

## **Appendix 12.3**

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### **Archaeological Testing Coolfadda, Convent Hill, Bandon, Co Cork**

**Licence Numbers 25E0836**

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Apri 2026

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## Abstract

The proposed development site lies in the townlands of Coolfadda and Kilbrogan, Convent Hill, Bandon, Co Cork. It is proposed to construct a Largescale Residential development with all associated and ancillary development works on the site.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development boundary. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is the site of a ringfort (CO110-082) approximately 50m to the west in Coolfadda.

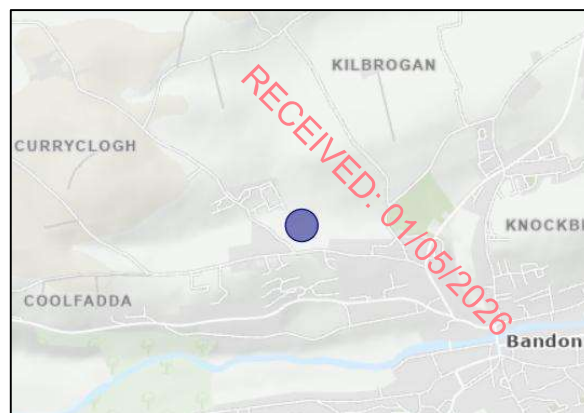
A geophysical survey was undertaken across the western portion of the proposed development site (Dowling, 2025). No anomalies of clear archaeological significance were identified. A number of isolated pit-type responses were recorded, which were attributed to archaeological, agricultural, or geological activity.

Archaeological testing was carried out on the western part of the proposed development site and across the geophysical anomalies. A total of twenty two test trenches were excavated. Fulacht fia type material was identified in two of the trenches located in low ground close to the stream along the northern site boundary. The material was found in several small patches and is likely to be *ex situ*. It is proposed to retain the material *in situ* within a secure buffer zone during construction. It is proposed to construct a no-dig pathway across the southern side of the buffer zone. Archaeological monitoring of the construction of the walkway through the buffer zone will be undertaken.

## 1 Introduction

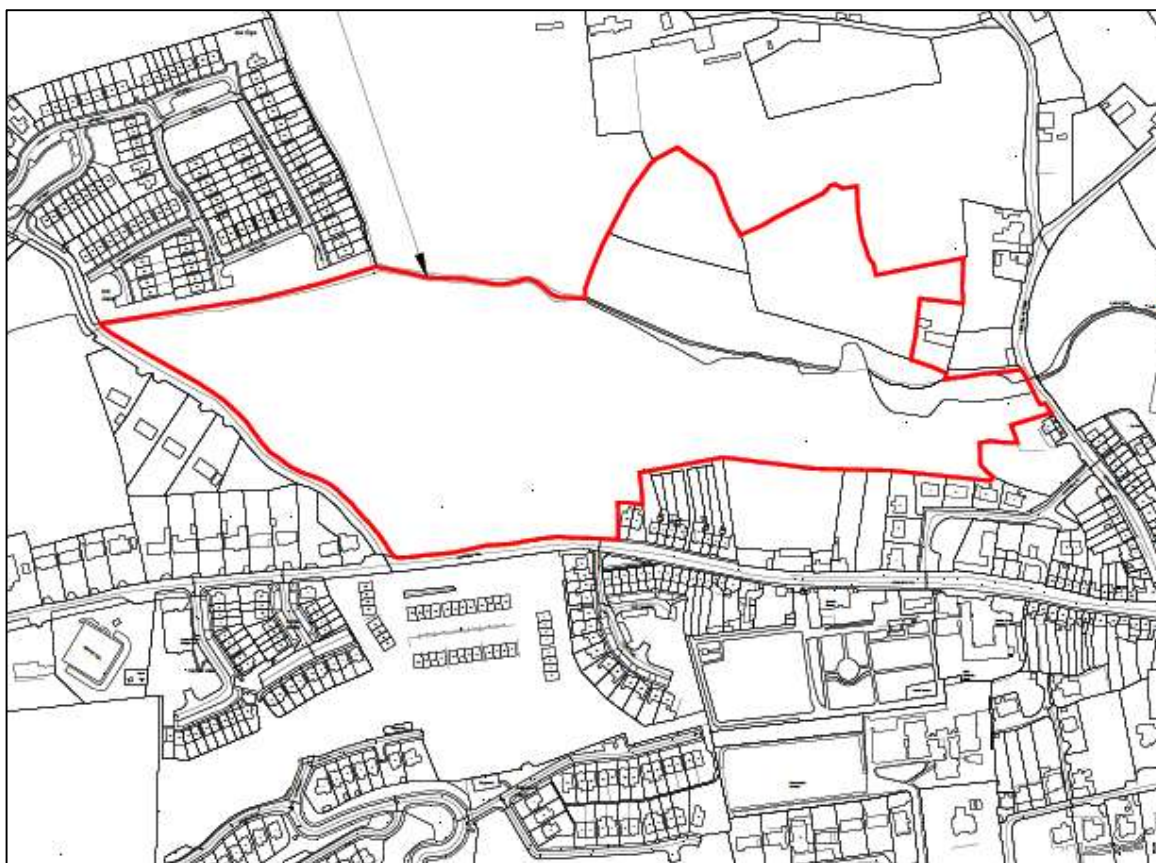
1.1 The proposed development site is located in the townlands of Coolfadda and Kilbrogan, Convent Hill, Bandon, Co Cork (ITM 548248 555676; Figs. 1 and 2). It lies on the northern side of Convent Hill on the northwestern edge of Bandon in west Co Cork.

1.2 There are no recorded archaeological sites on the proposed development site. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is the site of a ringfort (CO110-082) approximately 50m to the west in Coolfadda (Fig. 3)



**Figure 1:** Site location on OS map (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

1.3 It is proposed to construct a Large-scale Residential Development on the site comprising of 240 no. residential units, a creche facility new vehicular and pedestrian access from Upper Convent Hill and Kilbrogan Street and all ancillary site development works (Fig. 4).



**Figure 2:** Ordnance Survey site location map (1:2500 reduced) (Source: OSI)

1.4 The proposed development site comprises an irregular, pasture field at the western side in Coolfadda and a large area of heavily disturbed and overgrown ground on the eastern side, in Coolfadda and Kilbrogan. The pasture field extends eastwards from a local road to the west with an unnamed stream along its northern edge. The field rises first gradually, then steeply to the south towards Convent Hill where a small overgrown compound opens onto the road. A post and wire fence defines the eastern side of the field beyond which dense gorse, scrub vegetation and briars make the area impenetrable. Several large overgrown (presumably soil) mounds are visible in the area which could not be accessed. Aerial imagery from 2011-2013 indicates



this eastern part of the site was substantially disturbed approximately 15 years ago (Fig. 3) and it appears to have been abandoned since that time. Given the inaccessible condition of the eastern part of the site and its history of previous disturbance archaeological investigations were confined to the western pasture field in Coolfadda.

- 1.5 A pre-planning geophysical survey of the western field was carried out in 2025 (under licence 25R0152) (Dowling, 2025). The survey comprised a high-resolution magnetometry survey. No anomalies of clear archaeological significance were identified. A number of isolated pit-type responses were recorded, which may be attributable to archaeological, agricultural, or geological activity (*ibid.*).
- 1.6 Archaeological testing was carried out on the western field (under licence no. 25E0836) in February 2026. Twenty-two trenches were excavated across the proposed development site and targeting the geophysical anomalies. Fulacht fia type material was identified in two of the trenches located in low ground close to the stream at the northern end of the field. It was identified in small pockets and backfilled into drains and it is likely to have been largely re-deposited either during relatively modern drainage works or when the course of the stream to the north was straightened, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The location of the material in one of the trenches corresponds with a pit-type response identified in the geophysical survey. No other features of archaeological significance and no finds of archaeological significance were identified.



**Figure 3:** Extract from OS aerial photo 2011 to 2013 MapGenie Digital (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

- 1.7 This report was compiled by Avril Purcell and Musetta O'Leary, Lane Purcell Archaeology, 64 Fr Mathew Road, Turner's Cross, Cork on behalf of Industrial & Life Science Ltd., c/o Grant Thornton, Penrose One, Penrose Dock, Cork.





**Figure 4:** Development layout (Source: MMOS)

## 2 Archaeological and Historic Background

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located at the northwestern edge of Bandon town and extends across the townlands of Coolfadda and Kilbrogan. The townland name Coolfadda derives from the Irish *An Chúil Fhada*, meaning the long corner and Kilbrogan derives from *Cill Brógáin* meaning the church of Brógáin. Both are located in the civil parish of Kilbrogan and barony of Kinalmeaky ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)).

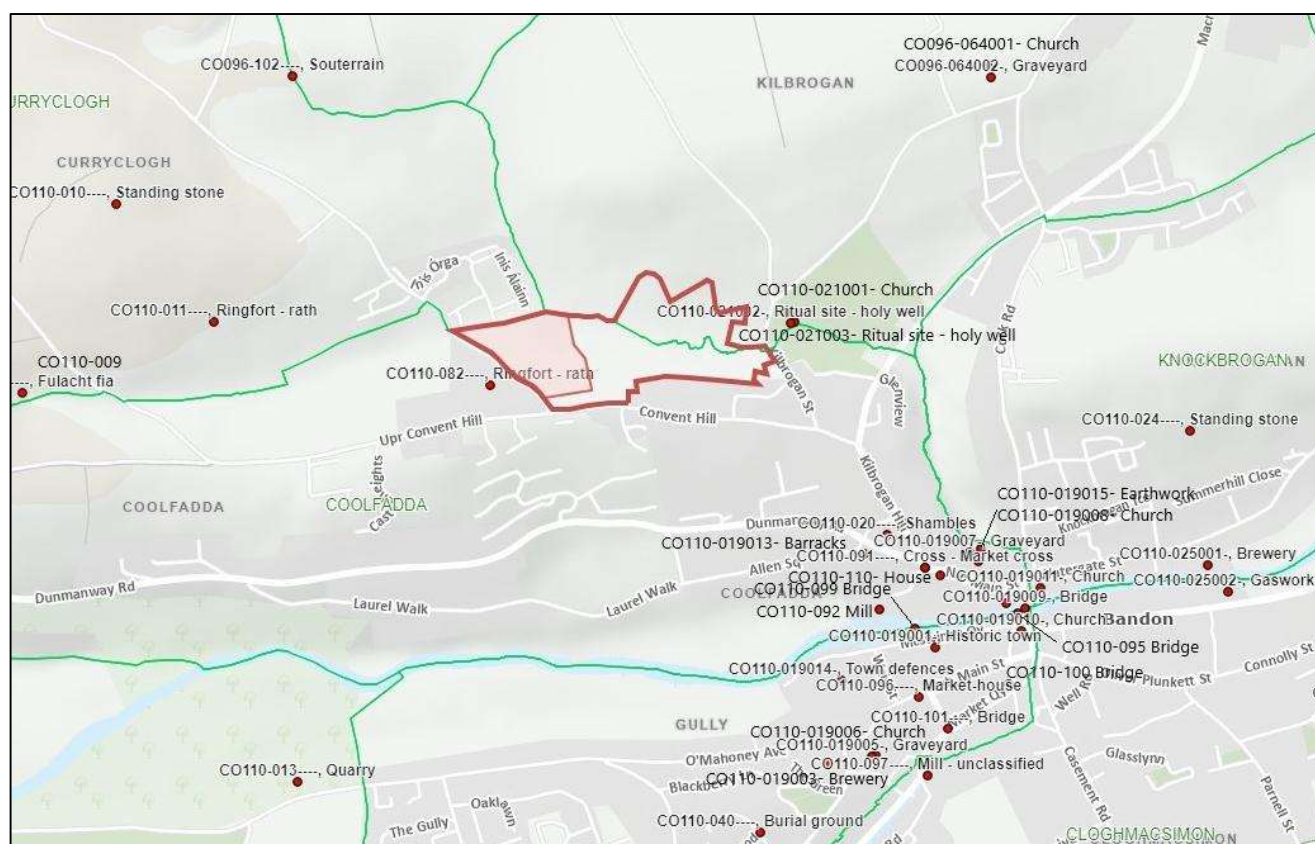
There are no recorded archaeological sites on the proposed development site. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is the site of a levelled ringfort (CO110-082) approximately 50m to the west in Coolfadda. The ringfort is described in the Archaeological Inventory of Co Cork (Power *et al.* 1992) as follows: *According to Ó Ríordáin (1933, 19) 'in Buckley's the ring in the surface of the field plainly marks the position of the lios', diameter 'about 30 yards'.*

- 2.2 A total of 39 recorded archaeological sites are located within approximately 1km of the proposed development site (the Study Area), dating from as early as the Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC) (Table 1; Fig. 5). However, the majority relate to the historic walled town of Bandon and so date from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when the town was founded or the following centuries. These sites are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Co. Cork and/or the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) database maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The RMP lists all archaeological monuments and places known to be of archaeological importance in the county and affords them statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 (as amended). The SMR is a working database of known archaeological monuments and is subject to ongoing revision.

| RMP           | Site Type                      | Townland         | Distance from site |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| CO110-082     | Ringfort                       | Coolfadda        | 50m to W           |
| CO110-009     | Fulacht fia                    | Curryclogh       | 925m to W          |
| CO110-011     | Ringfort                       | Curryclogh       | 500m to W          |
| CO110-010     | Standing stone                 | Curryclogh       | 600m to NW         |
| CO096-102     | Souterrain                     | Curryclogh       | 630m to NW         |
| CO096-064001- | Church                         | Kilbrogan        | 730m to NE         |
| CO096-064002- | Graveyard                      | Kilbrogan        | 730m to NE         |
| CO110-021001- | Church                         | Kilbrogan        | 75m to E           |
| CO110-021002- | Holy well                      | Kilbrogan        | 75m to E           |
| CO110-021003- | Holy well                      | Kilbrogan        | 65m to NE          |
| CO110-024     | Standing stone                 | Knockbrogan      | 880m to E          |
| CO110-020     | Shambles                       | Coolfadda        | 415m to SE         |
| CO110-019013- | Barracks                       | Coolfadda        | 425m to SE         |
| CO110-098     | Market house                   | Coolfadda        | 520m to SE         |
| CO110-091     | Market cross                   | Coolfadda        | 520m to SE         |
| CO110-110     | 17 <sup>th</sup> century house | Coolfadda        | 550m to SE         |
| CO110-019008- | Church                         | Coolfadda        | 600m to SE         |
| CO110-019007- | Graveyard                      | Coolfadda        | 570m to SE         |
| CO110-019015- | Earthwork                      | Coolfadda        | 585m to SE         |
| CO110-092     | Mill                           | Coolfadda        | 540m to SE         |
| CO110-099     | Bridge                         | Coolfadda, Gully | 600m to SE         |
| CO110-094     | Prison                         | Coolfadda        | 700m to SE         |
| CO110-019009- | Bridge                         | Coolfadda, Gully | 730m to SE         |
| CO110-095     | Bridge                         | Coolfadda, Gully | 725m to SE         |
| CO110-019011- | Church                         | Knockbrogan      | 730m to SE         |
| CO110-019010- | Church                         | Cloughmacsimon   | 755m to SE         |
| CO110-019001- | Historic town                  | Coolfadda, Gully | 665m to SE         |
| CO110-096     | Market house                   | Gully            | 750m to SE         |

|               |               |                |            |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| CO110-100     | Bridge        | Gully          | 830m to SE |
| CO110-101     | Bridge        | Gully          | 840m to SE |
| CO110-025001- | Brewery       | Knockbrogan    | 1km to SE  |
| CO110-025002- | Gasworks      | Cloghmacsimon  | 1km to SE  |
| CO110-019014- | Town defences | Gully          | 725m to S  |
| CO110-019005- | Graveyard     | Gully          | 825m to S  |
| CO110-019006- | Church        | Gully          | 825m to S  |
| CO110-097     | Mill          | Cloughmacsimon | 900m to S  |
| CO110-019003- | Brewery       | Gully          | 845m to S  |
| CO110-040     | Burial ground | Gully          | 940m to S  |
| CO110-013     | Quarry        | Castlebernard  | 945m to SW |

**Table 1:** RMP/SMR sites within approximately 1km radius of the proposed development site



**Figure 5:** Proposed development site outlined in red and western field shaded pink, showing recorded archaeological monuments within a 1km radius of the proposed development site (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

- 2.3 The earliest recorded archaeological sites in the Study Area are the fulacht fia (CO110-009) and standing stone (CO110-010) both in Curryclogh and the standing stone (CO110-024) in Knockbrogan. Both of these monuments typically date to the Bronze Age. Fulachtaí fia are generally interpreted as prehistoric cooking sites, although they may have been used for any purpose requiring large quantities of heated or boiling water. They are the most common type of prehistoric monument in Ireland and typically comprise a trough or pit, often lined with stone, wattle, or timber planks, into which heated stones were placed to raise the water temperature. These sites are frequently identifiable as horseshoe-shaped mounds of heat-shattered stone and are commonly located near streams or waterlogged ground. Radiocarbon dating indicates that the majority of fulachtaí fia date to the Middle to Late Bronze Age (c. 1500–500 BC). Following repeated use, burnt stone was removed from the trough and deposited nearby, gradually forming the characteristic crescent-shaped mound. While cooking and feasting is the most widely accepted use for these sites, alternative or additional uses may have included bathing, textile processing, tanning, brewing, fat extraction,



or soap production, or a combination of these activities (Ó Drisceoil 1988; Monk 2007; Quinn & Moore 2007). Burnt mounds and spreads are often interpreted as the ploughed-out remains of fulachtaí fia. The fulacht fia in Curryclogh (CO110-009) was described as a low circular mound when it was inspected by the ASI in 1986 (Power *et al.* 1992).

Standing stones have a broad date range in Ireland. They were erected in the landscape from the early prehistoric period, possibly as early as the Neolithic (*circa* 4000-2400 BC), however, most standing stones probably date to the Bronze Age. Many are found in association with stone circles and stone rows and some share the NE-SW orientation that these monuments exhibit, as is the case with the Curryclogh stone (CO110-010), while the Knockbrogan stone (CO110-024) has an east west orientation. Standing stones may have had a number of functions in the prehistoric landscape and these functions may have changed over time (O'Brien, 2012). They were often erected in prominent locations and may have marked routeways or tribal boundaries. Others may have marked burials or had a ceremonial or ritual purpose and some bear ogham inscriptions or Christian crosses. Excavation of standing stones have yielded differing results. At Killountain, west of Bandon, a small pit covered by a slab was found adjacent to a knocked down standing stone. The pit contained a cremation and was covered by a slab. A standing stone excavated in Ballynagrumbolia, SW of Cork city, revealed three pits containing charcoal and charred bone as well as a line of post holes and pits extending southwest from the stone (*ibid.*). At Moneyreague, NW of Dunmanway, a standing stone was excavated and revealed three pits and the stone socket. One of the pits contained a deposit of cremated bone and charcoal. The remains were dated 1387-1129 BC (*ibid.*).

- 2.4 The two ringforts to the west in Coolfadda (CO110-082) and Curryclogh (CO110-011) date to the historic, early medieval period (5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD). This period is characterised by the introduction of Christianity from the late 4th century onwards, becoming widely established during the second half of the sixth century. Ringforts (also known by the names rath, lios, cathair or caiseal/cashel) are defended farmsteads and are the most characteristic monument of this period. Their main phase of construction and occupation dates from the beginning of the 7th century AD to the end of the 9th century. They are generally circular or oval in plan, defined by an earthen bank with an external ditch or fosse. Larger ringforts with double defences (bi-vallate) and triple defences (tri-vallate) are generally interpreted as higher status sites and these can be particularly associated with specialised craft working. The sub-surface remains of circular dwelling houses and associated outbuildings are frequently revealed within ringforts during excavation.

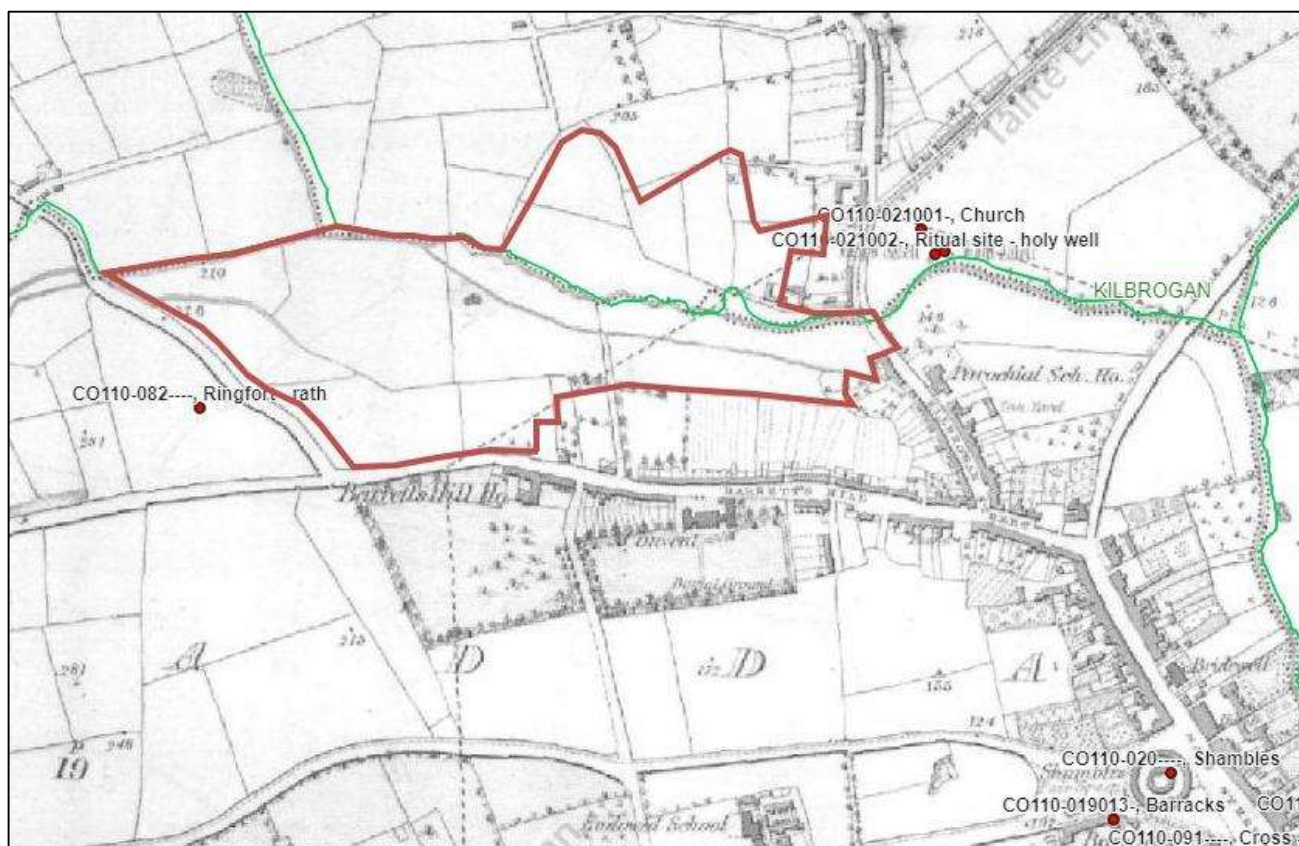
Souterrains also date to the early medieval period and in many cases are associated with ringforts but can also be found in isolation as is the case with the Curryclogh monument (CO096-102). They are underground structures generally earth or rock cut comprising of chamber(s) connected by narrow creepways. The term souterrain derives from the French *sous* meaning under and *terre* meaning earth. When in contemporary use they would have been called *óin* or *uam* (*uaimh* in modern Irish) and on cartographic sources are usually noted as caves (Clinton, 2001 and Power *et al.*, 1992). They were probably used for as defensive features and may have also been used for storage.

The church site in Kilbrogan (CO110-021001-) may also date to the early medieval or medieval period, however no visible remains now survive on the site. The presence of two holy wells (CO110-021002- and CO110-021003-) nearby is consistent with the presence of an early church site. The tradition of visiting holy wells goes back to the very beginnings of Irish Christianity, but many wells probably have their origin in pre-Christian ritual activities. The origins of some wells are clearly associated with early Irish saints or a later medieval continental saint while others are associated with royal sites or the inauguration of kings (McHugh 2023, 4). Some wells are still maintained for holy use when at certain times of the year they would be visited in the form of a pilgrimage often referred to as a 'round' or 'pattern' while others are known through tradition for their reputed curative properties. One of these wells (CO110-021003-), known as St Brigid's Well is reputed to cure sore eyes (Power *et al.* 1992)

- 2.5 The town of Bandon was founded in the early 17<sup>th</sup>-century on a ford/bridging point on the Bandon River under the patronage of Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork (Power, 1992). The town initially grew as two distinct

settlements, Bandon-bridge on the southern side of the Bandon River and Coolfadda on the northern side (Zajac 1995, 1). It was walled by 1627 and several upstanding portions of wall survive on the southern side of river with just one or possibly two stretches surviving to the north (Thomas 1992, 21-2 and Power *et al.* 1992). The remainder of the recorded archaeological sites date from the foundation of the town in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century or thereafter. The earliest of these upstanding buildings being Christchurch (CO110-019008-) in Coolfadda which was built in 1610. Although recent investigations of a house (CO110-110) on the North Main Street a short distance south of the church suggest this may also date to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (ASI).

- 2.6 On the 1842 Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (Fig. 6), the area of the proposed development site extends across parts of eight fields in Coolfadda and five others in Kilbrogan separated by an unnamed stream which forms the townland boundary. The stream is noticeable straight at the western side of the proposed development site in contrast to its meandering route at the east; suggesting its western route had been realigned and straightened prior to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. No structures or features are shown in any of the fields in Coolfadda. The western end of an unnamed L-shaped building lies at the eastern edge of the land in Kilbrogan. The building is accessed from a lane that opens from the western side of Kilbrogan Street. The proposed development site does not extend to the road front of Kilbrogan Street which is lined by several terraces of street-fronting buildings. The southern side of the proposed development site in Coolfadda extends to the street front along Barretts Hill (now Convent Hill) at the northwestern edge of the town. The terrace of houses along its northern side have not extended as far west as the area of the proposed development site.



**Figure 6:** Proposed development site outlined in red on 1842 OS 6-inch map (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

The 25-inch OS map (1901) shows the entire area of the proposed development site in Coolfadda as a single irregular field (Fig. 7). A well is named and depicted at the eastern edge of the field close to Kilbrogan Street. Slight changes to the field boundaries in Kilbrogan are visible with the amalgamation of two fields into one. The L-shaped building at the eastern edge of the proposed development site is no longer upstanding but a spring is shown in the field where it was located. The 6-inch map of 1939 Shows minor changes to the area

of the proposed development site with the amalgamation of two additional fields into one in Kilbrogan and neither the spring in Kilbrogan nor the well in Coolfadda are shown.

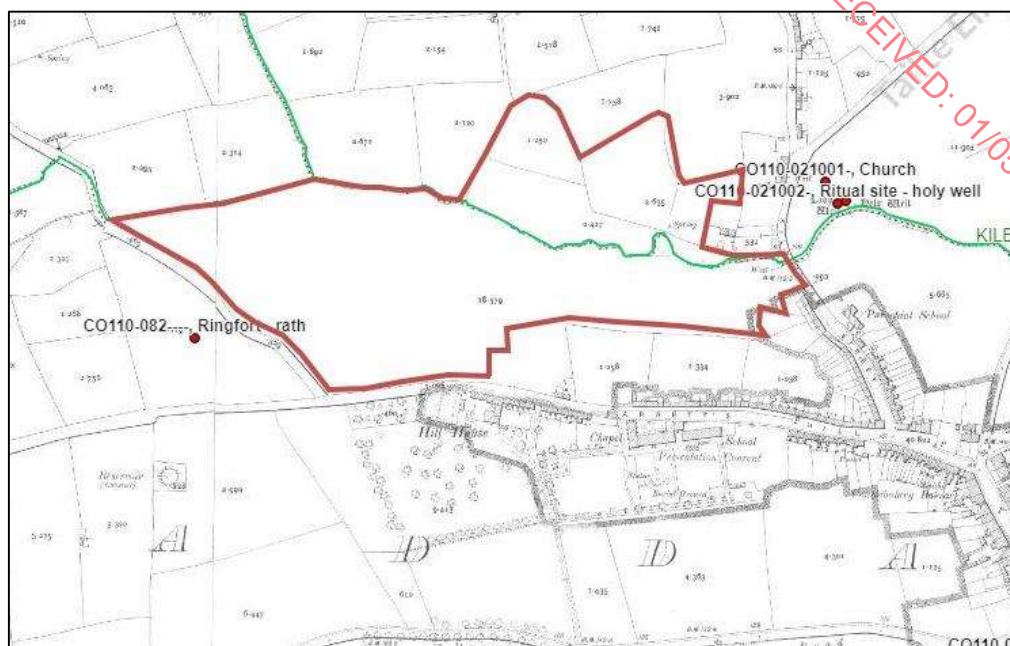


Figure 7: Proposed development site outlined in red on 1902 OS 25-inch map (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

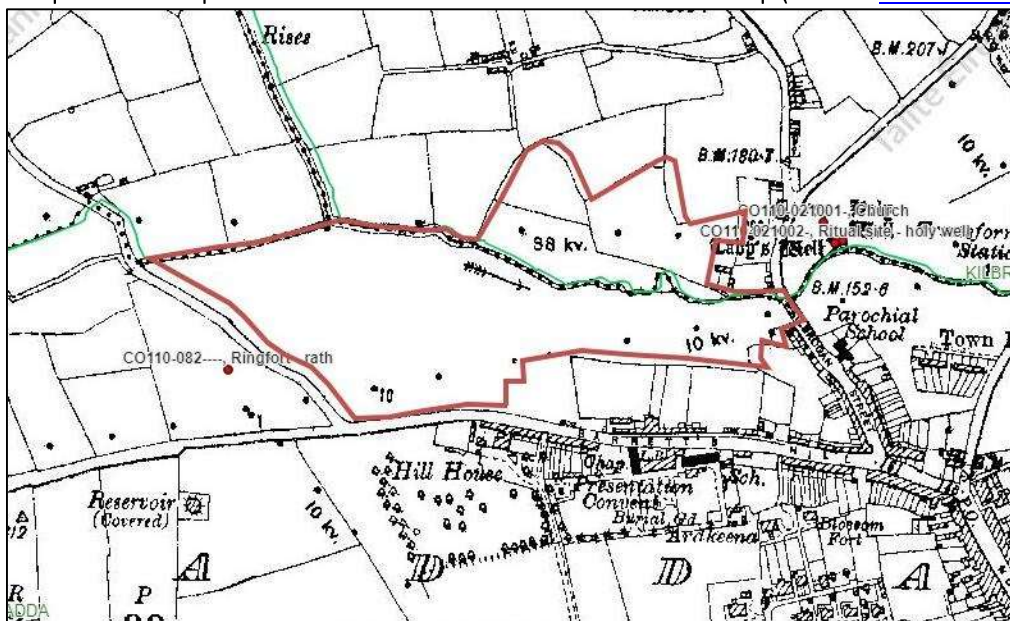
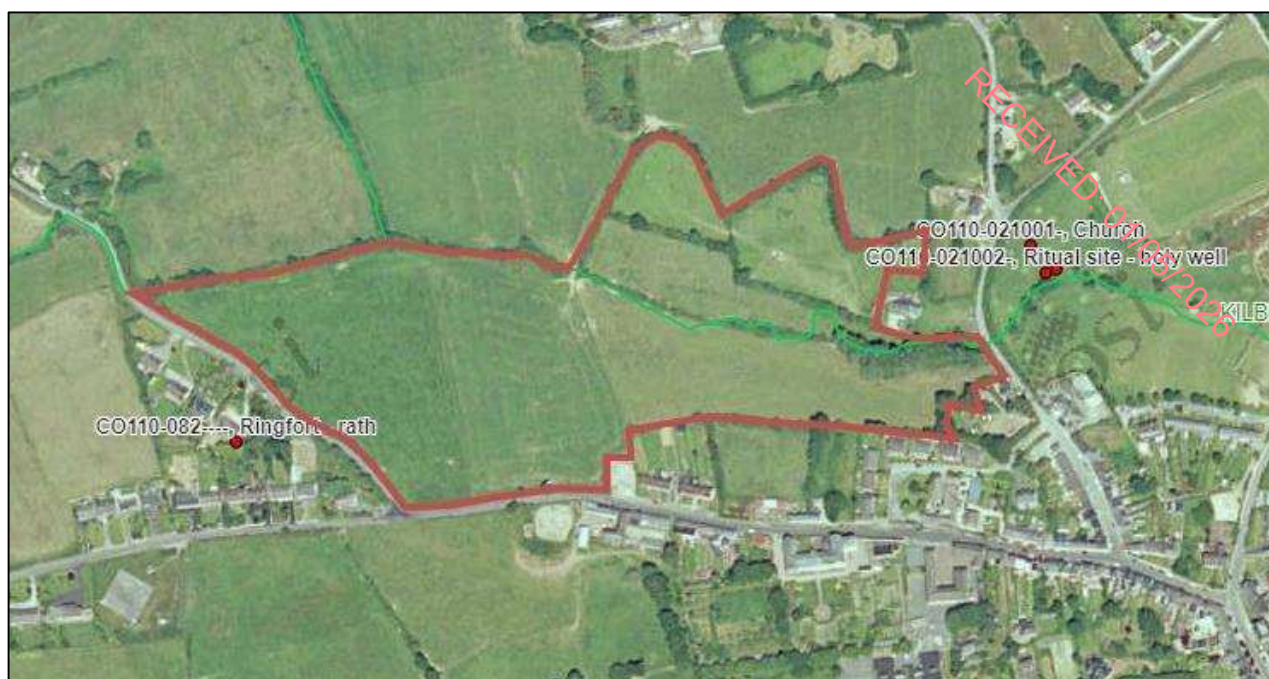


Figure 8: Proposed development site outlined in red on 1939 OS 6-inch map (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

- 2.7 Aerial images of the site from the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries show the area of the proposed development site as agricultural land under pasture, the layout largely unchanged from the earlier part of the century (Fig. 9). In the mid 2000s extensive ground works appear to have been undertaken on the eastern side of the proposed development site while the western side of the proposed development site (in Coolfadda) remained under pasture. The works appear to have ceased and the eastern area subsequently abandoned. Images from the mid 2010 (Fig. 3) show the eastern side of the proposed development site heavily overgrown with numerous trackways in between what appear to be large (soil) mounds and a compound along the southern edge along Convent Hill in Coolfadda. No further development works appear to have been undertaken since that time.





**Figure 9:** Proposed development site outlined in red on MapGenie 2001 to 2005 (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))

A review of the Excavations.ie database indicates that a number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development site, as follows:

| Excavations.ie Reference | Location          | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1986:087                 | Coolfadda         | No report issued                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2004:0282                | Kilbrogan         | Three test-trenches were excavated across the site at Kilbrogan, Bandon, in advance of development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed (Purcell, 2004).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2006:272                 | Kilbrogan Hill    | Test-trenching was carried out at a proposed development site located on Kilbrogan Hill on the north side of Bandon town. The proposed development will involve the construction of three houses in an enclosed yard located 25m inside the projected course of the eastern line of the 17th-century town wall. The consulted cartographic sources indicated that the development site was an open area to the rear of a tanner's yard in the 18th century and was enclosed by boundary walls during the 19th century. Five test-trenches were excavated across the areas to be impacted on by the proposed housing development. The stratigraphy consisted of a modern overburden layer sealing three distinct soil layers containing frequent inclusions of rubble, animal bones, 18th/19th-century pottery and ceramic drain fragments. The natural boulder clay was encountered between 0.95–1.25m below modern ground level and there were no archaeological features or finds uncovered during investigations at this site (Cummins, 2006). |
| 2007:216                 | Mill Place Bandon | Five test-trenches were excavated in advance of a proposed development at the site of a cornmill (CO110–019) on the north bank of the River Bandon in the north-west quadrant of Bandon town. The projected line of the 17th-century town wall runs immediately outside the western boundary of the development site. The town wall and its associated fortifications were partially demolished in 1689 and there are no surviving surface remains in the vicinity of the development site. There are historical references to milling at this site from the 17th century onwards and the site was                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|          |                     | <p>extensively redeveloped in the 19th/20th centuries. The mill buildings were burned down in 1968 and the site was subsequently cleared and used as a County Council depot until recent years. The western half of the development site was reclaimed from the river after the mill was burned down.</p> <p>The stratigraphy encountered in the reclaimed western half of the site consisted of thick deposits of backfilled rubble and soil containing frequent inclusions of modern materials, such as scrap metal, plastics, bottles and concrete slabs. These backfilled reclamation deposits directly overlay the natural glacial till, which was encountered at a depth of 2m below modern ground levels. There were no traces of the town wall encountered in this area of the site. Test-trenching in the area of the former mill building exposed the fragmented remains of concrete slab floors associated with modern upgrading works in the mill. The concrete floors sealed a 19th/20th-century rubble deposit and this overlay the natural glacial till, which was encountered at a depth of 1.4m below modern ground level. There were no archaeological features or finds recorded during test-trenching at this site Cummins 2007).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2016:621 | 8 North Main Street | <p>Test trenching was undertaken within a vacant riverside plot in order to comply with planning requirements for a new commercial building. This revealed a mixed layer of demolition rubble, with 19th- and 20th-century inclusions, above natural subsoil and nothing of archaeological significance was identified. This layer appeared to be a combination of rubble from a previous house on the site subsequently augmented with additional material introduced to raise the ground surface above flood levels. The proposed new building will sit on a 1m deep layer of new fill material to be introduced across the site as a flood prevention measure and the raft foundations will not extend down into existing ground surface (Cummins 2016).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2016:627 | Coolfadda Gully     | <p>A non-intrusive dive survey took place around Bandon Town Weir for a new fish pass to be constructed, and dredging of the River Bandon downstream for the Bandon Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>Feature 2 is dry stone walling on the river bank and is a revetment wall that also acts as a field boundary dating from the late 18th century. It is found on the north side of the river. Opposite the island (F5) the stone walling of Feature 2 continues until reaching the town wall. Feature 4, a stone wall, is on the south bank of the river extending 20m west of the town wall. The western side of the wall has been further reinforced with 20th-century concrete. It may have been a quay for boats upstream of the river.</p> <p>Feature 5 is the island on the north side of the river to the west of the weir. This is marked as a tower on Bernard Scalé's 1775 map of Bandon. It has dry-stone walling on its southern, northern and western sides. The walling is 1.8m high above the river bed and disappears into soil for 0.6m until the top of the island cliff. Apart from the middle of the island, where the town wall crosses the island north to south, there is no evidence of walling on top of the island but a deep soil has built up from the vegetation obscuring any features.</p> <p>The town wall on the north side of the island has protruding slabs under the waterline, which may relate to the steps marked beside a round tower on the Hardiman 1620 map. The survey revealed three 'steps' visible below the waterline. They are 500mm long and there is a gap of 400mm between each step. They protrude from the wall into the river for 300mm.</p> |

|          |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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|          |                  | <p>Feature 6, Bandon Weir, extends from the town wall on the southern side to a hydroelectric turbine near the north bank. The weir is made of vertically set stones averaging 400mm by 200mm in size. The southern side has the concrete fish pass with an iron grate on the upstream side. The remains of the salmon bar (F9) can clearly be seen immediately north of the concrete fish pass. This is referred to locally as the 'Queen Anne fish pass' dating it to the early 18th century. In profile the weir has vertical sides and a downstream sloping upper surface. Pebbles and gravel concrete repair on the upstream and downstream sides of the weir has led to some parts on the upstream side having a concrete ledge. An iron rectangular peg was recorded placed vertically on the north side of the weir near the turbine intake. It is 130mm by 30mm by 30mm and snapped off at the top. It is a construction peg associated with the weir and lies 53m from the fish pass. A second rectangular peg is placed 7m from the fish pass into the river bed on the upstream side of the weir. It is the same shape but has corroded. A hammer-forged gate latch was found on the riverbed upstream of the weir (0.5m west from the weir and 23m from the modern concrete fish pass). This may have come from the heavy iron gate that was supposed to have guarded the river entrance to the town.</p> <p>Feature 7 is the wall downstream of the weir and upstream of the early 20th-century footbridge. It is built on a bedrock island. On the eastern end of the wall, Feature 7 is thin shuttering concrete (similar to that in F4) with bands of mixing that are probably 20th century in date. Within the wall is an older wall made of limestone blocks. This wall section is 2.9m long and 0.7m wide. The old wall corresponds with the steps at MacSweeney Quay. The old wall was probably a quay for boats taking goods and materials to and from Bandon with the later concrete structure associated with 20th-century fishermen taking advantage of salmon gathering below the weir. The location of the older wall close to the steps of MacSweeney Quay and the tanyard, fish store and Scott's Factory, present nearby in the town in the 19th century, indicate that many industries would have been using water transport. 'The Stream' is shown flowing past this wall in the 19th-century OS maps indicating a deeper navigable channel was previously here.</p> |
| 2016:631 | Gully, Coolfadda | <p>The Office of Public Works is undertaking a major flood alleviation scheme in the west Cork town of Bandon – Bandon Flood Relief Scheme. The works for the scheme are two-fold, involving works 1) in the River Bandon from the centre of the historic town to 3.6km to the east and 2) on dry land in the historic town centre and its environs. Ministerial Consent C578 was granted for archaeological works within the Zone of Archaeological Potential in the town of Bandon, under excavation licence (E4481). Work is ongoing.</p> <p>Bandon town is situated on the north and south banks of the Bandon River in West Cork and developed during the early years of the 17th century. It was built on lands confiscated following the Desmond Rebellion of the late 16th century and was the most important town of the early Munster Plantation. A bridge very probably existed on the site of the town of Bandon given that its Irish name was Droichead Uí Mhallahamhna, also referred to as Mahon Bridge. The town developed on either side of the river, the area of the north side being known as Coolfadda. The two areas were joined by a bridge. The walls enclosing the town were built by the 1620s when the town was under the control of the Earl of Cork. By 1622 it was one of the largest plantation towns in Ireland. Archaeological work commenced on the scheme at the beginning of September, 2016 and comprised monitoring, testing and architectural recording.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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|          |           | <p>Bandos historic mill on the north bank of the river was one of its main features in the 17th century. Monitoring took place at Mill Place where an east-west revetment pile wall is to be built as part of the flood defence scheme. Engineers' trial pits were monitored here in September 2016 and revealed that the ground in this area, currently the recreation area of the Cluid building, was reclaimed from the river and built up with infill.</p> <p>A north-south revetment pile wall was also proposed to run north-south at Mill Place to the west of the Cluid building. This new wall was positioned very close to the west line of the 17th-century town wall and hand digging in this area was recommended by NMS. It was decided to test the trench in advance to locate any features related to the town wall. Testing revealed a stone wall abutting the town wall which was found to be part of a 19th-century revetment wall predating the reclamation of the area.</p> <p>On the south side of the river, opposite Mill Place is McSwiney Quay. Here, a portion of the quay wall was to be removed to accommodate a new footbridge as part of the scheme. An arched culvert was present on McSwiney Quay at the point of the abutment for the new footbridge and probably dated to the late 18th century. Survey and investigation of the McSwiney Quay culvert took place on 9 September. While it was not possible to dismantle and enter the culvert for safety reasons, the culvert was partly opened and examined from photographs taken of its interior. The face of the culvert and adjacent quay wall to the west was drawn at 1:20 scale. The culvert was subsequently opened and investigated from the road in November 2016 when it was located during monitoring during digging for new drainage pipes.</p> <p>Monitoring and metal detecting took place on Brady's lane and other areas of the scheme within the Zone of Archaeological potential. Though post-medieval pottery, glass and pipe stems came to light, there were no metal finds apart from debris. The archaeological work on the scheme continues (Carroll 2016).</p> |
| 2022:011 | Coolfadda | <p>A programme of archaeological testing consisting of the excavation of 14 linear trenches, was conducted on 2 and 3 February 2022. Some of these trenches were designed to target geophysical anomalies identified during a previous survey (licence 21R0075) carried out in May 2021. A number of these anomalies were located and investigated within the trenches, however, none of them has proven to be of an archaeological nature. Overall, the trenches contained evidence of certain disturbance caused by intense agricultural activity (furrows and drains), as well as stone quarrying. No features, or deposits of archaeological consequence were observed within the trenches during this programme (Hindli, 2022).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2025:354 | Coolfadda | <p>Archaeological testing at the site at Coolfadda was carried out on 22 and 23 September 2025. Twelve test trenches with a total length of 705m were excavated within the field. Natural subsoil and bedrock were found between 0.01m and 0.55m below surface level.</p> <p>Test trenches included those that were placed to target anomalies identified from a geophysical survey; these were found to relate to areas of root burning and drainage. Field boundaries that were depicted on the historic OS maps were identified and investigated; these were shallow due to the bedrock in the area, which was generally close to the surface. Agricultural furrows running parallel to these field boundaries were identified in most of the trenches; these had been identified from the geophysical survey.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |           | Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the testing programme (Looney, 2025).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2025:116 | Coolfadda | Archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal was undertaken at a site in Coolfadda, Bandon, County Cork; this involved the reduction of topsoil down to the upper levels of the underlying natural subsoil across the site. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed during the topsoil stripping works (Looney, 2023).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2025:355 | Coolfadda | Archaeological test trenching at the site at Coolfadda, Bandon, County Cork was carried out on 24 and 25 September 2025. The testing was undertaken following a programme of geophysical survey. Ten test trenches with a total length of 490m were excavated within the site. Natural subsoil and shale were found between 0.1m and 0.65m below the surface level. Test trenches included those that were placed to target anomalies identified from a geophysical survey that had been carried out in the north-western part of the site (25R0168), but none of those were found to represent archaeological features. A range of linear features was identified within the trenches, as had been seen from the geophysical survey; a sample of these were manually investigated and all were found to be of a similar profile consistent with agricultural furrows; material found within these linear features confirmed them to be modern. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the testing programme (Looney, 2025). |

**Table 2:** Details of archaeological investigations carried out within the vicinity of the Proposed Development site

### 3 Geophysical Survey

- 3.1 The western field of the proposed development site was subject to a geophysical survey carried out in 2025 under Licence No. 25R0152 (Dowling, 2025). The investigation comprised a high-resolution magnetometry survey (using a fluxgate magnetometer system) and was undertaken across an area of approximately 2.4 ha, of which approximately 2ha was suitable for survey. The overgrown and disturbed nature of the eastern portion of the site made it unsuitable for geophysical survey.
- 3.2 No anomalies of clear archaeological potential were identified. A number of 'pit-type' responses were noted which may represent small, discrete archaeological features, such as pits, deposits or buried modern debris and plough soil accumulations. Former field boundaries and evidence of different phases of tillage cultivation was apparent (*ibid.*). The survey results are shown on Fig. 10 and summarised in Table 3 below.

| <b>Area</b>                                                              | Coolfadda                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>ITM (centroid)</b>                                                    | 548220, 555650                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <b>Area surveyed</b>                                                     | c.2 ha                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <b>Figure Numbers</b>                                                    | 6 & 7                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <b>Form/nature of anomaly</b>                                            | <b>Possible sources(s) of anomaly</b> | <b>Interpretative discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| Several 'pit-type' responses                                             | Possible archaeology/modern/natural   | Possible small pits/deposits. Archaeological interpretation is tentative. Modern/natural origin for many responses in this group is conceivable. Some responses may reflect buried modern debris, while others might represent spreads of magnetised (plough)soils. |  |
| Network of positive–negative–positive linears                            | Agricultural                          | Relict field boundaries. Recorded on first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1841–42; published 1845).                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| Several slender positive linears and a positive–negative–positive linear | Possible agricultural                 | Probable relict field boundaries. Not depicted on cartographic sources but many examples appear to connect to historically-attested land divisions.                                                                                                                 |  |
| Slender positive linear                                                  | Possible agricultural                 | Appears to correspond to land division marked on first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1838; published 1841).                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Multiple, closely spaced, parallel, positive–negative linears            | Agricultural                          | Former cultivation. Various orientations, some overlapping.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| Multiple 'ferrous-type' responses                                        | Modern                                | Ferrous debris and other weakly magnetised material.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Areas of magnetic disturbance                                            | Modern                                | Disturbance from adjacent field boundaries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |

**Table 3:** Geophysical survey results across western field (Source: Dowling, 2025)



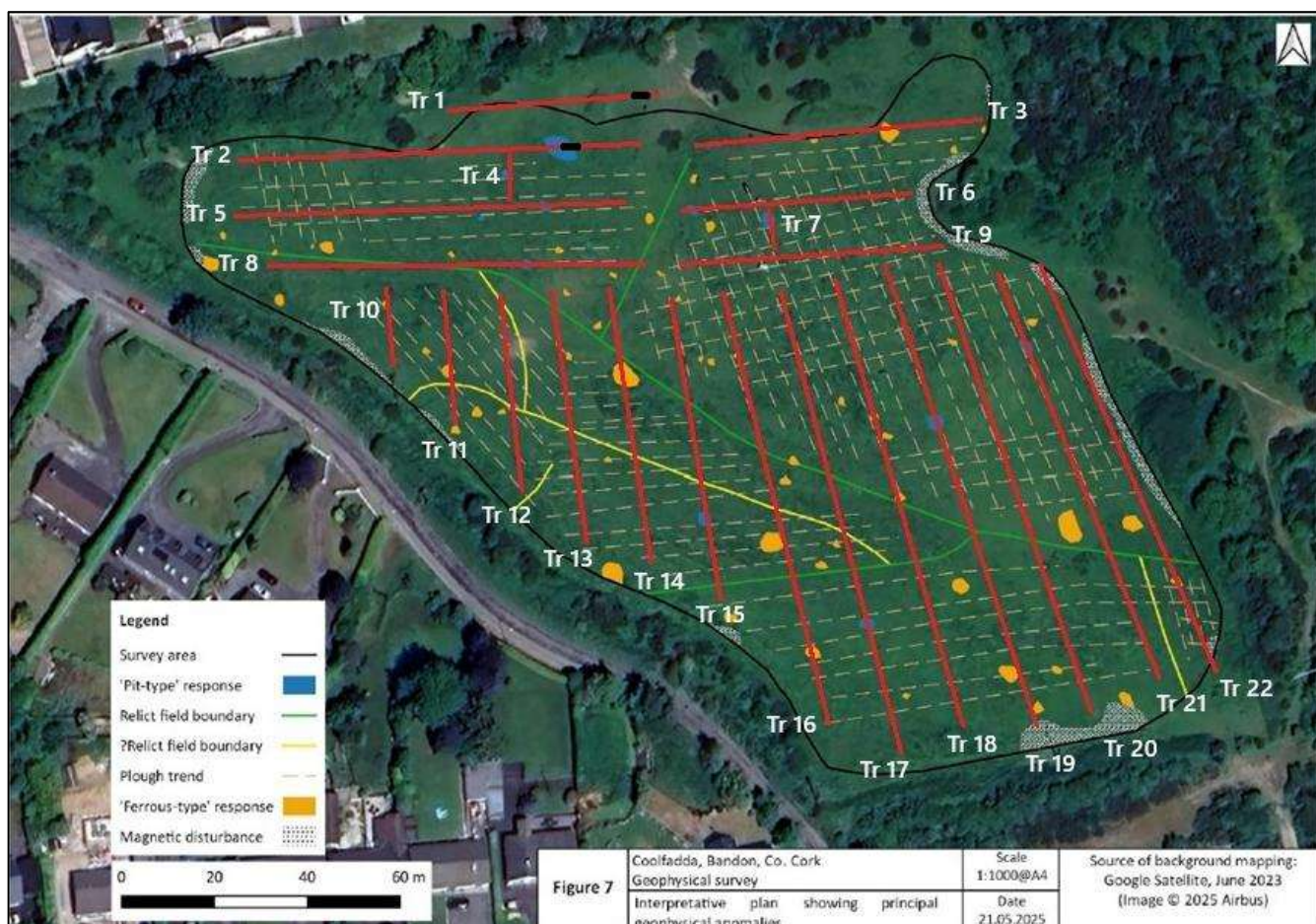


**Figure 10:** Geophysical survey interpretation showing western field of the proposed development site  
(Source: Dowling, 2025)

## 4 Archaeological Testing

- 4.1 Archaeological testing was carried out on the western field of the proposed development site on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 (under licence 25E0836) in mixed but generally wet weather conditions. A total of 22 trenches were mechanically excavated across the field (Fig. 11). All trenches were 2.2m wide.
- 4.2 In Trenches 1 and 2, close to the stream at the northern end of the field, pockets of fulacht fia material were identified in two small areas at the eastern end of both trenches. The material was mixed grey brown, charcoal-rich clay with large amounts of broken burnt stone. It was identified in small pockets and backfilled into drains and it is likely to have been largely re-deposited either during relatively modern drainage works or when the course of the stream to the north was straightened, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The pockets of material identified in Trench 2 correspond with a pit-type response identified in the geophysical survey (Dowling, 2025).

No other archaeological features were identified in the trenches and no finds were located. A field boundary depicted on the 1842 OS 6-inch map and identified on the geophysical survey extending generally NW-SE across the field was exposed in several of the trenches as well as numerous furrows, also identified in the geophysical survey (generally 0.3-0.4m wide and up to 0.1m deep). Pockets of vegetation burning were also revealed. Some disturbance was apparent in the easternmost trench (Trench 22) which is probably associated with the largescale ground works at the eastern end of the site during the mid 2000s. The remainder of the field did not appear to have been impacted by these works.



**Figure 11:** Trenches 1-22 overlaid on geophysical survey interpretation map (Source: Dowling 2025). Areas of fulacht fia material indicated in black in Trenches 1 and 2



Topsoil was generally quite shallow (0.16 – 0.24m depth) and the underlying subsoil, across most of the field, was light orange brown, well-drained loamy clay with small consistent amounts of stone. The subsoil became more orange in colour as it descended. At the northern end of the field the ground dropped away towards the stream and the subsoil became much denser sticky, light grey marly clay. Water began to percolate into several of the trenches in this area once they were excavated. The findings from the trenches are outlined in Table 4 below.

| Trench No. | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 1   | 44m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.2m Topsoil<br>0.2 – 0.3 Sticky light grey marly clay subsoil, largely stone free, becoming creamy yellow stoney clay at the western end. Two small pockets of mixed fulacht fia material were exposed at a depth of 0.23m extending across a 4m area at the eastern end of the trench. An irregular spread of grey brown fulacht fia material 2.5m wide extended across the trench continuing into both the northern and southern trench edge, 1m to its west a linear spread of the same material 0.5m wide extended NS across the trench. This material appeared to be redeposited into a furrow or drain. The material in the larger spread was investigated by hand to a depth of 0.15m beyond which it continued. |
| Trench 2   | 85.7m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.16m Topsoil<br>0.16 – 0.33m Sticky light grey marly clay subsoil, largely stone free. An intermittent 5.5m wide spread of fulacht fiadh material was identified broadly corresponding with the location of a pit type response in the geophysical survey close to the eastern end of the trench. Four pockets of material were exposed all of which extended into the northern trench edge. The largest patch of dark grey black stoney charcoal rich clay was 1.8m wide. It was investigated by hand to a depth of 0.1m at which point water began to steadily rise. The other three pockets were mixed grey brown spreads of stoney charcoal rich clay which appeared to be re-deposited material.                 |
| Trench 3   | 59.5m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.21m Topsoil<br>0.21 – 0.47m Light grey brown mottled with orange heavy sticky clay subsoil with occasional stone. Water began percolating from the side of the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Trench 4   | 10.9m long, oriented NS, extending between Trenches 2 and 5<br>0 – 0.18m<br>0.18 – 0.3m Light orange-brown loamy clay with very occasional stone<br>0.3 – 0.4m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. At 3m from the northern end of the trench the subsoil changes to grey white brown sticky heavy clay, as the ground dropped away towards the stream. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Trench 5   | 47.9m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.2m<br>0.2 – 0.32m Light orange-brown loamy clay with very occasional stone<br>0.32 – 0.4m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone, bedrock exposed in patches at the western end of the trench. Both EW and NS furrows were exposed in the trench, these were generally 0.3-0.4m wide and up to 0.1m deep. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Trench 6   | 59.5m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.18m<br>0.18 – 0.28m Light orange-grey-brown loamy clay with occasional stone<br>0.28 – 0.4m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. Both EW and NS furrows were exposed in the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Trench 7   | 8m long, oriented NS, extending between Trenches 6 and 9<br>0 – 0.2m<br>0.2 – 0.31m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



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|           | 0.32 – 0.5m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Trench 8  | 78.7m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.24m<br>0.24 – 0.4m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone. A 2m wide band of grey white dense silty clay corresponded with the former field boundary meandered along the trench. When investigated elsewhere this was between 0.2 and 0.5m deep and was a silty backfilled land drain, aligned on the former field boundary. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Trench 9  | 61m long, oriented EW<br>0 – 0.2m<br>0.2 – 0.3m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone<br>0.3 – 0.4m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted. Furrows running both NS and EW were visible in the trench.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Trench 10 | 17.5m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.24m Topsoil<br>0.24 – 0.41m Light orange-brown loamy clay with very occasional stone. NW-SE furrows were visible in the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Trench 11 | 30.1m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.23m Topsoil<br>0.23 – 0.45m Light orange-brown loamy clay with very occasional stone. NW-SE furrows were visible extending across the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Trench 12 | 41.5m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.19m Topsoil<br>0.19 – 0.37m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.37 – 0.47m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. NW-SE furrows were visible extending across the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Trench 13 | 54m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.21m Topsoil<br>0.21 – 0.33m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.33 – 0.43m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across most of the trench with NW-SE furrows apparent at the northern end. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Trench 14 | 58m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.21m Topsoil<br>0.21 – 0.35m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.35 – 0.45m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the trench. A band of grey white silty clay approximately 2.5m wide was visible corresponding with the former field boundary shown on the 1842 OS map and in the geophysical survey. When investigated this was between 0.2 and 0.5m deep and appeared to be a backfilled/silted up land drain, aligned on the former the field boundary. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified. |
| Trench 15 | 65m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.18m Topsoil<br>0.18 – 0.36m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.36 – 0.46m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the trench at the south end in particular. The band of grey white silty clay approximately 2.5m wide corresponding with the former field boundary was again visible. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Trench 16 | 94m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.23m Topsoil<br>0.23 – 0.37m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | 0.37 – 0.5m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. The band of grey white silty clay approximately 2.5m wide corresponding with the former field boundary was visible after which the furrows were predominantly oriented NS. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Trench 17 | 103m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.24m Topsoil<br>0.24 – 0.44m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.44 – 0.52m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. Outcropping bedrock was exposed near the southern end of the trench. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. The band of grey white silty clay corresponding with the former field boundary was visible after which the furrows were predominantly oriented NS. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                      |
| Trench 18 | 100.5m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.23m Topsoil<br>0.23 – 0.42m Light orange-brown loamy clay with moderate stone.<br>0.42 – 0.5m Light orange loamy clay with moderate stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Trench 19 | 104.5m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.2m Topsoil<br>0.2 – 0.38m Light orange-brown loamy clay with moderate stone.<br>0.38 – 0.48m Light orange loamy clay with moderate stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. Flat stone slabs were visible beside the grey white clay band corresponding with the location of the former field boundary suggesting a wall may have run along parts of the field boundary. To the north of the boundary the furrows were generally aligned NS. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified. |
| Trench 20 | 103m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.2m Topsoil<br>0.2 – 0.37m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.37 – 0.5m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. The band of grey white silty clay corresponding with the former field boundary was visible after which the furrows were oriented both EW and NS. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                |
| Trench 21 | 95m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.2m Topsoil<br>0.2 – 0.5m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the southern end of the trench. The band of grey white silty clay corresponding with the former field boundary was visible after which the furrows were oriented both EW and NS. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Trench 22 | 96m long and oriented NS<br>0 – 0.19m Topsoil<br>0.19 – 0.42m Light orange-brown loamy clay with occasional stone.<br>0.42 – 0.5m Light orange loamy clay with occasional stone. EW furrows were visible extending across the trench. Some modern disturbance was apparent in the trench including a machine cut pit and a drain. Mounds of material to the east of the trench suggested the area was previously disturbed. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.                                                                                              |

**Table 4:** Details of test trenches excavated across the proposed development site





**Plates 1 & 2:** Trench 1, looking W



Trench 1, looking N



**Plates 3 & 4:** Trench 2, looking W



Trench 2, looking N



**Plates 5 & 6:** Trench 3, looking W



Trench 4, looking N





**Plates 7 & 8:** Trench 5, looking W



**Trench 6, looking E**



**Plates 9 & 10:** Trench 7, looking N



**Trench 8, looking W**



**Plates 11 & 12:** Trench 9, looking E



**Trench 10, looking S**





**Plate 13 & 14:** Trench 11, looking N



Trench 12, looking N



**Plates 15 & 16:** Trench 13, looking S



Trench 14, looking S



**Plates 17 & 18:** Trench 15, looking S



Trench 16, looking S

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**Plates 19 & 20:** Trench 17, looking N



Trench 18, looking N

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**Plates 21 & 22:** Trench 18, looking S



Trench 19, looking N



**Plates 23 & 24:** Trench 20, looking S



Trench 21, looking S



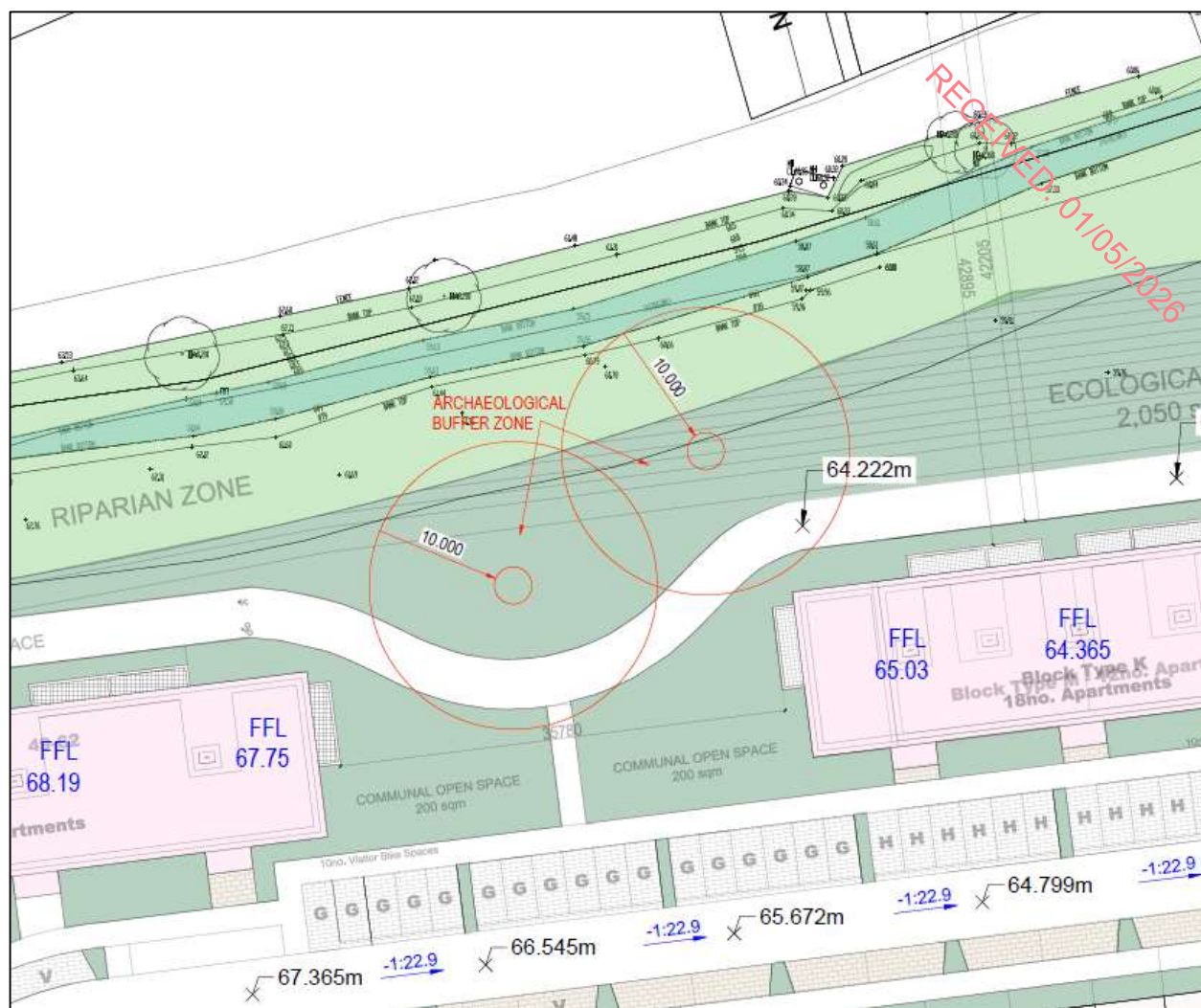


**Plate 25:** Trench 22, looking S

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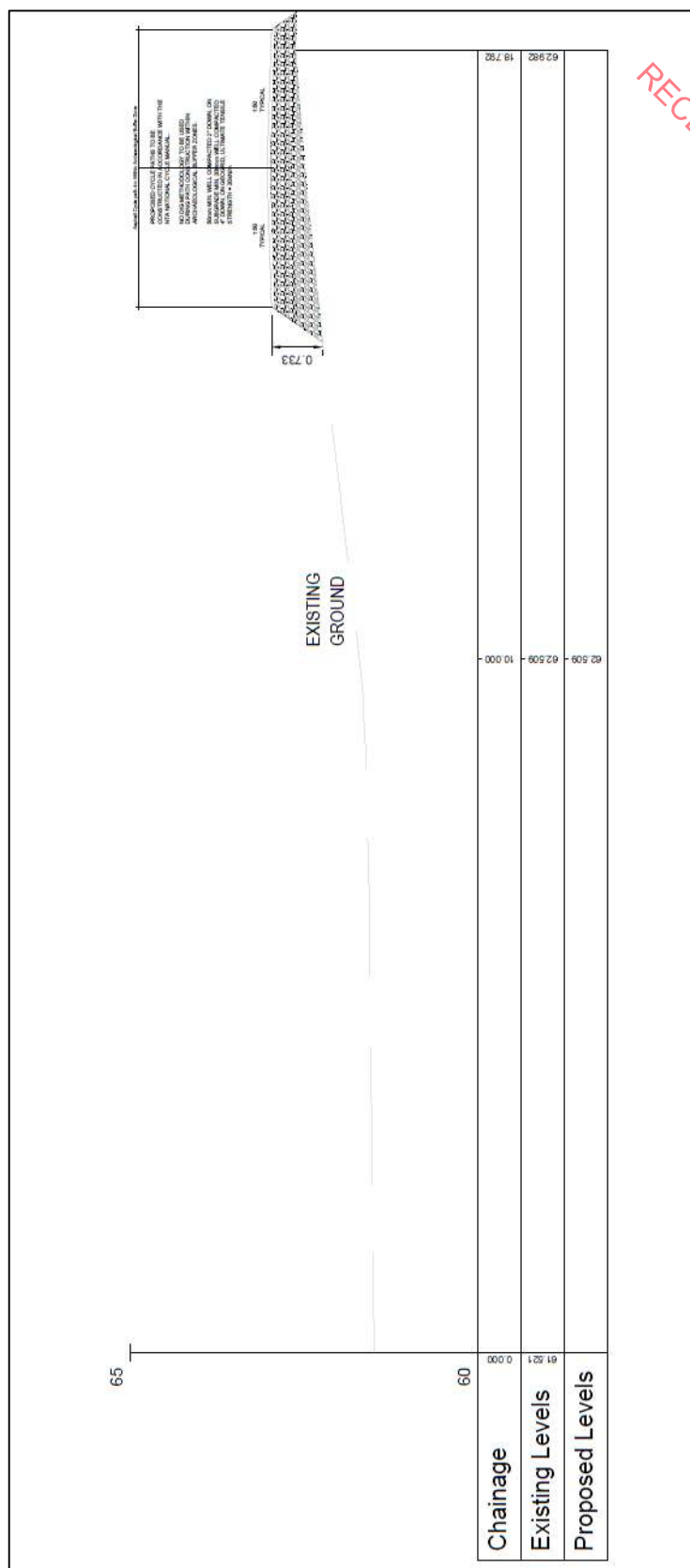
## 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 5.1 The proposed development site is located in the townlands of Coolfadda and Kilbrogan, on the northern side of Convent Hill at the northwestern edge of Bandon.
- 5.2 There are no recorded archaeological sites on the proposed development site. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is the site of a ringfort (CO110-082) approximately 50m to the west in Coolfadda. There are 39 recorded archaeological sites within approximately 1km of the proposed development site dating from as early as the Bronze Age, however the majority relate to the historic walled town of Bandon which was founded in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and so date from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- 5.3 It is proposed to construct an LRD and all ancillary site development works on the site.
- 5.4 The larger part of the proposed development site, to the east, was substantially disturbed approximately 15 years ago and subsequently abandoned, becoming heavily overgrown. Its current heavily overgrown condition precluded archaeological investigation in the absence of largescale vegetation clearance. It is proposed to carry out archaeological monitoring on this portion of the site during construction. The monitoring will be carried out at the discretion of the monitoring archaeologist and if it is determined that the area has been subject to extensive ground reduction removing any potential for the presence of archaeological deposits intermittent monitoring will cease.
- 5.5 A pre-planning geophysical survey of the western field identified no anomalies of clear archaeological significance, a number of isolated pit-type responses were recorded, which may be attributable to archaeological, agricultural, or geological activity (Dowling 2025).
- 5.6 Archaeological testing was subsequently carried out and twenty-two trenches were excavated across the proposed development site and targeting the geophysical anomalies. Fulacht fia type material was identified in two small areas at the eastern end of Trenches 1 and 2, close to the stream at the northern end of the field. The material was mixed grey brown, charcoal rich clay with large quantities of broken burnt stone. It was identified in small pockets and backfilled into drains and it is likely to have been re-deposited either during relatively modern drainage works or when the course of the stream to the north was straightened, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. No other features of archaeological significance and no finds of archaeological significance were identified.
- It is proposed to retain the spreads of fulacht fia material *in situ* within a buffer zone. The proposed buffer zone will extend 10m from the edge of the identified material (Fig. 12). No ground reduction will be undertaken within the buffer zone.
- The line of a proposed 4m wide surfaced walkway extends into the area of the 10m buffer zone. Its route extends through the proposed development following the southern bank of the stream. It is proposed to curve the walkway to the south, away from the stream, thus avoiding traversing the fulact fia material; it will instead traverse the southern portion of the buffer zone. Where it traverses the buffer zone it is proposed to construct the walkway on the existing ground surface on a “no-dig” basis. The walkway will be constructed on a bed of material between 0.3m and 0.733m deep to accommodate the falling ground to the north (towards the stream bank) (Figs. 13A and 13B). The walkway material will sit on a geogrid placed on the existing ground surface and no ground reduction will be required.
- 5.7 During the course of construction the buffer zone will be securely fenced with a post and wire fence and clearly marked as an archaeological exclusion zone. The fence will be temporarily removed during the construction of the walkway which will be archaeologically monitored and replaced if construction work is ongoing at the conclusion of the works.
- 5.8 All recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the planning authority.

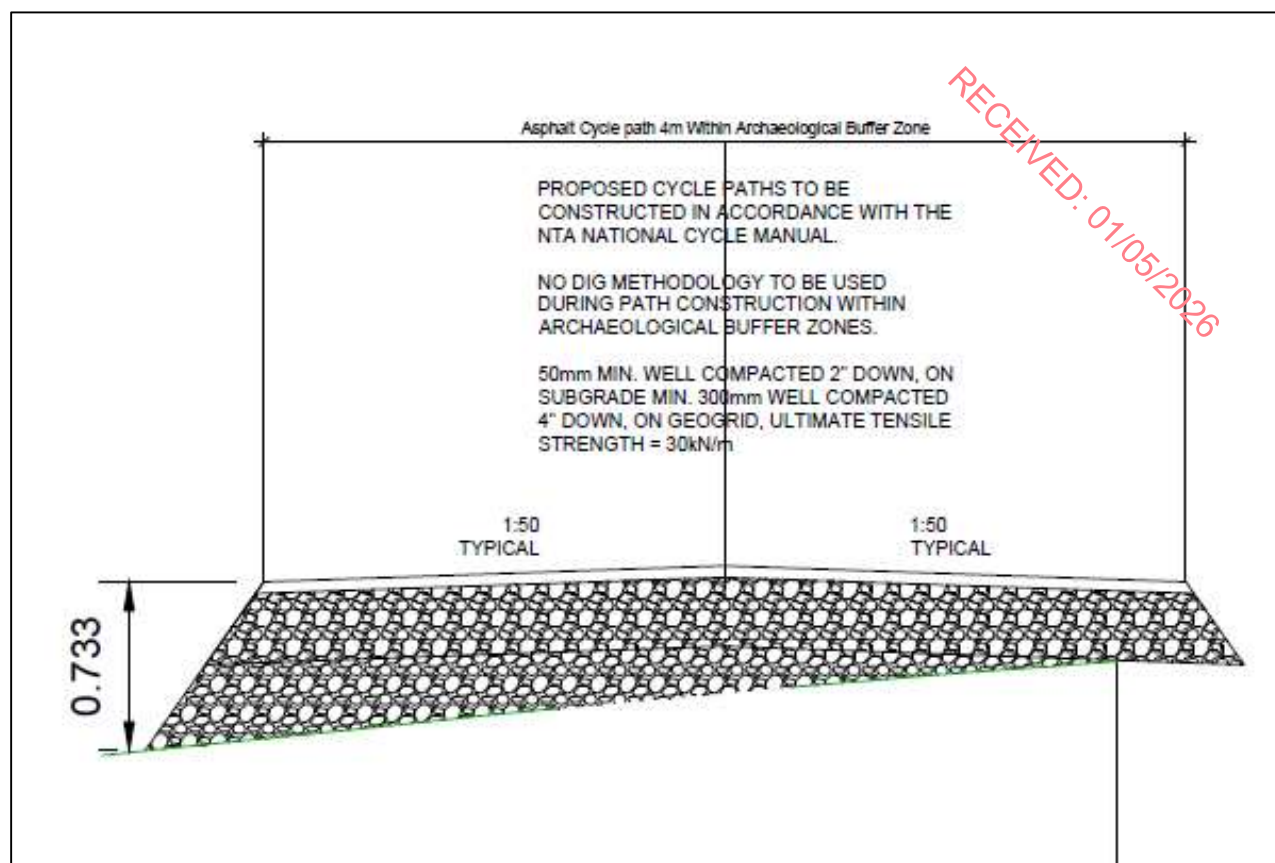


**Figure 12:** Archaeological buffer zone showing 10m radius buffer zone from edge of fulacht fia material and route of no dig walkway across its southern side (Source: MMOS)





**Figure 13A:** Section across walkway showing existing fall of ground (Source: MMOS)



**Figure 13B:** Details of no dig walkway, green line indicates the existing ground surface (Source: MMOS)

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