan, geophysical survey (Licence no. 11R038) was undertaken within the castle walls identifying possible building foundations. Swords Castle has undergone a series of restoration initiatives based on designs by David Newman Johnson since the mid-1990s. The chapel has recently reopened. Swords castle Conservation Plan was published in 2014.'*

### **Previously Unrecorded Sites**

No above ground previously unrecorded sites were noted within the proposed development area during the site walkover survey carried out in August 2019; the site was subject to archaeological assessments in 2019 and 2020, including geophysical survey (Murphy, Breen, 2019) and test trenching (Clarke, Lyne, 2020). These did not identify any previously unrecorded sites or any features of archaeological significance within the site.

### **Previous archaeological Investigations**

As a part of the archaeological assessment of the site, both non-invasive and invasive archaeological investigation was undertaken in 2019 and 2020 in relation to the proposed Fosterstown North SHD. These included geophysical survey (non-invasive) and test trenching (invasive). The geophysical survey was carried out under licence 19R0011, while test trenching was carried out under licence 19E0034 (both were issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland). Below is a brief description of the findings.

It should be mentioned that a large area adjacent and to the north of the site was also subject to archaeological assessment. It included geophysical survey 19R00139 and test trenching 19E0400; the investigations exposed no archaeological features, structures or deposits.

### **Geophysical Survey (19R0011; Figure 4.2)**

The site at Fosterstown North, Swords, Co. Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630) was subject to the geophysical survey (Murphy, Breen, 2019). It included a full detailed gradiometer survey and was undertaken throughout the application area using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. A detailed survey was conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m for all the survey areas within the site of the proposed development with variations in the magnetic field (between -100nT to +107.834nT).

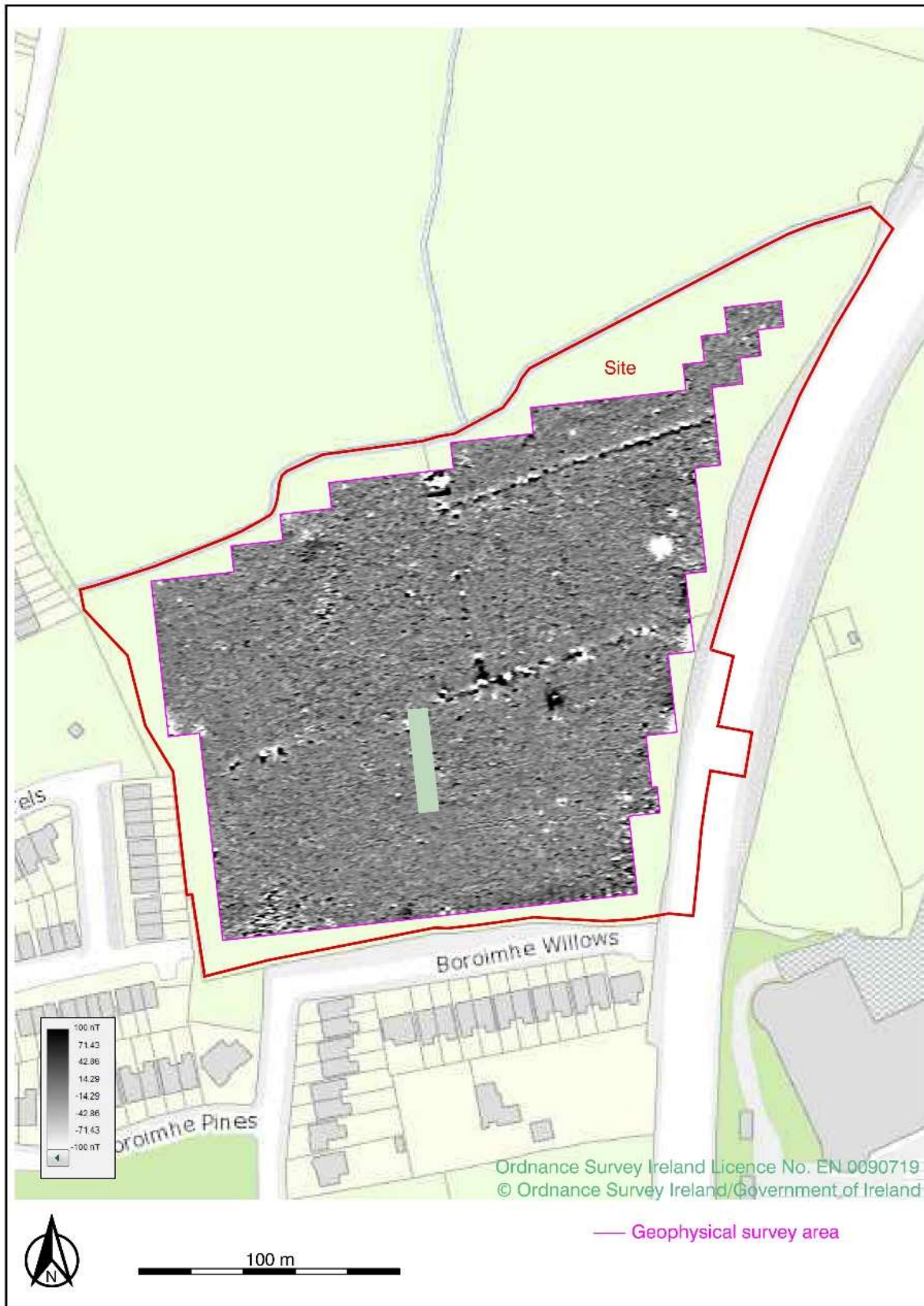


Figure 4.2 Geophysical survey results (grey-scale).



Figure 4.3 Details of proposed development showing interpretation of geophysical survey (19R0011) and excavated test trenches (19E0034).



No clear signs of archaeology were present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features were identified. In addition to this, a number of the isolated anomalies were deemed of possible archaeological potential. Linear anomalies corresponding with the historic field boundaries were also identified.

A number of the magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area were interpreted as likely representing smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and may not be identified during the later testing phase.

The report recommended targeted archaeological test trenching in order to assess the nature and extent of these identified features, in particular the nature of the strongest linear anomalies as well as a number of the stronger magnetic anomalies identified elsewhere in order to ascertain their archaeological significance.

### Test Trenching (19E0034; Figure 4.3)

In line with recommendations expressed in the geophysical survey report (Breen, Murphy, 2019); and conclusions expressed in the subsequent archaeological impact assessment (Lyne, 2019), archaeological test trenching of the site, targeting anomalies identified during geophysical survey (19R0011) was carried out.

A total of 16 test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development. Each trench measured 1.8m in width, and in total, 1069m of linear trenches were excavated. The test trenches were excavated down to natural subsoil. In general, the trenches revealed mid-brown clay topsoil and sod at a depth of 0.2-0.35m overlying orange clay natural with stone inclusions.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified, and no finds were recovered.

The report concluded that no further archaeological mitigation is required.

### Sites Reported in The Excavations Database

There are no sites within the proposed development area reported in the excavations.ie database. However, two such sites were identified during a geophysical survey 08R1117 and were subject to test trenching 09E0465 carried out in advance of Metro North Light Rail Project. These are now monuments classed as structure DU011-154 and pit DU011-153, located 32m and 100, east of the site, respectively, on the east side of R132 Ballbrigan to Santry road.

### Topographical Files

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted. These list only one find for Fosterstown North townland; a stone axehead (1959:13) found in a field when it was being ploughed. A number of finds are listed within the environs of the site, these are listed in the table below.

**Table 4.2 Stray finds listed in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland in the environs of the site**

NMI Reg. No	Location	Find
1959:13	Fosterstown North	Stone axehead
IA/12/2004	Windmill Lands	Flint flake
1945:18	Swords Glebe	SHEELA-NA-GIG

NMI Reg. No	Location	Find
1973:59-88	Swords Glebe	Portion of Whetstone; 7 Green-glazed Potsherds; Large Base-wall Sherd; 3 Brown Glazed Potsherds; Frag of Pottery Leg; 17 Misc Abraded Sherds
1978:11-12	Swords Glebe	2 flint frags
1969:40-57	Swords Glebe	2 Bronze Pins; Bronze/Brass Finger Ring and Mount; 2 Coins; Decorated Bone Frag; Bone Pin; 2 Tanged Iron Knives; 2 Lead Frags; Metal Object; Brass Buckle; 4 Glass Beads; Frag of Green Enamel
1974:10a-j	Swords Glebe	2 Flint Chips; 50 Medieval Potsherds

### Placename Evidence

The database of Irish placename ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)) was consulted for the meaning of the placenames within and surrounding the proposed development site.

Fosterstown North (*Baile an Fhóraistéaraigh Thuaidh*) is a townland within the south part of the urban area of Swords, in the Civil Parish of Swords and the Barony of Nethercross. The name Fosterstown may date back to at least the 14th century. Research carried out by the Placenames Branch identified a reference in Alen's Register (1530s) to '*Freeholder... Simon Forestere at Foresterestown*' from A.D. 1326 ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).

### Cartographic Sources and Aerial Photography

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include John Roque's map of 1760, Taylor and Skinner's Maps of 1777, as well as first (1836) and second (1906) and third (1935-38) editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.

No archaeological or cultural heritage features are shown within the proposed development site in any of the examined mapping.

On the Rocque's map of Dublin County North-east sheet (1760), the site is depicted as a pasture field, the external north, south and east boundaries are depicted. These correspond with current site boundaries (Figure 4.4). A road, following roughly the footprint of the current Dublin Road R132, is shown along the sites east extent. It does show two small settlements, to the southwest *Forfters Town* and to the southeast *New Town*, both located outside of the current site. The Taylor and Skinner's Map of 1777 'Maps of the roads of Ireland' Map 1 Dublin to Donaghadee (1777) shows the site adjacent to and west of a road running northwards through Swords but gives no additional detail in relation to the site.

The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (surveyed 1836, published 1843; Figure 4.5) and 25-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (surveyed 1906, published 1908; Figure 4.6) do not show any features of archaeological heritage merit or buildings within the proposed development site. Both depict the external boundaries much as they are today, with additional internal boundaries dividing the site into five fields. The site's northeast and east boundaries are depicted as a townland boundary between Cremona and Miltonsfields townlands, respectively (Figure 4.5, 4.6). It appears that these boundaries have remained largely unchanged since the time of the 1777 map (Figure 4.4); this is due to the Gaybrook Stream forming the north boundary and the road between Dublin and Swords running adjacent to the site, there is no archaeological significance attached to the later as this road was significantly widened in recent years.

Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2013 from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and in addition, Google Earth imagery dating between 2009 and 2020 were examined. An assessment of the available cartographic sources revealed that the site was subdivided in the past (throughout the 19th century) into five smaller fields. By

the 1995 imagery, the site is shown as consisting of three fields, with the subdivisions removed. By the time of the 2000 imagery, the site is shown as consisting of two fields; by 2016, the remaining internal boundary was removed, the site remained unchanged since. Some of the removed boundaries were visible on the 1995 aerial imagery, with internal boundaries visible as linear cropmarks on the google aerial dating to 2020.



Figure 4.4 Extract from Rocque's map of Dublin County - North East sheet (1760), showing location of site.

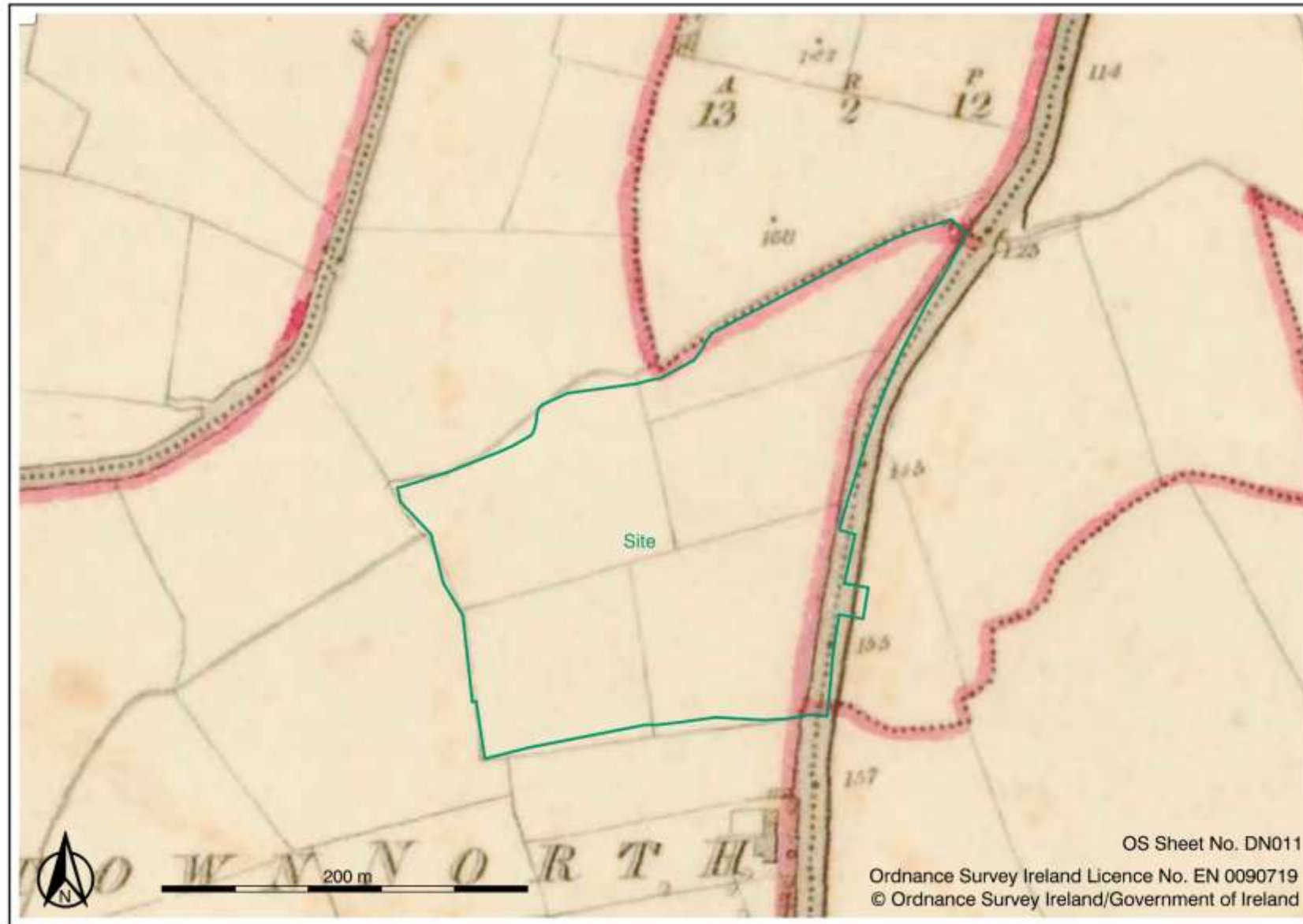


Figure 4.5 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site

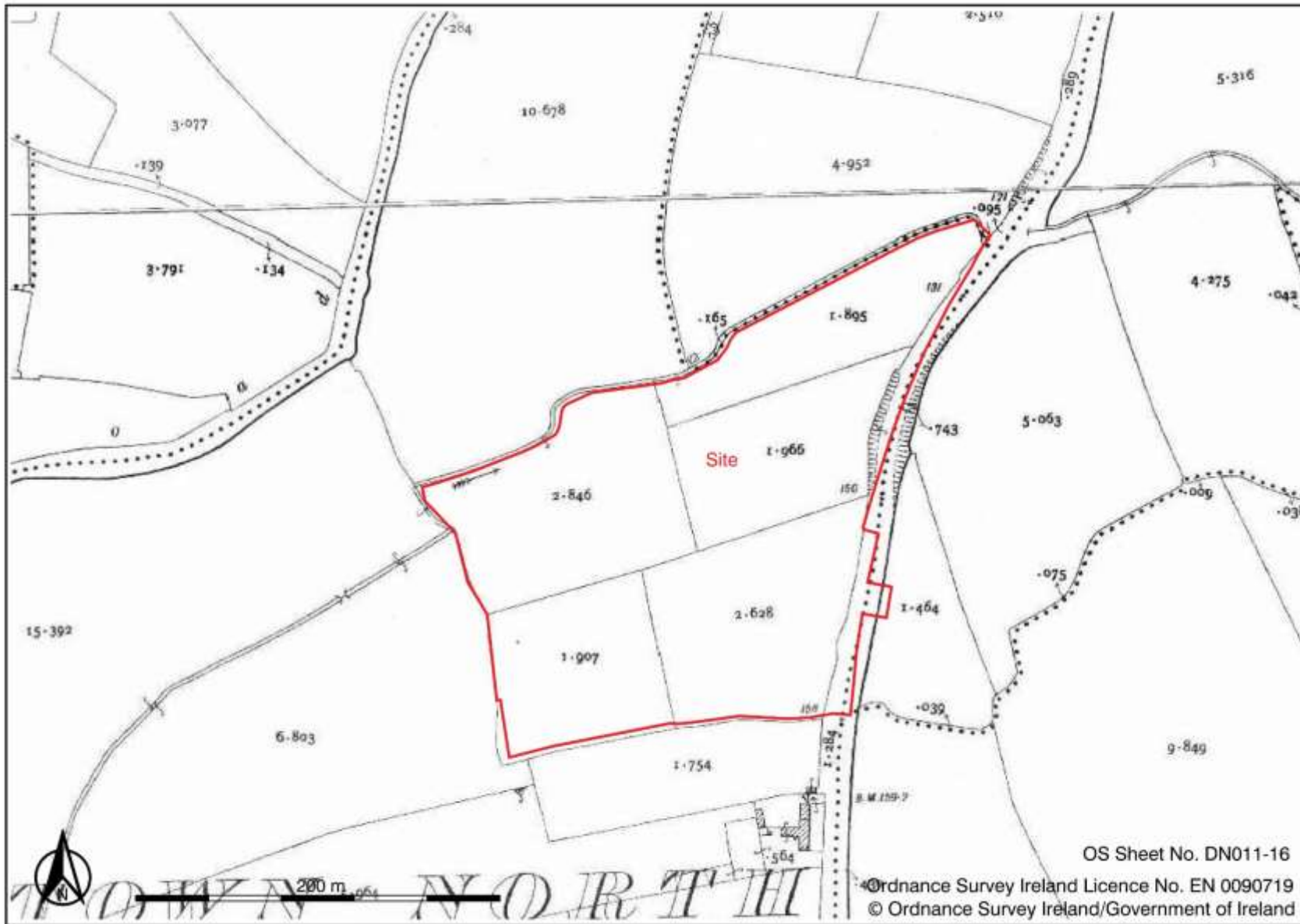


Figure 4.6 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906 - published 1908), showing location of site

## **Tangible Cultural Heritage Sites/Features**

The Down Survey Map of County Dublin, Barony of Nethercross and the Parish of Swords, Rocque map of 1760 (Figure 4.4) and the Ordnance Survey Maps of the area, were examined in order to identify boundaries/field divisions of significance and any Cultural Heritage Areas.

There are two townland boundaries depicted on the Ordnance Survey mapping (Figures 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6); that are the current site's external boundaries. Both are with Fosterstown North; one with Miltonsfield and the other with Cremona. The one with Miltonsfield is shown along the site's east boundary, along the western extent of Dublin Road (R132) on the 1836 map. Both the 1909 map and Cassini map 1935-38 shows it as running within roads footprint. While it follows roughly the footprint as shown on the 1760 Rocque map, the road was widened and realigned with a roundabout added, suggesting the townland boundary was likely removed during these works.

The other boundary, with Cremona townland, runs northeast-southwest and forms the site's northern boundary. It is defined by Gaybrook Stream with mature trees and appears it was depicted as a field boundary since Rocque 1760 map and is shown as a townland boundary on all the Ordnance Survey mapping.

## **Record of Protected Structures**

The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 was consulted as it contains the Record of Protected Structures for County Dublin. There are no such structures within the site, and only one listed as located in Fosterstown North, situated c. 200m south of the site, at Pinnock Hill, represented by Milestone (RPS No. 866) described as '*Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century triangular milestone associated with turnpike road.*'

## **Architectural Heritage Sites**

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin database was consulted as it contains additional sites of architectural heritage. There are no such sites within the site, the nearest is 1880-1900 water pump (NIAH Reg. 11343015) located c. 0.7km north of the site, described as '*Cast-iron water pump, c. 1890, now missing parts. Cast-iron plaque with inscribed Tonge and Taggart insignia. Freestanding cut stone trough to left-hand side.*'

## **Site Inspection**

Ian Russell of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU Ltd) conducted a site inspection on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 (Figure 4.7). It was carried out for the Archaeological Assessment (Desktop) for Fosterstown South SHD, Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (Lyne, 2019) and prior to test trenching.

The site of the proposed development, is a flat, tilled agricultural land, bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the existing residential development. A small stream runs along the northern boundary of the property. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.



**Figure 4.7 Site overview, facing north**

#### **4.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed development area measures 4.635 hectares and is located in Fosterstown North townland, within a large tilled agricultural land, bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south by residential developments. A small stream known as the Gaybrook stream forms the north boundary of the property.

The site of the proposed residential development will include the construction of 645 no. residential units community and childcare facility, commercial units, carparks and associated works (Figure 4.3).

A full project description of Fosterstown North Strategic Housing Development is presented in Chapter 2 of this EIAR.

#### **4.5 PREDICTED IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

##### **Direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments**

There will be no direct impacts on recorded archaeological monuments as no recorded monuments are located within the proposed development site. There are two monuments located in the immediate environs of the site, structure DU011-154 and pit DU011-153---- located 32m and 100, east of the site, respectively, and it will not be impacted in any way.

##### **Direct Impacts on Protected Structures and Architectural Heritage Sites**

There will be no direct impacts on architectural heritage as no Protected Structures or sites listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) are located within the proposed development site.

The only Protected Structure listed is located in Fosterstown North and situated c. 200m south of the site, at Pinnock Hill, represented by Milestone (RPS No. 866); while the nearest NIAH site is 1880-1900 water pump (NIAH Reg. 11343015) located c. 0.7km north of the site, and these will not be impacted in any way.



## **Direct Impacts on Known and Potential Archaeological Features**

The proposed development will have no impact on known archaeological features as no such features are present. Furthermore, the archaeological assessments carried out previously did not uncover any sub-surface archaeological features. Consequently, the proposed development will not have any impact on archaeological features within the site as no such features were identified during assessments carried out (geophysical survey and test trenching).

### **Direct Impact on Townland Boundary**

There will be no direct impact to the existing townland boundary between Fosterstown North and Cremona townlands. The boundary forms the north boundary of the proposed development site and is defined by a stream known as the Gaybrook Stream, with mature trees and hedges along it. The stream will be retained, landscaping, greenbelt and footpath are proposed along this section of the boundary.

However, should the townland boundary be altered in any way, in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed works, a survey of the boundary to include a written, drawn and a photographic record will be required.

### **Indirect Impacts**

Indirect impacts here are those which may have a negative (or positive) effect on the archaeological landscape after the construction phase of the development (i.e. operational). Indirect impacts may include the visual impact on the surrounding archaeological landscape. The two nearest monuments to the site comprise structure DU011-154 and pit DU011-153---- located 32m and 100 east of the site. These have no surface expression and are located on the opposite side of the R132 (Dublin Rd.). The introduction of the proposed development to the area will not result in a major change to the general setting of any of the monuments listed. This is due to the fact that the area around, particularly to the south of the site, is already built up; the immediate settings will remain unchanged.

## **4.6 POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

In terms of cumulative impacts, the permitted SHD to the north was also considered and as there was no archaeological, or cultural heritage features identified there will be no cumulative impacts on the cultural heritage or any archaeological resources.

## **4.7 'DO NOTHING' IMPACT**

A 'Do Nothing Scenario' will see the continued preservation of the townland boundary between Fosterstown North and Cremona as is.

'Do Nothing Scenario' will have nil effect on archaeological or cultural heritage resources, as none are present within the area.

## **4.8 MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **ARCH CONST 1: Pre-Commencement Recording**

The site was subject to a number of archaeological assessments carried out in relation to the site, both invasive and non-invasive. These include Geophysical Survey (19R0011; Murphy, Breen, 2019), Archaeological Assessment (Lyne, 2019) and test trenching (19E0034; Clarke, Lyne, 2020). These did not identify any subsurface archaeological remains within the site.

The proposed development will see the preservation of the watercourse, the Gaybrook Stream that forms the townland boundary between Fosterstown North and Cremona townlands. While the townland boundary value is considered low, should the townland boundary be altered in any way, a photographic and written record of it will be required in order to preserve it by record, and should be carried out at the pre-construction phase. No further archaeological mitigation is required.

#### **4.9 MONITORING**

No monitoring is necessary.

#### **4.10 REINSTATEMENT**

Reinstatement will not be required.

#### **4.11 INTERACTIONS**

No interactions in relation to the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Resource are anticipated with other environmental factors assessed within this EIAR.

#### **4.12 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN COMPILING**

No difficulties were encountered during the compilation of this chapter.

#### **4.13 REFERENCES**

- Bradley, J. and King, H. (1988) Urban Archaeology Survey: Part VIII. County Dublin. Office of Public Works, Dublin
- Clarke, L., Lyne, M. 2020 Archaeological Assessment (test trenching) of a proposed development site (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin 19E0034; Unpublished report by ACSU.
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- Gwynn A. and Hadcock R.N. (1970) Medieval religious houses Ireland, Longman, London
- Frazer W. O., Fagan B., Leinihan O., Hession, J. (2010) Assessment Report on the Results of Metro North Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 7, Swords Demesne and Miltonsfield townlands, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN101/MN102) Seatown Stop and Fosterstown Park and Ride (09E465), unpublished report
- Lewis, S. (1837). A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland. Lewis and Co. London.
- Lyne, E. 2019 Archaeological Assessment (Desktop) for Fosterstown South SHD, Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report by ACSU
- Murphy, D., Breen, R., 2019 Geophysical Survey of a proposed development site (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin 19R0011; unpublished report by ACSU

#### **Other Sources**

- Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map 1935-38
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023  
(<https://www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/development-plans-and-consultations/fingaldevelopmentplan2017-2023/>)
- First edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836, published 1843).
- Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland (www.logainm.ie)
- National Monuments List (ownership and guardianship)  
[www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/search-by-county](http://www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/search-by-county)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Record of Protected Structures

([www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017-2023\\_dev\\_plan\\_record\\_of\\_protected\\_structures.pdf](http://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017-2023_dev_plan_record_of_protected_structures.pdf) )

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

Third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906, published 1908).

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

**APPENDIX 4.1: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (19R0011; MURPHY, BREEN, 2019)**

past | present | future

ACS



**Geophysical Survey of a proposed development site  
(Fosterstown South SHD) at  
Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES UNIT

**Client:**

Murlyn (Investments) Limited

ITM: 717610, 745630

Planning Ref.: N/A (pre-planning)

Licence No.: 19R0011

Donald Murphy & Robert Breen

1 February 2019

ACSU Ref.: 1899

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## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	Geophysical Survey of a proposed development site (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin
<b>Report Type</b>	Geophysical Survey
<b>Archaeologist</b>	Donald Murphy and Robert Breen
<b>Client</b>	Murlyn (Investments) Limited
<b>Site</b>	Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin
<b>Townland</b>	Fosterstown North (Nethercross By.)
<b>ITM Ref.</b>	717610, 745630
<b>Planning Ref. No.</b>	Pre-Planning
<b>RMP No.</b>	N/A
<b>Protected Structures</b>	N/A
<b>Detection Device Licence No.</b>	19R0011
<b>Report Date</b>	01 February 2019
<b>ACSU Ref.</b>	1899





## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report details the results of a Geophysical Survey carried out on behalf of the client, Murlyn (Investments) Limited, on a proposed residential development site (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630). The survey was carried out at pre-planning stage in the townland of Fosterstown North. The nearest recorded monument to the development is a pit (DU011-153), located c. 0.1 km east of the proposed development site.

The geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, under licence 19R0011 issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. A full detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the application area using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. Detailed survey was conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m for all the survey areas within the site of the proposed development with variations in the magnetic field (between -100nT to +107.834nT). The site is a greenfield site serving as agricultural pasture lands along the western side of the Swords Rd R132.

No clear signs of archaeology are present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features will have to be investigated during the testing phase of the project. As well as this, a number of the isolated anomalies will also be targeted in order to assess their archaeological potential. The historic field boundaries identified within the survey will also be tested to confirm their nature, depths and age.

A number of the magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area may represent smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and may not be identified during the later testing phase.

It is therefore recommended that targeted archaeological assessment in the form of test trenching be carried out in order to assess the nature and extent of these identified features, in particular the nature of the strongest linear anomalies as well as a number of the stronger magnetic anomalies identified elsewhere in order to ascertain their archaeological significance.







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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of a Geophysical Survey carried out on a proposed development site at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630; Figures 1–2). The survey was carried out at pre-planning stage, in advance of a proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD) at the request of the client. The nearest recorded monument to the development is a pit (DU011-153), located c. 0.1 km east of the proposed development site.

The geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, under licence 19R0011 issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. A full detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the proposed development area, which is a greenfield site serving as agricultural pasture lands along the western side of the Swords Rd R132.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A full detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the application area using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. Detailed survey was conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m for all the survey areas within the site of the proposed development with variations in the magnetic field between (-100nT to +107.834nT). The survey area was an open greenfield site serving as agricultural pasture lands along the western side of the Swords Rd R132.

## 3. THE DEVELOPMENT

### 3.1 Proposal

This geophysical survey has been carried out at the request of the client at the pre-planning stage for a proposed Strategic Housing Development (Figure 5).

The proposed development will consist of the construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1. no childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11). The proposal contains parking at basement level for 442 cars and at surface level for 58 cars. 1,156 no. bicycle parking spaces will be provided at basement level, and 514 no. bicycle parking spaces at ground surface level throughout the site. The proposed development will provide balconies/terraces for all units, and includes provision of communal and public open space (including playing fields). The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, provision of internal road and access to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north, along with landscaping, boundary treatment, roads, cycle paths, footpaths, communal and public open space.

The development will consist of the following:

- Construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks, with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1. no childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11).
- Each block will contain the following:



- Block 1 – 4 storeys in height and contains 8 no. 1 bedroom units, 20 no. 2 bedroom units and 2 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 2 – 4 storeys in height containing 6 no. 1 bedroom units and 16 no. 2 bedroom units
- Block 3 – ranges in height between 4-5 storeys containing 7 no. 1 bedroom units, 23 no. 2 bedroom units, 5 no. 3 bedroom units, and a childcare facility (946.6 sq.m) at ground floor;
- Block 4 – 8 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 54 no. 2 bedroom units, 9 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail/retail services unit (585 sq.m) at ground floor;
- Block 5 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level and contains 22 no. 1 bedroom units, 63 no. 2 bedroom units and 9 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 6 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level in height and contains 28 no. 1 bedroom units, 72 no. 2 bedroom units and 3 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 7 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
- Block 8 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
- Block 9 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 26 no. 1 bedroom units, 71 no. 2 bedroom units, 10 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail / retail services unit (689 sq.m) at ground floor;
- Block 10 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 24 no. 1 bedroom units, 53 no. 2 bedroom units, and 1 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 11 – 11 storeys in height above basement level and contains 10 no. 1 bedroom units, 30 no. 2 bedroom units, and 13 no. 3 bedroom units and 1 no. resident amenity facility (305 sq.m) at basement level.
- Balconies and private terraces are provided for all apartments;
- The proposed development will also include the provision of public and communal open space, including playing fields and play areas;
- The basement level contains 442 no. car parking spaces (430 no. spaces for the residential units and 12 no. spaces for the retail unit), and 1,156 no. bicycle spaces. The basement level also includes bin storage, plant rooms and block cores;
- 58 no. car parking spaces are provided at ground surface level (6 no. spaces to serve the retail unit, 25 no. spaces for the childcare facility, 10 no. spaces for the commercial unit, and 17 no. spaces for visitors) and 514 no. bicycle spaces are provided at ground surface level throughout the site;
- The proposed development will provide a new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, and includes provision of internal road and access to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north;
- The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, landscaping, boundary treatment, internal roads, cycle paths and footpaths.

### 3.2 Archaeological Requirements

This geophysical survey is being carried out at the request of the client, and is being undertaken at the pre-planning stage to assess the archaeological potential of the site.



## 4. SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this geophysical survey is to establish the presence of any archaeological features within this site, and to inform a programme of test trenching to be carried out across the development area.

## 5. SOILS, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The landscape of North County Dublin principally reflects the erosional and depositional legacy of the last period of glaciation, which ended some 10,000 years ago following the Devensian period. Glacial erosion of pre-existing topographic features and deposition of thick glacial drift deposits, mainly till (boulder clay) resulted in a rather subdued post-glacial topography. The post-glacial landscape also reflects the effects of fluvial processes that have altered the topography, albeit only to a small extent in this area, since the ice sheet retreat.

The majority of the bedrock underlying the county consists of Lower Carboniferous aged rocks, mainly limestone. These formed on the continental shelf of a tropical sea around 340 million years ago. There was a deep marine basin in the southern part of Fingal and shallow water in the northern part. Some of the last sediments to be deposited in Fingal accumulated during the Quaternary period (1.6 million years ago to present) when a series of large ice sheets moved over Ireland, and down the Irish Sea area, depositing glacial till (clay, sand and gravel) and scouring the underlying bedrock giving Fingal much of its present-day geomorphological characteristics. In the vicinity of Swords, the soils are composed of made ground, estuarine sediments (silts/clays) and a small pocket of grey brown podzolics/ brown earths.

## 6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

Swords is a dormitory town located 13 km north of Dublin off the N1 road to Belfast. The archaeological stray finds from Swords are numerous and indicate continuous human activity and settlement from the Neolithic period to the present day. The name, which derives from Sord meaning pure, is said to relate to the water of the holy well on Well Road (DU011-034013-), located c. 1 km northeast of the proposed development site. This is perhaps a pre-Christian well, but is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille (d. AD 597). Although Colmcille is the most widely credited, there is divided opinion about the identity of the person responsible for Sword's foundation. Nevertheless, the town's history began in the Early Christian period when it became a monastic settlement whose first abbot is said to have been St. Fionnan Lobhar. A church named after St. Fionnan survived in Swords until the close of the Middle Ages (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords is first mentioned in the annals when, in the year AD 965, the bishop of Swords and Lusk, Ailill Mac Manach died. In AD 994, the monastery of Swords was burned by Maelseachlainn and suffered a similar fate several more times between AD 1020 and 1166. In AD 1035, Swords was raided by the king of Meath in revenge for an attack carried out by the Dublin Norse on Ardbracan. This suggests that Swords at that time was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyfflinarskiri. It seems likely that Dublin Vikings (Ostmen) were living in Swords up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century. As late as 1326, there is a reference to "sixteen foreign burgesses" in the manor of Swords and there is evidence that these particular 'foreigners' were of Scandinavian origin. Swords, it seems, was a Viking settlement as well as a monastic one (Bradley & King 1988).



By the late twelfth century, the lands attached to Swords monastery were part of the see lands of Dublin and were confirmed to Dublin's archbishop, Laurence O'Toole, in 1179. The archbishops had established a borough at Swords before the end of the twelfth century which makes it a particularly early one. Borough status conferred upon the citizens of Swords privileges such as the right of self-government and gave them trade protection from outside merchants. In 1193, the borough was granted the right to hold an eight-day fair centred on the feast of its founding saint, Colmcille (Bradley & King 1988).

The standard building plot of towns and villages in the Middle Ages was known as a burgage. In most towns, the burgage was a narrow deep plot of land with a house at one end fronting the street with a space behind used as a garden. Another grant of 1181–1212 confirmed the burgesses (townspeople) of Swords in their burgages and allowed them privileged liberties and free customs in Dublin (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords was one of the largest boroughs established by the archbishops of Dublin with an extent of the manor taken in 1326 recording more than 120 burgesses. The borough was also one of their most enduring and continued to function into the sixteenth century. In 1578, the town was granted a new charter by Queen Elizabeth I that established Swords as a parliamentary borough with the right to return two members to parliament (Bradley & King 1988).

The zone of archaeological potential for Swords was determined by Bradley and King in their Urban Archaeology Survey for County Dublin. This zone is based on the location of the medieval borough and the early monastic settlement. The medieval town was mainly arranged along a single linear street, Main Street, which was referred to as High Street in medieval times. The focus of settlement, as today, was the gates of the archbishops' palace. A fourteenth-century document refers to another street in Swords called Le Camerothe which Bradley and King suggests could relate either to Seatown Road or to Well Road. In 1395, a weekly market was confirmed to the archbishops of Dublin to be held in Swords. This is likely to have been a confirmation of a grant issued during the reign of King John (1199–1216). The marketplace was located in Main Street and is still apparent today where the street was widened to accommodate it (Bradley & King 1988).

Historical documents (for example, Archbishop Alen's register) include many references to individual burgage plots and properties in medieval Swords. A number of the houses of this period seem to have even survived into the nineteenth century as D'Alton, writing in 1838, referred to the "ancient aspect" of some of the inns. Swords also possessed a number of mills, the first reference to them dating to 1191. The extent of the manor of 1326 referred to them as watermills and valued them at 100 shillings (Bradley & King 1988).

D'Alton also mentioned that Swords was one of the walled towns of County Dublin in 1578, though there is no trace of town defences in existence today. However, the course of these walls can be suggested. The long linear boundary delimiting the properties on the eastern side of Main Street seems an obvious line. The location of the southern boundary is unclear but on the west, the boundary was probably formed by the Ward River, a stream known in medieval times as Reynen. The parish church was probably outside the defences but could have been protected by the Early Christian enclosure. The Early Christian monastery had been established on the prominent ridge of high ground overlooking Main Street from the west. It was bound on the east and south by the stream and the monastic enclosure and is still preserved today by the curving line of Brackenstown Road, Church Road and Rathbeale Road (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords Castle was one of the principal residences of the archbishops of Dublin and there are references to a constable of the castle during the time of Archbishop John Comyn, suggesting that it was built around 1200. Some writers have suggested that Swords was abandoned around 1324 in favour of Tallaght but there is no evidence for the construction of a castle at the latter location around this



time. Architectural evidence suggests that Swords Castle was still occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries when it was being sublet to members of the Fitzsimon and Barnewall families (Bradley & King 1988).

During the Middle Ages, Swords was regarded as 'the golden prebend' because its revenues for the archbishops were so handsome. St. Columba's parish church reflected this wealth through its size and its three side chapels. The present church was built around 1818 using the materials of the original medieval building and today only the fifteenth-century west tower and the round tower survive from the earlier edifice. The round tower was constructed of roughly coursed limestone and bears evidence for six floors. It probably dates to the late seventeenth century. The churchyard contains an Early Christian cross and graveslabs with additional monuments from the seventeenth century (Bradley & King 1988).

St. Columba's was not the only church in medieval Swords. Documentary evidence points to a church called St. Brigid's at the northern side of the town near the gates of the old archbishops' palace. This was in ruins by 1532. When Archbishop Comyn visited his brother Walter between 1181 and 1212, Walter was referred to as the parson of the churches of St. Columba and St. Fintan of Swords. The latter establishment appears to have been named after the monastery's first abbot, Fionnan Lobhar. The church and its associated graveyard were apparently located on the south side of the town near the vicar's manse on the Forrest Road which lies to the southwest. The site was later occupied by the glebe house, though the church was still standing in 1532 (Bradley & King 1988).

Prehistoric evidence from the area around the proposed development site includes three ring-ditches (DU011-152, DU011-047, DU011-114), a burnt mound (DU011-151) and an isolated pit of burnt stone (DU011-153), while early medieval evidence comes in the form of possible ringfort/enclosures (DU011-116, DU011-118) and associated field system (DU011-117) and a number of holy well sites (DU011-034013, DU011-045, DU011-037). This evidence suggests that this has been a well populated area from at least the Bronze Age and through the early medieval period.

## 6.2 Recorded Monuments

There are no recorded monuments listed in the RMP or SMR located within the study area, while it is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). A number of other recorded monuments are located in the surrounding area. The sites listed here add to the general assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

### **DU011-153----**

**Class:** Pit

**Townland:** Miltonsfields

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

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0465) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A sub-circular pit (1.2m diam.) contained a charcoal rich fill with heat shattered stone, provisionally interpreted as Bronze Age in date (Fagan 2009, 20).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015



**DU011-037----****Class:** Ritual site - holy well**Townland:** Forrestfields**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Formerly located by the roadside on the outskirts of Swords village. There is no visible surface trace of this holy well as it has been built over. Local tradition held that the waters cured eyes and mouth, the name is derived from 'sliop' meaning a lip or mouth (O'Reilly 1910, 159, Ó Danachair 1958, 81).

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout**Updated by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 08 January 2015**DU011-045----****Class:** Ritual site - holy well**Townland:** Crowscastle**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Dedicated to St Werburgh the natural spring well presented as stone seriously was overgrown, situated by a stream. There was a local tradition that its water cures sore eyes but by the 1950s was no longer venerated (Ó Danachair 1958, 81). In March 2011 the well was cleared and reconstructed without licence. The well was redug in a different position, plastic piping inserted and stone removed. It is now signposted with an inscribed stone and described as an 'oasis of transformation'.

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout**Updated by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 15 January 2015**DU011-152----****Class:** Ring-ditch**Townland:** Crowscastle**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 09R0038) and test excavation (Licence no. 10E0028) in advance of the Barryspark Local Area Plan. A ring ditch (13m diam.) was identified c. 160m SE of St Werburgh's well (DU011-045----). The fill of the annular ditch (2m wide) had unidentified burnt bone inclusions (O'Hara 2010).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015**DU011-047----****Class:** Ring-ditch**Townland:** Nevinstown West**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes



**Description:** This is a relatively small subcircular feature (diam. c. 15m) visible as a cropmark on an aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 3.489-490). Now under a car park. Not visible at ground level.

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

#### DU011-118----

**Class:** Enclosure

**Townland:** Fosterstown South

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

**Description:** An irregular shaped enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features. A circular enclosure (DU011-116----) and field system (DU011-117----) are located close to the north (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A possible D-shaped enclosure (30m diam.) was identified. An additional enclosure was identified 20 m to the northeast, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50 m in diameter. A figure-of-eight shaped corn drying kiln was identified directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure (Hession 2009, 36).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

#### DU011-116----

**Class:** Enclosure

**Townland:** Fosterstown South

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

**Description:** A circular enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features that suggest an associated field system (DU011-117----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). A further enclosure can be seen to the south (DU011-118----). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A double ditched or bivallate enclosure with an associated field system situated to the south was identified. The bivallate enclosure consists of an inner enclosure (30m diam.) which is partially encompassed on the eastern, northeastern and northern sides by a second elliptical enclosing ditch (50m diam.). While no diagnostic material was recovered the morphology suggests a bivallate ringfort (Hession 2009, 23).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 09 January 2015

#### DU011-117----

**Class:** Field system

**Townland:** Fosterstown South

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

**Description:** A field system that appears to be associated with a circular enclosure (DU011-116----) visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. A further enclosure is located to the south (DU011-118----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to



geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. The presence of ditches and pits associated a possible ringfort was confirmed (Hession 2009).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 4 November 2013

#### **DU011-151----**

**Class:** Burnt mound

**Townland:** Fosterstown South

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

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A spread of black silty clay (3m x 2m) with inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone, indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound was identified (Hession 2009, 20).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015

#### **DU011-114----**

**Class:** Ring-ditch

**Townland:** Fosterstown South

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

**Description:** A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. To the southeast a sub-circular enclosure is also visible within the same field (DU011-113----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). The site is located on low-lying land that rises steeply to the south. No visible remains at ground level.

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 09 January 2015

### **6.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

There have been five previous archaeological excavations in the environs of Fosterstown North (Figure 2). The details of these investigations are outlined below ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

**Site name:** New Rd., Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 95E0280

**Author:** Rónán Swan, 746 Howth Rd, Raheny, Dublin 5.

**Site type:** Adjacent to well

**ITM:** E 717726m, N 745724m

**Description:** Archaeological testing took place in Swords over a period of four days commencing on 4 December 1995. The testing was undertaken in accordance with the planning regulations for a residential/commercial development. The reason for the testing was that



this property was adjacent to St Columba's Well. This well is one of the few surviving features of medieval Swords and none of the proposed development is to be located within 5m of it. In agreement with the Office of Public Works, a trenching programme was agreed upon which would fully test this site. The site itself was divided into three distinct areas, but a common stratigraphy was reflected in all trenches cut.

The results of the testing demonstrated that activity on the site has consisted of repeated dumping of infill to level the site and also of indiscriminate dumping of material by local traders. No archaeological material was recovered in any of the trenches cut, but a series of springs were identified in the course of excavation which may have accounted for the area being unsuitable for previous occupation.

**Site name:** The Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 98E0317

**Author:** Eoin Halpin, Archaeological Development Services Ltd, Unit 48, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30-50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.

**Site type:** No archaeological significance

**ITM:** E 717826m, N 746424m

**Description:** Testing took place on 22 July 1998. Two trenches were machine-excavated down to undisturbed natural. The results suggest that the construction of the schoolhouse, allied to localised quarrying, removed any significant archaeology from the area of the proposed restaurant extension. The ground to the north, the location of extra carpark space, appeared to be devoid of any archaeological remains, although the presence of mature trees and dense undergrowth precluded an extensive examination of this area. Its location, close to the course of the River Ward, may be significant. It was not possible on this occasion, owing to difficulty of access, to test the area to the south of the restaurant, where it is proposed to construct an extension to the existing carpark.

**Site name:** 7 North Street, Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 95E0243

**Author:** Margaret Gowen, Rath House, Ferndale Rd. Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Medieval urban

**ITM:** E 718126m, N 746024m

**Description:** An archaeological assessment was carried out on a site at 7 North Street, Swords, on 25 January 1996 to fulfil a condition of the planning approval for the scheme. The site is located to the south-east of the medieval castle of Swords, with the curtain-wall of the castle forming the western boundary. It lies to the rear of a renovated building, now a shop. The site measured 5.5m north—south and 7.7m east—west, and was covered by a concrete slab 0.3m deep. The assessment was based on the excavation of two trenches opened by 'mini'-excavator; one was opened across the site and the other was located in the eastern corner.

The archaeological assessment revealed no evidence for any fosse or moat surrounding the castle on this side (Rocque's map of 1760 indicates the presence of street-front properties in this location). The old ground level did not survive and appeared to have been significantly reduced at some date. The concrete slab sat directly on undisturbed clay, with no evidence for any accumulation of archaeologically enriched soils. The castle wall was protected by the concrete boundary wall of the property. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the assessment and there were no archaeological implications for the development of this site.



**Site name:** Barrysparks and Crowcastle

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** DU011-045

**Licence number:** 10E0028

**Author:** Rob O'Hara, Archer Heritage Planning, 8 BEaT Centre, Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Ring-ditch

**ITM:** E 718585m, N 746001m

**Description:** Two phases of testing were carried out at the site of a planned road network through the Barrysparks LAP area and at sites of archaeological potential identified in previous assessments. A total of 34 test-trenches were excavated across the site with a combined length of approximately 2,497m. One archaeological site was recorded during the testing programme, a ring-ditch (or barrow), formed by a circular ditch approximately 13m in diameter. A second drain feature in the same location may be associated. No other features were recorded in the areas tested and no artifacts were recovered either from topsoil or sampled deposits.

**Site name:** Fosterstown South

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 09E0466

**Author:** James Hession, c/o Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

**Site type:** Burnt mound, bivallate enclosure, archaeological complex

**ITM:** E 717008m, N 744791m

**Description:** Testing as part of the advance works on the proposed route of the Metro North light rail project was carried out on behalf of the Railway Procurement Agency. For the purposes of these works the Metro North route was subdivided into fourteen testing areas. Testing Area 8 was located in Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, on the footprint of the Metro North alignment and Construction Compound 5, Pinnock Hill Viaduct.

Testing of Area 8 was carried out on 1–2 October 2009. A total of 38 test-trenches were excavated in two fields and three areas of archaeological potential were identified.

*Fosterstown South 1* comprised a deposit of black silty clay measuring 3m by 5m and 0.2m deep, with inclusions of burnt and fire-cracked stone indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound.

*Fosterstown South 2*

Geophysical survey had indicated the presence of one or more enclosures in this area. Testing identified an archaeological complex comprised of a double-ditched or bivallate enclosure with an additional enclosing ditch situated to the south. The bivallate enclosure consisted of an inner enclosure with an external diameter of 30m east–west. The second enclosure was characterised by a ditch with an external diameter of 50m north-north-west/south-south-east. The additional enclosing ditch measured 30m in diameter. Numerous cut features were identified within and around these enclosures.

*Fosterstown South 3*

A possible D-shaped enclosure identified by the geophysical survey was confirmed by the testing to be enclosing an area measuring at least 30m in diameter. An additional enclosure was identified 20m to the north-east, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50m in diameter. Furthermore, a figure-of-eight-shaped corn-drying kiln was identified directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure.



## 6.4 Cartographic Evidence

Ordnance Survey maps of the area were examined in order to identify any possible archaeological features and to trace the development of the site during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cartographic evidence shown on these maps does not reveal any features of an archaeological nature located within the area of the proposed development.

The cartographic review of the Ordnance Survey maps including the 1st edition historic 6-inch map (Figure 3), surveyed in 1836 (published 1843), and the 25-inch map (Figure 4), surveyed in 1906 (published 1908), shows that there has been relatively little alteration to the field system within which the site of the proposed development is located since the early 19th century. The field is currently without any internal boundaries consisting of one large open field. All historic boundaries noted on 19th-century maps have been identified in the greyscale geophysics data (see Figures 6–7).

## 7. METHOD OF DATA INTERPRETATION

The gradiometer survey is conducted with a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. Detailed survey is conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m for all the survey areas. This allows detection of potential archaeological responses. Data is collected in grids 40m x 40m and data is displayed accordingly.

The Bartington GRAD 601-2 instrument is a specifically designed gradiometer for use in archaeological prospection. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.01nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions. The survey is geo-referenced with a Trimble Geo 7X unit accurate to within 1cm. Interpretation of the results was made by examination of the raw data as greyscale images, XY trace, relief and data plots. Archived raw data is presented in Figure 6 and an interpretation is presented in Figure 7.

## 8. SURVEY RESULTS

The geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy & Robert Breen of ACSU) on 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 under license 19R0011. A full detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the application area (Figure 5) using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. The survey area consists of large open field serving as pasture lands along the western side of the Swords Rd R132.

### Field 1

The Fosterstown site consisted of a large open field bordered by a line of trees and bushes on all sides. Housing estates are present along the southern and western borders whilst the northern end of the field remains undeveloped. The Swords Rd R132 runs parallel to its eastern border. Small amounts of magnetic variations and disturbances are clearly visible along the eastern border and as a result of a modern bore hole towards the eastern end of the field.

The survey identified a number of linear anomalies across the field which represent historic field boundaries that can be seen on the historic 25-inch and 6-inch OS maps. Most of these are also visible from aerial photography and the north-eastern most boundary, aligned east–west, was still physically present in 1995.



A number of curvilinear anomalies were also present but produced very low magnetic readings suggesting they may be the result of variations in the underlying geology. These anomalies are no larger than 20–25m in diameter. The exact nature of these anomalies should be investigated during the testing phase of the project.

Numerous isolated anomalies throughout the field may also be of archaeological interest. These may prove to be the result of kilns, spreads or refuse pits, etc.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

No clear signs of archaeology are present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features will have to be investigated during the testing phase of the project. As well as this, a number of the isolated anomalies will also be targeted in order to assess their archaeological potential.

The historic field boundaries identified within the survey will also be tested to confirm their nature, depths and age.

A number of the magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area may represent smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and may not be identified during the later testing phase.

It is therefore recommended that targeted archaeological assessment in the form of test trenching be carried out in order to assess the nature and extent of these identified features, in particular the nature of the strongest linear anomalies as well as a number of the stronger magnetic anomalies identified elsewhere in order to ascertain their archaeological significance.



## 10. REFERENCES



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- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie), accessed February 2019).
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.





<b>Report Status:</b>	Final
<b>Issue/Revision:</b>	1
<b>Issue/Revision Date:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Donald Murphy & Robert Breen
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Linda Clarke
<b>Signed:</b>	



## 11. Appendix 1 - Summary Technical Information & Glossary of Terms

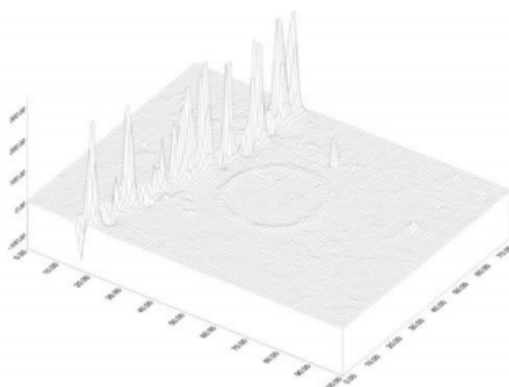
**Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey:** Surveys are undertaken using the Bartington Grad 601-2 survey instrument which was specifically designed for archaeological prospection. It includes sensors that are highly stable, minimizing requirements for excess data processing. The instrument has a vertical 1 m sensor separation permitting finite resolution of buried archaeological features. Surveys can be undertaken in scan or detailed (zig-zag traverse) modes for reconnaissance or high-density mapping. The fluxgate enables reliable flexibility during fieldwork. Frequent realignment of the instruments and zero drift correction ensure a constant high quality of data. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.1nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions. The instrument can be employed in both commercial and research-based investigations allowing for completion of projects within short timescales. Regular grid sample densities from standard 1600 readings to 12800 readings per 20m by 20m grid are permitted. A constant high quality of data is assured by experienced field staff operating in accordance with English Heritage Research & Professional Guidelines No. 1, *Geophysical Survey In Archaeological Field Evaluation* (David 1995).



Bartington Grad 601-single axis dual sensor gradiometer.

### Data Display Formats

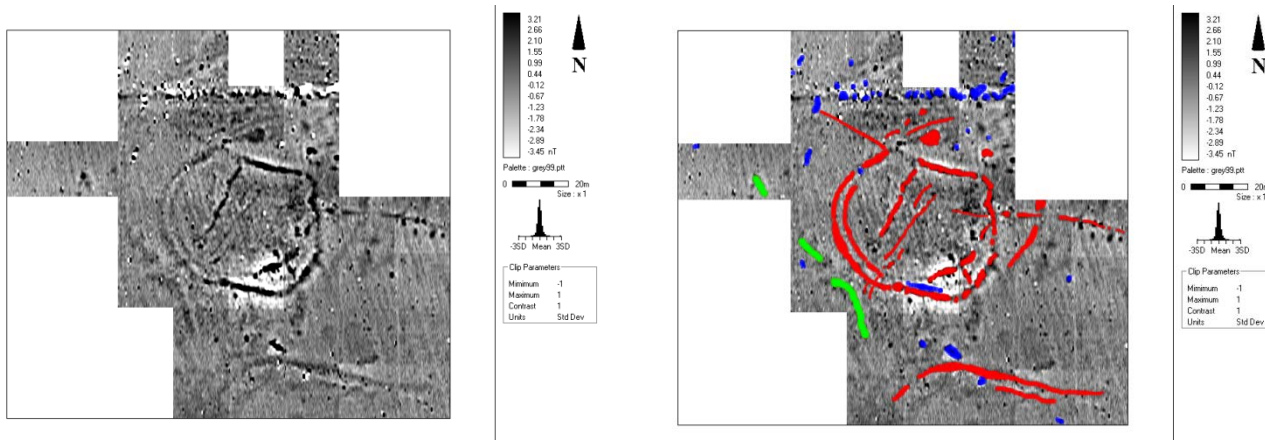
**XY Trace:** The data are presented as a series of linear traces, enabling a semi-profile display of the respective anomalies along the X and Y axes. This display option is essential for distinguishing between modern ferrous materials (buried metal debris) and potential archaeological responses. The XY trace plot provides a linear display of the magnitude of the response within a given data set.



XY Trace of enclosure site

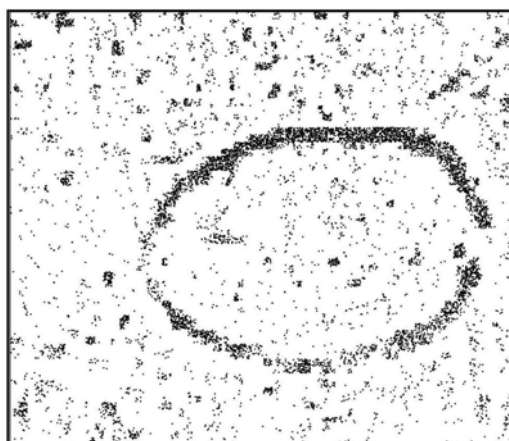


**Greyscale:** As with dot density plots, the greyscale format assigns a cell to each datum according to its location on the grid. The display of each data point is conducted at very fine increments, allowing the full range of values to be displayed within the given data set. This display method also enables the identification of discrete responses that may be at the limits of instrument detection.



Early medieval enclosure greyscale

**Dot Density Plot :** Each datum is assigned a cell in which the intensity or number of dots displayed is proportional to the magnitude of the individual response. The visibility or presentation of responses within a given survey area is governed by numeric parameters specific to both soil morphological and archaeological conditions observed on site. Typically, the range of weak to strong responses is manifested by a low to high level of dot density. The format is useful for displaying gradiometer and resistance data particularly for identifying low-level responses.



Dot Density plot of oval shaped enclosure

### Glossary of Interpretation Terms

**Archaeology:** This category refers to responses usually supported by comparative archaeological evidence (i.e., photographic transcriptions, excavation, etc.). The term is generally associated with significant concentrations of former settlement, such as ditched enclosures, storage pits and associated features.

**Archaeology ?:** This term corresponds to anomalies that display typical archaeological patterns where no record of comparative archaeological evidence is available. In some cases, it may prove difficult to distinguish between these and evidence of more recent activity also visible in the data.

**Industrial:** Such anomalies generally possess a strong magnetic response and may equate with archaeological features such as kilns, furnaces, concentrations of fired debris and associated industrial debris.



**Area of Increased Magnetic Response:** These responses often lack any distinctive archaeological form, and it is therefore difficult to assign any specific interpretation. The resulting responses are site specific, possibly associated with concentrations of archaeological debris or more recent disturbance to underlying archaeological features.

**Trend :** This category refers to low-level magnetic responses barely visible above the magnetic background of the soil. Interpretation is tentative, as these anomalies are often at the limits of instrument detection.

**Ploughing/Ridge & Furrow :** Visible as a series of linear responses, these anomalies equate with recent cultivation trends.

**Natural?:** Resulting from localised natural variations in the magnetic background of the subsoil, these responses are often recorded in areas of low-lying land prone to flooding.

**Ferrous :** These anomalies exhibit a typically strong magnetic response, often referred to as 'iron spikes,' and are the result of modern metal debris located within the topsoil.

**Area of Strong Magnetic Disturbance:** This term refers to large-scale magnetic interference from existing services or structures. The extent of this interference may in some cases obscure anomalies of potential archaeological interest.

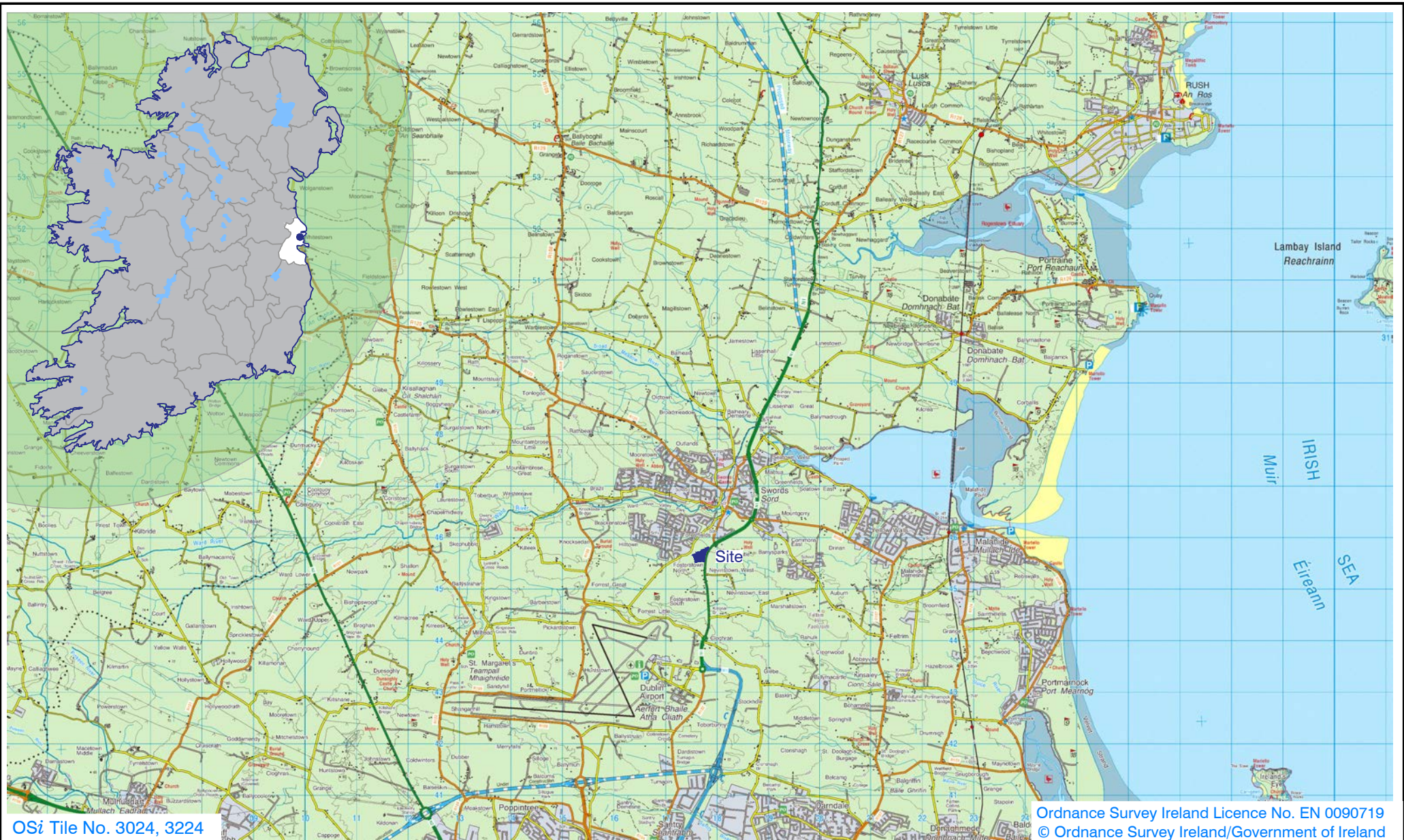


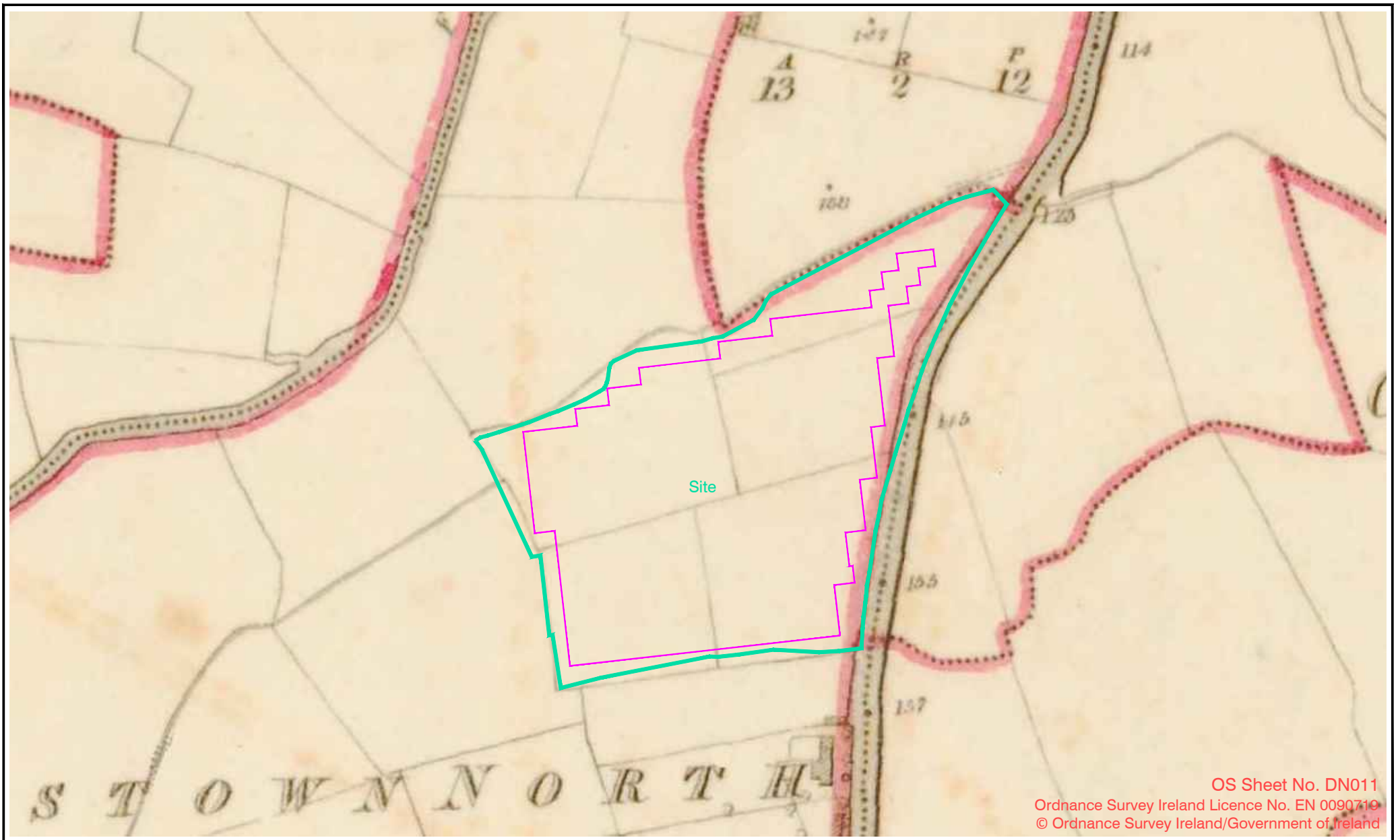
Figure 1: Location of site



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

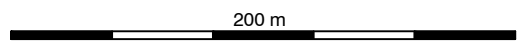
Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Geophysical Survey Report	
Drawing number: 1899_C0022	
Date: March 2020	Scale: 1:10,000 @A4

Figure 2: Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites



OS Sheet No. DN011  
 Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090710  
 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

— Geophysical survey area



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



Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Geophysical Survey Report	
Drawing number: 1899_C0023	
Date: March 2020	Scale: 1:3,000 @A4

Figure 3: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site and geophysical survey area

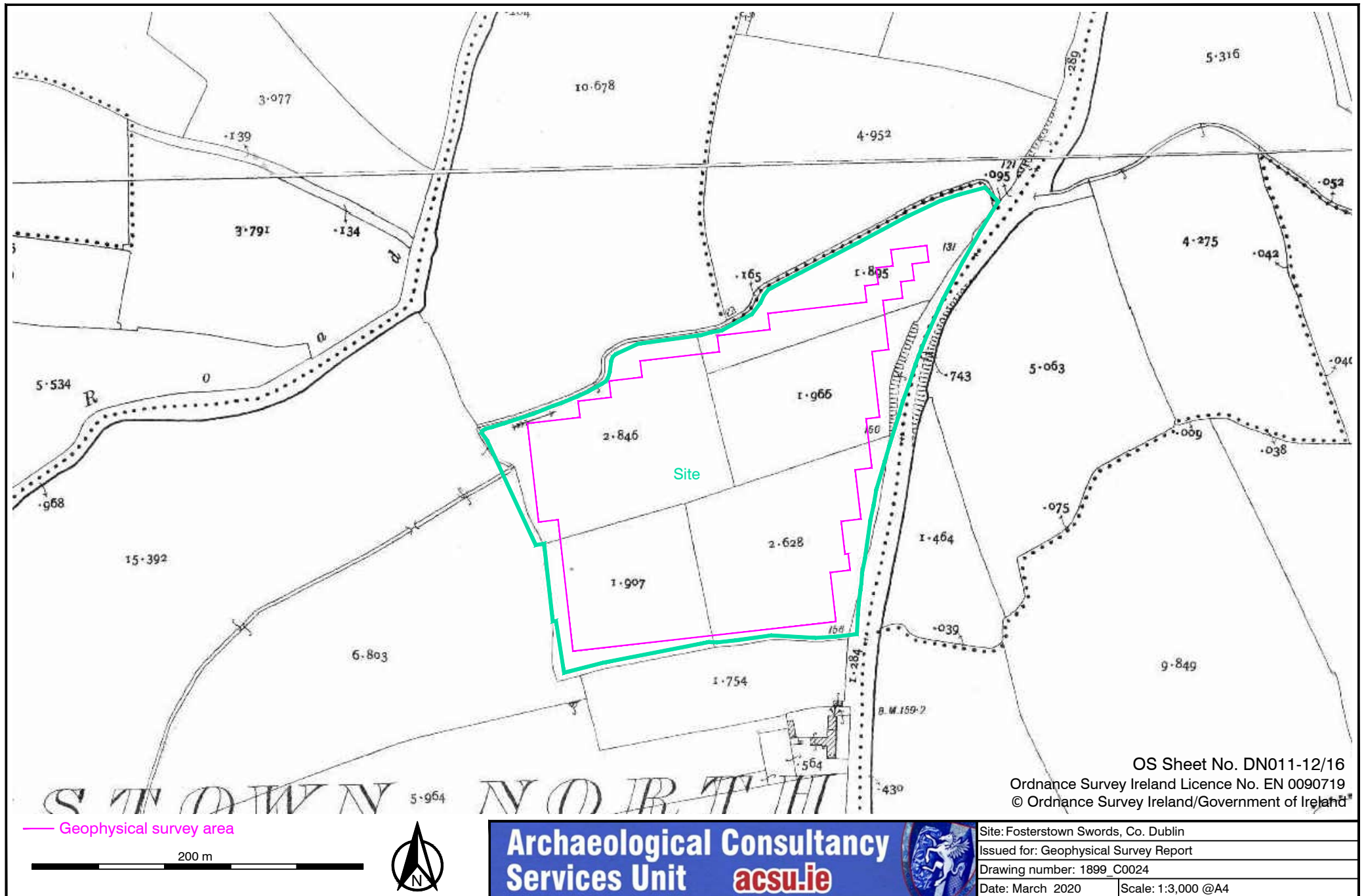


Figure 4: Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906 - published 1908), showing location of site and geophysical survey area



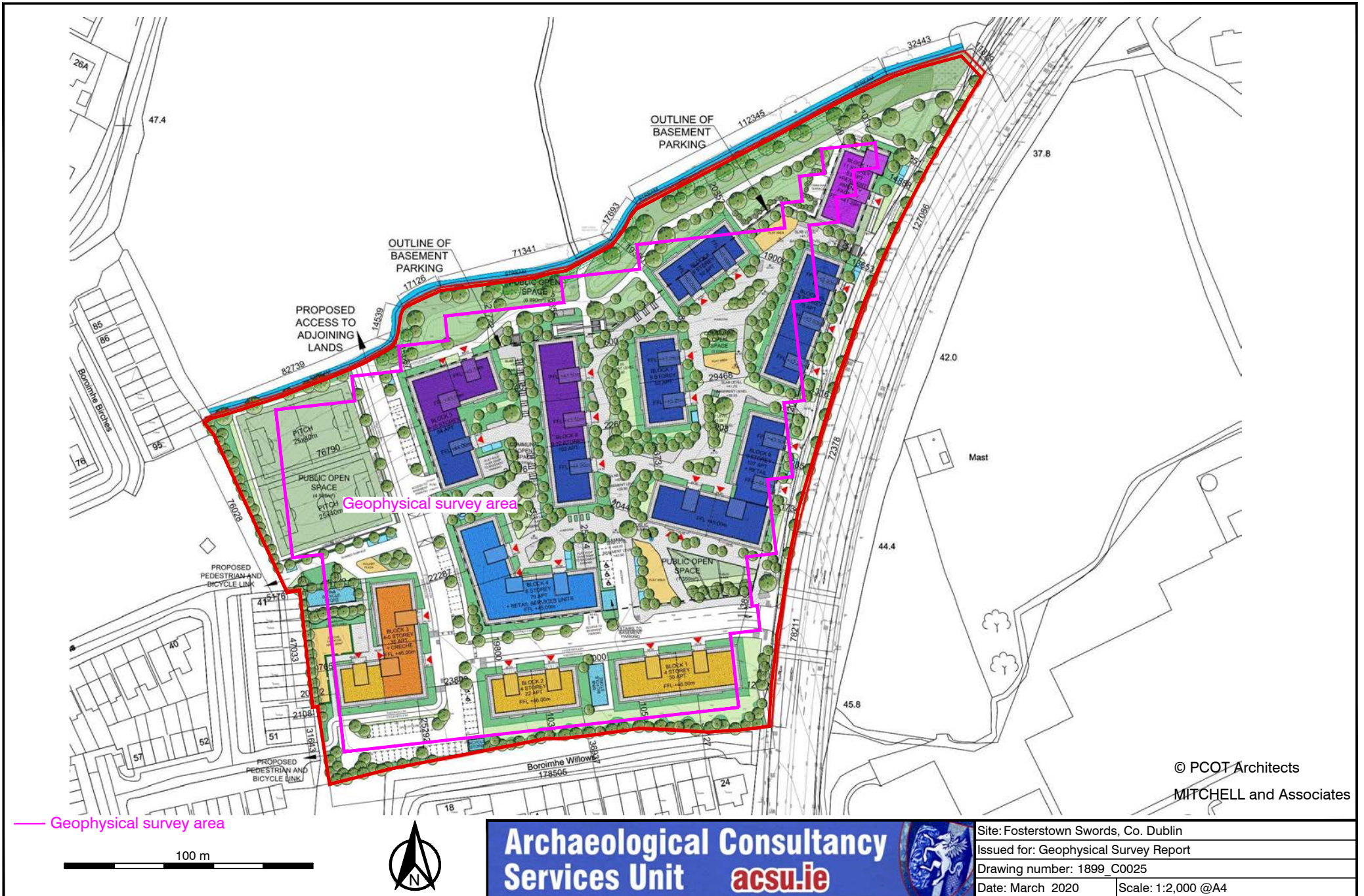
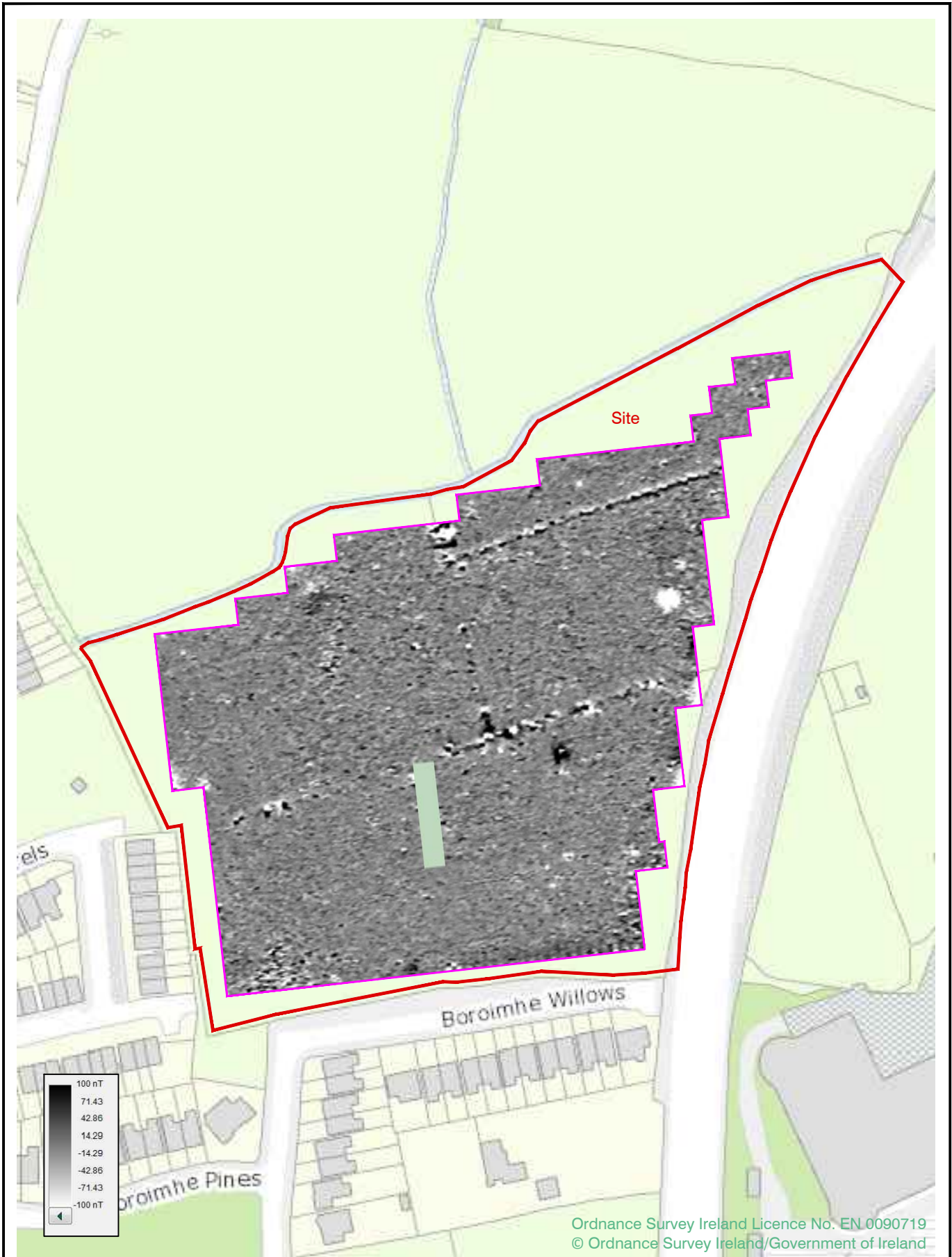
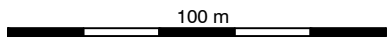


Figure 5: Detail of site development showing geophysical survey area



— Geophysical survey area



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Services Unit** **acsu.ie**



Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin

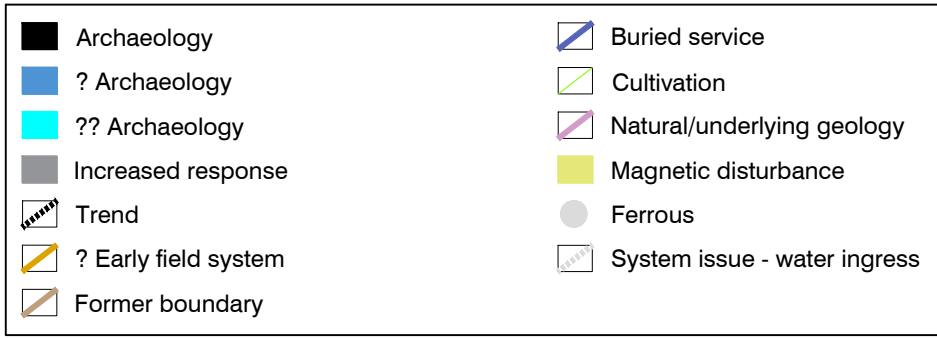
Issued for: Geophysical Survey Report

Drawing Number: 1899\_C0026

Date: March 2020

Scale: 1:2,000 @A4

Figure 6: Geophysical survey results (grey scale image)



© PCOT Architects  
MITCHELL and Associates  
(background only)



100 m

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



Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin

Issued for: Geophysical Survey Report

Drawing Number: 1899\_C0027

Date: March 2020

Scale: 1:2,000 @A4

Figure 7: Geophysical survey interpretation

## **APPENDIX 4.2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (LYNE, 2019)**

past | present | future

ACS



## Archaeological Assessment (Desktop)

for Fosterstown South SHD,  
Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin

**Client:**

Murlyn (Investments) Limited

ITM: 717610, 745630

Planning Ref.: N/A, pre-planning

Ed Lyne

30 August 2019

ACSU Ref.: 1899

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CONSULTANCY  
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## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment (Desktop) of a proposed development (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin
<b>Report Type</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment (Desktop)
<b>Archaeologist</b>	Ed Lyne
<b>Client</b>	Murlyn (Investments) Limited
<b>Site</b>	Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin
<b>Townland</b>	Fosterstown North (Nethercross By.)
<b>ITM Ref.</b>	717610, 745630
<b>Planning Ref. No.</b>	Pre-planning
<b>RMP No.</b>	N/A
<b>Protected Structures</b>	N/A
<b>Report Date</b>	30 August 2019
<b>ACSU Ref.</b>	1899





## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological desktop assessment in advance of a proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630).

The site of the proposed development contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), while the nearest Recorded Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). The site contains no protected structures, while the nearest architectural heritage structure (Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development and will not be affected by the proposed development.

The site was inspected on 30th August 2019. The site of the proposed development, which consists of tilled agricultural land, is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boroimhe residential development. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.

A study of the Recorded Monuments located within the surrounding townlands and a review of previous archaeological assessments and excavations listed within the excavations database suggests that the overall landscape within which the proposed development is located should be considered as having some archaeological potential.

An assessment of the available cartographic sources revealed that the property in question was subdivided in the past (throughout the 19th century), into five smaller fields. These subdivisions are still visible in the aerial imagery from 1995 to 2013, and in fact one of these sub-dividing field boundaries was still present in 1995. No features of historical or archaeological interest are apparent from an examination of the cartographic sources for the study area.

A geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (ACSU) in January 2019 under licence 19R0011, issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. No clear signs of archaeology were present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features were identified which would have to be investigated during any future testing phase. Historic field boundaries identified within the survey would also need to be tested to confirm their nature, depths and age.

A number of magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area may represent smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and might not be identified during a later testing phase.

This assessment concludes that while the site of the proposed development contains no Recorded Monuments, the study area has some potential to contain previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature. It is therefore recommended that archaeological testing be carried out on the site prior to any future development.







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Plate 1 View of the proposed site, facing northeast.

Plate 2 View of the proposed site, facing north.

Plate 3 View of the proposed site, facing northwest.

Plate 4 View of the proposed site, facing west.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological desktop assessment for a proposed residential development at Fosterstown, Swords, Co. Dublin (Figures 1–2; ITM 717610, 745630).

The site of the proposed development is within the townland of Fosterstown North and contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), while the nearest Recorded Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035).

The site contains no protected structures, while the nearest architectural heritage structure (Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development and will not be affected by the proposed development.

## 2. THE DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Proposal

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been carried out at the request of the client at pre-planning stage for a proposed Strategic Housing Development (see Figure 7).

The proposed development will consist of the construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1 no. childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11). The proposal contains parking at basement level for 442 cars and at surface level for 58 cars. 1,156 no. bicycle parking spaces will be provided at basement level, and 514 no. bicycle parking spaces at ground surface level throughout the site. The proposed development will provide balconies/terraces for all units, and includes provision of communal and public open space (including playing fields). The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, provision of internal road and access to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north, along with landscaping, boundary treatment, roads, cycle paths, footpaths, communal and public open space.

The development will consist of the following:

- Construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks, with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1 no. childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11).
- Each block will contain the following:
  - Block 1 – 4 storeys in height and contains 8 no. 1 bedroom units, 20 no. 2 bedroom units and 2 no. 3 bedroom units;
  - Block 2 – 4 storeys in height containing 6 no. 1 bedroom units and 16 no. 2 bedroom units
  - Block 3 – ranges in height between 4-5 storeys containing 7 no. 1 bedroom units, 23 no. 2 bedroom units, 5 no. 3 bedroom units, and a childcare facility (946.6 sq.m) at ground floor;



- Block 4 – 8 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 54 no. 2 bedroom units, 9 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail/retail services unit (585 sq.m) at ground floor;
- Block 5 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level and contains 22 no. 1 bedroom units, 63 no. 2 bedroom units and 9 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 6 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level in height and contains 28 no. 1 bedroom units, 72 no. 2 bedroom units and 3 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 7 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
- Block 8 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
- Block 9 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 26 no. 1 bedroom units, 71 no. 2 bedroom units, 10 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail / retail services unit (689 sq.m) at ground floor;
- Block 10 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 24 no. 1 bedroom units, 53 no. 2 bedroom units, and 1 no. 3 bedroom units;
- Block 11 – 11 storeys in height above basement level and contains 10 no. 1 bedroom units, 30 no. 2 bedroom units, and 13 no. 3 bedroom units and 1 no. resident amenity facility (305 sq.m) at basement level.
- Balconies and private terraces are provided for all apartments;
- The proposed development will also include the provision of public and communal open space, including playing fields and play areas;
- The basement level contains 442 no. car parking spaces (430 no. spaces for the residential units and 12 no. spaces for the retail unit), and 1,156 no. bicycle spaces. The basement level also includes bin storage, plant rooms and block cores;
- 58 no. car parking spaces are provided at ground surface level (6 no. spaces to serve the retail unit, 25 no. spaces for the childcare facility, 10 no. spaces for the commercial unit, and 17 no. spaces for visitors) and 514 no. bicycle spaces are provided at ground surface level throughout the site;
- The proposed development will provide a new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, and includes provision of internal road and access to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north;
- The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, landscaping, boundary treatment, internal roads, cycle paths and footpaths.

## 2.2 Archaeological Requirements

The client requested an archaeological (desktop) assessment to be carried out at pre-planning stage, to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment in the study area, in order to assess the impact of the proposed development on the site and to provide strategies to conserve any significant heritage assets while developing the site. The report will also provide recommendations for further archaeological investigation, if deemed necessary, in order to develop the site.



## 2.3 Methodology

A desktop survey was carried out involving a literature review and consultation of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list, on a townland basis, all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also taken into account in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area as this could have implications for the proposed development. Historical maps held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland were both consulted. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, cropmarks and soil marks and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early nineteenth century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance.

*The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* was consulted as this contains a Record of Protected Structures (Appendix 2) and Recorded Monuments (Appendix 3). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin contains other buildings of architectural interest in the area that are not included on the Record of Protected Structures.

In addition to the desk top study, a field inspection was carried out which sought to identify current and previous land use and to locate any features of archaeological or architectural heritage potential or items of cultural heritage interest on or near the site.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The proposed development site is located in the townland of Fosterstown North just south of the town of Swords, in the parish of Swords and the barony of Nethercross. Swords is a dormitory town located 13 km north of Dublin off the N1 road to Belfast. Swords, which derives from *Sord* meaning pure, is said to relate to the water of the holy well on Well Road (DU011:034/013). This is perhaps a pre-Christian well, but is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille (d. AD 597). Although Colmcille is the most widely credited, there is divided opinion about the identity of the person responsible for Sword's foundation. Nevertheless, the town's history began in the Early Christian period when it became a monastic settlement whose first abbot is said to have been St. Fionnan Lobhar. A church named after St. Fionnan survived in Swords until the close of the Middle Ages (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords is first mentioned in the annals when, in the year AD 965, the bishop of Swords and Lusk, Ailill Mac Manach died. In AD 994, the monastery of Swords was burned by Maelseachlainn and suffered a similar fate several more times between AD 1020 and 1166. In AD 1035, Swords was raided by the king of Meath in revenge for an attack carried out by the Dublin Norse on Ardbracan. This suggests that Swords at that time was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyfflinarskiri. It seems likely that Dublin Vikings (Ostmen) were living in Swords up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century. As late as 1326, there is a



reference to “sixteen foreign burgesses” in the manor of Swords and there is evidence that these particular ‘foreigners’ were of Scandinavian origin. Swords, it seems, was a Viking settlement as well as a monastic one (Bradley & King 1988).

By the late twelfth century, the lands attached to Swords monastery were part of the see lands of Dublin and were confirmed to Dublin’s archbishop, Laurence O’Toole, in 1179. The archbishops had established a borough at Swords before the end of the twelfth century which makes it a particularly early one. Borough status conferred upon the citizens of Swords privileges such as the right of self-government and gave them trade protection from outside merchants. In 1193, the borough was granted the right to hold an eight-day fair centred on the feast of its founding saint, Colmcille (Bradley & King 1988).

The standard building plot of towns and villages in the Middle Ages was known as a burgage. In most towns, the burgage was a narrow deep plot of land with a house at one end fronting the street with a space behind used as a garden. Another grant of 1181–1212 confirmed the burgesses (townspeople) of Swords in their burgages and allowed them privileged liberties and free customs in Dublin (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords was one of the largest boroughs established by the archbishops of Dublin with an extent of the manor taken in 1326 recording more than 120 burgesses. The borough was also one of their most enduring and continued to function into the sixteenth century. In 1578, the town was granted a new charter by Queen Elizabeth I that established Swords as a parliamentary borough with the right to return two members to parliament (Bradley & King 1988).

The zone of archaeological potential for Swords was determined by Bradley and King in their Urban Archaeology Survey for County Dublin. This zone is based on the location of the medieval borough and the early monastic settlement. The medieval town was mainly arranged along a single linear street, Main Street, which was referred to as High Street in medieval times. The focus of settlement, as today, was the gates of the archbishops’ palace. A fourteenth-century document refers to another street in Swords called Le Camerothe which Bradley and King suggests could relate either to Seatown Road or to Well Road. In 1395, a weekly market was confirmed to the archbishops of Dublin to be held in Swords. This is likely to have been a confirmation of a grant issued during the reign of King John (1199–1216). The marketplace was located in Main Street and is still apparent today where the street was widened to accommodate it (Bradley & King 1988).

Historical documents (for example, Archbishop Alen’s register) include many references to individual burgage plots and properties in medieval Swords. A number of the houses of this period seem to have even survived into the nineteenth century as D’Alton, writing in 1838, referred to the “ancient aspect” of some of the inns. Swords also possessed a number of mills, the first reference to them dating to 1191. The extent of the manor of 1326 referred to them as watermills and valued them at 100 shillings (Bradley & King 1988).

D’Alton (1838) also mentioned that Swords was one of the walled towns of County Dublin in 1578, though there is no trace of town defences in existence today. However, the course of these walls can be suggested. The long linear boundary delimiting the properties on the eastern side of Main Street seems an obvious line. The location of the southern boundary is unclear but on the west, the boundary was probably formed by the Ward River, a stream known in medieval times as Reynen. The parish church was probably outside the defences but could have been protected by the Early Christian enclosure. The Early Christian monastery had been established on the prominent ridge of high ground overlooking Main Street from the west. It was bound on the east and south by the stream and the monastic enclosure and is still preserved today by the curving line of Brackenstown Road, Church Road and Rathbeale Road (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords Castle was one of the principal residences of the archbishops of Dublin and there are references to a constable of the castle during the time of Archbishop John Comyn, suggesting that it was built around 1200. Some writers have suggested that Swords was



abandoned around 1324 in favour of Tallaght but there is no evidence for the construction of a castle at the latter location around this time. Architectural evidence suggests that Swords Castle was still occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries when it was being sublet to members of the Fitzsimon and Barnewall families (Bradley & King 1988).

### Fosterstown North

Prehistoric evidence from the area around the proposed development site includes three ring-ditches (DU011-152, DU011-047, DU011-114), a burnt mound (DU011-151) and an isolated pit of burnt stone (DU011-153), while Early Medieval evidence comes in the form of possible ringfort/enclosures (DU011-116, DU011-118), an associated field system (DU011-117), and a number of holy well sites (DU011-034013, DU011-045, DU011-037). This evidence suggests that this has been a well populated area from at least the Bronze Age and through the Early Medieval period.

The name Fosterstown may date back to at least the fourteenth century. Research carried out by the Placenames Branch identified a reference in Alen's Register (1530s) to 'Freeholder... Simon Forestere at Foresterestown' from A.D. 1326 (Placenames Database of Ireland).

## 3.2 Recorded Monuments

The site contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), while the nearest Recorded Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be affected by the proposed development (Figure 2). The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). The following is a list of the nearest recorded monuments that demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site of the proposed development and its surrounding townlands. These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

### DU011-153----

**Class:** Pit

**Townland:** Miltonsfields

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

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0465) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A sub-circular pit (1.2m diam.) contained a charcoal rich fill with heat shattered stone, provisionally interpreted as Bronze Age in date (Fagan 2009, 20).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015

### DU011-037----

**Class:** Ritual site - holy well

**Townland:** Forrestfields

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





**Description:** Formerly located by the roadside on the outskirts of Swords village. There is no visible surface trace of this holy well as it has been built over. Local tradition held that the waters cured eyes and mouth, the name is derived from 'sliop' meaning a lip or mouth (O'Reilly 1910, 159, Ó Danachair 1958, 81).

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 08 January 2015

#### **DU011-045----**

**Class:** Ritual site - holy well

**Townland:** Crowscastle

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

**Description:** Dedicated to St Werburgh the natural spring well presented as stone seriously was overgrown, situated by a stream. There was a local tradition that its water cures sore eyes but by the 1950s was no longer venerated (Ó Danachair 1958, 81). In March 2011 the well was cleared and reconstructed without licence. The well was redug in a different position, plastic piping inserted and stone removed. It is now signposted with an inscribed stone and described as an 'oasis of transformation'.

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 15 January 2015

#### **DU011-152----**

**Class:** Ring-ditch

**Townland:** Crowscastle

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

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 09R0038) and test excavation (Licence no. 10E0028) in advance of the Barryspark Local Area Plan. A ring ditch (13m diam.) was identified c. 160m SE of St Werburgh's well (DU011-045----). The fill of the annular ditch (2m wide) had unidentified burnt bone inclusions (O'Hara 2010).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker

**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015

#### **DU011-047----**

**Class:** Ring-ditch

**Townland:** Nevinstown West

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

**Description:** This is a relatively small subcircular feature (diam. c. 15m) visible as a cropmark on an aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 3.489-490). Now under a car park. Not visible at ground level.

**Compiled by:** Geraldine Stout

**Updated by:** Christine Baker

**DU011-118----****Class:** Enclosure**Townland:** Fosterstown South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** An irregular shaped enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features. A circular enclosure (DU011-116----) and field system (DU011-117----) are located close to the north (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A possible D-shaped enclosure (30m diam.) was identified. An additional enclosure was identified 20 m to the northeast, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50 m in diameter. A figure-of-eight shaped corn drying kiln was identified directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure (Hession 2009, 36).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor**Updated by:** Christine Baker**DU011-116----****Class:** Enclosure**Townland:** Fosterstown South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** A circular enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features that suggest an associated field system (DU011-117----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). A further enclosure can be seen to the south (DU011-118----). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A double ditched or bivallate enclosure with an associated field system situated to the south was identified. The bivallate enclosure consists of an inner enclosure (30m diam.) which is partially encompassed on the eastern, northeastern and northern sides by a second elliptical enclosing ditch (50m diam.). While no diagnostic material was recovered the morphology suggests a bivallate ringfort (Hession 2009, 23).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor**Updated by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 09 January 2015**DU011-117----****Class:** Field system**Townland:** Fosterstown South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** A field system that appears to be associated with a circular enclosure (DU011-116----) visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. A further enclosure is located to the south (DU011-118----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. The presence of ditches and pits associated a possible ringfort was confirmed (Hession, 2009).

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor**Updated by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 4 November 2013

**DU011-151----****Class:** Burnt mound**Townland:** Fosterstown South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A spread of black silty clay (3m x 2m) with inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone, indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound was identified (Hession 2009, 20).

**Compiled by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 4 February 2015**DU011-114----****Class:** Ring-ditch**Townland:** Fosterstown South**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. To the southeast a sub-circular enclosure is also visible within the same field (DU011-113----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). The site is located on low-lying land that rises steeply to the south. No visible remains at ground level.

**Compiled by:** David O'Connor**Updated by:** Christine Baker**Date of upload:** 09 January 2015

### 3.3 Stray Archaeological Finds

The following stray finds are recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland for the townlands immediately surrounding the study area. These finds relate to and reflect archaeological activity in the area. The majority of these finds were recovered in close proximity to recorded monument DU011-034004- (church), the ruins of the medieval parish church at Swords Glebe, 1 km north-northeast of the study area.

NMI Reg:	Location:	Find:	Circumstances:
IA/12/2004	Windmill Lands	Flint flake	Not known
1945:18	Swords Glebe	Sheela-na-gig	Not known
1973:59-88	Swords Glebe	Portion of Whetstone; 7 Green-glazed Potsherds; Large Base-wall Sherd; 3 Brown Glazed Potsherds; Frag of Pottery Leg; 17 Misc Abraded Sherds	Not known
1978:11-12	Swords Glebe	2 flint frags	Not known



NMI Reg:	Location:	Find:	Circumstances:
1969:40-57	Swords Glebe	2 Bronze Pins; Bronze/Brass Finger Ring and Mount; 2 Coins; Decorated Bone Frag; Bone Pin; 2 Tanged Iron Knives; 2 Lead Frags; Metal Object; Brass Buckle; 4 Glass Beads; Frag of Green Enamel	Not known
1974:10a-j	Swords Glebe	2 Flint Chips; 50 Medieval Potsherds	Not known

### 3.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been five previous archaeological excavations in the environs of Fosterstown North (Figure 2). The details of these investigations, derived from the Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)), are outlined below.

**Site name:** New Rd., Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 95E0280

**Author:** Rónán Swan, 746 Howth Rd, Raheny, Dublin 5.

**Site type:** Adjacent to well

**ITM:** E 717726m, N 745724m

**Description:** Archaeological testing took place in Swords over a period of four days commencing on 4 December 1995. The testing was undertaken in accordance with the planning regulations for a residential/commercial development. The reason for the testing was that this property was adjacent to St Columba's Well. This well is one of the few surviving features of medieval Swords and none of the proposed development is to be located within 5m of it. In agreement with the Office of Public Works, a trenching programme was agreed upon which would fully test this site. The site itself was divided into three distinct areas, but a common stratigraphy was reflected in all trenches cut.

The results of the testing demonstrated that activity on the site has consisted of repeated dumping of infill to level the site and also of indiscriminate dumping of material by local traders. No archaeological material was recovered in any of the trenches cut, but a series of springs were identified in the course of excavation which may have accounted for the area being unsuitable for previous occupation.

**Site name:** The Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 98E0317

**Author:** Eoin Halpin, Archaeological Development Services Ltd, Unit 48, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30-50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.

**Site type:** No archaeological significance



**ITM:** E 717826m, N 746424m

**Description:** Testing took place on 22 July 1998. Two trenches were machine-excavated down to undisturbed natural. The results suggest that the construction of the schoolhouse, allied to localised quarrying, removed any significant archaeology from the area of the proposed restaurant extension. The ground to the north, the location of extra carpark space, appeared to be devoid of any archaeological remains, although the presence of mature trees and dense undergrowth precluded an extensive examination of this area. Its location, close to the course of the River Ward, may be significant. It was not possible on this occasion, owing to difficulty of access, to test the area to the south of the restaurant, where it is proposed to construct an extension to the existing carpark.

**Site name:** 7 North Street, Swords

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 95E0243

**Author:** Margaret Gowen, Rath House, Ferndale Rd. Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Medieval urban

**ITM:** E 718126m, N 746024m

**Description:** An archaeological assessment was carried out on a site at 7 North Street, Swords, on 2S January 1996 to fulfil a condition of the planning approval for the scheme. The site is located to the south-east of the medieval castle of Swords, with the curtain-wall of the castle forming the western boundary. It lies to the rear of a renovated building, now a shop. The site measured 5.5m north—south and 7.7m east—west, and was covered by a concrete slab 0.3m deep. The assessment was based on the excavation of two trenches opened by 'mini'-excavator; one was opened across the site and the other was located in the eastern corner.

The archaeological assessment revealed no evidence for any fosse or moat surrounding the castle on this side (Rocque's map of 1760 indicates the presence of street-front properties in this location). The old ground level did not survive and appeared to have been significantly reduced at some date. The concrete slab sat directly on undisturbed clay, with no evidence for any accumulation of archaeologically enriched soils. The castle wall was protected by the concrete boundary wall of the property. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the assessment and there were no archaeological implications for the development of this site.

**Site name:** Barrysparks and Crowcastle

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** DU011-045

**Licence number:** 10E0028

**Author:** Rob O'Hara, Archer Heritage Planning, 8 BEaT Centre, Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Ring-ditch

**ITM:** E 718585m, N 746001m

**Description:** Two phases of testing were carried out at the site of a planned road network through the Barrysparks LAP area and at sites of archaeological potential identified in previous assessments. A total of 34 test-trenches were excavated across the site with a combined length of approximately 2,497m. One archaeological site was recorded during the testing programme, a ring-ditch (or barrow), formed by a circular ditch approximately 13m in diameter. A second drain feature in the same location may be associated. No other features were recorded in the areas tested and no artifacts were recovered either from topsoil or sampled deposits.



**Site name:** Fosterstown South

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A

**Licence number:** 09E0466

**Author:** James Hession, c/o Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

**Site type:** Burnt mound, bivallate enclosure, archaeological complex

**ITM:** E 717008m, N 744791m

**Description:** Testing as part of the advance works on the proposed route of the Metro North light rail project was carried out on behalf of the Railway Procurement Agency. For the purposes of these works the Metro North route was subdivided into fourteen testing areas. Testing Area 8 was located in Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, on the footprint of the Metro North alignment and Construction Compound 5, Pinnock Hill Viaduct.

Testing of Area 8 was carried out on 1–2 October 2009. A total of 38 test-trenches were excavated in two fields and three areas of archaeological potential were identified.

Fosterstown South 1 comprised a deposit of black silty clay measuring 3m by 5m and 0.2m deep, with inclusions of burnt and fire-cracked stone indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound.

Fosterstown South 2

Geophysical survey had indicated the presence of one or more enclosures in this area. Testing identified an archaeological complex comprised of a double-ditched or bivallate enclosure with an additional enclosing ditch situated to the south. The bivallate enclosure consisted of an inner enclosure with an external diameter of 30m east–west. The second enclosure was characterised by a ditch with an external diameter of 50m north-north-west/south-south-east. The additional enclosing ditch measured 30m in diameter. Numerous cut features were identified within and around these enclosures.

Fosterstown South 3

A possible D-shaped enclosure identified by the geophysical survey was confirmed by the testing to be enclosing an area measuring at least 30m in diameter. An additional enclosure was identified 20m to the north-east, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50m in diameter. Furthermore, a figure-of-eight-shaped corn-drying kiln was identified directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure.

### 3.5 Cartographic Review

An examination of pre-Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping appear to show the study area as agricultural land. Rocque's map (Figure 3) of Dublin County - North East sheet (1760), lists the name Fosterstown (*Forfters Town*), and it appears from this map that there may have been a house at the southeast corner of the study area adjacent to the road (though this would likely have been removed when the Dublin Road was improved over the years). Taylor and Skinner's map (1777) provides few details regarding the study area, but does show a large house to the north of the study area, possibly representing Cremona House (Figure 4).

The first edition 6-inch OS map (Figure 5), surveyed in 1836 and published in 1843, is far more detailed than the earlier maps, and it shows the fields that make up the study area, with the external boundaries much as they are today, but with additional internal boundaries dividing the study area into five fields. Subsequent mapping (e.g. OS third edition 25-inch map, surveyed 1906; Figures 6) continue to depict the same layout as in the first edition map. In neither OS map are any houses or other structures depicted within the study area.

No features of historical or archaeological interest are apparent from an examination of the cartographic sources for the study area.



### 3.6 Aerial Photography

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating from between 1995 and 2013, were also consulted. The aerial photos show no traces of archaeological features. What is apparent in the images is the removal of internal field boundaries within the study area. In 1995 there were three fields within the study area, by 2000 there were two, and at some point in the last six years the last of the internal field boundaries was removed, resulting in the present open layout. It is also apparent that one area slightly south of the middle of the study area is prone to becoming waterlogged, which may suggest the former presence of a pond in this area.

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

The site contains no protected structures, while the nearest architectural heritage structure (Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development and will not be affected by the proposed development. The following is a list of all such structures located in close proximity to the study area, the details of which are derived from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>). None of these sites are listed in the *Fingal County Council Development Plan 2017–2023* as Protected Structures.

#### **Bridge, Dublin Road, Swords, Fingal**

**Reg. No:** 11343016

**Date:** 1880–1920

**Townland:** Townparks

**Categories of Special Interest:** Architectural, Technical

**Rating:** Regional

**Description:** Single-arch coursed cut stone road bridge over river, c.1900.

#### **Water pump, Church Road, Swords, Fingal**

**Reg. No:** 11343015

**Date:** 1880–1900

**Townland:** Townparks

**Categories of Special Interest:** Artistic, Social

**Rating:** Regional

**Description:** Cast-iron water pump, c.1890, now missing parts. Cast-iron plaque with inscribed Tonge and Taggart insignia. Freestanding cut stone trough to left-hand side.

#### **Holy well, Well Road, Swords, Fingal**

**Reg. No:** 11343013

**Date:** 1980–1990



**Townland:** Townparks

**Categories of Special Interest:** Archaeological, Social

**Rating:** Regional

**Description:** Freestanding single-bay single-storey gable-fronted rubble stone building, c.1985, over holy well with square-headed door opening approached by flight of steps. Freestanding cast-iron water pump, c.1890.

**Glenview House, Brackenstown Road, Swords,**

**Reg. No.** 11343019

**Date:** 1820–1840

**Townland:** Windmill Lands

**Categories of Special Interest:** Architectural

**Rating:** Regional

**Description:** Detached three-bay two-storey over part-raised basement house, c.1830, retaining original fenestration to ground floor. Central entrance approached by flight of steps, and single-bay single-storey canted bay windows to basement level. Renovated and extended to rear, c.1960, comprising two-bay two-story flat-roofed return. Partly refenestrated, c.1990, with first floor window opening remodelled. ROOF: Hipped; slate; concrete ridge tiles; nap rendered chimney stack to centre; overhanging timber eaves consoles; cast-iron rainwater goods; flat-roof to return. WALLS: Nap rendered; painted; raised nap rendered quoins to corners. OPENINGS: Segmental headed window openings to ground floor within segmental headed relieving arches; concrete sills; vermiculated keystones; 6/6 timber sash windows; replacement timber windows, to basement level; square headed openings to first floor; remodelled, c.1990; concrete sills; replacement uPVC windows; square headed door opening with segmental-headed relieving arch; replacement timber panelled door; fanlight within rectangular frame; prostyle diastyle open gable-fronted portico, c.1990, added to front.

### 3.8 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey (Figures 8–9) was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) between 15 and 17 January 2019, under licence 19R0011 issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. A full detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken throughout the application area using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer system. Detailed survey was conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m for all the survey areas within the site of the proposed development with variations in the magnetic field (between -100nT to +107.834nT). The site is a greenfield site serving as agricultural pasture lands along the western side of the Swords Rd R132.

No clear signs of archaeology were present within the survey area (Murphy & Breen 2019). However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features were identified which would have to be investigated during any future testing phase. Historic field boundaries identified within the survey would also be tested to confirm their nature, depths and age.

A number of magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area may represent smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint





undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and might not be identified during a later testing phase.

### 3.9 Field Survey

A site survey was carried out on 30 August 2019, by Ian Russell of ACSU (Plates 1–4). The site of the proposed development, which consists of tilled agricultural land, is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boraimhe residential development. A small stream runs along the northern boundary of the property. The site is currently divided into two fields. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The site of the proposed development contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), while the nearest Recorded Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). The site contains no protected structures, while the nearest architectural heritage structure (Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast and will not be affected by the proposed development.

The site was inspected on 30 August 2019. The site of the proposed development is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boraimhe residential development. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.

A study of the Recorded Monuments located within the surrounding townlands and a review of previous archaeological assessments and excavations listed within the excavations database suggests that the overall landscape within which the proposed development is located should be considered as having some archaeological potential.

An assessment of the available cartographic sources revealed that the property in question was subdivided in the past (throughout the 19th century), into five smaller fields. These subdivisions are still visible in the aerial imagery from 1995 to 2013, and in fact one of these sub-dividing field boundaries was still present in 1995. No features of historical or archaeological interest are apparent from an examination of the cartographic sources for the study area.

A geophysical survey was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) in January 2019, under licence 19R0011 issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. No clear signs of archaeology were present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features were identified which would have to be investigated during any future testing phase. Historic field boundaries identified within the survey should also be tested to confirm their nature, depths and age.

A number of magnetic anomalies scattered throughout the rest of the site may be the result of smaller features such as kilns, refuse pits or areas of burning. Isolated ferrous anomalies identified throughout the survey area may represent smaller features of archaeological significance or more modern agricultural debris such as iron objects dispersed throughout and within the subsoil. Faint



undefined linear responses identified in the greyscale data may simply represent magnetic variations in the subsoil and might not be identified during a later testing phase.

This assessment concludes that while the site of the proposed development contains no known Recorded Monuments, it has some potential to contain previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature. It is therefore recommended that archaeological testing be carried out on the site in advance of groundworks associated with any future development.




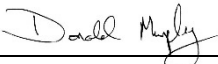
## 5. REFERENCES

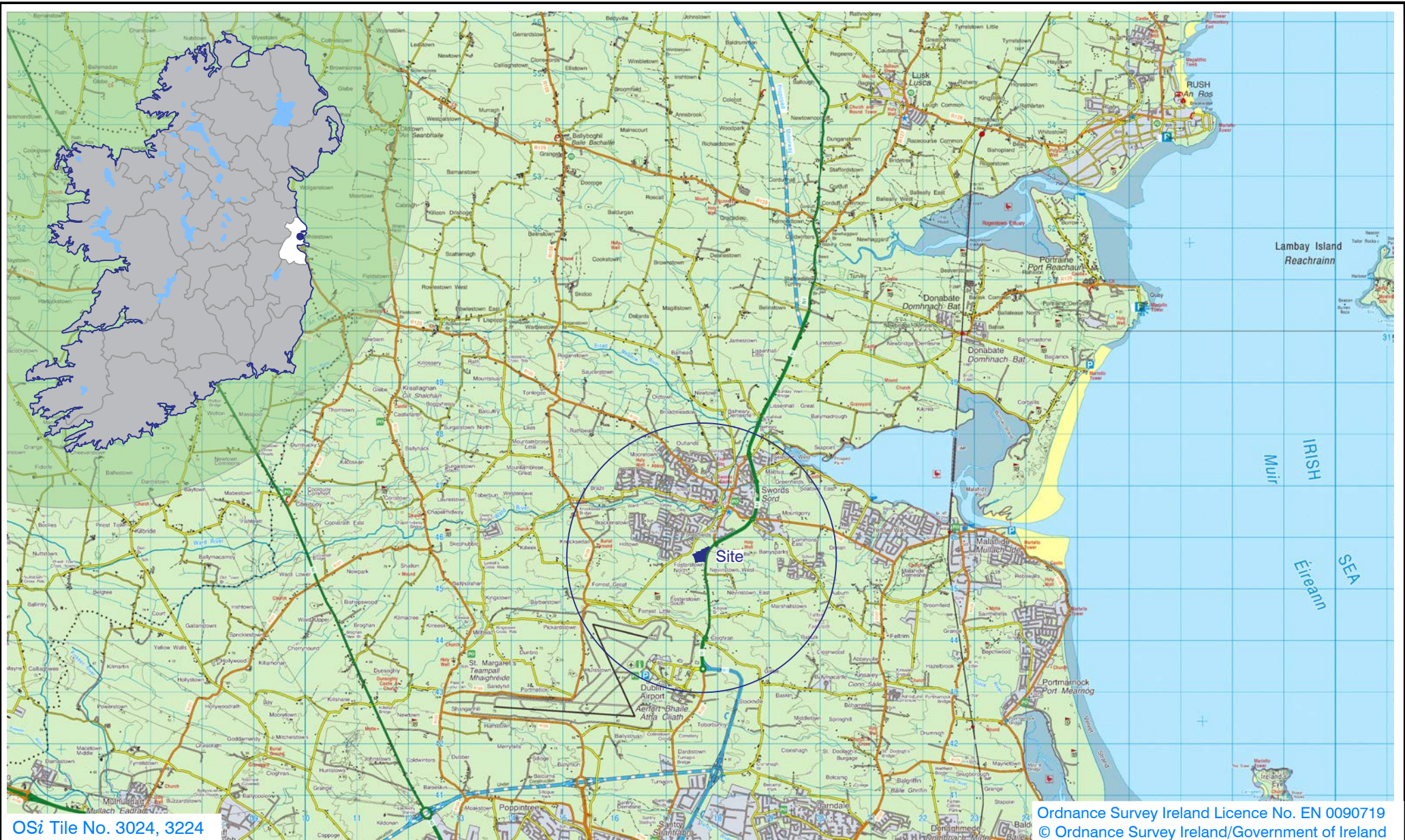
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- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie), accessed 29.08.2019).
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- The Fingal County Council Development Plan 2017-2023 (<https://www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/development-plans-and-consultations/fingaldevelopmentplan2017-2023/>, accessed 29.08.2019).



<b>Report Status:</b>	Final
<b>Issue/Revision:</b>	1
<b>Issue/Revision Date:</b>	30 August 2019
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Ed Lyne
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Donald Murphy
<b>Signed</b>	



OSi Tile No. 3024, 3224

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5 km



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



Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin  
 Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment  
 Drawing number: 1899\_C0031  
 Date: March 2020 | Scale: 1:100,000 @A4

Figure 1: Location of site



Figure 2: Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites



Figure 3: Extract from Rocque's map of Dublin County - North East sheet (1760), showing location of site



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Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment	
Drawing number: 1899_C0033	
Date: March 2020	Scale: Do not scale



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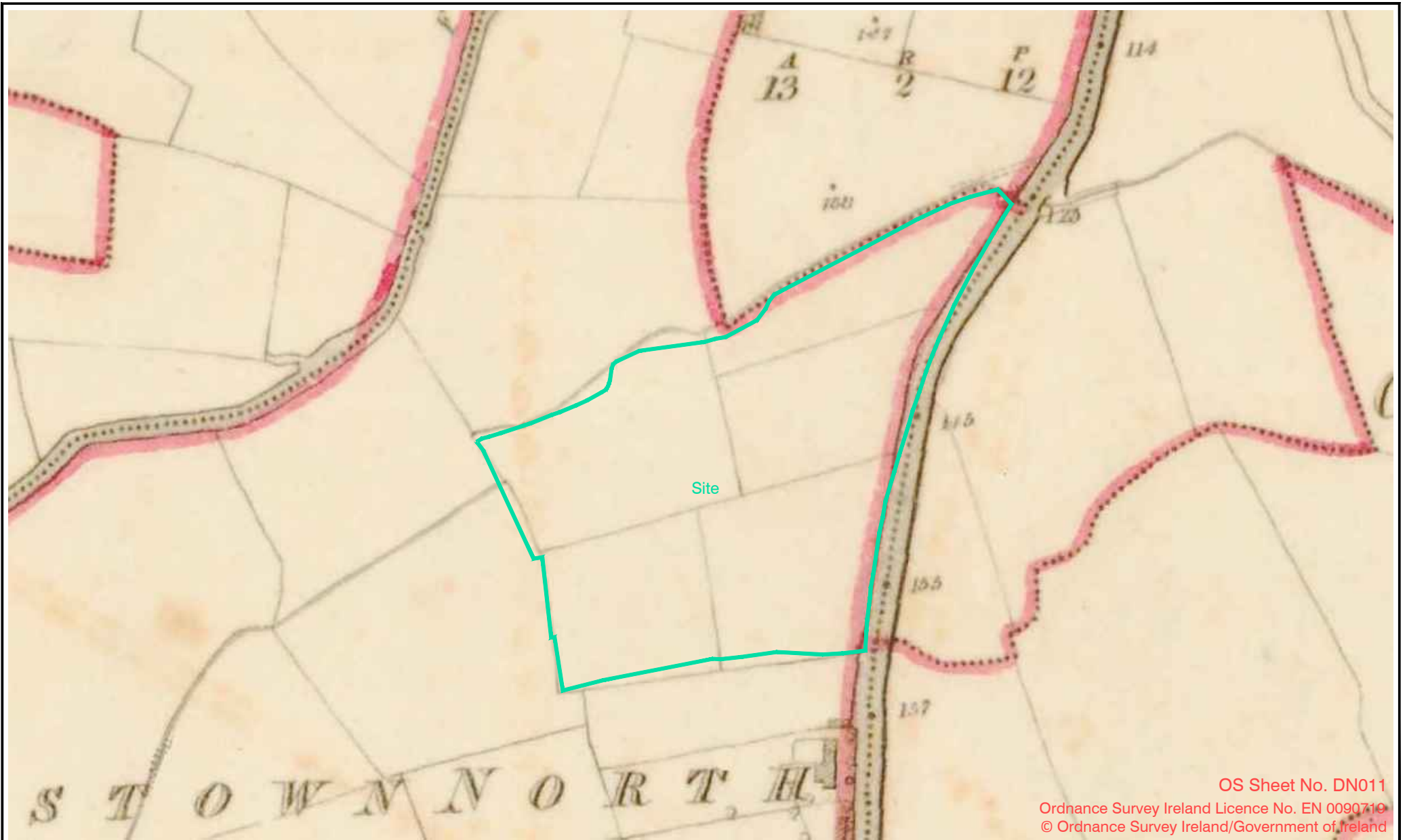
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Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment	
Drawing number: 1899_C0034	
Date: March 2020	Scale: Do not scale

Figure 4: Extract from Taylor and Skinner's 'Maps of the roads of Ireland' - Map 1 Dublin to Donaghadee (1777), showing approximate location of site





200 m



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Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin

Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment

Drawing number: 1899\_C0035

Date: March 2020

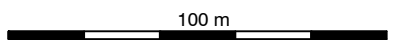
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Figure 5: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site





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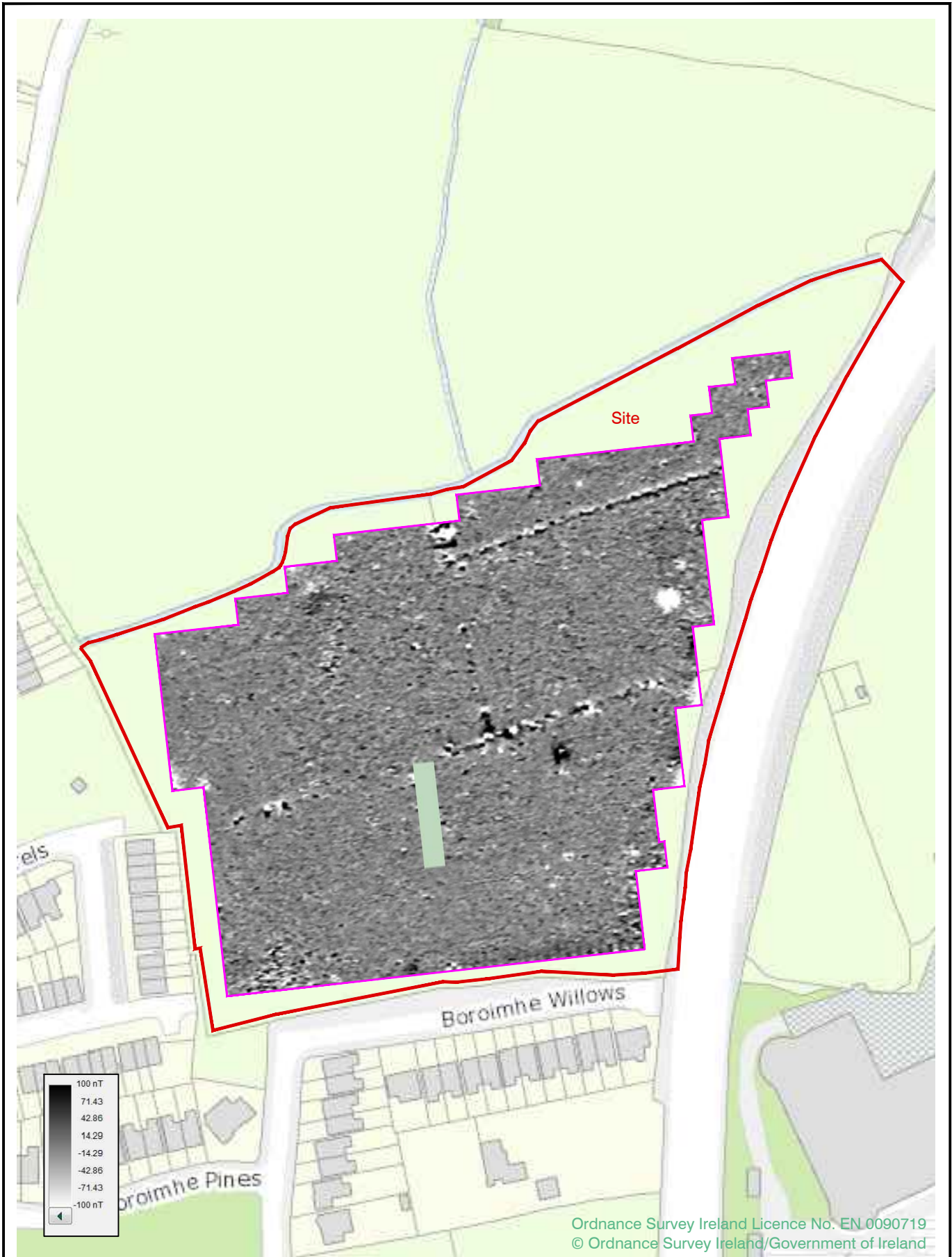


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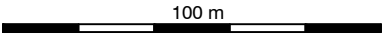


Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment	
Drawing number: 1899_C0037	
Date: March 2020	Scale: 1:2,000 @A4

Figure 7: Detail of site development



— Geophysical survey area

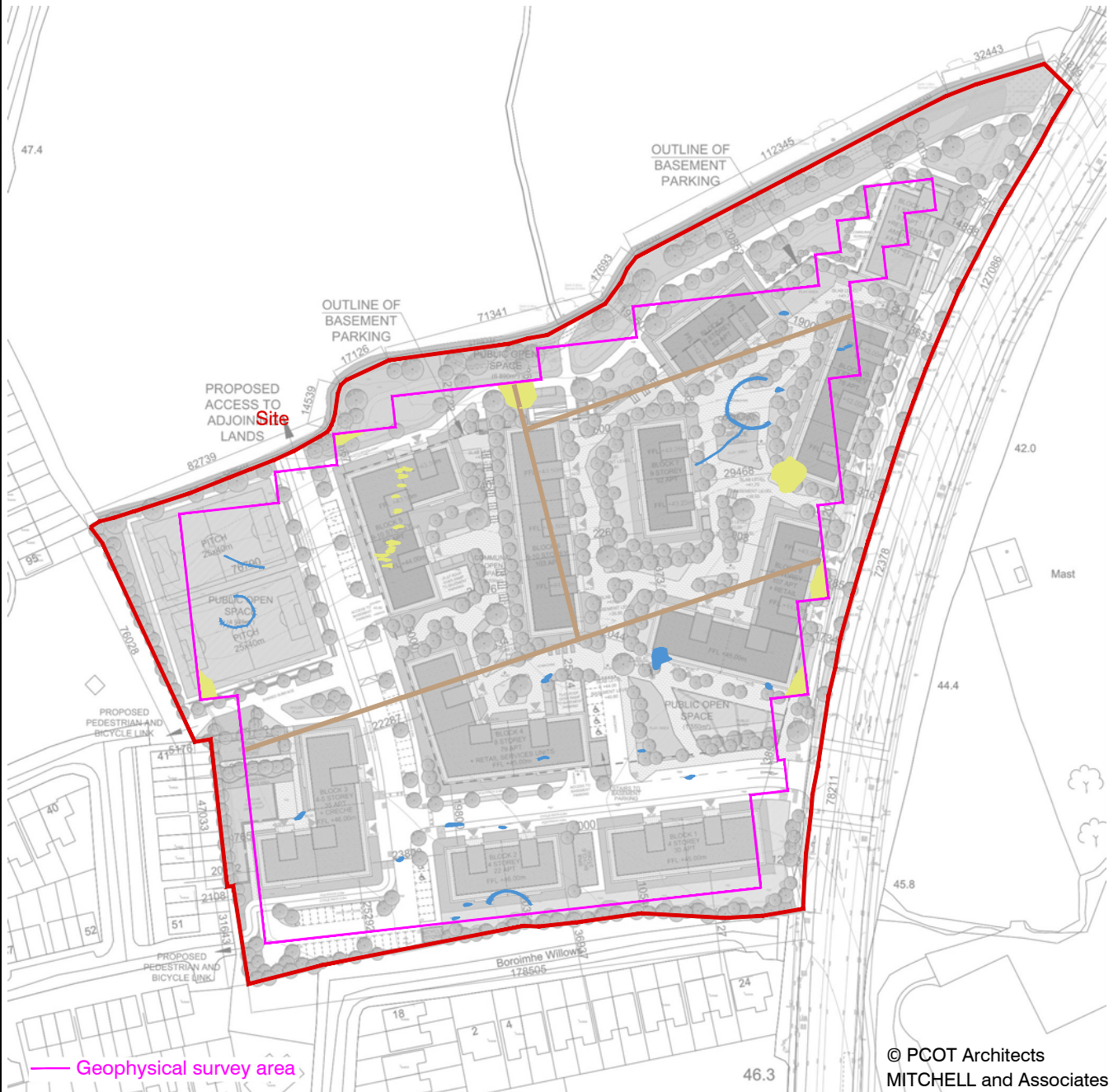
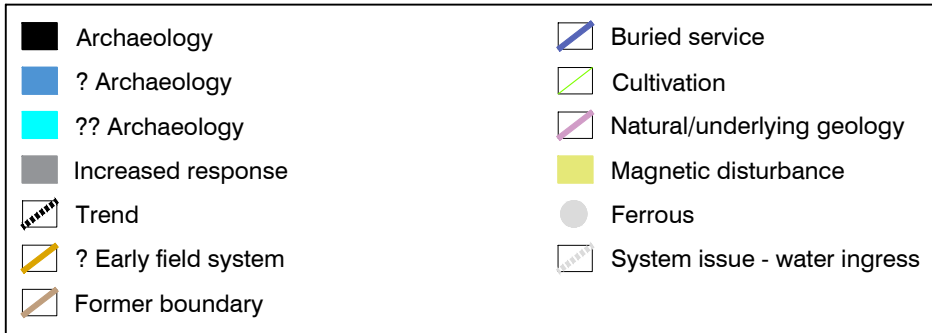


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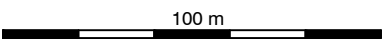


Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin  
 Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment  
 Drawing Number: 1899\_C0038  
 Date: March 2020 | Scale: 1:2,000 @A4

Figure 8: Geophysical survey results (grey scale image)



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Issued for: Archaeological Impact Assessment	
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Date: March 2020	Scale: 1:2,000 @A4

Figure 9: Interpretation of geophysical survey



Plate 1: View of the proposed site, facing northeast



Plate 2: View of the proposed site, facing north



Plate 3: View of the proposed development site, facing northwest



Plate 4: View of the proposed site, facing west

## **APPENDIX 4.3: TEST TRENCHING REPORT (19E0034; CLARKE, LYNE, 2020)**

past | present | future

ACS



**Archaeological Assessment (test trenching)  
of a proposed development site  
(Fosterstown South SHD)  
at Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES UNIT

**Client:**

Murlyn (Investments) Limited

ITM: 717610, 745630

RMP No.: N/A

Planning Ref.: Pre-planning

Excavation Licence No.: 19E0034

Linda Clarke & Magda Lyne

2 March 2020

Report Status: Final

ACSU Ref.: 1899

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## **PART A - PROJECT DETAILS**

<b>Project</b>	Archaeological Assessment (test trenching) of a proposed development site (Fosterstown South SHD) at Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin
<b>Licence No.</b>	19E0034
<b>Townland(s)</b>	Fosterstown North (Nethercross By.)
<b>RMP</b>	N/A
<b>ITM</b>	717610, 745630
<b>Consultant</b>	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
<b>Excavation Director</b>	Linda Clarke
<b>Report Authors</b>	Linda Clarke & Magda Lyne
<b>Planning Ref</b>	Pre-planning
<b>Report status</b>	Final
<b>Report Date</b>	2nd March 2020
<b>ACSU Ref.</b>	1899



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological test trenching was carried out in the townland of Fosterstown North, Swords, Co Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630) at the request of the client, at a pre-planning stage on the site of a proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD). The site is located on lands bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boroimhe residential development.

The site of the proposed development contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Dublin. The nearest such Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). The study area contains no protected structure listed within *Fingal County Development Plan 2016-2023*. The nearest architectural heritage structure (NIAH Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development and this structure will not be directly impacted by the proposed development.

A geophysical survey within the area to be developed was conducted by Donald Murphy and Robert Breen of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) in January 2019 under licence 19R0011 issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. No clear signs of archaeology were present within the survey area. However, a number of faint anomalies in the form of curvilinear features were identified and it was recommended that these should be investigated during testing phase. An Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out by Ed Lyne of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) in August 2019. It took into account result of a previously conducted geophysical survey and concluded recommending archaeological testing due to archaeological potential of the area to contain previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature.

The proposed development site was tested by Linda Clarke under licence 19E0034 between the 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 using a 14-tonne tracked excavator. Trenches 1 and 11 could not be excavated due to their close proximity to the presence of overhead electrical wires. A total of 16 test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development (Trenches 2-10, 12-18). Each trench measured 1.8 m in width and in total 1069 m of linear trenches were excavated. In general, the trenches revealed mid-brown clay topsoil and sod at a depth of 0.2-0.35m, overlying orange clay natural with stone inclusions. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified and no finds were recovered.

It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological input is required.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of archaeological test trenching carried out at Fosterstown North, Swords, Co Dublin (ITM 717610, 745630, Figures 1–2). The assessment was carried out at the request of the client, at a pre-planning stage on a proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD).

The site is located on lands bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boraimhe residential development.

The site of the proposed development contains no Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Dublin. The nearest such Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035). The study area contains no protected structure listed within *Fingal County Development Plan 2016–2023*. The nearest architectural heritage structure (NIAH Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development. This structure will not be directly impacted by the proposed development.

A geophysical survey (19R0011) was carried out in January 2019. Subsequently an Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out by Ed Lyne of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. (ACSU) in August 2019. This recommended targeted archaeological assessment in the form of test trenching of the area under study.

The proposed development site was tested by Linda Clarke of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (ACSU) under licence 19E0034, issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland targeting anomalies identified during previous geophysical survey (19R0011).

The site consisted of a large field, that is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boraimhe residential development.

### 1.1 Project background

This archaeological assessment was carried out at the request of the client, at a pre-planning stage on the site of a proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD). The proposed development will consist of 705 residential units, 1 childcare facility, 2 retail/retail services units and 1 resident amenity facility, in a development containing 11 blocks ranging in height from 4 to 11 storeys. The proposed development includes public open space, access roads, car and cycle parking provision at surface and basement level and all associated site development works (see Section 1.3 for details).

This testing programme was carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. Anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (19R0011) and recommendations in the Archaeological Impact Assessment deemed the study area to have some potential to contain previously unrecorded sub-surface features or deposits of an archaeological nature.

## **1.2 Site location**

The site of the proposed residential development (Fosterstown South SHD) is located in the townland of Fosterstown North in the Civil Parish of Swords and the Barony of Nethercross (ITM 717610, 745630, Figures 1–2). The site of the proposed development, which consists of tilled agricultural land, is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boromhe residential development. A small stream runs along the northern boundary of the property. The site is currently divided into two fields. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.

The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (published 1843, surveyed 1836; Figure 3) depicts the site with the external boundaries much as they are today, but with additional internal boundaries dividing the study area into five fields. Subsequent mapping (OS 3rd edition 25-inch map, published 1908, surveyed 1906; Figures 4) continues to depict the same layout as in the 1st edition map of 1843. In neither OS map are any houses or other structures depicted within the study area.

## **1.3 Description of Proposed Development**

The proposed development will consist of the construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1 no. childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11).

The proposal contains parking at basement level for 442 cars and at surface level for 58 cars. 1,156 no. bicycle parking spaces will be provided at basement level, and 514 no. bicycle parking spaces at ground surface level throughout the site.

The proposed development will provide balconies/terraces for all units, and includes provision of communal and public open space (including playing fields).

The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, provision of internal road and access



to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north, along with landscaping, boundary treatment, roads, cycle paths, footpaths, communal and public open space.

The development will consist of the following:

- Construction of 705 no. residential units (comprising of 179 no. 1 bedroom units, 474 no. 2 bedroom units, and 52 no. 3 bedroom units), in 11 no. blocks, with heights ranging from 4 no. storeys to 11 no. storeys over a basement level. The proposals include 1. no childcare facility (Block 3), 2 no. retail / retail services units (Blocks 4 and 9), and 1 no. resident amenity facility (Block 11).
- Each block will contain the following:
  - Block 1 – 4 storeys in height and contains 8 no. 1 bedroom units, 20 no. 2 bedroom units and 2 no. 3 bedroom units;
  - Block 2 – 4 storeys in height containing 6 no. 1 bedroom units and 16 no. 2 bedroom units
  - Block 3 – ranges in height between 4-5 storeys containing 7 no. 1 bedroom units, 23 no. 2 bedroom units, 5 no. 3 bedroom units, and a childcare facility (946.6 sq.m) at ground floor;
  - Block 4 – 8 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 54 no. 2 bedroom units, 9 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail/retail services unit (585 sq.m) at ground floor;
  - Block 5 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level and contains 22 no. 1 bedroom units, 63 no. 2 bedroom units and 9 no. 3 bedroom units;
  - Block 6 – ranges in height between 9-10 storeys above basement level in height and contains 28 no. 1 bedroom units, 72 no. 2 bedroom units and 3 no. 3 bedroom units;
  - Block 7 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
  - Block 8 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 16 no. 1 bedroom units, 36 no. 2 bedroom units;
  - Block 9 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 26 no. 1 bedroom units, 71 no. 2 bedroom units, 10 no. 3 bedroom units, and a retail / retail services unit (689 sq.m) at ground floor;
  - Block 10 – 9 storeys in height above basement level and contains 24 no. 1 bedroom units, 53 no. 2 bedroom units, and 1 no. 3 bedroom units;
  - Block 11 – 11 storeys in height above basement level and contains 10 no. 1 bedroom units, 30 no. 2 bedroom units, and 13 no. 3 bedroom units and 1 no. resident amenity facility (305 sq.m) at basement level.
- Balconies and private terraces are provided for all apartments;

- The proposed development will also include the provision of public and communal open space, including playing fields and play areas;
- The basement level contains 442 no. car parking spaces (430 no. spaces for the residential units and 12 no. spaces for the retail unit), and 1,156 no. bicycle spaces. The basement level also includes bin storage, plant rooms and block cores;
- 58 no. car parking spaces are provided at ground surface level (6 no. spaces to serve the retail unit, 25 no. spaces for the childcare facility, 10 no. spaces for the commercial unit, and 17 no. spaces for visitors) and 514 no. bicycle spaces are provided at ground surface level throughout the site;
- The proposed development will provide a new vehicular access and signalised junction to the R132, and includes provision of internal road and access to allow future connection to adjoining lands to the north;
- The development includes all associated site and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, landscaping, boundary treatment, internal roads, cycle paths and footpaths.

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

### **2.1 Natural landscape**

Fosterstown North is situated in the southern part of urban area of Swords, the county town of Fingal representing a large suburban town on the northside of Dublin. Swords is lying on the Ward River and has early Christian roots, with medieval castle, round tower, Norman tower and a holy well that gives town its name. The proposed development site is located 7 km west of the Irish Sea coast and 13 km north-northeast of Dublin City Centre. It has an elevation of c. 44 m OD. The underlying geology is part of the Malahide Formation, consisting of Argillaceous bioclastic limestone and shale (Geological Survey of Ireland). The underlying limestone is covered by deep well drained mineral soils with alluvial marl along the northern boundary, where the small stream runs along north edge of the property.

### **2.2 Cultural landscape**

Fosterstown North is a townland within south part of urban area of Swords, in the Civil Parish of Swords and the Barony of Nethercross. The name Fosterstown may date back to at least the 14th century. Research carried out by the Placenames Branch identified a reference in Alen's Register (1530s) to 'Freeholder... Simon Forestere at Foresterestown' from A.D. 1326 ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).

Prehistoric evidence from the area around the proposed development site includes three ring-ditches (DU011-152, DU011-047, DU011-114), a burnt mound (DU011-151) and an isolated pit of burnt stone

(DU011-153), while early medieval evidence comes in the form of possible ringfort/enclosures (DU011-116, DU011-118) and associated field system (DU011-117) and a number of holy well sites (DU011-034013, DU011-045, DU011-037). This evidence suggests that this has been a well populated area from at least the Bronze Age and through the early medieval period.

### 2.2.1 Archaeological background

The proposed development site (Figure 1) is located in the townland of Fosterstown North just south of the town of Swords, in the parish of Swords and the barony of Nethercross. Swords is a dormitory town located 13 km north of Dublin off the N1 road to Belfast. Swords, which derives from Sord meaning pure, is said to relate to the water of the holy well on Well Road (DU011:034/013). This is perhaps a pre-Christian well, but is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille (d. AD 597). Although Colmcille is the most widely credited, there is divided opinion about the identity of the person responsible for Sword's foundation. Nevertheless, the town's history began in the Early Christian period when it became a monastic settlement whose first abbot is said to have been St. Fionnan Lobhar. A church named after St. Fionnan survived in Swords until the close of the Middle Ages (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords is first mentioned in the annals when, in the year AD 965, the bishop of Swords and Lusk, Ailill Mac Manach died. In AD 994, the monastery of Swords was burned by Maelseachlainn and suffered a similar fate several more times between AD 1020 and 1166. In AD 1035, Swords was raided by the king of Meath in revenge for an attack carried out by the Dublin Norse on Ardbracan. This suggests that Swords at that time was part of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dyfflinarskiri. It seems likely that Dublin Vikings (Ostmen) were living in Swords up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century. As late as 1326, there is a reference to "sixteen foreign burgesses" in the manor of Swords and there is evidence that these particular 'foreigners' were of Scandinavian origin. Swords, it seems, was a Viking settlement as well as a monastic one (Bradley & King 1988).

By the late twelfth century, the lands attached to Swords monastery were part of the see lands of Dublin and were confirmed to Dublin's archbishop, Laurence O'Toole, in 1179. The archbishops had established a borough at Swords before the end of the twelfth century which makes it a particularly early one. Borough status conferred upon the citizens of Swords privileges such as the right of self-government and gave them trade protection from outside merchants. In 1193, the borough was granted the right to hold an eight-day fair centred on the feast of its founding saint, Colmcille (Bradley & King 1988).

The standard building plot of towns and villages in the Middle Ages was known as a burgage. In most towns, the burgage was a narrow deep plot of land with a house at one end fronting the street with a space behind used as a garden. Another grant of 1181–1212 confirmed the burgesses (townspeople) of

Swords in their burgages and allowed them privileged liberties and free customs in Dublin (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords was one of the largest boroughs established by the archbishops of Dublin with an extent of the manor taken in 1326 recording more than 120 burgesses. The borough was also one of their most enduring and continued to function into the sixteenth century. In 1578, the town was granted a new charter by Queen Elizabeth I that established Swords as a parliamentary borough with the right to return two members to parliament (Bradley & King 1988).

The zone of archaeological potential for Swords was determined by Bradley and King in their Urban Archaeology Survey for County Dublin. This zone is based on the location of the medieval borough and the early monastic settlement. The medieval town was mainly arranged along a single linear street, Main Street, which was referred to as High Street in medieval times. The focus of settlement, as today, was the gates of the archbishops' palace. A fourteenth-century document refers to another street in Swords called Le Camerothe which Bradley and King suggests could relate either to Seatown Road or to Well Road. In 1395, a weekly market was confirmed to the archbishops of Dublin to be held in Swords. This is likely to have been a confirmation of a grant issued during the reign of King John (1199–1216). The marketplace was located in Main Street and is still apparent today where the street was widened to accommodate it (Bradley & King 1988).

Historical documents (for example, Archbishop Alen's register) include many references to individual burgage plots and properties in medieval Swords. A number of the houses of this period seem to have even survived into the nineteenth century as D'Alton, writing in 1838, referred to the "ancient aspect" of some of the inns. Swords also possessed a number of mills, the first reference to them dating to 1191. The extent of the manor of 1326 referred to them as watermills and valued them at 100 shillings (Bradley & King 1988).

D'Alton also mentioned that Swords was one of the walled towns of County Dublin in 1578, though there is no trace of town defences in existence today. However, the course of these walls can be suggested. The long linear boundary delimiting the properties on the eastern side of Main Street seems an obvious line. The location of the southern boundary is unclear but on the west, the boundary was probably formed by the Ward River, a stream known in medieval times as Reynen. The parish church was probably outside the defences but could have been protected by the Early Christian enclosure. The Early Christian monastery had been established on the prominent ridge of high ground overlooking Main Street from the west. It was bound on the east and south by the stream and the monastic enclosure and is still preserved today by the curving line of Brackenstown Road, Church Road and Rathbeale Road (Bradley & King 1988).

Swords Castle was one of the principal residences of the archbishops of Dublin and there are references to a constable of the castle during the time of Archbishop John Comyn, suggesting that it was built

around 1200. Some writers have suggested that Swords was abandoned around 1324 in favour of Tallaght but there is no evidence for the construction of a castle at the latter location around this time. Architectural evidence suggests that Swords Castle was still occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries when it was being sublet to members of the Fitzsimon and Barnewall families (Bradley & King 1988).

### 2.2.2 Previous archaeological investigations

A number of archaeological investigations previously took place in the immediate environs of the proposed development site (see Figure 2 & Table 1). These can be used to further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site under study and its surrounding townlands.

The details of these investigations, derived from the Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)), are outlined below.

*Table 1: Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the proposed development site*

Site	Licence No.	RMP /SMR No.	Director(s)	Site Type	Investigation type
New Rd., Swords	95E0280	N/A	Rónán Swan	Adjacent to well	Archaeological testing.
The Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, Swords	98E03175	N/A	Eoin Halpin	No archaeological significance.	Archaeological testing.
7 North Street, Swords	95E0243	N/A	Margaret Gowen	Medieval urban	Archaeological testing.
Barrysparks and Crowcastle	10E0028	DU011–045	Rob O’Hara	Ring-ditch	Archaeological testing.
Fosterstown South	09E0466	N/A	James Hession	Burnt mound, bivallate enclosure, archaeological complex.	Archaeological testing

There have been five previous archaeological excavations in the environs of Fosterstown North. These were all in form of an archaeological test trenching. On three of the occasions (95E0243, 95E0280, 98E0317) no archaeological remains were identified. However, during testing programme under licence 10E0028 a ring-ditch (or barrow) was uncovered measuring c. 13m in diameter. Furthermore, under licence 09E0466, during testing of the proposed route of the Metro North light rail project in Fosterstown South a prehistoric burnt mound, an archeological complex comprising of three enclosures and numerous cut features, a D shaped enclosure, figure-of-eight shaped corn drying kiln were identified.

### 2.2.3 Recorded Monuments

The townland of Fosterstown North contains no recorded monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The nearest such Monument to the site (DU011-153 – pit) is located c. 0.1 km to the east and will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The site is located c. 1 km south of the zone of archaeological potential for Swords town (DU011-035).

The following is a list of the nearest Recorded Monuments located within the surrounding area (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 2: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the proposed development site

RMP/SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Townland	Description
DU011-153----	Pit	Miltonsfields	This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0465) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A sub-circular pit (1.2m diam.) contained a charcoal rich fill with heat shattered stone, provisionally interpreted as Bronze Age in date (Fagan 2009, 20)
DU011-037----	Ritual site - holy well	Forrestfields	Formerly located by the roadside on the outskirts of Swords village. There is no visible surface trace of this holy well as it has been built over. Local tradition held that the waters cured eyes and mouth, the name is derived from 'sliop' meaning a lip or mouth (O'Reilly 1910, 159, Ó Danachair 1958, 81)
DU011-045----	Ritual site - holy well	Crowscastle	Dedicated to St Werburgh the natural spring well presented as stone seriously was overgrown, situated by a stream. There was a local tradition that its water cures sore eyes but by the 1950s was no longer venerated (Ó Danachair 1958, 81). In March 2011 the well was cleared and reconstructed without licence. The well was redug in a different position, plastic piping inserted and stone removed. It is now signposted with an inscribed stone and described as an 'oasis of transformation'.

RMP/SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Townland	Description
DU011-152----	Ring-ditch	Crowscastle	This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 09R0038) and test excavation (Licence no. 10E0028) in advance of the Barryspark Local Area Plan. A ring ditch (13m diam.) was identified c. 160m SE of St Werburgh's well (DU011-045----). The fill of the annular ditch (2m wide) had unidentified burnt bone inclusions (O'Hara 2010, 16).
DU011-047----	Ring-ditch	Nevinstown West	This is a relatively small subcircular feature (diam. c. 15m) visible as a cropmark on an aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 3.489-490). Now under a car park. Not visible at ground level.
DU011-118----	Enclosure	Fosterstown South	An irregular shaped enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features. A circular enclosure (DU011-116----) and field system (DU011-117----) are located close to the north (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A possible D-shaped enclosure (30m diam.) was identified. An additional enclosure was identified 20 m to the northeast, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50 m in diameter. A figure-of-eight shaped corn drying kiln was identified directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure (Hession 2009, 36).
LH006-045001-	Ringfort - rath	Cortial	Roughly circular area (int. diam. 33m) enclosed by earth and stone bank (Wth 5m, H 0.8m), with a modern external drystone masonry facing from NE-E-S-SW. No visible trace of fosse. Entrance gap (Wth c. 4m) at SE. Souterrain (LH006-045002-) reported from this site (CLAJ 1961, 10)
DU011-116----	Enclosure	Fosterstown South	A circular enclosure visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph together with other features that suggest an associated field system (DU011-117----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). A further enclosure can be seen to the south (DU011-118----). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A double ditched or bivallate enclosure with an associated field system situated to the south was identified. The bivallate enclosure consists of an inner enclosure (30m diam.) which is partially encompassed on the eastern, northeastern and northern sides by a second elliptical enclosing ditch (50m diam.). While no diagnostic material was recovered the morphology suggests a bivallate ringfort (Hession 2009, 23).
DU011-117----	Field system	Fosterstown South	A field system that appears to be associated with a circular enclosure (DU011-116----) visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. A further enclosure is located to the south (DU011-118----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). This site was subject to geophysical survey (08R117) and test excavation (09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. The presence of ditches and pits associated a possible ringfort was confirmed (Hession, 2009).
DU011-151----	Burnt mound	Fosterstown South	This monument was subject to geophysical survey (Licence no. 08R117) and test excavation (Licence no. 09E 0466) as part of the proposed Metro North development. A spread of black silty clay (3m x 2m) with inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone, indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound was identified (Hession 2009, 20)

RMP/SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Townland	Description
DU011-114----	Ring-ditch	Fosterstown South	A circular ring-ditch visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph. To the southeast a sub-circular enclosure is also visible within the same field (DU011-113----) (SMR file; pers. comm. T. Condit). The site is located on low-lying land that rises steeply to the south. No visible remains at ground level

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

The proposed development site contains no Protected Structures as listed within the *Fingal County Development Plan 2016–2023*. The nearest architectural heritage structure (NIAH Reg. No. 11343016, bridge) is located c. 0.8 km to the northeast of the development. This structure will not be directly impacted by the proposed development. It will not be directly affected by the proposed development. The following is a description of the architectural heritage site derived from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).

*Table 3: Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites in the environs of the proposed development site*

Name.	NIAH Reg. No.	Townland	Description
Bridge, Dublin Road, Swords, Fingal	11343016	Townparks	Single-arch coursed cut stone road bridge over river, c.1900.
Water pump, Church Road, Swords, Fingal	11343015	Townparks	Cast-iron water pump, c.1890, now missing parts. Cast-iron plaque with inscribed Tonge and Taggart insignia. Freestanding cut stone trough to left-hand side.
Glenview House, Brackenstown Road, Swords	11343019	Windmill Lands	Detached three-bay two-storey over part-raised basement house, c.1830, retaining original fenestration to ground floor. Central entrance approached by flight of steps, and single-bay single-storey canted bay windows to basement level. Renovated and extended to rear, c.1960, comprising two-bay two-story flat-roofed return. Partly refenestrated, c.1990, with first floor window opening remodelled. ROOF: Hipped; slate; concrete ridge tiles; nap rendered chimney stack to centre; overhanging timber eaves consoles; cast-iron rainwater goods; flat-roof to return. WALLS: Nap rendered; painted; raised nap rendered quoins to corners. OPENINGS: Segmental headed window openings to ground floor within segmental headed relieving arches; concrete sills; vermiculated keystones; 6/6 timber sash windows; replacement timber windows, to basement level; square headed openings to first floor; remodelled, c.1990; concrete sills; replacement uPVC windows; square headed door opening with segmental-headed relieving arch; replacement timber panelled door; fanlight within rectangular frame; prostyle diastyle open gable-fronted portico, c.1990, added to front.



### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Site description

The proposed development site is located in the townland of Fosterstown North within the southern area of urban district of Swords town. The site of the proposed development, which consists of tilled agricultural land, is bounded to the east by the R132 (Dublin Rd), to the north by agricultural land and to the south and west by the Boroinmhe residential development. A small stream runs along the northern boundary of the property. The site is currently divided into two fields. The site contains no visible surface evidence of any archaeological features.

The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (surveyed 1836, published 1843; Figure 3) depicts the external boundaries much as they are today, but with additional internal boundaries dividing the study area into five fields. Subsequent mapping (OS 3rd edition map, surveyed 1906, published 1908; Figure 4) continues to depict the same layout as in the 1st edition map of 1843. In neither OS map are any houses or other structures depicted within the study area. An assessment of the available cartographic sources revealed that the site was subdivided in the past (throughout the 19th century), into five smaller fields. These subdivisions are still visible in the aerial imagery from 1995 to 2013, and in fact one of these sub-dividing field boundaries was still present in 1995.

#### 3.2 Methodology

Test excavation was carried out in accordance with the *IAI Code of Conduct for Archaeological Assessment Excavation* (IAI 2006). The test trenches were excavated to natural subsoil or the top of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features were uncovered during testing, a small sample of the features would be excavated in order to determine their depth and extent. The features would be cleaned, recorded (by plan, photographs, levels, feature sheets, etc.). Any finds recovered during the course of the test trenching would be washed, treated, catalogued, stored and left ready for post-excavation analysis. Had items been recovered during this assessment that required urgent conservation, these would have been treated immediately by a professional conservator (ACSU has conservator, Susannah Kelly, on call for any emergency conservation required and she is available to attend on site, if necessary). All appropriate environmental samples and dating samples taken would be sent for further analysis. Animal bone (if recovered) would also be cleaned, labelled accordingly, bagged and sent for further analysis. ACSU also retain the services of a qualified osteoarchaeologist, Dr Denise Keating, to advise if required in the event that human remains are uncovered. All processing, recording, cleaning, storage and conservation of finds and samples would be undertaken in accordance with National Museum of Ireland guidelines (NMI 2010).

All excavated trenches were recorded using digital photography. Digital photography images were taken using a high-resolution digital camera with a minimum resolution of 10 Megapixels.

### 3.2.1 Finds retrieval

No archaeological finds were recovered.

### 3.2.2 Sampling strategy

No samples were taken during the test excavations as no archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

## 3.3 Results

Archaeological test trenching was carried out on the site between the 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 using a 14-tonne tracked excavator. Trenches 1 and 11 could not be excavated due to their close proximity to the presence of overhead electrical wires. A total of 16 test trenches (Trenches 1–10, 12–18, Plates 1–20) were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development, as outlined on Figure 6. Each trench measured 1.8 m in width. In total, 1069 m of linear trenches were excavated. In general, the trenches contained mid-brown clay topsoil and sod (C1) at a depth of c. 0.20–0.35m m, overlying orange clay natural (C2) with stone inclusions.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified and no finds were recovered (see Table 4).

Table 4: Trench descriptions

Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Topsoil depth (m)	Description
1	-	-	-	Could not be excavated due to its close proximity to the presence of overhead electrical wires
2	31	0.2	0.2	Northeast–south west trench (Plate 2).
3	92	0.24	0.22	East-northeast–west-southwest trench (Plates 2 and 3).
4	90	0.25	0.24	North–south trench near western boundary (Plates 4–6).
5	94	0.30	0.28	North–south trench (Plates 7 and 8).
6	52	0.28	0.28	North–south trench (Plate 9).
7	32	0.25	0.24	East–west trench (Plate 10).
8	109	0.38	0.35	East–west trench (Plate 11).

Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Topsoil depth (m)	Description
9	109	0.32	0.3	East–west trench near southern boundary (Plate 12).
10	10	0.33	0.31	North–south trench near southern boundary (Plate 13).
11	-	-	-	Could not be excavated due to its close proximity to the presence of overhead electrical wires.
12	108	0.38	0.35	Northeast–southwest trench (Plate 14).
13	70	0.35	0.32	Northeast–southwest trench (Plate 15).
14	42	0.32	0.3	Northeast–southwest trench (Plate 16).
15	108	0.3	0.29	Northeast–southwest trench (Plate 17).
16	85	0.31	0.28	Northeast–southwest trench (Plate 18).
17	12	0.22	0.21	Northwest–southeast trench (Plate 19).
18	25	0.35	0.34	East–west trench (Plate 20).

### Context Descriptions:

Table 5: Context descriptions

Context	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
C1	-	-	0.20–0.35	Topsoil, mid-brown clay topsoil and sod
C2	-	-	-	Natural subsoil, orange clay natural with stone inclusions.

## 4. MATERIAL CULTURE

### 4.1 Artefacts

No archaeological finds were recovered.

### 4.2 Palaeo-environmental samples

No samples were taken during the programme of test trenching on site as no archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

### **4.3 Animal bone**

No animal bone was recovered during the programme of test trenching on site.

### **4.4 Human bone**

No human bone was recovered during the programme of test trenching on site.

## **5. DATING**

No samples were taken for analysis or dating during the programme of test trenching on site, as no archaeological material was encountered.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Archaeological test trenching in the townland of Fosterstown North, Swords, Co Dublin, was carried out by Linda Clarke under licence 19E0034, targeting anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (19R0011). The fieldwork took place between 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 using a 14-tonne tracked excavator. Trenches 1 and 11 could not be excavated due to their close proximity to the presence of overhead electrical wires. A total of 16 test trenches (Figure 6, Plates 1–20) were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development. Each trench measured 1.8 m in width and in total 1069 m of linear trenches were excavated. In general, the trenches revealed mid-brown clay topsoil and sod at a depth of 0.20–0.35m, overlying orange clay natural with stone inclusions.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified and no finds were recovered. No further archaeological work is recommended.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposed development site at Fosterstown, Swords, Co Dublin has been mechanically tested and the investigation exposed no archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds. The work is now complete and no further archaeological work is recommended.

## **8. POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMME**

The post-excavation work related to this programme of archaeological test trenching is now complete and no further analysis will be necessary.

## 9. EXCAVATION BULLETIN

**Fosterstown North, Swords, Co Dublin**

**19E0034**

**I.T.M. 717610, 745630**

**Testing**

A programme of archaeological test trenching was carried out at Fosterstown North, Swords, Co Dublin in February 2020.

A total of 16 test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development. Each trench measured 1.8 m in width. In total, 1069 m of linear trenches were excavated. In general, the trenches revealed mid-brown clay topsoil and sod at a depth of 0.20–0.35m, overlying orange clay natural with stone inclusions.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified and no finds were recovered. The work is now complete.

*Linda Clarke, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co Louth.*

## 10. PUBLICATION PLAN

An account of this archaeological assessment and its results will be published online as an excavation bulletin on [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) (see Section 9).

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Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie))

Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023

(<https://www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/development-plans-and-consultations/fingaldevelopmentplan2017-2023/>) Accessed on 02.03.2020

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

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

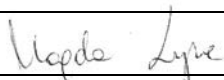
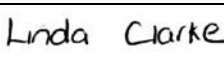
Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

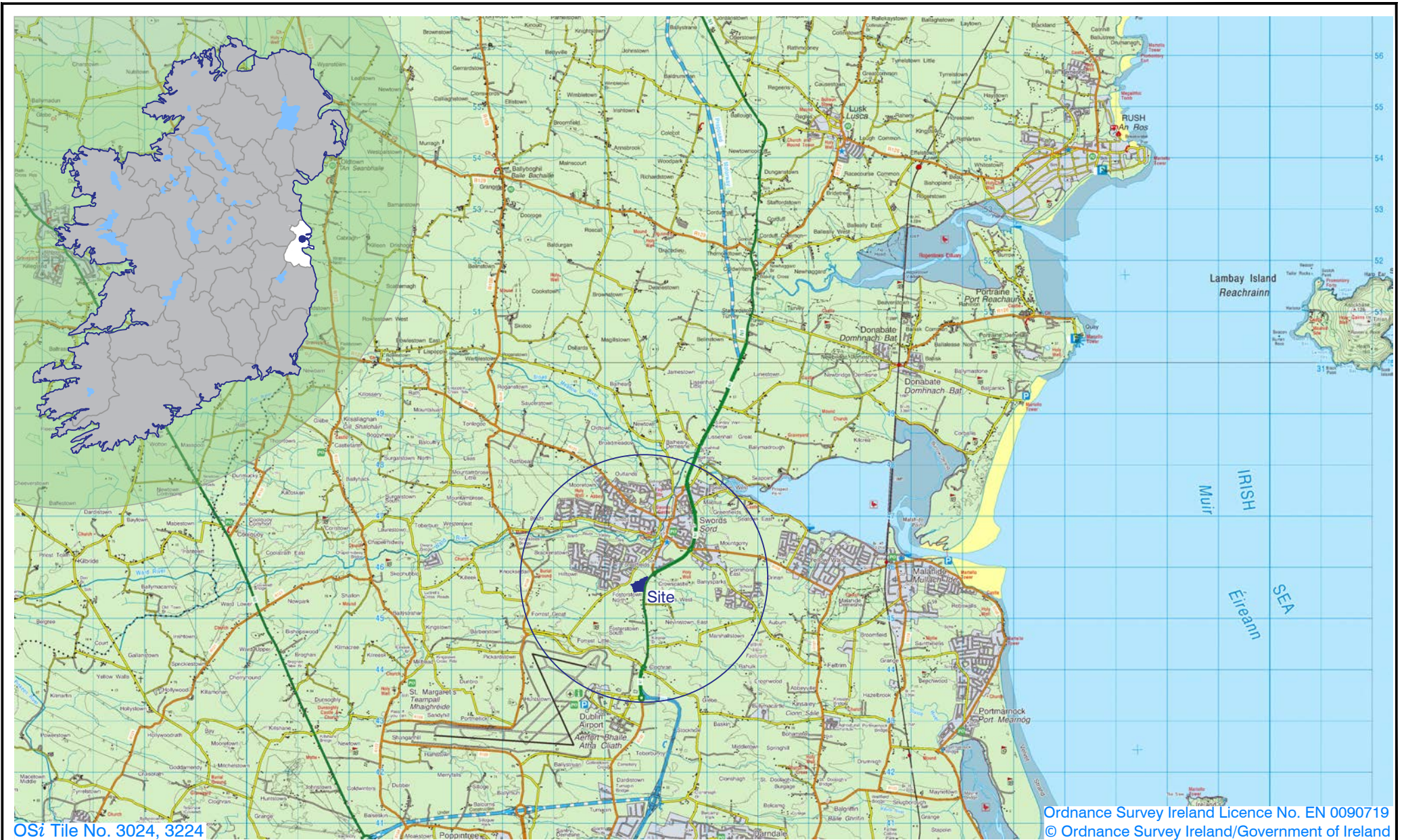
## Cartographic and Photographic Sources

First edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836, published 1843).

Third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1906, published 1908).

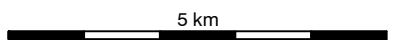
Ordnance Survey Ortho (aerial photography) series, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2012.

<b>Report Status:</b>	Final
<b>Issue/Revision:</b>	1
<b>Issue/Revision Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2020
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Magda Lyne & Linda Clarke
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Linda Clarke
<b>Signed:</b>	



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Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin	
Issued for: Archaeological Testing Report	
Drawing number: 1899_C0021	
Date: March 2020	Scale: 1:100,000 @A4

Figure 1: Location of site



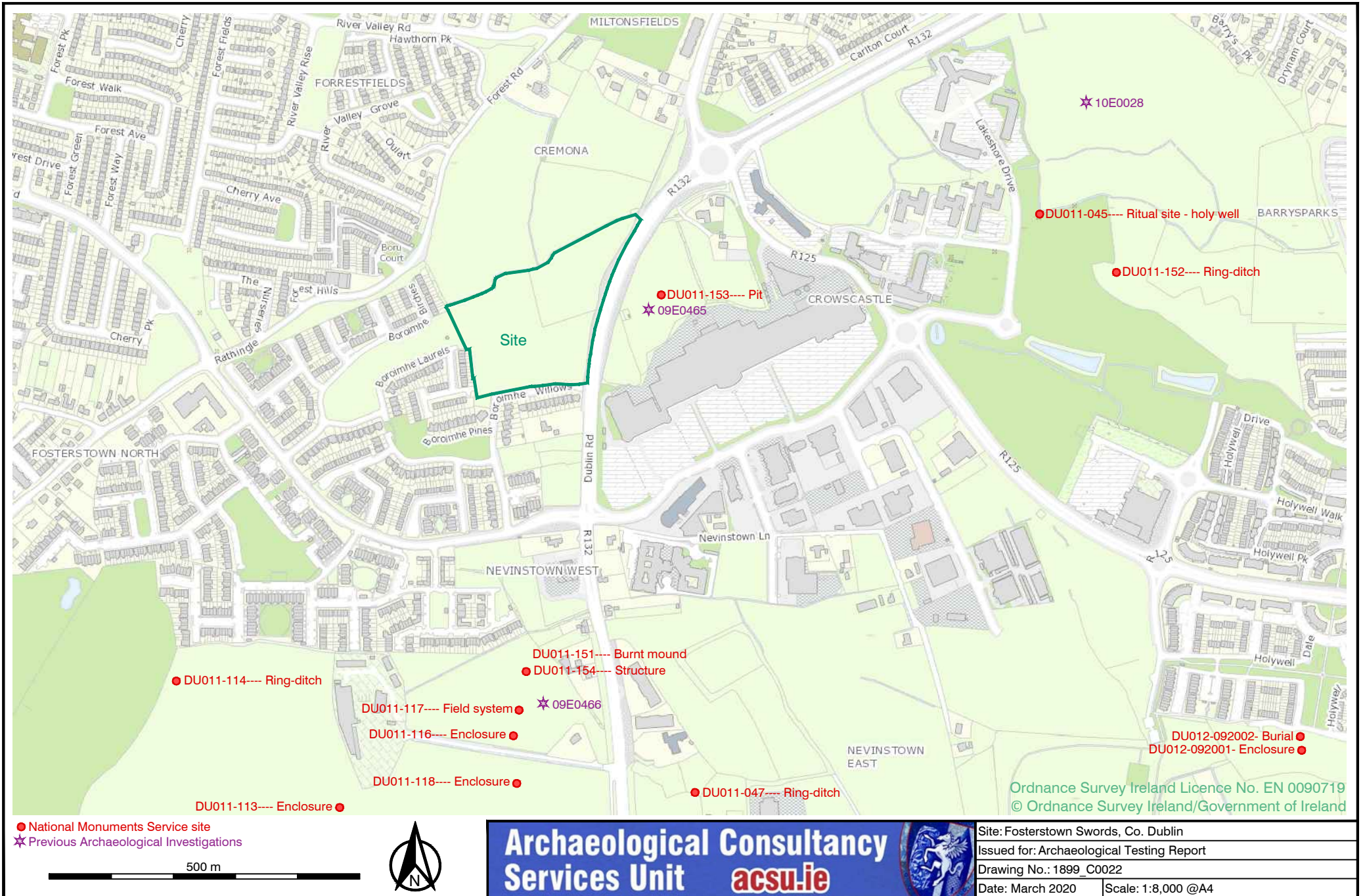
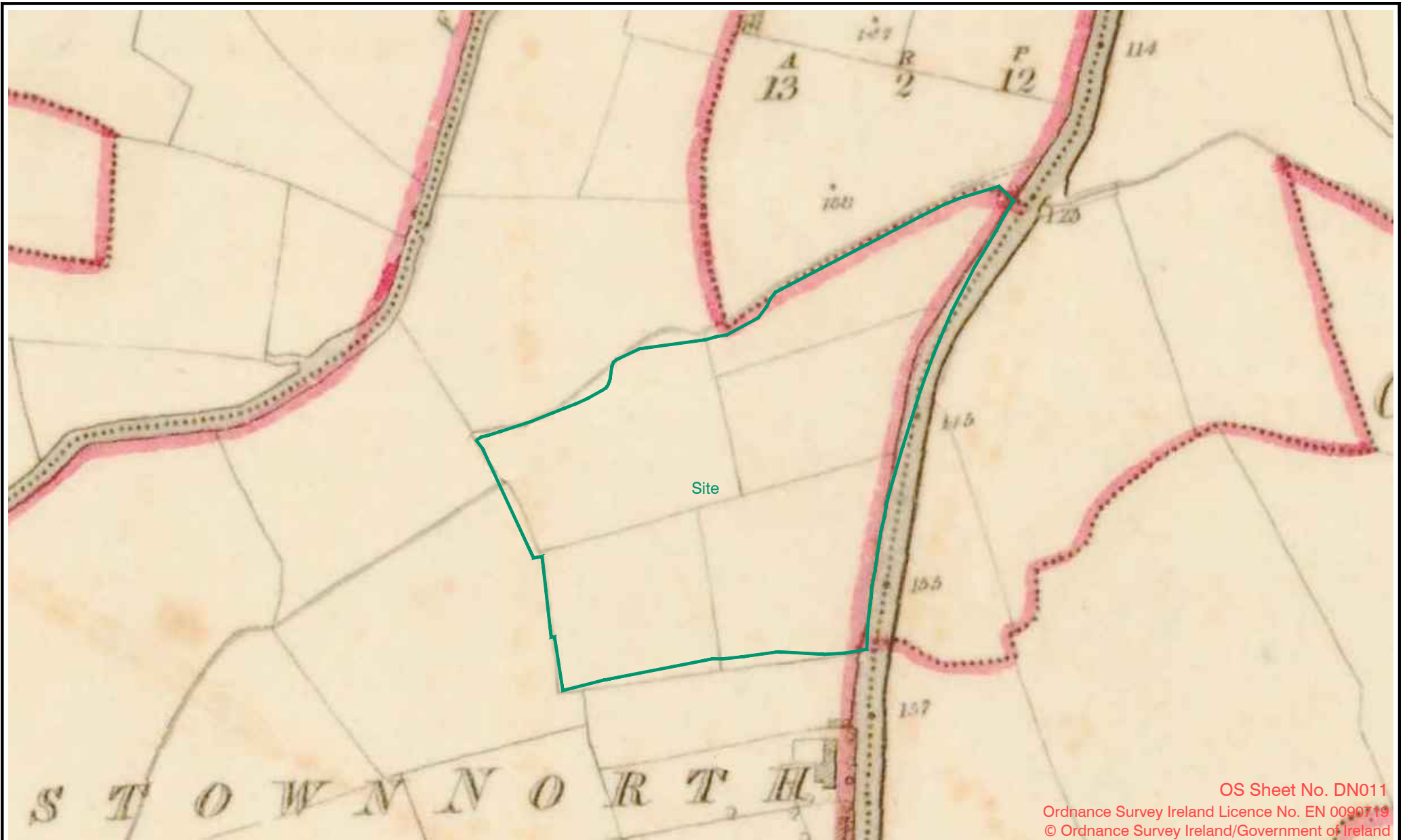


Figure 2: Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites



OS Sheet No. DN011

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

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200 m



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Site: Fosterstown Swords, Co. Dublin

Issued for: Archaeological Testing Report

Drawing No.: 1899\_C0023

Date: March 2020

Scale: 1:3,000 @A4

Figure 3: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site



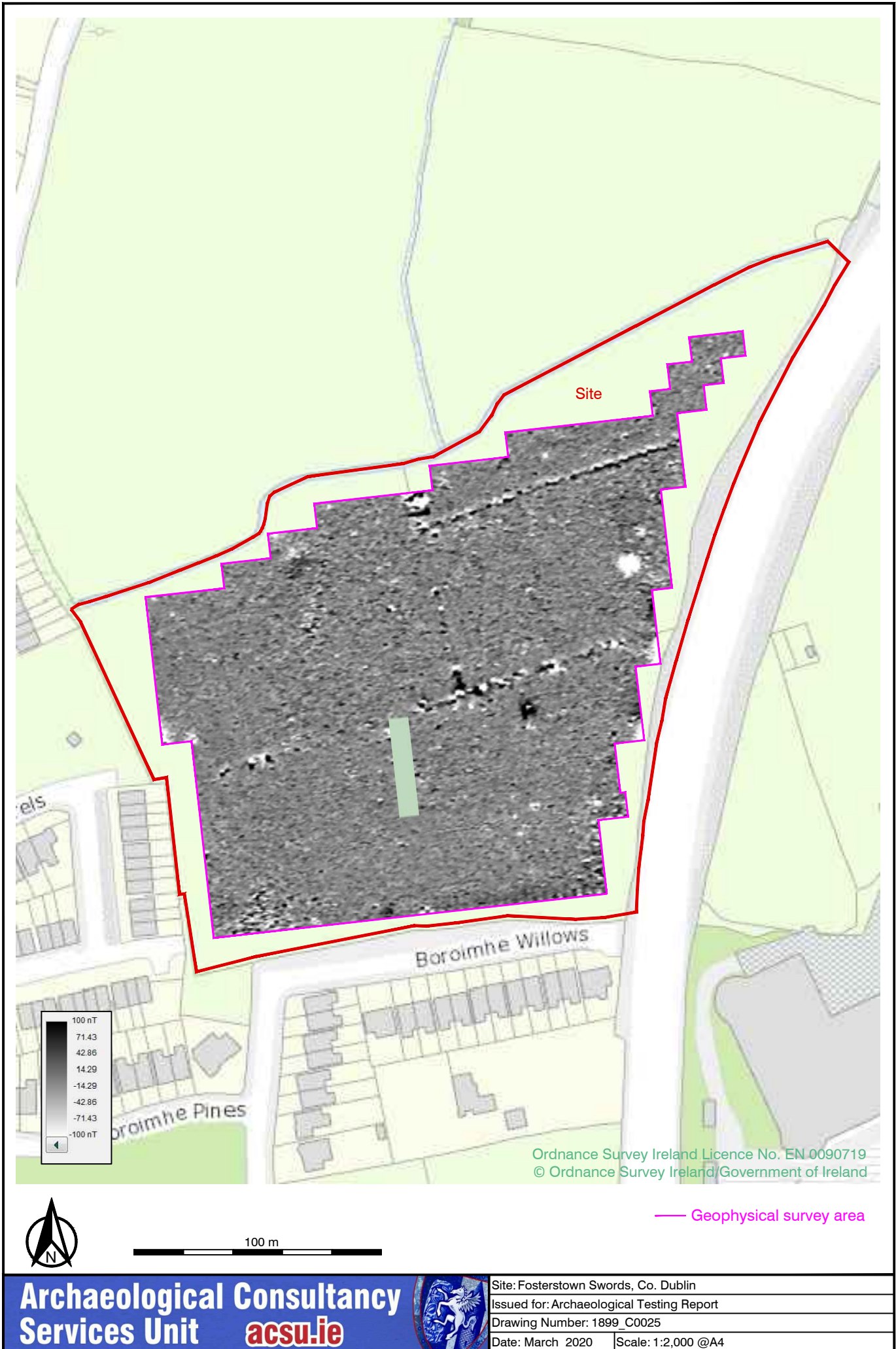


Figure 5: Geophysical survey results (grey scale image)

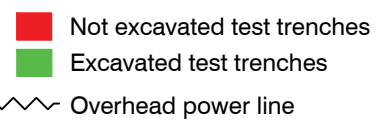
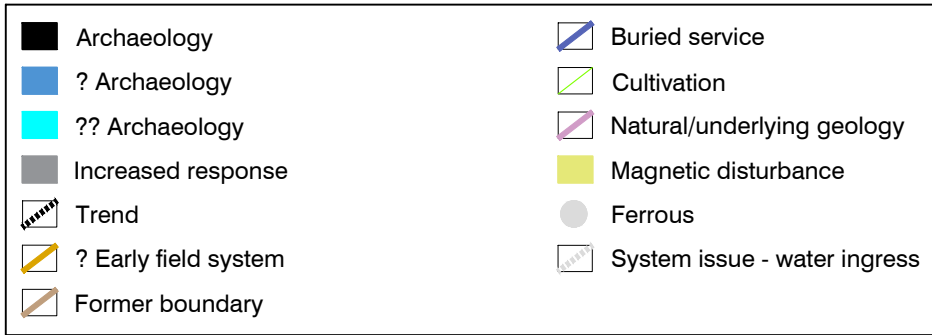


Figure 6: Interpretation of geophysical survey and proposed test trenches



Plate 1: Trench 2, facing south



Plate 2: Trench 3, facing west



Plate 3: Trench 3, facing east



Plate 4: Trench 4, facing north



Plate 5: Trench 4, facing north



Plate 6: Trench 4, facing south



Plate 7: Trench 5, facing north



Plate 8: Trench 5, facing north



Plate 9: Trench 6, facing north



Plate 10: Trench 7, facing west



Plate 11: Trench 8, facing west



Plate 12: Trench 9, facing east





Plate 13: Trench 10, facing north



Plate 14: Trench 12, facing northeast



Plate 15: Trench 13, facing southwest



Plate 16: Trench 14, facing south



Plate 17: Trench 15, facing southwest



Plate 18: Trench 16, facing southwest



Plate 19: Trench 17, facing north



Plate 20: Trench 18, facing east