

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
CAHERANARDRISH, MUNGRET
COUNTY LIMERICK**

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ON BEHALF OF: HOMELAND PROJECTS LTD

ITM: 553287, 653525

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ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology has prepared this report on behalf of Homeland Projects Ltd, to assess the impact, if any, of a proposed residential development on the archaeological and historical environment. The proposed development is to be located at Caheranardrish, Mungret, Co. Limerick (ITM 553287, 653525). This report was compiled by Ewelina Rondalez and Faith Bailey and follows a preceding geophysical survey carried out by Ger Dowling (Dowling 2025, Licence No. 25R0253).

The proposed development area is situated within the townland of Caheranardrish, in the Civil Parish of Mungret, Barony of Pubblebrien, County Limerick.

There are two recorded monuments located within the proposed development area, an enclosure (LI013-005) and a fulacht fia (LI013-221). The enclosure is located within a densely vegetated area of a pasture field. The enclosure is sub-oval in plan, measuring 22m north to south by 21.7m east to west, and is enclosed by an earth-and-stone bank. Fulacht fia (LI013-221) was excavated within the proposed development prior to the construction of a gas pipeline that runs through the site.

Analysis of the baseline resources did not reveal any previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential within the development area. Geophysical survey, carried out in 2025, identified some potential archaeological anomalies, but no definitive archaeological remains.

Test trenching was carried out across the proposed development area but revealed only a single archaeological feature, comprising a pit (C27.1) containing silty clay with heat-affected stone and charcoal flecks, which was designated as Archaeological Area 1. The pit is located approximately 80m southeast of the previously excavated fulacht fia (LI013-221). It is likely that the identified pit was associated with the excavated site.

Recorded enclosure (LI013-005) is located within the proposed development area. The site will be preserved within greenspace, with a 20m buffer area set back from the stone wall that surrounds the monument. No archaeological features were identified within this area during the course of testing. It remains possible that the monument may be subject to inadvertent negative impacts arising from construction activities or the storage of materials, or by poor management during the operation of the development. A conservation management plan has been included in Section 6 of this report, which details how the site will be managed during construction and operation.

AA1 comprises a small pit, which is located within the footprint of one of the proposed access roads in the development area. As such, ground disturbances associated with construction of the development will result in a direct negative impact on this feature.

Preservation in situ is the preferred approach for the conservation of the archaeological resource and forms national and regional policy. However, the pit identified in AA1 is located within the footprint of a proposed access road and as such it cannot be preserved in situ.

Given the small and isolated nature of the feature, it should be fully excavated and recorded in advance of construction. A 10m × 10m area should be opened around the identified pit (C27.1) to allow for the full investigation of the feature and any associated deposits. Excavation should be undertaken under archaeological licence as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

It remains possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development will result in direct negative impacts on small or isolated archaeological features or deposits that may survive within the development area outside the footprint of the excavated trenches.

All topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development should be subject to archaeological monitoring. Monitoring should be undertaken under archaeological licence as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works, further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation in situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH and the Limerick County Archaeologist.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological testing undertaken at Caheranardrish, Mungret, Co. Limerick (Figure 1; ITM553287, 653525). This assessment has been conducted to determine the potential impact of a proposed residential development on any previously unknown archaeological deposits that may be present on the site. It was undertaken by Ewelina Rondalez for IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Homeland Properties Ltd and under licence 25E0848, as issued by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH).

This report follows a geophysical survey carried out by Ger Dowling (Dowling 2025, Licence No. 25R0253).

Test trenching commenced on 28th October 2025 and continued for four days. Trenching was carried out using a 22.5-tonne 360-degree tracked excavator, with a flat, toothless bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. A total of 33 trenches were mechanically investigated across the test area, totalling 1315 linear metres.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The development, as shown in Figure 2, will consist of a Largescale Residential Development (LRD), comprising of 182no. residential dwellings as follows: 141no. houses consisting of 104no. detached/semi-detached dwellings (24no. 4-beds, 78no. 3-beds and 2no. 2-beds), 37no. townhouses (18no. 3-beds and 19no. 2-beds) and 41no. apartment units across 1no. triplex unit (2no. 2-beds and 1no. 1-bed) and a five-storey apartment building (13no. 2-beds and 25no. 1-beds) with a crèche with capacity to accommodate 70no. children at ground floor level.

The proposed development will include the provision for car parking, including EV charging points and bicycle parking. The proposed development will also include the provision of private, communal, and public open spaces; internal roads and pathways; pedestrian and cyclist routes; hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments; waste storage; plant; signage; a new vehicular and pedestrian access onto the Mungret Park Road; public lighting; substations; all associated site development works; and all drainage and foul sewer infrastructure and network works including a pumping station and connections to the existing networks and nature-based suds measures.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this assessment was carried out in four phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase comprised a field inspection of the proposed development area. The third and fourth phases were formed by a programme of geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Limerick;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Limerick;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Limerick County Development Plan, 2022-2028;
- Aerial photographs and satellite imagery; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2026).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument. The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation

Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Limerick County Development Plan, 2022-2028 was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development areas.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey, Bing Maps and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. The hard copy publication summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. Since 2010 all summary information up until 2025 is available online (www.excavations.ie).

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

A field inspection was carried out. Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.

- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological, architectural or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

2.3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Geophysical survey is used to create ‘maps’ of subsurface archaeological features. Features are the non-portable part of the archaeological record, whether standing structures or traces of human activities left in the soil. Geophysical instruments can detect buried features when their electrical or magnetic properties contrast measurably with their surroundings. In some cases, individual artefacts, especially metal, may be detected as well. Readings, which are taken in a systematic pattern, become a dataset that can be rendered as image maps. Survey results can be used to guide excavation and to give archaeologists insight into the pattern of non-excavated parts of the site. Unlike other archaeological methods, the geophysical survey is not invasive or destructive.

A geophysical survey was undertaken to inform this assessment within the proposed development area in June 2025 (Dowling 2025, Licence No. 25R0253). A summary of the geophysical report is presented in Section 3.6.

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme... of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present test trenching defines their character and extent and relative quality’ (ClfA 2023a, 4). A programme of archaeological testing based on the results of the geophysical survey was carried out within the proposed development area in October 2025 and the full results are detailed in this report.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is situated within the townland of Caheranardrish, in the Civil Parish of Mungret, Barony of Pubblebrien, County Limerick. The site is bound to the north, south, east and west by agricultural fields, and Mungret Community College is located to the southeast. The townland boundary of Caheranardrish and Moneteen forms the northern site boundary. The derivation of Caheranardrish is “*the stone fort of the outer doorway*” (logainm.ie).

There are two recorded monuments located within the proposed development area, an enclosure (LI013-005) and a *Fulacht Fia* (LI013-221). The enclosure is located within a densely vegetated area of a pasture field. The enclosure is sub-oval in plan, measuring 22m north to south by 21.7m east to west, and is enclosed by an earth-and-stone bank. A break in the bank is noted at the south, measuring 2.7m in width. The monument and an area of scrub have been enclosed by a stone wall, creating a trapezoidal boundary. The monument is shown in Plates 1 and 2.

The *Fulacht Fia* (LI013-221) was identified during archaeological monitoring of a gas pipeline under licence 02E1649 (Wiggins, 2002a). The site was fully excavated in November 2002 and consisted of four bowl-like pits and one more ‘minor feature’. The feature measured 5.8m (east to west) by 4.4m (north to south). Charcoal-rich coal was identified in pit four along with burnt and unburnt bone (*ibid*).

There are a further four recorded monuments located within the 250m study area, the closest of which comprises the site of a small group of cremations pits (LI013-219), which were located c. 45m west of the proposed development area and also excavated as part of the above gas pipeline project.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

The Shannon estuary, c. 2.1km north of the proposed development area, formed one of the main access routes into mainland Ireland and was a focus for settlement from the Mesolithic period onwards. Due to sea-level changes, the Shannon estuary’s landscape has always been a dynamic one, varying from raised bogs to freshwater fens, salt marshes and mud flats, resulting in submergence of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age forest landscapes (O’Sullivan 2001). No evidence of Mesolithic (c. 8000–4000 BC) or Neolithic (c. 4000–2500 BC) activity is located within study area of the proposed development area.

The Bronze Age (c. 2500–800 BC) is marked by the use of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megalithic tombs of the Neolithic period were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel. Although no date is given in the record, it is likely that the group of cremation pits located c. 45m west of the proposed development area, date to this period (LI013-219).

Over 7,000 burnt mounds or fulacht fia sites have been recorded in the country and c. 1,500 examples excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 2022, 164). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, the Bronze Age has long been believed to have seen the peak of this activity. Dating evidence from a growing number of burnt mounds, suggests activities resulting in burnt mounds were being carried over a span of 3,500 years in Ireland (Hawkes 2018). They are typically located in areas where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river or stream or in places with a high-water table. In the field burnt mounds may be identified as charcoal-rich mounds or spreads of heat shattered stones; however, in many cases, the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity and are no longer visible on the field surface. Nevertheless, even disturbed spreads of burnt mound material often preserve the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies, intact. A fulacht fia (LI013-221) was excavated within the proposed development area during the previous construction of a gas pipeline that crosses the site in a north-northeast-south-southwest direction.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (c. AD 500-1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the *túath*, or petty kingdom, with Byrne (1973) estimating that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

One of the most recent studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O'Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). West Limerick has one of the highest ringfort densities in the country, at c. 1.52 per square kilometre (Stout 1997, 99). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant.

An enclosure, likely to represent a ringfort, is recorded within the proposed development area (LI013-005). A further example is located c. 211m to the west (LI013-184) and there are multiple examples recorded in the wider landscape.

This period was also characterised by the introduction of Christianity to Ireland. The new religion was a catalyst for many changes, one of the most important being literacy. The church created impressive tomes in their official language, Latin. Examples of these include the Book of Kells and the Book of Durrow as well as other works such as The Annals, which were an account of the history of the church and other significant events. Monasticism was

known in St. Patrick's time but it was not until the 6th and 7th centuries that the famous monastic houses such as Glendalough, Bangor, Clonfert, Clonard, Clonmacnoise and Durrow were founded. The most significant early medieval ecclesiastical foundation within the wider landscape of the proposed development area is located c. 850m east-northeast of the site (LI013-009). The religious site at Mungret was founded during the 6th century, by St Necessan. Its abbots are recorded from the middle of the 8th century and this provides a clear indication of its significance by this time (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 42). The monastery was raided on a number of occasions between the 10th and 12th centuries. In 1152, at the Synod of Kells, it claimed to be recognised as an episcopal seat (SMR file).

3.1.3 Medieval Period (c. AD 1100-1600)

The beginning of the medieval period was characterised by political unrest that originated from the death of Brian Borumha in 1014. Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, sought the support of mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship. Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support MacMurchadha. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited the Kingdom of Leinster and by the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in conquering much of the country (Stout & Stout 1997, 53).

At the Council of Oxford in 1177 King Henry II initially granted the kingdom of Limerick to three courtiers and then to Philip de Braose, although the grant was premature as the area was not under Anglo-Norman control in 1197 (Keegan, 2004, 20). The Anglo-Normans arrived at Limerick in 1175; however, they were forced to withdraw in 1176, and did not succeed in occupying the town until 1190 (Lee 1997, 19). Prince John granted Limerick a charter seven years later, declaring that the citizens would have all the liberties and free customs through all Ireland that were enjoyed by the citizens of Dublin (ibid, 24). Several early sources state that during the early 13th century King John instructed that a castle should be erected (King John's Castle) along with a bridge (Thomond Bridge) within the English town of the settlement (Wiggins 2000, 16). However, there are references to a castle within Limerick in 1202 and it is possible that this refers to the earlier ringwork, which was constructed by the Norman garrison in 1175 (Wiggins 2016, 3). The 12th century ringwork ditch was identified during excavations at the castle in 1990-91, beneath the 13th century masonry (Wiggins 2000, 17).

The proposed development area is located to the southwest of Limerick City and would have been located within a rural, farmed landscape during the medieval period. A moated site is recorded c. 220m to the north-northwest of the site, which may date to this period. The small settlement of Mungret was also a borough at this time but seems to have been abandoned by the 14th or 15th centuries.

3.1.4 Post Medieval Period (c. AD 1600-1800)

The ending of the Williamite Wars saw the beginning of a comparative politically calm era, which allowed the country's landowners the security to experiment with the latest styles of architecture without the need to refer to defensive matters. Initially, constraints on available resources resulted in mansions of a relatively modest scale and relatively plain appearance. However, as the Irish aristocracy's sense of security grew over the following decades, their greater access to wealth helped foster a shift towards more ostentatious buildings.

The closest designed landscape to the proposed development area, as shown on the first edition OS map of 1844, is located to the immediate north of the site and was established as part of a Glebe House, or rectory, which was constructed during the early part of the 19th century. Today, the principal structure remains extant, although the demesne landscape has been subject to extensive development.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2026) and the available excavation reports has revealed that one archaeological investigation have been carried out within the proposed development area, along with a number in the surrounding area. These are summarised below.

Archaeological monitoring of during the construction of a natural gas pipeline was carried out within the proposed development area in 2002 (Licence No.: 02E1649, Wiggins, 2002a). This resulted in the identification of a *fulacht fia* within the site (LI013-221). The site was fully excavated by hand in November 2002 and consisted of four large bowl-like pits and one smaller feature. The features measured 5.8m (east to west) by 4.4m (north to south). Charcoal-rich coal was identified in pit four along with burnt and unburnt bone (*ibid*).

A further site was identified during groundworks associated with the same project, c. 45m to the west of the proposed development area, which comprised a small group of cremation pits (LI013-219). These were archaeologically excavated under licence 02E1732 (Wiggins, 2002b) and consisted of four cremation pits. The pits contained a charcoal-rich clay with fragments of cremated bone and measured 41cm x 38cm x 18cm (F1); 38cm x 36cm (F2); 54cm x 45cm x 15cm (F3); 45cm x 43cm x 10cm (F4).

A geophysical survey was carried out immediately east of the proposed development area under licence 09R0203 (Bonsall & Gibson, 2009). A series of possible enclosing ditches were identified within the survey area. A possible enclosing compacted earth or stone feature was identified surrounding the ditches. Possible archaeological ditches and possible banks or walls were also identified within the site.

A geophysical survey, followed by a programme of archaeological testing was carried out to the immediate east and south of the proposed development area (Leigh 2020, Licence No. 20R0241, Collins 2020, Licence No. 20E0715). Testing targeted geophysical anomalies identified during a geophysical survey but nothing of archaeological significance was identified.

In 2021 a programme of test trenching was carried out c. 175m east of the proposed development area as part of a proposed road development (Licence No. 20E0550). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during testing. This was followed by a programme of archaeological monitoring in 2022, which was carried out under licence 22E0474 within the townlands of Moneteen, Caheranardrish, Dromdarrig and Baunacloka (Elder 2022). Nothing of archaeological significance was identified within the townland of Caheranardrish.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony of Poblebryan, 1655-56

Whilst this map shows the parish of 'Mongrett', no further detail is depicted within the parish that relates to the proposed development area.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1844, scale 1:10560 (Figure 3)

This is the earliest accurate historical mapping coverage of the landscape containing the proposed development. The site is formed by eight fields and the recorded enclosure (LI013-005) is shown as a circular area within a small field that is irregular in plan. A small building is shown in the southeast corner of the site. Two small buildings are depicted in the northern portion of the site. A 'Glebe House' and its associated demesne lands are marked to the immediate north of the development area and the recorded moated site is marked c. 220m to the north-northwest (LI013-003).

Ordnance Survey Map, 1901, scale 1:2500 (Figure 3)

By the time of this map there are no major changes to note within the proposed development area, although a number of field boundaries have been removed. The enclosure site remains present (LI013-003) but the small building in the southeast corner has been removed.

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1924, scale 1:10560 (Figure 4)

There are no changes of note within the proposed development area marked within this map (Figure 4). A burial ground is now depicted c. 160m east of the proposed development area.

3.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey Ireland (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2024), and Bing Maps revealed that the proposed development area has remained undeveloped agricultural land in recent years. No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted within the site.

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Information on artefact finds from the study area in Limerick has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

There is one file relating to the townland of Dromdarrig recorded by the National Museum of Ireland regarding artefact discoveries. This records of a copper alloy bell identified near Mungret Abbey (NMI No: X4586).

3.6 SUMMARY OF GEOPHYSICAL RESULTS

A geophysical survey was conducted within the proposed development area in 2025 (Dowling 2025, licence 25R0253; Figure 5). A number of anomalies of potential archaeological origin were identified, including 'ditch-type' responses and an array of potential pits/deposits. Anomaly 1 comprised a curving ditch-type feature measuring c. 27m in length. Anomaly 2

comprised a possible ditch segment measuring 14m in length. These features were located on opposing sides of the gas pipeline, which was also identified during the survey. Multiple pit-type responses were found across the surveyed lands. There were also several positive linear ditch responses, possibly of agricultural origin. Plough trends were also identified across the site, along with modern 'ferrous type' responses and magnetic disturbances.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

4.1 GENERAL

Test trenching took place over four days in October 2025, using a 22.5-tonne, 360-degree tracked excavator equipped with a flat, toothless bucket, under strict archaeological supervision. Any investigated deposits were documented and preserved. This was by means of written, drawn and photographic records.

A total of 33 trenches were excavated across the site, totalling 1315 linear metres (Plates 3-13, Figure 5, Appendices 1 and 2). The trenches targeted the geophysical anomalies (Dowling 2025, Licence No. 25R0253), and open green space, in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site thoroughly. Trenches were evenly distributed within three green fields. Each field reaches its highest elevation near the centre, while the northwest-to-southeast-oriented boundary between them forms the lowest point (Plate 3; Figures 5 and 6). In each field, the trenches situated near the highest points were very shallow, with bedrock sub-crops evident just 0.05–0.1 m below the surface (Plates 7 and 8).

The test trenches were excavated to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains potentially threatened by the proposed development. Test trenching was also conducted to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions, and to assess the degree of archaeological survival, in order to formulate further mitigation strategies. The overall objective is to avoid, reduce or offset the impacts of the proposed development scheme.

4.2 TESTING RESULTS

A full catalogue of all excavated trenches and observations is presented in Appendix 1. All test trenches were excavated under continuous archaeological supervision to the level of natural subsoil. The general soil profile encountered consisted of:

C1 – Topsoil - well-drained, fine loamy topsoil of a medium brown colour, ranging in depth from 0.05 to 0.85 meters.

C2 – Subsoil - light yellowish-grey, gravelly silty clay (Plate 3), or in some areas, was directly overlying bluish limestone bedrock (Plate 10).

Archaeological Features

One archaeological feature, C27.1, was identified during test trenching, which has been designated as Archaeological Area (AA) 1 (Plates 5, 6 and 13; Figure 2 and 5). It comprised a sub-circular pit (0.80m (NW-SE) x 0.73m (NE-SW), 0.2m minimum depth (not fully excavated)), with a sharp break of slope to the top and steep sides. A single fill comprised a soft, dark grey, silty clay (C27.2), with frequent subangular stones, occasional heat-affected stone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. A small quarter-section through pit C27.1 was dug to establish the approximate depth and origin of the feature.

Non-Archaeological Features

No former field boundaries were uncovered during test trenching. The geophysical anomalies previously interpreted as possible relict field boundaries were not identified (Trenches 9, 11, 15, 24, 25 and 33) or corresponded to stone-lined field drains (Trenches 17, 21, 22, and 26).

Shallow mechanically dug furrows were identified in Trenches 28–30, located in the southeastern portion of the site. These features occurred at the base of the topsoil layer (C1) rather than as distinct impressions within the underlying natural clay (C2). They followed a NNE–SSW orientation, consistent with the pattern evident on the geophysical survey (Figure 5; Appendix 1).

The geophysical survey identified several anomalies that initially appeared to be of possible archaeological origin, including ditch-type responses and potential pits or deposits (Dowling, 2025; Figure 5). However, none of these features were evident during test trenching. Anomaly 1, a curving ditch-type feature approximately 27m long, and Anomaly 2, a possible ditch segment about 14m long, were not confirmed through excavation. These are now interpreted as likely tertiary geological variations within the subsoil.

4.3 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area is situated within the townland of Caheranardrish, in the Civil Parish of Mungret, Barony of Pubblebrien, County Limerick.

There are two recorded monuments located within the proposed development area, an enclosure (LI013-005) and a fulacht fia (LI013-221). The enclosure is located within a densely vegetated area of a pasture field. The enclosure is sub-oval in plan, measuring 22m north to south by 21.7m east to west, and is enclosed by an earth-and-stone bank. Fulacht fia (LI013-221) was excavated within the proposed development prior to the construction of a gas pipeline that runs through the site.

There are a further four recorded monuments located within the 250m study area, the closest of which comprises the site of a small group of cremations pits (LI013-219), which were located c. 45m west of the proposed development area and also excavated as part of the above gas pipeline project.

Analysis of the baseline resources did not reveal any previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential within the development area. Geophysical survey, carried out in 2025, identified some potential archaeological anomalies, but no definitive archaeological remains.

Test trenching was carried out across the proposed development area but revealed only a single archaeological feature, comprising a pit (C27.1) containing silty clay with heat-affected stone and charcoal flecks, which was designated as Archaeological Area 1. The pit is located approximately 80m southeast of the previously excavated fulacht fia (LI013-221) (Wiggins, 2004). Comparison with the 2002 excavations at LI013-221, which comprised four round-shaped pits (F1–F5) and one smaller feature, indicates that C27.1 shares some characteristics with them (Table 1). As such, this pit is likely to be associated with the recorded fulacht fia site.

FEATURE	DIMENSIONS (m)	FILL DESCRIPTION (m)	BURNT STONES	CHARCOAL	INTERPRETATION
C27.1	0.80 × 0.73 × 0.20 (not fully excavated)	Dark grey silty clay with stones and charcoal	Small % present	Present	Possible small-scale <i>fulacht fiadh</i> or related activity
F1 (2002)	0.68 × 0.64 × 0.26	Grey silty clay	None	None	No <i>fulacht fiadh</i> evidence
F2 (2002)	0.84 × 0.60 × 0.28	Grey silty clay	None	None	No <i>fulacht fiadh</i> evidence
F3 (2002)	0.45 × 0.41 × 0.39	Grey silty clay	None	None	No <i>fulacht fiadh</i> evidence
F4 (2002)	0.78 × 0.64 × 0.25	Dark grey, charcoal-rich clay	Small % present	Present	Interpreted as a <i>fulacht fiadh</i>
F5 (2002)	0.74 diameter × 0.32	Dark grey silty clay with charcoal and gravel	High proportion	Present	Interpreted as a <i>fulacht fiadh</i>

Table 1 Comparison of pit C27.1 to *fulacht fia* (LI013-221) features excavated in 2002

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified through detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected, and the range of archaeological resources that may be potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be adversely affected in several ways: disturbance from excavation, topsoil stripping, and disturbance caused by vehicles operating in unsuitable conditions, as well as burial of sites, which limits access for future archaeological investigation.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Recorded enclosure (LI013-005) is located within the proposed development area. The site will be preserved within greenspace, with a 20m buffer area set back from the stone wall that surrounds the monument. No archaeological features were identified within this area during the course of testing. It remains possible that the monument may be subject to inadvertent negative impacts arising from construction activities or the storage of materials, or by poor management during the operation of the development.
- AA1 comprises a small pit, which is located within the footprint of one of the proposed access roads in the development area. As such, ground disturbances associated with construction of the development will result in a direct negative impact on this feature.
- It remains possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development will result in direct negative impacts on small or isolated archaeological features or deposits that may survive within the development area outside the footprint of the excavated trenches.

5.2 MITIGATION

- In relation to the recorded enclosure (LI013-005), please see Section 6 of this report.
- Preservation in situ is the preferred approach for the conservation of the archaeological resource and forms national and regional policy. However, the pit identified in AA1 is located within the footprint of a proposed access road and as such it cannot be preserved in situ. Given the small and isolated nature of the feature, it should be fully excavated and recorded in advance of construction. A 10m × 10m area should be opened around the identified pit (C27.1) to allow for the full investigation of the feature and any associated deposits. Excavation should be undertaken under archaeological licence as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.
- All topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development should be subject to archaeological monitoring. Monitoring should be undertaken under archaeological licence as issued by the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works, further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation in situ or by record.

Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH and the Limerick County Archaeologist.

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post-excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Limerick County Archaeologist.

6 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

As part of the proposed development enclosure LI013-005 will be preserved in-situ within greenspace along the eastern edge of the development. Plate 14 shows the position of the site of the enclosure within its designated buffer zone of 20m. None of the trees or vegetation within the enclosure site will be removed, as this may damage the archaeological remains that are present.

6.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Prior to the commencement of construction, the 20m buffer area surrounding the monument will be set out by an archaeologist and fenced off, to prevent the storage of materials and passing of plant. The fence will be maintained in situ for the duration of the construction phase. No excavation, trenching, soil stripping, grading, service installation, or intrusive foundation works shall occur within this zone. Activity around this area shall be subject to constant archaeological supervision. The buffer area is bordered by car parking and footpaths and a concrete kerb will defined the edge of the buffer area in relation to the adjacent hard landscaping.

The objective of this strategy is to:

- Preserve the recorded enclosure site;
- Preserve any archaeological remains undisturbed in their original stratigraphic context;
- Maintain the integrity of any sub-surface deposits;
- Avoid mechanical disturbance of any archaeological layers;
- Ensure long-term protection following completion of the development.

In addition, a Heritage Induction outlining the nature and significance of the site and the buffer will form a mandatory component of all contractor site inductions throughout the construction of the project.

Signage will be erected on the temporary fencing in order to identify the exclusion zone as having archaeological sensitivity and to notify any personnel that access to the area is strictly forbidden.

6.2 OPERATION PHASE

At operation stage, the temporary fencing will be removed, and the site will be maintained with adjacent greenfield area. No cultivation or ground disturbances are required to create the environment, although additional grass seed may be required.

Maintenance of the green area will be low interaction and will be covered within a 'Taking Charge Strategy' that will be required to be adopted within the contract of the management company that will be appointed to maintain the grassland. It is envisaged that maintenance will comprise mowing of the grass two or three times a year to prevent any large shrubs or trees taking root. No vegetation will be removed from the enclosure during operation.

It is proposed to interpret the monument to the public through signage and wayfinding onsite with consideration given to a digital element accessible via a QR code or similar. The form and content of such will be agreed with the National Monuments Service and Local Authority Archaeologist.

Ultimately the recorded enclosure is subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Act and any future works (outside of the development as proposed) within the designated Zone of Notification, will require agreement from the National Monuments Service, under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act.

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CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

William Petty, Down Survey Map, Barony of Poblebryan, 1655-56

Ordnance Survey maps of County Limerick, 1844, 1901 and 1924

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

- www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2026.
- www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.
- www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- www.geohive.ie – GeoHive is the State's Geospatial Data Hub, enabling search, view and access to the key authoritative geospatial information via interactive maps, data catalogues and geospatial applications (including National Townland and Historical Map Viewer and Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013).
- www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery (2005–2025).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH RESULTS

TRENCH	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	DEPTH (m)	ORIENTATION	DETAILS
1	15	2	0.35-0.55	Northwest-Southeast	No Archaeology found. Geophysical Anomaly 1 (possible ditch) was targeted. Plate 8
2	15	2	0.2-0.3	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. Geophysical Anomaly 1 (possible ditch) was targeted.
3	15	2	0.25-0.55	NNE-SSW	Geophysical Anomaly 2 (possible ditch) was targeted.
4	15	2	0.3-0.4	North-South	Geophysical Anomaly 2 (possible ditch) was targeted.
5	15	2	0.4-0.55	Northwest-Southeast	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
6	15	2	0.3-0.4	North-South	No Archaeology found. A possible field boundary was targeted.
7	15	2	0.3-0.4	Northwest-Southeast	No Archaeology found. "Ferrous type" response in the southeast part of the trench could be related to the circular (1m x 1m x c.0.14m deep) natural depression filled with topsoil.
8	15	2	0.25-0.6	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
9	15	2	0.5-0.6	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
10	60	2	0.05-0.45	North-South	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
11	60	2	0.4-0.75	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
12	50	2	0.5-0.85	North-South	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
13	20	2	0.5-0.55	Northwest-Southeast	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
14	30	2	0.05-0.65	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted. The bedrock is very close to the surface.
15	30	2	0.05-0.65	NNE-SSW	No Archaeology found. The bedrock is very close to the surface. Plate 10
16	30	2	0.4-0.65	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
17	60	2	0.5-0.9	NNE-SSW	No Archaeology found. Targeted geophysical anomaly (possible field boundary) corresponds with east-west orientated stone-lined drain (0.4m wide). Figure 5
18	70	2	0.35-0.6	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
19	40	2	0.8-0.85	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
20	50	2	0.35-0.65	NNE-SSW	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.

TRENCH	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	DEPTH (m)	ORIENTATION	DETAILS
21	50	2	0.35-0.7	NNE-SSW	No Archaeology found. Targeted geophysical anomaly (possible field boundary) corresponds with NNW-SSE orientated stone-lined drain (0.65-0.8m wide). Plate 12, Figure 5
22	50	2	0.35-0.75	NNE-SSW	No Archaeology found. Targeted geophysical anomaly (possible field boundary) corresponds with NNW-SSE orientated stone-lined drain (0.65-0.8m wide). Figure 5
23	25	2	0.55-0.6	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted. Plate 9
24	50	2	0.5-0.65	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
25	50	2	0.5-0.6	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted. Plate 7
26	85	2	0.3-0.4	Northeast-Southwest	No Archaeology found. Two possible field boundaries were targeted. One of the geophysical anomalies corresponds with a northwest-southeast orientated stone-lined drain (0.8m wide). Plate 2, Figure 5
27	20	2	0.3-0.4	Northwest-Southeast	A steep-sided sub-circular pit C27.1 was recorded within Trench 27. It contains heat-affected stones mixed with subangular medium stones with moderate inclusions of charcoal (C27.2) and measures 0.80m long, 0.73m wide and 0.2m deep (not fully exposed). A stone-lined drain was also recorded in trench 27. The drain was 0.60m wide and was filled with subangular and subrounded stones.
28	20	2	0.2-0.3	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
29	85	2	0.3-0.4	WWN-EES	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
30	85	2	0.25-0.35	WWN-EES	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
31	85	2	0.3-0.5	WWN-EES	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.
32	35	2	0.35-0.6	WWN-EES	No Archaeology found. Positive geophysical trend corresponds with the stone-filled linear feature partially recorded at the east end of the trench (3.7m long, NW-SE orientation)
33	40	2	0.3-0.5	East-West	No Archaeology found. No geophysical anomalies targeted.

APPENDIX 2 CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT NO.	TRENCH NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	1-33	Topsoil – Mid brown, well-drained, fine loamy.
2	1-33	Natural – Mid blue limestone bedrock in places replaced with light yellowish grey, gravely silty clay.
27.1	27	Cut of sub-circular pit, 0.80m long, 0.73m wide and 0.2m deep (not fully exposed).
27.2	27	Fill of pit 27.1 consisting of a dark grey silty clay with heat-affected stones mixed with subangular medium stones and moderate inclusions of charcoal.

APPENDIX 3 RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.:	LI013-005----
RMP STATUS:	Yes/ No
TOWNLAND:	CAHERANARDRISH
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	553356, 653578
CLASSIFICATION:	Enclosure
DIST. TO SITE:	0m
DESCRIPTION:	Situated on level pasture. The monument is heavily masked by dense scrub. Sub-oval area (diam. 22m N-S; 21.7m E-W) enclosed by an earth-and-stone bank. The bank (int. H 0.68m; ext. H 0.68-0.82m; Wth. 0.9-1.3m) is best preserved from NNE to NNW. There is a break in the bank at S (Wth. 2.7m). The interior slopes gently down to the S. The monument and an area of scrub to S has been enclosed by a stone wall which runs immediately to N, E and W and c. 30m to S of the monument, creating a trapezoidal buffer between two fields.
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

SMR NO.:	LI013-221----
RMP STATUS:	Yes/ No
TOWNLAND:	CAHERANARDRISH
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	553271, 653574
CLASSIFICATION:	Fulacht fia
DIST. TO SITE:	0m
DESCRIPTION:	Identified by Ken Wiggins as BGE 4/2/3 during archaeological monitoring (License 02E1649) along the Bord Gáis Éireann, Barnakyle to Coonagh West gas pipeline (Wiggins 2003). Excavated under licence no. 02E1734 by Wiggins (Wiggins 2002), the results were summarised as following; 'The site consisted of four large, bowl-like pits (F1, F2, F4 and F5) and one smaller feature (F3). A number of other potential features were not of archaeological significance. Pits F1–3 were grouped at the eastern end of the site; Pits F4 and F5 were close together further west, adjacent to the limit of excavation. F1 was 0.68m long, 0.64m wide and 0.26m deep; F2 was 0.84m long, 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep; and F3 was 0.45m long, 0.41m wide and 0.39m deep. The fills were grey or dark grey, silty clay, with no burnt stone fragments. F4 and F5 were more informative. F4 was 0.78m long, 0.64m wide and 0.25m deep. The fill was dark grey, charcoal-rich clay, containing a small percentage of burnt stone fragments and some pieces of burnt and unburnt bone. F5 was 0.74m in diameter and 0.32m deep. The fill was dark grey, silty clay with charcoal and gravel, containing a high proportion of burnt stone material and a small amount of unburnt bone. The presence of burnt stone fragments in F4 and F5 indicates that the features probably relate to a fulacht fiadh, for which there was no other evidence within the limits of the Bord Gáis Éireann wayleave' (www.excavations.ie 2002, No. 1135; Wiggins 2004, 310).
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

SMR NO.:	LI013-219----
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RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	CAHERANARDRISH
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	553131, 653355
CLASSIFICATION:	Cremation pit
DIST. TO SITE:	c. 45m west
DESCRIPTION:	Identified by Ken Wiggings as BGE 4/2/1 during archaeological monitoring (License 02E1649) along the Bord Gáis Éireann, Barnakyle to Coonagh West gas pipeline (Wiggings 2004, 310). Excavated under licence no. 02E1732 (Wiggings 2002), the results were summarised as following; 'initially identified as two circular patches of charcoal-rich soil. Eventually, a group of four cremation pits was excavated. The overall dimensions of the site were 3.7m (north-south) by 1.6m. Of the cremation pits, F1 was 0.41m long, 0.38m wide and 0.18m deep; F2 was 0.38m in diameter and 0.36m deep; F3 was 0.54m long, 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep; and F4 was 0.45m long, 0.43m wide and 0.1m deep. The features were filled with charcoal-rich soil containing fragments of cremated bone.' (www.excavations.ie 2002; 1134, 2003; 1139).
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

SMR NO.:	LI013-148
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	MONETEEN
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	553381, 653839
CLASSIFICATION:	Standing stone
DIST. TO SITE:	c. 210m west
DESCRIPTION:	Situated in a collection of recently-constructed sports pitches. Not indicated on the 1924 OS 6-inch map. The site was not located.
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

SMR NO.:	LI013-184----
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	CAHERANARDRISH
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	552952, 653481
CLASSIFICATION:	Enclosure
DIST. TO SITE:	c. 210m west
DESCRIPTION:	In pasture 20m W of townland boundary with Camheen. Not depicted on the 1840 OS 6-inch map or the 1897 OS 25-inch map. Identified as a possible enclosure (approx. diam. 15-20m) c. 130m E of gas pipeline through examination of aerial photographs (OSI 1097/8) by Celie O'Rahilly, archaeologist, Limerick Corporation. Area marked on SMR map is now visible as a tee-covered irregular shaped area on Google Earth orthoimage taken 11/09/2019. Doubtful antiquity.
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

SMR NO.:	LI013-003
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	MONETEEN
PARISH:	Mungret
BARONY:	Pubblebrien
I.T.M.:	553207, 653908
CLASSIFICATION:	Moated site
DIST. TO SITE:	c. 220m north-northwest
DESCRIPTION:	Situated immediately W of a field boundary, in level pasture. The monument is masked by dense scrub vegetation cover. A sub-rectangular platform (26.7-34.5m N-S; 19.7-26m E-W), best preserved from W to NE and from SSW to E, surrounded on four sides by a fosse (Wth 1.8m; ext. D 0.2m; int. D 0.5m). The fosse on the E side has been encroached on by a now-dilapidated field wall. The platform is slightly shallower on the E side which might represent an entrance. Barry (1981a, 84; no 30) lists this as a moated site.
REFERENCE:	SMR Files

APPENDIX 4 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as ‘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’ (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the

situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

Limerick Council Development Plan 2022-2028

Objective EH O36 Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage. It is an objective of the Council to seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This is to include all the sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The preferred option is preservation in situ, or at a minimum preservation by record.

Objective EH O37 Preservation of unrecorded/newly discovered Archaeological Heritage. It is an objective of the Council to protect and preserve the preservation in situ (or at a minimum by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.

Objective EH O39 Protection of the setting of Archaeological Monuments. It is an objective of the Council to ensure that no development shall have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument.

Objective EH O40 Proper procedures during the planning process It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) Ensure early engagement at preplanning stage is undertaken with the Local Authority Archaeologist to promote the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological remains and settings in development.
- b) Adopt a policy of archaeological monitoring of developments where the scale and nature of such developments may, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have a negative impact on previously unknown archaeological features/ artefacts.
- c) Require the preparation of an Archaeological Heritage Assessment in cases where it is deemed that Archaeological Heritage would be affected by a proposed development (due to their location, size or nature). The report shall be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist on the archaeological implications, if any, of the proposed development either prior to a decision on a planning application or prior to commencement of development on site.

Objective EH O41 Archaeological Monuments in Local Authority ownership/guardianship. It is an objective of the Council to preserve and enhance as appropriate and as funding allows monuments vested in the Local Authority.

Objective EH O46 Heritage Plan 2017-2030. It is an objective of the Council to support the archaeological objectives in the Heritage Plan.

Objective EH O47 Increase access to Archaeological Monuments. It is an objective of the Council to facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care.

APPENDIX 5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT & THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2003: 31). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 6 MITIGATION MEASURES & THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

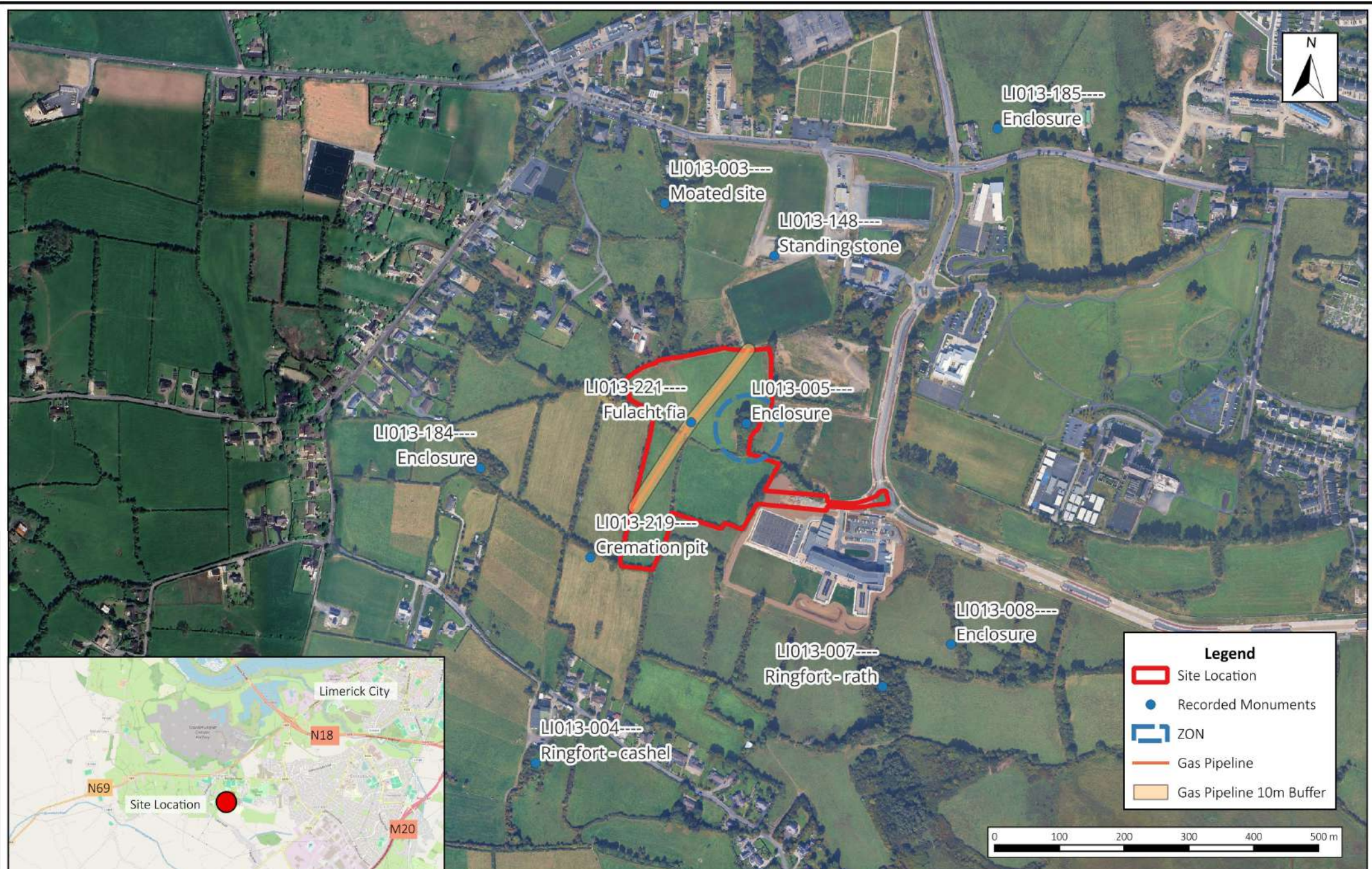
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

Full Archaeological Excavation involves the scientific removal and recording of all archaeological features, deposits and objects to the level of geological strata or the base level of any given development. Full archaeological excavation is recommended where initial investigation has uncovered evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures and where avoidance of the site is not possible. (ClfA 2023b)

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme... of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present test trenching defines their character and extent and relative quality.’ (ClfA 2023a)

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as a ‘formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.’ (ClfA 2023c)

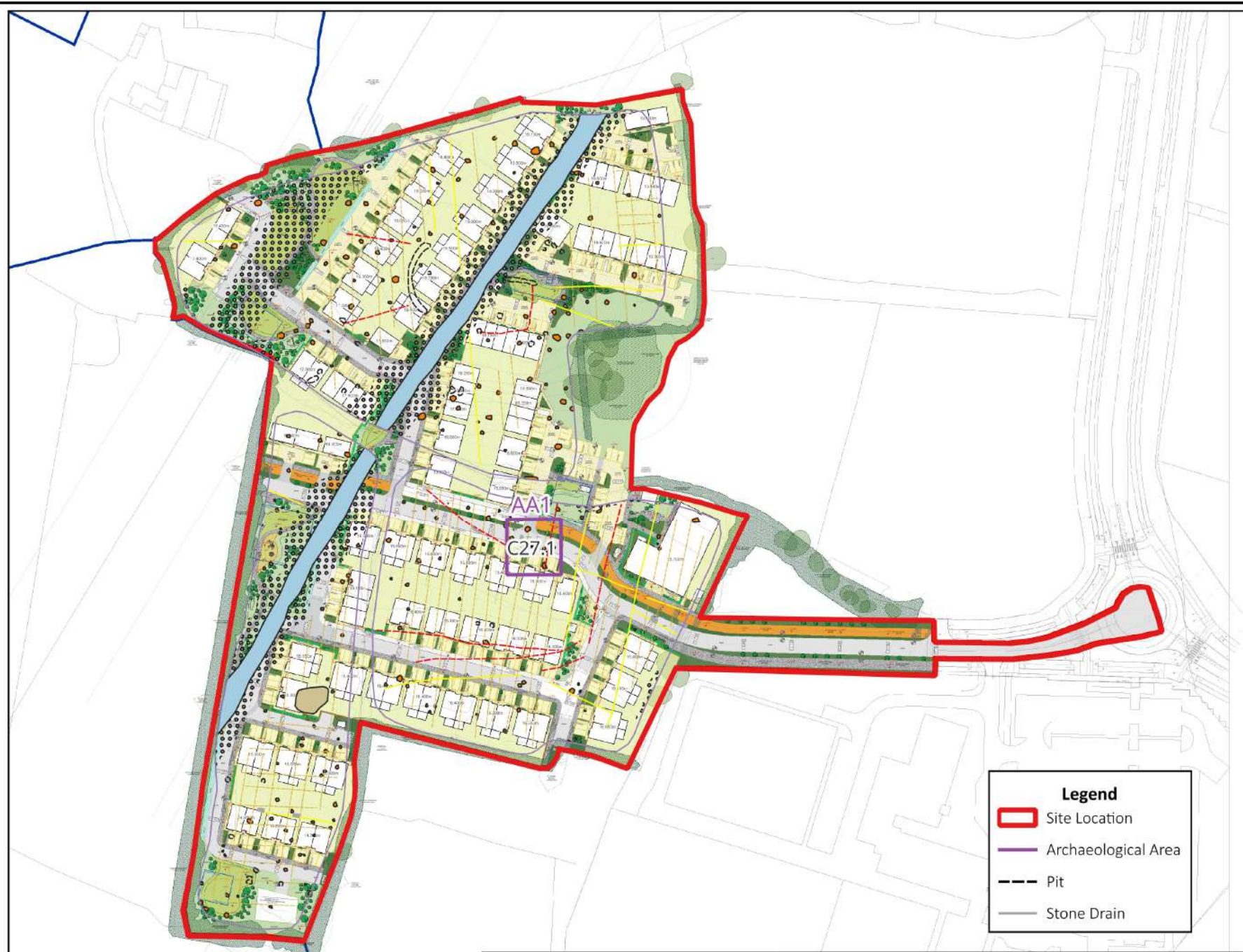


IAC Archaeology

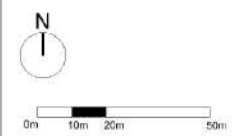
Title Site Location showing nearby recorded monuments

Project Caheranadrish, Mungret, Co. Limerick

Scale 1:7500@A4	Drawn By PL
Date 06.03.2026	Checked By TC
Job No. J4616	Approved By Text
Fig. 01	Rev. -



- LEGEND**
- Site Boundary
 - Ownership Boundary
 - Proposed Levels
 - Herbaceous Planting & Grass
 - Lawn
 - Macdon
 - High Quality Paving
 - Shared Surface
 - Soft Play Play Area
 - Walls Concrete Paving
 - Asphalt Road
 - Active Travel Route - Coloured Asphalt
 - Crossing Poles
 - Fencing
 - Fencing - Pavers
 - Sealing
 - Fence and Gates
 - Atmospheric Fence
 - Swale
 - Proposed Native Hedge
 - Existing Trees To Be Retained
 - Existing Hedge/Tree To Be Retained
 - Tree Pit
 - Proposed Trees
 - Quercus robur
 - Pinus sylvestris
 - Alnus glutinosa
 - Corylus avellana
 - Sorbus aucuparia
 - Betula pendula



REFERENCE: THIS DRAWING IS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SR LA

SIMON RONAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

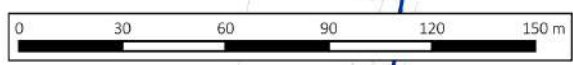
Simon Ronan
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simon@simonronan.com

LANDSCAPE GENERAL PLAN L-102 1:750@A1

PURPOSE OF DRAWING - PLANNING

Legend

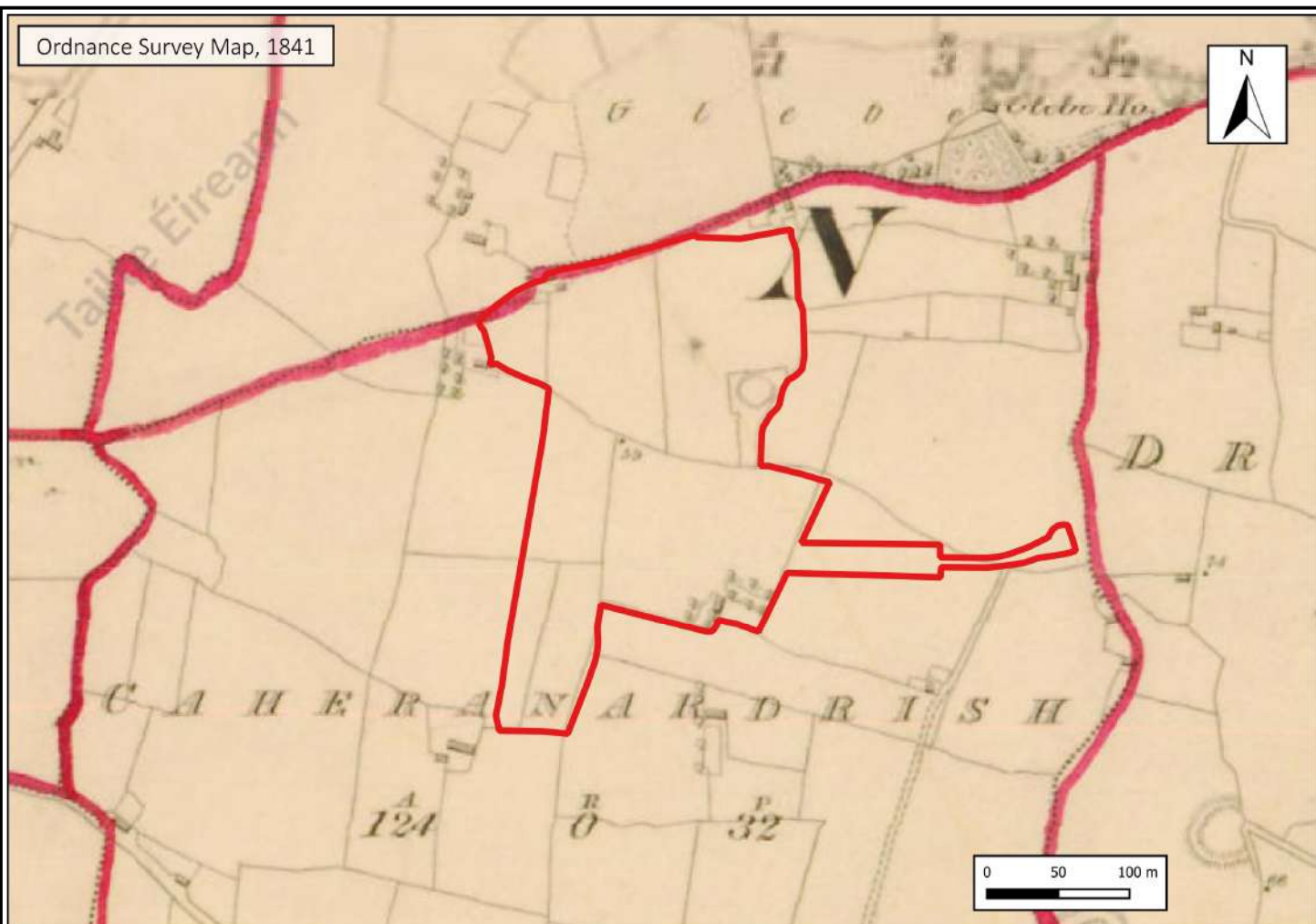
- Site Location
- Archaeological Area
- Pit
- Stone Drain



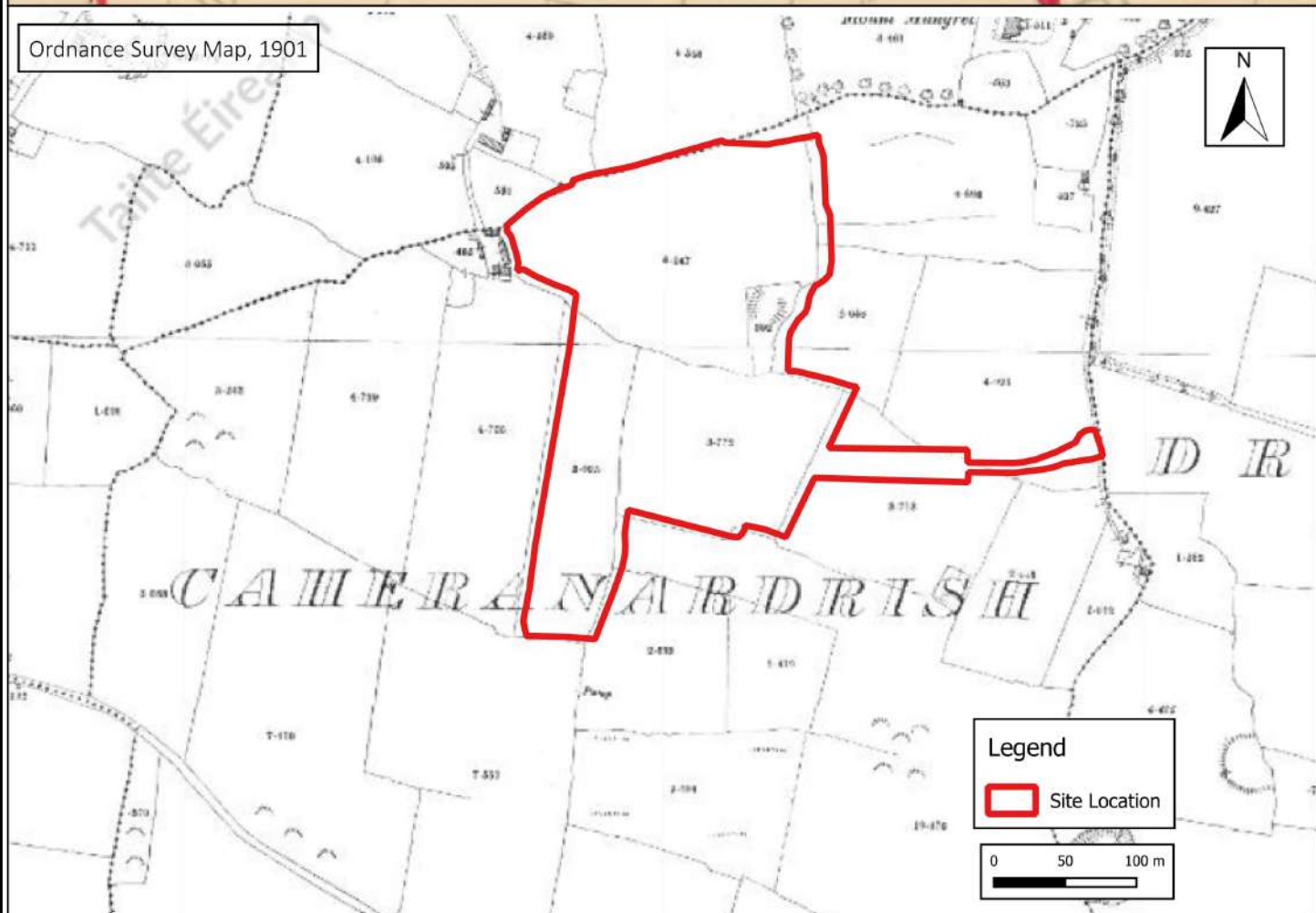
IAC Archaeology

Title Archaeological Area 1 (Pit C27.1) overlaid on proposed development Project Caheranadrish, Mungret, Co. Limerick	Scale As Shown	Drawn By PL
	Date 23.03.2026	Checked By FB
	Job No. J4616	Approved By -
		Fig. 02 Rev. -

Ordnance Survey Map, 1841



Ordnance Survey Map, 1901



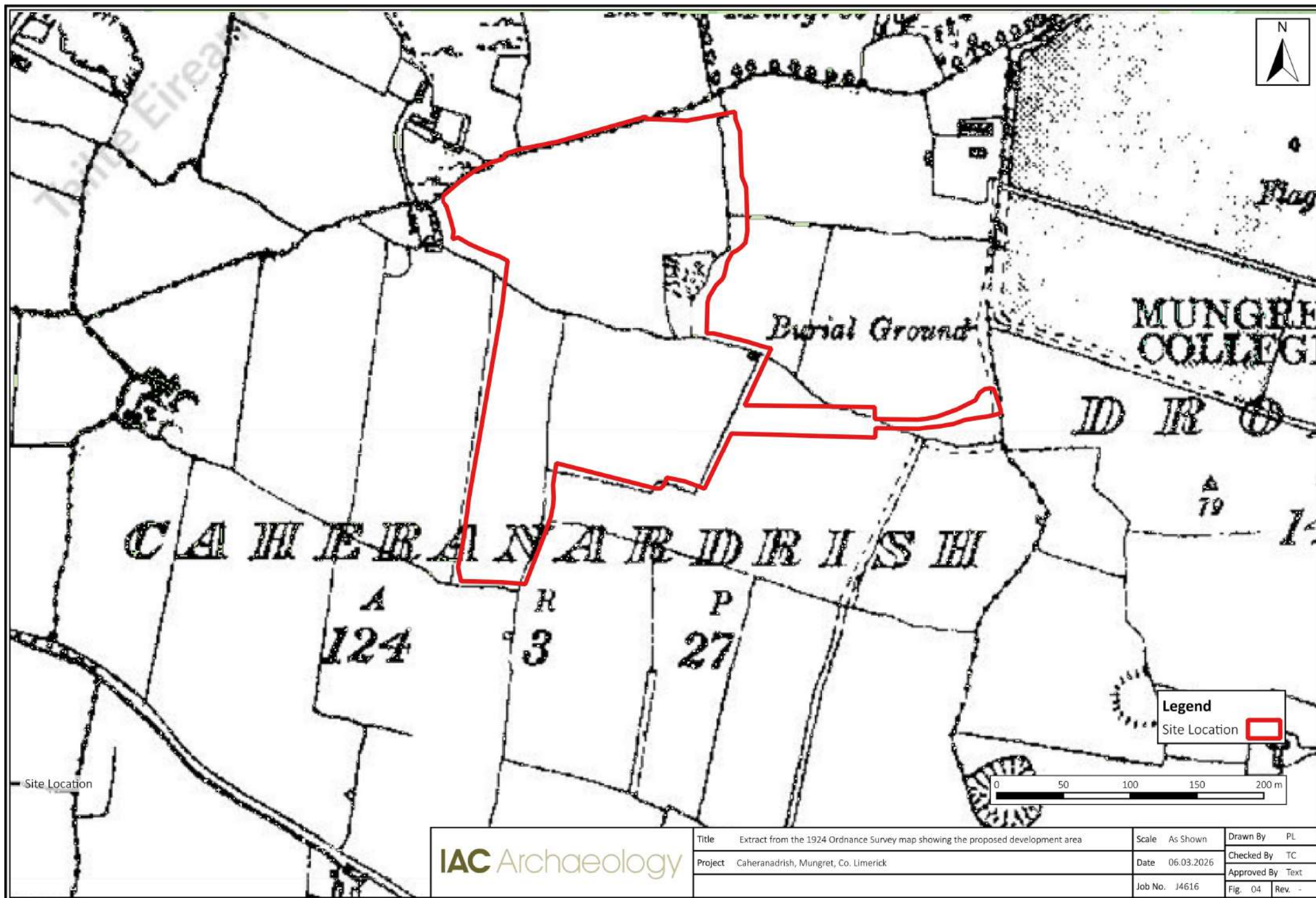






Plate 1: Recorded enclosure LI013-005, facing east



Plate 2: Interior of recorded enclosure LI013-005, facing southeast



Plate 3: View of the development area, facing north



Plate 4: Stone drain in Trench 26, facing southwest



Plate 5: Trench 27, facing northwest



Plate 6: Pit C27.1 in Trench 27, facing north



Plate 7: Trench 25, facing west



Plate 8: Trench 1, facing southeast



Plate 9: Trench 23, facing west



Plate 10: Trench 15, facing southwest



Plate 11: Trench 6 with enclosure LI013-005 in the background, facing south



Plate 12: Stone-lined drain in Trench 21, facing south



Plate 13: Pit C27.1, facing southwest

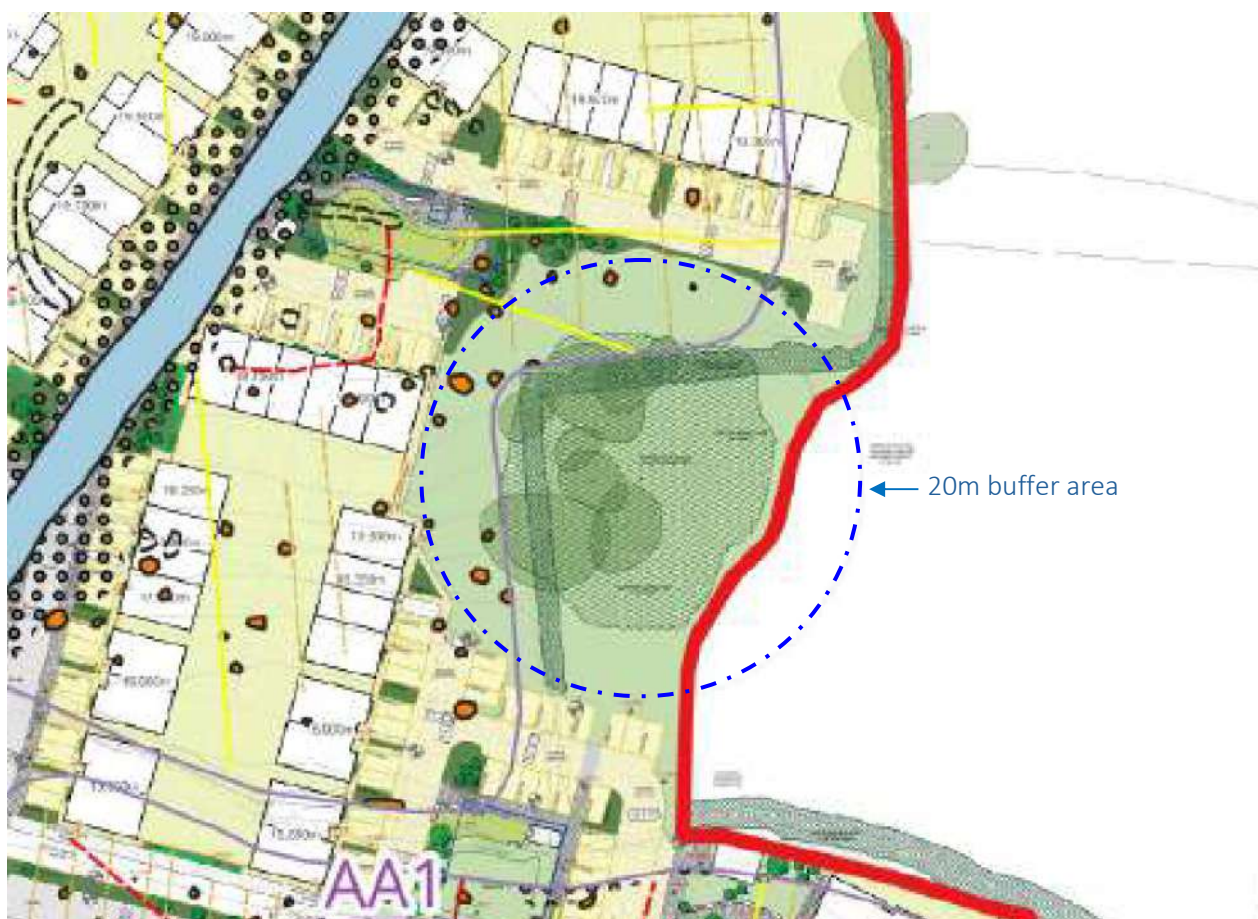


Plate 14: Proposed development showing the 20m buffer surrounding enclosure LI013-005