

14.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

14.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of an archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment on the site of a proposed development at Little Island Industrial Estate, Co. Cork (ITM 574221, 572099; Figures 1-2). The site is located in the townland of Wallingstown, in the Barony of Barrymore, in the Civil Parish of Little Island. This assessment was carried out at the request of the client to accompany a planning application for the proposed development.

The site consists of an extensive factory complex belonging to Cara Partners Ltd. The existing industrial site covers a substantial area located c. 210 metres south of the N25 motorway and c. 30 metres east of the R623. Lough Mahon is c. 600 metres to the south of the site.

The Historic Environment Viewer lists (incorrectly) three monuments within the proposed development site, a horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----), a graveyard (RMP No. CO075-020001-) and church (RMP No. CO075-020002-). However, one of these (horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----) is incorrectly recorded as being within the site. It is clearly illustrated on the original Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) hard-copy series of maps, which show it located to the southeast of the development site. The church is also a Protected Structure (RPS No. 00495) as listed in the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. No structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) are located within the site boundary. The site was not previously subject to archaeological investigations.

14.1.1 Chapter Authors

Ian Russell (MA, MIAI)

Ian Russell has 25 years of experience in professional archaeology and has been a Senior Archaeologist with ACSU since March 2001. This includes extensive experience in the production of archaeological desk-based assessments, site inspections and built heritage surveys.

He has acted as Senior Archaeologist and Excavation Director on some of the largest infrastructural schemes undertaken in Ireland, including the M1 Northern Motorway Project Contract 7 (2001–2002), the N25 Waterford Bypass (2003–2007), sections of the M3 Motorway Excavations (2010) and the N5 Westport to Turlough road scheme (2015–2019). Many of these schemes have included built heritage surveys (see below). He also directed assessments, including architectural heritage assessments, on bridges as part of the Kerry, Cork and Clare Bridge Rehabilitation Project (2018) and Blackwater Bridge Project (2018).

Ian also directed the excavations undertaken at the internationally significant Viking-Age settlement site of Woodstown, Co. Waterford, including an extensive programme of metal detecting. He has also published extensively on that work, including as a book: *Woodstown: a Viking-age settlement in Co. Waterford* (Fourcourts Press, 2014).

Ian has a broad range of practical experience and skills, including in environmental impact assessments, visual impact assessments, built heritage surveying, wade and metal detection surveys, UAV (drone) photography surveys, photogrammetry, 3D-modelling of excavations and

buildings, test trenching, monitoring, excavation on urban and rural sites, post-excavation work and report writing.

14.2 Assessment Methodology

14.2.1 Desk Study

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

- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- National Monuments
- Archaeological sites included in the National Monuments Service Historic Environment Viewer
- Sites reported in the Excavations Database
- Any previously unrecorded sites
- A list of protected monuments
- A list of architectural heritage structures (NIAH)
- A list of Protected Structures (*Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028*)
- Reports on archaeological assessments of the site carried out to date

14.2.2 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

A primary cartographic source and base-line data for the assessment was the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Cork. All known recorded archaeological monuments are indicated on 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and are listed in this record. The SMR and RMP paper archives are not a complete record of all monuments, however, as newly discovered sites may not appear in the lists or accompanying maps. Accordingly, in conjunction with consultation of the SMR and RMP, the digital database of recorded monuments (Historic Environment Viewer), which may be accessed through the National Monuments Service (NMS) website, was also consulted. This database of SMR records is updated daily.

The county SMR forms the basis for the statutory RMP (established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994). Accordingly, all sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004).

14.2.3 National Monuments

List of Monuments covered by Preservation Orders and List of National Monuments in the ownership/guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage are listed on the Department's website by county (<https://www.archaeology.ie/national-monuments/>).

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.

14.2.4 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Sites

Protected Structures are structures that the planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. These are protected under Part IV of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 and listed in the Record of Protected Structures in the *Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028*.

Heritage Structures are also recorded by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), a state initiative established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The list forms the basis for the recommendations for inclusion to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

14.2.5 The Topographical Files of the 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 since the 1920s. While many of these find spots are not recorded monuments, they can provide an indication of past activity in a townland and consequently add to our understanding of the archaeological potential of an area.

14.2.6 Cartographic Sources and Aerial Imagery

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), John Speed's Map of Munster (1610), the Down Survey Map (1656-1658), the Ordnance Survey (OS) of Ireland (now Tailte Éireann) 6-inch (1845) and 25-inch (1900) maps (Figures 4–10). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are often marked on such maps and they can provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above ground remains.

Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), (<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698>) shows the area of Cork Harbour in rough detail as it was known in the 16th century. Little Island is depicted quite simply with a single unnamed castle or tower house upon it. The tower house may represent Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) as it was in place by the 16th century, owned by the Fitzgerald family (Coleman, 1915, 62). The neighbouring Great Island is also depicted with a castle labelled, 'Belville.' Referring to Belvelly Castle (CO075-030----). The John Speed's Map of Munster (1610) (<https://www.swilson.info/maps/munster1610-speed.php>) depicts Little Island as Lord Barry Island, named after the de Barry family who held large amounts of land in east Cork.

The Down Survey map (1656-1658) shows 'Willingstowne' as having a church and a large manor house on 236 acres, 2 rods and 16 perches. The accompanying terrier describes William Sarsfield occupying the lands, which are arable, good pasture. Taylor and Skinners' map (1777) depict Little Island as an island surrounded by water. Two houses are illustrated; one is annotated 'Beury Esq', referring to the owner of Little Island House (Bury), and the other is annotated 'Forrest Esq'. The 1811 Grand Jury Map of County Cork again illustrates the island surrounded by water, and several houses are shown across the island, with a road and tree-lined partitions indicating formal gardens beside the estate house, within the proposed development site.

The 6-inch OS map (published 1845) depicts the former Little Island House c. 200 metres west of the church (CO075-02001-) where the current Production Building Unit Two of Cara Partners is located. The surrounding lands appear to be for pastureland. The church (CO075-02001-), Graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are depicted and noted as being in ruins by this point, a pond is indicated c. 20 metres north of the Graveyard. A road passes to the south of the castle, most likely to forerunner of the modern R623. Little Island is depicted as the most northerly of the islands in Cork harbour with its northern shore separated from the mainland by a narrow tidal channel crossed by three bridges.

The 25-inch OS map (published 1900) depicts the proposed area for development in a similar manner to the 6-inch map from half a century before. Little Island house, church (CO075-02001-), Graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are all depicted surrounded by pastureland. A series of small buildings are visible, c. 20 metres south of the castle ruins, on the southside of the modern R623. Little Island is no longer completely detached from the mainland as almost all of the channel to the north has been infilled and reclaimed, the Great Southern & Western railway line (now the Cork to Midleton and Cobh railway line) runs along this railway line.

A review of available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2018 from Tailte Éireann were assessed, along with Google Earth imagery dating between 2003 and 2025. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field, particularly during periods of drought, such as those experienced in the summer of 2018. While in built-up or urban areas, such as towns and cities, aerial images can help trace changes in the layouts of buildings and roads.

The site has been in use as an industrial estate since the aerial photographs in 1995 with little change to the layout of the buildings. The north-south aligned R623 linking Little Island to the Dunkettle Interchange was constructed along the western side of the site in 2021. The church, Graveyard and castle – tower house remain undeveloped and in grassland throughout the aerial imagery.

14.2.7 Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database

The Excavations Database is an annual account of all investigations carried out under an excavation licence. The database includes excavations undertaken from 1970 to the present. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this assessment, to establish if

any archaeological investigations under excavation licence had been carried out on or near to the proposed development area.

14.2.8 Non-Invasive Field survey

The purpose of the site visit was to assess whether the site contained any visible evidence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

14.2.9 Documentary research

The 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. Many of Ireland's geographical names are of Irish origin, while others 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. Toponyms can provide useful historical and cultural heritage data, such as information on administrative divisions, natural and archaeological features that may have disappeared, and the ownership or character and origins of a settlement.

The following archaeological 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:

- Archaeological monitoring (98E0089) of the Irotech Laboratories, c. 830 metres to the southeast. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery and a struck limestone flake were recovered during the investigation. Archaeological monitoring (01N0183) of a wastewater treatment plant in Carrigrennan, c. 2.5 kilometres southeast of the proposed development site, revealed two possible shell middens (CO075-024001- & CO075-095---), a section of levelled field boundary, and a polished stone axe, indicating prehistoric activity within the area of Little Island.
- Archaeological monitoring (03E0742) was carried out during conservation works of Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----), c. 80 metres southeast of the proposed development site. No material of archaeological interest was recovered during the investigation.
- During the planned 2003 extension of the Cara Partners factory complex, archaeological monitoring (03E1825) was carried out as a condition of the planning permission for a new Dry End Facility. The proposed development site lay within the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the church (CO075-02001-), graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----). The proposed development site was located to the southeast of the Cara Partners site, c. 150 metres north of the R623 and c. 60 metres north of the church remains. No evidence of any archaeological finds or features were noted.

- When permission was granted for the construction of the Wallingstown Castle House office buildings, c. 70 metres east of the proposed development site and c. 60 metres north of Wallingstown Castle, archaeological monitoring (16E0407) was carried out. No archaeological material was uncovered during monitoring of the groundworks.
- Archaeological monitoring (16E0421) took place on the former Mitsui Deman electrolytic manganese dioxide plant, as part of planned redevelopment in 2016, c. 130 metres south of the Cara Partners site. The plant was initially built in 1973 and underwent several phases of expansion until it closed in 2003. No archaeological material or finds were uncovered during the investigation.

14.2.10 Standards and Guidelines

This chapter's methodology is guided by a legislative framework that governs how aspects of archaeological, cultural and architectural heritage are protected. It has been prepared in compliance with all relevant EIAR legislation and guidance, including the recently published guidelines by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2022).

14.2.11 Effect Significance

The main purpose of this chapter is to identify, describe and present an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on archaeological remains (known and unknown if present). This chapter aims to present a precise, concise, accurate, and credible description of the likely and significant effects of archaeological and cultural heritage and offer mitigation measures. The effect may result from the construction and existence of the project (including any demolition works required).

14.3 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

14.3.1 General Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises various elements to be developed on a phased basis over a period of ten years. A proposed site layout drawing is presented in Drg. Ref. 5340-PLA-XXX-DR-DJF-AR-0010.

1. **Unit 1 Production Building** – Construction of a replacement, multi-storey Unit 1 Production building approx. 34m L x 23m W x 26m H (approx. 3,000m²).
2. **In Process Tank Farm Bund** – Modifications to the existing 'In Process Tank Farm' bund and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
3. **Laboratory Gas Bottle Store** – Construction of a new Laboratory Gas Bottle Store approx. 4m L x 2m W x 4m H and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
4. **Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser** – Provision of a new Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser, associated exhaust stack (approx. 10mAGL) and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
5. **Process Cooling** – Provision of 1no. process cooling tower (approx. 5mAGL) to be installed to provide additional cooling for manufacturing processes and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
6. **Combined Heat and Power Plant and Heat Recovery System** – addition of a new natural-gas fired containerised combined heat and power (CHP) plant (approx. 6 MW_{TH} Total Rated Thermal Input) and associated containerised waste heat boiler system with exhaust stack approx. 13mAGL and ancillary plant, kiosks and services related to same including pipe racks.
7. **Ethanol Storage Tank** – addition of a new ethanol storage tank (2.4m diameter x 7m H) in existing solvent tank farm bund and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
8. **Car Park** – extension to existing car park including associated lighting to provide a net increase of additional 67no. permanent car parking spaces.
9. **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Control and Blower Building** - Single storey building associated with WWTP expansion, approx. 11m L x 10m W x 4m H (approx. 90m²); and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
10. **WWTP Chemical storage tanks and bund** – new concrete base and bund (approx. 45m²) with tanks approx. 3.5m H and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
11. **WWTP Inlet works** – new screens, tanks up to approx. 9m H and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks

12. **WWTP Dissolved Air Flotation tank** – new tank approx. 5m L x 2m W x 4m H and ancillary plant and services related to same including pipe racks.
13. **Site Works** – All associated site services, site development works and landscaping to facilitate the proposed development.

14.3.2 Specific Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed project is within an existing industrial site covers a substantial area located c. 210 metres south of the N25 motorway and c. 30 metres east of the R623.

14.4 Receiving Environment

14.4.1 Introduction

Cultural Heritage is considered here to include all recorded monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments (i.e. those in the ownership/guardianship of the state), Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) sites, previously unrecorded sites, sites reported in the Excavations Database if not included in the RMP/SMR, find spots or sites listed in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, and finally sites identified during a site visit and through examination of cartographic sources and aerial imagery.

14.4.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The site is located in the townland of Wallingstown (*Baile an Bhailisigh*) in the Barony of Barrymore (*Barraigh Mhóra*), and the Civil Parish of Little Island (*An tOileán Beag*) (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/9305>). Little Island owes its name to its huge neighbour, Great Island, on which the cathedral town of Cobh looks out to the mouth of Cork Harbour. The earliest recorded name for Little Island is from a papal entry in 1302: Cellescoplappan. Also, at this time it was referred to as *De Insula* meaning 'of the island' in Latin. By 1489 it was Inysmacneyll; 1582 insula parva alias Inishvicneyl; and Little Island by 1614. The official modern Irish name for Little Island is *Lime Ratha* or *An tOileán Beag* (<https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/outdoors/arid-41040479.html>).

There are four Recorded Monuments listed within the townland of Wallingstown; all were formerly located within the demesne of Little Island House, which no longer exists (Figures 2-3). The former demesne lands now consist of an industrial estate. The monuments include a graveyard (CO075-020001-), church (CO075-020002-), castle – tower house (CO075-021----) and water mill – horizontal-wheeled (CO075-052----). The church appears to have a medieval core but underwent several modifications, including an additional 19th-century structure that contained a grave plot. According to Power, there is a reputed holy well known as "Betty's Well" within the townland but was not necessarily in close proximity to the church & Graveyard (Power, 1921, 185).

The Historic Environment Viewer lists (incorrectly) three monuments within the site, a horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----), a graveyard (RMP No. CO075-020001-) and church (RMP No. CO075-020002-) listed in the Historic Environment Viewer SMR register, however one of these (horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----), is incorrectly recorded as being within the site. It is clearly illustrated on the original Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) hard-copy series of maps as being located to the southeast of the development site. Investigations of these two water-mills dated the site to AD 630, and it was one of the earliest examples in Ireland at the time of excavation. The mechanism used was one of the most basic types, known as the under-shot water-wheel, in which the water strikes the wheel near its lowest point (Rynne, 2015).

14.4.3 Recorded Archaeological Monuments (RMP/SMR Sites)

The Historic Environment Viewer lists (incorrectly) three monuments within the proposed development site, a horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----), a graveyard (RMP No. CO075-020001-) and church (RMP No. CO075-020002-) listed in the Historic Environment Viewer SMR register (Figure 2), however one of these (horizontal water-mill (RMP No. CO075-052----), is incorrectly recorded as being within the site. It is clearly illustrated on the original Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) hard-copy series of maps (Figure 3) as being located to the southeast of the development site. Wallingstown church (CO075-02001-) and Graveyard (CO075-02002-) are located in a separately screened area within the southeast corner of the site and won't be impacted by the proposed development.

The location of water-mill (CO075-025----) appears to be incorrectly placed on the Historic Environment Viewer of the National Monuments Service. A single report, 16E0407 (Noonan & Hegarty, 2016, p. 5), incorrectly references the site as being on the grounds of the Cara Partners site, indicating that some confusion now surrounds the monuments' location. The earliest reference to the site is from a rescue excavation which took place in 1979, when a series of storage lagoons were being constructed on the Mitsui Deman plant (Rynne, 1992), located c. 300 metres south of the Cara Partners Dry End Facility (Lane, 2004, p.6.). The location of the site is recorded in the National Monuments Record of Monuments and Places, Map 75 (<https://www.archaeology.ie/app/uploads/2025/03/Archaeology-RMP-Cork-Map-vol-1-1998-0009.pdf>). The archaeological reports 98E0089 (McCarthy, 1998, P.2), 01N0183 (Lane, 2001, p.5.), 03E0742 (Sherlock, 2003, p.2.), 03E1825 (Lane, 2004, p.6.), a cultural heritage report written for application 07/12475 (Sutton, 2007, p.14.) and 16E0421 (Cummins, 2016, p5.) all reference the location of the former water-mill as being on the site of the former Mitsui Deman factory site as described in the National Monuments Record of Monuments and Places. The authors of this report are satisfied that the water-mill (CO075-025----) is not located within the bounds of the Cara Partners factory site and is located south of the site.

The Church and Graveyard (RMP CO075-020001-2: Protected Structure RPS 495) are located within the red line boundary as part of the proposed development, however no works are proposed to be carried out within or in proximity to the church & graveyard which will be preserved intact and subject to a graveyard management and landscaping plan.

A Graveyard Management Plan was prepared by ACSU to support planning application 25/05753 which provides a clear outline of works that should be carried out and when it is necessary to seek professional advice in order to preserve the historic integrity of the site (see Appendix 14-D). This Graveyard Management Plan will continue to be implemented onsite.

Below (Table 14-1) is a list of the recorded monuments located on the site and within the environs of the site (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Table 14-1 Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site.

CO075-020001-	Graveyard	Wallingstown
In flat area of waste ground, inside industrial estate; formerly in grounds of Little Island house. L-shaped Graveyard (21 metres east-west; 12 metres north-south), to east and south of ruined		

parish church of Little Island (CO075-02002-), the north walls of church and Graveyard in line. Enclosed by low stone wall with concrete cap. Six rows of inscribed headstones and many rows of low uninscribed gravemarkers. Area of burial extends inside church and into annexe at west gable. Many 18th century inscriptions, earliest noted dates to 1715. According to Coleman (1904-6e) known as 'St Lappan's Churchyard'.

CO075-020002-	Church	Wallingstown
Forming northwest corner of Graveyard (CO075-02001-), ruins of rectangular church (13.35 metres east-west; 8.5 metres north-south). West gable and north wall stand to full height but much of east and south walls reduced to c. 1.1 metre in height, much repaired. Inner wall face plastered and interior used for burials; eastern half divided between two 19th century plots. Doorway near west end of south wall much destroyed but lower jambs survive with deep chamfer on outer edge. Doorway opposite in north wall has brick surrounds and is late insertion. Lower courses of window in east wall with brick surrounds. Appears to be core of late medieval church much repaired at later date(s). Built against outside of west gable is much ruined and overgrown gabled structure (c. 3.5 metres east-west; c. 5 metres north-south), containing railed 19th century grave plot. Parish church of Little Island, in repair 1615 and 1639 (Brady 1863, vol. 1, 209), described in 1700 as 'built with stones and lime, in good repair; there is a pulpit and desks, but no seats; a tomb in the church, belonging to the Courthy's family; the church is about 40 feet long and 20 broad' (ibid); may have gone out of use when parish united to Cahirlag in 1769 (ibid, 210). Power (1923, 185) describes walls as 'standing to their original height....in the south side wall is the pointed doorway of cut stone'; he also describes pointed windows in south and east walls which had been 'modernised'.		
CO075-021----	Castle – Tower house	Wallingstown
In level area on Little Island, now part of industrial estate but formerly in demesne of Little Island House. Small rectangular tower (6.1 metres north-south; 7.6 metres east-west), now standing to 4 storeys. Reconstructed ground floor door near west end of north wall, now partially fallen; segmental vault over door passage; elliptical arch-stone, lying on ground, probably from door surround. Lintelled door, at 1st floor level, in centre of south wall. At 2nd floor level is another door, near east end of south wall, flanked by corbels on outside which must have supported fore-stairs. This doorway gives access straight through to 2nd floor chamber, and east to stairway which rises in east wall to central door into 3rd floor chamber. Ground floor lit by broken window in north wall, splayed internally; double-splayed window in west wall. First floor lit by similar windows in east and west wall; wide ope, broken externally, on north wall. Second floor lit by window in east wall, splayed from narrow flat-headed light; this floor covered by pointed, wicker-centered vault. North wall gone above vault; east, west and south walls reduced to form gables for recent roof, now gone; wide central ope in south 'gable' of recent appearance. Though known as 'Wallingstown Castle', no apparent direct link with Wallyns or Waleys (later Walsh) family; castle was held for a time in 16th century by Fitzgeralds, though part of Barrymore estate (Coleman 1915, 62). Nearby Little Island House now reduced to mound of rubble; described as 'large late eighteenth-century house sometimes attributed to Davis Duckart', residence of Bury family (Glin et al. 1988, 52).		

CO075-052----	Water mill - horizontal-wheeled	Wallingstown
On north side of Lough Mahon in inner reaches of Cork Harbour, on reclaimed land on Little Island. Site is in grounds of Mitsui Denman (Ireland) Ltd., Little Island. Timber remains of two tidal mills uncovered here c. 1978 during extension work to factory; one vertical-wheeled and one horizontal-wheeled mill, both dating c. 630 AD and thereby 'the earliest known example of its type in Europe or Asia (Rynne 1992, 63). Horizontal mill site consisted of wooden framing for inlet channel leading to side timbers and plank flooring for millhouse sub-structure (see reconstruction drawing Rynne 1992, 64, fig. 6). Two hollow-log penstocks found out of position but presumably associated with this mill; they are 'wholly unlike the normal type' being 'comparatively short (flume 1, 2.1 metres; flume 2, 2.03 metres), but their most striking feature was the height of their sides, some 81cm' (Rynne 1992, 60). Immediately to the south, remains of undershot vertical wheeled mill consist of wooden framing for headrace channel, partially wattle-floored, converging on two-piece wooden penstock (length 3.11 metres; width converging 1.3-0.8 metres) (Rynne 1998, app. 1, vol. 2).		

14.4.4 National Monuments and RPS

The site contains one Protected Structure listed in the *Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028*, as Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (RPS 495). This church and graveyard are in a separately fenced and screened area in the south-east corner of the site and will not be impacted either directly or indirectly through visual impact or any other aspect of the proposed development. There are no sites listed in the NIAH (Table 14-2) within the site boundary.

Table 14-2 List of RPS sites within the site and environs of the site.

RPS No.	NIAH No.	Name	NIAH Importance
00491	-	Wallingstown Tower House	Regional
Wallingstown Castle is a small rectangular, four-storey tower house, which stands on open ground to the south of the development site. Of unknown date, the castle is part of the late medieval building tradition of the both the native Irish and English alike in Ireland. Tradition holds that the name of Walling's comes from a development of the Anglo-Norman Waley's, DeWaley's or Walsh's; however it cannot be attributed to a particular medieval family. It is possible that the major property magnates in the region, the Barrymore's of Barryscourt Castle in Carrigtwohill, may have built the castle; as the castle known as 'Wallingstone' was part of a family rent dispute in the mid-16th century. In the late 17th century, the lands of Sarsfieldstown – Wallingstown, were granted to an Alexander Pigott and over time came into the holdings of the Pery family of Limerick; who subsequently leased it to the Bury family, who retained possession of the castle until the early 20th century.			

00495	-	Little Island Church (in ruins)	Regional
The ruin of the late medieval parish church of Little Island, and its surrounding Graveyard, is located in the southeast corner of the proposed development site but separately screened and fenced off, on the west side of Castle Road. This modest, rectangular church was in good repair in the mid-17th century, but may have gone out of use in 1769 when the parish was united with that of Cahirlag. The church is surrounded on the east and south by an L-shaped graveyard, which contains rows of 18th century inscribed headstones and low uninscribed gravemarkers. Castle Road that divides the development site from the church and the tower house was inserted in the later 20th century, when this part of Little Island was extensively developed for industrial use.			
00501	2090 7526	Little Island Lodge, Cork	Regional
Semi-detached four-bay single-storey house, built c. 1900, having gabled slightly projecting entrance porch to front (north) elevation. Hipped and pitched slate roof with red brick chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods. Pitched slate roof to porch with timber bargeboard. Roughcast rendered walls with red brick quoins. Painted brick walls to porch. Square-headed openings with red brick block-and-start surrounds, concrete sills and eight-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows. Square-headed door opening to porch with replacement timber panelled half-glazed door.			

14.4.5 Previously Unrecorded Sites

No above-ground previously unrecorded sites were noted within the proposed development area during the site walkover survey carried out. Nor were any new sites identified from an examination of cartographic sources or aerial imagery. However, a number of archaeological sites were identified within the environs of the site as a result of previous archaeological investigations. These are described in the section below.

14.4.6 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The site was not subject to archaeological investigations previously. However, a number of investigations took place within the environs of the site, including archaeological monitoring (98E0089) of the Irotech Laboratories, c. 830 metres to the southeast. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery and a struck limestone flake were recovered during the investigation. Archaeological monitoring (01N0183) of a waste-water treatment plant in Carrigrenan, c. 2.5 kilometres southeast of the proposed development site, revealed two possible shell middens (CO075-024001- & CO075-095----), a section of levelled field boundary, and a polished stone axe, indicating prehistoric activity within the area of Little Island. Archaeological monitoring (03E0742) was carried out during conservation works of Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----), c. 80 metres southeast of the proposed development site. No material of archaeological interest was recovered during the investigation.

During the planned 2003 extension of the Cara Partners factory complex, archaeological monitoring (03E1825) was carried out as a condition of the planning permission for a new Dry End Facility. The proposed development site lay within the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the church (CO075-02001-), graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----). The proposed development site was located to the southeast of the Cara Partners site, c. 150 metres north of the R623 and c. 60 metres north of the church remains. No evidence of any archaeological finds or features were noted.

When permission was granted for the construction of the Wallingstown Castle House office buildings, c. 70 metres east of the proposed development site and c. 60 metres north of Wallingstown Castle, archaeological monitoring (16E0407) was carried out. No archaeological material was uncovered during monitoring of the groundworks. Archaeological monitoring (16E0421) took place on the former Mitsui Deman electrolytic manganese dioxide plant, as part of planned redevelopment in 2016, c. 130 metres south of the Cara Partners site. The plant was initially built in 1973 and underwent several phases of expansion until it closed in 2003. No archaeological material or finds were uncovered during the investigation.

Listed below (Table 14-3) are the nearest previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the environs of the site (see Figure 2), which further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site and its surrounding townlands. The following information was taken from the *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* (www.excavations.ie) and associated reports were accessed through the National Monuments Service's (NMS) Virtual Reading Room.

Table 14-3 Previous archaeological investigations within the environs of the site.

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
1998:088 – Irotec Lab LTD, Little Island, Wallingstown, Cork	98E0089	Non-archaeological	Monitoring pre construction. Apart from the recovery of a single sherd of post-medieval ware and two struck lithics, nothing of archaeological significance was noted during groundwork disturbance at the site.
2003:352 - Wallingstown, Cork	03E1825	Medieval Church & Graveyard	Monitoring & Excavation Planning permission was granted for an extension to a factory complex at Wallingstown, Little Island, Cork. The proposed development site lies partially within the zone of archaeological potential for a church and Graveyard and Wallingstown Castle. Monitoring of groundworks

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
			was carried out in November 2003. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during monitoring.
2003:351 – Wallingstown, Cork	03E0742	Castle – tower house (CO075-021----)	Monitoring was carried out during conservation works at Wallingstown, Little Island, focusing on the removal of vegetation, topsoil and rubble from the upper surface of the principal vault of the structure. The depth of material excavated was generally 0.5m and the only feature of note was an inserted plinth along the western, southern and eastern walls. This feature was 0.37–0.45m wide, was generally 0.5m high and was built with stone and, occasionally, brick. It was considered to be a late insertion in the tower-house and was preserved during the conservation works. No finds or other features of archaeological interest were noted.
2016:184 – Wallingstown, Cork	16E0421	Non-archaeological	Test trenching was undertaken on the proposed site of a data centre within the grounds of the former Mitsui Denman Factory, Little Island, constructed in 1973. Testing confirmed that the ground levels within the property had been reduced down into the natural subsoil when the 1970s industrial complex was constructed. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

14.4.7 Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and Record of Protected Structures (RPS)

The site contains one Protected Structure listed in the *Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028*, as Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (RPS 495). This church and graveyard are in a separately fenced and screened area in the south-east corner of the site and won't be impacted either directly or indirectly through visual impact or any other aspect of the proposed development. The site is not subject to an Architectural Conservation Area plan.

14.4.8 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

There are no sites listed in the NIAH within the site boundary.

14.4.9 Cartographic Sources and Aerial Imagery

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), John Speed's Map of Munster (1610), the Down Survey Map (1656-1658), the Ordnance Survey (OS) of Ireland (now Tailte Éireann) 6-inch (1845) and 25-inch (1900) maps. Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are often marked on such maps and they can provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above ground remains.

Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), (<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698>) shows the area of Cork Harbour in rough detail as it was known in the 16th century. Little Island is depicted quite simply with a single unnamed castle or tower house upon it. The tower house may represent Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) as it was in place by the 16th century, owned by the Fitzgerald family (Coleman, 1915, 62). The neighbouring Great Island is also depicted with a castle labelled, 'Belville.' Referring to Belvelly Castle (CO075-030----). The John Speed's Map of Munster (1610) (<https://www.swilson.info/maps/munster1610-speed.php>) depicts Little Island as Lord Barry Island, named after the de Barry family who held large amounts of land in east Cork. The Down Survey map (1656-1658) shows 'Willingstowne' as having a church and a large manor house on 236 acres, 2 rods and 16 perches. The accompanying terrier describes William Sarsfield occupying the lands, which are arable, good pasture. Taylor and Skinners' map (1777) depict Little Island as an island surrounded by water. Two houses are illustrated; one is annotated 'Beury Esq', referring to the owner of Little Island House (Bury), and the other is annotated 'Forrest Esq'. The 1811 Grand Jury Map of County Cork again illustrates the island surrounded by water, and several houses are shown across the island, with a road and tree-lined partitions indicating formal gardens beside the estate house, within the proposed development site.

The 6-inch OS map (published 1845) depicts the former Little Island House c. 200 metres west of the church (CO075-02001-) where the current Production Building Unit Two of Cara Partners is located. The surrounding lands appear to be for pastureland. The church (CO075-02001-), Graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are depicted and noted as being in ruins by this point, a pond is indicated c. 20 metres north of the Graveyard. A road passes to the south of the castle, most likely to forerunner of the modern R623. Little Island is depicted as the most northerly of the islands in Cork harbour with its northern shore separated from the mainland by a narrow tidal channel crossed by three bridges.

The 25-inch OS map (published 1900) depicts the proposed area for development in a similar manner to the 6-inch map from half a century before. Little Island house, church (CO075-02001-), Graveyard (CO075-02002-) and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are all depicted surrounded by pastureland. A series of small buildings are visible, c. 20 metres south of the castle ruins, on the southside of the modern R623. Little Island is no longer completely detached from the mainland as almost all of the channel to the north has been infilled and reclaimed, the Great Southern & Western railway line (now the Cork to Midleton and Cobh railway line) runs along this railway line.

A review of available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2018 from Tailte Éireann were assessed, along with Google Earth imagery dating between 2003 and 2025. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field, particularly during periods of drought, such as those experienced in the summer of 2018. While in built-up or urban areas, such as towns and cities, aerial images can help trace changes in the layouts of buildings and roads.

The site has been in use as an industrial estate since the aerial photographs in 1995 with little change to the layout of the buildings. The north-south aligned R623 linking Little Island to the Dunkettle Interchange was constructed along the western side of the site in 2021. The church, Graveyard and castle – tower house remain undeveloped and in grassland throughout the aerial imagery.

14.4.10 Topographical Files

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland list all 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 other physical remains or documentary references. Following inspection of the files it was noted that no finds are recorded for the townland or immediate environs.

14.4.11 Vernacular Heritage

There is no vernacular heritage on site.

14.4.12 Field Inspection

A site inspection was carried out on the 23rd of July by Ian Russell of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU) Ltd (Plates 1–13). This was carried out in accordance with the *IAI Code of Professional Conduct* (Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, 2006). The site consisted of a working industrial plant containing a large number of upstanding industrial buildings, storage tanks, hard standings etc.

14.5 Potential Effects

14.5.1 Archaeological Heritage

Wallingstown church (CO075-02001-) and Graveyard (CO075-02002-) are located in a separately screened area within the southeast corner of the site and won't be impacted by the proposed development.

14.5.2 Architectural and Cultural Heritage

There will be no effects on architectural heritage as no sites listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), or vernacular structures, are located within the proposed development site. The site contains one Protected Structure listed in the *Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028*, as Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (RPS 495). This church and graveyard are in a separately fenced and screened area in the south-east corner of the site and won't be impacted either directly or indirectly

14.5.3 Indirect Effects

Indirect effects are those whereby the proposed development may have a negative (or positive) effect on the wider archaeological landscape or surrounding architectural heritage. Indirect effects may include a visual impact on the surrounding archaeological landscape.

The introduction of the proposed development to the area will not result in a change to the general setting of any of the monuments or protected structures. Furthermore, the site is already developed. The proposed development will therefore have no indirect effects, either temporary or permanent, on the wider cultural heritage of the area.

14.6 Mitigation Measures

14.6.1.1 Archaeological Heritage

The predicted effects on the known archaeological heritage are regarded as being none. No effects on the recorded archaeological resource (SMRs/RMPs) were identified, and no indirect or visual effects on the nearest recorded monument outside the proposed development site boundary was noted.

Some ground impacts will be caused during works associated with the construction of the proposed development. Though the anticipated archaeological potential would be considered low given the already extensive impacts from existing infrastructure, archaeological monitoring should be considered in any grant of planning permission for the proposed development.

The following mitigation measures will be carried out subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and further mitigation may be sought by the NMS.

- Monitoring of groundworks will be carried out to establish whether previously unknown archaeological features or deposits are present. If features of archaeological significance are exposed, then further mitigation measures will be implemented following consultation with the National Monuments Service. This will be carried out by experienced, licence-eligible archaeologists working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Adequate time and resources will be provided by the developer for the resolution of any archaeology identified within the development site and which will be directly impacted by groundworks (if applicable). Time and resources will also be allowed for any post-excavation work and specialist analysis necessary following any archaeological excavation that takes place.
- A report is required to be compiled on completion of any archaeological excavation and will be submitted to the relevant authorities.

14.6.1.2 Architectural and Cultural Heritage

The predicted effects on the known architectural and cultural heritage are regarded as being none. No effects on architectural and cultural heritage were identified, and no indirect or visual effects outside the proposed development site boundary was noted.

14.7 Cumulative Impacts

There are no cumulative effects on the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage resource of the area as a result of the proposed development.

14.8 Residual Impacts

Though, the anticipated archaeological potential would be considered low given the already extensive impacts from existing infrastructure, archaeological monitoring should be considered in any grant of planning permission for the proposed development.

The residual effects are likely to be neutral and none to imperceptible if the recommended mitigation measures are implemented.

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Appendix 14-A

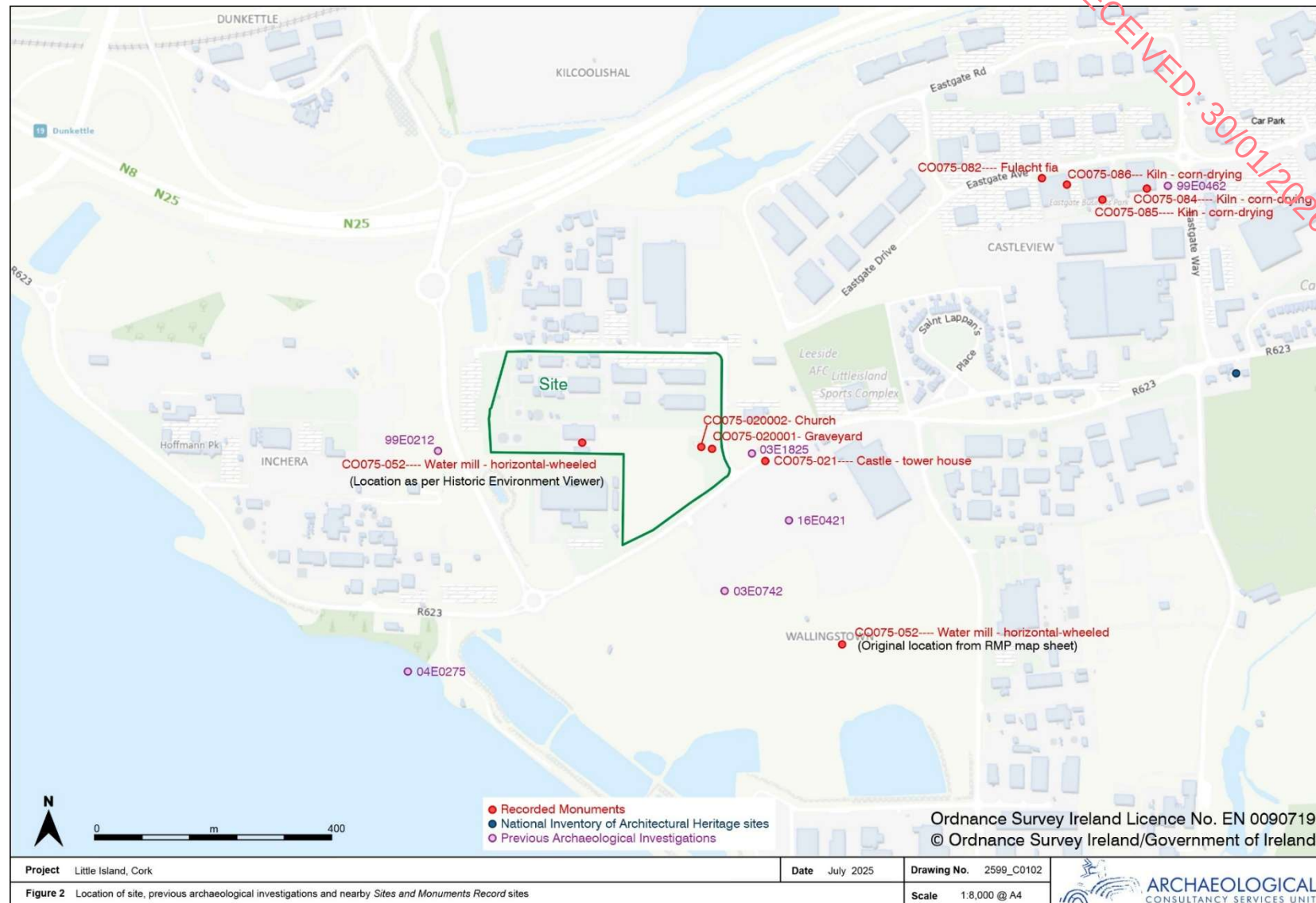
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage – Figures

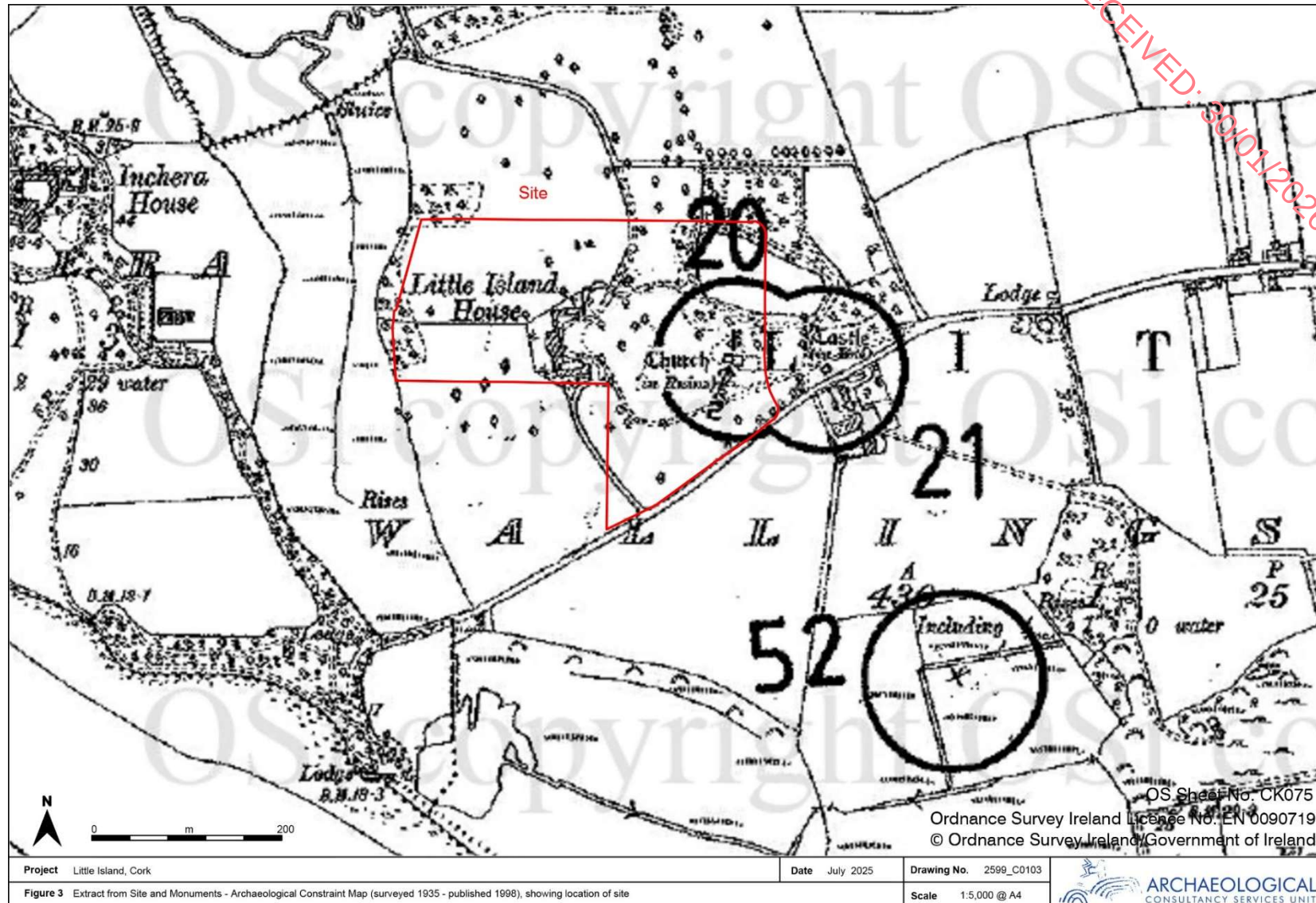
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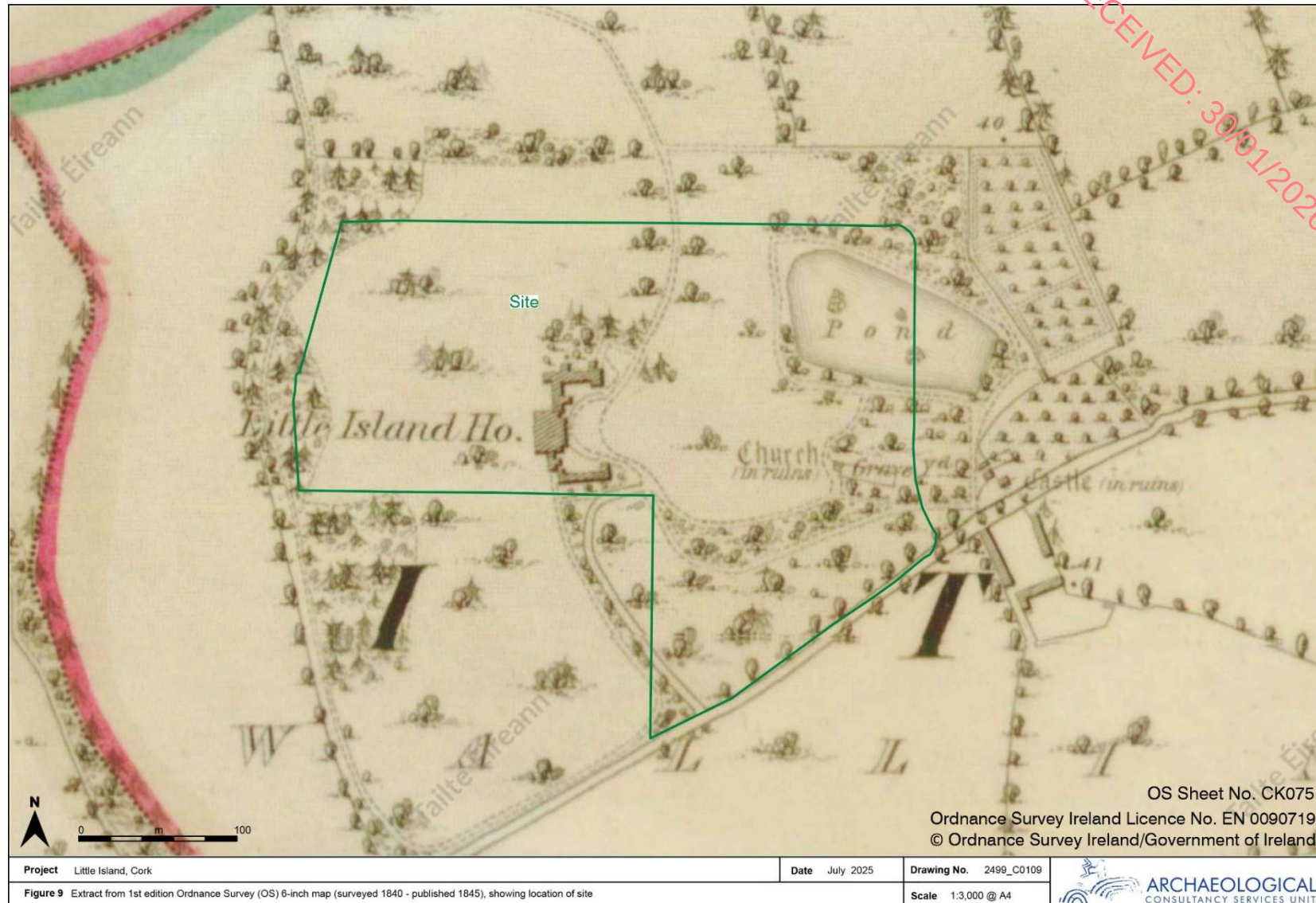


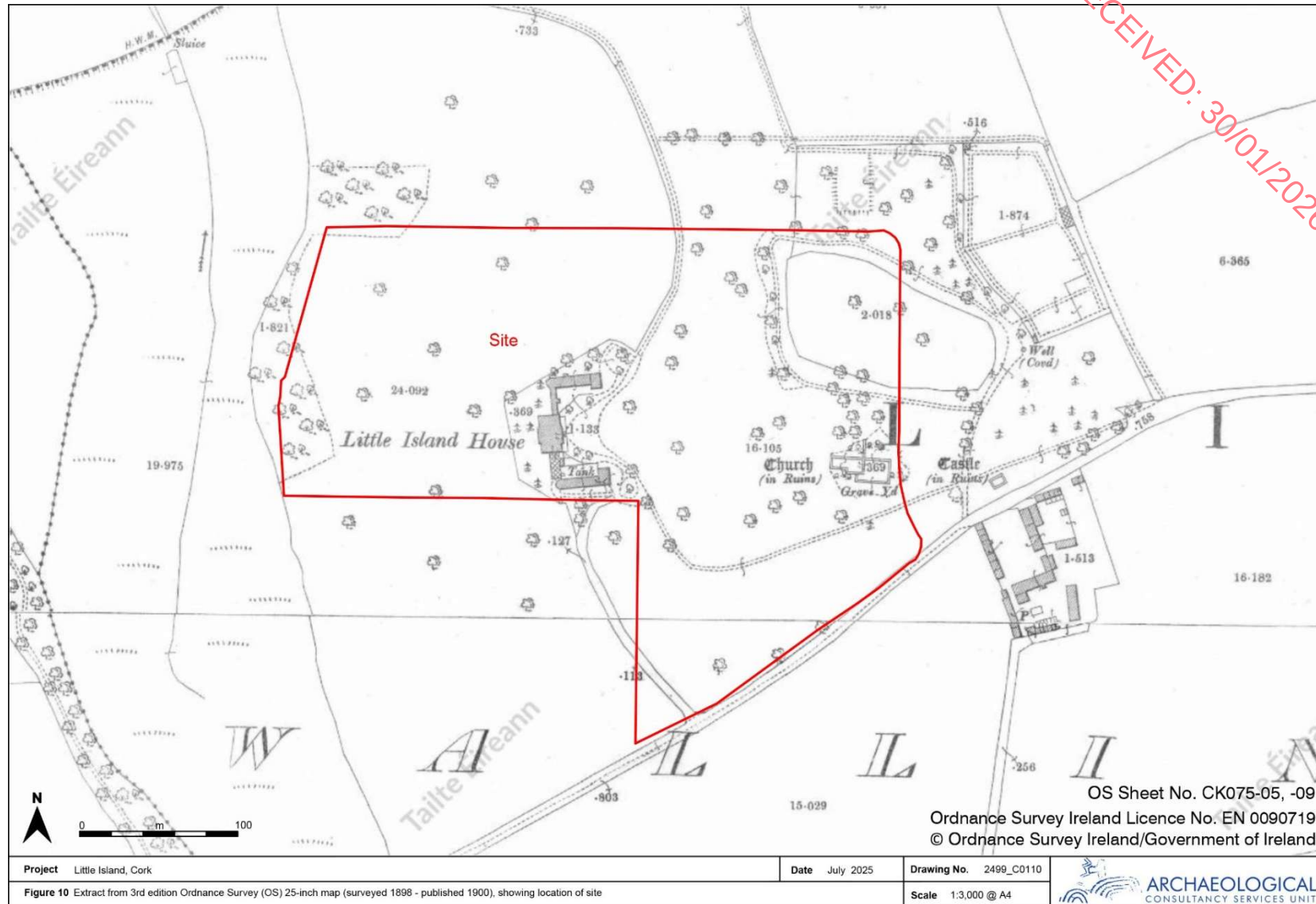


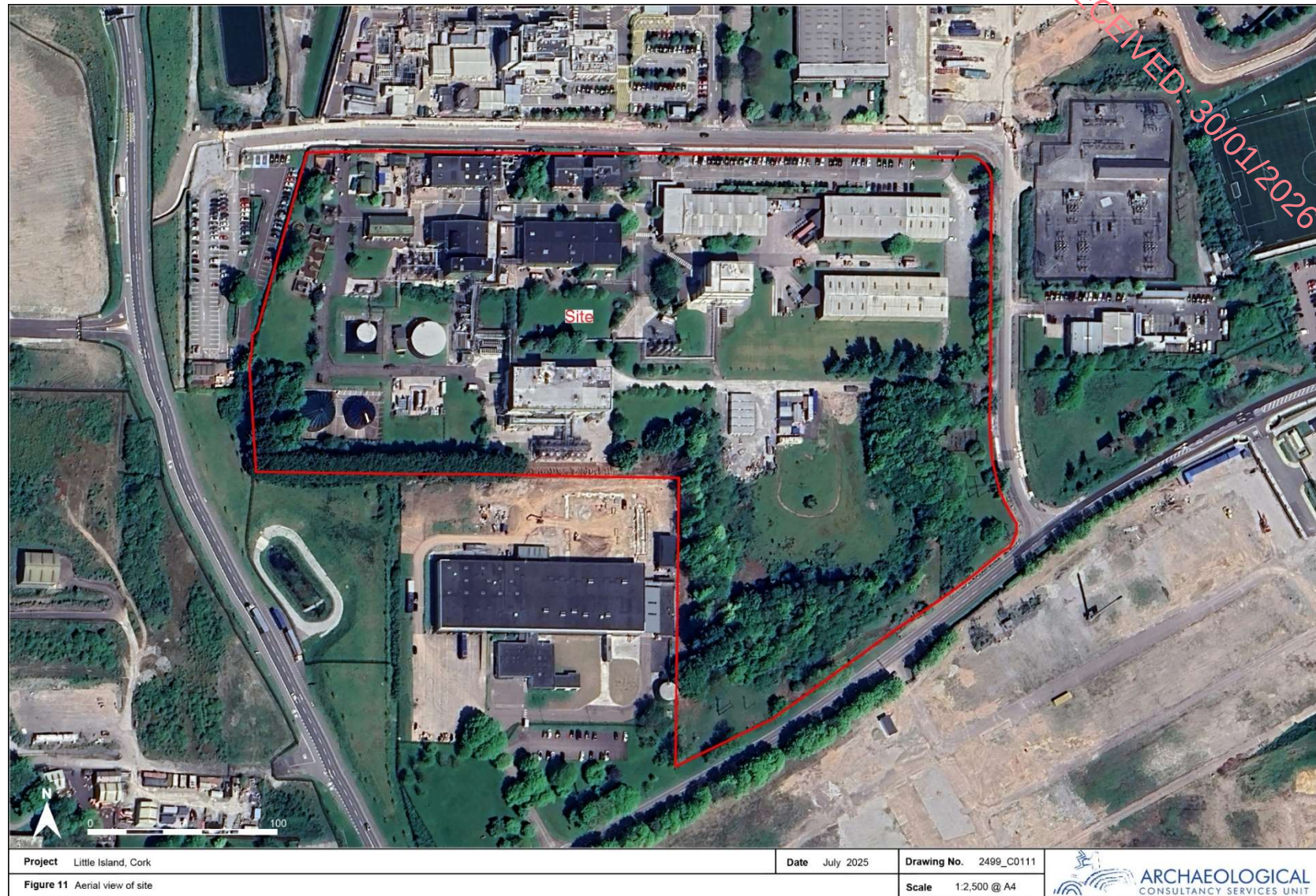


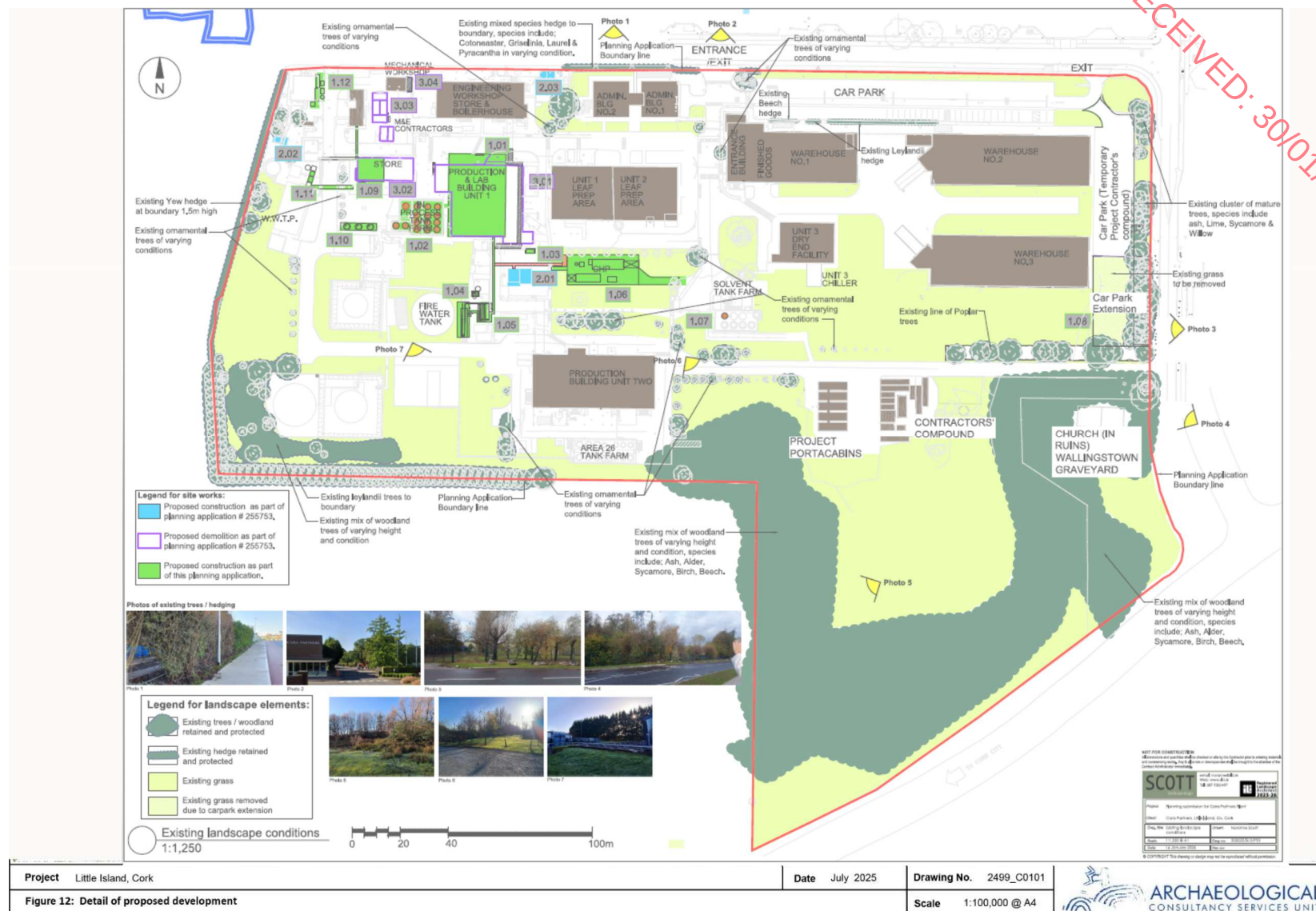












Appendix 14-B

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage – Plates

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Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: Cara Partners, Little Island, Co. Cork.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT



Plate 1: General view of church and graveyard CO075-02001-2 looking SW



Plate 2: General view of church and graveyard CO075-02001-2 looking W



Plate 3: General view of Tower House CO075-021 looking east.



Plate 4: Detailed view of Tower House CO075-021 looking east.

Appendix 14-C

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Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments (SMR), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2 (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.

Appendix 14-D

ACSU (2025) Graveyard Management Plan

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**Graveyard Management Plan for Wallingstown
Church and Graveyard (CO075-02001-2),
Cara Partners
Little Island Industrial Estate,
Co. Cork**

**Ian Russell
November 2025
Report Status: Final
ACSU Ref.: 2599**



ACSU
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY
SERVICES UNIT

HEAD OFFICE
Unit 21
Boyne Business Park
Greenhills, Drogheda
Co. Louth

☎ 041-9883396
☎ 041-2130310
✉ info@acsu.ie
🌐 www.acsu.ie

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	Title:	Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (CO075-02001-2) Management Plan, Cara Partners, Little Island Industrial Estate, Co. Cork				Page 2 of 21

PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (CO075-02001-2) Management Plan, Cara Partners, Little Island Industrial Estate, Co. Cork
Report Type	Graveyard Management Plan
Townland(s)	Wallingstown
RMP/SMR No.	CO075-02001-2
RPS Id./NIAH Reg. No.	RPS 495 Cork County Council
ITM Ref.	574221, 572099
Consultant	Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, County Louth
Archaeologist	Ian Russell
Report Author(s)	Ian Russell
Report Status	Final.
Report Date	19 th November 2025
ACSU Ref.	2599

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VERSION CONTROL

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1.0	12.11.2025	Graveyard Management Plan	Final	I.R.	I.R	A.C
2.0	19.11.2025	Graveyard Management Plan: Client Comments.	Final	I.R.	I.R	D.M.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the proposals for a management plan for Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (CO075-02001:1-2, ITM 574221, 572099; Figures 1-2). The site is located in the townland of Wallingstown, in the Barony of Barrymore, in the Civil Parish of Little Island. This management plan was carried out at the request of the client to accompany the response to a request for further information issued by Cork County Council in relation to planning application 25/05753.

The site of the church and graveyard lies within the land ownership of Cara Partners but outside the specific area to be developed. The church and graveyard are recorded archaeological monuments (RMP No. CO075-020001- and RMP No. CO075-020002-) and are also a Protected Structure (RPS No. 00495), as listed in the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. No structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) are located within the site boundary. The graveyard and church are located within an area zoned as Green Infrastructure in the Cork County Development Plan and is fenced off from the development and screened by tall trees and an area of planting. Access to the graveyard is via a locked gate and by appointment only.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Proposal

The site of the church and graveyard lies within the land ownership of Cara Partners but outside the area of a proposed redevelopment of the site. The church and graveyard is located within a separately screened and fenced off area in the southeast corner of the site within an area designated as green infrastructure in the Cork County Development Plan. The graveyard is presently maintained on an ongoing basis by the owners of the site but the proposed redevelopment of the industrial zoned land within the site provides an opportunity to enhance the setting of the graveyard.

2.2 Archaeological Condition/Requirement

This report presents the proposals for a management plan for Wallingstown Church and Graveyard (CO075-02001:1-2, ITM 574221, 572099; Figures 1-2). The site is located in the townland of Wallingstown, in the Barony of Barrymore, in the Civil Parish of Little Island. This management plan was carried out at the request

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of the client in response to a request for further information issued by Cork County Council in relation to planning application 25/05753 –

Please submit a management plan for the long-term maintenance of the protected features as required by Objective HE 16-10 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022.

3. METHODOLOGY

This management plan comprises a literature review and consultation of various written, cartographic, and photographic sources. This included 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. 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* (see below). The last published RMP for County Cork is dated 1998, and as such, many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

Historical maps, including those held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and Tailte Éireann (previously Ordnance Survey Ireland), were also consulted, as well as aerial and orthophotography imagery from Tailte Éireann and Google Earth. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, crop marks, and soil marks, and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance.

The *Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028* was also consulted, as this contains, among other things, a Record of Protected Structures. A Protected Structure is a structure that a planning authority thinks is of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. The structure is recognised as important and is protected from harm under legislation. Every local authority in Ireland must keep an RPS in its development plans. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included on the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The NIAH was developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage and identifies, records, and evaluates the post-1700 architectural

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heritage of Ireland to protect and conserve our built heritage. It is under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. It also forms the basis of a list for structures that should be included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) compiled by local authorities.

The guide published by the Heritage Council (2011), *'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards'*, was also consulted.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The graveyard is located in the townland of Wallingstown (*Baile an Bhailisigh*) in the Barony of Barrymore (*Barraigh Mhóra*), and the Civil Parish of Little Island (*An tOileán Beag*) (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/9305>). Little Island owes its name to its huge neighbour, Great Island, on which the cathedral town of Cobh looks out to the mouth of Cork Harbour. The earliest recorded name for Little Island is from a papal entry in 1302: Cellescoplappan. Also, at this time, it was referred to as *De Insula*, meaning 'of the island' in Latin. By 1489, it was Inysmacneyll; 1582, insula parva alias Inishvicneyl; and Little Island by 1614. The official modern Irish name for Little Island is *Lime Ratha* or *An tOileán Beag* (<https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/outdoors/arid-41040479.html>).

There are four Recorded Monuments listed within the townland of Wallingstown; formerly, all were located within the demesne of Little Island House, which no longer exists (Figures 2-3). The former demesne lands now consist of an industrial estate. The monuments include a graveyard (CO075-020001-), church (CO075-020002-), castle – tower house (CO075-021----), and water mill – horizontal-wheeled (CO075-052----). The church appears to have a medieval core, but underwent several modifications to the building, including an additional 19th-century structure that contained a grave plot. According to Power, there is a reputed holy well known as "Betty's Well" within the townland, but it was not necessarily in proximity to the church & graveyard (Power, 1921, 185).

The Historic Environment Viewer lists (incorrectly) three monuments within the overall development site that surrounds the church the graveyard, a horizontal watermill (RMP No. CO075-052----), a graveyard (RMP No. CO075-020001-) and church (RMP No. CO075-020002-) listed in the Historic Environment Viewer, however one of these (horizontal watermill (RMP No. CO075-052----), is incorrectly recorded as being within the site. It is clearly illustrated on the original Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) hard copy series of maps as being located to the southeast of the development site. The investigations of these two water mills dated the

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site to AD 630, and it was one of the earliest examples in Ireland at the time of excavation. The mechanism used was one of the most basic types, which is known as the under-shot water-wheel, whereby the water strikes the wheel near the lowest part of its circumference (Rynne, 2015).

4.2 Recorded Monuments

The Historic Environment Viewer lists (incorrectly) three monuments within the site, a horizontal watermill (RMP No. CO075-052----), a graveyard (RMP No. CO075-020001-) and church (RMP No. CO075-020002-), however one of these (horizontal watermill (RMP No. CO075-052----), is incorrectly recorded as being within the site. It is clearly illustrated on the original Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) hard copy series of maps (Figure 2) as being located to the southeast of the development site. The location of the site is recorded in the National Monuments Record of Monuments and Place, Map 75 (<https://www.archaeology.ie/app/uploads/2025/03/Archaeology-RMP-Cork-Map-vol-1-1998-0009.pdf>).

Below (Table 1) is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the church and graveyard (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

CO075-020001-	Graveyard	Wallingstown
In a flat area of waste ground, inside an industrial estate, formerly in the grounds of Little Island house. L-shaped graveyard (21 metres east-west; 12 metres north-south), to the east and south of the ruined parish church of Little Island (CO075-020002-), the north walls of the church and graveyard are in line. Enclosed by a low stone wall with a concrete cap. Six rows of inscribed headstones and many rows of low, uninscribed gravemarkers. The area of burial extends inside the church and into the annexe at the west gable. Many 18th-century inscriptions, the earliest of which dates to 1715. According to Coleman (1904-6e), known as 'St Lappan's Churchyard'. Six-Inch First edition: NULL Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Grave Yard' ITM Coordinates: 574402, 572026 Latitude and Longitude: 51.899798, -8.371963		

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CO075-020002-	Church	Wallingstown
Forming the northwest corner of the graveyard (CO075-02001-), ruins of a rectangular church (13.35 metres east-west; 8.5 metres north-south). West gable and north wall stand to full height, but much of the east and south walls are reduced to c. 1.1 metres in height, much repaired. Inner wall face plastered and interior used for burials; eastern half divided between two 19th-century plots. The doorway near the west end of the south wall is much destroyed, but the lower jambs survive with a deep chamfer on the outer edge. The doorway opposite in the north wall has brick surrounds and is a late insertion. Lower courses of window in the east wall with brick surrounds. Appears to be the core of the late medieval church, much repaired at later date(s). Built against the outside of the west gable is a much ruined and overgrown gabled structure (c. 3.5 metres east-west; c. 5 metres north-south), containing a railed 19th-century grave plot. Parish church of Little Island, in repair 1615 and 1639 (Brady 1863, vol. 1, 209), described in 1700 as 'built with stones and lime, in good repair; there is a pulpit and desks, but no seats; a tomb in the church, belonging to the Courthy's family; the church is about 40 feet long and 20 broad' (ibid); may have gone out of use when parish united to Cahirlag in 1769 (ibid, 210). Power (1923, 185) describes walls as 'standing to their original height....in the south side wall is the pointed doorway of cut stone'; he also describes pointed windows in south and east walls which had been 'modernised'. Six-Inch First edition: Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Church (in Ruins)' (1935) ITM Coordinates: 574417, 572023 Latitude and Longitude: 51.899772, -8.371744		
CO075-021----	Castle – Tower house	Wallingstown
In a level area on Little Island, now part of an industrial estate but formerly in the demesne of Little Island House. Small rectangular tower (6.1 metres north-south; 7.6 metres east-west), now standing to 4 storeys. Reconstructed ground floor door near west end of north wall, now partially fallen; segmental vault over door passage; elliptical arch-stone, lying on ground, probably from door surround. Lintelled door, at 1st floor level, in the centre of the south wall. On the 2nd floor level is another door, near the east end of the south wall, flanked by corbels on the outside, which must have supported fore-stairs. This doorway gives access straight through to the 2nd floor chamber, and east to the stairway which rises in the east wall to the central door into the 3rd floor chamber. Ground floor lit by broken window in north wall, splayed internally; double-splayed window in west wall. First floor lit by similar windows in east and west walls; wide ope, broken externally, on north wall. Second floor lit by a window in the east wall, splayed from a narrow flat-headed light; this floor covered by a pointed, wicker-centered vault. North wall gone above vault; east, west, and south walls reduced to form gables for recent roof, now gone; wide central ope in south 'gable' of recent appearance. Though known as 'Wallingstown Castle', no apparent direct link with Wallyns or Waleys (later Walsh) family; castle was held for a time in the 16th century by the Fitzgeralds, though part of the Barrymore estate (Coleman 1915, 62).		

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Nearby Little Island House is now reduced to a mound of rubble; described as 'a large late eighteenth-century house sometimes attributed to Davis Duckart', residence of the Bury family (Glin et al. 1988, 52).

Six-Inch First edition: NULL

Six-Inch Latest edition: 'Castle (in Ruins)' (1935)

ITM Coordinates: 574505, 572003

Latitude and Longitude: 51.899596, -8.370464

CO075-052----

Water mill - horizontal-wheeled

Wallingstown

On the north side of Lough Mahon in the inner reaches of Cork Harbour, on reclaimed land on Little Island. The site is in the grounds of Mitsui Denman (Ireland) Ltd., Little Island. Timber remains of two tidal mills uncovered here c. 1978 during extension work to the factory; one vertical-wheeled and one horizontal-wheeled mill, both dating c. 630 AD and thereby 'the earliest known example of its type in Europe or Asia (Rynne 1992, 63). Horizontal mill site consisted of wooden framing for inlet channel leading to side timbers and plank flooring for millhouse sub-structure (see reconstruction drawing Rynne 1992, 64, fig. 6). Two hollow-log penstocks found out of position but presumably associated with this mill; they are 'wholly unlike the normal type' being 'comparatively short (flume 1, 2.1 metres; flume 2, 2.03 metres), but their most striking feature was the height of their sides, some 81cm' (Rynne 1992, 60). Immediately to the south, remains of an undershot vertical wheeled mill consist of wooden framing for headrace channel, partially wattle-floored, converging on a two-piece wooden penstock (length 3.11 metres; width converging 1.3-0.8 metres) (Rynne 1998, app. 1, vol. 2).

Six-Inch First edition: NULL

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 574222, 572032

Latitude and Longitude: 51.899844, -8.374579

4.3 Record of Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The church and graveyard are listed in Appendix 2 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, as protected structures (No. 00495)

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Table 2: List of NIAH and RPS sites within the environs of the site

RPS No.	NIAH No.	Name	NIAH Importance
00495	-	Little Island Church (in ruins)	Regional
The ruin of the late medieval parish church of Little Island, and its surrounding graveyard, is located to the southwest of the development site, on the west side of Castle Road. This modest, rectangular church was in good repair in the mid-17th century, but may have gone out of use in 1769 when the parish was united with that of Cahirlag. The church is surrounded on the east and south by an L-shaped graveyard, which contains rows of 18th-century inscribed headstones and low uninscribed gravemarkers. Castle Road, which divides the development site from the church and the tower house, was inserted in the late 20th century, when this part of Little Island was extensively developed for industrial use.			

4.4 Cartographic Evidence

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), John Speed's Map of Munster (1610), the Down Survey Map (1656-1658), the Ordnance Survey (OS) of Ireland (now Tailte Éireann) 6-inch (1845) and 25-inch (1900) maps (Figures 4–10). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are often marked on such maps, and they can provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

Candell's Map of Cork Harbour (1587), (<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698>) shows the area of Cork Harbour in rough detail as it was known in the 16th century. Little Island is depicted quite simply with a single unnamed castle or tower house upon it. The tower house may represent Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021---) as it was in place by the 16th century, owned by the Fitzgerald family (Coleman, 1915, 62). The neighbouring Great Island is also depicted with a castle labelled 'Belville.' Referring to Belvelly Castle (CO075-030----). John Speed's Map of Munster (1610) (<https://www.swilson.info/maps/munster1610-speed.php>) depicts Little Island as Lord Barry Island, named after the de Barry family, who held large amounts of land in east Cork. The Down Survey map (1656-1658) shows the 'Willingstowne,' as having a church and large manor house on 236 acres, 2 roods and 16 perches. The accompanying terrier describes William Sarsfield occupying the lands, which are arable, good pasture. Taylor and Skinner's map (1777) depicts Little Island as an island surrounded by water. There are two houses illustrated, one is annotated as 'Beury Esq' relating to the owner of Little Island House (Bury), and the other house is annotated as 'Forrest Esq'. The 1811 Grand Jury Map of County Cork

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again illustrates the island surrounded by water, and there are several houses illustrated across the island with a road and tree-lined partitions indicating formal gardens beside the estate house, with the proposed development site.

The 6-inch OS map (published 1845) depicts the former Little Island House, c. 200 metres west of the church (CO075-02001-), where the current Production Building Unit Two of Cara Partners is located. The surrounding lands appear to be for pastureland. The church (CO075-02001-), graveyard (CO075-02002-), and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are depicted and noted as being in ruins by this point; a pond is indicated c. 20 metres north of the graveyard. A road passes to the south of the castle, most likely a forerunner of the modern R623. Little Island is depicted as the most northerly of the islands in Cork harbour, with its northern shore separated from the mainland by a narrow tidal channel crossed by three bridges.

The 25-inch OS map (published 1900) depicts the general area similarly to the 6-inch map from half a century before. Little Island house, church (CO075-02001-), graveyard (CO075-02002-), and Wallingstown Castle (CO075-021----) are all depicted surrounded by pastureland. A series of small buildings is visible, c. 20 metres south of the castle ruins, on the south side of the modern R623. Little Island is no longer completely detached from the mainland, as almost all of the channel to the north has been infilled and reclaimed. The Great Southern & Western railway line (now the Cork to Midleton and Cobh railway line) runs along this railway line.

4.5 Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial photographs dating between 1995 and 2018 from Tailte Éireann were assessed, along with Google Earth imagery dating between 2003 and 2025. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field, particularly during periods of drought, such as those experienced in the summer of 2018. While in built-up or urban areas, such as towns and cities, aerial images can help trace changes in the layouts of buildings and roads.

The site has been in use as an industrial estate since the aerial photographs in 1995, with little change to the layout of the buildings. The north-south aligned R623 linking Little Island to the Dunkettle Interchange was constructed along the western side of the site in 2021. The church, graveyard, and castle–tower house remain undeveloped and in grassland throughout the aerial imagery.

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4.6 Field Survey

The survey included:

- Recording the description of the landscape elements and characteristics within the study area.
- Photography to record the current condition of the graveyard and surrounding vegetation to enable assessment of the proposed landscaping plan.

A site inspection was carried out on the 23rd July 2025 and the 3rd November 2025 by Ian Russell and on the 10th November 2025 by Edel Dunne, of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU) Ltd (Plates 1–20).

4.7 Graveyard Survey

The graveyard contains a total of 32 memorials, which were surveyed in 2003. The survey of the graveyard, including photographs of each gravestone and details of those buried there, can be found online at <https://historicgraves.com/graveyard/wallingstown/co-walt>. The survey also includes a sketch plan of the church and gravestones.

4.8 Current Management Plan

The Graveyard is still active, but entry is controlled by a lock and key. Entrance to the graveyard is controlled by Cara Partners security, where visitors must report to security to receive access, following the normal site onboarding procedure.

Historically, the maintenance of this graveyard was completed by McNamara Landscaping in conjunction with the Little Island Graveyard Association. As of October 2025, the Little Island Graveyard Association has informed Cara Partners that they will no longer be able to maintain the graveyard as they have previously. This will make McNamara Landscaping the incumbent landscape maintenance team to continue to carry out the following:

Monthly Landscaping Maintenance:

- Light grass cutting and strimming around graves and paths, avoiding contact with headstones and kerbs
- Weed control using manual or environmentally sensitive methods (no harsh chemicals near masonry)
- Leaf and debris clearing from paths, graves, and drainage areas

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- Litter picking and removal of organic waste
- Keeping access routes clear for visitors and maintenance staff.
- Identify & Inform the site of issues early (subsidence, tree hazards, etc.)

General Maintenance:

- Annual scheduled inspections of the area.
- Completion of necessary minor repairs identified in the aforementioned inspections (not including any repairs to the church)
- Inspection and maintenance of gates and locks to ensure secure but functional access.

4.9 Proposed Landscape Plan

The graveyard is currently active and visited frequently. Therefore, it is constantly maintained in very good condition with boundary maintenance, leaf and litter collection, and grass cutting. Externally, the site is surrounded by a green security mesh fence, which continues around the site and also around the road junction to the south. Large rocks or boulders are also located on the external roadside verge to prevent unauthorised parking. The graveyard is surrounded by mature native trees and hedgerows, except the roadside (east) side, which is open, though enclosed by the green fencing. Access is controlled by a locked gate.

To enhance the visual amenity and biodiversity of the graveyard, it is now proposed to implement the following –

- Plant and establish a new native hedgerow inside the perimeter fence from the road junction at the south end to an existing access gate south of the graveyard. This will be maintained at 1.8m high, to increase biodiversity and maintain a dense vegetative boundary to the site. Planting species will include: Holly (*Ilex aquilifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The existing open view into the graveyard from the road directly to the east will be maintained with no hedge proposed.
- The existing access gates to the Graveyard will be replaced with new welded mesh gates and a historic information sign/plaque fixed to the gate or adjoining fence.
- The existing mesh wire fence and posts are to be replaced with a new welded mesh fence to the same height and new posts along the road edge east of and outside the graveyard
- Existing poplar trees along the internal boundary of the commercial premises are to be retained and protected. A group of evergreen pine trees planted along the edge of the Warehouse and internal

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access road, north of the graveyard will give additional screening and, in time, become the climax species of the planting area.

- A low mounding will also be provided 1m high with shrub planting, to avoid interference with existing tree roots, also to the north of and well outside the graveyard.

5. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

5.1 List of work that should be carried out in a Graveyard.

The following is from the Heritage Council (2011), *'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards'*, Section 3.2

- Contact the local Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer and/or the National Monuments Services before starting any work in a graveyard, other than site maintenance works.
- Do clear the site using only hand trimmers or other hand tools
- Designate dump sites away from monuments/memorials.
- Retain healthy trees – choose native species.
- Leave all grass hummocks in the ground; they may mark structural and archaeological features.
- Maintain existing pathways.
- Keep boundary walls, banks, and hedges.
- Keep all architectural and sculptural fragments, record their position, and report their finding to the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland

5.2 List of work that should NOT be carried out in a Graveyard.

The following is from the Heritage Council (2011), *'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards'*, Section 3.3

- Do not start without professional advice and a clear work plan.
- Do not try to demolish or remove anything from the site without the approval of the National Monuments Service.
- Do not dig graves near walls; they can cause structural damage.
- Do not attempt unlicensed excavation; it is illegal (this includes removal of rubble from collapsed walls).

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- Do not use any machinery to clear or level the site or gain access to graves.
- Do not burn off vegetation, or use total-spectrum weedkillers.
- Do not plant wild plants without expert advice.
- Do not uproot ivy, trees, or gravestones.
- Do not pull ivy off fragile memorials.
- Do not use wire brushes or sandblasters.
- Do not apply paint to gravestone inscriptions.
- Do not re-point any masonry without professional advice.
- Do not use ribbon pointing on old boundary walls or buildings.
- Do not level off pathways.
- Do not use graveslabs for paving.
- Do not lay new pathways without consulting an archaeologist.
- Do not move gravestones unnecessarily or without archaeological advice & supervision.
- Do not burn rubbish on site, close to buildings or memorials. Under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended), it is an offence to dispose of waste in a manner which causes or is likely to cause environmental pollution.

5.3 Recommended Management Plan

The proposed landscaping plan outlined in 4.9 above should be implemented as it would enhance the visual setting of the graveyard, enhance its biodiversity, and utilise the site as a heritage amenity. The landscaping plan will not have any direct impact on the graveyard or church itself as the new fence and hedge will be outside the graveyard.

It is also recommended that the current management plan for the graveyard be continued as the graveyard is currently maintained in good condition (see Section 4.8) -

Monthly Landscaping Maintenance:

- Light grass cutting and strimming around graves and paths, avoiding contact with headstones and kerbs
- Weed control using manual or environmentally sensitive methods (no harsh chemicals near masonry)
- Leaf and debris clearing from paths, graves, and drainage areas

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- Litter picking and removal of organic waste
- Keeping access routes clear for visitors and maintenance staff.
- Identify & Inform the site management of issues early (subsidence, tree hazards, etc.)

General Maintenance:

- Annual scheduled inspections of the area.
- Completion of any necessary minor repairs identified in inspections.
- Inspection and maintenance of gates and locks to ensure secure but functional access.
- If any significant works need to be carried out that involve any excavation, works to the church or clearing of masonry then archaeological advice must be sought immediately and a Section 12 notification should be submitted to the National Monuments Service two months in advance of any works taking place. Such works should only be carried out following approval from the NMS and in line with any requirements they have regarding same.

5.4 Suggestions Re: Information Plaque

In addition to the proposed historical information plaque, it would be suggested that a QR code be erected on the fencing to direct visitors to the graveyard survey on the historic graves website.

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Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028.

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Extract from Downe Survey map of County Cork, Barony of Barimore 1656.

Extract from Taylor and Skinners map of the Roads of Ireland, map 167, 1777.

Extract from the Grand Jury map of County Cork, 1811.

Extract from the First edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map, 1840.

Extract from the Third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map, 1898.

Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999
(<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf>, accessed March 2025)

Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources [map viewer](#), Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Heritage Council (2011), *'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards'*

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

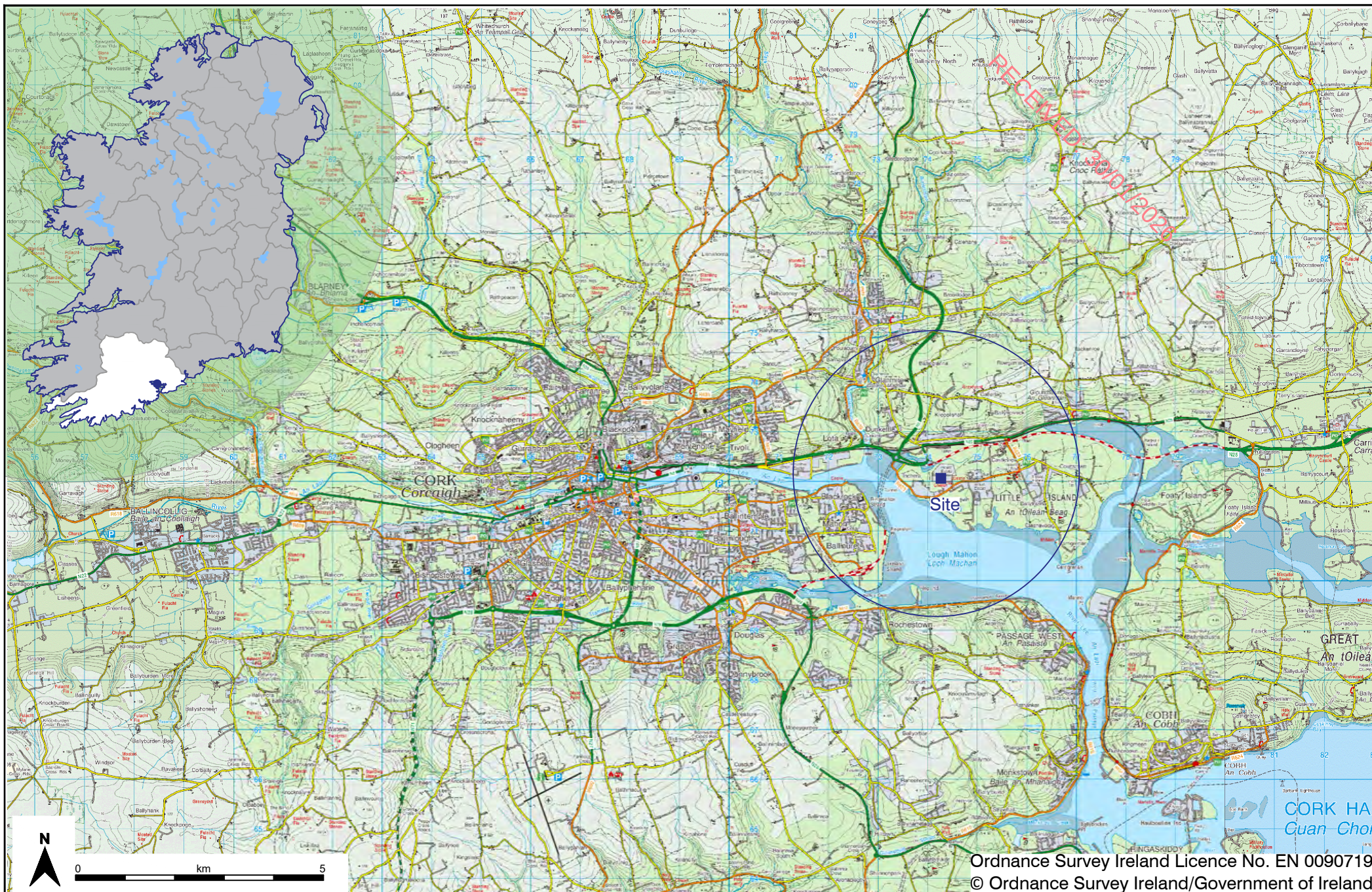
National Monuments Service's (NMS) Virtual Reading Room.

National Library of Ireland – (<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000536698>)

Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (www.logainm.ie).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments (SMR), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2 (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>).

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.



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Project Little Island, Cork

Date July 2025

Drawing No. 2499_C0101

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4



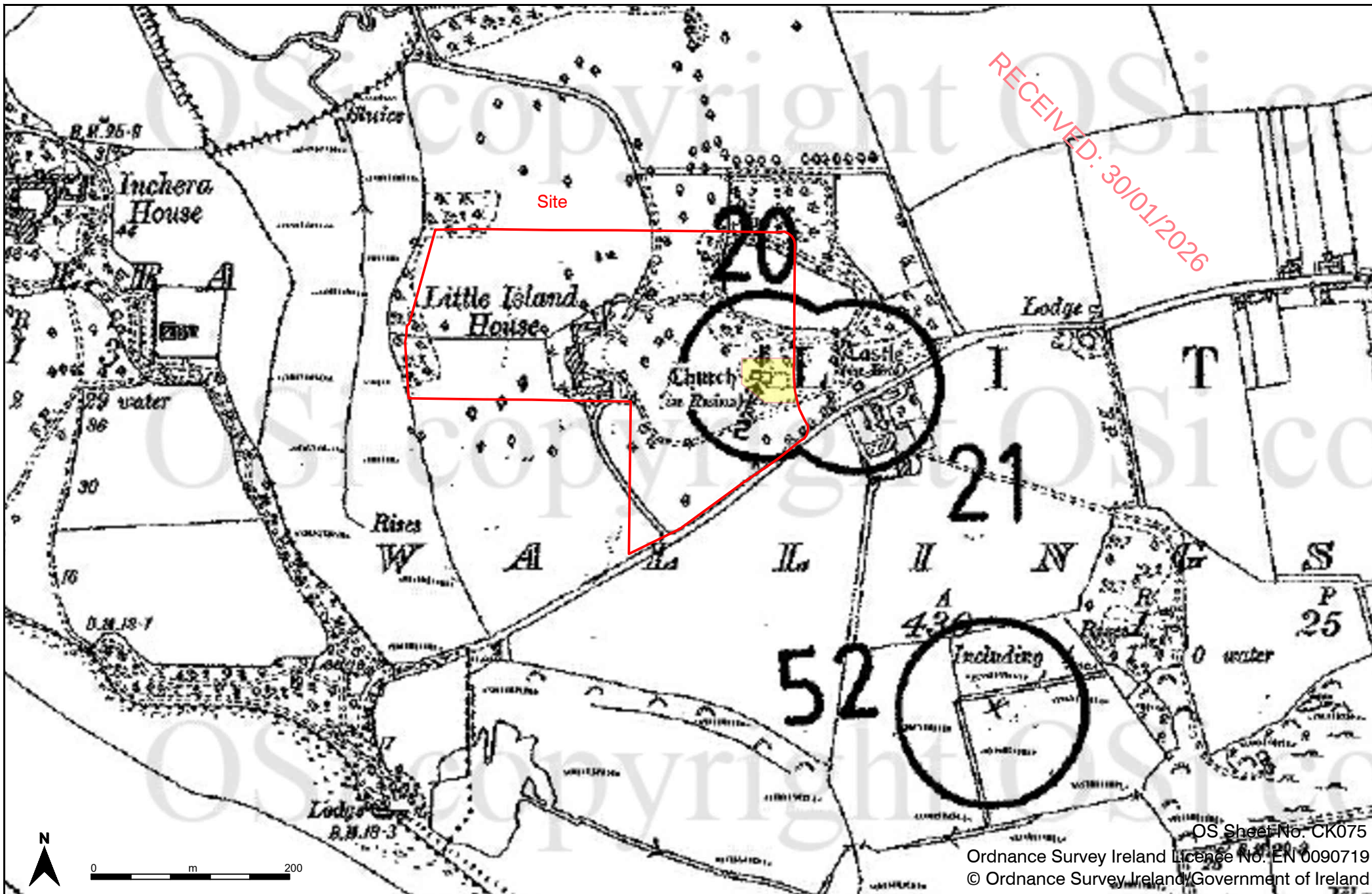
Project Little Island, Cork

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Drawing No. 2599_C0102

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

Scale 1:8,000 @ A4



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Figure 3 Extract from Site and Monuments - Archaeological Constraint Map (surveyed 1935 - published 1998), showing location of site

Scale 1:5,000 @ A4



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Figure 4 Extract from The plotte of the head of Kingsale, the harbor of Kingsale and the harbor of Corcke, by Candell (1587), showing approximate location of site		Scale Not to scale	



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Figure 5 Extract from Speed's map of the Province of Munster (1610), showing approximate location of site

Scale Not to scale





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Figure 6 Extract from Down Survey map of County Cork, Barony of Barrimore (1656), showing approximate location of site

Scale Not to scale





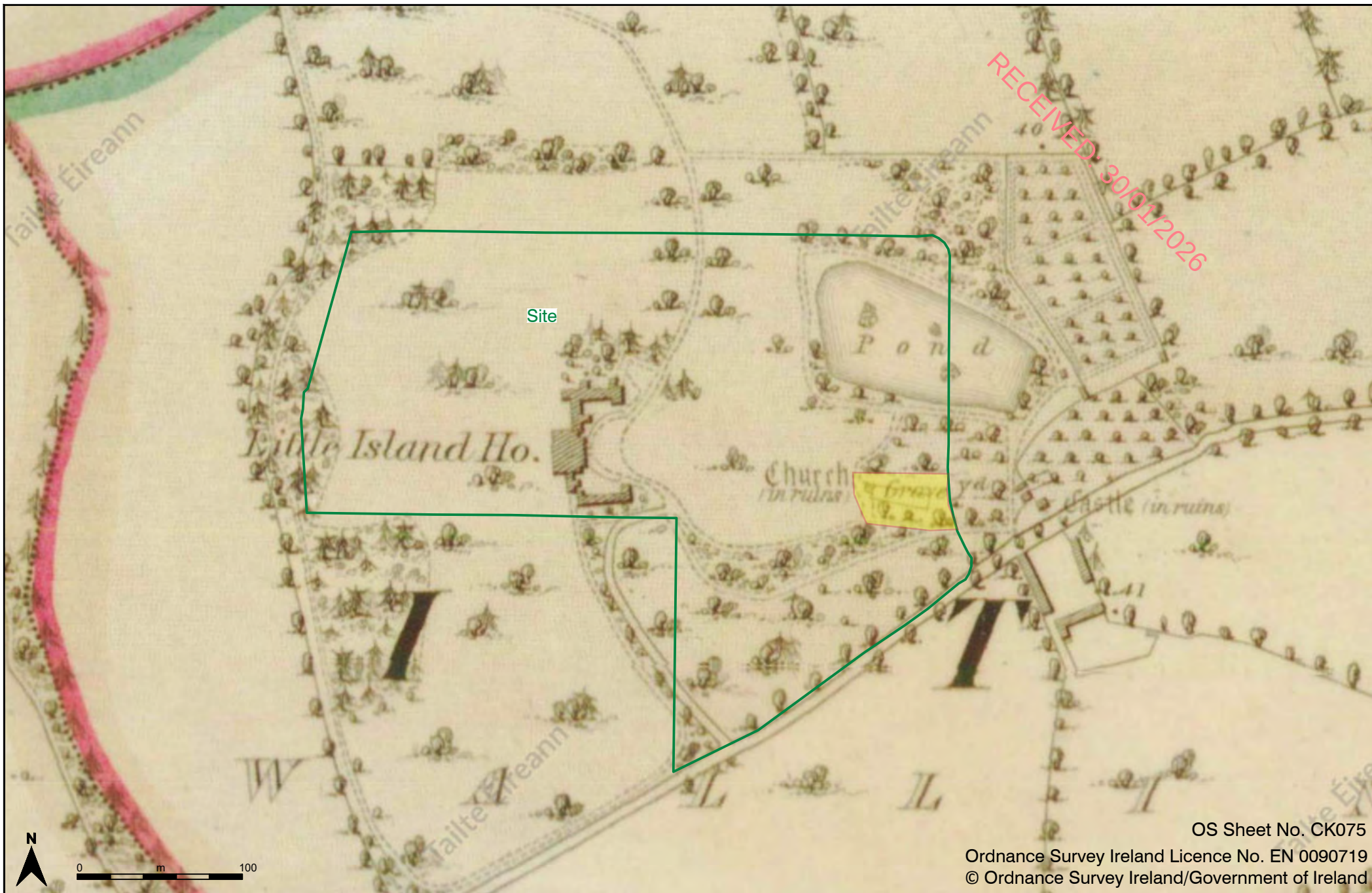
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Figure 7 Extract from Taylor and Skinner's 'Maps of the roads of Ireland' - Map 167 Cork to Youghal and to Cloyne (1777), showing approximate location of site

Scale Not to scale



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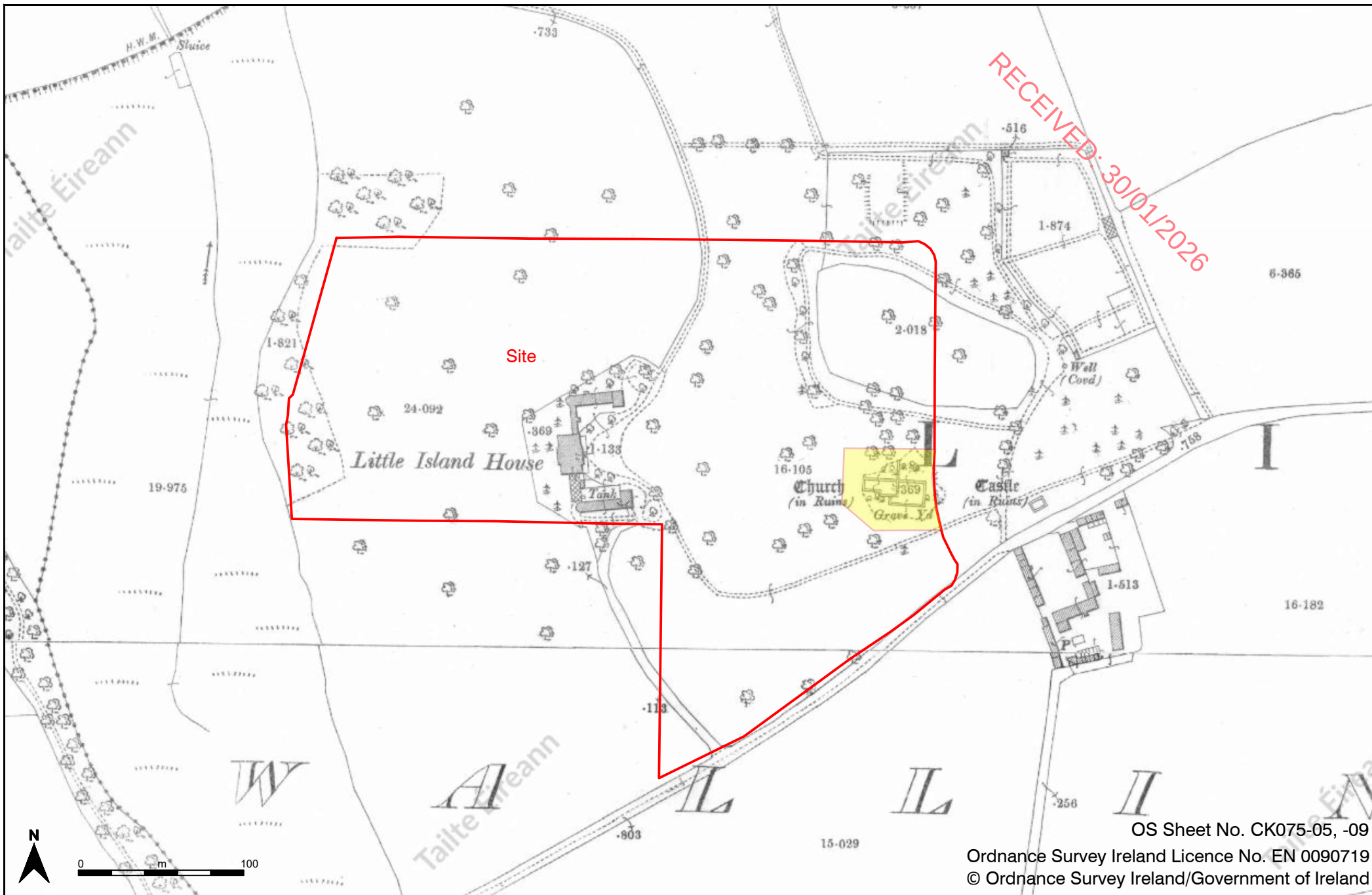
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Figure 9 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1840 - published 1845), showing location of site

Scale 1:3,000 @ A4





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Figure 10 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1898 - published 1900), showing location of site

Scale 1:3,000 @ A4





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Figure 11 Aerial view of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



Plate 1: View from Graveyard looking south.



Plate 2: View from Graveyard looking north.



Plate 3: Detail of Church CO075-021001 looking south.



Plate 4: Detail of Church CO075-021001 looking west.



Plate 5: View of Castle from graveyard looking east.



Plate 6: View from Graveyard looking east towards Castle.



Plate 7: View from Graveyard looking north showing field boundary.



Plate 8: View of graveyard (at left) looking northwest.



Plate 9: View north along west church gable.



Plate 10: View east along south wall of church.



Plate 11: View north into graveyard.



Plate 12: View west along north wall of church.



Plate 13: View east along north wall of church.



Plate 14: View west into graveyard.



Plate 15: View northwest along east end of graveyard.



Plate 16: View of church looking north.



Plate 17: View south along east graveyard wall.



Plate 18: View east of church



Plate 19: Detail of ivy clad stonework.



Plate 20: The castle

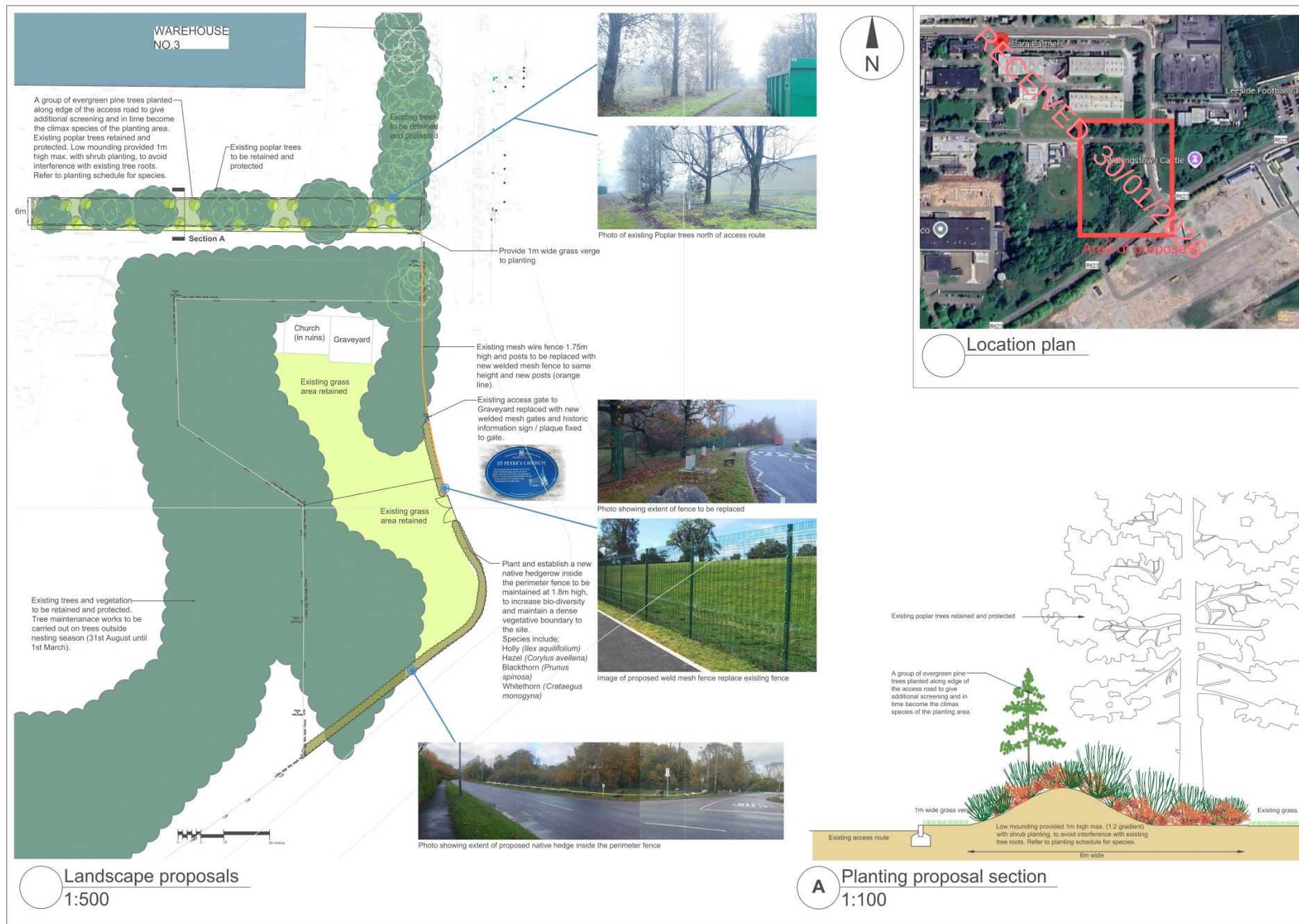


Plate 21: Landscape Management Plan.